FOCUS PRESERVE FOR 2015

Granite Island Preserve

The land that we call Granite Island today has had many names. We don’t know what the earliest residents called it, but the stone tools that are occasionally found along the shore tell us they were here. In Vinalhaven’s early days as a town, it was known as Barton’s Island, and, as you might guess, people with this family name lived there, and still live there.

Soon after the end of the Civil War, the demand for granite paving and building stones in the cities along the east coast would change the face of Penobscot Bay forever. Dallas Anthony’s great-grandfather owned property on Barton’s Island that was mostly granite; in 1869 he sold a sizeable parcel to the “Booth Brothers Hurricane Island Granite Company,” and the stone-cutting began in earnest soon afterward. As time went on and the operation became more ambitious, all of the trees on Barton’s Island were removed—and it became, quite literally, “Granite Island.” Along with Vinalhaven’s many other quarries, it supplied thousands of tons of cobblestones and architectural granite to cities up and down the East Coast.

The granite boom would end abruptly. With the advent of new paving materials like macadam and concrete in the early twentieth century, the stone-cutters were soon all out of work, and that piece of land passed to new owners. In 2008, thanks to a bargain sale from the Strawson Family Trust, it finally became VLT’s Granite Island Preserve.

Today, the most striking evidence of its mining history is an old quarry site that we call “The Amphitheater.” You’ll see this on your left soon after starting down the Granite Island Trail, but as you hike around this preserve, you quickly realize that the stone cutting was going on just about everywhere.

A pile of cobblestones here, a boulder wearing a telltale “zipper” of drill holes there, and maybe for the sharpest eyes, a rusting iron tool left in a pile of grout. These are all there to be seen, but only after you’ve first learned to see beyond the luxuriant mantle of moss growing over everything on this preserve.

The moss is everywhere here, lying like a green blanket over the ground and the ledges. It consumes fallen trees and converts them to desperately needed soil, and it even starts up the trunks of trees still living. It softens the hard edges left by generations of stonecutters and erases the scars that their machinery left on the land. It’s hard to see how the moss can make a living here, on its simple diet of granite, fog, and shade, but on this preserve, it doesn’t just live, it prospers. It can only do this because of the shelter provided by trees, and that is really where this story begins. It’s told by Fred Strawson, part of the family that sold VLT the property that would become Granite Island Preserve:

My dad Stanton Moore Strawson was very fortunate that he was allowed to take a month off every summer. We had an older house out at the end of Granite Island. In 1937 when we arrived we were greeted with a sight of complete devastation: every tree had been cut. Dad said he hoped this would never happen again, and if he could do something about it he would. That winter he made a trip to the granite company’s headquarters and made them a very small offer; small because neither he nor anyone else had any money. The company officials just laughed and sent him home. However, a month later they contacted Dad and said they were going through bankruptcy and would sell Dad the land. Dad bought a bag of white pine seed, and walked all over the property planting seed. Not one survived.

It seems that Mother Nature wanted to grow spruces, not pines, on Granite Island, and over the following decades a forest came back all on its own—and in typically generous fashion, the Strawsons shared it with others.

(Continued on page 2)
The melting snow, towering woodcocks, emerging crocuses, and returning osprey all signal a perfect opportunity to announce a new season in VLT’s life—the appointment of Linnell Mather as our new Executive Director! The entire board is delighted that after many, many years of absolutely indispensable service, often behind the scenes, Linnell has accepted our entreaty to assume the role she has held as interim since mid-January. We are remarkably lucky to have such an able, insightful, and passionate person to lead the land trust.

The past several years were an intense period of growth and activity for VLT, marked by our successful capital campaign, a number of significant and complex land projects, and the herculean task of gaining accreditation through the national commission process. Linnell was there every step of the way and is the perfect person to lead VLT as we focus our attention on maintaining our high standard of fiscal and administrative oversight, building our environmental education program for the island’s youth, and making our properties welcoming to a broad range of people.

Soon your favorite trails and vistas will be clear of the snow and deep puddles I recently encountered on a walk through the woods. All that water recharging our aquifer and flowing into the bay is a sure sign that spring is here. Please join us on our upcoming Walks and Talks series. And let us know where the trails need attention as we recover from a lengthy and dramatic winter. Or if you would be interested in becoming a Trail Steward, drop by the office and learn more.

Linnell’s new position is a great reminder of how fortunate we are to have such talented and dedicated staff and volunteers. We are also grateful to you—our fellow members—for all your support and loyalty.

-Jonathan M. Labaree, President

President’s Message

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

Granite Island Preserve

As the trees gradually came back on our Basin property, Dad said anyone who needs firewood is welcome, but please only take trees that have fallen over. Because of this our land got to be known as “the Strawson Woodlot!”

