

# Discovery

## Our Reimagined Summer

No, summer 2020 did not turn out the way any of us expected... it was scary, it was depressing, it was stressful and tiring... it was something none of us could have imagined! But in some ways, it was awesome... and no matter what, it is a summer we won't ever forget.

In the spring, after the pandemic exploded in the U.S., Ferry Beach staff and some members formed the Sustainability Task Force to discuss what the options could be for this summer. At that point, it was abundantly clear that coming to Ferry Beach would not be feasible for many, despite Maine's very low case numbers. We decided that the safest and most important activity we could do was to move summer programs online or offer hybrid models of the programs. We reimagined the ways we would all keep connected this summer!

Each conference went right to work figuring out what their program could look like. Some conferences held a totally virtual program similar to what they would have been if they were on-site. Other conferences opted to do a couple social check-ins to keep their community connected and engaged. A few conferences reached out to guest presenters who would offer sessions in topics of interest to their group. The outcome for every conference was the same - people really enjoyed having the opportunity to connect with each other and participate in programs and activities during this time of great challenge. So, it wasn't the same summer... but it was still an awesome summer.



We want to give special thanks to our loyal and dedicated conferees who stepped up to the plate to try this new thing! Your generous donations as well as people attending Ferry Beach brought in over \$125,000 in June and July to Ferry Beach - money that we certainly need to help us make it through this storm. (For updated details about our financial position, visit [www.ferrybeach.org/finances](http://www.ferrybeach.org/finances))

We also want to give special thanks to all of the conference coordinators who pulled off each program flawlessly... well, maybe there were a couple bumps along the way. But given all that is going on in the world, the bumps and hiccups were met with patience, kindness and even laughter. After all - we are all learning this new way of connecting!

We are hopeful that next summer will look a little more normal at Ferry Beach, and conference communities will start to trickle back in. We know that this virus is here for a while and we probably won't see full conferences back on-site... but with what we have learned this summer, we now know how to keep those who are away connected to Ferry Beach and their communities no matter what 2021 brings!

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**AND MORE!**

## Ferry Beach Summer Crew

Probably no one will ever use the phrase, “hindsight is 2020” again, yet while there has been hardship, there has also been brightness. Ferry Beach staff and board appreciate all of the efforts our members have made to help us stay afloat.

All summer long we have had small groups of individuals and families coming to the beach for their vacation. With smaller groups, it has been easy to distance people across the campus as well as provide food cafeteria style to all guests.

For the staff, it has been very stressful as we have had to keep our numbers very low. Through that we have lost a few staff members, however, we are persevering! The year-round staff has been supported by volunteers from our local community as well as people who have come in to help. We also couldn’t do it without 3 outstanding summer crew: Izzy Roughton, Caden Verville and Nolan Pecora.



**Izzy (Isabela) Roughton:** An outstanding employee, this is Izzy’s second summer here at Ferry Beach. She came to us a shy 14-year-old and through her work in the kitchen and the store, she has shined! Izzy works really hard when she is here and her work ethic is such that rain or shine or heat, she rides her bike up and down Ferry Road to and from work. She always has a smile on her face and she is tenacious in a really sweet way!

**Caden Verville:** Last year Caden worked in the dining hall and this year he is providing services both in the kitchen and the dining hall. He does some of the heavy lifting that Linda needs in addition to serving beverages for all meals. He is always polite and kind and we are grateful that he chose to work with us a second year!



The Dining Hall and the store are better because of these two very lovely individuals. We are so grateful they are here, diligently working. Both Izzy and Caden go to Thornton Academy in Saco.

**Nolan Pecora:** Stepping in about 6 hours a week to mow, move furniture and tidy up the campus is Nolan Pecora. He is a very hard worker, focusing on whatever we ask of him. Most recently he helped set up the Dolphin room for a group coming in, with tables and electrical for projector and screen. This is Nolan’s first job and we are so grateful to have him! He is a sophomore this year.



