

The Guillemot

Friends of Hog Island
Annual Impact Report
2024-2025



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, Maine.



Executive Director's Update

A STELLAR YEAR FOR THE FRIENDS OF HOG ISLAND



Dearest Hog Island Friends,

Reflecting on this past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support we have received from our dedicated donors and volunteers. Your generosity and enthusiasm have made this year truly remarkable, reinforcing the deep sense of community that surrounds our beloved island.

Spending time on Hog Island is certainly a gift, and I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to be part of such a special place. Whether it's the quiet serenity of the early morning, the lively camaraderie of volunteers in the kitchen, or the transformative learning experiences happening all around the island, every moment spent here is meaningful.

Last summer, our volunteers really stepped up to the task and gave their all in the kitchen at the Hog Island Audubon Camp, ensuring that campers and staff were well-fed and energized for their immersive days. Their enthusiasm and positivity in giving us their time and effort has been nothing short of inspiring. It is because of you that the camp continues to thrive, providing a nurturing space where people of all ages can deepen their connection to the natural world.

As we look ahead to another summer, I am excited to welcome new and returning volunteers, reconnect with the dedicated Hog Island staff (including several new employees), and continue the vital work that makes this place so extraordinary.

The impact of our collective efforts is evident in every meal served, every program supported, and every life touched by the magic of Hog Island.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Your support fuels our mission and ensures that Hog Island remains a place of inspiration, education, and conservation for years to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Deana Caven".

Executive Director
Friends of Hog Island
508-813-9222



Board of Directors

Our Terrific Team!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS



JB Smith

JB is one of our most loyal volunteers on Hog Island. We are grateful for his dedication and good nature. Although it's his time to step down from the board, we know we'll continue to see him in the kitchen this summer!



Sally Jeffords

Sally has offered significant financial support to the Friends of Hog Island and the Hog Island Endowment over the years. She also introduced us to our fantastic Treasurer, Kenny. We will miss her on the board but know she will always keep FOHI close to her heart.

EMBRACING NEW (AND RETURNING) FACES



Anthony Hill

Anthony has been coming to Hog Island since 1985. He retired from a career in medical microbiology in 2010 and has been an Audubon instructor and FOHI volunteer for 8 years. He sits on the board of his local land trust, and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.



Megan Blackburn

Megan is the daughter of our longtime board member and supporter, Randy Blackburn, and a member of the Executive Leadership Team at World Education Services Inc. She is looking forward to getting more involved in the work we do at Hog Island.

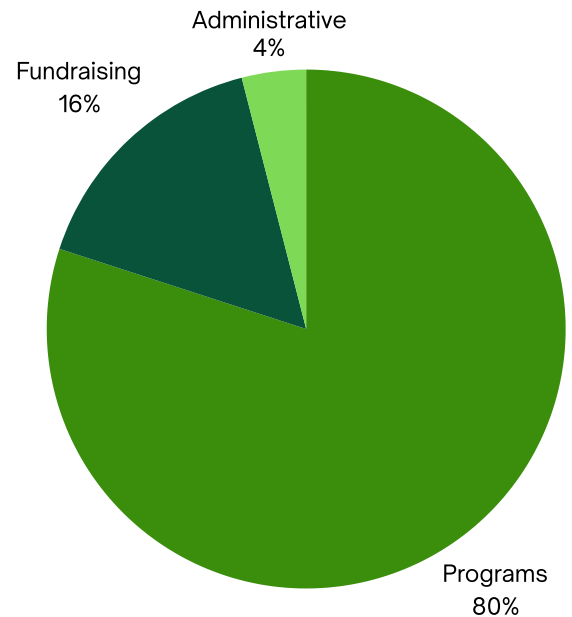
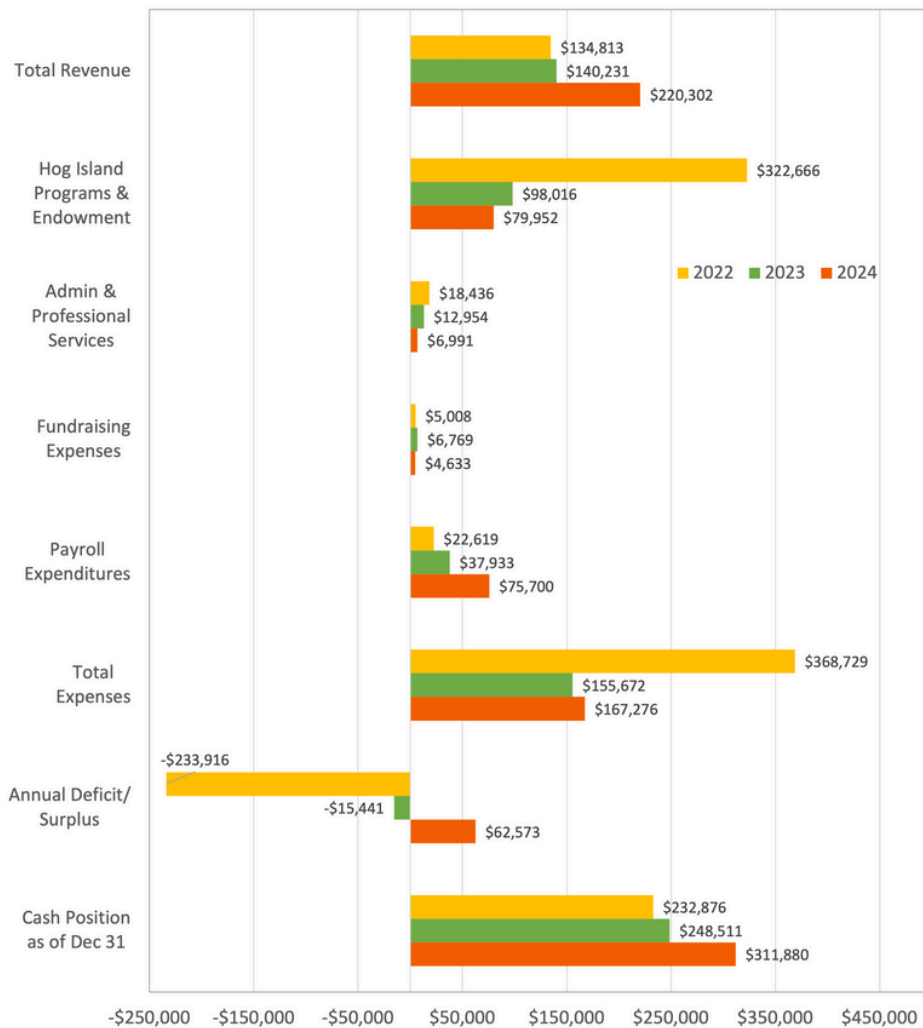


