



Maine Heritage



SHEEP ISLAND STAYS OPEN

© Ken Woisard Photography

The conservation of Sheep Island adds to a string of MCHT island preserves off Owls Head.

“Almost every kid who grew up on Owls Head has been to Sheep Island,” says Dick Carver, Owls Head native, fisherman, and former town selectman.

“Fishermen, fishermen’s kids... families would picnic on the beach and play Treasure Island.” He mentioned this earlier this fall, when he bumped into Maine Coast Heritage Trust’s David Warren on a Midcoast trail. David has been leading our fundraising effort to protect Sheep Island, and this didn’t come as a surprise.

When Sheep Island went up for sale in 2020, David and the local project manager received a flurry of emails, calls, and Facebook messages from Owls Head community members asking if MCHT could conserve Sheep and ensure this tradition of public access continued. We were on it, and we had to act fast.

Thankfully, a lead donor stepped up with a sizable gift, followed by a cadre of others. A long-time MCHT donor agreed to purchase the island to give MCHT time to

fundraise for the acquisition and stewardship costs through the fall of 2021. This effort was spurred on by a generous matching gift that released two dollars for every one donated. We closed on the purchase of the island in November of this year, thanks to these generous donors and countless others who made gifts of all sizes.

“Conservation of this island was a real community effort,” says David. “And it’s no wonder people love it.” As islands go,

SHEEP ISLAND STAYS OPEN CONTINUED FROM COVER



Visitors enjoy exploring the rocky shoreline of Sheep Island.

Sheep Island is easy to get to. Not far from the mainland, boaters can pull small craft right up to the beach. It's not far from Ash Island, which has been an MCHT preserve since 2010, and Monroe Island, which MCHT acquired for public access in 2018. Around that time, MCHT worked with the town of Owls Head to create a public park at Owls Head Harbor with much-needed parking and improved water access for commercial fishermen and recreational boaters.

"All of these conservation projects together have made this an incredible part of the coast to explore," says MCHT land steward Amanda Devine. "You can park

in town, put a kayak in the water at Richard Carver Harbor Park, and paddle to Monroe to camp overnight, then paddle over to Sheep Island for a picnic. More skilled paddlers can navigate the strong currents around Ash and explore that beautiful island."

This isn't just exciting for boaters, but also for people who enjoy views of these undeveloped islands and the wildlife that benefits from this protected habitat. Next spring and summer, if you're in Owls Head, you're likely to run into Amanda caring for Monroe and Ash and bringing Sheep Island online as MCHT's newest Owls Head preserve. 🌊



Helene Marsh Harrower and Judy Marsh

PITCHING IN TO SAVE LITTLE WHALEBOAT ISLAND

This year, Brunswick's Paul's Marina celebrated its 75th anniversary.

For those who work at Paul's or are lucky enough to have a mooring there, this place is a home away from home. For those who boat around Casco Bay, it's a kind of institution—known for the good people, sandwiches, and ice cream you'll find at Judy's General Store.

Judy Marsh's father started the marina all those years ago, and she grew up visiting the islands

of Casco Bay. Her fondness for these places inspired her and her family and the extended Paul's Marina community to support the fundraising effort to conserve Whaleboat Island (in 2002) and The Goslings (in 2014). This year, Judy, her daughter Helene Marsh Harrower, son-in-law Rob Harrower, and their team pulled out all the stops to raise money to help protect Little Whaleboat Island West and nearby Nate and Tuck islands. "Someone asked me, 'Is Little Whaleboat for sale?' and I said, 'Yes it is, and do you want someone to buy it and build a house on it?' They said 'No, what are we going to do about it?'

Before I even had all of the details, I said, 'Well, I think we're going to have a fundraiser,'" says Judy.

Did they ever. About 400 people attended their 75th anniversary gathering under twinkle lights and a full moon, with tasty food and beverages and local music. "Every person we asked to buy a raffle ticket did," says Helene. "Everyone wanted to give." In the end, hundreds of people from Casco Bay's boating community gave a total of \$50,000 through Paul's Marina's fundraising efforts—a staggering amount that helped make the effort to protect Little Whaleboat a success. 🌊

FROM THE PRESIDENT

FOREVER GRATEFUL



Tim Glidden

A handwritten signature of Tim Glidden in black ink.

