

## WHOI PRESIDENT DELIVERS A THOUGHT-PROVOKING WHEELER LECTURE

Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust was thrilled and privileged to host Dr. Peter de Menocal. president and director of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), as this year's Wheeler lecturer. Laura Morse, who has headed the Wheeler Lecture program for many years, introduced Dr. de Menocal's presentation on "The Secret Life of the Sea: Exploration, Discovery and **Unexpected Solutions.**"

Dr. de Menocal introduced the audience to the Twilight Zone — the open ocean between the depths of 100 meters and 1,000 meters that plays an essential role in storing the enormous volume of carbon that is generated on land and burdens earth's atmosphere. He described the cycle of living creatures that employ the carbon to survive, and then are consumed by larger creatures who, through death or excretion, ultimately send the carbon to the lower depths where it is stored for hundreds of years. Dr. de Menocal described the ingenious equipment that WHOI uses to study this Twilight Zone.

Dr. de Menocal issued a call to action for independent science to develop a comprehensive network of surface and undersea sensors — an "ocean internet" to measure all the variables

affecting life in and the chemistry of the ocean, particularly as those factors materially affect all life on earth. He also emphasized the need for innovative research to see whether science can enhance the ocean's ability to absorb atmospheric carbon, using as an example a project that WHOI has proposed to increase the alkalinity of areas of the ocean to promote additional carbon absorption.

We thank Dr. de Menocal for an exciting and stimulating lecture!

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The slides from Dr. de Menocal's OHPT lecture and a link to his TEDxBoston lecture are on the OHPT website under Past Wheeler Lectures.

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# **NEWSLETTER-FALL 2024** Dreserving, maintaining, protecting and enhancing Quissett Harbor

## **MESSAGE FROM JOHN**

Hello members, friends and supporters of the Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust.

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer and are enjoying what has been a beautiful fall around the harbor. With this fall's good weather and rare easterly winds, the harbor and bay have been full of sailboats gliding on calm waters and offshore breezes. Let's hope that we have a similarly tranquil

But we all know that you cannot gamble on a peaceful New England winter. Our stabilization project at the outer harbor bank of the Knob (discussed at right) survived last year's tough winter weather. We are doubling down on last year's work by doubling the size of the cobble berm — a line of mixed rock along the shoreline designed to dissipate wave action before it hits the reinforced harbor bank. We hope to complete that work by late fall. Our board is in the process of considering other projects over the next decade that will increase the resiliency of the harbor and its surroundings, and enhance the public's enjoyment of

We are pleased to welcome three new directors to the board of the Trust: Joan Driscoll, Sarah Burleigh and John Kenney. We have already benefitted from their new ideas and contributions.

Thank you all for your continuing generosity to the Trust. Please think of the Trust when you are considering your end-of-year charitable gifts.

Have a happy and safe fall and winter, and best wishes for the new year!

Best regards, John Sigel, President

#### BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE OUTER HARBOR

With the reconstruction of the outer harbor stone armor successfully completed, the Trust's focus has turned to strategic upkeep of areas of the harbor and its surroundings. Dana Rodin reports that the coir log installations, secured with galvanized steel anchors and cables on the outer harbor bank of the Knob. survived the winter's storms fully and robustly intact. The coir log array, accompanied by a berm of mixed cobble at the shoreline below the array, was



part of the erosion control work completed in 2023 and early 2024. Earlier this year, Bill Armstrong and his team applied additional sand on the array, topped with jute fiber and beach grass plantings. As described at the annual members' meeting in June, the cobble berm at the shoreline edge of the 95-foot stabilization area is intended to protect the coir log array by dispersing the effect of damaging wave energy. The waves lose energy when moving the cobble around before hitting the coir log array.

To maintain these protections against damaging winter storm wave action, QHPT plans to continue to supplement the protective layers of beach grass plantings, sand and cobble. The QHPT board has approved a project to double the cobble along the 95 feet of the outer harbor bank and add cobble along 50 feet at the inner harbor corner and on either side of the stairs. The Trust will continue its annual maintenance projects co-funded by the Trust and Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries.

The QHPT board is also assessing other projects including adding plantings along the access road, renewal of jute coverings at locations along the inner harbor, fencing repairs on Crescent Beach, invasives control, benches or other resting spots and seasonal renewal of the kiosk display. Much of the future work will involve collaborations with partner organizations such as the Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuary, the Quissett Harbor House Land Trust and the Quissett Association.

The Trust intends to partner with the Quissett Association to install a water temperature measurement system to supplement the existing sea-level monitoring system installed by the Quissett Association with the Trust's financial support.



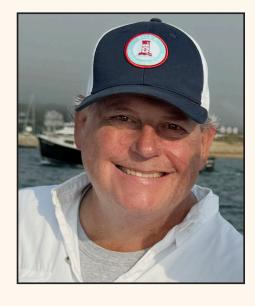
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## QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST

## **Introducing Three New Board Members**

## John Kenney

John and his wife Lizanne have been active members of the Quissett summer community since their arrival five years ago. Their five adult children are frequent visitors to their summer house on Carey Lane. Their winter home is in Summit, NJ. "Our whole family has fallen in love with Quissett and its people," says John. "It's an honor to work with QHPT to preserve and enhance this special place as various environmental factors present ever-increasing challenges." John is a co-founder and partner of Cult Capital, a company that invests in and partners with early-stage consumer product companies that have "cult-like" consumer followings.





## Sarah Burleigh

Sarah is an active member of the Quissett summer community. She grew up sailing on the harbor and Buzzards Bay, and was an instructor in the QYC summer sailing program. Her family's summer home is on Carey Lane and she's renovating her Somerville, MA, home. "Quissett Harbor is a beautiful area," she says, "and a part of the world I've been lucky enough to live by my whole life. I look forward to being a steward of that area." She is Assistant Vice President, Strategic Operations, at Stellar Health. Her diverse background includes working for AmeriCorps/VISTA and in nonprofit consulting.

## Joan Driscoll

Joan has been visiting Woods Hole for over 30 years. She spends her summers with her husband and two teenage boys on Gansett Road. They love being on the water and believe in supporting the preservation of Quissett Harbor. "As a new member of the QHPT," Joan says, "I am honored to join in protecting the beauty and integrity of the harbor and I look forward to helping support its preservation for future generations." Joan's background is in developmental psychology. In Boston, she worked at the Child Development Unit at Children's Hospital supporting research on the impacts of maternal depression on infant and toddler development. She volunteers at The Buckingham Browne & Nichols School, the Boston Food Bank and the Cummings Foundation.



#### QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST

#### QHPT HOLDS ITS 25TH ANNUAL MEETING

The Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust held its 25th annual members' meeting on June 29 at Willett Hall. The membership acknowledged the exemplary service of two retiring board members — Dick Mannix and Lisa Bernstein. Chairman Randy Evans recognized and honored contractor Bill Armstrong for his lifetime achievements on behalf of our Quissett community. Bill's work has contributed to the protection and restoration of the rock

armor, outer harbor bank and inner harbor wall, among many other projects. Dick, Lisa and Bill received tokens of gratitude — jigsaw puzzles picturing the Knob at sunset.

Martha Bennett and Laura Morse introduced three new directors — John Kenney, Joan Driscoll and Sarah Burleigh — who will serve four-year terms.

Andy Zimmerman, the Trust's treasurer, presented a report on the Trust's financial position. Andy noted that the Trust is in a strong financial position and holds \$500,000 in reserve against future emergencies. But Andy also noted that annual dues cover only a percentage of the Trust's annual expenditures, and that the remainder comes from additional contributions by members and earnings on the Trust's invested assets. Andy urged members to continue their generous contributions, and to consider including the Trust in their wills.

Dana Rodin provided an update on the work on the outer harbor bank, adjacent to the harbor portion of the Knob rock armor. He described the



Trust's plan for Fall 2024 to supplement the rock cobble "berm" — a ridge of unmortared rocks at the shoreline — designed to absorb wave action and further protect the bank stabilization project. John Sigel thanked Dana for all his work on this project, including becoming expert on emerging coastal resilience technology. The meeting adjourned to a reception on the Harbor House lawn.

## BEAUTIFUL MORNING FOR A PRODUCTIVE BEACH CLEANUP



A beautiful morning on Saturday, June 15, brought 23 participants out to help collect trash and debris along the harbor approach, inner harbor beach, the Knob trails, Crescent Beach and the Beach Club beach. The crew, guided by Danie Kinkade with help from Sarah Burleigh, fanned out with gloves and plastic buckets.

Surprisingly, the group encountered few dog waste bags (thank you, dog walkers), but more fishing tackle, line and roping than previous years. Among the finds were commercial fishing netting and a large ball of mixed commercial line weighing approximately 75 waterlogged pounds!

The remaining debris weighed in at 61 pounds for a total of 136 pounds of trash. Many thanks to the dedicated community members who came out to help keep our shoreline trash free.

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