



# Trains, Logs, Moose, and Birds: Building on the Past and Reaching toward the Future with Cultural Heritage and Nature-based Ecotourism in Island Pond, Vermont

*Environmental interpretation involves communicating about natural history, cultural heritage, and environmental issues to visitors engaged in recreational pursuits in a way that is interesting and entertaining. Interpreters seek to enhance visitors' recreational experiences while assisting recreation managers in protecting the resources through the use of interpretive media.*

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**T**he Vermont Landscape Conference considers views of the past and visions of the future, using the paintings of Vermont landscape painter Charles Louis Heyde as a jumping off point. This paper looks at trains and logs in Island Pond's past and their contribution to the area's unique sense of place. It then considers moose and birds and other watchable wildlife as potential contributors to Island Pond's economic revival and sustainable development—development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

Island Pond is a village in the Town of Brighton in the wild and remote Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, a region that encompasses Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties and is currently confronting high unemployment, poverty, and outmigration of youth. The village takes its name from the adjacent body of water, which in turn is named for the twenty-acre island in the pond. This paper describes a collaborative

project between the University of Vermont (UVM) and the Island Pond community that develops watchable wildlife and other year-round ecotourism opportunities in the area, primarily through the use of environmental interpretation media. Interpretation is a key element of sustainable rural community development. Besides UVM and the Island Pond community, many other partnerships and cooperative working relationships are involved in this initiative, including tourism providers, government, promotional arms of government, and nongovernmental organizations.

#### WATCHABLE WILDLIFE, ECOTOURISM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETATION

To better understand the concept of watchable wildlife, let's start with a field trip to Island Pond. It's late May, and we're joining my colleague David Hirth in the UVM Wildlife and Fisheries Biology Program and students in his Field Ornithology course. Camping out at Brighton State Park, we rise early and hike through boreal forests dominated by red spruce and balsam fir trees, among the Yellow Bogs, along various branches of the Nulhegan River, ending up at Moose Bog in Ferdinand. We spot common loons on Spectacle Pond, spruce grouse, boreal chickadees, black-backed woodpeckers, gray jays, and over twenty-six species of warblers that have recently returned to Vermont after wintering in the Neotropics. In their two-week course traveling throughout Vermont and to Cape Cod in Massachusetts, the ornithology students will not see these birds anywhere else except for the Island Pond area. This area has great wildlife diversity because it combines both boreal forests and mixed hardwood forests. Noted ornithologist Frank Oatman of Craftsbury Common, who leads birding tours all over the world, considers Moose Bog one of his favorite birding spots anywhere, and virtually every tourist guidebook describing what to see and do in Vermont and the Northeast Kingdom <sup>1</sup> includes this area.

About midday, I leave Island Pond and drive on a sixty-seven mile round trip, going east on Route 105 to Bloomfield, then north on Route 102 along the Connecticut River to Canaan in the far northeasternmost corner of Vermont, then west and south on Route 114 through Averill and Norton and returning to Island Pond. On that drive, I see seventeen moose. Most are cow-calf combinations, with the cows grazing in the wetlands right off the roads where winter road salt has washed in. Almost all them are near state highway signs warning drivers of moose (including one that says, "Moose crossing, next 14 miles"); it is almost as though the moose can read the signs!

Of course, not just university students and their professors enjoy

watching wildlife. Millions of Americans like to do so as well, and the activity provides a major stimulus to local economies around the country. More than 62 million Americans participated in some form of wildlife viewing or nature tourism in 1996—nearly one-third of all U.S. adults. During 1996, wildlife watchers spent \$29 billion on wildlife viewing trips in state and local economies, a 39 percent increase over 1991 spending.<sup>2</sup> Watchable Wildlife, Inc. promotes wildlife viewing as a viable economic and conservation enterprise for communities throughout Canada, the United States, and Mexico by helping local communities realize the economic potential of nature-related recreation while conserving native plants and animals in their natural habitats. The organization provides these opportunities by establishing a nationwide network of quality viewing areas, complemented by uniform directional signing, and a companion series of state wildlife viewing guides known as the Watchable Wildlife Series. Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy in the U.S. and throughout the world, and ecotourism (including watchable wildlife tourism) is increasing at a higher rate than any other segment of the industry.

