

Friends of Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge



Common Tern
Photo: J. Eddy Edwards

2019 Annual Report



Friends of Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge
9 Water Street - PO Box 1231
Rockland, ME 04841

From Carla Skinder, President
The Friends are deeply grateful for the philanthropic support that makes our educational offerings possible.

As Board President, I want to begin by saying *thank you* to all the Board Members, Staff, Volunteers and Supporters/Donors of FOMCI! We have had an exceptional year with programs and exhibits because of your support.

Carney McRae, our Outreach Coordinator, added classes for both children and adults during 2019. This year’s theme was *The Wonders of our Oceans*, with programs including imaginative, interactive and virtual experiences with seaweed, corals, seabirds and more. More details about these programs can be found throughout this report.

New Films - Coming Soon!

Through generous gifts and support of donors, we are producing a series of short films designed to give viewers a realistic experience of the seabird islands and the work the Refuge is doing with seabird restoration.

The filming started in 2019 and will soon be part of our educational programs at the Visitor Center, along with social media products to be shared with school groups, libraries and talks throughout the community.

These films are designed to help both children and adults experience and appreciate the seabird islands like never before.

We will be announcing the availability of these films in the months ahead, and we look forward to sharing these beautiful images and messages with you all.

Thank you for your continued support.

--Carla Skinder, President

Timber & Frame to Produce FOMCI Wildlife Films

In 2019, the Friends contracted Timber & Frame of Portland, Maine to create a series of short films to build awareness and support for the MCI National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends.

These films are designed to convey to the viewer the immense beauty of the MCI Refuge – the only one of its kind in this part of country - and to introduce the wildlife (some of which are critically endangered) that rely on these protected islands for their survival.

In addition, the films introduce the mission and goals of FOMCI and illustrate the ways Friends support the work of the Refuge through fundraising and educational programs.

Be on the lookout for upcoming announcements!



Ben Severance, T&F Videographer, films seabird banding on Petit Manan Island with Intern Hallie Daly, Linda Welch, Wildlife Biologist, and Intern Jimmy Welch . Photo by: J. Eddy Edwards

From Brian Benedict, Refuge Manager

Maine's Coastal Islands provide critical nesting habitat for seabirds and Bald Eagles.
Thank you for your continuing support!

MCI Refuge Expands to Over 70 Islands

The Refuge grew significantly in 2019 with the addition of 10 islands, expanding the Refuge to over 70 islands spanning the entire Maine Coast.

Important Research Continues

- **GPS Loggers Deployed to Uncover Tern, Puffin and Petrel Feeding Habits**

Refuge biologists in partnership with National Audubon Society deployed GPS loggers to Arctic and Common Terns at Seal Island NWR and Metinic Island.

A base station located on each island recorded each foraging trip the birds made to assess distances traveled and to identify important feeding sites.

GPS loggers also were placed on Atlantic Puffins on Matinicus Rock and on Leach’s Storm Petrels at Metinic and Petit Manan Islands.

Data from these projects fill in gaps in knowledge for spatial planning for future offshore wind project proposals.

- **Rare Manx Shearwater Tags Recovered**

The only active Manx Shearwater colony in the US, located at Matinicus Rock, revealed new data about the lives of these incredible seabirds.

Last fall researchers attached geolocators to nesting birds, and this summer two of these devices were recovered. Analysis is underway to see where these birds have traveled over the last year.

Manx Shearwaters are crow-sized relatives of the Albatross and have wingspans of over three feet. Studies in Britain have shown they can live up to 56 years and travel over five million miles in their lifetimes.

Refuge Lighthouses Restored

The restoration of two Refuge lighthouses occurred this fall through contracts with International Chimney Corp. At Matinicus Rock, rehabilitation work included replacing the lighthouse cap roof to prevent further water infiltration and protect the active navigation light.

At Petit Manan Island emergency repairs were made to the lighthouse iron support system that had broken. Refuge staff also replaced the roof at Two Bush Island lighthouse.



Refuge Staff celebrate another successful field season.

