



# Vinalhaven Land Trust

CONSERVING THE NATURE OF VINALHAVEN

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013 • Vol. 26, No. 1

## VLT Gratefully Accepts Gift of Land

Carl Swanson believed that thoughtfully planned conservation could be good for the town of Vinalhaven, and so he bequeathed a 91 acre parcel at the head of Old Harbor Pond to Vinalhaven Land Trust (VLT) upon his death in December of 2011. Many will remember Carl singing in the church choir and community chorus, or starring as a seagull in our local musical, *Ferry Tales*. Friends recall his great sense of humor; Carl was master of the one-liner.

The parcel Carl entrusted to VLT extends from Pumpkin Ridge in town deep into the woods on the east side of the Basin. It includes about half of the north-

eastern shore of Old Harbor Pond (almost 2,000 feet) and abuts VLT's Isle Au Haut Mountain Preserve and Maine Coast Heritage Trust's Basin Preserve. Like the last piece of a puzzle, this parcel completes protection along the entire east side of the Basin, from the tip of Old Harbor Pond in the south, to the most northern cove near Wharff Quarry Road. Carl must have been very aware of its strategic location and outstanding conservation value.

In times past, the parcel's proximity to town afforded access to a deep swimming hole on Old Harbor Pond. The old diving board welded to the granite outcropping attests to the enjoyment of previous generations. Looking at the perfectly situated diving rock and rusted fixtures, one can almost see the revelers in their long cotton swimming attire and hear the laughter of a weekend afternoon spent cavorting in the pond.

During the quarrying heyday, there were numerous small "motions" on the property where paving blocks—pavers—were cut. Larger granite blocks bear testimony to the industriousness of a previous owner. Some may remember when ice blocks were cut from Jim Mack's Pond, immediately abutting the property, and sledged across Old Harbor Pond.

The land consists of mature mixed forest with some striking specimen trees, including a red spruce that could be the largest on the island. With a generally flat terrain and access from the town or Basin side, the opportunities for easy walking trails are obvious.

When the land trust takes on a new parcel, there are many factors to consider. Our policies require an ecological assessment to ensure we don't overlook any species of special significance. No decisions are made as to how the property will be used until we have a management plan, which often takes a year or two. Factors such as consideration of neighbors, public access, special features of interest and connectivity

to conserved parcels are just a few of the variables we take into account.

Upon hearing of this exceptional gift, the land trust board expressed their gratitude for Carl Swanson's consideration, vision, and generosity. In years to come, we trust islanders enjoying this peaceful spot will echo that sentiment.

*-Elizabeth Swain, Chair of Easements and Acquisitions, with thanks to Lucy McCarthy and Pam Alley for their memories of Carl and the old diving board.*



*This red spruce might be one of the largest on the island. Photo by Kerry Hardy.*

### VLT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Renewing your VLT membership is a rite of spring.

In case you have misplaced our recently mailed reminder, there's an easy way to renew by using the coupon on the back of this newsletter. You can also donate on the "Join Us" link on our website: [www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org](http://www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org)

Be sure to include your e-mail address to sign up for first notice of news and events.

We hope you will also consider adding a contribution to support VLT's dynamic conservation work.

Thank you!

# PROGRESS OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Capital Campaign Committee is pleased to report that VLT's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign made great progress over the winter. As of the end of April, VLT has reached 80% of our ambitious goal to fund the purchase of the Tip Toe Mountain property and to fund perpetual stewardship of all our preserves and easements.

And spring has brought an exciting new challenge grant! A generous anonymous donor has not only made a wonderful gift outright, but, additionally, he has made a commitment to match up to \$40,000 of gifts from new donors made for the acquisition of Tip Toe. In other words, every gift from a new donor will double in value for VLT. We are hugely grateful for this thoughtful and inspiring support!

The other goal of VLT's campaign is equally exciting: to build up our stewardship fund. This fund is dedicated to providing the resources to keep our trails in top condition and for monitoring our easements to the high standards mandated by our award of Land Trust Alliance certification. Kerry Hardy, our stewardship coordinator, has been busy with his team of volunteers.

Read more in this newsletter about their recent activities; it's amazing what they accomplish.