“THOSE WHO CONTEMPLATE THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH FIND RESERVES OF STRENGTH THAT WILL ENDURE AS LONG AS LIFE LASTS.” — RACHEL CARSON

When I left State service to join Maine Coast Heritage Trust in 2011, I didn't know the coast like I do now. This job drew me in and drew out of me things I didn't know I cared about. There is an intimacy in the relationship between land and sea that is incredibly powerful. We respond to it instantly. We want to share in that relationship, and we are willing to work hard to sustain and protect it.

Over the ten years I've served as President of Maine Coast Heritage Trust, I've developed wonderful relationships with so many of you and, even with those I've not had the privilege to meet in person, I feel the strong connection that comes from a shared passion for the common cause of protecting Maine's incredible coast. MCHT is a place where, for more than 50 years, people have come together for the coast, to accomplish so much more than any of us could individually.

We've accomplished a great deal together over the past ten years. The mark of a truly great organization is one that can do well in the most challenging times.

Most recently, this organization powered through the Great Recession, an onslaught of anti-conservation vitriol, and a global pandemic. We had a successful Campaign to raise over \$130 million for the Maine coast and forged ahead with record levels of achievement and deep investment in community-centered conservation.

Working at MCHT has given me an appreciation for the rich range of views you all have shared on the importance of our work. I have learned with every visit and every meeting, something new and important about conservation and the land and its unique ability to inspire and nourish. Your stories enlightened me and, taken together, pointed the way to MCHT's success.

There are certain qualities that are part of MCHT's DNA, qualities that I'm confident will remain intact as this organization continues to grow and evolve—and, soon, under new leadership. At MCHT, we are patient. We learn. We take our time to get it right. Rachel Carson, who knew the Maine coast intimately, famously wrote: “Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.” This job gave me that chance to stand at the edge of sea and learn the truth of which she spoke. And I will be forever grateful for that.



MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

Courtesy of the Knox County Gleaners

Vegetables grown at Erickson Fields offered on a “share table” at the Rockland Library.

In Midcoast Maine, we have plenty of fresh, local, healthy food and plenty of people who need it. How do we bridge that gap? That’s a question our staff at Aldermere Farm and Erickson Fields contemplate often. Once again, in 2021, we donated tens of thousands of pounds of beef and produce to pantries in the area, which are critical distribution centers. But what about those suffering from hunger or lack of fresh, healthy food who cannot or will not visit a pantry?

For the first time, we’ve put up a “take what you need, pay what you can” farm stand at Aldermere Farm. Working with one of our partners, The Knox County Gleaners, this year Erickson Fields produce made its way to share tables at local churches, libraries, and other community centers, where anyone and everyone is welcome to take home fresh food. We also collaborated with Pen Bay Medical Center in Rockport to offer produce in the entryway of the

family health and pediatrics unit. So far, they’ve distributed over 3,000 pounds.

“The first day we put out 50 or 60 pounds of food and it was gone within four hours,” says Deidre Dority, who works in the community health and wellness department. “It’s hard to identify yourself as having food insecurity. We’re finding that we reach food-insecure people more effectively when we offer this fresh, healthy, local food to everyone, with no stigma attached.”

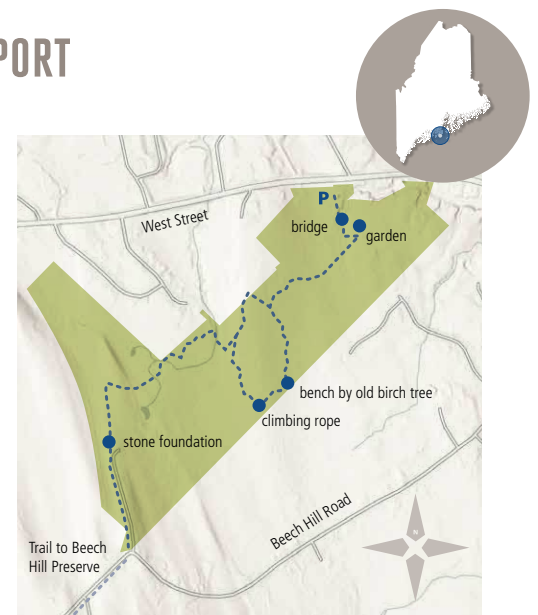
Deidre has heard many expressions of gratitude and found left-behind thank you notes in the empty bins. “One elderly woman who has difficulty getting to a grocery store or maneuvering around a farmers market held up a bag of fresh tomatoes and said, ‘I haven’t had one of these in three years,’” says Deidre. “This is a wonderful project to be a part of.” 🌱

