

THOROUGHFARE

THOROUGHFARE, FALL 2008, VOL. 18

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Dear Members,

The Trustees made their annual October pilgrimage to Roque to attend the only meeting actually held on the Island each year. The weekend kicked off with a celebratory libation at the new ISH! All the staff, including off island help (Chris McCormick and David Watts) crucial to its construction were on hand to christen the new structure. A sumptuous dinner held in the Old Farmhouse followed the cocktail hour.

The meeting's agenda included the Chairman's remarks, a state of the island presentation



by Bruce followed with detailed reports from all the Committees, presented by the individual Committee Representatives. Many of the reports are posted on our web site. I continue to urge you to browse the site, as there is voluminous amounts of up to date information on every aspect of Roque Island. It is also easily accessible. The site will contain pictures of "work in progress" to better understand how your budgeted dollars are being spent. There are many reports covering topics including natural resources and forestry, long range planning, community outreach and alternative energy. It was decided to send the Thoroughfare by e-mail, in addition to hard copy. The e-mail version will include a link to the web site to encourage and facilitate your interest.

It is apparent, based on the membership's feedback, that Roque continues to impress, and is firing on all cylinders. No matter which aspect of Roque, whether it be the resort, the staff, the infrastructure, the farm, its natural resources, or its community involvement, tremendous progress continues. This is primarily a result of Bruce and Selena's efforts and the staff they have assembled. After many years, it finally seems as if there is a sense of pride and accomplishment amongst both the on and off island staff. Bruce has put together a great team.

Amazing as it may seem, this was the first time in recent history that we had our island staff stay on and work together for a full year. Needless to say, all good things must come to an end. Farmer Mike and Cook Whitney decided to move on this fall, and returned to their family's farm down South. The decision to leave Roque was difficult, but they, like many young folks before them, felt the need to turn the page. Amy has assumed the farmer's responsibilities. Is there anything she cannot do?

Continued on page 2...

NEW ON ROQUE

- * *Wish List (see back page)*
- * *Katie & Dave Watts*

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - *Continued*

Doug will continue on as our captain, a venerable Brando character On the Waterfront. Dave and Katie Watts (right) will move over from the Bluffs to take up residence in the farmhouse, as the island's third couple. Katie will give it a go as the cook and David will continue to work as a master carpenter. They both have their captain's license. You may recall the bust on the mantle in the Red House. (See page 4 for story on Captain Watts.)

Although we failed to have a quorum at the meeting (trustees, please try to adjust your schedules to assure attendance in the future), we pushed onward with many topics discussed and decisions made. We were pleased to learn that many members and their guests visited the island this past season. It was one of the busiest ever. I had conversations with many of the members after their stay, and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and were very complimentary regards the many improvements and on the manner Bruce and his staff ran the resort. There seems to be a buzz about Roque today that was lacking a few years back. It's exciting!

The following is a summation of some of the more important and informative issues discussed at the meeting:



Work has been completed on the ISH, the Main Barn, the Sheep Barn, the Mansion foundation, the old Farmhouse pantry and new orchid fence (it will remain unpainted-pressure treated cedar). The Red House exterior repairs are underway and will require much more work than anticipated.

The interior upgrade is completed. New, more functional and attractive fencing around the farm has been completed. All trails are open and well maintained. Amongst other winter chores, Bruce and staff are looking forward to cutting ice this year.



There is a new health insurance program in place for the employees. They are covered under the Ram Trust Group policy. The employee handbook has been rewritten. All the staff are familiar with it.

Rave reviews about the cleared beech/birch groves. There is an urgent need to thin the recently cut areas of new pine growth.

Agreed to donate \$1,000 to Lifeline Helicopter, after they came to Roque for an emergency evacuation training run (left). They stand ready and willing to help in an emergency.

Bob and Millie Monks have agreed to sponsor the renovation of the Patton Cove Camp. They donated a portable generator to help with the project. Thank you Bob and Millie.