Nancy Dickinson

Nancy, one of our loyal desperado volunteers, is back! She has worked nearly every camp session and now oversees housekeeping and gardening to ensure the camp remains a welcoming haven. We're so happy to have her back on the board.

Financials Grateful for a Fruitful Year!

MINIMAL OVERHEAD MEANS MORE FOR THE CAMP



Friends of Hog Island continues to operate with minimal fundraising and administrative expenses, even after hiring an Executive Director. The annual surplus in 2024 allowed us to shift funds into our growing money market account, ensuring that we will be prepared for any emergency that arises.



Audubon

Partnering for a Purpose

- ✓ **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**
- ✓ **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**
- ✓ **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT**

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

- Storm Repair Tools & Materials = \$16,523
- New Coffee Maker = \$2,965
- Endowment = 5,000
- Cleaning Supplies = \$302
- Plants, Soil and landscape tools = \$836
- Power station, solar panel controller = \$458
- Paint supplies = \$246
- Venetian blinds, lamps, salt and pepper shakers = \$771



LAURIE BRAGG – A NEW FACE ON HOG

Last summer, Laurie was appointed Center Director for the Seabird Institute. She is originally from Maine, but during a trip to Panama, Laurie met a fellow birder from Michigan who spoke passionately about her adventures on Hog Island. Her enthusiasm and encouragement inspired Laurie to make a change. At Laurie's previous job, she was the Workforce and Diversity Program Manager at the University of Maine's EPSCoR program where she coordinated statewide STEM outreach, managing grants, and cultivating community partnerships. Laurie has a unique combination of leadership, strategic program development, and passion for environmental education. Her expertise in building collaborative relationships, developing impactful programs, and achieving nonprofit growth aligns perfectly with her enthusiasm for working closely with the Friends of Hog Island. In her free time she is often found with her dog and a camera, out on a trail.



Thank you!

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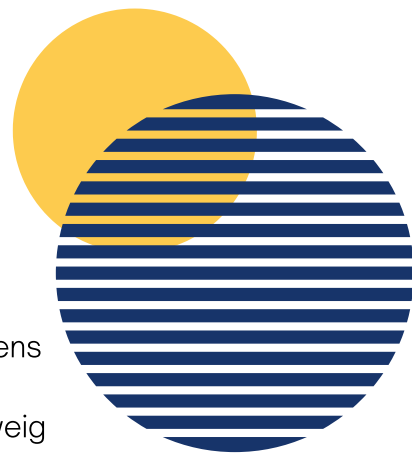
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Photo by Amy Simmons

Three cheers for our volunteers!



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Dennis Shreckengost
Jonathan Smith
Asa Snyder
Pete Snyder
Rosemary Spreha

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Amber Stewart
Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig
John P Sullivan III
Rush Taggart
Fred and Beverly Trail
Sarah and Mike van Horn
Clay van Horn
Lisa and Steven Wallace
Helen Walsh
Sheila Westphal
Patricia White
Linda Williams
Laura Zeffer



Volunteers = 92
Winter work = 469hrs
Work weeks = 1,633hrs
Summer Camps = 2,620hrs



**There are still openings to volunteer
this summer for a full week or one day
Contact Adam: volunteer@fohi.org**

An opportunity Like no other!



JOHN SULLIVAN SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE AS A FIRST TIME VOLUNTEER

Each of us has a story about discovering Audubon Hog Island Camp. Mine started with a donation to Project Puffin's adoption program in honor of my adoptive parent's 60th wedding anniversary. In addition to the adoption certificate and personalized letter from the National Audubon Society they received two beautifully painted puffin decoys, which sat on their fireplace mantel for many years.

