

Jeff Newman Photography

<p>Manager's notes <i>The end of the season</i> Page 4</p>	<p>Squire's Point <i>The Dock</i> Page 5</p>	<p>Family Profile <i>Heather Monks</i> Page 5</p>	<p>Op-Ed <i>John Higgins</i> Page 8 <i>(and much more...)</i></p>
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Chairman's Notes

Randy Goodhue

The October Trustees meeting on Roque was like no other. The new Advisory Board (AB) joined us for the first time, and participated in an enlightening panel discussion on Roque's Long Range Plan and Mission Statement. All toll, we hosted 35 people for the weekend. We kicked things off with a harvest moonrise over Great Beach; a spectacular sight!

The Advisory Board members are: Teresa Davis, forester; Norm Famous, naturalist; Mick Petersen, Ph.D, environmental engineer; Hilton Dier, renewable energy design; John Piotti, director of Maine Farmland Trust; Stephen Mohr, landscape architect, Roger Milliken, nature conservationist; and George Herrick, Chair of AB and founder of EMCI.

Each member was identified due to their knowledge, skills and experience in fields that are mission critical to Roque and its future. Some of the AB members have worked with Roque for many years, while others have recently volunteered their services. There is an AB information package in the Family Room and each of the houses for the members to read.

My remarks will be limited to a summation of the AB's panel discussion, which was monitored by Nick Higgins. Thank you Nick for doing such a great job. I think all agreed the panel discussion was extremely productive. Save for Roger Milliken, all of the AB members were present, and George Herrick chaired the meeting.





Forestry

Teresa Davis

Roque's forest has never been managed properly, nor have we adhered to our Forest Management Plan, last submitted in 2004. The plan is scheduled for renewal in 2014. Roque has a same age stand that is susceptible to disease. Our Tree Growth tax status tail has wagged the dog. With Roque and Marsh now under Farmland tax status, we can now focus on truly "managing" our forestry resource. At the moment, the outer islands remain in Tree Growth. We are scheduled to harvest on Great Spruce next year. It and Lakeman's (may be eligible for Farmland) are harvestable, and will most likely remain in Tree Growth, while the other smaller islands will probably not qualify and may end up as Open Space. We need to be vigilant and thin the recent cuts on Roque. Teresa will work with our naturalist, Norm Famous, to assure that the planned cut on Great Spruce is selective. Jonesport's Appeals Board recently granted us a variance for logging on Great Spruce (the shoreline loading area required a variance). The DEP is upset with the town for granting the variance and could challenge the decision.

Naturalism

Norm Famous

Our naturalist is almost finished compiling a book of Roque's many treasured natural resources. It will include everything from birds to lichen; a literal dictionary to refer to. Norm has been working on this book for years. It is exciting that he believes the completion of this valuable manuscript is at hand. All of Norm's studies and papers are archived in his house, and should be moved to a more appropriate local to be determined. Norm will create a Roque naturalist website that is more user friendly for the family. We are exploring ecotourism on Roque as a profitable endeavor. In addition to Norm's house, many records are in the Family Room for the family's benefit. Numerous renowned scientists continue to visit Roque. They register in a special guest book (for scientist's only) located in the Family Room. Environmental surveys continue on Roque.

Hopefully the Maine Audubon Society will visit in 2014.

Alternative Energy

Mick Petersen

Mick has been instrumental at putting Roque in the fore of Maine's renewable energy/tidal power initiative. He secured a grant from NASA to develop Roque's state of the art energy monitoring and control system. He and Anna Demeo published an article on Roque and Small Community Grid Systems. He is working with Roque, Chewonki, Passamaquoddy and U Maine to secure another grant. He will work with us on how to approach the local community to position Roque to secure additional grants. Between solar, wind and tidal, we hope Roque will be a model for small island renewable energy sustainability. Mick is a foremost authority on tidal power and is working hard to have Roque serve a laboratory for the first small tidal turbine.

Alternative Energy

Hilton Dier

Hilton has worked closely with Mick towards Roque's preparation for going off the grid. He is responsible for our 10K solar array on the main barn that was completed this summer. Wind is our next RE initiative. It's Hilton's belief that with another 10K solar array and a 6K wind turbine we will supply 98% of Roque's electrical demand. RE is all about storage and that is what the tidal capability will eventually reduce the need for. A 40 meter wind tower has been lent to Roque by the Unity College. We have the use of the tower for 2 years to determine our wind supply and other specific inputs critical to a successful deployment of a wind turbine. We are working with Mick Wormsley of Unity College and Anna Demeo of College of Atlantic to have students from both institutions visit Roque this spring. They will install the tower and the monitoring equipment. This will be part of their course curriculum. We have updated our internet system to accommodate the new more sophisticated monitoring and control system. So far, everything we have accomplished has been at no cost to Roque. Our only expense was

the purchase of the 48 solar panels on the main barn. The panels were funded privately by supportive members. Thank you all!

Farm

John Piotti

John reviewed his farm recommendations formulated based on this spring's meeting in Portland. Now that Roque is under Farmland tax status, it is more important than ever to have a Farm Plan, which we do not. That's not to say that the Farmland tax status tail will wag the dog again, but that we should take advantage of this new development. It provides us with an opportunity to develop a detailed business plan of the farm operation. He has many ideas for possible improvements including product levels and tailored production. He stressed how important it is for the family to determine what they want out of the farm. Many ideas were tossed about including EMCI's involvement, agratourism and intern programs.

Long Range Planning

Stephen Mohr

Stephen reported that our existing Long Range Plan is still a good one and still applicable. He stated that "old is new"! He could see no structural issues. We have a very "compact" site. Areas of focus are the rebuilding of the waterfront, and the wood shop and walk-in freezer locations. The potential of a new family house was discussed. He suggested it be year round,





modular and constructed with a 10-50 year vision.

EMCI

George Herrick

George, as acting AB Chair, anchored the panel discussion. How appropriate. He focused on EMCI and the out island easements recently granted to EMCI. He stated it is critical to be compliant and abide by the land management filing requirements. It is quite possible that EMCI will play a greater role in Roque's future. He reported on the need to identify a "science gap" to focus on in conjunction with Roque. Climate change is an area of interest he cited. Subsequent to the meeting, we sought out the Climate Change Institute and offered its Board the opportunity to come to Roque for their annual field trip next fall. They were very interested and will be back to us with their final decision soon. This would represent Roque's first profitable venture into ecotourism, although I would hesitate to refer to such a prestigious group of scientists and doctors as tourists!

