

# Maine Legacy

Storehouse

The Nature Conservancy



Maine Sunday Telegram

Donnell Pond

## BEHIND THE SCENES:

### Chapter helps state protect Donnell Pond

"Have you been there?"

"You should go. It's beautiful!"

"You know, somebody ought to do something to protect this place; it would be a shame if anything ever happened to it."

Donnell Pond was one of those places everyone talked about.

For more than 50 years, the federal and state governments discussed protecting Donnell Pond. Unfortunately, all of the plans to make the land public never worked out. Still, the area did not seem to be terribly threatened; as long as anyone could remember, people had been coming to enjoy the wild ponds and mountains with the tacit approval of the private landowners.

Given the exponential increase in the demand—and price—of prime lakefront

homesites, this agreeable state of affairs could not last forever. A year ago, the "open to the public" illusion dissolved abruptly when the Patten Corporation announced its intent to buy 1,500 acres around Donnell Pond and divide it up into 10-acre cottage lots.

Public outcry was loud and long. For many, Donnell Pond is one of Maine's treasures. Faced with its imminent loss, people made their distress clearly heard. The Maine Chapter received many letters and calls from members asking us to help save the pond.

The state also heard its citizens, and approached the company in a renewed attempt to buy the land and head off the development. But by the end of 1987, the

state, Patten, and the timber company Prentiss and Carlisle (the current landowners), had reached an impasse: price. They were still several million dollars apart with no foreseeable hope of narrowing the gap. Patten wished to make a profit by buying and reselling the land. The state, which had tried the year before to buy the property from Prentiss and Carlisle at less than half of Patten's asking price, was unwilling and unable to raise its offer. After negotiations had fallen apart twice, the Bureau of Public Lands asked the Conservancy to bring a fresh perspective to the situation by acting as intermediary.

to page two



# Donnell Pond

from page one

## Back to the drawing board

As we looked into the problem, it became immediately apparent that the Donnell Pond land was just the beginning. This 1,500-acre tract was indeed the keystone; if it was closed off to public, access to the pond's nine miles of beaches and its quiet, wild beauty would be lost. But the Donnell Pond property was only one piece of the near-wilderness area—the adjoining lands included Black, Caribou and Catherine

mountains, Tunk Lake, and the major points of access to the entire region. If these lands were left unprotected, it was entirely possible that we could succeed at saving Donnell Pond, only to lose the near-wilderness that made it so special.

Looked at from this perspective, the problem seemed no smaller, but the number of options available increased dramatically. Associate director Kent Wommack set to work devising a protection scheme that would be agreeable and beneficial to all parties—especially to the people of Maine.

Kent and Chapter executive director Mason Morfit met with the key players con-

cerned with Donnell Pond, and also began contacting landowners and others with interest in the adjacent lands. The Conservancy was already working with Diamond Occidental, the owners of the 5,280-acre Black Mountain tract. Several months earlier, the company had decided to dispose of its landholdings throughout the country, and had offered TNC the chance to bid on tracts of particular interest.

At this stage, Kent and Mason were in contact daily, sometimes hourly, with the Bureau of Public Lands' negotiating team, bureau director Ed Meadows and his assistant Tom Doak. Ed and Tom,



*"This acquisition is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished when the state approaches land conservation with a clear vision and determination."*

Associate Director  
Kent Wommack



JOHN R. MCKERNAN, JR.  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333

April 27, 1988

Mason Morfit  
Executive Director  
The Nature Conservancy  
122 Main Street  
Topsham, Maine 04086

Dear Mason,

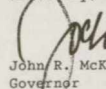
Thank you for your efforts to assist the State in acquiring the truly outstanding parcel of land around Donnell Pond and Tunk Lake. I know that you and Kent Wommack personally assisted the parties involved in working through the many difficult issues that stood in the way of reaching an agreement.

I also want to thank you for your willingness to commit your staff's time and energy, along with the resources of The Nature Conservancy, to make the acquisition possible. It is clear that the transactions would not have been possible without the help of the Conservancy.

The people of the State of Maine truly owe The Nature Conservancy a debt of gratitude. The preservation of Maine's precious resources have been greatly enhanced by your work. I hope we can continue to work together to ensure that the Maine we all know and love is maintained for the enjoyment of future generations. Please share my thanks and appreciation for a job well done with the other members of your organization.

I have enclosed the photographs taken prior to the news conference on April 6. Again, many thanks for all your help.

Sincerely,

  
John R. McKernan, Jr.  
Governor

JRM/mpm

cc: Frank Boren, President  
The Nature Conservancy

Sherry Huber, Chair  
Maine Chapter Trustees



supported by Department of Conservation Commissioner Robert LaBonta and Governor John McKernan, made Donnell Pond their first priority. They devoted a tremendous amount of personal energy and time to keeping the negotiations alive and finding the means to make the deal become a reality.

After months of meetings, dozens of draft proposals, and lots of phone calls, travel miles and 16-hour days, separate purchase contracts for each tract were signed within hours of each other. Brought together at long last, all of the interested parties learned for the first time that they were part of a much bigger picture.

Having started with the goal of resolving the fate of 1,500 acres at Donnell Pond, Ed, Tom, Kent and Mason were now ready to help announce a deal that would allow the state to acquire an area nearly five times larger.

(For a closer look, please see Kent's journal on page four)

Complicated to arrange, hard to explain, easy to celebrate

Governor McKernan, speaking at the press conference held to announce the agreement, said it best: "Quite literally, this is a gem of a deal for the State of Maine. We've acquired some incredibly valuable property; over 16 miles of undeveloped lake frontage on the two lakes and numerous ponds and thousands of acres of undeveloped forest with enormous recreation and scenic potential will be preserved for public use."

The lands to be protected by the state add up to more than 7,200 acres. It will be acquired for perhaps half of its estimated

value. The Bureau of Public Lands will trade 12,000 acres of its forestland elsewhere in the state and pay \$1.4 million for the properties. Since money from the \$35 million public lands bond issue will not be available in time, the funds will come from the BPL's normal acquisition account.

The land purchase bill was sponsored by Senator Tom Perkins, Senator Ron Usher, Representative Frank Farren, and Representative Paul Jacques. It was approved overwhelmingly by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor on April 28.

