



ISLAND
NATURE TRUST

August 2020
Issue 149



INT QUARTERLY

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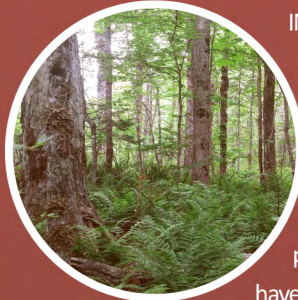
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Dedicated to the protection of Natural Areas in Prince Edward Island since 1979

Lewes: An Urgent Appeal



INT is almost ready to close on our first acquisition of the 2020-21 year – a stunning mature hardwood forest in Lewes, Kings County.

Due to the economic repercussions of COVID, we have lost a previous corporate

commitment for funds towards this purchase and are now short \$15,000.

This 109-acre forest fronts on the Honourable J Angus Maclean Road and contains headwater sections of the Valleyfield River. Site visits indicate the presence of the

threatened olive-sided flycatcher, an insect-eating migratory bird that depends on mature forest edges along streams for nesting habitat. The back of the property contains old growth upland and riparian hardwood forest with a diverse mix of hemlock, sugar maple, red spruce, yellow birch and beech, in a rare, outstanding example of the original Maritime Acadian Forest that used to cover most of PEI, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Please help us reach the finish line, if you can, on this incredible property.

**DONATE
NOW**



T-Shirt Launch

INT is excited to launch a brand new t-shirt series featuring artwork created by local artist Heather Millar. Heather is a professional painter living and working in Prince Edward Island since 2008. Almost entirely self-taught in painting, Heather's work has evolved into her own unique blend of impressionist melded with realism.

glimpse of an intriguing, celestial perspective of the Island, check out professional photographer Stephen Desroches beautiful book 'Images of the Night Sky'. \$30 tax included with \$12 going to the Trust. All available at our office now!

Her style is beautifully represented in these examples modelled by our finance officer Janell MacDonald (Bank Swallow), along with Land & Species Conservation Guardians Michael Salter (Redback Salamander) and Louise La-voie (Joe Pyeweed).

T-shirts are available at \$35 for members and \$40 regular price. Sizes for both men's & women's (also youth) range in: S, M, L, XL and XXL.

In addition, if you would like to enjoy a



Alaska

Percival River



If you ask the average person to picture a bog, they might think of brambles that catch your clothes, flies and mosquitoes buzzing all around you, and soggy feet sinking down into the mysterious mossy waters below. Bogs tend to have a bad reputation for being unpleasant ecosystems – but really, they're just misunderstood! These wetlands are extremely ecologically valuable, serving as water filtration systems, carbon sinks, and a haven for many rare and sensitive species. Bogs form over several thousands of years, as dead plant matter and moss build up into a thick mat. They are like the Earth's giant sponges, soaking up rainwater and preventing floods. They also contain plants that are highly specialized to the acidity, poor nutrient content, and dampness of this habitat type. Bogs are truly fascinating landscapes to explore. One of INT's recent acquisitions in Alaska, part of the Acadian Marshes – Percival River Salt Marsh Natural Area, is a prime example of this. Over 300 acres of newly conserved land were added to the adjacent existing INT Natural Area, for a combined area of over 500 contiguous acres.

This new section contains several important habitats including salt marshes, wet forests, coastline, a sand dune spit that stretches out into the Percival River, and over 50 acres of undisturbed peat bog habitat.

This bog contains the usual suspects – black spruce, tamarack, sheep laurel, rhodora, cranberry, Labrador tea, and leatherleaf to name a few.

What really makes this area special, though, is that the bog is also home to many rare and sensitive species, including several beautiful orchids. During various visits to the property, INT staff have found plentiful white fringed orchids, tuberous grass pink, and rose pogonia.



All of these species are considered to be uncommon in PEI by the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre. Earlier this year, INT staff braved the mosquitoes to install an ARU in a section of the bog. This device is used to record bird songs at dawn and dusk, when the birds are most vocal. INT is particularly interested in finding out if this bog is home to Canada warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) –

Bogged down with benefits to nature



These Autonomous Recording Units (ARU's) are used for recording bird song.

a threatened species which has seen an estimated decrease of 71% between 1970 and 2012 in Canada. Staff will return to collect the ARU in the fall and will then begin the process of data analysis.

