



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!

Printed on recycled paper

Oceanside Conservation Trust of
Casco Bay
welcomes your support.
Since 1982, approximately 85 acres
on Casco Bay Islands have been
permanently protected.

Oceanside Conservation Trust
of Casco Bay
P.O. Box 10404
Portland, Maine 04104

Oceanside Conservation Trust



PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, ME
PERMIT No. 658

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay

Volume 2 Edition 1, November 2005

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK



On the way to the ballgame!

CHALLENGE GRANT OF \$10,000 FOR BALLFIELD WOODS

By offering a challenge grant of up to \$10,000, Oceanside is helping Peaks Island Land Preserve (PILP) complete the purchase of the Ballfield Woods on Peaks Island. Since 2001 PILP has been raising funds to preserve over two acres of woodland on the west side of the Peaks Island ball field. This culturally valuable open space has been used by generations of islanders and visiting sports teams as a pathway to the field. Two pleasant footpaths wind through conifers and oaks in what is known as Ballfield Woods. This purchase will join the last remaining privately-owned parcel with the two other parcels bought by PILP in the past four years. PILP will then own the Ballfield Woods from the path

at the end of Park Avenue to the "paper road" section of Luther Street, parallel to Ledgewood Street. Once the purchase is finalized, Oceanside Conservation Trust will hold a conservation easement on the property assuring that this unique part of island life will be preserved for generations of future walkers and ball players. We are confident that Oceanside's gift of \$10,000 will ensure the success of PILP's fundraising efforts. We encourage Oceanside members to donate directly to Peaks Island Land Preserve, P.O. Box 99, Peaks Island, ME 04108.



Where in Casco Bay are these two kayaks?

Answer on page 6

CONTRIBUTION OF \$20,000 TO RIPPLEEFFECT

In December of 2004, Oceanside presented Rippleeffect with a check for \$20,000 to use toward the purchase of Cow Island. Oceanside's contribution will help



Cow Island

continue Rippleeffect's focus on youth, community, and the environment. This organization insures continued access and permanent protection of Cow Island, a twenty-two acre island off the northeasterly end of Great Diamond. Maine Coast Heritage Trust holds the conservation easement on this property. The public

Rippleeffect Continued on pg. 6

WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS

Oceanside welcomes three new board members. Each will provide unique qualities, strengths, and perspectives to help us continue protecting our natural areas and planning for the future.



Michael Johnson, Susan Ingalls, Michael Beaudoin

Susan Ingalls, who lives in Portland during the winter, considers her summers at her cottage on Little Diamond Island the "best months of the year." She is currently consulting after a career in insurance. On Little Diamond she spends time kayaking, walking, exploring the beaches, reading, and knitting.

"Exploring in the kayak and watching activity from the porch have given me a keen appreciation for Casco Bay."

Susan and her husband Terry helped organize fundraising on Little Diamond to acquire important woodlots which will soon be under Oceanside's protection.

We are fortunate that Michael Johnson has joined our board of directors this year. Mike is a third generation lobster fisherman from Long Island. A graduate of the University of California with a B.S. in Marine Biology, he has done extensive work in marine ecology and aquaculture. He and his wife Kay are currently sponsoring a young man from Katonga Kapale, the village in Zambia where they served in the Peace Corps providing training in modern fish farming techniques. Currently Mike is employed by Woodlot Alternatives, Inc.

According to Oceanside's past president, Chris McDuffie, "Mike is a wonderful combination of the cerebral and the practical, with a gift for making friends."

Our third new board member is Michael Beaudoin, a Professor of Education at the University of New England in Portland, Maine. Dr. Beaudoin has held senior administrative positions at institutions in Maine, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C., and Germany. He has been a visiting scholar in distance education at institutions in Germany and China. With over 75 publications and presentations, he has written extensively in the field of distance education and related areas. Mike has long been an outdoor enthusiast. He purchased a home on Cliff Island in 2000. He manages to spend most weekends there in summer months, where he runs and kayaks when he is not working on renovations.

"Having grown up along the Maine coast and now owning a place in the bay, this new role seems like a 'natural' fit."

Our three new board members will enrich our work and provide us with diverse talents and experience.

Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay Board of Directors 2005-2006

Stephanie Weaver, President	761-4212 Cushing Island
Brenda Buchanan, Vice-President	766-4403 Peaks Island
Jane Laughlin, Secretary	799-9285 Great Diamond Island 766-2570
Roger Berle, Treasurer	781-5331 Cliff Island 766-2827
Mike Beaudoin	774-0522 Cliff Island 766-3028
Jo Belknap	721-8505 Cliff Island
Tom Bergh	766-2419 Peaks Island
Bob Bittenbender	892-3818
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
Robert F. Skillings	725-4886 Peaks Island
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

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

In addition, OCT has a cooperative role in the protection of Cow Island, Stockman's Island, and Rose's Point, Chebeague Island.

