

# Maine Heritage

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST

SUMMER 2016

## Securing Public Access to an Island Sanctuary

THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY AND FRIENDS OF HOG ISLAND, MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST NOW HOLDS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON A 300-ACRE WILDLIFE HAVEN IN BREMEN.

Among naturalists, Hog Island is synonymous with birds. A National Audubon Society camp since 1936, this 300-acre island in Muscongus Bay has attracted a long line of aspiring and famous ornithologists—including Roger Tory Peterson. Its camps and birding workshops inspire a closer connection to nature in each new generation of visitors.

Now a conservation easement donated by Audubon to Maine Coast Heritage Trust guarantees that the public can enjoy through time the high ecological and recreational values of this established wildlife haven. The newly completed easement covers most of the island and ensures that no development will occur in its exemplary maritime spruce-fir forest, an unusually pristine habitat that has experienced minimal human disturbance in the last century.

Hog Island supports a wide array of species—with more than 100 typically seen each year, notes Stephen Kress, Director of Audubon's Seabird Restoration Program. "Parula, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green and Yellow-rumped Warblers all nest in high populations," he says, and many shorebirds like yellowlegs and

sandpipers frequent the shores during fall migrations.

The nonprofit Friends of Hog Island raised stewardship funds for the new conservation easement. "We've worked hard to make the community feel welcome, enjoying the trails and campsites on the southern end," says its President Juanita Roushdy. "We're relieved to know that Hog Island will never be developed further: it's one of the major natural resources for Bremen."

The prospect of permanent protection also reassures Henry Kennedy, who directs Kieve-Wavus, an educational nonprofit that has brought campers and students to Hog Island for decades. "We all care so deeply about the island," he says: "it's an incredibly special place. Knowing that it will be protected and revered forever makes everyone feel really good."



RICH KNOX

THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROVIDES PUBLIC ACCESS TO HOG ISLAND'S ESTABLISHED TRAIL NETWORK SO VISITORS CAN ENJOY HIKING AND BIRDWATCHING.



**Maine Coast Heritage Trust**

A Statewide Land Conservation Organization



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by *Tim Glidden*

# Participating in Place

As long as I can remember, I have drawn inspiration from the coast—the ceaseless interplay of wind and waves, shore and tides, sun and fog. I learned to sail by the age of five and so discovered early how energizing it is to be immersed in the elements outdoors.

Experiences along the coast sparked my commitment to conservation and have rekindled it through the decades. Land protection and stewardship are—by definition—never-ending, and the demanding pace can wear one down. To sustain ourselves in this work, many of us turn to the very lands that colleagues and predecessors have protected: places like Acadia National Park (see page 5), The Goslings and Treat Island (see pages 3-4).

We are fortunate in Maine to have ready access to land trust preserves, parks and public lands that reward and reaffirm our devotion to place. They are settings to which we can freely return in search of renewal, inspiration and perspective.

I recall spending an entire wintry day outdoors on my own—just walking the woods and shore of a conserved expanse not far from my home. An unrelenting wind blew from the northeast, and low, gray clouds signaled impending snow.