Bogs like this one can be targeted for commercial peat extraction, an industry which mines the thousands of years of organics soil development and disturbs sensitive species. Thanks to Environment and Climate Change

Canada and our generous donors and supporters, this bog will provide important ecosystem functions and habitat forever.

Even with all the biting insects, it's easy to learn to love these ecosystems.



Above: The uncommon & vulnerable tuberous grass pink orchid found in Alaska

Centre: INT hopes to record Canada Warblers at the property

Amy Frost—Wicks
Land Conservation
Coordinator
land@islandnaturetrust.ca





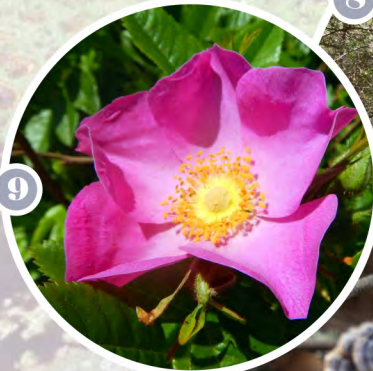
1. The rare white fringed orchid is considered vulnerable to extirpation in PEI.
2. The gnarly knotting of a red maple's bark.
3. These logs were chiselled to a fine point by beavers in the natural area
4. A curious yellow warbler reveals itself during a visit to the natural area in early spring.

5. Small cranberries are a tart treat for both humans and wildlife.
6. The vibrant green of the forest and marram grass catches the eye from these images of the saltmarsh and shoreline with a glacial erratic parked in the water by a receding glacier (Photo's courtesy of Conservation Guardian Denis Gallant).

7. A vernal pool provides important habitat for frogs and toads.
8. An old road leads through the heart of the natural area.
9. A native wild rose in all its glory
10. The fungi you see blossoming on this dead wood is only the 'tip of the iceberg'. The majority of this extraordinary organism spreads its network of tendrils within the tree over a large area.

11. The Alaskan shoreline is wild and awe inspiring. However , it's difficult to venture even just a few metres without coming across garbage and marine debris of some kind.

INT will be arranging a beach clean-up in this natural area in the late summer. See page 8 for details on how to register your interest for this event.



Coastal Ecosystems

Shorebirds, aquaculture & candy

Have you ever wondered about the black bags you see in PEI estuaries? They are used for growing our world-renowned PEI oysters! This method of aquaculture is known as off-bottom oyster culture.

Although these bags cover many acres of open water on both east and west coasts of North America, relatively little is known about their interactions with natural ecosystems. There is limited data supporting both positive and negative effects, but the overall weight of evidence is still unclear. Adverse effects may include increased disturbance of wildlife associated with greater human presence, increased water temperature, and increased pollution associated with lost gear. Positive effects may include improved marine water quality due to the filtering power of oysters.

Estuaries on PEI provide essential habitat for vulnerable shorebird populations and for that reason four (Malpeque Bay, Bedeque Bay, Cascumpec Bay and Orwell Bay) are internationally recognized as Important Bird Areas. INT has initiated research this summer that explores the relationship between shorebirds and off-bottom oyster culture in PEI estuaries. We are supporting an MSc student, Jenna Cahill, in partnership with UPEI and Environment and Climate Change Canada. With the first field season of this project well underway, we are excited to be collecting data that can inform ecosystem-based practices in our near-shore marine waters!

We caught up with Jenna in between field site visits to get her insights and perspectives.

Why are you researching this issue? Why is it important?

Healthy coastal ecosystems are vital to many migratory bird species. We are lucky on PEI to



Dowitchers appear right at home loafing on oyster aquaculture bags in Orwell Cove

host so many shorebirds, and their presence is an integral part of coastal biodiversity. PEI's estuaries are nurseries for the larval forms of some marine fish species, and provide shelter and food for many young and adult fish and shellfish. These in turn provide food for other life including shorebirds, waterfowl, larger fish and marine mammals. We should better understand how oyster farming in our bays might impact on the shorebird population, so we can provide the necessary protection to these species over the long-term. Off bottom oyster culture constitutes one-third of leases on PEI's shoreline and my research aims to find out how this method of farming influences the bird species in the area.

What are your methods?

