



*Preserving, maintaining, protecting and enhancing Quissett Harbor*

Greetings!

As we near the Thanksgiving season and another winter, we can't help but consider the many reasons we are grateful for our community's contributions to the QHPT.

We are learning from experience that Quissett Harbor and the Knob are more frequently confronting the growing effects of climate change and sea-level rise. In response, our membership and the larger Quissett Harbor community have generously stepped up with offers of expertise, time and resources. As a result, the Knob is now solidly braced for another winter. We commend those highly skilled engineers and landscape professionals, and the Quissett community, for making these reinforcements and repairs possible.

Enjoy our fall newsletter and all the great news! We hope that you've had time to explore the newly restored Knob and are looking forward to the new landscaping we've been working on now that the planned restoration has officially concluded.

John Sigel, President

**QHPT SUPPORTS QUISSETT ASSOCIATION INITIATIVE TO MONITOR SEAWATER LEVELS**

We are excited to partner in an initiative led by Quissett Association to monitor seawater levels in Quissett Harbor. The Sippewissett Association has also supported this project.

The small but sophisticated gauge (pictured below) purchased and installed by Quissett Association collects data via telemetry on water levels in the harbor, while similar sensors gather data at other sites around Cape Cod.

The local information is combined with output from other sites to provide a comprehensive picture of sea-water levels as they relate to climate change locally and beyond. Because levels are monitored in real time, local officials and individuals can make emergency decisions about the need to close nearby roads, issue alerts or relocate cars.

The device works by aiming ultrasonic sound pulses at the water's surface. The time it takes to detect the pulse's echo determines the water's level. To follow along, in real time, you can download a dashboard to your phone or computer: [dashboard.hohonu.io](http://dashboard.hohonu.io).



**OUTER HARBOR BANK NOW EXPERTLY REINFORCED**

As of this newsletter's publication, Wilkinson Ecological Design Inc. has finished installing protective and sturdily anchored fiber rolls along 95 feet of the outer harbor bank damaged by a destructive late-December 2022 storm.

The previous protective system served its purpose, but could not entirely hold up to the two-day, high-energy storm that coincided with astronomical high tides. After a careful analysis of the causes of failure, said Dana Rodin, our consultant Sustainable Coastal Solutions collaborated with Wilkinson to design a more robust, storm-resistant system.

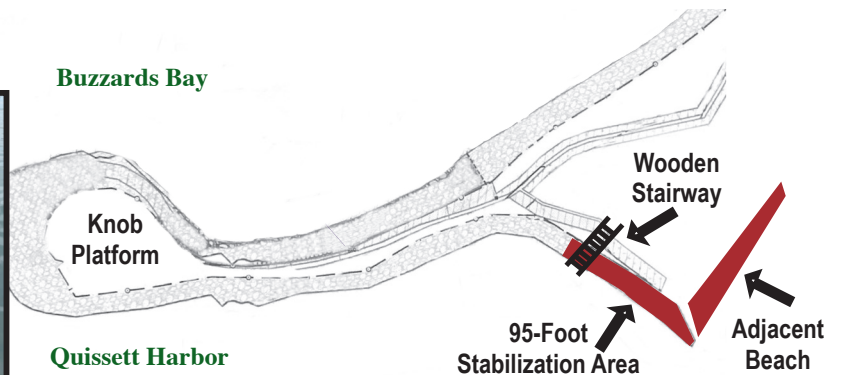
Work began in October. Wilkinson laid 48, 20-inch-diameter fiber rolls and encased them in protective mesh. Next, they secured the assembly with steel anchors into the original harbor bank and steel cables binding together the fiber rolls. When the reinforcement was completed, Wilkinson applied 10 cubic yards of sand and planted beach grass on top of the rolls. Finally, they placed 100 cubic yards of cobble and sand at the base of the structure. Wilkinson also added 55 cubic yards of cobble and sand to the beach adjacent to the stabilization area to limit further erosion of the bank. After the completion of the harbor bank reinforcement, Wilkinson will sow varieties of select native grass seed mix along both sides of the Knob walkway from the beginning of the access path to the causeway.

"Redoing part of the work we did a couple of years ago on this section of the outer harbor bank is a reminder that nature is unrelenting," said Chairman Randy Evans. "Keeping things intact is something to which we all have to be committed." And, said John Sigel, "A key priority has been to get the Knob back to its natural state for walking: Hundreds of people walked out there this summer and loved it."



WED secures fiber rolls on outer harbor bank.

**Outer Harbor Bank Stabilization 2023**



November 2023

## RAIN DID NOT DETER 19 QUISSETT COMMUNITY MEMBERS AS THEY CLEARED BEACHES OF DEBRIS



Despite a gray and rainy June 24 morning, 19 dedicated and environmentally conscious Quissett community members came out to clean the harbor's shorelines and beaches. In addition to the usual high number of dog waste bags and cigarette butts, we gathered some unusual plastic debris. One family discovered two plastic commercial fishing tubs, a large plastic float and an oyster aquaculture bag on their stretch of beach just north of Harbor House. All in all, our group filled two contractor trash bags and removed a grand total of 67.5 pounds of trash from the harbor, beaches and Knob trails. Many thanks to the hearty souls who braved the rains to keep Quissett clean!



## MEMBERS CELEBRATE A PRODUCTIVE YEAR AT 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING



Members had much to celebrate at QHPT's annual meeting on July 1, beginning with the Knob's expert and comprehensive stone armor restoration conducted by C.F. Briggs Marine Construction. Dana Rodin took members through the history and completion of the work, and Randy offered a joyous, celebratory toast to what all agreed was A+ engineering work, supported by a generous community.

Reflecting on the Knob's completion, Randy said, "I recall looking out at the Knob in early October as the sun shone on the rock armor replacement. It was an incredible, breathtaking sight. I often think, with much gratitude, of the families that contributed talent and treasure to keep this special place, and of this committed community, as good as it has been."

John concurred. "Our annual meeting was a real celebration." The completed Knob restoration, he said, was an improvement technically and aesthetically — a thing of beauty. "The sight of the artful stonework reminds me of what it's like to have a surprise encounter with a beautiful stone wall deep in the woods."

## WHEELER LECTURE: WOODWELL SENIOR SCIENTIST JENNIFER FRANCIS LISTS KEY CLIMATE-CHANGE CONCERNS FOR COASTAL NEW ENGLAND



**Dr. Jennifer Francis's** July 16 Wheeler Lecture provided enlightening details on shifting weather patterns and their effects across the world. "2023 has been jam-packed with extremes," she said. Heat waves in Texas and Mexico, for example, have already had devastating effects on agriculture, utilities and ecosystems. Among the biggest concerns for those living in coastal New England are sea-level rise, rising ocean temperatures, increased heavy precipitation, more intense droughts and tropical storms tracking farther north. Dr. Francis also listed ways people can help, including personal conservation efforts, and monitoring and assisting local government to plan proactively. On the national level, vote with climate change in mind. And, she encouraged an enthusiastic gathering, "Speak out!"

A link to Dr. Francis's lecture slides is on the QHPT website under Events/Past Wheeler Lectures.