

T H E T H O R O U G H F A R E



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Below is an excerpt from Chairman Randy Goodhue’s opening remarks of the RIGHC October Trustees’ Meeting

“It’s been a different year. Like all others it has had its ups and downs. However, there are two observations I would like to make, and I think we need to remain laser focused on them this weekend.

The first is: whether due to Advisory Board involvement, membership feedback, the rising cost of Roque, or uncontrollable circumstances, there is a need for a “New New” Roque. For example, there is a new proposed tax status for the archipelago, a new financial model under review, a need for a new insurance program, a need for a capital campaign, new policies to be enacted, a new farm mission, a new Forest Management Plan to be written by next December, a new alternative energy model to install, and a need for new staff arrangements. These new changes to Roque’s operations are closely correlated and interdependent. Given the immense task of developing these new models, plans, policies and employee programs, it is critical that we prioritize and delegate the execution amongst competent and dedicated members willing to commit the time and resources to pursue them successfully.

The second is: the cost of Roque is too high! We need to operate Roque based on a significantly reduced budget. It has grown over six figures over the last half decade. There are many costly capital expenditure projects alone (mostly maintenance and replacement items) identified throughout 2018.





That number does include unforeseen expenses or any new investment in alternative energy. For years, many of us have pointed out the rising cost of Roque, but rarely addressed it in any significant way. The time to do so is at hand. As we formulate and execute the models and plans for the “New New” Roque, we need to cut the operating cost simultaneously. Changing how or who pays the dues is not a viable solution. Tax and spend will eventually result in a loss of “active” members. So while we address the changes to come, we should make it a top priority for a “New New” Roque to cost less. I would suggest that we shoot for a 15% reduction in Roque’s operating cost. Given the hue and cry from our membership, not to reduce costs would be irresponsible. Over the weekend, I hope we can address these two points. There is a lot on our plate, and we need to be focused on the bigger picture. I reiterate; we need to prioritize, delegate and execute, or we will fail. “

So how did we do in our efforts to address these challenging issues in our meetings you ask? I would like to think we made some progress. We agreed to a new separate tax status for each individual island, which should reduce the onslaught of annual tax increases. We also agreed to challenge the new ridiculously high building assessments. We accepted a proposal to work on replacing the Tier System with a new user based financial model. We will look to self- insure more of Roque’s assets. We will initiate a capital campaign to help finance the self -insurance program and other long -range necessary capital projects i.e. alternative energy(which heretofore has been mostly funded with grants). We addressed the “inactive” policy loophole. We delved into the costs of each of the farm clubs, and decided that we will need to reduce the product offerings and target the price points for the users. We significantly cut the capital expenditures for 2015. Along with all the above, we have reduced our permanent staff and have placed more emphasis on part time and seasonal help. Finally, we committed to continue ways to reduce the operating costs by a line -by- line analysis of the costs of Roque. Will we be successful, or will we fail in the formation of a “New New” Roque affordable to all? Honestly, I don’t know, but I can promise you I will do everything I possibly can to assure that we prevail. There is no other option. I would like to thank the staff for their tireless effort, my colleagues on the Board for their invaluable guidance and you, the membership, for your continued support.

Cheers,
Randy Goodhue





Manager's Notes

Twelve Seasons on Roque and Counting.

Selena keeps reminding me that the main reason we left our previous island is I was bored and needed another challenge. Well let me tell you, I have yet to be bored and there are plenty of challenges on Roque to last many years.

The challenges this year were many starting with a winter that would not go away followed by a spring that barely showed its face then we were hit hard by tropical storm Arthur bringing down many trees on the roads and trails. The staff took on many in house projects including the construction of a new ramp for Shorey Cove, the rebuilding of the Patton Cove camp, the construction of a walk-in freezer and many major repairs to vehicles, tractors and most all of our equipment.

Including our part time off island workers you have over 65 years of experienced people working on Roque during the season. It's this experience that helps greatly in keeping the island running in what I hope you agree is a pretty smooth operation on most days. Even though our cast of characters changes a bit from time to time, having an experienced core group is imperative to the operation of Roque. Many thanks go to our entire crew for their adaptability to changes and another great season on this special island.

The challenges for the next couple of months are to finish a couple of projects, continue to harvest and split firewood, close down and make some changes to the garden and

generally get the island ready for the winter which is a major undertaking.

It is great when the family and their guests start showing up in the spring and we all enjoyed seeing and speaking with each of you and your guests. To the members that were unable to make it to the island this year we hope to see you next year.

As always if you have any questions that I may be able to answer please feel free to email or call.

Bruce





Barnyard Buzz

By Stephanie Gardner

Greetings from the farm on this amazingly warm end of October. With the threat of snow, serious winds and cold this weekend, the race is on to close down the garden. The gates are down and the animals are enjoying “free ranging”. The daylight hours are shortening and the night sky is brighter than ever.

The garden started slowly this year with the ground temps in the low 40s at the end of June. The herb bed transformed into a flower shape with petals of different herbs and edible flowers. Our garden intern “Anna” designed a beautiful circle of beets, carrots, leeks with sunflowers in the middle. We harvested over 200 pounds of strawberries and the blueberry patch on western shore provided a bounty of fruit. The apple trees did not do well this year either due to a hard ice storm early in the winter or a cold spell during budding. In spite of inclement weather, we managed to cut, bale and stack almost 3,800 bales of hay.

