

# Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

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

*Membership Dues: \$20.00*

*Additional Gift: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Name: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Address: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Seasonal Address: \_\_\_\_\_*

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. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law; dues are not.

*Thank You!*

Printed on recycled paper

*Since 1982, approximately 85 acres  
on Casco Bay Islands have been  
permanently protected.  
Oceanside Conservation Trust  
of Casco Bay welcomes  
your support.*

OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST  
OF CASCO BAY  
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# Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

Volume 6 Edition 1, June 2009

## Stewardship Through Monitoring OCT MEETS THE STANDARDS

A land trust that accepts and holds conservation easements commits itself to annual stewardship in perpetuity. This monitoring and care of the land will help ensure that the conservation values protected by conservation easements are sustained over time.

### *Standard 11: Conservation Easement Stewardship*

The land trust has a program of responsible stewardship for its easements.

### *Standard 12: Fee Land Stewardship*

The land trust has a program of responsible stewardship for the land it holds in fee for conservation purposes.



Removing litter

To meet these Land Trust Alliance standards for accreditation, Oceanside must do the following:

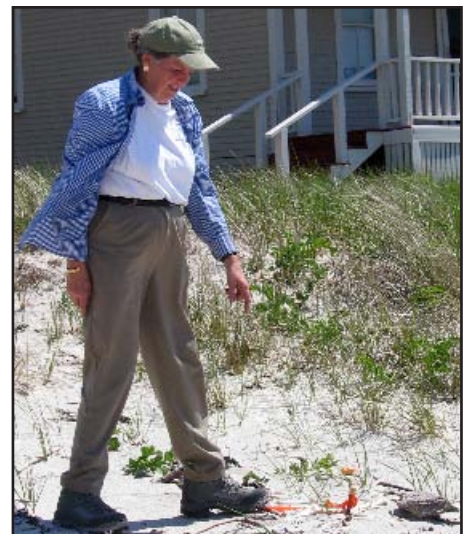
- Produce a Baseline Documentation Report for each property, detailing the conservation values protected by the easement and the relevant conditions of the property as necessary to monitor and enforce the easement;
- Monitor its easement properties annually and keep documentation such as photographs, maps, and reports;
- Maintain regular contact with owners and build positive working relationships with new owners of easement properties; and
- Create a written policy and/or procedure detailing how it will respond to a potential violation of an easement.



Maintaining regular contact with abutters



Checking conditions; New growth after storm damage



Locating property boundaries



Noting the wildlife

For more information see *Land Trust Standards & Practices* from the Land Trust Alliance [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org).

# Congratulations on Vernal Pool Status

Oceanside Conservation Trust is excited to announce that Echo Pond on Peaks Island has been determined by the State of Maine to be a Significant Vernal Pool. This area was purchased by OCT in 2006. (see Volume 3, Edition 1, June 2006 of this newsletter)



Ferns at Echo Pond

Shortly after OCT purchased Echo Pond, directors voted to seek vernal pool status for this property. OCT director and biologist Michael Johnson surveyed the pool during amphibian breeding season in 2006. On April 30, 2007, and April 28, 2008, during Oceanside Conservation Trust’s spring monitoring, Mike specifically looked for egg masses and fairy shrimp. Water depth in this pool at the time of the 2008 survey was approximately 24 inches. Ditching at the southeastern corner of the pool to control flooding of Seashore Avenue may have reduced overall water level in the pool by several inches.

The pool bottom consisted of leaf debris, sedge remains and mud. Scattered vegetation in this pool included sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), wool grass (*Scripus spp.*), blue flag (*Iris versicolor*), water-parsnip (*Sium suave*) and field mint (*Mentha arvensis*). Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), steeple-bush (*Spiraea tomentosa*) and winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) shrubs grow on the pool margins.

The upland habitat adjacent to the vernal pool consists of mixed upland forest with light residential development. Habitat within 250 feet of the pool includes one house west of the pool, as well as portions of Reed Avenue and Seashore Avenue. The remaining habitat within 250 feet is primarily forested with red spruce, quaking aspen, paper birch, and red maple. Canada mayflower and starflower are among the herbaceous vegetation.

On January 28, 2009, Michael K. Mullen of the Department of Environmental Protection notified Mike that Echo Pond was a significant vernal pool. All property within 250 feet of the pond is now subject to the Natural Resources Protection Act and the Significant Wildlife habitat rules.

Vernal pools serve as essential breeding habitat for certain species of wildlife including salamanders and frogs (amphibians). Juvenile and adult amphibians associated with vernal pools provide an important food source for small carnivores as well as large game species. In Maine, species that must have access to vernal pools in order to survive and reproduce include woodfrogs, spotted and blue-spotted salamanders (two types of mole salamanders), and fairy shrimp. Avoiding impacts to significant vernal pools and their surrounding habitat is important because many amphibian

species are pool specific: to breed they must return to the pond in which they were born. The loss of vernal pools and the critical terrestrial habitat around them leads to local loss of amphibian species, a decrease in biodiversity, and a decline in food available for many other animals that live in these areas.

Oceanside thanks Mike Johnson for his hard work in establishing another layer of protection for Echo Pond on Peaks Island.



Water’s Edge

## plants photographed spring monitoring?



**Answers to Plant Quiz**  
1. Beach Pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*) 2. Alternate-Leaved Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) 3. Low-Bush Blueberry (*Vaccinium pennsylvanicum*) 4. Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) 5. Wild Calla (*Water arum*) 6. Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*) 7. False Solomon’s Seal (*Smilacina racemosa*)

## OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST OF CASCO BAY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

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766-2827  
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Mark Greene.....766-4440 *Long Island*  
Eliza Cope Nolan.....772-5024 *Cushing Island*  
John Whitman.....766-2211 *Peaks 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

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

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

# DIALING FOR DOLLARS

## - Oceanside Style

By Roger Berle

Twenty-five years ago, when OCT emerged from Project Oceanside on Peaks Island, we began our trust with more money than most beginning land trusts. With our consistently modest spending plan, we have been able to husband that financial foundation: investing some, spending some, donating some, and taking in annual membership contributions. For a quarter century, such low-key financial planning worked. And, like other smaller Maine land trusts' boards, OCT's directors raised money for specific projects rather than building a large treasury.

In 2004 OCT directors applied for and received their first grant which was for the surveying of the Davies property. During 2005 and 2006, OCT's Board determined that our all-volunteer organization was no longer able to meet some of our goals. A particularly daunting task was the need to become an Accredited Land Trust to meet IRS and Land Trust Alliance standards. While calculating that OCT could not afford dedicated administrative support for this work, the Directors searched for other options. Soon, we found that two nearby land trusts were having similar concerns.

OCT, Falmouth Conservation Trust, and Cumberland Mainland and Islands Trust joined forces to form the present Portland North Land Trust Collaborative (PNLTC). PNLTC began operations in December 2006 with a new administrator and funding from the Davis Conservation Foundation. Soon other grant applications became necessary – and successful, as PNLTC received recognition for breaking new and important ground. In 2008, as grant funding for operations began to phase out, the three trusts each contributed equal portions of money from their modest treasuries to support PNLTC.

Last winter it became apparent that some concerted fund-raising dedicated to PNLTC would be necessary to meet budget needs. The Collaborative's Steering Committee sought and received a \$5,000 challenge pledge to be met by each of the three trusts. With a development plan in hand and some pro-bono coaching, three mini-campaigns were soon under way. This project soon will yield a minimum total of \$20,000 allowing PNLTC to employ Jess Burton as Executive Director and to hire a new administrative assistant. At this writing, the three land trusts' campaigns are nearing success. The largest challenge, beyond the fearsome state of the economy, is asking members for major donations for PNLTC while each trust continues to seek support for its own land acquisition, protection and stewardship. OCT recognizes, however, that to achieve effective land conservation, trusts must work regionally and collaboratively and this mission will cost more money.

OCT plans to continue our traditional contacts with our members through the newsletter, mailings, and annual meeting. We are pleased that over 250 members renew annually and make regular donations. Donations received from the newsletter and at the annual meeting assure us that our members recognize the importance of our work. We intend to increase our focus on enlisting volunteer stewards. OCT is proud that it is able to continue to protect our properties and move forward toward our goals of accreditation and future planning during these hard economic times. OCT welcomes and greatly appreciates your gifts of time, talent, and resources.

## Can you name these seven on OCT's properties during



1.



2.



3.



4.

## MEET OCT DIRECTOR



MICHAEL P. JOHNSON

Each spring Michael Johnson gathers his gear and slowly wades into Echo Pond to search for evidence of amphibian breeding activity and to count salamander eggs. Based on Michael's field survey, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection recently designated Echo Pond on Peaks Island a significant vernal pool.

Oceanside Conservation Trust is very fortunate to have Michael P. Johnson, an experienced field biologist and scientist, serving on the board of directors. When he's not volunteering his services to OCT, Michael is responsible for conducting ecological inventories and habitat studies for Stantec, where he is currently employed. He designs and conducts a wide range of wildlife field studies and sampling programs, especially in relation to ecological risk assessments, restoration monitoring, and permit and license compliance work. He has particular expertise in designing and conducting aquatic surveys and fish sampling programs.

A certified SCUBA diver and advanced scientific research diver, Michael is also an expert in marine ecological and aquaculture work, including subtidal and intertidal surveys and sampling, remote diving, and fisheries management.

In addition to his valuable work experience in commercial fisheries, Michael worked with the United States Peace Corps and the Zambian Department of Fisheries instructing subsistence farmers in all aspects of sustainable fish culture. He also provided training to Zambian fisheries agents in modern fish farming techniques.

Michael, his wife Kay, and two children Hazel (4) and Aran (2) are currently building a house on Long Island where Michael grew up. Michael's family has lived on the island for many generations. His current hobbies include building their house, gardening, and SCUBA diving.



Winterberry - Vernal pond vegetation



Spotted Salamander



Spotted Salamander Egg Mass



Aran Johnson meets Jack-in-the-Pulpit

## PNLTC CELEBRATION



As the sun set over Portland harbor on March 19, 2009, supporters of land conservation gathered together at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to celebrate their achievements. The evening's centerpiece was a sophisticated GIS (Geographic Information System) map of the more than 1500 acres held in trust by Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay, Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust, and the Falmouth Land Trust. These three land trusts formed the Portland North Land Trust Collaborative in 2006 to facilitate regional land conservation.

More than 70 attendees, young and old, walked among each trust's information tables, looking at scenic pictures of verdant forests, rocky island shores, and pastoral farmland expanses, all of which are under the stewardship of the three land trusts.

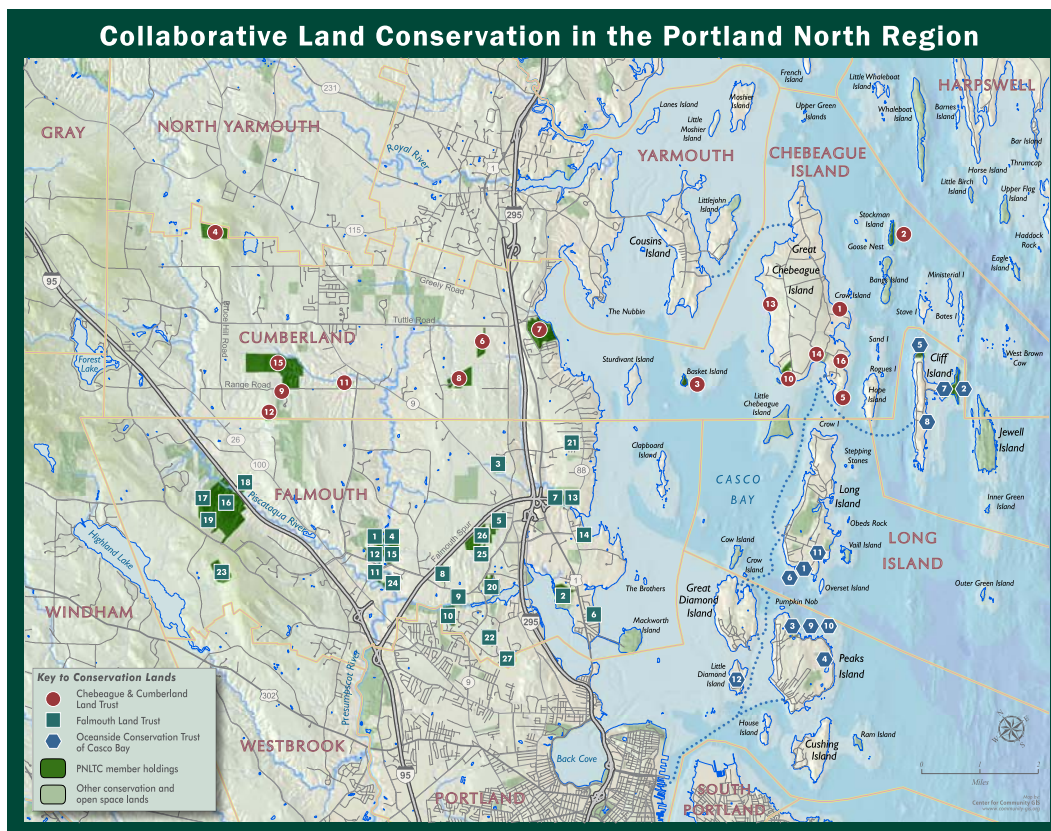
PNLTC thanks Belle Fete Catering, West End Deli and Whole Foods for their support.

## and The Star of the Event

The celebrated map was created in cooperation with the Portland Land Trust Collaborative, the Center for Community GIS, and the Casco Bay GIS Service Center.

Roger Berle, Chair of the PNLTC, states that this drafting of a service area map has "taken these three trusts into the twenty-first century and will enable us to envision accomplishments which will make significant contributions to land conservation in the most populated region of Maine." As Steven Engle, Director of the Center for Community GIS, explains: "These kinds of maps quickly and dramatically create a geographic identity for the land trust, and visually frame information and choices about land acquisition priorities."

This map of protected properties will serve as the base for The Portland North Regional Conservation Plan, a study of regional and relevant ecological, demographic, and recreational information. Different layers of information will be "integrated, investigated, and mapped at multiple scales for the purposes of guiding PNLTC's ongoing conservation planning, land stewardships, marketing, and grant writing needs," states Steve Engle.



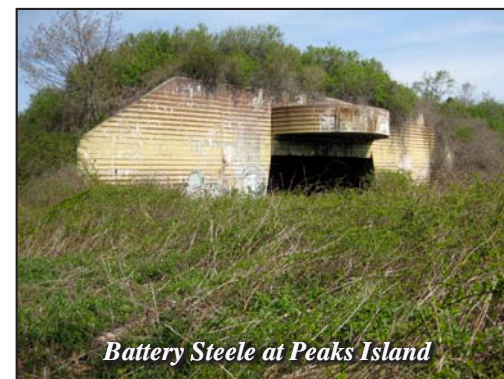
Memorial Woods at Little Diamond Island



College Island



Fowler's Beach at Long Island



Battery Steele at Peaks Island



ACE Beach to Bluffs at Cliff Island

## SAVE THE DATE!

### OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST of CASCO BAY *Annual Meeting - Picnic on Peaks*

**WHEN:** JULY 10, 2009 from 5-7:00 PM

**WHERE:** DAVEIS SANCTUARY on PEAKS ISLAND

**PROGRAM:** Curtis Bohlen, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

Mr. Bohlen will discuss The Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, which is committed to protecting and restoring the water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat of Casco Bay. He will also discuss land trusts in the Casco Bay region.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Casco Bay Ferry service to Peaks Island is available. Alternatively, Roger Berle will provide the following passenger pick-up service:

Lv Cliff at 3:30	Lv LDI Casino at 4:25
Lv Chebeague/Chandler's Cove at 3:40	Arrive Peaks Public Float at 4:30
Lv Long at 3:55	Tie up at Plante Marina for
Lv Diamond Cove at 4:05	the duration of the Meeting.
Lv GDI Public Wharf at 4:15	Reverse Course following the Meeting.

**ADULTS \$8.00, CHILDREN FREE**

**RSVP 699-2989 or [OceansideConservationTrust@gmail.com](mailto:OceansideConservationTrust@gmail.com)**

## OCEANSIDE ON TELEVISION!

In the fall of 2008, Oceanside voted to join Portland's Community Television Network. As part of our membership in CTN4, OCT will post meeting times, event information, and use studio equipment.

To view interviews with OCT Directors Chris McDuffie, Brenda Buchanan, and Roger Berle, go to [www.ctn5.org](http://www.ctn5.org) and click on Channel 5. Next click on Portland Profiles and scroll down to the December Show.

To view a video of the unveiling of the GIS map, go to the home page for CTN, scroll down to the March 23rd show and watch highlights of this interesting event.

Education about land conservation is part of Oceanside's mission. Our collaboration with CTN4 will enable us to better serve this goal.