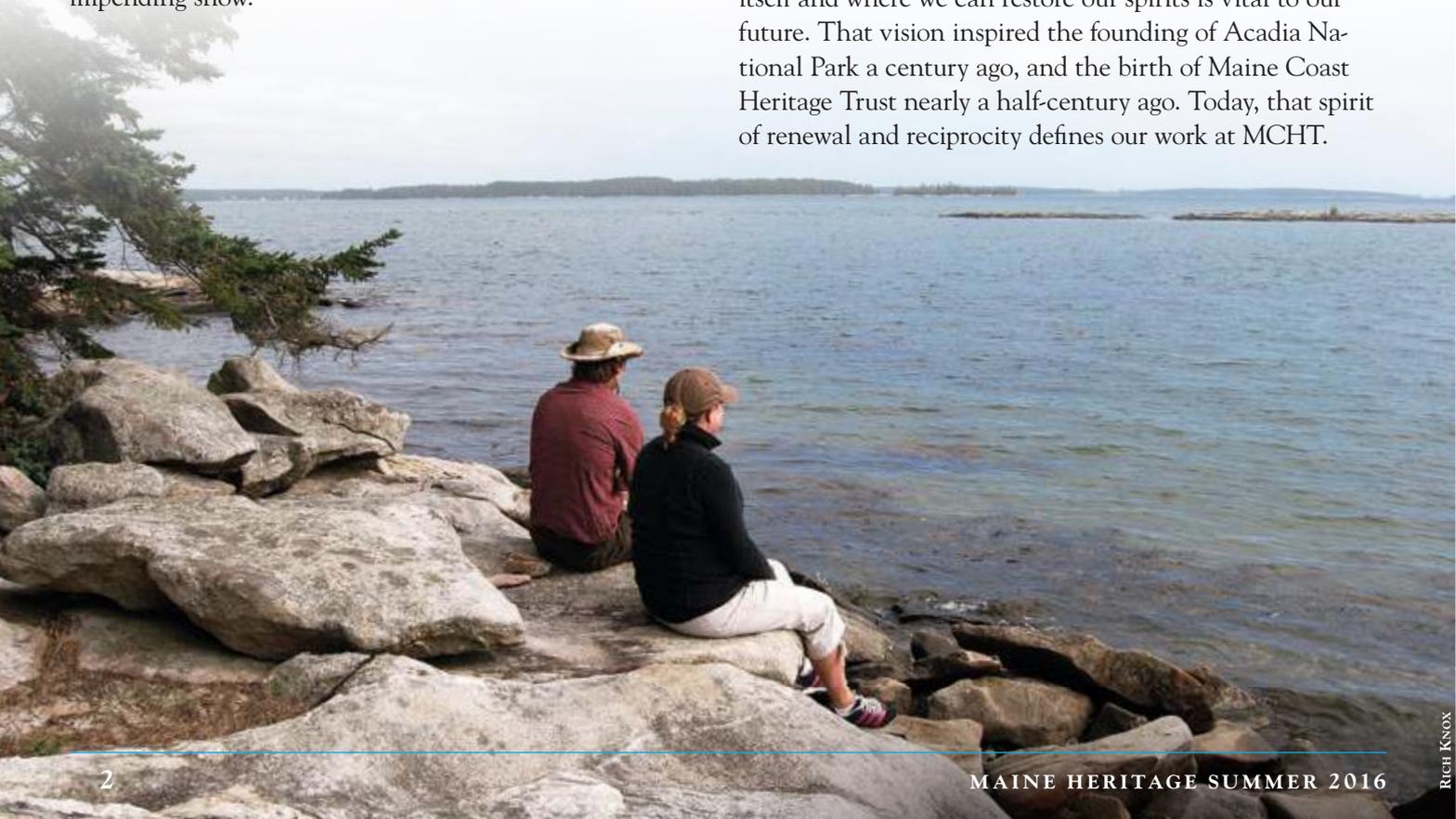
Despite the bitter cold, there was abundant life everywhere. Chickadees worked the woods in search of food and eider ducks rafted up offshore. Hunkering down in the shelter of a boulder on the beach, I sensed the forces that had been at work for millennia, creating and re-creating this dynamic place with its breathtaking beauty.

Those fleeting but sacred moments immersed in nature help us see our small lives in a much larger context. They remind us—in poet Mary Oliver's words—of our “place in the family of things.” All of our work to protect significant lands and care for them is part of a continuum of giving and receiving that extends across generations and among species.

We do this work because we recognize the need to sustain this reciprocity, to keep that greater whole thriving. “Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal,” Aldo Leopold wrote in *A Sand County Almanac*. “Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity.”

Simply being out on the land brings us closer to that profound understanding. It renews our sense of kinship with what Leopold called the “land community.”

Working to protect places where the land can renew itself and where we can restore our spirits is vital to our future. That vision inspired the founding of Acadia National Park a century ago, and the birth of Maine Coast Heritage Trust nearly a half-century ago. Today, that spirit of renewal and reciprocity defines our work at MCHT.



