

QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

Preserving, maintaining, protecting and enhancing Quissett Harbor

Message from the Chairman and President

Dear Friends,

It has been a long winter, but summer is fast approaching. Soon, we'll be enjoying the warm breezes, beautiful sunsets and all the other benefits Quissett Harbor has to offer.



Craig and Nancy Gibson

In this, our first newsletter of 2009, we update you on QHPT's financial condition, new gifts to our endowment, and the status of our efforts to protect Quissett Harbor, including the Knob. We also bring you some thoughts from our new board members.

Thank you for continuing to be part of our important work of protecting Quissett Harbor.

Chip Morse
Chairman of the Board

Craig B. Gibson, President



Chairman Chip Morse

Prudent Management Protects QHPT Financial Position

As a result of excellent management on the part of outgoing Treasurer Mike Garfield and incoming Treasurer Paul Hogan, QHPT is weathering the downturn in the financial markets very well. Mike and Paul both had recommended a conservative investment strategy for our endowment fund, one that kept the funds in CDs. The board of directors accepted this advice, and, consequently, your generous contributions are secure, making possible our continued efforts to protect Quissett Harbor.

We have much work to do, and fundraising continues to be important. However, prudent management has prevented what could have been a substantial hit to the endowment. Our thanks to Mike for his invaluable advice over the past few years. We rest easy knowing Paul will continue this excellent work.

Oil Spill Response Plan Draft Under Review

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay has completed a first draft of the Oil Spill Response Plan for Quissett Harbor. This comprehensive plan will put in place a series of coordinated execution strategies that allow for an immediate response in the event of a spill. Weatherly Dorris, Craig Gibson and Chip Morse make up the QHPT Liaison Committee, which is charged with coordinating with the Coalition, and are currently reviewing the plan. One of the most critical plan components, a training drill with the fire department, will take place in the spring. We hope to have a final plan by summer.

Update on Habitat Conservation & Management

Soon we will begin our annual replanting of beach grass and re-thinking the stone on the Knob. We continue to experiment with different grasses to find the best combination. This year we will be adding Saltmeadow Cordgrass (which is salt-water tolerant) to the north side

of the causeway, an area where the grass isn't growing as vigorously as we would like. Saltmeadow Cordgrass is commonly used for shoreline protection and dune stabilization.

The new fence is holding up well. We will replace the few remaining stretches of the old fencing this spring.



QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, the board voted in five new members to our Board of Directors:

John Sigel

John Sigel and his family have been living part time on the Cape since 2001. From their home in Falmouth, the Sigels take full advantage of the area's natural beauty. "My family actively uses the harbor: sailing, kayaking, walking the Knob. There will be many changes in the ensuing decades, and the QHPT is a group that is dedicated to anticipating, and responding to, those changes to protect the Harbor."

Laurie Mannix

As someone who has summered on the Cape for 30 years, **Laurie Mannix** has a great appreciation of Quissett Harbor and wants to protect it for others. "The Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust is working to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the natural beauty of this unique place."

Sarah Beir

Sarah Beir and her family have spent many summers boating in and around Falmouth and are completing construction of a new home on Racing Beach this spring. "I welcome the opportunity to get involved in the community and am interested in the issues concerning the preservation of this beautiful body of water."

Joe Martyna

A 50-year Cape resident who makes his home in Falmouth full time, **Joe Martyna** knows just how important Quissett Harbor is to his home. "I believe in the work of QHPT because Quissett and its environs is a very special and unique area, and it needs protection and preservation so that future generations will be able to enjoy and appreciate it."

Paul Hogan

Paul Hogan and his family have been coming to Falmouth since 1978. From their current summer home on Racing Beach (which Paul happily describes as a magnet for kids, grandkids and extended family) they look out upon Quissett Harbor, the sunsets and all the activities of Buzzards Bay. "I was thrilled at the chance to help the Preservation Trust maintain the integrity of the environment and the character of the neighborhoods, and to get to know more of the wonderful people who also love the area."

New Board Members (L. to R.): John Sigel, Laurie Mannix, Sarah Beir, Joseph Martyna, and Paul Hogan (Treasurer).



New Gifts Grow Endowment

While dues income is the backbone of our operating budget, gifts to the endowment are critical to our ongoing efforts. We are pleased to report two generous recent gifts:

- **Yawkey Foundations:** This major, Boston area foundation created by Tom and Jean Yawkey of Boston Red Sox fame has been giving three percent of its funds for

conservation and wildlife. The Yawkey Foundations recently provided a \$5,000 grant to QHPT to support conservation efforts and protect natural resources.

- **Wheeler Family Donation:** The Wheeler family is continuing the legacy begun when they provided the start-up funding for Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust in December 1999. Joan Wheeler

recently awarded QHPT an additional \$50,000 grant. We are grateful, not only for the Wheelers' generous financial support, but also for their commitment of time and their ever-present encouragement. They continue to set an outstanding leadership example, reminding us all about the importance of preserving and protecting the extended Quissett Harbor area.

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