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P.O. Box 97, Monhegan, ME 04852 [Monheganassociates.org](http://Monheganassociates.org)

April, 2022

To all members and friends of the Monhegan Associates:

Many of you have already been making plans for your summer sojourn on Monhegan, and are scratching your head about how the time went so quickly from when you were packing up to leave the island last year. This winter was no shorter than last and at times may have seemed tiresome and extended as we continue to struggle with waves of COVID and the uncertainty that rides on their crests.

A number of us have continued the work of the MAI organization through the winter, addressing issues beyond the caretaking of the lands, which thankfully take care of themselves pretty well when we're not there.

### **Cruise Lines to Visit Monhegan?**

We discovered in the fall that National Geographic had planned a number of cruise visits to the island, which would each bring about 65 people. While the Nat Geo cruises are well respected and not much of a threat to the island, concerns about already stretched resources and the high visitor numbers last summer launched a committee in MAI to look into how to best handle the possibility of larger cruise ship visits and the effects they might have on the wildlands and the community. The committee met regularly from December through March, resulting in a proposed policy about large groups of people coming to the wildlands for commercial gain. Cross communication with the Plantation ensured that we are working together on this. This policy is under review by the trustees.

### **Summer Lecture Series**

The Ecology committee, headed by Candis Kerns and Tish Miller, has put together a wonderful agenda of four online ecology lectures for the summer, with topics that should be of interest to all of us. Dates and details can be found on the **What's New** page of the website.

### **Possible Land Swap for Rockwell Kent Collection**

The Museum will be receiving a gift of Jamie Wyeth's collection of Rockwell Kent paintings of Monhegan, and has asked MAI for land near the lighthouse for a building to house the collection. A committee met to discuss alternatives to a land swap or sharing with the Museum for this, and made a proposal to the Museum board. This is still in negotiation so there are no specifics that can be shared at this time.

### **Ongoing Work on Policies...**

We continue to make progress on segments of our land stewardship in the writing of policies that govern our use of the land. Several groups are meeting now to establish three more policies that we hope to vote on this summer. This helps us solidify, and make public, exactly how we govern the wildlands. You can find these policies on the MAI website on the *Land Use Policies* tab. Policies on the table include a policy to allow fire mitigation on MAI land that abuts homeowners in the village, improved policy regarding the trails as ground fire breaks, and the policy for use of our land by commercial groups.

## **Broadband Tower Land Lease**

Last summer we completed the lease of an area of land east of the power station to the Plantation for the location of the new broadband tower. The negotiations between the broadband provider, the Plantation and the owners of the current tower have ricocheted back and forth, so at this time there has been no activity there, but for those interested in seeing the sight, feel free to walk back east of the power station to an area that has been cleared somewhat for the placement of the tower.

## **Science Anyone?**

This spring will see the initiation of two scientific projects on our land: one will be taking place in April and May where we will be testing the use of goats in the mitigation of poison ivy in the Gull Cove area. A second will be a project from Bowdoin College Biology department in collaboration with the students at the Monhegan school, to study tree growth in Cathedral woods using core samples to study tree rings. Both of these studies were reviewed by our fledgling science review board and then approved unanimously by the board of trustees.

## **Volunteers needed**

We continue to need volunteers to work on the trails during the summer months. The weekly trail work volunteer meeting will be Wednesday mornings at 9:00 AM, starting from the tool shed at the island pump house behind the meadow, and we look forward to seeing many of you there to help out with this ongoing effort to keep the trails safe and accessible for all our visitors.

## **Money Does Matter**

In the fall, the trustees approved the hiring of a consultant to help us understand the potential for a capital campaign by the Monhegan Associates to raise money for our work. This consultant worked through December and January interviewing numerous people about the Associates and the work we do. The report from the consultant is being reviewed by the fundraising committee and will then be passed on to the trustees to decide if and how we will move forward with this campaign.

Many people wonder why MAI needs additional financial reserves. Keeping the wildlands looking like we do nothing costs about \$70,000 per year. About 60% of this goes directly back to the plantation in wages and taxes. If the Associates were unable to maintain this land as an island-centric organization, the land would have to be passed on to another land trust by law, one that would not necessarily be controlled by the community associated with Monhegan Island. Raising funds to stabilize our annual budget to maintain the land in perpetuity is the impetus behind this effort.

## **More Help Needed...**

If you would like to be involved in any of the activities of the Associates, we want your help. With only one part time Wildlands Coordinator and seasonal work by the Forest Management crew, we depend on volunteers for all the other activities and seek the involvement of more members. For some of you this may mean adding more financial support to enable us make ends meet, and make it all work. If you are able to help us in this effort, you can find out how make a tax-exempt donation easily at, you guessed it: <https://monheganassociates.org/make-a-donation/>

As we catapult into the summer, I am wishing you good plans to join us in the wildlands and in the work that it takes to protect and manage them.



Frederick W. Faller, President, MAI

*Enclosures: recommended nominations for trustees, to be voted at the annual meeting on August 19, 2022; summary minutes of MAI 2021 trustees' meetings and the annual meeting; your remittance envelope for membership and donations; and a listing of current MAI trustees, officers and committee members and chairs.*