



Maine Heritage

COAST-WIDE EDITION
SUMMER '21



HOW ABOUT ANOTHER GREAT CASCO BAY PRESERVE?

© Redbird Media Group

Little Whaleboat Island has an excellent anchorage and several small beaches, which make it a great destination for people exploring Casco Bay.

“Everyone I know who visits Little Whaleboat Island feels how special it is,” says Daneel Dafni. “I’ve taken kids I care for out there, and it’s like their souls ignite.”

Daneel, who grew up in Freeport and Brunswick, has been visiting Little Whaleboat Island since she was a young girl, when her stepdad started bringing her and her siblings out in his fishing boat.

Thankfully, for the past several decades, the island’s owners have allowed people to visit and camp overnight provided they take good care of the island, which Daneel and her family and friends always did.

Now, the island’s longtime owners must sell, and that history of public access is in jeopardy. Hoping to protect the island, the owners reached out to Maine

Coast Heritage Trust and for the past year we’ve been fundraising to permanently conserve the island—to ensure Daneel and others will always be able to visit and have those soul-igniting experiences on this special island.

Many who know Little Whaleboat and the magic of an open Maine island have already stepped up and made a gift to support this effort, but there is still a good deal

CONTINUED INSIDE >>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

ON THE MISSION



Tim Glidden



Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. MCHT provides statewide conservation leadership through its work with land trusts, coastal communities, and other partners.

Our board chair Tom Armstrong asks someone to read Maine Coast Heritage Trust's mission statement at every board meeting. No matter what's on the agenda, no matter how pressed we are for time, I always find it valuable to pause and hear those words spoken out loud. Every time I do, I'm reminded of how deep MCHT's roots go and how our branches continue to grow.

Since MCHT was founded in 1970, this mission statement has changed little while the context in which we do our work has changed a great deal. Threats to the environment and biodiversity have always been a concern of this organization, but in our rapidly changing climate, the problems and our response to these threats has become increasingly complex. While the loss of open, undeveloped coastal lands inspired the creation of MCHT 50 years ago, the need and desire for places to get outside and access the coast has only become greater over the decades—particularly now, in the wake of the pandemic.

While serving as MCHT's president over the past ten years, I've seen this organization adapt and stretch in remarkable and necessary ways to remain true to its mission. We've also weathered tremendous challenges, which is not in and of itself an accomplishment, but rather an indicator of the organization's strength, agility, and competence over the long haul.

Thanks to you and others who support MCHT year after year, we have capacities today that we didn't dream about 50 years ago. Decades of investment and relationship building in communities up and down the coast are yielding powerful partnership projects that show how land conservation can help solve problems ranging from the loss of traditional water access for clambers to food insecurity. MCHT has become the state leader in creating more permanent public access to the coast and has launched several initiatives designed to make the coast more resilient to climate change. This organization is as strong and impactful as it's ever been.

With every faith in a bright future for Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and after ten years of the most fulfilling work of my life, I have decided that the time has come for me to step down as president by the end of this year. It has been a rare and deep honor to get to know you over these years and to work alongside you on behalf of the Maine coast. Thank you for everything. I remain your partner in the mission to keep the coast open, healthy, working, and beautiful—now and forever.

HOW ABOUT ANOTHER GREAT CASCO BAY PRESERVE? CONTINUED FROM COVER



Little Whaleboat Island has been a stop on the Maine Island Trail since 2018. “Ensuring that public use and enjoyment of this island endures for future generations would be an incredible gift to the Casco Bay community,” says Maine Island Trail Association program director Brian Marcaurelle.

more money to raise (more than \$500,000 at the time this story went to press) and time is running out—the total of \$1,305,000 must be raised by the end of the year, when the purchase option expires.

“There are islands in Casco Bay I grew up going to that have been purchased and become inaccessible,” says Daneel.

She really doesn’t want that to happen this time around. And she isn’t alone. Over the past year, land-trust-conserved lands have become more popular than ever, and MCHT’s preserves in Casco Bay are

no exception. People want to get outside, and they’re looking for places to go. Ensuring that islands like Little Whaleboat are permanently protected and open to the public is as important now as it’s ever been.

“They aren’t making more Casco Bay islands,” says Southern Maine project manager Keith Fletcher. “We can’t let this opportunity to conserve Little Whaleboat pass us by.” 🌍

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PLACE AND THE EFFORT TO CONSERVE IT VISIT [MCHT.ORG/LITTLE-WHALEBOAT](https://mcht.org/little-whaleboat)



IN MY WORDS: ANN AND DAVID INGRAM MCHT DONORS

We first got to know Maine Coast Heritage Trust through Aldermere Farm, and our

relationship with the organization grew from there. Over the years we’ve supported the annual fund and special projects in the Midcoast and elsewhere throughout the state. It’s important to us to get to know the people and programs of the organizations we’re supporting—

to really wrap our arms around them. We’ve had that opportunity with MCHT.

We’re both directly involved with nonprofits, so we know what good governance looks like. MCHT isn’t just giving lip service to its mission—they’re actively pursuing it. And their success in raising money for the recent Campaign is further proof that there are supporters like us who find land conservation to be important.

When we set out to make our estate plans, we talked to David Warren at MCHT, and we’ve set up a special fund to help preserve accessibility and provide for ongoing stewardship of MCHT’s lands and programs. Over the decades we’ve come to love Maine’s natural beauty, and the people here have been good to us. We wanted to give back to this place that has become so important to us. 🌍

\$40 MILLION FOR LAND CONSERVATION IN MAINE

The Ed Woodsum Preserve on Marshall Island was acquired by MCHT in 2003 thanks to the generosity of private donors and the state's Land for Maine's Future program.

