

**Message From the President -**

Dear Friends,

Spring has barely sprung, yet we already have a lot going on at the Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust (QHPT). Please read through this newsletter to keep up-to-date on work underway on the coastal bank adjacent to Eldred Landing and the Middle Parking Lot, our planned educational projects, the status of our investment strategy, and our calendar of events. To begin the season, plan to join us in June for the Harbor and Beach Cleanup and the Annual Meeting of Members. And look for our new banner designed by Laurie and Jessica Mannix in the July 4th Parade.

As I'm sure you've heard, the new year had a surprising start at my family business, the Quissett Harbor Boatyard. On January 4, fire consumed the main shop and storage building. It was a devastating loss, but I am pleased to report that we are making great strides in the recovery process. The debris has been removed, and there are no outstanding environmental issues. We have completed 90 percent of the survey, site, and architectural plans, and we have received approval from the Historic District Commission.

There is much work that needs to be done before the building itself goes up. But once it does, I think everyone will be pleased. We are using the same footprint and preserving the design of the building as it was. When we are finished, the Quissett Harbor Boatyard will look much the same as it has for the past 100 years.

Rick and I want to thank everyone for the outpouring of support we have received. We are so grateful that no one was hurt, and we are looking forward to another beautiful season on the harbor.

Have a wonderful spring.

Sincerely,

Weatherly Dorris  
President



**Weatherly and Rick Dorris**

**Permit Approval Granted for Two Projects**

For months now we have been in the permitting process with the Falmouth Conservation Commission for two projects: restoring the coastal bank adjacent to Eldred Landing and repairing the Middle Parking Lot on Quissett Harbor Road. "We are pleased that both projects have been approved, and we are moving forward to complete the work," said Board Member Dana Rodin.

- **Eldred Landing:** For the Eldred Landing project, we will be working with landscaper Bill Armstrong, who also works with us to replant beach grass on the Knob each spring. We will first need to remove a dead tree and brush material on the bank. Next, we will bring in environmentally friendly material to form a base for the soil at the foot of the bank. Finally, the right soil mix and native plants will be put in place to restore the vegetation.



**The coastal bank before planting**

- **Middle Parking Lot:** The middle parking lot is located on the landward side of the road between the Quissett Harbor Boatyard and the public parking lot at the entrance to Carey Lane. The wall holding up the edge of the bank that rises to Sunset Hill will be demolished, and a new wall, this one made of stone, will be put in its place.

The Quissett Association is providing a portion of the costs associated with both projects. We hope to complete the work this spring.

**2012 Schedule of Events**

- **Harbor and Beach Cleanup:** June 23, 9:00 a.m.
- **Annual Meeting of Members:** June 30, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- **Wheeler Lecture:** July, TBA
- **Bird Talk:** August 16, 6:00 p.m.

# QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST

## QHPT Works to Keep the Knob Natural and Accessible

Key to our mission is making sure the natural beauty of the Knob is around to be enjoyed for generations to come, but sometimes Mother Nature gets a little out of hand. "Right now, we are coping with downed branches, invasive vines and debris from storms," said Dana Rodin. "We are working with Bill Armstrong to keep the area both natural and accessible." We will also be planting more beach grass and renewing the wire fencing on the narrow causeway of the Knob that prevents the grass from encroaching on the path.

## Education Projects Are in the Works

To meet our mission of preserving Quissett Harbor and the Knob we must continue to provide education about this natural resource and its benefits. Last year we held our first Harbor and Beach Cleanup. "The project not only allowed us to clean the beach and parking lots of debris, but also served to engage people in the mission of protecting the environment," said Kate Davis, who heads the Education Program. "We are pleased to say that the beach itself did not have a lot of trash, an indication of the respect visitors show it," she said. The parking lots were more of a challenge, containing discarded

glass bottles and cigarettes. We'll be holding another cleanup on **June 23 at 9:00 a.m.** Meet at the entrance to the Knob, rain or shine.

In the coming year, Kate is looking to make information about the plants on the Knob more accessible. "We already have the kiosk, which is a great resource," she said. The kiosk, which is located at the entrance to the Knob, provides information about plant life, birds and the history of the Knob. "Now we're looking for ways to make the information mobile, providing guides visitors can take on their walks to allow them to identify what they are seeing. We'll also be looking for ways to get the information to youth groups and other organizations in the area." More details on these projects will be coming soon.

### Dr. Josef Kelldorfer and Wheeler Lecture Chair David Barry



*"If we know and understand how the planet is changing, we have a better way of prescribing the right treatments where they are needed," — Josef Kelldorfer*

## Scientist Talks About Diagnosing and Treating "Patient Earth"

### 2011 Wheeler Lecture

An important part of our education strategy is the annual Wheeler Lecture usually held in July. Last year the speaker was Josef Kelldorfer, Ph.D., senior scientist at Woods Hole Research Center in Falmouth. Kelldorfer's presentation, Radiology of Patient Earth with Radar Eyes in the Sky, covered his work using a range of earth-observing satellites to map features on the earth's surface focusing on land-use patterns and forest and wetland ecosystems. From data the research center collects, which it provides to governments around the world, scientists are able to map and monitor the changing face of the earth at ever improving detail.

"If we know and understand how the planet is changing, we have a better way of prescribing the right treatments where they are needed," Kelldorfer said. "I was particularly excited to bring the medical analogy into this lecture as a way of demonstrating how using radar imaging to map the earth is like using an x-ray to diagnose a person's medical condition. I'm the radiologist; my patient is earth."

No word yet on who the speaker will be this year, so stay tuned.

## Financial Update

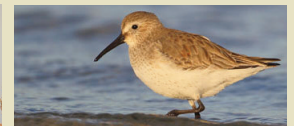
- **PayPal:** Knowing that many people like to conduct business online, we recently added PayPal as an option for our donors to make contributions. This has worked very well for both our supporters and QHPT. PayPal is secure; handles the administration of credit card donations for us; and provides a quick, easy option for donors.
- **Investment Strategy:** In our winter newsletter we told you about the decision of the Board of Directors to slightly adjust our investment strategy to include higher return investments with the aim toward creating operating income. At the time, Paul Hogan, our treasurer, said, "If we leave everything in bank deposits, we probably won't lose money, but we also will not be generating the income needed to support the organization." Since then, we have invested as planned with 60 percent of resources going to stocks and bonds via bond and stock mutual funds. We retain 40 percent in savings. The board-appointed investment committee, consisting of Paul, Dick DeWolfe and Dave Barry, all of whom have significant experience in the financial industry, is monitoring progress.

## Get Ready to Renew Your Membership

You will soon be receiving our annual membership mailing, asking you to continue your support of QHPT. As a reminder, suggested dues are \$100 for a family and \$50 for an individual, however, we are pleased to accept donations in any amount. We also encourage members to make contributions in memory of loved ones.

QHPT was formed initially to preserve and maintain the Knob. However, its mission has broadened to include the Harbor. Today, QHPT is an extension of our community, providing opportunities for people concerned about the local environment to interact around important issues. Whether participating in the Harbor and Beach Cleanup, attending the Annual Meeting or listening to the Wheeler Lecture, our members are interested and engaged. Contributions help make all this possible.

If you know someone new to the Falmouth area, let us know, we'd love to tell them about the work of QHPT.



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