



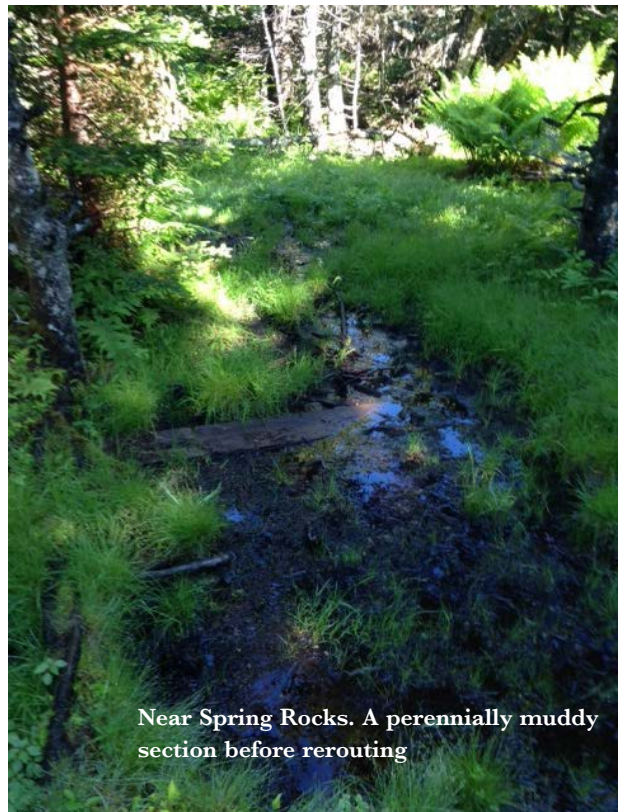
Grand Manan Trails Newsletter 2014

Trails Update - 2014

by Bob Stone

It has been a busy summer on the trails, with hikers both from the island and visiting. But for the those of us who maintain the trails, it has been twice as busy because of the arrival of tropical storm Arthur, which combined with a second weather system from the north that hit the Maritimes heavily on a Saturday in early July. Anne and Jessie had just completed their spring maintenance about the middle of June. So that you will have some idea of what that entails, I will quote from Anne's report to the trail adopters: "The trails take roughly fourteen days to complete. We finished yesterday, with approximately 180 trees having to be removed. This compares to 114 last year. Considering the winter, we were not surprised and even expected far worse conditions. There were not only more trees down, but limbs both large and small littering the paths."

Then along came Arthur. The section of the coastal trail from Swallowtail to The Whistle was not badly affected, with less than a dozen fallen trees to



Near Spring Rocks. A perennially muddy section before rerouting



Jessie, working on the new section

remove. But on the western stretch from The Whistle all the way to South West Head, the tree fall was immense, making some sections virtually impassible. What it really meant was that that entire section had to be redone.

Thanks to our trail adopters, who took care of problems on the northern side, and Anne and Jessie, who once again cleared the majority of sections on the storm-blown western side, the trails were once again brought back to excellent condition.



The middle section on the back of the island may not be totally cleared until next spring, but we know from hikers who have completed the entire Red Trail that it can still be walked. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to bring the trails back to good shape.

While all of this was going on, we also rerouted short sections that were either too close to the edge, or too muddy under foot. You can see an example of the latter in the photos on the previous page.

And finally, many thanks to all our trail adopters, who keep the trails in good condition after the initial maintenance, to Laura Buckley for hosting our annual fundraising dinner, and to all of you who donate so generously so that we can maintain the trails for all to enjoy. I enclose two letters we received this past spring, when they sent their donations.



The Singleton family, our first hikers on the new rerouted section, with Anne and Jessie. They suggested it might be called Singleton Way

Thanks for the trails newsletter! It made for very good reading, with great pictures and stories that bring back fond memories of visits there. If all goes well health-wise this year, we will be able to renew our visits this summer.

Hope this finds you and Judy well and ready for more trail-keeping this year. Please give Anne and Jessie a warm hello from us. We hope to see you in the summer.

