

# Discovery

*A Quarterly Newsletter from the Ferry Beach Park Association*

Summer 2013

## New Faces of Ferry Beach Board

The Ferry Beach Board is looking at new ways of work, including how to bring more information to members.

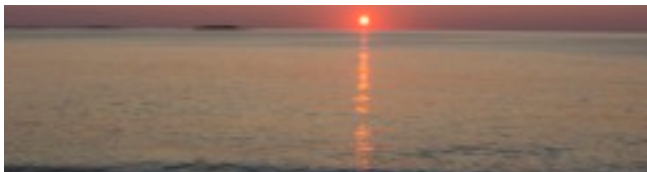
The board will be posting minutes of meetings on the website and more.

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## Report from Treasurer

As the jewel on the sea, Ferry Beach is a great resource for all of us. Use of Claflin Cottage and the two cabins in Metz Village brings much needed revenue.

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## What's New At Ferry Beach

- We're supporting our vital resource of honey bees. p. 3
- Full-time year round staff is down this year. p. 3
- Changes to buildings and grounds. p. 3

## Labor Day Fun!

Outdoor music, family fun and games, a chance to learn from local chef about grilling, a class about the flora and fauna of southern Maine and how to bring it into your back yard and following your north star! Call 207-282-4489 to register!



## Refreshing The Look of the Ferry Beach Board

by Anne Falkowski

These days the Ferry Beach Board of Directors is transforming. Not only do we have six newer board members elected in 2012 and 2013, but we are changing the way we think about our role in the organization as board members.

### 365 Days a Year Mission

This past winter, with snow on the ground, the Ferry Beach board spent a long weekend meeting in DeWolfe. We started by reviewing our mission and UU principles. Our facilitator, a consultant from Portland, guided us to think about our principles in action and the board spent many hours exploring how these could make up our core values.

As we worked through the list, we talked about what Ferry Beach meant to us. We were asked to stretch and think about Ferry Beach not just as the summer conference we often attended, but as a charitable organization operating 365 days a year.

This helped us understand that we need a revised mission that operates, not just in the summer, but all year long. We discussed how we could use this jewel of a space for service to our values, mission, and community.

### Transparency

The Ferry Beach Board, in response to its members request for greater transparency, and with its combined wisdom of older and newer board members, recognize the need for clarity in our ever changing economic, environmental, and technological environment. In order to meet our needs for clarity, we are implementing new strategies of transparency.

The more transparent an organization is, the more healthy and productive it can be. In today's world, there are a lot of tools that can be utilized to help with transparency. Good governance can use social media as a way to keep in touch with its members. Facebook, Twitter, blogging, and websites are

just some of the tools out there to bring our members up to date.

The benefits to our Ferry Beach culture of free-flowing information is not only a greater connection of members and staff to the big picture but reduced complacency and more creative solutions which will help our organization transform in current times.

The following is our strategy and commitment for clarity of information:

- Board meeting dates posted on Ferry Beach website and Facebook page
  - Approved minutes posted on Ferry Beach website and Facebook page
  - A Ferry Beach Board of Directors email address will be posted on Ferry Beach website where all members and clients of FBPA can contact members.
  - Board Members will wear identifying name tags while attending conferences and attend town meetings while they are here. All
- See page 4.

# In Appreciation *We appreciate all of you have donated in the last year to Ferry Beach. Thank you.*

## Sustainers Up to \$240

Ann Abbott  
Phillip Bender  
Alison Bowen  
Viki Lyn Bridge  
Luiza Brown  
Mary Collins  
Thomas Comparin  
Connie Dunn  
John Egnal  
Jon Fletcher  
Essjay Foulkrod  
Ann Fox  
Brian Geenbaur  
Carolyn Hodges  
Catherine Kalonia  
Jennifer Landry  
Nicole McGuire  
Margaret Oakland MD  
Tom Onacki  
Dody Adkins Perry  
Gare Reid  
Jeanette Rule  
Richard Scobie  
Frances Sharp  
Jonathan Slavin  
Richard Smyth  
Barbara Stroup  
Kate Sullivan  
David Sumner

Donald Whisenhunt  
Valerie White  
Ron Willett  
Catherine Williamson  
Katharine Winthrop  
Christopher Woodward  
**\$241- 600**  
Gary Adams  
Jim Adams  
William Bradley  
Lynne Champion  
Brad Cohen  
John Crowe  
Nancy Cunningham  
Anne Falkowski  
Lydia Gibb  
Karen Goldsmith  
James Harry  
Carol Sue Hayden  
G Huntley  
Christine Krom  
Jude Lamb  
Jaime Lederer  
Eleanor Lockwood  
Paul Lorenzo  
WJ Mitchell  
Anne Nozawa  
Steve Onacki  
Carol McIntyre Peale  
Caitlin Peale

