

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

Gold
Transparency
2022

Candid.

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2022



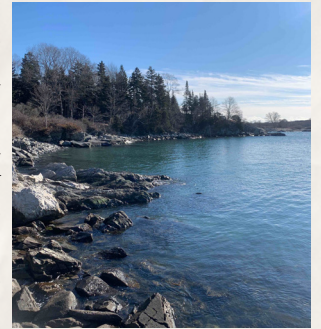
JERRY POINT



On March 25, 2022, Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay accepted a conservation easement on nearly twelve acres of land on Long Island, a gift from the Henry L. Donovan Family.

Jerry Point is located on the southwest corner of Long Island, southeast of Fowler's Beach and southwest of Wreck Cove, two other properties protected by OCT. Access to the property is from Jerry Point Road. The property has a colorful history having had a small air-strip, a resident donkey, and the old infirmary from WWII when the Navy had taken control of the property. Many Long Island residents remember when Josephine the donkey would chase them around as they ventured onto the property. It's hard to believe that one of the previous owners would land and take off from a small, narrow landing strip that is now a dirt road.

The twelve acres are rich in environments meriting protection by a conservation easement. The extensive shoreline is moderately steep and dominated by ledge and large boulders. Shrubs and mixed forest grow along the shoreline. The property also contains a portion of a cattail marsh (which is contiguous with part of the Fowler's Beach CE), mixed forest, red spruce forest, and red maple swamp. Wild turkeys and white-tail deer frequent the property and can be regularly sighted from Fowler Road as they browse on insects and plants. Several wood duck boxes provide nesting sites for this beautiful duck in the small marsh and pond just inland from Fowler's Beach. Black-crowned night herons, an uncommon bird in Maine, can be seen in this area during the growing season as they roost in the trees next to the marsh.



For the most part, the mixed forest is dominated by red spruce, paper birch, red maple, red oak, and American beech. Dominant trees 60 – 70 feet tall comprise the forest canopy, which varies from open to dense. The sparsely vegetated understory has poison ivy, oriental bittersweet (an invasive), bayberry, spirea, Virginia rose, wild raisin, winterberry, balsam fir, honeysuckle (an invasive), red spruce, staghorn sumac, and juniper. This area provides nesting habitat for yellow warblers, common yellowthroats, ovenbirds, veery and brown creepers.

The red spruce forest is dominated by red spruce 40 – 70 feet or more in height. Canopy coverage varies from very open to very dense, reflecting past storm events that toppled over large trees leaving large gaps. The sparsely vegetated understory is dominated by spruce and balsam fir regeneration as well as red raspberry, bracken fern, hay scented fern, and American beech. Red breasted nuthatch are common nesters in this area and their nasal call can be heard even when the birds are hard to observe.

The red maple swamp is dominated by scattered red maple 40-50 feet tall, speckled alder, poison ivy, soft rush, wool grass, cinnamon fern, and steeplebush. Soils are saturated at or just below the ground surface, and small pools of standing water are common.

Thanks to the generosity of the Donovan Family, Jerry Point will remain undeveloped and in its natural state for generations to come.



NEW CLIMATE CHANGE OBSERVATORY POSTS



Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay (OCT) and the Climate Change Observatory Network (CCON) applaud James and Kat Luedke of Great Diamond Island. The Luedkes have generously welcomed the installation of an observatory post – for public use – on their private property. The observatory post will be an important link to the scientific understanding of our ever-changing Casco Bay.

Aside from public participation, Kat and James will be working with the Long Island School to integrate data generated from the observatory post with the climate science curriculum being offered to students in grades 1-5 at the school. Additional

data could be gathered from other monitoring posts located on OCT properties on Long Island, Cliff Island, Peaks, and Little Diamond.

The Long Island School collaborated with John Lortie and Michael Johnson, board members of Oceanside Conservation Trust, on writing a Casco Bay Community Grant for 2022. Through this grant, the Long Island School has been helping to monitor the beach with lessons about the geology of the beach as well as the wildlife found around the area.



are then turned into a long-term video, showing how the beach naturally changes and whether changes may be related to adverse weather conditions. Information can be gathered on tides, erosion and any resulting impacts to our beaches.