In her book on ecotourism—also called green tourism and nature-based tourism—Martha Honey defines it as “travel to fragile, pristine, and usually protected areas that strives to be low impact and (usually) small scale. It helps educate the traveler; provides funds for conservation; directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of local communities; and fosters respect for different cultures and for human rights.”<sup>3</sup> She notes seven key characteristics of ecotourism. It: 1) involves travel to natural destinations; 2) minimizes impact; 3) builds environmental awareness; 4) provides direct financial benefits for conservation; 5) provides financial benefits and empowerment for local people; 6) respects local culture; and 7) supports human rights and democratic movements.<sup>4</sup> Environmental interpretation is essential for educating ecotourists about the natural history and cultural heritage of the sites they visit.

Environmental interpretation involves communicating about natural history, cultural heritage, and environmental issues to visitors engaged in recreational pursuits in a way that is interesting and entertaining. It translates the technical language of a natural science or related field into terms and ideas that nonscientists can readily understand. Interpreters seek to enhance visitors’ recreation experiences while assisting recreation managers in protecting the resources (plants, animals, rocks, fossils, archaeological ruins, buildings, historical artifacts) through the use of interpretive media. The media include personal or conducted activities such as talks, slide shows, guided

tours, living history demonstrations, and puppet shows; and non-personal or independent activities such as self-guided trails, self-guided tours, signs, brochures and pamphlets, exhibits and displays, slide-tape and videotape programs.<sup>5</sup>

#### BRIEF HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF ISLAND POND

Because of its inaccessibility and harsh, rugged environment, the Island Pond area remained a small and isolated community until 1853, when the Grand Trunk Railway line opened between Montreal and Portland, Maine, connecting the grain fields of the Midwest with the Atlantic Ocean. This was the first international railway in North America, and Island Pond, located at the midpoint, became one of the most important ports of entry for rail traffic from Canada. It was a stopover point in the days before Pullman coaches. It also housed a customs and immigration office. The railroad brought jobs, prosperity, and a tenfold increase in population to Island Pond. As a result, merchants and businessmen built more than eight hotels, a two-story railway station, rail yards and repair shops, businesses such as a shirt company, the Opera Block, restaurants such as the Stewart House, stately homes, and several churches. Island Pond was a vibrant, bustling community. The railroad also opened up the timber of the northeastern forests, and Island Pond became a lumber town with associated industries as well as a railroad town. Several lumber mills served the area, and at one point, more than 500 loggers worked in the region. The population of Island Pond peaked at 2,500 around World War I. However, its fortune subsequently shifted as a result of the Depression, diminishing forests, the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway, and fires in town. The railroad declined as well; where formerly thirteen train tracks used to pass through town, with thirty-five to forty trains per day, there are now only two tracks and two freight trains per day. The population dropped to its current level of 1,562, and Island Pond has fallen on hard times.<sup>6</sup>

#### EVOLUTION OF THE PROJECT

Island Pond residents identified lack of employment opportunities, high unemployment, slow economic growth, poverty, and outmigration of young people as the biggest problems facing their town in the 1990s. In 1990, the unemployment rate was 28 percent, and many of those who were employed had to commute long distances to get to their jobs. Nineteen per cent of the residents were living below poverty level.<sup>7</sup>

Community leaders and volunteers in the Island Pond community

contacted the Barton office of the Sustainable Rural Community Development Project (SRCD) of the University of Vermont's Division of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Extension. SRCD provides direct assistance for economic development planning and implementation to communities throughout the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. It emphasizes local decision making and action supported by technical assistance from the university campus in Burlington. Project goals and methods are: 1) to develop community leadership skills by building local capacity for problem solving, constructive action, and evaluation; 2) to strengthen UVM's ability to foster rural development by linking specific community needs for technical assistance with skills and interests of campus faculty and students; 3) to promote community economic stability by helping rural residents identify and implement short- and long-term strategies using local resources in ways that enhance quality of life for both present and future generations; and 4) to promote policies that support sustainable rural development by fostering links between local, regional, statewide, national, and global issues and strategies.

The SRCD project staff determined that the Island Pond community was ready and willing to make the local commitment of time, leadership, and funding to complete a strategic planning process for economic development using the "Take Charge" model. Local volunteers planned, coordinated, and ran the program, with guidance from project staff and some funds to match those of the community. Program participants representing a broad range of community interests identified, evaluated, and selected goals and specific project ideas and gathered information. They also signed up for committees to complete the chosen projects and develop a work plan to achieve their goals. The project staff provided ongoing support for committees, working with committee chairs on agenda planning, meeting facilitation, and identification of resources.

