
◆ The Thoroughfare ◆

VOLUME II ISSUE III

The Roque Island Quarterly Newsletter

SUMMER/FALL 1994

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

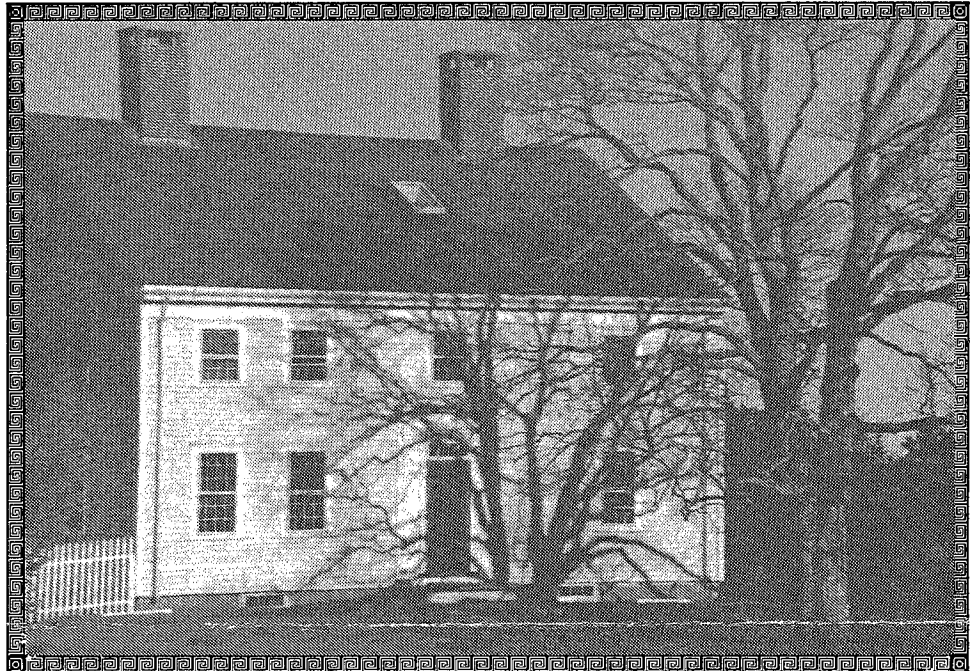
Chairman's Notes



I am pleased to record that the season was enormously successful at Roque. The Island experienced record attendance this year: 272 total member days of use, some 4% higher than the year before. The Red House in particular, saw gain from 67 to 77 days of use, reflecting the impact of Tier System choice made earlier this year. Many comments were received that the place hasn't looked better in years.

Fiscally, as well, the Island finds itself

in excellent shape. For the first nine months of the year, operating expenses stood at \$133,000, nearly \$20,000 under budget for the period. Savings were recorded across the board, but particularly in salaries, occupancy, and vehicles & boats. Capital expenses, excluding housing costs, stood at \$24,000 vs. \$37,000 budgeted, though there will be some pick up on this gap as certain projects are completed in the fourth quarter. Overall, the net deficit should end up some \$100,000 lower than in 1993. And it is important to note that in 1994's deficit is included \$25,000 of contribution to a depreciation reserve, a category never before funded from operations. To Tanya Fischer our continued gratitude for the care and vigilance exhibited in this critical area.



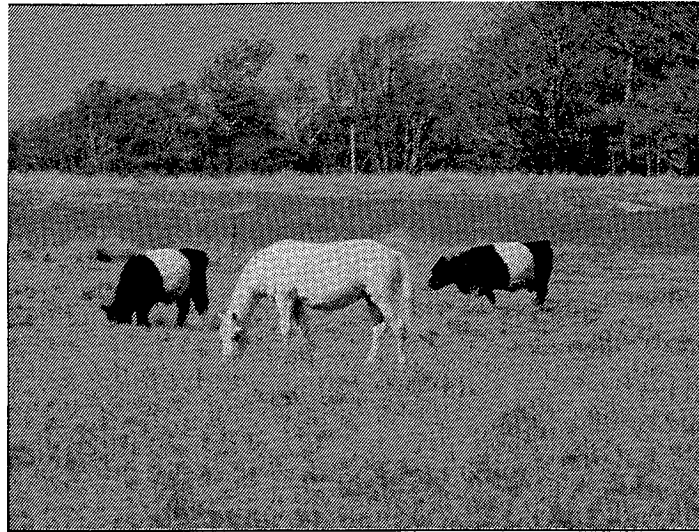
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Highlights from the season include:

- ◆ The appointments of Tex and Barbie, respectively, to Manager of Operations and Manager of Housing. This "division of labor" was a logical progression from the abilities and devotion of each, and speaks to overwhelming membership satisfaction with the results of their combined stewardship. A new boatman, Mike Segein, was hired in October to round out the full-time staff at four including Mike Morse, who has been with us since the spring of 1993;
- ◆ The winning of a highly visible award bestowed by the U.S. Wildlife and Fisheries Department for the successful sponsorship of a Neo-Tropical Migrant Bird survey; George Herrick deserves full credit for this as well as other natural resources initiatives, including the restoration of Carleton Field (a lovely birch grove overlooking the highest point on North beach), supervision of the completion of Norman and Marcia Famous' report on cataloguing the archipelago's flora & fauna, and numerous other ecological projects.
- ◆ The bringing to fruition of a long range plan, headed by Nicholas Higgins, to help guide the Island in meeting the challenges in the future.
- ◆ On the Farm front, a mini-herd of Belted Galloway beef cattle was successfully

Continued, pg.5



News from Roque

As we awoke this morning, it seemed that Old Jack Frost had waved his wand and turned everything, including the air, white. I guess we can't complain, we've been very lucky to have such a beautiful fall.

Late Spring saw the delivery of four Belted Galloways (which have been termed "Oreo Cookie cows") to Roque Island. They have added a great deal of entertainment to the farm, especially the baby, Dalmatia, who always finds a way out of the pasture. The bull, Harvey, finds great interest in the two milk cows, Dawn and Matilda. There have been several times that he hasn't wanted them out of his sight even for milking.

During the summer season, Roque Island had over two hundred and thirty people visit her tranquility. Everyone appeared to have a wonderful stay. A lot of good times have been created very fond memories for us all.

For the Fourth of July holiday, George and Nanette Herrick, Jason Herrick, and guests and the Farmhouse staff enjoyed an evening clam bake at Great Beach followed by a brilliant bonfire.

John & Nick Higgins, as well as George, Nanette, & Adam Herrick, and Ann & Rebecca Barry spent many hours cutting trails.

The Sandpeep and the Buzz Boat were well occupied over the Summer. It was thrilling to see the sails of the Sandpeep full of wind racing across the cove. There were many picnics to the outer islands, probably Double Shot being favored the most.

The croquet court seemed to be used more than ever this year. Austin and Ellen Higgins took great care in groom-

Continued, page 6

ROOTS

Roque Island roots
tough stringy spruce
roots clinging wire-like
mat-like to beloved
varicolored rocks

roots which dig and crumble
the surface of our bones the rocks,
forcing particles into soil for
green needles, brown needles -
soft bed for chanterelles
soldier's cap and fairy cup...

spruce roots
dug with fingers and knife
rinsed at ocean edge over
brilliant stones
spruce roots when pulled
through the teeth
make admirable bindings
for birch bark and baskets

family roots, no less
tenacious, binding, active
grow ever deeper into the
structure of the island,
embracing its substance,
transmuting its atmosphere
its annual growth -
standing tall,
committed to blue sky, moss
and rocks



Jennifer Donaldson
October 1994

Wood Sorrell
Mansion House July 1994



HARBOR SEALS

Squire's Point

The playful seal makes a happy link between the islands of our archipelago.

There is a population of harbor seals (*Phoca Vitulina*) in the Roque Island archipelago ranging in size from 100 or more in May to almost 200 in October. The 28,000 harbor seals in Maine are protected under the Federal Marine Mammal Act of 1972 which forbids harassment of them. To ensure that they continue to thrive and survive it is necessary to protect their habitat, haul out areas and food supply while controlling and reducing pollution of the sea.

