

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

Volume 3 Edition 2, November 2006

A NEW EASEMENT ON A NEW ISLAND



Terry Ingalls, LDIA president, and Cyrus Hagge relax after the completion of their hard work.



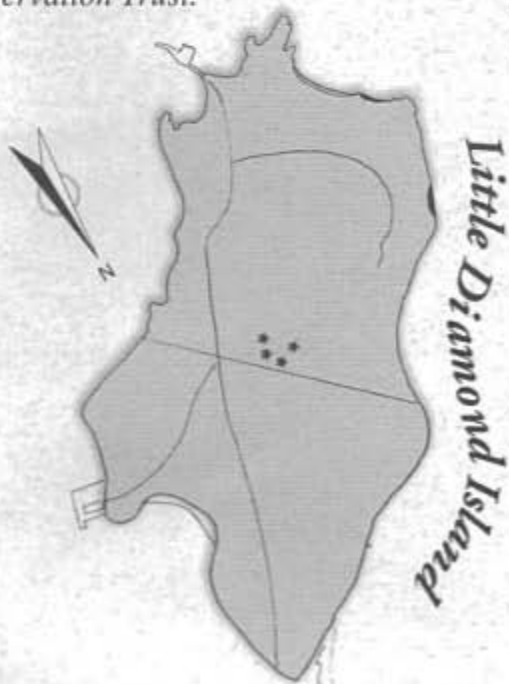
Cyrus helps Susan Ingalls, OCT board member, to locate the boundaries.



Cyrus and Susan mark the property boundaries with tape.

Oceanside Conservation Trust is pleased to add Little Diamond Island to the list of Casco Bay islands with land protected by conservation easements.

Over the past year, the community of Little Diamond Island raised the funds necessary to purchase four interior lots on the island. The parcel is now owned by the Little Diamond Island Association, which has granted the conservation easement to Oceanside Conservation Trust.



The new easement is a significant accomplishment for islanders and OCT. It insures that the land will remain undeveloped and available for community enjoyment. The parcel has no structures and is easily accessible from Little Diamond Island perimeter paths. It is part of an old growth oak forest.



OCT and LDIA want to give special recognition to Cyrus Hagge for his support and hard work. The Little Diamond Island Association recently dedicated the property as a memorial to all those who loved the island. At the dedication, islanders gathered to offer moving tributes.

Many hope that this land will be the start of a larger conservation effort. Oceanside Conservation Trust will create a baseline data document, monitor, and maintain the property in cooperation with the Little Diamond Island Association to insure that it remains a natural, wild area for all to visit and enjoy.

MANY USES FOR CONSERVED LAND



In early spring, Griffin's Cove is a busy work site.

Griffin's Cove has been an active and essential site on Cliff Island since the earliest European settlers arrived. The oldest cellar hole on the island is still identifiable just above the Cove today; it is all that remains of the 17th century homestead of David Henry Griffin. Facing the south, sheltered from the north winds, and overlooking a calm, tidal cove, this was a most favorable site for early year-round settlers.

The Cove itself is empty at low tide and holds about eight feet of water at mean high tide. This unique feature means that large boats can easily navigate into the Cove and, if necessary, be beached out between tides for maintenance or repairs. The daily draining and refilling of the water also means that on a sunny day, the bare mud flats heat up the water and provide warmer swimming than anywhere else on the Island.

One historical anecdote about the Cove involves a plan by islander David Coyle. During WWII the Cove was to be the site for building an experimental landing craft. Coyle intended to dam off the area, build the craft, and then allow the water back in for a flotation test. However, this use of the Cove, which would have employed many islanders, never came to fruition.

The Griffin's Cove property was generously donated to Cliff Island Corporation for Athletics, Conservation, and Education (ACE) by Mary Brackett and her late husband, Tony. Their thoughtful

planning and vision for the property is embodied in a conservation easement held by Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay since 2002. The easement allows use of the property for swimming, sunbathing and other passive recreational activity by members of the Cliff Island community and by the public. It allows off-season fishing boat storage for Cliff Islanders and public access from the waters of Casco Bay. A plaque placed on a prominent ledge commemorates the Bracketts' donation.

