

## MESSAGE FROM JOHN

Greetings, members, friends and supporters of Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust.

Despite a challenging winter that brought several powerful storms, combined with high tides and some flooding, the newly-reinforced outer harbor bank, the Knob rock armor, and the paths and trails survived intact. But these storms emphasize that every step we take must recognize the increasing effect of wind, waves, sea-level rise and tides.

We are pleased to welcome board member **Andy Zimmerman** as our new treasurer.

And we would like to recognize our former treasurer **Dick Mannix** for his long and diligent service in managing QHPT's finances and investments. Thank you, Dick.

And thank you to **Lisa Bernstein**, who recently retired from the QHPT board. Lisa has been a wonderful supporter of our organization's work. She graciously hosted fundraising events and she provided excellent, thoughtful and practical advice. We will miss her on the board but will always value her good counsel.

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

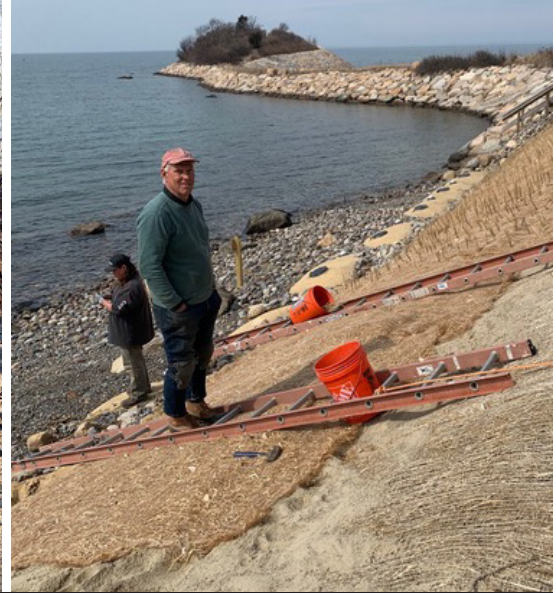
John Sigel, President

## REMEMBER, IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES!

Have you renewed your membership for 2024? Go to our website, [qhpt.org](http://qhpt.org). You may pay your dues online through PayPal or a credit card. Or use the envelope that accompanies this newsletter. We encourage you to do this before the Annual Members Meeting on June 29. Thank you for your support.

## WANTED! PHOTOGRAPHS OF QUISSETT HARBOR AND THE KNOB

If you've taken a photo you especially like and would like us to consider for the next newsletter, please email it to [info@qhpt.org](mailto:info@qhpt.org). Feel free to include your name and a brief caption.



Bill Armstrong oversaw the planting of beach grass on the harbor-side bank (pictured, right) and the installation of water bars (left) to better divert water from the Knob access path.

## UPDATE ON HABITAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

### Winter Resilience

The winter brought us six high-wind-speed storms that were accompanied by unusually high tides. Winds ranged from a steady 35 mph to gusts of 65 for 24 to 36 hours with frequent tidal surges. A couple of times the road to the Harbor House and Carey Lane was flooded with about a foot of water, making it impassable. And the device installed by our partner, the Quissett Association, to measure seawater levels in Quissett Harbor was repositioned when its measurement capacity was exceeded by a 5.8-foot-plus storm surge.

Despite the rough winter, reinforcements installed last year along the 95-foot outer harbor bank performed exceptionally well. The five tiers of fiber logs did their job. Wilkinson Ecological Design installed and secured these logs along with shoreline berms made of cobble, gravel and sand designed to dissipate the effect of waves and currents. And the new rock armor surrounding the causeway and Knob promontory suffered absolutely no damage during the winter.

### Spring Sustainability Work

#### Cobble and sand replaced

Wave activity on the 95-foot stabilization area at the outer harbor bank depleted some of the sand that buffers the fiber log installation, as anticipated by the project design. This spring, 18-cubic yards of sand along with jute cloth were installed on the slope of the bank and cobble was redistributed at the toe of the bank.

#### Beach grasses planted

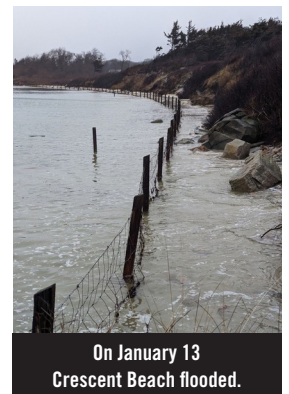
Beach grasses naturally contribute to harbor bank resilience. This spring, beach grass culms (dormant beach grass stalks) were planted 18 inches apart along the slope of the 95-foot stretch of the outer harbor bank reinforcement area. These culms were planted before April 15 to give them the best chance to firmly root. We also planted additional beach grass along the causeway out to the Knob promontory.

