



Friends of *Maine's Seabird Islands*

SUPPORTING MAINE COASTAL ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN ITS EFFORTS TO CONSERVE, PROTECT & ENHANCE THE RICH DIVERSITY OF COASTAL HABITATS, SEABIRDS, AND OTHER WILDLIFE

FOMSI Joins the Rockland Art Walk

Supported by a grant from the Quimby Family Foundation, we are working on the Gallery in the new Visitor Center and its ties to conservation and local artists. Since receiving the grant in August we have worked diligently to find artists with work that relates to the many conservation stories in Maine. Current and future artists are willing to exhibit their art and donate some of the proceeds to FOMSI. Currently we have 4 different media in the Gallery, including watercolor landscapes (John Wood), bird photography (Keith Carver and Karl Gerstenberger), shorebird wood carvings (Hank Tyler), and nature drawings (Kathleen Florance). We also have another media and artist in the retail space; Eva Thompson is currently displaying her stone

carved birds downstairs. If you have not been to the Gallery to see these amazing artists please do so. We are open Monday – Friday 8:30-4:30 and also during the Friday Art Walks on November 2nd and December 7th until 8pm. Artwork will be on display into January when we hope to bring in new artists.



Featured artists-
John Wood (watercolor)
Karl Gerstenberger (photography)

Thank You Sarah!

Long time FOMSI Board member, Sarah Rheault, will retire from her position of Board Vice Chairwoman with the close of 2012. Sarah has been an active and dedicated member of the Board of Directors for 9 years and was instrumental in the acquisition of the current Refuge Visitor Center in Rockland. Sarah is actively engaged in a variety of environmental, social, and business causes and has served on numerous state and local boards.

Sarah is known for her generous spirit and has been essential at providing support, leadership, and insights when it really counts. In addition to her work on the new Visitor Center, Sarah is currently playing a leadership role in the construction of an historic dory by The Apprenticeshop

in Rockland. The Apprenticeshop is a non-profit boatbuilding educational program that has also benefitted from the



For More Information-

Please email Stephanie@maineseabirds.org if you have an interest in bringing your artwork into our gallery- You can help!

generous efforts of Sarah and her family. The dory, to be named "Auk", replicates the small boats used during the time of seabird hunting and egg collecting. The dory will be used as an educational tool to help Refuge visitors understand the need for modern seabird conservation. Sarah's legacy with FOMSI will live on long into the future and we are very glad to have benefited from her time and attention over the years.

Using a Charitable Trust to Help Support FOMSI

FOMSI is a nonprofit organization that is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, you can make contributions to FOMSI that will qualify for a deduction to reduce your federal income tax liability. Charitable contribution deductions reduce federal adjusted gross income (AGI) and, generally, are fully deductible in amounts up to 50% of AGI. In addition to simple contributions of cash, there are other ways for you to support FOMSI and the Refuge.

A charitable remainder trust is a technique that allows you to make a contribution to FOMSI that qualifies for a current income tax deduction and, also, ensures a stream of income to you during your lifetime. Charitable remainder trusts come in two forms: a unitrust or an annuity trust. In general, you can transfer property to such a trust and retain an income interest in the trust for your lifetime. In the case of a unitrust, that interest results in payments that represent at least 5% of the annual market value of trust assets, while



Black guillemot

annuity trust payments are fixed in amount, but must equal at least 5% of the value of assets contributed to the trust at the time of its creation. On the termination of the period over which income payments are made to you, the trust's assets - the remainder - are paid to FOMSI or other designated charities.

There are several tax advantages provided by a charitable remainder trust. First, you are eligible for an income tax deduction upon creation of the trust. This is calculated under rules prescribed by the IRS. If you transfer appreciated assets such as stock

into a charitable remainder trust, the trust may sell those assets without incurring tax and the gain realized by the trust may permit you to report income received from the trust as long-term capital gain. Finally, amounts held in the trust at the end of lifetime payments of income will not be subject to estate tax.

All of this is merely an overview of the way in which you and other supporters of FOMSI can use charitable remainder trusts - essentially deferred giving - to make valuable contributions to further our efforts in educating about Maine's coastal resources, preserving seabird nesting habitat in Maine, and developing meaningful exhibits for our Visitor Center. You should consult your tax or estate planning adviser before deciding to utilize this giving technique.



