

Harpswell Heritage Land Trust Achieves National Accreditation

By Doug Warren

Adding a rigorous, five-year process, the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust has met the necessary standards and been accredited by the national Land Trust Alliance. Only 301 land trusts nationwide, including 20 in Maine, have received accreditation, according to the Maine Land Trust Network.

Accreditation is a mark of distinction, showing that a land trust meets standards and practices established by the Land

Trust Alliance. These standards and practices offer guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust that is run legally, ethically and in the public interest. The Land Trust Alliance is made up of more than 1,100 organizations across the country.

"Being an accredited land trust assures our members, our donors and our community that we meet the national standards for the way we pursue conservation of Harpswell's natural resources, now and

The view from Houghton Graves Park (Doug Warren Photo)



forever," said Reed Coles, HHLT executive director. "Along the way, we have upgraded the way we work to help us ensure that HHLT will be able to fulfill our promise to permanently protect the lands we are conserving."

David Brown, vice president

of the HHLT Board of Trustees, directed the accreditation effort. Brown, a retired professor of organizational behavior, says he was recruited to the board specifically to handle the process.

Continued on page 7

Houghton Graves: A Pocket Park on Orr's Island

By Doug Warren

Houghton Graves Park is a place of peace and memory that you might have missed while traveling along Route 24 between the library and post office on beautiful Orr's Island. It's definitely worth a stop.

The location holds memories for me because it is

next to the site of the former Green Anchor gift shop, a childhood destination filled with souvenirs, sweets and pine-scented pillows eagerly reached by following a walk around Lowell's Cove.

I retraced that route on a sunny summer morning with my dog, Toby, and found that, while the Green Anchor is long gone, the area is still filled with delights.

We entered the three-acre, "pocket park" along a mowed path that runs by a marshy area filled with cattails. A right turn brought us past a shaded picnic table and then the path entered a large, mowed field before descending a little steeply to the shore of picturesque Beal's Cove.

We had the place to ourselves at a very low tide. We explored the temporary excavations left in the rocky beach by a clam digger. We wondered about the advisability of trying to walk out to Rat Island in the middle of the cove (Toby advised against it). We noted the small stones piled up by passing humans on the huge rocks that are permanent fixtures of the shoreline.

Houghton Graves Park is a popular location for HHLT's Preschool Nature Day Camp. (Galen Koch photos)



This is a place filled with memory. Russell Houghton and Patty and Allan Graves donated the park to the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust in 2007. The family ownership of the property reaches back to 1763, when 30 acres of land were acquired by Michael Sinnett. Down through time, the property was used for raising dairy cattle, horses and garden produce. The beach

Continued on page 6



Our Mission:

To preserve and protect Harpswell's natural environment, wildlife, open spaces, islands, shoreline and cultural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations through conservation, stewardship, education and landowner assistance.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Berry
John Boomer
Robin Brooks
David Brown, Vice President
Keith Brown, Treasurer
Jane Collins
Ron Davis
Becky Gallery
Alicia Pulsifer Heyburn
Dan Huber
Charlie Johnson, President
Lynn Knight, Secretary
Mary Ann Nahf
Don Newberg
Sharon Oehmig
Ed Robinson
Jeff Stann
Deane Van Dusen

STAFF

Reed Coles,
Executive Director
Julia McLeod, Outreach
Coordinator

HARPSWELL HERITAGE LAND TRUST

PO Box 359
153 Harpswell Neck Rd
Harpowell, ME 04079
207-721-1121
207-837-9613
info@hhltmaine.org
outreach@hhltmaine.org
www.hhltmaine.org

Like us on Facebook!
Join our Email List



Summer Fun and Learning with Harpswell Heritage Land Trust!



Bowdoin Professor Rachel Beane described the geologic forces that formed the Giant's Stairs.



HHLT Trustee Jeff Stann led a tour of new trails at Curtis Farm Preserve to celebrate its grand opening.



David Hackett entertained listeners with stories of his own and others' experiences at Curtis Farm Preserve.



Interested participants learned about wildflowers during Priscilla Seimer's wildflower walk in June.



