

Goosefeathers Gazette

The Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary 🌸 Fall 2019 Newsletter
PO Box 244, Brooksville, ME 04617 🌸 fhis@myfairpoint.net 🌸 friendsofholbrookisland.org



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Trails

Julie Cleveland

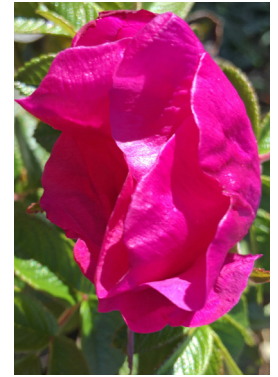
Newsletter

Greetings from the Friends

Greetings from the Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park. It has been a banner year for the Park. The educational programs that we offered were very well received. The interns you sponsor received a professional experience in Park management and were instrumental in the success of our summer operation. Again, thank you for your donations that make many things possible for the Park.

The new regional park manager, Mark Deroche, sees eye to eye with the function and commitment of the Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary and is extremely supportive. We will have a very productive future with State support of the Park and future plans of the Friends.

Our focus for the upcoming year, including those projects in process, will be to rehabilitate the many long-forgotten cemeteries on the mainland and those on the Island. Anita Harris, whose vision and generosity created the Park, is buried on Holbrook Island in what was once her lush rose garden. Her grave is marked by a large white boulder and has no inscription. The beautiful fence surrounding the area is



in desperate need of repair and we'd like to try and plant a rose bush or two. A general cleaning with tree pruning or removal, fence repair and approved head stone cleaning will proceed throughout the Park. Historic interpretative markers will be purchased for the cemeteries and the homestead remains on the property.

The Island barn will undergo the installation of the upper window and renovation of the interns' living spaces. In recent years an increased demand has occurred for groups wanting to use the bunking spaces for overnight stays. New mattresses and a general overhaul are required for proper over nights. You may not realize that the interns spend their nights bunking in the box-stall bedrooms in the barn on the Island. A rustic kitchen with propane appliances is provided for their routine meals. Our goal is to make overnight stays more comfortable.

We extend a warm welcome to any volunteers who want to help with ongoing and future projects as well as to sit on the Friends' Board. Please call the Park Office (207) 326-4012 to volunteer or contact us using the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your continued financial support to make our future a success. We hope to see you in the Park this winter.

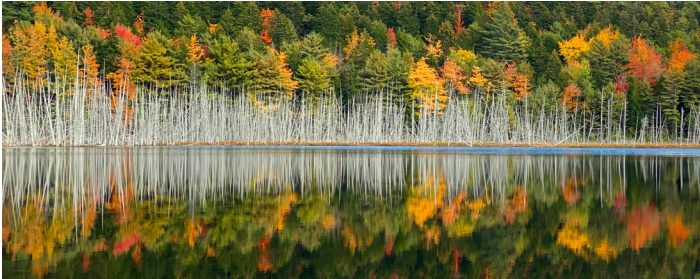


Will Hotchkiss, *FHIS President*

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

As we write this we are trying to recover from the third windstorm in as many weeks (Castine 74mph) and pause to remember life is a balancing act. As Mother Nature gives us those spectacular evenings of harmony in spring, the fabulous beach days over the summer, the fall colors with crispness and winter's solitude of silence over a new carpet of white; she too must remind us we are living in "a little bit of wilderness" here on Cape Rosier. Our environment is being shaped by "natural forces rather than human hands." The Park's floats and moorings have been removed and Holbrook Island has been buttoned up for the winter. The deer, otter, squirrels and seals on the Island have freedom to roam and for the next six months they will have to themselves "a piece of the unspoiled Maine."



The 2019 season has come and gone all too fast. The contributions you have made helped us in many ways. One of the most important is the support you give to sponsor our two summer internships year after year. The help they bring and the strength they gain is invaluable. Living on Holbrook Island, they have the opportunity to encounter the coast of Maine as Anita "used to know." All have contributed to the Park's success in some form and the memories they take with them will hopefully bring them back in the future.

The year saw the Holbrook Park team and supporters put on about twenty events both inside the park and elsewhere. Some of the programs were old favorites like medicinal plant walks, birdwatching, touch tank exploration, birdhouse building and Trunk or Treat on Hallowe'en. There were new



ventures such as a concert by Me & Martha, an Appalachian Folk Music duo from the Shenandoah Valley and Bat House



programs with BHHT. Local schools also used the park for educational matters and a little fun too, bridging the gap between the natural environment and today's youth. We continue to welcome and appreciate many groups and individuals who have visited over the years whether they arrive by foot, bike, engine or sail.



