

The Guillemot



Friends of Hog Island
News 2022-23
March 2022- March 2023

The mission of the Friends of Hog Island is to preserve the legacy and support the conservation and nature programs and activities of the Audubon Camp at Hog Island, Bremen, Maine.

The Queen's skirts stayed dry

In mid-December, just one day after the contractors finished their meticulous, months-long work raising the Queen Mary three feet above her historic level, a big nor'easter hit the Maine Midcoast at high tide. The northeast winds and surging tide pushed a huge amount of water into Muscongus Bay. Had that beloved old ship's chandlery still rested on her original footings, the lab level would have been sloshing with sea water. Instead, the Queen Mary remained dry.

Friends of Hog Island has been working closely with National Audubon facilities manager Eric Snyder for several years to pull off this engineering feat — Eric handling the complex permitting and planning, FOHI providing the funding, which totaled \$270,000. The risk from rising sea levels and ever-higher storm tides have kept many of us awake at night for years. Now we can sleep a little easier. More on this project is elsewhere in the newsletter.

Sadly, our dear friend Walt Pomeroy, who with his wife Lin were the angels who largely underwrote the Queen Mary project, did

not live to see the results of his generosity. Walt was one of three valued friends of FOHI we lost in the past year, and whose lives are celebrated elsewhere in this issue of *The Guillemot*.

Meanwhile, we're gearing up for a very full summer camp season, one that builds on the terrific success of 2022. Camp ran like a Swiss watch, under modified (but still cautious) Covid guidelines and now-permanent changes like outdoor dining, a pandemic precaution that has proven so popular with campers, staff and FOHI we're keeping it for good. Our new volunteer coordinator Adam DiNuovo was a rock star, fitting seamlessly into the position he took over from his predecessor, Tony Ferrera. (Tony was back on the island to help as a FOHI on a number of occasions over the summer, so fortunately he's not going to be a

stranger.) Adam is busy filling volunteer slots for this summer, so if you're planning to come to the island to help and haven't staked out your spot for one of the sessions, don't wait. It's going to be a terrific year, and we'd hate to miss you.

Scott Weidensaul, President, Friends of Hog Island



Don Jewitt (red shirt) and his crew. Juanita Roushdy and Eric Snyder on either side.

Scholarship Recipient for 2022

Each year FOHI provides a scholarship for a student to attend camp. We usually partner with the Maine Young Birder's Club located in Brunswick, ME. In 2022, Leo Cole, who lives in mid-coast Maine and eventually wants a career that involves nature/ecology/wildlife, received our scholarship and attended Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens. Here is Leo's account of his time at camp.

"I'm happy to write a bit about of my experience at the Hog Island camp. It was the highlight of my summer, even though it was in the first week!

I loved seeing all kinds of different new birds I've never seen before, and I learned a lot about them. My favorite birds to see were the ospreys and the puffins - I didn't know we'd have the chance to see puffins so that was really special. Every day we did fun things, like hiking the island with my friends. The food was really good, complete



Leo Cole, photo



Adam DiNuovo, Leo Cole, Scott Weidensaul

meals that way exceeded my expectations for food at a camp. I also made friends with a lot of people the same age who have the same interests as me, and we still talk a lot in our group chat. Thanks again for the opportunity to attend this camp, it was an experience I won't forget.

The photo is a picture I took of puffins on Eastern Egg Rock through my binoculars. We were very lucky to go onto the island, which I learned is hard to get the opportunity to do."

Ebb and flow of the board

The ebb and flow of board membership is a constant. All FOHI board members are passionate about the Hog Island Audubon camp, which is the reason for FOHI's existence—to keep the camp going through all kinds of economic weather!

In 2022, several terms came to an end—those of Leigh Altadonna, David Sturdevant, Charles Duncan, and James Li.



Leigh



David



Charles

The by-laws allow for a board member to return after a hiatus of one-year, except if they move into an officer role as did James Li; he became vice president.

To each of you, a heartfelt thank you for everything you did to keep FOHI successful in its mission. We wish you well and look forward to seeing you on the island sooner than later – perhaps as a FOHI volunteer!



James

We were fortunate that our new directors were willing to assume their terms right away: Jess Golumbeski, Sara Morris, Kenneth Totilo, and Tony Ferrara.