Huge thanks are due to the early supporters who have gotten us this far along. In addition, we thank our conservation partner, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, for extending to VLT a \$100,000 matching grant through the Pew Charitable Trusts' Northeast Land Trust Consortium. For every \$2 raised towards the purchase of the Tip Toe parcel, we will receive an additional \$1 from this match. This has been a great incentive to donors most interested in ensuring that the 40 acres around Big Tip Toe will be held as a preserve open to the public.

As we go forward this summer with the final phase of the campaign, be on the alert for notices of the many walks and other events centered on Tip Toe and our stewardship of all our preserves. We invite your participation and support. For more information, please call or stop by the office, or visit us online at [www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org](http://www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org).

*-Didi Stockly, co-chair of Capital Campaign Committee*



*Enshrouded in fog, this lovely cove exemplifies the shoreline near Tip Toe Mountain. VLT's 25th Anniversary Campaign is raising money to purchase this property. Read more to see how you can help. Photo by Kerry Hardy.*



*VLT volunteer Ed Hirst has been busy cutting a new trail for us on a piece of land owned by Charlie and Caroline Pardoe, on which VLT now holds an easement. The trail, which goes roughly half a mile from Round Pond to Vinal Cove, will be open to the public beginning this summer. Photo by Kerry Hardy.*



*Special delivery: Foy Brown and his faithful friend Panda recently delivered our new kiosk to the ocean end of Perry Creek, where it will invite boaters to come ashore and explore.*

## Somebody Who Works for Nothing?

It's certainly true that conserving land and protecting it is not an undertaking that can be accomplished without money. This is why we ask for your financial support above and beyond your dues, remind you if you forget, and ask again in the fall.

Being good Yankees here at VLT, we're always looking for ways to spend less money and do more with what we have. One of our favorite ways to do this is by asking our members and friends to volunteer on a list of projects ranging from trail building to stamp licking. Volunteers make a huge difference in stretching our dollars and making them reach farther. Work that volunteers do is work that our staff (who also volunteer for many hours beyond their paid ones) does not have to do.

Can you help stretch our dollars? There are all kinds of ways: in the woods, on the trail, on the water, in the office. Many hours, or just a few. In the busy summer or the quiet winter. Physical work, mental work, or mindless work.

In 2012, for instance, we got a huge boost from volunteers like Pam Johnson, Ed Hirst,

and Rick Morgan, who helped us maintain trails by pruning, removing widowmakers and deadfalls, re-grading poorly drained sections, and pushing back the usual summer waves of hay-scented and bracken ferns. With almost fifteen miles of trails to maintain, it would be nearly impossible for us to keep ahead of nature's luxuriance through the summer otherwise.

In fact, if there's a trail at one of our preserves that really makes your heart sing, why not consider becoming a trail adopter?

The dictionary defines a volunteer as "somebody who works for nothing"—a bad definition for Vinalhaven Land Trust volunteers. As a volunteer, you are not somebody who works for nothing; you are one among many, working together to protect and care for the land we all love. Please consider joining this body of somebodies who work for the land.

*-Pat Lundholm, Chair of Communications Committee and Kerry Hardy, VLT Stewardship Coordinator*

# Honoring Their Memories

Vinalhaven Land Trust is deeply touched and honored when someone chooses to make a donation to us in memory of a loved one. We asked some of these donors to share with us all a bit of information about these people and why they loved Vinalhaven:

Franci Vinal Farnsworth writes of her father: “My mother, Barbara Vinal Gent, fell in love with Vinalhaven from the time my dad, Calvin Vinal, first brought her home. She steeped herself in its history and in my dad’s genealogy. After Cal died, she nurtured the Vinal roots for my brother and me. She has supported VLT from its beginning in 1986 in memory of Cal, and in honor of all his family (past, present and future). The special places that VLT has helped preserve for future generations are all places she was introduced to by Cal and learned to love with him.”

Thanks to Lydia Sparrow for sharing Edwin C. (“Ed”) Hoyt’s love of Vinalhaven: “Ed Hoyt’s global concern was shown by his interest in the United Nations and

included his hope for improvement in cooperation and care for each other, in national and local communities. This was not just an ideal; Ed saw human welfare as dependent on our care for Planet Earth: broad, long term care; but also immediate and local. For him, the island of Vinalhaven was his and our unique little corner of our earth. For almost 50 summers, Ed grew to learn and appreciate more and more his place and the whole island. He wanted others to see the treasure we have been given as a benefit for the good of the whole community. ‘Plan for and use it well,’ he said.”