# Appealing Preserves



TIM SWAN

*Maine Coast Heritage Trust now manages more than 100 preserves, all free and open to the public thanks to the support of MCHT members. Here we showcase three clusters of preserves that offer a stellar mix of new gems and old favorites.*

## CASCO BAY

Just minutes north of Maine's largest urban area, visitors can explore and camp on three MCHT islands—each with its own memorable character.

From Freeport's Winslow Park, it's a short and sheltered ride or paddle to Lanes Island, a quiet setting for a beach picnic around high tide or for an overnight at one of the island's two campsites (up a set of newly built stone stairs).

Proceed on to 122-acre Whaleboat Island, the Bay's largest wild island, where you can experience a campsite with spectacular, 360-degree views. Both Whaleboat and Lanes have

group campsites that can be reserved as well as the smaller unreserved ones.

Circle back on your return to The Goslings, a long-time favorite for campers and cruisers. This archipelago is small in size but vast in its appeal, with crushed sand beaches that bring a tropical feel to Casco Bay.

## BLUE HILL BAY

Start your explorations of Blue Hill Bay at the Trust's new Harriman Point Preserve in Brooklin, where there's now trailside parking. This stunning peninsula offers shoreside trails overlooking both Allen Cove and Blue Hill Bay. From here, you can see out to MCHT's Tinker Island and Pond Island

preserves (with boat access from either Brooklin or Seal Harbor in Tremont).

Continue your beachcombing on the northern end of Tinker, where the Trust has a shoreside campsite with great wildlife-watching. Nearby Pond Island, with impressive views of Mount Desert Island, provides an expansive setting for stretching boat-bound legs or for camping.

## COBSCOOK BAY

If you'd like to experience one of the Eastern seaboard's richest wildlife regions, consider visiting MCHT's preserves in and around Cobscook Bay. Treat Island, midway between Eastport and Lubec, is the Trust's

# to Visit This Summer



## “An Amazing Privilege”

*Casco Bay islands and MCHT’s Pond Island Preserve in Penobscot Bay featured prominently in the childhood of Ned Merrick—who grew up in Freeport and spent time at Cape Rosier. He routinely camped out with high school friends under the stars at The Goslings, an experience he recalls as about “the greatest thing a kid could dream up.”*

*Ned still gets out to The Goslings frequently with his wife Allison, and even spent his honeymoon anchored there. When he learned about MCHT’s campaign to acquire The Goslings from the LeMaitre family, which had generously allowed public access for decades, he was all aboard.*

*“While growing up, I took for granted that these islands were open to the public,” he reflects. “But then you realize that it’s an amazing privilege. It’s such an important part of being in Maine to have access to these places.”*

*Supporting MCHT’s work felt like a natural to Ned and Allison because “we like what they’re doing. They’re conserving all the places we frequent,” he says, “and they’re doing it for multi-generations.” Ned and Allison like knowing that each new generation of Freeport students can grow up camping out under the stars at The Goslings, Lanes Island and Whaleboat Island.*

easternmost preserve—lying along the international boundary line. A kiosk there will introduce you to this island’s fascinating history.

While in Eastport, stop at MCHT’s Matthews Island Preserve near Shackford Head State Park. Accessible by bar at low and mid-tides, this short walk offers great birdwatching.

More wildlife-watching awaits you at the Sipp Bay Preserve in Perry, a site long valued for its bountiful fishing grounds. The Trust also owns more than 100 acres on Lincoln Cove in Perry, which supports an active bald eagle nesting site.

*This small sampling of preserves represents a mere taste of the varied menu offered on MCHT’s website. Please visit our preserve pages ([mcht.org/preserves](http://mcht.org/preserves)) for further inspiration.*



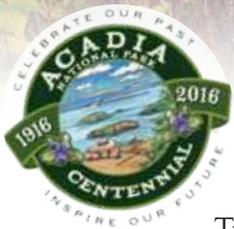
COURTESY OF NED MERRICK



TIM SWAN

# Enhancing Acadia National Park

MCHT'S RECENT ACQUISITION OF A WILD, 62-ACRE PENINSULA ON SEAL COVE POND (SHOWN ABOVE JUST LEFT OF CENTER) HELPS PROTECT THE STUNNING VISTAS THAT HIKERS ENJOY ATOP WESTERN MOUNTAIN IN ACADIA NATIONAL PARK.