Fred Strawson’s recollections continue for eight handwritten pages, and tell stories of life on Granite Island and Vinalhaven “back in the day”— livestock on the ferry, Saturday night dances at the Grange Hall on Granite Island, and recreational swimming by people of all ages:

One day Mrs. Perkins, the wife of Judge Perkins, invited our family for a swim at the (Basin) Falls. It was mid-July and a rising half-tide. She said “Watch this!” and jumped in the water and was swept through the Falls. As she was 65 at the time, this was quite a feat. Since then we have always enjoyed swimming the Falls. As I am over 80 years old now, I plan to set a new record this summer or next as the oldest to swim through the Falls.

Fred ended his recollections with a heartfelt thank you from his family to VLT, “for taking it over and preserving it for years to come as a place of history and beauty.” This transfer of ownership was made possible in part by a contribution from the Land for Maine’s Future fund. Located squarely between the Upper and Lower Basin Falls, the Granite Island Preserve is one of the key pieces in the larger conservation effort towards “whole place” protection of the Basin, and is one of the many properties jointly managed here by VLT and Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

These are the building blocks that land trusts everywhere rest upon: stories of private citizens practicing random acts of kindness and beauty towards the land. Stanton Strawson saw a place that he loved being ravaged, and did the only thing he could to save and restore it. His family supported his vision, and preserved this property’s forests and wildlife, for seventy years before conditions were right for a land trust to step in to help. Taking care of it for the next seventy years, and beyond, is now up to us.

It’s important to remember stories like these, and to tell them to new generations of Vinalhaven’s “conservation tribe”—for we are indeed a tribe, with our own origin stories, sacred places, and culture heroes. The collective efforts of visionaries like Stanton Strawson, working to save places like Granite Island, are our legacy. To preserve and celebrate these stories makes us more human, and strengthens our bond to the place where we live—and our commitment to preserve it for our children.

-Kerry Hardy, Stewardship Coordinator

Explore Granite Island Preserve with Us

In order to get to know Granite Island Preserve better, we’ve scheduled a series of informal walks throughout summer and fall. Each will focus on a different aspect of what this mossy gem has to offer. Mark your calendar and plan to join us on June 27 (with Lucy McCarthy leading), July 25 (with Janet Gohres leading), August 16, September 12 (with Kirk Gentalen leading a mushroom walk), and October 10. Please check our website calendar for updates on each walk’s focus.
A Message from Linnell Mather

I was very pleased and honored when the Board of Directors asked me to become VLT’s third Executive Director.

Twenty years ago Lucy McCarthy, then a board member of VLT, later its first paid staff member and then first Executive Director, approached me to ask if I would be willing to assist VLT with some bookkeeping challenges. All that I knew about VLT was what I had read in the Wind as several forward-looking individuals and families organized to save some of the special areas of Vinalhaven from development. It was late in 1994, and the organization was fundraising to purchase Roberts Island, a 13-acre seabird nesting island off the shores of Vinalhaven. VLT had applied for and been granted a Challenge Grant by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that would match every $3 raised by VLT with an additional $2, but the recordkeeping and reporting involved was somewhat demanding; the board thought of me.

Over the past twenty years, I’ve been involved in every step of VLT’s maturation. We’ve expanded from two very part-time employees working out of the back room of Lucy’s house to three employees (two full-time equivalent) serving our community from an attractive year-round office in Skoog Park. Our program offerings have gone from two or three walks a season to a full series of over thirty events on the calendar for this summer, covering lobsters at the bottom of the sea to the top of Tip Toe Mountain, and almost everything in between. We continue to be a presence in the school, finding ways to connect young people with nature and to educate the next generation of conservation leaders, and are actively exploring ways to expand our environmental education programs, both in and out of the school day. In 2012, VLT was one of the first four land trusts in Maine—and by far the smallest—to achieve accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission; we are now undertaking the preliminary steps needed to apply for our five-year reaccreditation. Our 25th Anniversary Campaign, which wrapped up at the end of 2013, ensured the permanent protection of the Tip Toe Mountain Preserve for the community of people who cherish that scramble to the top and the wonderful view, as well as raising funds that will better allow VLT to steward all the land in our care.

I’ve shared these twenty years with some very inspiring leaders: dedicated and hard working board and staff members at both VLT and our conservation partners, many of whom are still actively involved with VLT and conservation. I look forward to bringing what I have learned from them into my role as Executive Director. And I look forward to seeing and hearing from you: VLT is a membership organization; your voice is important.

Please join us for a walk or two (or more!) this summer or contact us for information on volunteering (everything from mailings to trail work). If you have children, grandchildren, or young guests visiting, sign them up for VLT’s summer camp. We invite you to attend Annual Meeting in late July, where board and staff will be available to answer questions and share your love of the special places of Vinalhaven. More information about all of these offerings can be found in this edition of the newsletter. Please read on!

Lot for Sale

When VLT purchased the Strawson property, now called the Granite Island Preserve, a pristine 42-acre section of land along the Basin was protected in perpetuity. As with any conservation effort, securing funds for stewardship was key. To that end, a 2.33-acre parcel was sectioned off to sell in order to provide for ongoing stewardship responsibilities such as planning and creating trails, cleaning up storm damage, maintaining parking areas and signage, and making an annual payment to the town in lieu of taxes.

