

# S.O.S.-MAINE SHORELINES

## WINTER 2010



### "SHORELINES"

is the official publication of  
**SAVE OUR  
SHORES-MAINE**  
P.O. Box 1785  
Wells, ME 04090

#### **MISSION:**

*S.O.S.-Maine's mission is to educate the coastal community about issues that impact Maine's coastal heritage.*

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### *Greetings from the President*

Happy New Year to all of you from all of the Board of Directors. With this newsletter, we are introducing a new format, and we hope, a reinvigorated approach to keeping you aware of the many important issues and events we will face over the coming months. Each board member will be contributing essays, reviews of articles from various sources, and informational articles of their own. In this way we will increase the amount and quality of the information we will be able to send. In addition, we ask you, our members, to take an active role in submitting items that would be of benefit to all. We want to receive your comments about the content of the newsletter, questions to guide future research and reporting, your own concerns.

This year will bring a renewed effort to ensure that as the present dune rules expire, whatever replaces them will be a just policy, respectful of private ownership as well as effective for the preservation of the coastal environment which we so value. S.O.S. Maine will plan and implement our own conference, bringing in noted experts in meteorology and climate change. We hope to offer more moderate voices and sound, scientific evidence in support of reasonable measures concerning coastal life and access. That state policies, maps and regulations are being based on highly speculative, worst-case, scenarios is a matter of grave concern to us all.

We want also to alert you to a national coastal waterways conference which will be held in Portland, Maine next September. Our hope is that many of you will plan to attend and raise your voices in support of reasonable and just, sound scientifically based policies and programs. You can find more information about this at [www.wateraccess.com](http://www.wateraccess.com). The symposium is entitled "Working Waterways and Waterfronts National Symposium on Water Access 2010". It is acting in conjunction with SeaGrant here in Maine. Keep an eye as well on our website. Through the combined efforts of Claude Whitmyer, Bob Bussiere, and Maryanne Foley, a new format and more interactive site is in development. Do let us know your thoughts as it all evolves.

We wish you all a happy and productive year and count on your active participation in the effort to manage the future of our coastline.

For the board of Directors, S.O.S.-Maine,  
Virginia Calvo, President

**S.O.S.-MAINE P.O. BOX 1785 WELLS, ME 04090**  
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# Who Is Watching Out For The Beach Property Owner?

by Rocky Furman, S.O.S.-Maine Treasurer

Whether we live on the coast of Maine or come for a month, a week, a weekend or a day, those of us who own property along the Maine Coast come for a variety of reasons – be it for a summer vacation, a winter holiday, to visit with family and friends, to sun, swim, kayak, fish, walk, or just for a simple change of pace- we love and appreciate our Maine Coast.

We did not purchase property here in Maine so that we could get entangled in what is becoming, in my opinion, a constant battle with the Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Audubon, Inland Fish & Wild Life, or certain Maine towns and other agencies, both Federal and State.

As many of you may or may not know, there are some agencies and organizations in Maine who would just as soon see all the cottages on the Maine Coast gone and the land “returned to nature.” Before **Save Our Shores-Maine** was chartered, there was no organization to stand up for beach owners in Augusta. Once the summer was over and “the summer folks” went home, agencies in Augusta held “public meetings” in order to change coastal rules and regulations. Of course, “the summer folks” were either not here, not informed about the meetings, or could not drive to Augusta and spend the amount of time necessary to attend the meetings.

Thanks to **S.O.S.-Maine**, the tide has turned. Board members like Bob Foley, Virginia (Gini) Calvo, Alden Cheever, Katy Kelly and others continually monitor what is happening in Augusta and bring recommendations before the board for actions to protect shoreline property owners.

In 2010, the rules governing the definition and management of the sand dunes along the beach front are scheduled for review. The last time they were reviewed, carefully planned actions by S.O.S.-Maine board members succeeded in holding back attempts to constrain coastal property owner’s rights. This time around, government agencies are planning to use fears about global climate change to push through highly restrictive changes to the rules regarding beach-front property. Success in protecting the rights of property owners will require our continued help and support:

- Renewing our memberships in S.O.S., Maine and the Maine Coastal Collation.
- Showing up at public hearings.
- Attending S.O.S.’s Annual Meeting and S.O.S. public events.
- Staying informed through our website ([sosmaine.org](http://sosmaine.org)) and our newsletters.
- Spreading the word about S.O.S., Maine and the Maine Coastal Collation with friends and neighbors and encouraging them to become members if they are not members already.



This coming year could be a challenging one and under the leadership of our President Virginia (Gini) Calvo, we have begun to develop a more interactive and responsive link with all of our members. Please let us know what’s on your minds and how you would like to participate in supporting efforts by the Board on your behalf by writing us at S.O.S.-Maine, P.O. Box 1785, Wells, ME 04090 or e-mailing us at [sosmaine.org](http://sosmaine.org).

Thank you for your continued support.