An Island Pond Take Charge Trails Committee recognized that industry was not likely to relocate to their town, and that even existing industry such as the Ethan Allen Furniture factory might shut down—as indeed it has. They realized that recreation and tourism already played an essential role in their economy, and believed that increasing recreation and tourism would be important to the town's economy. They identified watchable wildlife as a resource that they could draw upon, given the popularity of ecotourism and watchable wildlife viewing nationally and in Vermont, and the appreciation by local residents of the wildlife in their community. When the Island Pond Trails Committee identified needs for specific types of technical assistance, SRCD project staff solicited my participation, and provided grant

funds from the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation to pay for materials and expenses.

In my initial conversations with the chair of the Island Pond Take Charge Trails Committee and Brighton Town Manager Joel Cope, they identified several projects they thought would attract tourists to their area: an attractive, multicolored map and brochure similar to one developed by one of my graduate students for the Moosalamoo Partnership in Addison County;<sup>8</sup> a self-guided auto tour similar to one I developed for Green Mountain National Forest;<sup>9</sup> and a Watchable Wildlife Viewing Guide for Island Pond similar to ones developed for whole states.<sup>10</sup>

I explained the costs of these materials and pointed out that a map, brochure, self-guided auto tour, and Watchable Wildlife Viewing Guide were media of interpretation or specific strategies. I suggested that students in my Environmental Interpretation courses at UVM and I could work with them and their community over the next couple of years to undertake a comprehensive interpretive master planning process for the entire Island Pond area before choosing specific interpretive media. They heartily agreed. Fifteen senior and graduate students in the fall semester, 1996, and twenty students in the fall semester, 1997, participated. The committee charged us with developing materials to show tourists what to see and do in Island Pond, where to see and do it, and to tell Island Pond's story. They wanted these materials to be unique to Island Pond and not tied in with other sites in the Northeast Kingdom like Lake Willoughby.

#### OBJECTIVES, GUIDELINES, AND THE INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

The students and I defined the objectives of the project: 1) to stimulate the Island Pond economy through developing and promoting well-planned, year-round, natural history—and cultural heritage—based recreation and tourism, all the while conserving and protecting the wildlife, other natural resources, scenery, and unique rural character of the town; 2) to develop a master plan to guide the interpretation of Island Pond's natural history and cultural heritage resources, and to implement as much of that plan as finances allow; and 3) to provide a model for sustainable rural community development, ecotourism, interpretation integrating natural history and cultural heritage and their interdependencies, year-round recreation and tourism, and a town-level watchable wildlife viewing guide. We specified year-round recreation and tourism because for twelve weeks in the winter, motels and restaurants in the Island Pond area are at or near capacity because of snowmobiling. Community mem-

bers sought to achieve such occupancy figures year-round by diversifying the economy, building on watchable wildlife.

We arrived at these objectives after meeting with community members at an open meeting in Island Pond in October, 1996. For that meeting, following the advice of Joel Cope, we used the term “Natural History and Cultural Heritage Interpretation” rather than “Environmental Interpretation.” Joel felt that because of high unemployment at the time and strong opposition to “heavy-cut” forest legislation, we might raise red flags if we called ourselves environmentalists or in any way indicated that we sought to “preserve” the wildlands in the Island Pond area without allowing traditional uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and snowmobiling.

I shared with community members and my students some guidelines that I always try to follow when working with communities on sustainability, environmental interpretation, and environmental education initiatives. The students and townspeople enthusiastically agreed to follow these guidelines, including: coming in by invitation and using existing frameworks and groups within the community to respond to community needs in a bottom-up manner that does not tell local people the answers but helps them to discover, thereby gaining a sense of ownership, democracy, and power sharing; sustainable development integrating ecological, economic, and social factors; capacity building, leadership, and human resource development; active citizen participation or stakeholder involvement so that those who are most affected by decisions and must carry them out are the ones who actually make the decisions; partnership, collaboration, and cooperation; rigorous research, because good decisions demand good information; and celebration of local culture, where solutions grow from place and reflect bioregionality.

My students and I used an interpretive master planning process that I have developed and refined over the past twenty-nine years on local, state, national, and international projects. The steps in the process are interdependent and often take place simultaneously rather than sequentially. They include: 1) establish your team; 2) define your goals; 3) define your audience; 4) know your limitations; 5) carry out your research and conduct an inventory of all interpretive resources; 6) synthesize everything you learned from your research to develop the topics and theme(s); and 7) shape your product.

