

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

Volume 9 Edition 1, June 2012

THE NEWEST GEM *on Little Diamond Island*

Oceanside Conservation Trust is excited to announce the donation of two beautiful, undeveloped, shorefront lots on Little Diamond Island. The generous gift is from Patty and Cyrus Hagge, Portland and Little Diamond Island residents. They will be recognized at OCT's annual meeting on July 26 (see page 3). Cyrus chose to work with Oceanside because he believes "OCT, as a partner in this project, has the best understanding of how to effectively preserve island property."

The property consists of two adjacent lots on the north end of LDI. Totaling almost two and one-half acres, the property is bounded by private lots on the east and west sides. The land is populated by a mature upland forest that has had little recent disturbance. It also has a forested, wetland swale in the center. The shoreline is a beach with a mixed course and fine substrate. Views from the property extend across Casco Bay to Portland, Falmouth, and Great Diamond Island.



Dominant tree species are red oak, pitch pine, red maple, American beech, paper birch, quaking aspen, and shagbark hickory. The shagbark hickory is a species of note since it is not often seen in Maine. The larger trees on the property appear to be 80 to 100 years old. The forest is relatively open with few scattered shrubs including bayberry, juniper, and beaked hazelnut, low-bush blueberry, blue ridge sedge, and blackberry. Dominant vegetation in the wetland includes red maple, winterberry, cinnamon fern, and sensitive fern. Some shallow standing water (2-4") is located within this wetland, but it is too shallow to support breeding amphibians.

- continued on page 3

FOWLER'S BEACH BEAVERS: *The Pros and Cons of Beaver Activity*

Beavers are part of the natural landscape in Maine and their activity often has many benefits to other wildlife. Active management, however, is sometimes required when they build their dams in places that negatively impact properties. The recent



Beaver dam and pond on southeastern portion of Fowler's Beach.

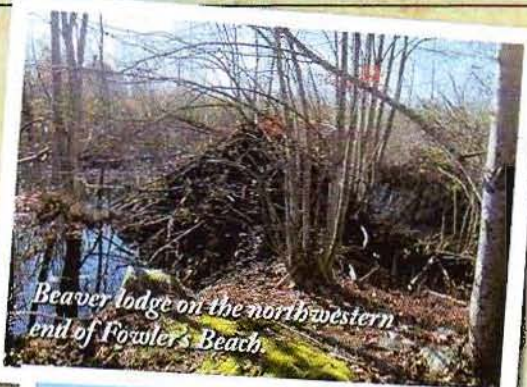


Southeastern beaver pond.

beaver activity at Fowler's Beach is a good example of both the ecological benefits and potential for property damage associated with beavers. Over the last several years beavers have been working to dam the small stream that flows across

the southeastern end of the beach. This dam is located across the road from the beach and has created a pond behind the sand dunes. The beaver activity here has increased the size of the existing wetland converting it from a mix of forested and emergent wetland to emergent and open water wetland. Although some of the surrounding trees have died back this pond has overall increased the functions and values of the wetland. The pond now provides habitat for amphibians, fish, wading birds and waterfowl. Species observed using this pond include; wood duck, mallard duck, black duck, great blue heron, and black-crowned night heron.

Last fall the beavers built a second dam on a small stream that flows across the northwestern end of the beach. This dam illustrates the problems that can arise for abutting properties from flooding associated with beaver activity. The beaver dam here flooded the existing scrub-shrub wetland and caused water to back up under one abutter's house and against another abutter's septic system. The Long Island Civic Association, which owns the property, decided to have the dam and beavers removed from this area. Several beavers



Beaver lodge on the northwestern end of Fowler's Beach.



Flooding over septic system caused by beaver dam.



Outwash from the removed beaver dam.

were trapped and the dam was removed using a small excavator. Hand removal of the dam was not feasible because of the thick shrubs and poison ivy. Since the initial clearing was done, it is much easier to monitor and future dams can be removed by hand. After the dam removal in the fall, no additional beaver activity has been observed at this dam.

OCT'S SECOND ANNUAL *Winter Birding Cruise*

In an event co-sponsored by OCT and Maine Audubon, on February 18, 2012, thirty-five birding enthusiasts joined Audubon's Naturalist Mike Windsor, OCT Director Bob Bittenbender, and Bob's wife Margi Huber for the "Mail Boat Cruise" on the Casco Bay Lines.

Highlights were sightings of hawks, eagles, and long-tailed ducks. Loons were especially prevalent.