Winter Surf on Drakes Island by Gail Terry Grimes 2009

## S.O.S.-Maine Community Service Scholarship

In June, S.O.S.-Maine will again award the fourth annual Community Service Scholarship to a high school senior. The \$1000 scholarship was established to honor the work of former S.O.S. President Bob Foley. The criteria for consideration for the scholarship includes high school seniors who are residents of Wells and who have demonstrated past service to the community and are also planning to perform community service during their college careers. More information about the scholarship can be found at [www.sosmaine.org](http://www.sosmaine.org).

# E-ALERTS

Members of S.O.S.-Maine who submit their e-mail addresses with their membership dues will be included in an internal distribution list. This list will be used exclusively to send important and timely information to members in the form of an e-mail alert.

Please let us know if your e-mail address has changed so that we can update our database. The information can be sent to:



[info@sosmaine.org](mailto:info@sosmaine.org)

## S.O.S.-Maine & Maine Coastal Coalition Membership

The membership of S.O.S.-Maine continues to grow, with over 300 dues-paying members, and others on our mailing list who are receiving this newsletter. We will not be able to continue to mail the newsletter to these individuals in the future due to the cost of distribution, and ask that if you are interested in receiving the newsletter in the future, please become a member of S.O.S.-Maine. There is a membership form below, or you may visit the web-site [www.sosmaine.org](http://www.sosmaine.org) and print a form for yourself or your neighbor!

The Maine Coastal Coalition is the subsidiary of S.O.S. Maine, which is able to use donated funds to lobby for the interests of coastal property owners.

S.O.S.-Maine's fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th, and membership renewals are sent in July.



**S.O.S.-Maine**  
**P.O. Box 1785**  
**Wells, ME 04090**



Yes, we want to be on the S.O.S.-Maine team. Here's our membership:  
\_\_\_ \$25 Individual \_\_\_ \$50 Family \_\_\_ \$75 Business \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, we want to be a part of the Maine Coastal Coalition. Enclosed is a separate donation to establish my membership. Our taxable donation is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal  New member

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Street

Town

Zip

Summer Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (summer) \_\_\_\_\_ (winter) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: P.O. Box 1785 Wells, ME 04090

## WHY FEMA MAY NOT BE LOOKING OUT FOR YOUR BEST INTERESTS

by Jef Bucknam, S.O.S.-Maine Secretary

In an article appearing in the 9/22/09 Portland Press Herald, it was reported that FEMA recently decided to redraw its flood hazard maps for the Portland waterfront. They were prepared to place the waterfront in a “velocity” flood zone, which would not allow for repairs or new development in areas experiencing storm-caused damage. The business ramifications of this change are enormous for Maine’s largest city. New shipping terminals could not be built, old ones couldn’t be expanded or upgraded. Development of the Portland waterfront would come to a screeching halt! This is certainly not good for the city: lost taxes, lost jobs, no future growth for jobs here. The “Old Port” is the heart of tourism for the city. Tourism is Maine’s most lucrative industry. What was FEMA thinking? How would this change help protect Maine and its citizens!!!

FEMA’s long range plan is to redraw its flood maps on a national scale, eventually covering 93% of the populated areas of our country.

As S.O.S.-Maine members and homeowners, you undoubtedly remember the last round of proposed remapping of the Wells coastline by FEMA. S.O.S.-Maine was instrumental in challenging these changes. We found that FEMA wasn’t even using the correct maps of our area. We retained experts to show that there were no grounds to make these changes in Wells.

Thanks to this hard work and support from S.O.S.-Maine members, FEMA did not have a dramatic impact on the flood zone mapping for Drakes Island, Wells, and Moody beaches. FEMA had proposed these changes without so much as visiting the sites to be changed. They would have put many homes and businesses in velocity zones\* and denied them the ability to renovate and protect their properties. Judging by this latest FEMA proposal in Portland, we can count on them trying to remap our coastline again.

S.O.S.-Maine works to maintain your rights as homeowners to protect and enjoy your property. This means always keeping an eye on proposed federal and state legislation and continually lobbying for property owners’ rights. Thanks to you all for your continued contributions and membership subscriptions. Let us know what’s on your minds now and in the future, in regard to our work to “Save Our Shores.”

Article referenced, “FEMA backs off, but city can’t quit fighting,” was from *Portland Press Herald*, page A8 of the 9/22/09 issue

## What’s a Velocity Zone?

If you go to The FEMA Map Store (<http://msc.fema.gov>), you can look up the address for your home and view a flood map for your town. The online map has zoom and pan features so you can dig down to see the exact flood zones for your house and yards. On this same site, once you have found the flood map for your town, you can order a CD or online version for just a few dollars.

According to the *FEMA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* ([http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fq\\_genen.shtml](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fq_genen.shtml)) there are two kinds of “velocity” zones:

- those that might flood
- those that definitely will flood, under the right circumstances

**Those areas that might flood** are given the labels “Zone V” and “Zone V1 – 30.” These zones are applied to areas that have not had hydraulic studies conducted but that are assumed to be in danger of flood—or the so-called “velocity” hazard from the wave action that happens during storms—because of their proximity to areas that are known to flood. Properties that lie in these zones are required by law to carry flood insurance.

**Those areas that are known to flood** and for which there have been hydraulic studies conducted are given the label “Zone VE.” These are areas that are quite likely to be subjected to the hazard associated with the wave action caused by storms.

This category is further subdivided into four categories according to the average level of flooding that has been recorded historically:

- **The “wave runup zone”** where the current ground level is already 3 feet or more below the level of an even a minor flood.
- **The “wave overtopping splash zone”** where the area is behind and below the crest of a barrier, such as a dune. If a storm wave flows over the crest of the barrier, the water will flood the land behind.
- **The “breaking wave height zone”** where waves from a flood or storm could be higher than the normal water level and therefore break onto the land.
- **The “primary frontal dune zone”** which is the usually continuous mound or ridge of sand with relatively steep seaward and landward slopes immediately next to the beach, but normally above high tide.

According to the FEMA regulations, the inland limit of the primary frontal dune occurs at the point where there is a distinct change from a relatively steep slope to a relatively mild slope. In practice, however, the Maine DEP has been known to consider even the flat, grass covered yards on the seaward side of local homes “frontal dune” and occasionally attempts to enforce laws meant to protect real dunes against home owners whose property may never have had a dune or for whom the dune ceased existing once a sea wall was built on the property’s seaward edge.

From *FEMA FAQs*

([http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fq\\_genen.shtml](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fq_genen.shtml)) and *Title 44--Emergency Management and Assistance, Section 59.*

# ***Shocking News About Politics at the Beach***

by Barb Johnson, S.O.S. -Maine Board Member

As a new member of the SOS Board, it was shocking to become aware of the information that was divulged at the first meeting I attended. I found out just how very little I knew about the politics behind today's beach situation. Quickly realizing how uninformed and uneducated I am on the issues that face our beaches—such as laws that are written without using available scientific data—I desperately want to help improve the availability of the knowledge that beachfront property owners need to know. Naïve I can be, but it was demoralizing for me to learn beachfront law making is being based on a one-sided, radical interpretation of the scientific data available about global warming.

New laws are currently under consideration based on the assumption that global warming will create a sea level rise of two feet or more (some say as early as 2050). Historical data shows that the sea level rise has been only 6 inches in the past 100 years. While there is data that indicates an increasing rate of ice melt at both of the poles, it seems that the predictions about a two-foot rise fail to take into consideration that most of the ice in question is not on land, but in the sea and therefore it has already displaced as much ocean as it is going to. Don't believe me? Fill a glass with ice and water. Let the ice melt. Does the level of the water in the glass rise? Will your table be flooded? Obviously not. But basic laws of physics like this one are being ignored. Agencies with the state government of Maine, as well as, FEMA are moving forward to enact even more restrictions on beach front property owners, selectively using scientific data that supports their political positions while ignoring reports by respected scientists that bring those interpretations into question.

At the S.O.S. 2009 summer meeting David Dilley presented data from ice core drillings revealing more than sufficient grounds to question the more radical predictions about climate change trends and resultant sea level rise. Just to touch on a couple of highlights, Mr. Dilley presented data revealing a natural pattern of warming then cooling across thousands of years. The ice cores analyzed also revealed that carbon dioxide levels have frequently been about the same as those of today. I am no scientist, but when I'm presented with a simple graph based on hard data collected and analyzed by respectable scientists, it became clear to me that we aren't getting the full story from our loudest and most famous media outlets and celebrities.

I encourage you to take an active role in protecting our property rights and the health of the beaches that we all love and use. Please start by contacting SOS or one of the Board Members with any questions or requests for information or to find out what you can do to help make reasonable laws and regulations for the continuous enjoyment of ownership and use of our beaches.

If you have Internet access, check out David Dilley's web site at [www.globalweatheroscillations.com](http://www.globalweatheroscillations.com).

For the record, Mr. Dilley has a B.S. and an M.S. in Meteorology from Rutgers and is a Fellow of the National Weather Association. He began his career as a U.S. Air Force meteorologist with the rank of Captain. Following the Air Force, Mr. Dilley joined the National Weather Service as a senior forecaster preparing marine forecasts, aviation forecasts, general public forecasts, issuing weather warnings, and monitoring severe weather events. He was also Quality Control Officer overseeing five National Weather Service Offices as well as quality controlling meteorological programs at two Federal Aviation Administration pilot weather briefing centers and the Northeast Region FAA Control Center. Mr. Dilley was also Meteorologist in Charge at the Trenton New Jersey National Weather Service office, and worked closely with area Emergency Management offices during severe weather events, such as hurricanes and their impacts on the region, and spring flooding potentials. In 1992, he founded Global Climate Oscillations to support his ongoing research into global climate change.

Dr. Dilley is a fellow of the National Weather Association and is a respected speaker at scientific gatherings about global climate change.

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