Q&A and closing remarks focused on a changing Roque; a more engaged Roque; a more energy efficient Roque; a more affordable Roque; and a Roque where the natural resources are preserved, studied and utilized to promote the island's long term sustainability. By forming the AB and benefitting from the members' advice, we will be better positioned to execute our Mission Statement. As important, the AB members are no longer volunteering their time and resources in silos. There is an understanding and an appreciation for each of the AB member's contribution. We now have a cross current of talented and experienced professionals willing to assist us meet our goals. How fortunate is Roque to have such support!



Cheers,

Randy Goodhue
Chairman



*Don't forget to friend us
on Facebook!*



Manager's Notes

Bruce Patterson

Looking out my window as I begin to write this a few days before Thanksgiving I see Shorey Cove covered in white caps and 3 foot waves crashing against the cliffs on the head. We are expecting wind gusts for the next few days exceeding 40 kts with temps dipping into the teens. Fall is in full force and winter is fast approaching.

The staff enjoyed seeing and having good conversations with all the family and their guest that holidayed on Roque this year. For all of you that missed making it to the island we hope to see you in 2014.

Even though the guest season for 2013 has past we still have plenty of work to finish out the fall and to take us through the winter. A lot of projects are weather dependent but others we can work on in the heated shop or a basement or two.

Over on the farm we are making some changes in our watering system to cut back on using heating devices to keep our critters water thawed. This will require more hands on work and a of course more time. We just processed our last batch of broilers so the staff will be eating a lot of chicken this winter. All the horses have had their shoes removed for the winter. Lilly's hooves are now in the best shape they have ever been in due to a regiment of supplements she is being given twice a day. Our ram was just set out with her girls but we are afraid that some may already be pregnant due to an earlier escape. The garden is pretty much closed down but we still need to harvest a good bit of rock weed as a covering for the winter and spring.



On the waterfront we have removed all the smaller moorings, stored the *Sand Peep* and are in the process of winterizing the other boats and storing them. We will be hauling out our barge when the weather permits and then hauling out the ramp and float after Thanksgiving. We will be having to replace the steel bracket that holds the ramp over the winter. A new and improved kayak rack will be built this winter.

The project at Patten Cove is progressing along nicely. The deck substructure is in place and the walls have been re-boarded as needed. Jay has rebuilt all the window frames and after some work on the windows they will be going in. We will be using island lumber for a deck covering once we cut and mill some more trees.

We hope everyone has a great winter and we look forward to seeing all in 2014.

Bruce



The camp at Patten Cove



Squires Point

George Herrick

The Dock at Roque Island is our lifeline, and vital link to the mainland. The boat trip from the Roque Bluffs dock is a mark of our distinction from the rest of the continent, and a communal symbol of our relationship with one another. Whereas walking leaves footprints, riding in boats leaves no traces. This further removes travelers from the rest of the world. When you arrive at the Roque Island dock, you step out of time, separating yourself from the linear temporality of mainland life, and assuming the freedom of island time. Nevertheless, there is a certain umbilical attachment between the two. Arrivals and departures become habits and routines, shared experiences, and fond memories, too.

You remember all your life the sights and sounds at the Dock. As Isabella Stewart Gardner put it in *West of Childhood* in *Summer Remembered* (1965), you hear:

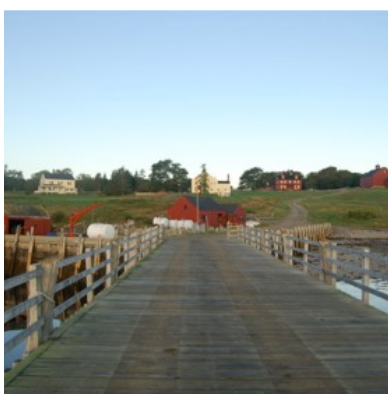
The munching of saltwater at the splintered dock
The slap and slop of waves on little sloops
The quarreling of oarlocks across the bay

All kinds of things happen at the Dock. That's where the rowboats and powerboats beckon. That's where you swim in the cold and bracing Atlantic brine. That's where little boys in neversinks jump into the water to test their buoyancy. It is a good place to learn how to tie your bowline and other knots. From the Dock you can see herons and kingfishers, gulls and terns, and all the sea ducks in the harbor. On the float, at the bottom of the ramp, there are the submerged containers of lobsters, clams and mussels for dinner. In the fall, the decoys come out for duck shooting, and need to be restrung. At the flagpole, the stars and stripes dip to salute a departure or a family member passing.

And then, there's the time-honored tradition of just whiling the time away. Recall Otis Redding's 1967 Lyric "(Sitting On) The Dock Of The Bay:

I'm sitting on the dock of the bay
Watchin' the tide roll away, ooh
I'm just sitting on the dock of the bay
Wastin' time

The boathouse is a treasure chest of good things: clam rakes, fishing lines, rubber boots, lengths of rope, oars, bailers, and clam rollers. The boathouse is a workshop, too: there is plenty of wood, sandpapers, chisels and hammers, nails, paint, and turpentine. Many a tool or Christmas present has been fashioned there. There is often to be seen a small boat being sanded and painted. Out back, there used to be racks where an abundant catch of fish, with its promise of another chowder, dried in the sun. In the welding shop, where you can sharpen your axes, nesting Barn Swallows flit in and out. This is the lair of the boatman, who is ever ready with an anecdote of local lore, the latest weather report and good humor. The boathouse has symbolic legend and power: it has been the focus of many paintings on Roque.



The Dock is also a good place for festivities. There is often a Fourth of July dinner laid out on a hay wagon, with a small bonfire on the beach nearby. It can be a place for ceremonies of one kind or another, dances, stargazing, and other communal activities.

The Dock also has continuing functional uses. Sixteen feet wide, it stretches out 111 feet over the tidal flats where it rises 17 feet four inches above the lowest tides. A few great tides overwhelm it several times a year, at the equinoxes or in a gale. The scow brings over fuel and lumber. Cows and pigs travel over to market. Vehicles need to be sent back and forth for repair. Sacks of grain and cement make the trip. Sapling trees, waving their branches, sail in. It is a working dock that keeps us alive even as it animates the scene.