The land includes a spectacular granite hilltop, undoubtedly the highest point on the original parcel. Vinalhaven Land Trust is selling the lot, which includes 98 feet of water frontage on Dyers Harbor and southern views of the harbor and Dyers Island. This is an ideal location for water access and building a dock. With a soil test for a three-bedroom home, there is plenty of room for a residence and outbuilding. Your privacy is ensured by the conserved land on your border to the north and west. The lot is easily accessible for a driveway and has 350+ feet of road frontage. For more information, contact Kris Davidson, Broker, Davidson Realty at 863-2200 or Info@Davidson-Realty.com.
Island Explorers Ready for Summer

We’re gearing up for our third year of Island Explorers, VLT’s popular day camp that focuses on nature exploration and fun. We’ll explore habitats and play lots of games to reinforce concepts we’re learning. We provide safe, hands-on outdoor learning experiences, and give island kids and off-island kids the chance to make new friends. We meet at the Vinalhaven School on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and at Lane’s Island to explore the marine environment there (weather permitting). The final week is Island Adventurers, for 8-10 year old students, and campers go a little farther afield. New this year: July 28-30 will be Farm and Garden Camp, exploring working island farms and seeing farm animals! The cost is $30/session for Vinalhaven School students and $60/session for children who attend a different school. Below is a tentative schedule. We try to schedule around SCAMP (the school’s summer program) and swimming lessons. Please watch the Wind or check our website for updates, or call the office at 863-2543 to confirm dates.

July 7-9, 9am-noon, 5-7 year-olds
July 21-23, 9am-noon, 5-7 year-olds
July 28-30, 9am-noon, 5-7 year-olds
Aug. 4-6, 9am-noon, 8-10 year-olds

Third Thursday Volunteer Work Parties

Join us this summer for a work party! On the Third Thursday of each month, we will gather loppers, pruners, saws, rakes, and trail markers for several hours of work on trails and signage at one of VLT’s many preserves. Experience is welcome but not necessary, and you can bring your own tools or ask us to provide them for you. For more information, just give us a call at 863-2543.

Save the Dates: May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, and September 17.

ANOTHER GREAT SEASON AHEAD

Walks and Talks

The Walks and Talks Committee has a very busy and interesting season planned. Having started in April, we’ve already had programs about woodcocks and warblers.

Highlights this summer, among our 35+ scheduled events, will be presentations about the lobster industry, aquaculture, infrared photography, the geology of Tip Toe Mountain Preserve, exploring Otter Pond, and tracking owls and otters with Kirk Gentalen of MCHT.

We look forward to Phil Crossman’s talk on the history of the Wind, hosted in partnership with Vinalhaven Historical Society. We will have weekly bird walks, two wildflower walks and a flower pressing workshop, book talks, and five monthly walks on the trails at Granite Island Preserve focusing on various aspects of this property including tree identification, mushrooms, history, and other surprises.

THIS IS JUST A PARTIAL LIST OF OUR EVENTS. PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR, AND SEE THE WIND AND OUR BEAUTIFUL POSTERS DISPLAYED AROUND TOWN FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT EACH EVENT.

We hope to see you this season for adventure, beauty, education, and exploration! Meet new people, see new sights, and enjoy the Nature of Vinalhaven.

-Jim Boone, Walks & Talks Committee

BEST WISHES AND THANKS

Tribute to Tuck

The Board of Vinalhaven Land Trust would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Tuck Godfrey for four years of hard work and dedication as our Executive Director. During Tuck’s tenure, we completed our 25th Anniversary Campaign and protected Big Tip Toe Mountain, among other accomplishments. The Board accepted Tuck’s resignation in January with sadness and best wishes.

Amy Palmer gives kids from the Perspectives After School program a closer look at nature out on Granite Island Preserve. Photo by Susan Raven.

A woodcock, close up—one of our favorite harbingers of spring. Photo: Karen Oakes, Island View Photography.
2014 Donors

Sylvia Lacey
Hilda Dorgan & Michael LaFerque
Curt Laffin
Gregg & Marti Laird
Emily Lane
Daniel Godfrey & Crystal LaPoint
David & Susan Lawrence
John & Tara Lawrence
Sarah Lawrence
Susan Lawrence
Samuel & Woody Lawson
Chong & Jaqueline Lee
DiAnn & Timothy Lee
Christopher Janeway & Catherine Leiser
Norbert & Sally Leser
Charlene Landis & Thomas Leslie
Emily Lewis
Lisa Lewis
Judy & Scott Libby
Jan Lichtenwalter
Carolyn & William Lieber
Jon Linn
Donna & Richard Littlefield
Helen Litwak
Taina Litwak
Island Lobster
Jim & Susan Long
Norbert & Roger Longman
Frederick & Penelope Lord
George & Sarah Loring
Pat Lundholm
June MacDonald
Howard Ben Tre & Wendy MacGaw
Jennifer & Sean Mahoney
Fidele & William Malloy
Andre Bishop & Peter Manning
Joseph Marcus
Donald & Julie Marcuse
Elizabeth Mares
Hugh & Susan Martin
Angela & Mel Marvin
Linnell Mather
Marianna Mather
Chip Harkness & Christa Mattson
Horace & Marjorie Maxcy
Sam Mazen
Linda & Robert McAulay
Peter McCann
Greta & Mark McCarthy
John Drury & Lucy McCarthy
Babette Fahey & Patrick McCormick
Larry Mcintosh
Peter McLaughlin
John & Mary Ann McLeod
Donald & Valerie McQuillan
Elsa & Thomas Menaker
Stevie Kaimmer & Mike Mesko
Barbara & Arnold Mintz
Alexandra Moffat
Lisa Lewis & Banner Moffat
Francois Deschamps & Judith Mohns

