

# **POLICY: Management of Poison Ivy on Monhegan Associates' Trails**

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*This policy acknowledges that the Monhegan Associates Bylaws are the governing document for all Monhegan Associates activities. With that in mind, this policy supersedes all prior policies or statements specifically related to the contents of this document.*

## **Objective**

It is the aim of the Monhegan Associates to preserve the natural state of Monhegan's wildlands while providing the public access to our hiking trails. Where possible, care will be taken to provide reasonably safe conditions on the hiking trails and or to alert the public about potentially unsafe conditions through the use of signs. To further that aim the Associates may choose, as described below, to advise the public about the existence of Poison Ivy in specific areas on the trails as well as provide education about plant safety and identification through the use of signs. In areas where poison ivy is growing in close proximity to the trail and poses a feasible risk of exposure to hikers or emergency rescue workers the Associates may choose to engage properly trained staff or volunteers to safely remove and dispose of Poison Ivy.

## **Definitions**

- **Poison Ivy - 1a** : a climbing plant (*Toxicodendron radicans* synonym *Rhus radicans*) of the cashew family that is especially common in the eastern and central U.S., that has ternate leaves, greenish flowers, and white berries, and that produces an irritating oil causing a usually intensely itching skin rash. **1b** : any of several plants closely related to Poison Ivy

## **Implementation**

### **Oversight:**

Decisions about where and when to engage volunteers or paid staff to remove Poison Ivy are to be made by the Monhegan Associates trails committee.

## Trails Signage Construction:

Poison Ivy Signs should adhere to the specifications outlined in the MAI Signage Policy (see Appendix).

## Trails Signage Locations:

- Signs should be placed in areas known to have large amounts of poison ivy in close proximity to the trail where hikers are likely to come into physical contact with the plant.
- See appendix for a map of currently known Poison Ivy sign locations (as of 2019).

## Educational Signage

Signs advising island visitors of the existence of Poison Ivy in the wildlands as well as providing information about proper identification will be posted on the Freight Shed, the Rope Shed and on the MAI cart.

- Signs will be printed on 8.5" x 11" paper, laminated, and replaced each season.
- See appendix for sample poster

# Guidelines for the safe manual removal of Poison Ivy

## Personal Safety:

1. Clothing and protective equipment: Persons removing Poison Ivy must always wear thick rubber gloves, goggles, a face mask, a long-sleeve shirt, long pants tucked into high socks, and boots or shoes that can be hosed off with water. As soon as possible clothing should be washed separately from other laundry, and shoes should be cleaned with cold, soapy water and a garden hose.
2. Cleaning of tools: Tools used for removing poison ivy must be thoroughly cleaned as soon as possible. Pruners and shovels, including the handles, should be wiped down with rubbing alcohol, let dry, and then oiled to prevent rust.
3. Cleaning of skin: It is advised to use a product like "Tecnu" to wash hands, arms, and other areas within a half hour after Poison Ivy removal work is complete.

## Removal Methods:

NOTE: Poison Ivy vines must never be ripped, torn or cut with a "weed wacker" as these methods can disperse toxic resin into the air.

1. Cut Off the Poison Ivy at Ground Level: With shears or pruners, remove all the poison ivy stems you see, and place them in heavyweight plastic contractor bags.
2. Dig Out the Roots: In some cases, if there are only a few plants to remove, use a shovel to dig out the roots. Immediately bag these for disposal. Note: digging the plant out by the roots should only be done

in areas with significant soil depth and where such activity will not interfere with the growth of other plants.

3. Inspect the area: Be sure there is no Poison Ivy debris on the ground or near the trail that may come into contact with future hikers.

## Disposal:

1. Contractor bags must be tied shut and secured with duct tape as soon as they are 3 /4 full. Care must be taken to minimise the risk of bags tearing by never overfilling bags
2. Contractor bags full of Poison Ivy debris should be brought to the closest trailhead. The Wildlands Coordinator or other MAI contact person will make arrangements for bags to be picked up and brought to the ball field for safe disposal in the Monhegan Plantation dumpsters.

