

Discovery

Breaking "Bad" by Cathy Stackpole

Winter on the coast in northern New England can be cruel, benevolent, ugly, beautiful, violent and serene. Sometimes, it is all of these in the course of a weekend, or even a day. The weekend of February 8th started ugly: deep fog, rain just bordering on freezing, which hit the streets and immediately iced. And dare I say damp? There is nothing more damp than rain drenched snow, freezing fog and ice coated trees that began to drip with the weight of the frozen dampness.

A full retreat scheduled, our guests were coming from elsewhere in New England so they weren't planning to cancel, "bring it on," they said. And so, she did. Mother Nature's howling winds stirred the ocean so much, that if the drip, drip, drip of the semi-frozen rain didn't make you grab your jacket tight around you, the roaring waves did.

In the blink of an eye, the internet went out. Happens all the time up here. Our summer guests complain about slow wi-fi, how about NO wi-fi, which occurs with some regularity. No big deal, until the power went out. To underscore that the power was out, the fire alarms sounded in the deepening dark, constantly reminding us that the power was out.

Guests who had already made it to campus conferred together and decided that even though they were New Englanders, this was too much. They had about an hour's drive in the rain changing to freezing rain to wintry mix to snow and they decided to head out. The staff of Ferry Beach changed their plans to work the weekend and headed out too, leaving faucets on in certain buildings.

All night long the sound of the wind shook my shoulders awake, and I dreamed of frozen pipes. In the early morning hours, unable to sleep anymore, I put my clothes on and went down to Ferry Beach. Two of the staff were already there, checking on the buildings and firing up two portable generators to keep two different indoor fire suppression systems operating (DeWolfe and Cross) as the temperature on my weather app read -0.

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AND MORE!





The ice that had built up on the trees, the streets and the grasses just laughed in the beautiful bright sun. Sky jewels everywhere, the sea glistened calm. The generators were going to be here, when we were not. They were small, with about 8-9 hours of run time, but they would give us just enough heat, we hoped to protect our sprinkler heads.

By late afternoon, I needed to check back on the generators. I was greeted by the beautiful full moon rising over the ocean, serene, calm and beautiful save for the loud hum of the generator. Another sleepless night, punctuated with the question: will the generator run out of gas too soon in the middle of the night and the pipes freeze?

In the chilly morning of the second day, the generator was off and covered with frost, but the inside temperature was 41 degrees. "Yes!" Some relief. By late afternoon of the waning weekend, the utility company was able to restore power.

While we are so grateful for the portable generators, we are putting the interior of the DeWolfe dining room and Cross Cottage at risk every time the power goes out. While we didn't venture into a life of immorality (from the Southern colloquialism of "breaking bad") we see clearly that the risk we are taking is more than we should to save money on buying generators for both buildings.

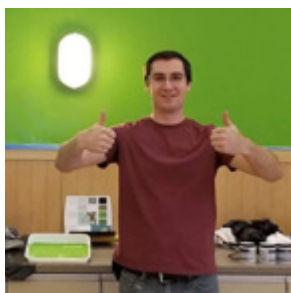
Will you help us? This winter is a challenging cash flow exercise for us, as we transition into a facility open year round. If you are able, could you help us address this risk to these two buildings we really shouldn't take?

The following people have already donated in response to a facebook post we created the weekend of the storm:

- ♥ Claudia & James Sienko
- ♥ Dorota & Matt McKay
- ♥ Ellenor Barish
- ♥ Kathy Haberle
- ♥ Liz Dahl Merchant
- ♥ Mary Ann Latter
- ♥ Pam Emery

We thank them and all of you for your continued support of Ferry Beach. To help, please go to ferrybeach.org/capital-projects and make your donation.



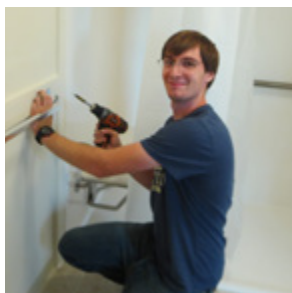


So Long Our Friend

It was almost five years ago to the day that Steve Carpenter came to Ferry Beach. He is now sharing with us that he will be leaving Ferry Beach at the end of February. Just out of college, and working at Lowe's in south Portland, Steve started as our first maintenance coordinator in many years.

