

MESSAGE FROM JOHN

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

We are looking forward to a great summer, after a reasonably mild winter. The February blizzard did a lot of damage all around Falmouth, but the Harbor seemed to be generally unscathed. There were lots of smaller trees down over the public paths—**Dana Rodin** and his chain saw were kept very busy—and the heavy snow delayed some of the work that we wanted to be sure to complete by spring. But **Bill Armstrong** and **Fritz Kaufmann** jumped into action when the snow melted and quickly completed the cobble supplementation on the outer harbor bank, planted some more erosion-limiting vegetation and reinforced the fencing protecting the stabilization area.

I want to welcome our new board members, **Sarah Clowes** and **Jim Estes**, who both have long-term ties to the Harbor. We are excited to see what new perspectives they will bring to the board!

Laura Morse, who has headed the Wheeler Lecture program for many years, has once again secured an excellent speaker—**Tim Ritchie** of the Boston Museum of Science. This is Laura's last year to run the program; **Joan Driscoll** will be taking over. I want to thank Laura for all of the great work that she has done over the years introducing our membership to stimulating issues at the forefront of current science.

Congratulations to long-time QHPT supporter **Doug Cooper** on his excellent cover article in the current issue of Woods Hole Historical Museum's *Spritsail* on the Herreshoff S-Boats of Quissett Harbor and the colorful characters who have raced them. For more information about *Spritsail*, see woodsholemuseum.org/publications/spritsail-journal/

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

John Sigel, President

Harbor Bank Stabilization

The Knob and its paths were snow-covered and frozen for much of the winter. And the sand and ground water levels were so high at Crescent Beach that our contractors could not begin the fence replacement project during the winter months. But with the thaw, and some late winter storms reducing the sand levels, **Bill Armstrong** and **Fritz Kaufmann** have been able to complete most of the scheduled projects.

Early in the winter, Bill and Fritz stabilized an eroding bank at the northern end of Crescent Beach.

As the paths and access road thawed, Bill and Fritz used a cleverly rigged trestle and chute to apply supplementary cobble to the outer harbor bank stabilization area. Cobble supplementation enhances the dissipation of wave energy at the toe of the bank. Using light equipment, Bill and Fritz moved 80 cubic yards of cobble and sand from the staging area along the access road and deposited it on the lower portion of the harbor bank, without disturbing the upper level of protective sand and vegetation on the bank that had been applied over the last two years. They have also reinforced the fencing around the work area to reduce the frequency of erosion from foot traffic.

Finally, Bill and Fritz will soon commence the repair of the fencing on Crescent Beach that is designed to discourage foot (and paw) traffic on the eroding dunes and bank.

One of our partners on the Knob, **Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries**, did some great work clearing paths that had been blocked by sizable fallen trees during the winter storms. And Dana Rodin, a member of our board and head of the **Quissett Harbor House Land Trust** (our other partner), cleared tons of brush and windfall with his chainsaw.

We were pleased to get the heavy work done when the traffic on the Knob was light, leaving it ready for summer use.



Subcontractor Rich Clements shuttling a load of cobble mix from the staging area to the outer harbor bank erosion project site for the 2026 supplementation



Bill Armstrong using a long reach mini-excavator to load cobble into a delivery chute mounted on a movable trestle; Fritz Kaufmann on the cobble berm standing by to spread the cobble.

Wheeler Lecture



Tim Ritchie, Gwill York President of the Boston Museum of Science, will be the speaker at the Wheeler Lecture July 12 at 5 PM at the Church of the Messiah Parish and Community Center. The topic of his lecture will be “Science and Public Opinion: Bad News is Good News.”

In a 2024 interview with Harvard Data Science Review, Ritchie was asked to outline some ways in which the museum world and the research community can together increase science literacy and a better-informed society. He responded, “You should not leave a museum without saying at some point, ‘Oh, I had no idea.’ That’s kind of the whole point.”

He said “Data is hugely important... Data is what helps us live evidence-based lives.

Data is what helps us realize that oh, we thought X, but the truth is Y. That’s hugely important. Just as truth is central to ordered liberty, so it is to museums. That is very much under assault right now.”

“People really want to live on the basis of their preexisting ideas... [but] I think data and evidence helps us create the world as it is. It helps us greet reality as a friend. And that’s a very important thing for a science center to do.... And it’s usually good news even when it starts out as bad news. Bad news is good news because you can do something about it... [and] you’re going forward on the basis of the truth.”

Since 2004, Ritchie has led science centers across the country, including McWane Science Center and the Tech Interactive. In 2020, he became president of the Museum of Science in Boston. He received his BA from Davidson College, his JD from Duke Law School, and his MPA from Harvard’s Kennedy School.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

SATURDAY,

JUNE 27, 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 22,
to Colleen Hurter at
cdhurter@gmail.com.