FEATURED PRESERVE ERICKSON FIELDS, ROCKPORT

Just up the road from Rockport’s downtown waterfront, Erickson Fields is a one-of-a-kind Maine Coast Heritage Trust preserve. It’s home base for our agricultural programs like Kids Can Grow, where families learn how to grow food, and Teen Ag, where youth and volunteers come together to plant, grow, and harvest food for local hunger relief efforts, schools, and businesses.

Erickson Fields is also a great place to go for a walk. The 1.4-mile “Wellness Trail” loop features a StoryWalk, climbing rope, bench,

and other fun features. Beyond that, we’ve partnered with local land trust Coastal Mountains Land Trust to connect this conserved property to Beech Hill, a beloved preserve they own and manage. (Did you know that MCHT helped conserve this property and still holds an easement on it?) Those looking for an extended hike can park at Erickson Fields, walk part of the Wellness Trail, and follow the southern section of the trail that spurs off the loop and leads to the Beech Hill Connector Trail. The views from the top of Beech Hill are breathtaking! 🌲



HEAD TO [MCHT.ORG/PRESERVES/ERICKSON-FIELDS](https://www.mcht.org/preserves/erickson-fields) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PRESERVE.

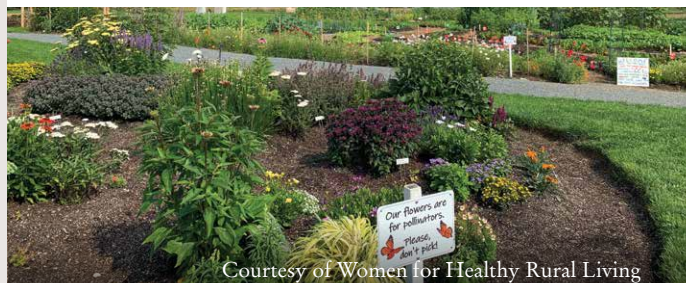
IN BRIEF

Making Headway in the Effort to Restore Key Coastal Rivers

In a rapidly changing climate, protecting connected habitat will help vulnerable wildlife survive. That's why we're focused on reconnecting rivers to the sea and protecting land along their shores. We've made headway at three Downeast watersheds. Now, we're expanding our Rivers Initiative to include the Mousam and Sheepscot rivers.



Creating Common Ground in Milbridge



Partnering with local group Women for Healthy Rural Living, MCHT purchased and protected 4.6 waterfront acres in downtown Milbridge in 2017. Since then, the land has been transformed into multi-purpose greenspace with walking paths, pick your own veggie gardens, and a play unit for kids.



Maine Beer Company Announces Little Whaleboat IPA

After pledging \$50,000 to the effort to conserve Little Whaleboat Island in Casco Bay, Maine Beer Company has released a new beer inspired by the project and MCHT's mission to keep the coast healthy and open to all.

MCHT Supports the Nature Conservancy's 13,500-acre Conservation Project

Earlier this year, The Nature Conservancy of Maine expanded its Spring River Preserve to a total of 23,500 acres, creating a safe haven for Maine species as they migrate and adapt to a rapidly changing climate.



These are the highlights! To see expanded versions of all the stories, visit:

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

IF YOU HAVEN'T MADE YOUR 2021 GIFT TO MCHT YET, THERE'S STILL TIME! GIVE BACK TO THE COAST TODAY AT [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.

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

Sheep Island
Is Conserved!

Getting Food to
Those Who Need It

& More!

NAME THAT PLACE

Some hints...

This preserve connects to Coastal Mountains Land Trust's Beech Hill Preserve.

It's home to community agricultural programs and gardens.

It was formerly a dairy farm operated by the Erickson family.

SEE INSIDE FOR
THIS FEATURED PRESERVE