The students encourage you to join them in their learning and add to the shoreline project by visiting these observatory posts and taking a picture. On Long Island, the post is located on the southern end of Fowler's Beach, near where the stream runs under the road. Directions to do this are located on each post. Pictures can then be uploaded to the Chronolog website and added to the database. Each image is saved and available for viewing. You will be able to see pictures of the beach at different times of day and different times of year. The uploaded photos

To learn more about OCT's work with the Climate Change Observatory Network, go to <http://oceansideconservationtrust.org/climate-change-observatory-sites/>



This post is located at the entrance to Davies Sanctuary on Peaks Island. For more information on OCT's involvement in this project, please look at our 2020 and 2021 newsletters at oceansideconservationtrust.org.

WELCOME, JENNIFER FOX



OCT is excited to welcome Jennifer Fox to the board. Jennifer graduated from Franklin Pierce College in NH and then went on to earn her Master's degree in Management from Antioch NE. A life long learner, Jennifer has taken classes and earned certification in organizational development, fundraising, grant writing, advertising and promotion, emergency medical, crisis management, event planning, food safety, mediation, and negotiation.

Much of her career in New Hampshire was managing private nonprofit organizations as well as teaching courses in advertising, promotion, marketing and organizational development at Keene State College and Franklin Pierce College. In addition to being an active member of conservation commissions in Newmarket and Manchester NH, Jennifer was also the Director of Development for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

Upon moving to Maine, Jennifer continued to be highly involved and currently serves on Portland's Land Bank Commission as well as on the board of the Casco Bay Islands Alliance and the Island Institute's Maine Island Council.

In 2007, Jennifer and her husband opened a neighborhood pub on Commercial Street in Portland. In that role they worked to preserve what was left of Portland's coastline as a working waterfront. In addition to supporting Maine's fishing industries by promoting local seafood and buying locally, they were involved in GMRI's Culinary Partners program and trained staff to adopt environmentally sustainable practices such as limited use of plastics, composting food waste and buying locally. In recognition, Jennifer and Rick Franz received the 2018 Casco Bay Award from the Friends of Casco Bay for contributions to the health of Casco Bay.

Jennifer is an avid skier, whose heart has always been in the mountains and outdoors. She will share, through education and example, environmental sustainability practices and resilience strategies to adapt to climate change to help preserve the natural and historic beauty of Great Diamond Island and Diamond Cove.

THANK YOU, Tom Bergh!

Thank you, Tom, for your years of service on the OCT Board of Directors. We will miss your contributions to conservation in Casco Bay, particularly on Peaks Island.



TRAIL BUILDING AT BISHOP HEALY WOODS



In early May, Stephen Mohr donated his time and expertise to help build a simple trail in the Bishop Healy Woods. A Peaks Island resident, Stephen is a semi-retired principal of Mohr and Seredin, Landscape Architects in Portland. For our OCT Bishop Healy Woods project, he brings not only his own considerable talent and perspective as a landscape artist, but also that of his wife and business partner Tanya Seredin. She is an expert archeological associate and a designer of unique benches, one of

which will shortly grace BHW. Stephen often chooses to generously contribute his expertise pro bono - as in this instance on LDI.



While Stephen staked out the desired trail, Roger Berle, Bill Stauffer, Harry Pringle, and Phil Lee followed behind to rake out the trail and trim some of the understory and several tree branches. Fortunately, because of the way Stephen designed the trail, very little had to be cut back. There now exists a lovely trail that starts at the bottom of Rand Way (off Rockledge Ave), meanders up the hill to the Bishop Healy cottage site (where now sits the sign), and down to the water's edge, looking toward Peaks Island.



