

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, 2016



Oceanside Projects - Looking Ahead!



by Roger Berle, President

With over three decades of accomplishments "in the books," and, of course, on the ground, Oceanside continues to focus on completing current land projects and preparing for new opportunities. Structurally, we're going to be totally revamping our website www.oceansideconservationtrust.org over the coming months. You'll hear about it – and see it - when it's ready!

Out on the Bay, our Lands Committee is working on three more conservation easements on Cliff Island, potentially bringing our total there to eight. The very exciting Ice Pond easement on Peaks Island is now in its final stages of legal review. We also are exploring a possible collaborative arrangement with Great Diamond Island Land Preserve (GDILP) which would strengthen our relationships in Casco Bay. Please keep us in mind if you know of a special property whose value as open space would be of benefit to your island community.





CHRISTINE MCDUFFIE RETIRES

FORMER PRESIDENT & BOARD MEMBER OF OCT

I am beyond pleased with the Fowler's Beach painting you presented me with on Tuesday.

Lola Chaisson has captured the beauty of Fowler's Beach, the site of our son Angus's wedding and currently a favorite rendezvous for our grandchildren and their cousins and friends.

Fowler's has been enjoyed by our family for decades, and I am confident that it will be enjoyed by other families forever because of the commitment by Oceanside to its permanent conservation. It is a most fitting symbol of my efforts to protect important properties in Casco Bay for future generations. Fowler's Beach was my introduction to the concept of conservation easements and to Oceanside all those many years ago when Northland Corporation offered ownership of that treasured beach to the Long Island Civic Association only on the condition that there be a conservation easement protecting it forever from being developed. My involvement in that transfer led Diane Nolan to invite me to join the OCT Board where I have been proud to participate in our good work for more than 30 years. Together we have accomplished much, and because we have worked so hard to meet the standards of the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation process, Oceanside is in a strong position to accomplish more.

Every time my eyes light on that beautiful painting I will think of Oceanside, its important work, and the good people whose efforts make it all happen.

Much love to you all,
Chris



Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay
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Portland, Maine 04104
www.oceansideconservationtrust.org

*This painting of Long Island's
Fowler's Beach is today presented
to Chris McDuffie in honor of
her thirty-plus years of exemplary
and inspiring leadership of and
service to Oceanside's Board, mem-
bership and mission.*

*Because of you, Chris, we are not only
organized, but also... ACCREDITED!*

*With great and heartfelt admiration
and affection, we gratefully:*

Thank you!

Roger Berke, President

October 18, 2016

For most of us at Oceanside, conservation easements and photographs are the way to preserve the beauty of special places in Casco Bay.

For Lola Chaisson, an artist who summers on Great Diamond Island, there is a better way to preserve the beauty of Fowler's Beach, the site of OCT's 2016 Annual Meeting which Lola attended with her husband Eric. Here is how she preserves that sense of place:

"To set a place and time truly in my memory, I need to sketch or paint it. Snapping a photo can be done mindlessly and rarely focuses on the particular details that make that view capture me that day, or holds the depth that is there when I am a part of it. Our environment has overwhelming complexity amplified by our constant motion. There are whole days when we look at everything and see nothing; as a culture we are increasingly frenetic and disjointed. I paint as a way to see things, a way to be where I have been, to hold on to light and air and to tie myself to places and times. This makes each of those places a home to me."

- Lola Chaisson
www.lolachaisson.com

Welcome!

New OCT Directors

TOM BERGH



Tom Bergh moved to Peaks Island in 1980 to help begin STAR Foundation which became the Peaks Island Land Preserve. A lawyer since 1978, in the last twenty years, Tom has worked toward developing educational programming for the teaching of science, natural systems and human interaction in the Gulf of Maine. He feels the Gulf of Maine is a rich classroom for research and experiential learning; many GOM lessons can be readily carried home and applied in our student's communities. Tom, a father of three teens, is constantly amazed at the environmental changes around us. It's easiest to find him on the water or pursuing his interests in Earth sciences, oceanography, human history, politics, water play, health and fitness, birding, music, skiing and sculpture.

Tom wrote *A Field Guide to Life in Lower Casco Bay* which is filled with old time and new photos, and original drawings of island life.

JOHN LORTIE

John Lortie brings skills and experience to OCT from his professional career and extensive volunteer activities. Originally from Rochester, New York, John Lortie is a 1981 graduate of the University of Maine where he studied wildlife biology. He worked for the Canadian Wildlife Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service before starting his own consulting business in 1987. That business grew into one of the top natural resource consulting firms in New England and in 2007 merged with Stantec Consulting Services, where John is currently a vice-president of the environmental services practice.



A past volunteer of the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, John helped to develop the research program that was aimed at better understanding the ecology of the reserve. He co-authored the identification and management of significant fish and wildlife habitat in southern coastal Maine, which provided the foundation for protecting significant wildlife habitat in Maine. He has assisted the efforts of the Wells Conservation Commission in identifying and preserving ecologically significant tracts of land. During his career John worked as a team member evaluating state-owned land suitable for inclusion in the Maine Ecological Reserves Program. He has also assisted with evaluating land along the Appalachian Trail in Maine for the presence of rare, threatened, and endangered species.

He also shared, "I am an avid gardener and spend many hours working in our organic garden, which produces great volumes of vegetables that my wife, Anne Donovan, and I put up for use during the non-growing season. So far this year we have processed over 30 gallons of raw tomatoes (from just 8 plants!) into red sauce.

