

Discovery

Early Spring Newsletter from the Ferry Beach Park Association

A P R I L 2015

In this issue, Discover news about...

- p.1 Ecology School lease update
- p.2 Ferry Beach Keepers news; Winter retreats—a cozy success!
- p.3 Summer music & workshops to inspire change; 2015 and beyond; Ferry Beach awarded grant
- p.4 Words of commitment for the FBPA
- p.5 Summer Conferences



A peaceful sunrise over campus, February 2015

Board Unanimously Votes to Not Renew Ecology School Lease

The Board of the Ferry Beach Park Association voted unanimously at its board meeting on February 1, 2015 not to extend an invitation to the Ecology School (EEL) to negotiate a lease agreement past the 2018 current agreement.

Ferry Beach is grateful for our ability to share our campus with EEL since its inception by the Ferry Beach Board and Executive Director in January of 1999. The Ferry Beach Discovery newsletter at that time wrote to its members: "By far the most significant action taken at our Board Retreat in November was a decision to launch our own education program: Ferry Beach Ecology School."

Initially, the reason for the separate corporation was to "serve as an umbrella organization for whatever educational programs we wish to create. It provides us with the widest flexibility. The first program of FBE (Ferry Beach Education,

later changed to EEL) is the Ferry Beach Ecology School." (Discovery, January 1999)

Over the years, other educational programs of Ferry Beach never transferred to the new corporation and the corporation became solely the Ecology School. The management of the school transferred from our Executive Director to the independent corporation and we no longer had Ferry Beach board members serving on the Ecology School board.

As Gail Forsyth-Vail, past president of Ferry Beach and Joy McNaughton, past board member of Ferry Beach remember it, the school was to be nurtured by Ferry Beach until it could stand on its own.

As Paul Provencher acknowledged in his recent letter to EEL regarding this decision, "We know that this will create challenges for both organizations but also great

opportunity. We regret that after arbitration our relationship continued to suffer and that we could not agree on the shared use of our campus. We hope that through this transition, we will be able to share peaceably our beautiful campus until the end of the current lease."

Ferry Beach has created a transition team and hopes that the Ecology School will do the same. We hope that these two teams will help both organizations prepare for our separation. As an organization, we hope that we can mutually go forth in support of one another honoring the relationship we have had with EEL.

As a member of Ferry Beach, we appreciate your concerns as we move forward with this transition. The current lease agreement expires with the Ecology School in December of 2018.

Attention, Future Beach Keepers!

We will be offering four sessions for our Beach Keeper training this year during the weeks of Deep Ecology, Family & Friends, GAYLA, and Work Week. Training is five hours and will be conveniently timed for those participating in the conference that week. We will also offer an additional one-day event for those not registered in a conference if we get enough interest.

If you would like to become a Beach Keeper, you must be a member of Ferry Beach, complete the training, provide at least 12 hours of service in a year, and donate a minimum of \$180 per year (the equivalent of a \$15/month sustaining donation).

Our first volunteer tasks in 2015-16 will be in the following areas:

1) **Facilities:** Dave Basler will be the coordinator of workdays that we will offer throughout the year. We may have one or two this fall and a couple of spring 2016 offerings that might fulfill all of your service hours as a Beach Keeper. If you are interested in Facilities workdays, be sure to sign up specifically for this service area. Most of the work in Facilities must be done at Ferry Beach.

2) **Office work:** Our needs include office work and database management. Katrina Newton, our Office Administrator, will be the coordinator for this. We are looking for people who can enter data, staff the office and answer phone calls, and work in the office in the summertime for a few hours a week. Some of the tasks can be done remotely from your home.

3) **Events Support:** We have several opportunities for service hours this summer: Staffing the check-in table for Emma's Revolution concert on August 15th, coordinating children and youth activities during Labor Day, barbecue assistance during Labor Day's Saturday



BBQ, helping with the Fall Harvest Event, and the 2016 Annual Meeting. These are all volunteer positions and will not be compensated with exchanges of tickets or

stays at Ferry Beach. Liz Clements, our new Operations Manager will coordinate these jobs.

4) **Store Support:** In 2015-16, we will be training individuals to help staff the Ferry Beach store on church weekends and during the summer months. Our store is an integral part of the work we do at



Ferry Beach and everyone loves our ice cream. Sign up in 1-2 hour increments throughout the summers and the shoulder season. Liz Clements will coordinate the store volunteers.

Please consider becoming a Ferry Beach Keeper! As we look to the future, we are hoping to provide other fun opportunities for you to meet new people and give back to this beautiful place that we all love! Sign up at www.ferrybeach.org/beach-keepers

Winter Retreats were a big hit!