Top (l-r): Jay Perez, Federal Wildlife Officer; Teresa Cultera, Administration Assistant; Michael Langlois, Wildlife Biologist.
Bottom(l-r): Jim Fortier, Small Craft Operator; Eddy Edwards, Deputy Refuge Manager; Sara Williams, Wildlife Biologist; Brian Benedict, Refuge Manager; Linda Welch, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist. Photo by: Jim Fortier

A Look Forward

For the first time the Refuge plans to staff the Visitor Center with a Park Ranger position from late April – November. This position will complement the work the Friends are doing.

The Refuge Office in Milbridge has been leased for many years, but will be purchased this June, reducing annual costs and providing a long term office for our staff there.

From Carney McRae, Outreach Coordinator

Experiential Learning at MCI Seabird Island

During 2019, FOMCI's educational program team accomplished one of its long-term goals: to create a field trip experience for elementary-aged children, using the replica Seabird Island and exploration area at the Visitor Center!

- Volunteers, Cyrene Slegona, Jane Hardy, and Carney McRae collectively spent over 200 hours researching and designing a 3-hour educational experience that simulates the work of a wildlife biologist. Children learn how to:
- use a bird field guide to identify the seabirds (decoys)
 - conduct an egg census
 - use the scientific tally system for a bird census
 - track birds (includes banding a stuffed animal bird)
 - collect weather data
 - learn about challenges facing birds and biologists

This program was piloted last Spring with three groups of school children, providing us with essential feedback to improve the program. We plan to offer this experience again in 2020.

Calling All Nature Artists!

Please participate in our 2020 Juried Nature Art Show –
Evoking the Magic of Maine's Coast & Islands:
Abundance~Beauty~Change

Check mainecoastislands.org later this spring for details about the date and guidelines.

And do start creating your art now!

Join Us - Annual Seabird Cruise - July 19
Save the date:
Annual Seabird Cruise to Petit Manan Island
(leaves from Bar Harbor)
Sunday, July 19, 4 PM

For details, please visit mainecoastislands.org.