Betty & Ted Moody
Priscilla Moody
Mary Ellen Kelly & Steven Morgan
Daveda & Ed Movitz
Beth & Neil Mufson
Charles & Grace Mullen
David Fogg & Thea Nelson
Bill & Helene Newbold
Maxine Hunter & David Newbold
Grosvener & Wendy Newcomb
Susan Niederhofer
Helen Norris
Carol & David Olson
Stephen & Thayer Olson
Chris Osgood & Mary Helen Osgood
Caroline & Charles Par doe
Linda & Robert Parrish
Herbert Parsons
Randall Parsons
Jill & Pankaj Patel
James Kulp & Cathy Pawelczyk
Josie Iselin & Ken Pearce
Betsy McGee & Mark Pecker
Ellen & Javier Peñalosa
Melissa & Steve Pennell
Katharine Perkins
David & Julie Perry
Adriana Eder & Gabriel Peter-Harp
Susan Petersmeyer
Gherstein & Jeffrey Peterson
Wayne Cooper & the late Carol Petillo
Deb Lampson & Chuck Pinkerton
Carl & Lillias Pinson
Deborah Pixley
Josh Eckels & Annalee Poe
Katherine Hooper & Arthur Porter
Lee & Nick Potter
Torry Pratt
Tom Kearney & Rebecca Pschirrer
Peter Drury & Margaret Qualey
Deb Manegold & Dwight Quayle
Richard & Virginia Quick
Geoffrey Gratwick & Lucy Quimby
James & Sharon Radford
Susan Radley
James & Lisa Rafferty
Aviva Rahmani
Ann & Thomas Ramee
Judson & Susan Raven
Heather & Norman Reidy
Edward Reynolds
Ned Reynolds
Kelly & Peter Richards
Virginia Callan & Cort Richardson
Pat L’Herrou & David Ridenour
Ruth Ripnitz
F. Richard Pappas & Adrienne Rivers
The late Donald Roberts
Lloyd & Marjorie Roberts
James & Marilyn Rockefeller
Richard Morgan & Arlene Rodenbeck
Larry & Mary Rogers
Martha & Paul Rogers III
John Baker III & Arlene Roman
Adam Rosell
Christine & Paul Rosell
Alice Bissell & Stephen Rosen
Marjorie Rosenberg
Cathy & Ron Rosenstock