Family Profile—Heather Monks

Interviewed by Molly Cutler



Heather Elizabeth Monks is a sixth generation descendant of George Augustus Gardner. She is the daughter of Bryan Monks and Valerie Monks David and she lives in Castle Rock, Colorado.

At age 16, Heather has already demonstrated a serious commitment to Roque Island, particularly the farm. In the summer of 2012, she worked as an unpaid farm intern for about three weeks. She is expected to return in a similar capacity during the summer of 2014. Her enthusiasm and work ethic will be welcomed. "Great with the horses, haying and all around. Really into the farm," says Manager Bruce Patterson.

I hope many of you will have a chance to meet Heather when you visit Roque next summer. In the meantime, let's get to know her a bit.

Where are you going to school?

I go to Castle View High School in Castle Rock. I am a part of the Biotechnology and Health Sciences program at my school. This is to help introduce kids into what they want to go into for their career.

Do you have a favorite subject?

Science. I love science. I am absolutely thrilled and curious about it. I always want to know what is going on in science today and it amazes me so much as far as the technology and the new things we are creating. On the other side of that, I love

art and mainly photography. Photography and Medicine are my passions.

How do you like to spend your non-school hours during the school year?

How I like to spend it or how I really spend it? I really spend it between my part time job as a hostess at a local Italian restaurant, and studying for school. When I'm not working or studying you'll find me behind the lens of my camera. I love photography so much. I do it on the side and sell my prints. I also love to ski and during the winter will be racing my dad down the mountain.

If you were stranded in the middle of nowhere and you could choose one electronic device to have with you, what would it be?

This is actually hard. Initially I would have my camera. But without my laptop I can't edit the photos and then they'd just be stuck on the memory card. So then I was thinking well I would bring my computer, but there's no Wi-Fi so well, darn. And then I realized why am I stranded? I would just bring a helicopter. That counts as an electronic device. Right?

What is your earliest memory of Roque Island?

I've seen so many pictures of me as a little baby on Roque. But that's not my memory. The earliest memory I can think of would be building a fairy house. I remember looking all around for this specific piece of moss I wanted, but couldn't find.

Do you have any special traditions, either as a family or on your own individually, that are part of every visit?

We do an annual boat ride around the island, hike and put our initials on St. Roque. When we leave we throw pennies and make a wish, and of course there's the annual lobster dinner. My dad and I always try to take a horse ride to North or Great Beach.

I have a few traditions of my own. I always try to wake up and see the sunrise come over the Head. After that I take a hike to Patten Cove or Bonney Point, or around.

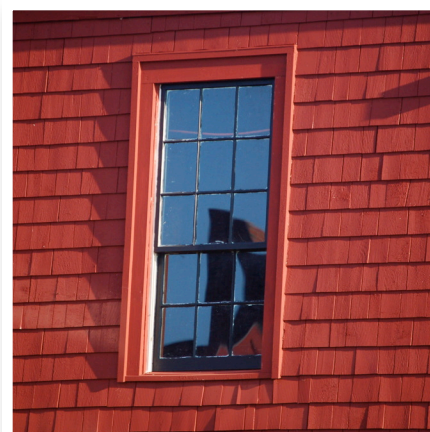
Where is your favorite place to go on the island?

My favorite place to go... Hmm this is hard. I don't think I can pick one specific place. I mean Roque is such a gift that I don't think I can narrow it down to one place of perfection. It is all amazing, from the beaches to the forests to the farm to the pastures to the Head to Saint Roque and everything in between. I can't pick one place. Out of the whole world my favorite place to go is to Roque, and therefore it's all equally my favorite. It's all perfect.

How did you come to love the farm?

My dad, Bryan Monks, worked on the island when he was my age. He showed me the farm; he showed me how to be around the horses, how to brush and tack a horse. He showed me the chickens and the turkeys. He was the one who got me involved, showed me the "magic" of the farm.

It was a few years ago that someone asked me, "What's your mark going to be on this world?" I have always been thinking about this. What am I truly going to leave? I decided I should get involved in something that brings me joy and happiness, and that was the farm on Roque. So I did the first thing a 12 year-old me could do – help.





Heather Elizabeth Monks Cont.

When I get older I want to get involved with the board and maybe become a Junior Trustee but for now, I'm content working/helping out on Roque.

Best thing about farming at Roque?

The wholesome goodness of it. This is the most organic, healthy, natural experience we can see first hand. I took this whole class on how farming today is one giant production line. On Roque it isn't. The farmer and family care about what is happening to our food and on Roque we can see first hand what really happens. We process the chickens on island. From chick to dinner table, it's all on island. It's so real. The butter is some of the best butter in the world and this is because it's just straight cream. Real cream. Good cream. Makes for fantastic butter. Yumm...

Favorite animal(s)?

Horses. By farrrrrrrr. I love horses. They are so gentle and caring and have true personalities. I used to ride every day, at home. I used to show. Like big time show, with the fancy coat, and the boots that take 20 minutes to get on. It was fun but I lost the connection with the horses. At Roque, it is so easy to rekindle my love for horses.

Did you gain a new perspective on Roque Island as a result of working as an intern?

Definitely. I gained a lot more appreciation for Roque and everyone who works on it. Everyday there is a new project to be done. I used to think that staff would be able to ride horses or go to Great Beach whenever they wanted, and it just doesn't work that way. Everyone is working on some kind of crucial project at all times. I also realized how efficient everyone is. It's not always vacationland and there's a lot more going on behind the scenes than I thought there was.

What is the most important thing you have learned from your time on the island that you would like to share with your Roque generation?

Do not take it for granted!!!! The beautiful place we have grown up with is soon our responsibility and we mustn't let it go to waste. It may not be our responsibility now, but in X amount of years it will be and we, as my generation, need to maintain the pristine beauty that is Roque now. I don't know what more I can say, than it's soon going to be our job to manage Roque. I know I want my children to have the same experience I did growing up, and that's going to be on us guys.

How do you describe Roque to friends who have never been there?

I don't really mention it... I did once and it was just complicated...



