

Long Island's Summer Fun

A tide pooling event at Fowler's Beach by Michael Johnson



Tide pools are most commonly found in rocky hollows that hold water as the tide recedes.

They can contain a diversity of intertidal algae, invertebrates and fish. In this harsh environment, hardy tide pool creatures must contend with fluctuating temperatures, salinities, oxygen levels, water levels and wave action. In addition, predators feed in pools at both high and low tides. During a low tide, gulls, great blue herons, and even raccoons can be found foraging in pools. On higher tides, eider ducks and fish such as striped bass feed in the submerged pools.

The OCT conservation land at Fowler's Beach and Wreck Cove on Long Island is home to some of the largest

and most diverse tide pools on the island. The tide pool at Fowler's Beach is well known by islanders, and children have been exploring it for generations. The tide pool at Wreck Cove is not as well known, but rivals the pool at Fowler's Beach with its diverse assemblage of intertidal organisms.

Both tide pools are surrounded by rocky ledge covered by knotted wrack (seaweed). The pool bottoms contain a mixture of rock, sand and shell fragments and range from 1 to 2 feet in depth. Patches of eel grass can be found in both pools. Explorers of intertidal life can expect to see American lobsters, green crabs, hermit crabs, rock gunnells, tidepool sculpins, periwinkles, dogwinkles, sand shrimp, sea urchins, starfish, slipper shells, limpets, blue mussels, polychaete worms, barnacles, mysid shrimp, amphipods, isopods, tunicates, and sea slugs.

The Long Island Recreation Department will be hosting a tide pooling event at Fowler's Beach on July 17th from 9 to 11 am. This is a great opportunity for both children and adults to explore the pool and to collect and identify intertidal organisms. Field guides will be provided as well as some extra nets and buckets. Be sure to mark this exciting opportunity on your calendars.



An invasive species management program at Long Island Learning Center

Please join us on August 4th from 4 to 6pm at Long Island Learning Center to learn about invasive species with Bob Bittenbender, OCT Board Member and invasives management expert. He will share his experience as the Assistant Property Manager for Maine Audubon. He has designed and led the effort at Gilsland Farm to implement a comprehensive removal program.

OCT's Long Island event is part of a series of stewardship programs coordinated by the Portland North Land Trust Collaborative and funded by the Maine Community Foundation's Fund for Maine Land Conservation and the Edward H. Daveis Benevolent Fund. To register for this workshop, please call Chris McDuffie at 766-5277.

SPRING MONITORING

by Eric Handley

On a brilliant warm spring morning, I met with OCT board members in a location much different from the fluorescent lit conference room where we usually gather. After boating across Casco Bay under a vast blue sky, we arrived at **Little Diamond Island** where I began my first monitoring experience in **Memorial Woods**, a wonderful half acre grove of mixed hardwood with little underbrush in a mixed age forest. We walked the property line and checked all the survey markers. The ongoing project of clearing invasive plants has been very successful, leaving an open understory for new plants to grow.

Next we observed **College Island** by sea. This one-acre property needs a lot of work to clear the invasive Asiatic bittersweet and *rosa rugosa* that are crowding out the native species. The logistics of shoreline cutting regulations, tides, and the disposal of brush would be worth overcoming to allow the native bayberry bushes to thrive.



Bob B. using GPS

Off to **Long Island** and **Fowler's Beach**, a beautiful sandy double horseshoe beach. The swampy watershed contained noticeable beaver activity. Parts of the upper beach area are covered with bittersweet, knotweed, and other invasive plants - in most areas dense enough to require their complete

removal and replanting with new plant materials. A previous project of *rosa rugosa* plantings has helped to stem erosion.

