

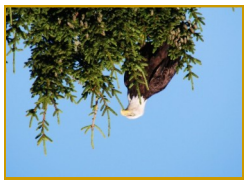


Beginning with the 2012 Spring Issue, Roo Reath and Zoe Ryan will be the new Co-editors of the *Thoroughfare*. I am confident they will bring a new vitality and a fresh perspective to the newsletter. -- Rose C. Dana

For submissions please send to:  
 Roo Reath [RooReath@yahoo.com](mailto:RooReath@yahoo.com)  
 and/or  
 Zoe Ryan [zoe.ryan@comcast.net](mailto:zoe.ryan@comcast.net)

Electronic submissions whenever possible please!  
 Deadline is April 15th.

TO:



*The Thoroughfare*  
 C/O RIGHC  
 45 Exchange Street  
 Portland, ME 04101



THOROUGHFARE, FALL 2011

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Dear Members,

If you have not noticed, Roque has become a large operation and a very busy place. It's a growing, vibrant and exciting community. There is more to report than either Bruce or I can possibly include in our Thoroughfare Notes/Report. I urge you to go to Roque's website, and read the new Strategic Plan and the most recent Committee Reports that were submitted to the Board at last weekend's meeting on the Island. Roque's website is getting a facelift with new improvements, including a blog capability, so staff and members can communicate more timely and openly. This is an exciting development that Bruce and others have advocated for some time.

I am very pleased about the continuing progress we have made over the past five years. However, I am a bit concerned, and have learned that when you think you have dealt with an issue on Roque, it always seems to come back and demand more of one's attention. You will recall for lack of a more scientific approach and a new Strategic Plan, we embarked on tackling a few major issues in each of my terms as Chair. The first term focused on governance/communication, infrastructure and staff. For the second term, we are focused on forestry/farm, alternative energy and capital. While I think we have made tremendous progress on all fronts, not to mention a final draft Strategic update, I wonder whether we need not look behind us to make sure the buildings are still there, staffed by competent, productive employees, and that we continue to communicate with the membership. It would be a shame to fall into a two steps forward, one step back approach to governance.

### GOVERNANCE/COMMUNICATION

The Committees are focusing well. The new 2015 Committee, which is charged with how Roque can help finance itself, has introduced many interesting ideas including yoga retreats, nature walks, conservation conferences, photo shoots etc. We have formed a New Family Housing Committee to begin to analyze the need for additional housing on Roque. This was a major issue at last year's Annual Meeting. We have also formed an ad hoc committee to work with Bruce and the Board on a viable long-term compensation plan for all Roque employees. 2013 is our next election year, and we hope to have many new candidates. The Nomination and Elections Committee will do its best to coordinate and facilitate the process. They will also introduce the candidates to the membership to set them up for success. Roo Reath and Zoe Ryan have volunteered to co-edit the Thoroughfare relieving Posy Dana. Many thanks to Posy for all her work in overseeing this publication, and building it into what it is today; an important mode of Roque communication.

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Be sure to visit [RoqueIsland.com](http://RoqueIsland.com) for island updates, the latest committee reports & seasonal photos. Our Web site is updated continuously.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

By Bruce Patterson

The staff hopes that everyone that came to Roque this year had an excellent stay, enjoyed the island and had new and exciting experiences. I personally want to thank Amy, Doug, Katie, David and Selena for all the hard work and long hours they put in each week to keep the island running smoothly. Thanks also goes out to Jutta, Chris and all the other off island workers that continue to contribute each and every year. A special thanks to Sonya who will not be with us next year as she ventures into a new era of her life.

After 3+ years as resident staff and 2 years as off island help, Katie and David have given notice and will be leaving at the end of the year, but will be helping from time to time next season when possible. Their contributions to the island will be seen for many years to come and their presence on a daily basis will be missed.

A new couple that has visited the island twice has been hired and will be starting at the first of the year. Jay Trayner and his wife Stephanie Gardner from New Hampshire will be bringing many skills to the island and will fit in nicely with our small community. We look forward to having them join our team.

After a long and busy season that included 45 house turnovers we are in the process of putting the island to bed for the winter. The family houses are being closed, all the boats except the Peabody is out of the water, the horses, cows and sheep are free ranging, firewood is being gathered, equipment is being serviced and stored under shelter for the winter, the garden is wrapping up and projects are coming to an end.

### Some interesting farm numbers you all may enjoy:

- Horses were ridden 242 times over the season
- 2800 bales of hay were put up for the winter
- 6 pigs were processed for a dressed weight of 1145 lbs.
- 20 Turkeys were processed out at 345 lbs. (5 Turkeys lost due to eagle attack)
- 125 broilers were processed out at 676.5 lbs.
- 29 lambs were born to 20 ewes and 12 were processed out at 538 lbs.
- The Jersey steer was processed out at 487 lbs.

