

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, 2021



THE MEADOW

The Meadow on Cliff Island is now legally preserved forever as a conservation property of great benefit for both island residents and visitors, today and in perpetuity. A conservation easement was donated by its new owner, Cliff Island Corporation for Athletics, Conservation, and Education (ACE), to Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay (OCT) early in 2021. The Meadow has a long and interesting history as a resource on Cliff. For much of the past century, it has been stewarded and actively cared for by two individual, private owners; in 2020, however, ownership passed over to the long-standing Cliff nonprofit, ACE. ACE and OCT have now collaborated on the preservation of four of the Island's most well-loved open space properties: ACE Ballfield, Griffin's Cove, the Gardiner Parcel, and The Meadow.



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ANNUAL MEETING 2021



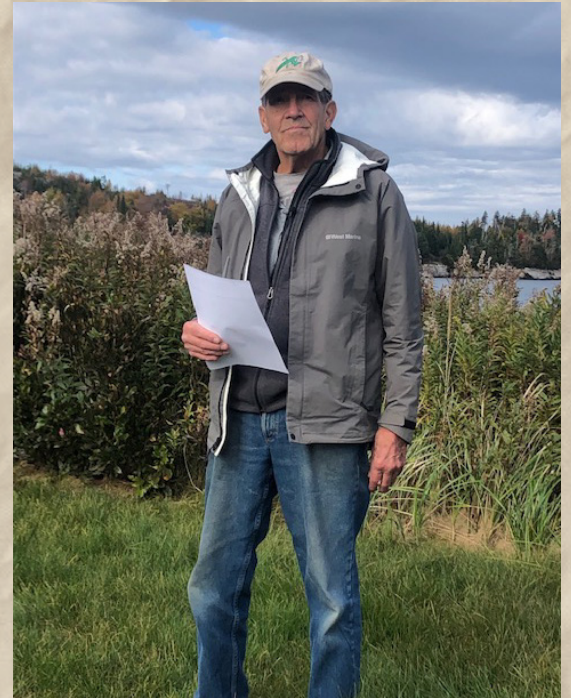
The 39th annual meeting of Oceanside Conservation Trust took place on Saturday, October 23, at The Meadow on Cliff Island. The weather cooperated as the cold and clouds cleared to present a sunny and relatively warm afternoon.

Roger Berle spoke of the history of The Meadow and the wonderful collaboration between ACE and OCT in conserving land on Cliff Island.



Guest speaker Amanda Beal, Maine commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, spoke of her own connection to the land and how important nonprofit organizations, such as OCT, are to the

State. Commissioner Beal noted the dramatic rise in the number of reservations and visits to Maine State parks and public lands over the last couple of years. This heightened awareness of the value of being outdoors on undeveloped, open land supports and strengthens our resolve to continue with our mission.





A peregrine falcon and Canada geese added to the day, and board member John Lortie reminded all in attendance of the importance of these lands to migratory birds.

Special thanks to Nancy Noble who contributed photos for this article. Thank you to Steve Little for helping with meeting set-up and transportation. Thank you to Lesley MacVane and Tom Handel at Portland Media Center (channels 2 and 5) for recording the annual meeting, which can be viewed on our website, oceansideconservationtrust.org.

"It was a beautiful day, and beautiful spot with a fabulous speaker."
- Roger Berle



MONITORING 2021



Oceanside Conservation Trust has ownership or easement interests in open space properties on several of the islands in western Casco Bay. Once a year, a team from the Board of Directors monitors those interests. We traditionally do this in May before the island communities - or the Directors! - get too busy enjoying summer. May 27 was the date for checking out the parcels on Peaks Island. Little Diamond, Long, College, and Cliff Island will fill the rest of 2021's OCT Monitoring Week.



It's not only monitoring season, it's also tick season, so you can see in the featured photos how we secure our pant legs with tape, even after spraying Off on. We ride the Casco Bay Lines out and back or travel by private boat, and tour the islands in a van or truck to check

boundary markings, look for signs of trespass, pick up litter, and make observations about anything of note on any given parcel – including the “progress” of invasive species.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Oceanside has joined with Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative and the Climate Change Observatory Network to monitor long-term climate change trends. We are pleased to announce that we have installed three



new Climate Change Observatory Network (CCON) (<https://southernmaineconservation.org/cco-network/>) photo monitoring posts; one each on Little Diamond Island, Long Island and Cliff Island. A 4x4 post topped with a monitoring bracket has been installed at each of these sites. Anyone visiting can place their mobile device/ phone in the bracket, take a photo, and then upload the photo to Chronolog via email. No APP or account set up is required making the use of the observation easy and convenient.





Due to the Covid virus, we had scaled down this important task in 2020, so there was a great deal for the crew to observe and remind ourselves about this year.

Oceanside has earned a reputation among Maine's land trusts for being particularly diligent in our annual monitoring. That certainly feels good, but it feels even better to finally get in a boat and out onto the lands for which we are responsible!

by Roger Berle, President



OBSERVATORY NETWORK

It is important to note that also mounted on each post are simple instructions on how to take and upload the photos.

After someone takes and uploads a photo, Chronolog will add the photo to the specific CCON project site time-lapse video, and then will email that person the time-lapse video they just contributed to as well as information about the site. This is a great way for OCT to monitor long-term change on our properties and also to engage with visitors. Needless to say, we are excited to have joined this collaborative venture with CCON and SMCC, and believe you will be too.

by John Lortie



THE MEADOW

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The Meadow comprises eleven acres of shorefront land, including a good deal of wetlands as well as several acres of trails amid both softwoods and hardwoods. Most notable is the relative rarity of eleven hundred feet of sandy beach. In all of Maine, there are but seventy miles of beach, or only two percent of its shoreline.