Families explored and played outdoors together during Harpswell Family Outings: tide pooling at Pott's Point Preserve (above and below right) and a rock party at Stover's Point Preserve (below left).



All photos on this page were taken by one of our dedicated volunteer photographers, Curt Chipman. Thanks, Curt!

NEWS AND UPDATES



Harpswell Family Outing at Pott's Point Preserve
(Curt Chipman photo)

Land Conservation



ALICIA HEYBURN PHOTO

The southern half of Little Yarmouth Island in eastern Casco Bay is forever conserved thanks to recent work by Harpswell Heritage Land Trust (HHLT).

Conserving Little Yarmouth Island completes a network of protected islands in eastern Casco Bay, which serve as important habitat for birds and other animals and maintain the dramatic scenic views of the area.

Little Yarmouth Island is located in eastern Casco Bay, between Yarmouth Island and the Raspberry Islands, both of which are protected with conservation easements by HHLT.

Thanks to a grant from the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program and a bargain sale by the owners, HHLT purchased the nearly 13 acre property this summer.

The property includes 7,500 feet of shoreline and protects an

additional 28.5 acres of mudflats and rocky shore. Keeping the property undeveloped preserves

valuable habitat, including foraging areas for endangered roseate terns that nest on nearby Jenny Island.

In the map below, the new acquisition is outlined in red and other conserved land

is outlined in green.



Stewardship

Curtis Farm Preserve Grand Opening

On June 6 we celebrated the grand opening of new trails at Curtis Farm Preserve. The 1.25 mile trail system brings visitors through fields and forest, to a giant rock nicknamed the "pebble," past a view to Mt. Washington on a clear day and to Basin Cove and Curtis Cove.



New maps, brochures and trailhead welcome signs

This year brings big improvements in HHLT's maps, brochures and trailhead signs, making it easier for you to enjoy our properties. Brochures and maps are available for all HHLT preserves and trails on our website and signs will be installed soon.

Community Outreach and Education

Much of HHLT's increased education programming is made possible by the Holbrook Education Initiative, with support from the Holbrook Community Foundation. Thank you!

Hands-on Science Learning at Harpswell Community School

During the 2014-2015 school year, all students at Harpswell Community School participated in outdoor, hands-on, Harpswell-focused science learning. As an example, HHLT partnered with the PTO to support the third grade as they raised Atlantic Salmon from eggs to fry and released them in a tributary to the Androscoggin River. This was a very exciting, and real, project for students.

Mother of third grader Scottie Larsen (pictured below), Dustan Larsen, said, "Especially living in Harpswell, to understand and appreciate our environment is really important. For them, as kids, to gain an appreciation for what we have is what's so important about the programs the Land Trust offers...HHLT programs really inspire kids."



KARA DOUGLAS
PHOTO

Continued on page 6



Our Third Annual Sunset Cruise



Chris Cabot
photos

Leaving a Legacy for Harpswell

by Christine Farrell

What an experience to grow up on the coast of Maine. What a charmed life for a child to spend summers on Harpswell Neck or on the Islands. Great, Bailey or Orr's, that is. Anne Satterthwaite, a Philadelphia health care professional, had such a childhood. Spending summer weeks on Bailey Island, Anne enjoyed life in a cottage purchased by her grandparents, Helen and Walter B. Satterthwaite in 1953.

Anne remembers spending the entire day playing outside on the rocky cliffs with her



Golden Retriever, Happy. Cedar Beach was another favorite spot to hang out with other island kids. Growing up, Anne and her brothers didn't have to spend the day under parental supervision as they explored for life under granite and seaweed! Today, life for our children in Harpswell is still safe, free from traffic and as

we know, so pretty!

Since Anne loved her childhood so much, Anne recently decided to honor her grandparents by naming HHLT in her will as a beneficiary. Anne knows how special these islands are, especially today when many coastline shores from North to South have been paved over for more roads, tall buildings and mega-mansions. And traffic.

But not here in Harpswell thanks in part to the ongoing work of the HHLT. Since 1983, the Land Trust has been using the donations of local residents and visitors to preserve the unspoiled beauty of Harpswell and to keep parts of it as natural as when Helen and Walter Satterthwaite first arrived in the '50s.

