

Oceanside Achieves Accreditation

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay has achieved land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. OCT was awarded accreditation this summer and is now one of 317 land trusts from across the country that have earned accreditation since the fall of 2008. The Commission is an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, a national land conservation organization working to save the places people need and love by strengthening land conservation across America.

According to Rand Wentworth, the Alliance's President,



"Accredited land trusts are the brightest stars in the constellation of land trusts, and they have earned national recognition for their commitment to excellence and public trust."

Founded in 1982, OCT works to protect land on the Casco Bay islands. Currently Oceanside owns five properties and holds nine conservation easements on privately owned island properties. OCT's Vice-President Chris McDuffie notes, "OCT is a small volunteer land trust which is proud of the properties it has protected in Casco Bay. These are tiny properties in comparison to other conserved lands across the United States, but dear to our island communities and to those who enjoy the waters of Casco Bay. The process of meeting the LTA's high standards gives us confidence that this protection will be permanent so that future generations can enjoy what we so treasure."

Each accredited land trust meets extensive documentation requirements and undergoes a comprehensive review as part of its accreditation or renewal application. The process is detailed and thorough and, while success is not guaranteed to applicants, the process helps transform land trusts.



Christine McDuffie, Vice President of OCT, at the helm of our successful accreditation process.

With extensive support from the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative, Oceanside's Board worked diligently for a number of years to ensure that this organization meets the required standards.

Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn comments, "Accreditation provides the public with an assurance that, at the time of accreditation, land trusts meet high standards for quality, and that the results of their conservation work are permanent."

"Through accreditation, land trusts conduct important planning and make their operations more efficient and strategic," explains Van Ryn. "Accredited organizations have engaged and trained citizen conservation leaders and improved systems for ensuring that their conservation work is permanent."

33rd Annual Meeting

On Thursday, July 23, at The Meadow on Cliff Island, OCT held its 33rd annual meeting. Featuring a special presentation by Ted Reiner, long-time family steward of this breath-taking site, the meeting was well-attended by members eager to visit the newest of Cliff Island's protected properties as well as the other island preserved lands.



President Berle greeting the members



Members arriving by Casco Bay Lines



Walking to The Meadow



Young conservationists inspecting the property



Some members leaving the meeting



Dedication of The Meadow By Ted Reiner

Welcome everyone! It's a fine day! If you are lucky enough to be on Cliff Island, it is always a "finest kind of day"! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

I feel honored to be standing with a group of people who have taken a stand to protect the islands and natural places they love. You have strong values and you have chosen to act on your love and reverence. There is a Buddhist teaching, "In protecting others, we protect ourselves." We are only slowly coming to this understanding.

We have a lot to be grateful for here on Cliff Island. Our sustainable community project at Fishermen's Wharf is well under way. The Baseball Field and Black Ledge Marsh have been preserved. The Belknap's Bluff is everyone's link with the wild Atlantic. Much of the North and South Points of the island have been preserved. The Griffin homestead is now parkland protecting the island's best swimming place. And today we stand on the meadow and beach that is passing from the private ownership of Ned and Carol Reiner and now to be protected by the stewardship of Oceanside Trust. This is truly a red-letter day. Those who already love and use this land will begin to see it as theirs to protect, cherish and enjoy.



The war on Nature, the drumbeat of modern, consumer society that eats up the land and its resources will have to take a detour here. Our success in all our conservation efforts is the result of strong community support, unflagging leadership, and an admirable number of visionary thinkers. We cannot stop change. But we can learn to skillfully shape it.

I think most of you gathered here will agree that every island in Casco Bay is a gem! Why do we feel this way? Is it in the drinking water? Or has something happened to us that has tuned us in to loving this place? Our sensibilities have been fine-tuned to love everything about this island.

Ted then read the following poem:

The Peace of Wild Things By Wendell Berry

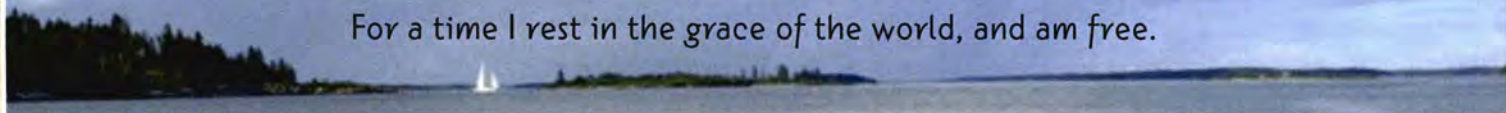
When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.