After acquiring a mainland vehicle and replacing the loon with another and more powerful Parker, the only major equipment needed is a barge. We anticipate financing the purchase of a second hand barge over three to five years.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - *Continued*

There was much discussion around the Long Range Plan (LRP). It was decided the LRP Committee (LRPC) would work with the other Committees, which are aligned with the Homestead's broad objectives and mission statement. As opposed to waiting for and relying on the LRPC's sole vision of the future and mountaintop guidance, its primary purpose will be to assemble and weave together the individual Committee plans to form the overall LRP. It is therefore incumbent that the Committees continue to work hard and plan for the longer term. At some point, I expect the Trustees will ask the individual Committees to submit their own specific LR sub plan (please refer to Nick Higgins', LRPC Chair., report on the Web site). He explains the concept more eloquently and succinctly than I.



Another major discussion focused on the need to have more a discussion within the Natural Resources, Forestry and Trails Committee. The issue seems to focus on coordination amongst our naturalist, forester and manager: what/where to preserve, to cut and thin based on the wood harvesting program, and to harvest for lumber to maintain and build infrastructure. This will be resolved intra Committee.

As we did last year, we provide a tour of Roque Island to the winner of the Roque Bluffs raffle. It is a very popular item and was a great success. You should all know by now that Beal's barge, which had been anchored in the Thoroughfare, was removed this spring. The Jonesport Town Counsel is considering the appointment of Roque's Manager as Assistant Harbor-master to oversee the archipelago. This would be extremely beneficial, and would provide the Manager with more options and a means to act on future incidents.

Draft language addressing the changes to the election by-laws has been submitted by Randy Mikes. He will also propose language that will allow more than two spouses to serve as Trustee, so long as they do not represent more than 49% of the Boards' representation.

We are making a concerted effort to have members e-mail addresses on file. As mentioned earlier, we plan to send the Thoroughfare electronically with a Roque web site link to encourage site usage. We will continue the physical mailing of the Thoroughfare.

The stepping stones linking the Mansion and the Old Farmhouse have been dug up and reset. The path looks like it did many years ago.

The next Trustee's meeting will be the annual budget meeting in Boston in early March. It is quite evident that we will be required to tighten our belts, and reduce costs were possible. That is the directive we have given Bruce already. We expect to be able to keep most of Bruce's team in tact, so they can finish the job we started two years ago. We have focused on upgrading the infrastructure, so we can begin in earnest to address Roque's longer term needs.

Cheers,
Randy Goodhue

SQUIRES POINT *Captain Watts*

Philip Samuel Watts of Roque Bluffs reminisced recently about his grandfather, John Norton Watts, who was Sailing Master at Roque Island from 1892 until the 1920's.

The Watts family came to Jonesboro from Haverhill, Mass. Via Falmouth and Cape Elizabeth, Maine in the 18th century. Samuel Watts Jr. (1756-1850) gained fame by leading a band of pitchfork wielding American rebels to capture British Man of War *Margaretta* in Machias Bay in an early engagement of the War of Independence in 1775. Legend has it that Samuel, himself, dispatched the British captain. The action was described in *The Liberty Pole, A Tale of Machias* (1857) recently acquired by the library.

John Watts' parents were Daniel J. Watts (1830-1911) and Anna Norton. They took the four year-old son John and his three sisters on the famous ill-fated religious pilgrimage of 150 New Englanders to Palestine. They returned to Machias after the failure of the expedition. Daniel was a ship builder who taught the trade to his son.

John Watts (1858-1925) became Sailing Master and Captain of Roque Island ships at the young age of 26 in 1894. He, himself, built a number of ships, including the *Lalla*, which is featured in Plate 13 B of John P. M. Monks' *History of Roque Island, Maine* (1964). Captain Watts, who married Jesse Ann Schoppee (1857-1940), with whom he had 12 children, always lived ashore. He would travel occasionally to Massachusetts, presumably to visit the Gardners or to put a ship away for the winter.

It was John Watts' aunt, Lucy Watts, who in 1867 married John Shorey Jr., the tenant of Roque Island (see pp. 20-21 of Monks' *History*) and provoked the displeasure of the Gardner family. Within the Watts family, she was known as a "wildcat". *George Herrick*

A WORD FROM THE MANAGER

by *Bruce Patterson*

Selena and I are fast approaching our 6 year anniversary of being associated with RIGHC. We both want to thank all the family members and past and present board members for their support, encouragement, vision and passion towards Roque.

