

Discovery

Spring Newsletter from the Ferry Beach Park Association

Spring 2014

- Summer Registration (See back page for conferences)
- Stewardship at Ferry Beach, p.2
- Dune Restoration and the City of Saco and the Army Corps of Engineers (below)



Inching Forward on the Dune Restoration Plan

Winter storms are always the most challenging for Ferry Beach and Camp Ellis. With the jetty that separates the beach from the mouth of the Saco River, erosion occurs. Many believe that the energy of the waves that roll into the jetty and head to shore, pick up momentum and speed. This energy, because it is more concentrated and not dispersed (because of the jetty), causes major deterioration of the beach. Homes in Camp Ellis have been disappearing with each winter storm and the railroad tracks and street that used to lead from Camp Ellis to Ferry Beach are no more.

For Ferry Beach, we have seen the deterioration of the sand dunes and the shrinking of the beach for years.

The Army Corps of Engineers, who completed the first jetty in the 1850's and have extended it many times, have proposed a solution, and last spring, we heard that the idea was nearing an implementation phase. Then the Department of Environmental Protection decided that part of the solution, to place additional sand from Camp Ellis to Ferry Park Avenue and raise the beach 9 feet higher than high tide, would be detrimental to two shore birds, the Piping Plover and the Red Knot.

A series of steps were taken, a report and policy for the city of Saco to adopt was created by the Saco Shoreline Commission regarding the shore birds and now we are poised once again to move forward.



A bill to streamline the permitting process to address beach restoration has passed the state legislature and was signed by the governor.

Federal officials feel that the work of the city of Saco, the state and others around the issues of wildlife management has helped. Signals from federal officials seem to indicate that the actions regarding the protection of specific shore birds have addressed their concerns. No date has been set for the project to commence. The challenge still will be to address some of the particulars of adding sand to the beach to raise the dunes.

The point that many wildlife and environmentalists made in the hearings at the state legislature was that without adding sand to the beach, Piping Plovers and other birds cannot

nest as there are very few dune areas left in the southern strip of beach.

Ferry Beach continues to monitor this important issue. The Saco Shoreline Commission meets monthly at our facilities at Ferry Beach.

Volunteer Opportunities

We have a number of opportunities for people of all skill levels! Sign up for 2 hours at a time.

Level 1: Come join us to sweep, clean, wash windows, pick up trash, vacuum, etc. From now until November 15, Ferry Beach will have a need for people to come in and help us keep the place clean and looking great.

Level 2: Can you use a screwdriver or garden tool? Are you comfortable changing lightbulbs or weeding? Answering the phone and staffing the office some afternoons would also be great.

Level 3: More specialized skills are needed to help with computer tasks: organize and catalogue pictures, work on the website, on the newsletter and help us market our conferences.

Continued on page 2

Volunteering at Ferry Beach

Janet Bringola and Matt Kelly just celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Memorial Garden at Ferry Beach. As Janet shared: "Changing this area from dark and wet to light and airy was magical and a huge learning experience." Prior to 2002, she and Matt came to Family and Friends and Labor Day with their children. Matt retired in 2002 and "it was then that we became a gardening team at home and at Ferry Beach doing what we like to do best. Gardening gets you outdoors, gives you the chance to get exercise and create something beautiful."



About volunteering, Janet said: "Ferry Beach has given our family so much over the years; a safe place for spiritual development, personal growth, making lasting friendships and of course a beautiful place to relax and enjoy at any time of the year. It is very satisfying to be able to give back to the Beach by helping to keep it looking beautiful." You can find Matt and Janet gardening at Ferry Beach many weekends in the Spring. They are the ones who create and hang all of the baskets of flowers on the porches at Quillen and DeWolfe in addition to creating and cultivating

the Memorial Gardens and all the beautiful landscaping around Quillen and Claflin. We are so grateful for the work that they do for Ferry Beach.

"Volunteering is a way of life....Volunteering feeds the heart and soul and keeps one occupied." (Chip Patullo)

Chip Patullo's wife invited him to come to work week last year for the first time.

After seeing the underneath deterioration of the Quillen Porch, he talked to our Director of Operations about coming back to Ferry Beach to address the challenge. He told us if we could find the materials to do the job, he would come back with a crew.

Paul Belyea a GAYLA conference goer, loved the Quillen and was grateful he could donate the money needed to fix the porch. So with materials in hand, Chip will go to work the week before work week starts.

Chip is no stranger to volunteering. He was instrumental in creating a fundraising sleep out in March for a program which helps homeless youth and adults.

