



THE GUILLEMOT

FRIENDS OF HOG ISLAND

Annual Report & Newsletter

2023 – 2024

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, ME.

www.fohi.org | info@fohi.org
P.O. Box 242, Bremen, ME 04551

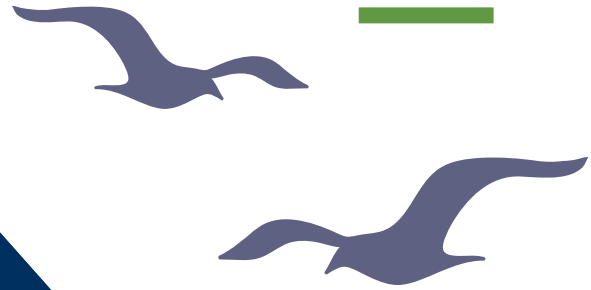


A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



SCOTT WEIDENSAUL

Hog Island Instructor since 2000
FOHI Board Member since 2010

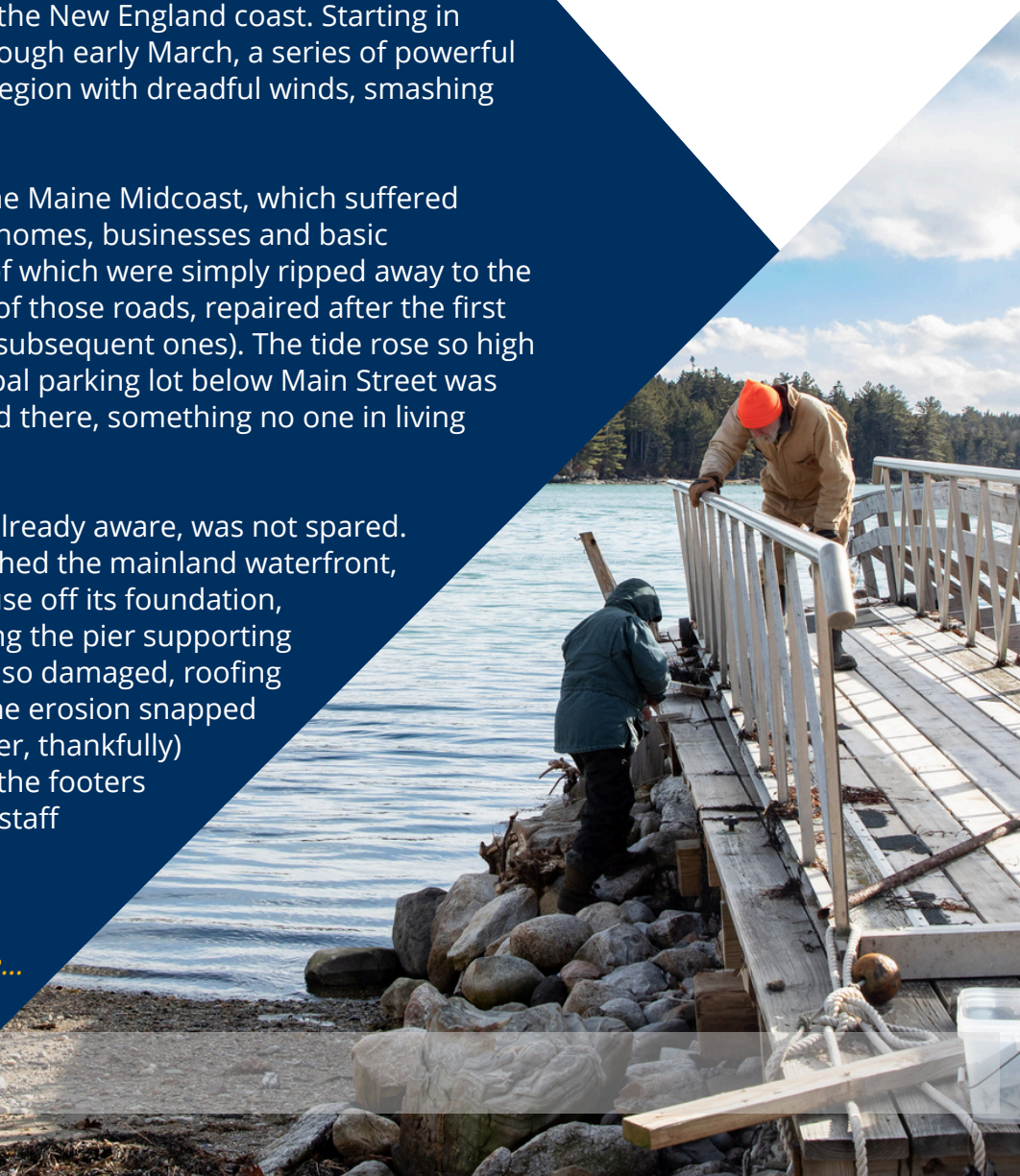


Well, it was quite a winter along the New England coast. Starting in early January and continuing through early March, a series of powerful nor'easter storms battered the region with dreadful winds, smashing waves, and record high tides.

No region was hit harder than the Maine Midcoast, which suffered millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses and basic infrastructure like roads, some of which were simply ripped away to the ledge rock far below (and some of those roads, repaired after the first storm, were torn away again by subsequent ones). The tide rose so high in Damariscotta that the municipal parking lot below Main Street was underwater, flooding cars parked there, something no one in living memory had ever seen.

Hog Island, as many of you are already aware, was not spared. The first big January storm smashed the mainland waterfront, battering and lifting the boathouse off its foundation, tearing away the docks, and lifting the pier supporting them. The Hog Island pier was also damaged, roofing was torn off the Bridge; shoreline erosion snapped a septic line (empty for the winter, thankfully) and all but washed away one of the footers on the Quarter Deck, one of the staff cabins closest to the water.

Continue reading on the next page...





It could have been far worse. We and our colleagues at National Audubon long ago recognized the danger from sea level rise and intensifying storms, which is why FOHI provided more than \$300,000 in 2022 to raise the Queen Mary—which thankfully, stayed high and dry throughout these many storms. If we hadn't, the damage would have been catastrophic.

Still, the job remaining is enormous, and time is short. National Audubon facilities manager Eric Snyder, working with FOHI volunteer coordinator Adam DiNuovo, immediately organized local FOHI volunteers to begin to stabilize the boathouse, move it back into position and raise it significantly above its previous height. (Ironically, raising the boathouse was the next big job on the to-do list, scheduled for this coming autumn).

“We and our colleagues at National Audubon long ago recognized the danger from sea level rise and intensifying weather, which is why FOHI provided more than \$300,000 in 2022 to raise the Queen Mary — which stayed high and dry throughout these many storms.”