During this year, we raised 8 pigs, 175 meat birds and 25 turkeys. The meat birds and turkeys enjoyed a new home “chicken tractor” for moving them along the grass. Unfortunately there will be no lamb next season due to a “dud stud”. This problem has been solved and we look forward to an abundance of lambs in the spring.

Stella delivered a calf this June and provided an abundance of milk for the season. She continues to be the “star” of the farm and is treated like royalty. Many young family members enjoyed learning how to milk her this summer and Stella loved the attention.

This summer, Heather Monks joined us for six weeks. During her time here, she participated in all aspects of the farm with a concentration of working the horses. Although, I know deep down she really misses weeding and poultry processing. But the horses really miss Heather and we miss Mike.

The farm registered with WWOOF which stands for World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms or Willing Workers on Organic Farms. It is a national organization that facilitates placement of volunteers on organic farms. We hosted two volunteers this season and look forward to hosting more in the upcoming season. Our garden intern, Anna came to us through MOFGA (Maine Organic Farm and Gardeners Association). We were fortunate to have Cyrus return for another season and wish him well in his future endeavors. The farmhouse was alive this summer with many stories and laughs around the dining table.

All in all we accomplished quite a bit this season and I am thankful everyday for all the help and support. Seed catalogues should be arriving soon and news came today that Stella is pregnant. The farm cycle continues and with any luck we will have a mild winter.

Looking forward to seeing you all next season.

Stephanie





Downeast Dispatch

Whose beach is it?

Struggle over public access, private property rights continues 25 years after Moody Beach case

by Tom Groening

PORTLAND — Beach goers would urinate in the limited privacy provided by the seawall. A few times, they tore pieces of the wooden stairs that led from the beach to the yard to feed a bonfire. And sometimes, they would climb the wall to the yard, use the home's outdoor shower and peer into the windows.

Bill Case was sick of it, so he and his neighbors talked to a lawyer about their concerns about the beach in front of their homes in Wells. After some research, the lawyer found the homeowners, in fact, owned the beach in front of their houses. In 1983, the property owners asserted that ownership. The move triggered one of the most infamous cases in Maine legal history, referred to today as the Moody Beach decision.

The dispute, resulting in landmark decisions in 1986 and 1989 by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court—known in legal circles as the Law Court—reached back through time to 1647. And it reverberated forward, and even today holds sway over a similar dispute over access to Goose Rocks Beach in Kennebunkport.

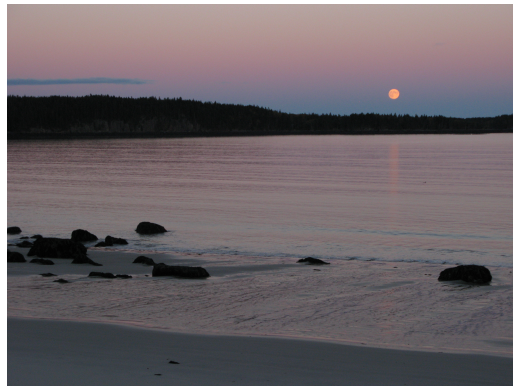
Peter Fellenz lives near Goose Rocks Beach. "I live a 7-minute walk away. Well," he quickly corrects himself, "it used to be a 7-minute walk. Now it's a 10-minute walk."

Fellenz suffers the debilitating muscle weakness and loss of balance that comes from a childhood bout with polio. He loves walking on the broad, flat beach,

especially at low tide, finding it therapeutic and peaceful.

A few days earlier, Fellenz said in a phone interview, he had run into Bob Almeder at the grocery store. Almeder and other beachfront property owners sued the town of Kennebunkport five years earlier, asserting their ownership of the beach the town called public. Almeder told Fellenz the litigants never

intended to restrict access to people, but instead want to assert and maintain their ownership rights. But someday, Fellenz and others say, new owners could block the public. The Law Court found for the property owners in the Almeder case, but earlier this year, took the extraordinary step of hearing arguments for reconsidering its decision. Action may come at any time.



THE ARGUMENTS

Case and Fellenz both spoke from the audience at a forum at the University of Southern Maine Law School on Oct. 2 at which the Moody Beach, Goose Rocks and other related decisions were discussed. A panel of five lawyers reviewed the long legal history on either side of the Moody Beach case.

The story begins—and according to some, ends—with a colonial law from 1647.

Maine and Massachusetts rely on this law to describe acceptable public use of the shore. The law allows public use of the intertidal zone—between average high and low tides—for "fishing, fowling and navigation."



Downeast Dispatch (cont) Whose Beach?

Other U.S. states and most countries, speakers noted, do not have such restrictions. The law is based on the Colonial Ordinance, drafted in the 1630s in Massachusetts, said Pete Thaxter, a lawyer who represented the Moody Beach landowners in the 1980s and now is representing landowners near Goose Rocks Beach in Kennebunkport.

The Colonial Ordinance was part of The Body of Liberties, Thaxter explained at the forum, "[which] to them, was like a Bill of Rights," creating some distance between colonists and the king, who asserted ownership of resources and land.

After the U.S. won independence, Massachusetts adopted this body of law, and when Maine became a state in 1820, it did the same.

