

ISLAND  
JOURNAL  
WAYPOINTS 1984-2009

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## DEDICATION



### BETSY AND ANDREW WYETH

We dedicate this special 25<sup>th</sup> issue of *Island Journal* to Betsy and Andy Wyeth who were among the first founding members of the Island Institute as well as the inspiration behind *Island Journal*. Their creative vision, which was encoded in the DNA of the first *Island Journal*, and later in *The Working Waterfront*, was grounded in a view of the islands as traditional outposts of a self-sufficient way of life, as opposed to the use of Maine's islands as casual summer playgrounds.

Many of the ideas that shaped the early days of the Institute were hammered out on the stony anvils of Allen and Benner islands, where Andy and Betsy spent much of the last quarter of a century of their lives together. Andy was initially skeptical of Betsy's efforts to reclaim these two islands from the feral landscapes they had become after Allen and Benner's year-round community of 80 had moved ashore a half-century before Betsy bought Allen in 1979. Walt Anderson, Andy's great friend in Port Clyde, used to call Allen Island "Betsy's Folly," to Andy's immense delight.

Andy was attracted to the island's raw, sometimes brutal undercurrents, a view that was usually in dynamic tension with Betsy's more pastoral instincts to settle and tame island landscapes that served

as her "canvases." Island shores, in Andy's paintings, were places of chaotic beauty, where violent seas ravaged the shoreline and pirate lobstermen hauled each other's lobster traps under the cover of darkness. While Betsy built island ponds that attracted migrant waterfowl, Andy painted the predators of island seabirds attracted to those ponds. While Betsy cleared island forests to reestablish an island village, Andy disappeared into their dark interiors to find places where ravens hoarded their secret stashes. It is a testament to their undying love that such titanicly opposing views could be contained in the confines of their highly embounded island worlds.

To the extent that the Island Institute was complicit with Betsy's pastoral instincts, the Institute was also subject to Andy's occasional ambivalence. Betsy helped build organizations; Andy avoided them at all costs.

As to their enthusiasm for *Island Journal*, however, they never wavered. They not only supported *Island Journal's* initial launch 25 years ago with a generous donation that jump-started its production, but they also made it a better publication every year thereafter because we knew their sharp eyes were watching.

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