

OWLS HEAD CONSERVATION COMMISSION - ANNUAL REPORT 20233

The Owls Head Conservation Commission celebrated the expansion of Plaisted Preserve, and an extension of the easement by Georges River Land Trust, last fall amidst the first flakes of winter, with a warming fire and a toast! Thanks to our generous donors, and thanks to the the State of Maine from whom we received a *Land for Maine's Future* grant. A huge shout out to Robin White (OHCC) and Annette Naegel (Georges River Land Trust) who put in hours of work to attain a sizable matching grant to meet our goal. It was a group effort involving all of you in so may ways, starting with your vote to support the project. Thank you.

Stewarding Plaisted Preserve is an ongoing role for the OHCC and its volunteers. Usage has increased considerably in the past few years which calls for greater attention to trail maintenance. Due to some severe storms, many trees were uprooted and downed, resulting in impassable and hazardous conditions along the trails. Beth Long, who serves as primary steward of the property, is consulting with tree removal specialists as well as trails designers to address some of the more challenging trail issues. The need for volunteers is ongoing, so contact the OHCC to learn more about how you can help.

Check the OHCC webpage which can be accessed through the town's website for information and important dates. A thank you goes out to OHCC's Stuart Rich for overseeing the webpage.

The OHCC will be sponsoring a Chewonki presentation for the Ash Point School. Chewonki offers a broad selection of programs to connect participants to the natural world and its inhabitants. To learn more, check out chewonki.org.

The OHCC would like to thank the many volunteers who have helped with work in the preserve, assisting with community events such as the Pumpkin Walk (Thanks largely to Lauren Swartzbaugh and Beth Long) and the Roadside Clean- up, and the Ice Cream Social. and the myriad of tasks involved with "getting the word out."

Stay tuned for events featuring the Night Sky. Dark skies not only offer a window to the constellations but a friendly sustainable environment for essential insects and animals. Stay tuned.

The OHCC meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Owls Head Library on South Shore Drive at 6PM and invites all who are interested to attend. To learn more about our meetings, read minutes posted regularly by Jim Devery.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn DerMarderosian