



IMPORTANT DATES

July 27, 2018

The Great Salt Pond Swim-5
Andy's Way
11:00 am



The Great Salt Pond Swim

5

Register today.

www.CGSPBlockIsland.com
Go to 2019 Swim

September 8, 2018

Annual CGSP Meeting
4:00 pm

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

To our current & future members

Thank you for your support of the Great Salt Pond and the work of The Committee for the Great Salt Pond. I can report that the pond is healthy, our water quality monitoring program is very active and the CGSP Swim continues to grow as a demonstration of how great the pond truly is. We are also pleased to work with the Double Ender Committee (4th of July parade/celebration) to support an iconic island event among boaters. And we remain vigilant with the Champlin's case to protect the pond.

Our goal is both to support the pond today and to protect its health for tomorrow. We maintain the longest-running water quality database monitoring the pond's health, and we strive to manage the balance among commercial, recreational and environmental activities. We support aquaculture and well understand the reality of appropriate commercial development. The sugar kelp farming pilot project is a perfect example of this as well as our support of the current oyster farms. Given initial water quality findings, we are already digging into the tributary data that may point to some potential issues.

The CGSP is focused on asking tough questions about development around the pond. For example, the CGSP presented concerns to the Town and has currently halted the rebuilding of a road to Bean Point by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The CGSP also stepped forward to build walkovers over the dunes on Corn Neck Road thereby protecting the Great Salt Pond. And the CGSP is actively involved in the new Harbor Management Plan.

Given a number of potential new activities on the horizon (new commercial development, town facilities, housing, etc), the CGSP is working to ensure the pond remains one of Block Island's prime assets. While improved boater amenities – showers, toilets, etc. – are needed, we will continue to work with the Town of New Shoreham to ensure the pond and island benefit from these facilities as much as the boaters. Please become a member or renew your membership, and please consider a donation above the membership level. Thank you in advance.

Sven Risom, President, CGSP

Kelp Farming – New To BI and the Great Salt Pond

Now that November is here, Block Island is just weeks away from deploying its first kelp farm. Interest in farming sugar kelp is growing among shellfish farmers and fishers in the Northeast. In recent years, the industry has spread from Maine to as far south as Connecticut, and at least nine Rhode Island aquaculturists have begun growing kelp since 2016. The kelp is "planted" (using seed from native RI kelp beds) in November and harvested before the end of April, giving us the ability to grow a crop in the Great Salt Pond during the absence of competing uses. Besides being a healthy, nutrient-dense and organic food for people, livestock, and pets, kelp also sequesters carbon and nitrogen and reduces ocean acidification, making it very beneficial to the waters in which it grows. To learn

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Kelp Farming – New To BI and the Great Salt Pond *(continued from page 1)*

more about southern New England coastal kelp farms and the creation of a new blue-green economy that helps fight the effects of climate change, please visit our partner organization at Greenwave.org. For questions about the Block Island kelp farm, please feel free to reach out to Catherine Puckett at oysterwench@aol.com.

Great Salt Pond Water Sampling Continues

Multiple Great Salt Pond sites and its tributaries were sampled since last May. Alternating sites every two weeks, the testing and gathering were consistent, weather permitting.

At this time, full analysis of the season's data is incomplete. There has been a rush of all watershed groups to submit their final information. Elizabeth Herron, The University of Rhode Island, recently compared this year's results to previous years:

The Great Salt Pond continues to be in good health, but several of the streams that feed into it continue to frequently contain high levels of nutrients and bacteria. Those streams tend to be fairly small volume tributaries, so overall loading is not large, making those inputs mostly localized problems. But working to identify, and if possible, limit sources would help the pond be more resilient to other impacts such a climate change and recreational use pressures.”

We will resume Great Salt Pond testing in May, 2019.



Update on the Champlin’s Marina Expansion Case

The Champlin’s Marina application to the CRMC for its marina expansion was finally, after almost 10 years of hearings and appeals, denied by a 10-0 vote of the RI CRMC in 2010. Normally this would mean that the applicant would have to come back to the CRMC with a new application, for a new marina expansion plan, to receive consideration. In 2012 Payne’s Dock applied for a much smaller expansion (80’ dock length extension and 12 boats vs 240’ dock length extension and nearly 100 boats for Champlin’s) which was approved by the CRMC in the Fall of that year. Champlin’s subsequently filed a suit against the CRMC in RI Superior Court claiming that the approval of the Payne’s Dock marina expansion application, and the denial of the Champlin’s Marina expansion application, amounted to disparate and discriminatory treatment. The RI Superior Court ordered the CRMC to hold hearings and collect evidence on the above and to determine if in fact, the CRMC had discriminated against Champlin’s Marina when they approved the Payne’s Dock application. A number of hearings were held, at which the Committee for the Great Salt Pond Board Members Sven Risom and Henry duPont testified on behalf of the Committee: that because of the significantly greater impacts of the proposed Champlin’s expansion as compared to the proposed Payne’s Dock expansion, the CRMC was justified in denying one and granting the other. In August of 2013 the CRMC finally found, in a 6-2 vote that both applications had been duly considered under the same criteria and no disparate treatment was involved. The case has now been sitting at the Superior Court for final disposition since March of 2014. We expect that the Superior Court’s decision, in CRMC’s favor, will put the lid on the Champlin’s Marina application, but would not be surprised if other marina expansion plans are forthcoming.

