

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

Volume 8 Edition 2, November 2011

WINTER BIRDING ON CASCO BAY

Our Second Winter Trip

IN CONJUNCTION WITH MAINE AUDUBON



FEBRUARY 18, 2012 (rain/snow date Feb. 19)

Join Audubon's naturalist Mike Windsor, OCT Director Bob Bittenbender and his wife Margi Huber for the "Mail Boat Cruise" on the Casco Bay Lines.

- See the birds that winter in Casco Bay
- Learn bird identification
- See the islands of Casco Bay
- Learn about the preserved land of the islands
- Learn the history of the bay and its inhabitants

Meet at Casco Bay Lines Wharf at 9:30 a.m. and return at 1:30

\$20 for members, \$25 for guests

Hot soup and snacks will be served.

Bring binoculars, drinks, and warm clothing.

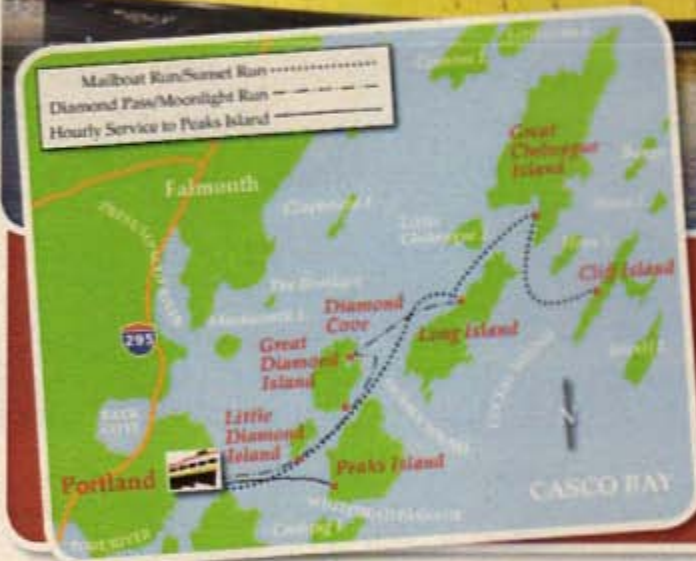
RSVP

OceansideConservationTrust@gmail.com

207 699 2989

E-mail reminder will be sent.

Mike Windsor is the new Adult Education Director/ Naturalist at Maine Audubon's Gisland Farm. Bob Bittenbender and Margi Huber, a husband and wife team, have led many birding and nature trips. Bob is the Assistant Property Manager for Maine Audubon, based in Falmouth.



ACCREDITATION APPLICATION SEND OFF

*After 3 years of hard work
..... it's in the mail!*

SEE PAGE 3



Jess Burton, Doreen Johnston and Christine McDuffie

FEMA WORK FINISHED on PEAKS ISLAND OCT Properties

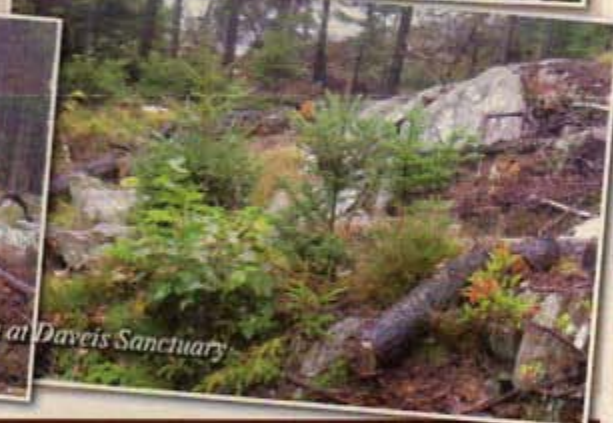
The Federal Emergency Management Agency finished its work on Peaks Island in June. The Daveis Sanctuary and Skillings Woods had been badly hit by the four-year stretch of strong storms that began with the Patriots' Day storm in 2007. OCT has worked with FEMA to ensure that our conserved land has been treated with care while we meet the fire safety concerns of the community. OCT would have had to pay for work to mitigate fire danger, but the expense was borne by FEMA.

OCT, through the hard work of board members and excellent cooperation from the City of Portland, FEMA, and abutters, has avoided the use of heavy equipment to remove downed trees and limbs. Because fire danger is greatest from limbs and branches that are not directly on the ground, most of the limbs

Devastation has been replaced by young trees and composting material to nurture future growth.

