

# Goosefeathers Gazette

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



## *Holbrook Island Sanctuary Corporation*



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

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## *Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary*



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*President*

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

**Liz Hotchkiss**  
*Secretary*

**Matt Hoff**  
*Website*

**Julie Cleveland**  
*Newsletter*

## *Greetings from the Friends*

Hooray, the tides have turned on the Pandemic! It is time to take a deep breath, reconnect with friends, neighbors, even family who couldn't visit and to renew the social interactions we missed so much last year. It has been a trying time with most of the usual events canceled in the Park last summer and our winter favorites too. One thing we have hopefully learned is that we can seek solace in fundamental human values; be kind, be safe, be respectful; in short, be a friend.

It has been amazing to see the influx of visitors over the past four seasons enjoying refreshing activities in the Park. The nine hiking trails on the mainland were well used. We even watched ice skaters swoop around Fresh Pond and cross-country skiers crunch the newly fallen snow even though it was a very mild winter. Remember, it is your park and you have a remarkable opportunity to enjoy your heritage.

The windjammers are back and it won't be long before the sailboats, small craft and lobster boats return full time and pepper all of Penobscot Bay. Yes, I can remember the cool summer breeze that we enjoy here on the coast of Maine.



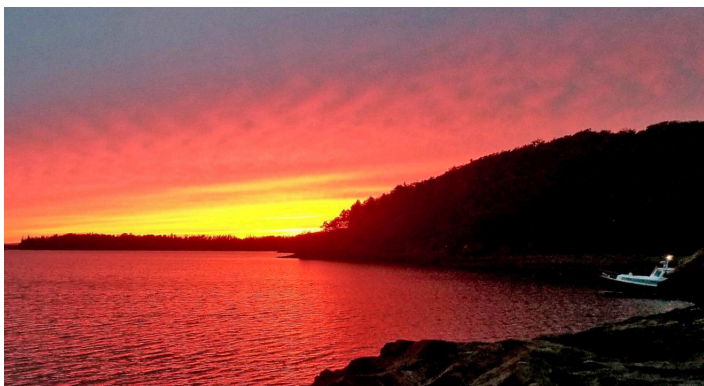
The Friends are looking forward to completing projects that were put aside during the past year. We have committed funds to purchase and install a whole house generator for the Park Manager's house as soon as it can be scheduled. This will benefit Charlie Cannon and his wonderful family as well as future residents. We are seeking funding to renovate the house, providing a porch/office space, education center, and critical structural components. This summer we increased the stipend given to our summer interns to remain competitive in the marketplace.

We, as Friends, continue to dream about what might be! With your help, donations and or time these projects will happen.

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. Donations are always welcome.

## Thoughts from Charlie Cannon



What a difference six months makes...

No, not in our beloved Sanctuary; that remains little changed since Anita Harris donated the land to protect this wonderful micro-corner of Maine, but in the worldwide suppression of the Coronavirus Pandemic. As Spring brings hope eternal, I am writing this with daily good news but not forgetting the toll incurred over the last 16 months. For some of us, the hope is that the increased popularity of outdoor activities will continue to foster an appreciation of nature by people of all ages. Indeed, Holbrook Island finished the year with almost 16,000 visitors; an annual increase of 56%.

We prepared for a Maine winter but were given just a small taste this season. The windstorms were constantly blowing across the Cape from all different directions and we were left with an abnormally large amount of debris to clean up. The annual birdhouse program continues and we delivered to the Maine Discovery Museum, Deer Isle/Stonington Elementary School, the Majabigwaduce Chapter, DAR and Feathers Over Freeport. I assisted crews across the region in varying tasks, and even helped and learned the



in-house production of all State Park signage. Holbrook was rewarded with a few workdays with crews arriving to assist in tree and slash cleanup. All programming and Career Fairs went virtual including the annual First Day Hike; this year we explored around Fresh Pond.

The Bureau of Parks and Lands did deliver on some new equipment including a Ski-Doo, three windows, a chainsaw, leaf-blower, a riding lawnmower and an AED defibrillator. Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife came to assess locations of "significant vernal pools" around parking areas throughout the Park. We are relocating the Aaron Trailhead up the hill to a safer and more accessible location and Ned Hildreth rebuilt the Bakeman Farm Trail entrance bridge.