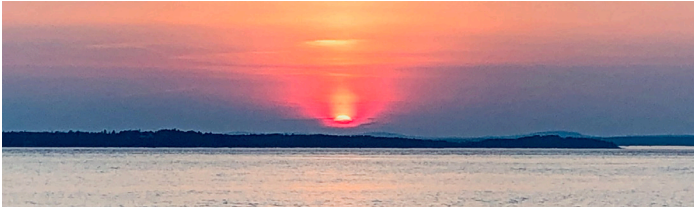
This winter and spring we will be focused on storm cleanup/snow cleanup, preparing bird and bat house kits, recruiting for next seasons internships, and helping elsewhere in the Park system. Others and I have been tasked with preparing an Interpretative Ranger Academy for the State Parks and we have already begun meetings to lay the foundation for future training. We will be hosting a First Day Hike on January 1st and our 4th "Take It Outside" on February 8th so please come and join us. In the meantime, every day is a good one to get out inside the park and discover a piece of this unspoiled Maine.

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

In Memorium

Susan and Carl Chase, longtime residents of Brooksville and huge contributors to the local music and arts scene, passed away together in their home on October 27th. They were the pioneers in the creation and incorporation of the Park's "Ski Loop" and volunteered often to set ski tracks after many snowfalls. We will miss their boundless energy and creativity.



Reflections of our Summer Interns

Katie Bates

Working and living at Holbrook Island Sanctuary was an amazing experience. I thoroughly enjoyed working with Charlie and the other intern, Jack, and was able to learn many things and grow academically. Living on Holbrook Island was a bit of an adjustment at first, but by the end of the summer I was sad to be leaving the place I called home for ten weeks. I spent many nights after work exploring the trails on the Island and taking a plethora of pictures that I will cherish forever. At the end of the day I loved reading on the beach as the sun set; the view was spectacular.

Charlie was a great teacher and taught me many skills. I gained the knowledge and confidence I need to successfully run a state park if that is the career path I decide to follow. I loved helping host the bird and bat house building programs for elementary school kids. I made a bat house for myself to take back home! I will forever be grateful for the wonderful experience I had this summer and hope to visit Holbrook Island Sanctuary again soon.

Jack Fontaine

My ten weeks working at Holbrook Island Sanctuary made this past summer one of my most memorable. I was ecstatic to get this opportunity as I love wildlife and being outdoors. I think that it has proved invaluable for gaining experience in my field as a wildlife ecology major at the University of Maine. Getting to know Katie, the other intern, and Charlie, the Park manager, made for a very enjoyable experience.

I enjoyed commuting by boat, becoming CPR certified and living on our own island. I was able to explore an unfamiliar part of Maine, meet Park visitors, local residents and have some cool wildlife encounters. Seals, painted turtles, milk snakes, my first grouse and our entertaining red squirrel roommates to mention a few. It was great building bird and bat house kits or leading intertidal programs for children and their families.

Working at Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park was one of the neatest experiences I have ever had and I am very thankful to have had the opportunity.

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.

Save the Dates

Christmas Cookie Decorating

Saturday December 21st 11 am - 1 pm

Come and decorate a plate of homemade buttery sugar cookies to take home for the holidays. Choose from a variety of colored frostings, sugars and sprinkles! A soup lunch will be served. Come and spend some fun holiday time making something festive and enjoying a few hours with friends and neighbors. A suggested donation of \$5 per adult, \$2 under 16 which will go to support H.I.S. Reserve your seat: 207-326-4012

First Day Hike

Wednesday January 1st 1:00 pm

Please come and join us for a leisurely 1.5 mile walk for all ages (leashed pets welcome) and enjoy the peace of the Maine coast, a great way to ring in 2020. We will meet at the Backshore Trailhead (Indian Bar Road) and walk easy trails out towards Goose Falls and if weather permits hike the shoreline trail that provides wonderful views of Islesboro 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. Bring appropriate footwear. These National hikes provide a means for individuals and families to welcome the new year outdoors, exercising and connecting with nature. Last year over forty visitors of all ages joined together in the Sanctuary.

Take it Outside

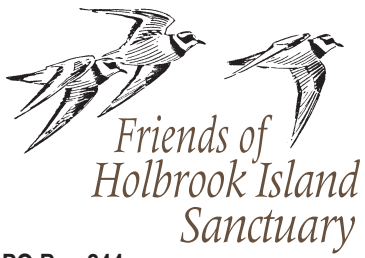
Saturday February 8th 10 am - 3 pm

Think snow! The State Park's Ski and Snowshoe Trailer will be onsite at the Backshore Trail again this year, our 4th 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 the Back Road hill. 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

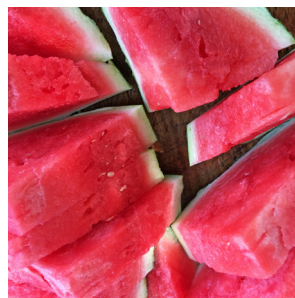
f Find us on Facebook: Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary





PO Box 244
Brooksville, ME 04617

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



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.