

Maine Heritage

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST DOWNEAST EDITION FALL 2018



The Gift of Pell Island

PELL ISLAND IS MCHT'S 11TH PUBLIC PRESERVE IN THE ARCHIPELAGO BETWEEN STONINGTON AND ISLE AU HAUT.

Between Stonington and Isle au Haut is a world-renowned archipelago of more than 50 granite and spruce islands, two-thirds of which are protected. In September Maine Coast Heritage Trust acquired another extraordinary island for public access. Twenty-two-acre Pell Island is Maine Coast Heritage Trust's eleventh island preserve in the archipelago.

For decades Pell Island was in private ownership and used and loved by the Knox Family. They cherished the island's extraordinary features, including slabs of smooth granite, sandy beach, and shaggy spruce woods. A conservation easement was placed on the island

in 1976 that limited development.

In the early 2000s, Senior Project Manager Ciona Ulbrich was in conversation with the landowners about



PADDLING BETWEEN PELL AND NATHAN ISLANDS

possible further conservation options, but the timing wasn't right. Fifteen years later, when one of those same landowners called MCHT, she was pleasantly surprised to find Ciona on the other line. "You're still there!" she said. "And you know Pell Island."

Ciona worked closely with the family in the months following as they so generously decided to donate the island, ensuring it will always stay as is, and open to the public for light recreational use. It is a dreamy place for a picnic, to hike the perimeter and interior or take a swim on a hot summer day. Jane Arbuckle, MCHT's Director of Stewardship, calls Pell "a keystone in the suite of islands

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by *Tim Glidden*

Voices for the Maine Coast

Chances are you've heard about Maine Coast Heritage Trust's \$125 million Campaign by now. We've shared the news in print, online, in interviews with press, and at kitchen tables with friends in Maine and across the country. I hope you are sharing the news as well, because this is not just MCHT's Campaign—it's your Campaign, our collective effort on behalf of the Maine coast.

In remarks supporting MCHT's conservation efforts, the Portland-based poet Megan Grumbling spoke of gratitude for those who "come together to do what needs to be done—the work of taking care—to make sure all of us and our children's children's children will continue to find moon snails in the tide pools, to float in green coves and taste the tang of rose hips." Hers is the voice of this Campaign.

In his recent book, *Sailor for the Wild*, Ben Emory, former Executive Director of MCHT, writes that, "if they are to grow into adults who will cherish and properly steward this planet that is their home ... [children must] have opportunities to fall in love with natural places." In *Bonding with Nature*, another long-time friend of MCHT, Dianna Emory, writes about nature as the single ever-present resource that can "relax and energize us, restore positive feelings, feed and strengthen our bodies, provide companionship, and help us to move more comfortably through challenging times." Theirs are the voices of this Campaign.

Dianna's book begins, "If you picked up this book, you could have written it." Likewise, if you're reading this newsletter, you have a story of the Maine coast. A place, a smell, a feeling, rushes to expression. Yours is the voice of this Campaign.

So too is the voice of Veronica Kaluta, a fourteen-year-old who was born in Tanzania and spent this past summer as a Teen Ag Crew member at Erickson Fields Preserve in Rockport, and who says, "It is hard to have a bad feeling in Maine. It is a state with so much nature, a quiet and peaceful place." Or the voice of David Toothaker, who has been digging clams in Brunswick for 45 years and made his first gift to MCHT in 2018. "Access to the coast for everybody," says David. "That's a good cause. That's worth everybody giving what they can."

Our collective effort is not yet over. Threats to the coast persist, and it will take all of us, and more still, to address them. I hope you will give your voice and everything that you can to this Campaign and the coast you love.

IN MEMORIAM

Albert Morton Creighton Jr.

helped form and shepherd MCHT through its first 50 years as one of its earliest board members and, at the time of his death in September of this year, as a valued member of the council. Al, along with his wife Hilary, showed extraordinary generosity and commitment to the cause of conservation in his home state of Massachusetts and along the Maine coast he loved, and he was instrumental in forming Vinalhaven Land Trust in 1986. Al's warmth, curiosity, integrity, and unrelenting positivity will be greatly missed.



The Gift of Pell Island *continued*

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north of Isle au Haut” and especially loves the sand bar revealed at low tide, which all but connects Pell to MCHT’s Nathan Island Preserve.