Kip Plaisted  
Paul Provencher  
Joel Ross  
Jacquelyn Shanti  
Carol Thompson  
Richard Trudeau  
**\$601-\$2000**  
Linda Borth  
Robert Brick  
Judith Chatman  
Barbara A Crowley  
Jack Drucker  
Gail Forsyth-Vail  
Margaret Johnston  
Jennifer Kelley  
Bobbie Keppel  
Cyd Melcher  
Paul Riechmann  
Stuart Russo-Savage  
Heather Sanke Schinde  
Cathy Stackpole  
**Over \$2000**  
Roger White

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**Annual Gifts 2013**  
**Over \$2000**  
Paul Belyea  
**\$1000-\$1999**  
Marty Burgess  
David Knapp

Ann Reynolds  
Ellie Rolnick  
**\$500-999**  
Brad Cohen  
Elizabeth McNab  
Cathy Stackpole  
Diane Sullivan  
**\$200-499**  
Tom Rich and Suzanne Adams  
Lemuel Arnold  
Claude and Ruby Nadeau  
Tom Malone  
Don McNamara  
P.G. Wise  
Women's Parish of Conford Mass  
UU Women of Greater Lynn  
Claude and Ruby Nadeau  
**\$50 - \$199**  
Doug Atkins  
Burton Bell  
Laurinda Carter  
John Crowe  
Kent Cooper  
Gerard Desautels

Michael Folkman  
Leah Goat  
Andy Guy  
Tom Lucas  
Stephen/Daniel Laliberte  
Melvin Polisher  
Dan Harper  
Jim Harry  
Heidi&Norman Hertel-Therrien  
Sandra Hopkins  
Bonnie Hunt  
Helen and James McKendry  
Don McNamara  
Verne McArthur  
Joan McIntyre  
Bill Mitchell  
Charlotte Morrier  
Janet and John Poeton  
Paul and Judy Provencher  
Elizabeth Rose  
Shirley Smith  
Roy Steuwe  
David Sumner  
Phil and Susan Tackel  
Christine Wetzell  
Ron Willett  
Wilmot Winslow  
Phil Wise  
Wilda Wyse

## From Our Treasurer

Ferry Beach is a jewel on the sea and we are lucky to share this jewel together! I was grateful to chat with so many of you at the June annual meeting and hear your comments and concerns regarding the financial health of the Beach.

As of Mid-year 2013 we are moving in the right direction. While not fully resolved, the cash flow situation is improving. Enrollment is going well, noting that vacationer revenue has increased over 50% from 2012, a nice boost and great to see more of us relaxing and enjoying time at the Beach. Rental revenue from the Metz Village and Claflin Cottages is over \$33 thousand so far in 2013. The Board has received much positive feedback on this change and we remain encouraged as we continue to explore additional ideas to increase beach utilization as we move forward.

We are equally pleased to see resources invested in maintaining and improving our property. The Beach looks sharp and well cared for. Some 2013 projects include new roofs for both Quillen and the Metz Village as well as improved lighting and new fans in Rowland. We have a new hot water heater in the Grove for our campers. If you have recently visited, I am sure you have noticed the stunning hardwood floors in the Quillen lobby, Rowland Hall and in the Ziegler room. The wonderful effort from the June workweek crew had the Beach ready and in fine form at the start of the summer.

Finally, many of you continue to support the Beach and our mission through generous gifts of stewardship. The level of 2013 gifts is similar to 2012. I am hopeful many more of us will provide a generous financial gift before the summer

ends. Ask any Board member about sustained giving- we are happy to explain.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns and new ideas. I also look forward to seeing many of you in the late days of summer and back again for Life Member weekend on November 9 & 10.

Remain well and see you at the Beach!

Carolyn Hodges  
Treasurer

## Ferry Beach Board

**Paul Provencher — President**  
**Barbara Crowley — Vice President**  
**Carolyn Hodges — Treasurer**  
**Marty Burgess — Secretary**

Directors: Jamie Lederer, Paul Riechmann, Cyd Melcher, Ron Willett, Steve Fogg, Valerie White, Anne Falkowski, Lydia Gibb.

[board@ferrybeach.org](mailto:board@ferrybeach.org)

## Protecting Our Fragile Web

In May of 2013, the NY Times reported that the “devastation of American [honeybee](#) colonies is the result of a complex stew of factors, including pesticides, parasites, poor nutrition and a lack of genetic diversity, according to a comprehensive federal [study](#) published on Thursday. The problems affect pollination of American agricultural products worth tens of billions of dollars a year. The report does not place more weight on one factor over another, and recommends a range of actions and further research. Honeybees are used to pollinate hundreds of crops, from almonds to strawberries to soybeans. Since 2006, millions of bees have been [dying](#) in a phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder. The cause or causes have been the subject of much study and speculation. “ We were approached by a local beekeeper, Jason Crockett, who is licensed by the state of Maine Department of Agriculture to keep



bees. Jason asked us if we would be willing to put a bee box near the tool garage on the Ferry Beach campus. The spot is close to the road on Route 9. He has a few boxes at his house in Old Orchard, but doesn't have the room for more. He shared with us some of the devastating information about bees and the threat that bee colony collapse will have on crops, flowers and food supply. We saw Jason's work as an opportunity for Ferry Beach to practice one of our UU principles.