At **Wreck Cove**, a rocky gem of the Maine coast, we did a lot of trash pickup. We walked back across the conservation land through the blow-down of spruce trees. The winter storms of 2010 have left a large number of downed trees to be cleaned up to prevent forest fires. The damage was similar to that caused by the 2009 Patriots' Day storm. The remaining top-heavy trees, with roots in shallow soil damaged by a spring runoff and stressed by high winds, may not survive a future storm. The cleanup could range from dropping the trees to the ground and letting them disintegrate in place to their complete removal for aesthetic purposes.

by Harry Pringle



As a new member of the Oceanside board of directors, I had no idea what to expect from my first easement monitoring trip. I knew that to be accredited, land trusts must monitor their easements at least annually, and document their visits in writing - but I had no idea what 'monitoring' actually involved. On April 29, as part of a monitoring team visit to **Peaks Island**, I found out.

The morning began on the 7:45 ferry to Peaks. The wind was brisk and there were white caps on the bay. Mike Beaudoin, Roger Berle, Bob Bittenbender, Priscilla Doucette, Jane Laughlin, Chris McDuffie and I gathered in the lower starboard cabin on the way over. Making use of all our time, we reviewed a number of draft policies required as part of what seems like a never-ending accreditation process before the ferry docked.

Once on Peaks, we were met by board member AJ Alves. His pickup truck was comfortably outfitted with folding chairs in the back, and off we rode to the first monitoring site, **Dave's Sanctuary and Skillings Woods**. I was struck by the beauty of the parcel, but there was little time to waste: out came the trash bags for litter pickup, tape to mark and remark the boundaries of the parcel, and small markers to be nailed to trees to signal the boundaries as well. We split up to make sure that all the boundaries were still

marked, that trash was removed (there was surprisingly little), and that the conditions of the woods could be assessed. There were some areas of substantial blow downs, but on balance the woods looked in wonderful shape to my untrained eye.

Then, off to visit **Battery Steele** - the site of a huge and imposing former Army bunker and observation post. The trash bags were soon filled with returnable beer cans (Miller Lite seems the beverage of choice), soda bottles and other refuse. We also got a good lesson from Bob Bittenbender on the dangers posed to native plants by various invasive species. Only at a small pond near the Battery did Bob turn optimistic: beavers had been hard at work, felling trees and saplings for their dam. The rising water, noted Bob, was ideal for controlling invasive species.



Both visits took longer than I had expected, and we soon found ourselves heading back to the ferry for the return trip to Portland, thankful once again for AJ's island jitney bus. There was, however, just enough time for coffee and a pastry at the Peaks Café - where, once again, Chris McDuffie pulled out a series of policies for our review from her bottomless bag.

Everyone was pleasantly tired on the trip back. The wind had picked up substantially and the waves were much higher; it felt good to be in a large, warm ferry. It also felt good to have a better sense of the efforts our board makes to monitor its easements. It was obvious that the board members took the task seriously. They had taken the better part of a day out of their busy schedules just to see if the easements on the parcels for which they are responsible were being respected, and it was gratifying to know that they were.



Accreditation...

BUILDING STRENGTH FOR THE FUTURE

by Christine McDuffie

Think of pumping iron or jogging or swimming laps. It's not a lot of fun, but the benefits are obvious, especially compared with the effects of a couch potato lifestyle. That is what Oceanside has been doing since last year, working on a fitness regimen which will probably stretch into next year as well. We are going through all sorts of exercises, building our muscle, and improving our cardiovascular system. We are doing all this in order to meet the Land Trust Standards and Practices for accreditation by the national Land Trust Alliance.

The Land Trust Alliance has responded to those who worry whether the tax advantages and even the durability of conservation easements will survive if they are not maintained over time by organizations whose activities and policies are legally sound and effective. Standards and practices have been developed so our work will survive the challenges of the future. Meeting those standards is no mean feat. The bar is very high.

