

S.O.S.-MAINE SHORELINES WINTER 2011



Greetings from the President

Those who have hijacked the noble causes of the environmentalists and Audubon enthusiasts for their own cause of anti-private property rights are still at work. Public funding in concert with media outlets are enabling them to use controversial global warming data, questionable FEMA Flood Maps, fragile piping plover habitat, and disputed sea level rise to constantly erode our ability to maintain our property and homes along the shorelands of the coast, riverfront and marshlands.

"Retreat from the shore", "no repairs" and "no protection" (of our property and homes) have been and still are the mantra of those that want recreational access and use of privately owned lands.

These people are being assisted in their efforts through public funding and the media. State and federal funds and resources are readily available; and television news stories and newspapers further their sensationalized (some say hysterical) "modeled" projections of what may happen along coastal shorelands.

We have chosen to live, work, and raise our families within the shoreland areas because we thrive and are nourished by the sights, sounds and smells of the salty ocean's shorelands, with its coastal vegetation, marine life, and sanctuaries and habitats of birds and wildlife. We know the results of having private property open to the public. The effect has never been good or favorable to fragile vegetation or to very sensitive birds and wildlife.

S.O.S.-Maine's Board is constantly working to counter and discredit all the alarmists' claims that shoreland property owners contribute to global warming, sea level rise, and to the destruction of sanctuaries and habitats. We've written articles and letters to the papers, developed, funded and moderated a conference, participated in stakeholder hearings, supported and co-sponsored legislative bills, developed and maintained a website, monitored, attended and spoken at legislative hearings in Augusta, and kept shoreland property owners informed through newsletters, emails and our own website.

Is membership important? Do numbers count? Does geographical coverage matter? Personally and through S.O.S.-Maine, we have found that when one or two citizens state facts and ask for relief from onerous rules and regulations, the media is not interested and legislators and committees are only polite.

When S.O.S.-Maine has gone to Augusta stating that we represent an association of hundreds of shoreland property owners from Kittery to Portland, all pay attention and ask us to participate in the legislative process. S.O.S.-Maine would have an even greater impact with Augusta and the media if we could report our membership was in the thousands and from all the shorelands (marshes, riverlands and coastal areas) from Kittery to Portland. We will be there, not to bully, but to have equal representation, and a voice to counter those with inaccurate "models". We will present the case against unlegislated rules and regulations, thus a "taking" without due process.

By maintaining your membership, your dues help S.O.S. Maine bring to Maine credentialed experts to testify to the media and to committees and legislators in Augusta; and will help pay for daily representation in Augusta which would alert us to anti private property efforts and concurrently help move common sense laws through to passage.

Please continue your membership in S.O.S.-Maine and ask your neighbors and friends from Kittery to Portland to join and support our common cause. Should it not be that we, as individuals with our families, make the decisions about where we live, whether to protect or not protect our property from nature and general public's trespass and to determine if we want to repair and maintain our property and homes? All together, we can work toward once again having those rights restored. All together, we will be able to make those decisions that impact coastal property owners.

Sincerely,
Mike Severance
President, S.O.S.- Maine

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

www.sosmaine.org

Maine Coastal Coalition's Legislative Activity

by Bob Foley

With Maine's 125th Legislative Session underway, SOS-Maine's political action group, The Maine Coastal Coalition, has submitted two pieces of legislation important to our members.

The first, LD 256 sponsored by Rep. Kathy Chase and Senator Ron Collins, is, "An Act to allow repair and maintenance on structure in a Coastal Sand Dune". Current law allows a property owner to repair and maintain their property as long as the repairs are identical to what was there, no change in size or shape can occur. This bill would allow for structural changes such as changing of roof pitches or adding dormers as long as the square footage of the living area doesn't change.

The second bill, LD 311 sponsored by Senator Collins and cosponsored by Rep. Kathy Chase, is, "An Act to improve Harbor Safety Clarifying Harbor Maintenance Dredging Permits." This bill will allow a Federal Harbor to receive a second maintenance dredge within 10 years after an initial dredge has been permitted under a Natural Resources Protection Act permit as long as the second dredge is completed under the same terms and conditions as the previous dredge. This will allow the Town of Wells, and other towns with harbors, to better utilize their tax dollars in performing the actual maintenance rather than spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in the permitting process to perform the same thing previously permitted.

There are two other bills that we are also following. LD 442, submitted by Rep. Kathy Chase, would improve a change that we had made in the Coastal Sand Dune Rules two years ago that would allow for cobble trapping fences to be permanently installed versus the 7-month temporary installation that our amendment had allowed.

The final bill that we are following is LD 387, sponsored by Senator Saviello and co-sponsored by Sen. Collins and Rep Chase, is "An Act to Amend the Coastal Sand Dune Rules." This bill will allow building additions and improvements in areas of a coastal sand dune system that are built in an "impervious area", an area already covered by development. This would greatly improve the ability for folks to add additions and improvements to their properties without having to elevate the buildings.

We shall report in the next newsletter how these bills fared and if any changes were made.



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

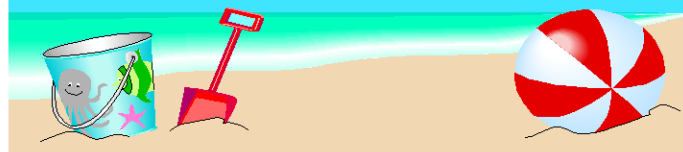
In June, S.O.S.-Maine will award the FIFTH annual Community Service Scholarship to a high school senior. The \$1000 scholarship was established to honor the work of former S.O.S. President Bob Foley. The criteria for consideration for the scholarship includes high school seniors who are residents of Wells and who have demonstrated past service to the community and are also planning to perform community service during their college careers. More information about the scholarship can be found at www.sosmaine.org.

WEBSITE

SOS Maine has a new updated website
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-LETS

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 \$ _____

Renewal New member

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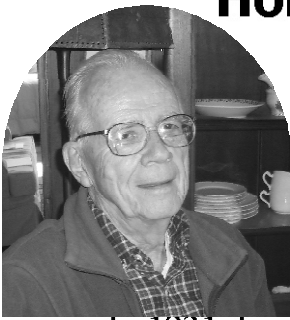
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Honeymooning, Jimmy Stewart, and the Jetty

By Alden Cheever



Alden Cheever recently resigned from the S.O.S.-Maine Board of Directors. He was a founding member of SOS-Wells, and a long-time resident of Drakes Island. He delightfully recounts his memories of this area, beginning 80 years ago, in this article for our membership. Thank you, Alden, for your service to our organization.



In 1931, I was at summer camp in New Hampshire, on the border of Maine. Twice a summer, they would pack their cars and bring us over to Drakes Island to swim in the Atlantic.

As I remember it, the road from Route One was dirt. I only remember four houses on Drakes Island Road. They were on the left side near what is now called Shady Lane. They are still there. I do not remember any on the beachfront, but there may have been some. It was a beautiful beach and I enjoyed the ocean.

The second time I was on Drakes Island was in September 1943. I had been called up for active duty in the Army. By then, I had been dating a beautiful woman named Marjorie Chase who had two aunts that owned a house on the front. Aunt Jane and Aunt Bertha Gray owned the seventh house north of the Drakes Island Road. There was only one house north of them. I had crammed for exams and went to the Port to sleep in my father's summer house. Marjorie had come up to her aunt's home for the week. Over the years I had seen Drakes Island from the Port.

I would get in my Model A and drive over to Drakes Island. Marjorie and I would walk on the beach for hours. There were supposed to be some men living in one of the beach houses to look for Germans who might come ashore. I never saw either the watchers or the Germans on the beach.

The next time I was on Drakes Island was in September 1945. I had come back from Europe, and Marjorie and I were married ten days after I got off the Queen Mary. We stayed at the Eaton Farm for a few days and then went over to the Grays for a few more days.

Aunt Jane told me she would sell the house to us for \$15,000. The reason was that they were retired schoolteachers, and concerned with having to replace the sea wall. They had purchased a small cottage on Shady Lane. I had to tell them that I was not in a financial position to accept their offer.

Within a few years, our family would come up and stay for a month, as Bob Chase did for a month.

The other ancient history is the jetty. I used to be able to walk along the sea wall and get my feet wet from the entrance south to the harbor.

What I am now writing about is what we all understood was the reason for the harbor. I told Senator Mitchell the facts (verified by the Portland paper on its front page) at a meeting held by him here.

Jimmy Stewart was a full colonel and some of the Washington people tried to get him a General's rank. Senator Smith of Maine told them that as Chairperson of the Armed Forces Committee, she had one hundred or more colonels that she felt should be in line before him.

They put together a piece of legislation to get Maine a million dollars if Stewart received his promotion. They went to the Senate and said if you get him his promotion- Maine gets the million. And if he doesn't get it, what will your people say about you for passing up on the million dollars? He got his promotion.

Then the people in the state decided to put in a harbor with these funds. One section of the jetty was built—it didn't work. Then a second section was built—no better results. Then another 1200 feet was added. No better results. It was built perpendicular to the wave pattern, so the waves and sand flowed directly up the jetty.

The jetty and harbor should be dredged at least every five years or sooner. In my humble opinion, it would have been turned south. The waves then could not carry the sand up the jetty. Save Our Shores was then formed.

My memories of Drakes Island are our children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren here at the beach, on the tennis courts, etc. I love this location even in the winter—as did Marjorie.

NOW IS THE TIME!

Help SOS to Help You

by Jef Bucknam & Barb Johnson

The Board of S.O.S.-Maine (SOS) and the Maine Coastal Coalition (MCC is a subsidiary of SOS) has voted to support all three bills as described in Bob Foley's article in this newsletter. These bills all intend to benefit coastal property owners and those who use our beaches and harbors.

NOW is the time to become an active member of SOS and/or MCC. First, make sure you renew your membership with SOS. Secondly, it is also time to encourage property owners and your acquaintances that use the beaches and harbors to become members of SOS and MCC. The larger our membership, the bigger our voice is in Augusta.

We are asking our members, especially those directly on the beaches and in close proximity of the beaches, and the summer tenants of those properties on or near the beach to please share with us three things:

1.What do you do as a property owner/tenant to care for and protect your property?

Examples: Maintain a seawall, monitor plovers, pick up trash from the beach, remove cobble, etc.

2.What is your idea of how much use of the beaches is overuse?

Example: Does it make sense to create more parking for a beach that is found to have high bacteria due to overuse? Does your beach have the infrastructure to support large numbers of daily beach tourists...restrooms, trash pickup, beach cleaning, water monitoring, lifeguards, traffic patrols, etc.?

3What are the issues that you witness as detrimental to the beaches?

In other words, send us your horror stories. While some wild and crazy behavior can always be witnessed on the beach during the summer, here are a few examples that SOS board members have seen and dealt with:

- tourists burying baby feces on the beach
- trash and leftover food tossed and left behind
- summer visitors simply deciding not to use the public ways on Wells Beach and crossing private yards to go back and forth from the beach to the road
- unattended children pulling dune grasses and other plants that manage to survive the natural harsh elements on the beach
- tourists swearing at homeowners for not being allowed to take the homeowner's patio chairs to the beach so they (the tourist) will be more comfortable
- using the beach and dunes as a restroom
- beach parking issues

Knowing the issues that our beaches face will help S.O.S. and M.C.C. to better understand and support proposed bills that will fairly protect property owners and fairly protect Maine beaches from overuse. So please use the "In Box" on the website (sosmaine.org) or contact an S.O.S.-Maine board member.

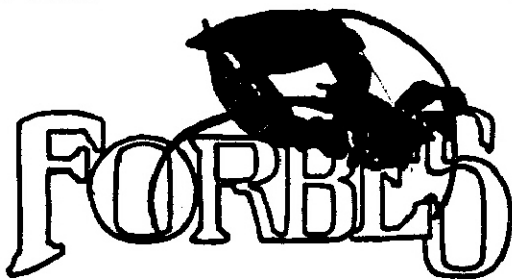
In closing, the S.O.S.-Maine Board of Directors has formed a membership committee headed by Barb Johnson. If you are interested in joining this committee or helping on an ad hoc basis please contact Barb at 83ocean@gmail.com or 617-750-2294. Your ideas and assistance to increase our membership will be welcomed.

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