#### RESULTS: DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN FOR ISLAND POND

As we carried out our research and met with community members, we generated a list of questions: What is unique about Island Pond?

What is it known for? What are some of its most interesting features? What can visitors do or see in Island Pond? When is the best time for activities, and where are the best places? To answer these questions, we identified features of interest such as: Bald Mountain, historic townscape, train station and customs house, Island Pond Lake, Spectacle Pond, moose licks, wetlands, Moose Bog, deer wintering yards, and miles of snowmobile trails. We then proceeded to identify superlatives and unusual features of the area, which included: some of the finest birding in Vermont; some of the best moose habitat in Vermont; some of Vermont's most outstanding wetlands; the biggest deeryard in Vermont (twelve per cent of the town area); eighty-five percent of the town is forested; Island Pond is the site of the first international railroad junction in the U.S.; and it is the snowmobile capital of Vermont.

We next identified major interpretive topics, including: the Northern Forest; the Nulhegan Basin; specific sites such as Island Pond Lake, Bluff Mountain, McConnell Pond, Nulhegan River, Clyde River, and Wenlock Wildlife Management Area; natural history; boreal forest; bogs and other wetlands; moose; birds (spruce grouse, loons, gray jay, black-backed woodpecker, boreal chickadee, warblers); winter deer yards; forest history and forestry today; railroad history; and two dozen outdoor sports activities. In one of the most important steps in the entire interpretive planning process, we selected our theme (which some might argue is really three separate themes): Island Pond has a rich diversity of natural resources which provide amazing wildlife biodiversity; a rich railroad and timber history; and an expansive trail system that provides an opportunity for residents and tourists alike to enjoy a wide range of outdoor recreation and sports activities. Further discussion indicated that Island Pond is a unique spot for people seeking a setting with the following characteristics: picturesque, quiet, wild, remote, small scale, friendly, rural; with a maze of back roads, both paved and dirt, to explore by hiking, biking, or motor vehicles; paradise for sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts.

We then developed three main categories of recommendations relating to media for interpreting that theme: 1) market Island Pond to ecotourists by selecting a logo (e.g., moose and snowmobiler) and tag lines (e.g., "Snowmobile Capital of Vermont" and "Gateway to the Vast Northern Forest"); developing a map and brochure covering the relevant activities and developing a newsletter that includes information on upcoming events to attract return visitors; 2) retain, enhance, and promote existing interpretive media in the area such as the Island Pond Historical Society Museum in the train station; scenic boat cruises on Island Pond Lake; the self-guided trail, auto tour guides,

nature center, and summertime conducted activities at Brighton State Park; interpretive signs along the boardwalk at Mollie Beattie Bog; the description of Moose Bog in numerous nature books and travel guides to Vermont and the Northeast Kingdom;<sup>11</sup> references to two sites in the *Vermont Wildlife Viewing Guide: Wenlock Wildlife Management Area and Route 114*;<sup>12</sup> videotape programs: *Island Pond Remembers*<sup>13</sup> and *Nature Scene*;<sup>14</sup> and 3) develop new interpretive media (e.g., Island Pond Visitor Center in Tanguay Building with a theater or auditorium, large map, raised relief model of the Nulhegan Basin, flatware, and exhibits; a sign on the shore of Island Pond Lake; self-guiding hiking trail up Bluff Mountain; self-guided auto tours north on Route 114 toward Norton and east on Route 105 toward Bloomfield; brochure or information sheet on birding in the Island Pond vicinity; self-guided trail and signs at Moose Bog; and tourist train rides).

We also developed a series of additional recommendations for carrying out this entire project. These included: 1) determine the limits of acceptable change; 2) monitor indicator species; 3) in developing media, steer away from rare, threatened, or endangered species; 4) develop a protocol or ethical guidelines for proper behavior by tourists because ecotourism involves responsible travel (e.g., respect private property rights, protect wildlife and observe wildlife responsibly, practice conservation, responsible stewardship, and minimal impact); 5) monitor participant activities and tourism impacts over all four seasons where possible; 6) encourage ecotourists to make contributions for natural area protection and cultural heritage preservation in Island Pond; and 7) seek partnerships and cooperative working relationships among government, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations. Such recommendations recognize that ecotourism can be an important community development strategy. Tourists want to get off the beaten path and have education-enhanced travel. Ecotourism can bring about economic benefits, where local residents and landowners gain direct monetary benefits, while at the same time protecting and conserving their natural and cultural heritage. But it is also a double-edged sword, and it is important that Island Pond balance competing uses and protect its precious resources from overuse.

