

# QUISSETT HARBOR PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

*Preserving, maintaining, protecting and enhancing Quissett Harbor*

## Message from the President

Dear Friends,

### As the mission of Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust has grown,

so has our commitment to building relationships with a wide range of conservation groups. We continue our important collaboration with Quissett Harbor House Land Trust and Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. These partnerships are critical as we all strive to achieve our shared goal of preserving, maintaining, protecting and enhancing the Quissett Harbor area. Additionally, we are reaching out to other groups, building relationships with environmental organizations that work throughout the Cape. These include:

- The Compact for Cape Cod Preservation Trusts, an umbrella organization focused on preservation and conservation Cape wide;
- The Coalition for Buzzards Bay, which focuses on protecting the bay and its watershed; and
- The 300 Committee, a town-wide group dedicated to preserving and protecting natural lands in Falmouth.

What all of these groups have in common is a commitment to preserving

this beautiful corner of the world we call home. Among them we find a wide array of expertise. The Compact for Cape Cod Preservation

Trusts is working with us to enhance our planning and management capabilities. As you'll read later in this newsletter, The Coalition for Buzzards Bay is helping us to implement an Oil Spill Response Plan. The 300 Committee is dedicated to protecting and preserving open space in Falmouth. We hope that, by fostering an open dialog with The 300 Committee and others, we can increase our knowledge and develop best practices to implement and advance our mission.

Quissett Harbor is one of the most frequently visited areas on the Cape. Working with our partners, we are preserving it for today and for the future. This effort is not only for our local community but also for visitors from around the world.

Craig B. Gibson



Craig and Nancy Gibson

## Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Anyone who remembers the Buzzards Bay Oil Spill of 2003 knows the devastation such an event causes. Given that two billion gallons of fuel oil travel through Buzzards Bay and the canal every year, the statistical odds make it likely we will at some point be faced with such an environmental disaster again.

Earlier this year, the Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust received a proposal from The Coalition for Buzzards Bay (of which I serve on the Board of Directors) to create an Oil Spill Response Plan that would provide for planning as well as for the training of local first responders, who would respond at the Harbor in the first hours after an oil spill. The Board voted unanimously to accept the plan and pay the Coalition the \$10,000 fee. Given what is at stake—our marine life, birds, beaches and home values—the Board felt it was money well spent. The plan will allow us to respond quickly to an environmental disaster and reduce the environmental, aesthetic and economic impact on Quissett Harbor. For more details, read the Latest News section in this newsletter.

Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust was organized in December 1999 to preserve and protect the Knob. Over the past few years,



Chairman Chip Morse

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## Our Mission Statement

*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 area and to take action to recognize and minimize threats to the overall health of the area.*

## Update on Habitat Conservation & Management

### Thank You St. Barnabas Episcopal Church!

We would like to send a special thank you out to the members of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. For the past two years they have volunteered to clean up the Knob twice a year. Thank you for your spontaneous offer and follow-through.

### Study Shows Avalon Beach Grass Is Sturdy

As you know, every year we augment the beach grass that protects the Knob from erosion. This year we are using a mix of American Beach Grass and Avalon Beach Grass. The United States Department of Agriculture has conducted studies on the long-term viability of Avalon and has concluded it is a sturdy variety. We hope this mix will provide greater vigor and survival long term.

### Fencing Replaced

We have recently replaced the fencing along the Knob causeway and Buzzards Bay Bank. This is a task that needs to be undertaken periodically because of the corrosive effects of salt water and harsh weather conditions.



Fencing along the Knob causeway

### Message from the Chairman

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with the Knob project completed, we have expanded our mission, focusing on the harbor as a whole and on both land and water issues. It is exciting to watch as we continue to evolve, contributing in new ways to the protection of our local environment.

Chip Morse

## With Gratitude Thank You to Our Supporters and Members!

Five years ago when we began the capital campaign, we were not sure how the idea of restoring the Knob would be received. We needn't have feared. "Right out of the gate we were met with great generosity and enthusiasm," said Dick DeWolfe, the Board Member who led the capital campaign. "Today, we have exceeded our initial \$1.5 million goal, and major gifts continue to come in to fund our ongoing mission." Every year we attract new members to the Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust, and not just from the immediate harbor area. "Our mission has

## LATEST NEWS

### Coalition for Buzzards Bay to Provide Oil Spill Response Plan

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept The Coalition for Buzzards Bay proposal to create an Oil Spill Response Plan for Quissett Harbor. A \$10,000 check has been sent to The Coalition to develop and implement the program. The program will put in place a mechanism that allows for immediate response in the event of an oil spill in Quissett Harbor. Components include:

- Securing the proper equipment. The strategy calls for installing permanent attachments to the shore line on either side of the harbor (locations to be determined). In the event of an oil spill, cables holding a containment boom would be fastened to each side. The boom, resembling a giant rolled-up towel, is designed to contain the spill. We will also need to make boats available to transport the boom, (or booms) to the appropriate location for installation.
- Training a team of responders. Community volunteers would be trained to deploy the boom.
- Communicating to the community. As part of the program, the Coalition will give presentations to



Preservation Trust members, local homeowners and businesses, and others in the community.

The first task will be to work with the Coalition to develop the best plan for Quissett Harbor. As a result of this process, we will determine if we should purchase a boom to be used specifically for Quissett Harbor or if it will be sufficient to share a boom with other Falmouth harbors and embayments.

Captain Ben Bryant, Marine Policy Specialist for The Coalition, will lead the effort. Fleet Environmental, a spill-response company, will conduct the on-site training and install the permanent attachment points for the booms.

### Annual Meeting Scheduled for July 3

Mark your calendars for our annual meeting, July 3 at the Quissett Harbor House. This will be our third annual meeting and promises to be a great way to kick off the July 4th weekend.

been embraced by residents in surrounding communities as well as by visitors, including boaters, artists and others," said Dick.

Dick noted that, with this support, we have been able to expand our mission beyond the restoration of the Knob to the preservation of the entire harbor. "On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Quissett Harbor community, I thank you for your generosity and commitment to preserving, maintaining, protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of Quissett Harbor."