Lobster Trivia

People love to eat lobster, as evidenced by the fact that Maine fishermen catch and sell between 55 million and 60 million pounds of the tasty crustacean each year. The following are some interesting lobster facts:

- It takes the average lobster from five to seven years to reach legal size. In that time it will shed its shell between 25 and 27 times.
- A female lobster will bear between 6,000 and 100,000 eggs. Fishery conservation laws in Maine prevent fishermen from keeping egg-bearing females.
- There are more than 7,000 licensed lobster fishermen in Maine. Each year they put out more than 3 million traps.
- Prior to the ability to can food in the mid 1800's, lobsters were considered only good enough to use as fertilizer. In fact, lobsters collected after storms washed them ashore were only fed to the hired help.
- Lobsters are naturally a greenish, yellow color. Only cooked lobsters are red. The most rare color is blue. Only about one in 2 million lobsters is blue.
- The largest lobster ever caught was pulled up off Nova Scotia and weighed just over 44 pounds. It was believed to be more than 100 years old. Divers off the Maine coast have reported seeing lobsters much larger than that.
- The only legal way to catch lobsters is with a lobster trap. The largest lobsters typically found in traps weigh 15 pounds, although ones that big must be thrown back for exceeding the maximum size.
- Despite the fact they have more than 20,000 "eyes", lobsters have terrible vision and communicate by smell and sensing movement with their antenna.

Article From Bangor Daily Press August 2013



Op-Ed

John P.M. Higgins

The following was excerpted from the Advisory Board panel discussion held this past October 19 at the Trustees Weekend on Roque Island regarding the governance and finances of RIGHC. This section was written and presented by John P.M. Higgins.

Governance and Finances at Roque Island

There are four principal components that impact Governance and Finance issues at Roque Island:

- 1) Family – which provides our “core” energy going forward. Our family is connected historically and genetically, and those members of it who share a passionate belief in its mission will be the ones carrying it forward to the next generations.
- 2) Capacity to govern – can this continue to be nurtured to address in a functional manner inevitable challenges in the future?
- 3) Capacity to finance – the Island does not come for free, and will require continued and increasing financial participation by its members.
- 4) “Relevance” – the expression of which is not just survival, but survival with a purpose, from an ethical stance respecting care for the Island’s environment, its neighborhood and its own family community.

Historically, there have been three periods, or “models” under which Roque has existed. The Island was acquired by Joseph Peabody in 1806, purely for commercial purposes – lumbering and boat building. Joseph never visited the place, though he did send his nephew down here. After his death in 1844, there was no sense of continuity with the same mission, and a different energy with a different mission was lacking. A sale, in this case in 1868 to Roque’s caretakers John Shorey and Gilbert Longfellow, was the most logical outcome. The commercial model had failed to be sustaining.

When the Island was reacquired by two of Joseph Peabody’s grandsons in 1882, it was with a new purpose and mission, not commercially-related. From that moment, “Family”, “Governance”, “Finance” and indeed “Relevance” were vested in two brothers – George Augustus Gardner and John Lowell Gardner, Jr. John died in 1898, leaving his brother as sole owner, until he in turn died in 1916. Both George and John had wealth and a sense of purpose to carry a relatively modest operation forward, before the baton was passed on to George’s children.

1940 marked the beginning of Roque’s “modern” era – creation of a Homestead Corporation (without stock ownership) to perpetuate the Island for certain descendants of George, who were becoming more numerous. The Corporation had a simple not-for-profit structure, with a defined membership that elected directors, who made sure the place was run properly. There was a rigid two-family (Monks and Gardner) power and voting structure, to make sure each branch was equally represented. Invariably, an outside Manager, resident on the Island, executed the annual plan according to a budget.

In practice, however, “democracy” did not come to the Island until the passing of Peabo Gardner, Sr., who for many years benevolently and generously paid for and ran the Island on behalf of other family members. After he died in 1976, the membership was forced to examine how it would take charge, govern itself and pay for things as a collective matter (aided by a modest endowment). The Tier System evolved, incorporating a way for members to share the space based on their desired level of participation, which importantly included paying for use. Gradually, the two-family voting structure was relaxed, until now, where there is only one family member representing each family branch, and significantly, spouses of members have an important role.

Today, we can look back and say we have had a terrific run. Family feuding relating to the governing of the Island is non-existent. The place is a true joy to visit, and few are the souls that are not refreshed with even a brief visit here. The board regularly cycles on participants who are passionate about the place and its mission. Costs have been balanced with endowment income and member contributions, and the plant is well-maintained by a wonderful, professional crew of dedicated people.

Going forward, however, there are clearly challenges – and we need to consider whether we can afford to bask in the glow of past warmth to meet them:



- 1) The family is growing, and its capacity to pay is becoming more polarized, in the sense that there are more people with less ability to pay. This will be acutely felt where certain subsidies (eg. generational) that were available in the past become reduced. As a further example, the Monks-Roque Trust last year paid 40% of all dues, but going forward, to keep itself on a sustainable footing, it may have to reduce this portion significantly.
- 2) There needs to be recognition that Roque will need substantially more endowment in order to survive – both for operations as well as for necessary capital outlays for new housing, storm-damaged docks, depreciated electric cables to the mainland, etc.
- 3) An essential governance question will be to accommodate the rights and prerogatives of those who provide money, with those who do not.
- 4) At some point, we will need to establish an equivalency between money and donated services. In short, there is need for a comprehensive re-examination of governance and rights to the use of Roque on an ongoing basis.
- 5) A lingering question that will need to be raised is the sacredness of the Monks/Gardner divide. Do we need to retain even a vestige of that?
- 6) Another query relates to the legitimacy of “side” endowments, like the Monks-Roque Trust and other funds dedicated to Roque, but not part of the inherited endowment. How should this side money be treated – under the Island’s control or otherwise (ie. at the whims of the donors)?
- 7) In the last analysis, we will need to recognize that there will probably be a squeeze: is Roque only for “true” participants – defined in money and/or work contribution terms – or is it for all heirs equally?
- 8) If all are to be included, their rights and responsibilities will need to be plainly and clearly delineated. This will be the ultimate challenge.

*Nemmetunx in naw Spumkeeg abean
 Sungamawary moagvadch aveivisian
 Amantenege patchee wawittw wagsaw
 koewtepermoc wawungaunuka ketungwat
 koewtaraevtamanwungan oownumbbe kikpatchey
 Kitungwat Mawmer'enee Aramagesekog
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 Kagungweyaw Keitbawneke
 Moosawk awrawque Setermekike
 Toung moug pawe whootche
 Sawawgee oowenamenaw
 Mukka wungguarrawawkesaw kenusue
 Wungmeneher meh meutotche keyk
 Neawritch*

*Father ours Heaven sitting
 Made great or glorious thy name
 we wish and desire, or may it be
 give us to-day and to come
 bread
 we desire Forgiveness
 Wherein we have made angry.
 we forgive faults against us
 must not think or take revenge
 keep us from evil things
 nor persuaded to, or put upon wicked things
 Ill things
 So be it, or Amen*

The Lord's Prayer translated from the Indians of Norridgewock and Penobscot in New England and Nova Scotia as it was translated for their use by French Jesuit, and attested to by four Indian Hostages in the presence of an interpreter at Boston Jan. 22 1720.