OCT thanks Bob and Mike for organizing and leading this successful event.



THE NEWEST GEM on *Little Diamond Island* - continued from page 1



The beach on the north shore has mixed coarse and fine sediments including boulders, cobble, gravel and sand. Numerous soft-shell clam holes are visible in the intertidal zone. Some of the scattered rocks have rockweed growing on them. The property and shoreline are visible from across Casco Bay in Portland and Falmouth and also from neighboring Great Diamond Island.

The overall OCT management goal for this important gift is to maintain the property in the natural state, allowing for recreational and educational opportunities. The mature forest on the property provides opportunities for walks and bird watching and serves as a buffer to the shoreline and adjacent residences. The property

also allows for shoreline access from Rockledge Avenue for the local community. OCT has completed an annual monitoring of the property and has marked the property boundaries. Although the mature forest and lack of disturbance has not allowed invasive plant species to become a major problem on this property, invasive species will be monitored annually and removed if deemed a threat by the OCT Board and its volunteer stewards.



Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

30th ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 26, 2012 3:15-6:15
LITTLE DIAMOND ISLAND at the Casino



Special recognitions and business meeting
TOUR OCT'S NEWLY CONSERVED LAND
and
SEVERAL COTTAGES

Light refreshments • Free for members

Reservations are required by July 10

TO RSVP & FOR MORE INFORMATION

E-mail conservationcollaborative@gmail.com or call (207) 699-2989

Transportation via Casco Bay Lines

Newly Formed Collaborative

Portland North Land Trust Collaborative, a five-year partnership of Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay, Chebeague and Cumberland Land Trust, and Falmouth Land Trust has evolved into Portland-based **Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative**. Eight land trusts have signed on to become governing members of the new collaborative, each paying a \$1,000 annual membership that grants them representation on the organization's board. In addition to the annual membership fee, the collaborative charges \$40 an hour for services.

For many of the land trusts, a key service that the collaborative can provide is guidance through the lengthy accreditation process. Land trusts also might join the collaborative for help monitoring conservation easements. Since forming in January, the collaborative has also worked with members on developing member databases, preparing a manual for one trust's board members, and writing grants. In May, SMCC organized a training on trail maintenance led by Portland Trails, a collaborative member. Jessica Burton is director of Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative.

Excerpted from "Collaborative aims to make life easier for southern Maine land trusts," by Andrew Cullen, The Forecaster, May, 2012

Spring Monitoring

USING GPS by Bob Bittenbender and Erno Bonebakker

OCT is moving into the age of Global Positioning Systems and computerized mapping to enhance the monitoring of our properties and easements. Although somewhat intimidating for the uninitiated, the process is quite easy for anyone willing to engage with the technology. The tools are simple and inexpensive: a hand held GPS receiver (Garmin 76) and Google Earth, a free mapping tool. Property survey maps and town tax maps provide the framework for locating property boundaries and features.

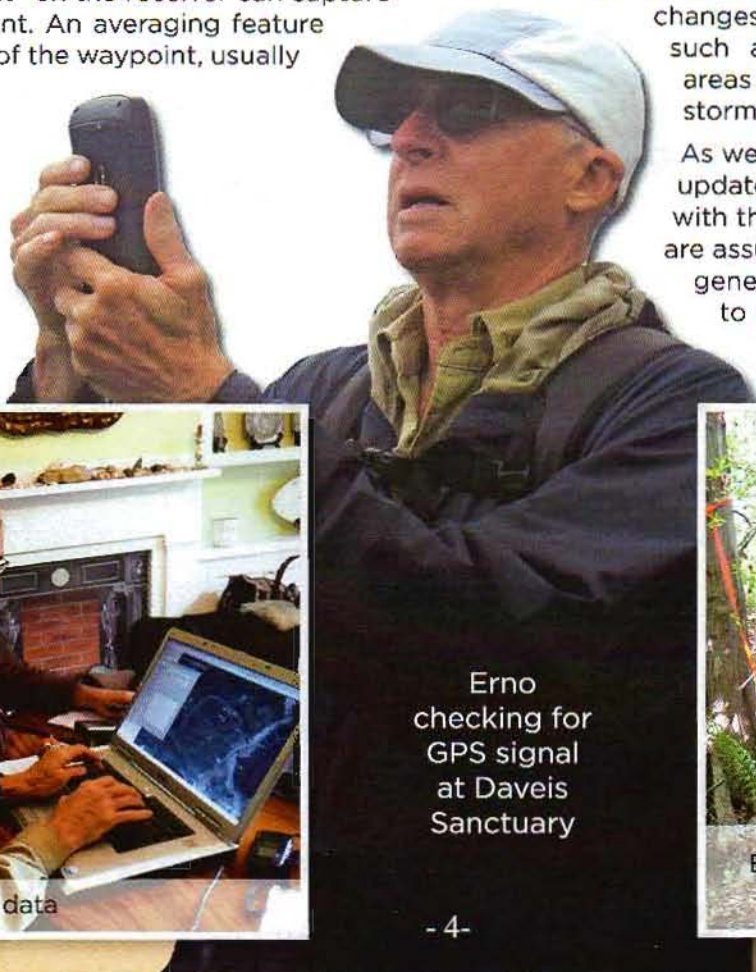
GPS is a space-based satellite navigation system first developed in 1973 by the U.S. Military. Over the years GPS has become more accurate and has changed to allow people not only to find out where they are, but also to follow tracks to where they want to be, to survey boundaries, mark objects of interest, and much more. Today by combining GPS with Google Earth and other sites, it is possible to see satellite photo imagery of an area, produce accurate maps with trails and other features, and to label various objects with notes and other information. Electronic storage of this information is easily done for later reference and comparisons. The GPS receiver "listens" to signals from a constellation of satellites overhead and calculates its location on the earth from these signals. Marking or memorizing a "waypoint" on the receiver can capture the location of any point. An averaging feature improves the accuracy of the waypoint, usually to less than 10 feet.