# Appendix

## Internal References

These internal references are among the Monhegan Associates' documents that have been consulted when writing this policy:

Certificate of Organization, Monhegan Associates Bylaws:

<http://monheganassociates.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/bylaws2008-complete.pdf>

Monhegan Associates Herbicide Usage Policy

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NmRrjL9l8aTD0e946zGPnvg6Q\\_XJ8dQqWs1vpfiePTA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NmRrjL9l8aTD0e946zGPnvg6Q_XJ8dQqWs1vpfiePTA/edit?usp=sharing)

Monhegan Associates Signage Policy

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/10VJTGm2M-dbsZPH3Intyr5VEqJcSLhRLz914MxMt\\_k8/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10VJTGm2M-dbsZPH3Intyr5VEqJcSLhRLz914MxMt_k8/edit)

List of list of MAI substantive motions authored by Clare Durst 2019.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox?projector=1>

## External References

These external references were among other documents that were considered when writing this policy:

Poison Ivy Definition

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/poison%20ivy>

State of Maine Poison Ivy Fact Sheet

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/gotpests/weeds/poison-ivy.htm>

General Poison Ivy Information

<https://www.poison-ivy.org/>

Articles containing information about manual poison ivy removal method safety

<https://www.thespruce.com/tips-for-removing-poison-ivy-safely-2132618>

<https://www.poison-ivy.org/control>

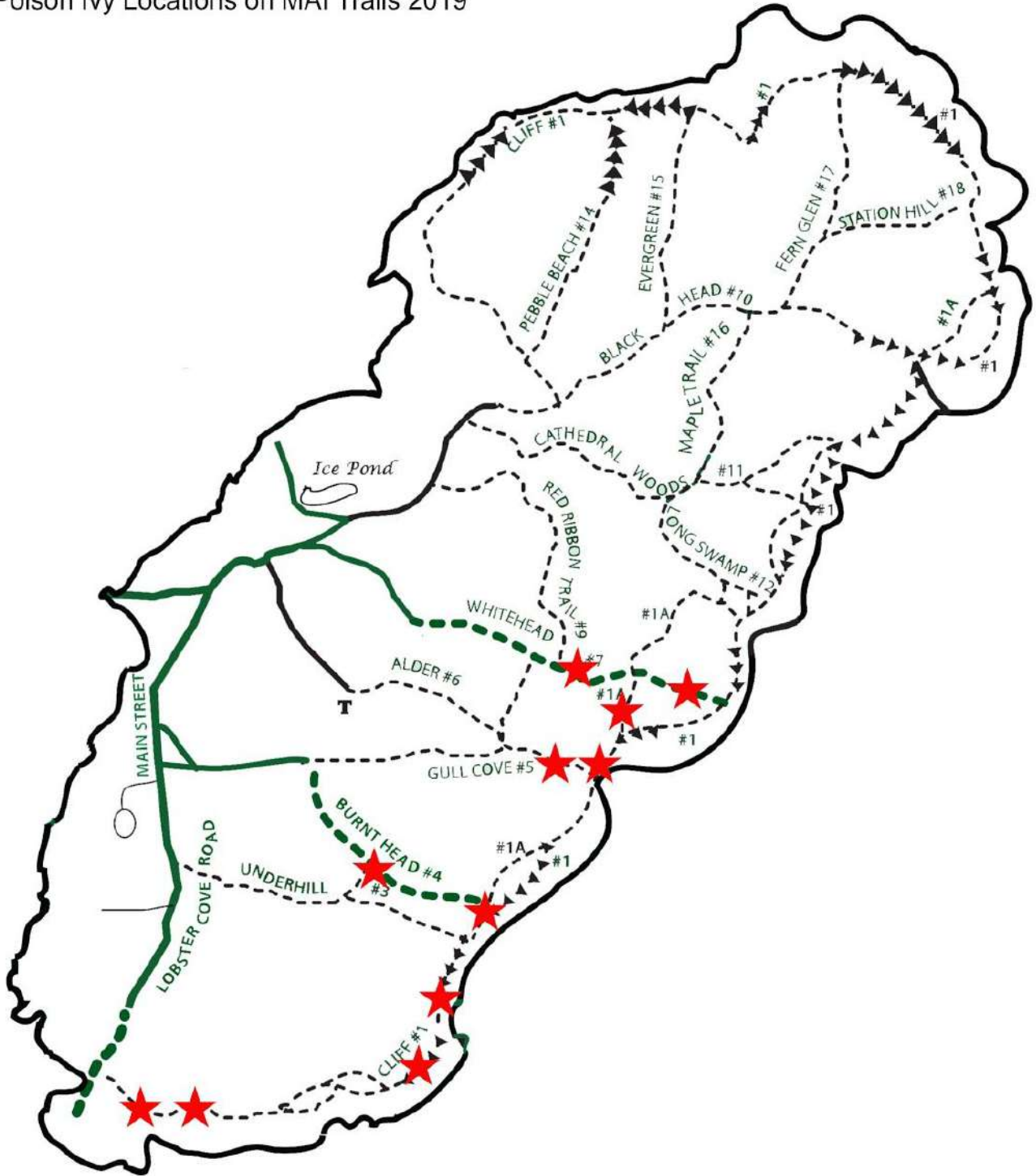
## Rationale

The spraying of herbicides to control Poison Ivy was discussed and considered but decided by a unanimous vote in August of 2013 the board of trustees to discontinue use of herbicides and pesticides on Monhegan Associates owned land and use natural solutions for invasive and poison ivy control. In 2020 a formal policy outlining the ban of herbicide use in the wildlands was voted on and approved by the board of trustees..

The option of hiring a professional Poison Ivy removal expert, as was occasionally done in years past, was discussed and considered but decided against due to the substantial expense of labor (\$50+ per hour at the time this policy was written), transportation from the mainland, and costs associated with providing meals and housing.

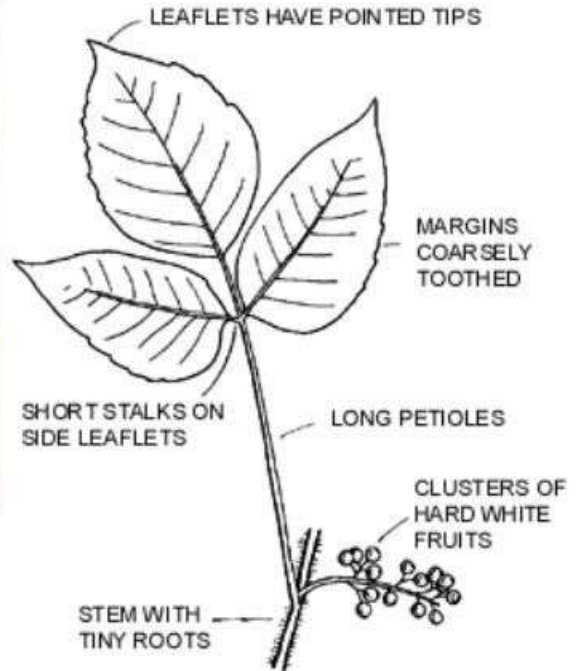
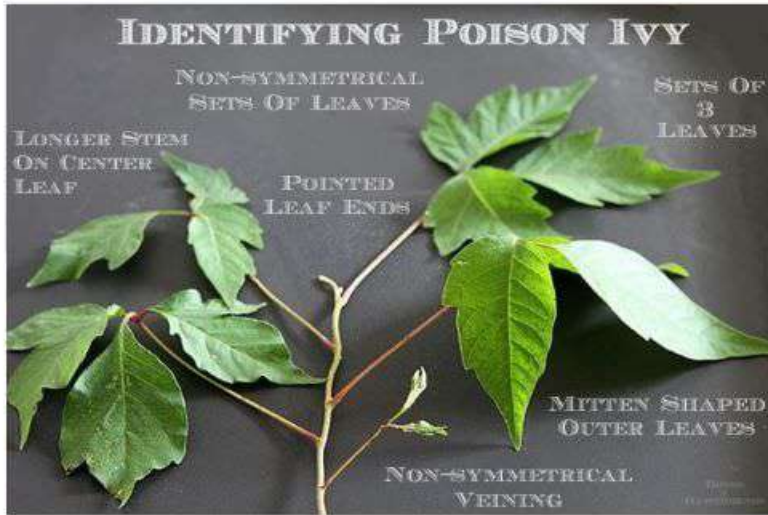
Monhegan Associates, Inc.

Poison Ivy Locations on MAI Trails 2019





# BE AWARE OF POISON IVY ON THE TRAILS



For more information visit:  
[www.poison-ivy.org](http://www.poison-ivy.org)