Winter on Casco Bay brings arrival of the “snow birds.” No, not humans who flee to warm climates to rest, relax, and eat, but thousands of birds for whom the waters of Casco Bay are their winter home. Because the bay is mostly ice free and has an abundance of food, many birds have adapted their bodies to winter conditions that humans try to avoid. Oceanside’s protected properties in Casco Bay are ideal locations from which to view some of our winter avian visitors.

The Long Tailed Duck, formerly called Old Squaw, has a thick layer of downy feathers to protect it from cold water. It also has a blood flow system (called counterflow) which conserves energy and saves body heat by allowing the duck’s feet to almost freeze. In fact, many birds have similar ways of adapting to winter conditions.

Other birds that winter here and summer farther north include the Great Cormorant. Note the large size and the white face marking of the Great Cormorant. Buffleheads, our smallest sea duck, appear in the fall and are found in the inner bays and protected places. The Harlequin Duck, which breeds in the summer

in the Arctic, can be found in the winter in rough waters on the outer side of the Casco Bay islands. Common Eiders, often year-round inhabitants, also frequent rough surf where they dive for blue mussels. Check the rafts or flocks of Eiders for the occasional King Eider.

A relatively short-distance migrator to Casco Bay is the Common Loon. When the lakes freeze, loons move to the ocean. This bird is often missed in winter because it lacks its beautiful signature plumage. Red Throated Loons which summer in the Arctic are also seen here during the winter.

To see and learn more about our winter visitors, Maine Audubon offers a birding trip on the Casco Bay Ferry mail boat on Saturday, February 25, 2006. For more information contact Margi Huber, Field Trip Coordinator at Maine Audubon, 781-2330 ext. 217.

Interesting natural events occur in all seasons on Casco Bay and on its islands. Oceanside Conservation Trust is dedicated to protecting our unique bay.



Another view of The Bluffs on Cliff Island

The two kayaks on page 1 are on the Front Beach at Little Diamond Island.

Members of Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay gathered on August 10 at the Weaver Cottage on Cushing’s Island for the Annual Meeting.

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., the Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and co-author with John Calvin Stevens II of the book *John Calvin Stevens, Domestic Architecture 1890-1930*, spoke about the Stevens-designed cottages and the Frederick Law Olmsted landscape plan for Cushing’s Island. After the talk and slide presentation, guests enjoyed a walking tour of Cushing’s Island.

In a short business meeting, retiring President Christine McDuffie outlined the highlights of the year which included the conservation easement on Wreck Cove (Long Island), the acquisition of Echo Pond (Peaks Island), the collaboration with Peaks Island Land Preserve to enhance bird habitat in the Daveis Sanctuary and in Skillings Woods (Peaks Island), the work with the Little Diamond Island community to protect a mature oak and beech forest, the support of Rippleeffect’s purchase of Cow Island, and the creation of an Oceanside newsletter. President McDuffie also introduced

the new board members and welcomed Stephanie Weaver as the new President of Oceanside.

None of the work of Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay would be possible without the support, energies, and ideas of the membership. Thank you all!



View of Portland Head Light from site of annual meeting



Members enjoy Earle Shettleworth’s slide presentation



President Stephanie Weaver and members



Walking Tour

SPECIAL THANKS TO THREE RETIRING DIRECTORS

Norman Seagrave

With a background in law, Norman Seagrave of Cliff Island served as OCT's treasurer for many years and also served on the investment committee. An intrepid member of our monitoring committee, Norm clambered over ledges and through gullies and on more than one occasion did battle with bittersweet. When asked to comment on his favorite memory or finest moment as a director, Norm, always the soul of modesty, lauded the dedication of directors who had preceded him (including Diane Nolan, Hal Hackett, Nan Stockman, Anne Howard, and Jenny Scheu) and praised the current directors. He said, "Roger Berle commits tireless energy to developing worthwhile projects and shepherding them to fruition. Our superb Chris McDuffie united and inspired us all, and created a system of records documenting our stewardship. Long after we are gone such records will provide a firm basis for enforcement of the provisions of our trust agreements." Norm leaves his mark on OCT with his unwavering sense of ethics.



