

# Goosefeathers Gazette

The Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary 🍁 Fall 2018 Newsletter  
PO Box 244, Brooksville, ME 04617 🍁 fhis@myfairpoint.net 🍁 friendsofholbrookisland.org



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## Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary

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*Trails*

**Julie Cleveland**

*Newsletter*

## Greetings from the Friends

It is always amazing how quickly the seasons pass, from this year's steamy summer to the splendid colors of autumn. Winter is here and it's time to slow down and reflect.

We hope you enjoyed hiking our trails, attending our summer programs and boating along our shores. It is uplifting to take time, relax and enjoy the pristine landscape of the Sanctuary.

Historic sites and old homesteads tucked in around the Sanctuary were researched last summer. When the information has been processed and verified our plan is to install historical markers followed by interpretative information available on site. Park cemeteries continue to be identified and restoration has continued.

This summer's interns settled in well and gained valuable experience in park management and maintenance. Every year we consider our interns a great asset;

both moved on to environmentally related positions in their fields of interest.

The renovation of the Island barn continues. The historically appropriate windows arrived and will be installed next spring. The logistics of doing construction on an island is daunting. We plan to renovate the living space for our interns and also enhance the "bunking" quarters for others that stay overnight on the Island.



Our next mission is to create an environmental educational center for students and visitors in the barn across from Park headquarters. The State maintenance team was on site in early November to "take out" the chimney and jack up the barn with beams and posts. A new tarp was put over the barn roof to defray further damage. This project is surely a monumental task but the rewards will exceed expectations.

We need your help to reach our dreams. Thank you for your continued support!

Will Hotchkiss, *FHIS President*



Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park encompasses 1,230 acres on the mainland and 115 acres on Holbrook Island. The Park offers trails for walking, hiking, and running (and is also open in the winter for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and skating on Fresh Pond); bird and wildlife watching; picnic areas; swimming; fishing (salt water); canoe and kayak launch areas; ramps, floats, and moorings at both Tom Cod Cove (mainland) and Holbrook Island (mind the tides); and bicycling on-road. No off-road motorized vehicles are allowed in the Sanctuary. There is no entrance fee at Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park.



## Park Manager's Highlights

The Friends wish to thank Charlie, his family and countless others who have contributed many hours, their skills and donations to improve the Park.

In May, the Park cemeteries were tidied up in time for Memorial Day. Thanks to the Cobb family for tending to the Island trails and Anita Harris's cemetery. A special thanks to John Jacobs for providing transport to the Island and much more in every season.

We are fortunate to call Charlie OUR Park manager! He continues to pitch in at other state parks. In June Charlie went to Cobscook Bay State Park to teach First Aid and CPR classes to the Downeast Staff. Northern Region Engineers and FEMA representatives visited the Park and the Tennis Preserve to assess remaining damage from last year's October 30th storm. The new grill built by Waldo County Technical School was installed on the beach, and the bird house building program went forward at the Blue Hill Elementary School. BES and Blue Hill students visited the park for a year end celebration and picnic.

Abbey and Connor began their internships in mid-June and settled into the Island barn. They both moved on to positions in their fields, suggesting an internship at Holbrook is a good stepping stone. Charlie continues to work with Maine universities and colleges, hoping to add our internship positions to their curriculum for credit so we will have a continued upturn in qualified applicants.

July brought Andrea and Hal Snow, former year-round caretakers for Anita Harris, to the Island; they will help with ongoing historical improvements to the Island barn. The Island hosted the Maine Discovery Museum summer camp for two nights, and MMA brought 30 guests thanks to the Wilson Museum. The Bird House building program continued in Bangor. Charlie presented Red Cross First Aid & CPR classes at Moose Point State Park.

There were many summer programs in the Park. They included Tom Seymour, author, forager and musician, the secrets of the family burial plot, exploring grave dowsing, and inter-tidal exploration with a touch tank. All were well attended and will be continued next year.