Financial Report 2025

(January 1- December 31, 2025)

Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust continues to be in a solid financial position at the end of calendar year 2025 with assets just over \$760,000. This is an increase of \$60, 000 from the end of December 2024.

Our capital expenditures in 2025 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 and the last substantial payments on multi-year campaign pledges were received in 2024. This past year our major capital expense has been almost \$30,000 spent on labor and materials and professional consultants 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, 2025.....\$707,081.32

Revenue

- Annual Dues and Contributions 87,226.47
- Dividends and interest 34,702.76
- Unrealized gains/losses (-6,526.07)
- Remaining Capital Campaign Pledge Payments 1,500.00

Total Revenue for Calendar Year 2024.....\$116,093.16

Expenses

- Outer Harbor Erosion Control (including consultant fees) .. 29,640.38
- Ongoing Knob Maintenance share.....9,753.24
- Communications and Wheeler Lecture..... 11,128.52
- Administrative Expenses..... 7,292.33
- Tax Prep and Accounting..... 4,496.00

Total Expenses for Calendar Year 2025..... \$62,310.47

Other Income (expense reimbursement) 5,544.00

Net Income Calendar Year 2025 \$60,136.69

Assets as of December 31, 2025 \$767,218.01

New Directors

We are pleased to report on two newly-elected QHPT directors, **Sarah Clowes** and **Jim Estes**, each elected to a four-year term.



Sarah is a fifth-generation summer resident of Quissett and has been active on the harbor since childhood, where she participated in years of sailing class and enjoyed sailing on the QYC racing team. She earned her BS and MS from Stanford University, majoring

in environmental science and minoring in studio art. She began her career teaching oceanography to undergraduates aboard a research vessel with Sea Education Association out of Falmouth. After committing to life on land, she worked in marine conservation at World Wildlife Fund before spending 15 years teaching science to high school students in San Francisco. Sarah currently lives in Burlington, Vermont, with her family, where she teaches nature journaling and watercolor.



Jim is a lifelong resident of Falmouth and lives on McCallum Drive. He attended Middlebury College and graduated with a major in economics. After graduation, he worked for Chubb Insurance in New York City, but quickly returned to Falmouth in 1982 to work at his family's restaurant, Landfall. In 1987 Jim and

his two brothers bought Landfall from their dad, who had started the restaurant in 1946. In 1988 Jim married Jean Nolan, who has been a registered nurse at Falmouth Hospital for 40 years. Currently, Jim is partnering with his niece Katie and working with his daughter Jenny, who will take over Landfall from him when he is ready to retire. Jim and Jean have four children, Jenny, Kristen, Kat, and Brian, three of whom live in Boston and one in Falmouth. When the three girls were younger, they spent two summers in the Quissett sailing program, and Jim enjoyed sitting on his beach chair on those beautiful summer mornings watching his children float around in the Optis. He enjoys many summer swims in the inner harbor of Quissett and frequent long winter walks around the Knob. Jim and Jean are members of the Woods Hole Golf Club and the Falmouth Sports Center. Over the years Jim has been a Falmouth Town Meeting Member and a member of Falmouth Chamber of Commerce and the Woods Hole Business Association. Jim and Jean enjoy swimming, tennis, paddle tennis, golf, biking, skiing, snow shoeing, hiking, and of course, long walks around Quissett.

2025-2026 QHPT Officers and Directors

Officers:

Chairman, Randy Evans
President, John Sigel
Treasurer, Putney Cloos
Clerk & Secretary, Mark Polebaum
Chair Emeritus, Dick DeWolfe

Directors:

Sarah Burleigh
 Putney Cloos
 Sarah Clowes
 Hilary Davis
 Joan Driscoll
 James Estes

Randy Evans
 John Kenney
 Laura Morse
 Mark Polebaum
 Dana Rodin
 John Sigel

TIME TO PAY QHPT DUES

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026 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 27 ANNUAL MEETING.



View from the beach by the Quissett Harbor Boatyard with the Captain Rogers House to the left on the hill and Hurricane Hall to the right. (Photograph by Charles Henry Sawyer c.1912. Courtesy of Woods Hole Historical Museum)

Beach Clean-up Scheduled for June 20

Please join us on Saturday, June 20, 9 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.



Volunteers head back from the Knob after the summer 2025 clean-up.

Chris Anderson shows his trash collection.

Photo by Emmy Grunseich

Photo by Sarah Burleigh

SAVE THESE DATES!

- June 20 :** Harbor and beach clean-up, 9 AM.
Assemble at the Harbor House deck.
- June 27:** Annual Meeting of Members, 5–7:30 PM, Willett Hall.
- July 12:** Wheeler Lecture, 5 PM, "Science and Public Opinion: Bad News is Good News," Tim Ritchie, President of the Boston Museum of Science, Church of the Messiah Parish and Community Center.

Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust, Inc. • P.O. Box 391 • Falmouth, MA 02541

Contact us: info@qhpt.org • qhpt.org

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