Because Eric can't wait until the glacial process of insurance settlement is completed, FOHI has been providing the funds to jump-start the work. The one thing we can't offer him is more time, because we must have a functioning camp and waterfront by May.

I've never been prouder of being FOHI's president as I have over these past few months. As soon as word of the storm damage began to spread, donations from FOHI supporters began to flood in, while Adam had many FOHI volunteers show up to work under Eric's direction through often bitterly cold and snowy conditions. They have already contributed hundreds of hours of labor and sweat to rectify the damage. The board has also made it clear to National Audubon that we will do everything in our power, and our budget, to help them across the finish line. In addition to our annual cash contribution of at least \$50,000 toward camp operations, the board authorized an additional \$25,000 for initial storm repair, with more available if needed.

Concluded on page 4...



President's letter, concluded...

The storm has, unfortunately, overshadowed the other big and very positive news this year, which is our welcoming Deana Cavan as our new executive director, succeeding founding president and executive director, Juanita Roushdy. Deana dazzled our search committee last year, including Juanita, and since coming aboard in October has only strengthened that opinion. She has a myriad of talents, some born from her experience starting and running her own nonprofit before coming to FOHI. Many of you will have a chance to meet Deana this summer, and when you do I think you'll see why we feel as though we caught a unicorn. (Juanita isn't going away, incidentally—she remains very engaged as a board trustee.)

Thank you, all of you, who have made a contribution in some form to FOHI this year—it's never been more important. Thanks as well to all of you who will be coming to the island this summer as a volunteer. There are still slots left, so if you have the time and haven't signed up for a session or one of the work weeks, Adam would love to hear from you! Your favorite island needs you more this year than ever before.

Scott Weidensaul
President, Friends of Hog Island

Officers

- Scott Weidensaul - President
- Juanita Roushdy - Founding President
- James Li, M.D. - Vice President
- Kenny Totilo - Treasurer
- Lena Gallitano - Secretary

Staff

- Deana Cavan - Executive Director
- Adam Dinuovo - Volunteer Coordinator

Trustees

- Tony Ferrara
- Jes Golumbeski
- Sally Jeffords
- Sara Morris
- Stephen Kress
- JB Smith
- Rebecca Gilman
- Don Lyons, *Ex officio*





CHANGES TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2023, several terms came to an end—Nancy Dickinson, Randy Blackburn, and Loree Niola.