In addition to our summer crew, Ferry Beach is being supported by a dedicated group of year-round staff. From left to right:

- Cheryl-Anne Boccadoro, Registration & Membership Coordinator
- Linda Reynolds, Director of Food Services
- Donna Burnham, Housekeeping Coordinator
- Cathy Stackpole, Executive Director
- Julie Lemieux, Bookkeeper
- Brian Johnson, Marketing Coordinator
- Kate Nicoll, Events Coordinator
- Diana Wagman, Registration Office Assistant



# Hope for a New Day

*(A poem modeled after "Integrity" by Adrienne Rich)*

"A wild patience has taken me this far."

As if I had to again bring to sustainability  
an organization with an overwhelming debt

Old buildings, few resources and challenged computers  
Sprinkled over 3 offices

A deserted campus in this empty summer.

Quiet buildings and no one in the Grove.

The pandemic ripping through

Our financial position, people scalded by fear

Missing

In sun drenched days that in another year

Would be full of people.

The length of daylight

This far east, in this 119<sup>th</sup> year of Ferry Beach's life

Is critical.

My reality is critical: of me personally, of this

Long dreamed, involuntary landing

On the arm of this beautiful sea.

The glitter of the shoal

Depleting in shadow.

I recognize: the stand of pines,

I think,

I have nothing but myself

To go by; nothing

Stands between insolvency and sustainability

Except what my hands can hold.

Nothing but myself? No.

I am not alone!

After a while, this answer,

As if I have always known this history

There are others in the boat

And we simply steer in to shore,

The motor, dying on the pebbles,

Seagulls taking up the call

Dropped in the silence.

The community and me. Our selves.

And now I can believe it is we who breathe life

Into this place.

As angels, not polarities.

Members, friends, community, the spider's genius

To weave and spin in the same action from her own body

Anywhere, even from a web damaged by the pandemic

The pavilion in the stand of pines  
Is still there. I know this. Know the print  
Of the last foot, the hum of community still singing  
In my ears from last year.

I joined with others this spring to nail wallboards,  
Plant flowers, breathe life into this place  
Hoping that another day will come,  
Another baby will be born  
Another sunrise will bear witness to  
Communities of people.

We have steered this boat here,  
through this hot Mis-blotted sunlight, critical light  
Imperceptibly challenging us  
To heal through this pandemic.

## Special Fundraiser!

Enjoy a 2021 Ferry Beach Calendar with favorite photos from Executive Director Cathy Stackpole for a minimum donation of \$29.99. In addition to the limited edition calendar, these photos plus other favorites will be available in our online store as canvas prints from \$49.99.

ALL money raised will benefit Ferry Beach and help carry us through these challenging times. Get yours now at [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org)



## The Ferry Beach Store is now Online

Get your favorite Ferry Beach gear any time of year. The Ferry Beach Store is now online with select items like logo and theme t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweat pants and more! Help support us and add some new Ferry Beach gear to your collection. Shop now at [ferrybeach.org/store](http://ferrybeach.org/store)





Our reimagined Fall Festival will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> following the annual meeting. We will be safely and responsibly hosting visitors on campus to take part in the annual meeting and are inviting our guests to stay for the Fall Festival. The auction will be taking place online, however those who are able to visit on-site can expect a small, social-distanced event with some great food, fun and connection!

The auction committee is currently seeking donations of physical items or services for the auction. To donate, please visit [www.ferrybeach.org/fallfestival](http://www.ferrybeach.org/fallfestival). For any questions please email the auction committee at [fallfestival@ferrybeach.org](mailto:fallfestival@ferrybeach.org)

This year, money raised from the Fall Festival will be used to help Ferry Beach meet its financial obligations that would normally be covered by the revenue that comes from our programing.

## Safety was the Priority at our Labor Day Celebration

On Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, Ferry Beach hosted our annual Labor Day Cookout. We enjoyed spending time with 88 guests, board members and volunteers in a safe and responsible manor. Masking, distancing, and line control were all in practice. Though the event looked much different than in years past we were happy to celebrate *SOMETHING* this year. Thank you to those who attended and met all of the rules and guidelines with kindness and understanding. Special thanks to our band "The Uncle Steve Band" for providing us with an excellent encore to last year's performance.



