

The Guillemot



Friends of Hog Island
News 2020-21
March 2020 - March 2021

The mission of the Friends of Hog Island is to preserve the legacy and support the conservation and nature programs and activities of the Audubon Camp at Hog Island.

A Note from the FOHI President . . .

These past 12 months have been a longer, rougher slog than many of us were anticipating last year at this time — ones filled with a great deal of illness, loss, and hardship. Our hearts go out to anyone in the FOHI family who has been touched by the pandemic in those ways.

For many of us, the loss of the 2020 Hog Island camp season was a further blow — losing the time with good friends on our favorite island. But the National Audubon island staff, who remained on salary and very busy, put the closed season to extremely good use. Facilities manager Eric Snyder and facilities assistant Adrian Bregy tackled a number of large, complex projects that would have been impossible with campers on the island, most notably gutting the lower level of the Queen Mary, pulling the structure back to square and plumb, and bracing it so it will remain so — a necessary step for the building's eventual raising above higher and higher flood tide levels. They also moved the main entrance to the QM Lab from the waterfront end of the building to the side facing the Fish House, which will allow a ground-level entryway once the Queen Mary is raised.

Program manager Eva Matthews-Lark shifted into high gear as well, developing online programming including virtual family camp-in-a-box and a teen birding camp; an online lecture series and the Tern the Page book club (both of which involve Hog Island instructors); and much more.

The best news, however, is that camp will reopen this summer, albeit with rigorous Covid-19 protocols in place to ensure

everyone's safety. I, FOHI executive director Juanita Roushdy, volunteer coordinator Tony Ferrera and several long-time volunteers have functioned as a task force working closely with the Audubon staff to figure out the logistics and procedures we need to safely operate this summer, including a requirement that all staff, FOHI, and instructors be fully vaccinated in order to participate. We realize, given the uncertainties of vaccine distribution, that this will pose some hurdles, but we are certain it's the best and safest way to proceed.

It will be a different kind of camp year. Masking and distancing will be strictly enforced. Session sizes will be smaller (a maximum of 30 campers), with fewer FOHI necessarily shouldering more complex tasks, given cleaning requirements. Meal times will be staggered, as much dining and programming as possible will be moved outdoors, and we will not be using vans for transportation. Campers (other than couples or families) will be housed individually. We've been thinking through every aspect of how camp life functions, from laundry to bathrooms to meal service, to make sure we can keep everyone healthy while providing the best island experience possible.

There will be challenges, but I'm certain we'll meet them and exceed even our own high expectations. And I don't know about you, but for me, the highlight of 2021 will be stepping ashore onto Hog Island, and taking a deep breath of spruce-scented air — through my mask, of course.

Scott Weidensaul



Scott, masked, heading to Hog Island.



The new QM side doors.

FOHI in 2020

Friends of Hog Island, like everyone in the universe, had to shift gears rapidly to pandemic shutdown and make emotional and practical decisions.

Financially, we decided not to make an annual appeal but to send a letter reassuring everyone that Hog Island will continue and that “A rising tide lifts all boats.” And so it was. Your unsolicited generosity in 2020 enabled us to raise our annual donation to Hog Island from \$50,000 to \$65,000; to contribute \$10,000 toward the purchase of a much-needed

backhoe; to continue employing our volunteer coordinator and keep in contact with our volunteers; to make our final installment on our digital archive project; and to continue maintaining our reserves for unforeseen circumstances.

Our volunteer team is so strong that most slots were already full for 2020 when we announced that camp would be closed. Tony Ferrera, our volunteer coordinator, was on top of notifying every one of the sad news tempering it with a phone call and the offer of rolling over their spot to 2021.

We renamed our newsletter *The Guillemot*, because of the little seabird's steadfast presence around Hog Island year-

Continued on page 3

New Board Members

Stephen Kress is the founder of National Audubon's Project Puffin and a Visiting Fellow of the Cornell Laboratory of



Ornithology. He previously served as vice president for bird conservation for National Audubon and director of the Hog Island Audubon Camp. His career focus is developing techniques for managing colonial nesting seabirds. Hundreds of professional seabird biologists can trace their first interest in seabirds to internships with Project Puffin. Many innovative

seabird conservation methods that he developed in Maine are now standard practice worldwide.

