

The Small Point Club

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THE SMALL POINT CLUB GOES TO BED

Editor

The 2010 season for the Small Point Club has drawn to a close. The Club has been buttoned up, shades drawn, dust covers on, stoves and refrigerators shut down. The building hunkers down for another Maine winter, its east facing windows brined with salt from a recent nor'easter. Weeks ago, Route 216 sprouted bright, funny-faced jack-o-lanterns on porches. These grinning faces have gradually sagged into sad orange puddles, testimony to the ravages of time---an aging process we can all appreciate. The glorious reds, russets, and golds of September and early October have muted, with fallen leaves cushioning the ground in a carpet of crunchy brown. Flocks of wild turkeys can be spotted in the fields, toms fanning their tail feathers, posturing, with hens standing by, amused; all seemingly oblivious to the upcoming Thanksgiving date.

As we write this, much of the sand on Small Point Beach has returned, and the river nestles up against the cliff again during neap tides. On stormy days, as the tide ebbs, the water roars out over its newly carved course and gladly greets the Atlantic surf. Spindrift flies off the curl and froth of the breakers, spraying the sky with brilliance as seagulls wheel and swoop. Magnificent. Stark. Incomparable. Late fall in mid coast Maine and spectacular views from the Club porch. Wish you were here? The warmth of summer is only an L.L. Bean down jacket away.....

On November 7, Small Point experienced heavy rain and another high wind event clocked at 65 miles per hour. Trees most at peril were the tallest evergreen trees still wearing their needles, and many of these trees went down with root systems pointing skyward while others simply snapped off at their bases. Downed trees blocked Seal Cove Road for a short time; however, Brett Gillam and others quickly cleared the road. At the time of this writing, there was still a tree down across Sumner Drive below Hyde Road. Craig and Jane Williams' house had a near miss as two huge trees fell within a few feet of their house, and Bumper White and Ann Bartoo suffered a number of losses on their property. Well over a dozen trees went down on the Martin land between Hyde and Club roads --- cost effective clearing for Miguel's upcoming building project. It was heartening to see many local workmen checking the properties for which they were responsible. Their cheerful willingness and typical Mainer "can do" attitudes transformed what could have been a doom and gloom situation into one challengingly festive. Small Pointers who are away and hire local people to watch over their holdings would have been impressed with the high activity level and the rapid dispatch of storm damage. When the clean up is completed, all will be well again, despite Mother Nature's determination to give Small Point the occasional haircut.

This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date on Club announcements, business, activity, and progress, even though your Club is "sleeping." We hope it serves to connect

you to one of your favorite places so that you can experience the Club, albeit virtually, as it moves itself through a “four season” cycle. We can all agree on the concept that it takes an entire community to raise a child. Within this newsletter is indisputable evidence that it takes an entire community to keep a club. We cannot thank you enough for your continuing support and participation.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Ted Coates

This was a great summer. Starting with the Salmon Dinner and ending with a Beer & Bratwurst night, the Club staff, led by Lesley, outdid themselves in making the Club a wonderful place to be, and providing us with delicious and innovative meals. I am happy to say that we had more overnight guests and served more meals than last summer. Cocktails in the Cage were very popular as well. We were glad to see so many people take advantage of this.

We are very sorry to say goodbye to our wonderful chef, Sarah Droke. Sarah has done an outstanding job putting wonderful, fresh and local food on our table for the past two years. As sad as we are to lose Sarah, we have some very exciting news for you about our new chef John McCormick. See Lesley’s message for further details. If you are considering hosting a special event at the Club next summer, we think you will be pleased with the continued excellent level of food and service.

One of our goals for next season is to fill more bedrooms on those nights that are typically a bit slower. To accomplish this, the Board is working on a plan to significantly lower rates and simplify the rate plans. We also plan to add a B&B rate for overflow houseguests from local households. See Nettie Houghton’s article in this issue on occupancy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your Club. You have had many opportunities to do so over the last year and we appreciate it. This is your Club and we are glad you are enjoying it. I want to especially thank those who donated to the Club through the Adopt a Room campaign and in the names of departed loved ones and friends.

I appreciate your electing me President this summer. I was very pleased at the progress we made at the Annual Meeting, and I believe we have a bright future ahead of us. I hope some of you will take advantage of the new Junior Membership option to introduce your children or grandchildren to the Club. This is the best way to ensure our future.

ADOPT A ROOM

We want to thank all of those generous members listed below who contributed to the renovation of the second floor and general maintenance of the Club. We collected over \$16,000, and the results, as most of you have seen, were marvelous. List of donors to

adopt a room and maintenance fund follow. Thanks to all of you for making this possible. You were instrumental in all the subsequent success of the summer.

