

# Goosefeathers Gazette

The Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary 🍁 Fall 2021 Newsletter  
PO Box 244, Brooksville, ME 04617 🍁 friendofholbrook@gmail.com 🍁 friendsofholbrookisland.org



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*Chairman & President*

**Richard Bakeman**  
*Vice Chairman &  
Vice President*

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## Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary



### Officers & Committees

**Will Hotchkiss**  
*President*

**Ned Hildreth**  
*Vice President & Treasurer*

**Liz Hotchkiss**  
*Secretary*

**Julie Cleveland**  
*Communications Secretary*

**Matt Hoff**  
*Website*

**Martha Jo Blake**  
*Events*

## Greetings from the Friends

“Greetings from the Friends” has been the header on the first page of this Newsletter for many seasons. Maybe you wondered who are the Friends and what do they do for the Park? Where do your donations go? Recent visitors have posed the very same questions.

The Friends group was created in 1995. We are a dedicated group of volunteers who work closely with the Park Manager, Charlie Cannon and the State Bureau of Parks and Lands. On a side note, Charlie has earned a “permanent position”; this means he is able continue full-time at Holbrook! Our function is similar to other Friends groups throughout the state of Maine.



*Matt*



*Martha Jo*

ideas on how to make the Park better; here are a few details on where your donations go.

Every summer we sponsor two interns to live, learn and work in the Park. They are your ambassadors to the Holbrook Island Sanctuary; they meet and greet by land and sea, do miles of maintenance and conduct many of our educational programs. To attract the best of the best we have raised their hourly wage and continue to offer lodging on Holbrook Island.

We will continue sponsoring educational programs next year. Edible and medicinal plant walks with Tom Seymour and vernal and tidal pool exploration will be on calendar. We hope to add a mushroom walk! And there will be music back in the Park...

The Friends publish this Newsletter that you are reading. In addition, we fund the printing and design of all brochures in the Park. Hope you enjoy our new color map! Thanks again, Hans Carlson, BHHT.

The schools have come back to the Park multiple times this season and we are thankful for the energy they bring.

Thank you for all you give in donations and spirit; you make the Park a better place for everyone.

Will Hotchkiss, *FHIS President*



*Will*



*Ned*



*Liz*



*Julie*

Our initial and primary purpose has been the preservation and maintenance of the Park. Our role has changed with the times; there are many things we will continue to do but we always have new

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. Donations are always welcome.

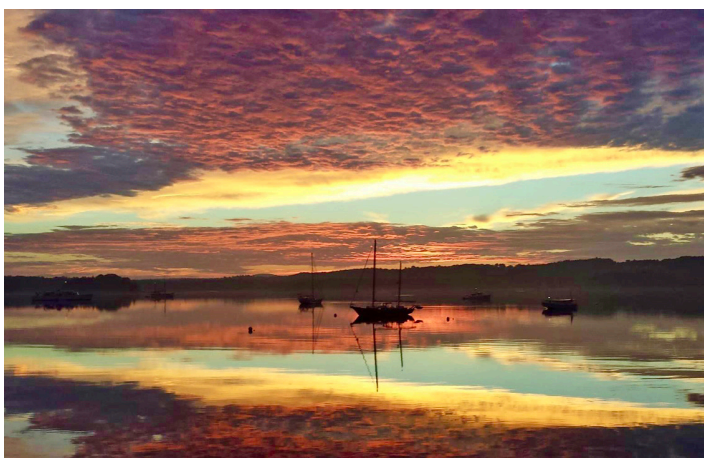
## Thoughts from Charlie Cannon

In Maine, many of us are familiar with the term “Busy Season.” We all know what this means but what does it imply about the rest of the year? What is the proper term for these special months? The Park and all our neighbors do not pull up the red carpet but rather extend a deeper invitation to enjoy the changing seasons, each with its own sense of wonder. Trails are empty, the waterfront silent, beaches are waiting, and wildlife abounds. We invite you to join us on the water or in the



woods and if by chance you bring a picnic lunch your table of choice will likely be available.

Our busy season was a lot of fun and so much got accomplished. Each year the Internship Assistant Rangers you sponsor accomplish many work projects and routine maintenance and are assets at all the Park events. Every year they bring camaraderie to the Park. This year was no exception. Kiera and Quay, sisters from Maryland, answered many questions, helped lots of guests, and worked extremely hard to accomplish all their summer tasks. There are many behind the scenes, routine chores that must be done but often go unnoticed. Yes, this includes supplying and cleaning the wonderful composting toilets!