Based on a study in May 1994 by seal consultant, Gale McCullogh, including information provided by the University of Maine, the College of the Atlantic, and the Marine Environmental Institute and Allied Whale, there is a complex (and as yet imperfectly understood) system of interrelated seal ledges stretching from Anguilla and Double Shot around Great Spruce and Little Spruce islands. The seals appear to use different ledges for nursing, for post-weaning recovery, for late summer assembly and for winter haul outs. The violation of one of these habitats would have an effect on the others.

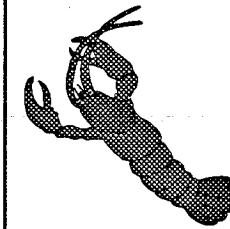
Disturbing whilst they are on ledge can be a form of harassment, the most sensitive time being between May and September, covering the pupping, nursing, and recovery periods. The sug-

gested protection zone for seals is about one mile over water. Detailed instructions for boating and paddling etiquette are available on the Island and should be observed by visiting sea craft.

The average male seal is about five feet in length and weighs 200 pounds, the average female is about four feet, eight inches in length and weighs 155 pounds. Harbor seals, which breed only in Maine, can live to 30 years of age. They bask and sleep on ledges at low tide rather like some members of the family and forage at high tide. They can eat up to 3% of their body weight in fish each day. In swimming they can attain a speed of 15 knots under water, diving as deep as several hundred feet. That harbor seals appear to spend a good part of their time in aquatic play is delight for the observer. In winter some seals go offshore, some migrate as far south as Massachusetts and some remain behind. To understand better the relationship between Roque Island's seal ledges will first require observation of the timing of their movement from ledge to ledge. There is some interest in professional circles in our observation data over time.

Altogether *Phoca Vitulina* offers us another object of delight, an intellectual challenge and something significant to protect and care about.

- G. G. Herrick



LOBSTER À L'AMÉRICAINNE

A lobster full of life you need,
But, ere you further shall proceed
Drop him within a copper pot
That's filled with water boiling-hot,
When boiled, then in eighths divide,
Now turn these oft from side to side
In butter simmering in a pan,
And do this as careful as you can,
And salt and pepper ere you cease.
Of garlic crush a little piece,
This with a glass of Chablis add -
Your lobster then cannot be bad.
Skin six tomatoes and take out the seed;
Do this as thoroughly as it may need.
Now with the lobster altogether cook,
And that the mixture does not burn, oft look.
A little spice would add unto the savor;
Bay-leaf and thyme have not too strong a flavor.
And after thirty minutes on the fire
The lobster's cooked. In peace you can retire.
Invite your friends now to this treat
'Twould tempt a dying man to eat;
The sauce is better than the lobster, too.
Such dishes are, you will agree with me, too few.
This dainty feast would surely animate
The most despondent, melancholic pate;
He will give thanks when he in truth can say,
" 'Twas Lobster à l'Américaine to-day."

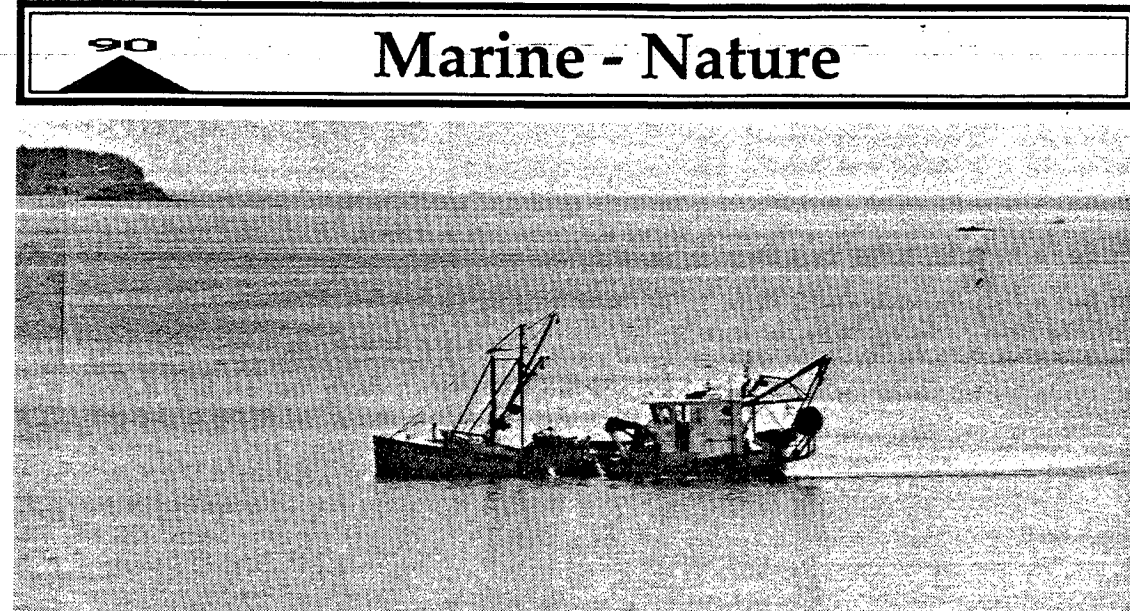
[written by Adolf Meyer, excerpted from *Recreations of an Anthropologist* (1904) by Brander Matthews.]