Whether you came to Harpswell recently or have lived here forever, I hope you enjoy the trails preserved and maintained by HHLT. Ramble along the trails

at Curtis Farm Preserve. Go for a trek at Long Reach Preserve. Enjoy the view at Johnson Field Preserve.

To Anne and our other donors, we thank you for helping us keep Harpswell the beautiful place we love.

Your legacy, too, could be one of clean air, clean water, an abundance of wildlife, thriving fisheries and beautiful natural spaces for future generations to enjoy.

We hope you consider a planned gift to HHLT. Naming HHLT as a beneficiary of your estate plan or a specific asset, such as an IRA or a life insurance policy, is a simple way to begin your legacy.

For more information, contact Reed Coles at info@hhlmaine.org or 207-721-1121.

Flower Power: Hitting the “Pause” Button on HHLT Trails

By Priscilla Seimer

It's possible to walk most of Harpswell Heritage Land Trust's trails in less than an hour, unless you are walking with curious children, or are easily distracted by plants, rocks, the views, the woods, the wildlife or good walking companions. Then it can take a gloriously long time to saunter along, taking in everything the trail has to offer.

For wildflower lovers like me this has been a season of many slow, appreciative walks.

Blooming in June at Curtis Farm Preserve, the native Blue-eyed Grass could be found along the edges of the field, while the introduced Common Speedwell lined a good part of the upper woods trail. This little member of the plantain family came over with the colonists, either accidentally or perhaps because of its medicinal uses.



Blue-eyed Grass - *Sisyrinchium monatanum* (Curt Chipman photo)

Later in June at Long Reach Preserve both the woods and the end of the Bog Trail offered their own gifts to wanderers. Our native Water Arum (or Wild Calla) filled one end of the bog with its dramatic leaves and flowers.

The shamrock-shaped leaves of the native Northern Wood Sorrel could be found at a few spots along the woods trail, and



Water Arum, or Wild Calla - *Calla palustris* (Priscilla Seimer photo)

along other of HHLT's woods trails as well.

The dramatics of July weren't limited to fireworks: at Long Reach Preserve the Bog Trail led explorers to an explosion of orchids! We are lucky to have this beautiful, vibrant habitat preserved. If you love wild orchids, visit the bog in early July.

The two orchids that were blooming were the Tuberous Grass-pink and the Rose Pogonia. Both these orchids are native, and exquisite. The Grass-pink is unusual in that the flower looks like it's upside-down. According to GoBotany.com (New England Wildflower Society) this upside-down and fringed lip may be



Tuberous Grass-pink - *Calopogon tuberosus* (Priscilla Seimer photo)

designed to fool bees into thinking the fringe is pollen.



Rose Pogonia - *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (Priscilla Seimer photo)

As we entered mid-to-late summer many later-season wildflowers were blooming or close to it.

Sulfur, or Rough-fruited

Cinquefoil can be seen in a variety of disturbed sites, including around the parking lot at Curtis Farm Preserve. This introduced flower is a soft yellow that makes it easy to learn to identify.

Milkweed is a common native species, but few take the time to really look at the flowers of this familiar plant. Many years ago the silk in the pods was used as a filling for a variety of items, including life jackets.



Common Milkweed - *Asclepias syriaca* (Priscilla Seimer photo)

HHLT's preserves are home to a wide variety of wildflowers and other plants, blooming and changing with the seasons. There is always something new to discover, and meandering along the trails is a great way to spend a few relaxing hours.

Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership

by Jeff Stann

Invasive plants are a problem across America. They take over gardens, shorelines, farmlands and roadsides and damage or kill off other plants. Because they are not native, they lack the diseases and predators to keep them in balance. And they do not support as many insects, birds and other necessary organisms as native plants.

To address the problem locally, the Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) was formed last year by HHLT, the Town Lands Committee and the Harpswell Conservation Commission. The Harpswell Garden Club is also working

with us. Our purpose is to check public lands in Harpswell for invasives, develop ways to control or remove them and educate homeowners about what they can do on their own properties.