### Roque has four distinct work seasons:

#### October through December

- o During this period we are busy getting the island ready for the winter, finishing paperwork items, taking inventories, assessing the previous season and starting budget work for the upcoming year.

#### January through mid-March

- o This is primarily the survival time of year. The animals have to be cared for twice a day, firewood has to be restocked, blow downs have to be dealt with, roads have to be plowed, upcoming projects are planned and the staff has to stay sane. *Continued on page 3...*



Luke Barden in flight

## THE CHARISMATIC LANDSCAPE

By George G. Herrick

A Conference at the University of Maine at Machias in June 2011 on the Charismatic Landscape outlined the conservation opportunity and imperative in Acadia (Micmac for place) or the 4,445 square miles of Hancock and Washington Counties in Maine.

Charismatic is a new ecological term but one that is instantly recognizable and meaningful to us at Roque Island who have been laboring in the same vineyard for 25 years. Charismatic: possessing extraordinary power of healing, having magnetic charm or an individual magic arousing special loyalty.

What are some of the assets of American Acadia? Clean water in abundance. Sustainable forestry, scenic beauty, a sense of place and tradition. Recreational potential. Specific ecological values like shorebird and Bald Eagle habitats, abundant fisheries, and critical eel grass communities. This is the natural capital of the Eastern Maine coast.

But there are parallel values, which re-enforce the natural ones. There is the human ecology of Cultural Geography, the sense of tradition and place, the history of human relationship to the land. In the right circumstances there can be a spiritual connection between man and nature. There is a medical element, too. Unsightly, desolate, noxious landscapes accepted by uncaring men are unhealthy just as bountiful ones managed by enlightened people are healthy in many demonstrable ways. The beauty of Maine landscapes, rendered by painters and photographers, as well as poets and writers, has been quantitatively valued by Maine's Scenic Assessment of the iconic coastline. Is there any wonder that early colonists chose beautiful sites like Manhattan and Quebec, Jamestown, Saint Croix, Cape Anne, and so many others?

The natural values of Eastern Maine coalesce into a common theme which helps to define the regional culture along with the human ecology of understanding man's relationship to nature, of generations interacting with it, including commercial and recreational pursuits and of a cumulative sense of tradition and place. Strategic convergence of the natural and human ecologies was the theme of this Conference. Public support, incentive to act and collaborative research efforts with shared results are the means. The timeline for the Acadian vision is a 100 year framework. Already there are impressive examples of scholarly coordination and self-interested land ownership collaboration.

Within the overall context described there are positive local elements to notice. Connectivity of adjacent properties (or islands) with shared goals is beneficial to both. A balanced portfolio of land ownership ranging from private to public can have mutual benefits. There can be smaller identities within larger universes. Henry Thoreau once wrote: "There is a sort of harmony between the capabilities of a landscape within a circle of ten miles."

Promoting the charismatic landscape of American Acadia will benefit in the first instance from public support and pride in place. At one end there is the scholarly task, at the other the community one, where community expeditions, internships and fostering links with schools and colleges can be helpful.

The management of our conservation programs at Roque Island, the enhancement of our landscape values, the provision for biodiversity, the sharing of our experience with like-minded organizations, the respect for the spirituality of the place and the recording for history of our presence and efforts there should remain our first priority.



## FIELD RESEARCH NOTES - Continued from page 5

**Q:** How old is the typical lobster you catch?

**A:** 5-6 years old.

**Q:** How far do lobsters travel under water?

**A:** They are mostly active within a small area. They do not migrate as crabs do. Strong currents help to move them about. Some lobsters tagged in Canada were found in Massachusetts.

**Q:** What is the price of the lobsters you sell?

**A:** Hard shells, \$2.75 per pound; soft shells, \$1.60 per pound.

**Q:** Is the price higher than last year?

**A:** A little higher.

**Q:** Is the price higher in Winter?

**A:** No, because hard shells are fewer in the Winter.

**Q:** How many lobsters do you catch in season?

**A:** About 5,000 pounds or 3,900 lobsters.

**Q:** Does the increase in fuel prices mean that you now try to fish in a more restricted area?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Are lobsterman(sic) superstitious?

**A:** Not very. Some old timers, however say one should never head one's boat into the sun.

**Q:** Why does one lobsterman catch more than another?

**A:** Good lobsterman(sic) must have food fishing instincts. Some people will never catch a fish. Knowledge of the local water that comes from experience is very important.

**Q:** How are the clams this summer?

**A:** Mostly small ones this year.

**Q:** Do you sell more clams in Summer than in Winter?

**A:** More in winter.

**Q:** How many months in a year do you dig clams?

**A:** Twelve months.

**Q:** Where do you sell them?

**A:** Jonesport – about 5 miles away.

**Q:** How does this year's price compare with last year's price?

**A:** Average price today is \$25 per bushel, higher than last year.

**Q:** How many clam diggers are there in this area?

**A:** There are almost 250 licensed clam diggers in this area.

**Q:** Where are the best clams in Maine?

**A:** Right here in the Jonesport area. Good clams have white meat and are found in tidal mud with a sandy base.

**Q:** Do you throw back the smallest clams?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** What happens if you dig too many clams?

