



Notes from the Annual Meeting, May 7th

Chairman’s Remarks - Randy Goodhue

He acknowledged that during the nine years he served as Chairman, many things were accomplished with more progress yet to be made. He reviewed a few highlights from his tenure:

- Staff stability. Bruce has been manager for 14 years and has led a fairly steady staff.
- Finances. The recent Capital Campaign has been a great success. Randy thanked Ari and Becca for their efforts chairing the committee and all those who participated. The Island is in good financial shape.
- Taxes. There has been an ongoing disagreement with the Jonesport assessor regarding the tax status of the islands. Randy thanked John Higgins for not only his tireless efforts but his financial support with all the related legal fees.
- Dues. There has been a recent shift from a pure Tier model to a more User Based model.
- New Forestry Management Plan. A new plan was submitted in December of 2015 and will need to be renewed in ten years. Randy encouraged the membership to read the plan.
- Farm. The island has entered into an agreement with the Maine Farmland Trust (MFT) to review our existing farm procedures. The intention is to improve the operational efficiency of the farm. It is critical that members respond to the recent survey that was emailed by Ned Beach (our contact at the MFT).
- Alternative Energy. A good Alternative Energy Plan is in the process of development. An alternate plan of cable replacement has also been researched. At the time the cable breaks, the decision of which plan to implement will be made.
- Register. Randy assembled a list of all the various island contacts.

Randy expressed his enjoyment serving as Chairman and will continue serving in other capacities. We will miss his contagious enthusiasm and energetic leadership!

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Awards and Thank Yous

In addition to Randy, the other officers of the board were also rotating off: the Vice-chairman, Randy Mikes, the Treasurer, Molly Cutler, the Secretary, Alicia Monks. They were thanked for their prodigious work and loyal service and were presented with a Roque medal.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Randy Goodhue was acclaimed by all those assembled and presented with the newly created "Order of St. Roque".

Additionally, the trail on Great Spruce, which he doggedly hacked out and created over the course of several years, is to be officially known (and sign posted) as "Randy's Ramble".



*The Order of St. Roque Medallion
Fabricated by Chris Gamage of Bog Bronze, Rockland*



The Black Diamond Trail

Greetings from the New Board

Dear Family,

We are very grateful to the outgoing Board for their diligence, commitment, and oversight of RIGHC. They have ensured that the island is in fine shape - both in terms of infrastructure and in terms of finances. We salute you!

We intend to continue the tradition of proactive management and planning for the future. It is imperative to our continued legacy that we foster an environment of inclusion for not only our members, but for our neighbors and the community at-large. We welcome, and indeed require, input from all of you. There is much information available via the web site (www.roqueisland.com) and the quarterly publication of the *Thoroughfare*. If you are interested in becoming more involved, joining a committee or becoming a Trustee Observer (a one year commitment) are excellent venues. More detailed information about the committees will be forthcoming as they are being newly established. Please feel encouraged to contact any one of the members of the Board should you have a question or concern...or a new and interesting idea! We look forward to serving the membership and to many more happy years for one and all at Roque Island.

Our very best to you,

Ari Fischer, *Chairman*; Becca Campbell, *Vice-Chairman*; Chris Bartle, *Secretary*; Lindsay Smith, *Treasurer*; Nina Herrick, *Gardner Family Trustee*; Nico Higgins, *Monks Family Trustee*; Roo Reath; Tanya Fischer.



Flotsam

Welcome to the New R.I.G.H.C. Members

Amadea Bartle
Dylan Bowers
Andrew Mikes
Heather Monks
Jacob Wells

Publications

George Herrick's collection of *Squire's Point* articles, which he has contributed to our *Thoroughfare* since its inception, has been published in a charming book which will be available at the island's Store

Births

Eliza Endicott Higgins born to Joseph and Mara Higgins May 10, 2015.
Samantha VanKirk born to Raoul and September VanKirk May, 2015.
Angelina Margarita Montalbano born to Kitty and Vincent Montalbano September 30, 2015.
Liam Harris Gonzalez born to Patrick Gonzalez and Kyle Popkave October 30, 2015.
Marco Herrick Kearns born to Nick and Sofia Kearns May 6, 2016.
Graham Cutler Goodhue born to Sam and Jennifer Goodhue May 19, 2016.



A. Milo Ryan: January 10, 1973 - May 13, 2016



The Naturalist's Column

Where is Smokey? Where is Everett? by Sam Campbell

In the course of our busy annual meeting in Boston, Bruce Patterson mentioned that evidence exists that a bear may be visiting the island: scat was discovered in a field near Great Beach. The *Thoroughfare's* investigative team followed up. We would dearly like to confirm the report, but we are not quite there: further study will be required (a hint to our naturalists).