Alexander Colhoun & Selina Rossiter
Joan & Tom Rouillard
Mark & Wendy Rovelli
Elaine & Richard Ruback
Bonnie Rukin
Christina & James Runcie
Anne Russell
Holly & William Russell Jr.
Robert McQuilkin Jr. & Willy Russell Jr.
Shoji & Tsuneko Sadao
Julia & Paul Sampson
Amy Davis & Phil Saul
Lillian Saul
Katie & Matt Sawatzky
Victoria Brett & Geoff Schaefer
Darly Delaney & Bruce Scherer
Carrie & Christopher Scholz
Alice & Tom Schultz
Josephine Schuman
Cam Lewis & Gretchen Scott
James & Trina Secor
George Jolly & Caroline Seligman
Virginia Calega & Mark Sereni
Raymond McLaughlin & Jane Sheahan
Patricia & W. Stevens Sheppard
David & Mary Jane Shiverick
Elizabeth Osley & Richard Silver
Lilea & Richard Simis
Ellen Simmons
David Drinkwater & Jacqueline Smethurst
Bruce Hendrickson & Stephanie Smith
Clawson Smith
Daniel Abbasi & Deborah Smith
David & Janna Smith
Karen Kuskin-Smith & C. James Smith
Marjorie Smith
Steve Brock & Jennifer Smith-Brock
Peter Belknap & Jennifer Snodgrass
Benjamin W. Labaree & Alison Snow
Ricki Soaring Dove
Jennifer Kramer & David Sobel
Judith Soleil
David Seligman & Kate Sontag
Mary Soyer
Lydia Sparrow & Richard Sparrow
Bettye Bradley & David Stansbury
Roger Bradford & Martha Stanton
Matthew & Sophie Starr
Mary Sillman & Martin Stein
Caleb Stewart
Anne Stillwagon
Elise Stockly
Mr. and Ms. Ayres Stockly
Cristina Squiff & Mitchell Stokes
Nick Lobkowicz & Marjorie Stratton
Gloria Strazar
Linda Peterson & Fred Strebeigh
Ellen Stutman
Charles Sullivan
Charles & Claudia Sullivan Jr.
Chris Ayres & Elizabeth Swain
Connie Keenle & David Swain
Carl & Theresa Swiderski
Aya Mares & Ross Tabor
Barry Robinson & Susan Talhoush
Dorothy & Paul Tasillo
Arnet Taylor
Cherry Taylor
Jamie & Lucy Telfer
Agnes & Arthur Terry
James & Maude Terry
Lisa Cherbuliez & John Terry
Mark & Vania Terry
Jamie & Yvonne Thomas
Carol & Skip Thompson
Ed & Margaret Tillinghast
Patricia & Stanley Timson
Katharine Baker & Peter Titelman
Mark & Mary Lou Tolette
Ruth Sayward & the late Gerhardt Torborg
Abigail Trafford
Patience & Patrick Trainor
Martin Traisser
Andrew & Katherine Updegrove
Alan Farago & Lisa Versaci
Jacquelyn & Mark Villinski
Vinalhaven Flea Market
Christine Vincent
Jean Vincent
Bob & Madeline Vreeland
Karen & Ryckman Walbridge
Bessy Kong & John Wasielewski
Barbara Keen & Constance Webster
Marthena Webster
Tom Godfrey, Jr. & Anne Weir
David & Sandra Weiss
Barbara Weitz
Fraffie Welch
Susan Loring Wells & Marty Wells
Federico Welsch
Crisy West
Charles H. Pardoe & Mariette Westermann
Pamela Wetherbee
Joseph & Sarah Whinery
Ann Helwege & Tim White
Barbara Deuell & Peter Whitman
Daniel Ames & Linda Whittington
Bob Wilbanks
Carol & Peter Willauer
Benjamin & Betsy Williams
Jeanne Segal & Dick Williams
Lloyd Van Lune & Margaret Wilson
Daniela Winkler
Frank Marchell & Cindy Wojcicki
Eleanor & Timothy Wright
Joan Wright
Susan Lee & John Wright
Christine & Leonard Yannielli
Albert Yetter
Joshua Stein & Laura Zucker
2014 Donors

In Honor of:
Tuck Godfrey

In Memory of:
George Flynn

Foundations
The Blair Charitable Foundation
Perkins Fund of the Boston Foundation
Creighton Narada Foundation
Wurster Family Foundation
The Haven Trust
J. W. Kaempfer Revocable Trust
The Land Trust Alliance
Stockly Fund of the Maine Community Foundation
Theodore Johanson & Patricia Lundholm Fund of the Maine Community Foundation
Morgan Stanley
The Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation
The Prudential Foundation
Louis and Sylvia Rosenblum Memorial Philanthropic Fund
Caroline & Stephen Sontheimer Fund of the Greater New Orleans Foundation