Norman Seagrave, Kris Saunders, Robert F. Skillings

Robert F. Skillings

Bob Skillings brought financial acumen from his years at the World Bank to our investment committee, helped develop prudent strategies and provided oversight for OCT's investments. Wrestling with challenges of computers and software to create those necessary mailing labels, Bob maintained the membership records and mailing lists for many years. He has been a force in the move toward enhancing public relations, developing membership, and creating our newsletter. Recently Bob noted, "The past six years of service on the OCT Board have been a most satisfying experience. It meant making a small contribution to the preservation of the wonderful island environment that was so important to me as I spent summers on Peaks Island as a boy. I was especially happy that a cordial relationship with the Peaks Island Land Preserve was developed, a relationship which perpetuates conservation through collaboration of land trusts. Working with intelligent and dedicated colleagues was a joy, and I leave the Board knowing that the properties we protected are in safe hands."

*With great respect,
thank you, Norm.*

*Thank you, Bob.
The pleasure was ours!*

Kris Saunders

Kris Saunders of Cliff Island was the inspiration for our vision retreats. Using her background in counseling, she encouraged OCT to take the time to set goals and analyze how we function organizationally in order to implement changes to more efficiently reach those goals. For many years she organized OCT's annual meetings by recruiting the speakers, planning the details of the events, and usually arranging a good supply of cookies. Kris was a faithful participant in our monitoring visits in fair weather or foul. She also served on the nominating committee and is responsible for bringing bright new talents to our board.

Kris called her service "a rich experience" and "a great privilege, working with a dedicated, competent group and sharing the passion for our Casco Bay Islands which unifies the work of OCT. Witnessing more and more properties being preserved and protected was most exhilarating." She noted that she especially enjoyed the annual monitoring process: "The nitty-gritty work of visiting all properties in depth assures donors that the principles at the time of giving are steadfastly honored."

Thank you, Kris. You were an inspiration!

RETIRING PRESIDENT, CHRISTINE McDUFFIE



*"We who love Casco Bay's islands and want only the best for them have been many times blessed through our work and friendship with Christine McDuffie."
(Roger Berle)*

When Christine McDuffie joined the Board of Oceanside Conservation Trust in the mid 1980s, she wasted little time making an impact upon the Board of Directors and upon land preservation in Casco Bay.

Chris was ready to dig in from the start. Many good, caring people have served on the OCT Board of Directors over the past twenty-three years. Others have found their niche and worked very hard on a particular issue or agenda and then moved on. Still others stay on board with the view that it is a marathon and that there will always be more work to do.

Chris focused upon what needed to be accomplished immediately. She was a quick study, understanding intrinsically the balance between implementing conservation goals and understanding the needs of the people involved. She has been a leader without ego, but with steady effectiveness and efficiency.

Chris knew when to take the reins and when to delegate and empower. She is a tiger with legal language, never satisfied until the meaning is clear not only to her but also to all who will read the document in the future. She advocates for toughness and gentleness in alternating paragraphs and is on the mark in each case.

As President, Chris ran meetings with charm, grace, humor, and dedication. Her attention to detail and superior preparation for our meetings took OCT to a high level of effectiveness from the very beginning of her ten-year presidency. Under her leadership and tutelage, we ceased to be a reactive organization and moved forward steadily and expeditiously. She led us in creating a mission statement, and she never fails to remind us to stay on that course. She led us in enthusiastically saying "yes!" and in firmly saying "no." Her memory is extensive and sure; her perspective and judgment have kept us on a true course.

Ms. McDuffie has never been afraid to get her hands dirty or her feet wet. Our springtime monitoring trips have taken place under all kinds of conditions, through sleet and wind and poison ivy. Riding in her truck around her beloved Long Island has been a trip!

*Wise woman. Charming leader.
Relentless advocate. Thoughtful companion.*

THE BLUFFS ON CLIFF ISLAND

One of Oceanside's most scenic treasures is the easternmost tip of Cliff Island. The Bluffs is an 18 acre promontory overlooking Jewell Island and Half Way Light to the east and Pitkin Point and Fisherman's Cove to the west. Visitors to the island will find the access to The Bluffs from one of Oceanside's other protected properties, ACE Ballfield. Hikers may walk on the paths, fish from the rocks, and pick wild berries. Visitors should wear long pants, socks, and good foot gear because of poison ivy. The trails have been well-clipped by guests



South Point of The Bluffs, looking northeast

of the owners and are quite walkable both to the north and south points. The Bluffs provides a panoramic view of Casco Bay. Deer, birds, and other wild creatures abound. Walkers are asked to read the sign posted at the entrance to the property. No smoking, hunting, camping, bicycling, or use of motorized vehicles is permitted under the conditions of the easement. The owners appreciate the efforts and respect of all who visit the land. Oceanside is proud of its role in guaranteeing that The Bluffs is preserved for generations to come.