Working with the State invasive plant biologist, we came up with a list of 20 invasives to look for, and held plant ID training sessions for volunteers. During spring and summer we surveyed Mitchell Field, Johnson Field Preserve, McIntosh Lot and Giant's Stairs, Houghton Graves Park, and 28 miles of Harpswell highways. We've entered the results in the State database iMap Invasives. And now we are looking at the results to determine next steps.

So which invasive plants on our list did we find? So far, Norway Maple, Japanese Barberry, Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose, shrub

Honeysuckles, Burning Bush, Asiatic Bittersweet, Japanese Knotweed (Bamboo), Purple Loosestrife, Knapweeds, Black Swallow-wort, Garlic Mustard, Himalaya Touch-Me-Not and Yellow Iris, plus Amur Maple. So it's not just green crabs that we have to worry about in Harpswell!

Pictures and other information for the 20 species can be found at www.hhlmaine.org. You can also find ways to control any of these species on your property by going to the Maine Natural Areas Program website (www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/). Often the most effective ways of control do not require the use of chemicals.

If you want to help with efforts to survey, remove plants and educate the public, please contact Jeff Stann at ejstann@gmail.com or 207-373-1811.

News and Updates

Continued from page 3

Expanded Nature Day Camp

This summer, HHLT offered four weeks of Nature Day Camp: two weeks for ages 3-5 and two weeks for ages 6-10. Nature Day Camp has offered young people an opportunity to engage with nature in Harpswell since 1996.

One parent wrote: "This camp has been a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about the things they love most. Their public school education does not enable them to explore nature as they are accustomed to...Really, it has been the most impressively run camp I have seen to date as a parent. We hope to be able to send the boys next summer also."

Welcome to Our New Trustees

At our Annual Meeting this July, HHLT welcomed three new members to its Board of Trustees.

Jane Collins grew up in Maine and then studied mathematics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in NY. She worked for nine years as an underwriter for Aetna Life and Casualty. Her husband, Doug, is an actuary, so this is a household that understands numbers! Life took the Collins family (including Bowdoin graduate Samantha) for long stays in Bermuda and London, England. In 2010, the



Campers catch grasshoppers, moths and butterflies at Curtis Farm Preserve.

lure of Maine was strong enough for Jane and Doug to move to Harpswell, where Jane has been a regular volunteer for HHLT and ArtVan. "Volunteering and serving on the Accreditation Committee has afforded me the opportunity to learn about HHLT's positive impact on the community and so I was happy to accept a board position when it was offered," Jane said.

Becky Gallery grew up on a small farm in Pennsylvania. After time in Illinois and Connecticut, she retired to Harpswell in 2008 with her husband, Patrick. Over the years, she has volunteered as a master gardener, girl scout leader and coordinator of campaigns for local elections. Since moving to Harpswell, Becky has served on the Harpswell Garden Club, including time as President. She currently chairs two committees for the Garden Club. "Through my life, I have enjoyed being outdoors and have supported a number of

organizations that preserve open space. I believe that HHLT is vital to the Harpswell we love," Becky said.

Mary Ann Nahf is returning to the Board of Trustees, where she previously served for nine years, including terms as vice-president, secretary and chair of the Programs Committee. During this time she was instrumental in managing the Nature Day Camp. She enjoys being part of the

vibrant Harpswell community where the natural world is such a large part of the town's identity, and it has been exciting for her to watch HHLT's community outreach program meet such enthusiasm by residents. She is interested in ensuring that conservation continues to be integrated into the community and particularly enjoys looking for win-win situations where the needs to conserve and responsibly manage development can exist harmoniously. She also chairs the town's Conservation Commission and is one of Harpswell's trustees on the Curtis Memorial Library Board.

Strategic Planning

This fall and winter your land trust's Board of Trustees will update HHLT's strategic plan to direct our next five years of conservation, stewardship and education. We will share the new plan with you, our members.

Houghton Graves Park

Continued from page 1

was used to access fishing and clamming, along with harvesting seaweed.

The family for many years also ran the "Royal Rest" boarding house nearby, along with a couple cottages that no longer stand. One family member, Pauline Houghton, attended the Fannie Farmer Cooking School in Boston and, along with her mother, kept the boarding house flourishing in its day. Pauline also opened the Green Anchor gift shop.

Toby, appropriately leashed, and I headed back up the path and into the vibrantly green mowed field. A small wooden sign directed us to a second picnic table that offered a panoramic view of Rat Island and the mouth of Beal's Cove. We paused to take a photo

and enjoy a place filled with beauty and memory that will be preserved for the public forever. What a treasure.

Directions to Houghton Graves Park: From Cook's Corner in Brunswick, follow Route 24 south for 11.9 miles. The park is on the right, opposite Lowell's Cove Road. Please park by the side of the road and follow the trail between the rail fence and the marsh.



**Thank you to our business sponsors,
who have supported the Land Trust in 2015
through cash or in-kind support.**

Bath Savings Trust Company
Boucher Perkins Campbell
Paradis
Cate Wnek Photography
Dolphin Marina and
Restaurant
Eaton Peabody
Great Island Boat Yard
Harpswell Anchor
Harpswell Heritage Apples

Kenney Landscaping, LLC
Maine Island Ecologists
Morse's Cribstone Grill
Morton Real Estate
Paul's Marina
R. A. Webber and Sons
Stoddard L. Smith, PA
Taylor Made Signs
The Vicarage by the Sea
Wilbur's Of Maine Chocolate
Confections

Accreditation

Continued from page 1

"It was a long undertaking and a lot of work," Brown said, "but we are already seeing benefits from the close examination of the way that we do our business. The accreditation effort is designed to encourage land trusts to develop high-quality practices and standards."

Brown says it will be increasingly important for land trusts to gain accreditation in order to raise funds and assure members and potential donors that vital natural resources will be preserved in perpetuity. "It really brings legitimacy and credibility to the accredited organization," he explained.

While working to comply with the requirements for accreditation, HHLT has significantly expanded the number and types of its educational programs, formalized standards and upgraded management plans.

Coles praised Brown, Charlie Johnson, president of the HHLT Board of Trustees, and other members of the accreditation committee for their efforts. "I am personally very grateful for the commitment and efforts of HHLT's trustees and volunteers over the past five years to help achieve this important milestone in our organization's history," Coles said.

The accreditation designation is good for a five-year period. After that, HHLT will have to apply for a renewal. "We won't rest on our laurels," said Coles. "We will continue to strive to improve our organization and fulfill our vital mission."



Thank you to our many volunteers

In the past year, volunteers put in more than 1,500 hours taking care of the trails, helping out in the office, organizing and leading public programs, helping out at Nature Day Camp, serving on committees and much more. Thank you to our 2014 and 2015 volunteers!

Brandi Adams
Heather Allen
Ted Allen
Cristine Bachor
Suzanne Bakewell
Tony Barrett
Rachel Beane
Joan Beauchamp
Nancy Bennett
Betsy Bennett-Stacey
Jane Berry
John Berry
Gaye Best
Stephen Black
Scott Bodwell
John Boomer
Bowdoin College Students
Bruce Brandt
Carrie Branson
Heidi Brokate
Jeanne Brooks
Robin Brooks
David Brown
Holly Brown
Keith Brown
Bill Bruce
Gail Bruce
Rob Bryan
Carrie Bubier
Sally Butcher
Marlis Cambon
Tom Carlisle
Heather Carr
Tom Carr
Caroline Chipman
Curtis Chipman
Anthony Cioe
Marie Clarke
Christopher Coles
Doug Collins
Jane Collins
Jason Collins
Jane Covey
Jim Craig
Dup Crosson

Jane Davis
Janet Davis
Ron Davis
Stan Davis
Lynda DeHaan
Mary Anne Doherty
Craig Douglas
Kara Douglas
Wendy Downes
Hannah Dring
Jennifer Dubel
Delger Erdenesanaa
John Esquirol
Christine Farrell
Elizabeth Fowler
Tulle Frazer
Connie French Smith
Donna Frisoli
Bruce Frost
Laura Frost
Michele Frost
Rebecca Gallery
Dianna Garza
Tim Glidden
Ben Godsoe
Harriette Griffin
Jessica Griffin
David Hackett
Ian Hathaway
Alicia Heyburn
Hope Hilton
Gregory Howard
Scott Howe
Christine Huber
Daniel Huber
Elna Hunter
Toby Jacobs
Lesley Johantgen
Charles Johnson
Jean Johnson
Collin Johnston
Sheila Karajin
Debbie Kelly
Ritch Kelly
Garrett Knight
Lynn Knight
Richard Knox
Lex Lannan
Dustan Larsen
Dayle Lavine
Richard Lavine
John Loyd
Bruce MacDougall
Margaret MacDougall
Judy Marino
Jose Mas
Marnie McFarland
Callie McMahon

Rick Meisenbach
Susan Millar
Don Miskill
Kristy Montana
Mary Moore
Judy Muller
Kate Nadeau
Mary Ann Nahf
Don Newberg
Andrea Newell Howe
Karen Norton
Natsuko O'Donnell
Ken Oehmig
Sharon Oehmig
Susan Olcott
Jamie Pacheco
James Parmentier
Gina Perow
Ned Perry
Trish Petty
Laura Piampiano
Samuel Powers
Bob Rio
Edward Robinson
Mary Robinson
Jeanie Rubio
Alan Sawyer
Cynthia Sawyer
Kim Scamman
Henry Schwartz
Corie Scribner
Priscilla Seimer
Peggy Shanler
Trisha Sheaff
Ellen Shillinglaw
Lee Silverman
Jennifer Simard
Melinda Small
Jym St. Pierre
Jeff Stann
Stephanie Stanton
Deirdre Strachan
Brad Swanson
David Thies
Patricia Tillotson
Hannah Trowbridge
Fred Van Damme
Deane Van Dusen
Doug Warren
Lauren Watkinson
Robert Weggel
Lori Williams
Cate Wnek
Francis Wnek
Cynthia Wood
Frank Wright
Katie Wright
Aimee York



PO Box 359
Harpowell, ME 04079

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #6
Harpowell, ME

Fall and Early Winter Events and Programs

All events are free unless otherwise noted. For more details, visit www.hhlmaine.org.

Rain or Shine Hiking Group

Every Thursday, 10 a.m., various locations. For young children and the adults in their lives. Find the schedule at <http://hhlmaine.org/events-programs/rain-shine-hiking-group/>

Autumn Yoga and Walk

Sun., Oct. 18, 3-5 p.m., Fishmoon Yoga and Curtis Farm Preserve. Suggested donation: \$5-20. Advance registration required.

Harpowell Family Outing: Cider Pressing

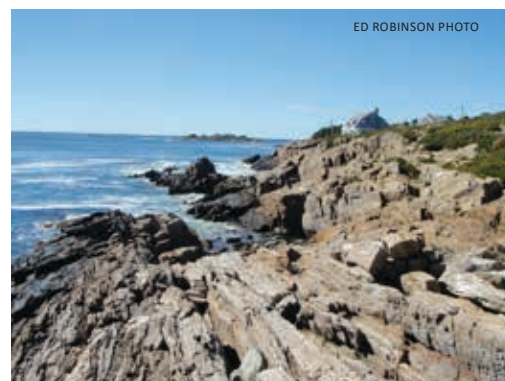
Sun., Oct. 25, 1-3 p.m., Harpswell Coastal Academy, 9 Ash Point Road

Harpowell Family Outing: Lost and Found at Curtis Farm Preserve

Sat., Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Curtis Farm Preserve

Winter Waterfowl Walk

Sat., Dec. 5, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Giant's Stairs Trail



Inside, Read About:

- Accreditation
- Houghton Graves Park
- New Acquisition on Little Yarmouth Island
- New Trail Maps, Brochures and Signs
- Hands-On Science Learning at Harpswell Community School
- Summer Wildflowers on HHLT Preserves
- The Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership
- New Trustees
- Strategic Planning
- And More!