
Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, 2018



*Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay
has a new website!*

OCEANSIDECONSERVATIONTRUST.ORG

Oceanside Conservation Trust has a new website! Our new site, coordinated with help from Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative and under the guidance of **Eric Handley** (recently retired OCT board member), was designed by Ceiling Sky. This improved site is more streamlined and allows for easier management. In addition to our mission statement and background information, we are now able to share descriptions and pictures of each OCT property, with a map of all land holdings. Our educational resource link provides information on invasive species, Lyme disease, and connections to other local conservation groups. We are able to highlight news and events such as annual meeting reservations and spring monitoring notifications. Information on how to set up a conservation easement can also be found under the “What We Do” tab. One of the most exciting new features is the ease with which you can now support OCT. With the click of a link, you can become a member, donate with a one-time or recurring option, contact us regarding volunteer opportunities, join our mailing list, and share with any who may be interested in our work.



COLLEGE ISLAND

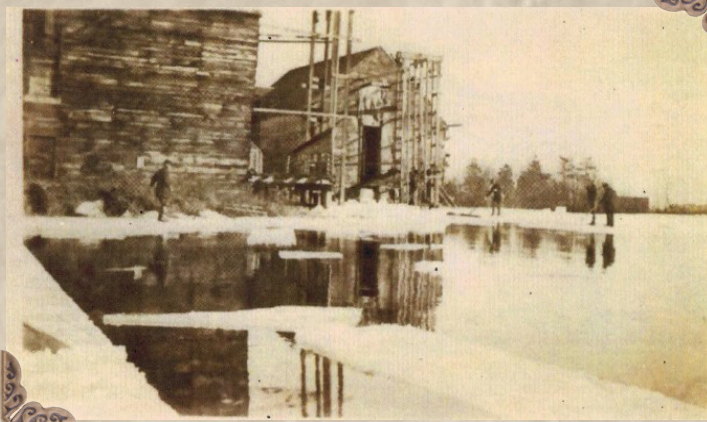
OCT's ANNUAL MEETING



The Ice Pond on Peaks Island, owned by Peaks Island Land Preserve (PILP), was the site of the 36th Annual Meeting of Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay on Wednesday, August 1st. We invited members and islanders to join us at this beautiful property near OCT's shoreline holdings of Echo Pond, Skillings Woods, and the Daveis Sanctuary for a late afternoon swim, picnic, or bike ride before the meeting. Rain or shine, we said. Well, it rained. Nevertheless, a hardy group gathered under umbrellas at Peaks Island Land Preserve's community skating and conservation asset. We viewed the new Ice Pond Dam under construction, listened to our guest speaker, Reta Morrill, and celebrated OCT's conservation efforts.

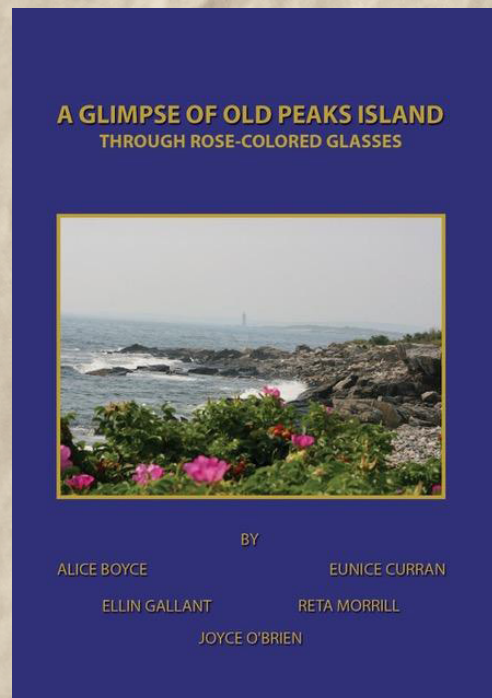
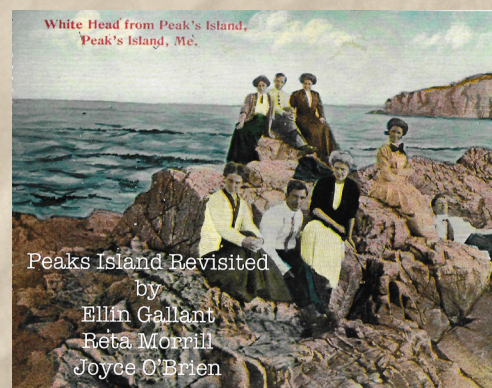