Students from the two Environmental Interpretation classes implemented parts of the Interpretive Master Plan for the Island Pond Area by developing interpretive media: 1) a sign installed at Island Pond Lake; 2) a self-guided trail on natural history and cultural heritage for Bluff Mountain; 3) a self-guided auto trail featuring moose; 4) a self-guided auto trail featuring birds; and 5) a self-guided trail for Moose

Bog.<sup>15</sup> In addition, we developed prototypes of exhibits or displays proposed for the Welcome Center in Tanguay House on such topics as: 1) General Information on Things to See and Do, Places to Stay and Eat, etc., in Island Pond; 2) The Boreal Forest; 3) Geology of the Island Pond Area; 4) Vermont's Finest Birding; 5) Island Pond is Moose Country; 6) The Wonders of Island Pond's Wetlands; 7) Beavers; 8) Cooperation in Managing the Rich Natural Resources of Island Pond; 9) Biggest Deeryard in Vermont; 10) Forestry and the Island Pond Economy; 11) Grand Trunk Railway; 12) Island Pond: Paradise for Outdoor Enthusiasts; and 13) Island Pond: Snowmobile Capital of Vermont.

When I presented the final draft of the Interpretive Plan for the Island Pond Area to the Brighton selectboard (including a budget with suggested funding sources and a proposed timetable), I made sure to note some of its limitations. For example, we recognized that not everyone in town favors the goal of attracting ecotourists to Island Pond. While respecting those sentiments, our planning documents reflected our perception of majority views. And while we made efforts to solicit points of view across the spectrum of the community, only ten residents showed up at the open community meeting called for that purpose. To what extent do ten people represent the visions, goals, and aspirations of a community of 1,562? We did rely on a community profile conducted a few years earlier<sup>16</sup> to shape our assessment of both overall popular attitudes and natural resources, but the question of representativeness remains. We know little about the target audience we're trying to attract, and therefore made assumptions. Our planning team lacked certain specialists (landscape architect, graphic designer, local artist) whose input from the beginning would have been valuable. Finally, we had limited time to carry out site analysis, inventory work, and interviews with a diverse array of stakeholders with different interests and perspectives. These are all liabilities in a process that requires the building of trust and social capital.

Our project ended up with several interesting questions or unresolved issues. Are moose hunting and moose watching (and watchable wildlife generally) compatible? Are snowmobiling and watchable wildlife compatible? Are unsustainable forestry practices and watchable wildlife compatible? Who from the Island Pond Take Charge Trails Committee will follow up and "take charge"? Will they succeed in raising funds to completely implement the Interpretive Master Plan? Two of the most active participants—both business leaders—stand to benefit the most if ecotourism takes off in Island Pond. Often business leaders who stand to gain are more progrowth than other residents. Is that the case in Island Pond? What is the future of Champion International's lands?

The final question has since been answered. In 2000, Champion International Corporation sold 300,000 acres in Vermont, New York, and New Hampshire, including 133,000 acres in the Northeast Kingdom. The Conservation Fund of Arlington, Virginia, working in partnership with Vermont Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and others, purchased and resold the 133,000 acres of land in Vermont for \$26.5 million. The State of Vermont contributed \$4.5 million for 22,000 acres, which are now managed as the West Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The federal government purchased 26,000 acres as part of the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge. And the remaining 85,000 acres were sold to a private landowner (William Merck of Essex Timber) for logging, subject to certain limits and on the condition that the land remain open to recreational uses. Extensive inventory work is being carried out on all the properties, and a joint committee representing all the various stakeholders is working on a management plan for the entire Champion Lands project. That plan calls for a vast working forest, large areas managed for early successional forest, including many game species, and a 12,500-acre core ecological reserve (West Mountain Reserve) where mature forests provide habitat for game and ideal conditions for many nongame species—all with guaranteed public access. Even though public access on all the former Champion lands is guaranteed and sustainable timber management is assured on the 85,000 acres of privately owned timberlands, a vocal minority of citizens has called the core ecological reserve into question, claiming that it threatens the traditional Northeast Kingdom “hunting camp” way of life.