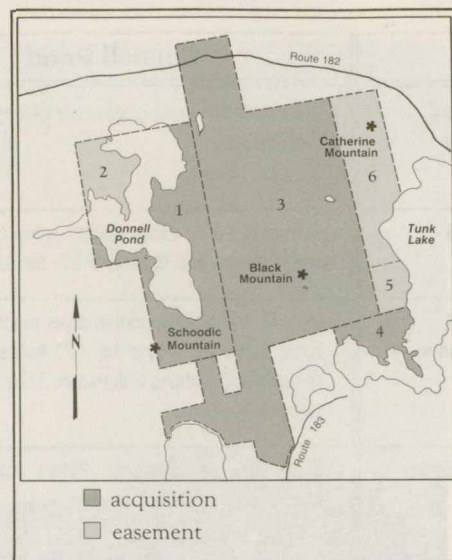
The announcement that Donnell Pond was safe was greeted with great public acclaim and celebration. All parties involved were praised; even the much-castigated Patten Corporation received words of praise for its change of heart. Once again, as with Big Reed Pond, the net result of combining public and private resources was success far greater than any individual effort could have accomplished.

After all the tension and demands of negotiating the deal, and the excitement and pride of announcing the news have passed, there remains the quiet, soul-satisfying knowledge that one more of our state's special places belongs to Maine people forever. It's a good feeling to share.

by Ruth Ann Hill

*We'd like to say it again. Without you, Maine Chapter members, we would not be writing about a success story. Without your support, it would not have been possible. So please take your rightful places and join us in celebrating a wonderful gift to the people of Maine.*

The staff



## Putting the puzzle together

Taking each tract separately, the deal sorts out this way:

**1. Donnell Pond Acquisition:** (1,460 acres) Includes eight miles of unspoiled shoreline on Donnell Pond with its two popular beaches, and the summit of Schoodic Mountain. Acquired from Prentiss and Carlisle in trade for 10,500 acres of BPL forestlands.

**2. Donnell Pond Easement:** (344 acres) The state will hold a conservation easement with strict setbacks on this parcel, ensuring protection of the shoreline. The Patten Corporation will be allowed to develop no more than eight single-family house lots on the land.

**3. Black Mountain Acquisition:** (5,280 acres) Includes Black and Caribou mountains, Shillalah, Wizard and Rainbow ponds. Also protects two main access points: Route 182 to the north, and Route 183 to the south. Acquired from Diamond Occidental, which is liquidating its Maine timberland holdings, through a land trade and purchase.

**4. Tunk Lake South Acquisition:** (210 acres) Protects 15,000 feet of shoreline on Tunk Lake. Acquired from the Bryan family of Massachusetts, who originally acquired the land from Admiral Richard E. Byrd. For many years the Bryans, with the assistance of Maine Coast Heritage Trust, have worked to protect Tunk Lake. They consider the area, left in a natural state, to be a memorial to the late Admiral Byrd and Marie Byrd, and to their parents James T. and Hazel L. Bryan.

**5. Tunk Lake North Acquisition/Easement:** (146 acres) Originally owned by Diamond Occidental, this property was traded to the state, which will trade it to the Bryans in exchange for the 210-acre Tunk Lake South parcel. The land will be protected by a conservation easement held by the Bureau of Public Lands.

**6. Tunk Lake Existing Easement:** (850 acres) Owned by the Bryan family, this parcel already had a conservation easement held by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.



At the Donnell Pond announcement: (left) Maine Chapter Executive Director Mason Morfit, Bureau of Public Lands Director Ed Meadows, Governor John McKernan, Chapter Associate Director Kent Wommack, Conservation Commissioner Robert LaBonta.



# Putting it together

by Kent Wommack

	Donnell Pond	Black Mountain	Tunk Lake
Before 1986	From 1920 on, proposals made to protect region, addition to Acadia N.P. suggested. Informal discussions inconclusive.		In 1983, the Bryan family donates an 850-acre conservation easement to state with help from Maine Coast Heritage Trust.
1986 Fall	Bureau of Public Lands (BPL) renews negotiations with Prentiss and Carlisle (P&C) for 1,500 acres.		
1987 Summer — Fall	In June, Patten Corporation signs purchase agreement with P&C. Plans for 150 house lots. BPL re-opens negotiations with Patten. Talks break down twice over price.	Diamond Occidental decides to liquidate 800,000 acres in Maine. TNC negotiates review of holdings nationwide.	The Bryans contact TNC for help with Diamond's and family's lands.
December	Talks between state and Patten collapse. Still several million dollars apart.	TNC reviews possible Diamond acquisitions with state. Idea of a major Donnell Pond, Black Mt., Tunk Lake acquisition explored.	Conservationist Charles Fitzgerald buys option on selected Diamond lands, including Tunk parcel.
1988 February	Legislative leaders urge Patten back to negotiating table.	23: TNC submits 1st bid on 5,287 acres to Diamond on BPL's behalf.	28: Fitzgerald unable to exercise option. Land goes back on market.
March	2: At BPL's request, TNC meets with Patten.		4: Through TNC, Bryans offer to sell 200 acres and 3 miles of shorefront to state at bargain price.
		7: Diamond rejects bid.	
	8: Limited development concept achieves breakthrough in talks.	9: BPL re-assesses land to determine fair-market value.	
	10: Parties brought within \$1/2 million by using exchange lands.		11: State agrees to Bryan offer, pending outcome of Donnell/Black Mt. negotiations.
		14: Negotiations continue between TNC, state, and Diamond.	
	15: Exchange parcels identified; values agreed upon.		17: Bryans and state agree to submit joint bid on Diamond's Tunk land.
	21: Details worked out, purchase price set.	21: TNC submits 2nd offer for BPL purchase.	
	22: P&C approves acquisition proposal.		
	23: Governor approves acquisition proposal.		
	24-31: Legal documents, conservation easement drafted and reviewed.	25: Diamond accepts offer.	26: TNC, state, meet with Bryans in Florida, reach agreement on 356-acre purchase and easement.
	28: Last minute hitch on timing of purchase overcome by Attorney General's office.		
April	1: Purchase contract signed on Donnell Pond.	1: Purchase contract signed on Diamond's Black Mountain and Tunk Lake parcels.	
	4: Key legislative leaders briefed on state's proposed acquisition of 7,200 acres at Donnell Pond, Black Mountain and Tunk Lake. Legislative sponsors identified. 6: Press conference to announce acquisition held in State House. 15: Energy and Natural Resources Committee unanimously approves acquisition. 20: Maine Legislature approves acquisition in closing hours of regular session.		





*Damariscove's harbor*

"This is where America began 400 years ago. Long before the famed early colonists set foot at Popham, Jamestown or Plymouth, nameless seamen from England or Europe anchored in this cove, dried and salted fish on this island, cooked supper and passed the rum on this rocky shore."

—BILL CALDWELL'S *The Islands of Maine*



## Damariscove Island.

**D**AMARISCOVE'S calm harbor is as welcome to 20th century fishermen and sailors in search of safe anchorage and a respite on solid ground as it was to 17th century mariners sighting their first land after months at sea.

Lying five miles south of Boothbay Harbor, the long, low island is nearly two miles long, but a scant quarter-mile wide. An anomaly among Maine's larger islands, it is essentially treeless. The famous harbor opens on the southern shore, and is protected by knolls to the east and west.

In 1966, the Maine Chapter became steward of Damariscove Island and its historical, natural and scenic resources. The island was donated to the Chapter by Mr. and Mrs. K.L. Parker, who wanted to ensure that the island would be kept as a nature preserve open to all and left unspoiled.

Unlike most of the Chapter's preserves, Damariscove has never had

a permanent fund to pay for its management and care. Stewardship expenses like caretakers, a new dock and interpretive brochures have been covered by occasional gifts from a few "angels" and allocations from the Chapter's already stretched general stewardship budget. To remedy this situation and keep Damariscove secure for the future, the Chapter is now working to raise a \$100,000 stewardship fund for the island.

In the process of planning for Damariscove's future, we are learning a lot about Damariscove's past. On any given day, we may appear to be sitting at a desk, but we are really standing by the rough wharves of a 17th century fishing outpost, hot on the track of a steadily disappearing forest, sitting in front of a small boy in knickers proudly displaying his prize cow, or walking around the island on a new trail. We thought you might like to join us for a journey on paper, so that the fascinating life of Damariscove can begin to live for you...and make your visit to the island all the more special.

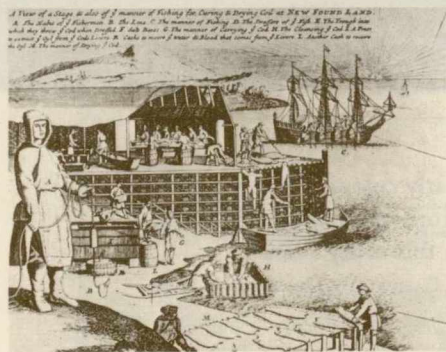


## A WINDOW TO THE PAST.

**T**o the Abnakis it was Aquahega, a place of marking or landing place. Every spring, they came out from the mainland to fish, collect duck and gull eggs, and enjoy the ease of summer.

By the early 1600s, European explorers had discovered abundant cod in the waters near Damariscove. Captain George Popham wrote of cod that were “bigger and larger fyshe than thay wch coms from the bancke of the New Found Land.”

The island was a perfect base for the cod fishing operation of the time. Its harbor was ideal for the stocky 17th century fish boats, sheltering them from nearly all winds. The boats sailed to Damariscove every spring, and returned to Europe loaded with dried salt cod in the fall. The atmosphere of the harbor would have been redolent with fish: fish being gutted and split on the wharves; fish drying on wooden racks (flakes) set on every clear surface around the harbor; fish layered with salt and stacked where convenient; and nice, full barrels of cod livers, left to quietly rot and release their oil.



Moll's map, Maine State Museum

*In the 17th century, Damariscove's harbor would have looked much like this fishing station.*

When the Europeans first came to Damariscove, it was largely covered with evergreen trees. They undoubtedly cleared an area near the harbor for their flakes and sheds, as well as for their camps and gardens. Legend has that wild roses were brought to the island by French traders and planted by the fishermen.

In 1608, Sir Humphrey Damerill, a seaman and agent for Sir Fernandino Gorges, the British nobleman who controlled most of Maine at the time, is believed to have fished the Damariscove area and established a trading post on the island. People took to calling the island Damerill's Cove.

Less than 20 years after the first boatload of cod was sent back to England, Damariscove was a bustling harbor filled with “thirty ships

of sail”: boats of the island's fishermen (who now numbered 13 year-round) and visitors who stopped in to trade fish, furs and other goods.

Damariscove easily qualifies as Maine's earliest permanent European settlement. The importance of the settlement was emphasized by John Pory, Secretary to the Governor and Council of Virginia, who reported in 1622 that there was after the Plymouth and Wessagusset colonies, “a third in Canada at Damerill's Cove.”

Surfeited with cod, supplied regularly through trade with Europe and the natives, and provided with gardens and some stock, including hogs that were fed on fish refuse, the residents of “Damarils Iles” were doing considerably better than the new arrivals to Plymouth, some 150 sea-miles to the south. Threatened with starvation after the first long winter, the Pilgrim settlers sent Edward Winslow to Damariscove for help. He recorded in his memoir: “It was about the end of May 1622, at which time our store of victuals was wholly spent, having lived long before with bare and short allowance.” At Damariscove, he found “kind entertainment and good respect with a willingness to supply our wants and would not take any bills for same but did what they could freely.”

The Damariscove fishermen had the time and inclination to be festive. A visitor on his way to the Plymouth Colony in 1622 related that they “had set up a may pole and weare very mery.” In 1645, a complaint was filed against the person held responsible for making a ship's crew “so drunke for severall daies together that his men could not go to sea in the prime time of fishing.”

The Puritans brought law and order—and taxes—to Damariscove in 1671; they even licensed a “house of public entertainment,” which was allowed “to retayle beere, wyne and liquors.”

However, the mantle of official colonial government could not protect the islanders from the dangers of life in 17th century New England. Living on an island did offer some safety, but the Damariscove fishermen had no hope of aid in case of attack.

In early 1676, King Phillip's War (the French and Indian War) came to Damariscove. The coastal Indian tribes attacked the English villages of Sheepscot, Damariscotta, Arrowsic, Pemaquid, and Newagen. Some 300 settlers fled from their burning homes to the island. Finding insufficient shelter and little peace of mind, the refugees eventually made their way farther south.

For more than 75 years, the wars severely disrupted life along the coast of Maine. In 1677, there were apparently some stoics (or optimists) still on Damariscove, for the Indians reportedly “went downe to damerscoue

and there burnt howses and kilet catell.” They later returned, taking one sloop and killing one person.

Damariscove's owner, Captain Richard Patishall, was killed that same year. An Indian raiding party caught him in Pemaquid aboard his sloop, beheading his corpse as befitted an honored enemy. His body, along with that of his dog, were said to have fetched up on the island's shores. From that day, islanders have reported the nocturnal wanderings of the ghostly headless captain, who strides the island in the company of his equally ethereal dog.