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Adams, | Mitchell & Kevin Smith | King, | Adrian & Carolyn |
| Ballard, | Dr. Ian & Helen | Leithauser, | Mark & Mary |
| Bedel, | Susanna | Lunda, | Charles & Viola |
| Bole, | Ben & Sandra | Manhester, | Eli & Anne |
| Bole, | Jonathan A. | Martin, | Fred & Elizabeth |
| Bole, | Kathleen | Mellen, | Henry & Claudia |
| Bridges, | Robert & Kelly | Miller, | Donald & Evelyn |
| Burrell, | Leo | Miller, | Dr. Kennon S & Jennifer Newkirk |
| Burton, | Angus & Dana | | |
| Cadwallader, | John & Patricia | Miller, | Jaquelyn |
| Carey, | John & Patricia | Miller, | Malcolm & Tina |
| Coates, | Ted & Martha K. | Miller, | Pamela J. |
| Connery, | Crispin & Nancy | Mitchell, | Shirlee |
| Edwards, | Wade & Aliza | Mitchell, | Timothy H. & C. Elizabeth |
| Gallup, | George | | |
| Goodwin, | Dyan | Ostrander, | Clayton & Jacquelyn |
| Greene, | Helen H. | Rogers, | Anthony & Patricia |
| Hallowell, | John & Barbara | Rothchild, | Virginia |
| Hattery, | Suzanne | St. John, | Susan |
| Herrigel, | Rodger & Jillian | Stewart, | Charlotte Clark |
| Hinckley, | Katie | Sturgis, | John T.T. |
| Houghton, Jr. | Henry O. & Jeannette B | Sturgis, | Linda |
| Hunt, Jr. | John & Susan | Trafton, | Adelaide |
| Jackson, | Richard W. & Anne O. | White, | E. John & Kathryn |
| Jayne, | Kennon & Sabra | Winship, | David E. |
| Keleher, | Arthur & Murney | | |

IN MEMORY OF CRISPIN CONNERY

Hoffman, Louise Sinkler
Silverman, Alan & Gretchen Freeman and Willa & Gordon Silverman

IN MEMORY OF SYDNEY SMITH

Stavely, Melinda

IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER, CANON ROBERT WHITMAN

White, Rosemary

Additional donations are listed below.

DONATIONS TO BUILDING MAINTENANCE

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Adams, | John & Margaret | Gordon, | Lesli |
| Bole, | Jonathan A. | Goss, | Lane W. |
| Bole, | Richard H. | Herrigel, | Roger & Jillian |
| Charles, | Anne K. | Houghton, | Henry O. & Jeannette |
| Cherry, | Peter B. & Crissy H. | B. | |
| Deeds, | Brigit N. | Kipka, | Robert |
| Edmunds, | Lowell & Susan T. | Kipka, | Mr. & Mrs. Ross A. |
| Fowlkes, | Florence B. | Martin, | Crozer |

Lists maintained by Gary Duford, SPC Treasurer

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Lesley van der Schroeff

The Summer of 2010 and Looking Ahead

Arriving in early June to prepare for the 2010 summer guests, I was pleased and impressed by the renovation of the first floor guest rooms, their fresh look and bright appearance, new beds and repainted furniture, and rewired electrical service. At first glance, Conraad and I were somewhat overwhelmed with finishing those elements of the renovation that don't always come immediately to light upon first glance; putting the right drawers with the right dresser, replacing the old iron wheels with modern, non-scratching wheels, installing window shades and curtain rods, moving all repainted furniture back into the second floor rooms, rehangng all pictures. With only Jo on hand, who had to concentrate on cleaning, the tasks seemed impossible to finish before opening. In rode Jan and Bill Hoffman to the rescue. Their contributions of carpets, furniture, lampshades chairpads, days of labor, unstinting ideas, and good humor were key to the readiness and wonderful new, fresh look of the Cage, living room, game/library areas, and new guest rooms. At the last minute, Malcolm Coates arrived, paintbrush in hand, and volunteered his time to paint the outside ramp area at the Club's entry.

The summer of 2010 was by any measure a good year, the weather being above average, the food uniformly excellent and occupancy good. The excellent support and enthusiasm for the Picture the Point fundraiser auction was a definite highlight, contributing significantly to the general fund for capital projects. The contribution by artists was remarkable, the generosity of the bidding members gratifying, and the volunteer organization to bring the idea to fruition under Polly Crawford and her principles, Nettie Houghton, Susan Hunt, Diane Eberle, and Gary Duford, all were key to the success of the venture. Although there was but one small wedding at the Club at the very end of the summer there were other gatherings which proved the Club to be a fine venue for friends and families to strengthen and renew ties.