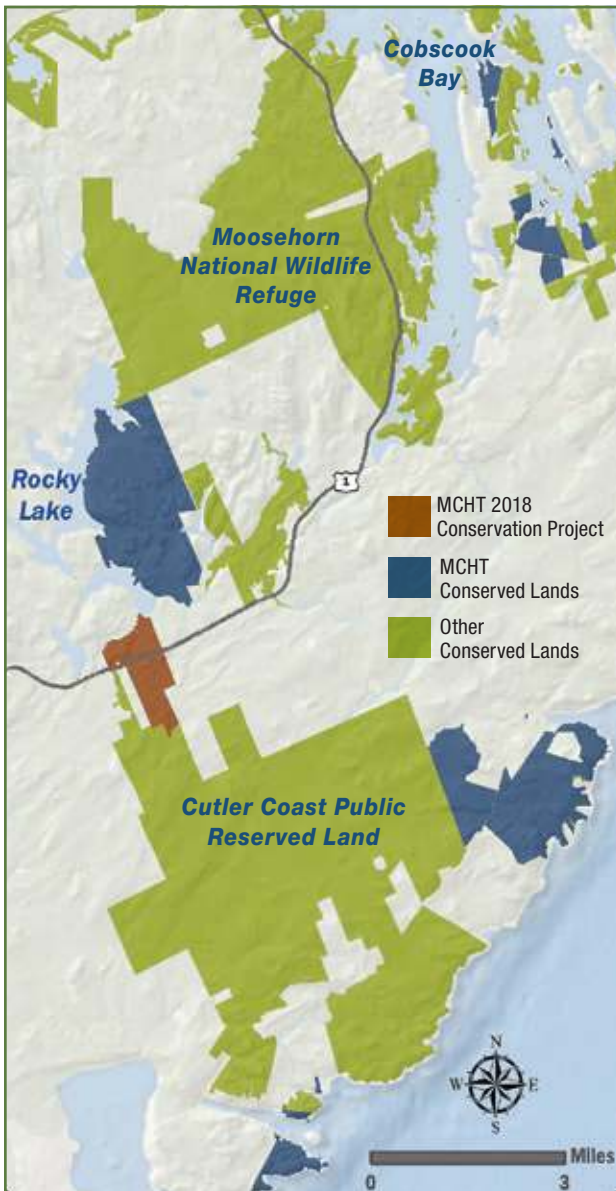
The family’s extraordinary act of

generosity and foresight is a gift to locals, visitors, and all who recognize and cherish the unique beauty of this special stretch of coastline. We thank them, and hope you get to see Pell Island Preserve for yourself very soon.

NATHAN ISLAND PRESERVE, CONSERVED IN 2001, SITS DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM PELL ISLAND.

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Saving Maine’s Plants and Animals in a Changing Climate



A 2014 study put out by Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences found that 75% of Maine’s native plants and animals are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. One of the key factors contributing to the health and sustainability of Maine’s wildlife is mobility—the ability of animals to migrate significant distances in a shifting climate. The Manomet study states that “the prognosis for Maine and its current suite of species and habitats is potentially good if landscape-scale corridors and large habitat blocks are maintained.”



Over the past several years, Maine Coast Heritage Trust has made significant progress towards conserving one of those critical landscape-scale corridors in Washington County, running from the Cutler Coast Public Reserved Land to the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. In 2017, MCHT conserved 2,352 acres on Rocky Lake. Just a couple of months ago, in September 2018, an additional nearby 600 acres were conserved, forever preserving an expansive, contiguous tract of land for vulnerable animals moving between the coast and inland forest. These extraordinarily impactful conservation projects are possible only through donor support. Thank you.

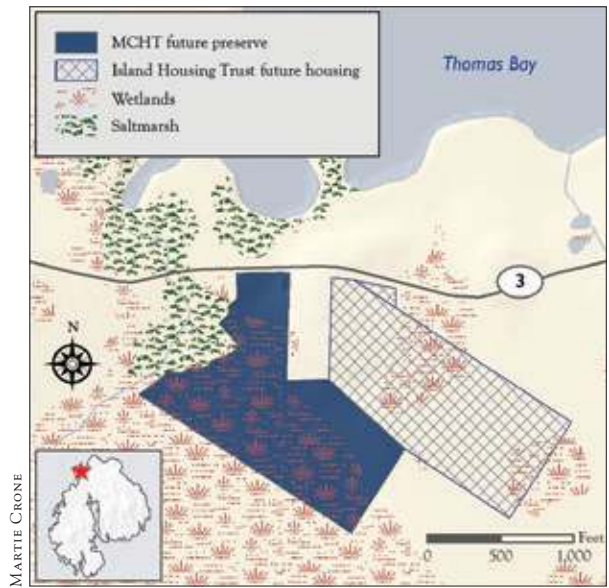
CONSERVATION GETS CREATIVE ON MDI

In 2018 over three million visitors will cross the Trenton Bridge and veer left along Route 3 towards Bar Harbor and the majestic peaks and rocky coastline of Acadia National Park. It's unlikely they'll notice a 60-acre undeveloped stretch of marsh, bog, and woods at the head of the island—but this is precisely the kind of place Maine Coast Heritage Trust pays close attention to.