Chip will be here the week before Work Week starts. He'll work with his 3 crew members and some of the UU youth from his church. He explained about the project: "I will be coming a week early to do planning demolition, and support to remove floor framing. I will be staying through Wednesday of work week before going to GA to coordinate with whomever comes to help. I

am hoping to be ready with floor framing done or underway by the time work week starts. We will need some carpentry-ready folks to re-install the deck during work week, and possibly some to do framing of the deck. There will be finish details for the railings and posts to do - reattaching, possibly rebuilding, possible re-installation of posts. As I'm leaving before the end of work week, I'll need someone to coordinate the end of the project. I think I have someone lined up from my congregation who is coming for work week for coordination, but it wouldn't hurt to have another person."

If you have the skills that Chip will need to finish the project, consider coming to Ferry Beach during work week to help.

Volunteer Opportunities (cont. from p. 1.)

Basic carpentry, plumbing and other hand tool work is also needed in Level 3.

Some of the website, newsletter and marketing activities could be done remotely. We are working in a Mac environment and would need a volunteer familiar with Pages.

Do you have a skill you would like to share? We welcome your involvement! Please call Cathy Stackpole at 207-282-4489.



Membership Has Its Privileges

Ferry Beach Park Association is a not for profit, membership organization. When incorporated and applying for 501c3 status with the federal government, not for profits can be organized with or without members other than the board of directors.

When Ferry Beach was incorporated, many years ago, it chose to have members in addition to the board. Membership in Ferry Beach is one of the ways in which people use the facility and support the future of the organization. Members also have the responsibility to elect the board of directors, amend articles and bylaws, and vote on other matters that properly come before the members at an annual meeting. Ferry Beach, like other broader membership organizations, has an annual meeting so that members may participate at this level of governance for the organization.

As a not for profit, Ferry Beach has an elected board of directors. This is the group responsible for policy making for the organization and hiring of an Executive Director who is responsible for day to day operations.

One of the privileges of membership of Ferry Beach is that members can come to a conference or workshop. They may attend the annual meeting and other events sponsored by Ferry Beach. Members of Ferry Beach are invited to be a part of a community of people who support the values of Ferry Beach.

In the not for profit world, members are an essential part of our tax-exempt status because members help us fulfill our by-laws. The founders of Ferry Beach who helped form the corporation, created a membership broader than just the required board of directors so that there would always be people who acted as good stewards of the organization's assets. A big part of the responsibilities of membership is to assure that Ferry Beach will be here for generations to come.

Members in not-for-profit organizations often provide volunteer services as well as give financial donations to the organization. Members help support the initiatives that help sustain the organization. In many not for profits that are spiritually based, self-less service is a

key component of the culture of the organization.

Stewardship is a part of membership. Of approximately 1700 members from last year, 780 of those are life members, which means at one time or another in the past, they gave a larger gift to Ferry Beach in exchange for a lifetime membership. One hundred and nineteen of those life members or 15% gave a donation to Ferry Beach last year. Eighty-six people are sustaining members of Ferry Beach, collectively giving about \$40,000 last year. About half of our sustaining members were also life members when they started giving monthly.

(Some information came from the IRS website and BoardSource.)

Ferry Beach Annual Meeting

June 21, 2014, 1pm

GAYLA Theater, Rowland Hall

Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue

by Cathy Stackpole

"I am slowly, painfully discovering, my refuge is not found in a place or a person, but in my capacity to love." (Terry Tempest Williams)

Last year, there were a couple of people who hadn't been to Ferry Beach in about 20 years. I was standing with them, when seeing old friends, who, like them, were now also graying and slowing down, brought tears to their eyes as they tightly hugged one another.

Scientists say that prior to 1950, all the available information in the world doubled every 500 years. Since then, all of the available information in the world doubles every 4 days.

Solutions to problems that were once isolated are now "crowdsourced"* like the search for the Malaysian airplane, Flight 370 that has dominated our newscasts. Our world community is much closer and yet in some ways, further apart.



dining hall, the Dolphin Room of Quillen. "It was loud and crowded and really hot in there, but we loved it" said someone who had been coming to Ferry Beach with his family for



many years.

"You used to have to get up here early and talk to Ray if you wanted to get a good room," said another. There were no on-line registrations back then.

Reminiscing on the Quillen porch with people who had come to Ferry Beach for more than forty years, they shared how much the physical landscape had shifted as well. As we sat there, you could almost see the railroad tracks and the bowling alley that were on the beach side of Ferry Beach. The road on the ocean side of Quillen once went all the way to Camp Ellis and the row of houses that stood on the eastern side have been swallowed up the ocean.



Many people have seen each other's kids grow up to have kids of their own. One coordinator of a conference married his childhood Ferry Beach sweetheart and now they are bringing their young children to Ferry Beach. The weekend retreats on hot topics of the day,



which assembled people to talk about the Great Depression and World War II haven't happened in a long time.

The old Belmont burned down and was never put back up. Gone are the open walls that surrounded the GAYLA Theater. The Fire Marshall mandated we close the walls for safety. With them went the stories of children daring others to jump from the balcony into the auditorium below.