The field work for this project focuses on three key areas: water quality testing, bird surveys and macroinvertebrate samples. Bird surveys aim to document all species using the area and characterize their interactions with

aquaculture equipment and farmers. We are employing two techniques for macroinvertebrate sampling; sweep netting and soil sampling. Water quality testing is completed via kayak, and we are collecting data on pH, temperature, conductivity, and wave energy. We are

assessing wave energy by dissolving Lifesaver candies at varying proximities to oyster culture. Given the quality control that food products are subject to, this published method is accepted as the least variable, low tech option for approximating wave energy in and around aquatic culture systems.

What were/are you expecting the results to be? What is your hypothesis?

This research is designed to identify if and how off-bottom oyster culture influences shorebirds that use PEI's coastal bays. Because the bays are so critical as re-fuelling spots for birds during long migrations, it is important to investigate bird behaviours



as well as the quantity and quality of their main foods – the macroinvertebrates. In turn, macroinvertebrates like marine worms and crustaceans are influenced by water and sediment quality, so it is also important to follow the chain of potential effects back to the physical and chemical properties of the bays.

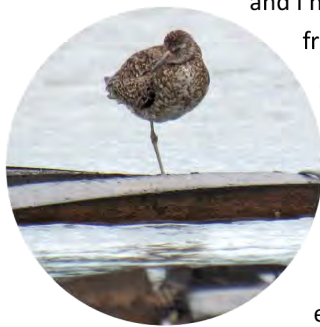
As with all scientific studies, my hypothesis is a null hypothesis of “no effect”. In other words, the study is designed to be able to show statistically that this type of aquaculture has no effect on shorebird behaviour or food sources. If I can’t show that statistically with my analyses, then the data can suggest the variables that have the greatest impact on my results.

Are you surprised with what you are finding/learning? What findings have been the most surprising?

We were very interested to see the extent to which shorebirds are interacting with aquaculture. They are often seen loafing and feeding on the floating bags. It’s great to see how adaptable wildlife can be. They also seem less skittish around oyster boats than they are around other types of disturbance, such as kayakers or predatory birds.

What bird species are you seeing the most? What is their activity/behaviour?

Willetts are probably our most consistent visitor, our “regulars,” if you will. There are many of them nesting near our sites. Despite this, we’ve probably seen the highest numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers or Black-bellied Plovers. Large flocks of both species have been seen stopping during their migration. Short-billed Dowitchers seem particularly fond of oyster bags, with over a hundred of them loafing and feeding on the bags in Orwell.



Oyster cage floats on the water in Orwell Cove

Below left: A willet takes a rest on an aquaculture bag and right another willet sneaking through the marram grass.

Are the fishermen and fisherwomen interested? What do they have to say about your research?

The cooperation from the aquaculture community has been excellent thus far! They have been quite supportive of the project, and I had no trouble getting permission from leaseholders to enter their sites for data collection. They are quite interested in any positive effects their work may have on the environment. They all seem to be environmentally conscious, and of course, the health of the estuaries they operate in is intimately tied to the success of their operations.

What have you found the most challenging about this project so far?

Fieldwork always seems to make a fool of the best-laid plans. I spent most of the winter choosing study areas and proposing sampling methods. Once I got out in the field, however, everything changed. Topography made viewing some sites from a discreet location challenging. Many sites I expected to have active leases were not being used. Macroinvertebrate sampling with a soil probe was impossible in some areas. And, keeping kayaks stationary while measuring water parameters was a struggle! Adaptation is the name of the game, though, and we’ve been able to work our way around all challenges so far.

What are your future plans for this project?

Depending on how the first couple of years go, I would love to examine the effects of aquaculture on the physical properties of the coastline. Will the presence of off bottom oyster culture have an impact on the long-term stability of the coastline? With climate change looming, and PEI’s coast eroding at an alarming rate, finding any mechanism with the potential to slow this effect would be thrilling!



Oysters are sessile organisms meaning that once they are old enough to attach to a solid substrate, they will stay there for their entire lives. Wild oysters are harvested with tongs from dories. When oyster farming first began, the bottom of a marine shore was seeded with oyster larvae. The bottom method of culture is very similar to how oysters naturally live and grow on the ocean floor. The off bottom growing methods suspend oysters within the water column in a contained space that is protected from predators.

