



Friends of Maine Seabird Islands

2010 Program Highlights

We've Moved!



We were thrilled when, in April, after months of holding our breaths and keeping our fingers crossed, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bought the building the Friends had been holding with a Purchase and Sale Agreement. We and the Refuge's Rockport office staff moved in the end of September. Please note our new address (P.O. Box 1231, Rockland, Maine 04841, Refuge Managers' phone # 594-0600 ext. 2). Stop in to see the building!

The Service is having the former daycare center renovated to reconfigure the bathrooms and make other needed minor changes. We will live downstairs while the work commences upstairs, then move upstairs while the downstairs is finished.

Bank of America Gift Put to Good Use

Bank of America granted us \$5,000 to be used toward renovating the building. Since the building badly needed a fresh paint job, we put the money toward that. The building was completely repainted in July.



Christine Howe, Vice President Bank of America and FOMSI Board Member, Sarah Rheault, Board Member, Jane Hopwood, FOMSI President, Tom Goettel, Board Member

Grant Received to Produce Seabird Educational Materials for Tour Boats

This year, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded us a grant to produce window stickers depicting seabirds that can be used on tour boats, as well as sets of small waterproof seabird identification placards for use on windjammers and kayaks. These will be available before the start of the 2011 nesting season.

Senator Olympia Snowe Visit



Refuge Manager Beth Goettel, Senator Olympia Snowe, Board Member Tom Goettel

U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe made a surprise visit to the building in conjunction with the Lobster Festival Parade in Rockland in August. She walked the parade route, and we were able to provide her convenient parking at the new building so she could pick up her car at the end of the parade. We gave her a tour of the new building and talked with her at length about seabird conservation and the positive impact that healthy seabird colonies have on Maine's economy. She was favorably impressed and most gracious.

Fourth Annual Seabird and Island Adventure Cruise

Our annual Seabird Island Cruise, on August 1, was a huge success! The trip sold out again, and over 100 people enjoyed blue skies and calm seas. We visited Eastern Egg Rock, Franklin Island National Wildlife Refuge, and other islands in Muscongus Bay, and saw plenty of puffins, terns, gulls, and even a peregrine falcon. Biologists from the Maine Coastal Island NWR, Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, and the National Audubon Society's Seabird Restoration Program helped with species identification and gave us their perspectives on seabird management challenges and research.



Grant Funds New Tabletop Display

The National Wildlife Refuge Association grant last year allowed us to produce a new tabletop display. The completed display was used at the Friends Conference in West Virginia, the Maine Land Trust Conference, and the Maine Boats, Homes and Harbors Show in Rockland in August.

Friends of Maine Seabird Islands Mission

To support Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge in its efforts to conserve, protect and enhance the rich diversity of coastal habitats, seabirds, and other wildlife.

Contact Information:

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Friends of Maine Seabird Islands is a community-based, non-profit conservation organization with 501(c)(3) tax status from the United States Internal Revenue Service.