Finally, recently and not seen for many months, school buses delivered groups of happy, adventurous Brooksville Elementary students to explore the picnic area, beaches and Fresh Pond.

The tall ships have brought passengers ashore to stretch their legs; a sign that Spring is breathing new life into us all.

**Credit where credit is due:** Thanks to Brandie Ward for the heart and the sunset; to Castine Kayak Adventures for the early spring photos of the Island shore and Anita's daffodils, "everyone deserves a good paddle"! To Lynn Karlin for the image of Phil carrying Anita's portrait off the Island long ago... and last but not least to Amos Lowry, grade 1 at BES for his beaver house drawing.

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)

## Welcome Sisters



**Kiera Luu:** Greetings Goosefeathers! I am from Maryland. I am studying Marine Sciences at University of Maine, Orono, graduating class of 2022. I hope to work in fisheries conservation and aquaculture. I love living on the water and in the woods. I spend my free time jamming with my band, gardening, fishing and hiking. I look forward to upholding the Holbrook mission; conservation and low-impact living are so important to me...I am grateful to be a steward of the Park and a member of your community this summer.

**QuayLinh Luu:** I am so excited to join my sister and live on Holbrook Island as an intern this summer. I will be a senior at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, Maryland this fall. I have a passion for hiking, backpacking and sharing nature with others. I always love carrying my camera and sketch books. I hope to learn more about conservation and share that knowledge with my hometown and beyond. See you on the Island or in the Park!

## See You in the Park

### *Bobby Cleveland Concert*

**Saturday June 26th 2:00 PM**

Enjoy a delightful hour with Bobby Cleveland; he's played tenor sax for decades. His program will be diverse, featuring patriotic Americana, jazz and Latin standards, rock favorites and classical selections. Meet at the end of Indian Bar Road and bring a chair or blanket for his performance on the lawn.

### *Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk*

**Saturday July 3rd 2:00 PM**

Tag along with Maine forager and author Tom Seymour as he leads you in search of wild edibles. Tom will entertain as he identifies various everyday plants that have medicinal or nutritional value. The walk will last approximately 1.5 hours with a distance of ¾ mile, sturdy footwear required. Meet at the Backshore Trailhead parking area on Indian Bar Road on Cape Rosier in Brooksville. (Off Route 176)

### *Pipes & Drums Session*

**Saturday July 17th 2:00 PM**

Enjoy an hour of pipe and drum sounds with a history lesson about the various instruments Tom Seymour will be playing. Meet at the end of Indian Bar Road and bring a chair or blanket for his performance on the lawn.

### *Inter-tidal Exploration Lab*

**Wednesday July 21st 2:00 PM**

Join summer intern Kiera Luu, a Marine Sciences Major at the University of Maine; explore and learn about the features and creatures of the shoreline and waters of Penobscot Bay. An hour of Q & A will feature a hands-on experience suitable for all ages. Meet at the beach at the end of Indian Bar Road.



Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary

## *Remembering Phil Farr*

**February 14, 1938 – March 22, 2021**

Phil Farr joined the Maine State Parks system in 1978 and was Manager of your Park for 33 years. He had a vast knowledge and a strong connection to the community. Phil was clearly a selective and thoughtful professor who shared secrets about the Park; others he kept to himself.

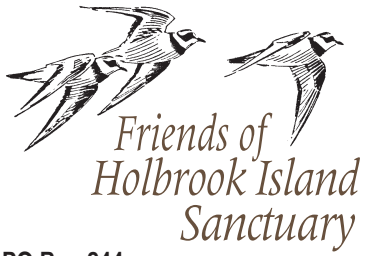
Here we are in 2021 tiptoeing around to get things done. Phil's comment about "having to fill out truckloads of paperwork" still rings true.

Phil never got to know Anita Harris well, but he sought to balance her wishes with the purpose and vision of Maine State Parks. He created 90% of the opportunities that exist in our small State Park today. He welcomed overnight groups, developed the birdhouse project and expanded summer programming. Phil's position became seasonal for budget reasons, but he laid out the blueprint for Tammy Bishop and me to regain year-round status at Holbrook.

