



Twelve Miles Out

A Newsletter of North Haven Conservation Partners

Fall 2022



NHCP's Invasive Species Management Plan

Invasive species are widespread throughout North Haven, negatively impacting our local environment by degrading wildlife habitat and hindering forest regeneration. A healthy, diverse and intact ecosystem is more resistant to the effects of climate change, disease, and invasive species while also providing a variety of habitats that support a wide variety of plant and animal species.

NHCP, in its ongoing effort to model good stewardship of the lands we own or manage, has commissioned Invasive Species Management Plans (ISMP) written for our North Shore and Mill Stream properties. These ISMP will outline a course of action, utilizing a variety of treatment options, to control invasive species on those properties.

NHCP applied to and received funding from the Maine State Forest Service - Invasive Plant Management Program, which provides landowners technical support and funding for both the development of the ISMP and implementation of the plan. This program is open to all landowners with parcels of at least 10 wooded acres. Once enrolled in this program, landowners are able to hire certified contractors who complete an extensive survey of invasive species for each parcel enrolled and then create a plan

based on the data collected as well as on the ground considerations such as proximity to water bodies, soil types and to some degree landowner preferences.

NHCP hired Rebecca Jacobs of the Knox/Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District to create two plans for us. Mrs. Jacobs came to North Haven in June and completed the field work. She returned to North Haven to speak at the NHCP Annual Meeting where she discussed the negative impacts of invasive species, the variety of invasive species that are present on North Haven and resources available to landowners including the Invasive Plant Management Program.

The most prolific invasive species on NHCP properties surveyed is glossy buckthorn. Treatment methods recommended include both mechanical and chemical options. Though there are negative impacts of using chemical herbicides, most professional land managers support the use of targeted herbicides, properly applied as a necessary, effective and safe tool for the management of widespread infestations on large parcels of property. After thoughtful consideration, NHCP has also adopted this policy when necessary.

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NHCP 2022 President's Letter



Dear Members and Friends:

First, I want to thank you all for a great year. Under John Stevens's able leadership, NHCP put hundreds of volunteer hours during the winter and spring into continuing our active management of our trails and properties. This summer, when large numbers of you got out on our land, and NHCP ran a full slate of walks, the fruits of that labor came back to us through the gratifying comments

we received and with a significant number of new members. We hosted an overflow crowd at our annual meeting at which our guest speaker gave us both an occasionally gasp inducing visual overview of the state of the island's invasive vegetation and hopeful management advice on how all of us can start to turn that tide. The Fox Islands Outing Club ran a full year of environmental education programs for island children. It was, in every respect, an energized, active and rewarding year for the land trust, and I thank you on behalf of the Board for your interaction and encouragement.

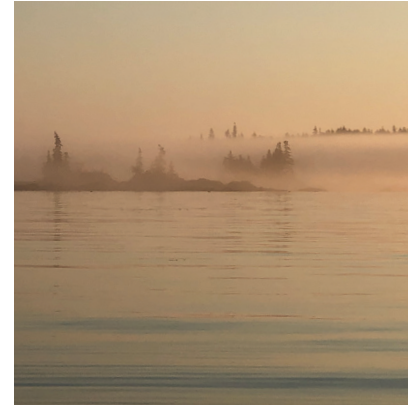
Behind the scenes, the Board began a yearlong strategic planning process, motivated by what we see as a need to better align our internal structure and activities, and public outreach, to a mission that has evolved over our 27 years. Through this process, the Board has strongly put its support behind three core areas of emphasis: taking great care of lands we own and manage; developing and strengthening our relationships with landowners who can help us connect our properties with trails, the Town, our partner organizations on the island, and our membership; and expanding our environmental education programs so that they are relevant and useful

to all age groups on the island. The strategic planning process has been ably led by John and Board members Jeff Crawford, Sam Hallowell and Bruce Gilman. They, the Board as a whole, and our outstanding facilitator, Carole Martin, are all to be commended for the extra time and effort that it took to move us through a very productive process, the results of which will guide the organization through the coming years.

Land conservation will always be a core activity for NHCP. We're your land trust, and we'll pursue opportunities that fit our long-standing objectives to provide access to the shoreline or other points of interest, enhance conservation values of our existing ownership, protect essential soil and fresh water resources, and create opportunities to balance conservation outcomes with residential, agricultural, commercial and municipal needs on the island's limited land base. NHCP is up to that challenge. You can be sure that we'll take excellent care of our part in meeting it.

