

approved March 16, 2023 by members of Ecology Committee

Statement of Purpose for the Monhegan Associates' Ecology Committee

Monhegan Island constitutes a unique ecosystem. One of Monhegan Associates' most important objectives is to minimize, and to make as unobtrusive as practicable, any control measures or artificial 'improvements' in the island's wildlands, and to see that any proposed control measures that might disturb nature's balance are studied carefully before adoption (because seemingly reasonable control measures have often led to unforeseen disastrous results elsewhere).

The primary function of the Ecology Committee shall be to:

1. Advise the Monhegan Associates' trustees concerning the ecological impact and appropriateness of any control measures or artificial 'improvements' the Associates consider adopting which relate to the Monhegan wildlands.
2. Recommend policies intended to preserve for posterity the natural wild beauty and biotic communities of Monhegan's wildlands.
3. Inform the Associates and the general public about topics of ecological interest that are pertinent to Monhegan Island. Ecology lectures and guided walks in the wildlands can also help provide a public presence to the land trust.

The Ecology Committee shall oversee the collection, collation, and maintenance of records of flora and fauna of Monhegan's wildlands and make this information available to the trustees, other members of Monhegan Associates, and the public.

The Ecology Committee shall be prepared to work with other Monhegan Associates' committees or working groups whose actions would affect the island's wildlands.

To the extent feasible, these policies should be based on familiarity with the Associates' records of Monhegan's flora and fauna and should be informed by reading in the field of ecology and by direct observation of the island's biotic communities – tempered as applicable by consideration of the research and advice offered by those knowledgeable in the pertinent fields.