Individuals and Corporations
William Alcorn
Ruth Alden
Pam & Steve Alley
David & Holly Ambler
Patricia Ambler
Addison Ames, Jr.
Anonymous (23 donors)
Jennifer Badot
Christine Bailey
Doug & Sarah Banker
Sam Baron
Anne Barrett
Bill & Susan Bazlen
Tad Beck
John Bellows
John & Patricia Bergin
Elizabeth Bickford
Geoff & Mike Bird
Kathleen & Sheldon Bird
The late Chandler Blackington
Jane Blair
Laura Blankertz
Bill & Louise Boyce
James & Meredith Boone
The late Rhoda Boughton
Candace Boyden
Glenn Boyles
Michèle deMilly & Andrew Breslau
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brodt
Hooper Brooks
Janice & Thom Brown
Bruce & the late Joan Burnham
Larry Brady & Don Burns
Patrick Brown & Nancy Burns
John & Ruth Buteau
Judy & Skip Butler
Eliza, Joshua & Rosalie Byard
Ames Byrd
Harry & Nancy Byrd
Richard Byrd III
Amy & David Calkins
Eleanor L. & Levin Campbell
Levin Campbell, Jr.
Lois & Robert Candage
Alexandra & Arthur Carpenter
Emily Carroll
Nans Case
Margaret Casey
Maria & Stephen Cashin
Mary Cattan
Patience & Thomas Chamberlin
Diana Cherbuliez
Susan & Theodore Cherbuliez
Morris Cheston
Nevis Bartolomeo & Rachel Church
Craig & Sarah Churchill
Lizzie Clapham
Cecily Clark
Tina Clark
James Clayer
Jennifer Clements
Diane & John Cochran
Alexander Cohen
Douglas & Lois Coleman
Patricia Colhoun
Anne & Franz Colloredo-Mansfeld
Ferdinand & Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld
Chesca & Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld
Colleen & Jim Conlan
Fred Coughlan
Wendy Cox
Catherine & Peter Creighton
Mary & Sarah Creighton III
Elaine & Philip Crossman
Poppie Connor-Crouch & John Crouch
Jeannie Curtiss
Ruth Cutler
Kristine Davidson
Bonnie & Eric Davis
Dan Allen & Natalie Davis
Susan Davis
Ethenly Day
Judy Blevins & Howard Day
Lois & Walt Day
Edwin & Emily Dean
Diversified Communications
Joseph & Mara Donadio
Susan Dempster & Gerry Doughty
Alexander & Olivia Dreier
Mary Drury
Barbara Duell
Delphine & Frank Eberhart
Frederica & Michael Eder
Elin Elisoni
Judith Ellenweig
Suzy Elmiger
Doug Durant & Anne Engelhart
Bill Allen & Alice Evarts
Helen Evarts
Holly Evarts
Grant Ditzler & Frances Evans
Patricia & Robert Evers
Anny Ewing
Joseph & Margaret Ewing
William Falchek Jr.
Priscilla Fales
Eleanor Bartolomeo & Young C. Fan
Frank & Franci Vinal Farnsworth
Mr. & Ms. Daniel Ferguson
Richard & Virginia Fitts
Alexandra Fitzsimmons
Joanne Flagg
Elaine Flore
Charlie & Sarah Forbes
George Fosque
Deborah & John French
Marnie & Peter Frost
Cynthia Cave & Chuck Gadzik
Wanatha Garner
Frances Gaston
Christopher Gates
David & Susan Gay
Diana Gay
Judith Gay
Harvey & Pamela Geiger
Constance & Fred Gemmer
Mr. & Mrs. David Gengler
Barbara Gent
Bonnie German
Clintor Fisher & Aviva Gerson
Eleanor Gibe
Bruce & Kay Giffin
Joan Alden & Beth Gilford
Anne & Thomas Goodfery
Jessie Goodfery
Tom Gardner & Marian Godfrey
Andrew Cohen & Mary Gooderham
Judith & Sheldon Gordon
Peter Bodnar & Lida Gordon
Cynidie Gould
Susan Barnes & Martha Grant
Anita & Henry Gratwick
Joel & Rebecca Gratwick
Patricia Dunn & Douglas Green
Joel Greenberg
Jackson Gregory
Helen & Philip Greven
Donna Cordner & Brent Groce
Lucy Groening
Marian Grogan
James & Pamela Grumbach
David & Sara Hadderd
Janet Gohres & Robert Hahl
John Hable
Paula Hable
William Hable
Karen Gates & James Hall
Elinor & Roger Hallowell
Sam Hallowell
Elizabeth & Norman Haluszk
Betsy & Perry Hamilton
Tunie Hamlen
Dennis & Kate Hannah
Dorothea Reynolds Hanson
Diana & Robert Harding
Margaret Hardy
Yasuoka Hatano-Collier
T. Alan & Marianne Hatton
Molly Perkins Hauck
Allan & Jeanie Hayes
David & Marianne Healey
Roy Heisler
Suzanne Heller
Charlotte Henderson
Stratton French & Julie Henderson
Justin & Sarah Hendrickson
Susan Godfrey & Roger Hendrix
Ben & Vannesa Henneke
Alison & Horace Hildreth
Grace Hinrichs
Ellen & Mark Hoffman
Eleanor Holt
Elizabeth Holt
Gwen & L. Emmett Holt IV
Christopher Howard
Cynthia & Mark Howard
Richard Howard
Edward & Sarnia Hoyt
Mr. & Ms. Will Hoyt
Sherry Huber
The Hughes Family
Elva & Horace Hunt
David & Sarah Hyde
Mariani & Michael Imber
Jennifer Irving
Benjamin & Cathy Iselin
Lea Iselin
William Iselin
The Island's Closet
Island Sail
Scott Fisher & Mizuko Ito
L. Jean Emery & Stephen Ives
Margaret C. Ives
Robert Cornell & Catherine Ives-Cornell
Pat & Simon James
Philip Jamison
Betsy & Harold Janeway
Dorothy Janzen
Sara Gordon & Scott Janzen
Beverly & William Jaques
Peter & Sue Jaques
Richard Cranford & Laura Jennings-Cranford
Ed Hirst & Pam Johnson
Elizabeth & Stephen Jones
Suzette & Thomas Jones
Jean Kellogg
Cay & George Kendrick
Gail Eierweiss & Jeff Kilbreth
Hopeton & Richard Kimball
Ry Cavanaugh and Jennifer Kimball
Joseph Adams & Barbara Kinder
Jane and the late Bruce King
Sarah Crossman & Chad King
Chester Higgins & Betsy Kissam
Chris & Kathy Knight
Robert W. Knight
Christian & Gwendolyne Koeldbl
Bettina Krampetz
Bruce & Eleanor Krause
Jane Byrdon & Christopher Krueger
Mr. and Ms. William Kruell
Gigi Baas & Karol Kucinski
Clyde & Lucy Kuemmerle
Josef & Susan L'African
Joe Deely & Maile L'Herrou-Ridenour
Ben & Linda Labaree
Priscilla Carathers & Jonathan Labaree
Volunteer Recognition

Is it a cliche to call our volunteers the life’s blood of VLT? Not when they are such a vital part of the daily and ongoing function of the organization. From our committed and hardworking board of directors to valuable committee members to the team that monitors VLT’s conservation easements and fee-owned properties to the varying group of cheerful envelope stuffers, and many, many other volunteers and tasks...we value your talents, your time, and the energy you bring to all the work you do on behalf of VLT.