We are not in this alone. The staff of the Portland North Land Trust Collaborative provides support for Oceanside, Falmouth Land Trust, and the Cumberland and Chebeague Land Trust. The staff gives us invaluable administrative support (we really could not seek accreditation without them). We share expertise from the boards of all three trusts. We are more efficient because three land trusts are going through the accreditation process together; however, this is an expensive process. Each organization is investing significant resources of both time and money to the benefit of all three trusts. Though at times our dedicated boards of directors feel inundated by paperwork, we understand this will make each trust a stronger organization, so we are all committed to this self-improvement regimen.



Board Members Getting in Shape for the Future

We have educated ourselves about our legal responsibilities and had long discussions about our organization's ethical values, conservation values, and what makes a project worth our time and energy. Those philosophical discussions help us develop policies that will guide our work. We are developing a calendar of those "must do" items so that nothing slips by. Policies about conflict of interest, record keeping, accounting and investments, easement enforcement, lobbying, and partnering with other land trusts are only some of the long list of subjects we are addressing. It takes time and endurance to review and revise the drafts of each of these policies to make sure they fit with our circumstances here in Casco Bay.

Like going to the gym, the process of accreditation is probably not everyone's favorite way to spend time. We'd much rather be out on the islands walking some of the exceptional properties we protect by easements or ownership. However, the effort is making us stronger. We very much appreciate our members' support as we go through this process. Unlike our personal fitness programs, this accreditation process should strengthen our organization long after we current members are gone. We are building this organization to endure in order to benefit future generations.

LITTLE CHEBEAGUE STEWARDSHIP EFFORT GOES FORWARD

by Erno Bonebakker

Stewardship of Little Chebeague Island, a popular destination for boaters, clambers and campers, will get a boost this summer thanks to a \$20,000 Recreational Trails Program grant from the Maine Department of Conservation to the Maine Island Trails Association. Oceanside board member Erno



Bonebakker will be project manager with help from board member Eric Handley. The project will reopen old trails, mow overgrown fields and cut bittersweet from trees. Interpretive signage will be renewed. This will provide access and information for visitors who recently have been effectively limited to the shoreline of the island.

Until recently, Richard Innes, a dedicated volunteer, cleared trail, erected interpretive signs and researched the history of the island. He "retired" in 2006 at the age of 82. Since then, MITA and others have struggled to keep up with encroaching vegetation and the ravages of weather.

Oceanside focused its attention on the state-owned island in 2008. We gave DOC commissioner Patrick McGowan a tour around the island on President Roger Berle's boat and

brainstormed conservation possibilities. In February 2009, Portland North and MITA met to further discuss stewardship and conservation of the island.

This project is a new beginning for stewardship of Little Chebeague. Rippleffect, the Cow Island based outdoor learning

Continued on page 7

Summer Fun: THEN,

Then:

A century ago, the scenic islands of Casco Bay were dotted with large hotels and boarding houses that were popular tourist destinations. The

Portland Sunday Times of August 23, 1908, estimated that on each summer day 10,000 visitors enjoyed the beaches, fields, and woods of the islands, not to mention the clam and lobster bakes on the shore. This estimate did not include Portland people sunbathing at the islands or the large numbers of day excursionists. If all 10,000 were brought together for breakfast, it would take 2967 servants to wait on them, 500 gallons of coffee, 5000 pounds of steak, 100 bushels of potatoes, 50,000 griddle-cakes, 1667 dozen eggs, 600 pounds of butter, and 200 quarts of maple syrup!



Hiking on Great Diamond



Dave's Sisters' Cottage



Pyramid on Fowler's Beach



Island Picnic



On the float Peaks Island, Me.



The Old "Auco"

Save the date of OCT's Annual Meeting **JU**

Fowler's Beach, Long Island, Maine | Indoor facility if raining

Casco Bay Lines | 1:00 a.m. | Return 4:20 or 4:50 | Island Tour

Inter-island transportation available | Beverages & Dessert Provided

GUEST SPEAKER: Don Perkins

NOW & FOREVER

Now:

Today most of the historic hotels are gone, but the islands remain a popular recreation spot. Summer visitors still enjoy swimming at Fowler's Beach, hiking The Bluffs, picnicking at Griffin's Cove, beach-combing or exploring tide pools at Wreck Cove, bird-watching at Dave's Sanctuary, and kayaking the waters of beautiful Casco Bay.