Enclosed is my cheque for upkeep of the wonderful trails on Grand Manan

My husband and I, while staying at Cliffside in Maude and Gerald Hunter's cottages, enjoyed many a long hike. We explored all the beaches and wood and bog trails from 1980 to 1993. We also went around Wood Island once and White Head many times.

I miss it all but have many happy memories.



Solitary Adventure

July 25, 26, and 27, 2014.

By Martin St-Pierre

(Martin, a Montreal resident who was staying at Hole in the Wall Campground, phoned me to discuss hiking the entire Red Trail on the back of the island. I told him what I knew about the adverse conditions on the trail caused by the tropical storm Arthur, and suggested that he should probably count on double the length of time it would normally take. I also asked him to contact me when he had completed the hike, so that we could learn more detail about the conditions. After his hike, we had lunch together and I asked him to write about his adventure. RS)

This was my first visit on Grand Manan. One of the first things I learned is that it was possible to hike the entire length of the western coast, the “back of the island”. That immediately sparked my curiosity and I made it a personal challenge to embark on this journey. There is something about being alone with nature and myself in fairly inaccessible parts of the island that made this quest quite irresistible.



After purchasing the map and the walking guide I was given the Stones' phone number. I called just to make sure I wasn't getting into anything too crazy. Bob's pointers and tips were really helpful and reassured me. However there had been reports of many fallen trees and people turning back from hikes. I couldn't let go of this opportunity, so I planned a three-day hike, brought food for at least four, and my cell phone, as there is reception through Maine, and set off.

The forecast was calling for three days of consecutive good weather, so I left my car in North Head and hitchhiked to Southwest Head

quite easily, the islanders living up to their reputation of being incredibly helpful. That did put a late start to my day however, but I made it to Hay Point in good time and enjoyed the many impressive cliff edge views. The picnic table at Hay Point was a great place to have lunch. At one point, near Bradford Cove, I passed a cabin where many trees had been decorated with dozens of buoys, which gave this place a very magical feel. A little way further I met Anne and Jessie clearing the trail. It was a good thing that Bob had told me not to worry if I saw a couple with a chainsaw and a machete! They caught up with me near Big Head where I had stopped to enjoy the wonderful view. Shortly thereafter I discovered the



Stumble Inn, an old abandoned cabin frozen in time and checked it out without disturbing any of the myriad objects left behind, witnesses of the past and of family gatherings. I pressed on and made it close to Dwelly's pond just after sunset where I camped in an open field by the cliff.



After a good night's rest I continued to walk, enjoying the variety of landscapes as the path twists and turns through rocky sections covered in moss, some open grassy fields, fern patches, dense spruce "tunnels", boggy areas, mangled birch trees and charming brooks. I had lunch at Western Head lookout, refreshed and filled up water at Dark Harbour Brook, enjoyed the welcoming wind at the other lookout on the north side and again at the wonderful Money Cove bench. I had come a long way, and although many trees were actually down, they were never too hard to negotiate. Most of the time I could step right over or walk under. A few times I had to go around them, but it was never a problem to find the trail, as there is an abundance of markers.

Shortly after Money Cove I startled a few deer and got slowed down by raspberries! There were literally hundreds of bright red and ripe berries everywhere along the path, I picked quite a few and had a snack. I kept walking, and when I reached the bench near the Whistle just before sunset, I decided to camp there with my destination finally in view. I had managed to walk the trail in two really full days although I would recommend taking three days to do it at a more reasonable pace.

Coincidentally, a few steps from the road, I ran into Jessie and Anne for a second time and I let them know the conditions. I must say I am very impressed by their hard work and dedication to maintain the trails. I would also like to thank Bob Stone, Kaye Small, and everyone else who made this memorable hike possible.

And then I walked out and enjoyed the view from the lighthouse as a minke whale swam by.



Did you know....

that the Friends of Grand Manan Trails have a certificate to present to hikers who have completed the entire Red Trail from Swallowtail to South West Head. If you have hiked that trail, either at one time or in pieces, there is a form at the back of the most recent trails booklet that you can submit. If you don't have access to that, you can request the form at <judybob1@icloud.com>.