We are so grateful for all our board members, past and present, who volunteer their expertise and love of Hog Island to ensure that FOHI, as an organization, is financially healthy and meeting its mission.

**LENA
GALLITANO**

**NEWLY
APPOINTED
SECRETARY**



Lena, who resides in NC, devotes much of her time to organizations related to birds, birding, and the environment. She has served on the boards of NC Beautiful, Carolina Bird Club, Wake Audubon Society, and Audubon NC. She volunteered to coordinate the fledgling North Carolina Birding Trail and was recognized for her contribution by the NC Wildlife Federation with the 2005 Governor's Award for Wildlife Volunteer of the Year.

Over the years, Lena has returned to Hog Island as both a camper and a volunteer building lasting memories. Recently, Lena was appointed as FOHI's new secretary. We are extremely grateful to have her step into this vacant officer position.



**REBECCA
GILMAN**

**NEW FOHI
TRUSTEE**

Rebecca is a playwright who fell in love with Hog Island as a camper, and was honored and delighted to be the island's first Artist-in-Residence. During her residency, she wrote *A Woman of the World*, a one-woman play that tells the story of Mabel Loomis Todd, which received its off-Broadway premiere in 2019 and is available on Audible.

Rebecca recently retired from her position as Professor of dramatic writing at Northwestern University. She now volunteers regularly for several conservation organizations in Wisconsin. She is a Wisconsin Master Naturalist and an avid birder.

Read the full bios of all our board members: <https://fohi.org/about/staff-trustees/>



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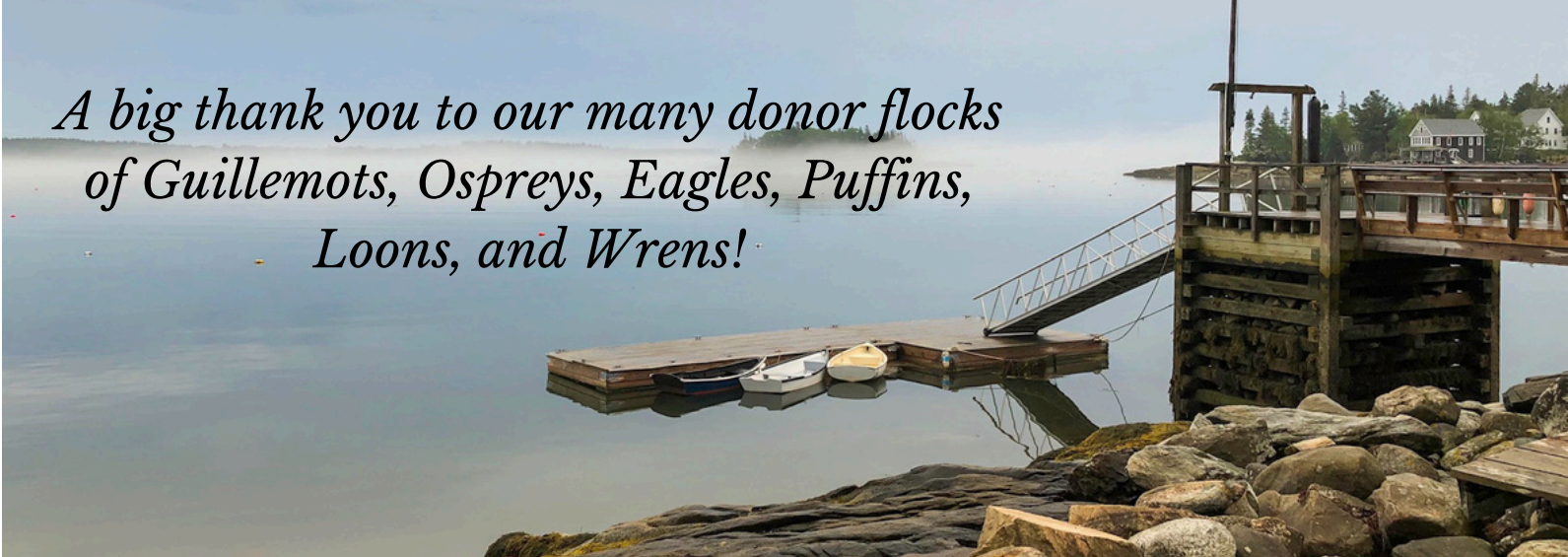
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Fred and Sally Zahradnik