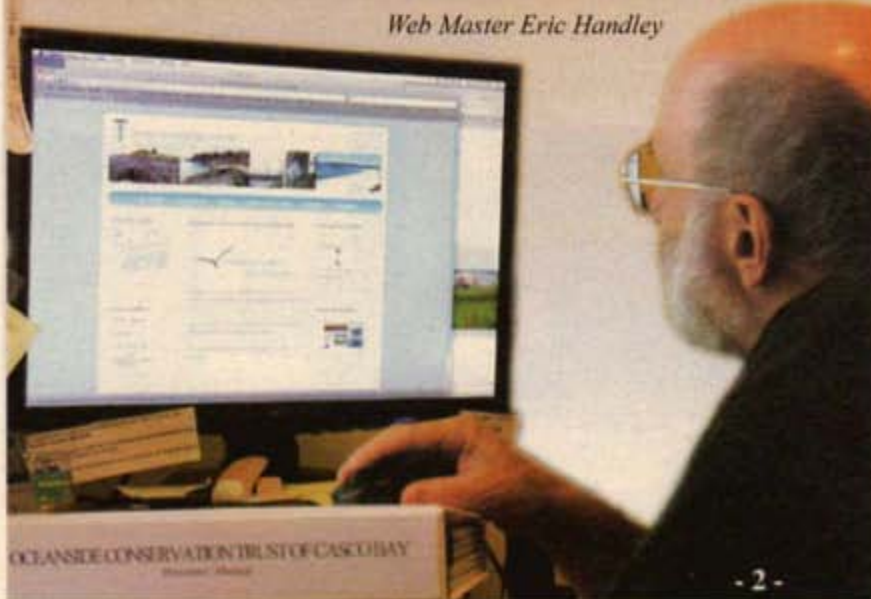
from downed trees were removed from the trunks and allowed to stay on the ground. The cut brush and logs retain ground moisture and rain thus accelerating decomposition. The large trunks have been cut into many pieces and also left to rot. No skidders were used. Peaks Islander, Stan Newell, has done much of this hard work by hand.

During these years OCT has learned a great deal about how to handle the loss of large numbers of trees.



NEW WEBSITE: <http://oceansideconservationtrust.org>

Web Master Eric Handley



OCEANSIDE'S NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING AND LOOKING FOR VISITORS.

- Property descriptions and photographs
- Complete archive of our newsletters
- Policies and By-laws
- Upcoming events
- Photos of the past year's events

Please send us suggestions for information you would like to have made available on our new website.

OCT'S ACCREDITATION APPLICATION *Wrap-up Statement.* *a compilation of reflections on the accreditation process from OCT's Directors:*

Small by state and national standards, Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay protects a geographically limited number of acres on the islands of Casco Bay. Unlimited, however, is the passion we bring to our mission of preserving the island landscapes so valued by the island communities and by the greater public. The devotion of island communities to conservation is personal. We understand that devotion. It is ours.

We have all watched and mourned as treasured natural areas have been developed, so each property, however small, that Oceanside protects seems an important achievement. To ensure the permanence of that protection, we know we have to be thorough in both our stewardship and our legal responsibilities. The Standards and Practices developed by the Land Trust Alliance provide us with specific guidelines to help us do our best work.

Despite our size, we embarked on the daunting and arduous accreditation process. It has taken a huge effort on the part of our board of directors, every one of

whom has worked on this project. We have had superb support from the staff of the Portland North Land Trust Collaborative, without whom we could not have completed the process. We chafed against several of the "one-size-fits-all" standards, especially those regarding stewardship and defense funding requirements, and we remain concerned that many small land trusts, which perform an important role in their "niche-environments," will not be able to accomplish the hurdles of accreditation.

Perhaps because we are a small land trust, we have always been thoughtful and thorough in our practices, particularly regarding stewardship and monitoring. We have always kept careful records of our properties, and it was gratifying to realize, as we worked through the accreditation application, that we were already in compliance with a great majority of the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices. However, there is no doubt that the accreditation process and all the policies which have been so carefully drafted, considered, and revised, will improve our work in the future. Our work is more defined, organized, and efficient.

It is immensely reassuring to know that our policies and practices are clarified and documented for future board members and to know that the good work of Oceanside will go on for decades to come.

The work of implementing the standards and practices has given the Board a sense of mission, direction, and professionalism which will bear substantial fruit in years to come. The Board is a much more dynamic and involved group of land stewards now than it was before the application process began, and in many ways that is the most significant benefit of the entire accreditation process.

We've affirmed that after thirty years we are still able to grow and take on new challenges as we strive toward our vision of being a leader of land conservation efforts in Casco Bay.

Achieving accreditation will prove that we are a land trust worthy and capable of guarding valuable land into the future.

Reflections on Accreditation by Jane McClarie Laughlin



As just one of the final steps toward meeting our deadline for completion of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission's process, I reviewed Oceanside's multi-volume application for completeness and accuracy. It was a big job, but the many hours spent on this task diminish in comparison to the total volunteer time invested by our board of directors and accreditation team over the past two years.

Although few envied me my reviewing task, I actually found it enjoyable, for the application brought to mind my thirty years of experience as a high school debate team coach. For each of the twelve Land

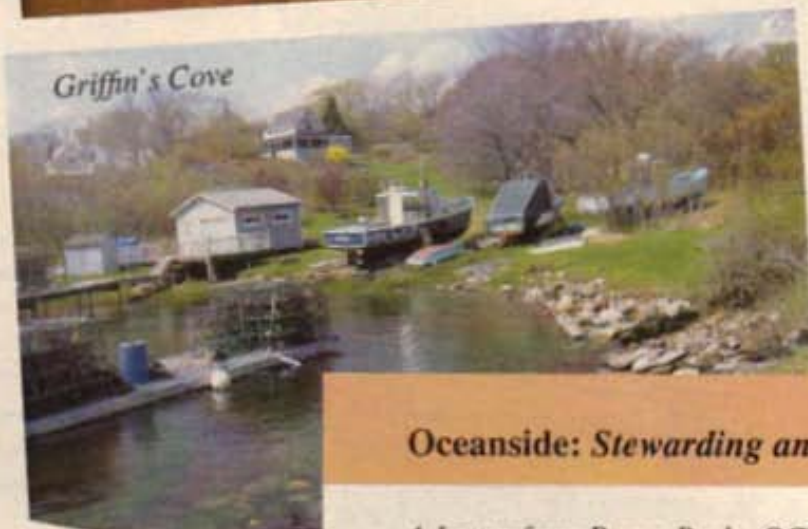
Trust Alliance Standards and Practices, Oceanside was asked, "Tell us what you do [this was our narrative]; show us what you do [our policies and practices]; prove that you do it [meeting minutes, monitoring reports, photographs, and other evidence]; and finally, make your closing argument."

I've always been impressed with Oceanside's thoughtful and thorough approach to the protection and stewardship of each of our properties in Casco Bay and with our commitment to ethical practices and sound transactions, but when I closed that final notebook, I said, "We're really an outstanding organization!" It was a good feeling.

The Bluffs



Griffin's Cove



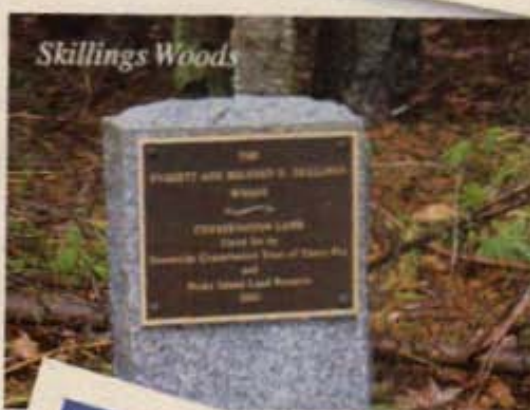
Wreck Cove



In Memory of
Those Who Loved
Little Diamond Island

Memorial Woods

Skillings Woods



The Bluffs



Fowler's Beach



Oceanside: Stewarding and Defending

A Letter from Roger Berle, OCT President

Oceanside has reached its thirtieth year of presence in Casco Bay. By being faithful and generous, you value our work and treasure the islands of Maine. This colorful highlights our ongoing initiatives, our semi-annual mailing as much as we love putting

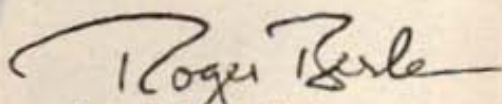
Here in this Anniversary Year, OCT is excited to be working assiduously on for three years: becoming a member of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in 2011. We did some well-earned celebrating! If, as we expect, Maine land trusts to be accredited, we will have a national measure of Standards and Practices. Our island lands rests in very good hands.