We also want to thank the entire team that works for Roque, both the full time staff (including recent past) and the off island day workers that have been with us for a while, and contribute so much to maintaining and improving Roque and provide valuable support to the family.

2008 was a very busy and productive year project wise, with the completion of the ISH, major repairs being done at the Red House, a new picket fence for the Gardner House, a proper foundation installed under the kitchen of the Monks House, major repairs to our fresh water supply system and barns repaired and painted.

The farm was very active over the year. Horses were ridden or driven over 200 times, in excess of 2000 bales of hay were harvested, the garden was not only productive but well kept, replacement fencing was installed, experiments with free range chickens took place and many broilers, turkeys and lambs processed.

On the waterfront we saw a reduction in boat maintenance cost, a replacement vessel for the Loon was purchased, many family members and guests went lobstering with Doug and there were many island tours.

We are now preparing the island for the winter. Vessels are being winterized and stored, moorings are being brought in to shore, equipment is being serviced, cleaned and stored, houses are being winterized and sealed, firewood is being cut and winter work projects are being planned.

Goals for 2009 are already in the making. Even though reductions in some areas may be needed due to the present economic circumstances, my main goal is to continue to provide the family with the Roque experience they have come to expect and enjoy.

BARNYARD BUZZ

News from Roque Island Farm

The RIGHC Farm committee is pleased to introduce this new column to *The Thoroughfare*. We hope to use this column as a way to keep all members updated on the comings, goings and activities on the farm. Look to this column for information to prepare you for your impending visits to Roque or to remind you of your time on Roque as the days grow shorter and colder.



This season was a busy one on the Roque Island farm. By all accounts, the farm and garden were in great shape. For those of us who were lucky enough to spend time on Roque this year we (depending on the timing of our visit) were greeted with a garden stocked with new and traditional island farm items. The animals were also in great form as the pigs enjoyed their summer residency away from the barn out towards great beach. As you may have noted the horses have made a strong resurgence within the barnyard mostly due to the hard work of Sonya. The barns also had their moment to shine as they stoutly stand with their new coat of paint and brand new weather vane prominently displayed off of the main barn cupola.

Lastly, we are happy to report that Amy Dodge has become Roque Island's new farmer. While she has always been a great presence in and around the farm and garden, we are pleased to report that she will be taking over the responsibility for the farm as Mike and Whitney leave us for their home in Pennsylvania. Please join us in congratulating Amy in her new role as chief resident Farmer!

On behalf of the Farm Committee we look forward to providing you with more information regarding the farm in the Thoroughfares to come. We would also love to hear from you about your experiences on the Farm this past year, questions, concerns, observations, or if you have any suggestions/requests for articles for the next T-Fare. Please contact either/both Alicia Monks (amkm@aol.com) or Roo Reath (rooreath@yahoo.com) with any of your comments.

By the Numbers:

108 Farm residents (5 Horses, 2 Dairy Cows, 1 Goat, 3 Pigs, 17 Ewes, 5 Lambs, 2 Rabbits, 1 Bull, 1 Calf, 35 Laying Hens, 35 Chicks)

3 Expected farm resident population growth for the calendar year ending December 31, 2008 (sorry pigs)

7,500 pounds of Milk collected by the farm staff this season

188 Horse Rides (148 Saddle, 14 Carriage, 26 both Saddle and Carriage)

15 Turkeys still available for your Thanksgivings (By weight they are as follows: 3x 11 lbs, 2x 11.5 lbs, 2x 12.5 lbs, 1x 13.5 lbs, 1x 15 lbs, 2x 16 lbs, 2x 17 lbs, 2x 17.5 lbs)