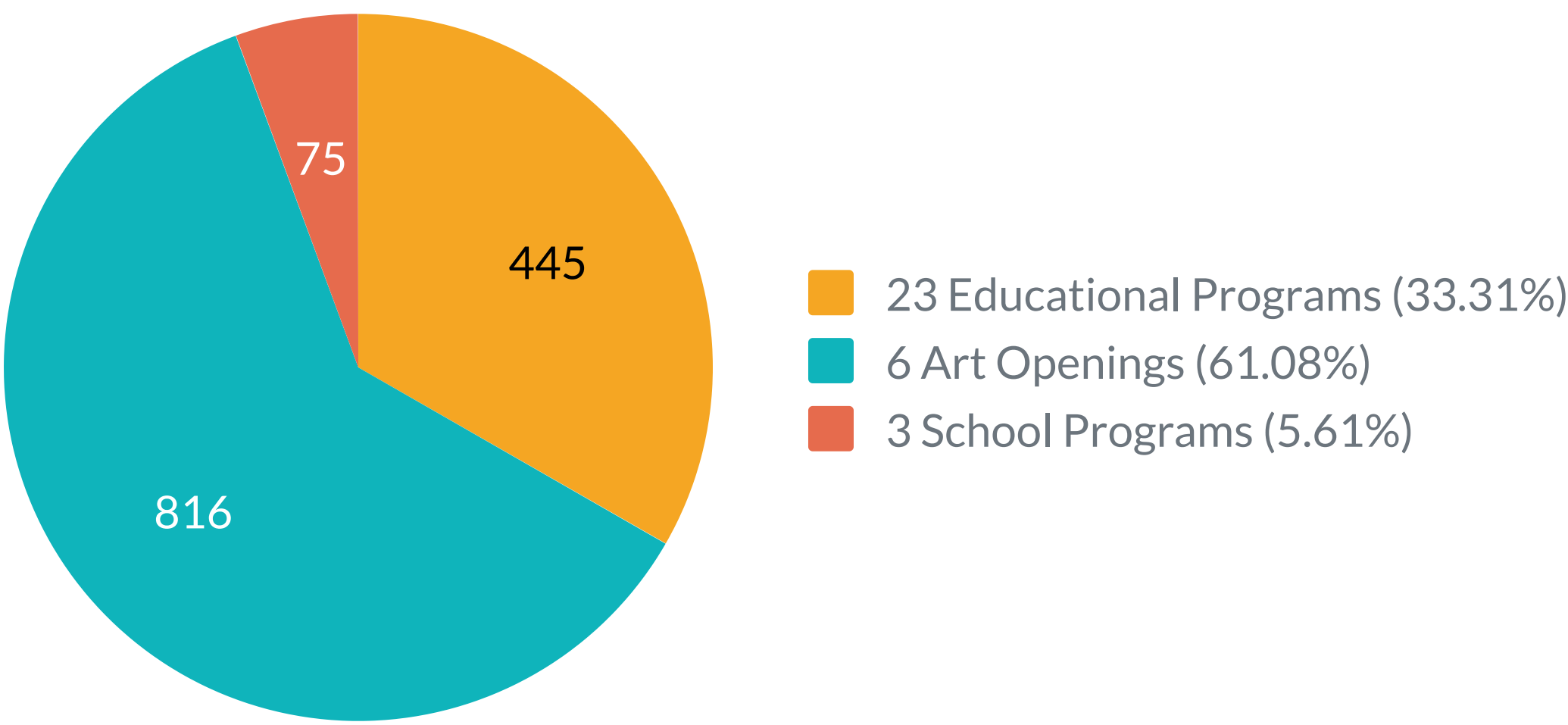


Jane Hardy and Carney McRae introduce the Seabird Island program to a group of school children.



Children identify seabird decoys and search for eggs on the replica Seabird Island.

FOMCI Program Attendance



Over 1,336 people attended FOMCI programs in 2019.

Sign up to receive e-news on FOMCI events and programs! Click the "subscribe" tab at mainecoastislands.org.

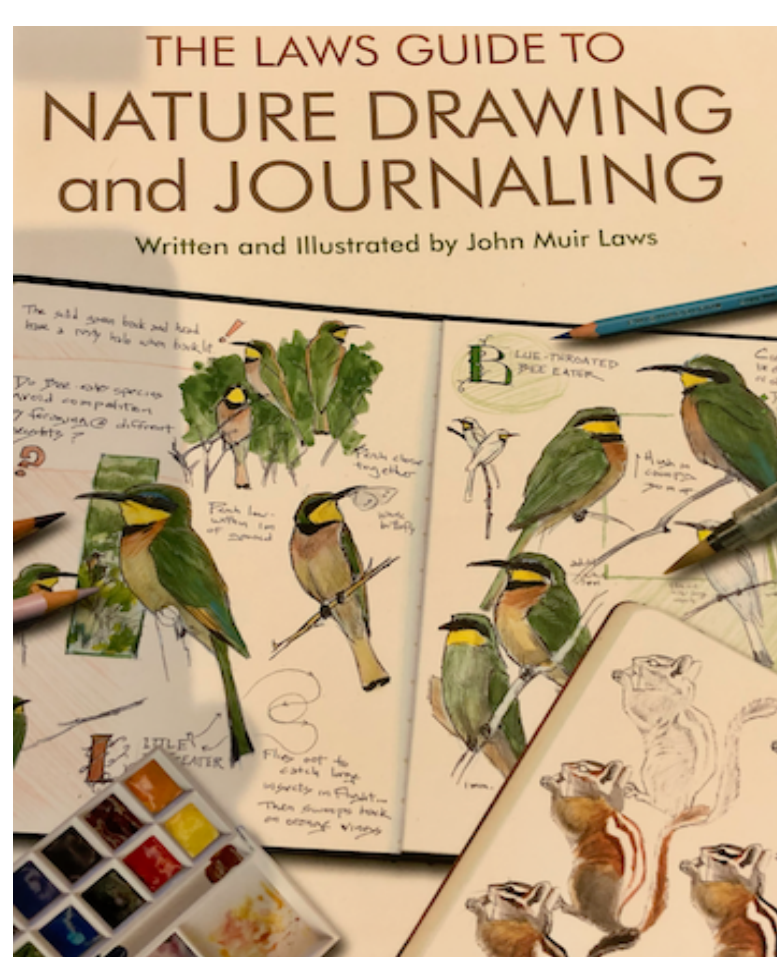
From Carol Adams, Nature Store Manager

2019 -- A Busy Year for the FOMCI Nature Store!