Among the many standards we have to address is to not only properly steward these lands but also to ensure that our holdings, either in fee or under lease, are protected from any sort of violation or restriction over fifty thousand dollars.

Pulling together this "if and when" funding to purchase another property, but it will ensure the future holdings - in perpetuity.

In response to our recent annual requests, and of your increased generosity, we are in a better position than only two years ago. As our appreciation for such thoughtful support continues, meeting this standard of fiscal responsibility is meeting whatever the future may bring -

I will once again be doubling my own year and will join me in doing so as well.


Roger Berle, President

Oceanside: Stewarding and Defending Our Properties

A Letter from Roger Berle, OCT President

Oceanside has reached its thirtieth year of preserving some of the most special and inspiring places in Casco Bay. By being faithful and generous members and supporters of OCT, you have proven you value our work and treasure the islands of Casco Bay. The newsletter you are reading right now colorfully highlights our ongoing initiatives, events, people, and holdings. We hope you enjoy this semi-annual mailing as much as we love putting it together!

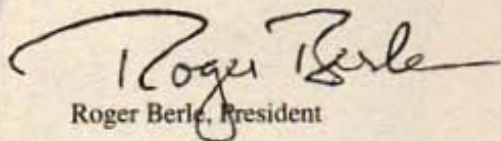
Here in this Anniversary Year, OCT is excited to be on the cusp of achieving a goal we have been working assiduously on for three years: becoming an accredited land trust. Following hundreds of hours of tedious and diligent labor by OCT volunteers and staff, our application went in the mail to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in November. On our way home from the post office, we did some well-earned celebrating! If, as we expect to learn in 2012, we become one of the first five Maine land trusts to be accredited, we will have demonstrated that we meet the Land Trust Alliance's national measure of Standards and Practices. And you can be assured that the preservation of these island lands rests in very good hands.

Among the many standards we have to address in the accreditation process is our financial capability to not only properly steward these lands but also to defend the terms of our holdings as necessary. Because our holdings, either in fee or under conservation easement, are our responsibility forever, we must prepare for any sort of violation over time. To this purpose, Oceanside is required to raise and restrict over fifty thousand dollars.

Pulling together this "if and when" funding is not as much fun as establishing a campaign to purchase another property, but it will ensure our having the means to take care of our current and future holdings - in perpetuity.

In response to our recent annual requests, your giving to Oceanside has grown appreciably. Because of your increased generosity, we are in a healthier condition to carry out our mission and our operations than only two years ago. As one of the "designated askers," I humbly repeat my heartfelt appreciation for such thoughtful support of OCT. Now, we must ask that you also assist us in meeting this standard of fiscal responsibility. It is as much for proving our worth today as it is for meeting whatever the future may bring - in our lifetimes and well beyond.

I will once again be doubling my own year-end contribution to Oceanside this year and hope you will join me in doing so as well.



Roger Berle, President

Our Properties

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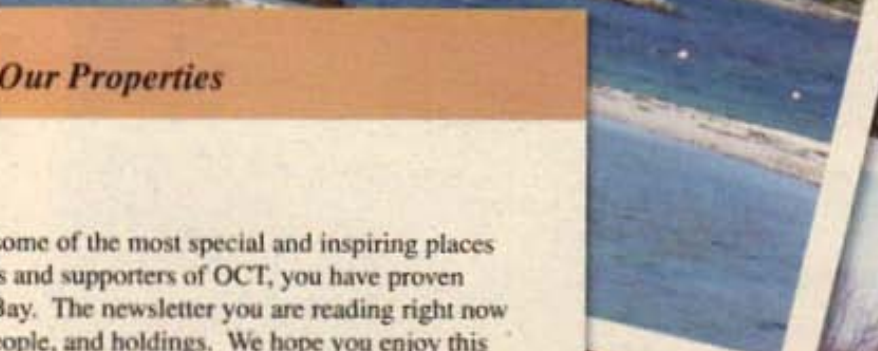
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College Island from Fowler's Beach



