



[View this email in your browser](#)

June 2016 News: The Seabirds are back!

Friends of Maine Coastal Islands
National Wildlife Refuge (FOMCI)



Don't miss the boat!

Reserve your spot for FOMCI's Annual Seabird Sunset Cruise on Sunday, July 24



Want to meet other seabird enthusiasts? See puffins, razorbills and terns? Enjoy delicious h'ors d'oeuvres and drinks? Learn about Maine's seabird nesting islands from expert naturalists and refuge staff?

All these await you on our annual **Seabird Sunset Cruise to Petit Manan Island**. The cruise leaves Bar Harbor on **Sunday, July 24, at 5:00 p.m.** Ticket sales (\$50 each) will benefit programs of the Friends of Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge

(FOMCI) to raise awareness about nesting seabirds in the Gulf of Maine and support the refuge's seabird conservation mission. [Read more](#)

Atlantic puffin photo courtesy USFWS.

Puffins and cormorants star on new webcams

While the seabird islands of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge are closed to visitors during the nesting season (April 1 through August 31), that doesn't mean you have to miss the seabird action. With permission from the Refuge, the National Audubon Society has set up [webcams](#) on Seal Island that give you close-up views of nesting seabirds in their Refuge home—without ever leaving your computer or smartphone. [Read more](#)

Be a (vicarious) seabird researcher

Each year, your donations to FOMCI help support a dedicated crew of summer research interns who live and work on the refuge's seabird nesting islands. This summer, the refuge is lucky to have 10 interns on four islands: Petit Manan (Jill Tengeres, Morgan O'Connor, Shelby Fortier, James Welch), Eastern Brothers Island (Nathan Jaenecke, Dawson Carter), Ship Island (Meredith Miles, Kelby Leary) and Metinic Island (Mark Baran, Helen Manning).

You can get a first-hand look at the interns' life and work on these islands—and see some really fascinating photos—by checking in regularly with their [blog](#), “**Summer with the Seabirds.**” From rounding up snakes, to herding sheep, to counting birds, nests, eggs and chicks, their entertaining posts will give you a glimpse of what it's like to live among the birds and seals on an island off the Maine coast.

You can help make sure the refuge's research, outreach and education programs keep going strong by [making a donation to FOMCI](#). Every dollar we raise is used to support the work of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

Our Refuge has mainland trails too!



Photo of Birch Point Trail on Petit Manan courtesy of USFWS.

The Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge is known for its islands that protect nesting seabirds in the Gulf of Maine. But did you know that the Refuge offers places you can visit for outdoor fun on the mainland? June is Great Outdoors Month, and a good time to put on your hiking boots and explore one of refuge's [trails](#). It's a great way to experience Maine's own Great Outdoors—without the crowds.

The **Corea Heath Trail in Gouldsboro** is easy, short (just 0.4 miles) and wheelchair accessible. Also in Gouldsboro is the moderately difficult **Salt Marsh Trail**, which winds for 1.6 miles through rolling conifer forest and offers two observation platforms providing views of the marsh. Be on the lookout for the bald eagles that nest nearby, and for waterfowl and shorebirds in the marsh.

The moderately difficult **Birch Point Trail on Petit Manan** winds 4.2 miles through salt-marsh habitat and offers excellent wildlife viewing and observation points along Petit Manan Point. The easy loop of the 1.2-mile **Hollingsworth Trail** provides access to the rocky shoreline of Petit Manan Point and offers a self-guided nature tour highlighting the wildlife and coastline of the Refuge.

To help you plan your trip, [download](#) the Refuge's printable trail brochure.

Help FOMCI go social

We're making a real effort to share great photos, interesting progress reports, and other news on [our Facebook page](#). You can help! Please visit the page often. Most importantly, invite your own network of Facebook friends to "like" us. Tell us about the things you'd like to see on the page. Have a question about the Refuge or its wildlife? Ask it on Facebook! Capture a great photo on one of our trails? Share it on our [Facebook page](#) with fellow FOMCI fans!

Mark your calendar for these July events

- **Saturday, July 9, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Seabird Island Family Adventure** opens at Refuge Visitor Center, 9 Water Street, Rockland. In this new outdoor interactive space, parents and children can learn together about seabirds and the science involved in protecting them. Through active exploration and imagination, families will become guest scientists and set sail to a replica coastal island where they will be able to use many of the real tools and techniques biologists use to study and protect migratory seabirds.
- **Saturday, July 9, 10-11 a.m.: Story Hour with a Seabird** for kids and, for their parents, a **Lecture by Dr. Adrian Cerezo**, a world-renowned expert in child development and biodiversity conservation. Dr. Cerezo will discuss the importance of nature in early childhood development in a talk titled *“Of Babies and Birds: How nurturing young children helps protect seabirds.”*
- **Sunday, July 24, 5 p.m.: Seabird Sunset Cruise from Bar Harbor.** Space is limited! [Reserve your spot now!](#)

For more information, call FOMCI outreach coordinator Carney Doucette at 594-0600 ext. 5.