**A:** Over digging leads to loss of future supply.

**Q:** How old is the average clam you are digging?

**A:** About four or five years old. (Average mussels collected in this area are 8.5 years old.)

**Q:** For how long after digging is it safe to eat raw clams?

**A:** Up to two days after digging.

**Q:** How do you clean clams?

**A:** By washing them in salt water.

**Q:** Are clams more expensive than mussels?

**A:** Yes, \$25 per bushel versus \$14 per bushel for ordinary mussels. The best mussels, however, get \$20 per bushel.

**Q:** How do you dig clams?

**A:** Using a clam hoe, one digs 8-10 inches deep from the low tide line up the shore. The breathing holes indicate where some clams are located.

**Q:** Do you dig clams at night?

**A:** Yes, one can dig clams at night too.

**Q:** What makes a good clam hoe?

**A:** A short thick handle with about five prongs set at an angle.

**Q:** How many clams do you dig at one low tide?

**A:** About 2 ½ bushels. There is a skill factor. An unexperienced(sic) clam digger may get only 1 bushel.

**Q:** Are most of the best clams at the lowest tide mark?

**A:** The biggest clams are furthest out. They make for the best eating, although consumers like the smaller ones.

**Q:** What are the predators of clams?

**A:** Green crabs and herring gulls.

**Q:** Are there disputes between clam diggers over territory?

**A:** No.

*Jason's hand-written article in its entirety can be viewed on [www.Roquelsland.com](http://www.Roquelsland.com)*

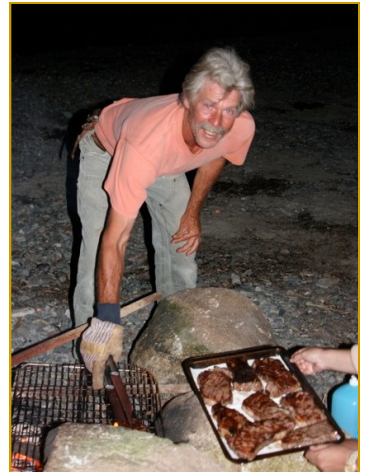
## A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER - Continued from page 2

### Mid-March through May

- o Massive amounts of work has to take place during this short period of time. Projects in family houses need to be completed, houses cleaned and opened, fences repaired, boats prepped for the season, trails cleared, bridges replaced, firewood split and into family houses, equipment serviced, the garden planted, fields fertilized and limed and the lists goes on. During this time we normally have a good many off island people around and seeing different faces and having different conversations is always a plus after the winter months.

### June through September

- o The staff gets into more of a daily routine during this period of time with boat runs, grocery shopping, house turnovers, lawn maintenance, haying and generally taking care of whatever arises.



## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - Continued from page 1

### INFRASTRUCTURE

The docks at Shorey and Patten Cove have had major repairs. The barn's front foundation has been rebuilt (the rear to be done next year). The Old Ice House was deemed to be an unsafe structure, and has been replaced. It will contain the new welding shop. The old welding shop on the waterfront will be replaced and used to house all our fuel, including those unsightly propane tanks lined up against the Boathouse. Obviously, the appropriate containment requirements will be built into the new structure. The building that houses the lower cistern will be upgraded, as the present one is about to fall off the cliff. Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink! As you all know, Roque's water table has dropped significantly. We apologize for any inconvenience this caused during your visit this summer. Bruce has done everything possible to manage, diagnose and fix the problem. We are losing in excess of 1600 gallons a day. The houses have all been isolated and eliminated from the leak. We will begin to test the lines by the upper cistern and cemeteries, as that is where we believe the loss occurs. There was some talk of drilling a backup well, but nothing decided.

### STAFF

Bruce continues to run a tight ship. He has taken on many more responsibilities than previous managers. In addition to day-to-day operations, he heads up the Alternative Energy Committee, and is actively involved with many other committees that seek his advice and knowledge. Bruce and Selena and the staff they have put together are a primary contributor to the wonderful experience we all have on Roque...thank you Bruce and Selena! While we have had an unprecedented two years without a change in staff, all good things must come to an end. Dave and Kate will leave us at the end of the year. The good news is that Bruce has already found the perfect couple to replace them. Jay Trayner and Stephanie Gardner from New Hampshire have accepted the position, and will take up residence in the newly renovated Farmhouse. They were introduced to the Board last weekend. I would like to thank Dave and Kate for all they have done for Roque. The good news is that they live in Roque Bluffs, and will remain friends of Roque for a long time. Sonya has moved on, and we discussed her replacement, but decided to table the matter until the budget meeting in January. Our summer internship (which is open to family members) was successfully filled by Clara Dennis. She did a fabulous job, and is finishing up at the College of the Atlantic.