36.5 Average Temperature on Roque in November

45 different items planted and harvested from the garden (basil, beet greens, beets, bok choy, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cherry tomatoes, Chinese cabbage, cilantro, corn, cucumbers, dill, edamame, fennel bulb, garlic, green beans, kale, lettuce, melons, Mexican mint, onions, parsley, parsnip, peas, potatoes, peppers, radishes, rhubarb, radicchio, rosemary, rutabaga, scallions, strawberries, spinach, summer squash, Swiss chard, tarragon, thyme, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini)

HEYBOY *R.I.P. 2008*

by Timothy Herrick

There has been a cavalry of horses to grace the pastures of Roque Island. However, only two (to my recollection) have been special enough to be honored with a true burial on the island. Heyboy was one of these very special horses that roamed the range for over 30 years. He lived a life in the pastures, eating grass, clipping daisies, and munching hay all day and night. On special occasions little children, like myself, would awkwardly feed him sugar cubes and apples over the Gardner house fence. For many young family members Heyboy provided them with their first horse back ride. He was so great with children that the staff never thought twice about putting little boys and girls on his back.

Heyboy proved to be a solid member of the Roque Island community. He provided the family members with glorious gallops on Great Beach, perhaps more trotting in his older years, and years of companionship with the other horses he welcomed into the pastures.

Heyboy will be dearly missed on Roque Island. As a child I vividly remember always wanting to ride Heyboy and even when I wasn't riding him I was so enamored with his beautiful white coat that I would often spend time just sitting on the fence and watching him graze.

Heyboy passed away on January 15, 2008. The staff had checked on him earlier in the day but later he was resting in the paddock. They tried to get him up but could not. The veterinarian was called along to help. Efforts were made to get him on his feet, but to no avail. Reluctantly, our manager Bruce made the decision to have him put down around nine o'clock that evening.

Being on Roque this past summer for the first time in my life without the pleasure of Heyboy's presence was sad indeed. Heyboy's passing is an opportunity to reflect on the value of horses on Roque and the wonderful opportunity we all have to ride through the forest appreciating the island from a lofty perspective. Heyboy embodied the purpose of the Horse Club today and how it enables young members to spend time with their cousins enjoying activities.



SEA GLASS

by *George G. Herrick*

Collectors prize frosted shards of man made sea glass. Wave churn, shore terrain, water acidity, and composition of the glass itself all play a part in creating the characteristic matte texture of the smoothed shards. The frosted shards of



sea glass take twenty to thirty years to acquire smooth or round edges and are quite beautiful. Blues, dark and light, and greens are favored; reds and yellows are rare; browns and whites are too common to collect.

Abrasion works its magical effect on glass shards in shallow water in the littoral zone. Aggressive lateral movement in the water causes significant abrasion, while undertows create a tumbling effect. Prolonged exposure to water hydrates the surface of the glass and subjects it to corrosion.

The best conditions for finding sea glass are low tide on a sunny day after a 20 knot storm in fall or winter. Heavy rains may reveal buried artifacts on a sandy beach or just as rocky beaches may suppress them. But rocky beaches are the best source.

There is less and less glass being tossed overboard today owing to environmental strictures, greater incentives for recycling and a turn to plastic drink containers. The American Sea Glass Association says, "We're at the end of the glass window."

Glass, of course, comes from sand but here Nature seems almost to re-naturalize the prosaic medicine or drink bottle and leave a lovely artifact for us to find on the beach. Sea glass is something more to look for around Roque Island.

FLOTSAM

Milestones

- ▶ Ellen Higgins celebrated her 80th birthday, 15 February 2008
- ▶ Bob Monks will celebrate his 75th birthday, 4 December 2008
- ▶ George Herrick celebrated his 70th birthday, 8 April 2008
- ▶ John Higgins celebrated his 60th birthday, 1 May 2008
- ▶ John & Cauley Lukens celebrated their 50th anniversary, 7 June 2008
- ▶ George & Lola Monks celebrated their 50th anniversary, 4 October 2008
- ▶ Nick & Rosa Higgins celebrated their 25th anniversary, 13 March 2008