Barn Swallow Update

PEI, being surrounded by water, relies heavily on fishing and shellfish aquaculture for its local economy, and there are many small craft harbours along its coastlines. Although associated with the agricultural landscape, Barn Swallows in PEI make use of these harbours too – nesting in bait sheds and other outbuildings along the wharf. Many old, wooden farm buildings are aging and are being torn down, and these bait sheds could provide good alternative nesting habitat.

As part of our Community Nominated Priority Place (CNPP) coastal ecosystems project, INT and its watershed group partners have recently completed a survey of small craft

With Leanne Tol

harbours along the North, East and West shores of PEI. 37 harbours with outbuildings were surveyed of which 11 were found to have Barn Swallow present and nesting.

The surveys were also a great opportunity to chat to members of the fishing community and hear their stories about their small, feathered neighbours. We hope that we can continue to build these relationships and engage with the local fishing communities to raise awareness of local species at risk such as the Barn Swallow, while learning about this key coastal habitat in PEI.



landbirds@islandnaturetrust.ca



Piping Plover Update

The piping plover breeding season is beginning to wind down here in PEI, as the fall migration for shorebirds ramps up. Since mid-April, Island Nature Trust staff have been visiting provincial beaches to monitor nesting plover and record re-sightings of banded individuals. During this time, INT staff recorded roughly 2/3rd the number of adults seen in recent years in the same areas. Fifty-one adult birds were seen in 2019, with only about 30 birds seen this year in the June count. Although this is a low return rate, our fledge success increased from 20 in 2019 to 25 young in 2020!

The Hog Islands habitat helped immensely in boosting our fledge number this year, supporting 19 of those 25 fledged chicks. The Hog Islands are a chain of barrier sandhill islands that span from Malpeque Bay to Alberton Harbour. Two of the six islands were important in providing safe nesting to piping plover. The more isolated nature of these beaches and the freely shifting, dynamic dune structure contribute to their appeal from the perspective of a plover on the hunt for a good nest site!

With Vicki Johnson

As the impact of COVID was felt around the region, INT was able to carry on almost as per usual. However, we will not benefit from knowing comparative breeding stats for the other Atlantic provinces this year. Nova Scotia piping plover monitoring was completely shut down and it was limited in New Brunswick, Quebec and Newfoundland. As the Eastern Seaboard of the U.S. starts to see some real recovery in their breeding populations of piping plover, the Canadian populations still have not been able to replicate the success of their southern cousins.

The timing of this gap year in data collection from the other Maritime provinces presents a big challenge for the banding program, in particular. 2018 was the last year that Canadian Wildlife Service banded adults and chicks on their breeding grounds. The knowledge contributed on migration routes and wintering ground locations has been invaluable. Now, the flags are starting to fade, the birds need to be recaptured and new, better quality

flags switched for the old. With CWS staff largely unable to travel out-of-province this summer season, no flagged birds in PEI will benefit from a retrofit! Twelve banded birds were seen this year on PEI beaches, three of which were banded elsewhere in the Maritimes.



Bands have allowed us to share the stories of individual birds and their life challenges. They also allow us to anticipate setbacks, such as the impact of Hurricane Dorian on “our” birds loafing and feeding in the Bahamas last September. We found out this summer that the plover couple 2K & 2J had a falling out, took up with new partners at North Rustico, but were unable to hatch young successfully even after several attempts. Without bands, none of this story could be told. Fingers crossed they will pair back up to one another next year as it appears the grass is not always greener on the other side!!

The turbulent nature to population swings in vulnerable species (especially those listed as endangered) highlights the importance of

rigorous and sustained monitoring and research. Gathering data over the long-term is crucial to understanding what variables are having the greatest impact. And we can also better assess how adaptable they are. This year, staff noted that several piping plover pair were nesting higher on the beach, into the mar-ram grass. Is this a response to higher spring tides? It is too early to say for sure, but we will continue to gather the data to answer that question in the future, modifying our stewardship messages to match the behaviour of these incredible birds!



plover@islandnaturetrust.ca

Carol Townsend: Life in the woods & fields

In the spring of 2019, a call came into the office out of the blue – one of those calls you never expect. A call which makes your spirits soar and restores your faith in the goodness of people.

