



IIT News & Updates Spring 2018

Inside:

- Island Explorations Schedule
- Islesboro Farmers' Market
- Education Committee
- Easement Monitors
- Adult Walks and Talks Schedule
- Summer Intern
- Boys Scouts Build Turtle Head Shore Access

| Date | Location | Activities |
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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Island Explorations ~ 2018 Schedule</h3> <p>Every Tuesday ~ July 10th - August 21st Ages 3-7 (with an adult), held from 9:00am - 11:30am</p> <p>Programs are free and are held rain or shine (unless heavy rain or thunderstorms) Please bring drinking water and a snack to all programs.</p> <p>♠ = Dress to get wet</p> <p>For more information contact Steve Miller at: iit-smill@gmail.com or (207) 734-6907</p> </div> </div> | | |
| July 10 th | The Herbert Preserve | Kick off the season at the Herbert Preserve to begin our explorations under the canopy of giant white pine and hemlock trees and see what forest fairies we may be able to coax out. |
| July 17 th ♠ | Town Beach | Where the ocean meets the shore and forest is a wonderful place to explore. Let's find the hidden magic in the ancient rock formations and what may be revealed at low tide. |
| July 24 th | Turtle Head Preserve | Who do you see peeping out of the ferns or rolling in the blueberries? Elves love summer at Turtle Head! So, let's explore the mixed-wood forest while keeping our eyes peeled for these magical tricksters. |
| July 31 st ♠ | Hutchins Marsh & Island | There is something special about an area where freshwater meets the ocean and Hutchins Marsh & Island are no exception. Will we see a marsh monster swimming through the murky water? Or maybe spot a mermaids' tail waving from offshore? Join us to find out! |
| August 7 th ♠ | The Thomas Pond (Located at 955 Pendleton Point Rd.) | Can anyone think of a fairy tale that takes place in a pond? Sometimes the magic we feel and hear about comes from the place itself and it can make the animals in it seem magical and mysterious. Let's sift through the cattails for our chance to meet an enchanted frog or turtle. |
| August 14 th ♠ | The Robert's Garden (Located at 142 Keller Point Rd.) | Humans can unknowingly create the perfect space for magic. Our love for growing and gardening is shared by gnomes all over the world. These dirt-loving, earth-dwellers are the perfect guardians for our gardens, but they sure are shy! We will see if we can spot one before he dips back down underground. |
| August 21 st ♠ | The Hinkle Preserve | StoryWalk®! IIT and the Alice L. Pendleton Library are teaming up, for the third year in a row, to bring a StoryWalk® to the community. Join us to explore the Hinkle Preserve through the beauty and magic of reading! |

This summer we'll explore the magic in nature! For centuries, humans have associated nature with magical and mystical qualities. Will the guardians and tricksters in our folklore connect with Island Explorers? Join us to find out!



Islesboro Farmers' Market

Expect more fresh produce and other local delectables at the Islesboro Farmers' Market this summer, opening June 27 and continuing every Wednesday through August at the Islesboro Community Center.

Exciting new options at the Islesboro Farmers' Market this summer include either a "Market Share" or a "Bag Share" from certified organic Dig Deep Farm. Using the Community Supported Agriculture model, islanders can join Dig Deep Farm for a nominal fee and receive brilliant, fresh veggies each week!

The Islesboro Farmers' Market at the Community Center should make shopping for local food easy this summer. Pam Larson, working with an enthusiastic group, also expects that a year-round option to receive locally grown food from Daybreak Growers Alliance, a farmers cooperative providing meats, dairy, eggs, vegetables, flowers and bread, will become available by September.

For more information and to take advantage of these buyers' options, contact Pam Larson at 734-6484 or pamlarsn@gmail.com.



Report from the Education Committee

IIT's work in the cold months of the year may be as busy as in the summer—whether sponsoring a fun family event or facilitating a discussion of future challenges to the island as a result of climate change or networking with other Maine land trusts.

In December, IIT kicked off the winter with a wreath tipping and making workshop. Greenery was collected at the Turtle Head Preserve, and then the fun was brought inside IIT's Cregar-Mellencamp Center for wreath making and hot chocolate. IIT sponsored a family movie night in January at the Community Center, providing Bluewater Bakery pizza. The featured film was *The Lorax*, based on the well-known Dr. Seuss classic, starring a character who "speaks for the trees." In February, community members gathered for a potluck dinner, held at Bluewater Bakery, to brainstorm ways for the island to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. Steve, Georgie and Chloe also attended the Maine Land Conservation Conference in early March to connect with land conservation organizations from throughout Maine and New England.

