

# Goosefeathers Gazette

The Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary 🌿 Spring 2020 Newsletter  
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## *Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary*



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*President*

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*Vice President & Treasurer*

**Liz Hotchkiss**

*Secretary*

**Julie Cleveland**

*Newsletter*

## *Greetings from the Friends*

Our Park has never been more beautiful as nature has awakened and given us her blessings. In these troubled times we must reflect on what is real and what



is good. We must slow down, take a breath of fresh air and take a moment to commune with nature. With the restrictions placed upon us it has been a perfect time to embrace social distancing and hike a trail in the Sanctuary. We have seen an influx of visitors this spring and winter taking advantage of the pristine trails and exceptional weather.

The Friends have been busy mapping out interpretive signs that will, in time, be positioned throughout the Park. We hope they will enhance your visit with knowledge about the historical significance of places in the Park. In late June we had an Island “work day” to follow through on our clean-up and repairs of Anita Harris’s cemetery.

The local schools used the Park as an outdoor environmental classroom until they closed due to Covid-19 in mid-March. Our events that took place in January and February were well attended, informative and just plain fun. We enjoy sharing new information about our special eco-systems and the many inhabitants (birds, bees and multitudes of flora and fauna) that share the Park. We are always looking for volunteers aka “new Friends” and experts who would like to contribute to our programs.

We must reflect on the contributions that keep us going and supplement the needs of Park operations, thank you for your support. By the time you read this, two amazing interns will be on site and we anticipate a super summer.



Come join us and enjoy your beautiful Park; the beaches, the trails that take you through the woods to magical places and the picnic areas anytime. We look forward to meeting you.

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.

## Thoughts from the Park Manager

Vista. The word has different meanings. To me, it reminds me of my grocery store manager in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania. It was her first name. Merriam Webster defines vista as 1: a distant view through or along an avenue or opening; 2: an extensive mental view (as over a stretch of time or a series of events); 3: it is also a suburb of San Diego. Vista “is generally used today for broad sweeping views you might see from a mountaintop, but the word originally meant an avenue-like view, narrowed by a line of trees on either side. And vista has also long been used (like view and outlook) to mean a mental scan of the future—as if you were riding down a long grand avenue and what you could see a mile or so ahead of you was where you’d be in the very near future.” Most people would agree with the views.



“Indian Bar” © Chrissy Nickerson 2019

Early people used the vistas from mountains, prairies and headlands to get a focus. Recently people have travelled to the smallest hills and the top of the Earth not out of necessity but for adventure and inspiration. Today we look forward with uncertainty. A mental scan of the future wishes to be promising but is fraught with fear.

It is certain, all beings from the top to the bottom of the Earth are benefitting right now. Our lives are disrupted but the same cannot be said for the natural world. In your Park the trees, shrubs and grasses have greened, young have spawned and those who chose to migrate continue to do so without caution. The Sanctuary has always remained open and is ready for you to spend a little time here away from real life immersed in the rhythms of this small corner of Maine.

We had a good end to 2019 and started out 2020 with a bang; First Day Hike, TIO and visits by Brooksville and

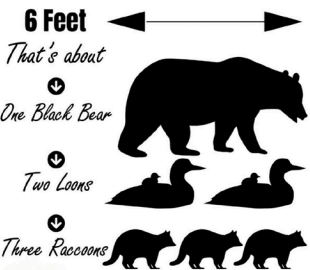
Penobscot Elementary Schools. A GSA independent study looked under the ice at Fresh Pond. There has been a 122% increase in visitors (January to May compared with 2019) since Maine adopted stay at home restrictions.



The docks are in, the trails cleared, and the Sanctuary is ready for your visit. Please respect Park signs about group size and safe distancing. It is the year-round hard work of many volunteers, the Cobb family, the Hildreths, and countless others monitoring trails and doing repairs of bridges, benches and more that makes it all possible.



**GROUPS OF MORE THAN TEN  
PEOPLE ARE PROHIBITED  
SAFE PHYSICAL  
DISTANCING REQUIRED**



Our hope is that by the time you receive our Fall Newsletter the day will have come when Wikipedia redefines their definition of the COVID-19 pandemic from “is an ongoing” to “was a.” Be safe everyone and find your own vistas.