While old stories fade, new ones are created; new families have found their way to Ferry Beach. Their stories will be entwined with the stories from the past. Who knows, they might find a childhood sweetheart among a long time Ferry Beach family and start a family tradition of their own.

(*sharing technology on-line with thousands of people around the world to look for the plane).



With any change always comes loss. We grieve for the way things used to be-- a simpler time when we weren't so glued to computers or cell phones. This last summer I heard from many people who were sad to have lost the old

Please consider becoming a sustaining member of Ferry Beach! Contact us at 207-282-4489 for details.

Call for Proposals!

Do you have a great idea for a conference or a retreat? We are looking for ideas for weekends in the winter months for 10-20 people. Perhaps a meditation or a group intensive around a specific idea or concept? Maybe learning a skill or even a group of friends wanting to get together for a weekend getaway. Please call us with your ideas. We will have warm space open from November 15 through early March. Please call the office.



Summer Theme Songs

We are looking for songs that represent our theme of Grace and Gratitude this summer. If you or someone you know has written a chant or a song that you think fits with our theme, will you email us at registration@ferrybeach.org

Thanks so much!

5 Morris Avenue
Saco, Maine 04072

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1011
Saco, Maine 04072

We'll have a booth at General Assembly of the UUA this year in Providence. Stop by and say hello. If you have some time, we are also looking for people to volunteer, please call and let us know. 207-282-4489.

Living in Gratitude and Grace: Our Summer 2014 Theme! Join Us.

Summer 2014 Conference Schedule: Our Theme is Gratitude and Grace

June

21 - **Ferry Beach Annual Meeting** in Rowland Hall, Saturday, 1pm. Please RSVP to 207-282-4489

22-28 - **Work Week** - An opportunity for family and friends of Ferry Beach to come an help clean, paint, garden, sew and many other projects!

28 - July 5th - **KFTE, Different Drummers, and FUUTURES**, Youth camps for children between the grades of 4 through 12.

July

5-11 - **Religious Education Week**. We welcome Reverend **Tamara Lebak** from All Souls, UU in Tulsa as minister of the week. Coming from the largest UU Church in the country, Tamara will share information about church growth. **Mark Hicks from Meadville-Lombard** will be teaching a class and several other workshops will be available for religious educators and friends.

12-18 - **Choralfest** - Great place if you love to sing. Choir membership is not required!

12-19 - **GAYLA** - A wonderful spiritual and fun conference for gay men of all ages.

19-26 - **Intergenerational Rejuvenation and Relaxation** (formerly FFI) Workshops and activities for every member of the family!

19-26 - **Yoga Retreat** - **Anne Falkowski** returns with a fabulous opportunity for you to care for your body temple in the most relaxing and rejuvenating environment.

19-26 - **Curious Journey's - Writer's** conference with **Sam Sherman** and **Carolyn Locke**. Sam's speciality is prose and Carolyn will share her talents and skills as a poet. Two tracks, great fun. Mystery writers join us for early in the week.

19-26 - **Kayaking!** Join the Fogdogs of Ferry Beach in a wonderful weeklong opportunity to explore the Maine coast. With **Marty Burgess**.

26-August 2 - **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

2-9 - **UUFAF** is a great place to connect with old friends, meet new people and enjoy the beauty of Ferry Beach. **Aaron Payson**, theme speaker.

9-15 - **Women's Week** welcomes **Carolyn McDade**, singer, songwriter extraordinaire from Saturday evening through Monday. Amazing women's circles and activities planned throughout the week.

12-15 - **Aging with Grace**. Join **Nancee Campbell** and **Susan Murphy** as they share their journey of spirit and aging.

16 - **Holly Near Concert in GAYLA Theater**, Rowland Hall, 8pm. 16-22 - **Circle of Music** conference welcomes singer, songwriter **Holly Near** who inspires 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!

16-22 **Integrated Spiritual Pathways** welcomes sound healer and Peruvian Shaman **Pierre Garreaud** for a week of spirituality and healing.

22-24 - **Weekend Getaway** - a short sampler of all the best that Ferry Beach has to offer.

23-29 - **Quilting by the Bay** - an opportunity to quilt with others in an atmosphere of support and growth. Learn new techniques and ways of completing your projects. Coordinated by **Barbara Stroup**.

22-29 - **Stepping with Grace and Gratitude** - a 12 Step Conference for anyone interested in exploring how to use the 12 steps to live a life of grace.

22-29 - **The Art of Seeing: Photography** with **Elizabeth Bard**

29 - September 1 - **Labor Day Old Fashioned Family Picnic**. Live music on Saturday from 4-8pm with **Downeast Soul Coalition**, fantastic BBQ starting at 4pm on Saturday and great games for the whole family. Workshops and other activities round out the weekend.

Sign Up Now at www.ferrybeach.org or call us at 207-282-4489.