As ever,

Badge



Board of Directors

Badge Blackett, *President*
Margot Woodworth-Seefeldt,
Vice President
Pat Curtis, *Secretary*

Lois Cheston
Jeff Crawford
Megan Dosch
Bruce Gilman
Sam Hallowell
Peggy Mayfield
Pam MacBrayne

Staff

John R Stevens,
Executive Director

Invasive Plan continued...

In addition to the suggested treatment regime, NHCP has been planting native trees and shrubs which will also help control the spread of invasive species. The control of invasive species will be an ongoing effort that will require significant resources and continual work. Our goal is not necessarily to eradicate every invasive species on our properties but simply to control them to the point where we can establish and maintain healthy natural communities. Please feel free to contact NHCP, visit our website or pick up our newly developed *Invasive Plants of North Haven* brochure for more information on invasive species.



Welcoming Pamela MacBrayne to the Board

Pamela MacBrayne sailed through the Fox Island Thoroughfare in the summer of 1978, visiting North Haven and instantly fell in love with the island, the people, the diverse natural resources and the surrounding waters. With moorings in both the Thoroughfare and Pulpit Harbor, Pam and her husband, Denis Moonan (and, after 1985, their son, Tavis Moonan), spent countless weekends and vacations exploring North Haven, Stimpson and the surrounding islands. During that time, they lived on a small farm in Appleton and dreamed about someday having a saltwater farm on North Haven. In 2018, Pam purchased Thomas Hopkins' property on Southern Harbor, next to Sea View Cemetery, where she and Denis live year-round. Active long-distance sailors, they have cruised their 43' sailboat, Glide, throughout the world, most recently the South Pacific. With Glide currently in a boatyard in Tonga, awaiting the opening of country's borders, Pam purchased Herby Parsons' 1931 Knockabout, Shadow, and looks forward to more sailing adventures around North Haven.

For 40+ years Pam's work (and her doctorate) focused on providing educational opportunities to rural adults, including 25 years with the University of Maine System and subsequently as a consultant. While

cruising, she enjoys teaching English to children she meets along the way, and conversing with adults about the impacts of climate change and the importance of keeping plastics out of their surrounding oceans. An avid environmentalist, Pam believes that the key to conserving our environment and slowing the devastating effects of climate change on land and sea is through the provision of information and education and the encouragement of personal action.

Pam is an active member and supporter of the Hurricane Island Center for Science as well as W.E.B.B. (Water, Earth, Birds & Bugs) and looks forward to working with the community of North Haven and with members of the Board of NHCP whose goals she shares.



Volunteers

Volunteers are critical to NHCP's efforts to maintain our trails and manage our properties. In 2022, 38 individuals volunteered nearly 150 hours of time. They helped clear trails, build bridges, and pick up trash from beaches around North Haven. Volunteers from Maine Island Trail Association helped transport building material for a moldering privy

on Burnt Island. Other volunteers helped plant 172 native trees and shrubs on our North Shore Preserve. A group from Bowdoin College volunteered to work on trails and transport 40 old lobster traps that had washed up on the shore of Babbidge Island. Volunteers at NHCP's Coastal Cleanup effort collected 680 lbs. of marine debris which included



Bowdoin College students build bridge on Mill Stream Trail



Volunteer Trail Day



Volunteer tree planters



Coastal cleanup volunteers



MITA volunteers bring moldering privy materials to Burnt Island



Outreach Programs

An important part of NHCP's mission is to educate people about our environment and the issues facing it and to strengthen their connections to it. It is our hope that individuals that are knowledgeable and meaningfully connected to the environment and a place, this place, will take action to help protect and conserve the natural resources and this beautiful island we all love. NHCP has long hosted a series of summer programs that are educational, informative and a fun way to gain that knowledge and make those connections. In 2022 NHCP made the conscious decision to provide educational and recreational programming throughout the year as a way to better serve the island's year-round community. Approximately 250 people participated in our 16 different programs to date, with more programming scheduled for the fall. Some program highlights include:

Back Yard Bird Count – An ongoing project that encourages people from around the world to count and document birds in their favorite locations during a 4-day period in February, providing data that helps scientists better understand bird populations. In 2022 people from 192 countries documented 7,099 bird species (approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world's known species). Participants here on North haven documented 15 species which included surf scoters, eiders and even an albino goldfinch.