Steve had worked at state parks and was familiar with safety and risk management issues. He supervised many renovations in the last 8 years and he has done some amazing work with his two hands at Ferry Beach. True to his last name, here are just a sampling of Steve's projects at Ferry Beach (in no particular order):

- Cabinetry in the dining room
- Painting and repairing Quillen, Underwood and Rowland
- Rebuilding Rose Pavilion
- Replacing the outdoor shower at 5 Morris Cottage
- Repairing and painting the office at Kelley
- Building the basement of Cross Cottage into a meeting space.
- Finishing all of the repairs in the Dolphin Room
- Painting, painting, more painting
- Re-roofing the Grove Garage
- Building our ADA boardwalk



Along the way he has been such a good friend to Ferry Beach – always here to take care of a problem or respond when a fire alarm goes off. He has always gone the extra mile and we so appreciate his attention to detail.

Steve is going to work for the water treatment plant in Wells, ME and we wish him the best of luck. He tells us he won't be a stranger to Ferry Beach so we hope to see him at some future volunteer work projects and our annual spring opening!

Looking for Leadership - Will you Volunteer

Ferry Beach would like to grow its volunteer leadership. We have positions on the board, heading up task forces, providing support for fundraising activities, governance, and finance. We also have volunteer leadership positions in the operations area: registration, program, local activities, special events, fund development activities, marketing and more!

If you are already a Beach Keeper, we thank you! As a Beach Keeper, if you want to learn more about these opportunities, give us a call. If you would like to join our volunteer corps there are many ways to contribute and work with us. We are particularly looking for people who are within driving distance of Ferry Beach and would like to be available when we have events on the campus.

Not sure what you would like to do? Give Cathy Stackpole a call to discuss the options. Cathy can be reached at **207-282-4489 x5** or by email at cstackpole@ferrybeach.org

Celebrating 50 Years of Family & Friends at Ferry Beach!

Ruthann Pearson shares her story about her experience at Family and Friends.

Family & Friends at Ferry Beach is not just your typical vacation - it is an EXPERIENCE! Waking up to enjoy a nice walk on the beach, sipping coffee on the porch, taking part in workshops and multigenerational activities all day long and of course the beach make Family & Friends so special.

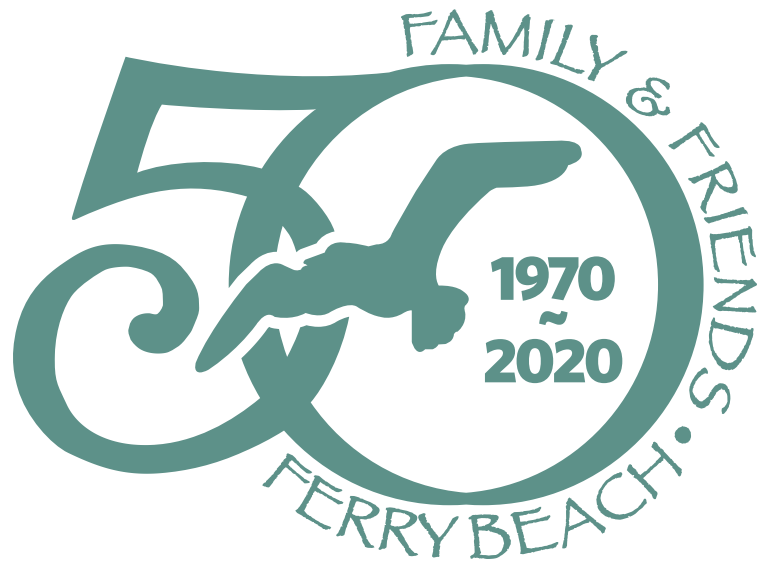
Morning workshops are designed to challenge the mind, rejuvenate the spirit and strengthen liberal values. Afternoons are spent on the beach with family and friends and taking part in engaging multigen activities. The week is filled with music, dancing, games, talent / no talent shows and so many great conversations!

The last full day of the conference is bittersweet. The closing ceremony connects conferees in a ceremonial parade from the beach to the grove and concludes with a human spiraling chain where each person greets each and every other person while chanting to the beat of the drum.

This year we invite all attendees of Family & Friends to join us in celebrating our 50 years together in this magical conference. Join us on Sunday, July 26th to take part in the festivities.

There will be food, music, a parade honoring the generations that have attended and supported Family and Friends for 50 years and more! Enjoy brief presentations from folks attending from the 1970's to 2020. Barbecue! Whiffle ball. Sandcastles. Music on the porch. Bonfire in the Grove. Happy hour with special snacks. Lobster, cake. Jazz jam. A memorial wall of F&F members who have passed. A museum of 50 years of newsletters. A StoryCore activity in which attendees can record their memories for posterity. These are only SOME of the activities planned for an incredibly full and rich day memorializing Family and Friends 50th anniversary. Come and join the fun, the love, the hugs and the play!

ferrybeach.org/familyfriends





Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Center is hosting a three part dinner & lecture series focusing on Democracy and Authoritarianism in America. Listen to a few regional experts discuss the Constitution and democracy and share their viewpoints. The 45-minute scholarly presentations on current event topics will provide attendees with an opportunity for questions and dialogue in a relaxed atmosphere.