MUSSEL PROJECT IN SHOREY COVE

Great Eastern Mussel Farms has been in the business for 16 years, and has recently begun a mussel project at Shorey Cove on Roque Island. Back in 1985, some mussel seed was out on a test plot east of the moorings, and due to relatively slow growth (but good survival), the project was discontinued. Since that time, I have been able to complete studies, funded by the National Science Foundation, that enabled me to develop a computer model which gives the optimal seeding density for each bottom mussel farm. According to the model, mussel demand (feeding or pumping rate) is balanced with supply of food particles (due to current speed and sinking), giving a higher yield. Improvements in seed spreading now allow Great Eastern to farm lower current sites like Shorey Cove if there is an abundance of mussel seed (about an inch long) nearby.

This past summer during most of August and early September, about 25,000 bushels of seed was moved from the Moosabec Reach in Jonesport to Shorey Cove. After a year and a half to two years of growth, the mussels



NANCY BEAL

THE 60-FOOT mussel dragger *St. George*, owned by Great Eastern Mussel, Inc. of Tenants Harbor, has spent much of the summer pulling up seed mussels from Moosabec Reach. The mussels in the reach are too plentiful to grow to marketable size and the *St. George* is transporting them and spreading them on a site off Roque Island near the Roque Island Gardner Homestead Corporation's compound. Eastern Mussel has applied for an aquaculture lease at that location from the state. No hearing date has yet been set. The same company reportedly is under fire in Gouldsboro Bay for conflict with fixed lobster gear.

will be market size and harvested probably during the winter months. At Nina Herrick's request, a mini-farm was also started - 150 bushels were spread near Point Olga in shallow water. These can be harvested by islanders by raking them up during low tides.

I have offered to help the Island with their ecological characterization (marine aspects) and to give assistance with water quality efforts. A study of currents in Shorey Cove may be performed next summer.

- Carter Newell
Biologist at Great Eastern
Mussel Farms (Tenants
Harbor, Maine)

Marine - Nature

Woods After Rain

Hortense Flexner

The damp trail through the woods
Becomes more lost each year,
Runs over rocks and roots,
Through waves of deep-piled
moss,
A status sea,
Land-roll of the forest floor.

Here once for a loaf of bread,
I took an enchanted way
Through path turned pebbled
stream,
And brought back shoes
Wet with the overflow
Of twig and berry, rock-drip,
Some touch of sea,
Or ooze of blackened pools
Where leaf and dead ferns rot.

Darkness held off,
But silence closed me round,
For birds had hidden away,
The crowding trees, vivid with
lichen's jade
On ink black trunks,
Made a green gloom,
A tunnel for a ghost.