Visiting Kent Island

by Judy Stone

Last year, Judy organized a Monday morning hiking group. It began with three participants including Judy, but increased in size as the summer progressed. This summer, the numbers continued to increase so that the normal hiking group usually numbers more than 20. Virtually all of the accessible trails on the island have been hiked. A trip to Kent Island was included as one of the hikes.



Kent Island is located southwest of White Head Island, and largest of Three Islands (Hay, Sheep and Kent). It was purchased by J. Sterling Rockefeller and donated to Bowdoin College (of Maine) in 1935. Nesting Leach's storm-petrels, guillemots, tree swallows and savannah sparrows are currently the subjects of long-term study by the Bowdoin College Scientific Station. Fog has also been a prime research topic; some of the most acidic fog ever recorded has been found here. Access is restricted and only by boat.





Despite one cancellation because of weather and swells, most of the eager hikers who had registered for a trip to Kent Island were able to have this experience. Open spots were filled immediately and 21 of us set off on a beautiful sunny Monday with Russell Ingalls in charge, ably assisted by his brother, David. Anyone who has the chance to go there should seize the opportunity, because it is quite magical. The mown paths lead to interesting meadows and beaches at the south end, and we were cautioned to stay on those paths to avoid treading on nests. Gulls nesting on the way to the southern tip gave us a raucous greeting, which may not have

been welcoming, but did not disturb the picnic on the highest point.



The Savannah Sparrow experiment, (which will remain a mystery for those yet to make the trip), was fascinating and

adults were as excited as the children to be escorted to a petrel burrow and meet the occupant, a chick, whose parents do not in the least mind human involvement with their offspring.

From Russell and the chief marine biologist, Damon Gannon, we learned a great deal about the bird population and the history of the island. The Grand Manan Museum has a terrific display about the "Fog Man", Bob Cunningham, well worth investigating before you go to Kent. The four hour trip was much too short for us to explore the northern area, which is quite different from the south, and a return trip is certainly on our bucket list. Thanks to Island Bound Charters for making the adventure possible.



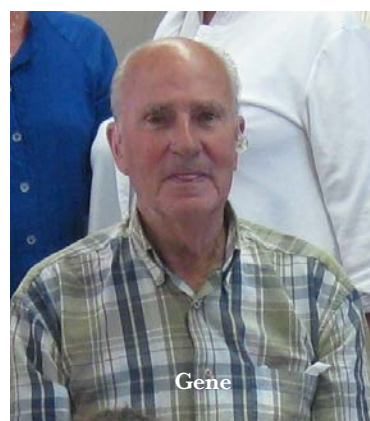
Benches



Those of you who hike the island on a regular basis may have noticed unique benches, appearing like mushrooms, suddenly and mysteriously, in surprising places. We are familiar with the lobster trap style, usually placed by Friends of Grand Manan Trails, on relatively accessible sites, but these sturdy, heavy, log structures seem to have arrived by magic! Below are photos of a number of them, and we ask you to identify the location. The answers are at the end of the newsletter, where we also reveal the identity of the magician who not only builds them, but manages to transport them to apparently inaccessible sites!



In Memoriam



It is with sadness that we say farewell to Gene Gillies and Bob Demaline. Gene has been involved with Friends of Grand Manan Trails from the early days when the trails were being revitalized. He and Cecilia were the original trail adopters for the trail from Deep Cove to Hay Point, and, more recently, repainted the coloured markers that you see on all the trails. From the time that Bob and Joan

purchased their summer home, both were trail adopters and looked after the section from Bradford Cove to Big Head. In fact, two years ago, Bob assembled a bench in his barn, then disassembled it, divided it into portable loads, and organized a group to carry it to the flat area between Big Head and Pandora's Head. The bench is still there. Joan is donating a second bench, the last one Bob made, that is going to be placed on the promontory above Southern Cross, with a plaque placed on it in his memory.