Dr. Kress received his Ph.D. from Cornell University and his master's and undergraduate degrees from Ohio State University. He is co-author with Derrick Z. Jackson of *Project Puffin: The Improbable Quest to Bring a Beloved Seabird back to Egg Rock* and 'The Puffin Plan.' He is also author of many books on bird watching, gardening for birds and online courses about birds as well as science papers about seabirds and conservation.

Sarah S. Matel returned to her childhood village of Round Pond, Maine in 2006 with her husband Jim to raise their family.



She continued her banking career, which includes over 30 years in commercial lending and commercial credit management. She also spent three years working with Coastal Enterprises, a Maine Community Development Finance Institution, focusing on supporting small Maine businesses and industries important to the Maine economy. Sarah spent several

Continued from page 2 round. FOHI, like the guillemot, is steadfast in its presence on Hog Island. We hope you like the new name.

The other news has to do with the history of the island. FOHI and HistoryIT worked hard to launch the archival website, which can be accessed by going to www.fohi.org and clicking on the orange icon in the sidebar. When working with history, you quickly recognize that it is never ending. Once the site was launched, FOHI started receiving more historical items to add to the site.

FRIENDS OF HOG ISLAND
DIGITAL HISTORY

years on the board of directors of the Rising Tide Community Co-op in Damariscotta and currently serves on the finance committee for the Center for Teaching and Learning, a K-8 demonstration school, in Edgecomb.

Sarah is currently vice president, commercial credit and collections for Bath Savings Institution in Bath. Sarah joins the FOHI board as treasurer.

Don Lyons, ex officio, joined Audubon in 2018 as director of conservation science. He is also an instructor at the Hog Island Audubon Camp and Oregon State University. He lives in Oregon with his spouse Deanna and their three dogs. In the summer they live in Damariscotta. He joins the FOHI board as an *ex officio* member.



Thank You, Anthony and Tony

Anthony La Creta is our retiring treasurer. Although reluctant at first to take on the task, Anthony was soon an ardent convert to all things to do with Hog Island. He put all of FOHI's financial data online in the cloud. He then guided us through hiring our first employee. Not only did he take on the role of treasurer from Gaye Phillips, our first, but with gentle coaxing by spouse Mary and daughter Becka, he became a hard-working volunteer at the work weeks and barista during the sessions. Thank you, Anthony, for taking us to the next level. Enjoy that cruise you and Mary have planned.



Tony Ferrara is our volunteer coordinator. Well in advance, Tony had let FOHI know that 2020 would be his last year in that role, as he and his spouse Cheryl wanted to travel while they still could; Tony came to FOHI six weeks after he had retired from a long-time career in tech. When the pandemic lockdown swooped in, the rubber hit the road. Tony stayed on to manage the volunteers online and by phone. He also graciously agreed to stay on through 2021 making it easier for FOHI to hire a replacement while camp was in session. That generosity of spirit is what keeps Hog Island going. Thank you, Tony, for delaying your retirement to see us through 2021. Tony promises to come back as a volunteer after his travels.



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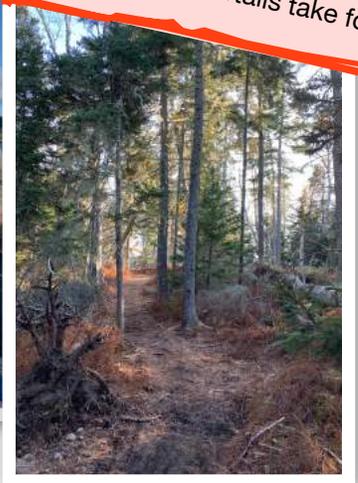
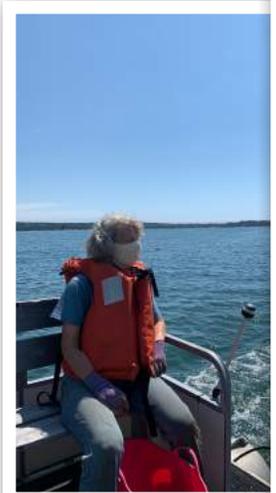
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 Nancy and Michael Dickinson
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Breaking News
 What do climate change, the Queen Mary, and a generous gift to FOHI have in common. Stay tuned as details take form.



Volunteers Remember 2020

No one could have imagined that the Hog Island Camp would be closed in 2020 owing to a worldwide pandemic but it was. Everyone had made their plans to attend camp but in March it was clear that this would not be. Everything was cancelled. Everyone went into isolation and followed protocols. It was a long year. In their own words, a few volunteers share what they found themselves doing during this time.



Carter McDermott-Hinman. My school was completely remote in 2020, and that has been taking up a good amount of my time, but I've still found time to try out new things. This summer, I got into long-distance running (culminating in a marathon in August), and I've been trying to keep up with running during the winter months as well. Even when I can't run, I enjoy going on walks with my mother and

appreciating the nature and the quiet.

Besides running, music is a large part of my life. Throughout the pandemic, I have continued studying viola and piano. I have also continued playing with the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory, both as a part of their symphony orchestra and their intensive chamber program. It has been nice to be able to play and share music with other people again, which was one of the things I missed most last spring.

Another thing that I've found enjoyable in the last few months has been baking. I have always loved baking, and it has been especially helpful as a way to de-stress and take some time for myself. Last fall, I started a non-profit called Pastries for Puffins. I bake custom cakes and desserts, and at the end of the year, I donate all the money I've made to Hog Island. Pastries for Puffins has been a wonderful way for me to explore and expand my baking horizons, while also getting to bring



happiness (and sweets) to others. I am on both Facebook (@Pastries For Puffins) and Instagram (@pastries4puffins). This past year has been full of ups and down, but I have undoubtedly grown as a result of it. I can't say I would have chosen for my senior year to be like this, but I think, all things considered, I am making the most of it.



JB Smith. I fished alewives (for lobster bait) early mornings and late afternoons mid-May into June at Damariscotta Mills.

Then there was volunteer "docenting" at Maine Coastal Botanical Gardens in Boothbay a couple of days a week and running the Maine Maritime Museum's excursion boat Merrymeeting one to three days a week in Bath.



Railroad operations at Alna's WW&Fry were put on hold till August, but then began anew with restrictions. I've worked there Saturdays since up through the present conducting, firing, or go fetching.

No Hog FOHI time certainly opened a big hole in my 2020 calendar, a hole that somehow rapidly filled while reined in by Covid concern. Of course, now with midwinter, days are spent more to home and quiet. However, here comes the sun and hope for a future of greater possibility



Nancy Dickinson. In this year of watching and waiting, I have simply slowed down and put more care into everything I do. Sometimes on birding walks with distanced friends, usually just hikes with the dog, I'm looking, listening, breathing. I try to find something remarkable every day. Since travel ended, we are staying close to home but getting plenty of fresh air. Lucky enough to live in

Maine, we've visited nearby coastline, fields, forests, and even Monhegan Island. I have looked carefully at nature, taken photos, made drawings.

Reading and online classes have allowed me to learn more about birds, insects, and plants. Inspired by a few visits to Hog Island for gardening duties, I focused on my own yard and installed a new bed of native shrubs and perennials. I'm also helping a local park with the restoration of its natural habitat. At home in late summer we watched and waited as monarch



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caterpillars in our milkweed grew, pupated, emerged as butterflies and fluttered away. All year long I'm watching birds in our yard, so my staring out the windows is never boring. (There was recently a Snowy Owl!) I have actually also enjoyed the slow, careful attention to detail in my housekeeping, cooking, and dishwashing, and can't wait to get back to doing it at Hog Island.



Paula Kubisek. My 2020 was to be packed full of adventures and learning to celebrate my 50th birthday. I took a week off of work in February to build a banjo from scratch. I had two volunteer weeks scheduled on Hog Island. Trips with my best friends were booked....

I am lucky and grateful to have a job that I continue to do from home. Early on I had my hours temporarily cut and to keep active and engaged I bought a "fancy" camera and ran around Massachusetts learning to use it on "Furlough Fridays." I vowed to visit all the preserves and parks I had always said I would get to.



As much as I love Boston, I grew VERY weary of city-living in a studio apartment with no direct access to outside. I ended up buying my first house and moving during a pandemic! I now have white pines and birch,

mosses and ferns of my very own.

Nature is truly what kept me sane and connected this past year. Pre-pandemic I was enrolled in the Mass Audubon Field Naturalist Certification



Program. It had been scheduled to start in the spring but was moved to the fall once running a program safely was worked out. Weekly online classes and long days spent safely

out in the field exploring and learning both filled my heart and my mind from early September through December. I have continued taking courses and doing field work focused on lichens and winter ecology in general.

Fred and Beverly Trail. For 2020, we were lucky in the beginning because we started January with three weeks on a small group tour of Patagonia. About half the time was on a cruise in the Chilean fjords and the remaining time in



several parks in Chile and Argentina. Here are a few photos from that trip.

After the glaciers and icebergs in Patagonia we spent a week in February on a Caribbean cruise before getting home right as Covid made its presence known. Once Covid was here our travel was over

for the year but we continued several projects with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) that we were able to do without significant contact with others. For CPW we lead the raptor



monitoring team at our closest state park and we also both volunteer to transport injured wildlife, mostly birds, to local rehab facilities. Fred also works on a CPW project to monitor stream water quality data collected throughout the state. In the latter part of the year we were at least able to see our daughters family, especially our newest grandson, almost weekly, so that was a good end to the year.

Statement of Cash Flow - Cash Basis, 2018-20 (January 1 - December 31)

| EXPENSES | 2018 | 2018 | 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Hog Island | | | |
| Audubon Camp | \$81,615.11 | \$170,824.30 | \$103,728.59 |
| Fundraising | 6,697.45 | 5,476.99 | 4,019.86 |
| Payroll Expenses | 11,677.88 | 19,593.72 | 19,158.44 |
| Other | <u>3,206.67</u> | <u>3,003.78</u> | <u>3,161.37</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$103,197.11 | \$198,898.16 | \$130,068.26 |
| INCOME | | | |
| Donations | \$160,381.27 | \$147,570.32 | \$100,930.34 |
| Other; sales | 1,267.86 | 474.47 | |
| Interest; investments | <u>3,508.51</u> | <u>3,602.25</u> | <u>3,320.63</u> |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$165,157.64 | \$151,647.04 | \$104,250.97 |
| Cash Flow-Year to Date (25,817.29) | \$ 61,960.53 | -\$ 47,251.75 | |

Statement of Financial Condition - Cash Basis December 31

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Net Assets | | | |
| Restricted Cash | \$ 50,549.42 | \$ 9,023.73 | \$ 9,017.50 |
| Unrestricted Cash | <u>283,701.54</u> | <u>277,700.74</u> | <u>252,368.70</u> |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | \$334,250.96 | \$286,724.47 | \$261,386.20 |

Note: TOTAL NET ASSETS includes \$238,647.26 accumulated up through 2016.

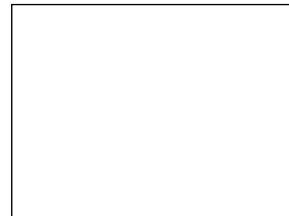
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Friends of Hog Island
P.O. Box 242
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FOHI is an all-volunteer tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.

Promises made; promises kept.



**Hog Island
Opens
May 30,
2021**

For schedule, visit

www.hogisland.audubon.org

Cover photo: Nancy and Tony on their way to Hog Island Covid-style, 2020.

Do you have what it takes to be a FOHI Volunteer?

The ability to work hard, laugh hard, be part of a team, learn new skills,
and make friends for a lifetime.



Every volunteer who works a one-week session gets a FOHI t-shirt for each week they work!

Check out www.fohi.org/support or sign up at www.fohi.org/support/volunteer-signup/.

FOHI's latest volunteer!



FOHI's latest volunteer recruit takes a break from checking the newsletter to remind us to check out the Hog Island programs offered in 2021, including one-day programs. Don't wait!

Go to <https://hogisland.audubon.org/>



Friends of Hog Island

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