

Discovery

Do You Hear The Call?

COVID-19 rages out of control across the US and the world. Divisiveness and an inability to see one another as part of our larger human family separates us – even in our own families. Now, more than ever, we need to lean into our mission: Ferry Beach awakens hearts to explore, grow and renew the spirit of universal love.

Perhaps you have been thinking about why you are present to the challenges the world faces right now. Perhaps you are wondering what you can do in your communities to make the world a better place. Staying home and doing nothing is good right now as our COVID numbers rise all over the country, but you could also consider how you can help. Ferry Beach is reaching out to people near and far to use our platform and our connections to inspire others to awaken hearts. Do you hear the call?

Workshops on line and smaller offerings in person are being set up for the spring and summer. We are looking for musicians, artists, writers, poets, spiritualists, historians and more to help us fulfill our mission. The world as we know it at Ferry Beach may be different, but if there is one thing we learned from last summer, is that we have plenty of space to keep groups under 50 safe as they enjoy the beach and the woods around us.

Perhaps you have a good idea for an online class this winter. As we all spend more time isolated from others, it is a great time to take a fun online class. Perhaps you read a book you would love to talk about with others, maybe you have a great recipe you created with your free time. We have a community of people who are members of Ferry Beach looking for ways to connect with one another.

If you are inspired, please reach out with your ideas to our Events Coordinator, Kate Nicoll, at knicoll@ferrybeach.org or by calling **207-282-4489 x 6**

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Ferry Beach Auction

Thank you to all who made this years auction a huge success! We raised over \$11,500, thanks to our beloved members!

As with everything else, we had to reimagine the way we did this year's event. We had planned for a small number of folks to join us on site, staying over from the annual meeting earlier in the day. We couldn't let our onsite attendance number become too large. Planning for in-person gatherings is challenging because you never know what the limit for COVID compliance will be at the time of your event. Aiming to keep the gathering as small as possible, the choice was clear. The auction had to move online. Though it was something new, and a little daunting, we were excited for the opportunity this presented. In the past, only people from a small radius around Ferry Beach would attend the auction. Moving to an online platform opened this event up to our membership from all across the country. And so many of you took part!



Our amazing auction committee worked diligently to make it all happen. Comprised of members from the Ferry Beach Board: Dee Wilbur, Meghan Chan, Pam Emery, Richard Plumb and Ron Willett, our committee worked non-stop to put everything together! They did everything from procuring the auction items to putting together the website we used, to packing, shipping and coordinating the won items. Special thank you to Nick Bloom who hosted the Auction for those attending online!

We also wanted to thank all of those who generously donated items and services to the auction. None of this would have been possible without your love and support.

Overall the event went smoothly and we enjoyed holding it online. As with anything new, there were some hiccups along the way, but if 2020 has taught us anything it is to be flexible, and to expect the unexpected. This years auction was an excellent learning opportunity for us and we are excited to take our new knowledge to make next years auction even better.

The CARES Act and Year End Giving

Ferry Beach relies on the support of our members to be sustainable. Membership fees, sustaining donations and one-time gifts are all ways that you support us throughout the year. A majority of our support however, comes from the fees associated with attending programming at Ferry Beach. As you know, this year programming looked a LOT different and there was very little revenue associated with it in comparison. You have really stepped up this year by increasing your donations, thank you!

Did you know that the CARES act passed by Congress on March 27th, 2020 creates a new above-the-line deduction for total charitable cash contributions up to \$300 (\$600 for married couples filing jointly). For those of you who take the standard deduction (9 in 10 Americans) can now deduct up to \$300 (\$600 for married) on charitable gifts made to nonprofits in 2020. If you do itemize your deductions, the CARES act increased the cap on giving from 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) to 100%.

By supporting Ferry Beach with a year end gift, not only are you helping us through these extremely challenging financial times but you are also helping yourself out by lowering your taxes!

Make your tax-deductible donation today at www.ferrybeach.org/giving

Actions of Belonging and Compassion

"May you allow the wild beauty of the invisible world gather you, mind you and embrace you in belonging."