Winter also means planning for summer, and it is no small task to get youth programs in place and to line up experts for the adult walks. Seven Nature Walks and Talks are scheduled for this summer, with topics that range from the archaeology and anthropological background of a Hutchins Island shell midden to a stargazing night walk with the director of the University of Maine's Jordan Planetarium to a yoga event with Missy Hatch and the always popular kayaking trip, this year from Pripet to Ryder's Cove.

Karen Betts will lead Island Explorations 2018, with assistance from Lucas Boetsch. The young explorers can look forward to another fun summer of outdoor exploration, focusing on the magic of nature and its' connection to human folklore.

In the Islesboro Island News and in electronic communications, keep an eye out for IIT's environmental updates, Trust Topic articles, and event announcements. Whether on the trails or at an IIT event, we hope to see you this summer!

by Carlisle RexWaller

IIT Easement Monitors: Who are they? What do they do? And why do they do it?

IIT currently holds easements on 32 Islesboro properties. Each easement is a unique contract, restricting land development, built structures, and land use in a variety of ways that benefit our environment and that IIT is obliged to enforce. Landowners who have easements on their land are eligible for a reduction in their federal income taxes, and for that reason the IRS is interested in knowing that the provisions of our easements are being upheld.

This is where our monitors come in.

Each easement has a monitor, which means that our group of monitors numbers 32. That's 32 individuals or families, year-round (13) and summer (19) residents, who volunteer their time to help IIT. Each year they visit their assigned easement property, take pictures, and complete a monitoring form. The pictures and the form are kept safe in the Cregar Mellencamp Center, ready to be produced in case of an IRS or any other inquiry. The pictures also act as a record of the natural growth of vegetation on the land, any cutting that has occurred, and new structures that have been built. Any land alteration or built structures must be in compliance with the easement restrictions. It's a once-a-year visit – not a big job, but an extremely important one. We are grateful to each and every one of our monitors!

Each year in the early summer the monitors come together for an annual meeting/cocktail party. Over the years the group has gotten to know one another, has welcomed new members and bid farewell to members who no longer wish to make the annual monitoring trek, and has learned first-hand about the many activities in which IIT is engaged – from keeping on top of dredging in Searsport, to educating ourselves about invasive species, to learning about threats to our shellfish populations. This year's annual meeting/cocktail party will take place on July 2nd.

Perhaps you're wondering how you might get involved. It's easy, and we're always looking for new monitors. For families with young children, it's an excellent way to share with children the importance of stewardship of our beautiful island. For those without small fry in tow, a monitoring visit is an excellent chance to walk in the woods and see a property that you wouldn't otherwise see. Some monitors, with landowner permission, bring a picnic lunch! And most importantly, each of those walks contributes to IIT's stellar record of keeping our easements monitored and in legal compliance. If you're interested in becoming a monitor, or just want to learn more, contact Sue Stafford at stafford@simmons.edu or 207-734-6668 (house) or 978-475-7386 (cell phone). We look forward to welcoming you!

by Sue Stafford

Island Nature Walks & Talks

Summer 2018 ~ Islesboro Islands Trust

Please join us for another season of nature walks! All of our programs are free and open to the community. Families are welcome, but the pace and content are geared toward adults. Walks are held rain or shine. Please contact Steve Miller at: iitmill@gmail.com or (207) 734-6907 for more information or to RSVP.

Eroding Shell Middens

June 23rd, Saturday –
Hutchins Island
11:00am

Archaeologist, Dr. Alice Kelley and Anthropologist Dr. Bonnie Newsom of UMaine Orono will lead us on a walk at Hutchins Island to talk about the history and present situation of the coasts' eroding shell middens, while we explore Hutchins Islands' once extensive midden.

Come Paddle Along

July 14th, Saturday –
Pripet Landing –
9:00am



Come paddle with a certified Maine guide at Pripet Landing and enjoy a kayak ride on the east side of the island. Bring water and a snack, and we will slowly explore Parker & Coombs Coves, Hutchins Island, then continue out and around the bluff to Ryder's cove, where we will haul our boats. Please RSVP – Only 12 spaces available.

Reducing Islesboro's Waste Stream

July 21st, Saturday –
the Islesboro Sporting Club – 10:00am

We all try to do our part by recycling – but how can we further reduce our waste on Islesboro? Environmental Specialist, Megan Pryor, with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection will give us insight on effective recycling habits and other ideas that could help to reduce our waste stream.