Downeast Dispatch

DEP Takes Issue With Jonesport Appeal Appeals Board Logging Variance; Selectmen: 'Decision Stands'

By Nancy Beal of the Downeast Coastal Press Vol. 26 No. 19

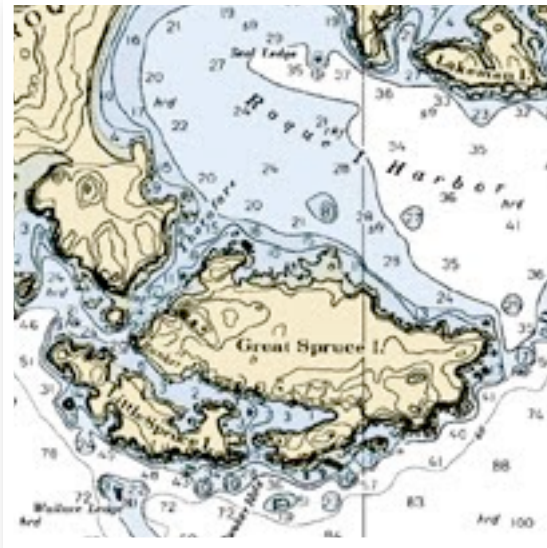
A variance request from the Roque Island Gardner Homestead Corporation (RIGHC) to permit logging on one of the islands that make up that Jonesport archipelago was heard by the town's board of appeals on September 23.

The appeal was lodged because of the planning boards rejection of a logging plan that involved building woods roads and woods yards near the shore of Great Spruce Island. While permitted with woods roads, the planning board denied the request to temporarily clear-cut a 14,600-square-foot-area staging yard, 75 or more feet away from the shoreline, on the grounds that the town's shoreline zoning ordinance allowed such clear-cuts only up to 10,000 square feet. RIGHC's forester, Teresa Davis of Otis, represented the family corporation before the board of appeals. She noted that, because of the prevalence of ledges and wetlands, Great Spruce had only a few areas suitable for woods yards and that anyone taking off cut logs was limited in time because of the tide. If RIGHC was not allowed to clear the larger area, she said, she was not sure she could find a logger who would be constrained with making the most of the time and tide. Even if she could, she said, the smaller yards would affect the profit margin of the logging operation.

Because RIGHC forests are in tree growth for tax purposes, the corporation is required to create and implement a logging plan. Davis said her plan was to cut 500 cords and boat them to a landing in Roque Bluffs.

The forester said she also worried about the potential damage from the spruce bark beetle, which is attracted to old forests like the ones on Great Spruce but is less fond of new growth, which is what would grow back. She added that she had obtained a

variance from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for logging on an island between Gouldsboro and Bar Harbor, so a variance was "not unheard of." She said of the proposed plan, "It doesn't seem like a heinous environmental mess."



Variance Criteria

According to both state law and Jonesport's board of appeals ordinance, a variance may be granted for "undue hardship." Such hardship must meet four criteria: The land cannot yield a reasonable return unless a variance is granted, the need for variance is caused by the unique circumstances of the property and not the general conditions in the neighborhood, the variance will not alter the essential character of the locality, and the hardship is not the result of action taken by the applicant or a prior owner.

After a couple of motions and much discussion the board of appeals decided that all of the criteria had been met and voted

unanimously to grant the variance on the basis of undue hardship.

Discussion and Vote

Jane McMichen, chairwoman of the board of appeals, observed that the state shoreland zoning directive on clear-cuts is less strict than Jonesport's, allowing a canopy of 14,000 square feet to be cleared. Because the appeal was being heard in a de novo proceeding--that is, one in which information is considered anew--the appeals board could factor in such information, she said. She told the panel it had the options of granting or denying the variance in full, with conditions, or to reconvene at another time to consider it.

Member William Smith moved to grant the variance. "It wont affect the character of the town," he said. "The state may grumble and growl, but they've done that before." His motion failed for lack of a second.

Board member Sarah Davis (no relation to Teresa) asked if the cutting would be a one-time event or ongoing. The forester told her the openings would not be permanent, although the woods roads would be kept cleared with mowing. Michael Church noted that the logging was for a profit operation, implying that the corporation was not unreasonable in wanting to maximize its profit. James Smith said, "All those big spruce trees will just blow over [if they're not cut]." "The trees will grow back," said Church.

Smith renewed his earlier motion to grant the variance, and this time it passed 5-0.

The Reasons

By law, a board of appeals must put any decision in writing, preceded by an explanation called "Findings of Fact." After listing all the facts associated with the appeal, the findings noted that "elevated



Downeast Dispatch

DEP Takes Issue With Jonesport Appeal Appeals Board Logging Variance; Selectmen: 'Decision Stands' (continued)

shoreline leaves only a few natural points of ingress and egress for timber removal.” They further read, “The board of also consulted the Maine Forestry Service Statewide Standards which allow cutting opening of 14,000 square feet at distances greater than 75....from the normal high water mark. The board decided that this was highly relevant to the applicants request for a variance.”

Based on its findings, the appeals board concluded that the request for a variance was justified and approved it unanimously without conditions.

DEP Input

Before the September 23 hearing, input from the DEP was solicited and, in a letter dated September 19, Stephenie MacLagan of the DEP's Division of Land Resource Regulation wrote, discouraging the granting of the variance. “The Maine Supreme Court has consistently held that the loss of greatest return does not mean all return is lost” she wrote. She wrote that “denial of a variance, which does not render the property substantially useless but allows for recreational use....is not a taking,” and argued that the variance request should be denied.

The board of appeals also sought legal counsel from the town's attorney at the Bangor firm of Rudman and Winchell, who basically gave instructions on conducting an appeals hearing and did not weigh in on what the decision should be.

During discussion of RIGHC's variance request, McMichen told her colleagues that the board had previously granted one exception from ordinance standards--involving the height of a structure--and had gotten an “angry letter” from the DEP. Last week, history repeated itself.