~ John O'Donohue



COVID has challenged all of us to seek ways to feel a sense of belonging. We have time on our hands, and we are looking for ways to connect as well as help. On Wednesday, November 25th, Ferry Beach partnered with Age Friendly Saco, Jim Godbout Plumbing and several other groups to provide a free takeout Thanksgiving meal for up to 300 people. Local Ferry Beach and other volunteers along with the Biddeford-Saco Rotary club packed up food and placed it into cars. Some meals were delivered by local volunteers.



Earlier in the November, a local band played in our campground. Our chef served wonderful Korean food and a local brewing company provided beer. A large bonfire and the Rose Pavilion provided warmth on a night that was unseasonably mild. Local neighbors walked through the woods and joined in the festivities. While we were physically distanced, we were diverse in age and ideas and enjoyed the opportunity to listen to LIVE music again!



This December we are partnering with the city of Saco Parks and Recreation to host a snowshoeing event for seniors complete with hot chocolate and cookies in the Pavilion. A "no-snow" date has also been established in January. More information is at www.ferrybeach.org/snowshoe

On December 6-8th we are hosting a Maine Artists Retreat. With special pricing and several opportunities to connect, we hope this event provides artists a weekend to get their creative juices flowing. For more information, visit our website at www.ferrybeach.org/artretreat



A Holiday Celebration on December 12th which will include a Gingerbread making contest in the afternoon will happen in the Dining Room & later, at 4:30pm we will have a holiday celebration in the Grove with a large bonfire. More details are at www.ferrybeach.org/holidaygathering

A winter solstice celebration is also planned for the 21st of December, around the bonfire in the Grove. We will have lodging available for those who want to attend and stay over. Learn more at www.ferrybeach.org/solstice

Do you live locally? We would love to have you join our community. We have lots of ideas for ways we can keep our connections with one another and would love to welcome you. We are looking for volunteers who might be interested in helping us create events outside and in a physically distant way using our lovely campus. We are also looking for help as we work to help our community in need during this Pandemic. If you are interested, send a note to: belove@ferrybeach.org



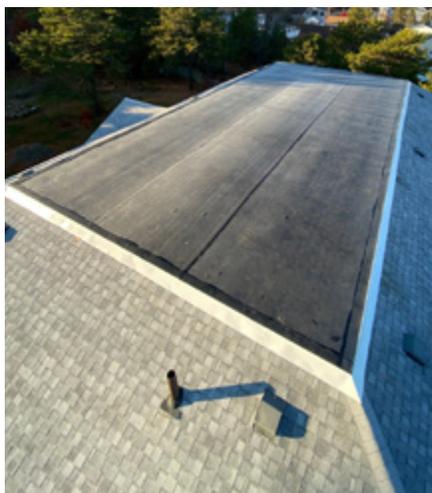
If you live further away, there are still ways you might want to volunteer, either through the winter (there are always remote activities to accomplish with our database!) or next spring. We would love to have your support. Let us know how you can help by sending a note to belove@ferrybeach.org

Sustaining Ferry Beach



We were so grateful to receive gifts from Leah Goat (\$18,500 for the Rowland Roof) and a challenge grant from Paul Belyea (for Rowland insulation, \$5000). The latter is a challenge grant to help us reach \$12,000 in order to insulate the crawlspace in Rowland which would allow us to use the auditorium and the break out rooms on the first floor longer into the cooler seasons. Small local groups like Girl Scouts, Al-Anon and others no longer have space at schools who have shut down to outside groups because of the pandemic.

We had to replace the flat roof in Rowland Hall this year, strategically constructed in 1939 to preserve the roof from the beating of ocean breezes. It had been patched a number of times in the last few years and when it was recently leaking, we knew it was time. We are so grateful for Leah Goat's wonderful gift.



It costs Ferry Beach about \$11,000 per month just to take care of our facilities, our insurance, annual audit and other fees. In assessing our challenge with COVID, the board decided that we would set aside 2 years of funds more easily accessible (liquid) in the endowment in the event that we would need them. We have close to \$475,000 in our endowment, after years of not taking the 5% we are allowed by the by-laws. We are hoping to build up our sustaining gifts per month so that we would not have to draw from the endowment. We currently have \$4,500 per month in sustaining gifts. If you can, and would like to be a sustainer, we would very much appreciate your gift. To find out more about sustaining gifts, go to www.ferrybeach.org/giving

Ferry Beach staff and board are committed to growing our way out of this challenge, in partnership with our donors, neighbors, friends and members. If you can help us at this time, we would greatly appreciate it!

