

Goosefeathers Gazette

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



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Newsletter

Greetings from the Friends

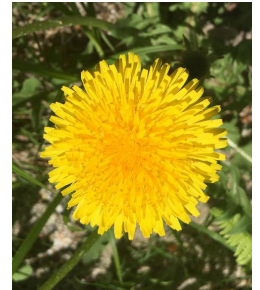
It has been a formidable winter and a wet spring here on the coast of Maine. High winds, snow, ice, rain and below average temperatures delayed getting the Park ready for the spring and summer seasons. All is good and suddenly the park has sprung to life with an abundance of flora and fauna and we are ready to welcome you!

The Friends wish to thank Charlie, his family (Brandie, Sadie and Owen) and countless others who have spent hours to improve the Park. We are grateful that Charlie is our Park manager but never forget he pitches in at other State parks in all seasons.

The Cobb family, each year, visit the Island as trail maintainers and ready the grounds for the upcoming season. The trails were opened and a damage report was posted to the Park manager. We don't ask them, they just do it. Nice work and thank you, Heidi, Johnny and John!



The Friends will facilitate a clean-up of the living quarters in the barn on the Island. The interns we sponsor and other assorted guests, including youth groups have stayed over-night in the barn with increased frequency in recent years. Old broken windows will be replaced with new



historically correct windows this season. We are investigating internet possibilities; our interns need access for research, to complete their studies, and to stay in touch with friends and family. We aim to make life on the Island more comfortable for all who live in the barn during their tenure. This will help attract strong candidates in the years to come. Every year our interns are an asset greeting and guiding those that come ashore.

The Friends continue to focus on their dream to involve local schools, visitors, volunteers and our interns in the building and development of an Environmental Education Center in the barn at Park Headquarters. This multi-function facility would provide classrooms, exhibits and housing for our interns when they can't move to the Island.

This is a monumental project! We have contacted local people, who are familiar with grant writing, to help in our search for potential funding. We need all your ideas, skills, your time and anything else you might be willing to contribute to move us forward with this important journey to the future.

Please come and visit your Park. The trails are readied, the floats and moorings are in place. All we need is you to enjoy the adventure. Your continued support is very important to us.

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

Let's begin with thanks from Charlie. "The Friends and our donors have contributed to improvements and sponsor our interns each summer. Many pursue fields congruent with Park ideals and credit living on the Island and time in the Park. It is rewarding to stay in touch."

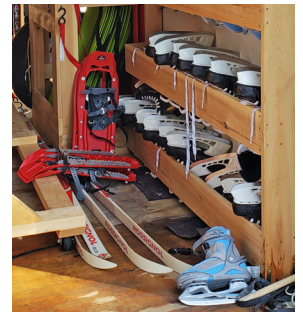
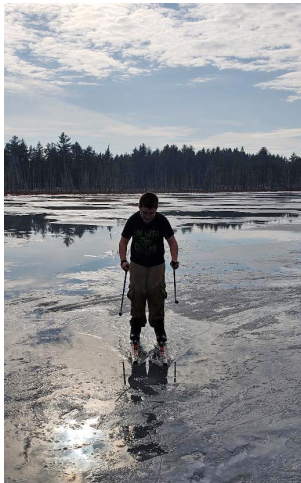
In November, the State maintenance team installed cribbing and beams to shore-up the mainland barn. Winter maintenance on moorings and mowers was completed. The State's network and internet capabilities were upgraded.

A cover for the new group grill was constructed and the buildings were sealed up for winter in December. Signs were put up on the "Ski Loop" to guide cross country skiers and others gently across the park. Skiing and skating began early on Fresh Pond. A cookie decorating fundraiser was held by FHIS at the town office.

sweets made the day. The new grill donated by FHIS was put into action and will be an asset in all seasons.



About 50 local students and community members came to Fresh Pond the following week and used the equipment.



The month continued busy with a career fair at UMO, a TIO at Cobscook Bay and to Orono to help recruit lifeguards for other State parks. Thanks to a volunteer from the Bank of America and his son the birdhouse program continues; they are also working on upgrading Park signs.

A "First Day Hike" kicked off 2019, a nationwide effort to get everybody moving on January 1st. About 40 people, approximately ages 5 -75, and a few dogs came to enjoy the Park.

In February FHIS hosted it's 3rd "Take it Outside"; there was just enough snow to do some tubing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing compliments of the State's winter equipment trailer. Thanks to engineer Matt Hamilton the igloo was in place. Hot food and beverages, followed by

March...Snow and more snow and more cleanup. BES Agricultural Arts students grades 3-4 visited the Park. They learned how to identify tree species in winter and best of all how to find a sugar maple and put in a tap! Ice cream with syrup ended the day. About five weeks later the raw sap was boiled under the guidance of Ms. Appel and the reward was a half pint of syrup for each student.