Today, the three-quarter acre parcel on the easterly side of the Cove is just as important to Cliff Island life as it ever was in the past. In the winter, fishing boats and equipment are hauled out on its shore. In warm weather, it is a popular gathering place where islanders swim, sun, and socialize with each other. The southeasterly point of land is a popular site for weddings and other significant social occasions. All of these uses are perpetually guaranteed by the conservation easement.



A watercolor by Marsha Donahue depicts summer fun at the Cove.

GIVING THANKS FOR GOOD NEIGHBORS

At this time of the year, our thoughts turn to giving thanks for our blessings. Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay is thankful for good neighbors and good volunteer stewards of our properties. Many people whose property shares a boundary with conservation land or who live near a conservation property on the Casco Bay islands serve Oceanside as volunteer stewards throughout the year. We appreciate your helping us protect conservation land.

Those fortunate enough to live next door to conservation land often enjoy scenic views or special habitats like a vernal pool, a beach, or a mature stand of oaks. Conserved land is a quiet, good neighbor which will not change over time. A blessing, really, considering the potentially distressing possibilities that might exist if neighboring land were not permanently protected.

Oceanside Conservation Trust hopes that our abutting neighbors value and enjoy conservation land. If public access is permitted, we hope our neighbors visit the properties and walk the trails on a regular basis. The right to public access, the public benefit, justifies the special legal status of conservation land and is really why Oceanside exists as a land trust.

Good neighbors are a welcome set of eyes and ears to alert Oceanside to anything happening, good or bad, on conservation land. An osprey nest? Let us know. Someone camping there? Let us know. We visit our properties regularly, walk the boundaries, and keep detailed records, but we cannot equal the constant presence of a good neighbor.

With all good intentions, sometimes neighbors want to make changes on conservation land. The first thing to do is ask, just as any good neighbor would do. Perhaps a tree appears as if it might fall. Please call and alert us. An offer to take it down might be welcome, but please ask. Unless a standing dead tree presents a public safety hazard, it can be a great asset as a home to birds and insects. Perhaps nesting

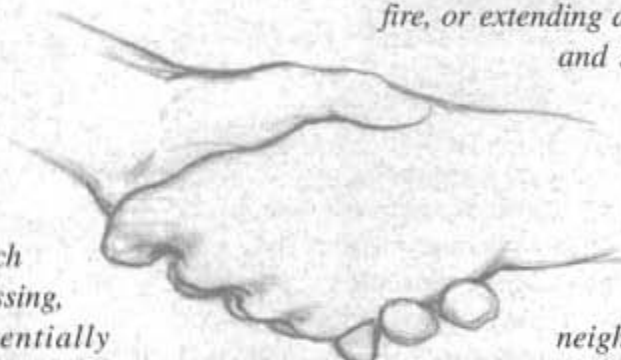
boxes or bird feeders seem like a good addition to the property. As neighbors, we could talk about that. Oceanside has bird experts who will make sure that we are not harming some birds in our attempt to help other birds.

Other activities that neighbors sometimes wish to pursue on conservation land are not as welcome, such as parking a vehicle, clearing a driveway or a path, depositing brush and clippings, building a fire, or extending a mowed lawn. Neighbors can

and should ask permission before taking any of these actions.

Land trusts must judge such requests against the standard of public benefit.

Will the public benefit, or will just one abutting neighbor benefit? Oceanside must protect conservation properties for everyone and for all time. Good neighbors help us do just that.



THANK YOU, JO

Jo Belknap has retired after three terms as a member of the Board of Directors of OCT. Oceanside members wish to thank her for her hard work and participation in our activities. Jo describes herself as a fiscal conservative and a liberal conservationist. She states that she loved spending an afternoon a month with people who share her interests in conservation.



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ANNUAL MEETING



The 2006 annual meeting for members of Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay took place on conservation land at Cliff Island on July 12.