*A big thank you to our many donor flocks
of Guillemots, Ospreys, Eagles, Puffins,
Loons, and Wrens!*



**83 People
4,081 Hours
1 Mission**

**Sign up for 2024
Hog Island needs you!**
<https://fohi.org/volunteering/volunteer-sign-up/>

2023 VOLUNTEERS

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Carol Baker
Joe and Terri Beaudette
Annie Black
Debbie Blicher
Pam Bucci
Cathy Byers
Kate Byerwalter
Betsy Cadbury
Joel S. Cadbury
Peggy Cadbury
Debora Conrad
Judy Dearborn
Claudia Dewane
Nancy and Michael Dickinson
Kathy Dodge and Pete Snyder
John Dorsey
Richard Doyle
Neal and Ronna Erickson
Anthony and Cheryl Ferrara
Stacey Flynn

Stephanie Foy
John and Janet Garrett
William and Marsha Gette
Leonora Harrington
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Ronald Hiser
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Julie and Kurt Leemann
Kathy and Mark Lena
Gretchen and Daniel Linton
Anthony Liss
Jason Mager
Dorothea and Richard Malsbarg
Skyler McDonnell
Barbara McEachren
Lindsay McNamara
Holly Merker
Tom and Martha Meyers
Carole Miller
David Morrisette

Kimberlie Moutoux
Tony Musgrave
Kim Newby and James Li
Joan Newkirk
Loree Niola
Holly O'Shea
Jancie and Lennart Olson
Lorna Patrick
Juanita Roushdy
Tom Schaefer
Sharon Seitz
Yael Seligman
John and Margaret Sherman
Robin and Todd Sleeman
Jonathan "JB" Smith
Cindy and Mark Stevens
Maggie Taylor
Julie Thornton
Fred and Beverly Trail
Helen Walsh
Alexander Ward
Linda Williams

FINANCIAL WELLBEING

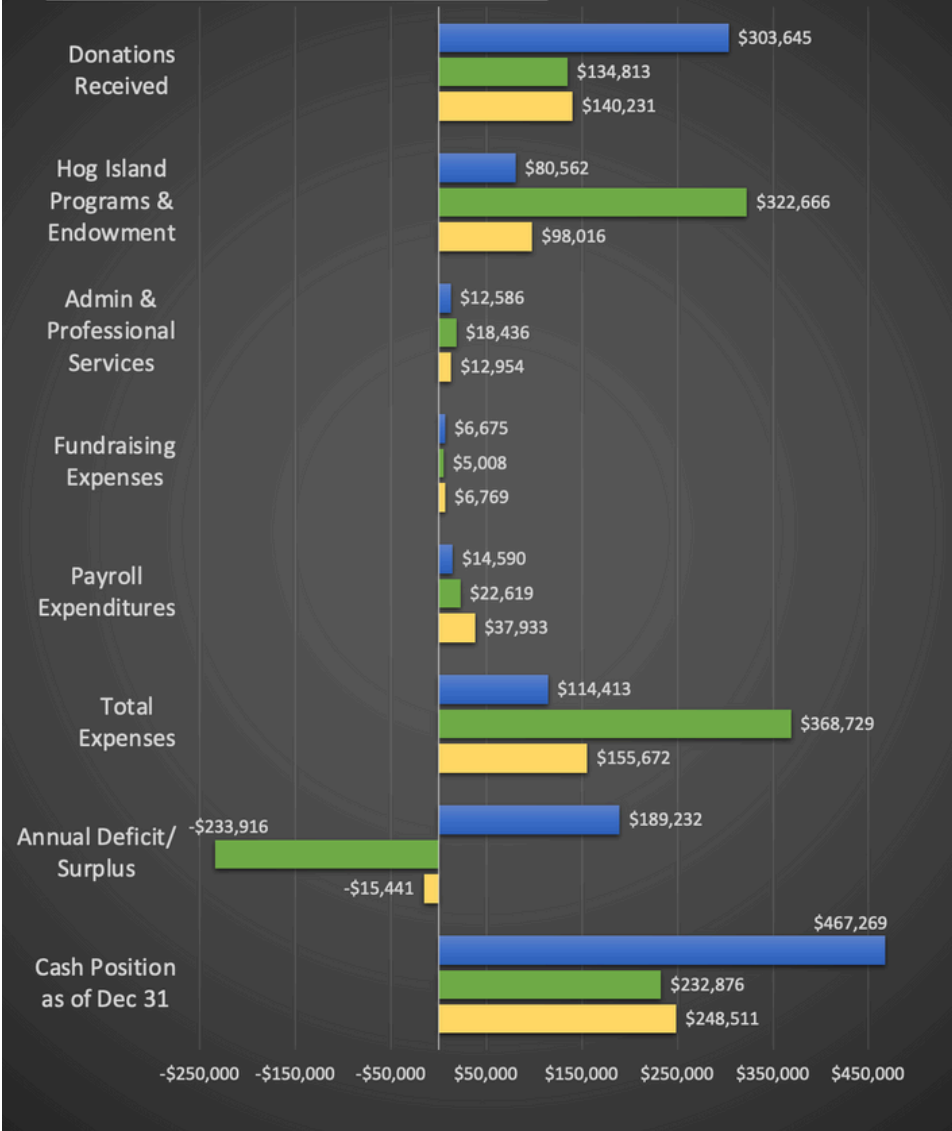
FOHI is in a solid position financially for 2024, in that we have cash on hand to cover our annual donation to Audubon for the Hog Island Camp operations and maintenance, plus an additional sum for storm recovery materials. Ninety percent of our total revenue is being used for sustaining Hog Island programs! That being said, we are still running at a slight deficit since the Queen Mary renovation in 2022, and with the hiring of our part-time executive director, we'll require more revenue in 2024.