This summer we also experimented with some new ideas designed to further encourage members to use this unique facility. The most notable of these was the Snack Bar which,

despite its unusual location – the kitchen back door – drew enough interest such that next year we will expand its operation to six days a week. We were short-staffed for this operation last summer, so we thank Bill Hoffman for his volunteering to fill the gap. A reconfiguration of staff for next summer should smooth the process.

For the past two years we have had the pleasure of a wonderful, inventive and enthusiastic Chef in Sarah Droke, but Sarah has decided that she needed to find a more permanent position year round. To our good fortune we have already found a local rising star, with the help of Dana Robicheaw, to take over the culinary duties in Summer 2011. John McCormick has worked as Dana's sous chef at Dana's successful restaurant, Clementine, in Brunswick. With Dana's encouragement and under his watchful eye, John will be the Small Point Club chef next summer. We are looking forward to enjoying John's culinary creations next summer.

As club manager, I would like to reiterate Ted's comments regarding the success of the Club as being principally a reflection of members' involvement and use of its facilities. Should you want to communicate an idea, concern, or otherwise about how the Club is operated on a day-to-day basis, please don't hesitate to send me an e-mail with your thoughts: sixtyfourclubrd@knology.net. I will reply to all correspondence.

I look forward to next summer and to seeing more of "you all" then.

PICTURE THE POINT

Polly Crawford

The Paint the Point party in August was wildly successful. Artists connected to Small Point made generous contributions of their work and were in attendance for the party. Party goers were wined and dined at the club, and bidders, after recovering from Grey (as opposed to black) humor, bid often and bid high. As their reward, they became owners of beautiful, valuable pieces of art. It is truly amazing to see the scope and depth of our artist community in Small Point. Couple this with the artists' contributions, and we had the perfect combination for a gratifying fund raising event. We want to thank all of the many artists who contributed. We also want to thank all of the volunteers listed below who made this possible. Check out the photos for a nostalgic tour of the event.

Ted Coates
Martha Coates
Corky Greene
Jillian Herrigel
Hodie Hazard
Jan Hoffman
Nettie Houghton

Anne Jackson
Shawn MacDonald
Rebecca Milliken
Jackye Ostrander
Suzanne Rothschild
Dave Rowley
Katie Blair St. John

Abbie Sewall
Rebecca Sewall
Grey Terry
Astrid Williams
Tish Whipple
Jane Williams



"Grey" humor at the auction



"Foodies" enjoying the evening's repast.



Rapt attention to the gavel rap.



Lesley and Elena dressed to the nines for the gala.



Bill Mackey and Anne Jackson came color coordinated!



Arden, dressed in palette colors, talks about his contribution to the auction.



John Hunt, Grey Terry, and Dave Rowley enjoy a moment of conviviality and a photo op.



Chef Sarah Droke works her magic at the pasta bar.

BY LAWS AMENDED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

We had a productive Annual meeting in August. We elected three new Board members: Hodie Hazard, Astrid Williams, and Bumper White. Additionally, we passed four important amendments to our By-Laws. Each amendment was proposed with specific goals in mind. Here are the highlights of these changes.

1. Increasing the size of the Board from 12 to 14. Given the expectation that this is an active working Board, this flexibility will enable the Board to take advantage of the talent and dedication within the Club community. As of this writing, the Board still stands at twelve members.
2. Changing the member admission process. This By-Law change will allow “rolling admissions” of Associate Members throughout the year by changing the requirement for admission to a simple majority vote of the Board. In the past, a potential new member had to wait until the Annual Meeting to be admitted, and often was not able to use the Club until the following summer.
3. Adding a Junior Membership. For many years we have been asking ourselves how can we attract new younger members, and build the future Club community. This amendment established a new class of membership, Junior Members. A Shareholder member may nominate a relative under the age of 35 for Junior Membership. There is no initiation fee, and dues are only \$100 per year. The Board voted at the last meeting, to credit dues paid as a Junior Membership toward the Initiation fee when the Junior Member applies for Associate Membership.

Eliminating the redemption value of newly issued shares. The goal of this amendment is quite simply to reduce the liability for existing shares on the Club’s Balance Sheet. This amendment applies only to newly issued shares; however, most of the Board have waived their redemption rights for shares they hold.

If you would like a copy of the draft Minutes (they are not final until approved at the next Annual Meeting) contact the President or Secretary.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP OPTION ESTABLISHED

Dave Rowley

At the Annual Meeting in August, the shareholder membership amended the By-laws to create an opportunity for younger members of the Small Point community to join the Club. Applicants for Junior Membership must be between the ages of 25 and 35 years old. Junior Memberships expire at the end of the Junior Member’s 35th year or after five (5) years of membership (whichever occurs first), at which time Junior Members may apply to become Associate Members of the Club.