Jay Trayner, has installed a trail cam at the site, but nothing has yet come by. He surmised that the scat might be that of a giant raccoon. However Bruce Patterson said "there are some tracks around, but I am not an expert." And also, that a clammer from Jonesport, a fellow named Everett, reportedly spotted the bear while digging on the flats in Patten's Cove. (Efforts to reach Everett are ongoing.)

Norm Famous, Roque's professional naturalist, was a little skeptical. "It is conceivable a bear would swim over. It is not like there is a great berry habitat for them on the island, although the mild winter may have altered the situation." The black bear population in Maine is on the upswing, reportedly rising from 23,000 ten years ago to 30,000 recently.



Ursus Americanus

Tom Schaeffer, of the Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife office in Jonesboro e-mailed: "I have received no report to date of any observation or complaint of a bear on Roque Island. Bears are well established on the mainland. In the past, however, we have investigated situations where bears have made their way onto coastal islands; so it is within the realm of possibilities."

George Herrick, chairman of Roque's Natural Resources Committee, stressed the importance of empirical evidence. He mentioned "the minks trapped by IF&W on Anguilla and the Eastern Brothers this past March (when their footprints are visible in the snow)". Also, his records show that Jack Gardner saw a moose in the family compound on June 29, 1999. Three days later GGH located the scat (9 inches in width) in the Lower Heath, collected it and put it in the

freezer for Norm to see. Careful record keeping and physical evidence are always of paramount importance in a scientific inquiry.

Englishman Bay Trading Company: www.englishmanbaytradingco.com

Every year our sheep faithfully produce bags and bags of wool. What to do with the wool is an annual creative challenge. What form and shape of wool has the membership not bought yet? Well, as the membership is reaching wool fatigue, it is time to expand our market. I have set up a web site that is intended to sell Roque products (NOT Roque and no family names) to those outside of the family. All profits go back to Roque. I recognize that the price point and products will not appeal to everyone, but please forward the web site along to people who you think would find it interesting.

I will be shipping directly out of my house in Massachusetts. As I already have a very full time job, this website is a work in progress and is hopefully the start of something more. We'll see.

Alicia Monks



Squire's Point

Art of Trailing

George Herrick

Useful thoughts on maintaining trails, or creating new ones, come from Thomas Whately's *Observations on Modern Gardening* (1770), the most comprehensive work on the theory and practice of English landscape gardens, a book much favored by Thomas Jefferson as he was designing the grounds of Monticello. On paths (or trails), he observes:

The course of a walk must "be in sweeps gently bending all the way. It preserves its form, though conducted through woods, or along glades, of the most licentious irregularity...the sides of it may be perpetually broken; and the direction frequently changed; sudden turns, however, are harsh; they check the ideas of progress; they are rather disappointments than varieties; and if they are similar, they are in the worst style of affectation. The line must be curved, but it should not be wreathed; if it be truly serpentine, it is the most unnatural of any; it ought constantly to proceed; and wind only just so much, that the termination of the view may differ at every step, and the end of the walk never appear;...(the walk) may have an importance which will render it more than a mere communication."



Lindsay Smith and Nina Herrick

The Trail App Update

John P.M.Higgins

The 2016 edition of the Roque Island Mobile Map is now available. This is an update to last year's version, hugely popular with those who were on-Island to use it, with greater resolution and a few mapping corrections. At \$9.99 (most of which is credited to the Island store), it is truly a bargain. The map is GPS-enabled and not reliant on the internet. The pulsing blue dot will locate you to within feet of where you actually are. You may be inspired to wander to corners of the Island you never witnessed before; getting lost is simply not an option.

The linked YouTube video (below) from my son, John Patrick, will walk you through the necessary steps to download it. Feel free to call him at: (323) 491-6446 if you have any questions on it. For those of you who paid for the map last year, the upgrade replacement is free. If by chance the Avenza host site requires you to pay again, please notify me, and a refund from the store will be cheerfully issued.

<https://youtu.be/IHgn4qjBsng>

An Historical Perspective

John P.M. Higgins

The use of Great Beach by non-family members has always caused consternation, in particular in recent decades as access by unknown crowds, many local, arriving in all manner of affordable craft has proliferated. Cruising guides and coastal press have not been silent on the destination. Awkward encounters happen routinely, and feelings of invasion and interruption of quiet use and solitude have been rife.