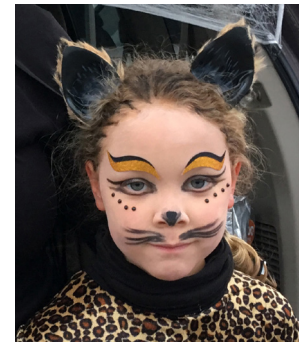


September brought MMA students and staff to the Park. They participated in mapping shell midden sites on the Island with the guidance of Maine's senior archeologist, Dr. Speiss. The Castine Boy Scouts and their parents visited for a service project. They cleaned beaches and trails and helped stain the docks; they were rewarded with a cookout. The Island was readied for the off season once gale force winds abated.

October saw the last of the stately Windjammers, always a welcome sight, moored and having their final lobster feasts on the beach. Moorings were used day and night throughout the season and brought many visitors ashore to enjoy the Park. The Bakeman Farm Trailhead has new posts and rails awaiting installation thanks to a local volunteer. The Island floats were removed and are in good repair. BES students had a morning lesson at Fresh Pond with Ms. Pert, Mrs. Allen and Park Staff. We hope BES will continue to make regular visits to the Park.

As October concluded we picked up a large supply of lumber that will be used to improve infrastructure and trails. High winds brought down trees and caused power outages suggesting another hard winter. The Trunk or Treat event at BES ended the month with a big bang.

We hope you will come and enjoy the Park this winter and next spring no matter what the weather brings; it is truly beautiful in all seasons!



Charlie Cannon, Park Manager, is on duty year-round. Park Headquarters is located on Indian Bar Road, off Back Road on Cape Rosier. Follow the brown signs! Address: PO Box 35, Brooksville, ME 04617 Telephone: 207-326-4012  
Park mail and messages are checked on a regular basis. If you have an urgent issue please contact: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, Northern Regional Office, 106 Hogan Road, Suite 7, Bangor, ME 04401 Telephone: 207-941-4014 Website: [www.parksandlands.com](http://www.parksandlands.com)

## Reflections of our Summer Interns

### Abbey Beck

This has certainly been the most interesting summer I can remember! Waking up on our private island and not knowing what wildlife we would spot or what the day might bring kept me on my toes and ready for anything. I expected to be cleaning restrooms, staining various park objects and clearing brush, but I certainly never expected to be mail-grabber, chauffeur, welder or driver of large motor vehicles to such an extent that my father was jealous. This was all to the good, for I am now a more well-rounded and knowledgeable individual. I'm off to put in a number of hours on a ship in the open ocean with the NOAA Fisheries Research Program. I am better prepared for this new adventure thanks my experiences at Holbrook.

### Connor Roulliard

I was unsure of what to expect from my internship. This summer was one I will never forget! Charlie and his family (Brandie, Sadie, Owen and Moe the cat) helped me appreciate the simple things in life; I took away many good memories. Thank you for giving me a special place to stay and teaching me some of the skills required to run a state park. I was able to go home and share my experiences with my family and friends every week. They were jealous that I was able to call this place home for 10 weeks. Charlie also taught me how to further my career in conservation. I have always loved the outdoors and this internship was meant for me. Thank you for my opportunity and for opening the doors to my next step. I was accepted to work for the Department of Conservation in Bangor.

## Save the Dates

### "First Day Hike"

**Tuesday January 1: 1:00pm**

Please come and join us for a leisurely 1.5 mile walk for all ages (and pets on a leash) and enjoy the peace of the Maine coast, a great way to ring in 2019. We will meet at the Backshore Trailhead and walk old roads out to the shoreline trail that provides wonderful views of Holbrook Island and beyond. A pause at Goose Falls will let you experience a reversing tidal waterfall. Warm beverages, water and snacks will be on hand at the start and finish of our walk.

In 2018 all 50 states participated in spite of ice, rain and snow. This signature event for America's State Parks is an opportunity to showcase state parks as "close to home" places connecting people to nature and fostering healthy outdoor lifestyles year-round.

### "Take it Outside"

**Saturday February 2: 10:00am -3:00pm**

Think snow! The State will be on site at the Backshore Trailhead again this year, our 3rd TIO. First, come gather around the fire for warm refreshments and then go out and enjoy our trails. The equipment trailer will be on site providing free cross-country skis with boots and poles and snowshoes. There will be snow tubes and sleds available for a joyful ride down Back Road. All equipment will be available a few days before and after the event for your enjoyment.