Thaxter said about 100 lots in Wells ran down to Moody Beach and his firm was retained to "represent 29 or 30 of them," who asserted that they owned to the low water mark.

The town and state brought a motion arguing the beach was held in public trust. The court ruled in 1986 that the state did not own the intertidal zone, and that there was no public trust, Thaxter said.

The town and state then argued that "fishing, fowling and navigation" was not an exclusive list, and that recreation should be included.

But in 1989, "The Law Court soundly rejected that," Thaxter said. The court in its ruling said "never has recreation or broader uses been discussed or found." Furthermore, if the court had changed the understanding of colonial law, that action would amount to a legal taking under the state and federal constitutions, and beachfront owners would be owed money.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Orlando Delogu, a professor for 40 years at USM's Law School who has served on Portland's planning board and city council, pulled no punches in asserting that the Law Court erred in the Moody Beach case.

Can public rights be expanded? "Yes," Delogu said, answering the rhetorical question he posed.

Those rights are expanded through prescriptive easement, a legal term referring to historic use of a place; if the public has enjoyed access for decades, the area is essentially public, or so goes the argument. Another way to grant further access is if a use fits within the "fishing, fowling and navigation" list, Delogu said. A recent case in which a scuba diving guide crossed a beach in Eastport to bring clients to the water ended in the Law Court ruling unanimously for the guide. Interestingly, though, three of the judges said scuba diving was a form of navigation, while the other three ruled the list of uses should be seen more broadly.

Delogu argued the colonial law was flawed. It did not include a statement of purpose, which makes understanding its reach difficult. He also cited later land grants from the colonial period in Maine in which deeds ended at the high water mark. Historically, boats were stored on what is known as the "high, dry sand," livestock was grazed, grasses were cut and people moved on foot and in carts and wagons on that beach, he said.

These activities "were all tolerated and were extant public uses in 1647," Delogu said. A later speaker said the shore was the colonial version of Route 1, with early settlers, used to the open fields of England, fearful of venturing too far inland through the dark woods, and fearful of Indian attacks. Travelers would be ferried across the mouths of rivers, then continue traveling along that shore.





Downeast Dispatch (cont) [Whose Beach?](#)



John Duff, an associate professor at the University of Massachusetts-Boston School for the Environment who moderated the forum, noted that the essential question appeal courts like the Law Court and U.S. Supreme Court must weigh turn on the concept of originalism. Can the law, even if it dates back to 1647, be used as a sort of stone tablet truth to weigh contemporary cases? Or should the law be seen as a living document that must grow to be relevant to the times?

Attorney Durward Parkinson, who successfully argued in *Eaton v. Town of Wells* that the public had a right to another beach in that town, known as Wells Beach, told the forum that beach recreation was born in the early 1900s. So if colonists did not use the shore for recreation, should contemporary interpretation view the "fishing, fowling and navigation" list as exclusive?

Amy Tchao is the attorney for the town of Kennebunkport, which has argued, along with the state, that public access to Goose Rocks Beach has been established through 100 years of use. The town has maintained, law enforcement patrolled, lifeguards have watched over and crews have sprayed the beach for insect control.

But beyond that, Tchao told the forum, losing public access has larger ramifications.

"The coastline is a defining feature to our state," she said, and is essential to tourism and serves as a cultural engine.

Maine's reliance on the "fishing, fowling and navigation" list is antiquated, she said.

"Maine is an outlier state [and] really out of step with every other state," Tchao said.

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CONTEXT

Tim Glidden, president of Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) and the lone non-lawyer on the panel, said access to water "has been the most important issue to the people of Maine," and cited the high rate of voter support for Land for Maine's Future bonds over the years.

"Seventy-five percent of the state's population lives in coastal towns," Glidden said. In recent decades, conserved land has grown from 4 percent of land to 20 percent. Land trusts like MCHT believe "there should be some evolution" of accepted uses, beyond fishing, fowling and navigation. "Are we really locked into that?" he asked.



Whose Beach (cont).

Though Moody Beach, Goose Rocks Beach and other cases have and will be used as precedents, context is important, say some of the players.

Case, the private property owner plaintiff at Moody Beach, explained that the dispute arose from a municipal "divorce." Ogunquit was a village corporation within the town of Wells, and had become a town. A parking lot and a list of rules greeted visitors to the Ogunquit beach. But if beachgoers wanted to play Frisbee, they would head north to the Wells portion of the beach.

Workers at area restaurants and bars would hit the beach at 1 a.m., Case said, build bonfires and drink.

"We had two young children," he recalled, and the next day, they would walk past broken beer and wine bottles.

Case would call police during the nighttime parties, "but often, they would fail to come." He and others tried to get Wells town officials to act, but they would not.

"The use of the beach is never an issue," he said. "It's the abuse by the public."

A semi-retired real estate agent, Case said he told prospective Moody Beach buyers about the controversy, but "the law is the law—they own to the low-water mark." Private property rights are critical, he said. "That's the basis of our whole country."

Today, Case lives in Kennebunkport near Goose Rocks Beach, epicenter of the latest access fight. Fellenz wants to know he'll be able to walk that same beach. Recalling his recent encounter at the grocery store with Bob Almeder, the lead plaintiff for the property owners at Goose Rocks, "I said, 'I just want to walk that beach. It's the best walking in the world.'" Almeder assured him he and other owners won't stop him.