We greatly appreciate their love of the trails and their commitment to maintaining them. They will both be missed.



Grand Manan Trails Adopters, 2014

Net Point - Joanne and Mike Ingalls and family
 Hole in the Wall to Whale Cove- Marilyn and Peter Cronk
 Whale Cove to Eel Brook Beach- Adele Peacock, Janice and Allison Naves, Walter Schenkel and Deborah Harrison
 Whistle Rd. (Blue Trail) to Eel Brook Falls (Red)- Alexis Phillips and John Edwards
 Ashburton Head to the Whistle- Bill and Liz Edgar, John Ritchie, Will Ballantyne-Rice, Susan Price
 The Whistle to Indian Beach- Jackie Rayner
 Tatton's Corner to Money Cove (Yellow Trail)- Marilyn and Peter Cronk
 Dark Harbour to Western Head- Debbie Charters
 King Street to Sloop Cove- Sidney and Barbara Guptill
 Bradford Cove to Bradford Pond- Cecilia Bowden, Peter Hoffman
 Bradford Pond to South West Head- Sheldon and Shirley Cook, Judy and Bob Stone
 South West Head to Lower Flock of Sheep- Maude Hunter, Susan Ballantyne, Ken Bird, John and Dianna Bastable
 Lower Flock of Sheep to Frames' property- Alec and Dyanne Frame
 Frames' property to end of trail- Janice and Ed David
 Ross Island- Nils and Linda Kling
 Above Dark Harbour- Megan Greenlaw, Pam Cronk
 At large: Joel Frantzman, Judy Stone, Nadine McInnis, Tim Fairbairn, Philman Green, John Ritchie
 Overall trails maintenance- Anne Mitchell and Jessie James
 Markers- Gene Gillies
 Signs- Carmen Roberts
 Newsletter-Judy and Bob Stone

Donations received Oct. 1, 2013 to Oct. 31, 2014

Abramson, Ben and Vertefeuille, Jan
 Alcoe, Shirley
 Ballantyne, Susan & Bird, Ken
 Bartlett, Paula & Thomas
 Beachfront Cottages
 Beresford, Doris
 Bierdrzycki, Henry & Evans, Valerie
 Brewer, Gene and Karen
 Buckley, Laura
 Burgess, Scott and Leona
 Campbell, Mary Lou
 Cohen, Carl
 Davis, Debbie
 Deming, Allison
 Duchin, Linda
 Dutchmen Construction Limited
 Frame, Alec & Dyanne
 Frantzman, Joel

Hammond, Betty and Rob
 Hancock, Greg & Ann
 Hawkins, Mary
 Hodge, Frances
 Home Hardware, Allison Ingalls
 Hunter, Maude
 Lawson, Bill and Sedgwick, Sue
 McCready, Chris & O'Keefe, Erin
 McLintock, Mary
 McMillan, Allan & Donna
 McMurtry, Margaret and John
 Morse, Sonia
 Nelson, Paul and Lynne
 Price, Susan
 Ryan, Jody

Shepherd, Neil
 Shoemaker, Helen
 Stevens, John and Sue
 Stewart, Belinda and David
 Thompson, Carolyn
 Thompson, Colleen
 Turner, Mel and Sandy
 Vetterlein, Sue
 Wallace, Doreen,
 Wheeler, Roy & Kathy
 Wylie, Mary
 Zocchi, John and Jane
 2nd Nashwaakis Venturers

Total \$3569
Thank you

Friends of Grand Manan Trails is completely self-supporting, through the sale of the trails booklets, an annual fundraising dinner, the sale of pins, and donations. If you would like to support the trails financially, please make out your cheque to "Friends of Grand Manan Trails", and send to Bob Stone, 51 Red Point Rd., Grand Manan NB, E5G4J1. All contributions are gratefully received, and put to good use.

(Benches, clockwise from top right: between The Whistle and Indian Beach, on the way to Ashburton Head, north of Dwellys Pond, overlooking Hay Point, and above Money Cove. Thank you, Allison Naves)