#### CONCLUSION

Was this project an unqualified success? Are there now many more ecotourists flocking to Island Pond to appreciate its railroad and logging history and to watch the abundant wildlife? Have these ecotourists provided an infusion of money into the Island Pond economy and allowed the youth of the village to stay and find meaningful employment in ecotourism-related industries? Unfortunately, there is still no Welcome Center at the Tanguay House, and most of the interpretive media my students developed have not been professionally printed and made available for distribution. This was the last of the McConnell Foundation projects to be implemented; we started up several years after the Island Pond Take Charge Committee had begun, and that hiatus did not help. Also, we did not follow one of our own key guidelines: we did not empower local leaders who would follow through on this project, by writing grants to secure funds to implement the recommen-

dations such as a Welcome Center, and by overseeing the various tasks once the UVM participants bowed out. We are still hopeful that much of the work and many of the ideas that went into this project will be used by the various stakeholders in the joint planning efforts currently taking place. Also, we are encouraged by Businesses for the Northern Forest's recent challenge grant to an Island Pond Recreation Committee to develop a recreation map and business directory and to a Lakefront Committee to plan a welcome center, and hope that both groups will be able to build on our work.

The economy of Vermont's rural Northeast Kingdom in the latter half of the twentieth century has predominantly been an "exit" economy, in which financial capital leaves, human capital (especially the young) leaves, and ecological capital leaves (mostly in the form of raw trees bound for mills in New Hampshire, Canada, or Asia). Time will tell whether our initiative helps draw more tourists to the Island Pond community and helps it keep more of its money, jobs, youth, and trees at home. Time will also tell whether the community adequately monitors and holds in check ecotourism-stimulating developments which have destroyed or diminished the recreational experience and the resource base in all too many other places. Island Pond is already a gateway community to the Northern Forest for snowmobiling during the winter months, and if it becomes a gateway for year-round ecotourism, it is important that planning safeguards are in place so that it does not become a sprawling, out-of-control community like Gatlinburg, Tennessee, Estes Park, Colorado, or West Yellowstone, Wyoming.<sup>17</sup> Some of our major recommendations address that goal, by emphasizing the importance of maintaining the delicate balance between promoting the economy via well-planned ecotourism and watchable wildlife viewing on the one hand, and preservation of Island Pond's unique rural character and resources and protection of what local residents say they value on the other hand, without losing control to outsiders. Ecotourism is not a panacea for Island Pond's economic problems, but rather should be viewed as one component of a diversified economic growth plan.

There are some similarities between our goals and approaches in this project and those of nineteenth-century Vermont landscape painter Charles Louis Heyde. Our interpretation of Island Pond's special natural resources and railroad and lumber history seeks to portray the area's unique sense of place, just as Heyde captured the distinctive sense of place of the beautiful, picturesque landscapes he depicted. Mountains (especially Bluff Mountain), rivers (especially the Nulhegan and Clyde), and lakes and ponds (especially Island Pond Lake and Spectacle Pond), and such natural features as trees, moose, and birds

are some of our subjects. Heyde painted similar subjects. When we began this project, the population of Island Pond was beginning to decline as young people outmigrated; when Heyde came to Vermont in 1852, the landscapes he painted were being depopulated. We sought to balance our interpretation of wild natural areas (especially wetlands) in the Island Pond area with working landscapes that support tourism, just as Heyde balanced the themes of wilderness and working agricultural landscapes. In our project, we constantly experienced tensions between old and new residents, local residents and tourists, rural and urban dwellers, and people with different visions, especially regarding use of the former Champion lands. Heyde, undoubtedly, also experienced tensions between people regarding the landscape. In the catalog accompanying the Heyde exhibit at the Fleming Museum, Nancy Graff and Thomas Pierce illustrate the similarities of the work of the landscape artist and the environmental interpreter when observing that “the pastoral landscape on which Heyde cast a romantic eye has come to be viewed in the Twentieth Century as a national icon of Arcadia. That is at least one reason his work continues to interest us and his landscapes are today much sought after. . . . This exhibition may serve as a mandate to seek and preserve those remaining precious pieces of the pastoral idyll that still exist. For . . . we all own this landscape. The Ultimate Masterpiece is there before our eyes, if only in smaller and smaller frames, for us to glimpse briefly as we hurtle along the paved highways of the Twenty-first Century, further and further from Heyde’s bucolic Eden.”<sup>18</sup>

## NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> Walter G. Ellison, “Island Pond Region,” in *A Guide to Bird Finding in Vermont* (Woodstock, Vt.: Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 1983), 92–98; Gary Ferguson, “Moose Bog,” in *Walks of New England* (New York City: Prentice Hall, 1989), 241–244; Ferguson, “Walk #44: Moose Bog,” in *New England Walks* (Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum, 1995), 135–138; Stephen Kulik, Pete Salmonsohn, Matthew Schmidt, and Heidi Welch, “Moose Bog,” in *The Audubon Society Field Guide to the Natural Places of the Northeast: Inland* (New York City: Pantheon, 1984), 120–124; Larry Pletcher, “Wenlock Wildlife Management Area, Moose Bog,” in *Hiking Vermont* (Helena, Mont.: Falcon, 1996), 189–192; Barbara Radcliffe Rogers and Stillman Rogers, “Northeast Kingdom Nature Trail,” in *Natural Wonders of Vermont*. (Oaks, Penn.: Country Roads, 1996), 47–54.

<sup>2</sup> Watchable Wildlife, Inc. <http://www.watchablewildlife.org/>

<sup>3</sup> Martha Honey, *Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Who Owns Paradise?* (Washington, DC.: Island Press, 1999), 22–25.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Sam H. Ham, *Environmental Interpretation: A Practical Guide for People with Big Ideas and Small Budgets* (Golden, Colo.: North American Press, 1992).



<sup>6</sup> Island Pond Historical Society, *Island Pond Remembers* (videotape). (Island Pond, Vt.: Island Pond Historical Society, 1992).

<sup>7</sup> UVM Natural Resource Planning Graduate Program. 1995. "Brighton Town Plan Recommendations." Burlington, Vt.

<sup>8</sup> Emily Cohen and Dan Coker, "Moosalamoo, Vermont" (brochure with map). (Addison County, Vt.: Moosalamoo Partnership, 1994).

<sup>9</sup> Thomas R. Hudspeth, *The Story Behind the Stump: Self-Guided Auto Tour of Green Mountain National Forest* (Rutland, Vt.: Green Mountain National Forest, 1992).

<sup>10</sup> Cindy Kilgore Brown, *Vermont Wildlife Viewing Guide* (Helena, Mont.: Falcon, 1994).

<sup>11</sup> Walter G. Ellison, "Island Pond Region," in *A Guide to Bird Finding in Vermont*, 92–98; Gary Ferguson, "Moose Bog," in *Walks of New England*, 241–244; Ferguson, "Walk #44: Moose Bog," in *New England Walks* (Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum, 1995), 135–138; Stephen Kulik, Pete Salmonsohn, Matthew Schmidt, and Heidi Welch, "Moose Bog," in *The Audubon Society Field Guide to the Natural Places of the Northeast: Inland*, 120–124; Larry Pletcher, "Wenlock Wildlife Management Area, Moose Bog," in *Hiking Vermont*, 189–192; Barbara Radcliffe Rogers and Stillman Rogers, "Northeast Kingdom Nature Trail," in *Natural Wonders of Vermont*, 47–54.

<sup>12</sup> Brown, *Vermont Wildlife Viewing Guide*.

<sup>13</sup> Island Pond Historical Society, *Island Pond Remembers*.

<sup>14</sup> South Carolina ETV, *Northeast Kingdom* (filmed 4 November 1994) as part of *Nature Scene* (videotape with Naturalist Rudy Mancke). (Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina ETV, 1994).

<sup>15</sup> UVM Environmental Interpretation Class. 1996. "Interpretive Media to Accompany Draft of Interpretive Master Plan for Island Pond, Vermont." Burlington, Vt.; UVM Environmental Interpretation Class. 1997. "Interpretive Media for Island Pond, Vermont." Burlington, Vt.

<sup>16</sup> UVM Natural Resource Planning Graduate Program. 1995. "Brighton Town Plan Recommendations."

<sup>17</sup> Jim Howe, Ed McMahon, and Luther Propst, *Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1997).

<sup>18</sup> Nancy Price Graff and E.Thomas Pierce, *Charles Louis Heyde: Nineteenth-Century Vermont Landscape Painter* (Burlington, Vt.: Robert Hull Fleming Museum, UVM. 2001).