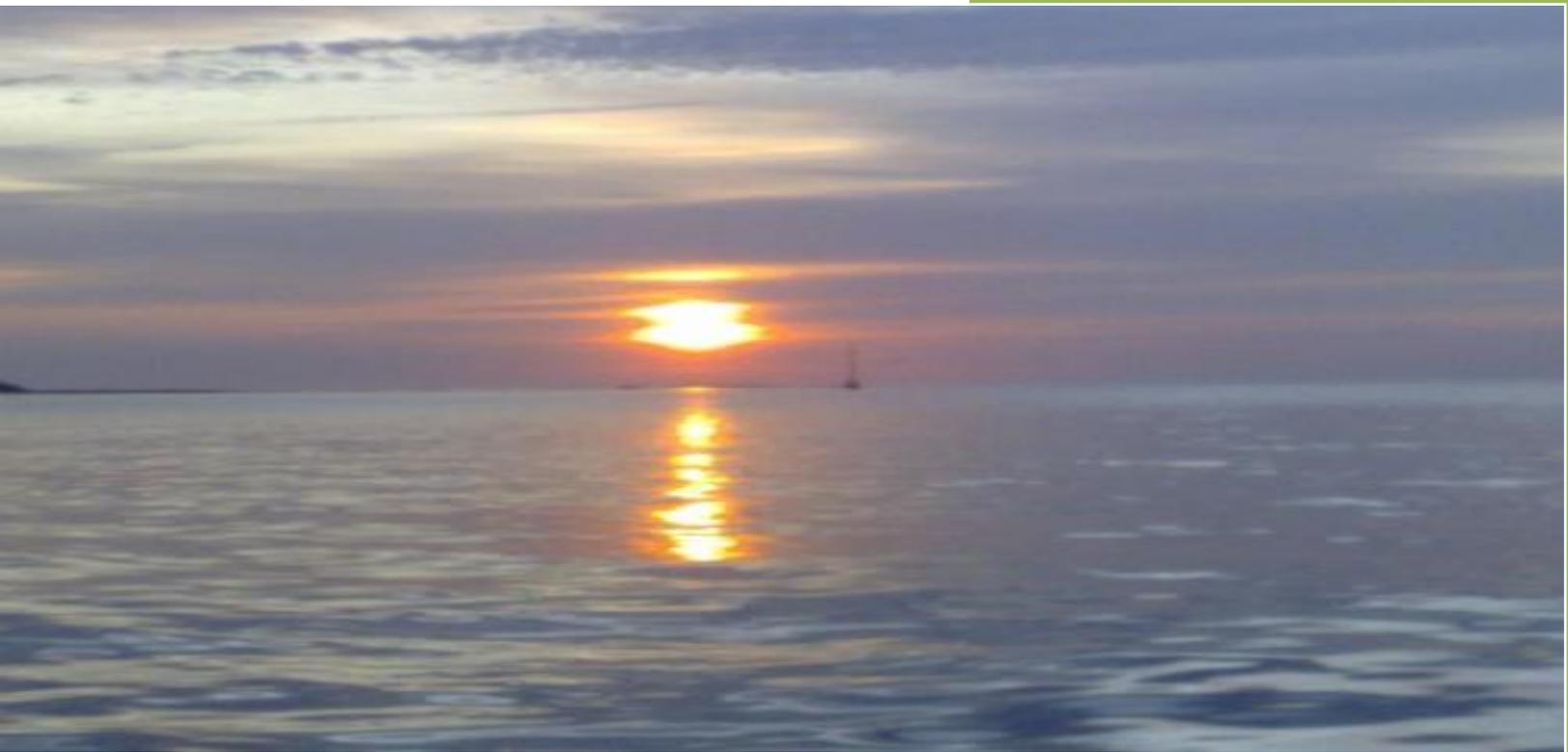


Goldthwait Reservation

2017 Annual Report and Letter



P.O Box 1025

Marblehead, MA 01945

www.goldthwait.org

February 2018

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 William Blake
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Dear Goldthwait Friend,

What a magnificent year! So many generous donors allowed us to accomplish so much in restoring the marsh. We are also grateful to the Conservation Commission and its Chair Brian LeClair for their encouragement in restoring the marsh.

Of course, the highlight of the year was the Livingston Taylor Concert. What a delightful evening with a superstar who made us all feel that we were a group of friends, by his fireside, enjoying his wonderful singing and his witty observations. He was very generous with his time before and afterwards, greeting and talking with all who attended this spectacular event. As one donor said, "It was the highlight of my summer!" Best of all, Livingston Taylor has agreed to come back this year for a "Re-liv Liv".

Although the restoration efforts to decrease invasive plants and foster native species has sometimes been grueling this year, we think you will agree that the results have been remarkable.