As you can see, nothing remains the same at Roque, but interestingly not much changes either. Puzzling isn't it. All right, lets get on with the present term.... *Continued on page 4...*

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - Continued from page 3

### FORESTRY/FARM

This is where one of the most important developments affecting Roque occurred. The main island has been converted from Tree Growth classification to Farmland, carrying over from one to another at a similar tax rate, at the same time doing away with the need for logging. Further, we applied to have the outer islands treated as contiguous, and therefore, as Farmland as well. There has been no response to that application at this time. A final piece will be to apply to reclassify some pieces as Open Space with EMCI easements. This is a terrific result of the hard work done by John Higgins, Bruce and the Finance Committee. While this is new news, I have yet to determine what it will mean for Roque long term; however, I am convinced it will be profound. Things have been a bit turned upside down. Clearly, Roque's farm has attained a new level of importance. We will continue to manage Roque's forests. While we were contemplating a next harvest on Great Spruce, all cutting will be delayed until the reclassification process is completed. For a detailed report on the farm's activities, please refer to the Farm Committee's report on the web. We also look forward to Amy's blog about the barnyard...very exciting. Norm Famous updated his now electronically adaptable bird list incorporating all data, since his initial effort 20 years ago!



### ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

The solar array on the barn is a tremendous success. In fact, so much so, that it was agreed to add to it. Board members agreed to pay for an additional six more panels, and we hope the membership will finance the rest. If you were a past financier of a panel, I suspect Bruce will be in touch. Hopefully, you will continue to support this successful endeavor. Anna Demeo of the University of Maine and her sustainable energy students have installed all the wind monitoring equipment to analyze a site for wind power and to determine size, cost and the ROI. Roque has reduced its power usage by approximately 30%. This is due to the solar panels and other conservation projects. We continue to monitor and are actively involved in the progress being made regards tidal power in Maine.

### CAPITAL

Roque is operating on a very tight budget. Needless to say, the economic environment remains challenging. Everything is on or under budget, except capital expenses. The amount budgeted to be spent from the capital reserve should be adequate to cover the overage in capex. The overage is a result of the unexpected demolition of the Old Ice House, and the need to replace it ahead of schedule, the water issue, and unexpected deterioration in the greenhouse. Areas of concern discussed were the unknown costs and sources of funds for solving the water issue and building additional family housing. We are in the process of finalizing the list of Founders of the Joseph Peabody Society. This is recognition of those of you who have made a testamentary bequest to Roque. The honor will be memorialized on a plaque in the Family Room on Roque. Please consider becoming a Founder, as the island needs your support. It is imperative that we explore alternative income generating options (2015 Committee) and new means to finance Roque, as reliance on the endowment and increased dues may be unsustainable.

Finally, I encourage you all to familiarize yourselves with the recent Strategic Plan. Many thanks go to Nick Higgins and The Long Range Planning Committee for the drafting of this document. As we move forward and incorporate all the changes occurring on Roque, we need to prioritize a workable number of goals and objectives drawn from the Strategic Plan. I am very excited about Roque's new direction, and the many opportunities afforded the membership. I continue to urge all of you to become knowledgeable and engaged in the management of your extraordinary treasure; Roque Island.

Cheers,  
Randy Goodhue

## VISIT TO MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND - Continued from page 12

According to Wikipedia, they return with their catch "such as herring, sprats and sand eels...The tongue is used to hold the fish against spines in the palate, leaving the bill free to catch more fish...which may number up to twelve, [and] are held in the bill with the heads facing in alternate directions."

I thought about that and envisioned what would happen if the Puffin were holding several fish, all pointed in the same direction. Every other one would slide out because the scales wouldn't be opposing movement. If you can think of a better reason for this intriguing phenomenon, please let me know.

To get there, we used the Bold Coast Charter Company in Cutler Harbor ([www.boldcoast.com](http://www.boldcoast.com)), less than an hour's drive from Roque Bluffs. Their boat leaves around 7-8 A.M, so we had to reach the dock at Roque Bluffs by 6 A.M.

Because of a long-standing disagreement between the governments of Canada and the United States over ownership of Machias Seal Island, we were not asked to show a Passport before departing in the boat at Cutler.

Try to get an accurate forecast for the day of your trip. We had to make a commitment about a week ahead of time to ensure a booking and saw that rain was forecast for Sunday and Tuesday, so of course, we chose Monday. And we were lucky.

The charge for on-island excursions is \$100 per person but if the weather is too rough to put ashore, there is no refund. They will cruise around the island, and you'll see birds and seals in active search of food. But it is nothing like getting on the island.

The on-island excursion is limited to 3 hours, which means getting back to shore around 1:00 P.M., leaving us time to visit the West Quoddy Lighthouse, with its distinctive red and white coloring.

