

HIGGINS BEACH ASSOCIATION HIGH TIDE NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Higgins Beach Association Board Report

The Board met following August 27th Annual Meeting and voted on the slate of 2022 officers. They are as follows:

Glennis Chabot- President

Sue Naiden-Vice President

Cèile Day-Secretary

Allen Dillaire-Treasurer

We met again on September 13th to begin the wrap up of the 2021 season and schedule the closing of the club house for the winter. We began the process of making plans and getting organized for the 2022 season.

As mentioned at the annual meeting, we are exploring the possibility of building a deck at the club house. Board member Al Pevarnek is organizing a committee to research options and work on this project. If you are interested in serving, please email alpevarnek@beckerstructural.com

Two valued Board Members are rolling off the board this year, Giff Reed and Peter Rabbitt. We wish them both the best and are very thankful for their hard work and dedicatin making Higgins Beach such a special community.



Giff Reed

A former President Giff has served in just about every capacity of the Board. He most recently served as Grounds Chairman. Giff's contributions to the Association are immense and we are fortunate to have him in our community.



Peter Rabbitt

Peter has been a great contributor to the board for the past several years. He created and programmed the website and most recently chaired the communication committee. Fortunately Peter has agreed to stay on as the HB Association web master

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terry Cain, Glennis Chabot, Ceilè Day, Tom Ferrucci, Sue Naiden,
Barbara O'Brien, Jeff Perkins, Al Pevarnek, MaryBeth Shapiro

Blast from the past



Do you know who these sunbathers are enjoying the view of Higgins Beach circa 1959?
Send your guesses to info@hbamaine.com. Answers will be in next month's issue.

Higgins Highlight

Rich Valdmanis



If you've spent a lot of time on the beach this summer, you may have noticed that there is a local dog that sometimes likes to surf with one of his owners. The dog's name is Price, a golden doodle born in February 2019, and his owners are the Valdmanis family – Rich, Kelly, Laird and Dylan - of Ocean Avenue.

We asked Price's surfing partner, Rich, a few questions about Price's hobby.

How did Price get into surfing?

From the moment we met Price, we knew he was an amazing dog. He loves water, loves adventures, and is pretty smart. So, when he was still tiny, we decided to see what he thought of surfing. We placed him on the front of my stand up paddle board on a very calm summer day and caught a couple of small waves. He surprised us by not only tolerating the experiment well, but by clearly loving it. He would get so excited, and whenever he would come off the board after a ride, he'd jump right back on and ask to go back out. We surfed about a dozen times during his first summer, and then stopped when the water got too cold.

Over the winter, he more than doubled in size, and I was worried he may have grown too big to surf with me. But when his second summer rolled around, we gave it a shot, and he did great. He clearly remembered surfing, and his poise and balance on the board was so improved that his added weight didn't seem to matter. This summer he's been out quite a few times, sometimes in fairly decent sized waves. One day, a lady watching us surf told me that Price seemed to have better balance and style than me, which is probably true!

What happens when Price falls off the board?

It happens sometimes. Normally it will happen toward the end of a ride, when we're in shallow water and he gets excited and leaps off. In those cases, I just turn the board around and he hops right back on to go back out. When the waves are bigger, or the conditions are choppy, he'll sometimes also fall off in deeper water. In those cases, he usually needs a little help from from me to get back on the board. While I can't say exactly

how he feels during these wipeouts, he appears to handle them well. They are also pretty rare because he's kind of an expert at staying on the board when it matters.



What are his favorite surfing conditions?

He's ridden waves between half a foot to maybe a little over three feet tall. There was one day the waves were on the bigger end of the range, glassy with no wind, and he couldn't seem to contain his excitement. We'd catch a good one into the beach, he'd leap back onto the board and then bark at me to hurry up and get us back out. So I think maybe those were the ideal conditions for him. Any bigger than that probably wouldn't be appropriate for him, in my view. But he may disagree.



What does he do when he's not surfing?

Price also likes retrieving his ball from the waves, which he does most mornings. He also enjoys swimming with our sons Laird and Dylan, lobstering with me, hiking with the family in Acadia, and joining us for long canoe camping trips. He's also a fantastic napper.

The Valdmanis family has other pets too, a pair of guinea pigs named Jerry and Piggy Smalls. In these photos, Laird and Dylan and their cousins Finn and Pippa are taking Jerry and Piggy Smalls for an evening on the beach, complete with sand shelters and fresh veggies from the garden...