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)

## Friends' Favorites

The New York Times, Downeast Magazine, Oprah and many other outlets showcase their favorite books, movies, television, recipes and more. Here are our (Charlie Cannon and his family included; they are best friends; we span many generations) favorite trails and places in the Sanctuary.

**Will:** The Goose Falls Trail holds a special place in my heart. I usually start at the bridge; it is close to our home. Late afternoon is a wonderful time to be walking the wooded shoreline, scrambling over rocks and streams adds to the adventure. Seeing sailboats, small to large, excites all our nautical impulses.

**Charlie:** I like the peace and solitude on the Island. Some trails are so dense with spruce that only squirrels occupy the forest floor. Steps away you break out into meadows all with fantastic ocean views of distant lands. If you are lucky you will catch a freighter, superyacht, MMA vessel or a beautiful windjammer cruising by.

**Brandie:** The Goose Falls Trail; it follows the coastline with many views of Holbrook Island. It is one of the shortest trails in the Park but packs a punch. There is a spot where you can get on top of a huge ledge overlooking the ocean; it is breathtaking. Goose Falls is a reversing tidal rapid.

**Sadie:** The Backshore Trail; the little beach at the end is quite rewarding. It is short and sweet and sometimes you can spot butterflies.



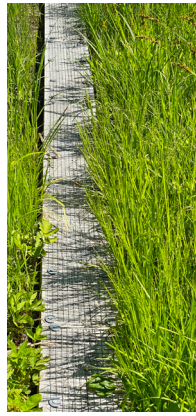
**Owen:** I like the bog of the Beaver Flowage Trail because it is fun to walk on boards.

**Ned:** The Aaron Trail, you can get to most places in the Park if you begin there. First stop is the cemetery. My work there prompted my wife, May Helen, to say I spend more time there now than if I was buried there. The stones shout-out local names, all a part of Brooksville's history.

**Liz:** The Mountain Loop Trail reminds me of mornings with the school children. It is a great trail to split up your group and start off in either direction. Promises to meet up for a snack will keep your hikers moving! Look for old foundations and other signs of days gone by.

**Julie:** Fresh Pond no matter what the season. In spring the bullfrogs are loud, iris and water lilies bloom; fall brings the bright colors against the dead trees and in winter there is skating. An easy walk suitable for all lazy bones.

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.



Be sure to grab a copy of the Park map at most trailheads or at Park Headquarters; we don't want you getting lost! Maps describe trail distance, difficulty and times. We invite you to tell us all about your favorite trails, places and good times in the Park on our Facebook page.



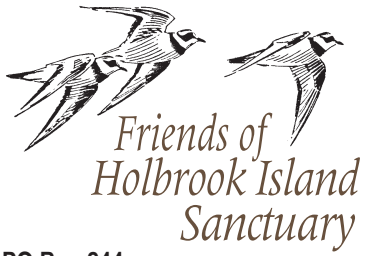
Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary

## Welcome Summer Interns



**Karoline Bass** is a junior, majoring in Environmental Studies at Saint Lawrence University in Canton, NY. She grew up in Maine and believes this internship will be a great way to learn about conservation and park management. Karoline is a graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School and has worked extensively for the Appalachian Mountain Club. She brings with her a sense of adventure! "Holbrook Island Sanctuary is an amazing place; I am excited to be interning there this summer. I expect to learn new skills, meet new people and enjoy the coast of Maine!"

**Victoria (Tori) Tibbetts** is a senior at the University of New England. She is a double major in Marine Affairs and Environmental Studies. She recently returned from conservation studies in Queensland, Australia. Tori has lived in Maine her whole life and looks forward to bringing her passion for conserving Maine's wild spaces. "I am extremely excited to participate in this program. I spent much of my childhood exploring Maine's State Parks and look forward to learning how things work behind the scenes. I am hoping for a career in park management, it's in my family history, and I can't wait to jump in this summer."



PO Box 244  
Brooksville, ME 04617

*Memories Last Forever*



*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.*