The good news is, we will still only mail out one appeal each year; and we will be seeking new streams of potential income, which includes identifying new donors. Stay tuned on how you can continue to support the Hog Island Camp through FOHI.

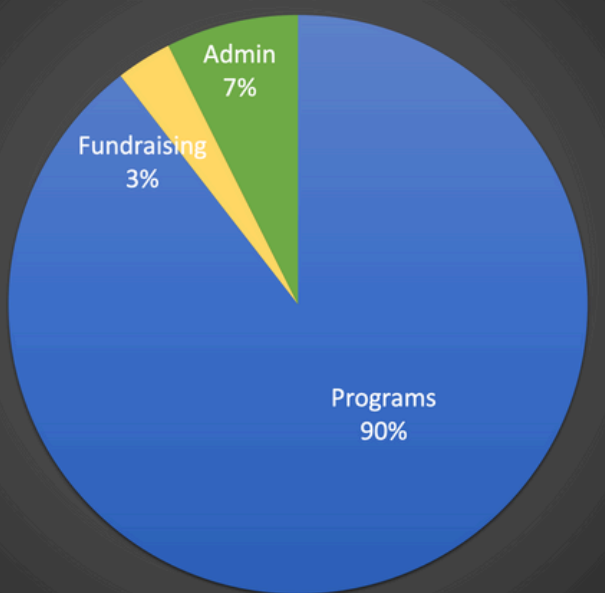


FOHI's Profit and Loss Chart

■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023



2023 Breakdown of Expenses



WORKING TOGETHER WITH AUDUBON



Audubon and FOHI accepting the award in Bath, ME.

Pictured L to R: JB Smith (FOHI board and volunteer), Deana Cavan (FOHI executive director), Eric Snyder with wife Mia and daughter Sadie (Audubon Facilities and Operations Manager), and Kimberly Faux (Audubon Development and Communications Associate)

QUEEN MARY PROJECT WINS MAINE PRESERVATION HONOR AWARD

The annual Maine Preservation Honor Awards have celebrated excellence in historic preservation since 1998, focusing on the transformative rehabilitation of historic buildings and the people that make those projects possible.

This year, Audubon and its partners were selected to receive this prestigious award for their work on raising the Queen Mary. Certainly, if that project had not been completed, the building could have been completely lost during this winter's storms. We all can breathe a sigh of relief that it was left unscathed by the highest tides. You can watch the video spotlighting this year's awardees at Maine Preservation's website:

<https://www.maine-preservation.org/honor-awards>

A NEW MANAGER OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Our good friend and colleague, Eva Matthews Lark, said farewell in November after nine years as Audubon's Senior Manager of Public Programs on Hog Island. She will be continuing her career back in Colorado as the Education and Outreach Supervisor for Boulder County Parks and Open Space.