Our first winter of weekend conferences was a success! Over 70 people participated in four weekends: A conference on aging and connecting with your wise woman, the GAYLA reunion, Deep Ecology, and Pilates and Body Sculpting. Most workshops were held in the DeWolfe Dining Hall once the really cold weather set in. We even survived blizzard warnings and a heavy snow during the GAYLA reunion!

Winters are much quieter here at Ferry Beach and yet the coast, the ocean, and the woods continue to have their own Ferry Beach magic. If you like to snowshoe or cross-country ski, this was the winter to do it. Since January, we have had plenty of snow on the ground to wander the deep woods.

The city of Saco does a great job of snow removal, so even though there was a lot of snow all around the campus and in the

Grove, the streets were clear and easy to navigate. The Norman Rockwell quality of winters in New England showed up in the form of ice skaters and hockey players on nearby Long Pond.



love here at Ferry Beach this winter. We even brought in the rocking chairs for our last two conferences and the GAYLA brothers watched the blizzard roar into the Gulf of Maine in the warmth of the

We are grateful to Christine Burgess, who created fabulous meals for each of our retreats. We had plenty of good coffee, baked goods, and

dining hall and good friends, rocking away!

Do you have an idea for a conference for 2016? We want to hear from you! Workshop leaders act as coordinators for their conference and are able to create some fabulous, intimate events. We hope to have a full array of conferences to choose from for next winter in the coming months, so be sure to check them out!



Deep Ecology retreat, February 20-22

Summer 2015: Music and Workshops to Inspire Change

Many have called **Pat Humphries** one of the greatest songwriters of our time. She and **Sandy Opatow** of *Emma's Revolution*



"Fervent and heartfelt" - The New York Times

have been inspiring thousands of audiences worldwide with their stirring lyrics and beautiful, catchy tunes. Ferry Beach is ecstatic to host **Emma's Revolution**

in concert on **August 15th** at 8pm in the GAYLA Theater (\$20 for advance tickets; \$25 at the door).

Pat will participate in the two-day workshop **"Exploring the Q"** (August 13-15) and she and Sandy will be leading workshops on Sunday and Monday (August 16-17) through the **Circle of Music** Conference. Then another great singer-songwriter, Joe Jencks (from Brother Sun), comes in on Tuesday and will work with the COM conference the rest of the week.

UUA Outreach Coordinator **Tandi Rogers** will be teaching the Meadville-Lombard course, Method is the Message during **RE week**, July 4-10. Gail Forsythe-Vail will lead the Renaissance Module.

Marcia Chatelain, author of *South Side Girls* and history professor at Georgetown will be here July 10-11 to lead **Talking With Students About Ferguson**, sharing with us her work on #FergusonSyllabus. Marcia is an engaging spirit and dynamic speaker. She has been touring the country and the airwaves with her inspirational work on engaging young people in the dialogue about race and racial justice. Targeting social workers and teachers who work with youth, this two-day event is a must! If you are an RE conferee, consider staying one more day to participate in this sure-to-be captivating conference!

Our precious Earth is calling us! For many, the earth's challenges seem overwhelming. Join us July 18-25 for our **Family Conference on Deep Ecology** to explore ways of creating active hope in our lives. Using the *Work That Reconnects* framework created by eco-philosopher Joanna Macy, Verne McArthur will lead us in morning workshops that inspire us. A "Kids for the Earth" track for third through fifth graders will be offered, along with wildlife and ecological activities everyday for the whole family. *Gardening with Native Plants* with Matt Kelly and Janet Bringola and *Introduction to Permaculture* with Amy Antonucci, co-founder of the SeaCoast Permaculture Group, will be offered in the afternoons, providing us with hands-on activities we can put into

practice as soon as we get home. Join us for this powerful week in which we celebrate the earth with workshops, dance, music, and much more!



We are very excited to welcome back folksinger **Andrew McKnight** to **Family and Friends**, July 25-August 1. Andrew will provide a concert on Sunday evening (more details will follow!). Last year, Rev. Mark Doty and Andrew were a

dynamic duo each morning. This is definitely a week you don't want to miss.

Writer **Judith Campbell** joins **Women's Week** this year (August 8-14). Judith wrote the Olympia Brown mysteries and has a new book out this year called a *Twisted Mission*, which she says is loosely based on Ferry Beach!

Kayaking, photography, yoga, choral, dance, quilting, spirituality, 12-steps and much more will be offered throughout the summer. Finally, join us **Labor Day Weekend** for all-you-can-eat BBQ, live music on Saturday, and Sunday brunch. Activities, games, and fun for the whole family begin Friday, September 4th!