Jess lives in Colorado but was smitten with Hog Island and puffins on her first visit. Sara Morris lives in Buffalo and has a long, long history with Hog Island as an instructor; she's thrilled to serve on FOHI's board and help Hog Island in another way. Kenneth Totilo is a CPA and empty nests in Cape Cod with his wife; he stepped into the treasurer position to finish the term of our former treasurer. Thank you, Kenny for taking on this demanding role. Tony Ferrara, a former camper, simply cannot get enough of Hog Island; he moved to Bremen immediately after his retirement and was hired as FOHI's volunteer coordinator! After retiring from that he has agreed to serve on the board and helps on the island as a volunteer.

To learn more about our new board members visit our website.

Thank you all!



Jess



Sara



Kenny



Tony

In remembrance of three friends



Lorraine Novinski

Lorraine Novinski of Morristown, NJ, loved coming to Hog Island and was thrilled when Friends of Hog Island came along. She was an ardent supporter who loved coming to camp. Throughout her 78 years, she was a worldwide traveler as she pursued a lifelong joy of birding and nature. On the island, the front porch of the Bridge was her favorite spot at the end of the day to chat with instructors, campers, and volunteers.

Some chats ended with her funding geolocator tags for Swainson's thrushes on the island and other things we needed; she was delighted she could help avian research in such a way. Always inquisitive and wanting to help Lorraine also became a FOHI volunteer. Despite her distinguished and much-demanding law career, including serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Lorraine always found time to enjoy

nature and birds and to give back to the community. She was indefatigable in her passion for the natural world and Hog Island.



Walt Pomeroy

Walt Pomeroy of Mechanicsburg, PA, was always a champion of the environment and climate since his college days. He never wavered in that commitment throughout his life of 74 years. Accolades for his contributions to many groups and organizations are too long for this tiny but mighty tribute. For the nonprofit Friends of Hog Island, he was a rock from day one. He did not hesitate to accept when asked to be one of its first board members! He was part of FOHI's incredible journey to today – always interested, always recognizing needs, always attentive, always helpful in so many ways. His last and perhaps most *Cont'd on p. 7*

Our 2022 Donors

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Peg Ackerson
Suzanne Ackerman
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Leigh Altadonna *In memory of Walt Pomeroy*
William and Trina Anderson
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Karlyn Barker
Helene Basile
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Susan Berg *In honor of Walt Pomeroy*
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N

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Q

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Quittapahilla Audubon Society *In honor of Walt Pomeroy*

R

Carol Ramsayer
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Shari and Stan Sujka
Karen Sulzberger and Erick Lax
Megan Sutton
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2022 Donors - cont'd

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W Bob Wallis		Foundations Amazon Smile Dobson Foundation Maple Grove Foundation Reny Charitable Foundation	

Thank You!

Our 2022 Volunteers

At camp

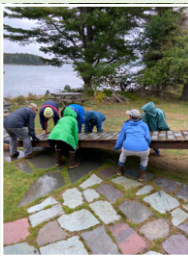
A
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Tom Meyers
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Charlie Snyder
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Cindy Stevens
Mark Stevens
Nina Stoyen-Rosenzweig

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Maggie Taylor
Beverly Trail
Fred Trail



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Sarah van Horn
Katherine van Niekerk
Irma Varela
Alison, Vooris
Chris Vooris
Paul Vooris

W
Nina Wang
Jenny Welch
Haven Wiley
Maven Wiley

Y
Jane York
Sharon York
Donna Yorkston
George Yorkston



Off island
Juanita Roushdy

Volunteers: 65
Hours: 4,259

You rock!



More about Raising the Queen Mary

By now, you know that the venerable Queen Mary building is safe for the foreseeable future from rising sea levels. Its raising started last October and was finished on Dec. 10, 2022, when the last of the crew left the island. They worked almost every day despite chilling wind, rain, cold, varying high tides, rough water, and their daily commute of 90 minutes by road, then a boat ride to the island!

For quite a few years FOHI and Audubon had been talking about raising the Queen Mary and pondering the cost. FOHI was keen to pay for the project but needed an estimate before committing. After a long search Audubon's facilities manager, Eric Snyder, found a company that could handle such a huge task in a short time – Jewett Builders of Pittston, Maine. As you can imagine, such a project has a lot of surveying and permitting required before the actual project begins. In early 2021, all the pieces began to coalesce.

On March 3, 2021, Walt and Lin Pomeroy called Friends of Hog Island to say that they would make the lead gift so that the project could start in earnest. They knew FOHI's annual appeal would go out shortly thereafter and hoped others would follow their lead and donate. For Walt and Lin, this project was an example and a warning about climate change; they wanted to do something before it was too late. Walt was hoping to see work begin in October 2021 but the permitting

process took longer than expected, and came too late to start as planned. Work was postponed until October 2022, right after the closing of camp for the season. It was an ambitious timetable of 10 weeks. But all involved were eager and ready to get the job done.