Fellenz worries about subsequent owners.

The Law Court may be asked to rule on related issues again. Superior Court Justice Nancy Mills ruled in

September that property owners on Cedar Beach Road on Bailey Island could not block access to the beach there. The public has a prescriptive easement over the road, she ruled. But access is yet another wrinkle in the debate.

A definitive ruling favoring either private landowners or the public probably would carry a big price tag, with the losing side seeking compensation.

This article was copied from the Working Waterfront (www.workingwaterfront.com)





Squire's Point

Trailing

By George Herrick

Trailing, or clearing the pathways through the woods, has long been a Roque Island tradition. It has become a higher priority as the forest spreads. In earlier days, there was more open area, in the family compound and on Great Head, where there had been a fire in August 1854. The first of many great trailers in the family was George Augustus Gardner (1829-1916), who cleared brush well into his eighties, wearing a frock coat indeed. In the first half of the twentieth century, legendary trailers were G. Peabody Gardner, George Gardner Monks and John Peabody Monks. Creating new trails, they made the map as we know it today, of our eleven miles or so of trails. Coming into the twenty-first century, John P. M. Higgins has proven himself to be the most consistent and energetic trailer of his generation. Additionally, the hiring of professional woodsmen has enabled us to thin some of the thickest places and create five attractive woods, and some open spaces. The arrival of the chainsaw, and now also the hedge clipper, changed everything, of course. In earlier days, the tools of the trade were axes, hatchets, clippers and tree saws. The work was slower and more laborious than today. It took a gang of trailers to clear a mile of trail.

Keeping the roads open for horses or tractors is a first priority from a security point of view. Clearing the winter dead fall is an onerous task. Keeping the fields open is essential to the operation of the farm. Pulling out small spruce as they begin to appear in open areas saves the far greater labor of cutting and hauling them away two years later when they are much bigger. Limbing the branches on the edges of the fields and roads, as recommended by conservationists, was a task that took one trailer



eight summers. Carving out new open areas, to increase biodiversity, has been another goal. Tending and improving the trails answers to our goal of providing recreation for our members. Every year they need to be looked after. There is a good deal of logging, too. Our sawmill uses a lot of wood for farm operations, and there is a very large requirement for firewood from mature trees.

Over the years, several techniques of trailing have been found to be effective. A good job of widening a trail and trimming the branches of the trees along it means that the job will not need to be done again for several years. Avoid places that flood in the spring. Let the sunlight in on wet trails. Trees need room and sunlight to grow. Selecting the best tree, and cutting away all the little ones around it, will help to create sturdy, long lasting trees, like columns in a Roman colonnade through which one can peer into the shaded woods.



Squire's Point (continued)

Trim the trees on roads and major trails up to 13 feet for the benefit of horseback riders. In appropriate places leave a mass of trees to act as a snow screen in winter. Where the spruce strangle the birch, it is well to release the birch by clearing away the surrounding spruce, thereby creating visual appeal and promoting biodiversity. Here, as elsewhere, trailing reaches to the level of landscape art.

Indeed, the art of trailing has appealed to many, while providing recreational assets for others. Creating openings in a wall of trees along a trail may expose a vista or some natural phenomenon as a surprise for the hiker. Entrances to trails can be invitational. Care in landscaping the entrance can create a sort of architectural effect. Two oak trees were brought in and planted to define one entrance. Special attention needs to be paid to trail crossings.

A sunlit open area will attract insects, which can in turn attract birdlife. Respect known sensitive ecological niches. Knowing where birdlife flourishes inspires enhancement of the trail to make viewing the birds easier. Knowing where *not* to cut, as in the dark thickets where the Blackpoll warbler nests, is equally important. There might be a vernal pool, an old snag with a nesting hole, some Mountain Ash. Lanes have been cut in the woods for Sharp-shinned Hawks near their nests. Perches can be stuck into the ground for small birds to use for singing in the spring. Building bridges over wet areas is another aspect of trailing that has won many devotees over the years. It seems that each generation devises a new technique. Some quite beautiful constructions worthy of J. A. Roebling have been created. Clearing the brush? It should be dragged into the woods out of view, and perhaps spread out. It can take fifteen or so

years for large piles of it to decompose fully into the ground. Nevertheless, the occasional Winter Wren, with its long and beautiful song, shelters in a brush pile.

Now we are ready to lead some houseguests on a nice walk. The way should be not too steep, or too level, nor yet too straight. Variety of terrain is always desirable. We may visit pebbled shoreline, sandy beaches, deep forest, birch and maple groves, rock faces, or high lookouts. We notice the landscaping architecture of the trailers. We pass through different habitats. We admire various vistas. There may be some flowering botanicals in spring, some mushrooms in fall. The birds are vocalizing, and we have always known where they are. We espy some trail work that needs to be done. Perhaps we have carried a tool with us. A collecting bag is useful for bringing home botanical specimens, mushrooms, seashells, arrowheads or other "finds" along the way. The little children, so close to the ground, are enjoined to pull some of the small spruce seedlings from the mossy trails. They will have to do it for the rest of their lives, and their spouses, too. There will be much to discuss when we get back to our house, and plan another excursion for tomorrow.

So, then, consider how much has been done for one-hundred years by a few to create and maintain this woodland paradise for the many. Unless we encourage the next generations to continue the work with the same energy and inspiration, it could all fade away. It is an obligation of our family to fulfill our mission statement as best we can.