Jason and other experts on bees from the Department of Agriculture shared that “it is more likely that someone will step on a yellow jacket hive or disturb a paper wasp than be stung by a honey bee.” Honeybees are gentle and with this particular breed of bees, Jason doesn't even wear protective clothing when he extracts honey in the fall.

Most experts shared with us that wasps and yellow jackets are defensive and more likely to sting people. Unlike wasps and yellow

jackets, honeybees are herbivores and will die once they sting. The bee colony presence on our campus will allow us an opportunity to teach about the bees and their importance in the food chain. They play an important role in the natural ecology.

We will be making sure that Jason keeps up his license as a Beekeeper and follows the Maine Department of Agriculture's, Best Management practices. We are also signing a yearly agreement with him to assess the value and the challenges that might arise from keeping a bee box on the campus. We will post signs, letting people know about our honey bees and will make sure we have a fence around the bee box. We are also looking at ways that Jason or other beekeepers can be a part of our educational programs offered at Ferry Beach.

In researching about cohabiting with bees, we learned too about the importance of letting our conferees know that we have epinephrine pins on campus. Often until you are stung the first time by any kind of wasp, bumblebee or yellow jacket, you may be unaware that you have an allergy to stings. “Epi” pins as the medical community calls them, is a had the pins on campus, but did not always share that information with our conferees. While we don't want anyone to be stung by the many varieties of yellow jackets, bumble bees and others that are present in our environment, we also want to be prepared. We also learned, in our research that if you know you are allergic to any kind of bee, staying out of the garden on campus and away from flowers is a good idea.



Close enough to take a day trip to Ferry Beach? We'll be planting dune grass starting at 10am on October 5th, 2013. Let us know if you are coming by calling 207-282-4489 or emailing us at [registration@ferrybeach.org](mailto:registration@ferrybeach.org)

## 2013 Beach Changes!

In addition to the physical changes, we also had some other changes. Children 8 and under coming with their families were free this year. While the year round staff is down, we were able to keep the summer crew number of staff to 30. We propagated dune grass to plant the first weekend in October.



*Forbes Chapel got a facelift - new gravel, all benches were power-washed. Beautiful!*



*New Ferry Beach flags on all the buildings!*



*Railings on the way to the Chapel, around the parking areas at Rowland at DeWolfe!*

**Ferry Beach Board**, *Continued from page 1*

conferees can approach them with questions, comments, concerns, etc.

The Ferry Beach Board is a policy board model and not an operational one. Through our work with the facilitator, we explored what it means to be an policy making board. This means our job is to: establish the guiding principles and policies for Ferry Beach, delegate responsibility and authority to those who are responsible for enacting the principles and policies, monitor compliance with those guiding principles and policies, and ensure that staff and board alike are held accountable for their performance.

In our organization, members of Ferry Beach elect the board. The board's work is critical to the overall governance of the organization. The staff, as the operational arm of the organization, carries out the policies of the board through their work.

Boardsource, a nonprofit think tank says "Boards operating under the Policy Board Model are characterized by a high level of trust and confidence in their Executive Director. They are often organizations which have moved beyond just having part time staff."

All of our board members are recruited for their demonstrated commitment to the values and mission of the organization. All of our board members give their time and dedication to the board as service to Ferry Beach.

The Board is dedicated to ensuring the mission of Ferry Beach gets carried out in a fair and just way. We are a board made up of conferees and recognize the gift we all have in our beach- both as a place of unbelievable beauty and invaluable community, as well as a place where individuals and families can live and connect with their UU values.



Anne Falkowski is a yoga instructor, wife, mother, and board member of Ferry Beach. She and her family come to UUFAF each year!

***Board Fiduciary Responsibility***

Every board member of a not-for-profit organization (like Ferry Beach) has a fiduciary responsibility. According to Bridgespan, that means requiring each board member to "stay objective, unselfish, responsible, honest, trustworthy and efficient." The board members are "stewards of the public trust and must act for the good of the organization. They need to exercise reasonable care in all decision

making, without placing the organization under unnecessary risk."

Board members have a legal and moral responsibility to manage the assets of an organization to the best of their ability. At Ferry Beach, we take that role very seriously. We review our finances at each board meeting; we oversee our cash flow and our annual audit, done by an independent financial firm. We also assure that the funds that are donated to Ferry Beach, and our assets (buildings and grounds) are being used in the best way possible. Sometimes our biggest challenges are the amount of input we get as a Board from many others. As responsible members of the board, we sift through a lot of ideas and must weigh them against our three criteria: right relations; objective and fair and fiscal sustainability. The diversity of ideas, including those that come from the board, are helpful as we work to fulfill our fiduciary responsibility.



August 2013