My dad loved wood carving ducks and birds from walnut, pecan, cherry, maple and other hardwoods, most of which he collected from the trees on the family's ranch in eastern Oklahoma. He eventually taught me that skill. But, before he allowed me to carve my first scissor-tailed flycatcher, he taught me how to bird. Every summer evening after dinner we would stroll down the road to the ranch, where he would tell me all about the different trees, shrubs, grasses, plants, animals and birds we encountered. He would say, "Don't just look but carefully observe everything around you. Every detail. What makes each thing unique? Describe them, then compare their differences and in doing so you will be able to know them. Then name them."

Sadly, in 2020 my adoptive father passed away. Standing in the living room after his funeral service, I noticed the two puffins still sitting on the mantel. I remembered him saying, "I wish we would have gone to see the puffins when we could still get around." I told myself then, I would not just go see them. I would do more and get involved.

That spring I applied to the Artist In Residence program at Hog Island. Though I wasn't selected, I didn't give up. It took a few years more while I searched the Project Puffin / Hog Island websites to learn more. Finally, in 2024, I discovered FOHI and all they do to support Hog Island. I decided to sign up for the closing work week after I spent a week as a camper. My time on Hog Island was truly life-changing. Those weeks, I experienced joy, fun and laughter, mixed with a little hard work, incredible birding presented by the pioneers in their fields of ornithology, and the opportunity to become friends with the most warm-hearted accepting people in the world. All while being immersed in the awesome rugged beauty of Maine's coast and its islands.

Those two weeks as a "first-timer" just weren't enough. So, I'm headed back this spring, summer, and fall to offer my landscaping expertise and support something greater than myself. I hope to meet you there and for you to have this incredible experience too!



John with his adoptive parents
Suzanne & John Essary



The Magic of Migration Science

BY JAMES LI, FOHI VICE CHAIR



My wife and I came late to birding and only because of something we first misunderstood as a police action. More than two decades ago we moved to a remote wilderness site on Muscongus Bay that happened to be part of an Audubon conservation site.

One day, while dealing simultaneously with many of the high-maintenance tasks that we had quickly learned were required to live in our new home, a stranger arrived on our doorstep and announced his purpose was not to make our acquaintance but rather to inspect our property to assure that we were not desecrating the forest or wetland or migratory pathways that comprised our home.

(At the time, we had seven cords of wood to cut for our winter fuel, no hot water system other than a woodstove-heated pan for bathing, and a single connection to the outside world comprised of a UHF antenna pointed at a mountain 20 miles away.)

But that stranger somehow realized that we were ready for a hard science introduction to the natural wonders of our environment. He told us he was based at Hog Island, a magical place that he pointed out from a corner of our home. We felt we had been shown the door to Narnia.

We were married the day before Valentine's Day while living in that wilderness that was our new home. Even by that time we had become committed to a lifetime of being stewards of the natural world that was our home.

Twenty-one years and one Valentine's Day later, an old friend from my mountaineering days and now many thousands of miles distant sent me this link to a Radiolab podcast about cryptochrome, quantum mechanics and migratory birds.

<http://www.wnycstudios.org/story/quantum-birds/>.

No birder himself, he'd discovered it by accident. Yet on listening, he was instantly enthralled. No longer strangers, our Hog Island world was reintroduced to us through the science and stories told by Scott Weidensaul with the help of Eric Snyder. Despite now many years of immersion in the natural world, listening to this together made our spines tingle. In a time when hope for our natural world seems dim, it made us marvel and gave us hope.

LISTEN TO IT. SHARE IT. IT'S AMAZING.



Storytelling

An Oral History of Hog Island

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOG ISLAND STORY?



Devoted FOHI volunteer Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig has started an oral history project to preserve Hog Island for future generations, in which she interviews people whose lives are deeply intertwined with the Hog Island Audubon Camp, Friends of Hog Island, and the Seabird Institute. These interviews tell many stories—the history of structures and environmental changes, daily life on the island many decades ago, and how spending time on the island has added value, purpose, joy, and connection to the lives of these people. Nina conducts formal, recorded interviews—in person or via Zoom—with participants, which will eventually be transcribed and made available on the FOHI website. As Eric Snyder said so beautifully during his interview,

“I find it fascinating when I’m talking to people such as Betsy Cadbury, hearing about the songs that they sang in the fish house or the time that they went out and dredged up an amazing organism offshore. Those conversations and stories are the magic of Hog Island, being present with one another, sitting in silence—or talking. That’s what [being together on the island] really brings out. I think people want that connection. They want that connection to people. They want that connection to nature. It’s even more important in these days where people are connected to technology, to have those moments where you’re just spending time together, even if you’re just silent for 15 minutes.”

If you are interested in being part of an interview, please feel free to contact Nina at nstoyan@ufl.edu

**Please see our Annual Appeal included with this newsletter.
We hope you are able to make a gift in 2025.**

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Photo by Jean Hall



Donate at fohi.org/support or mail to FOHI, P.O. Box 242, Bremen, ME 04551
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