Members, who were not Cliff Island residents, took the Casco Bay Lines mail boat run to Cliff. The ferry picked up a number of members along the way at Little and Great Diamond as well as at Long and Chebeague. The hour and one half boat ride went quickly as the members enjoyed catching up on summer activities and watching the beautiful islands of the bay. After a hike to the ACE Ballfield, a fifteen acre community park on which OCT holds the conservation easement, the members were treated to an old-fashioned cookout. Cliff Islanders Roger Berle, Jo Belknap, and Mike Beaudoin cooked and made sure everyone was comfortable under tents and at long tables.



After our lunch, Stephanie Weaver, OCT President, conducted a brief business meeting outlining OCT's achievements and upcoming projects. She also introduced OCT's current board members.

The keynote speaker was Wing Goodale, research biologist, Coastal Bird Program Director, and project leader of the Eaglecam for BioDiversity Research Institute.

Wing led a discussion about the song birds and sea birds of Casco Bay. Specifically he told of his recent experience on Marshal Island involving the spring migration of warblers. Wing has been in charge of the Eaglecam Project which has documented the life of a pair of eagles and their offspring on the coast of Maine. The project has drawn thousand of "hits" and elicited calls from major news networks. Wing answered questions about bird



habitats. An entertaining and eloquent speaker, he often interrupted his remarks to identify nearby birds.

The meeting was closed by Roger Berle's remarks on the history of the Cliff Island Ballfield which is owned by the Cliff Island Corporation for Athletic and Conservation Education. Roger and Wing led a short tour of the immediate environs, including the Bluffs.

The annual meeting is a reminder to renew membership in OCT and commitment to conserving land in Casco Bay. OCT thanks everyone who attended and especially those who worked hard to make the day a great success.

WORLD FAMOUS MAINE EAGLES

It was gruesome. It was brutal. It was thrilling and fascinating. It was a reality show, Maine-style. It was the full drama of Mother Nature and it was on the internet garnering 800 hits per second as people all over the world spied on the eagles' nest located somewhere on the coast of Maine.



Wing Goodale at Oceanside's Annual Meeting

Eaglecam is a project coordinated by Gorham-based BioDiversity Research Institute (BRI) in partnership with a number of other organizations. A camera situated about 75 feet high in a tree about 45 feet away from the nest records eagle family life – birth, death, mealtime, sibling rivalry—and sends the real-time images via computer to anyone tuned in to www.briloon.org. Besides providing great entertainment, Eaglecam is helping scientists better determine what bald eagles eat and how they raise their young. The project also provides a great opportunity for educational outreach as the federal government moves closer to removing the eagle from the endangered species list.

The restoration of the bald eagle population is an environmental success story. At one time only 700 nesting pairs of bald eagles remained in the United States, but today wildlife experts count 7,000. Maine has 385 pairs, and that number is increasing at eight percent a year. Officials are now considering removing the bald eagle from the protection of the endangered species act. Since 1940 the Bald Eagle Protection Act has prohibited the killing or selling of the raptor, as well as the possessing of eagle parts, including feathers, eggs, and nests. Wing Goodale, a research biologist with BRI, thinks de-listing is exciting news, but cautions, "It's going to mean there's less regulation protecting the eagles. It's going to fall on the shoulders of ... the citizens here in the state to really protect these birds and think about how our personal decisions that we make are going to directly affect these birds." Goodale cites research that Maine has some of the highest levels of mercury pollution in the country. High levels of mercury found in samples of eagle feathers and blood will likely reduce the eagles' chances of surviving and reproducing.

As a result of the success and popularity of Eaglecam, Goodale says BRI is preparing to offer the chance to spy on loons and other species of birds. "I have a sense that there are a lot of people who wouldn't necessarily consider themselves bird-watchers who are watching. And maybe this is a new experience to connect to nature in this way."

Goodale hopes Eaglecam and other camera projects conducted by BRI will help people connect to animals on some level. "If one person makes a decision to not throw a mercury thermometer in the trash, but takes the extra effort to recycle it, then the programs are a success."

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay thanks Wing Goodale for his interesting and informative presentation at our 2006 annual meeting. Everyone enjoyed learning about Eaglecam from the man behind the camera!

[Information from Wing Goodale, [Bangor Daily News](http://BangorDailyNews.aroundmaine.com), aroundmaine.com and other sources.]