Eva wistfully shared, "Despite my departure, my heart will always be with Hog Island. It's where I was married, where I found life-long friends, where my children saw their first years of life, where I experienced amazing moments in nature, and where I found my voice as a leader."

After Audubon performed a thorough search, they recently announced that we will be welcoming Rosy Tucker into Eva's role. Rosy is a seasoned science educator and nature enthusiast. She holds a B.S. in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources from Rutgers University and a Masters of Teaching from Virginia Commonwealth University. Previous to accepting this role at Hog Island, she proudly served as a science teacher in the public school system in Richmond, Virginia. Rosy has been a Family Camp instructor at Hog Island for nearly a decade, and she is thrilled to be returning to the island in a full-time capacity. Motivated by the strong belief that everyone should have equal access to nature, Rosy is committed to getting people (especially young people) outside. In her free time, Rosy enjoys reading, biking, playing music, baking and hiking.



2023 IMPROVEMENTS TO HOG ISLAND

In 2023, thanks to FOHI's donors and volunteers, the camp's hot water needs were all switched to solar power! We also donated the funds and work hours toward the following improvements on the island:

- Electric push mower, weed whacker, and two step ladders.
- Flowers, plants, and shrubs for Hog Island gardens and window boxes and some for the mainland house garden.
- A new projector for the Fish House for lectures.
- Blue flagstone for around the granite tables and the pathway leading up from the Queen Mary
- A 24 x 36" inch all-weather poster depicting the story and raising of the Queen Mary
- New ice machine
- Four new toilets and materials for two new bathroom floors
- A "new! to us" pontoon boat for 2024



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: HELEN WALSH



If you come to a FOHI workweek in 2024, you will surely meet a spry volunteer much beloved by all who can dig up a garden—Helen Walsh. Helen, a retired geriatric psychiatrist, lives in Massachusetts. She came to Hog Island as a camper in the 1950s. Like many, she fell in love with the island and was heartbroken when the camp closed. On hearing the good news in 2010 that the camp would open again and desperately needed volunteers, she set off for Bremen, after quickly arranging the care of her rescue horses and ponies and her dogs and other creatures that she has under her wing, and her garden.

Helen arrived at the boathouse, her car bursting with flowering plants and garden tools. Knowing the camp's gardens would be in terrible shape, she came prepared! Since 2010, Helen has rarely not shown up for opening and closing work weeks to plant the gardens and window boxes for the spring and then to dismantle them in the fall. Over the past few years, she has gradually relinquished being lead gardener but still arrives overflowing with plants and continues to lovingly fuss over the garden beds.

A few years ago Helen thought that she was too old to be a useful volunteer and not as spry. She reluctantly was not going to sign up. A quick pep talk from other volunteers assured her that she would always be of help; even though she could not dig from dawn 'til dusk, she could regale us with the history of the camp and gardens and advise on what plants to put where. It just wouldn't be the same without Helen and her radiant smile—happy that she is on Hog Island—or her magic touch in the gardens!

“We can never fully acknowledge everything that Juanita has done to ensure Hog Island's stability and financial viability as the camp approaches its second century.”



THANK YOU!

October 2023 marked the end of an era for Friends of Hog Island, when founding president Juanita Roushdy stepped down as the organization's volunteer executive director.

Juanita first attended camp at Hog Island in the summer of 2007 and came back the following spring, falling so hard for the island that, noticing a house for sale on Keene Neck Road just a few miles from camp, she knocked on the door and convinced the owners (still in their pajamas) to show her around. By autumn 2009, she had sold her home in coastal North Carolina and moved to the Midcoast—only to learn that Maine Audubon, spooked by the 2008 financial crisis, had just decided to close the camp. National Audubon, which owned the island, was on the verge of transferring it to Camp Kieve-Wavus.

That might have discouraged some people, but not Juanita, who had spent 27 years at the International Monetary Fund and knew how to make things happen. She quickly partnered with Dr. Steve Kress, who had started National Audubon's Project Puffin while an instructor at Hog Island. She started a nonprofit using the legacy name, Friends of Hog Island after checking that it was legally available, assembled a board, wrote and submitted a business plan to the National Audubon Board, and with Kress and others lined up donors and lobbied the National Audubon leadership to allow camp to operate under the Project Puffin umbrella. With FOHI's pledge of a \$1 million endowment, plus an annual gift of \$50,000 in operating funds, the camp

reopened in 2010 and has been on a firm financial footing ever since.