View from the Future Bench

SHARING THE HISTORY OF BISHOP HEALY WOODS

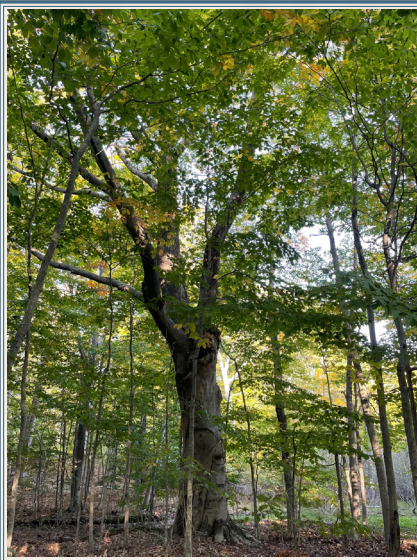


OCT members and supporters will recall that the LDI community raised the money to purchase two waterfront lots on Little Diamond Island in 2020. During this process, former board member Harry Pringle led an effort to research the history of one of these lots once owned by James Healy. James Healy was the first Black Roman Catholic bishop in the United States and built a cottage on one of the highest points on Little Diamond. The history of Bishop Healy, his accomplishments, and the possible KKK involvement in the subsequent burning of the cottage are a remarkable

part of Casco Bay history that was not previously known to most islanders. Much of this history is now told through the signs that Harry Pringle, Roger Berle (OCT), Bill Stauffer (OCT), and Scott Wilson (LDI) recently installed on the site.



CO-CHAMPION AMERICAN BEECH ON LDI



LDI's Co-Champion American Beech
The American Beech tree is taller and more columnar than its shorter, wider European cousins, which are often planted as ornamental trees. It's also an important food source for wildlife.

Over the past couple of years Jan Santerre, Project Canopy Coordinator for the Maine Forest Service, has visited Little Diamond Island annually. Her mission: to install an emerald ash borer trap on one of our specimen ash trees. The emerald ash borer has decimated ash trees throughout the eastern U.S. and although it is now present in Maine, it has fortunately not yet been detected on Little Diamond.

While visiting LDI, Jan walked the island to survey our trees and in particular the beautiful mature mixed hardwood grove in Quiet Oaks, the large parcel recently gifted to OCT and now preserved in perpetuity. While doing so, she noticed a very large American beech tree on OCT property just off Rockledge Avenue. After careful measurement and further research, Jan confirmed that it was one of the two largest living American beech trees yet identified in the entire State of Maine. It is estimated to be well over 100 years old. This past summer, that tree was officially added to the Maine Big Tree Registry as the new Maine Co-Champion American beech. Amazingly enough, the other Co-Champion American beech was also identified at the same time on Little Diamond, in front of a private cottage just down the road!

American beech trees in Maine are at risk. They have long been besieged by beech bark disease, and are now also threatened by the more recently introduced beech leaf disease, newly detected in Maine. While both of the LDI co-champions exhibit signs of beech bark disease, they are relatively healthy. As Jan

noted, it is exciting these days to identify an American beech in healthy condition, or at least able to tolerate living with the beech bark disease.

To have both Maine co-champion trees located on one tiny island in Casco Bay is a testament to the significant forest resources on the island and the critical importance of land conservation. Hopefully, with the guidance of OCT, these beautiful specimens will continue to remain healthy and stand guard over their island for many years to come.

by Harry Pringle



How are the total points calculated for determining the size of a tree for the Maine Big Tree Registry?
 $\text{Trunk Circumference (inches)} + \text{Height (feet)} + \frac{1}{4} \text{ Crown Spread (feet)} = \text{Total Points}$

CANDID-GUIDESTAR

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Guidestar (now known as Candid) profiles give donors detailed information about an organization, aiding them in their search for trusted organizations. Oceanside provided enough current data to the Candid system to warrant a Gold Transparency seal. A Gold seal on a profile denotes a higher level of transparency, including comprehensive details about finances, Board of Directors, and overall demographics. This seal on our website joins our other seal as an accredited land trust from the Land Trust Alliance's Accreditation Commission. Both recognitions reflect the strength of Oceanside, built over 40 years by volunteers dedicated to conserving land on Casco bay islands for current and future generations.

SAVING THE OSPREY NEST AT LDI



Some of the Little Diamond Island volunteers

As many of Oceanside Conservation Trust's friends and supporters know, the number of osprey in Maine declined drastically because of DDT and other pesticides during the 1950s and 60s. After both DDT and some of the more toxic pesticides were banned, the osprey population numbers have been increasing. Today osprey are once again a common sight along Maine's coast, rivers, and lakes.