(Cont'd page 6)



Oh, for the days when discreet visitors of the same cloth came by personal yacht, always known to a member of the family! Yet, Great Beach as a destination for ‘unknown crowds’ is not a recent phenomenon, as witnessed in the following advertisement in *The Machias Union*, V. 1 #6, of June 29, 1853:

“Fourth July 53 - Grand Excursion to Shorey’s Island

The Steamer Flushing, Capt. E. Norton will make a Grand Excursion to Shorey’s Island, on Monday July 4th leaving Machias at 7 o’clock AM, leave the Bridge at 7 1-2 AM and Machiasport at 8 o’clock AM for the Fishing Ground and Shorey’s Island. Returning – leave Shorey’s Island at 5 o’clock P.M. Fare for Excursion 50 cts.”

Editorial comment opposite the advertisement:

“Ho! for the Islands” The “War” Steamer Flushing will make a pleasure trip to Shorey’s Island, on Monday, July 4th for the accommodation of all who may wish to escape from the “dust and heat” of the city, “and get a good wholesome breath of sea air. As there will be no very flattering inducements to stay ashore, this will be a favourable opportunity to spend the day agreeably and comfortably...”

Barnyard Buzz

Stephanie Gardner

We made it! Though not a brutal winter we couldn’t be more excited for Spring to arrive and with it all sorts of new adventures on the Farm. Spring is a time of rebirth and the garden and barnyard are both teeming with life!

Our new Dairy cow Emma has proven to be quite the milk producer and cute calf deliverer! We welcomed the newest calf, Ella, to the farm on April 11th; and what a darling addition she has proven to be. Emma and Angie are both doing well and Stewart, Stella’s baby from last summer, has grown into a very handsome bull. The farm also gained 24 new lambs, almost doubling the flock, and we have all been enjoying their playful antics. We also have 150 meat birds and 25 new egg laying hens this year, talk about a full house! In addition, ten new pigs have made their way onto the island and returning Farm Assistant and resident pig whisperer Erica, assures us they are as sweet as can be.

Which brings me to my next bit of great news. Our Dream Team from last summer has returned! Kat and Erica, our hardworking Farm Assistants from last summer have both returned to the island for another season. What a difference it makes having people who already know the animals, the garden and the island so well; it has really allowed us to hit the ground running.

Speaking of which, the garden is waking up and we have been eagerly planting and cleaning to get it into tip top production. Already we have leeks, broccoli, kale, lettuce, spinach, brussels sprouts and peas in the ground and growing; not to mention onions and shallots from last season waiting in the walk-in. The Greenhouse is full of seedlings and as each day warms up we are able to plant more and more new and delicious veggies.

A few other exciting projects: our fencing has been getting a facelift and is coming along nicely. And thanks to the efforts of returning Farm Assistant Kat, we are putting up a riding ring for all the young riders to enjoy. Kat has already been hard at work whipping our winter horses into shape for summer riding fun.

We continue to work tirelessly to provide a beautiful, healthy and bountiful garden and barnyard for all to enjoy in the summer months and we look forward to seeing you around the barnyard on your next visit!



Photo Gallery

Spring on the Island - Photos by Stephanie Gardner



Ella and Stewart



The garden waking up



From the Kitchen Cupboard Lamb Chops with Mint Greek Yogurt Sauce

By: Zana Brooke

At the start milking season we quickly begin to drown in all of Emma's luscious milk. It becomes too much for the cast of characters to consume and the pigs are too young to feed such quantities to, so we start to get creative and try new recipes to utilize the dairy. One of my new personal favorites is making plain yogurt and Greek yogurt, which we love to eat with granola and fruit for breakfast. I have found that replacing sour cream with Greek yogurt is a healthier, more cost effective alternative and works wonders in savory applications.

Ingredients:

4 large cloves garlic
3 tbs fresh chopped rosemary
1 ½ tsp dried oregano
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
½ C juice from 4 lemons
½ C olive oil
½ C dry red wine
8 lamb chops
Yogurt Mint Sauce:
6 scallions, white and green parts, chopped
½ C chopped mint
2 tbs minced dill
Pinch red pepper flakes
1 tbs olive oil
1 tbs lemon juice
7 oz Greek-style yogurt
1 tsp kosher salt
½ tsp ground black pepper



Home made Greek Yogurt

Directions:

Place the garlic, rosemary, oregano, 1 ½ tsp salt, and ¾ tsp pepper in the bowl of a food processor fitted with the steel blade and pulse until the herbs are finely minced. Add the lemon juice, olive oil, and red wine and combine. Place the chops in a glass or ceramic dish just large enough to hold them in a single layer. Pour the marinade over the chops, turning to coat both sides. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 2 hours but preferably overnight.

When ready to cook, prepare a grill with one layer of hot coals or turn a gas grill to medium-high heat. Remove the lamb from the marinade, sprinkle generously with salt and pepper, and grill for 4 to 5 minutes on each side. Remove to a platter, cover tightly with aluminum foil, and set aside to rest for 10 minutes. Serve hot with the cold Yogurt Mint Sauce.