For perhaps thousands of years, Maine's indigenous peoples have likely trod on The Meadow. More recently, for more than two centuries, Cliff Island residents and guests have enjoyed it for its serenity, its beauty, its availability for passive recreation and its ready access to beach and ocean. Given the level terrain, it likely was once well-farmed. Early in the twenty-first century, there was a moment in time when The Meadow might have sported one or more private residences, but a so-called "conservation angel" stepped in to change its course unalterably toward preservation as a publicly available community resource. Forever.

On this parcel, tomorrow's generations of Cliff Island kids can learn to enjoy the same sense of place, swim in the same tidepools, and share the same vistas as their forebears have: the seagulls wheeling overhead, the deer and turkeys mingling in the reopened fields, the jutting middle ledge, the boats bobbing on moorings or plying their trade just offshore.

by Roger Berle



WELCOME, STEVE BISHOP!



Oceanside Conservation Trust is pleased to welcome Steve Bishop to the board of directors. Steve will also take on the duties of treasurer. He was born in Boston but moved to Maine when he was twelve years old to reconnect to family roots; Steve's mother's family has lived in and around Portland since the 1800s. He is a graduate of Portland High School, the University of Maine at Orono, and Northeastern University (MBA). Today he is an external advisor to Bain and Co, a well-known global consultancy.

Steve and his wife, Robin, have three grown children, Jessica, Josh, and Jourdan. They have a cottage on Little Diamond Island which they consider home.

After spending most of his working life in the for-profit world, Steve is now more interested in finding ways to give back - either to help the environment or help those less fortunate. He was involved with University of Southern Maine's Promise Fund. The Promise Fund's objective is to help fund college educations for deserving young adults in Maine who would not be able to go to college without the Fund's support. Today the Promise Fund helps about 20 young adults a year start college at USM and supports them through graduation. With his

experience in the business world and with non-profits, Steve brings valuable skills to his new role as OCT's treasurer.

When asked what drew him to Oceanside, Steve noted that having lived and traveled all over the world, he has witnessed the effects of overcrowding and overdevelopment. Steve believes, that if we are to keep Maine the special place it is, we need to be thoughtful about whether development is in the best long-term interests of future generations.

"OCT has been very successful in conserving open spaces, scenic areas, and historic landmarks in Casco Bay. By preserving land on many of these islands, we are preserving the islands' communities and their heritage for the future. I am hopeful that I will be able to continue the good work that other OCT Board members have done to preserve some of the special places in Casco Bay for our children and their children."

CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP, CONTINUITY OF MISSION

New officers were elected at Oceanside's Annual Meeting last month:

John Spencer, President

Bill Stauffer, Vice-President

Hope MacVane-Tray, Secretary

Steve Bishop, Treasurer

The board of directors expresses appreciation to Roger Berle, John Spencer, Jane McClarie Laughlin, and Chris Stevenson for their years of service in these offices. We also say thanks and farewell to Chris Stevenson and Tracy Ames who are leaving the board. We look forward to the continuation of OCT's mission with our capable and committed new crew of officers.



OCT's new VP and President arrive at Peaks for monitoring

TRASH & TREASURES AT BISHOP HEALY WOODS



On September 11, thirty residents of Little Diamond Island turned out with shovels, wheel barrows, rakes, and trash bags to work on clearing out the lower Bishop Healy lot on LDI. The lot was one of two lots that were recently put into conservation by OCT after the money was raised on LDI to purchase the lots. The lower lot had been used as a dumping area by the Sisters of Mercy and others for over a hundred years. Old bottles, tin enamelware,

toilets, lawnmower parts, and even a string of rosary beads were pulled from the lot and taken away during the City's heavy item pick up. Harry Pringle of LDI saved and is cataloging some of the more interesting pieces that were pulled from the trash pile. A big thank you to the Little Diamond folks and OCT President Roger Berle for helping with the clean up effort!

by Bill Stauffer



RECESS AT WALTER'S PARK

The year round families of Great Diamond Island enjoy Walter's Park throughout the year, but during the pandemic, when students were learning from home, Walter's Park became their playground. Every weekday students met at Walter's Park after lunch for "recess." Walter's Park is owned by Great Diamond Island Land Preserve and is managed a recreational space with no permanent structures or playground equipment. The directors of GDILP were pleased to learn about this new use of conservation land!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

John Spencer, President	781-237-4038	
	617-680-0012	Cushing Island
Bill Stauffer, Vice President	207-650-1993	Little Diamond Island
Hope MacVane-Tray, Secretary	207-749-8175	Cliff Island
Steve Bishop, Treasurer	617-787-4321	Little Diamond Island
Tom Bergh	207-232-6733	Peaks Island
Roger Berle	207-712-5565	Cliff Island
	207-766-2827	
David Hirth	207-406-4169	Cliff Island
Liz Johnson	207-865-6626	Peaks Island
	802-318-6063	
Michael Johnson	207-837-0943	Long Island
Jane Laughlin	207-799-9285	
	207-766-2570	Great Diamond Island
John Lortie	207-766-2499	Long Island
Bill Needelman	207-400-9022	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	
	207-766-5277	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 & Josphine 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	12/1977	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	04/2006	.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
Bishop Healy Woods	Little Diamond Island	OCT	2020	4+ acres
The Meadow	Cliff Island	Cliff Island Corporation for Athletics, Conservation & Education	2021	11 acres

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



Photo contributed by
Alyssa Momnie of Great Diamond 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

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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
Accreditation Commission
An independent program of the Land Trust Alliance

SINCE 1982, OVER 100 ACRES
ON CASCO BAY ISLANDS HAVE BEEN
PERMANENTLY PROTECTED.
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OF CASCO BAY WELCOMES
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