That's because Jones Marsh, and all salt marsh, provides critical habitat for fish, birds, and animals. Unlike all salt marsh, this one is surrounded by undeveloped low-lying land. If we can protect that land now, as sea levels rise and water migrates inland, the salt marsh will be able to reestablish itself, sustaining critical wildlife habitat in a changing climate.

Presented with the opportunity to conserve this 60-acre parcel in 2014, MCHT staff and consultants surveyed the land extensively. About 30 acres were identified as having high ecological significance to the future health of the marsh. Misha Mytar, MCHT's Mount Desert Island Project Manager, imagined a different outcome for the remaining 30 acres.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust is deeply aware of the severe lack of affordable workforce housing and has committed to helping address the issue. In 2016, Misha reached out to Island Housing Trust (IHT) to see if there was interest in purchasing and building much-needed affordable workforce housing on half of the parcel. There was, and the groups joined forces to realize an outcome that would benefit both the ecological and economic health of the MDI community.



Over the past two years, MCHT and IHT have been jointly raising the \$450,000 needed to purchase the entire 60 acres and provide funding to steward the protected 30 acres in perpetuity. Donors stepped up to realize this extraordinary project, and the groups closed on the property in the fall.

“Island Housing Trust’s work is about more than acquiring year-round houses,” said IHT Executive Director Marla O’Byrne. “It’s about ensuring that our island communities continue to thrive long into the future. In MCHT, we’ve found a strong partner with a similar vision, and together we are moving the needle toward an exciting prospect for the future of MDI.”

Fall Gathering at Kelley Farm Preserve



Friends and neighbors of the Kelley Farm Preserve in Tremont joined Maine Coast Heritage Trust on Sunday, October 14 for a fall celebration with live music by Brian Kupiec and Bill Haynes, lawn games, and heirloom apple tasting courtesy of Healthy Acadia. MCHT was excited to introduce more people to this special preserve in their back yard, which offers sloping meadows, shoreline trails, lovely views, and community gardens. Thanks to all who joined us!



A Sea Bag for the Coast



RICH KNOX

SEA BAGS CEO DON OAKES AND ARTIST ERIC HOPKINS AT THE SEA BAGS STORE IN ROCKLAND.

It's likely you've seen Eric Hopkins' striking paintings of islands, water, and sky before—just not on a Sea Bag. The iconic Maine painter and Maine-based business Sea Bags teamed up with Maine Coast Heritage Trust this year to create a limited-edition tote bag, with 20% of proceeds going to MCHT to fund coastal conservation.

The opportunity to collaborate with Sea Bags and MCHT stood out to Hopkins. He appreciates Sea Bags' use of recycled materials (the company has kept more than 600 tons of sails from going into landfills!) and wanted to bring more awareness to Maine Coast Heritage Trust. As it turns out, Sea Bags reports this is one of the best-selling limited-edition totes they've ever released.

We cannot thank Eric and Sea Bags enough for their generosity and support. This limited-edition Sea Bag is only available through the end of the year. To purchase yours, visit seabags.com.

Your Campaign Update

Over the past several months, you've received information about Maine Coast Heritage Trust's \$125 million Campaign to address urgent threats to the Maine coast, and keep the coast healthy, open, working, and beautiful—today and far into the future.

Since this historic Campaign quietly launched in 2014, your donations have resulted in the completion of 156 conservation projects in 62 Maine towns; conserved 9,258 acres on the coast, including over 23 miles of oceanfront; and created 35 whole new public preserves, and additions to 8 others.

To date, \$96.7 million has been raised, and every future gift will be matched three to one until the \$125 million total is reached. All of this adds up to more access to the shore, more protected wildlife habitat, and more beloved places forever conserved and open to the public.

For more information about the Campaign and to help keep the coast Maine, visit mcht.org/campaign.

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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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♻️ Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled stock
Design: ethos

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Learn more at mcht.org

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An Iconic View Forever Protected



If you know the Blue Hill peninsula you know the view from Caterpillar Hill—the sight of sloping earth, ocean, and islands invariably takes one's breath away. Maine Coast Heritage Trust has worked in partnership with Blue Hill Heritage Trust and Island Heritage Trust to protect an additional key 32 acres on Caterpillar Hill, including the beloved view from Route 15. So many stepped up to meet the fundraising goal of \$605,000, from schoolkids to generous private donors and conservation supporters. The project will close in the fall of 2018 and the land will be owned and cared for by Blue Hill Heritage Trust. MCHT donors, the next time this view takes your breath away, remember: your support helped ensure that it always will.