DEP Reaction to the 'Yes' Vote

Last week, another letter from the DEP's MacLagan, dated October 21, was placed before the town--at the selectmen's October 30 meeting. The letter said that the town had “erroneously granted” the RIGHC variance, had “not properly administered” its shoreland zoning ordinance and had “failed to consider [DEP] comments [September 19 letter] on the variance request.”

The findings of fact did not reflect that the appeals board considered how undue hardship is tested, she wrote, and then she said the board “incorrectly tested at least two of the criteria for undue hardship.” It appeared that the board of appeals used the Maine Forestry Service Statewide Standards instead of its own ordinance, she said.

The DEP considers “improper administration of shoreland zoning a very serious matter,” she wrote and, if it continues, “the department will take enforcement action against the municipality. If this matter is due to a lack of clear understanding of your ordinance provisions,” she concluded, “I urge you to contact me for assistance.”

A clearly exasperated Selectmen William “Bimbo” Look was first to respond. “Why do we need a board of appeals if the DEP is going to act as our board?” he said.

“If we don't allow the harvest,” said Selectman Harry Fish, “the trees will die and fall over and the islands will be bald.”

McMichen, who attends most selectmen's meetings, said the board of appeals considered and discussed MacLagan's first letter, but didn't agree with her. “We're a de novo board,” she said, “and therefore we can entertain new evidence”--such as the state's less restrictive clear-cut standards. Jonesport's shoreland zoning ordinance, which initially mirrored the state protocol, was last amended in 2003, before the state relaxed its clear-cut rules.

Selectman Dwight Alley asked whether the town should stop the RIGHC harvest.

Planning board member Bruce Patten said that any responsibility to bring injunction to stop the logging lay within the state, not the town. MacLagan copied her October 21 letter to the Maine Forest Service, which, she wrote, “may or may not take further action to prevent erosion, sedimentation and impacts to habitat.”

For its part, the board of selectmen directed their administrative assistant to respond to MacLagan, indicating that her first letter was considered and that selectmen thought that the appeals board acted properly, and to inform her that “the decision stands.”





From the Library

Eliza Endicott Peabody

Forward by John Higgins

Eliza Endicott Peabody was born on October 4th, 1834 in Salem. She was the fifth of seven children of George and Clarissa Endicott Peabody, and the third of five girls. She was pretty, vivacious with dark hair and blue eyes, and the apple of her father's eye.

Eliza married her first cousin, George Augustus Gardner, on November 8th, 1854 at her parents' home in Washington Square.

She was twenty and George was twenty-five. They were deeply in love with each other. When she died of diphtheria, contracted from her youngest daughter, Olga, whom she was nursing back to health from the same disease, at the age of 41, the grief was overwhelming for both husband and father.

Her father read the poem that follows at her funeral, held at Kings Chapel, Boston. He wrote in a simple, naturally religious style, the quatrains in iambic pentameter. The depth of his feelings and pure love of his daughter come clearly through. The "holy temple" referred to in the first stanza was the same Kings Chapel, where she and her husband prayed. "Unfaded still the Christmas green" and "holly branches still adorn the altar" evoke the time of Eliza's death, just after Christmas, on January 13, 1876.

"Her smile was mingled with a tear" as the "vision of three little graves" "on foreign soil" "would rise unbidden to her eye", "near where the Alpine shadows lie" refer to the loss of three children and their burial in Europe. Her eight year-old daughter Catherine Elizabeth and one year-old son Samuel Pickering died within four days of each other in October, 1865 in Lausanne, Switzerland, where she and George had fled to after an outbreak of cholera in Paris. They

had been living in France for nearly two years, while Civil War was consuming the American Union. Another son, William Endicott, died five years later in Paris, almost at the age of two, and was later interred with his siblings at La Sallaz cemetery in Lausanne.



In Memory of Eliza Endicott Peabody

*Wife of George Augustus Gardner
1835 – 1876*

*This is the holy temple where
So oft she humbly bowed to Heaven
And gained that blissful inward peace
Which to the pure in heart is given.*

*Unfaded still the Christmas green
Recalls the fragrance of that morn
When the longing sons of earth
New light and life and joy were born.*

*The holly branches still adorn
The altar where she loved to kneel,
And at her Saviour's feet lay down
The sorrows He alone could heal.*

*For in that cheerful guileless breast
A grief was ever mantling near
And ever in the hours of mirth
Her smile was mingled with a tear.*

*The vision of three little graves
Would rise unbidden to her eye
Three little graves on foreign soil
Near where the Alpine shadows lie.*

*Near where the Alpine thunders roll
From avalanche and mountain storms
The sparrow builds its nest unmoved
Above those mouldering infant forms.*

*Unmoved too was her simple faith
She murmured not at Heaven's decree
Life was to her a dream of joy
And death a blessed Eternity.*



ROQUE ISLAND HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Bring a bit of Roque to your home this season! All of the items used in these products are gathered from Roque Island and the surrounding area. Proceeds of your purchase go directly to supporting the island and supporting a local cottage industry. Happy Holidays!

Centerpieces, garland, and wreaths come in two styles. Please specify which style you prefer.

Traditional

Includes wild rose hips, white pine cones, spruce cones, alder branches, and ribbon nestled in a bed of fragrant balsam fir, cedar and white pine.



Coastal

Includes wild rose hips, white pine cones, spruce cones, mussel shells and white washed alder branches all nestled in a bed of balsam fir, cedar and white pine.



CENTERPIECES \$80
18x18x6 with one votive candle
(combine two to for a prominent display)

GARLAND \$75 per 10' feet
Perfect for entryways, mantels and banisters. This rope of fragrant greens is adorned with shells and cones.

WREATH \$75
22" round
Over the door hanger included

- Order by e-mailing Katie Watts:
foaim@myfairpoint.net
(former cook at Roque and resident of Roque Bluffs)
- Shipping is included.
- You will be billed by RIGHC directly.
- First ship date of the season is November 15th.





Downeast Dispatch

Smarter systems help islands manage electric needs

Alcatraz, Eigg and Roque islands rely on micro grid approach

by Tom Groening (for the Working Waterfront)

BELFAST — It's a high-tech version of juggling. That's what islands are doing to become increasingly self-sufficient and free of fossil fuels.

