

# Maine Heritage

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST    DOWNEAST EDITION    SPRING 2018

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## Patience, Persistence, and Projects Completed

ON JANUARY 23, MCHT CLOSED ON A PROJECT TO CONSERVE A 148.5-ACRE PARCEL IN GOULDSBORO PROVIDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO FORBES POND. THIS IS ONE OF MANY PROJECT CLOSINGS SO FAR IN 2018.

In the coming months Maine Coast Heritage Trust will transfer three acres of newly acquired land on Jordan's Delight Island to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Three acres on a lonely island in Greater Pleasant Bay. If it doesn't sound like much, you haven't heard the whole story.

It begins in 1994, the year power tools and all-terrain vehicles dragging homebuilding materials and equipment started wreaking havoc on Jordan's Delight, one of Maine's most significant bird nesting islands. The 3,000-square-foot house was never finished, but its crude construction had taken a toll.

In 2000, Jordan's Delight was purchased by a family foundation determined to work with Maine Coast Heritage Trust to see it restored for the birds. MCHT

carefully removed the structure and transferred the newly conserved 24 acres—90% of the island—to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In December of 2017, MCHT conserved the remaining three acres and, this year, will transfer them to USFWS.



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THE BOLD CLIFFS OF JORDAN'S DELIGHT ISLAND

Many on staff at MCHT—and some of you reading this—have seen this story from beginning to end. Because we have been conserving the Maine coast together for nearly 50 years, this is a special story, but not an uncommon one. “Sometimes when trying to conserve a property, it takes a long time. You think you might have lost it, but it comes back around,” says Downeast Project Manager Patrick Watson.

Since the new year, MCHT has had a flurry of successful projects completed—eight at the time this newsletter went to press. Several were a long time coming. Others were not. We've shared some from Hancock and Washington counties on page three. Like the conservation story of Jordan's Delight, your continued support over the years makes all of them possible.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *by Tim Glidden*

# Maine at a Crossroads

In 1986, Maine was at a crossroads. A strong economy and the relative affordability of land had spurred rapid development in previous years, and the fragmentation of beloved landscapes and proliferation of “no trespassing” signs threatened to unravel peoples’ ties to the outdoors and the state’s natural resources.

At that juncture, Maine Coast Heritage Trust joined a bipartisan group of policymakers and other organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, Maine Audubon, and the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine, to form the Land for Maine’s Future (LMF) program to conserve the state’s essential lands and unique way of life. A decade later, in 1997, MCHT and many of these same partners worked with then Governor Angus King and his Land Acquisition Priorities Advisory Committee (LAPAC) on a report that set an ambitious public and private conservation land agenda for the dawn of the 21st century.

Today, two years away from Maine’s bicentennial and Maine Coast Heritage Trust’s 50th anniversary, we find ourselves at another crossroads. There have been many conservation success stories realized over the past few decades. However, a new physical, social, and political Maine landscape demands new strategic visioning and a refreshed commitment to land conservation. MCHT is once again stepping up

with partners to initiate critical conversations with a broad base of Mainers to identify land conservation priorities for the coming decade and to articulate a path forward.

At the same time, MCHT continues to build public awareness of Maine’s incredible mosaic of conserved lands. This summer, we’re collaborating with L.L. Bean to develop a Passport to Maine’s Outdoors, which will invite friends and families to explore conserved lands around the state. Together with Maine land trusts, we’ve spent the past year collecting stories and statistics about land conservation’s positive impacts on people’s day-to-day lives, and we’ll continue to share these findings with policymakers, candidates, and the public in the months leading up to the November election. We have an extraordinary opportunity ahead of us and we look forward to working hand in hand with Maine’s next governor to conserve Maine’s lands for the benefit of all who live, work, and play here.

In the coming months, we hope you’ll join us in the effort to engage and inform Maine candidates and policymakers about the importance of land conservation to the state. On [mltn.org](http://mltn.org) you can find the “Land Trusts Work for Maine” report, which is chock full of information about land trusts and the work they do to enhance Maine’s communities and economy. When meeting and considering Maine’s gubernatorial and other candidates, learn more about their stance on land conservation and share with them your voice of support—the future of our state depends on it.



# Patience, Persistence, and Projects Completed continued from page one

JACOB VAN DE SANDE

## BAILEY'S MISTAKE, LUBEC

- **Closing date:** March 15
- **Acres conserved:** 11
- **Project timeline:** 2016 – 2018
- **Benefits:** Securing commercial water access (8 fishermen currently use the site); creating future recreational opportunities; protecting a locally beloved waterfront view

### **Conserved with help from:**

The Partridge Foundation

**Fun fact:** The land is so named for a captain who ran his cargo ship aground here on a foggy day in 1809.

## FORBES POND WEST, GOULDSBORO

- **Closing date:** January 23
- **Acres conserved:** 148.5
- **Project timeline:** 2016 – 2018

- **Benefits:** Conserving a key stepping stone on the “Schoodic to Schoodic” wildlife corridor; providing public access to a large expanse of conserved land with outstanding recreational opportunities.