The fishermen never completely abandoned Damariscove. They returned with their families during lulls in the fighting and successfully defended their island on several occasions. These people were a tenacious lot indeed; a contemporary stated in 1721 that the only house remaining between Georgetown and Pemaquid was on Damariscove.

About 1725 the heirs of Captain Patishall, including Paul Revere's mother, divided the island into eight lots bounded by stone walls. They apparently did not build on the separate lots, but kept a central farm. They fished and farmed much like their predecessors.

With the defeat of the French in 1759, the wars were finally over. The good times returned on a wave of new settlers from the south. Life was prosperous, especially for fishermen and traders. David Knight, who maintained homes in Pemaquid and on Damariscove, had bought the island four years earlier. He and his family raised sheep and crops on the island until the Revolutionary War forced them to return to the mainland.

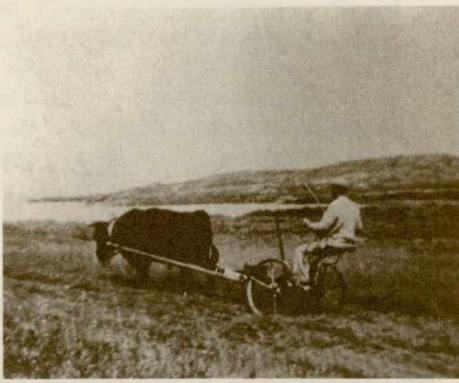
Throughout most of the war, the British kept the Maine coast firmly in their grip; British privateers ranged up and down the coast, burning buildings, shooting cattle, and confiscating provisions. In 1775, Captain Henry Mowatt's men paused to burn David Knight's house and collect his 78 sheep and three hogs before they sailed on to burn Falmouth (now Portland).

Peace came in 1790, and by 1800 there were 40 people on Damariscove. The island families raised sheep, along with a few pigs, cattle and domestic fowl. They also fished, clammed, gathered wild berries, and kept gardens. Ten years later, 19 people were living on the island—evidently keeping close company in just two dwellings.

Over the years, the islanders had cleared land for their fish curing operations, houses and pastures. Although contemporary accounts are scanty, later historians report that during this period the island still appeared to be “...covered by noble evergreen trees.”

After the Revolutionary War ended, newly freed American shipping blossomed, threatening trade routes traditionally held by the





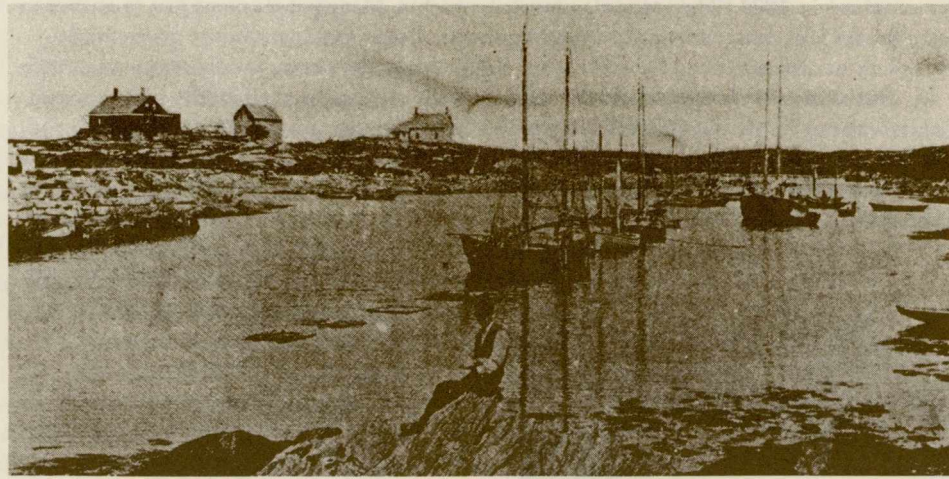
UMO (photos Cynthia Prentice)



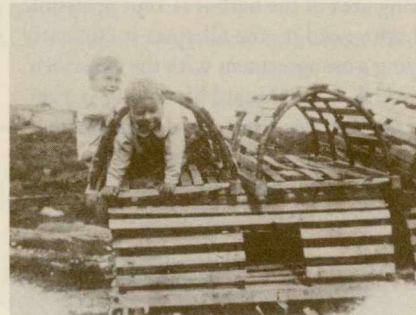
Mowing in the pond field.



Lyman Poole and companion,  
in front of the White House.



Fishing schooners in the harbor, around 1895, from a tourist pamphlet.



UMO (photo Cynthia Prentice)



UMO (photo Blanche Johnson)

Relaxing near the wharf.



The new Coast Guard Life Saving Station  
and its crew in 1896.

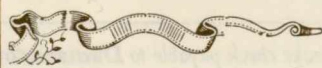


Damariscove Island, in its entirety,  
was named a National Historic Land-  
mark in 1978.



"It is not too much to affirm  
that Damariscove was, from 1608,  
let us say, to about 1625, the chief  
maritime port of New England.  
Here was the rendezvous for  
English, French and Dutch ships  
crossing the Atlantic, and for  
trade between Damariscove and  
New Netherland as well as  
Virginia to the south."

CHARLES BOLTON  
The Real Founders of New England



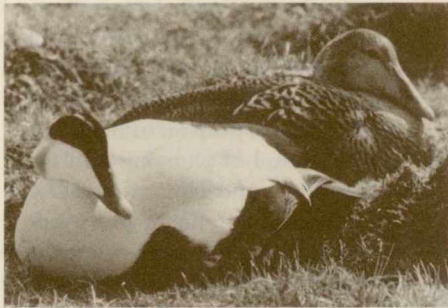
The island farm in 1916. The Farmhouse is the foreground, with the New Barn and White House (the island school) in the rear. The Yellow House, an outbuilding, is barely visible next to the barn.



## A window to the natural world.

**U**NDER the Conservancy's protection, Wood End has become a haven for a thriving breeding colony of common eiders. Each spring more than 1,000 pairs return to nest here; by mid-summer squadrons of mother eiders and their chicks cruise through the crashing surf.

Common eider populations have rebounded remarkably in recent years, but these beautiful sea ducks still find relatively few safe nesting islands in Maine. The Damariscove colony is one of the largest in the United States.



Common eiders

More than 150 species of birds have been spotted on Damariscove. Black guillemots, herring gulls, and double-crested cormorants also nest on Wood End. Osprey are frequently seen fishing just offshore. The island's freshwater pond, a rare resource on coastal islands, attracts a wide variety of sea birds in summer and migratory land birds in fall. Snowy owls regularly winter on Damariscove.

Damariscove is also home to a healthy population of muskrats that have adapted successfully to life in a largely non-aquatic, upland habitat. Their runs criss-cross the fields everywhere. And, although the muskrats are nocturnal, visitors may occasionally be

astonished to find themselves accosted by an irate muskrat awakened by their footfalls.

Much to the surprise and interest of ecologists, Damariscove's vegetation has not reverted to forest since the pastures were abandoned. Although there is one clump of trees near the harbor, the rest of the island is blanketed with shrubs and grasses, and shows no sign yet of becoming "covered by noble evergreens." In fact, although a few struggling saplings of birch, aspen and cherry can be found, there is not a single spruce or fir on the island.

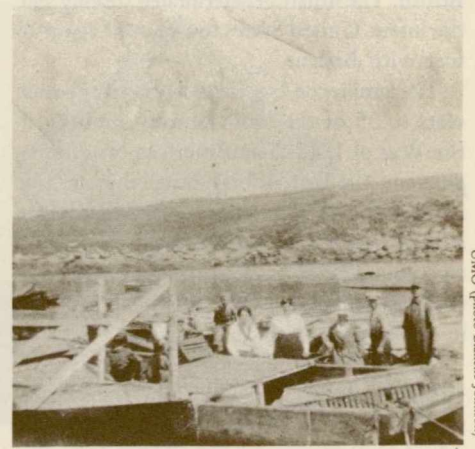
Bayberry, steplebush and clover are among the most common plants, but botanists have found more than 300 species on the island. Wild roses grow profusely in the wet meadows and along the old stone walls. Scattered cranberry bogs give the island a reddish hue in late summer. Typical coastal tundra vegetation, including fragile lichens and mosses, grows on the dry, exposed granite ledges.

Damariscove is an ideal laboratory for scientific studies. Biologists curious about the



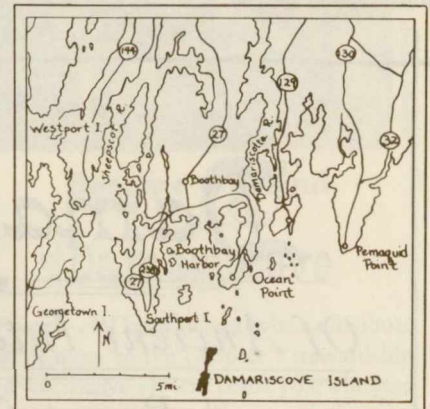
Muskrat

special habits and adaptations of island animals have studied the muskrats, freshwater pond fish, and nesting seabirds. Botanists have looked into the persistence of shrubs and grasses on the island, finding and counting every baby tree hiding in the dense brush. For the past three years, the island's caretakers have taken rain and fog samples for a statewide study of acid precipitation.



UMO (photo Blanche Johnson)

### Advice to Company about to make a Visit.

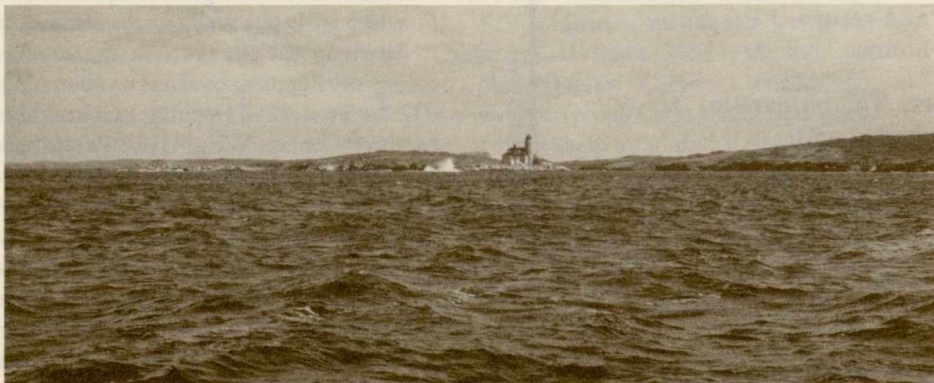


Damariscove is accessible only by private boat. The harbor mouth is guarded by a group of notorious sinkers called The Motions. Please use caution & consult your charts carefully.



A fascinating account of life on Damariscove at the time of the First World War, as seen through the eyes of Alberta Poole, one of the island's children, can be found in the book *Coming of Age on Damariscove Island, Maine* by Carl R. Griffin and Alaric Faulkner (1980: Northeast Folklore, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469).

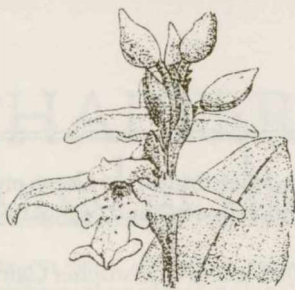
Special thanks to Dr. Alaric Faulkner and Gretchen Faulkner of the University of Maine for their generous loan of historic photographs from their research collection, and for their continuing interest in and concern for Damariscove Island.



Ruth Ann Hill

The southern shore





## Memorial gifts

Gifts in memory of the following individuals have been received by the Maine Chapter:

Dr. Mary E. (Libby) Bogel  
 Mary Hale Chase  
 William Crosby  
 John M. Dudley  
 Lawrence E. Hanson  
 Edward H. Harrigan  
 Henry S. Huntington, III  
 Keith Huntley  
 Robert Patterson  
 Dr. David F. Trzenska  
 Stephen E. O'Reilly  
 Eva J. Eustis  
 Morrill Walker  
 Dr. Timothy A. Walsh

## Corporate memberships

Any gift of \$100 or more qualifies a business as a corporate member of the Maine Chapter. We are pleased to have received support from the following, and welcome them as members of the Chapter.

Bath Iron Works  
 Blue Rock Industries  
 DeLorme Mapping Company  
 Johnson & Johnson  
 Seven Islands Land Company

## National Corporate Associates

National Corporate Associate dues begin at \$1,000 and are split between the national office and appropriate state offices.

Champion International  
 L.L. Bean, Inc.

## Organizational support

We welcome the following organizations as members of the Maine Chapter.

Abnaki Ski & Outing Club  
 Penobscot County Conservation Association  
 Small Point Association

## New life members

Any gift of \$1,000 or more to the Maine Chapter Land Preservation Fund provides a life membership for the donor and spouse in the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. All such gifts furnish a long-term source of support to help save land here in Maine.

We are pleased to welcome as new life members:

P. James Barthe  
 Richard H. Patten  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Soltzes

# STEWARDSHIP

## Stewardship Workshop a success

Start by gathering a group of people who share an interest in natural lands; stir in plenty of expert information and instruction; sprinkle with sunshine and spring breezes; add plenty of good food; season with energy and enthusiasm; and mix well. It's a recipe that can't go wrong, as we discovered at this year's Stewardship Workshop held at the Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset.

Nearly 70 people participated in the day's activities, which were designed to provide practical solutions to stewardship problems. Participants represented a cross-section of the private conservation community, including eight TNC preserves, 11 land trust/private landholding groups, and four other environmental organizations.

While we were delighted by the turnout, we couldn't help but notice that our own preserve stewards were very much in the minority. If you have any suggestions about location, time of year, topics to be discussed—we would love to hear your ideas. We'd like you to come; the stewardship workshop is intended to meet *your* needs.

## Introducing the new summer staff

C.D. Smith will be returning from Florida for another summer as caretaker on Damariscove Island Preserve. C.D.'s familiarity with the island and its visitors, his carpentry and technical skills, not to mention his winning smile, will be especially valuable. He will be joined by Sandy McGee, also of Florida. Sandy's experience as a naturalist and park ranger will serve her well on Damariscove.

Nancy B. Chandler will be the Conservancy's plover/tern warden on Seawall Beach, working in coordination with Maine Audubon Society, Bates College, and the Small Point Association. Nancy brings to the job a diverse educational background in primate behavior, insect ecology, environmental education, as well as field ornithology. She has lived in Small Point for 11 years and is an active volunteer in the community, serving as a member of the Phippsburg Conservation Commission and Phippsburg Land Trust.

Ronald Tucker, a long-time Jonesport resident and avid outdoorsman, has been hired as Great Wass Island caretaker. Ron

not only knows the island extremely well, he is already familiar with the responsibilities of the position; Ron is taking over the job from his grandson, Doug Dodge, who was caretaker in 1987.



Julie Henderson

*Volunteers Keith Neunzig, Lissa Widoff, Lois Winter, Meg Scheid, Judy Hazen, Dennis Myrshall, Jon Archer, Will Zell, Paul Wilson, Tony French, and John Shroyer take a break after loading Terry Johnson's barge with debris from Great Duck Island.*

## Third time's a charm

Clear skies, calm seas, and light wind combined to produce ideal conditions for the third scheduled attempt at a "burn-and barge-off" on Great Duck Island. A dozen able-bodied volunteers lugged lumber, tended trash fires, and became intimately familiar with a mountain of trash. Rewards were commensurate with the tremendous effort expended; a debris-free island and the enchantment of petrel song.

## Field trips sold out!

We have had a remarkable response to this year's field trip program; by the time you read this newsletter it is likely that all trips will be filled.

We do accept names to be placed on a waiting list, in the event of cancellations. However, the waiting list is already FULL for the trips to Great Wass Island and Brier Island, and we cannot accept any more names for these trips.

Jeanne Desjardins has done a tremendous job of handling the deluge of registrations and has answered more than the usual number of phone calls.

You can make her job easier. Please don't send in your check and registration form; call first to see if there is room on the waiting list. Thanks for your help—and especially for sharing our interest in exploring Maine's finest!



## Volunteer biological monitors and field research assistants needed.

As part of its strategic plan for the next decade, the Conservancy has set a goal of systematically tracking the status of all globally endangered or threatened elements in each state. Maine has 20 such elements of diversity, ranging from the famous—piping plover, bald eagle, and Furbish lousewort—to the obscure—a freshwater mussel, a moth, a butterfly, and several sedges.

For years, the Conservancy has relied on a legion of volunteer preserve stewards and easement monitors. Usually their responsibilities have focused on human use and access, legal obligations, and the potential impact of surrounding land use. Now we need monitors who can help at a number



Julie Henderson

In search of...

of sites with long-term monitoring of some of the state's rarest species and natural communities. Areas to be monitored include both established Conservancy preserves and sites where the Conservancy is working cooperatively with private landowners or state agencies.

How can you help? We need people to:

- assist with the annual or biennial collection of data on the rare species population or natural community and to monitor the site between data collection visits to keep us informed of any problems, such as vandalism or loss of plot markers;
- be an on-call field assistant for various research projects ranging from counting sedge stems and collecting plant material to setting spider traps and putting out bait for moths.

Some field experience and biological background would be helpful, but interest,

willingness to learn, and a commitment of 3-5 days for the next few years is more important.

Interested? Let us know your address and telephone number and we will send you information describing the nature and location of current and potential projects, and a questionnaire to help us match you to the best project. Contact Barbara Vickery or John Albright at the Chapter office, 729-5181.

## Research Contracts awarded

### Population Biology of *Carex polymorpha*

Lisa A. Standley, PhD and Judith L. Dudley

*Carex polymorpha*, or variable sedge, is a globally rare woodland sedge species which occurs at just four sites in two towns in Maine. Remarkably little is known about the ecology and life history of this rarity currently under consideration for federal listing. Dr. Standley and Ms. Dudley will be investigating the sedge reproductive systems and seed dispersal, germination and establishment to provide a scientific basis for the development of protection and management strategies.

### Establishing a Monitoring Program for *Cypripedium arietinum*

Susan C. Hayward

Ram's head lady's slipper, *Cypripedium arietinum*, is another species rare throughout its range and found at only three sites in Maine. Ms. Hayward will be studying the two larger populations, gathering information that will help conservation managers gauge the success of efforts to protect the plants and their habitats.

### Investigation of potential methods of controlling shrub encroachment at Little Crystal Fen

Sally C. Rooney and Christopher Campbell, PhD

Last year's research conducted at Little Crystal Fen by George Jacobson et al. demonstrated that this remarkable area has experienced a dramatic and rapid increase of shrub and tree cover in the last 50 years. The invasion of woody plants now threatens populations of several extremely rare plants that inhabit the open sedge mat. Methods of controlling and removing woody vegetation without damaging the fragile fen area will be explored.

## Status and distribution of *Carex oronensis*, Orono Sedge (second year of two-year study)

Alison Dibble and Christopher Campbell, PhD

Found only along the Penobscot River, Orono sedge is Maine's only endemic plant and a candidate for listing as a federal endangered species. Following their remarkable success in locating new populations between Bangor and Medway last summer, Alison Dibble and Dr. Campbell will attempt to further define the range of this mystery sedge and determine its true taxonomic identity and lineage.

## Lichens as indicators of old-growth forests (final year of three-year study)

Steven B. Selva, PhD

So far Dr. Selva has identified 50 suspected old-growth forest indicator species of lichens. In this final year of his study, he will be looking at the lichens of disturbed and second-growth forests in northern Maine to compare their lichen flora with that of the old-growth stands already sampled.

## Endangered species bill passes Legislature

A bill strengthening the state's endangered species law will offer much greater protection to 23 of Maine's most threatened and endangered animals. Before this legislation, the Department of Inland Fisheries could only act *after* species had been harmed. The new bill addresses the absolutely vital need to protect these species *before* they can be harmed.

The new bill will:

- allow the commissioner of IF&W to identify areas essential to endangered and threatened species, and to develop management guidelines;
- prohibit state agencies, municipalities, and other regulatory agencies from issuing permits for developments that would significantly alter the species' habitats;
- permit the attorney general, through the courts, to stop activities that threaten rare wildlife.

The Maine Audubon Society was the primary mover among Maine's conservation organizations in getting this legislation passed.



# CHAPTER BUSINESS to be voted at the Annual Meeting

In recent years, changes in policy and procedures have occurred both within the national Nature Conservancy and at the Maine Chapter. A special committee of the Maine Chapter Trustees, appointed by Chairperson Sherry Huber, has drafted revised Chapter Bylaws to reflect these changes and to bring the Chapter's Bylaws into conformance with national policies and procedures.

Changes in the Chapter Bylaws must be approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting. The following is a summary of proposed substantive changes. Full copies of the current and revised Bylaws are available for inspection at the Chapter offices, will be sent to any member on request, and will be available at the Annual Meeting prior to the vote on the proposed revisions.

**Article I, Name and Offices.** Unchanged.

**Article II, Purposes.** References purposes enumerated in *Chapter Trustees Handbook* rather than *Volunteers Handbook* (now obsolete).

**Article III, Territory, Membership, Dues.** Eliminates references to specific dues rates because of potential future changes.

**Article IV, Annual Meetings, Nominations, Elections, Special Meetings.**

**Section 2, Nominating Committee.** Specifies that Nominating Committee shall be appointed by Chairperson, subject to approval by full Board of Trustees. Current Bylaws provide for appointment of Nominating Committee by full Board.

**Section 3, Nomination of Trustees and Officers.** Specifies that consent of nominees to Board is required before names are presented for election.

**Section 8, Quorum.** Redefines quorum of membership from current 7 to proposed 25 members.

**Article V, Board of Trustees**

**Section 1, Function and Composition.** Changes number of Trustees from current "the elective officers and not less than 5 or more than 18 Trustees" to proposed "not less than 10 nor more than 25 Trustees and elective officers."

**Section 6, Quorum.** Changes quorum of Board of Trustees from current "not less than 5" to proposed "thirty percent of its members."

**Section 8, Executive Committee.** Changes current composition from "the officers and two Trustees designated by the Board" to proposed "the officers and up to two Trustees recommended by the Chairperson and approved by the full Board of Trustees." Also specifies that notices of all regular meetings of the Committee shall be given to all other members of the Board and that, at all meetings of the Committee, a quorum shall consist of "50 percent of the members of the Committee and no less than three (3) people."

**Section 9, Annual Report and Audit.** Eliminates requirement that Chapter Annual Report include an audit of its accounts; states that management and audit of Chapter accounts is the responsibility of the National Office.

**Section 12, Removal.** Section deleted.

**Article VI, Officers.**

**Section 1, Title and Number.** Adds provision that, in the event that any officer is unable to discharge his/her duties, those duties shall be assumed by the following in this order: Vice Chair-

man (in order of seniority on the Board), Treasurer, Secretary.

**Section 3, Chapter Staff.** Deleted. (Refers to staff duties now enumerated in operating manuals.)

**Section 7, Treasurer.** Deletes several specific authorizations for Chapter Treasurer, as Chapter accounts are now managed by National Office.

**Article VII, Contracts and Obligations.** Deleted, as policies and procedures now specified in operating manuals.

**Article VII (Formerly Article VIII), Fiscal Year.** Changes Chapter fiscal year from calendar year to that of The Nature Conservancy (recently changed to July 1 - June 30).

**Former Article IX, Audit.** Deleted, as audits now performed by National Office.

**Article VIII (Formerly Article X), Conduct of Meetings.** Unchanged.

**Article IX (Formerly XI), Amendments.** Unchanged.

## Trustee nominations

The following new (or former) trustees have been nominated to the Chapter board.

**William W. Alcorn** (Biddeford). President, Wood Structures, Inc. Trustee, Maine Maritime Museum; Trustee, Landing School of Boatbuilding; Member, Sweetser Children's Home Building Committee. Harvard College, Yale School of Forestry, Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

**H. King Cummings** (Stratton). Former Chairman, President and CEO, Guilford Industries and Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation; Board Chairman, Maine Community Foundation, Carrabassett Valley Academy; Treasurer, Western Mountains Corporation; Trustee, Overseer or Governor, Colby College, Skowhegan School of Painting, Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, Image Carpets (Director). Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Charles J. Micleau** (Portland). Partner, law firm of Curtis, Thaxter, Stevens, Broder and Micleau. Former staff director, office of U.S. Senator Edmund S. Muskie. Former Vice President, Communications, The NutraSweet Company. Director, Consolidated Hydro, Inc. Member, World Affairs Council of Maine. Former Trustee, Maine Chapter, The Nature Conservancy. Bowdoin, George Hopkins, George Washington.

### Re-nominated trustees

George W. Cochrane, III  
Minnette Cummings  
Elizabeth Donnan  
Louis Hilton

### Officers

Sherry F. Huber, *Chair*  
Peter Corcoran, *Vice-chair*  
Carol A. Wishcamper, *Vice-chair*  
Dr. William B. (Tony) Owens, *Treasurer*  
Donald F. Mairs, *Secretary*

## And the winners are...

Ask, and ye shall receive. We are up to our gunwales in boat names. Boat names that are lyrical, humorous, appropriate, thoughtful—and a few that are punnier than our own warped contributions. After intensive consultation, we have reached a consensus. Hereafter, the Marblehead dory will be known as *Sir Humphrey Damerill* (founder of Damariscove Island); the outboard as *Steward Ship*.

The winners will be contacted and given their choice of a TNC t-shirt or a copy of *Maine Forever*. Thanks to everyone who entered!

## Maine Legacy

Published six times yearly by the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, 122 Main Street, P.O. Box 338, Topsham, Maine 04086; telephone (207) 729-5181. Submissions of articles, illustrations and photographs are welcome; please address queries to Ruth Ann Hill, editor.

Subscriptions to this newsletter are available to members. Membership dues are as follows: Life, \$1,000 (one-time); Acorn, \$100; Supporting, \$50; Contributing, \$25; Family, \$15; Subscribing, \$10. More than 12,000 members currently support the Conservancy's work in Maine.

### Board of Trustees

**Officers:** Chairman: Sherry Huber, Falmouth; Vice-chairs: Peter Corcoran, Seal Harbor and Carol Wishcamper, Freeport; Treasurer: William B. (Tony) Owens, M.D., Cape Elizabeth; Secretary: Donald Mairs, Oakland.

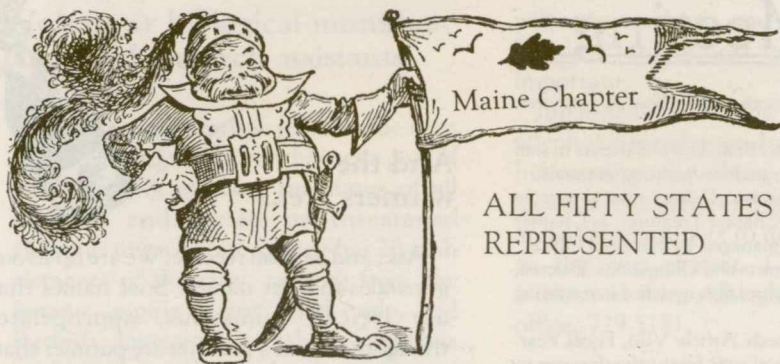
**Trustees:** Linda Alverson, Oxbow; Michael Aube, Bangor; William D. Blair, Jr., Vinalhaven; George W. Cochrane, III, West Southport; Malcolm Coulter, East Holden; Minnette Cummings, Portland; Elizabeth Donnan, Northeast Harbor; Louis Hilton, Greenville; Alan Hutchinson, Bangor; Howard C. Johnson, Freeport; Bodine Lamont, Falmouth; Cherie Mason, Sunset; Ralph Robins, York; Marilyn Moss Rockefeller, Camden; Douglas Smith, Dover-Foxcroft; David G. Stanley, Cumberland Foreside; Ellen Wells, Falmouth.

### Staff

**Executive Director,** J. Mason Morfit; **Associate Director,** Kent Wommack; **Director of Science & Stewardship,** Barbara St. John Vickery; **Heritage Program Director,** John Albright; **Assistant to the Director,** Deborah Clark; **Assistant Stewardship Director,** Julie Henderson; **Communications Coordinator,** Ruth Ann Hill; **Heritage Program Data Manager/Botanist,** Amy Forrester; **Heritage Program Community Ecologist,** Lissa Widoff; **Administrative Assistant,** Jeanne Desjardins; **Membership Secretary,** Barbara Clark; **Secretary,** Karen Douglass.



# MAINE CHAPTER PEOPLE



## Chapter membership hits new high

As a result of a highly successful new member recruitment campaign launched late last year, Maine Chapter membership has hit an all-time high. With the addition of more than 1,800 new members in the past six months, total Chapter membership now stands at almost 12,600 households.

Also, for the first time to our knowledge, the Maine Chapter now has at least one member in each of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and several foreign countries. Special thanks go to Mr. Holbrook Hawes, Mr. Lewis Smith and Dr. Lynn Hodgson, who are our *only* members in Nevada, Puerto Rico and South Dakota, respectively. A Maine product (as yet undetermined) will be sent to each of these stalwart members of our "foreign legion," compliments of an anonymous donor.

ALL FIFTY STATES  
REPRESENTED

## Who do you know in Guam?

So that the sun may never set on the membership of the Maine Chapter, we are offering one free copy of *Maine Forever*, the handsome guidebook to about 50 of our preserves, to the first member who provides a gift membership to a resident of each of the following U.S. territories. (Just send \$10 along with the name and address of the recipient; we'll do the rest.)

Guam  
American Samoa  
Baker, Howard and Jarvis islands  
Canton and Enderbury islands  
Johnston Atoll  
Kingman Reef  
Midway Islands  
Wake Island  
Caroline Islands  
Mariana Islands  
Marshall Islands

For those of you with friends and relatives in faraway places, here's your chance to send a little bit of Maine to those who are most literally "from away."

## Thanks to...

### More generous donors of wish list items

We are pleased to thank the following people for their thoughtful contributions of much needed items:

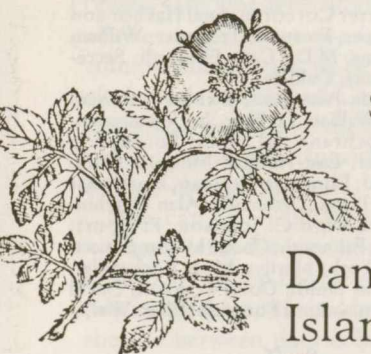
Joe Gray, Jefferson, Maine (CB radio); Mr. Howard Hadriance, Kingston, New York (Casio Fx-11 scientific calculator); Jon Henderson, San Jose, California (Hewlett Packard 275 scientific calculator); Dr. Charles Kunkle, South Freeport, Maine (boat ladder).

### More volunteers!

Thanks to everyone who responded to our call for preserve monitors and work-day volunteers. We couldn't do it without you.

Special thanks go to another "regular" around the office. Bruce Amstutz of Brunswick has completed a draft report nominating Great Wass Island as a National Natural Landmark. This is an honorary designation given by the National Park Service to outstanding natural areas with features of national significance.

Sincere thanks also go to Joan Acord of Litchfield, who has been of tremendous help in our latest fund-raising campaign. A computer wiz, Joan has processed lists at home, enabling the Chapter to meet pressing deadlines. Joan is now retired but spends a good deal of her time volunteering for various nonprofit organizations.



SPECIAL  
INSERT:

Damariscove  
Island  
Preserve

## Do you migrate?

This newsletter is sent bulk mail, which is not forwarded. Please let us know your summer and winter addresses, and your schedule, and we will keep Maine chapter news coming to your mailbox, wherever it may be.

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122 Main Street  
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