Dave's Sanctuary



Battery Steele



Dave's Sanctuary

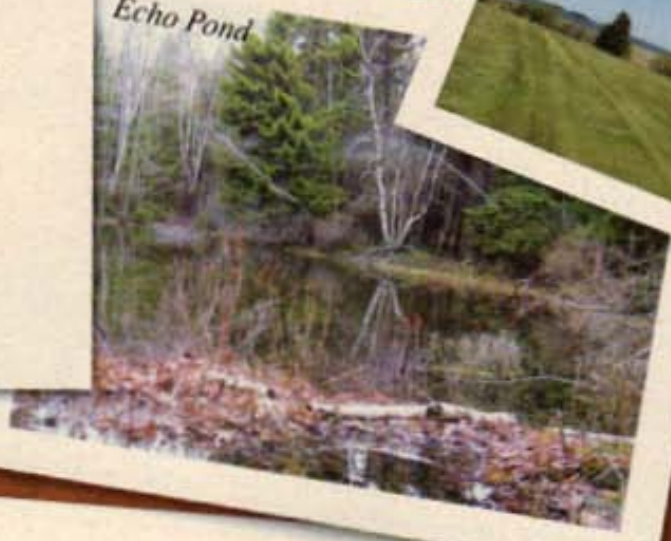
North Point



ACE Ballfield



Echo Pond



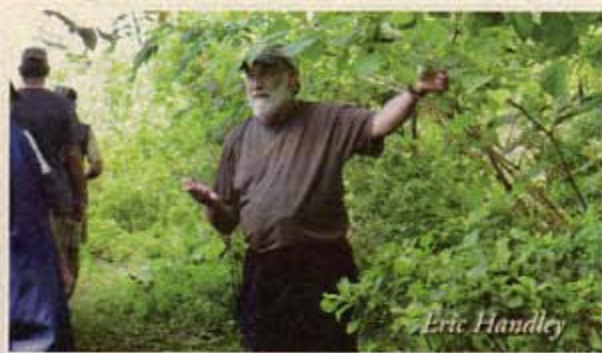
ANNUAL MEETING on *Little Chebeague Island*

Despite scattered rain showers and the need for private transportation, about 50 members and friends of OCT gathered on the shore of Little Chebeague Island for our 29th annual meeting on July 13.

The meeting helped celebrate the hard work and collaboration of numerous people and organizations. OCT is especially proud of its part in the resurgence of this public property. (See previous issues of OCT newsletter for the history of this unique island.)



Dick Innes



Eric Handley



Erno Bonebakker

Guest speaker Doug Welch, executive Director of Maine Island Trail Association, reported that dozens of people and groups have worked to make Little Chebeague one of the most popular destinations for boaters in Casco Bay. Dick Innes, as well as OCT's Erno Bonebakker and Eric Handley, were among the individuals noted as particularly instrumental in making this island accessible and educational.

Hearty refreshments, an excellent speaker, and island tours led by historian Joel Eastman, Erno, and Eric made this one of OCT's most successful annual meetings.



Island Tour



Joel Eastman and OCT Director A.J. Aloes

Sunday Shindig On the Bay

Diamond's Edge Restaurant was the scene of Portland North Land Trust Collaborative's Sunday Shindig on the Bay on July 24, 2011. The event was attended by approximately 250 people, who enjoyed a live band, good food, and activities for the kids, while supporting a worthwhile cause. Through ticket sales, donations, raffle ticket sales, and sponsorships, nearly \$12,000 was raised to benefit the three land trusts of PNLTC: Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay, Cumberland Chebeague Land Trust, and Falmouth Land Trust. Oceanside extends special thanks to the following sponsors of the Shindig:

CHARTER SPONSORS

Bayside Print Services
Casco Bay Island Development Association, Inc.
David Banks Realty - ReMax by the Bay
Diamond's Edge Restaurant
JWA Holdings

SILVER SPONSORS

Drummond Woodsum
Handy Boat
Horney Toad
Lionel Plante Associates
Warren Currier & Buchanan
Wright-Ryan

SUPPORTERS

Calendar Island Lobster Company, Harbor Fish Market, Pearl's Market, Skillin's Greenhouses





Philip Lee, OCT Director Harry Pringle and Doug Welch, guest speaker



History brought to life

OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST OF CASCO BAY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| Dave's 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.

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.*

OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST
OF CASCO BAY
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