To the contrary, just as we were putting up signs and blazing the new Summit Trail Extension, guests were passing us and asking about the new route. Talking trails, in the coming years the once proposed “Northeast Creek Trail” will be complete with the first half finished this summer. A partial re-route of the Goose Falls Trail is open allowing visitors access to the Old Bakeman Cemetery. Lastly, the Aaron Trailhead has been relocated to the top of the hill south of the Park entrance on Cape Rosier Road with a trail extension through old blueberry land.

Working alongside our seasonal staff, many volunteers put in countless hours completing trail work and other labor-intensive tasks, promoting the Park, its events, and programming. Tom Seymour returned with a new plant walk and played his pipes and drums, and there was additional music performed by Bobby Cleveland and friends. Families gathered for tidal exploration and the “build a birdhouse” program. Indeed, our events this summer had some of the best attendance numbers we have ever seen. Fall continued busy and we were able to have a “trunk” at the Brooksville Elementary School for Hallowe’en.



The Blue Hill Heritage Trust volunteered their time to complete a much needed, accurate map revision of the Park trails including shaded relief of the Park and Cape Rosier. We hope you find it useful on your next visit.

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, and that means *anything*, please contact me at the Park phone below, or email The Friends: [friendofholbrook@gmail.com](mailto:friendofholbrook@gmail.com).

The Park is in good shape heading into the “not so busy” season. Please come and enjoy the solitude this time of year brings—fingers crossed we will have a good base of snow to play on. See you out there!

Charlie Cannon, Park Ranger, 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)



**Kiera:** The Holbrook experience is one that cannot be matched anywhere! What was a job in May became one of my favorite places on earth by August. A quiet sanctuary surrounded by a community of friendly, generous, and active people; the Park is a hidden gem in Downeast Maine... Before I got to Holbrook interning for a State Park Ranger seemed daunting but once I met Charlie Cannon and his family, I knew I would have a great summer. I refined tasks such as painting, trail maintenance and lawn care while enjoying and learning about the flora, fauna, and fungi all around me. There is no better way to learn than to be immersed in the environment you are studying. It certainly helps to have naturalists like Tom Seymour on board. I learned so much about coastal woodland ecology and stewardship last summer and I am eternally grateful to the Holbrook Island Sanctuary, the Friends, and the Cannon family.

**Quay:** This summer was really a great experience for me! I learned so much and felt really accomplished at the end of each day after completing the day's chores. Walking and cleaning the trails was enjoyable because I learned more about the Sanctuary with every step. Living in the barn on the Island felt more like an adventure than anything and I loved sharing that time and place with my sister. All the people we met were incredibly hospitable to both of us. I really hope to come back! I have the utmost appreciation for the work that goes on in the Park every day and those who have dedicated their time and passion. Now I can apply my newfound knowledge and skills back in Maryland!

**Photo Thanks**

Thank you to all who contributed photos to this edition, especially to Brandie for the porcupine, leaf and sunrise on page 2, and for letting the sunshine in on the back page.

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.

**First Day Hike**

**Saturday January 1st 1:00 PM**

On New Year's Day, we will celebrate with other State Parks! Please join us and ring in 2022 breathing fresh air, re-connecting with neighbors, new friends and nature. We will feature two hikes this year, both will start at the head of the Back Shore Trail; one is easy for all ages and the other is moderate for those that want a bit more of a challenge. This event will be held rain, snow or shine. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear! Warm beverages and snacks will be provided. Please call 207-326-4012 for additional details.

**Other Events**

Please check local newspapers, friendsofholbrookisland.org or call 207-326-4012 for other events happening this Winter and Spring. We hope the State trailer with equipment will be on site sometime in February and that Fresh Pond will freeze for skating. And maybe even an Easter Egg Hunt in April. BUT please enjoy the Park on any given day!



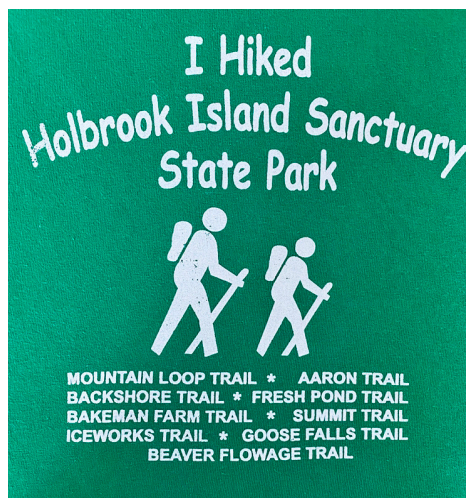
Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary

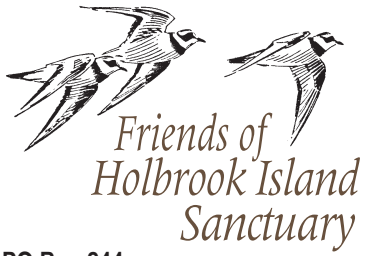
**Take a Hike!**

We challenge you to hike all nine trails in the Park! Please pick up the "I Hiked" form at Park headquarters to get your marching orders. No getting lost, nab the Park brochure to guide you with our new map. This will describe trail distances, difficulty and the time required to complete them.

Once you complete the trails and log the secret symbols submit your form by mail, Holbrook Island Sanctuary, PO Box 35, Brooksville, ME 04617 or drop at Park Headquarters on Indian Bar Road.

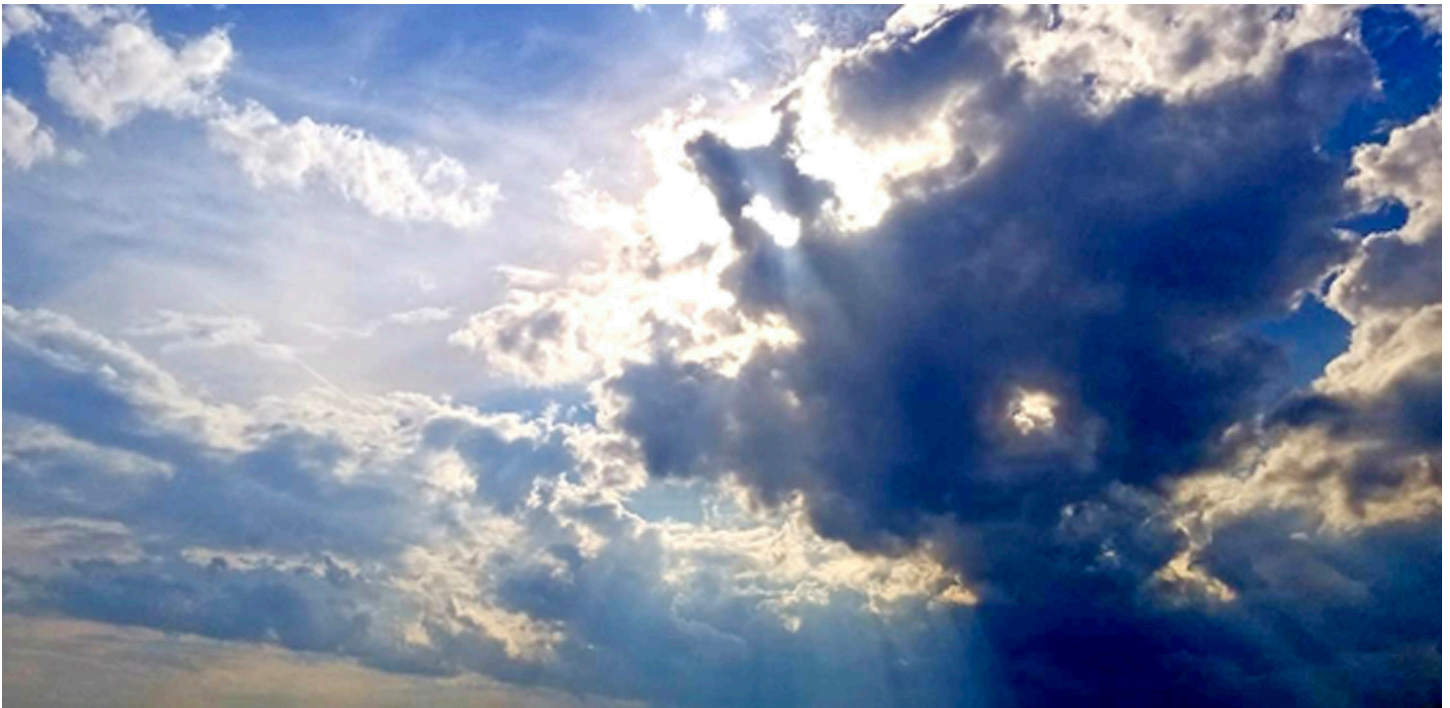
There are prizes and this offer is open to all ages...We are offering Friends hats, tee shirts and draw string bags, subject to availability. Bring it!





PO Box 244  
Brooksville, ME 04617

*Let the Sunshine In*



*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.*