I might have felt alone,
Yet walked companioned, friended,
As if I, too, shared the rough
mothering
Of island earth,
Fed as a root on scanty
nourishment,
And drew from her wild marriage
with salt wind
Close kinship, strange adoption -
My own foot-fall
Now native here.

excerpted from the Island Journal Magazine (Vol. VII, 1990)

Chairman's Notes, continued from page 1

introduced to the back pasture, from breeder A. H. Chatfield, Jr., of Rockport, providing a new visual perspective to our efforts at animal husbandry. On the big barn, the roof, the foundation, and wall & sill work were finally completed, hopefully giving us many years of low-maintenance use. A new hay trailer and lime spreader were purchased;

- ◆ Other capital projects included the rebuilding of the pump house foundation and roof, continuing work on the Patten Cove dock (to be completed by December), raising the concrete level of the Shorey Cove wharf by one foot, and acquiring a new paint sprayer.

In September, the membership voted overwhelmingly to amend the By-Laws to provide for more direct selection of Trustees; eight are now chosen by the membership as a whole, with an additional one from each of the families under the same basis as previously. A Nominating Committee was established to handle the election process: nominations were varied and copious, giving the membership ample opportunity to choose effective representation for future years. Ballots have been circulated, and the results will be announced at the Annual Meeting in Boston on December 11. Under the terms of the By-Laws, two Trustee positions will come up for vote each year thereafter.

Among those declining to seek a further term at this time were Bill Monks, George Gardner, and Jack Gardner. The Island owes them an enormous debt for their many years of service and leadership, for handing on the promise and opportunity of an "agreeable resort" for years to come.

Looking forward to 1995, the budget should again prove to be of manageable proportion. Of major focus will be the creation of a proper garden, with early plantings, proper fencing against the deer, and the establishment of fruit trees and bushes, and perennial flowers. The blueberry patch in the back field will be attended to as well. Versailles, perhaps not, but a major step in addressing a major need. A bailer system is being investigated for managing fields more effectively, fire prevention equipment and practises (on a house by house basis) will be updated and installed, several old trees which did not survive the Labor Day storm will be replanted, and a wood/oil combination boiler for the farmhouse will be priced out. The Homestead foundation and "ell" are scheduled to be completed, and a work list is currently being compiled for the Mansion.

All in all, we have reason to be well pleased with the year. Much has been accomplished, use and interest have been increasing, forging a foundation for future enjoyment of an incomparable resource.

- John P. M. Higgins

I "searched" Roque at the British Library in London in June.



In the computer catalogue there are 340 entries under the name Roque, as Christian name, middle name, or surname. Virtually all are 19th or 20th century and, therefore, of no interest. And none of the earlier ones seem to have any specific relevance to Maine or North America.

Chevalier Jean de La Roque wrote a celebrated and translated account of his trip to the Far East in 1708-1710 (*Voyage de L'Arabie Heureuse*). Fnu de La Roque wrote some memoirs of his embassy in Holland in 1710. Antoine de La Roque was an early 18th century playwright. Gilles André de La Roque wrote *Traite de la Noblesse* in 1678 and Simon Guillaume de La Roque, *Les Heureuses Amours de Cloridon* in 1599. And Abbé de La Roque edited a medical journal in the late 17th century. Nothing to work on there.

John Rocque was topographer to the Prince of Wales and Chorographer to the King of England in 1851-1761. His biography, such as it is, is found in Leo Bagraw (ed.) *Imago Mundi, A Review of Early Cartography*, (Stockholm, 1948). He was one of the most interesting and prolific map makers in the first half of the 18th century. He does not appear to have visited America. It seems reasonable that a map location might be named in honor of a famous map maker but first we need to know when and where the first map bearing the name of Roque was published.

Moses Greenleaf was charged by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to prepare maps of Maine based on all source information. Neither his map of 1800 nor the one of 1815 contain the name Roque or any name for the island.

Some British maps would have been made of the New England coast prior to the Wars of Independence and of 1812. An effort should be made to identify them.

- G. G. Herrick

A Quest for the Meaning

Flotsam

FURTHER NEWS OF THE SPRUCE III

"...she has spent the past three years in Harbour Island, Bahamas, enduring among other things, Hurricane Andrew's direct hit.

We had some wonderful times fishing, snorkeling, and swimming off the reefs and, on one occasion, actually on the reef... but that is a story left to future RIGHC members, Eli Dana and Sam Goodhue, to recount to their children.