If you are someone who wants to get involved with VLT, whether on an ongoing basis (like adopting a favorite trail, becoming a monitor, serving on a committee, writing thank you notes) or an occasional day (like helping with a mailing, providing fire foods or hauling supplies for Annual Meeting, printing and folding trail brochures, or hosting a Walks speaker who wants to stay overnight), we welcome your help. Do you have any special talents you’d like to share? We welcome your ideas.

We’d like to thank these people who have helped in so many ways through the late fall and winter. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please know we value your involvement!

Basin Clean-up: Many thanks to Merry Boone, Elaine Crossman, Stevie Kaimmer, Kelly Richards, Carol Thompson, Lawrence Wadsworth, and to the many board and staff members who showed up on a glorious Sunday morning to help gather trash along the Basin. And we thank the crew at the landfill for accepting the trash without charge.

Committee Members: Many members of our year-round and seasonal community serve on our committees alongside board members and staff. We’d like to thank Susie Lawrence (Development), Ed Hoyt, Charlie Lowrey, and Hugh Martin (Investment), Sue L’Africain and Kelly Richards (Annual Meeting), Lucy Quimby (Easements & Acquisitions), Penelope Lord and Javier Peñalosa (Management Plan), Emily Cohn (Environmental Education), and Merry Boone, Beth Gilford, Janet Gohres, Pam Johnson, Lucy McCarthy, Gabe McPhail, Rick Morgan, Arlene Rodenberg, Sally Wyllie, Christine and Len Yannielli (Walks & Talks).

Donation of services: Many thanks to Addison Ames Jr. and Danny Ames for chainsaw work on the Granite Island sale lot, Andrew Quinlan Pest Control, Nevins Bartolomeo and Young C. Fan for technical support, Mike Bunker and Fox Islands Electric Co-op for assistance cutting down a tree on the Granite Island Preserve, Phil Crossman for emergency plowing, Stevie Kaimmer for file review and organizing, Lucy McCarthy for file review and technical expertise, and MCHT for technical advice and support for so many aspects of our work.

Donations to the office at Skoog Park: We thank the ARC for brochure racks and office supplies, Munch Grogan for an office chair and other office supplies, and Susan Raven, for bird identification guides and bird song cassettes for our resource library.

Holiday treats for staff: A tasty thank you to Penelope and Fritz Lord.

Mailings of appeals and newsletters: We’re grateful to Alison Angel, Dory Bayer, Jeanne Bineau-Ames, Amy Calkins, Dave Calkins, Georgeanne Davis, Kay Giffin, Stevie Kaimmer, Anna Poe, and Carol Thompson.

Mainland odd jobs: Thanks to our “ferry fairies,” Fred Granger and Angie Olson.

Monitoring Team: A big thank you to Kirk Gentalen, Stevie Kaimmer, Charlie Lowrey, Lucy McCarthy, Herb Parsons, Anna Poe, and Susie Rodriguez.

Newsletter Help: Many thanks to Amy Palmer and Vannesa Henneke for articles, Kirk Gentalen, Rich Knox, Karen Oakes/Island View Photography, Amy Palmer, and Susan Raven for photos, and Alison Angel and Carol Thompson for proofreading.

Weekly office help: We thank Penelope Lord.

Finally, we salute Carol Petillo for her years of committed service: as a board member who brought her thoughtful approach to policy drafting and review, who proofread many newsletters over the years with a careful eye, and who always said YES when there was a mailing to get out the door. Farewell, dear friend of VLT!

Below: Our annual VLT/MCHT spring ritual, the Basin Clean-Up. Board members and volunteers gathered on a glorious Sunday morning to clean up trash along the Basin. We happily noticed that there seemed to be less trash this year than in years past.
VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Penelope Lord

Penelope's story is a series of fortuitous coincidences: they pointed her in the right direction, or else they confirmed her instincts. She and her husband Fritz moved to Vinalhaven just a few years ago, coming here from western Massachusetts, and for Penelope, it was a bit of a full circle. Her great-grandfather was from North Haven, and owned tiny Oak Island off that island's northern tip. Growing up she spent lots of time on Oak Island, which began her lifelong affinity for islands.

Penelope held a variety of jobs during her working life. One was with a native plant landscaper. This field deeply appealed to her, and she immersed herself in learning more, reading widely, including a book by a woman who wrote about the native garden she cultivated at her Maine island summer home. Penelope soon created her own huge native garden. She also developed a late love of drawing and sketching, inspired by a solo camping trip on Oak Island to mark her 70th birthday. She wanted to identify all the plants there, drawing them using “a ratty old box of colored pencils” that she'd brought along. A passion was born.