New Improvements

The Nature Store added many new improvements during 2019. These include:

- New shelving to display the expanding inventory of books, cards, photographs, children's items and apparel.
- Maine-sourced items to include pottery ornaments, cards and photos.
- Eco-friendly items such as bamboo silverware, mesh produce bags, silicon storage bags, reusable straws and solar lights.



- New birding books, puzzles and other educational items, and items like the *Laws Guide to Nature Drawing & Journaling* that is used for FOMCI programs offered at the Visitor Center.



Much needed shelves and bookcases were installed by the MCI National Wildlife Refuge.

Volunteers Keep the Store Open

The Nature Store is staffed solely by FOMCI volunteers. This year, we are pleased to report that we now have five fully trained volunteers who can work in the Store. This increase in staffing allows the Store to be open for all FOMCI events and for many additional hours throughout the year, especially in the summer and fall.

Our long range goal is to keep the Store open on a regular schedule -- but we need Volunteers who are skilled and trained to make this goal a reality.

A Good Year in Sales

During 2019, the Nature Store reported Gross Sales of \$12,271. *Thank you to all who made purchases at the Nature Store.* These proceeds support the work of FOMCI and the MCI Refuge.



Eco-friendly products now available.

Thanks to our Volunteers, we were able to increase the weekly and event staffing hours at the Nature Store to support our fundraising efforts and meet the needs of our Refuge visitors.

From Sandy Lathem, Volunteer Coordinator

**In 2019, FOMCI volunteers
contributed over 1,400 hours
to support the
Maine Coastal Islands
National Wildlife Refuge**

*We cannot say "thank you" enough to our Volunteers for their dedication to FOMCI
and the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge.*



2019 Summer Volunteer Picnic:

Top (l-r): Brian Benedict, Eddy Edwards, Laurie Murray, Jane Hardy,
Catherine Wiejaczka, Kevin Adams
Middle (l-r): Carney McRae, Ann Boover, Pam Bryer, Judy Hengerer
Front (l-r): Sandy Lathem, Carol Rohl, Carol Adams

FOMCI Volunteers ...

- Greet visitors at the Visitor Center
- Staff the Nature Store & Art Gallery
- Support education programs
- Help with fundraising events
- ... and much more

Become a FOMCI Volunteer

If you'd like to become a FOMCI volunteer,
please send an email to Sandy Lathem at

