



*Protecting Sears Island's  
environmental and cultural resources*

**Friends of Sears Island Newsletter**

**Summer 2015**

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A lot has happened since our last newsletter was sent out toward the end of 2014. The following is a brief synopsis of what has been going on or is coming soon.

**Marietta Ramsdell** has stepped down as president of Friends of Sears Island. We presented her with a framed aerial photograph of the island in gratitude for her many years of tireless work and her long-standing commitment to the protection of Sears Island.

**Susan White**, formerly vice president of FOSI, was elected to take over the duties of president, and we know she will lead the group in the challenging days ahead with the same passion that she has shown over the past few years.



**FOSI** has a new, toll-free telephone number, **1-855-430-2882**, to call if you need information, want to join, or volunteer.

Check out our website, ([friendsofsearsisland.org](http://friendsofsearsisland.org)) to see some exciting additions. We are pleased to have a **Birds of Sears Island** slideshow with beautiful photographs and descriptions of 38 land and water birds **by Belfast photographer Karl Gerstenberger**.



As you know, we had a pretty rough winter, with a couple of major storms bringing down trees and huge limbs. Our intrepid volunteers did an amazing job of clearing the trails so that by May, they were all usable and open for walkers and hikers. We are always looking for volunteers to clear

brush, attack invasive species, or just keep the trails in good order. Call **David Italiaander at 207-548-6260** if you would like to volunteer.

We are grateful to the Penobscot Marine Museum for allowing us to hold our meetings there. We hope that, in the not-too-distant future, we can have our own space: someplace we can meet; store tools, equipment, and paperwork; and set up a dedicated computer. Obviously that takes money! Over the next few months, we will be exploring grant opportunities as well as fundraising ideas.

Speaking of fundraising, FOSI was chosen to be the featured nonprofit at The Good Kettle's monthly wine-tasting on Thursday, September 17, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. They are generously donating to FOSI 25% of their sales' profits during the tasting as well as from any sales made in the store that evening. This is a great way to support a local business, as well as FOSI, and an opportunity to try out a wide variety of wines! They offer wines and cheese from all over the world, as well as local Maine brews, and carry delicious foods from sandwiches to homemade baked

goods, soups and chowders and their own marmalades and chutneys, all of which will be available for purchase during the wine-tasting.

**SAVE THE DATE and invite all your friends!**

**The Good Kettle** is located at 247 US Route One in Stockton Springs. We hope to see you there!

In other news, we are partnering with Searsport High School students from the class, "Sears Island: Issues and Opportunities." The students are very enthusiastic about being involved on the island and have presented several proposals to FOSI, which now have to go through a number of decision-makers before any can come to fruition. We are thrilled to have this kind of involvement from the next generation.



One of the most encouraging things that happened recently is that **FOSI and Coastal Mountains Land Trust have become partners**. We will be jointly sponsoring some projects and will cross-reference each other in promotional activities and materials for events such as guided nature walks, trail maintenance, and other activities. In late September or early October, we will be collaborating on a "Searsport Stewardship Day" that will involve Sears Island, the Long Cove Headwaters Preserve, and the Main Stream Preserve.

Check our website or visit our Facebook page for updates.



*Friends of Sears Island*

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[friendsofsearsisland.org](http://friendsofsearsisland.org)