Part 1 already occurred on January 22nd.

The remaining events will take place from 5:30-8:00 pm on March 4th and March 25th in the DeWolfe Dining Hall at 7 Morris Ave, Saco, ME. Each event will be paired with light appetizers, networking, a cash bar and a fabulous buffet-style meal including dessert. Tickets are \$15 each.

More information and registration online at ferrybeach.org/democracy or call registration at 207-282-4489 x1



March 4: **Authoritarianism and Democracy Abroad and At Home** *Jeane Hey, PhD, Professor of Political Science, Dean Emerita, College of Arts and Sciences, University of New England*



March 25: **The Impact of an Active Civic Life in Dangerous Times** *James Cook, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Maine at Augusta*



It's Time for your Family to Unplug!

Are your family members glued to their devices? Do you find it difficult to get your children to participate in interactive activities or play outside? We invite you to unplug and connect with nature in a highly interactive family camp this summer! Join us July 18-22 for THIS brand new camp, IRL (In Real Life) Family Camp.

Mornings will be filled with multigenerational nature discovery activities and afternoons will provide opportunities to participate in organized games and relaxation on the beach. Disconnect for a few days and get back to "Real Life"

Activities based on Richard Lourv's book "Last Child in the Woods" including: Family art journaling, singing, forest bathing, tide pool exploration, star gazing, bird identification, campfires, foraging and playing with found objects.

SPECIAL RATES APPLY FOR THIS CONFERENCE!

Learn more and register at ferrybeach.org/irl



Discovery

FEBRUARY 2020



Hogwarts has just opened a new campus: Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine! Do you want to be a member of the very first class? Orientation begins April 18th, 2020. Bring your family and explore your options, engaging in Hogwarts curriculum and social activities for five whole days. What destiny will the sorting hat choose for you? Spend time in the Dark Arts creating uniforms and casting spells to enhance your team's performance in the Quidditch tournament. Learn how the local flora and fauna can be utilized in the magic of herbology, and how in turn, your skills in herbology can benefit the environment. Practice transfiguration using a variety of magical materials, using them to enhance the developing campus. Show off your potion making skills and add to your potion recipe book. Discover your patronus and learn how to draw strength from channeling such a powerful spirit animal. And finally, celebrate your first weeks' accomplishments with your fellow wizards, witches, and families at the concluding party. Your owl-delivered acceptance letter awaits! Bring your family April 18-22, 2020 and explore your options engaging in Hogwarts curriculum and social activities during the spring school vacation week.

Learn more at ferrybeach.org/hogwarts

SUMMER AT FERRY BEACH

enriching & engaging retreats on the sandy southern maine coast

ADULT RETREATS
Explore a craft, learn a skill, meditate, play, hike, relax on the beach, share conversations with other adults, write, take photographs, join a support group, quilt and much more. Make new friends or come with a group. Adult weeks are packed with fun, friends and a variety of content. Come with a friend, a partner, or escape by yourself. You will always feel welcome at Ferry Beach.

PADDLE POWER
ADULT

YOGA
ADULT

FAMILY CAMPS
Ferry Beach is the perfect venue for the parents/caregivers who want to be with their whole family for vacation but don't want to cook, clean or be the social director all week! With the beach in one direction, the dining hall in the other, and age appropriate activities for every family member, all the ingredients for a fabulous time are here. Ferry Beach offers the best in family getaways. We are an open and affirming community and welcome all families!!

GAYLA
ADULT

CIRCLE OF MUSIC
ADULT

IN REAL LIFE
FAMILY

FAMILY & FRIENDS
FAMILY

CHORAL FEST
ADULT

COMPANY OF WOMEN
ADULT

THE WELL
FAMILY

CIRCLES OF LIFE
FAMILY

RE WEEK
FAMILY

YOUTH CAMPS
In the summer, Ferry Beach is a place where kids discover, explore, and take action. The southern coast of Maine is alive with life's transformations and a wonderful place to grow and change. Children entering 4th through 12th grades share the campus in three age appropriate camps organized by volunteer leaders, many of whom are parents, teachers, religious educators, and other kid-friendly supporters. All of our staff must pass a robust background check!
LGBTQ+ affirming.

FUTURES
YOUTH ENTERING GRADES 10-12

KFTE
YOUTH ENTERING GRADES 4-6

DIFFERENT DRUMMERS
YOUTH ENTERING GRADES 7-9

HAVE YOU BOOKED YET?

ferrybeach.org/schedule