Jerry



Piggy Smalls

Hanks and it's Higgins Roots





The Spurwink Country Kitchen restaurant was founded by our very own Higgins Beach Resident, Barbara Bombaci's mother, Hope Sargent (above in the photo on the right). In 1954 Hope leased the site and started with eight tables and a take out window. Over the years she expanded the restaurant four times and the kitchen twice. For it's grand opening, the newspaper made a mistake and printed opening night as the night before the actual day. That didn't phase Hope, she welcomed and fed everyone that showed up. They had to eat with plates on their laps because the tables were not finished. They were famous for their delicious food. Many still fondly recall the great pies and Seafood Newburg. The Spurwink Country Kitchen had loyal customers from all walks of life and from all over the world.

After several years operating under the name Uncle Don's the restaurant has again changed hands, and is owned and operated by Hank and his family.

It is a great new addition to our neighborhood. Hank (shown in the photo below) and his uncle spent this Spring fixing up the building and making adjustments in order to provide Hank's own style of the Maine Country Cooking we all crave. Hank grew up in Maine and has been a "foodie" from a young age, A student of Ballymaloe Cookery School in Ireland, Hank learned the importance of using the freshest ingredients from local farms as much as possible. The dine-in menu options as well as the take home meals are delicious.

Hank hopes to continue to expand the facility and their dining hours and we are glad to have him as a nearby dining option.



Endangered Species 2021 End of the Season Report submitted by Glennis Chabot



Adult Piping Plover



Fledged Chick

Photos by Sarah Lathrop

The Piping Plover had a very successful year in Maine and at Higgins Beach. There were 125 breeding pairs in Maine this summer who fledged 213 Piping Plover chicks which set a state record. The productivity this year exceeds the recovery goal of 1.5 fledged per pair. Higgins fledged 11 Plover chicks, 2 more than in 2020, and 4 more than 2019.

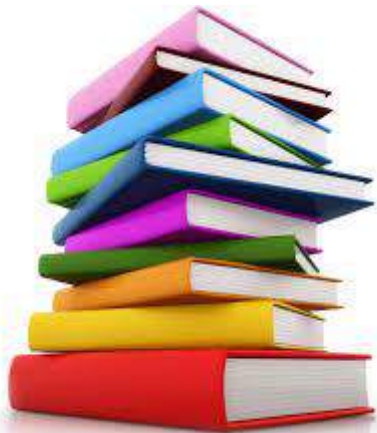
There were 74 Least Tern nests at Higgins in 2021 with an estimate of between 13-20 fledged chicks. It appears to be more difficult for Least Terns to raise their chicks on a busy beach like Higgins and because they nest in colonies, it is not easy to keep track of specific adults and their chicks. This makes counting fledged Least Terns a real challenge.

This program was successful at Higgins in 2021 due to the 44 very dedicated Beach Monitor volunteers from Scarborough, Cape Elizabeth, Portland, So. Portland, and Raymond who spent time on the beach educating beach goers. Our 2021 Higgins volunteers were: Ed Blaise, Abby Burke, Margie Reed Burke, Terry Cain, Glennis Chabot, Roger Chabot, Bill Donovan, Alison Eckert, David Fillinger, Julia Hunt, Robin McLaughlin, Gretchen Mikeska, Peter Naiden, Sue Naiden and Mark Westervelt. If you enjoy watching the birds and meeting and interacting with people on the beach, I hope you will consider joining us next summer.

Book Club

A big literary thank you to Barbara Bombaci for organizing the summer book club meetings!

We met on September 10 to discuss Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. Thank you to Sara Douglas for inviting us to meet at her



house overlooking the beach, and for keeping us laughing! There were 11 of us there,. Before discussing Homegoing, MaryBeth gave us a glimpse at Yaa Gyasi's background. Impressive on all counts. Imagine at age 25 getting a million dollar advance from the publisher for your first book! The majority of the readers gave the book a thumbs up. A few of us found it difficult to sort out and remember the connections of all the characters, and thought a second reading would help.

We agreed that we'd like to resume our meetings after the holidays in 2022, and MaryBeth agreed to be our Zoom facilitator. We plan to try a hybrid HBA Zoom/in-person Book Club meeting on Friday, January 21 at 10:30. All of you who are at or near Higgins Beach in January, are invited to gather for an in-person meeting, and the rest of us will be on Zoom at the same time. The book for that meeting is "Olive, Again" by Maine author, Elizabeth Strout. This book follows Olive Kitteridge from her seventies into her eighties

Contact Barbara Bombaci
barbbombaci@gmail.com if you would like to join the club or participate in the winter zoom meetings.