Dick Kimball, Jr. shares these stories of his parents, Dick and Jo Kimball: “In the summer of 1936, my parents were cruising with some friends, Alec and Posy White and Eddie and Elinor Janeway, along the coast of Maine. Their route took them through Leadbetter Narrows, where they saw the big white clapboard house with the green shutters, a barn, a boat house— and a ‘For Sale’ sign. It was all too inviting, so they went

ashore and, after a picnic lunch in front of the house, they all agreed it would be wonderful to have a summer vacation spot like this one. My parents forgot about the idea, but Alec White didn’t. Sometime that fall, he called my father and said, ‘I’m going to buy Leadbetter Island, but only if you buy some part of it and build a house which is out of sight of the big house. That way, one of us could be on the island with our family and the other could be back working in New York.’ Dick and Jo mulled it over and decided it was a good idea. A house was built right on the Narrows with a wonderful view towards the Camden Hills. To this day, there are still descendants of Whites, Kimballs, and Janeways on Leadbetter Island: children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. We all love it and think about it all year long. We consider ourselves very lucky.”



## Letter from the Executive Director

*“...and then I loved thee and showed thee all the qualities of the isle.”*

Dear island friends,

It’s traditional, in the spring, to look forward to summer, and in the fall, to look back on it, but I wonder if we can appreciate the true nature of island life if we never talk about the winter.

Winter in Vinalhaven has a quality that has nothing to do with the exuberance of the holidays or the tooth-chattering huddle of the dark times; a quality that flows beneath the grim hanging-on-for-spring and must have flowed there since before the first Smiths and Vinals ever thought of settling here, since before the swordfish hunters first launched their frail craft from the shores of The Reach 5,000 years ago in search of glory.

Like all of Mother Nature’s secrets, it comes in, not only at the eyes, but also at the nose; not only through the ears, but also through the skin. You can’t go get it: you have to let it come to you. It is the reality we swim in, and like the fish in the Chinese parable, we are mostly unaware of the water.

But if you go out to Seal Bay or Perry’s Creek on a winter’s day when the wind is

light and southerly, and close your eyes and breathe deeply, there is a perfume in the air that, I promise you, you’ll never get a whiff of in the Pennsylvania farmland or the Texas hill country. Enchanting as those places are— as are many of the places we go when we’re not here— each has a different essence. Vinalhaven has her own, and she saves it for those who open themselves to it and wait.

There are other glimpses: the whisper of running water deep under the unbroken crust; the intense blue-green that only shows beneath the white caps when the sun is just rising behind you and the wind is howling out of the northwest and the farther shore is dusted with new snow.

In Shakespeare’s *Tempest*, Caliban makes Prospero the gift of insight into the essence of his island. That awareness is the most precious thing in his life.

I’ve been living here full

time for two years now, after visiting on and off for years, and I’ve been surprised at how often people ask me, “You mean you stay here all winter?” All I can think to say is, “Where else would I go?”

And now for spring! Daffodils soon!  
Meet you by the Basin?

*Tuck Godfrey*



Photo: Kerry Hardy

# SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

All events are free and open to the public and are held rain or shine! Unless noted, all walks originate at Skoog Park, which is located off of Sands Road, about 500 yards west of the ferry terminal.

Check out [www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org](http://www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org) for more info, events, and updates.

## MAY

19th, 8 AM: Warbler walk with John Drury

29th, 9:30 AM: Winter moth update with state forest entomologist, Charlene Donahue. (Rain date June 5th)

## JULY

6th, 9:30 AM: Coastal Survey Markers, with Patrick Trainor

8th, 9:30 AM: "Meet your local farmer" farm tour to Hall Farm, in partnership with the ARC and MFT

10th, 9:30 AM: Easy wildflower walk with Beth Gilford. This walk will be geared for those with limited mobility

11th and 25th, 8 AM: Bird walks with Kirk Gentalen, in partnership with MCHT. Bring binoculars, if you have them

15th, 9:30 AM: "Meet your local farmer" farm tour to Sparkplug Farm, in partnership with the ARC and MFT

