



“Quissett Harbor, the Knob and the Quissett Harbor House from Sunset Hill”—photo by Charles Henry Sawyer, 1912. Sawyer was a photographer who captured images of New England scenes in the early 20th century and used them to sell hand-painted colored photographs. Around 1912, Sawyer took dozens of pictures in Quissett and Sippewissett. The Woods Hole Historical Museum recently obtained the original glass plate negatives that he created and digitized them to make them available to the public. For more information about this collection or to obtain prints of these images, please contact whmarchives@gmail.com.



QHPT member Chris Kinkade wrestles 75 pounds of rope retrieved from the shoreline in 2024.

(Photo by Danie Kinkade)



We had a great turnout for the 2024 clean-up. Hope to see you all again on June 21!

Beach Clean-up Scheduled for June 21

Please join us on Saturday, June 21, 9:30 AM, at the Harbor House parking area for our annual beach clean-up. We will walk the beaches and footpaths of Quissett, collecting the past winter’s debris and ensuring our beaches are pristine and ready for summer fun.

This event is always a great opportunity to reconnect with nature, friends and neighbors after the winter’s hiatus. We recommend comfortable walking shoes, a water bottle and sun protection. If you have buckets for debris collection and gloves, please bring them.

But don’t worry — buckets and gloves will be available if you need them. As in prior years, refreshments will be provided.

PLEASE CONSIDER ADDING THE QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST TO YOUR ESTATE PLAN!

MESSAGE FROM JOHN

Greetings, members, friends and supporters of Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust.

We had a reasonably mild winter, with the exception of the February 17th storm, which tested our new erosion control system on the outer harbor bank facing Gansett Point, near the wooden harbor stairs. The new system prevailed. We have spent additional funds and effort in the first quarter of 2025 further reinforcing that area, which absorbs considerable impact from storms that range from the southwest to the northwest. It is a vulnerable point, and further erosion ultimately risks compromising access to the Knob causeway.

Even with the moderate winter, there has been continued erosion on the middle harbor bank, across from the former National Academy of Science property. Our partner on the Knob, **Salt Pond Area Bird Sanctuaries**, has continued its work in that area to cut back overhanging trees, which jeopardize the strength of the bank because their root ball carries away sediment when the trees fall, and to move paths back from the eroded areas.

These continued challenges reflect the new reality: every step we take must recognize the increasing effect of wind, waves, sea-level rise and tides. In understanding this, we have been helped immeasurably by the presence of **MBL, WHOI, NOAA, Woodwell** and **SEA** in the Falmouth community. The list of recent Wheeler Lectures, elsewhere in this newsletter, shows the relevant expertise that all of these institutions bring to bear on climate events that will continue to affect our way of life. Many of these institutions’ employees are also members of QHPT. The funding for several of these organizations, and the jobs of many employees, have been put at risk by a change in views on the value of government-funded scientific research. Whatever your political views, I ask our members to continue to educate themselves on the issues, and express their opinion.

Finally, this winter we lost **Mort Saunders**, a vital person in the Quissett community and an active member of our board for seven years. Mort was an exemplary director—thoughtful, articulate, practical and enthusiastic—and QHPT will miss him, as will the rest of the Quissett community.

We are looking forward to a wonderful summer around the harbor. Thank you for all your efforts and contributions.