As Acadia National Park celebrates its Centennial, Maine Coast Heritage Trust is hard at work conserving key parcels that enhance the Park. Over the last two decades, MCHT and its partners have worked with landowners to secure more than 25 parcels, encompassing upwards of 500 acres within the Park boundary.

Formed from an assortment of donated lands, Acadia resembles a puzzle in which public holdings are interspersed with private lands. In 1986, Congress passed legislation that defined Park boundaries (within which the National Park Service could acquire land from willing sellers).

Many of the private properties within the Park boundary have qualities or settings that enhance Acadia's integrity. Sawyer's Point in Tremont, newly acquired through the joint efforts of MCHT, Friends of Acadia (FOA) and the National Park Foundation, is a perfect example. This relatively secluded 62-acre peninsula, with 4,200 feet of undeveloped shore frontage on Seal Cove Pond, protects views from Park hiking trails and a Park boat launch. The landowners generously offered MCHT a bargain sale, and the Trust plans to transfer the parcel to the National Park Service later this year.

"The federal acquisition process tends to move at a pace too slow for many landowners," notes Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider. "MCHT and FOA have served an invaluable role for decades negotiating key acquisitions and holding lands until the National Park Service could take title to them."

MCHT's acquisition work complements its support of Acadia's conservation easement program, which now holds about 200 easements protecting more than 12,000 acres. Properties under easements typically buffer Park lands or protect important viewsheds, explains Misha Mytar, MCHT's Mount Desert Island Project Manager. "Purchased lands can provide the added benefit of recreational access—preserving critical trail linkages and water access points at settings like Lower Hadlock Pond, Round Pond and Northeast Creek."

Since 2005, MCHT and FOA have worked as part of an Acadia Land Legacy Partnership to secure Park lands, and FOA has consistently advocated for critical federal appropriations to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. A more recent MCHT partnership with the conservation foundation Elliotsville Plantation Inc. has secured nine key tracts totaling 71 acres. Later this year, these lands will be donated to the National Park Foundation in honor of Acadia's Centennial.

Acadia came into being one hundred years ago through the efforts of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, a group of remarkably dedicated and visionary citizens. The spirit of collaboration that marked the first Park acquisitions is still evident today. MCHT is proud to be among 350 Acadia Centennial Partners, and to be an ongoing source of support to the Park—working steadily to make it whole.

*To learn more about the Acadia Centennial and accompanying festivities, visit [acadiacentennial2016.org](http://acadiacentennial2016.org).*

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 144,000 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 membership organization, MCHT welcomes your support and involvement.

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

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## Rozalia Project Partnership

*"In the span of just 50 years using plastic, we've plasticized our planet."*

- DR. MARCUS ERIKSEN IN THE DOCUMENTARY FILM *"The Plastic Age"*

Walk the shores of any Maine island and you're apt to find evidence of the more than 150 million tons of plastics now in the world's oceans.

The Rozalia Project, with which Maine Coast Heritage Trust has worked since 2012, tackles this vast problem through action, education and research. Its staff members and volunteers collect and document marine debris, traveling the Gulf of Maine in the *American Promise* sailboat (which Dodge Morgan used to sail solo eastward around the world in 1986, establishing a new record).

The Rozalia crew has done major cleanups for MCHT on Frenchboro Long Island, Marshall Island, and Great Gott Island. "They deserve a lot of credit," says Regional Steward Terry Towne: "They've worked really hard for us."

It's important to get the trash "while it's whole," says Rozalia Project Executive Director, Rachael Miller, before it degrades into microplastics that contaminate the marine food web. She hopes Rozalia's ongoing work will transform the mindset that plastics are disposable, and remind more people that they contain valuable resources to reclaim through recycling.