Marriages

- ▶ Kitty Gonzalez married Vincent Montalban, 26 July 2008 at Glen Magna in Danvers, MA
- ▶ Ben Alexander married Carly Cope, 13 Sept 2008 at his grandmother, Ellen Higgins' home in Cape Elizabeth
- ▶ Mary Ellen Donaldson married Austin Chadd, 20 September 2008, in Pomfret, VT
- ▶ Tatiana Papanicolaou married Thorne Perkin on 4 October 2008 in Brookline, MA

New Endeavors

- ▶ Jason Herrick is now working for Sotheby's



Ben & Carly Alexander

DUELING MENUS

TEAM GOODHUE

by Lyn Goodhue

Our annual trip to Roque took place the week of July 24 - July 31 - a spectacular time to visit. We all know the warm season at Roque is brief but richly enjoyed. This year the garden was exceptional (thanks Amy et al) and we took full advantage of an overflowing, abundant garden.

The deep pleasure of handmade, homegrown meals, enjoyed with family and old friends is hard to beat. We were lucky to have an exceptional cook who this year brought our culinary experience to new heights.

We filled the Old Farm House with dear friends and down the hill at the Red House were Milo and Zoë Ryan and their friends the Hasties from Charleston. Gourmands in their own rights, we decided to keep track of our sumptuous meals for the week and publish them in the *Thoroughfare* to highlight what's available in the garden and on the island and give ideas for future visitors.

We did not share or compare our menus while on the island, so what follows are the same week's menu plans from 2 households on Roque Island:



Thursday Night Supper

Salad of Beets with Fresh Roque Island Chevre, sun-dried tomatoes and garlic

Beet greens, lettuce, orange slices w/white wine vinaigrette

Shrimp in white wine cream sauce over basmati rice and sweet Garden peas

Dessert ~ fresh fruit in a walnut tart shell



Friday Night Dinner

Beef tenderloin on the grill w/2 sauces:
Horseradish cream; Salsa Verde

Oven-roasted red potatoes'
Green beans w/garlic

Dessert ~ Lemon curd, butter cake with blueberries

Saturday Night Dinner

Basil, tomatoes and mozzarella salad
Lemon/herb roasted chicken
Sautéed kale and beet greens
Carrots and onions

Dessert ~ Pannacotta with fresh fruit

Sunday Night Supper

Steamers, lobster, green salad

Dessert ~ Apple blueberry crisp with whipped cream

Monday Night

Chilled cucumber/ avocado soup
Grilled butterfly leg of lamb with Mint salsa Verde
Roasted vegetables
Orzo

Dessert ~ Roque Island ginger bread w/whipped cream

DUELING MENUS

TEAM RYAN

by Zoe Ryan

All our menus were prepared wholly with Roque Island meat, vegetables and dairy. The children helped with gathering wild berries, chanterelles and picking vegetables from the garden every afternoon for that night's meal.

The timing of our visit was fortuitous – the blueberries were just emerging and the raspberries were still available. Gold pockets of chanterelles were exploding with the damp, and the garden was blooming in full glory under Amy's careful eye.



Thursday Night Supper

Roque Island milk-braised pork loin
Shaved beet salad with Maggie's fresh chevre on a bed of young greens
Steamed baby haricot verts with Roque Island butter

Dessert ~ Wild blueberry and raspberry (picked with tiny fingers!) pie with fresh whipped cream



Friday Night Dinner

Roast Chicken stuffed with thyme and rubbed with freshly ground fennel seeds and sea salt
Sautéed baby zucchini; Red potato and fennel gratin
Polenta crusted squash blossoms stuffed with Maggie's fresh herbed chevre

Saturday Night Dinner

Lobsters with melted butter
Saffron risotto and wild chanterelles
Baby lettuces

Dessert ~ Vanilla cream pots with wild raspberries and blueberries

Sunday Night Supper

Marinated grilled spareribs served with fresh garden broccolini and a roasted mélange of rose Finns, red potatoes and white fingerlings

Monday Night

Lobster and Jonah crab cakes on a bed of baby lettuces, nasturtium blossoms and chanterelles topped with polenta croutons

Dessert ~ Fresh churned wild raspberry, blueberry and strawberry ice cream

SHIPWRECKS

by George G. Herrick

Between 1856-1902 there were 35 shipwrecks observed and reported by Maine lighthouses, according to Robert Thayer Sterling's *Lighthouses of the Maine Coast* (1935). Six of them foundered off the Libby Islands:

1878 *Caledonia Fame*

1902 *Africa*

1923 *Africa*

1892 *Princeport*

1925 *John H. Myers*

Most of these ships had made the same tragic mistake, according to Philmore B. Wass in *Lighthouse of My Life*

(1987), a very readable memoir about growing up on the Libbys. They headed for the passage between Cross Island and the eastern end of Big Libby, which gave them clear access to the protection of Machias Bay. But either due to piloting error or the severity of a storm, they went too far west and attempted to sail between the two Libbys, where they were wrecked on the bar between the two islands. Even today you can see for yourself how tricky this passage must have been at low tide in extreme weather conditions.

Another shipwreck, closer to home, was the eponymous *Halifax* at Halifax Island in 1755.



Libby Island Light, (19th Century)



COLD WATER



by George G. Herrick

The following two extracts are from Catherine Schmitt's A Coastal Companion, A Year in the Gulf of Maine, From Cape Cod to Canada (2008). They may help us to understand Roque Island's situation better.

Unaffected by the ice and wind, some organisms like cod have evolved to cope with cold and saltier seas. Intertidal organisms that are mobile relocate to higher-salinity tide pools or, like periwinkles, migrate down the tide line to reduce the amount of time they are exposed to the cold air. Snails and crabs seek shelter under seaweeds or rocks. Seaweeds and animals that are immobile are dark in color and absorb solar radiation from the noonday sun to stay warm. Some fishes, including Atlantic cod, tomcod, short-horned sculpin and winter flounder, have "antifreeze" in their blood. These fish produce molecules of salt and protein that lower the freezing point of their body fluids, making it possible for them to stay in colder near-shore waters. Seaweeds, mussels, and some fish can increase the salt content of their body fluids by either losing water or taking in salt; as in the ocean itself, this higher salt content helps to prevent freezing.

How cold does the ocean have to be before it freezes? The freezing point of seawater depends on its salinity. The saltier the water, the colder it has to be for it to freeze. Ocean water, which has 35 parts salt for every thousand parts water will freeze at 28.4 degrees Fahrenheit. Salt interferes with the water's ability to form ice crystals by blocking and surrounding the water molecules. Amid all the salt, it takes longer for the water molecules "to find each other" and freeze together, and when they do, the salt tends to stay behind in the liquid water. Ice has no room for salt. The resulting brine gets saltier and saltier and freezes even more slowly at colder temperatures.

GEORGE HERRICK'S BIRCH FOREST

Below the white pine grove at the end of the lane, this birch cluster (*photo*) required four interventions by woodsmen over 15 years to reclaim it from dense spruce. Another still larger birch forest created behind North Beach is three or four years behind this one in development. The Natural Resources Committee also thinned and enhanced two substantial areas of impenetrable spruce on Great Head.

George Herrick has been guiding this project for a number of years and has clearly made great headway.





The Thoroughfare
C/O RIGHC
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ROQUE ISLAND WISH LIST

We have begun a wish list for the island. If you would like to make a donation or if you have any questions, please contact **Bruce and Selena** at: bruce@roqueisland.com or **Molly Cutler** at mollycutler@charter.net. Transporting items to the Island can be arranged if necessary.

* Dining Room Table (with drop-down sides, if possible) for Bluffs House

* Dining Room Chairs (mismatch is fine, many needed) for Bluffs House and Farmhouse

* Book Cases

* End Tables

* Love Seat for the ISH

* Small Couch for Bluffs House

* Lamps

* Rugs, Runners & Small Area Rugs

* Storage Cabinets (for garage/basement storage)

* Outdoor Furniture

* Sheets of all sizes

* Blankets

* Bedspreads

* Towels

To submit an article for the next issue of *The Thoroughfare*, please send to the Editor, **Posy Dana** at rcdana@mac.com or mail to:

701 Bellevue Avenue
Newport, RI 02840.

Electronic submissions whenever possible please!

Deadline is April 15th.

TO: