

# S.O.S.-MAINE SHORELINES

## SUMMER 2010



### "SHORELINES"

is the official publication of  
**SAVE OUR  
SHORES-MAINE**  
P.O. Box 1785  
Wells, ME 04090

#### MISSION:

S.O.S.-Maine's mission  
is to educate the coastal  
community about issues  
that impact Maine's  
coastal heritage.

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### Greetings from the President

Hello Everyone -

Now that many of you have returned to the coast, we are all catching up on the various challenges that Mother Nature brought to the various places our members lived or visited throughout the winter and spring. Here in Maine, both inland and on the coast, wind, rain and flooding brought serious damage in areas familiar with dealing with such events and those for whom severe impacts were new and unexpected in their intensity. So I suspect we've all been doing a good bit of thinking and reevaluating what protective measures can be developed and what questions we need to ask of our government agencies and what steps and support we can expect.

As I sat down to write this, the news came that FEMA has backed down on its original mapping decisions for the Portland waterfront and will take a more moderate stance toward development and, perhaps more significantly, repair and rebuilding – the same issues that we will confront once again with regard to sand dune regulations. What scientific evidence supports sea level rise predictions? Why were the original maps so badly flawed? How can we best work toward the preservation of the coast recognizing that it is a resource for many while still respecting and ensuring the constitutional rights of property owners?

Our Annual Meeting is coming up on **Saturday, July 10th** at 9:00AM at The Coastal House in Wells. It will be strictly a business meeting this year, so not too long, but we need your questions and ideas.

We are working on a "Coastal Conference" to be held in the fall at which we will have recognized experts present a debate from both sides of the global/local sea level rise issue – one from the State of Maine and one from the larger scientific community. We are committed to hearing the evidence from both sides as the best way for all of us to understand what can and needs to be done.

We are grateful to Bob Bussiere for his continuing work on the web site and his willingness to educate many of us to its possibilities.

A new president will take the reins at SOS Maine this July. I thank you for the opportunity to have served with a truly outstanding and hard-working board.

Sincerely,

*Virginia I. Calvo*  
Gini Calvo  
President, S.O.S.- Maine

# S.O.S.-MAINE P.O. BOX 1785 WELLS, ME 04090

[www.sosmaine.org](http://www.sosmaine.org)

## Emergency Actions to Repair Seawalls- Section 480W by Bob Foley

After a difficult winter for many of our coastal property owners, I was asked to write about the process necessary to repair or replace a seawall that is threatened or destroyed within the coastal sand dune system.

Back in 1995, after attempts by the Town of Wells and Vander Forbes, then owner of the Forbes Family Resort at Wells Beach, to repair the footings of the seawall at Casino Square were denied by the Department of Environmental Protection( DEP ), SOS-Maine petitioned the legislature to enact a law allowing the replacement or repair of a seawall that is threatened or in danger of collapsing. Section 480W was enacted as a result of our request, which sets forth the action necessary to repair or replace your seawall.

This law was purposely kept outside of the Sand Dune Rules and is part of the Coastal Waters statutes as rules can be changed or amended without legislative action; laws cannot. The law states that a local code enforcement officer, a state -licensed engineer or a state-certified geologist must first determine that the integrity of the seawall has been destroyed or is threatened before any action can begin. At that point, temporary repairs can be made to help shore up the structure until permanent repairs can be started. Rip-rap or other non-hazardous materials can be placed seaward of the structure temporarily until such time as a permanent repair or replacement can take place.

If the wall has received damaged and is cracked or missing pieces or sections, an engineer is essential to determine what steps are necessary to secure your structure, which is required by the law. Likewise, if your wall has actually collapsed, the first process is to contact the local authorities and then your local contractor to supply the necessary materials to protect the property. This is a crucial step, as time is usually very limited. The law does give the property owner the right to proceed to protect their property once local authorities are notified. Any material brought in to temporarily protect the property must be removed once the repair or replacement has been made. DEP will not allow rip rap or other material to remain in the coastal sand dune system once the repairs are complete and the threat to property has been relieved.

The repair or replacement cannot enlarge or heighten the new seawall from what existed before the damage, but additional subsurface reinforcements can be implemented in order to make a much more structurally-sound wall. Widening the footings, installing helical screws or structural returns landward to provide greater support are all methods that have been successful when repairing damaged or destroyed seawalls. Having an engineer prepare your plans will help with the approval of your proposed project.

This is not a perfect law or process, but it is far better that what existed prior to S.O.S.- Maine's involvement at the State level. Our efforts have allowed you to protect your property. We hope this helps.



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## S.O.S.- Maine Robert Foley Community Service Scholarship

S.O.S.- Maine has awarded the 2010 Robert Foley Community Service scholarship to Wells High School senior Taylor Boyle. Taylor was awarded the scholarship on June 10th at the Wells High School Awards night by Bob Foley.

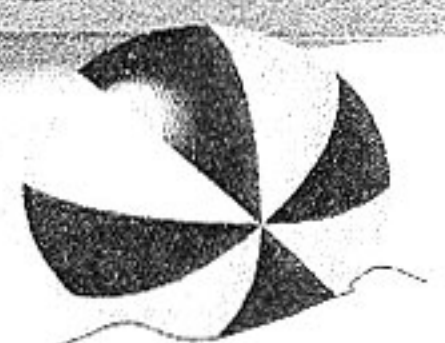
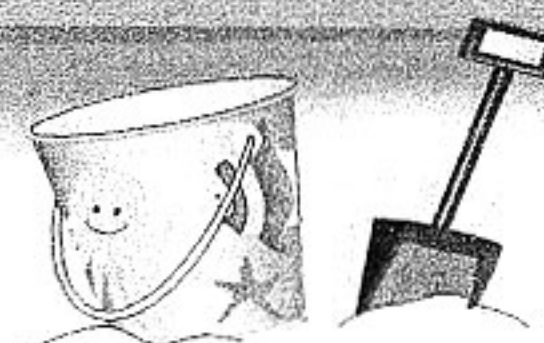
Taylor has been involved in the in the Interact Club while in high school. Interact is a Rotary-based community service organization. She has served Meals on Wheels to the elderly in the past, has given time to cook meals for families at the Ronald McDonald House in Portland, tie-dyed shirts with children at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland, and participated in several fundraising walks in support of others.

Taylor has also volunteered to help coach younger players in basketball and has spent time refereeing youth basketball games for the Wells Recreation Department and other summer leagues.

She plans to attend Assumption College in Worcester Massachusetts to study psychology.

## WEBSITE

SOS Maine has a new updated website [www.sosmaine.org](http://www.sosmaine.org) Please take a few minutes and add it to your favorites list. There are pictures of this winter's seawall collapse at Drakes Island. You will find information on membership, legislative updates, copies of our newsletters, articles of interest about our coast, etc. We hope that you will find this site useful and easy to navigate.



# E-ALERTS

Members of S.O.S.-Maine who submit their e-mail addresses with their membership dues will be included in an internal distribution list. This list will be used exclusively to send important and timely information to members in the form of an e-mail alert.

Please let us know if your e-mail address has changed so that we can update our database. The information can be sent to:



**info@sosmaine.org**

## S.O.S.-Maine & Maine Coastal Coalition Membership

The membership of S.O.S.-Maine continues to grow, with over 300 dues-paying members, and others on our mailing list who are receiving this newsletter. We will not be able to continue to mail the newsletter to these individuals in the future due to the cost of distribution, and ask that if you are interested in receiving the newsletter in the future, please become a member of S.O.S.-Maine. There is a membership form below, or you may visit the web-site **www.sosmaine.org** and print a form for yourself or your neighbor!

The Maine Coastal Coalition is the subsidiary of S.O.S. Maine, which is able to use donated funds to lobby for the interests of coastal property owners.

S.O.S.-Maine's fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th, and membership renewals are sent in July.



**S.O.S.-Maine**  
**P.O. Box 1785**  
**Wells, ME 04090**



Yes, we want to be on the S.O.S.-Maine team. Here's our membership:  
\_\_\_ \$25 Individual \_\_\_ \$50 Family \_\_\_ \$75 Business \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, we want to be a part of the Maine Coastal Coalition. Enclosed is a separate donation to establish my membership. Our taxable donation is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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