There remain some odds-and-ends tasks that Eric, facilities assistant Adrian Bregy and the opening week FOHI crew will tackle in June to bring the building back to full operation. But this enormous project, which Eric managed and FOHI paid for, was a sterling example of the partnership between Audubon and Friends of Hog Island. Walt and Lin's lead was the impetus that pulled us all together to make it happen, and it stands as a worthy memorial to Walt's memory.



Lin and Walt Pomeroy

A note from Juanita Roushdy. . .

Nature knows all too well about change and takes it in stride. We humans must do the same. I first set foot on Hog Island in 2007 as a camper, positive that I should not have come; I knew no one. While waiting for other campers to arrive I took a walk on the east side of the island, along the gnarly, moss-laden rocky path overlooking Muscongus Bay. Just thinking about it still makes my heart quicken and eyes moisten.

Many of you experienced the same thing. Your lives changed because of your time on Hog Island. It settled into your soul, quietly waiting to stir and overflow. In October 2009, I moved to Maine, because of Hog Island and a female American Redstart, and became a full-time volunteer there. The island had called and I had to answer. Fourteen years later, after founding the nonprofit Friends of Hog Island and working with the wonderful board, volunteers, alumni, friends, and Audubon staff, I find change again beckons.

Because of all those who make up FOHI and who had faith in our mission and vision, including yourselves, the Hog Island Audubon Camp has now become strong, financially sound, enjoys the full support of National Audubon, and faces an

exciting future with new ideas and youthful energy. Likewise, FOHI has become a much-respected and valued partner of National Audubon and our volunteers continue to give their all. The camp cannot help but prosper with such a deeply committed partner.

Personal responsibilities and medical events prompt my stepping down as FOHI's Executive Director on October 1, 2023. I am working closely with the FOHI board to determine the best road ahead for Friends of Hog Island so we lose none of our momentum. I will still row back and forth to the island occasionally and help with the transition through 2024. So, I'll still be around but bearing less responsibility.

You have made the FOHI of today, strong, passionate, and capable of continuing the camp's success. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your achievements and making the impossible possible. You rock!



Two old ladies - Juanita Roushdy and the Queen Mary in the background.

The Guillemot - Friends of Hog Island - 2022-23



Joy of Birding team 2022

the camp. Thank you to all who helped make it a great season.

As I reflect on my inaugural season as FOHI's volunteer coordinator, I am amazed at the passion that the volunteers have for Hog Island. I knew it was a dedicated group, but to be intimately involved and see it in action was inspiring. No matter the obstacle, FOHI volunteers were unfazed and always got the job done. On a few occasions last summer, cancellations left the volunteer crew short-handed, requiring each volunteer to work even harder. There were no complaints and every challenge was met with a smile. It is a privilege to be the leader of this amazing group of people.

With spring rapidly approaching I am excited for the start of the 2023 season. I hope you are all having a happy and healthy winter and I am looking forward to seeing many of you on the island this summer.

Don't forget, we still have spaces for 2023, so sign up or add your name to the wait list for a session. Life happens and sometimes volunteers have to drop out at the last moment.

Adam, FOHI volunteer coordinator

volunteer@fohi.org

Reflecting on 2022

The 2022 season was another successful one for the FOHI volunteers with more than 4,200 volunteer hours provided in service of

In remembrance of three friends - cont'd from p. 3

valuable act was to recognize that rising sea levels and climate change were threatening the historic Queen Mary building on Hog Island. He and his spouse Lin made a generous lead gift to FOHI for the raising of the Queen Mary and kept tabs on our progress. He was an involved champion to the end.

Suzie King had a summer home up the road from Hog Island.