OCEANSIDE BOARD MEMBERS AT WORK

At a regional, state and national level, OCT has access to and support from extensive resources to further our mission of protecting land in Casco Bay. OCT has been working with other Casco Bay land trusts to explore sharing administrative tasks. As a member of the Maine Land Trust Network, OCT shares knowledge with the statewide land trust community. Directors attend the annual state conference in May to catch up on developments of many kinds. As a member of the Land Trust Alliance, a national organization, OCT has access to news and developments on a national level. Recently OCT has focused on Standards and Practices for Land Trusts and on developments in the IRS policies toward tax aspects of land conservation.

In September OCT Board member Erno Bonebakker attended the Maine Coast Protection Initiative Conference held at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. The Initiative, based in Topsham, is a cooperative effort among state and federal officials and more than 70 municipalities and private land trusts to retain land along the state's coast.

The MCPI is a partnership and collaboration among Maine Coast Heritage Trust, LTA, SPO and Novas CSC. These groups were concerned that the character of the Maine coast would be lost in the next several decades without vastly enhanced coordination of support and technical sophistication. While Maine is second only to California in the amount of land held in conservation easement, the State Planning Office estimates that the majority of Maine's coast will be classified as urban or suburban by the year 2050 if the current trend persists. The goal of MCPI is to slow that trend.

At the conference, after an extensive community-based planning process, the Initiative articulated three primary goals. By building upon existing programs and local expertise MCPI will accomplish the following:

Create a viable network of conserved land that protects Maine's priority coastal habitats, recreational and working access, and scenic and cultural features

Help land trusts acquire the professional and technical resources needed to proactively protect priority lands and attend to long term stewardship needs

Build strong public support and increased funding for coastal conservation

The MCPI is advancing these goals by funding GIS service centers to support local land trusts, mapping of waterfront access, and prioritizing scenic and cultural resources in the coastal zone.

These goals will help OCT achieve its mission of conserving land in Casco Bay by focusing on priority lands that have public access as well as scenic views or cultural value. OCT is especially cognizant of the need for recreational and working waterfront access and for the preservation of scenic views visible from land or water.

Oceanside thanks Erno for attending this conference. He and other Board members spend countless hours attending meetings and conferences in order to be better informed and more effective in advancing OCT's mission.

JO BELKNAP *continued from pg. 3*

Jo cares deeply about her property, the Bluffs on Cliff Island. In 1989 Jo and her family granted OCT an easement on the eighteen acre promontory which provides a panoramic view of Casco Bay. The views, hiking trails, and wild-life habitat make this a special place for generations to enjoy. Jo organizes volunteers to keep hiking trails clear for pedestrian visitors. She worked to create signs which provided visitors to the property with a warm welcome and practical information, as well as a list of the restrictions of use.

Jo keeps busy as a volunteer math tutor at Hyde School. In the summers she will be found enjoying her home on Cliff and touring the island on her motor scooter.

What OCT member pictured in this issue is a runaway Maine favorite?

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

Board of Directors 2006-2007



Stephanie Weaver, President.....	761-4212 Cushing Island
Brenda Buchanan, Vice-President.....	766-4403 Peaks Island
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	766-2570 Great Diamond Island
Roger Berle, Treasurer.....	781-5331 Cliff Island
	766-2827
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	766-3028 Cliff Island
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Erno Bonebakker.....	874-6664 Chebeague Island
	846-5203
Priscilla Doucette.....	772-5705 Little Diamond Island
Mark Greene.....	766-4440 Long Island
Susan Ingalls.....	774-1092 Little Diamond Island
Michael Johnson.....	232-5778 Long Island
Christine McDuffie.....	829-3231 Long Island
	766-5277
Eliza Cope Nolan.....	772-5024 Cushing Island
John Whitman.....	766-2211 Peaks Island

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay 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, Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay 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
LDI Property	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.



Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

P.O. Box 10404
Portland, Maine 04104

In order to support the work of Oceanside Conservation 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 two-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!

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welcomes your support.

Casco Bay

Oceanside Conservation Trust of

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on Casco Bay Islands have been

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of Casco Bay

Oceanside Conservation Trust



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