Upcoming From Ferry Beach ■ Complete Listing at www.ferrybeach.org/schedule



Various Dates this Fall & Winter



Delicious meals & treats each Sunday!



December 6-8, 2020



December 12th



Beginning on December 16th



December 21st



Kate Nicoll, Events Coordinator
knicoll@ferrybeach.org

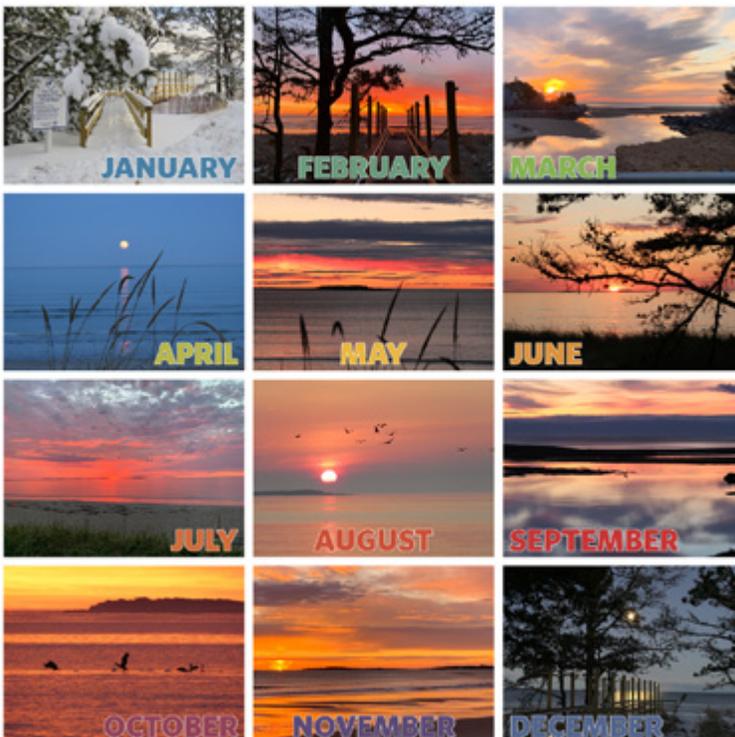
Welcome Kate!

In August, Ferry Beach Staff welcomed Kate Nicoll to the team part-time as our new Events Coordinator. Kate holds a BFA in Creative Writing and English from University of Maine Farmington. She is a proud business owner for the past five years of Unwritten Roads, a creative writing & filmmaking company for grades K-12. She has been to multiple writing workshops all over New England and holds multiple poetry awards, including the Scholastic Golden Key Award. Along with published works she has years of videography experience and technical stagecraft experience she shares with students as they transform their ideas from imagination to reality. Kate has 5 years experience in event and programming coordination and creation. She has led events and programs through her own business as well as local land trusts, as conservation is another important mission to her. She is excited to bring her creative and organized spirit to Ferry Beach to create new events and programs!

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/sunrise



Membership

Annual memberships in 2020 took a hit for two reasons, people wanted to roll their membership over to the next year when they chose not to come to the beach this year, and because there were much less people at the beach, we didn't have people buying memberships. (The former should not have happened, but that was a staff error).

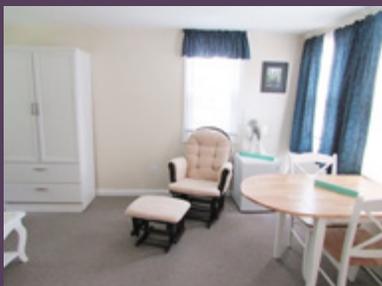
In January and February, we will be rolling out what we hope will become an annual membership drive for Ferry Beach. Membership is more than just the ability to come to a conference, it is saying that you are supporting the Beach and its mission. Stay tuned for that material in early 2021 and get behind this great organization!

Discovery

DECEMBER 2020

Get your loved ones Ferry Beach gear this holiday season!

The Ferry Beach Store is now online with select items like logo and theme t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweat pants and more! New items are being added all the time. Shop the Ferry Beach store this holiday season and stay tuned for some great deals and sales: www.ferrybeach.org/store



Book a Personal
Retreat at Ferry
Beach this Winter!

Plenty of warm lodging
available!

Call Registration at
207-282-4489 x1 for rates and
availability!