ICE POND BACK IN THE DAY



Annual Meeting

Reta Morrill, a 5th generation Peaks Island native, and one of the island's living historians, spoke about her family's ice cutting, storage, and delivery business that serviced many hotels, businesses, and cottages on Peaks all summer long. While her parents ran the Peaks Island Garage in the 1930s, her great-uncle Henry Trefethen operated the Trefethen Ice Pond business. Reta remembers watching the men cutting, harvesting, and storing the ice. She is co-author of *A Glimpse of Old Peaks Island*, and *Peaks Island Revisited* in which she and friends have shared their sharp memories of "the way it was."



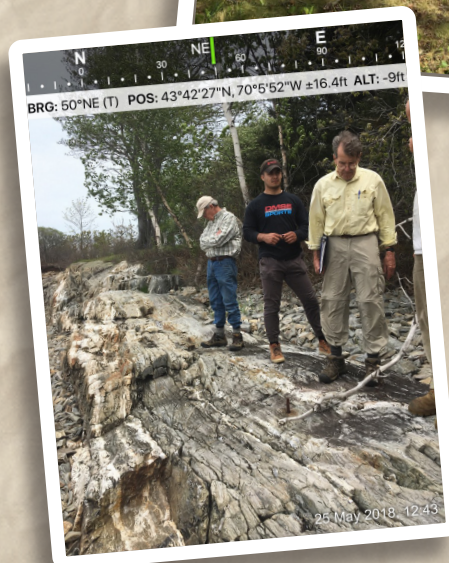
A Summer of

NOT YOUR MOTHER'S MONITORING

OCT began monitoring activities early in the year when we produced new baseline maps for each property that we own in fee or for which we hold a conservation easement. With the help of SMCC, we engaged a Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist, **Haley Campbell**, who was responsible for putting together base maps for all of our properties in the same format and producing geo-referenced base maps in the same format for each property. These maps include an access map, a preserve map,

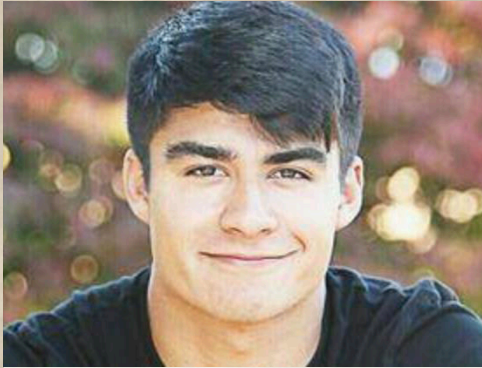
and a survey map. In addition all of the meta data and survey points used to create the maps are included. Using this new technology, monitoring was conducted on Peaks, Little Diamond, Long, and Cliff Island in May.

* Board member Bill Needelman's mother, Priscilla Doucette (board member from 2002 – 2016 and current co-editor of OCT's newsletter), remembers a decade of hunting for property boundaries the old-fashioned way!



Collaboration

INTERN BOBBY DEE



"That was really cool, getting to go to all of those islands!"

Visiting several Casco Bay Islands was just one of the many highlights of **Bobby Dee's** summer as the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative Summer

Associate. Bobby had the opportunity to attend all of the Oceanside Conservation Trust island monitoring visits this spring as part of his internship in Collaborative Conservation. Traveling in Roger's

boat from island to island (an added bonus), Bobby helped with the documentation of these visits by making maps, filling in forms, recording notes and taking photos. The Summer Associate opportunity provides leadership development, real life experiences, and builds qualified conservationists to take on this important work.