Alcatraz, the infamous island prison off San Francisco, now a national monument; the Isle of Eigg off the west coast of Scotland; and Roque Island, a private family owned island off Jonesport: each have developed and are improving ways of blending sources of electricity.

On Oct. 18, speakers at the annual Island Energy Conference (sponsored by the Island Institute, publisher of The Working Waterfront) explained how systems form a micro-grid for the islands, balancing batteries, generators, solar photovoltaic, wind turbines and even tidal power to achieve independence.

ISLE OF EIGG

Speaking to those attending the conference via a computer link-up to the Hutchinson Center, Maggie Fyffe of the Isle of Eigg recounted how homes were lit with gaslights when she first arrived there 38 years ago. The 7,400 acre island, one of the Hebrides near the Isle of Skye, had been a private holding, a throw-back to the Victorian age, participant Mick Womersley noted. Island residents bought it from its wealthy owner in 1997.

When it came time to bring reliable electricity to the island, Fyffe said, a study pointed the way.

"We were convinced renewables were the answer," she said.

The trust that bought the island raised 1.5 million British pounds to develop the sources, which included a 100-kilowatt hydropower system, two, 10-kilowatt hydropower systems and four, 6-kilowatt wind turbines.

In a ten-year period, the island went from producing an average of 10 kilowatts to 50 kilowatts. The system became fully operational in 2008, Fyffe said, providing island residents with 24-hour electricity. Currently, the island has 53 houses and 22 businesses connected to its electric grid.

Photovoltaic panels have been added more recently, she said.

Though the island has diesel generators for backup power, an average of 85 percent of the electricity on the island has come from renewable sources, Fyffe said. One year, it was 93 percent.

With the recent addition of the sun-powered photovoltaic, she said, it would be possible to reach the 90 percent renewable threshold.

Fyffe said residents have recognized the benefits of living with less electricity using appliances, and also rely on hot water heaters, cook stoves and heating plants using other fuels. Homes have a cap on the use of electricity, so a switch will disconnect the building from the grid if it begins drawing more than 5 kilowatts.



Downeast Dispatch—Smarter systems help islands manage electric needs (cont.)

ALCATRAZ

Matt Koenig, a representative of Princeton Power Systems, talked about his company's work installing converters for self-contained sites like islands that rely on several sources of electricity. The equipment, which the company packages in a shipping container that sits on the site, automatically blends a mix of sources, depending on factors such as demand and time of day.

Alcatraz Island uses the Princeton Power Systems equipment, Koenig said. The island has been off the mainland grid since 1953 when the submarine cable was broken, he said.

The island uses photovoltaic, batteries and diesel generators. Because of its status as a national monument, the photovoltaic panels on the island had to be unobtrusive, and as installed, are less than optimal, Koenig said. Even so, the renewable sources perform well, he said, with the island cutting its diesel consumption from 1,200 gallons a week to 300 gallons.

Princeton Power Systems also has installed its hardware, which create self-contained electric grids, at a U.S. Army base and at a car manufacturer's headquarters where electric car charging stations are being installed.

ROQUE ISLAND

Anna Demeo of College of the Atlantic talked about a work in progress for Roque Island, a 1,300 acre private, family owned island just east of Jonesport and off Roque Island State Park. There are six houses—three occupied year-round—and a farm on the island where cows, chickens and pigs are raised.

The island now has a submarine cable linking it with the mainland, but Demeo said the 100 family members that make up the trust that owns it want independence.

"We don't want electrons crossing the water in either direction," she said, a goal the family is excited about achieving and supportive of her efforts to bring to fruition.

Demeo began designing the project in 2009. One of the goals was use existing equipment.

"We want to do this off the shelf," she said. First, 4.8 kilowatts of solar panels were installed, and since then, that capacity has been doubled to 10 kilowatts of solar.

Wind power has been discussed, Demeo said, but family members are wary of its aesthetic challenges. Instead, another renewable resource with potential tied to the region, is on the table.

The question, "Could we do some small tidal in some key locations?" is under consideration. As much as 100 kilowatts might be generated, given the higher tides of the region, she said. The Maine Tidal Power Initiative at the University of Maine is providing assistance.

The family supports an approach that would design a small-scale tidal system that would be moored in the water, then seek input from neighbors and local fishermen before pursuing permitting, she said after the conference.

In a paper on the project, Demeo notes that "tidal power differs from solar and wind in that it is a predictable renewable resource."

For more information about the conference, see: <http://www.islandinstitute.org/events/2013-Island-Energy-Conference/15563/>



An excerpt from “Beginnings” (1958) G. Gardner Monks

Submitted by George Herrick

Grandpa would always include us on picnics. I, at least, would usually be taken along his frequent expeditions as the boat had lots of room, and I did not get sea-sick and was no trouble. We used heavy cord fishing lines with two or three pound sinker and twin hooks rigged some three feet below. Generally one fished fairly close to the bottom, but especially when the boat was not anchored, we had to avoid snagging our hooks on the bottom, as that might result in the loss of hook, and occasionally a sinker as well. We used to dress up with oil skin trousers and coats, medium length rubber boots, and either heavy gloves or woven cots on our forefingers as protection against blisters. In latter years, all these arrangements were forgotten and we fished just as we happened to come aboard.

As the “Roque” was fairly high above the water, there was some danger of losing a fish between the water and the deck, so a gaff was always near at hand for use with even medium sized catch. The fish were mostly cod with an occasional haddock which were especially good for chowders. They were generally sluggish and not at all gamey, but still they could pull strongly, especially when the tide was running, and there was a lot of line to haul in. During the banner year of 1906, I managed to hook, and land, all by myself one weighing in excess of twenty pounds which at my age, seemed really enormous. The great hope was for a halibut, but most years we never got any of them. In later years, I did manage to get one weighing over fifty pounds.

East Machias Salmon Farm

A visit to the East Machias Salmon Project can be warmly recommended! The team is more than willing to give a guided tour (at just the right level for the non-specialist). Just drop in—or even better—call first 207-255-0676.



In a nutshell: A new approach to restocking is being applied. Instead of releasing young fry as has been the tradition, a recently developed Scottish approach, where the salmon are grown over the summer to a size of 60-70mm before releasing. Great effort has been made to make the rearing conditions mimic those in nature (and your guide will enthusiastically explain how, what

and why!). In addition to the Salmon rearing itself, the [region's] watershed conditions are being restored (culverts changed/removed; acidity changes counterbalanced with clamshells, water flow changer and nutrients monitored). All of this happens (in a not always hospitable political climate) thanks to an energetic devoted and enthusiastic NGO working together with the state scientists to better understand how salmon and humans can live together in Washington County. Well worth a visit!