Back at Roque Bluffs, the Peabody met us at 5:30 P.M. and we were on our way back to Roque, which even without Puffins, is the greatest treat on the Maine Coast!



Lighthouse on Machias Seal Island

## VISIT TO MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND

By Dennis Sheehy

My son, Adam, and I are avid photographers. Last June, we were invited by Ellen Higgins to spend some time with her and her family, at Roque Island. We've both spent time at Roque and cherish its wilderness, the people, it's storied history and infinite beauty. As Adam and I discussed the trip, he suggested we take a side adventure to Machias Seal Island to photograph the Puffins. Ah, yes! What a grand idea!



Atlantic Puffin with fish

And on June 20<sup>th</sup>, we stood on the island, inside a small blind with holes through which to take pictures of Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills, Common Murres, Arctic and Common Terns, and Black Guillemots in their natural habitat. We were told we could leave the blind anytime, but could not return nor go to another blind.



West Quoddy Lighthouse

While we saw from a distance all of these birds flying around, we couldn't get close to them until we entered the blind. Then, after opening the sliders for the little windows, the real magic of the Puffins came into view. Incredibly colorful, with their enormous beaks (the outer scales of which fall off after the mating season), they stood momentarily, not even ten feet away, as they looked for the crevices in which their young were hidden.

And now we could hear better their call, which sounds a little like the noise of a muted chain saw. A quick look around revealed other species of birds, and their calls, joined with the Puffins, created a wonderful background of avian sounds for our photography.

It was sunny and we could see vegetation moving in the breeze but there were no trees. Machias Seal Island is mostly 20 acres of rock, and rises only about 40 feet above sea level. But the sights and sounds and odors of the ocean and wildlife were intoxicating!

It was mating season (April to mid-August) and the Puffins flew off for food, looking a little like a wobbly football. In fact, they fly very well at 55 miles per hour and as far as 30 miles for their catch. They can dive down to 200 feet, using their wings as if flying, and their feet as rudders.



Razorbill confronting Common Murre

## FIELD RESEARCH NOTES

By Jason Herrick, Age 9 - c. 1980

**Subject: Interview of Robert Beal, lobsterman at Roque Island, Maine on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1980**

**Q:** How many lobster pots do you tend in one day?

**A:** About 200.

**Q:** What is your average catch of lobster per day?

**A:** About 70 lbs, or 55 lobsters.

**Q:** How often do you tend each pot?

**A:** Every day.

**Q:** How many lobsterman(sic) in the Jonesport area have licenses?

**A:** About 100.

**Q:** How long is the lobster-catching season?

**A:** Mid-May to late November.

**Q:** What bait do you use?

**A:** Sardines.

**Q:** How long can lobsters live in the trap after being caught?

**A:** About one month. They exist on salt water and kelp.

**Q:** What size lobster does the law require you to throw back?

**A:** Smaller than 3 3/16 inches or larger than 5 inches. The measure is taken along the back of the lobster with a ruler.

**Q:** Are the lobsters being overfished?

**A:** Somewhat overfished. There are some new lobsterman(sic) in the area.

**Q:** Are there any new ways of catching lobsters?

**A:** We are using wire traps instead of wooden ones and some use submersible lobster buoys.

**Q:** What are the best conditions for a lobster?

**A:** Water temperature of 48 degrees-52 degrees F. Hard uneven see(sic) bottom. Strong currents. This is why the best lobsters are in Maine, and in fact, right in this area. Forty miles further north, the water becomes too cold for lobsters.

**Q:** How often does the lobster change its shell?

**A:** Every year. Baby lobsters change eight or more times per year.

**Q:** Most lobsters have one claw longer than the other. How many are left handed or right handed?

**A:** Most of them seem to be left handed.

**Q:** What is the biggest lobster you have seen?

**A:** Fifteen pounds.

Field Research Notes

Subject: Interview of Robert Beal, lobsterman, at Roque Island, Maine on 15th August 1980

Q. How many lobster pots do you tend in one day?

A. About 200.

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A. Every day.

Q. How many lobsterman in the Jonesport area have license?

A. About 100.

Continued on page 14...

## SQUIRE'S POINT

### Top Ten Conspicuous or Distinctive Bird Songs/Calls at Roque

By George G. Herrick

The experience of sitting on the porch or walking through the woods may be enhanced by appreciating some of the more distinctive or conspicuous bird songs and calls at Roque. Here are the top ten. Moving on to the next ten will get you into some tricky warbler songs and one may quibble which deserve to be included in the list.

Hermit Thrush

White-throated sparrow

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Song Sparrow

Common Loon

Slate-colored Junco

Winter Wren

Chickadee

Black-throated green Warbler

Gold-crowned Kinglet



Red-breasted Nuthatch

Common Loon

## DOWNEAST DISPATCH

### Waterfront Property Rights Questioned in Coastal Dispute

The Maine Supreme court has upheld a ruling of the lower court granting rights to scuba divers to cross the intertidal zone even if it privately owned. This decision is being hailed as one more swipe at the Moody Beach case of 1989 that strictly limited the public rights in the intertidal zones as originally set out in the Colonial Ordinance of 1647.