Cliff Island tug-of-war
1988



Cliff Island 1987



The New "Auco"



Wedding at Griffin's Cove



Gus on Guard at Dave's Shoreline



ACE Ballfield 1995



Picnic at Griffin's Cove
2010

Forever:

Thanks to the efforts of local land trusts and the generosity of individual donors, we will always be able to enjoy recreation on many acres that are preserved and protected on the islands of Casco Bay.

LY 22, 2010

Don Perkins became Gulf of Maine Research Institute's President in 1995. Don works with GMRI's board of directors and management team to drive the Institute's evolution as a strategic science, education, and community institution serving the Gulf of Maine bioregion.

OCT'S ON THE WEB!

www.oceansideconservationtrust.org

Check out OCT's very own web site! We have been a link on PNLTC's site for a year. Now we are also at our own "address." Be sure to use your address bar to reach our site.

PHOTO CREDITS

“Hiking on Great Diamond”
Joseph H. Day Family Photos
Great Diamond Island Collection

“Daveis Sisters’ Cottage”
Kim MacIsaac, Peaks Island

“Pyramid on Fowler’s Beach c. 1920”
Long Island Historical Society
Gift to LIHS from Roberta Gomez Ricker

“Island Picnic”
Joseph H. Day Family Photos
Great Diamond Island Collection

“On the Float, Peaks Island”
Robert R. Laughlin Postcard Collection

“The Old Auco”
Robert R. Laughlin Postcard Collection

“Cliff Island Tug-of-War, 1988”
Roger Berle Photo

“Cliff Island, 1987”
Roger Berle Photo

“The New Auco”
Casco Bay Lines Photo

“Wedding at Griffin’s Cove”
Marianne & Steve Tracy Photo

“Gus on Guard at Daveis Shoreline”
PNLTC Photo

“ACE Ballfield, 1995”
Roger Berle Photo

“Picnic at Griffin’s Cove, 2010”
Priscilla Doucette Photo

WINTER STORM DAMAGE

Unfortunately, the past winter has been another hard one for some of OCT's conserved land.

On **Peaks Island** many large trees are down in Skillings Woods. Board member AJ Alves has begun lopping branches and mulching them into the ground. He will return with a chainsaw and make 4' logs from these trees. The logs will be left on the ground to decompose.

On **Long Island**, Wreck Cove's woods have again been hard hit. Most of the trees that OCT designated to be saved after the Patriots' Day Storm of 2007 have now fallen. The Town of Long Island is applying for FEMA funds to deal with the blowdowns. Oceanside prefers that the use of big equipment be avoided on the Wreck Cove property, and where possible, that the trees be dropped and limbed as needed to reduce physical hazards and fire danger. Abutting property owners are eager to have fire hazards reduced.

Parts of **Cliff Island** suffered severe damage, but OCT's properties escaped major damage.



MEET OUR DIRECTOR *Jane McClarie Laughlin*



Jane Laughlin has been a director of OCT for 10 years, serving as co-editor of our newsletter and secretary. Currently she is also President of Great Diamond Island Land Preserve [GDILP]. A native Mainer, Jane grew up in the Bangor area. After graduating from the University of Maine at Orono, she taught English, Speech, Debate, and US

History for 28 years. During that time, over 60 members of her debate and speech teams qualified for national tournaments. Jane is now happily and busily retired with her husband Bob. For a contribution to OCT, Jane enjoys the challenge of creating a newsletter which will function as an ambassador for the organization. She especially enjoys the spring monitoring of OCT protected properties, even the tree-sized poison ivy on Cliff Island. Her hobbies of reading, writing, gardening, genealogy, and researching the history of Great Diamond Island still leave her time to be a Nana to Malcolm and Orion.