Bobby is now back at Bates College where he is finishing his senior year as a biology major and participating in the Purposeful Work Program. This internship, including his experience with Oceanside Conservation Trust, complements Bobby's "dreams to make a serious impact on the well-being of our planet."

OCT wishes him well as he pursues his degree!

MAINE ISLAND ECOLOGISTS



Tracy Ames of Maine Island Ecologists from Chebeague Island with her assistant **Laurie Mathes** performed biological inventories for OCT's Skillings, Daveis, Echo Pond property and PILP's Battery Steele property. Their work will allow OCT to more accurately record and build in the details of our holdings as stewards, while also providing a baseline for this period of rapid environmental change over the next century.



Echo Pond



Beavers

IN APPRECIATION



At the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Long Island Civic Association (LICA), held on Saturday, October 6, President Jeff Greene announced a special tribute to **Christine McDuffie**. In recognition of her contributions to the Civic Association and to the Long Island community, LICA is donating \$1000

to Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay. In her thanks, Chris commented that the tribute is “a stunning surprise, and I am overwhelmed by gratitude to you all. I am honored, and I’m especially pleased that it benefits Oceanside Conservation Trust and its work to protect places we hold dear on Long Island and on other islands in Casco Bay.” Chris is a recently retired director and past president of Oceanside Conservation Trust. OCT protects Fowler’s Beach, College Island, and Wreck Cove with conservation easements.

Photo: Ezra McDuffie

RETIRING DIRECTORS



Thanks to
Harry Pringle



Thanks to
Eric Handley

Board Stewards on Little Diamond



Colleen



Nate



Judy

LITTLE DIAMOND

ISLAND and OCT are the beneficiaries of three new land stewards. Recently, **Bill Stauffer** took them on a short tour of Hagge and Memorial Woods and outlined stewardship responsibilities for these beautiful tracts of land.

Judy Hills: I have had a home on LDI for 4 years and have a strong interest in the environment. I pursued a degree in

environmental education and have really enjoyed the work I have done in environmental education. I hope to continue this work on LDI.

Nate Stevens: Nate is a Portland native and has been spending summers on Little Diamond his entire life. He now gets to continue to enjoy the Island and Casco Bay with his wife and 6 year old son.

Colleen Tierney: 1980 was the year we bought a summer cottage, sight unseen, on Little Diamond Island. With wheel barrows to haul our groceries and no TV or internet, our children learned to be independent, play with everyone, and eat what was in the pantry. In 1997 we retired and built a new home on the island. We now watch our grandchildren repeat the process of growing up on a small island in Maine.

OCT Helps to Secure Grant

In November the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative ("SMCC") received a grant for \$10,000 from the Dorr Foundation for further development of the Land Care Initiative tool which OCT used when conducting the annual monitoring of conservation properties in May. This grant will enable development of a smart phone application to measure the relative health of a piece of land and in doing so create an effective teaching tool for greater scientific literacy. The Land Care Initiative Tool was initially created by and for Land Trusts to help them better steward the land under their care. This tool will also be used to educate a new generation about ecology, documenting the health of and the threats to southern Maine's conserved lands through hands on experiences. The tool integrates features land trusts find useful, including GIS mapping, baseline data, current observations, inventories, and linkages to the land trust's website.

John Spencer, OCT Board Member and SMCC Board Vice Chair, said, "SMCC would not have received this grant without the leadership that OCT gave in funding, development, and field testing of the idea. When completed, this tool will be a valued regional asset for conservation."

Below are photos from the OCT monitoring trip to the LACI property where the first version of the Land Care Initiative tool was used by OCT.



Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

Roger Berle, President	207-712-5565	Cliff Island
John Spencer, Vice President	781-237-4038	Cushing Island
Jane Laughlin, Secretary	207-799-9285	Great Diamond Island
Chris Stevenson, Treasurer	207-772-1941	Cape Elizabeth
Tom Bergh	207-232-6733	Peaks Island
Bob Bittenbender	207-892-3818	Windham
Erno Bonebakker	207-871-0048	Chebeague Island
Jeanne Gulnick	207-766-2601	Peaks Island
David Hirth	207-406-4169	Cliff Island
John Lortie	207-766-2499	Long Island
Hope MacVane-Tray	207-749-8175	Cliff Island
Bill Needelman	207-400-9022	Little Diamond Island
Bill Stauffer	207-650-1993	Little Diamond Island

ADVISORY BOARD

Brenda Buchanan	207-854-5824	Westbrook
Priscilla Doucette	207-772-5705	Little Diamond Island
Mark Greene	207-766-4440	Long Island
Christine McDuffie	207-829-3231	Long Island
Eliza Cope Nolan	207-772-5024	Cushing Island
John Whitman	207-766-2211	Peaks Island

PROTECTED PROPERTIES

PROPERTY	LOCATION	OWNER	DATE ACQUIRED	APPROXIMATE SIZE
Fowler's Beach	Town of Long Island	Long Island Civic Association	5/25/1987	6.38 acres
The Bluffs	Cliff Island, Portland	Robert & Josephine Belknap, Tenants in Common	12/26/1989	18 acres
Daveis Sanctuary	Peaks Island, Portland	OCT	5/14/1994	6.8 acres
College Island	Town of Long Island	OCT	9/7/1994	1 acre
Battery Steele	Peaks Island, Portland	Peaks Island Land Preserve	7/28/1995	14.3 acres
North Point	Cliff Island, Portland	Helen W. Kenefick	12/1997	9 acres
ACE Ballfield	Cliff Island, Portland	Cliff Island Corporation for Athletics & Conservation Education	1/31/2000	15.4 acres
Griffin's Cove	Cliff Island, Portland	Cliff Island Corporation for Athletics & Conservation Education	12/22/2000	.75 acres
Everett & Mildred D. Skillings Woods	Peaks Island, Portland	OCT	2001	2 acres
Wreck Cove	Town of Long Island	Town of Long Island	7/29/2004	11.3 acres
Echo Pond	Peaks Island, Portland	OCT	04/2005	.4 acres
Memorial Woods	Little Diamond Island	Little Diamond Island Association	09/2006	.5 acres
Hagge Woods	Little Diamond Island	OCT	2012	2.5 acres
Gardiner Parcel	Cliff Island	Cliff Island Corporation for Athletics & Conservation Education	2014	.3 acres
LACI Easement	Cliff Island	LACI	2017	10.8 acres
Ice Pond Easement	Peaks Island	PILP	2017	2+ acres

In addition, OCT has a cooperative role in the protection of Cow Island, Stockman's Island, and Rose's Point, Chebeague Island

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of OCT is to facilitate the conservation of wild or undeveloped open space, scenic areas, and historic landmarks in the Casco Bay region and to foster low-impact and respectful access to these resources, as well as to enhance the cultural, economic, and civic well-being of residents and visitors. The Trust may acquire, hold, and transfer interests in land, including easements, in order to accomplish this mission and to assure that a diversity of ecosystems will be available to future generations. In addition, the Trust may hold charitable, cultural, and educational activities for the benefit of residents and visitors. (Adopted 10/24/96)

VISION STATEMENT

While maintaining the highest standards of stewardship and land management, OCT will become a leader in coordinating and facilitating land conservation efforts among individuals, island organizations, and land trusts in Casco Bay.

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

217 COMMERCIAL STREET, SUITE 302 | PORTLAND, ME 04101

OceansideConservationTrust@gmail.com | Tel. 207-699-2989

www.oceansideconservationtrust.org

In order to support the work of Oceanside Trust, I/we are sending this contribution.

Membership Dues: \$20.00

Additional Gift: _____

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Membership is renewable at any time before the OCT annual meeting. Please check the four-digit number directly following your name on the address label; the number indicates the year your most recent membership dues were received if applicable. Your contributions are tax deductible.

Thank You!

www.oceansideconservationtrust.org

Land Trust
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An independent program of the Land Trust Alliance

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