2nd Annual Native Tree and Shrub Sale – NHCP continued to promote the planting of native trees and shrubs to improve wildlife habitat and forest health as well as help slow the effects of climate change. Individuals purchased and presumably planted 78 trees and shrubs. NHCP staff and volunteers planted an additional 172 trees and shrubs on NHCP owned property.

NHCP partnered with other island organizations, primarily W.E.B.B. (Water, Earth, Birds and Bugs) and Waterman's Community Center to



Rebecca Jacobs presentation at NHCP Annual Meeting

offer additional programs and reach a broader audience. Highlights of these programs included:

Nature's Best Hope - A presentation by Dr. Doug Tallamy, professor and well-known author who promotes planting native species in lawns and gardens to help fight the spread of invasive species and to provide habitat for a wide array of birds and insects that are critical to the overall health of our environment.

Pandemics, Protecting Wildlife and Our Environment: The One Health Approach - A presentation by Dr. Chris Walzer, a world renowned expert working with the Wildlife Conservation Society on the encroachment of human activities on natural habitats and how that has led to the introduction of new disease and the risk this poses.

Look for upcoming events on our web site northavenconservation.org, and our FB and Instagram pages.



Burnt Island Tour



Mill Stream Kayak Tour



Moss and Lichen Walk



Monarch Caterpillars on Milkweed



Backyard Bird Count

New Mouldering Privy on Burnt Island

Burnt Island is one of those special places that North Haven Conservation Partners (NHCP) is proud to have helped conserve. The property was donated to the Town of North Haven in 1993 by the Minot family and is now part of Mullens Head Park. In the spring of 2000, the residents of North Haven voted to grant NHCP a conservation easement on the property. NHCP manages Burnt Island in collaboration with the Mullens Head Park Commission.

In an effort to address natural resource issues caused by the ever-increasing number of visitors to Burnt Island, NHCP built a moldering privy near the public pier. A moldering privy is an alternative type of outhouse in which human waste is composted in an above ground bin system. This technology is frequently used in backcountry settings such as

the Appalachian Trail, requires little maintenance, and promotes aerobic conditions allowing for faster breakdown of waste and less potential for groundwater contamination.

This June volunteers and staff from the Maine Island Trails Association spent a day helping transport materials to Burnt Island by boat. NHCP staff and volunteers then spent several days constructing the structure. Some building materials were salvaged from the old cabin. The construction of the privy will help protect the island's natural resources including water quality while improving visitor's experience. NHCP is dedicated to protecting and managing the natural resources on the lands for which we are responsible, while balancing the promotion of public access with the management of its impact.



September 2022 begins the seventh year of NHCP's Fox Island Outing Club (FIOC) programing, offering environmental education and outdoor recreation programing opportunities for students of North Haven. Originally developed primarily as an afterschool program, FIOC programs were offered every Friday afternoon from 12 -3 during the 2021-2022 academic year (North Haven students get out of school at 12:00 noon on Fridays).

Rotating groups of students in grades K-6 had the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics throughout the school year. In the fall, programs focused on plant identification, nature journaling, animal tracking and small mammals. During the winter, students explored survival skills, birding basics, and maple sugaring. Discovering salamander eggs in vernal pools and camping out with the 4th-6th graders were some end of year highlights.

"One of my favorite program memories this year was nature journaling. Students returned to the same spot throughout the year, recording what they observed. One of FIOC's goals is to inspire deeper observations of the world around us, and it was such a treat to see what students saw, heard, and felt through



their entries over the course of the year." Maria Keeler FIOC Co-Director

In addition to after school activities FIOC was able to work with the 7th and 8th grade students to organize a fall camping trip, and later to create a map and compass course. Trail workdays were offered to high school students to provide community service opportunities. Thanks to support from the North Haven Historical Society 4th-6th graders were able to complete an ongoing basket weaving project. A special thanks to the Witherspoons for use of their field and woods, which provide an endless space to learn and explore.

NHCP would also like to recognize and give a sincere thanks to Amilia Campbell, who's energy, vision and hard work made the FIOC program a reality. Amilia is taking on an exciting new role and will be greatly missed. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavor.

FIOC programing will return this fall, led by our enthusiastic and capable educator Maria Keeler who has co-directed the program for the past 5 years with Amilia. We are excited for new outdoor adventures this year will bring!

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