In those early years, Juanita chaired the FOHI board, served as its full-time volunteer coordinator and book store manager, and managed all the necessary nonprofit administrative duties. She would row out to the island at dawn and home across the channel long after dark, essentially every day from May through September that camp was open. In 2018, FOHI hired its first paid volunteer coordinator, Tony Ferrara, which relieved Juanita of some of her chores. In 2019, she stepped aside as board president, although she remained the unpaid executive director.

Last October, after a successful search for her successor, Juanita stepped down fully, working closely with our newly hired paid executive director, Deana Cavan, so that the transition was seamless.

We can never fully acknowledge everything that Juanita has done through FOHI to ensure Hog Island's stability and financial viability as the camp approaches its second century. All we can say is thank you and express how grateful we are that she remains very much engaged with FOHI, serving as a valued member of the board of trustees. Later this year a plaque commemorating her role in FOHI's work will be unveiled on the island; and the FOHI board is also endowing a camper scholarship in her name. Those who are interested in contributing to that endowment should contact Deana at executivedirector@fohi.org.

IN REMEMBRANCE

by Scott Weidensaul

FOHI and the Hog Island camp lost two very good friends in 2023, whose unexpected passing has left those of us who knew them reeling. Tom Johnson and Maggie Taylor were both integral parts of the Hog Island and FOHI family.

Maggie Taylor, 70, of Enola, PA, died Dec. 19, 2023, after a brief battle with cancer. She was for many years a constant and ever-smiling presence during FOHI's opening and closing work weeks, and she was on Hog Island just three months before her death. Born in western New York, Maggie attended college in New York and Virginia, where a course in ornithology sparked her lifelong interest in birds.



TOM JOHNSON



MAGGIE TAYLOR

Maggie's connections to Maine predated her time at Hog Island, having attended the Wooden Boat School in Brooklin, then using her new skills to sail from Maine to the Caribbean and back many times before settling for a while in New Brunswick as a sail-maker. Maggie eventually moved back to central Pennsylvania, where for more than 20 years she was a volunteer on the northern saw-whet owl banding project I oversee. It was through another FOHI on that project, Gary Shimmel, that she first came to Hog Island in 2017, bringing her skills of carpentry and painting. In fact, the last time I saw Maggie was this past September when she was volunteering during the Raptor Migration session—on the final night of which we netted three saw-whet owls. Maggie was my unflappable assistant, extracting owls from the mist-nets and recording data as we banded them for a breathless bunch of campers.

That same owl-banding project in Pennsylvania is where I first met Tom Johnson, then just 11, who with his older sister and parents joined the crew in 1999. Growing up in Hummelstown, PA, Tom's passion for birds and skills in the field only deepened with time. He was part of the first Coastal Maine Bird Studies (teen ornithology) session at Hog Island in 2002, became a paid field survey crew member for the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas while still in high school, and while completing his undergrad at Cornell University spent almost as much time in the Lab of Ornithology as in his classes.

After college, Tom quickly established a reputation as one of the most respected young birders in the country, developing (thanks to many long weeks on NOAA research vessels as the bird observer) a particular expertise with seabirds. In 2014 he began working for Field Guides, Inc., one of the world's premiere birding tour companies, and traveled the globe leading trips. Despite that busy schedule, Tom returned many times as an instructor at Hog Island, where his towering frame and booming voice belied his gentle, easy-going teaching style.

Tom was just 35 when he suffered a pulmonary embolism on July 23, 2023, at the home in Cape May, NJ, he shared with his beloved fiancée Melissa Roach, whom he was to marry two months later.

We miss them both terribly, and share with their families and many friends the pain of their too-early loss.



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Bremen, Maine

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AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

"Hog Island takes hold of you. There are many beautiful places—this one will change your life."

—Scott Weidensaul, FOHI President

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON HOG ISLAND THIS SUMMER!

INQUIRIES

Contact Deana Cavan: 508-813-9222 or
executivedirector@fohi.org

ADDRESS:

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PHOTO CREDIT:

We're thankful to Jean Hall for contributing many photos for this newsletter and other marketing materials.

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www.fohi.org/support

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VOLUNTEER:

<https://fohi.org/volunteering/volunteer-sign-up/>