## Upcoming Programs

### September 21-24: Creative Writing for Spiritual Seekers *Debra Landwehr Engle & Richard Plumb*

Through guided discussion, small group work—and, of course, writing—you'll come away with a greater appreciation for our shared humanity and the path you want to follow in living a spiritual life. And you'll learn fresh writing techniques to help you craft blogs, books, and your own journaling.

### September 30 - October 2: Modern Quilting Workshop *Carson Converse*

Carson Converse, QuiltCon multi-ribbon winner, offers an opportunity to take two courses (Designing with Intention and Straight Line Quilting) in a retreat setting, away from the hustle and bustle of the large convention atmosphere. Class size is limited, space is generous, and the location by the ocean will inspire you.

### October 2-4: Writing for Stress Relief and Wellness *Áine Greaney*

Join us to discover the joys and benefits of expressive writing. This weekend-long Retreat will inspire you to get and keep writing for your everyday wellness and self-empowerment. Expressive writing is not about being a "good" or "clever" writer; instead, it's about using writing as part of your self-care toolbox. The sessions will include brief, optional meditations (two minutes), teaching and discussion, fun writing prompts, in-session writing exercises and optional sharing.

### October 7, 14 & 21 (Online): Songs of Protest & Community: Then & Now *Reggie Harris & Matt Watroba*

As our nation rises in new protests and awareness, one thing that is often missing from gatherings, rallies and the stream of life is the inspirational power and magic of song! Perhaps you find yourself wondering why singing is absent from this critical time of change in American society? Or maybe you could use a source of inspiration and focus that singing together brings! Join noted national songleaders Reggie Harris and Matt Watroba for these inspirational sessions.

### October 23-24: Annual Meeting Weekend / Fall Festival

This year we have paired our annual meeting with the fall festival. Ferry Beach will be hosting visitors safely on campus to take part in the annual meeting and are inviting our guests to stay for the Fall Festival. The auction will be taking place online, however Ferry Beach will be holding a safe in person event for those who are visiting campus.



Complete listing of programs and events online at  
[www.ferrybeach.org/schedule](http://www.ferrybeach.org/schedule)

# Discovery

SEPTEMBER 2020

## Visiting Ferry Beach during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In this year of disappointment and uncertainty, my family was grateful that we made the leap to go to Ferry Beach for the week of Family & Friends. The conference center's attention to COVID safety precautions made it easier to relax and \*enjoy\* a week-long vacation at the beach. While we missed many friends, we were delighted to deepen some friendships with folks who were present -- in a socially distant way, of course!

~ Kate, Family & Friends



During the four days I stayed on campus in July, it was immediately clear that many things were different (no groups around dining tables, no crowded porch talks, no beach crowds, etc.), but some things were wonderfully the same: cheerful welcomes at registration, friendly staff at every turn, helpful accommodations at meals, appreciation expressed for our attendance, fastidious lodgings, all the same as usual! I'm so glad Ferry Beach braved the elements into a bold venture toward hosting community when we really needed it.

~ Ron, GAYLA

## Can you Help us Reach Our Monthly Goal?

In the next few months, we will be reaching out to you to help us get through the pandemic. Our sustaining donors provide close to \$4,500 per month right now. Without staff, the cost to keep our buildings and grounds going per month is about \$11,000 (annual audit, bookkeeping, bank fees in addition to utilities, maintenance, etc.). We have set a goal for our sustaining donations at \$11,000 per month, to help us get through the pandemic and at the very least, be able to maintain our organization and buildings and grounds.

If you are a sustainer, we thank you so very much and appreciate your ongoing help. If you are not a sustainer and are looking for a way to help us through this challenging time, please consider becoming a sustainer. Because of credit card fees, we have asked that sustaining donations be no less than \$15 a month. Help out at [www.ferrybeach.org/giving](http://www.ferrybeach.org/giving). Thank you so very much!