Many of Maine's coastal property owners hold deeds that include the beaches to low water. The public's right to cross these intertidal zones is limited by the 350-year-old ordinance to fishing, fowling or navigation. A number of cases before the courts since 1989 have tried to expand on that definition.

McGarvey v. Whittredge was argued November 10, 2010 and decided on in August 25 this year. The six judges (one recused himself because he was a coastal land owner) agreed in the "right of the public to walk across intertidal lands to reach the ocean for the purposes of scuba diving" but were divided in their reasons. Three justices agreed that scuba diving was a form of navigation and three concluded "our common law has regularly accommodated the public's right to cross the intertidal land to reach the ocean for ocean based activities.

John Foster, attorney for the plaintiff, said, "it is very unusual for six to agree to an outcome but not agree to the reason." He added, "Without a majority opinion you can not cite this as a precedent."

Adam Steinman, who filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case representing the Surfrider Foundation, said of the victory, "You can read a little more into it. The public right is being expanded." He then offered that, "The bright-line test for navigation will be when we look at the "Peaks to Portland" swim and see it as navigation."

Continued on page 7...

## TIDAL ENERGY VESSEL & TURBINE VISITS MAINE

Tidal energy vessel and turbine visit Portland, Maine for energy conference

June 13, 2011

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) -- A Maine-based tidal energy company brought a prototype underwater turbine the size of a school bus to the city's waterfront on the eve of an international ocean energy conference, and the company's president and CEO declared Monday that tidal energy's time has come.

At 46 feet long, Energy Tide 2 is described as the largest tidal energy turbine ever deployed in the U.S., and it underwent extensive testing last year off Maine's eastern tip.

Ocean Renewable Power Co. is in the process of building a larger unit -- about 90 feet long -- that will be deployed this fall and connected to the Bangor Hydro-Electric Co. grid by year's end.

"Tidal energy has come to Portland, and it's here to stay," Chris Sauer, Ocean Renewable's president and CEO, said before opening its research vessel up for tours.

The 35-ton research vessel and tidal power unit arrived in Portland for the EnergyOcean International Conference, which is expected to draw more than 400 people Tuesday through Thursday. Christopher Hart, offshore wind manager with the U.S. Department of Energy, will deliver the keynote address.

Ocean Renewable's research vessel is essentially a barge loaded with electrical equipment and monitoring devices, and with the capability of raising and lowering the turbine unit.



On board, researchers can monitor the speed of the ocean current, the revolutions of turbines and voltage and power output, as well as underwater cameras. The entire system is sturdy enough to operate on its own, and it did so during a two-week period in December when the weather was too rough for workers reach the device off Eastport.

Ocean Renewable, which holds permits for three sites in the waters off Eastport, where the tide rises and falls 20 feet, isn't the only U.S. company harnessing the power of the ocean's tides. New York-based Verdant Power intends this year to put new underwater turbines in New York City's East River, where they'll connect to the grid.

Verdant's design looks a lot like a wind turbine. Ocean Renewable uses rotating foils that lend the appearance of a manual push reel lawnmower. Both companies are awaiting federal approval to proceed.

Depending on the location, Ocean Renewable's turbines will generate 60 to 150 kilowatts, enough electricity to power 25 to 60 homes, said John Ferland, vice president of project development. The goal is to have up to 3 megawatts of capacity, or about 21 of the units, deployed by 2014, Ferland said.

Monday's event on the Portland waterfront came nearly a month after Gov. Paul LePage splashed some cold water on renewable power, saying that creating jobs through "corporate welfare" is not a sustainable way to stimulate the economy. "The majority of these 'green jobs' are temporary," he added.

Sauer said Monday that the governor may have concerns about some forms of renewable power, but he said the governor has been supportive of tidal energy efforts.

Ocean Renewable already has created or retained 100 or more jobs, so the jobs aren't theoretical, Sauer said. And while it has obtained \$14 million in federal funding and \$3 million in loans from the state, Ocean Renewable has raised more than that -- about \$20 million -- in private equity, he added.

"This isn't theory because we're actually doing it. We have equipment in the water, so it's a fact," he said. "We think this is a highly desirable new industry for the state of Maine."

## PARLOR GAMES

By George G. Herrick

Parlor games have a long history. Chess and gambling games go back to the beginning of time. Masques and pantomimes have an early history in England. *Jeux de Société* like charades and acting proverbs were a feature of 18th century French court amusement. Colonial America played card games on elegant tables and enjoyed memory games with cards of Shakespearean characters or historical dates.

But it was not until the spread of refinement in America and the woman's assumption of control over the parlor around 1840 that games became a widespread family and social amusement. There was a virtual explosion of large circulation books on parlor pastimes, fireside amusements and evening entertainment summarizing hundreds of games beginning around 1850. These included conjuring, magic, musicals and play acting in addition to parlor games as we know them. About the same time the invention of chromolithography spurred the creation of multiple (and colorful) board games. It is safe to assume that the Gardner family was familiar with them as they moved to re-settle Roque Island in 1882. Indeed George Howard Monks had invented Halma, or Chinese Checkers, in the 1880's, a game that was soon produced in England and played by the British Royal Family.



The respective games closets in the Gardner and Monks houses testify to the enduring charm of games and need for entertainment. Close analysis might discern an emphasis on financial risk taking in one house or historical memory in the other. Games there were of risk or chance, of strategy or imagination, of memory or invention. One reads of Forfeits and Tableaux Vivants in period memoirs and pen and pencil games like Dumbo Crambo, Anagrams and *Bouts rimés*. What was the purpose or the result of parlor games? They sharpened skills, refined behavior, exercised the brain, broke the ice, developed memory and literary skills, established dominance and showed off the charms of young ladies.

Each Roque Island family has its own memory bank of parlor games. Charades has long been popular and the Dictionary Game has gathered momentum. Diplomacy was popular for a time and Monopoly has been a perennial favorite of the young. Grandmother's Trunk was a testing memory game on long boat trips and Twenty Questions, a game going back 200 years, too. Personality profiles and a number of literary games like writing passages in the style of different authors are in vogue. There are occasional attempts at *vers de société*, the fashion of an earlier day, on specific occasions but they are perhaps too private to circulate.

Parlor games are one more aspect or layer of the civilized life which Roque Island has recognized and absorbed.

I have a collection of early American game boards and a library shelf of 19<sup>th</sup> century books about parlor games.



## DOWNEAST DISPATCH - Continued from page 6

Although Steve Whittredge and William McGarvey Jr are named in this case, the dispute was actually between Jonathan Bird and McGarvey's late mother, Mary Jo Kleintop.

The Eastport property purchased by Bird (originally with Whittredge) in 1996 includes a small parcel across the street that leads down to the water's edge at high tide. Bird is a professional scuba diver, underwater cinematographer and producer of Jonathan Bird's *Blue World*, winner of several Emmy awards. In fact, one of the stars of his season two episode shot off Eastport is a monstrous wolf fish named Gene that lives in the waters right in front of his property. About six times a year, he dives from his beach.

Mary Jo Kleintop owned the property next door that includes the intertidal zone passing between Bird's piece and the water. Although she made it clear from his first visits to the property that she owned the intertidal zone, Bird continued to use his patch of rocky shore to cross with his gear. On many occasions he had other divers with him.

"I think that I inherited a neighborly feud," said Bird recently referring to the harsh words that were exchanged between him and Kleintop from the first meetings. "She made it clear that she did not like me, but what I did realize was that for years and years my diving was making her angry."

Kleintop's family has owned the shore-front property of a former fish factory for decades, where she maintained an exceptional coastal garden that was enjoyed and photographed by many. She died last year, so her son William (Skip) McGarvey, who owned the property with her, spoke on her behalf, "my mother found Bird and his friends to be rowdy and rude and she did not want them to be on her land. They were disrespectful of her and even called in the police."

Bird admits to being "you and obnoxious then" and said that they both had called the police in on each other. Bird mentioned that, at one point, the Eastport tax assessor Carl Young sent a letter to Kleintop expressing an opinion that Bird should have a right to cross the beach. "She was very stubborn."

Once the suit against Bird was filed by Kleintop and McGarvey in 2008 for trespassing, the required mediation did not succeed. "All she wanted was an apology," said McGarvey. "She wanted me to admit that I needed permission," said Bird.