During the past few years Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay has begun using GPS to help in our yearly monitoring of our properties and easements so that the

wishes of the people who have donated land or granted easements are met and maintained.

Oceanside directors and land stewards are fixing the location of property boundaries, trails and other features on the properties. The waypoints we gather are uploaded to Google Earth and a map is created showing the boundaries and other features on a specific property. The map can then be used to compare the conditions of the property in later years. Google Earth allows photographs to be attached to specific points on the map, enabling OCT monitors to go into the field with the property map on a Smartphone and compare last year's data with the current situation. We document activities that might be in violation of the terms of the easements such as trespass, illegal dumping, and even unauthorized cutting of trees. GPS can also be helpful in noting positive changes in the landscape such as re-vegetation of areas damaged by fires or storms.

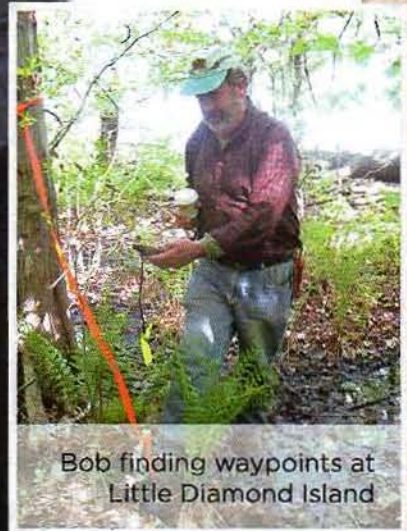
As we document and update our properties with this valuable tool, we are assuring that future generations will be able to enjoy many of our great treasures in Casco Bay.



Erno
checking for
GPS signal
at Dave's
Sanctuary

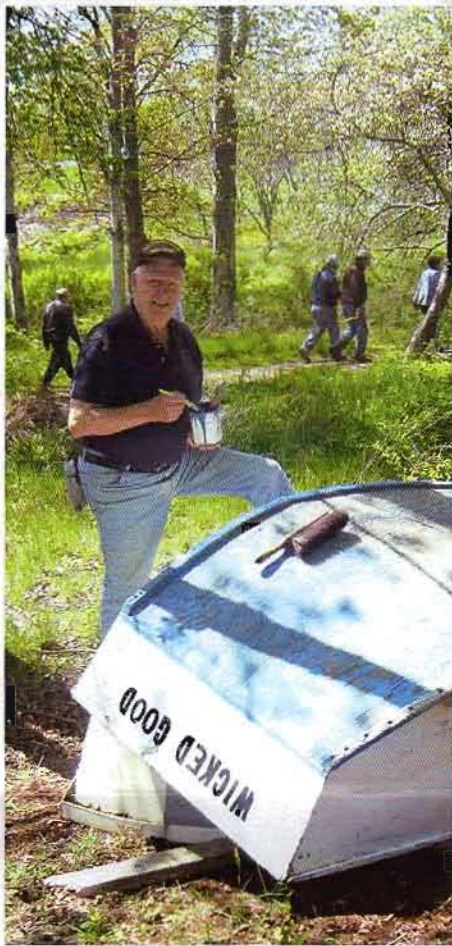


Erno and Bob recording GPS data



Bob finding waypoints at
Little Diamond Island

g goes modern!