Keith Richardson (Professor Marine Biology at the University of Copenhagen DK)
Guest of Sam and Becca Campbell



**East Machias
Salmon Project**

An innovative approach to salmon hatchery and stocking procedures offers the hope of abundant Atlantic salmon runs in Downeast Maine





Eight Bells

William Fletcher Knowles Monks 1941 - 2013



William "Bill" Fletcher Knowles Monks, 72, loving husband, father, grandfather and brother passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 16, at home in Longmeadow with his family by his side. Born on May 15, 1941 in Boston, MA, a son of the late George Gardner and Katharine (Knowles) Monks, he was a resident of Longmeadow since 1965 and summered at Hawks Nest Beach in Old Lyme, CT and Roque Island, ME. He graduated in 1959 from Saint Albans School in Washington DC, received his BA from Boston University in 1964 and then earned an MST from University of New Hampshire in 1965. In the mid 70's, Bill decided that he wanted a career change; so he took some advanced courses and discovered an endearing love and aptitude for accounting and finance. Bill was the beloved husband of 50 years to Susan (Barto) Monks of Longmeadow. Together they traveled the world; exploring not only the obvious tourist destinations, but also many out of the way places. He was a voracious reader and seeker of information and knowledge on a multitude of subjects. He was an ardent admirer of all facets of the Arts, especially music and theater. In October 2013, Bill was awarded

the "Janee Armstrong Friedmann Award" for his tireless support to the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and a Lifetime Achievement Award from WGBH/WGBY TV to honor his many years of service and commitment to public television and the community it serves (Board of Directors 2003-2012 and a Life Member of the Board). Prior to his retirement in 2003, Bill was the Budget Director at WGBY where he had worked since 1978. Prior to WGBY, Bill was employed as the Office Manager at Longmeadow Flowers and at Acre Brook Academy in Springfield, MA as the English Department Chair. He tirelessly gave of his talents for creating budgets, spread sheets and long term planning by serving on the Boards of Directors (often at the Executive Committee level) for several non-profit groups: The Century Club (2009-present); Longmeadow Community Television (1988-present); WFCR Foundation (2005-present); Springfield Public Forum (2009-2012); Springfield Symphony Orchestra Association (2003-present) and was a proud member of ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) since 2011. He had formerly served on other Volunteer Boards: The Community Music School (1997-2012); Field Club of Longmeadow (2003-2008); Stage West (1994-1998); Storrs Library of Longmeadow (1991-2006); City Stage and Symphony Hall (1998-2002); American Field Service (1996-1999); Friends Across New England (1996-1999) and Roque Island Gardner Homestead Corporation (1970- 1994). He is survived by his loving children, Sandy P.M. Garson and her husband, David D., of Centennial, CO, and Bryan S. Monks and his Fiancée, Nena J. Trujillo, of Broomfield, CO; siblings, Ellen M. Higgins of Cape Elizabeth, ME, George Gardner Monks of Andover, MA, Robert A.G. Monks and his wife Millicent S., of Cape Elizabeth, ME; his cherished grandchildren, Landyn B. Bowers, Heather E. Monks, Dylan C. Bowers, and Genevieve A. Garson and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Burials at Longmeadow Cemetery and Roque Island, ME.



Found

Here are a few items that were shared by family members with us from recent visits. There is so much to be explored and shared on Roque Island. Please share with us what you have Found...

*Arrowhead
Found by Nick Higgins
Indian Landing
October 2013*



*Beaver Hut
Found by John Higgins
Great Beach
October 2013*

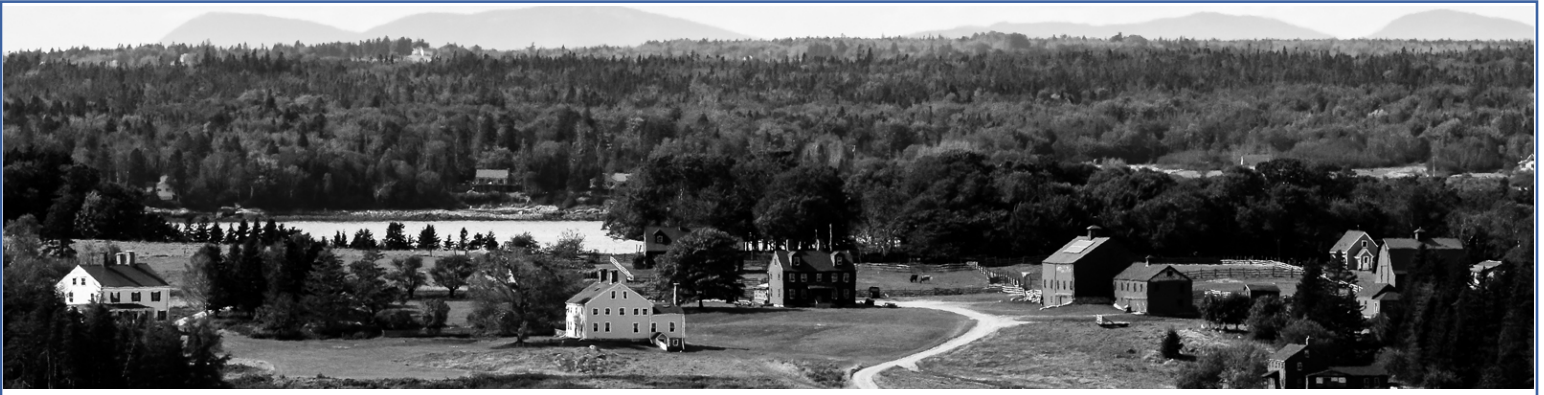


RIGHC Artist Spotlight



“Mike” by Macauley Mikes

From time to time the Thoroughfare receives remarkable artistic work from the family. We would like to ask all of artistic members to share their Roque inspired work for all to see! Please send your submissions to thethoroughfare@yahoo.com.



We want your articles and photographs!

To submit an article or photograph for the next Thoroughfare, please submit them to: thethoroughfare@yahoo.com

We love to hear from you. Please let us know what you think about the Thoroughfare. Want to read more on specific subjects? Less? Have you incorporated Roque in some of your recent studies? Share your work with us.