**(Not-so) fun fact:** The landowner before last was known to meet fishermen with a shotgun and ask them to “check in next time.” You better believe they did.

## HILLS ISLAND, HANCOCK

- **Closing date:** January 9
- **Acres conserved:** 8.5
- **Project timeline:** 2016 – 2018
- **Benefits:** Hills Island is in the heart of a wild stretch of coastline where MCHT has focused conservation

efforts over the past 12 years.

**Conserved with help from:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which used a grant from North American Wetlands Conservation Act

**Fun fact:** The island has a long history of successful nesting bald eagles. Take care not to disturb them!

## JOHNSON POINT, MACHIASPORT

- **Closing date:** January 10
- **Acres conserved:** 105
- **Project timeline:** 2003 – 2018
- **Benefits:** Expanding an existing preserve; protecting habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, and other wildlife

**Fun fact:** It took six real estate transactions to conserve this one parcel.



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# Howard and Ida's Happy Place, Forever Protected

In the early 1960s Howard and Ida Hunt made their first journey to eastern Maine looking for land. In the *Saturday Review* they saw an ad for 84 acres of farmland for sale in Trescott, and not long afterward they met up with the owner, Eleanor Hurst, in her old red Willys jeep, and went to see it for themselves. It was a rainy, foggy, windy, nasty day with no view at all. Ida fell in love.

Her son Steve remembers her saying softly, "Heathcliff, Heathcliff," referencing *Wuthering Heights* as she scanned the dramatic landscape. His mother was taken with the intensity and romance of the place, while Howard appreciated the fragility of the property's bog, and its significance in terms of water flow, drainage, and wildlife. With their children, John, Steve, Bill, and Carol, Howard and Ida spent the better part of their summers enjoying the communities of Trescott and Lubec and the land they loved. Steve remembers the farm as the only place

where his father fully relaxed.

Howard died in 2001 and Ida made it to 98 and a half, passing on in 2016. Thankfully, Howard had shared with his children the philosophical belief that, "We don't own this land, we're just caretakers." The concept stuck. Over the past couple of years, the four children worked with Maine Coast Heritage Trust Project Manager Patrick Watson to protect the magical nature of the place that had meant so much to their parents.

"They would have been tickled to know the bog is conserved," says John. The bog is indeed a special place, ranking high in the state as an exemplary raised coastal peatland and featuring a rare drainage system found at only two other sites in Maine. MCHT acquired the land for its ecological value and plans to manage it with a light touch, following in Howard and Ida's footsteps.



# MCHT Connecting You to the Coast

We want to help you get out on the coast. To smell salt air and balsam, take a dip in Maine's cool, clean waters, or tire your legs on a walk through the woods. All Maine Coast Heritage Trust preserves are free and open to the public because we believe that everyone deserves access to the coast.

Over the past several months, Maine Coast Heritage Trust's website, [mcht.org](http://mcht.org), has been updated to provide you with more and better information about MCHT preserves, how to get to them, and what to look for when you visit. You can search for places to explore by regions or activities you love, or peruse articles like "Jane's Picks for Kid-Friendly Preserves" for guidance from MCHT staff.

We also understand it can be hard to get outside on your own, especially to MCHT's remote island preserves. That's why we're expanding our summer event and field trip schedule to include free open houses to islands and other stellar spots on the coast. From cocktail cruises to mushrooms walks to island picnics, we want you to experience the beauty you help protect, and for more people to understand what it takes to keep the Maine coast healthy, beautiful, and open to all.

Visit [mcht.org/visit-a-preserve](http://mcht.org/visit-a-preserve) to learn all about MCHT's most popular preserves and inspire your next outdoor adventure on the Maine coast. If you want to visit an island but don't have a boat of your own, look into MCHT's preserves on Vinalhaven and Frenchboro.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

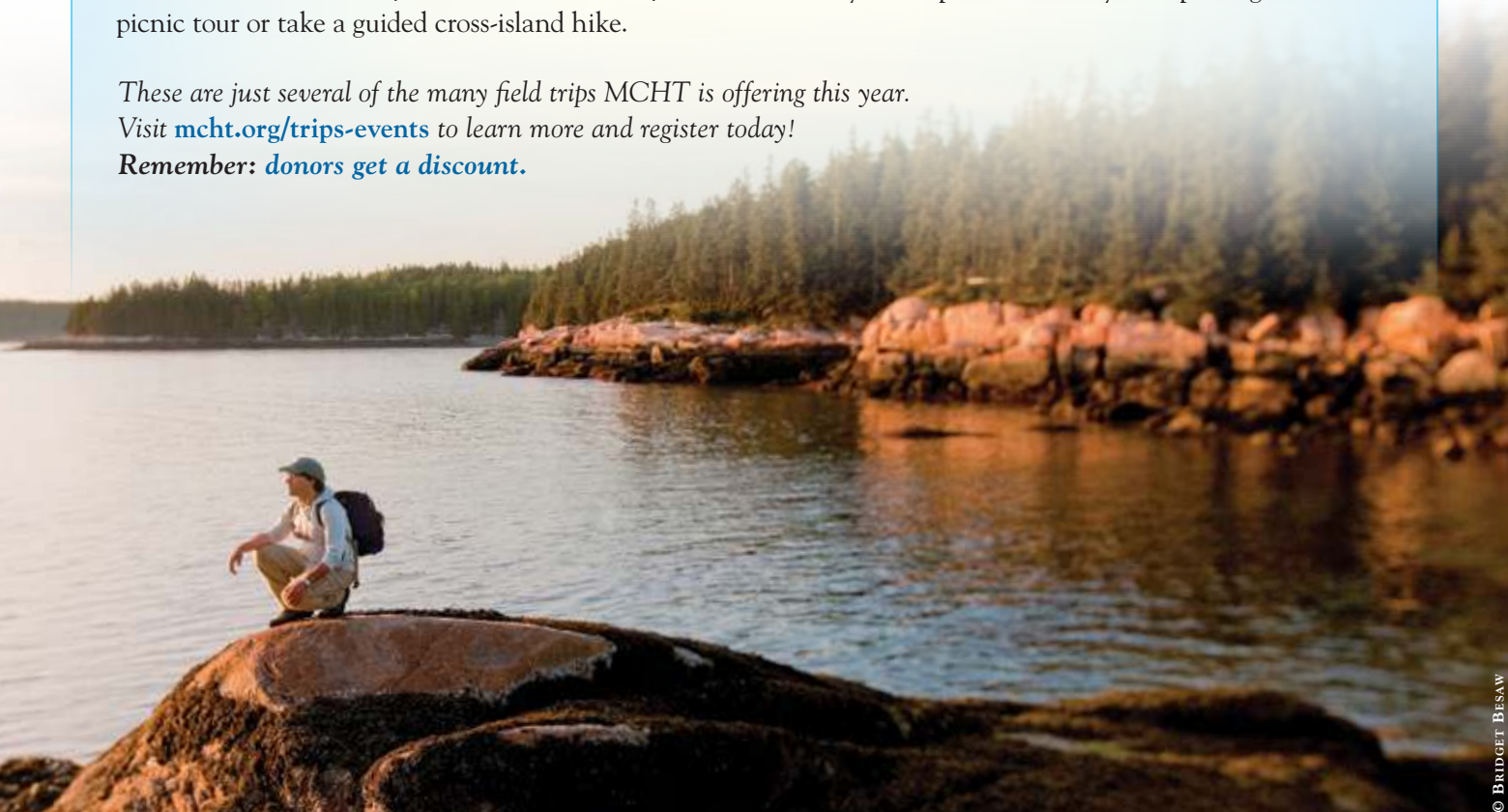
**MERCHANT ROW SUNSET COCKTAIL CRUISE;** Saturday, June 30; departs from Stonington. Cruise through the breathtakingly beautiful islands between Stonington and Isle au Haut where MCHT manages 10 island preserves.

**BLACK ISLAND EXPLORATION;** Sunday, July 8; departs from Bass Harbor. Adventure to this beautiful and remote Blue Hill Bay island and take it easy on a picnic tour or take a guided cross-island hike.

*These are just several of the many field trips MCHT is offering this year. Visit [mcht.org/trips-events](http://mcht.org/trips-events) to learn more and register today!*  
**Remember: donors get a discount.**

**CLARK ISLAND OPEN HOUSE;** Sunday, August 19; St. George. This is a conservation project in process! Explore Clark's rocky shoreline and pocket beaches, hike the wooded trails, or join us for a hot dog on the lawn of the Craignair Inn.

**TREAT ISLAND OPEN HOUSE;** Saturday, September 15; departs from Lubec and Eastport. Pack up the family and a picnic for a day of exploring.



Maine Coast Heritage Trust is dedicated to protecting land that is essential to the character of Maine and to the health of coastal communities. Since 1970, more than 150,000 acres have been permanently protected, including more than 300 entire coastal islands. MCHT provides conservation advisory services free of charge to landowners, local land trusts and state and community officials. A nonprofit organization, MCHT welcomes your support and involvement.

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Learn more at [mcht.org](http://mcht.org)

- MCHT Preserve Listings
- Notices of Field Trips and Events
- Staff News
- Job Postings
- Project Updates and More...

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# Take a Trip to Tinker Island

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Wild beauty abounds on Tinker Island, a 430-acre island in the heart of Blue Hill Bay. Maine Coast Heritage Trust's 230-acre McKenney Preserve covers the northern half of the island and is open to you for exploration. The shoreline is stellar, especially at low tide when a 350-foot sand bar emerges off the beach on the southwest corner of the island. Camp overnight at the tenting area above the shore, or venture to the northeast side of the island, where you'll find a nice little beach and tenting spot overlooking Mount Desert Island and the hills of Acadia. On June 21, Land Steward Douglas McMullin may have a few spots left on a clean-up expedition to Tinker Island. If you're interested in joining, give us a call at 207-244-5100. If you can't make it or find the event is full, visit [mcht.org](http://mcht.org) to learn about other volunteer opportunities and this summer's lineup of trips and events.