A Long Weekend at the Patten's Cove Cabin

This past August, Susannah Ames was the first family member to camp at the newly renovated cabin at Patten's Cove. Susannah, a 6th generation descendent of George Augustus Gardner, is 26 and holds a degree in Art History from Boston University. Her maternal grandfather, John Lowell Gardner, is the oldest living member of RIGHC.

Since this is the first season that the cabin has been offered for rental, The Thoroughfare was curious to hear about Susannah's experience and to know if she would recommend it to other members. She graciously agreed to be interviewed.



Before your visit in August, when was the last time you visited Roque Island?

I haven't been to Roque in roughly the past ten years – far too long!!

What were your expectations when you signed up for the Patten's Cove cabin?

I was expecting more of a camping experience, in terms of showering/running water and of mobility; but with a guaranteed roof over our heads, so sort of an elevated

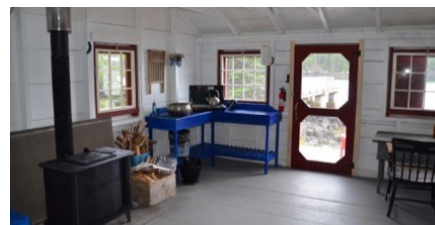
camping experience.

How did you prepare for your stay there and do you think you were properly prepared?

We (Susannah and guest) prepared by packing a lot of food, most likely too much – especially dry food. We also brought some bedding – sheets, sleeping bags, a blanket – and decided to go without pillows, which I would recommend bringing. Other than that, I would recommend bringing a good mattress pad.

What was your first impression when you were dropped off at the cabin?

It looked great – especially with the wood chips, picnic table, grill, and front porch area. We really liked how close the cabin was to the water – the view is always amazing – which puts you right into the unique character of the island.



How did you like the cabin itself, in terms of both functionality and aesthetics?

The aesthetics are charming and the shingled exterior with the red windows is very homey. And the interior has nice details such as horseshoe hooks. The functionality is above average, although I would suggest a larger bin for dishes and clothes and some sort of laundry/drying set up. The cabin was well stocked with lamps, flashlights and kitchen essentials. A central ceiling light (or hook specifically for hanging a ceiling lamp) would improve the lighting after sunset. The wood stove worked very well and it was great to use the fire pit.





A Long Weekend at the Patten's Cove Cabin (continued)

How did the experience of camping away from the compound differ from your previous visits to the island?

The distance between the cabin and the compound really didn't hinder the visit in terms of mobility and convenience. It was great to wake up and be close to hiking trails and explore the island from an alternate orientation. Staying at Patten's Cove gave me a better way to become more familiar with the extent of the island.

Did you have any interesting or unusual nature sightings?

We were really lucky to have the Cutlers there during our stay and a highlight was when Bobby and Stephanie took us on the Polly for some seal sighting and even though it was quite foggy out we were able to see at least nine of them out in the water. When approaching Great Beach, the natural beauty of the island was made more dramatic by the effects of the fog.

What was the best thing about camping at Patten's Cove?

The location's proximity to the shoreline and waking up to that view every day.



Describe your best day during your stay.

We hiked all day on our second day and I loved taking in all of the island, starting at the Steps and St. Roque and then heading over to Devil's Chasm and Great Head, then to Bonnie Field rock beach.

Will you do it again, and would you recommend a stay at the cabin to other family members?

I would definitely stay at the cabin again and would recommend it to other family members, but I wouldn't exceed the length of our stay (5 days and 4 nights).

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I'd recommend that the group not exceed 4 people given the obvious limited space. I was not a huge fan of the outhouse but it served its purpose very well. It might be useful to have a lamp there to light the way for guests at night!



Looking Ahead On Roque

By John Higgins

Much effort and time has been spent trying to make Roque more productive, more able to sustain itself. The “2015 Committee” has solicited many good ideas, few of which have met with universal, even divided, acceptance.

One area that has not been meaningfully examined, in my view, is our Farm.

As a historical matter, the Farm has been integral to the sustaining of Roque. Those who worked for Joseph Peabody building ships required the husbanding of animals and growing of hay and vegetables to live. From 1882, when George Augustus Gardner and his brother John owned the Island, it was above all a Farm, tenanted by Herbert Long. They struck a deal: Long would run the place, and make it self-sufficient for Long’s family and employees. The Gardners showed up in the warmer months, paid for what they used or ate, kept up the summer buildings, and gave Long a stipend in addition.

As time passed, it was clear the Farm became the true soul of Roque, what gave it uniqueness, binding a visitor’s experience there. And the soul had much to do with the integrity of the nineteenth century Yankee world. One didn’t have to ride horses or milk cows to enjoy it. It was the rhythm of the place, the necessary and natural interaction between people, gardens and animals, that gave Roque spiritual meaning and sustaining energy. A farmer informs the tenor of the Island in a way that an off-season Bath & Tennis Club employee never can.

Roque is too far from the mainstream to rely on external revenue sources (photo shoots, yoga retreats) to have an impact on sustainability. It must, perforce, go into itself for a long term solution.