Penelope wanted to “end her days” in Maine, and a chance glimpse of a picture of Vinalhaven on the internet led them here. She first became involved with VLT through a meeting with former Executive Director Tuck Godfrey at a Friends of the Library meeting. They talked about native and invasive plant species, and she learned more about VLT’s mission to conserve fragile spaces while still making them available to all people in the community. She “admires the thoughtfulness of that approach: conserved, but open to the public. It’s a very important aspect.”

At VLT, Penelope has helped with appeal mailings, and last year started coming into the office every week. During the summer she printed and folded trail brochures to keep the Skoog Park kiosk well stocked for the public. Through the offseason, she digitized easements and other important documents, bringing her good cheer and efficiency to every task. Penelope also donates her talent in the form of her artwork. We sell her beautiful note cards and calendar of Vinalhaven wildflower drawings at the office and at our 4th of July booth, and she gives us the profits from those sales.

This summer you might see Penelope at Skoog Park, and you are just as likely to cross paths with her as she explores the preserves and trails searching for new wild plants to draw.

A neat coda to Penelope’s story: soon after moving here she had what she calls “one of those incredible Vinalhaven moments.” She came upon the rock and dedication plaque at the trailhead to Granite Island Preserve. And there was the name of that like-minded gardener who had so inspired her: Sara Stein, author of Noah’s Garden. She took it as confirmation: “This is where I’m meant to be.”

-Colleen Conlan, Office Assistant

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars: VLT’s Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 24 at 4:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Mark Anderson of The Nature Conservancy’s Eastern Division, who serves as their Director of Conservation Science and has worked as an ecologist for over twenty-seven years. He will speak on Climate, Conservation, and Resiliency—Stories from the Field. Join us under the tent at Skoog Park, enjoy finger foods and beverages, and mingle and chat with other VLT members, board members, and staff. We hope to see you there!
Winter Tracking Adventure

With all the snow this winter, the fifth graders had the chance to do some winter tracking. They had been learning about the four major track patterns that give clues to the animals’ identities and wanted to get outside to find tracks for themselves. They identified snowshoe hare and red squirrel tracks. They even found snowshoe hare scat and learned that baby hares eat scat. Not a good idea for people, but it makes for a fun photo and a successful Winter Tracking adventure.

Photo by Amy Palmer

Snowshoe Hike at Tip Toe Mountain Preserve

Mink slides, snowshoe hare trails, an otter den, a multitude of deer tracks, “bubble rocks,” a red-tailed hawk in flight, buffleheads, and a brand new trail—what a way to start Valentine’s Day! With fresh snow, and more to come, three bundled-up hikers donned their snowshoes and set out on the new Lower Tip Toe Mountain Trail under the expert guidance of Kirk Gentalen.

One of the great things about wintertime on Vinalhaven and snowshoes is that you can go almost anywhere. We followed Kirk up and down and at almost every turn discovered tracks and sights some of us non-veterans had not seen before. To top it off, we were able to cross marshlands covered in ice to get close to objects that would not have been possible on warmer forays into Vinalhaven’s stunning surroundings.

One of the finds we called, for lack of a geologist with us to inform, the “bubble rocks.” As the three of us were poking around the unusual outcropping, we heard Kirk offer a look at another sight. In a flash he had set up his telescope and as I looked through, there were bufflehead ducks that would have been pinpoints otherwise. What a treat!

As we hiked back to the car, getting more and more questions answered by Kirk, Vinalhaven’s chapter of Snowshoers Anonymous was born. Come join us! It might make you happy when the next snowstorm is predicted. Or, if you’re only able to come to Vinalhaven in the summer, at least come on some of the VLT and MCHT walks!

-Vannesa Henneke

Below: Three intrepid souls explore Tip Toe Mountain Preserve on snowshoes on Valentine’s Day. Photo by Kirk Gentalen.
Help Conserve the Nature of Vinalhaven

Join us in protecting Vinalhaven’s natural beauty with your membership or additional contribution. Use this form or donate online at www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org. Annual dues (for each calendar year) are $10 per person. Thank you!

☐ $100   ☐ $50   ☐ $25   ☐ Other $ ____________

☐ Check enclosed.

☐ Please charge my Visa or Mastercard # ___________________________ exp. __________

Signature ____________________________

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

Town/City ____________________________ State __________________ Zip __________

Phone ____________________________ Email __________________

All donations, including dues, are tax deductible and will ensure that you receive VLT’s newsletter and notice of special events. Contributions at all levels are greatly appreciated.

www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org • (207) 863-2543 • PO Box 268 • Vinalhaven, Maine • 04863

Vinalhaven Land Trust promotes the conservation and appreciation of our island’s significant plant and wildlife habitat, our water resources, and scenic or traditionally valued spaces in order to preserve the character of the community for generations to come.