Carol Townsend had heard that there was woodland for sale on the Klondike Rd. She said “Megan if you can visit it and tell me whether the ecological value merits, I will buy it and donate it to Island Nature Trust.” A visit to the 60-acre parcel revealed a beautiful mix of lowland and upland hardwood forest. To make the opportunity even more golden, the land sits immediately upstream from the Dingwell’s Mills Wildlife Management Area in the headwaters of the Fortune River.

Thanks to Carol’s quick actions, INT now owns this ecological gem, which Carol named the George Saville Woodland. The circumstances of this donation are unique for INT. For Carol, her purchase and donation made perfect sense.

Carol’s childhood was spent in rural Nova Scotia in the 1950’s where kids were “free-range” as she calls it; she and her siblings spent all day outside, coming home just in time for dinner. Her mother’s sister often took them on hikes. She also brought them with her to listen to Audubon speakers. By the time Carol was a teenager, she had a strong connection with nature built on hours,

days, weeks of unscheduled and unhurried exploration.

Carol’s family also saw the ugliness of industrial development in rural Nova Scotia and the impact it had on wildlife. Her aunt lived near a creosote plant, while the family’s cottage sat across Boat Harbour from the pulp mill; they watched it being built and sold the cottage soon after.

Despite that strong connection with all things wild, as a young woman in the early ‘60’s, Carol was convinced by others that she was better served training to be an economist or a teacher. Women who studied biology in those days (not that long ago) were most often destined to spend their careers in a lab rather than out practicing field ecology.

When she moved to PEI in 1969, first to Summerside, then O’Leary and finally to the southeast near Montague, she fell in love with the rural farm landscape of forest and field. Starting with two Morgan horses and over time having as many as eleven, Carol traveled the scenic clay heritage roads of the Island on horseback. Many of those roads, like the Klondike Rd, were tree-lined and stayed cool under a full canopy of mature forest.

Over that time, Carol witnessed loss of old growth forest, including in areas we now hold dear, like the Townshend Woodlot. She re-

calls visiting Honourable Angus MacLean’s woods and being in awe at the size of the trees and diversity of forest life.

Now, Carol sees the conversion of forest accelerating. Her purchase and donation of land represents her effort to counter that loss. After over 70 years of bearing witness to the weakening of ecological integrity in the Maritimes, she has found ways to make a difference. Thank you Carol, for your vision of a better path forward that recognizes the importance of natural spaces.

By Megan Harris

exdir@islandnaturetrust.ca



News & Upcoming Events

What a challenging but rewarding summer it's been for the INT team! Our Species-at-risk coordinators are busy wrapping up data management for the Piping Plover, Bobolink, Bank & Barn Swallow programs. These vulnerable bird species will soon be taking flight for their long migratory flights South. Also, with last year being a record year for INT in new land acquisition, we were excited to recruit an additional 10-15 new stewards during a tremendously successful Land Conservation Guardian Training Event hosted outside of our office at Ravenwood House on the 30th June. It is clear that we have a group of very dedicated and incredible volunteers collaborating with us on all species & land programs. We'll keep you posted on any future volunteer training

opportunities via our website, social media and the next newsletter.

Although the events normally associated with our programs have been reduced due to COVID-19, we're happy to offer a few activities scheduled for late summer & fall.

Please be advised that due to current restrictions it is mandatory for attendees and volunteers to register prior to the activity via our website events page <https://www.islandnaturetrust.ca/civicrm/event/list/>

For those without online access, please return the registration form on the back of this newsletter to our mailing address or in person between 8am—4pm at 15 Crown Drive, Charlottetown.



Inevitably you will stumble across flotsam & jetsam at our natural area shorelines—sometimes an abundance of it! For an example, take a look at the Alaska property detailed on page 2.

The presence of garbage puts wildlife at risk. Now is the time to get 'hands on' and clean up our coastline.

We will be alerting supporters to the specific venues, dates and time via social media and our website. If you wish to be informed by an alternative method—please fill out the form on the back page.

Locations: Alaska – Percival River, Poverty Beach and more

Price: FREE

Date: TBA

Time: TBA

What You Need: We provide gloves and garbage bags. Please bring appropriate footwear, sun cream, mosquito repellent, hat and sunglasses accordingly.