Rockweed: The Blanket of Life

Walk along many of Maine's rocky shorelines and you may notice a covering of thick, lush, greenish-brown plant life on the rocks that rises and falls with the tide like a giant leafy wave. Common rockweed or knotted wrack (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) is one of 12 species of marine vegetation "seaweed and sea grass" found along coastal Maine. It is a type of algae (most seaweeds are algae). Rockweed occurs in the upper intertidal zone, meaning it is "between" tides: underwater at high tide but dry at low tide. Rockweed is called a primary producer, as it is at the bottom of the food chain. Rockweed absorbs minerals and carbon dioxide directly from the water and produces energy by photosynthesis.

At high tide this almost impenetrable mass becomes a virtual underwater forest of branches, leaf-like blades and dark passageways swaying like feathers in the waves. Small balloon-like air bladders line the blades to keep them upright to create the "forest" canopy that

reaches towards the surface and sunlight.

Rockweed provides many "places" for different species of organisms to live and food for many species to eat. Schools of small



Razorbill with fish supported by rockweed

fishes, shrimp, and invertebrates of many kinds can be seen lurking in its mass (see Rockweed coalition website below). Thus a habitat with rockweed has higher biodiversity

-by Patti Reilly

or a greater number of different species living there than the same habitat without rockweed.

Rockweed also has monetary benefits and has been harvested for hundreds of years in Maine starting with Native Americans. It has been used for many things such as a field dressing, fertilizer, and as a food additive.

A recent increase in harvesting rockweed has stimulated public interest to evaluate potential environmental impacts and ensure a truly sustainable resource that continues to provide the maximum benefits to fish and wildlife, and a healthy marine ecosystem.

To find out more about rockweed see the following websites:
<http://www.cobscook.org/rockweed-as-habitat>
<http://www.rockweedcoalition.org/>
<http://www.acadianseaplants.com/marine-plant-seaweed-manufacturers/resource-management/seaweed-resource-science>



Grey seals loafing

Petit Manan, Island Interns-

This year during the seabird breeding season the Refuge and National Audubon had 21 interns working on 11 seabird restoration islands along Maine's coast. It is these interns that we work to support. Not only do they assist in the overall seabird restoration, but they will become our future leaders in conservation. Two fabulous interns returned to Petit Manan for the 2012 season, and we thought you might be interested in getting to know them.

Christa DeRaspe was born and raised in Maine, but it was not until a 3-year stint as an Interpretive Park Ranger at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge in HI that her passion for the avian world developed. There she was able to observe the life cycle of seabirds, including petrels, shearwaters, boobies, and albatross. Christa returned to her roots and completed a degree in Ecology and Environmental Sciences from the University of Maine in 2012. She spent two seasons on Petit Manan as well as time on

other Refuge islands such as Metinic, Ship, and Seal. She hopes to continue working with MCINWR in the future.

Jordan Chalfant grew up in Cleveland, OH, and graduated from the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor in 2012. Jordan started working for MCINWR the summer of 2011 as an intern on Petit Manan Island, and returned in 2012 as a field technician, spending days observing puffins, terns, guillemots, razorbills, gulls, and other amazing seabirds that inhabit the island. Immediately after Petit Manan in 2012 both she and Christa went to Seal Island for two weeks to help monitor great cormorant and bald eagle interactions. From Seal Island, Jordan went on to assist the Refuge in a study of songbird migration along the Gulf of Maine. One day she hopes to visit all 56 Maine Coastal Islands—"at the moment I'm up to ten!" This winter she will bide her time working on oil landscape



paintings and museum exhibits all while looking forward to continuing to work with the Refuge in the future!