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

Continued

In April career fairs continued and Charlie helped with employee interviews at other area parks. He attended the State Parks Interpretative Planning meeting and the Maine Rural Water Meeting. "Feathers Over Freeport" at Wolf Neck Woods was very busy and we built more than 50 birdhouse kits.

May began with the two-day State managers meeting at Camp Tanglewood. A truck load of 12-inch pine was procured from Camden Hills State Park for bird and bat house construction. All nine trails in the Park were cleared of blowdowns and limbs. Boating season kicked off in Smith Cove hosting the Downeast Invitational Regatta an event for New England High School teams. The Tennis Preserve on Deer Isle was prepared for the "Wings, Waves and Woods" birding festival. Mainland cemeteries were cleaned for Memorial Day thanks to volunteers and Park staff. The parade of glorious windjammers has begun; it is a joy to welcome them ashore to enjoy the Park.

All of BES visited the Park on June 3rd. Scavenger hunts, kickball and the perfect weather made for a fun day. BHCS had their "Field Day" later in June.



Pipes & Drums Session

Wednesday: July 3rd 1:00pm

Enjoy an hour of pipe and drum sounds with beautiful Smith Cove as a backdrop. Musician Tom Seymour will be playing Scottish smallpipes and drums and will give you a history lesson on his instruments. Bring lawn chairs and blankets and meet on the beach at the end of Indian Bar Road on Cape Rosier in Brooksville.

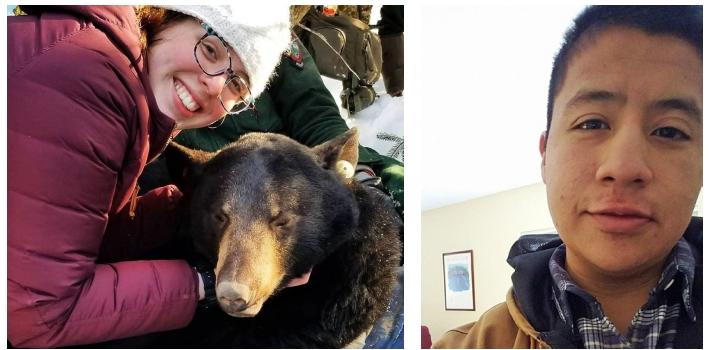
Inter-tidal Exploration Lab

Thursday July 11th 1:00pm, Friday July 12th 2:00pm

Join the Park staff and learn about the creatures that inhabit the shallow waters of Penobscot Bay. Help us create a living aquarium by scouting for sea life. Crabs, clams, mussels, shrimp, wrinkles and starfish are just a few of the species we will find at low tide. This will be a hands-on experience with a touch tank and is suitable for all ages. Bring proper footwear and meet on the Beach at the end of Indian Bar Road for this leisurely event.

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.

Welcome Summer Interns



Katie Bates is a Wildlife Ecology major at University of Maine, Orono and will graduate in December 2019. She hails from Rhode Island. Her fields of study are vast; wildlife population dynamics, ecological statistics and plant taxonomy just to name a few. Katie comes to the Park hoping to hone her organizational, communication and management skills. "I have had admiration for wildlife since I was little. This is a great opportunity for me; I look forward to an amazing summer learning and experiencing all aspects of the Park."

Jack Fontaine is from Connecticut. He is pursuing a BS in the Wildlife Ecology at University of Maine, Orono and will graduate in 2021. Coursework has improved his observational skills and knowledge of indigenous wildlife and outdoor gear. Jack has mastered excel for data entry. "I started my first job in high school... I have a firm dedication to any task at hand and my summer internship will allow me to develop new skills. I am excited to learn more about Maine's beautiful coastline, including wildlife, local people and the visitors to the Park."

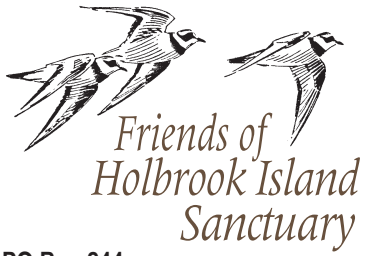
Upcoming Events

Me & Martha

Wednesday August 24th 1:00pm

Join us and listen to this husband and wife duo from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. They bring music from the historic valley to Maine and often engage the audience in their performances. Their compositions are "American Rural Roots Mountain Music"; their instruments include upright bass, mountain dulcimer, guitar, bluegrass banjo, autoharp with a few surprises thrown in. They will do a one hour performance on the lawn area above Smith Cove at the end of Indian Bar Road. Be sure to bring your blankets and chairs.





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.