

**Candidates for Election as Trustees, Monhegan Associates, Inc.
2020 Annual Meeting**



Daniel Bates

Born, almost, on Monhegan, Daniel was a year-round resident of both Manana Island and the “Big Island” for almost 20 years. One of his children was born on Manana, in winter. Starting in his early teens, Daniel worked for Monhegan Associates maintaining the trails and later fighting the Dwarf Mistletoe invasion that killed thousands of white spruces. In 1990 he and his family moved to the mainland to pursue his career as a physician. They maintained a strong tether to the island as “summer people,” and soon after as “fifty-fifties.” They own property on Monhegan and Manana. Daniel’s grandchildren are the fifth generation of the Bates family to play on Swim Beach.

Daniel has long observed the chronic conflict -- including, at times, distortion and politicization -- over the appropriate amount of human intervention in the island’s wildlands. He vividly remembers the time a biologist suggested the introduction of a mountain lion to help control the island’s deer population – a facetious proposal that was nevertheless taken seriously and even debated! “I am eternally grateful to the rational and considered opinions of many Associates members in dealing with these issues,” Daniel says. “I respect and embrace the original intent in our charter. I feel that the community of Monhegan, and the ambience of the Island that keeps us all attached, depends on the resistance to change that the Association enforces. I do not wish for this to ever be capitulated.”



Adam Blumenthal

I first came to Monhegan in 1967 with my family when I was six years old. We soon spent full summers on the island, and the themes that still animate my love for it are rooted in those experiences: the strong village community, rooted in vibrant lobstering, fishing, and artistic traditions; the breathtaking beauty of the Associates-owned forests and cliffs; respect for history, whether measured in decades, centuries, or geologic eons; and the creation of a kind of sanctuary where people willing to contribute to the community in their own way can find a home. My wife Lynn and I, with our three children, began returning to the island 10 years ago. We were able to buy the Wik Wak and begin

restoring it, trying to maintain its unique spirit while giving it the infrastructure to last another century.

My career has touched public service, trusteeships at not-for-profit organizations and many years investing in companies where environmental, labor, economic development and other social-mission objectives mix with a mandate for business success. I’m proud of three companies premised on sustainable forestry and environmental management: one led to the largest-ever conservation finance transaction in the history of the Nature Conservancy, protecting 161,000 acres of the Adirondack state forest while maintaining jobs and community access to the land. Keeping Monhegan’s values vibrant in the 21st century will require a commitment to creative and sustainable solutions – a community needs an independent economic base to thrive, the wildlands and seashore will be affected by new climate realities, and a culture needs to be tended to in order to thrive. The Associates will play a vital role as Monhegan evolves solutions to those challenges, and I’d be honored to be part of the tradition of maintaining the island’s remarkable heritage.



Sandra Mason Dickson

I am forever grateful that Alice Kent Stoddard invited my grandparents to Monhegan in 1920. Since then, five generations of Mason/Hudson/Dickson family members have enjoyed the magic of fairy houses in the woods, marveled at storm-tossed surf, and watched shooting stars in Monhegan’s clear night sky. I have fond memories of MYSO dances and plays at the schoolhouse, church and library bake sales, moonlit cookouts at Lobster Cove with Jack Partridge’s guitar leading our songs, and friends, old and young, who have been a part of our island community throughout the years. Daughter Lisa and I braved twelve winters on the island during which I served on the School Board, ran an art gallery and a B&B, worked for Jimmy at the Spa, waitressed at the Periwinkle, painted with Don Stone, worked on the Electrical Survey Committee, and pioneered residential solar electricity on the island in 1980. I became a freelance writer, led solar energy and conservation workshops across Maine, edited

the MAINE SUN newsletter, produced an award-winning TV documentary “*Yankee Independence: Solar Electricity on a Maine Island*,” and co-chaired the Mid-Coast League of Women Voters before settling down to paint, write and illustrate books, and teach drawing. I’d like to call on my historic perspective and experience to help preserve for future generations Monhegan’s natural resources and “friendly way of life” in our unique community by serving as a Trustee for MAI.



Ian Leavesley

My artist wife Cindy and I fell in love with Monhegan Island the moment we stepped off the ferry 20 years ago. Three years ago, we were fortunate to purchase the wonderful Tam cottage and now spend most of the summer on the island. The cottage and especially its gardens needed some TLC and Cindy and I have been restoring them and adding our own touches. I recently retired from a career in research and development which allowed me to sell our home in far off Indiana and move to Eliot, Maine to be closer to Monhegan!

My favorite part of Monhegan is the trail network and wild lands. I can be found multiple times a week on the trails watching the land and ocean evolve from the late spring through the summer and into the fall. I became the co-chair of the Trails Committee in 2019 and look forward to maintaining the trails into the future. One of the highlights last year was leading a group of high school volunteers from Lincoln Academy for trail maintenance. Most were from

overseas with very little exposure to the outdoors. I was able to give back to them by using Monhegan as a teaching tool for them to gain an appreciation of the outdoors. They are eager to return in 2020. I’m also a big fan of the Ecology talks and think a strong program there adds to the uniqueness of the island community. In 2019, I took over the role of facilities coordinator for the Monhegan Community Church and parsonage. This entails both planning and prioritizing the larger projects and developing a multiyear plan for the facilities of the church and parsonage. Monhegan Associates is part of what makes Monhegan special and I would be honored to be a trustee to help lead both its long and short term needs.



Gerald Vis

My wife and I first visited Monhegan in the summer of 1978. Initially I wanted nothing to do with the place. But my wife prevailed and the trip was made. My first day on the island, I went outside to do a drawing. After several hours I returned to The Influence, where we were staying. My wife asked to see the drawing. I looked at her and said, “This island is just too damn beautiful. I haven’t been able to do anything.” We returned every summer for 37 years and now I, on my own, have added another three years.

It was the ephemeral magic of the island which seduced me irretrievably. As an artist, I took advantage of the island’s natural riches and produced numerous paintings, drawings and sculpture, some about the island, some because of it. There is, to my mind, a tie-in to the island in my prior artwork, which drew upon social and environmental issues, issues having to do with how we humans interact with the natural world.

For me the discovery of an island with such intact natural beauty and a community of people that respect beauty seemed miraculous. So it’s about time I did something about it. I’m not sure how I will fit in. I’m more of a hands-on, making-things kind of person. I’m sure someone will figure that out. But overall, my interest in applying for a Trustee position is to contribute to the effort of maintaining and expanding those activities devoted to the preservation of this rare island, its intimate relationship with the village and its valuable offerings for the visiting public.