Looking Beyond 2015

Ferry Beach will be looking for organizations, groups, businesses, and individuals wanting to have conferences, workshops, and events at Ferry Beach starting in the spring of 2019. Inquiries have increased since last year when we began to share our story with websites like www.visitmaine.com and others.

If you or someone you know is looking for a beautiful space at a reasonable price, send them our way. 2019 is not far away when planning special events!

A Compassionate Summer

Join us for Conversations of Compassion every week this summer! We will be exploring our theme of compassion through conversations around race and racial justice, our precious earth, and exploring the Q (of LGBTQ). These conversations will take place on the porch, at our Thursday community dinners, and throughout the week.

Join us as we explore what it means to live a life full of compassion.

Ferry Beach Awarded Grant!

The **New York State Convention of Universalists** has awarded us a grant of \$2,000 to support scholarships for the **Talking With Students About Ferguson**, a two-day conference being offered at Ferry Beach this summer, targeted primarily but not solely for social workers and teachers. The conference is a perfect example of what Ferry Beach can do to honor its legacy and its Universalist message of Love. The conference will be July 10-11 and aims to help individuals engage youth in conversations around race and racial justice. For more information about the conference, visit www.ferrybeach.org.

To learn more more about the wonderful people at the NY State Convention of Universalists visit: www.nyscu.org

Words of Commitment for Officers, Directors, and Members of the Ferry Beach Park Association, 2015

By Paul Provencher, President, FBPA

These words are designed in order to clearly articulate the expectations of the Officers, Directors, and Members of the Ferry Beach Park Association. It is important for these persons to review these words periodically so as to remind themselves of their overall responsibilities to the organization, the members, and themselves.

*As an **Officer, Director, or Committee Member** of Ferry Beach Park Association, I fully commit to the mission of Ferry Beach and I pledge to fulfill my duties and responsibilities in carrying out this mission. I will do so in the following areas:*

Global Representation: I commit to represent the broad interests of Ferry Beach members rather than a narrow personal or professional perspective or a special interest. I understand that I am expected to know, support, and follow the mission, purpose, goals, and policies of Ferry Beach at all times. For Officers and Directors, I understand that I am expected to provide financial support to Ferry Beach above the level of a general member.

Due Diligence: I will attend board meetings, special board meetings, and be available for phone consultations as needed. I will familiarize myself with the agenda and background materials sent in advance of meetings. I will participate actively in the conduct of these meetings. My meeting participation should demonstrate respect for diversity of opinion, full disclosure of related information, and adherence to rules of decision making as determined by board by-laws. I further commit to performing the duties of board membership responsibly and ethically, and to respect the confidentiality of issues of a sensitive nature brought before the board. I understand I am not to represent the board's positions to outside bodies without prior approval. I understand I am expected to support the decisions of the Board of Directors and provide dissent and questioning in private.

Fiduciary Responsibility: I understand I am expected to be literate in organizational finance and capable of tracking and evaluating financial performance through regular reports from management. I currently have or will develop competence in judging annual budgeting processes and be ready to accept accountability for the successful financial performance of Ferry Beach. I understand the fiduciary responsibilities of a board member. I understand I am expected to exercise prudence regarding personal expenses related to board business, travel, or other assignments.

Leadership Development: I commit to participate in ongoing board development consisting of episodic presentations at regular board meetings, readings, and study over the course of a year, and to participate in an annual board development and planning retreat (approximately 2 days). I commit to stay literate regarding the trends in the field and the performance expectations of the board of directors. I further commit to continued learning about Ferry Beach's policies, programs, operations, finances, its' challenges and opportunities.

Committee, Task Force, and Ferry Beach Representation: I understand I will be expected to serve on committees and/or task forces and may also be called upon to represent Ferry Beach to internal or external constituents for special projects, negotiation, planning or communication purposes.

Officers: I understand that as an elected board officer, I will face additional time commitments to those listed above.

*As a **Member of Ferry Beach**, I will support the mission, purpose, goals, and policies of Ferry Beach Park Association to the best of my abilities. I will do so in the following areas:*

Support: I pledge to support Ferry Beach financially through my Annual Membership fee, and as I am able through the Sustaining Donor Program or with Annual or additional gifts.

Leadership Development: I will work to identify those individuals who may contribute their time, treasure, and talent to Ferry Beach. I will further encourage and support them to participate at a higher level.

Note: These words are used to preside over the installation of Officers, Directors and Members at the Annual Meeting of the Ferry Beach Park Association.



