

July - August 2014

A message from our president

Dear FRIENDS,

It seems like this will be a banner year for visitation at the Cape Cod National Seashore.

If you are looking for interesting things to do, be sure to check out the events sponsored by Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

In July, two of our events stand out: the presentation on July 16 by Peter Trull at Salt Pond Visitor Center on how whales and seabirds coexist and the benefit performance by [Jimmy Tingle](#) at the [Payomet Performing Arts Center](#) in Truro!

Details are in this issue. Hope to see you soon.

**Richard Ryder
President**



Friends Annual Meeting Wednesday

Join us this Wednesday, July 16 for our Friends Annual Meeting, followed by Peter Trull's lecture, "The Symbiotic Relationship of Humpback Whales and Marine Birds."

All Friends members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham. After introductory remarks by Seashore Superintendent George Price, Friends President Dick Ryder will report on all the Friends many activities in the past year and a few upcoming projects, followed by the election of officers and directors.

This is your chance to learn more about Friends and to ask a question or two.

Your reward will be a prime seat for the lecture by Trull, a renowned Cape naturalist, dynamic speaker, author and respected teacher. He has been involved in marine research and education since 1976.

Trull's experience includes coordinating Mass Audubon's coastal seabird monitoring program from 1976 to 1986, serving as education director at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History in the late 1980s, and working as researcher and education director of the Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, through the 1990s. He presently teaches seventh grade science in Orleans. Don't miss what is sure to be a stimulating talk on whales and marine birds.

Wednesday, July 16
Salt Pond Visitor Center, Eastham
6:30 - Friends Annual Meeting
7:30 - Lecture by Peter Trull



**There is still time to buy a ticket for the
Friends Gala Benefit for the**

Cape Cod National Seashore

Featuring comedian Jimmy Tingle

Wednesday, July 23

Are you looking for entertainment that will make you laugh, think, and feel better? On Wednesday, July 23, from 7 to 9 pm, join other members of Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore at a gala benefit to be held at the Payomet Performing Arts Center in Truro.

Our special guest and performer will be nationally known stand-up comic, Jimmy Tingle. The local favorite Toast and Jam will play live music, and complimentary wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres will be served. All that, and a live auction of four items of local interest. Attend this festive, fun-filled evening knowing that you are also contributing to the funding of projects that will benefit the National Seashore.

Tickets are \$50 per person and are available only on the Friends website at www.fccns.org.

"Long Point Light" by Jesse Mechling - one of the items to be auctioned at the Gala.



New Wildlife Monitoring Cameras

Friends has recently purchased wildlife monitoring cameras to help the Park gain greater understanding of its mammal population and habitat use. Here are some of the first photographs:

White-tailed Deer



To date, camera traps have recorded more white-tailed deer than all other species combined, from all sites and habitats sampled. This buck "in velvet" was recorded in open habitat in the Province Lands dunes, but deer are common throughout the park. Male white-tailed deer (bucks) shed their antlers over the winter and grow new antlers over the course of the following spring and summer.

During the period of growth, the antlers are covered in "velvet," a

highly vascularized skin that carries oxygen and nutrient rich blood to the growing bone tissue of the antler.

Fisher

This large, tree dwelling member of the weasel family has returned to Cape Cod over the course of the past decade, and is now fairly common. So far, they have only been recorded on camera traps in pine forests. Food habits of this species on Cape Cod have not been studied, but it is assumed they are feeding heavily on squirrels.



River Otter



This large aquatic member of the weasel family is another habitat specialist, occurring primarily in large freshwater wetland systems such as Salt Meadow in Truro, where this photo was taken.

They feed heavily on fish and crustaceans and even without camera traps their presence can be detected by their scat, which typically consists of fish scales and pieces of crustacean shells.

Immerse Yourself in the Cape Cod National Seashore!



Enjoy yoga on Coast Guard Beach

Rangers at Cape Cod National Seashore are offering a variety of experiences this summer designed to immerse park visitors and neighbors in the national seashore's spectacular natural resources.

All programs are posted at www.nps.gov/caco and are also listed in the summer edition of *Park News*, available at the visitor centers. Here's a sampling:

Yoga on the Beach

Certified yoga instructor Jenna Sammartino offers yoga on the outer beach. During this 1-1/2-hour program you'll stretch the body and the spirit in the most serene of settings, Coast Guard Beach in Eastham. Fridays at 7:30 am in July and August. \$11.00. For reservations, visit www.recreation.gov.

Canoe Lesson

Learn basic paddling technique and how to control a canoe, while exploring the protected Salt Pond in Eastham. Mondays from 10:30-11:30 am in July and August. \$15.00; minimum age is 12. Call 508-255-3421 x 18 or stop by SPVC to register.

Beginner's Surfcasting Lesson

Spend 1-1/2 hours in the early morning hours learning the basics of saltwater fishing. No fishing license required. Wednesdays and Saturdays in July and August at 7:30 am. \$20.00; minimum age 12. Call 508-255-3421 x 18 or stop by SPVC to register.

Seals of Cape Cod

Trek through the sand to see where the seal colony is hanging out this summer. Learn about the natural history and biology of the seals. Sundays and Wednesdays in July and August. Time varies due to tides. Free, but call Province Lands Visitor Center at 508-487-1256 to reserve your space.

The Road Less Traveled

This energetic hike, designed for a cardiovascular workout, will take you to the far corners of the national seashore in Provincetown and Truro. 2-4 hours, 4-6 miles. Saturdays at 9 am in July and August. \$6.00. Locations vary weekly. For reservations, visit www.recreation.gov

News from the Cape Cod National Seashore

There is a new crossing over the seep on the edge of Nauset Marsh. The entire Nauset Marsh trail is now open again.

The Red Maple Swamp Trail -- with its damaged boardwalk -- remains closed due to lack of funding.

The Seashore has a seasonal trail crew this year which is tackling issues on many of the trails - filling in ruts, adding stairs and water bars, and trimming brush.

Three new picnic shelters have been installed at the Doane Picnic Area. They have tables and

grills, and are great for getting into the shade or out of the rain for a family picnic.

Princess Elettra Marconi Visits the National Seashore

On Friday, June 20, 2014 Princess Elettra Marconi visited Cape Cod National Seashore.

The Princess is the daughter of Guglielmo Marconi, who made communication history on January 18, 1903 by sending the first transatlantic wireless message from his South Wellfleet, MA station to Europe. The message was from President Theodore Roosevelt to King Edward VII, Great Britain. The former station site is located in Cape Cod National Seashore, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

While at the historic site the Princess made two wireless radio contacts on HF radio, one to the World Radiosport Team Championship organization to wish them well with their upcoming global competition, and the other with the historic Marconi Station in Wall, New Jersey.

Earlier in the visit, students from Eastham Elementary School presented a program to the Princess and park officials on the history of communications and technology and how they use technology today. The presentation included a speed texting contest between cell phone texters and experienced Morse code operators. The Morse code operators were the victors!