In recent years, we’ve had it wrong. Rather than view the family as sustaining the Farm, as we have worried

about for years as a budgetary matter, could we not revert to a paradigm where the Farm sustains the family? This does not mean that the Farm solves Roque’s budgetary issues. It does mean a different focus, a different way of looking at things, perhaps a different type of worker force on the Island, which could impact the budget, by how we prioritize things, over the longer term.

I took a day this past summer to visit the Four Season Farm on Cape Rosier, run by Eliot Coleman, and have lunch with him. I was impressed with what Eliot, a graduate of St. Paul’s and Williams, has created over the last 45 years from 40 acres of spruce forest in coastal Maine. Since the 1970’s, he has written much



on the subject of organic farming – his 1989 “The New Organic Grower” is a classic in the field. Eliot, 76, has recently recruited Harvard and Princeton graduates as “interns”. Sustainability was everywhere.

The next generation is deeply interested in organic, sustainable farming. The success of the Farm School as well as regional programs and other initiatives is testament to the excitement the movement and its values engender.



Looking ahead on Roque Continued

At Roque, at some point in the future, I could envision a core farmer family, along with appropriate staff and/or interns (“twenty-somethings”), working the gardens and pastures, as well as forests. I could view the Corporation having a partnership with such a grouping, rather than a strictly employer/employee relationship. They, as long term tenants, would keep their side of the bargain, and we, as visitors and owners, ours.

We would need to provide some continuing base of support, and invest in infrastructure – Roque presents inherent realities, geographic and climatological, for a

farmer that are not surmountable by him alone. Sustainability needs to be invested in, to include reliable sources of power, and we have the capital base to do this. Part of our capital is our family: our side would need to continue to provide informed time and commitment by dedicated volunteers to assure any partnership’s success.

The result of such a paradigm, reaching back and reconnecting with the Island’s roots, working the land in partnership, could have much positive effect. Not just by the refreshing of the soul, but, by commitment and example, having a meaningful impact on our children and the world we live in.

Roque Island Remembrances

Robert G. Gardner

“As a child, of I suppose eight or nine, I had been for a very long time waiting to be allowed to go the The Island. It was somewhere up North, very near Indians and Eskimos (after all, amber canoes and balsam baskets were proof enough). It was where grownups went, probably because it was so dangerous and cold, or so it would seem with all the guns, furs, blankets, heavy boots, and sweaters that were carried along. People who went had to be expert in something or other, else the expedition might fail. It was never with a note of merriment or lightheartedness that I recall departures for Roque. Rather it was a sort of triumphant readiness to begin the annual march against the elements. The Gardner contingent was always, then, supported by a company of Congdons, with whom they rendezvoused at the North Station (that ominous

outpost of civilization). I do not mean to suggest that these movements had anything especially martial to them, or that they were only solemn. Not only must there have been much which missed my moderately curious eye at the time, but there was certainly that constant strain of great, if also determined, expectation. It also seemed to me, long ago, that Roque was really for men, women being a gratuity, boys a grudging concession, and children verboten. The entire picture of this place, composed of fragments of conversation and exaggerated anecdote, was of a wilderness made habitable once yearly by the courage of the great and the few.”

Compiled by JPMH from a letter from RGG to JPM c. 1955.



Downeast Sculpture Trail

By Nina Herrick

The Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium just completed its fifth year. It was founded and is directed by Jesse Salisbury, who conceived the idea of creating a sculpture trail throughout Maine. Granite was chosen as the material of choice as it is quintessentially associated with Maine, which used to be one of the largest producers. During the 19th century's building boom, granite was much in demand as a building material and production hit its peak in 1901, when there were 151 quarries in operation in this state alone. The symposium brings in artists, not only from Maine but from around the world for a six week residency. They are provided with a stipend, materials and technical support. Each artist is charged with creating a large work in granite to be placed in an outdoor public space. Seven sculptures were produced during the program this past summer, and have already been put in place, bringing the total number of sculptures to thirty-four. There are a number of them situated in communities

in Roque's neighborhood: Roque Bluffs, Machias, Jonesport, Milbridge, Addison, Steuben, Harrington, Sullivan, Franklin, Ellsworth. Keep an eye out for them as you travel along Route 1 and 182. It's a bit of a treasure hunt and it is quite rewarding! (The following photos were taken as I was leaving Roque after the Trustees' weekend).

"Time and Tide" by Roy Patterson, 2014



"Time and Tide" by



"The Islands of Maine" by John Gogaberishwili



"Sullivan Tower" by Jo Kley, 2007



Roque Island Cooks

On May 28-30, 2014, Nina Herrick, Lyn Cutler, Becca Campbell and Molly Cutler (along with Chris, Randy and Sam) ventured to Roque Island for the first Roque Island Cook-A-Thon. Guided by professional chef, Alice Amory, we peeled, chopped, sliced, diced, kneaded, rolled, sautéed, roasted, baked and broiled for two exhausting but fun and productive days. The endeavor could not have been accomplished with the generous donation of a freezer from Chris and Molly and the contributions of a turkey, chickens and bacon from the Goodhue family Meat Club cache as well as other contributions of wild blueberries, chocolate, packaging materials, labels, etc. A lot of planning and thought preceded the effort and the leadership and expertise of Alice was essential. All this work and planning resulted in an impressive yield of comestible offerings which incorporated as many Roque Island ingredients as possible, and ran the gamut from “spring dug” parsnip soup to both chocolate and blueberry sauces...and many things in between.