Please be sure to contact Park Headquarters for conditions and more information: 207-326-4012

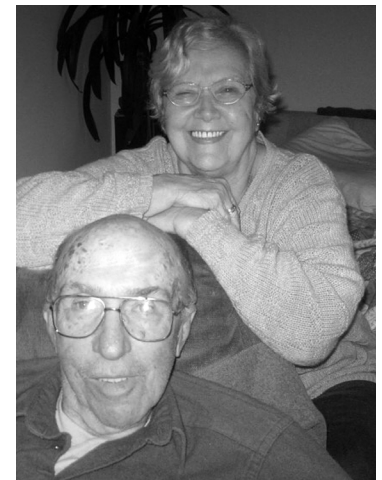
## Patricia Hooper Farr aka "Mom of the Sanctuary"

June 16, 1943 - June 22, 2018

It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Pat Farr last June. Her husband, Phil, was Park manager back in the 90's and Park Ranger since the mid 70's.

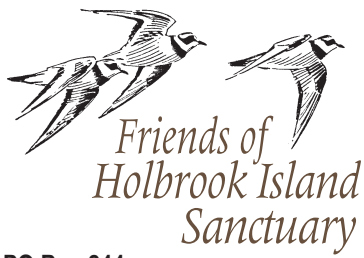
The HIS trust was set up by Anita Harris, administered by the State and provided meager funds for the Park manager's salary, operations and maintenance. Pat didn't think this was a good way to promote the Sanctuary and thought about ways to improve the situation. She welcomed visitors, baked cookies, maintained flower beds and continued to reflect on how to solve the issue. Her solution was to establish a "Friends" group and raise money by any means necessary. In 1995 the Friends of the Holbrook Island Sanctuary became official and fundraising to purchase materials, hire summer interns and much more went forward. The *Goosefeathers Gazette*, our newsletter, was born and reached out to the community and beyond. Pat continued to send out annual appeal letters, logged donations and lovingly hand wrote a note to each donor.

The Friends are a part of Pat's legacy. We miss her energy, her encyclopedic knowledge of FHIS membership and her unflinching grace under adversity.



Holbrook Island Sanctuary is open daily, year-round, from 9:00 AM to sunset. Trail maps and bird lists are located in boxes at some of the trailheads. Picnic tables and charcoal grills are located at Park Headquarters, adjacent to the lawn, the beach and in a shady glade. There is one picnic table at the Fresh Pond trailhead. Bring your own charcoal. No alcohol is permitted. No open fires or camping are permitted in the Sanctuary or on Holbrook Island. All dogs must be on a leash and please clean up after your pet. Privy toilets are located near Park Headquarters, at the boat area at Tom Cod Cove and on Holbrook Island.





PO Box 244  
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### *The Magic of Tom Seymour*



Tom Seymour, author, forager, musician and so much more was in the Park on four occasions last summer. Tom forages for his favorite foods in the wild; cattail spring shoots, young dandelions, fiddleheads and many more... He led walks searching for edible and medicinal plants and explained the uses and properties of each wild plant found in the Park. Tom is the author of many books on the subject including *Wild Plants of Maine*. He also writes four regular columns and feature articles for numerous publications. [www.tomseymourmaine.com](http://www.tomseymourmaine.com)

Tom is a lifelong musician and brought the joy of music to the Sanctuary last summer. With the beautiful Smith Cove as his backdrop, he played the Scottish small pipes and drums and gave a history lesson on his instruments. Tom gave up the bass guitar long ago to concentrate on the folk instruments of the British Isles. "Irish or Uilleann pipes, tabor-and-pipe, drum-and pipe combination played by a single musician at the same time head my list of favorite instruments. They are capable of great musical expression." In addition, Tom plays Highland pipes, pennywhistle, mandolin and Irish harp music.

We look forward to welcoming Tom back to the Park next season!

*Our mission: To build appreciation and awareness of unique ecological, scenic, and conservational benefits of Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park so that it will be adequately supported, appropriately used, and perpetually protected.*