A shareholder member may nominate any relative between the ages of 25 and 35 for Junior Membership. An application form for Junior Membership is available on the Club web site. The application must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the sponsoring shareholder member. There will be no initiation fee, and all dues paid by Junior Members will be credited toward their initiation fee (currently \$500.00) for Associate Membership. Nominations for Junior Membership will be approved by a

majority vote of the Board of Directors at the next scheduled Board meeting. Once approved, Junior members will be able to enjoy the privileges of Club membership immediately, including reserving rooms for themselves and guests and entertaining guests for cocktails/dinner.

By creating this new membership option, the Board recognizes the importance of introducing a new generation into the life of the Club. We hope that many of the younger members of the community will take advantage of this opportunity to become an integral part of one of the social institutions that makes Small Point a special place.

HOUSE COMMITTEE NEWS

Bumper White

Earlier this fall, the House Committee met together to discuss this year's The Chairperson of the committee is Bumper White; members include: Curtis Henderson, Jan Hoffman, Dave Rowley and Elena Vandervoort.

We identified projects, initiated work orders, and began a long term planning process.

After the walk-through in the fall, the following small projects were identified:

- Scrubbing and painting of the the kitchen and laundry room.
- Installation of a keypad lock system to achieve tighter security.
- New electrical circuitry for the staff quarters.
- Painting of the connector porch leading into the dining room.
- Felt pads on chairs in the dining room
- Carpet runner installed on the staff stairs
- Transitional cosmetic refurbishing of the third floor rooms (touch ups for now).
- Other improvements include (dependent upon budget allowances): cleaning of first floor carpets, carpeting in the entry and stairway to the second floor, new wicker chairs for the cage, and new bed frames with headboards.

Club members who have any comments, questions; or wish to donate their time or money to house projects may contact Bumper White at: wwhite@usm.maine.edu

OCCUPANCY COMMITTEE

Nettie Houghton

Why do we need an Occupancy Committee? We want a full Club, of course! The Club is much more vibrant and fun when bustling with members. In looking back at usage over the past few summers, it was clear that although the rooms were fully booked for many nights, other nights had surprisingly low occupancy. In an effort to increase occupancy, we have asked many of you how to attract more overnight guests ... What can we do to

bring you back to the Club more often? How can we entice you to stay longer? We want to make sure that the Club is providing what you, the members, are looking for. We can assure you that we are listening and we are recommending a number of changes - fine tuning, if you will - for next summer. Here are a few:

1. We are lowering the rates on the midweek nights with the hope that you will take advantage of the new very attractive rates. We hope you will consider extending your stay or make plans for multiple visits in 2011.
2. We have eliminated the Special Rate Plans. By lowering the rates on many nights, you can take advantage of a multi night rate anytime without having to fit your stay into a special plan.
3. Sunday dinner hours will be: Cocktails at 5:30 and Dinner at 6:30.
4. The Single Supplement charge will be waived for Early and Late Summer reservations.
5. Late Summer Rates will now begin on August 15th.
6. For those of you wishing a B & B rate, we will reduce your room rate by \$20 per person per night if you are not having dinner at the Club. A 24 hour notice for each dinner not taken will be required. This eliminates the need for dinner vouchers, which will be discontinued. We hope that this will be appealing to both guests at the Club as well as homeowners with overflow houseguests.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Bill Hoffman

So far this fall we have completed some structural reinforcement underneath the building as recommended by a recent engineering study. The structure was already extremely rugged, so this was just a little icing in the cake.

Some of our beach view was being hidden by trees that were once topped but had grown up at the left end of the front porch. We had these re-topped and some of the scrub growth around them removed. Now when you walk out to the front of the porch you can appreciate the view that we all treasure.

The last thing to accomplish this fall will be to add some additional boulders to the retaining wall in order to return it to its original height. Because of the beach's "coming and going", the center section has eroded and sunk deeper into the sand. The new boulders will correct the sag.

This coming spring, the exterior over the cage and dining room connector, and the side at right angles to that (over the dining room) will be painted. It's easy to ignore the sides of the Club we don't see, but they are just as important to maintain.

Everyone should be pleased with what they see, both inside and out when you return next summer.

THE CHANGING OF THE TIDE

Sadly, we end our newsletter with news of Bill Conlon's unexpected death. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

A passionate outdoorsman, Bill combined his love of fly-fishing with his work as manager of Mad River Outfitters in Columbus Ohio. Even after he and Marlene moved to Marquette, Michigan, he continued as the company's travel coordinator, leading fly fishing trips throughout the world. He was a member of the Small Point Club. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Upper Peninsula Field Office of Michigan's Nature Conservancy, 109 W. Baraga Ave., Suite B, Marquette, Michigan, 49855.