Jane states, "My introduction to environmental issues and conservation in Casco Bay began more than 20 years ago on Great Diamond when Nan Stockman, one of the first directors of Oceanside Conservation Trust, encouraged me to attend OCT and CBIDA annual meetings. She provided a fine example of how to be a steward of the environment, and she became a dear friend. I've considered myself an islander since marrying Robert Laughlin 23 years ago. The Laughlins have been summer residents of Great Diamond since 1900 in a cottage dating back to 1884, and the family has always been active in the Diamond Island Association. I've been fortunate to be able to make a contribution to the cottage community through my interests in history, genealogy, and the environment. My official residence may be South Portland, but my community is Great Diamond."

One of Jane's strong beliefs is the importance of civic responsibility, and she finds inspiration in this bit of history uncovered in her research: In 1889 Ira Berry, one of the early residents of Great Diamond, wrote about his first visit the island on July 4, 1825, when he and his friends "disfigured some of the grand old beech trees" by carving their initials in the bark. "Our fancy was, I believe, that we might thus connect our names with this lovely spot, perpetually. The initials are now hardly to be traced, ... but the glorious old trees are still vigorous and stand sublime in majesty." Ira Berry expressed regret for his boyhood vandalism and hoped that he and his friends might "leave a better mark on the age in which they lived, to show what part they took in performing the labors and duties devolving on them as members of the community."

Little Cbebeague Stewardship (cont'd)

organization, has committed their Cow Island Conservation Corps and Youth Leadership Summit students to help. MITA plans to work with other groups interested in the island to develop a practical, long-term management plan. This will insure that visitors can continue to enjoy interior of this wild island, and learn about its history and environment.

Anyone interested in helping with this project by preparing signage and outreach material, providing financial support to supplement the grant funding, or expressing support for the project may contact Erno at 207-871-0048 or by e-mail at ebonebak@gmail.com; MITA at 207-761-8225; or OCT at 207-699-8969.

Spring Monitoring



OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST OF CASCO BAY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-2010

Roger Berle, President.....	781-5331 766-2827 <i>Cliff Island</i>
Brenda Buchanan, Vice President....	854-5824
Jane Laughlin, Secretary.....	799-9285 766-2570 <i>Great Diamond Island</i>
Stephanie Weaver, Treasurer.....	761-4212 <i>Cushing Island</i>
A.J. Alves.....	766-2423 <i>Peaks Island</i>
Mike Beaudoin.....	774-0522 766-3028 <i>Cliff Island</i>
Bob Bittenbender.....	892-3818
Erno Bonebakker.....	871-0048 615-6664 <i>Chebeague Island</i>
Priscilla Doucette.....	772-5705 <i>Little Diamond Island</i>
Jeanne Gulnick.....	766-2601 <i>Peaks Island</i>
Eric Handley	899-0027
Michael Johnson.....	232-5778 <i>Long Island</i>
Christine McDuffie.....	829-3231 766-5277 <i>Long Island</i>
Harry R. Pringle.....	774-0437 766-3326 <i>Little Diamond Island</i>

ADVISORY BOARD:

Tom Bergh.....	766-2419 <i>Peaks Island</i>
Mark Greene.....	766-4440 <i>Long Island</i>
Eliza Cope Nolan.....	772-5024 <i>Cushing Island</i>
John Whitman.....	766-2211 <i>Peaks Island</i>

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
Deveis 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



**OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST
OF CASCO BAY**

**P.O. BOX 10404
PORTLAND, MAINE 04104**

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*Since 1982, approximately 85 acres
on Casco Bay Islands have been
permanently protected.*

*Oceanside Conservation Trust
of Casco Bay welcomes
your support.*



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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**

P.O. BOX 10404 | PORTLAND, MAINE 04104
OceansideConservationTrust@gmail.com | Tel. 207-699-2989

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!