#### Water bars installed along the access path

This spring we installed new water bars in the main path above Crescent Beach. Water bars are timbers buried across the path and positioned to divert water off the path and into heavily vegetated areas of the margin.

#### A well-loved and carefully tended natural resource

Even in winter, hundreds of people enjoy walking along the Knob's access path and adjacent trails. In the summer, visitors number in the thousands. The work on the Knob has been staged to permit continued active use of the Knob by its admirers.



On January 13  
Crescent Beach flooded.

## WHOI PRESIDENT TO GIVE WHEELER LECTURE

We are extremely pleased to announce that Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution President and Director Peter B. de Menocal will join us as this year's esteemed Wheeler Lecturer. The event is Sunday, July 14, 5 p.m., at the Church of the Messiah in Woods Hole. De Menocal is a marine geologist and paleoclimatologist. His research uses deep sea sediments to help understand how and why ocean and climate have changed in order to predict future change. Because of limited occupancy, members must register in advance. An email with instructions to follow.



## ANDY ZIMMERMAN TAKES ADDED ROLE AS QHPT TREASURER

QHPT board member Andy Zimmerman has assumed additional responsibilities as the Trust's new treasurer, taking over from Dick Mannix. Andy is a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

Andy's new role allows him to make use of his expertise in finance. "As climate change impacts the surrounding seaside areas, it's increasingly important that we do what we can to protect the harbor and the Knob," he says. "Mother Nature is increasingly relentless. Managing maintenance and protection has grown more costly. That's my challenge, and fundraising is a big part of it."

At Merrill Lynch Andy manages portfolios for high-net-worth families. His new role as treasurer includes fundraising as well as maintaining the books and records for QHPT.

Dick's contributions have been much valued, says John. "Dick did a superb job as treasurer. We are extremely grateful for the energy, expertise and insights he brought to the position."

## BEACH CLEANUP SET FOR JUNE 15



Last year's beach and harbor cleanup concluded with an inventory of the findings by leader Danie Kinkade.

The 2024 beach season is rapidly approaching! Please join us on Saturday, June 15, 9:30 a.m., at the Harbor House parking area. 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 — great! 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, and we will document our findings on data sheets to contribute our data to a broader effort to understand ocean debris patterns along coastal states.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 5–7:30 P.M.

Quissett Harbor House, Willett Hall. A reception on the Harbor House lawn follows the business meeting.

Please RSVP by Monday, June 24, to Colleen Hurter at [cdhurter@gmail.com](mailto:cdhurter@gmail.com).

## SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday, June 15: Harbor and beach cleanup, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 29: Annual Meeting of Members, 5–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 14: Wheeler Lecture, 5 p.m.

## Finances 2023

(January 1–December 31, 2023)

Our Quissett Harbor Preservation Trust is in a solid financial position at the end of calendar year 2023 with assets of \$575,000. Early year donations in 2024 of more than \$75,000 and first quarter income from our investments, net of expenses, have increased our assets to over \$650,000 at the time of this newsletter.

You'll see from the report that we paid out over \$500,000 last year, completing the major capital projects on the Knob. C.F. Briggs Marine Construction completed replacing the rock armor on the Buzzards Bay side of the Knob during the winter of 2022–2023 for a final payment of \$332,288. We hired Wilkinson Ecologic Design to replace the old stabilization system on the outer harbor bank that had been damaged by winter storms. We invested about \$220,000 in this project, which has stood up to several major storm and high-water events during the winter of 2023–2024.

Our assets provide a ready source of immediate cash if we experience major storm damage in the coming years—something that seems more and more likely. In addition, these funds, invested conservatively, provide significant income that helps pay for a portion of the annual maintenance expenses on the Knob that we share with Salt Pond Area Bird Sanctuaries, as well as other projects around our beautiful harbor.

But we could not do our job 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 Quissett Harbor.

Assets as of January 1, 2023 .....\$973,528.16

### Revenues

- Capital Campaign Contributions .....\$84,511.92
- Annual Dues and Gifts.....\$43,201.00
- Dividends and Interest .....\$35,649.68
- Unrealized Gains .....\$60,389.62

**Total Revenues for Calendar Year 2023 .....\$223,752.22**

### Expenses

- Knob Rock Armor Replacement .....\$332,288.00
- Outer Harbor Erosion Control .....\$219,552.87
- Engineering, Inspections and Consultant Fees .....\$26,195.89
- Ongoing Knob Maintenance .....\$20,873.73
- Communications, Website and Wheeler Lecture .....\$10,522.72
- Quissett Association Water Level Monitor Project .....\$3,012.18
- Administrative Expenses .....\$6,766.92
- Tax Prep and Accounting .....\$2,450.00

**Total Expenses for Calendar Year 2023 .....\$621,662.31**

**Net Loss (Expenses Exceeded Revenues).....-( \$397,910.09)**

**Assets as of December 31, 2023 .....\$575,618.07**