When the OCT Board was approached by neighboring landowners, Lynn Murrell and Judy Hills, about installing an osprey nest perch on the border of OCT owned land, the OCT Board was interested. Lynn and Judy are OCT supporters and live immediately adjacent to the Bishop Healy Woods which was acquired by OCT in 2020. After learning more, the OCT Board decided that their plans

fit within our mission and approved the project. A low-impact platform for the osprey nest installation was conceived of and engineered by a Little Diamond Island resident, Scott Wilson, a retired architect.

On Sunday, September 25th, a group of volunteers gathered to transport the nest and erect the osprey nest platform. We are fortunate to have a very supportive and enthusiastic group on Little Diamond Island, and with Wilson's guidance, we were successful in getting the osprey nest in place.

We won't know until next spring if the original or a new pair of nesting osprey will approve of what we have built for them, but we are hopeful they will. One added benefit is that the nest is close (but not too close) to the bench that is being placed on Bishop Healy Woods and visitors next spring will be able to experience both the woods and a pair of nesting osprey.

Thanks again to Lynn, Judy, and Scott for a great addition to Little Diamond Island and OCT's Bishop Healy Woods.



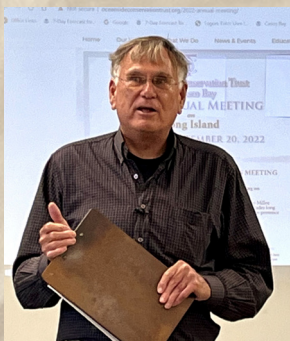
Erecting the osprey nest



It worked!!

The platform is cantilevered about 18' and at the cliff's edge, 40' above the water.

ANNUAL MEETING 2022



The 40th Annual Meeting of Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay was held on Long Island on September 20, at the Community Center. The meeting featured a special presentation on invasive marine species by Jeremy Miller, Research Associate, Wells Reserve at Laudholm. Attendees learned about a decades-long monitoring program called Marine Invader Monitoring & Information Collaborative (MIMIC) using citizen scientists to help document the presence and spread of marine invasive species in the Gulf of Maine. To view the annual meeting check <https://youtube/be/O1ciHGyvvaE>.



Guest Speaker, Jeremy Miller

For more information, please check out the slide presentation at <https://www.cascobayestuary.org/strategic-planning/state-of-casco-bay/invasive-species/>

MONITORING 2022



Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022

John Spencer, President	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
Roger Berle	207-712-5565	Cliff Island
Jennifer Fox	207-650-6042	Great Diamond Island
David Hirth	207-406-4169	Cliff Island
Liz Johnson	207-865-6626	Peaks Island
Michael Johnson	207-837-0943	Long Island
Jane Laughlin	207-219-9522	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	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	1987	6.38 acres
The Bluffs	Cliff Island, Portland	Robert & Josephine Belknap Tenants in Common	1989	18 acres
Daveis Sanctuary	Peaks Island, Portland	OCT	1994	6.8 acres
College Island	Town of Long Island	OCT	1994	1 acre
Battery Steele	Peaks Island, Portland	Peaks Island Land Preserve	1995	14.3 acres
North Point	Cliff Island, Portland	Helen W. Kenefick	1977	9 acres
ACE Ballfield	Cliff Island, Portland	Cliff Island Corporation for Athletics, Conservation & Education	2000	15.4 acres
Griffin's Cove	Cliff Island, Portland	Cliff Island Corporation for Athletics, Conservation & Education	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	2004	11.3 acres
Echo Pond	Peaks Island, Portland	OCT	2006	.4 acres
Memorial Woods	Little Diamond Island	OCT	2022	.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
Jerry Point	Town of Long Island	Donovan Family	2022	11.3 acres
The Quiet Oaks	Little Diamond Island	OCT	2022	6.8 acres
Memorial Woods Expansions	Little Diamond Island	OCT	2022	1.1 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

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OceansideConservationTrust@gmail.com | Tel. 207-699-2989
www.oceansideconservationtrust.org

In order to support the work of OCT, 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

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ON CASCO BAY ISLANDS HAVE BEEN
PERMANENTLY PROTECTED.
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