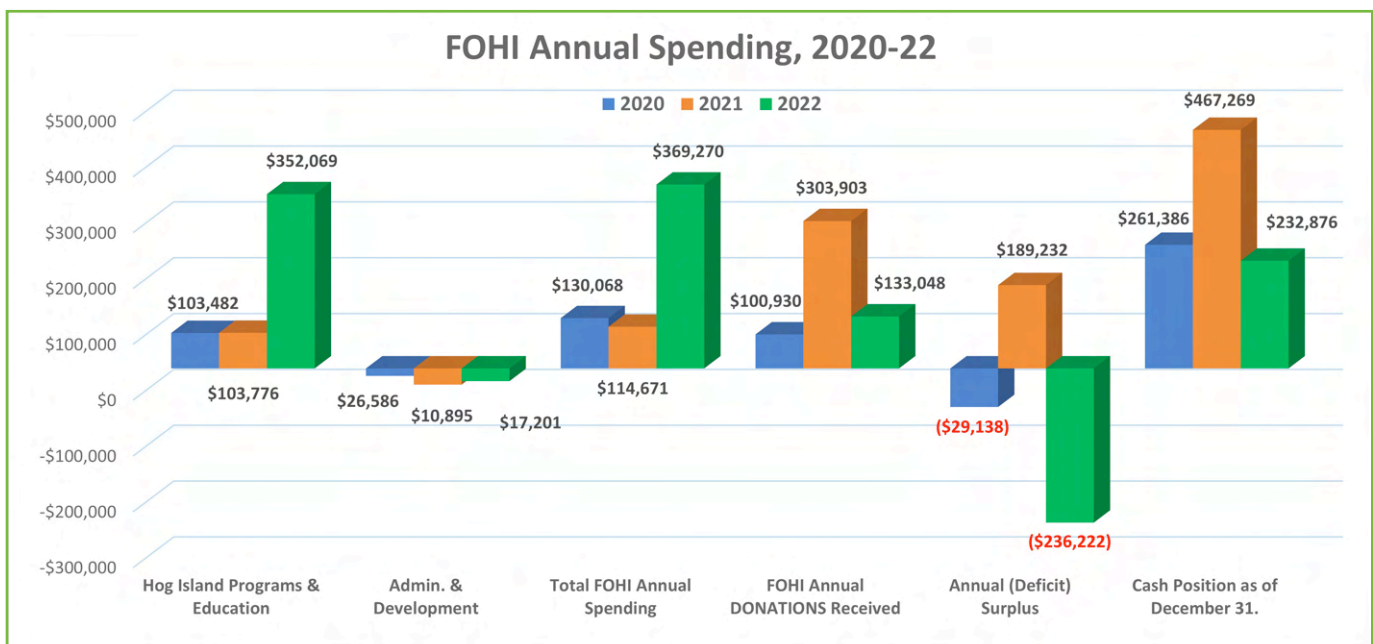
Suzie King

She eventually moved from California to Bremen where she found great joy in driving down the dirt road to Hog Island and gazing across the water. That view and place was her "church." It was her sanctuary, her renewal of spirit. When Friends of Hog Island came along, she was thrilled that her "church" would be safe. She had been a long-time supporter of Project Puffin but Hog Island had her heart. She

chose the hill overlooking Hog Island as the spot for us to celebrate her 86 years. Her passion, along with that of Lorraine and Walt above, made them take a chance on a fledgling nonprofit that promised to save an island that meant the world to each of them. They stood tall and encouraged others to likewise take a chance and assure Hog Island's future. The outdoor granite tables were among many things funded by Suzie in honor of Friends of Hog Island.

FOHI dollars and cents in 2022

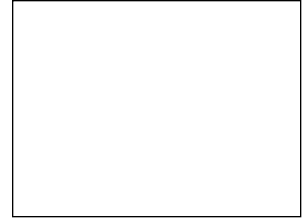
In our new chart format for FOHI's annual spending report below, category headings are at the bottom of the chart. The best news is that funds spent on Hog Island Programs & Education were 80% in 2020, 90% in 2021, and 95% in 2022.



The Guillemot - Friends of Hog Island - 2022-23



Friends of Hog Island
P.O. Box 242
Bremen, ME
04551



Promises made; promises kept.



Front entrance to Queen Mary during raising.

Come to Hog Island . . .
Check out the camp schedule at
<https://hogisland.audubon.org>.

Cover photos: Photos taken of the various stages of raising the Queen Mary building showing cribbing and jacking.

Do you have what it takes to be a FOHI Volunteer?

The ability to work hard, laugh hard, be part of a team, learn new skills,
and make friends for a lifetime.

Sign Up Now



Volunteers enjoy great, healthy,
locally grown food, shade-grown,
bird friendly coffee, downtime,
and, yes, you get freshly caught
lobster!

Every volunteer who works a one-week
session gets a FOHI t-shirt for each week
they work!

Visit <https://fohi.org/volunteering/>
[volunteer-info/](https://fohi.org/volunteer-info/) Sign up at [www.fohi.org/](https://fohi.org/support/volunteer-signup/)
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Friends of Hog Island

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www.fohi.org/

E-mail: president@fohi.org

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