I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.

For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



Spring Monitoring



Griffin Cove, Cliff Island

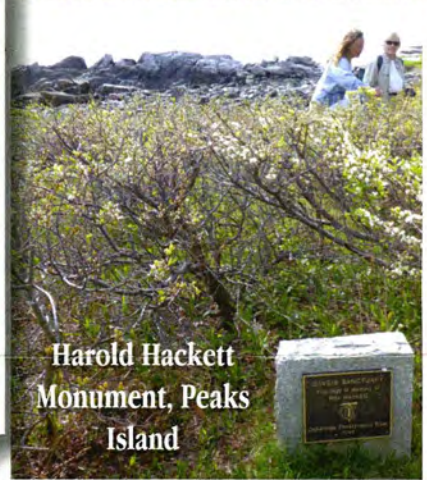


The view from Daveis Sanctuary, Peaks Island



Echo Pond, Peaks Island

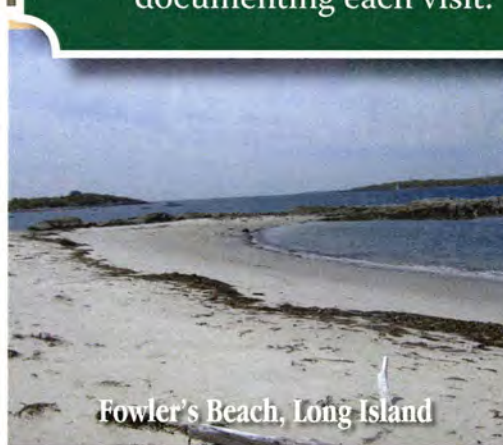
In May directors visited each of the fourteen properties on five islands in Casco Bay to fulfill monitoring duties. For each property we check boundary markers, observe and note changes in the vegetation or shoreline, and contact and converse with landowners. A written report with photographs is filed at our headquarters documenting each visit.



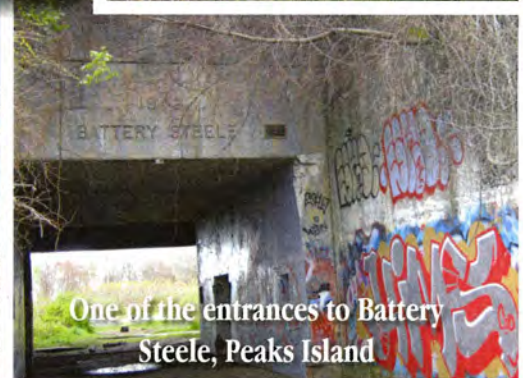
Harold Hackett Monument, Peaks Island



Wreck Cove, Long Island



Fowler's Beach, Long Island



One of the entrances to Battery Steele, Peaks Island

OCT's Roger Berle and Jeannie Gulnick place the AJ Alves Memorial Bench at his favorite viewpoint on Daveis Cove, Peaks Island.





Monarchs around Casco Bay



What can we do to enhance monarch habitat in our own backyards and on conservation land?



OCT wants to help support monarchs and to understand the role that land trusts play in providing habitats to support biodiversity--monarchs included.

In August the Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust and Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay sponsored a pair of programs to describe the monarchs' life cycle, migration patterns, and their reliance on milkweed for survival. The programs also highlighted how island residents can assist by planting milkweed and by eradicating the invasive swallowwort weed. The events featured a presentation by Harry Pringle, a summer resident of Little Diamond Island, OCT Board member, and a passionate amateur expert on monarch butterflies. Harry discussed what we can do to enhance monarch habitat in our own backyards and on conservation land.



Long Island School children hatched and tagged 8 monarch butterflies. They hope to hear that at least one of them has migrated safely south.

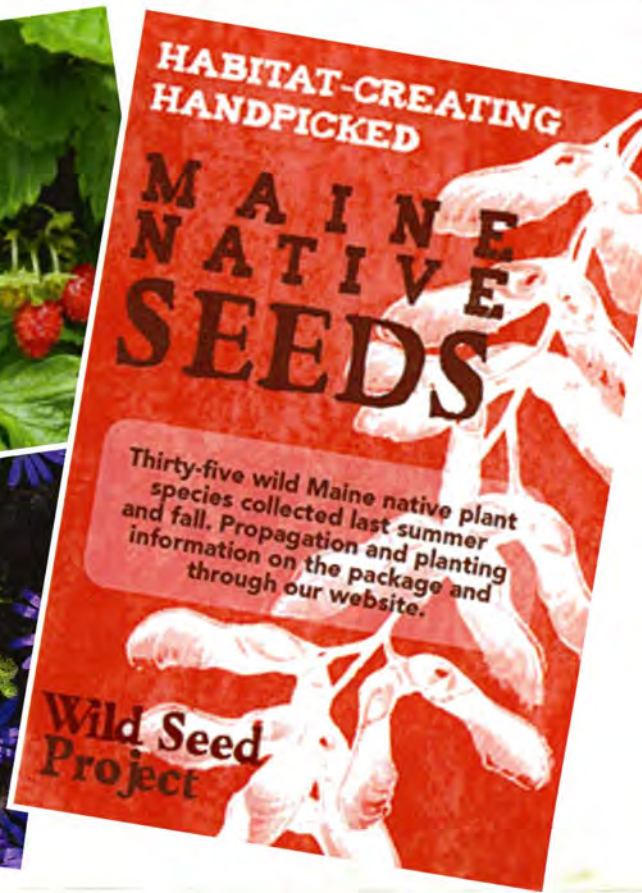
OCT Recognizes the Importance of Native Species

Past issues of this newsletter have offered articles about efforts in Casco Bay to combat invasive plants and recognize and encourage the growth of native shrubs and trees. This issue reports on island educational efforts to help monarch butterflies.

As we close our cottages, clear our gardens and yards, and plan for the coming spring, the Wild Seed Project of Portland has some important ideas which will help our preserved properties and our own land support the native plants, pollinating insects, birds, and many other creatures that make this habitat their home. The following is information from the Wild Seed Project website:

A nonprofit organization, Wild Seed Project ethically collects seeds of wild and uncultivated forms of native plants and educates the public on propagation techniques to engage citizens in promoting native plant populations.

We share information and bring people together around native plant conservation and horticulture through our interactive website and annual magazine, Wild Seed. Wild Seed Project collaborates with scientists, landscape designers, ecological restorationists, land trusts, gardeners, schools, and interested citizens on a variety of community projects such as planting pollinator corridors and native gardens in public and private spaces, identifying native plants, and training in seed collection and propagation.



OCT hopes its members and others who maintain land on our beautiful islands and the surrounding areas will spend some winter time learning how to care for lawns, meadows, and areas where invasives have been removed.

Let's change some of our previous methods to those that encourage the biodiversity so necessary to all life.

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"This accredited status demonstrates Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay's commitment to permanent land conservation that benefits the entire community," affirms Roger Berle, OCT's President. "Our land trust is a stronger organization today having gone through the rigorous accreditation program."

Berle adds, "Let's make sure we nurture the next generations of community members who will learn the joys of land preservation."

Land Trust 
Accreditation Commission
An independent program of the Land Trust Alliance

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OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST OF CASCO BAY

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Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

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

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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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: _____

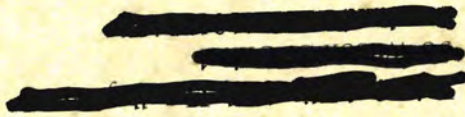
Membership is renewable at any time before the OCT annual meeting. Please check the four-digit number directly following your name on the address label; the number indicates the year your most recent membership dues were received if applicable.
Your contributions are tax deductible.

Thank You!

www.oceansideconservationtrust.org

Printed on recycled paper

Land Trust
Accreditation Commission
An independent program of the Land Trust Alliance



*Since 1982, approximately 88 acres
on Casco Bay Islands have been
permanently protected.
Oceanside Conservation Trust
of Casco Bay welcomes
your support.*

217 COMMERCIAL STREET, SUITE 302
Portland, ME 04101

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OF CASCO BAY