Spruce's most recent adventure was her voyage back to Florida and then over land to Maine. Charlie has given her to Camp Kieve in Nobleboro, Maine where she will be re-christened the 'Pip Cutler' in tribute to him being the founding head of the Board of Trustees there. We are all delighted that she is back in Maine, once again plying the waters of Maine with boatloads of 'happy campers'."

- Posy Dana

NEW RIGHC MEMBERS



MARY MACAULEY MIKES was born to Betsy and Randall Mikes in September of this year. Mary is granddaughter of Cauley Monks Lukens and great-granddaughter of John Peabody Monks. Mary is the 104th living member of the RIGHC.

RACHEL ALEXANDRA WELLS was born to Tanya Pertzoff-Wells and Greg Wells in October of this year. Rachel is the granddaughter of Alex Pertzoff and the first great-grandchild of Olga Monks Pertzoff. Rachel is the 105th living member of the RIGHC.

PROPERTY TAX INCREASED 22.5%

Excerpted from The Downeast Coastal Press (week of October 4-10, 1994)

"...(Jonesport) Selectmen confirmed that, mostly due to a decrease in state school subsidy and expected revenues, taxes had to increase substantially, despite a decrease in the total budget appropriated by voters." And that another contributing factor was due to "...many of the town's chronic tax deadbeats," which resulted in a significant drop in revenues collected last year.

What does this mean for Roque? ... an increase of about \$2,000 in taxes.

News from Roque, Continued from page 2

ing the lawn to make it a better playing area. Many relaxing late afternoon games took place and I even got a few lessons in the art and strategies of the game from the "Roque Island Pros."

The daily chores were enjoyed by many of the visitors. Philip Higgins was a special joy at milking time. Mike Morse told Phil he had to ask the cow nicely to give some milk, Phil made the request before every squirt. When Thomas Gardner arrived at Roque he was at the Farmhouse faithfully every morning to help. He was able to milk Matilda dry all by himself. He was also very good with the pigs and spent hours feeding them and talking to them. He named one of the pigs, the largest and his favorite, Kev (even though Kev was a female). Kev ended up weighing two hundred ninety-eight pounds! I believe a special mention should be made regarding Ann Barry's milking experience - this year was the first time Ann ever attempted the task.

The horses were ridden quite frequently this summer. I was able to enjoy a nice morning ride with Eliza Cutler. We went on trails Eliza hadn't seen before. Another impressive rider is T2 (young Tania Smith), though she was

only here for a short stay. Probably the most memorable event of the year was the christening of Landyn Bowers in the Chapel Grove. Family and many friends were here for the big event, which was followed by a clam and lobster bake at the Monks House.

October turned out to be a busy month. All of the houses were occupied for Columbus Day weekend. The weather was fair for the families and guests, though very-fallish and chilly. Now all of the houses are put to bed for the winter, the bedding and rugs have been put away and the curtains drawn. We have one more family coming, Nick and Rosa Higgins, who will be in the Red House for Thanksgiving.

We have had orders for two turkeys to be shipped out for Thanksgiving - Bill & Sue Monks and George & Nanette Herrick and their families will be feasting on the delicious birds. We still have more left, would anyone like one for Christmas?

We've been working hard getting everything ready for winter. Most of the grain for the animals has been brought to the Island and stored in the barn. The Patten Cove dock is being worked on. The animals have been "thinned out" and put in the freezer. All of the black plastic has been picked up in garden area and folded ready for next year,

which reminds me, there has been talk of a Memorial Day Garden Party for next spring. I'm sorry that the garden was a complete disaster this year. Believe me, with as much time and energy we put into starting plants, roto-tilling, and just over a week of actually planting the garden, there was no one more disappointed than myself. Next year there will be deer fencing and raised beds put into the garden. We are in hopes of having a beautiful herb garden and many vegetables and flowers for all to enjoy.

The garden behind the Homestead, which George and Nanette put a lot of time and effort into, was a great success. The flowers were absolutely gorgeous and remained brilliant the whole summer through early fall. During their last stay in late September, George and Nanette meticulously pulled the old plants and weeds, added seaweed and fertilizer, and covered it with fir boughs so it will be insulated and ready for spring planting.