The objective of the endeavor was to produce “value added” Roque Island products which could be purchased and enjoyed by family members and their guests. Hopefully, people found the offerings tasty and convenient. It was felt that having access to a home-cooked meal already prepared so that one only need heat and serve would be very appealing to members. In addition, an effort was made to offer various serving sizes, from a single serve shepherd’s pie to a chicken curry, lamb stew or turkey pot pie for four persons.

We welcome feedback (no pun intended...), suggestions, and - most of all - help in the future. If anyone is interested in the continuation of this endeavor, please ‘phone or email Becca.

2014 List of Cook-A-Thon foods:

- 9 “spring dug” parsnip soup
- 6 large shepherd’s pies
- 5 single serve shepherd’s pies
- 12 large turkey pot pies
- 5 small turkey pot pies
- 10 gruyere, bacon and sweet onion quiche
- 10 lamb and white bean stew
- 11 chicken curry
- 24 Roque Island bread loaves
- 3 large blueberry loaves
- 14 small star-shaped blueberry loaves
- 12 chocolate sauce
- 11 blueberry sauce
- 6 packages chopped (raw) rhubarb
- 13 packages roasted, spring-dug parsnips
- 5 containers Roque Island granola





From the Library

by George Herrick

In Ready About, Sailing Adventures Down East (1959), G. Peabody Gardner, reminisces about early days on Roque, fifty years before.

Generation after generation, Roque has exerted an almost mystical charm on all who go there. Children, when they first stumble and fall on the shore, clutch the sand in their hands like William the Conqueror and claim the very soil as their own. Tired and worried grownups, as they approach the pier at Roque Bluffs, take deep breaths of the clean, salty air (impregnated with aromatic and invigorating essence of spruce, balsam and rockweed), and the magic starts to work. They board a launch that goes dancing over the

water toward Roque Island's dock... (The new arrivals) see too the little group of brightly painted houses on Roque – some red, some yellow - that make up the island community. In the green sloping pastureland surrounding the houses they begin to distinguish whitish patches that look like outcroppings of rock. As the boat draws nearer, here and there some of these patches are seen to move, proving themselves to be not rocks but sheep, a fact made doubly clear by the bleats and baas borne bayward on an offshore wind. Figures are now emerging from the houses and heading for the dock, diverse in sizes, costumes and ages – children darting excitedly, their elders walking sedately – but each and everyone radiating a warm welcome

Additions to Roque Island Library – 2013

Alpert, Gary D. A Field Guide to the Ants of New England (2012)

Beston, Henry (ed.) White Pine and Blue Water (1950)

Campbell, Gordon. The Hermit in the Garden (2013)

Cox, Robert S, and Walker, Jacob. A History of Chowder, Four Centuries of an American Meal (2011)

Emerson, Amelia Forbes. Early History of Naushon Island (1933/1981)

Gardner, Isabella Stewart. Commonplace Book (1868-)

Geological Survey: Machias Eastport Area (1981)

Hall, Henry Marin. The Ruffed Grouse (1946)

Harris, Mike P. and Wanless, Sarah. The Puffin (2012)

Hayward, Gloria Alla. History of Columbia Falls (2012)

Lorimer, J.G. History of the Islands and Islets of the Bay of Fundy (1876)

McNight, Karl B. et al. Common Mosses of the Northeast and Appalachians (2013)

Modlin, Richard, Newfound Freedom (2013)
Phinney, Rose Dimond, (Ed. George Herrick) A Journey of Travel (1862/2013)

Rich, Louise Dickenson. We Took To The Woods (1942)

Savage, Hillary. A Changing Landscape. The Wild Blueberry of Eastern Maine (2012)

Stephenson, Steven L. The Kingdom of Fungi, The Biology of Mushrooms, Molds, and Lichens (2010)

Stephenson, Tom and Whittle, Scott. The Warbler Guide (2013)

Washington Country Soil Report (2013)



From the Kitchen Cupboard

Pumpkin Flan

(Martha Page served this at the recent Trustees' weekend)

For caramel and flan:

2 cups of sugar

1 1/2 cups heavy cream

1 cup of whole milk

3/4 whole large eggs plus one large egg yolk

1 (15 ounce) solid pack pumpkin (not pie filling)
equivalent of 1 3/4 cups.

1 tsp. vanilla

1 1/2 tsps. Vanilla

1 tsp. ground ginger

1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg

1/4 tsp. salt

Caramel:

Preheat oven to 350. Put a 2 quart soufflé dish in the oven to heat up.

Cook one cup of sugar in a heavy 2 qt saucepan over moderate heat, until it begins to melt.

Continue to cook, stirring occasionally with a fork until it becomes deep gold. Remove hot dish from the oven and pour in caramel. Keep tilting and rotating the dish to cover the bottom and sides; then let it harden and thicken.

Flan

Mix together the eggs, yolk and remaining cup of sugar. Then whisk in the pumpkin, vanilla, spices and salt. Heat cream, and add slowly while continuously whisking. Sieve custard into a bowl. Mix again then pour into soufflé dish. Place dish in a water bath and return to the oven. Bake about 1 1/4 hours, until the flan is golden brown and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

Transfer dish to rack and let it cool. Then refrigerate for 6 hours.