Yogurt Mint Sauce:

Place the scallions, mint, dill, red pepper flakes, olive oil, and lemon juice in the bowl of a food processor fitted with the steel blade and puree until it's a coarse paste. Add the yogurt, salt, and pepper and pulse until combined. Transfer to a bowl, cover, and refrigerate for a few hours to allow the flavors to develop.



Downeast Dispatch

Eight Sides, Two Coasts: the Legacy of the Other Man who owned Roque Island.

By Gardner Monks

When John Lowell Gardner, Sr. and his wife Catherine Peabody Gardner signed a bond for a deed to Roque Island on June 1, 1868, Roque might have been lost to us all. Over the next two years, John Shorey and Gilbert Longfellow paid \$5,000 for the island and owned it jointly until 1872 when Longfellow bought Shorey out.

Gilbert Longfellow was born in Machias in 1824, a distant cousin of the poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. He was a farmer, property holder and lumberman. He married a Longfellow cousin, Hannah Stetson Longfellow and together they had two sons and three daughters, and they all lived for a time on Roque. When the Longfellow children were adolescent, the whole family moved back to Machias and in 1882 Gilbert sold the island back to the Gardner family, taking a check for \$10,000 from George Augustus Gardner and his brother, John Lowell Gardner, Jr.. Gilbert Longfellow had doubled his money.

Longfellow also owned land on the mainland. In 1868 (the same year the Gardner bond was first signed), he and John Ulmer Chandler were sharing property in Roque Bluffs, (then called Jonesboro). Longfellow sold his share in the property in 1887 to his partner for \$5 (as a gift). This was the same year that Charles Preble, a master builder from Machias, was hired to build a house on that land, and not just any house - an octagonal house. Back then the surrounding beachside was barren, so the symmetrical building really stood out and was nicknamed the “inkwell”. It's still there to this day, looking over to the Eastern shore of Roque. When you are heading north, it's on the left hand side of Schoppee Point Road, before you turn right towards Simpson Pond and the State Park.

Why an Octagonal House?! [The Octagon House: A Home for All](#), written by Orson Squire Fowler, published in 1848, inspired a fad that led to over 1000 houses being built prior to the Civil War. More sides meant more windows, more fresh air and more light, and the spans weren't as long so the wood could be cheaper.

I went to Los Angeles in 1980 to attend U.S.C. It was then, and will always be, a city in flux. One might forget that its first boom was in the 1880's, which was reflected in a proliferation of elaborate Victorian architecture. 100 years later those structures were fast disappearing. In order to preserve some of these architectural gems, the Heritage Square Museum was created on a ten acre piece of land along the Arroyo Seco Parkway, also known as the “10” or Pasadena Freeway.

Around 2012, my parents were visiting Los Angeles again and I needed some new museums to show them. I remembered the old houses off the “10.” Well, we visited the museum and discovered eight amazingly preserved buildings, including one example of an Octagonal house, the Longfellow-Hastings House. It so happened that in 1973 a man named Walter Hastings agreed to donate his home to the Museum, a house that his grandfather, Gilbert Longfellow, had built in Pasadena. Truth be told, I didn't make the connection for a year or so.

Back to the late 1880's in Maine: it was around this time that the Longfellow family suffered the tragic loss of the mother, Hannah, and their second son, Henry, from tuberculosis. Was this what prompted the Longfellows' departure? We do know that by 1893, Gilbert had 14 acres in Pasadena, California. Surely inspired by the house in Roque Bluffs, he and two men built an Octagon House there that would serve two more generations of his family. Gilbert Longfellow died in 1912 and his house was physically moved one mile north in 1917 to sell the land beneath it, land that would become Cal Tech. This edifice has travelled quite a bit; and Los Angeles continues to change! It will be interesting to take a look at the Roque Bluffs house to check for similarities with its California “relative”.



Longfellow-Hastings House



Poem

My True North

Peter Covino

My true north lies on an island of the coast of Maine called Roque Island. It is a farm filled with white sand beaches and fascinating fairy houses.

My true north is on Roque Island where George (horse) and Oscar (dog) wait for my return every year while I'm in school.

My true north leads me to the first big snow storm of the year when I sink into the fluffy snow excited for a long day of sledding.

My true north hides in my dad's closet where his sweatshirt envelopes me on the coldest days.

My true north draws me to Roque Island where the waves lap up on to the beach, and the hard sand crunching and giving way when I step on it.

My true north hides in Chinese food places where the dumplings live ready to be eaten by me.

My true north takes me to Roque Island, where driving the woods is very peaceful.

My true north is being with my wonderful family on Roque Island where the happiest times are!



Peter Covino

We want your articles and photographs!

To submit an article or photograph for the next Thoroughfare, please contact the editor, Nina Herrick.

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