We're always on the lookout for a good book, so share any finds...please!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



Thank you Jeff & Jessica Perkins

submitted by Sue Naidan

Fortunately we were able to host three ice cream socials during this "transitional summer". They were a little different than in past years, but there were still lots happy faces while eating ice cream and playing games on the clubhouse lawn.

Sincere thanks to the following for volunteering to help with this popular event:

-July 18th - Danny Murphy, Mary Lou Wallace, Carol Turner, Karen Haskell, Jeff Perkins, Jessica Perkins, Maureen Cyr and Peter Naidan

-August 1st - Ceile Day, Gina Day, Kevin Day, Gavin Smith, John Murphy, Roxie Murphy, Skip White, Aka Moore, Judy Kelly and Beth Coughlin

-August 15th - Annie Allen, Aka Moore, Pat Stephens, Frank Stephens, Paul Foley, Mary Ann Foley, Jeanne Westervelt and Mark Westervelt

While working on the first Sundae Sunday, Jeff Perkins observed the process of heating cans of caramel and hot fudge sauces on the stove and then carrying large pots of boiling water and sauce across the kitchen to the counter where sundaes were being prepared.

Being a restaurateur, he was horrified with this unsafe practice and said, "You know there are better and safer ways to do that." Just before the August 15th event, he told me that he had a gift to deliver for the ice cream socials. That gift was a huge box containing 2 electric warmers he had ordered which were designed specifically to heat sauces....one for our caramel and one for hot fudge. They were used and worked fantastically at the last social. Thank you to Jeff and Jessica! The HBA greatly appreciates those gifts.

Please be sure to notice them when you join us at next year's ice cream socials. Check the Spring Newsletter for the dates they will be held



The food committee was responsible for the three wine meet and greet gatherings this year. I'd like to thank Barbara Newman and Kathy Mercier for helping with all three, Faye Blaise, Susan Cook and Diane Garofalo for serving as well. And to Peter Rabbitt for procuring the wine.

We found the outdoor format very successful and members enjoyed mingling and meeting new people and seeing old friends. Thanks to all who attended and made these socials a success. Jane Rabbitt

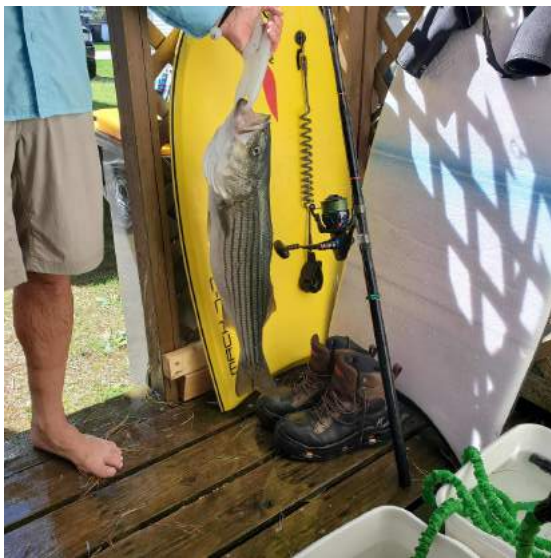
Maura Gwyer sends out a big thank you to all the amazing teams of donut volunteers this summer, some worked more than one week and their combined efforts made this difficult year a big success.

Even with the COVID precautions donuts remains one of the most beloved of Higgins traditions. See you on Wednesdays next summer!



Higgins Helpers

Thank you to the volunteers who jumped in to resolve an issue with the overgrown sidewalk weeds and sand. The beachside sidewalk is now more accessible and user friendly. What great community spirit!



What a whopper, congrats to Chris LaLiberte for a fine catch at Higgins
(Photo Ted & Linda Hall)



Ed Blaise, John Osborne and Robert Troccoli present Bob Westburg with "The Most Improved Golfer in 2021" place at Willowdale Golf Club on September 5th 2021
(Photo John Osborne)

Know of any Higgins Beach Veterans? Please submit to info@hbamaine.com for our November High Tide

Please let friends, family and renters know past editions of the High Tide can be found on our website

<https://www.hbamaine.com/hightide.html>

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