I hope I've succeeded in giving everyone an idea of the comings and goings of the past season. We want to send our warmest wishes to all for the holiday seasons that are upon us. As always, we look forward to seeing you next year. Take care through the winter.

- Barbie Bubar



ROQUE ISLAND OWNERS COMMENDED BY USF&WS

George Herrick Instrumental in Private-Federal Partnership

Another private-federal partnership involving the US Fish and Wildlife Services (USF&WS) and its Petit Manan Refuge was recognized late last month (see DCP 7/17/94), but this time refuge manager Maggie Anderson was on the presenting end.

On July 23, she was ferried to Roque Island where she presented a plaque to a man who was instrumental in starting a monitoring of neotropical land birds, which he had noted were declining around his summer home.

The special commendation was awarded to the Roque Island Gardner Homestead Corporation, a 64-family-member group which oversees the working farm and guest houses on the main island of the Englishman's Bay archipelago, settled by original members of the Gardner family in 1806. RIGHC has also sought to preserve the pristine character of the multi-island group and, since 1992,

has vigorously restricted areas where yachtsmen and picnickers could go ashore.

It was in September of that year, said Anderson during her presentation, that Herrick gathered together at Roque Island naturalists Norman Famous and Marcia Spencer, ornithologist Roger Pasquier of the Environmental Defence Fund, and Anderson shared with them his concern that many of the most highly visible and most prominently heard land birds were in decline. Among the species in that category were warblers, thrushes, bobolinks, flycatchers, and meadowlarks.

PARTNERSHIP IS FORGED

At the September 1992 meeting, Herrick proposed linking Roque Island, Great Wass Island, where The Nature Conservancy has a large holding, and Cross Island, most of which is owned by the USF&WS and which falls under the scope of Anderson's management,

in a cooperative monitoring project of the nesting and migrating neotropical birds indigenous to the woods of those islands. (Neotropical migrants are birds that breed in the northern hemisphere and make their winter homes south of the US border in the neotropics, and include the species listed above.)

Herrick recently purchased a wall map case which already contains the islands' watershed maps, an inventory of where seals pup and gather, and which will hold future maps of significant plant and bird locations. No longer just a favorite watering hole for members of the Gardner family and visiting sailors, the RIGHC is seriously in the business of conserving its special corner of nature for generations to come.

[Written by Nancy Beal for The Downeast Coastal Press, published week of August 16, 1994]

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Many thanks to all of you who participated in this "double" issue of *The Thoroughfare* and especially to those who have become our "staff" writers: George Herrick, Jennifer Donaldson, Barbie Bubar, & John Higgins. - I do believe this little newsletter is beginning to go somewhere...

The next deadline for submissions for the **WINTER 1995 EDITION WILL BE FEBRUARY 15TH**. Send or fax them to me at: Ste. 400, 45 Exchange Street, Portland, Maine 04101 (fax #207.775.4289).

The Thoroughfare is a venue for all of you to express "your" Roque, and it can only be as good as what you give it (especially photos). We have not heard from the majority of you - feel



encouraged and bombard me with your submissions!

Merry, merry!

- Ari Fischer



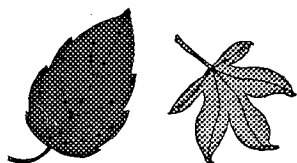
Fairy Houses - June 1994

Annual RIGHC
Meeting
and
Election of the
Board of Trustees

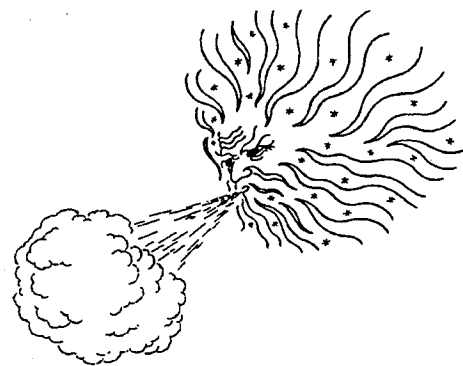
at the Harvard Club
Boston

on Sunday,
December 11th 1994
at 10 a.m.

The Thoroughfare



SUMMER/FALL EDITION



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