In case you missed it, both interns were interviewed on Maine Watch for the piece Jennifer Rooks did about the Refuge, FOMSI, and the seabird restoration effort. You can find it archived at:

<http://www.mpbnet.net/Television/LocalTelevisionPrograms/MaineWatch/tabid/477/ctl/ViewItem/mid/3470/ItemId/23650/Default.aspx>

Migratory Pathways & Habitat Use of Pelagic Birds

Maine Coastal Islands NWR is working with the USFWS Region 5 Migratory Bird Program to place satellite tags on greater shearwaters in order to document migratory pathways and habitat use of pelagic seabirds in the Gulf of Maine. Greater shearwaters have been identified as a high priority species in several conservation plans, yet we know very little about their foraging behavior or migratory patterns in the Atlantic Ocean region. As interest in offshore energy development increases, we must understand how pelagic seabirds are utilizing the Gulf of Maine (GOM).

The objective of the study is to determine how environmental change resulting from climate change or offshore development may influence pelagic species in the greater Gulf of Maine region. This is accomplished by:

- Determining foraging "hotspots" for pelagic seabirds, and
- Documenting migration pathways, habitat use, and residency times for greater shearwaters in the GOM.

The Refuge tagged 20 shearwaters over the past three summers and has been able to follow the birds foraging and migratory flights for up to 7 months. On average the birds travelled 1,800 km in the GOM after being tagged.

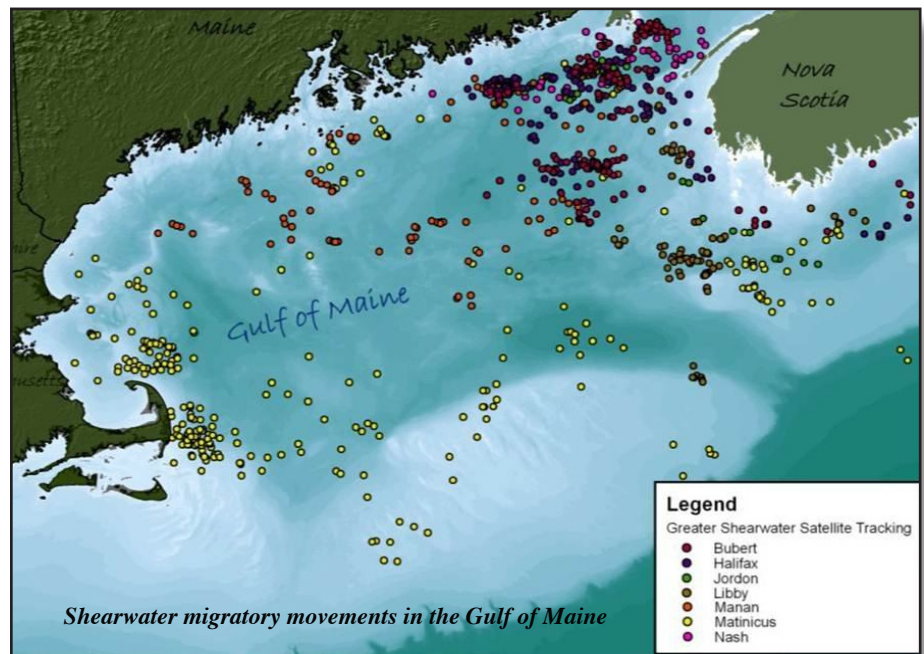
Information on the daily movement of the shearwaters is posted on a public webpage (http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=570) and has generated significant interest in the project. Furthermore, collaborations with researchers in Canada and Europe are beginning in order to identify foraging hotspots in the North Atlantic for a variety of pelagic species.

Results-

- Repeated use of specific upwellings documented, and recorded that some birds remain in the GOM much longer than expected.
- Individual shearwaters have traveled more than 42,000 km since tagging.



Shearwater tagging in Penobscot Bay



Shearwater migratory movements in the Gulf of Maine



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Events (past & future)!

July 15th, 2012: Our Annual Seabird Adventure Cruise out of Port Clyde at 4pm. A big thank you to our even sponsor this year, Bangor Savings Bank, who also joined us on the trip for their own team building exercise!

September 8th, 2012: Island clean-up with many partners, including MITA, TNC, MCHT, and the Refuge.

November 2nd and December 7th: The last two art walks for 2012 and your chance to stop in for an original holiday gift and a great way to support FOMSI!

July 7th, 2013: Mark your calendars for our 2013 Annual Seabird Cruise and be sure to get your tickets early!

*****Sign up to volunteer at the next island clean-up or at the art walk!*****

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Placentia Island team from a multi-partner clean-up