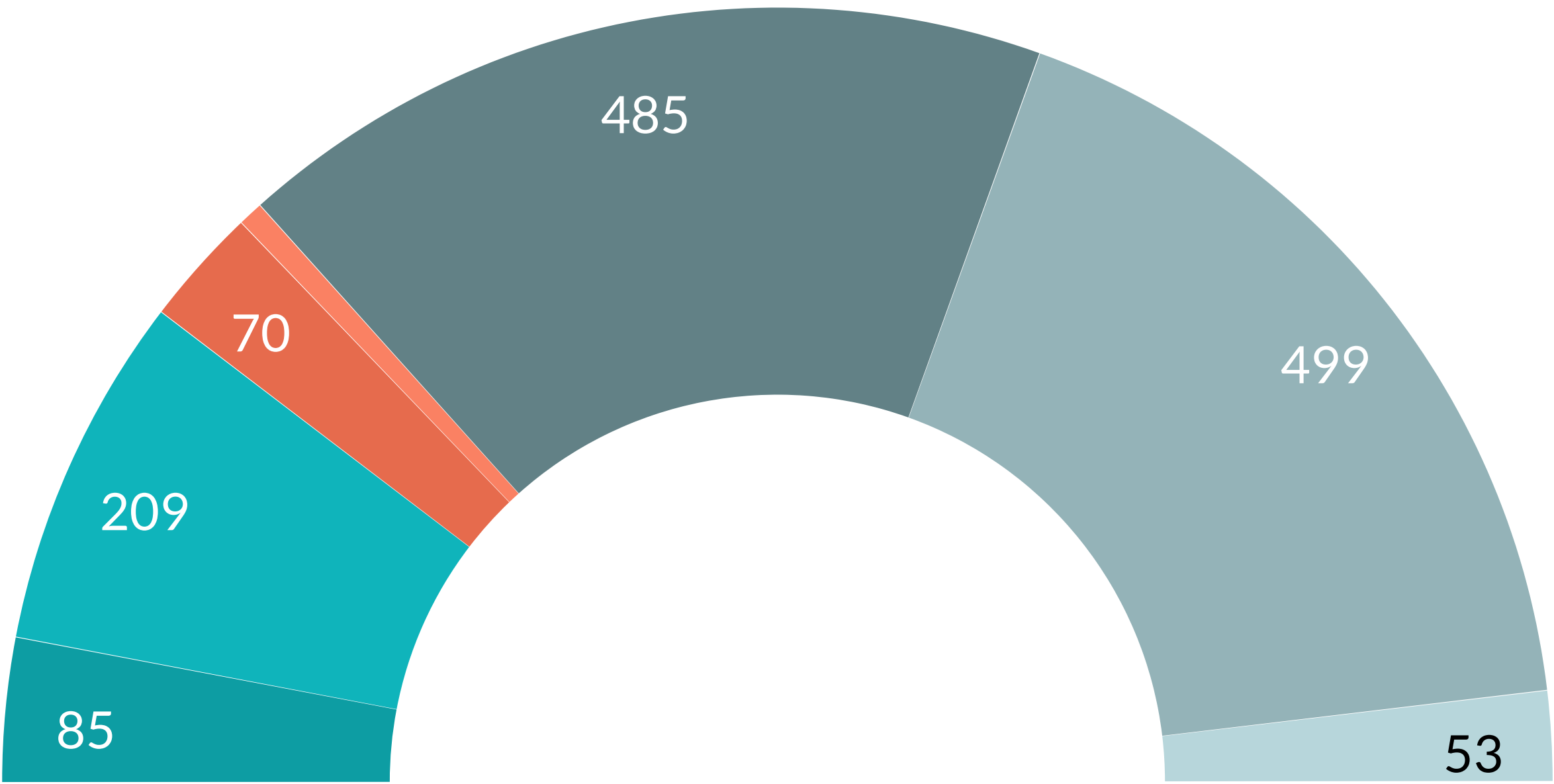
volunteercoordinator@mainecoastislands.org

You may also fill out a volunteer application on
our web site. Visit:

mainecoastislands.org/volunteer

***Our work would not be possible without the
support and commitment of Volunteers.***

- Accounting (6%)
- Board (14.76%)
- Development (4.94%)
- Maintenance (1.06%)
- Nature Store (34.25%)
- Programs (35.24%)
- Volunteers (3.74%)



Volunteer Hours by Task

From Penney Read, Vice President

Many thanks to the many 2019 Sponsors who support our work -- The First National Bank in Bar Harbor and Rockland, Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company, Flatbread Pizza and of course, our many donors, individuals and businesses that support fundraising events and our Annual Appeal.

We cannot do it without you! Our Seabirds thank you too!

FOMCI Events Raise \$5,448

During 2019, FOMCI raised \$5,448 through special events. Events included:

- Seabird Cruise sponsored by Bar Harbor Whale Watch (\$4,454)
- Pizza for Puffins, Rockport Flatbread (\$409)
- Juried Art Show (\$585)

Thank you to all who participated and/or donated to these special events.

Donations Needed to Support Island Interns

New laptops are urgently needed for Seabird Technicians located on MCI protected islands.

FOMCI is currently trying to raise \$4,000 for this purpose. Can you help?

*Any amount is appreciated.
Visit mainecoastislands.org/donate*



MCI Island Interns and Staff: **Back row (l-r):** Sara Williams, Wildlife Biologist; Delany Warren, Career Development Intern Program; Bobby Brittingham, Ship Island Seabird Technician; Jimmy Welch, Petit Mann Island Seabird Technician; Nick Ferauolo, Metinic Island Seabird Technician; Roger Chandler, Maintenance Worker; Brian Benedict, Refuge Manager; Michael Langlois, Wildlife Biologist; Mary Negril, Metinic Seabird Technician. **Front row (l-r):** Eddy Edwards, Deputy Refuge Manager; Linda Welch, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist.

First National Donates \$500 to FOMCI

Thank you to First National Bank for its continued support and sponsorship. This generous gift of \$500 enables our support of the MCI National Wildlife Refuge to continue.