Please consider becoming a Sustaining Donor of Ferry Beach!

Visit www.ferrybeach.org to give ongoing support to our beloved Beach!

Thank you to all our generous donors!

2015 Annual Meeting of the Ferry Beach Park Association
Saturday June 20, 1:00pm

All members are invited to join the Ferry Beach Board of Directors at the 2015 Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 20th at 1:00pm in Rowland Hall.

A Town Hall will precede the meeting at 11:00am, and complimentary lunch will be offered between the Town Hall and Annual Meeting.

Discounted rooms will be available to those staying overnight for \$25 per person. Please email registration@ferrybeach.org with the names of those attending, address, and phone number to receive your discount and reserve your spot.

Summer 2015 Conference Schedule

Register now at www.ferrybeach.org or call us at 207.282.4489

JUNE

15-20: Work Week. An opportunity for family and friends of Ferry Beach to help clean, paint, garden, and sew, along with many other projects!

20: Ferry Beach Annual Meeting in Rowland Hall, Saturday, 1pm. RSVP: 207.282.4489

21-27 and 27-July 4: KFTE, Different Drummers, and FUUTURE. Youth camps for children entering grades 4-12. (KFTE not available in week two of youth camp.)

JULY

4-10: Religious Education Week. We welcome Reverend **Tandi Rogers**, Outreach Director for UUA, who will be teaching the class from Meadville Lombard.

10-11: Talking with Students about Ferguson. Georgetown Professor Marcia Chatelain will teach a two-day intensive on working with students and racial justice. CEUs for social workers and teachers. Visit www.ferrybeach.org for more information!

11-17: Choral Fest. Great place if you love to sing. Choir membership is not required!

11-18: GAYLA. A wonderful, spiritual, and fun conference for gay men of all ages.

18-25: Family Conference on Deep Ecology. Workshops and activities for every member of the family on honoring and protecting our earth!

18-25: Yoga Retreat. Anne Falkowski returns with a fabulous opportunity for you to care for your body temple in the most relaxing and rejuvenating environment.

18-25: Kayaking! Join **Marty Burgess** and the FogDogs of Ferry Beach in a wonderful weeklong opportunity to explore the Maine coast.

25-August 1: Family and Friends. A conference of diverse families of all ages coming together to play, make music, explore our natural surroundings, and connect to our spiritual selves. Great young adult workshops and activities. Musician/folksinger **Andrew McKnight** joins us!

AUGUST

1-8: UUFAF is a great place to connect with old friends, meet new people, and enjoy the beauty of Ferry Beach. **Jodi Hayashida**, theme speaker.

8-14: Women's Week welcomes Rev. **Judith Campbell**. Amazing women's circles and activities planned throughout the week.

8-14: The Spiritual Art of Aging. Join **Carol Strecker** and **Caryn Clark** as they share their journey of spirit and aging. Includes yoga, meditation, and much more!

13-15: Exploring the Q. What does it mean to be a girl or a boy? How has society limited our sense of our own sexual expression? These and more questions will be explored in this two-day intensive.

15: Emma's Revolution Concert! GAYLA Theater, Rowland Hall, 8pm.

15-21: Circle of Music conference welcomes the dynamic duo of **Sandy O** and **Pat Humphries**. They will inspire us to remember our roots and use our voices and resources to make the world a better place.

Folksinger **Joe Jencks** joins the week on Wednesday!

15-21: PSI/Integrated Spiritual Pathways welcomes sound healer and Peruvian Shaman **Pierre Garreud** for a week of spirituality and healing.

17-21 Motivational Interviewing on the Beach! This five-day symposium will offer a series of techniques for transforming the most problematic challenges encountered in everyday caregiving.

21-23: Weekend Getaway. A short sampler of all the best that Ferry Beach has to offer.

22-29: Quilting by the Bay. An opportunity to quilt with others in an atmosphere of support and growth. Award-winning quilter **Timna Tarr** joins the retreat for a two-day stay to share her techniques and trunk show.

29: 12 Step Intensive. A 12 Step Conference for anyone interested in exploring how to use the 12 steps to live a life of grace. Facilitated by **Roger White**.

22-29: The Art of Seeing: Photography with **David Sumner** and **Paul Provencher**. Ferry Beach is the perfect location to photograph sunrises, nature, and anything else that catches your eye!

SEPTEMBER

4-7: Labor Day Weekend, featuring our Old Fashioned Family Picnic. Live music on Saturday from 4-8pm with **Rudy Gabrielson and Friends**, fantastic BBQ starting at 4pm on Saturday and great games and workshops for the whole family.