BILL NEEDELMAN



OCT is happy to welcome Bill Needelman to its Board. A life-long Portland resident, Bill and his family have deep roots in the City of Portland and the islands of Casco Bay. Bill's knowledge of waterfront issues makes him an important addition to OCT. In December of 2013, the City of Portland hired Bill as the City's first Waterfront Coordinator. Previously, he worked for fourteen years with the City's Planning and Urban Development Department. Much of Bill's municipal planning career has concentrated on balancing working waterfront preservation with the realities created by struggling marine economies on Portland's waterfront. A frequent speaker at local, regional, and national waterfront policy and planning events, Bill is a consistent spokesperson for Portland's unique approach to mixed use planning in a marine industrial and tourism-centered waterfront.

Bill has a B.S. in Geology from Boston College and a M.S. in Community Planning and Development from the Muskie School at the University of Southern Maine. He and his wife and two children enjoy boating in Casco Bay and visiting Down East Maine. Interestingly, Bill served on OCT's Board previously. In 2002 his mother Priscilla B. Doucette joined OCT's board when Bill resigned. Priscilla resigned from the Board last December.

Oceanside's Year



June 3rd - Cliff Island



June 2nd - Long Island



May 18th - Peaks Island



June 3rd - Cliff Island

SPRING MONITORING



June 2nd - Little Diamond Island



May 18th - Peaks Island

as In Review!

OCT'S 34TH ANNUAL MEETING

LONG ISLAND, JULY 21, 2016

Guest speaker Matthew Bampton, Professor & Chair of Geography-Anthropology at the University of Southern Maine, spoke on "The Changing Geography of Casco Bay." We were enlightened, educated, and entertained!

Matthew Bampton has spent over twenty years studying human-environment interactions from the Pacific to the Arctic. His current work analyzes the impacts of historical weather events in Scotland. Since moving to Maine he has worked with geologists and archaeologists to produce high resolution digital maps of the state's coastal islands to aid understanding the region's environmental dynamics.



Boundary markers of many colors have accumulated over the years. During spring monitoring OCT replaced the collection with one color - *green*.



Changing Colors



MONITORING FOLLOW-UP ON LDI IN JULY



On the annual monitoring visit to OCT's Hagge Woods on Little Diamond Island we observed derelict floats and debris at the shore. Stewards returned twice in July to remove the plastic foam sheeting and tarp from the stranded floats, and to tow the float off at high tide.

This is the kind of active stewardship appropriate for conserved land in a developed area such as Casco Bay. The float was an eyesore and a potential hazard to navigation. The tarp and plastic foam sheeting rapidly deteriorates into fine plastic particles which are especially dangerous to marine

life. Although OCT was unsuccessful in finding the owner of the float or someone to reuse the material, at least the debris was removed from the bay. rapidly deteriorates into fine plastic particles which are especially dangerous to marine life. Although OCT was unsuccessful in finding the owner of the float or someone to reuse the material, at least the debris was removed from the bay.

MONITORING FOLLOW-UP ON PEAKS

On July 12 Oceanside Conservation Trust joined forces with Peaks Island Land Preserve to remove invasive species from Daveis Sanctuary on the northeast end of Peaks Island. Sophie Scott, an intern with the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative, helped make this workday a great success.

Despite the heat, the group worked hard to clip oriental bittersweet, black swallow-wort and Japanese knotweed from the field and the area fringing the cobble beach. These invasive species out-compete native plants, but do not support biodiversity by providing food and habitat for many species as native plants do. This event was part of an ongoing effort to support native plants and enhance biodiversity on our Oceanside properties. OCT thanks the seventeen people who showed up to help this effort.



Have You Seen Our E-Blasts?

OCT has sent several e-blasts to members for whom we have e-mail addresses. These communications are colorful updates of our current activities. Please make sure we have your address and that you add Oceanside to your contacts. Check our website to review these communications. Let us know what you think!



Thurl Headen and Jim Flagler from Peaks Island accepted our e-blast invitation to join OCT for spring monitoring.



OCEANSIDE CONSERVATION TRUST OF CASCO BAY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2016

Roger Berle, President	781-5331	
	766-2827	Cliff Island
John Spencer, Vice President.....	766-2680	
	766-2211	Cushing Island
Jane Laughlin, Secretary	799-9285	
	766-2570	Great Diamond Island
Christopher Stevenson, Treasurer	772-1941	Cape Elizabeth
Mike Beaudoin	774-0522	
Tom Bergh	766-2419	Peaks Island
Bob Bittenbender	892-3818	Windham
Erno Bonebakker	871-0048	Chebeague Island
Jeanne Gulnick	766-2601	Peaks Island
Eric Handley	899-0027	Portland
Michael Johnson	837-0943	Long Island
John Lortie	766-2499	Long Island
William Needelman	772-5866	Little Diamond Island
Harry R. Pringle	774-0437	
	766-3326	Little Diamond Island

ADVISORY BOARD:

Brenda Buchanan	854-5824	Westbrook
Priscilla Doucette	772-5705	Little Diamond Island
Mark Greene	766-4440	Long Island
Christine McDuffie	829-3231	
	766-5277	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
Hagge Woods	Little Diamond Island	OCT	2012	2.5 acres
Gardiner Parcel	Cliff Island	Cliff Island Corporation for Athletics & Conservation Education	2014	.3 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

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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

Printed on recycled paper

Land Trust
Accreditation Commission
An independent program of the Land Trust Alliance

2016

Home and Elizabeth H. Hickey
50 Western Street, 1st Floor
Portland, ME 04101

Since 1982, approximately 88 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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