

Protecting Sears Island's
environmental and
cultural resources since
2006



Summer 2016



We can hardly believe it, but it's been 10 years since the Friends of Sears Island was founded! We will be holding several events in 2016 to celebrate all that has been accomplished since we were incorporated in 2006—and since 2009 when the conservation easement agreement was signed and FOSI was designated to be the de-facto land management entity for the island. *Check our website (friendsofsearsisland.org) for upcoming events.*

Sears Island Stewardship Land Management and Implementation Plan Announced!

Thanks to generous grants from the Maine Community Foundation and the Davis Conservation Foundation we were able to enter into a consulting agreement with GreenWays Consulting of Belfast to develop and implement a Sears Island Stewardship Land Management and Implementation Plan focusing on invasive species and sensitive habitats. One of the exciting aspects of the plan is that it will involve “citizen scientists,” volunteers from the general population and students who will be trained to identify, monitor and/or remove invasive plants. Anyone interested in helping with this project can contact Aleta at greenwayscenter@gmail.com. The dates planned are Saturday June 18 and Saturday July 23 from 10am to 2pm. We are also grateful to the Town of Searsport for awarding us a grant to purchase many of the tools and supplies needed for this project.

Board of Directors:

Susan K. White • President

Sandi Cirillo

Anne Crimaudo • Co-Vice President

Marietta Ramsdell

David Italiaander • Co-Vice President

Robert E. Ramsdell

Judy Kaiser • Secretary

Pat Gladding

Joanne McNally • Treasurer

Advisory Group: Steve Albin, Maura DiPrete, Jay Economy, Ann J.

Flack, Marjorie Knuuti, Bill Kulbe, Jill Kulbe, Tony Kulik, Joelle Madiec,

Tom Mullin & Jack Pikulski



ASHLEY MEGQUIER

We are very pleased to announce that we have contracted with Ashley Megquier to be our outreach coordinator for the six months with the most activity on the island. Ashley will plan, promote and coordinate events through mid-October 2016, including guided nature walks and presentations to community groups. She has already come up with some innovative ideas, such as Yoga on the Beach!

Ashley is an experienced environmental educator, naturalist, and program coordinator. After majoring in Environmental Studies at Bowdoin College, she worked for organizations such as Maine Audubon, Massachusetts Audubon, the Pemaquid Watershed Association, and the Maine Coastal Program. She lives in Belmont with her husband and two daughters, and is thrilled to be spending her summer planning events that will get people outside enjoying all that Sears Island has to offer.

Ashley can be reached at outreach@friendsofsearsisland.org.



In The News



FOSI has been busy this spring season, starting on April 9th by being a sponsor of the Penobscot Bay Watershed Conference and a member of the steering committee (along with 14 other organizations in the state) to plan the event. Over 300 people attended, representing many groups dedicated to protecting the Bay and its watershed.

On May 5th we made a presentation at the Pen Bay Stewards Searsport Day and discussed the many FOSI volunteer opportunities open to the stewards.

FOSI joined with Coastal Mountains Land Trust and the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition for Discover the Trails of Searsport Day on May 14th. After presentations by each group, guided walks on Sears Island and Long Cove Headwaters Preserve were offered. Cloe Chunn started the day off by leading an always popular bird walk on Sears Island, and a plan is underway to post a short “virtual walk” video of this event on our website.



A team from the state's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife conducted an oil spill training exercise on Sears Island on May 12th focusing on oil containment and the protection and treatment of wildlife in the event of an oil spill. We have all seen the devastation an oil spill can cause and it's reassuring to know that steps are being taken to address such an eventuality should it occur in Maine.

Summer Natural History Seminars

We will be hosting a series of Natural History Seminars this summer. These free guided programs will provide fun and educational opportunities to enjoy the island. In May we kicked off the series with two successful events, Discover the Trails of Searsport Day, and a Wildflower Walk with Wanda Garland.



Mark your calendars for the following upcoming programs:

- June 12th, 10am-12:30pm - Island Explorers Program for Families, with Ashley Megquier
- June 27th, 10am-12pm - Sears Island Beach Walk, with Sara Lindsay
- July 9th, 10am-12pm - Sears Island: A Summer Sojourn, with Mike Shannon
- July 27th, 10am-11:15am - Yoga on the Beach, with Missy Hatch
- August 13, 10am-12pm - Photographing Insects and Flowers, with Roger Rittmaster
- August 25th, 10am-12pm - The Geology of Sears island: From Rock and Clay to Pockmarks in Belfast Bay, with Ryan Gordon
- September 1, 10am-12pm - Medicinal Plants Walk- Plants for Family Care & Clinical Applications, with Steve Byers:
- September 10th, 10am-12pm - Coastweek Beach Clean-up and Trash Talk with Theresa Torrent

Thank You For Your Support of FOSI

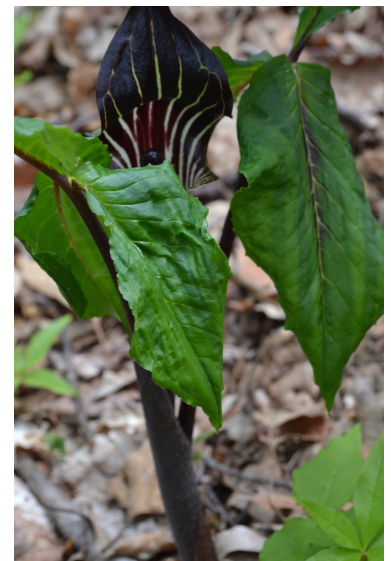
In other news, we want to sincerely thank Susan Guthrie of High Street Design in Belfast for her great work in producing a Power Point about Sears Island and FOSI, which is now available for presentations.

Thanks to GBL Charitable Foundation for their grant to FOSI to be used where most needed.

Thank you also to Peter Walls and Allegra Kuhn for design and layout of the summer newsletter—and to Anne Crimardo and Ashley Megquier for writing it.

Send Us Your Photos!

We are always looking for new photos of Sears Island for our Facebook page. If you have any you'd like to share please send them to Ashley at outreach@friendsofsearsisland.org and we will be happy to credit you.



You can always find detailed information about our summer programs on our website and on FOSI's Facebook page.