



## \$25,000 Matching Grant

Help us meet this challenge!  
Please consider an  
early gift knowing that  
**every dollar you give is matched,  
doubling your impact!**

*“Being on Hurricane Island means  
you are a part of a future that is well  
grounded in the past, while thoroughly  
absorbed in the moment.”*

*Learn more and register today!*

**www.hurricaneisland.net**  
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**Hurricane Island.net**  
Hurricane Island Foundation  
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# NEWS

SPRING 2016

## Update from the Executive Director

Crossing the bay on the ferry one December morning I couldn't see Hurricane. Driving snow and wind-whipped seas, ice glazed windows and salt spray combined to obliterate the view to the Island. It was there, of course, buttoned up for the winter: out of sight, perhaps, but certainly not out of mind. We've been out periodically to check on the solar batteries and make sure raccoons and mink hadn't infiltrated the buildings. The entire staff spent an unseasonably warm February day hiking the Island and checking our aquaculture sites. And Oakley moved the carved granite cornice honoring Mike "Strats" Stratton to higher ground after winter seas had tipped it and damaged its base.

Throughout last season we worked on our solar and fresh water systems, the showers and composting toilets, and living accommodations. Solar energy for electricity was more reliable and continuous, nearly eliminating the need for our small back-up generator. After the student season ended in mid-October, Sam and Oakley cleared trees that threatened the galley, opening up the old bank foundation with its newly completed masonry oven which provides delicious wood-fire baked breads and pizza to be enjoyed by all.

In 2016 we will work on the Weiler-Lewis Boathouse roof, Phase 2 of the Shower House, the solar and electrical systems, our communications systems, and our fresh water pumping capability. Valley Cove, too, is a central piece of our Master Plan that is awaiting attention and will soon be the location of our marine research station and dive locker. It is a wonderful site with the best landing and anchorage potential on the island, but the pier and building need significant updating and renovation to make that a reality.

Hurricane Island is entering a new and critically important era in its existence. At a time when climate change is challenging us all, national science literacy is inadequate, and science participation is in decline. We intend to help reverse those trends. Hurricane stands at the confluence of the Penobscot River watershed and the Gulf of Maine – the so-called Gulf of Maine Gyre – perfectly positioned for the monitoring and study of ocean and atmospheric warming, acidification, sea level rise, and species changes and adaptation.

Looking ahead to 2016, enrollment is well ahead of previous years at this time – a sure sign of the growing enthusiasm for our programs. We aim to double our program revenue in 2016, and we continue to advance our research initiatives on and off the island.

We want people to know about us and our important work, we want more students of all ages to participate in our programs, and we want people to join the Hurricane community and be inspired by what we're doing to change the world for the better. I hope to see you there in 2016.

*Barney Hallowell*



## Featured School Program: Northeast High School, Philadelphia, PA

In 2016, for the third consecutive year, 30 enthusiastic students and teachers will make a seven-hour trek from their Philadelphia public school to study science on Hurricane Island. An overview of Hurricane's botany, geology, history, marine ecology, sustainability, and fishing community sets the stage for a variety of student-designed and managed research projects which help them understand the environmental, social, and ethical implications of science. So far they've conducted studies investigating whether invasive green crabs prefer to live in a specific area of the intertidal zone; the capacity of the Island's solar power; factors contributing to varying fall leaf colors in American ash trees; and the differences in the flora and



fauna between our two main fresh water sources—the Quarry and the Ice Pond. They analyze the data and present their initial findings, including their methodology, preliminary results, analyses of areas to improve their research, and an assessment of how they work together. The students build stronger bonds among themselves, supplement their experience with leadership activities and teambuilding exercises, and integrate themselves into the fabric of the Island through management of our sustainable systems and engagement with our community.



## News from our Development Office

### ■ Announcing the “Hurricane Society”

New in 2016, we are creating the Hurricane Society to recognize donors giving \$1,000 or more each year. Members will be invited to advance signups for Volunteer Days and Farm to Table suppers and to a special summer celebration on Hurricane Island. For more details, contact Emily in our Development Office at [emily@hurricaneisland.net](mailto:emily@hurricaneisland.net).

### ■ New \$25,000 Challenge Gift

Alec Knowles, Chair of our Finance Committee, will match all new gifts arriving by April 30, 2016, up to \$25,000. This challenge is meant to stimulate early, unrestricted giving to operations in 2016. Please consider making your 2016 gift early knowing that every dollar you give is matched, doubling your impact!

### ■ Gift Brings 7 Portland High School Students to Summer Programs

We are grateful for the generous donation of \$10,000 from Gene Gardner and Jo-Ann Ramsey, who visited Hurricane last August and immediately understood our unique educational opportunities. This will evolve into a multi-year partnership between Hurricane and Portland High School to develop student-driven engineering design projects.

### ■ Tillson Society Update

In 2014 we created the Tillson Society to recognize the earliest investors in our effort to rebuild the infrastructure on Hurricane. Seventeen generous donors made gifts ranging from \$50,000 to over \$1 million, and it is through their extraordinary leadership and tenacious belief in what we can achieve on Hurricane that we’ve been able to grow our organization with a keen eye to long-term sustainability. We’re proud to report that the generous challenge donation of \$300,000 from the Lewis Family Foundation resulted in over \$600,000 in additional donations.

### ■ Conservation Media Group Grant

In Fall 2015 we received an “Action Grant” from Conservation Media Group to produce and distribute 3 short films promoting the important work we are doing on Hurricane Island. We released our first film in February, and you can see it at [www.hurricaneisland.net/cmgl/](http://www.hurricaneisland.net/cmgl/).

### ■ Blue Door Campaign

Longtime friend Tony Contakos has taken on the renovation of the Blue Door cabin, organizing volunteer work crews including other members of the Contakos family, Randy Baker, Chip Bauer, Will Rogers, Bob Gordon, and Paul Fagan. In Tony’s words: “The goal is to have the Blue Door in working order for HICSL staff and students...and for the Blue Door to regain some of her ‘in the field’ dignity.”



**March 18-20:** Maine Boatbuilders Show

**March 18-20:** Maine Science Festival

**April 22:** FREE Teacher Day

**May 8:** Volunteer Day

**†May 11-16:** Wilderness Advanced Life Support

**†May 16-21:** Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician

**June 5:** Volunteer Day

**†June 17-19:** Wilderness First Aid

**†June 19-25:** Wilderness First Responder

**July TBA:** Blue Door Celebration

**\*July 3-9:** Marine Ecology (Grades 7-8)

**July 5:** Collaborative Scallop Project Talk, Vinalhaven

**July 6:** Collaborative Scallop Project Talk, North Haven

**\*July 10-16:** Island Ecology (Grades 7-8)

**†July 10-16:** Bird Banding

**\*July 17-23:** Marine Ecology (Grades 9-12)

**July 18:** Archaeology Talk, Vinalhaven

**July 22:** Vinalhaven Land Trust Walk and Talk

**\*July 24-August 6:** Field Marine Ecology (Grades 10-12)

**July 30:** Hurricane Society Celebration

**†July 31-August 6:** Archaeology

**\*July 31-August 6:** Sustainability (Grades 9-12)

**†August 6-11:** Wilderness First Responder

**\*August 7-13:** Island Ecology (Grades 9-12)

**\*August 7-13:** Island Explorers (Grades 5-6)

**August 12-14:** Maine Boats, Homes, and Harbors Show

**\*August 13-20:** Island Explorers (Grades 5-6)

**August 20:** Farm to Table Supper

**September 1:** Antarctica Expedition Talk, Southwest Harbor

**September 3:** Farm to Table Supper

**September 13:** Collaborative Scallop Project Talk, Camden

**October 8:** Volunteer Day

*†Summer programs on Hurricane Island for youth.*

*†Summer programs on Hurricane Island for adults.*



*Blue Door before renovation. See how you can help!*

## Hurricane Island Now Certified to Administer “Dimensions of Success”

We are thrilled to announce that we are now certified to evaluate our programs using the Dimensions of Success (DoS) observation tool. DoS was developed by the Program in Education, Afterschool, and Resiliency (PEAR) with support from the National Science Foundation. It is the most robust and comprehensive assessment available and will allow us to measure and track the quality of STEM learning opportunities on Hurricane Island. With DoS, we will have the ability to evaluate programs across twelve dimensions within 4 broad domains: *Features of the Learning Environment, Activity Engagement, STEM Knowledge and Practices, and Youth Development in STEM.* The metrics will be used to target professional development for our education staff, improve our curricular offerings for teachers, and quantify our progress over time.



## Professional Development for Local Teachers

As we expand our year-round education efforts, we have partnered with the Island Institute and Herring Gut Learning Center to provide professional development for teachers. Teachers in our first workshop learned how to integrate aquaculture topics into Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards and developed aquaculture lesson plans for their own classrooms. Winter and spring workshops are offered at Herring Gut’s facilities in Port Clyde with plans for summer and early fall workshops to be hosted by Hurricane Island. Funding for these programs is provided by a grant from EPSCoR at the University of Maine under their SEANET (Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network) program.



## Science and Research Update

The Northeastern Coastal Stations Alliance (NeCSA) continues discussions on how to work collaboratively to understand and communicate the implications of changing environmental conditions in the Gulf of Maine. Laura Sewall from Bates Morse Mountain Conservation Area and the Coastal Center at Shortridge, and **Cait Cleaver, HICSL Director of Science & Research**, are drafting the 2016-2026 strategic plan to guide the direction of the consortium over the next ten years. In March, the group will meet at UMaine’s Darling Marine Center to form a consensus on the strategic plan, identify a shared research protocol to implement this summer, and outline a funding strategy to continue this work.

Winter and early spring bring a different routine to the Midcoast Maine Collaborative Scallop Research Project. While the summer is spent on and in the water collecting data, winter and early spring provide time for analyzing data, giving talks about the project, and writing grant proposals. Project Director Cait Cleaver delivered two presentations in the Philadelphia area in February and will present results to date at the 2016 Benthic Ecology Meeting in Portland, Maine, in March. This year, we will present recommendations to the Maine Department of Marine Resources regarding harvesting next season in the areas we’ve been monitoring.



*Susie Arnold, Ph.D., of the Island Institute, and Erik Waterman, a fisherman from South Thomaston who has been supporting the project since 2013, in the field for dive surveys.*