Pumpkin seeds:

1 cup (or 1/4 lb.) hulled, salted pumpkin seeds

drizzle of maple syrup

small pinch of nutmeg

large pinch of allspice

Slowly sauté in frying pan until caramelized.

To serve:

Run a thin knife around the sides of the flan to loosen it. Shake gently. Invert onto a platter. Caramel will pour out over and around the flan.

Sprinkle with pumpkin seeds just before serving

Flotsam

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES:

Jack & Susan Gardner, 70th Anniversary on 26th February

Bob & Milly Monks, 60th Anniversary on 2nd July

Lyn & Randy Goodhue, 40th Anniversary on 24th August

Rachel & Gentry Barden, 30th Anniversary on 16th June

Stewart Gardner & Martha Anne Dorminy, 15th Anniversary on 17 August

Jesse & Katherine Donaldson, 10th Anniversary on 8th June (married on Roque)

Jessica & Nat Goldblatt, 10th Anniversary on 17th July (married on Roque)

Georgia & Roo Reath, 10th Anniversary on

28th August (honeymoon on Roque)

SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS:

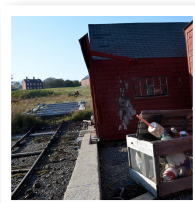
Rosie Cutler, 90 on 10th October

Posey Dana, 65 on 14th August

Becca Gardner, 60 on 3rd June

Betsy Mikes, 50 on 16th March

Josh Gonzalez, 40 on 30th July



Alexandra Papanicolaou, 30 on 6th January

Caleb Gardner, 30 on 12th March

Tatiana Smith, 30 on 24th April

Nick Higgins, 30 on 13th October

Megan Bayra, 25 on 31st January

Felipe Higgins, 25 on 12th September

Landyn Bowers, 21 on 29th November

BIRTHS:

Clementine Dandelion Chadd, 2nd May 2014 – born to MaryEllen & Austin Chadd

Adelaide Pippa Chadd, 2nd May 2014 NOTE: These 2 are identical twins

Caroline Macauley Newman on 15th July 2014 – born to Rebecca & Jeff Newman

DEATHS:

Robert Grosvenor Gardner, born 1925, died June 2014



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!

Kate's signature Roque "Coastal" Wreaths, Centerpieces and Garland are decorated with wild rose hips, white pine cones, spruce cones, mussel shells and white washed alder branches, all nestled in a bed of locally sourced fragrant balsam fir, cedar and white pine. The balsam scented candle, which Kate is introducing this year, is hand poured into artisan-made ceramic jars and decorated with twine and pine cones.

WREATH \$75

22" round
Over the door hanger included

CENTERPIECE \$80

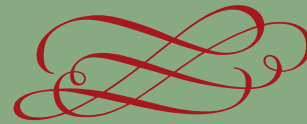
18x18x6 with one votive candle

GARLAND \$75 per 10' feet

Perfect for entryways, mantels and banisters. This rope of fragrant greens is adorned with shells and cones.

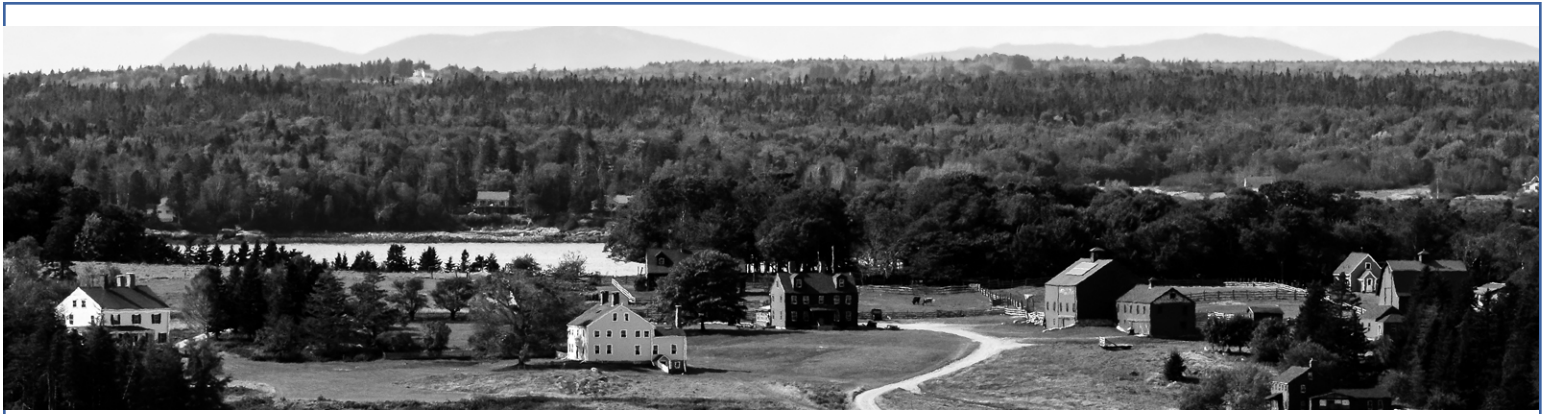
CANDLE \$30

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



(large pictured)





We want your articles and photographs!

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

The Thoroughfare would also like to thank Jeff Newman for providing us the header photo. Please visit <http://jeffnewmanphotography.com> for more information on his great work.

THE THOROUGHFARE

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