The CGSP is proud that our active participation in opposing inappropriate development in and around the Great Salt Pond has significantly helped to preserve and protect one of Block Island’s most valuable natural resources.

Our New Treasurer

We would like to welcome our incoming Treasurer, Cindy Pappas, who has graciously accepted the position after our Board of Directors voted unanimously to appoint her. Cindy, who has served as a Board member for the past three years, will be starting January 1, 2019. Our current Treasurer, Dan Barker, will be retiring from his position at St. Ann’s-by-the-Sea on December 31, 2018, and moving back to New York.

As the owner of Sullivan Sotheby’s International Realty, and long-time year-round resident with a deep affection for the Block Island community, Cindy has been and continues to be involved in organizations that will benefit and enhance the community. They include Chair of the Affordable Housing Board for the TNS and serving on the International Student Center Board. It is with great pleasure that we look forward to working with Cindy as our new Treasurer!



Great Salt Pond Swim-4

A record 110 swimmers, ranging in age from ten to seventy-two, turned out for the fourth annual Great Salt Pond Swim, held on Saturday, July 28th. The famous Block Island fog also decided to make an appearance, rolling in from the east, across Block Island Sound to the Great Salt Pond. Visibility was poor, with the swim buoys disappearing from sight along with the Coast Guard Station. Certainly this would not top the weather situation we had last year with winds blowing in from the northeast – or so we thought. What to do? There was only one option, to wait patiently for the fog to lift or just disappear. The decision was made to wait 15 minutes for the start. Fortunately at that point the buoys were coming back into sight. As the first swimmers hit the water, miraculously the fog seemed to disappear into thin air, and for the remainder of the swim we were fortunate to have great weather.

Sullivan Sotheby’s International Realty was our major sponsor, along with Valenti Motors, Lathrop Insurance, Beachcomber, the Block Island Sports Shop, Aldo’s Italian Restaurant, Ocean Adventures, Pond and Beyond Kayak, and the Block Island Club.

Please come out next year for Swim-5, July 27, 2019, as a swimmer or spectator . Your support makes it possible to protect the Great Salt Pond, by keeping it clean, healthy, and protecting the sea life in the Pond.

See you on July 27, 2019 at Andy’s Way and visit our website CGSPBlockIsland.org or our facebook page [cgspblocisland](https://www.facebook.com/cgspblocisland) for information about Swim-5!



2019 Burgee

Prior to each Fourth of July, your CGSP Directors set forth and visit nearly every boat in the Great Salt Pond. We board one of the Old Port launches to raise funds by selling burgees. A burgee is a small flag that usually flies on the bow of a vessel. The first burgee was designed in 2004 to help raise funds for the 4th of July fireworks. Each year there is a new design. In the past four years the design of the burgee has incorporated the now familiar “Island-design” that appears on our CGSP hats. (See photo). That usage plus our yearly sales efforts are the reasons that the Double Ender Committee allows us to share in the profits from burgee sales. It occurred to us, since we sell on the water and the docks, that non-boaters might never get the opportunity to purchase a burgee for other uses such as on a wall, a car, a deck, college room, or a gift. If you would like next year’s burgee, send an email right now to BDJohnson@comcast.net and we will put one aside for you next summer. We order only a limited number and sell out almost immediately, but will be glad to save one at your request.



Front

Back

The CGSP Guardian Hat

The Committee for the Great Salt Pond is now offering the Guardian (as in, I am a Guardian of the Great Salt Pond) hat in tan or navy blue. For the price of \$125 you will renew your membership to the CGSP as well as receive one of our classy-looking and great-fitting caps with the map of Block Island on the front and CGSP Guardian embroidered on the back. It’s a great gift idea as well. Just fill out the enclosed order card and return it with your check.

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www.CGSPBlockIsland.org

The Committee for the Great Salt Pond
PO Box 1092 • Block Island, RI 02807



OUR MISSION

To protect and enhance the environmental quality of the Great Salt Pond, including its shorelines and wetlands, and to promote appropriate and productive uses of the Pond's resources by residents, visitors and local businesses.

OUR WEBSITE

www.cgspblockisland.org

Visit our website where you can catch up on activities for the coming season, pay your annual dues or make a donation. There is a page dedicated to the Great Salt Pond Swim-5 Pond event on July 27, 2019. You will be able to read all the details about the event, including registration for the swim.

FUNDING

Individual contributions, membership dues, special events, program grants. IRS 501(c)3 non-profit.

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

ABOUT US

Directors

Sven Risom, President
Cheryl Moore, Vice President
Cindy Pappas, Treasurer
Betsy Pyne, Secretary
Henry duPont
Tricia Foley
Bob Greenlee
Bruce Johnson
Carl Kaufmann
Diane Robina
Catherine Pucket
Lara Andrea Taber

Members

Approximately 450

Governance

Up to 16 Directors

Committee for the Great Salt Pond

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