Marcuse Wetland Preserve

History

In 2008, Drs. Donald and Julie Marcuse made a gift of this 45-acre parcel to Vinalhaven Land Trust. Trails and bridges were developed during the summer of 2017.

Natural Resources

VLT is deeply indebted to our longtime friend and member Javier Peñalosa for his detailed 2010 report on the physical characteristics and plant communities of the Marcuse Wetland Preserve. From his work, we know that over 240 species of vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, and macrolichens can be found on this property. This high level of species diversity is due to the large freshwater wetland that occupies roughly a third of the preserve.

Features

After an opening section of trail that showcases wet-loving flowers like wild violets, blue flag iris, dewberries, pink steeplebush, and Jack-in-the-Pulpit, visitors can walk on a long stretch of log bridging through a wooded freshwater wetland, surrounded by sheep laurel, cinnamon fern, skunk cabbage, black spruce, tamarack, and many varieties of sphagnum moss; with occasional cameos by flowering bog orchids and callas. This wetland forest has grown on top of a filled-in peatland, with peat depths of greater than six feet.

Vinalhaven Land Trust promotes the conservation and appreciation of our island’s significant plant and wildlife habitat, our water resources, and scenic or traditionally valued spaces in order to preserve the character of the community for generations to come.
Size: 45 acres, approximately 15 acres of which is wetland

Trails: 0.6 mile Loop Trail, with 0.2 mile Spur across wetland

Features: Forested trails with benches at scenic overlooks of wetlands, timber bridging providing access to center of wetland, remnants of a very early homestead.

Be Aware: Foot traffic only
Poison ivy in Preserve, but none near trails
Hunters may be present during deer season.

Directions: From ferry, go left on Sands Rd. for 0.4 miles, then right on Old Harbor Rd. for 0.3 miles, then bearing slightly left onto North Haven Rd. for 2.5 miles. Bear left at the intersection with Calderwood Neck Rd., staying on N. Haven Rd. for another 1.8 miles. Parking for the Marcuse Wetland Preserve is on the left, at the foot of the steep hill just beyond the windmills.

When finished, please return this guide to the kiosk at the VLT office on Sands Road, two minutes walk from the ferry terminal. Thanks!