John Sigel, President

Stabilizing the Shoreline on the Outer Harbor

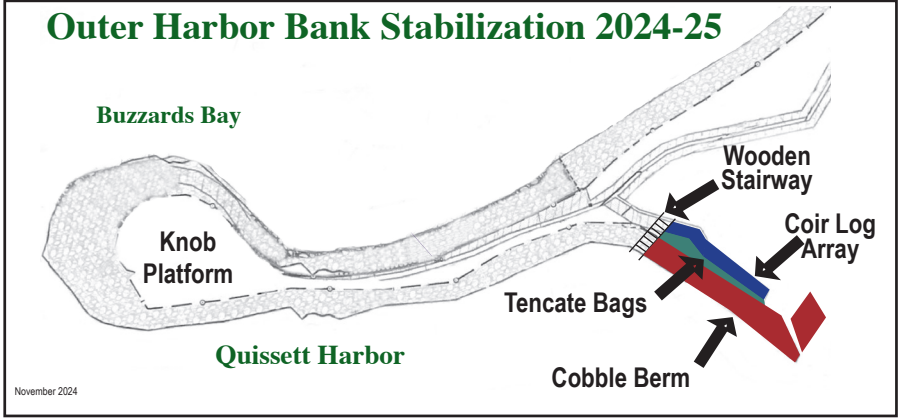
Winter and Spring 2024-2025

The peepers and woody frogs have returned to pools on the Knob and behind the Harbor House, reminding us of the reassuring rhythm of the natural world.

This season we continued with a third phase on the work to protect the outer harbor bank adjacent to the wooden stairs near the Knob causeway area. Based on the analysis and advice that our consultant Trey Ruthven of Sustainable Coastal Solutions presented to the QHPT Board last June, we engaged Bill Armstrong and his team to supplement the cobble mix of stone and sand protecting the coir log array installed by Wilkinson Ecological Design in 2023. This system protects the natural bank in this strategic location adjacent to the narrow neck leading to the Knob platform. We are well on our way to establishing a so-called “dynamic cobble berm” that will shift back and forth on the shore. The berm is designed to protect the coir log array by dispersing the effect of damaging wave energy. The goal is a more sustainable erosion control with periodic maintenance of the sand and beach grass cover on the coir logs and additional cobble at the base.

continued on page 2

The recent work on the outer harbor bank (to the right of the wooden staircase) has reinforced the bank with an array of anchored coir logs and protected that array with a mobile berm of wave-dispersing rocks and gravel at the base of the bank.



Stabilizing the Shoreline on the Outer Harbor

continued from front page

We have also supplemented beach grass plantings adjacent to the Knob causeway path. And we have scheduled follow-up work for path, fencing, and select erosion control projects from our joint “to do” list with Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries. Those projects will continue through the summer and fall.

The mild winter has permitted many people to investigate all the trails on the Knob. Salt Pond’s recent work to reroute the path to the middle harbor beach has assured continued access to that popular location in the face of erosion to the harbor bank. Dana Rodin has trimmed back the growth on the “rabbit track” path that leads from the middle harbor beach back to the armored Knob causeway. This path seems to be extremely popular with young families who enjoy a twisty walk in the woods.

We are moving into summer with the Knob area in good shape and are ready to welcome its friends and admirers.



Bill Armstrong and Fritz Kaufmann use custom-made chutes to deliver additional cobble mix to the inner harbor bank next to the wooden stairs.

Financial Report 2024
(January 1- December 31, 2024)

Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust continues to be in a solid financial position at the end of calendar year 2024 with assets just over \$700,000. This is an increase of \$130, 000 from the end of December 2023.

Our capital expenditures in 2024 were significantly less than in the prior several years. We have completed our multi-year \$2 million investment in restoring the rock armor facing Buzzards Bay. This past year our major capital expense has been almost \$70,000 spent on labor and materials for erosion control on the Quissett Harbor side of the outer Knob facing Gansett. You’ll see a more detailed report elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our assets provide a ready source of immediate cash if we experience a major storm damage in the coming years. This is a good “insurance policy.” In addition, these funds, invested conservatively, provide significant income that helps pay a portion of our annual maintenance expenses on the Knob that we share with Salt Pond Area Bird Sanctuaries, as well as other projects around the harbor, and help cover our modest administrative expenses.

But we could not do our job for you and the Quissett community without the annual dues of our loyal members and the consistently generous donations of our contributors. We thank you all and urge you to continue to support our mission to preserve, maintain, protect and enhance our Quissett Harbor.