Jake Miller of First National Bank presents \$500 to FOMCI and MCI Representatives. Photo (l-r): Jim Fortier, Small Craft Operator; Shannon Young, First National Branch Supervisor; Carney McRae, FOMCI Outreach Coordinator; Jake Miller, VP, Sr. Business Development & Corporate Sales Officer; J. Eddy Edwards, MCI Deputy Manager; Penney Read, FOMCI Board Member

Partners & Sponsors Support Programming

Our business sponsors and partners helped to bring engaging and relevant programs to the Visitor Center that focused on the wonders of our oceans from seaweed to corals to seabirds. These included:

- *The Curious World of Seaweeds* – a book talk by Josie Iselin and co-sponsored by Herring Gut Learning Center
- *The World of Corals* by Ret Talbot (Rockland)
- *Bonefish of the Bahamas* by Georgie Burruss

These topics attracted a wide-range of attendees drawing from regular attendees and new visitors who had a specific connection to the topic.

Thank you to our Presenters and Sponsors.

From Jeanne Pipicello, Treasurer & Theo Pratt, Assistant Treasurer

During 2019, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer worked to improve accounting systems and implemented procedures to better track income and expenses to our operating centers of Development, Refuge Support, Programs, Administrative and Other.

This work proved to be a large undertaking, but one that now produces more accurate reporting and documentation.

FOMCI Financial Report for 2019

The following table summarizes major income and expenses for the year.

INCOME

Direct Public Support	10,451
Foundation Grants	9,000
Nature Store Sales	12,271
Investment Income	780
Programs	486
Special Events	5,448
Total Income	\$38,436

EXPENSES

Development	21,849
Programs	8,566
Interns	9,000
Administrative	2,649
Other	1,702
Total Expenses	\$43,766

Operating Income (Loss) \$ - 5,330

During 2019, the Friends made great strides to improve financial management systems.

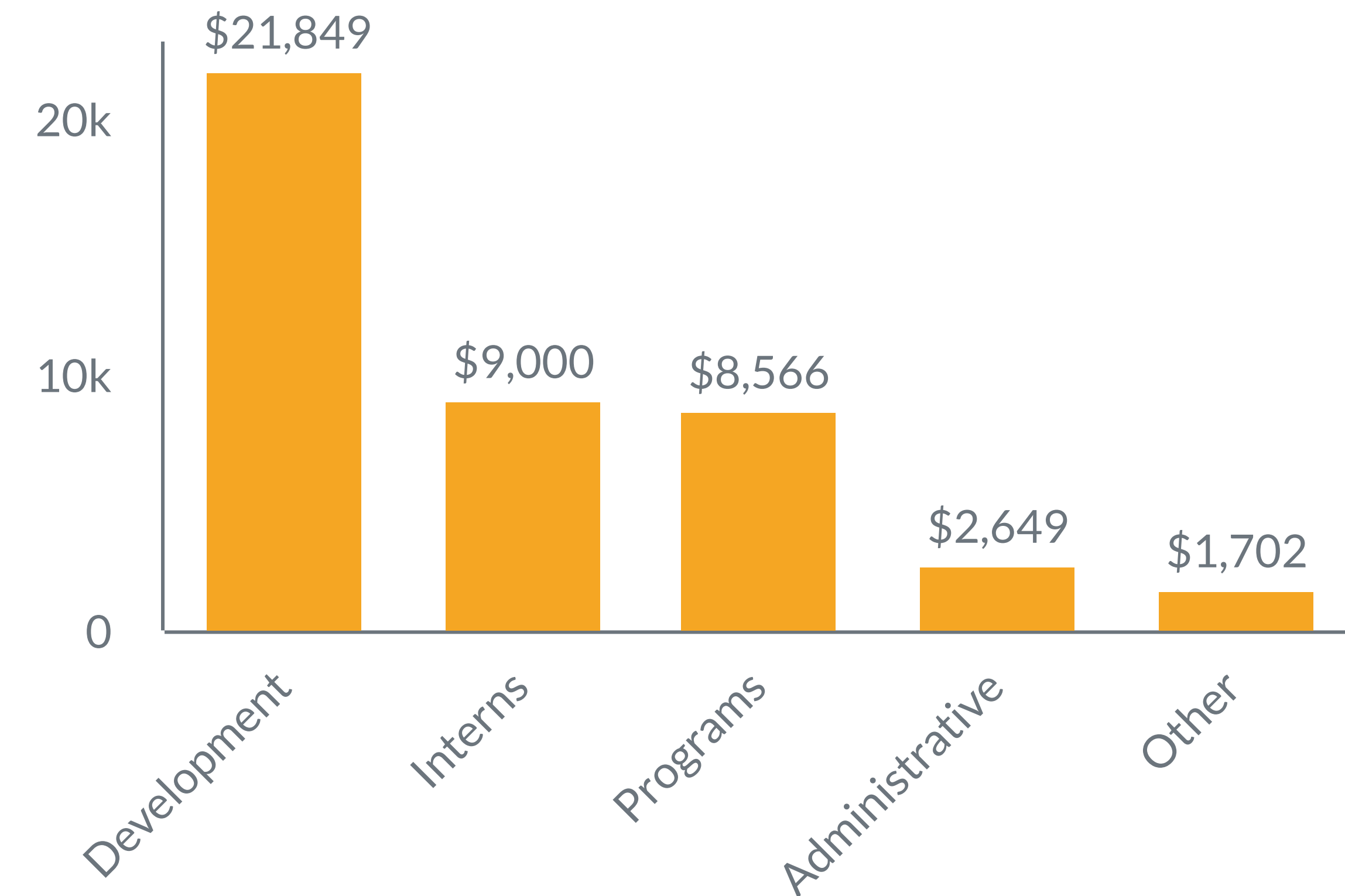
Financial Position as of December 31, 2019