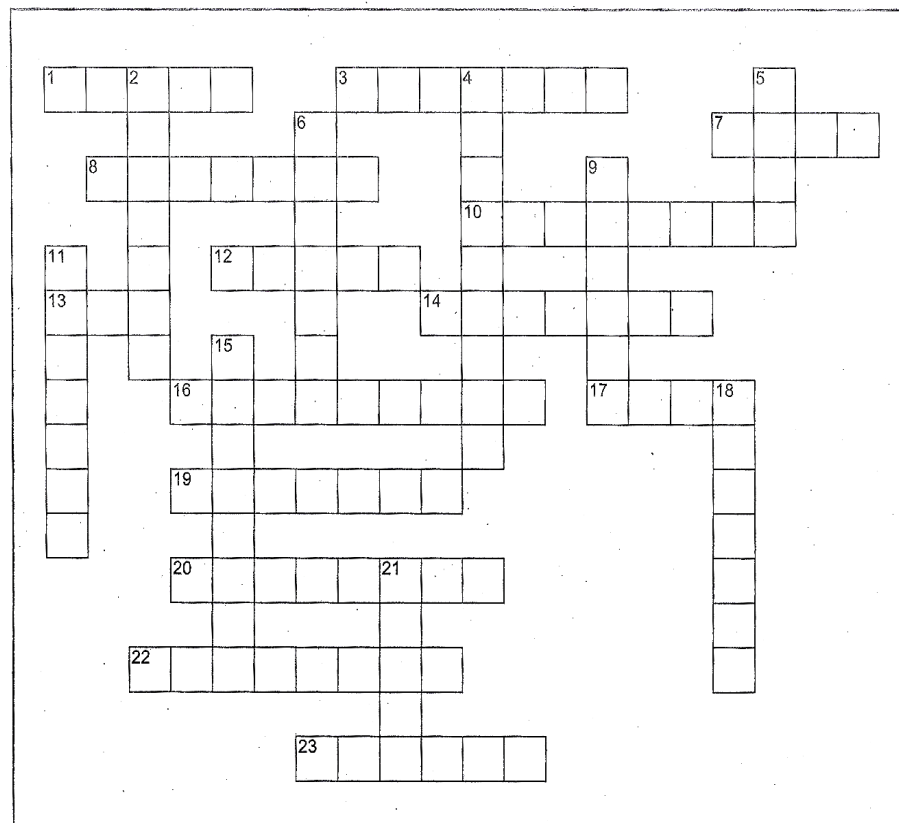
In early 2010 Superior Court Justice, Kevin Cuddy found scuba diving to be an acceptable form of navigation. According to Foster, Kleintop, before her death, requested that the decision be appealed. She did not live to see that decision upheld.

Bird does not see himself as "someone who is trying to free the beaches." "I see both sides of the issue" referring to public and private property rights. He just hopes "that we can bury the hatchet and come to a truce."

This article is from the *Working Waterfront / Inter-Island News*, written by Leslie Bowman, May 2011.



## CROSSWORD



## Lobster Puzzle

created by W. Curtis

## ACROSS

- 1 Lobster weighing over 2.5 pounds  
 3 Larger claw  
 7 Lobster with one claw  
 8 Sluggish lobster  
 10 Lobster liver  
 12 Lobster roe  
 13 Female lobster  
 14 Small, tender lobster  
 16 Difficult to crack lobster  
 17 Wire cage used to capture lobsters  
 19 Procedure for safe lobster handling  
 20 Lobster with fully formed eggs  
 22 Person who baits traps  
 23 Lobster weighing 1.75 to 2 pounds

## DOWN

- 2 Term for lobster losing its shell  
 4 Easy to eat lobster  
 5 Trap location identifier  
 6 Female lobster carrying eggs  
 9 A size category for lobsters weighing 1 to 3 pounds  
 11 Lobster that has molted  
 15 The body shell measured from back of eye socket to end of shell to determine legal size  
 18 Smaller claw  
 21 String of traps

For puzzle solutions, visit [www.workingwaterfront.com/crosswords](http://www.workingwaterfront.com/crosswords)

## LICHEN

Fossil-like Crustose lichens of genus *Rhizocarpon* (common name map lichens) found in exposed areas on Roque Island embedded in the rocks. There is a high diversity of Crustose lichen on the rocks below the Red House. The renowned lichenologists who visited the island this summer are working on a report for our collections. Another team would like to visit the island next summer. One more thing to see and to collect on Roque.

-GGH



This sample was collected by Nannette Herrick in October.

## FROM THE LIBRARY



This the beginning of an annual column spotlighting references to family members in books. Please feel free to contribute any you may come across. - George G. Herrick

Cousin Mary Endicott Chamberlain married British Colonial Secretary Joseph Chamberlain and lived the rest of her life in England, where she encountered some different customs. Here she is visiting the Prince and Princess of Wales at the royal castle, Sandringham:

"...the guests returned to the house and ate heartily themselves, only to find on departure they must list not only names but weights in the guest book. Mary was glad she and Joe had been traveling, for they always lost weight then. They solemnly took their turns on the scales: Joe emerged at 156, Mary at 123 1/2 pounds!"

*Mistress of Herself*  
 Diana Whitehill Laing (1965)

## BOTANY 101

Senior naturalist **Norman Famous** could be available next summer for informal instruction (A couple of hours) in collecting botanical specimens on Roque and pressing them. Appropriate supplies and identification books will be available in the Family Room. He can be contacted by calling **207-623-6072** to make an appointment.



## FLOTSAM

## Births

- ▶ Eliana Kalena Pertzoff, born to Constantin (Dino) and Tanya Pertzoff on 6/1/2011
- ▶ Nicholas Andrew Lowell Berger, born to Ellen & Keith Berger on 6/21/2011
- ▶ Wilkes Gardner Ridall, born to Isabella and Andrew Ridall on 10/16/2011

## Weddings

- ▶ Rebecca Lee Barden married Jeff Newman on September 24, 2011
- ▶ Timothy Herrick married Katie Sloman on October 9, 2010 in Coronado, CA