Assets as of January 1, 2024.....\$575,618.07

Revenue

- Capital Campaign Contributions97,450.00
- Annual Dues and Contributions59,925.00
- Dividends and interest30,073.12
- Unrealized gains40,767.78

Total Revenue for Calendar Year 2024.....\$228,215.90

Expenses

- Knob Rock Armor Completion2,499.46
- Outer Harbor Erosion Control68,266.72
- Ongoing Knob Maintenance share.....7,673.84
- Communications and Wheeler Lecture7,727.68
- Administrative Expenses.....7,235.00
- Tax Prep and Accounting.....4,700.00

Total Expenses for Calendar Year 2024.....\$96,109.15

Net Income Calendar Year 2024\$132,106.75

Assets as of December 31, 2024\$707,724.82

‘AI and Climate: A perspective on the future’
Topic of Wheeler Lecture

Tod Hynes will be the speaker for our Wheeler Lecture on Sunday, July 13, addressing the topic “AI and Climate: A perspective on the future.” Once again, this lecture for our members will be held at 5 PM at the Parish and Community Center of the Church of the Messiah, with a cocktail reception to follow.

An MIT graduate, senior lecturer, and serial entrepreneur, Tod currently teaches a graduate MIT course called Climate & Energy Ventures. He co-founded and advises on the award of the MIT Climate & Energy Prize. Since 2002 he has participated in the formation of more than 20 companies in the climate and energy space. He founded XL Fleet, one of the first fleet vehicle electrification companies, which scaled across the US and Canada and went public in 2020. From 2004 to 2008 he was the Director of Alternative Energy at Citizens Energy. Locally, Tod and his family have been summer residents of Woods Hole for many decades, and he serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Woodwell Climate Research Center.



Invitations for the lecture will be sent later in the Spring.

WHEELER LECTURES 2018-2024

2024: “The Secret Life of the Sea: Exploration, Discovery, and Unexpected Solutions,”

Peter de Menocal, PhD, President and Director, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

2023: “Rough Weather Ahead: How Climate Change is Making Our Weather More Extreme,”

Jennifer Francis, PhD, Senior Scientist, Woodwell Climate Research Center.

2022: “An Exploration of Falmouth Birds Through the Seasons,” Craig Gibson, Former QHPT

President and Director

2021: “Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Managing the impacts of land use and climate change on local watersheds,” Marcia Macedo, PhD, Associate Scientist, Woodwell Climate Research Center.

2019: “The Wild, Wild Depths,” James Bellingham, PhD, Director of the Center for Marine Robotics, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

2018: “Ocean Plastics Pollution from Quissett Harbor to the ‘Garbage Patches’: Sources, impacts and solutions,” Kara Lavender Law, PhD, Research Professor of Oceanography, Sea Education Association.

Saying Goodbye to Mort Saunders

Our director and friend **Mort Saunders** died on January 7 at the age of 91. An active protector of Quissett Harbor, he served on the QHPT board of directors from 2018 until his death. As QHPT Chairman Randy Evans said, “This Board will miss Mort’s firm and sage advice as well as his joy, generosity and community spirit.” Mort was a terrific board member who brought his intellect, practical advice and enthusiasm to every meeting. He enjoyed sailing and racing his Herreshoff, Found It, in numerous competitions. He was a commodore of the Quissett Yacht Club and received the Paul Lloyd O’Sullivan Trophy in 2014. He will be greatly missed. We send our condolences to his family.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 5–7:30 PM

Quissett Harbor House, Willett Hall. A reception on the Harbor House lawn follows the business meeting. Please RSVP by Monday, June 23, to Colleen Hurter at cdhurter@gmail.com.

SAVE THESE DATES!

- Saturday, June 21:** Harbor and beach cleanup, 9:30 AM. Assemble at the Harbor House deck.
- Saturday, June 28:** Annual Meeting of Members, 5–7:30 PM, Willett Hall
- Sunday, July 13:** Wheeler Lecture, 5 PM, Church of the Messiah Parish and Community Hall

TIME TO PAY QHPT DUES

Please renew your membership for 2025 by going to our website, QHPT.org, where you can pay your dues through PayPal or with a credit card. You may also use the envelope that accompanies this newsletter. We encourage you to do so before the June 28 annual meeting. Thank you for your continued support.