



## Strawberry Creek: Preserving the view we all love

By Doug Warren

**H**arpowell is blessed with a wealth of beautiful, iconic, natural vistas. Consider the seascape off Basin Point, the fishing harbor at Mackerel Cove, or Long Reach as seen from the high ledges of the Cliff Trail. So, it's appropriate that the view from the Town Office on Mountain Road looking south to the mouth of Strawberry Creek literally stops traffic.

Here, depending on the tide, the sun glistens on still waters or off the productive mud flats that

extend toward two small islands, one with an active osprey nest, and Harpswell Sound just beyond. It's an unforgettable panorama savored by residents and visitors alike. It's also an important natural area with vital habitats for a wide variety of marine species and waterfowl.

Harpowell Heritage Land Trust (HHLT) now has an

opportunity to preserve a portion of this signature view, which is why the land trust has launched the Strawberry Creek Project.



DIANE WEADOR/ROBER PHOTO

This urgent fundraising effort is designed to provide the financing to purchase two parcels totaling 3.3 acres on the east side of the creek mouth. Keeping these parcels undeveloped will help protect clean marine waters that are key to the local fishing economy and Harpswell's way of life.

Not to mention the view. "Not only does Strawberry Creek present an iconic view of mud flats, islands and the water beyond, it is at the center of an extensive area of highly

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## Volunteering: A family affair

By Tim McCreight

**W**hat's the hardest part?" I asked. "Hardening!" came the instant answers from Nora and Ellie Douglas, ages 14 and 11. Along with their parents, Kara and Craig, they are stewards of the Curtis Farm Preserve. When I asked their favorite part, Ellie was quick to say it was the dogs who come to

walk the trail.

As we walked through the woods from Basin Point toward Curtis Cove beach, Craig explained how they harden the trail. Because the trail was quite wet this spring, it was necessary to carry gravel in by hand and pack it down. After that, the Douglas crew makes the fresh stone blend in to the landscape by sprinkling dirt and leaves over the rocks.

"Of course weather and foot

traffic quickly take care of that," Craig said, "and we've seen perhaps three times as many people using the trail this summer as last year." This is true of some of the other HHLT properties as well, as people confined by the pandemic seek solace and fresh air in the outdoors. Asked about the conduct of people on the trail, Kara said generally people are careful to observe physical distancing. "When people see

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The Douglas family at Curtis Farm Preserve. (Tim McCreight photo)



### Our Mission:

To preserve and protect Harpswell's natural resources, cultural heritage and access to the outdoors through targeted conservation, responsible stewardship and education.

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## Strawberry Creek, continued

productive mud flats, eelgrass beds, and wildlife habitat,” said Reed Coles, HHLT’s Executive Director. “Scenic beauty, clean ocean waters, and our coastal wildlife habitat underlie the economy and the quality of life in Harpswell.”

Coles explained that the owners of the two pieces of property have had them on the market and are now jointly giving HHLT and its supporters an opportunity to buy and preserve the land, if the land trust can quickly raise \$350,000.

“If we are unable to do so,” Coles added, “these properties will once again be put on the market for development.”

According to a



JEFF WOOD PHOTO

conservation values assessment conducted for HHLT by Forest Synthesis LLC of Harpswell, the project “will benefit and protect upland wildlife, tidal waterfowl and wading birds ... many ecologically and commercially valuable shellfish beds, productive rockweed beds, and adjacent eelgrass meadows.”

The assessment found that the project’s conservation

benefits “extend well beyond the relatively small project area. The mudflats, rockweed beds, and eelgrass beds provide habitat and food-web benefits for species that range throughout the Harpswell Sound ecosystem. Preserving the property as a forested buffer will benefit the many disturbance-sensitive species that nest, feed and rest within and adjacent to the upland and tidal areas of the project area.”

On September 15, a donor made a commitment to match every dollar donated to Strawberry Creek with a dollar contributed to HHLT’s endowment, up to \$73,000.

For more information, or to make a tax-deductible donation to the Strawberry Creek Project, contact Reed Coles at (207) 721-1121 or info@hhlmaine.org, or visit our website at hhlmaine.org/strawberry-creek/



DANCIE GOUTURE PHOTO



LYNN KNIGHT PHOTO



JOHN BERRY PHOTO

# NEWS AND UPDATES

CURT CHIPMAN PHOTO

## Conservation

Besides the Strawberry Creek Project (see front page), we are hoping to be granted a third conservation easement before the end of the year. Conservation easements are voluntary landowner agreements that place restrictions on future development of privately-owned land. We are working with another landowner to define the terms of the owner's plan to bequeath her wild land to HHLT. And, of course, we are always on the alert for new conservation opportunities.

## Stewardship

It has been a very busy summer for Stewardship, with many volunteer stewards taking



Volunteers work at Wilson's Cove Trail.  
(Ron Davis photo)

advantage of the weather to get a lot of work done on the preserves and trails. Fall is a great time to walk on them!

The Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership has been working to control the worst of the invasive plants on our preserves and elsewhere.

Our summer monitor at Stover's Point Preserve, Lou Piccone, visited frequently to insure visitors respected posted guidelines while enjoying themselves.

We are in the midst of easement monitoring season. Each year we inspect all of our conservation easements to ensure that the terms of the easements are being upheld. If you would like to help out as an easement monitor, please contact our Stewardship Coordinator, Priscilla Seimer at [steward@hhlmaine.org](mailto:steward@hhlmaine.org).

## Expanded Trail at Little Ponds Preserve

An expansion of the trail system at Little Ponds Preserve is in the works. An abutting landowner has generously given HHLT permission to construct a trail for public use on his land. The trail is in the planning stage as we determine the best route.

The end result will be a second loop trail, accessed from the existing trail, that will more than double the length of the trail system. The new trail will run along Mill Pond at the head of Hen Cove and through the woods in a loop. We hope to have it finished next year.

## Community Outreach and Education

### Our Decision about Public Programs

After careful consideration, our Programs Committee has decided to continue not to hold in-person programming through the fall. It is our belief that our programs, while enjoyable and valuable to our mission, are not as important at present as avoiding gatherings that might result in spreading COVID-19, especially to those most vulnerable to complications from the disease. We also want to help make it feasible for children to continue in-person schooling.

### Exploration Kits

During this unusual summer we created exploration kits for families and for adults to

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GENE TAYLOR PHOTO

*"The activities were well designed and explained, making them accessible for use with a grownup who hasn't had much experience in actually doing activities like these. I believe that most of the activities can be done year after year with different engagement and value for the kids, as they grow." —Feedback received about HHLT's family exploration kits.*



JULIA MCLEOD PHOTO

# This Week in Harpswell: A Year-long Photo Project

In 2020, Harpswell Heritage Land Trust is collecting and sharing photos in a year-long series called "This Week in Harpswell." During one week in each season, we encourage people of all ages and experience levels to take and share Harpswell photos of all kinds. The response has been incredible, with many talented photographers submitting hundreds of stunning photographs. Check our website for photo albums from winter, spring and summer. Next up: October 10-18! We hope you will participate!

## February



STEVE MOORE PHOTO



ANONYMOUS PHOTO



LUCIA NIXON PHOTO



AMANDA BRILLIANT PHOTO



GINA SNYDER PHOTO

## May



JESSICA BRASSARD PHOTO



ED ROBINSON PHOTO



KAREN KIRKJIAN PHOTO



STEVE MOORE PHOTO



DEBORAH BATES KICZEK PHOTO



HUBBARD GOODRICH PHOTO

## August



GRETCHEN BAILEY PHOTO



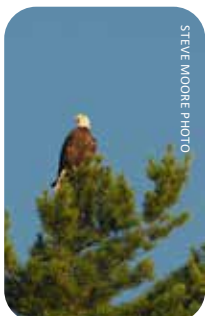
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HUBBARD GOODRICH PHOTO



RUTH ZUMSTEIN PHOTO

# Remembering a Life too Short, but Well-lived

By Doug Warren

When Nancy and Charles Scholes lost their beloved second son, Jonathan, to a brutal cancer at age 33, he left them with more than broken hearts. He left them an outstanding example of a life well-lived, if far too short, and dedicated to helping those in need.

He also left them a love of Harpswell and its rugged beauty.

So, it seemed natural to the Scholes to create an endowed fund in Jonathan's name to support Harpswell Heritage Land Trust (HHLT) in its mission to preserve the natural and cultural resources of our coastal community.

"Our seasonal home on Abner Point has a spectacular view of the head of Mackerel Cove," Nancy explained. "And we were impressed and profoundly grateful that HHLT took the steps necessary to protect Johnson Field and preserve this iconic view for generations to come."

An appreciation of natural

beauty came early to Charles and Nancy. They grew up in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, surrounded by waterfalls, glens and spectacular vistas. They met at Cornell University in 1964 and followed Charles' academic career to Yale University and across the country and the globe while Nancy worked as a public health nurse. Charles joined the University of Albany in 1973, initially in the Physics Department and then in the Chemistry Department, where he continued to teach and do biophysical research until retiring in 2017. They live in Delmar, N.Y., for much of the year.

Jonathan, who died in 2007, brought the Scholes family to Maine when he entered Bowdoin College in 1992. A tall, handsome, and very athletic young man, Jonathan played two years on the Bowdoin football team before graduating in 1996. While at Bowdoin, Jonathan fell in love with Harpswell and lived in a small house on Orr's Island during his senior year. Nancy and Charles followed in his path and came to share his passion.

"The Giant's Stairs were Jon's favorite setting to commune with nature," Nancy recalled. "We scattered some of his ashes there after he passed away."

Following graduation from Bowdoin, Jonathan served for two years in the Peace Corps at the Pazapa Center for Children with Disabilities in Jacmel, Haiti. At Pazapa (Creole for "step-by-step"), Jonathan organized a year-round recreation program, summer camps and Haiti's first Special Olympics.

He also helped the mothers of disabled children develop small businesses to support their families. The experience in Haiti was life-altering for Jonathan, and for his parents. Today, Charles heads the US board that helps run the non-profit organization.

After his time in Haiti, Jonathan attended the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and received an MBA in 2002. He then worked for Genzyme Inc. in Cambridge, Mass., traveling extensively as associate director of the company's organ transplant division in Canada and Latin America. He retained his love of Harpswell. Married shortly before he died, Jonathan and his wife had planned to buy a cottage in the area. It was not to be.

"We wanted to establish this unrestricted endowment as a remembrance for Jonathan, dedicated to the places that were dear to him and are dear to us," said Charles. "From our experience in Haiti, we know full well that 'unrestricted' gifts to a non-profit organization and to its endowment are



Jonathan Scholes

among the most difficult funds to raise."

Janice Thompson, HHLT's Development Director, said unrestricted endowment donations like that made by the Scholes are vital to the land trust because they offer flexibility about how the income from the fund can be used now and in the future. "It's really a double blessing," she said, "because the money will support the land trust's work long into the future and can be used where it's most needed. We can't thank Nancy and Charles enough for their incredible generosity."

The Scholes say they are pleased to make a contribution in a way and in a place that they are certain would make Jonathan happy.

"We have been frugal all our lives, and now in our 70s, it's important for us to contribute where we can to make a difference," said Nancy and Charles. "This is our way to help HHLT sustain all the things it's already doing really well."

If you'd like to join Charles and Nancy Scholes in making an unrestricted endowment gift to Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, please contact Janice Thompson at [development@hhltnmaine.org](mailto:development@hhltnmaine.org).



Charles and Nancy Scholes (Doug Warren photo)

# Volunteers, continued

us working on the trail, they often say thanks, and that's encouraging." Ellie reminds me that it's best when people bring their dogs.

Kara Douglas is the owner and principal teacher at FishMoon Yoga and is also on the staff of the Harpswell Anchor newspaper. She is a former science teacher, naturalist and free-lance writer with a deeply rooted love of the

outdoors. She is no stranger to building and maintaining trails, having spent time with AmeriCorps and the Maine Conservation Corps. By working on the trail with her children, she is sharing this appreciation with her daughters, while at the same time teaching the importance of community service.

Craig's training as a civil engineer is evident in the excellent condition of the Curtis Farm trail. Craig works

*Continued on page 7*



## Thank you to our volunteers! We couldn't do it without you!

Heidi Aakjer  
Sam Alexander  
Jean Arcangeli  
Cristine Bachor  
Thomas Bailey  
Janet Ballenger  
George Bangs  
Tony Barrett  
Wendy Batson  
Charles Bernier  
John Berry  
Dean Bickford  
Phyllis Blackstone  
Linda Blanton  
Scott Bodwell  
Elizabeth Boerstling  
John Boomer  
Mary Booth  
Kathy Bowen  
Laura Brady  
Mary Brennan  
David Brown  
Keith Brown  
Rob Bryan  
Carrie Bubier  
James Burbine  
Jean Burbine  
Lisa Burrows  
Cyndy Bush  
Sally Butcher  
Sam Butcher  
Alan Calhoun  
Catherine Carey  
Karen Carlisle  
Tom Carlisle  
Heather Carr  
Tom Carr  
Dana Cary  
Steve Caulfield  
Rob Center  
Dianne Chilmonczyk  
Caroline Chipman  
Curt Chipman  
Ronald Chipman  
Beth Chiquoine  
Nellie Clifford  
Adrian Colborn  
Wayne Cole  
Sophie Cooke  
Monique Coombs  
Melissa Corwin

Kimberly Damon  
Jane Davis  
Ron Davis  
Stan Davis  
Maura Leigh Donovan  
Lauren Doran  
Craig Douglas  
Ellie Douglas  
Kara Douglas  
Nora Douglas  
Robert Dow  
Gary Downes  
Wendy Downes  
Hannah Dring  
Charles Dunbar  
Nelia Dunbar  
Nancy Egan  
Kimberlee Elder  
Shannon Elliott  
Emily Ewing  
Bill Fall  
Keith Field  
Martha Fisher  
Christine Fletcher  
Martha Fogler  
Amy Ford  
Tulle Frazer  
Janet Fullerton  
Becky Gallery  
Bo Garrison  
Catherine Gibson  
Cathy Given  
Tim Glidden  
Kathy Goodrich  
Ted Goulette  
Laura Grady  
Hildegard Gray  
Gregory Greenleaf  
Harriette Griffin  
Ann Gulesian  
David Hackett  
Tom Hall  
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Students  
Harpswell Community School  
Students

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Mel Harris  
Meredith Harris  
Alison Hawkes  
Gayle Hays  
Chris Heinig  
Kay Henry  
Alicia Heyburn  
Lewis Hinman  
Kathryn Hirst  
Daniel Hoebeke  
Frank Holdgate  
Jeanne Howe  
Scott Howe  
Dan Huber  
Jim Hutchison  
Barbara Inkellis  
Jill Jensen  
Scott Jerauld  
Susan Jerauld  
Lynne Juster  
Paul Kane  
Sheila Karajin  
Molly Kellogg  
Les Klein  
Lynn Knight  
Richard Knox  
Brenda Kramer  
Peter Kramer  
Robin Ladkin  
Michele LaVigne  
Heather Logan  
Linda Lowell  
Susan Lowery  
John Loyd  
Susan Loyd  
Bruce MacDougal  
Tom Mahoney  
Jeff Marshall  
Nancy Marstaller  
Kayla Matthews  
Tim McCreight  
Marnie McFarland  
Rebekah McGuire  
Robert McIntyre  
Paula Gibbs McKenney

Alice McLeod  
Kathleen McNerney  
Heather Merriman  
Susan Millar  
William Millar  
Catherine Minor  
Don Miskill  
Martin Mitchell  
Kristy Montana  
Joe Moore  
Mary B Moore  
David Morton  
Matthew Mulhern  
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Stephen Musica  
Mary Ann Nahf  
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Gina Perow  
Ned Perry  
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Trish Petty  
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David Plumpton  
Suzanne Popejoy  
Carol Proctor  
Nicole Twohig  
Mary Quinn  
Monica Quinn  
Martha Richardson  
Tom Ring  
Ed Robinson  
Mary Robinson  
Charles Roman  
Nancy Roman  
Kyle Rosenberg  
Richard Rotnem  
Mary Ruchinskas

Bob Sansone  
Mark Schlotterbeck  
Alan Seamans  
Priscilla Seimer  
Maria Serra  
David Sheaff  
Trisha Sheaff  
Ellen Shillinglaw  
Ellen Smith  
Bill Snellings  
Gina Snyder  
Karin Soderberg  
Erik Sol  
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Jym St. Pierre  
Ann Standridge  
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Jaime Stowell  
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John Tisdale  
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Wendy Van Damme  
Mallory Waldman  
Judy Wallingford  
Grace Warder  
Doug Warren  
Christopher Watkinson  
Joel Weeks  
Robert Weggel  
Nancy West  
Donald Westfall  
Tuckie Westfall  
Beth Whalon  
Nathaniel Wheelwright  
Sharon Whitney  
Dennis Wilkins  
Linda Wilkins  
Cynthia Wood  
Lucretia Woodruff  
David Wright  
Judith Wylie  
Donna York  
Ruth Zumstein

## Volunteers, continued

for the Brunswick-Topsham Water District and in addition to designing drinking water systems, the FishMoon Yoga website credits him as “builder, IT-guy and general fixer.” Despite their busy professional lives—or maybe because of them—they place a high value on their work on the preserve, dedicating three or four hours of family time to it every weekend.

The wet ground and strong winds this spring resulted in significant blowdowns at Curtis Farm. Roots pulled out of the ground by falling trees shifted bog bridges, and that required resettling or moving many massive slabs of wood. The most herculean of these jobs was building a bridge with a sweeping curve, a job made elegant by carefully selecting slabs with a natural curve.

The Douglas family aren't the only stewards for Curtis Farm Preserve. Tom Carr, Jeff Stann, Lynne Juster, Becky Gallery and Robin Ladkin also contribute significantly to keeping the trail in great condition.

HHLT maintains 17 preserves and 11 trails, a task made possible only through the commitment of many volunteers. The need is great, and clearly there is a role for families. And of course, dogs are welcome...



*Ellie and Nora Douglas by the bog bridges they helped build at Curtis Farm Preserve.*

## News and updates, continued



KATE ROLINS PHOTO



KATE BOWEN PHOTO

encourage hands-on exploration, discovery and engagement.

There was a great response! Sixty-three families received exploration kits this summer (reaching 134 total children!). We offered these on a sliding scale so ability to pay would not be a barrier to participation. These engaging kits included nets for catching critters, craft projects, scavenger hunts, activity ideas, field guides and much more!

Twenty-three adults received exploration kits, which included a drawstring backpack, notebook, pocket naturalist field guides and magnifying glass.

We will continue to strive to be a resource to people of all ages in the community. We welcome your feedback on what resources you would value during the coming year.

## Annual Meeting

We held our Annual Meeting virtually this year on July 21. We enjoyed this chance to check in with members! We created a video to update members on the last year of our work. We encourage you to watch it on our website at <https://hhltmaine.org/annual-meeting-2020/>.

## New Trustees

*Families enjoying Harpswell Heritage Land Trust's Exploration Kits.*



John Boomer has been active in environmental causes in Maine for many years. He has served on the boards of the Maine Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Council of Maine and Zero Population Growth (now called Population Connection) in Washington D.C. He lived in Cape Elizabeth from 1984-1998 and was a founder of the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust. John moved to Orr's Island in 1999 and has been a strong supporter of HHLT ever since. He is rejoining the Board after being termed out last year.

Sharon Oehmig works as Billing and Budget Manager for Biodiversity Research Institute, a research and environmental consulting non-profit organization based in Portland. A Harpswell resident since 2006, she and her husband,



Ken live on Great Island. Past jobs have included Associate Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity 7 Rivers Maine in Topsham and Editorial Business Manager for The Christian Science Monitor newspaper and website. She also has professional experience in human resources and risk management. She and Ken are enthusiastic supporters of Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, the Harpswell Historical Society and other local and national conservation and environmental organizations. In addition to her volunteer work with HHLT, she is a member of the Town's Mitchell Field Committee, works at the polls and volunteers with Harpswell Recreation to maintain and monitor trails owned by the Town. She is rejoining the Board after being termed out last year.

John Tisdale grew up in Burlington, Vermont, and graduated from



Middlebury College in 1980. He attended Boston University Law School and worked in Boston for many years as a lawyer in the financial sector. He spent the last decade of his career as the general counsel of a private investment firm, and he retired from practice in 2014. John and his wife enjoy kayaking and exploring the Maine coast. They moved to Harpswell in 2007. John is new to the HHLT board.



MICHELLE CR PHOTO



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## Which of these preserves have you visited recently?



Clockwise starting with upper left: Wilson's Cove Trail (Jessica Brassard), Long Reach Preserve (Priscilla Seimer), Potts Point Preserve (Susan Dowd), Skolfield Shores Preserve (Joe Palma), Stover's Point Preserve (Julia McLeod), Hackett and Minot Trails (Priscilla Seimer)