On June 30, both houses of the Maine legislature voted overwhelmingly to approve a two-year state budget that includes \$40 million for the Land for Maine's Future Program (LMF), the state's preeminent land conservation program. Over the next four years, LMF can spend up to \$10 million annually.

This is the culmination of an effort that began on the heels of 2015, a year in which Maine Coast Heritage Trust joined The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) in a public campaign to revitalize LMF.

Beginning in 2016, MCHT, TNC, SAM, and the land trust community began an effort to strengthen LMF's image, broaden its supporters, and build support for renewed funding. This effort included a 30th anniversary celebration of LMF in 2017, the creation of a Conservation Task Force in 2018, social media

advertising, and a partnership with L.L.Bean to produce a passport to Maine's Outdoors to encourage people to get out on conserved lands.

The program will soon begin the task of investing in conservation projects around the state: securing outdoor recreational access, protecting wildlife habitat, and preserving working landscapes. These funds will help MCHT and other land trusts secure important conservation projects and leverage the gifts of our donors.

"I have been lobbying this issue for nearly two decades and have never seen bipartisan support for LMF at the current level," says MCHT's public policy manager Jeff Romano. "This has been the result of land trusts and sportsmen coming together to support a common vision that benefits each of us. It is a partnership that will benefit Maine citizens for many years to come." 🌐

FEATURED PRESERVE WOODWARD POINT, BRUNSWICK

Woodward Point Preserve in Brunswick encompasses most of a peninsula in northern Casco Bay. At 87.5 acres with over two miles of shore frontage on the New Meadows River, it's one of the largest undeveloped parcels of land in the area and a designated estuary of national significance.

It's hard to believe that Maine Coast Heritage Trust and partner Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust conserved this place just two years ago! In that short time, it has become a well-loved community preserve,

with people out and about exploring the trails and waterfront every day of the week, in every season.

Woodward Point has a 1.5-mile network of trails leading across open fields and through forest to the water's edge. MCHT is now fundraising to make this incredible preserve experience available to more people with the addition of a half-mile universally accessible trail as well as parking to facilitate access for all visitors—including people who need a level surface to walk, use a wheelchair, or push a stroller. 🌐



HEAD TO [MCHT.ORG/PRESERVE/ WOODWARD-POINT](https://mcht.org/preserve/woodward-point) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PRESERVE AND THE EFFORT TO MAKE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.

REMEMBRANCES

BY MCHT PRESIDENT TIM GLIDDEN

This year, we've said a final goodbye with regret to two old friends who played leadership roles in Maine Coast Heritage Trust's story for many decades. When we pause to acknowledge their contributions, I am reminded of all those who have written that story over the past half century. In my faith tradition we honor the "mighty cloud of witnesses" — those who have gone before and by whose example we are now inspired in the same cause. Dianna Emory and Charlie Dodge are two of our shining witnesses.

Dianna Kilby Emory



Dianna served on the MCHT board from 1998 to 2007 and actively ever since then on our advisory council. She was passionately committed to the well-being of Maine's natural world: woods and waters, coast and islands. The nonprofit boards she served on are literally too numerous to name but included Friends of Acadia, The Forest Society of Maine, and Frenchman Bay Conservancy in addition to MCHT. Dianna was a doer and a leader; with her energy and enthusiasm she inspired us to bring the impossible within reach. Dianna also drew on her deep experience in clinical counseling to make connections between mental health and direct experience in the natural world. I am personally indebted to her for the unreserved generosity and kindness she showed me when I joined MCHT—a seemingly infinite source of introductions, unstinting hospitality for my many, many visits to MDI, and a boundless reservoir of well-informed advice. We will miss her sparkle and elegance and be forever grateful for her commitment to MCHT. 🌿

Charles W. H. Dodge



Charlie served on MCHT's board from 1989 through 1996 and as a member of our advisory council in the years since. Charlie was an innovator in his professional life, including more than thirty years with S.D. Warren Co. here in Maine. He was a passionate outdoorsman and while that term is out of fashion, it perfectly captures his enjoyment of the natural world through fly-fishing, skiing, sailing, and hunting. That passion extended to the conservation of the lands and waters of Maine and a deep commitment to environmental protection, causes he pursued with his wife Marylee through their generous support for a myriad of related organizations, including board service with many. It was my privilege to spend time with Charlie getting his advice and perspective on the strategic challenges facing MCHT. He was always glad to see you and his stories, told with a dry, keen humor, were always worth the trip! Charlie was a strong connection back to MCHT's earliest years, and we feel the loss of his presence. 🌿

There are way more stories to share than we can fit in the print newsletter! Check out the digital version of Maine Heritage to learn more about the work that MCHT donors are making possible up and down the coast.

[MCHT.ORG/MAINEHERITAGE](https://mcht.org/MaineHeritage)

IF YOU HAVEN'T MADE YOUR 2021
GIFT TO MCHT YET, HEAD TO:
[GIVE.MCHT.ORG](https://give.mcht.org)



KEEP THE COAST *MAINE*

Everything you read about in this newsletter is possible thanks to the generous support of Maine Coast Heritage Trust donors.

Donors are creating more public access to the coast, strengthening coastal communities, making Maine more resilient to climate change, and so much more. Thank you to all who are a part of MCHT and the ongoing effort to keep the coast Maine.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust
1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Suite 201
Topsham, Maine 04086

WHAT'S INSIDE:

The Effort to Keep Little
Whaleboat Island Open

\$40 Million for LMF

& More!

NAME THAT PLACE

Some hints...

This land was previously a cattle farm.

It offers two miles of shore frontage on the New Meadows River.

SEE INSIDE FOR
THIS FEATURED PRESERVE