16th, 9:30 AM: Vinalhaven's watershed and water resources

17th, 9:30 AM: Alternative energy tour, with Rick Morgan. Meet in the town parking lot, opposite the post office

18th, 7 AM: Advanced bird walk with Kirk Gentalen, in partnership with MCHT. Bring binoculars, if you have them

20th, 9:30 AM; June Carver Roberts Memorial

wildflower walk, with Beth Gilford

22nd, 9:30 AM: "Meet your local farmer" farm tour to Long Cove Farm, in partnership with the ARC and MFT

23rd, 7 PM: "Night at the Movies: Sustainable Communities-Island Fishermen's Voices" at the Washington School

24th, 3 PM: Tour of the Vinalhaven Fishermen's Co-op, with Steve Rosen. Meet at the parking lot next to the co-op's gas station

26th, 4 PM: Annual meeting. A brief business meeting followed by our speaker, Jay Espy of the Elmina B. Seawell Foundation and former president of MCHT. Join us afterwards for delicious refreshments, and a chance to meet and visit with the staff, board, and other VLT members

27th, 9:30 AM: "Writers on the Land, Writing by the Sea" workshop, with Penelope Robinson

29th, 9:30 AM: "Meet your local farmer" farm tour to Clayter Hill Farm in partnership with the ARC and MFT

30th, 7 PM: Circumambulation III, with Phil Crossman, at Smith Hokanson Memorial Hall, Vinalhaven School

## AUGUST

1st, 15th, and 29th, 7 AM: Advanced bird walks with Kirk Gentalen, in partnership with MCHT. Bring binoculars, if you have them

3rd, 9:30 AM, Nature walk with Janet Gohres

5th, 12th, and 19th, 9:30 AM: "Meet your local farmer" farm tours in partnership with the ARC and MFT

6th, 7 PM: "The Great Stone Walls of Vinalhaven: What They Are and Where they Are", with Sylvia Reiss, at the Washington School

7th, 7 PM: Author Peter Brace, "Islands of Natural Wonder: Nantucket and Vinalhaven," in partner-

ship with FOPL, to take place at the Library 8th and 22nd, 8 AM: Bird walks with Kirk Gentalen, in partnership with MCHT. Bring binoculars, if you have them

10th, 9:30 AM: Mushroom foraging with Kerry Hardy

13th, 7 PM: Talk: "A History of Bald Eagle Research in Maine" with Chris Desorbo at the Washington School

14th, 9:30 AM: Walk: "The Natural History of Maine's Bald Eagle" with Chris Desorbo

17th, 9:30 AM: Granite walk with George Kendrick

20th, 7 PM: "The Mysterious Mr. Herrmann, an Island Legacy" with Army Armstrong and Cece Girz, at Smith Hokanson Memorial Hall, Vinalhaven School

21st, 9:30 AM: Herrmann Estate exploration and walk with Army Armstrong, Cece Girz, Charlotte Goodhue, and Dana and Noel Webster

24th, 9 AM: Burnt Island hike, in partnership with NHCP. Meet at the public landing at the north end of the island.

26th, 9 AM: Tide pool walk for young children (and the young at heart), with Amy Palmer. Meet at Lane's Island.

Key for partners:

ARC: Arts and Recreation Center

FOPL: Friends of the Public Library

MFT; Maine Farmland Trust

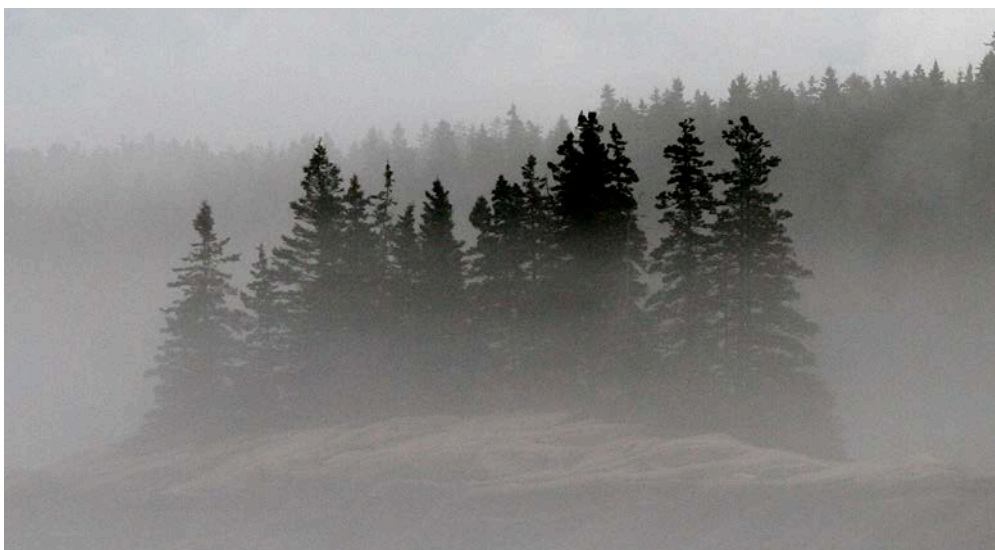
MCHT: Maine Coast Heritage Trust

NHCP: North Haven Conservation Partners



## Photos Wanted

Do you have a great photo of a VLT preserve or activity? We're always looking for photos to use in the newsletter, on our website, or in other land trust outreach. We especially like photos with people and children enjoying the beauty of the places VLT has helped protect. Please send your images to [info@vinalhavenlandtrust.org](mailto:info@vinalhavenlandtrust.org). We will, of course, give you full credit should we use your photo. Thanks!



# Vital Signs Club

## Activities and Outcomes

Vinalhaven's Amy Palmer, middle grades science teacher and VLT's advisor to the afterschool Vital Signs Club, was featured at the March 22 conference of the Maine Environmental Education Association. Amy showcased the work of 7th grade club members Deja Doughty, Jordan Radley, Elijah Bineau-Ames, Andrew Moody, and Gabe Day, as they have assisted the town in tackling the Winter Moths (*Operophtera brumata*) that have invaded the island.

What, exactly, did the club do to help? They...

- researched the life cycle of this invasive pest
- helped band trees to snag females before they could lay eggs
- tracked and documented the presence of adult moths on banded trees
- posted their observations to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute website called "Vital Signs"
- created Google maps of the island to show the range of the moth infestation
- yet to come: taking down tree bands, a presentation to the town, and a service project to help eradicate an invasive species

What's in it for the kids?

- they're solving real-world problems
- they're collecting scientific data and sharing it with scientists
- they get feedback from scientists on their observations
- they're becoming local experts on this invasive species
- they learn to use technology tools to gather and share data
- they experience first hand that practicing science can be tedious, frustrating, exciting, and fun!
- they become stewards of Vinalhaven's precious resources.

We're all very proud of their work and thank Amy for all her "vital" efforts!

*-Munch Grogan, co-chair of Environmental Education Committee and Amy Palmer, Environmental Educator*



*A student applies a sticky barrier to a tree banded to monitor the population and spread of Winter Moths on Vinalhaven. This invasive species targets the island's hardwood trees. Photo by Amy Palmer.*



*When a flightless female Winter Moth climbs a banded tree, heading for the top to lay her eggs, she is trapped in the sticky barrier. Members of the VLT sponsored Vital Signs Club monitored the bands last fall, tracking the locations and numbers of adult moths. Photo by Amy Palmer.*

## Don't Miss It!

Vinalhaven Land Trust's Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 26th at 4:00. It will be held under the tent at Skoog Park. Don't miss this opportunity to hear guest speaker Jay Espy, past president of Maine Coast Heritage Trust and current executive director of the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation of Freeport, Maine. As always, wine, beer and delicious finger food coupled with the chance to mingle with other VLT members, board and staff promise to make this a delightful afternoon. We hope you will join us.

# VINALHAVEN LAND TRUST DONORS IN 2012

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Frederick Reed  
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Carol Thompson's birthday

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*We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please accept our deepest apologies.*

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Questions? Please call us at (207) 863-2543. Thank you! [www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org](http://www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org)  
Please mail to: Vinalhaven Land Trust • PO Box 268 • Vinalhaven, Maine • 04863

*Vinalhaven Land Trust promotes the conservation of our island's significant plant and wildlife habitat, our water resources, and scenic or historic spaces in order to preserve the traditional character of the community for generations to come.*

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CONSERVING THE NATURE OF VINALHAVEN



Photo by Kerry Hardy.