Backyard Herbalism



July 26th, Thursday
– Location TBD –
10:00am

Enjoy the look and fragrance of herbs growing in your garden? Would you like to learn more about how to utilize their many properties? Join Bindy Pendleton with IIT to hear more about how to identify and use wild and cultivated herbs.

Night Walk! Astronomy & Star-Gazing

August 4th, Saturday
– IIT's Cregar-Mellencamp Center –
8:30pm



Join IIT at our office with Shawn Laatsch, director of Emera Astronomy Center and Jordan Planetarium, to discover the constellations, planets and meteors crossing our little section of sky! Bring a blanket to sit on, warm clothes and binoculars and hope for clear skies. Office is located at 376 West Bay Rd.

Outdoor Yoga

August 25th, Saturday – the Hinkle Preserve – 9:00am



Take in the tranquil beauty of IIT's Hinkle Preserve with a gentle morning yoga session, lead by yoga instructor, Missy Hatch. We will walk the short distance through the fern field trail to the beautiful beach looking out over Hutchins Island and the eastern bay as we enjoy our practice.

Dwarf Mistletoe's Impact on Maine's Conifers

September 15th, Saturday – Turtle Head – 10:00am

Many of us can recognize and name the altered growth on spruce trees, referred to as witches broom. Not as many know why it occurs. Walk with Bowdoin College professor, Dr. Barry Logan, to hear about the parasitic plant, dwarf mistletoe, that causes this growth and the affect it is having on Maine's coniferous populations.

Welcome IIT Summer Intern!

We would like to introduce and welcome Samantha Adamczyk, IIT's Environmental Education summer intern!

The IIT Preserves and Trails have long been used for outdoor learning experiences, through IIT's educational programming and collaborations with the Islesboro Preschool and Islesboro Central School. This summer's intern will create a detailed teacher's guide to four IIT Preserves, thereby enhancing teachers' and other visitors' ability to utilize these IIT preserves consistent with core learning goals.

Samantha Adamczyk, graduate student at Unity College concentrating in Sustainable Natural Resource Management, will spend six weeks assessing four IIT Preserves through on-site visits and research of available ecological baseline and historical data. After completing each assessment, Samantha will be tasked with creating a *teacher's guide* to each preserve, based on the property's ecological characteristics, geology, wildlife & vegetation and land use history.

By compiling this information in an accessible guide for each of the four chosen properties, IIT hopes to create a useful tool for formal and informal educators to utilize our preserves for outdoor education purposes that can coincide with classroom curriculum.

IIT expects to distribute the completed teachers' guides to Islesboro Preschool and Islesboro Central School staff in the coming 2018-2019 school year. The guides will also be available at the Cregar-Mellencamp Center.

by Chloe Joule



Islesboro Heritage and Turtle Head Access to the Shore

In May of 2017, William Pendleton, a young boy scout, contacted IIT about a community-based project needed to complete his Eagle Scout Candidacy. Will's permanent residence is in Yarmouth, ME, and his family roots are in Islesboro (Williams and Pendleton ancestry), as is his second home, so Will hoped to find and complete his project on an IIT preserve.

Turtle Head visitors need a designated shore access location on the Turtle Head trail so that hikers may safely get down to the beach without contributing to the immense amount of bank erosion occurring around the preserve. Will and his mother Denise met with Chloe last year and everyone agreed that Will and the Yarmouth Troop #35 should create the needed shore access on the western side of Turtle Head this Memorial Day weekend.

Following further discussions, site visits, planning and measurements, Will Pendleton received project approval from his boy scout districts' council and IIT applied for and received a permit by rule from Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Sunday, May 27th, eighteen volunteers – the scouts and six adults – dug into the project's installation of the sloped access to the shore. They worked for several hours, getting down to the clay soil and creating the appropriate incline to the beach. Three pieces of 4ft long 6x6 pressure treated timber were set at five foot intervals and secured with 2ft rebar to help decrease runoff and erosion. Lastly, a conservation seed mix was spread over exposed areas and covered with hay to help keep the topsoil in place. The scouts even went so far as to rake away the thick seaweed, driftwood and debris from the bottom of the access ramp and deposit some of the larger excavated rocks there to help shore up the base. After a hard and successful day's work, the troop headed to the Dark Harbor Shop for ice cream!

IIT would like to thank Will Pendleton, his family and Yarmouth troop #35 for their great and valuable work at Turtle Head! Because of you, we will have shore access on the Turtle Head Preserve in place for the busy summer season.