Phil may have gone quietly but many of us know Phil had some not so quiet words on his way. May he rest in peace with his wife Pat and daughter Kelly forever – and with no more paperwork!

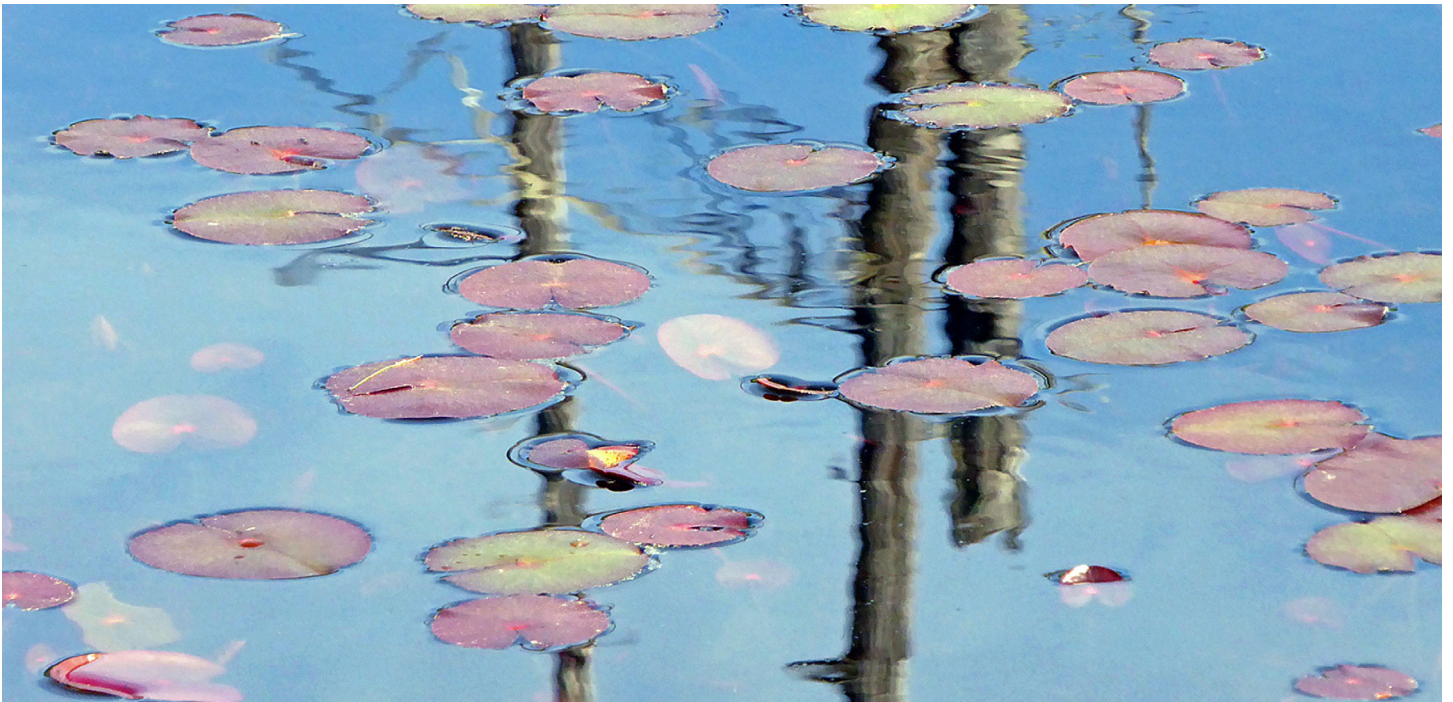


Holbrook Island Sanctuary is open daily, year-round, from 9:00 AM to sunset. Trail maps and bird lists are located in boxes at some of the trailheads. Picnic tables and charcoal grills are located at Park Headquarters, adjacent to the lawn, the beach and in a shady glade. There is one picnic table at 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  
Brooksville, ME 04617

## *Reflections*



*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.*