Gordon Griffin makes use of a beautiful spring day and preserved land. Griffin's Cove on Cliff Island is an unusual example of property preservation. Islanders come here to repair and store boats and gear, hold weddings and picnics, and of course, to swim!



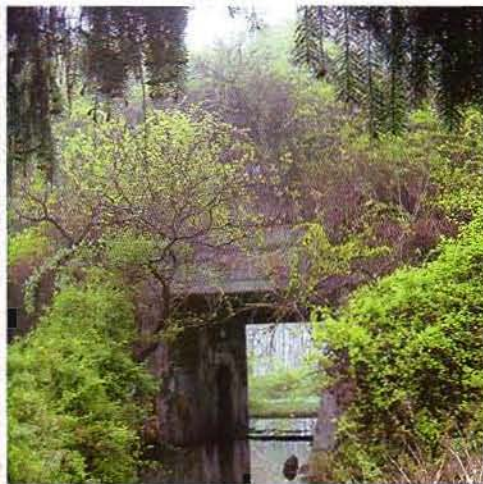
Steve Little, president of ACE on Cliff Island, helps monitor the Ballfield and the Bluffs.

After several major blow-downs and many hours of work, new growth is abundant on Peaks Island's Daveis Sanctuary and Skillins Woods properties.



Leaving blow-downs in place after fire-hazardous dry limbs have been removed returns nutrients to the soil.

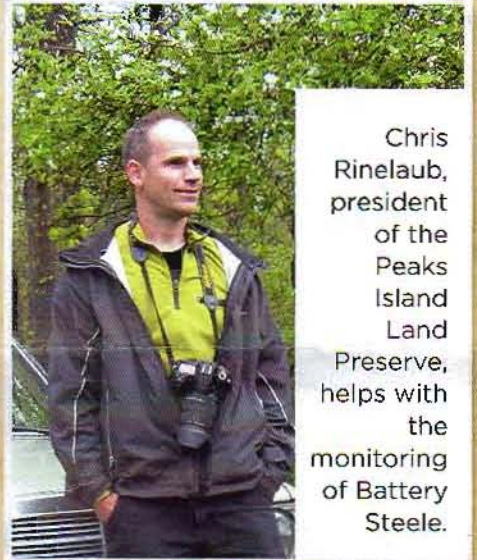
Battery Steele in the mist.



Mike and Aron Johnson arrive to help monitor Battery Steele on Peaks Island.



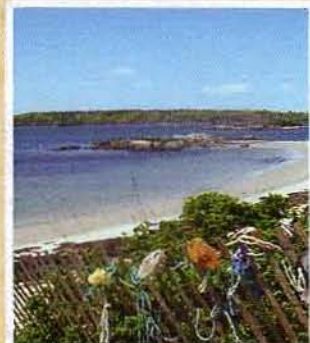
Chris Rinelaub, president of the Peaks Island Land Preserve, helps with the monitoring of Battery Steele.



Aron Johnson checks out the fauna of Battery Steele.



Wreck Cove on Long Island provides the setting for a perfect Maine picture.



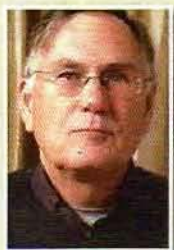
A SALUTE to Stephanie Weaver

During her eleven years with Oceanside, Stephanie Weaver has served OCT as director, treasurer, vice-president, and president. A graduate of the USM Muskie School of Public Service, with a dual major in fiscal management and organizational management, Stephanie was eminently qualified to guide Oceanside through the period of growth and change which led, ultimately, to our decision to seek Land Trust Alliance Accreditation. As a fourth-generation Cushing Islander, she will continue to be involved in preserving the beauty of Casco Bay.



"After many years of serving on OCT's board, I decided with many regrets to resign last fall when my family life and regular full time job demanded more attention. Being a part of OCT has been a tremendous experience for me. Not only have I been lucky enough to work with people I strongly admire and to learn more about all aspects of conserving precious open space, but also being a small part of organizational change has been truly instructive and engaging. From hiring paid staff, collaborating more with other conservation organizations, and developing or implementing best practices, OCT's ongoing transformation has been unfolding for some years, and I wish everyone who carries this work forward all my best."