Max Number of Participants: 15 per clean-up



Join INT for our annual 6 km walk across the mud flats at low tide. We will discuss the rich natural and cultural history of this area while exploring the beaches and looking for wildlife. Geologist, Andy Henry, will add his extensive fossil knowledge to the 'Members Only' walk. This event will begin in the morning and end in the afternoon. We cannot stress enough how important it is to wear appropriate footwear, as the ground can be quite mucky with sharp shells hidden in the mud.

Two dates are available with one for 'Members Only' and the other open to everyone.

Price: By Donation

Date: Tuesday, 25th (Public) & Thursday, 27th August (Members Only)

Time: TBA (tide dependent—morning into the afternoon)

What You Need: Fashion divas look the other way—we only have so many band-aids & they don't stick in water.

Max Number of Participants: 30 per session

26th Annual BENNETT BIRDING Classic Saturday, September 12th

The Bennett Birding Classic is a joint activity of Nature PEI (Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island) and Island Nature Trust and is a great opportunity to get involved in bird watching at any level. The Classic also helps to gather important information on fall species in PEI, while raising funds to secure their habitat.

Also, this years' Youth Bennett is being replaced by a scavenger hunt. Further details are available on the online event page.

Join a team or enter your own and spend up to 24 hours in the quest to find as many species as possible in PEI.

Location: – Multiple venues

Price: Collection of Pledges

Date: Saturday, September 12th

Time: Determined by your team

What You Need: Curiosity and a keen eye

Max Number of Participants: None



Our Annual General Meeting provides a valuable opportunity for you to meet and socialize with experts in the fields of land and species conservation. We will be reviewing the achievements of the Trust over the 2019-2020 year and looking ahead to the next 40 years.

In addition, the winner of this years Hon. J. Angus Maclean award will be announced and presented at the meeting. Stay tuned for details on a walk /kayak at Crown Point scheduled for the same day.

Location: Beaconsfield Carriage House

Price: By Donation

Date: Thursday, September 24th

Time: 7pm

What You Need: Just yourself

PEI Symphony—Tune-in to Tryon



The PEI Symphony Orchestra and the Island Nature Trust are collaborating on a very special event in Tryon PEI this Fall.

Members of the public will be invited to experience live music, visual arts and the natural beauty of PEI through an outdoor multisensory event that merges nature and music! Plans are in the works to have attendees walk along the INT's self-guided nature trail in Tryon PEI while experiencing a changing landscape of blended sounds provided by a carefully curated roster of musicians strategically placed at various pre-determined locations along our trail.

More details to come so stay tuned!



Hon. J. Angus Maclean Natural Area Award—Call for Nominees

Island Nature Trust is seeking nominations for the 2020 Hon. J. Angus MacLean Natural Areas Award. This award is named in honour of former Premier and conservationist, J. Angus MacLean. Individuals or groups that have made a significant and lasting difference in increasing or improving natural areas across PEI may be nominated for this prestigious annual award.

Many Islanders feel a deep connection with their land and have made a thoughtful decision to keep it in its natural state. There are also many groups throughout the Island that have put in countless hours improving and protecting natural areas. June Jenkins Sanderson, President of Island Nature Trust's Board of Directors states "Over 40 years, Island Nature Trust has been privileged to be the support that landowners trust in protecting and stewarding their land. We want to recognize individuals who share our mission and lead by example". The MacLean Award will be presented to the winner at Island Nature Trust's Annual General Meeting in September.



Last year's winners
Helen MacPhail &
Eric MacPhail

In addition to Mr. MacLean himself in 1990, some previous winners include Eric MacPhail and Helen MacPhail for donating their 80 acre Acadian forest in Elmwood and Randy Dibblee for spearheading the mapping of wetlands with scores based on wildlife values for PEI.

Nominations for the MacLean Award should be written and as detailed as possible to allow Island Nature Trust's awards committee to make a fully informed selection. Nominations should include brief biographies of the nominee as well as a clear outline of the work done to protect or manage natural area(s) in PEI.

Guidelines for nominations and a full list of past recipients is available from Island Nature Trust. The final deadline for submissions is Friday, August 28th, 2020.

For more information or to make a submission, please contact us—details at the bottom of the page.

Winners of the Environmentalist Award

In May, Island Nature Trust launched a new youth award sponsored by local Realtor Leigh Jenkins of Century 21 and available to students finishing high school studies at several schools in Charlottetown.

By recognizing environmental leaders in our Island youth, we can help inspire the next generation of land & species conservationists in Prince Edward Island.

Congratulations to winners:

Ashlyn Carpenter of Bluefield, **Vijeta Chatterjee** of Colonel Gray and **Kenzie Whalen** of Charlottetown Rural.

Ashlyn, Vijeta and Kenzie will each receive \$200 and a one-year Island Nature Trust Youth Membership.



Who are we...?

Island Nature Trust is a non-profit, membership-driven, private registered charity dedicated to permanent protection of natural areas in Prince Edward Island. We acquire lands through purchase and donation for protection and help private landowners protect their own properties through legislation and promotion of good land management practices. We also protect species-at-risk, restore lands and undertake public nature education.

Donations, new members and volunteers are always welcome.

Contact Us:

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Island Nature Trust
[@peinaturetrust](https://twitter.com/peinaturetrust)



Member Survey Raffle Winners

Island Nature Trust has grown steadily over the years - in membership, public consciousness and acreage under protection. Last year, the fortieth anniversary year, was unprecedented with close to 1,000 new acres coming under protection as well as a doubling of our membership.

In early June we invited our members to take part in a strategic planning survey. Always with an eye to the future, our aim is to use your feedback and perspectives to build a more robust INT that can evolve amidst the challenges presented by disruptions within society and nature.

We are committed to improving the organization —to better communicate with the public and develop sustainable strategies for ensuring continued progress in land and species conservation, here in PEI.

Four survey participants' names were drawn randomly from all respondents as a "thank you" for spending time in the summer to give thoughtful feedback. A warm congratulations to:

Michael Salter
Fiep de Bie
Robert Vincent
Denis Gallant

Winners may choose from either our range of new T-shirts modelled by our staff and volunteers on the front page or a copy of photography book "Wild Island" by John Sylvester.

A sincere thank you to all of our members who participated.



Board of Directors

Island Nature Trust is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors of 12 to 16 members. Each member serves up to two 3-year terms. Board members also participate in committees that help govern guide the work of Island Nature Trust.

Executive:

June Jenkins Sanderson - *President*
 Jan Matejcek - *Vice President*
 Rob MacKay - *Treasurer*
 Bruce Craig

Group Representatives:

Gerald MacDougall - *Nature PEI*
 Keila Miller - *PEI Wildlife Federation*
 Kevin Teather - *UPEI Biology Dept.*

General Directors:

Mary Acorn
 Patricia Caporaso
 Joyce Dewar
 Jurgen Krause
 Stéphane Le Blanc
 Michael Walsh

Your 2020 Membership Is Now Due!

Please take a moment to fill out the form below and return it to the address above with your membership fee. You can also pay online via our website www.islandnaturetrust.ca Your membership means Island Nature Trust is stronger.

Thank you for your support!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Category: Student (\$10) _____ Single (\$20) _____ Family (\$25) _____

Life (\$500) _____ Donation \$ _____ (Tax receipts will be issued for all donations)

Payment Method: Cheque _____ Money Order _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____



ISLAND NATURE TRUST

Our Staff Members:

Megan Harris—Executive Director
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Janell MacDonald—Finance Officer
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Lyndsay MacWilliams—Species-at-Risk Technician
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Ben Russell—Communications Manager
ben@islandnaturetrust.ca

Leanne Tol—Landbirds Coordinator
landbirds@islandnaturetrust.ca

Amy Frost - Wicks—Land Stewardship Coordinator
land@islandnaturetrust.ca

Event Registration

Event registration is mandatory. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, those who have not registered will be turned away.
Please mark your preferred method of communication with a ‘ # ’

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Event: Beach Cleanups—**FREE** (Please inform me of dates) _____ Bennett Birding Classic-**Pledge** (Sat, Sept 12th) _____

Walk to St Peter's Island-**By Donation** (Tues, Aug 25th) _____ Walk to St Peter's Island-**Members Only** (Thurs Aug 27th) _____

Annual General Meeting—**By Donation** (Thurs, Sept 24th) _____

Interested in Volunteering: Yes _____ No _____ **Payment:** Cheque _____ Money Order _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____