

## FALL 2012

### Message From the President



Rick and Weatherly Dorris

We had a busy summer! We kicked off the season with our second annual Harbor and Beach Clean-up and popular Annual Meeting of Members, and we ended with our September meeting of the Board of Directors. In between, we held educational lectures, performed Knob maintenance, completed conservation projects and began the planning of new projects.

This August, I had the opportunity to meet Falmouth's new town manager, Julian Suso. I joined representatives of the Quissett Harbor House Land Trust and the Quissett Association on a walk along the harbor, familiarizing Mr. Suso with the conservation projects the three groups have collaborated on. I was pleased to be able to point to the tremendous results made possible by our membership, including the restoration of the coastal bank adjacent to Eldred Landing and the rebuilding of the Middle Parking Lot wall.

At our September meeting, the Board of Directors held extensive discussions of how best to continue serving our mission. We recommitted to preserving and protecting the Knob and the water quality of the harbor, and to educating summer and year-round residents, particularly children, about the importance of these natural resources. These meetings always remind me of how fortunate QHPT is to have such a talented and committed board and how lucky I am to work with them.

This newsletter has highlights of our summer activities. And while the days are getting shorter, and the temperature is falling, remember, there is still much to enjoy in Quissett Harbor.

Sincerely,

*Weatherly*



Annual Meeting of Members



Volunteers gather for Harbor and Beach Clean-up.

### Two New Conservation Projects Being Evaluated for 2013

We are evaluating the costs and benefits of two potential new conservation projects. They include addressing the coastal erosion on the southeast side of the Knob and the problem of road run-off discharging into Quissett Harbor.

As with all Knob projects, we would be working with Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries to address the coastal erosion on the Knob. The first step would be to hire a coastal geologist to advise us on feasibility and permit-ability of the project. We would expect to be doing the type of work we just completed on Eldred Landing. Tasks might include stabilizing the bank, which is naturally eroding, and adding plants. Once a consensus is reached on the advisability of the

project and on the budget, we would need to get permitting from the Town of Falmouth Conservation Commission in order to proceed,

Our second potential project involves the run-off down Quissett Harbor Road. When it rains, this steep road sends run-off and contaminants into the harbor. Along the way, the rainwater picks up oil, fertilizer and anything else that has found its way on to the road, creating a water-quality problem. We are looking to hire an engineer to determine how to prevent the run-off from entering the harbor. Again, the project will ultimately depend on a review of feasibility, budget and permitting.

### Our Mission

The Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust is a not-for-profit environmental organization created to preserve, maintain, protect and enhance the natural environment and related ecosystems of the Quissett Harbor and to take action to recognize and minimize threats to the overall health of the area. **For more information, go to [www.qhpt.org](http://www.qhpt.org).**



Young people help with clean-up.

# QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST

## Wheeler Lecture Highlights Complexity of Oil Spill Response

The topic of our 2012 Wheeler Lecture, which took place July 24 at the J. Erik Jonsson Woods Hole Center of the National Academy of Sciences, was "Oil Spill Crises: Scientists Leave the Ivory Tower." Our speaker was Christopher M. Reddy, Senior Scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Chris described the many, varied interests that are brought to bear during a response to a major oil spill. These include professionals from the worlds of science, business, and politics. "The lecture was an eye-opener. I think it highlighted for our members the complexity of a response to this type of event," said Dave Barry, Chairman of the Wheeler Lecture.



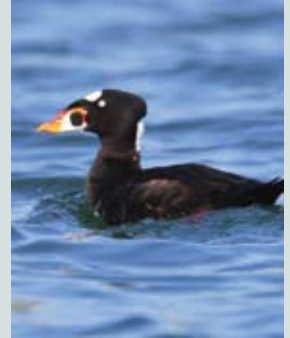
Guests attend Wheeler Lecture.

## Craig Gibson Presents the Birds in Our Backyard

A crowd of 50 people gathered at the Harbor House on August 16 to see Craig Gibson's presentation on Falmouth birds. The slide show highlighted local breeding birds, winter visitors and a variety of migrating birds that pass through Falmouth in the spring and fall. According to Craig, whose bird photos have appeared weekly for the past four years in the *Falmouth Enterprise*, the local area is rich with bird-watching opportunities? "In Falmouth, surprises are to be expected," Craig said. "You don't have to hop on a boat or drive a couple of hours to see rare birds. They do come to us." The program was interactive as the audience described the types of birds they have seen in their own back yards.



Green Heron



Surf Scoter

## Meet Dana Rodin, Board Member

If you've ever walked along the Knob, used the Middle Parking Lot, or looked out upon the harbor from Eldred Landing, you've seen some of the results of Dana Rodin's dedication to and leadership of the preservation of Quissett Harbor. Dana was one of the founding members of the QHPT and manages the Habitat Conservation and Management function.



The Rodin Family

A trial lawyer who works for the Goulston & Storrs law firm in Boston, Dana has spent almost every weekend for the past 40 years in Quissett. At first, he was visiting his wife, Ali's, family, but soon, he and Ali, along with their daughter, Diana, who is now a health care consultant in New York, built their own home here.

"As the area became more popular as a recreation spot, the need for a management and fundraising plan grew," Dana said. "So we started QHPT and set up collaboration with Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries to restore the Knob and take on other projects."

Dana usually walks the beach or the Knob once a weekend to see what needs to be done and to check on the status of the various QHPT projects. He supervises the contractors, who work to replace armor stones, replant beach grasses so the banks don't erode and make repairs to walkways and walls. "In the beginning, I did the planting myself, but today our contractor, Bill Armstrong, and his staff do most of the physical work," Dana said.

While Dana's commitment to Quissett is time consuming, he finds it a nice respite from his day job, trying civil cases that involve construction and claims in the main. "The Quissett work is a labor of love," he said. "The weekend re-energizes me. Being able to work on these projects is its own reward."

## QHPT Holds Second Annual Harbor and Beach Clean-up

Our second annual Harbor and Beach Clean-up took place Saturday, June 23. About 40 people—from ages 8 to 90—turned out to help. The group broke down into smaller teams that covered the public areas of the harbor, starting at Eldred Landing, moving along the Inner Harbor Beach and out to the Knob. "We were delighted with the turnout," said Kate Davis, chairperson of the Education Program. "It only takes about an hour, if you have enough people, and it's so important to keep the areas around the harbor clean."



Volunteers at the Harbor and Beach Clean-up