MEET THE DIRECTORS



John Spencer comes to the Board of OCT with thirty-five years of experience in the financial services industry with ten years of overseas assignments in Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

He is a graduate of Bowdoin College and the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

John and his wife Lisa started their family while living in Japan, later moving to the Boston area to settle down and raise their three children near family and as close to Maine as John could get.

"An important part of growing up for my children and me has been spending summers on Cushings Island, where my family has been for more than 100 years."

John's involvement in conservation includes being the current President of Cushing Island Conservation Corporation, which controls about 142 acres on Cushing Island. He also is a volunteer member of Massachusetts Audubon Society at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln, MA.

John plans to share his expertise on governance and use of technology. He especially enjoys dealing with land management issues, such as control of invasive plants. His goals for

conservation are to see that land management practices are developed and deployed that ensure the long term health of the land, especially in unique environments like the islands of Casco Bay.

For the past nineteen years, John has led a community garden club in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He is also a founder of a farmers' market in Wellesley.

"Both activities have kept me in touch with land use issues, and I have seen first hand a dramatic renewed interest from citizens in caring for our land using sustainable methods."



A strong background in tax law, accounting, and nonprofit law are the skills Christopher Stevenson brings to the Board of Directors of Oceanside Conservation Trust.

Christopher grew up in Bridgewater, a suburb of Boston. After graduating from the University of Vermont with a degree in Business Administration, he moved to Maine in 2001, where he spent four years working in the field of accounting before deciding to attend Maine Law School. Christopher has been working as a tax attorney at Drummond Woodsum since

graduating from law school in 2008. He lives in Cape Elizabeth with his wife Jill and two children Elle (two years old) and Eric (six months old).

Portland's vibrant community and abundant parks and beaches attracted Christopher to this area. An outdoor enthusiast who enjoys spending time on Maine's coast, he strongly supports any effort to preserve Maine's coastal areas and to promote the ability of the public to responsibly access these areas. His goals for Oceanside include preserving coastal Maine in its natural state while encouraging responsible use of these lands by the general public.

When not at work, Christopher enjoys spending time with his family, and struggling to find time to ski in the winter and play tennis in the summer. In addition, he has agreed to be the treasurer of OCT.

THE ACCREDITATION BEAT GOES ON

After more than two years of preparation, Oceanside submitted our massive application to the LTA Accreditation Commission in November 2011 and had our phone conference call with the Commission this January. As follow-up, the Commission brought to our attention some deficiencies in our due diligence protocols for new projects, and they requested additional information. The Oceanside Board has responded with typical energy to meet this challenge, volunteering many more hours to take on the tasks being required to meet the

accreditation standards. We feel this is all to the good as we work hard to improve our performance capabilities in the present time, knowing this will strengthen the permanent protection of our conservation properties. It is just this kind of process which proves the value of accreditation. We submitted our final response in May, and the Commission will make their decision about our accreditation by September. We all hope for a positive response.

Blue-eyed grass



Invasive mustard weed



Irish seamoss



Apple tree



Beach plum



Beach pea



OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST OF CASCO BAY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2012-2013

Roger Berle, President.....	781-5331 766-2827 Cliff Island
Christine McDuffie, Vice President..	829-3231 766-5277 Long Island
Jane Laughlin, Secretary.....	799-9285 766-2570 Great Diamond Island
Christopher Stevenson, Treasurer....	772-1941 Cape Elizabeth
A.J. Alves.....	766-2423 Peaks Island
Mike Beaudoin.....	774-0522 766-3028 Cliff Island
Bob Bittenbender.....	892-3818 Windham
Erno Bonebakker.....	871-0048 615-6664 Chebeague Island
Priscilla Doucette.....	772-5705 Little Diamond Island
Jeanne Gulnick.....	766-2601 Peaks Island
Eric Handley	899-0027 Portland
Michael Johnson.....	232-5778 Long Island
Harry R. Pringle.....	774-0437 766-3326 Little Diamond Island
John Spencer.....	617-680-0012 766-2680 Cushing Island

ADVISORY BOARD:

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Brenda Buchanan.....	854-5824 Westbrook
Mark Greene.....	766-4440 Long Island
Eliza Cope Nolan.....	772-5024 Cushing Island
John Whitman.....	766-2211 Peaks Island

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
New Little Diamond Island Property	Little Diamond Island	OCT	2012	2.5 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

P.O. BOX 10404 | PORTLAND, MAINE 04104

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

Check out
our new website!

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.*

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PORTLAND, MAINE 04104