Assets

Current Assets	\$ 141,258.54
Fixed Assets	\$ 21,017.20
Total	\$ 162,275.74

Liabilities & Equity

Current Liabilities	\$ 977.47
Equity	\$ 161,298.27
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 162,275.74



Mission

The mission of the Friends of Maine Coastal Islands NWR is 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. *Its goals:*

Outreach

- Develop networks to support funding for seabird island protection.
- Build diverse, broad-based community support for coastal conservation issues.
- Build awareness and appreciation of Refuge habitats through education.
- Promote local and national media coverage.

Education

- Sponsor symposia, lectures and conferences, and written materials.
- Support the development of an education center and special programs.
- Sponsor an island intern program.

Partnerships

- Build partnerships and coalitions with other coastal conservation organizations.
- Develop individual, foundation and corporate support.
- Sponsor hands-on, activity-oriented stewardship projects.

Officers:

Carla Skinder, President
Penney Read, Vice President
Jeanne Pipicello, Treasurer
Theo Pratt, Assistant Treasurer
Georgie Burruss, Secretary

Board Members:

Kevin Adams
Pamela J. Bryer, PhD
Sandra A. Lathem
Don Reimer

Advisors:

Brian Benedict, Refuge Manager
J. Eddy Edwards, Deputy Refuge Manager

Staff:

Carney McRae, Outreach Coordinator

Special Thanks To Volunteers:

Carol Adams, Nature Store Manager
Sandy Lathem, Volunteer Coordinator



David Cadbury

A Remembrance of David Cadbury

By Brian Benedict, Refuge Manager

David Cadbury came to the first public meeting in 1999 when the Refuge was seeking input into the idea of creating a Refuge Visitor Center. After meeting with David personally a couple of times, it was clear he had much to contribute to the Refuge beyond comments to our proposal. We then began talking about beginning a Refuge Friends group, and he volunteered his time for months as we got the group officially established with our first Board of Directors.

Over the course of the next year, David was successful in raising enough funds to support his position as a paid Executive Director of what was known at the time as the Friends of Maine Seabird Islands.

During his time as Executive Director, he twice raised funds to support our island interns on three of our seabird restoration projects (\$25,000 each year). He also raised funds to support the development of a universal sign image and outreach campaign that alerts boaters of significant seabird nesting islands.

David’s background as an artist was put to work when he designed the Friends logo that is still used today.

David’s vision for The Friends still carries on today as we work from the firm foundation he built.



*Friends of Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in July 2002 and received 501(c)(3) tax status from the IRS in May 2003.
All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*