Highlights of 2017

- Macquarie matching donation of 25,000 AUD
- Essex Heritage Trust Award and Grant donation \$2,000
- Clearing and Opening Access on the Rights of Ways
- MIT Fraternity Work Day
- Charter School Community Gathering
- Two Killdeer chicks hatched and thriving
- Multiple sightings of Snowy Owls
- Goldthwait Website maintained by Betsy Rickards
- Livingston Taylor Concert
- Major Salt Marsh Restoration
- Channel 5 Chronicle Feature
- Girl/Boy Scouts Overnights
- Update of the Electrical Board
- 70 plus volunteers for Annual Clean-up
- Work Programs for Marblehead Youth

One huge improvement was the clearing of the right of way at the end of Longfellow Road which now allows a beautiful vista of the marsh for passersby and houses on Longfellow, Orchard and Locust streets. I thank Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd in graciously and patiently working with us to make this happen. In addition, this year almost all the abutters directly on the marsh (as well as being generous donors) are maintaining the part of the marsh in front of their property up to the first perimeter ditch. These are the area's most at risk for invasive plants and the abutters' maintenance will achieve far more we have managed to do with a volunteer workforce. Thank you, wonderful abutters.

I thank our Board of Directors and the Trustees for their immeasurable commitment, time, guidance and contributions which have benefited the reservation this year. I extend special thanks to Margaret Bacon for chairing our Fundraising Committee.

Here's to a successful, happy year when you can enjoy all that Goldthwait has to offer. Please continue to be part of the positive changes we are making and please let me know what we can do to enhance your Goldthwait experience. Thank you!

With Best Wishes



Fiona Lubbock, President

FUNDRAISER – LIVINGSTON TAYLOR CONCERT

The Livingston Taylor concert was an extraordinary success raising \$10,000 for Goldthwait and, more importantly, providing an event of great charm and delight to many people. It represented an endeavor that the size of which we had not previously attempted.

Some of the comments are as follows:

- It was the highlight of my summer!
- What a remarkable evening and concert. It was magical!
- Liv was great. Personable, witty and intimate. Great show.
- Quality event. Attention to details was apparent.
- People want more! Even for Liv to come back!
- It was the most wonderful evening last night. Thank you for having the dream and for letting us all come along for the ride!
- What a magnificent evening at Goldthwait! Livingston Taylor is more than a warm and engaging entertainer. He is also a teacher and a humanist. A grand evening all around.
- What an amazing evening!! We are so blessed to have the friends that we do, but last night was something more. Not only was it magical but I looked around and was overwhelmed by the sense of community that I experienced. I saw people that I haven't seen in SO long from all parts of our life during our 35 plus years here in Marblehead. You gave us SUCH a gift! Thank you, thank you for most certainly one of the most enchanting evenings I have spent in Marblehead in many a year!

A quality events

Tickets – beautifully printed and generously donated by Deschamps Printing.

Tent – a very attractive tent erected by APEX tent. It was fortunate that we had it since it rained.

Food – delicious and plentiful presented beautifully for the 'meet and greet' tickets by Vinwood Caterers.

Wine and beer – excellent choices supplied by Shubies at a generous discount.

Special Draft Beer – two large kegs privately made and donated by Steve Haskell – so delicious!

Event Posters – provided by the Scarlet Letter Press and Gallery Print Shop.

Advertising

PayPal - we introduced for donations to our website for the first time. It was very successful but unfortunately our site was hacked visitors were redirected to an undesirable site. Betsy Rickards came to the rescue, adding security and upgrades to the site.

Facebook - we used targeted advertisements on the Facebook website.

Event Posters – we placed posted in about 20 stores and on about 80 telephone poles.

Arnold Gallery – sold about \$7,000 worth of tickets and was instrumental in our success. Thank you, Gene Arnould!

We thank the planning committee and the team at the concert for their tireless efforts: Margaret Bacon; Christine Cudihy; Tim and Nancy Geraghty; Eleanor Harris; Nancy and Steven Haskell; Jack and Jeanne Kleene; Fiona and Geoffrey Lubbock; Linda Quealy; Madey Poss; Maeve Rice, and Betsy Rickards.

Beach Update

- **Beach** - was kept meticulously clean by Christine Cudihy and Fiona Lubbock.
- **Parking lot** - was managed and overseen by Eve Rice with Emma Bushman.
- **Sign board and the walkway** - was maintained beautifully by Jeff Doherty. Chris Monaco of Monaco Johnson added two wooden extensions at the top of the boardwalk enabling those in wheelchairs to enjoy the magnificent view of the ocean. Jeff had in the prior year added a ramp at the bottom of the boardwalk to allow this to happen.
- **Fires and fire pit** - permits diligently organized by secretary, Jeanne Kleene. There were overnights by both the Boy and Girl scouts (different evenings) and many wonderful parties. We now require a deposit to ensure clean up. Nearly all the guests have been good at complying with the rules (e.g. liquor liability insurance where needed) and cleaning up afterwards. Permits were issued for 19 grassy area / fire pit events, five beach fires and one wedding.
- **Late night revelers** - in prior years we have had late night revelers that have disturbed the neighbors but 2017 was a good year and we did not need to hire any police details. There was a disappointing instance of vandalism where someone put earth in the backhoe used for the restoration work. This was expensive and set the project back by a couple of weeks.
- **Dogs off leash** - While it is fun for owners to run their dogs off leash on the property, we do not allow it for good reason. We have had instances of people being knocked down, bitten and having to go to hospital. Even an otherwise good over-exuberant dog can knock down a person – particularly if they are elderly and therefore at risk of broken bones. There was one case in which an owner refused to obey the rules and was extremely belligerent. Goldthwait had no choice but to take out a restraining order forbidding him to come onto the property. This is the first time Goldthwait has been compelled to do so (and hopefully the last).
- **Outreach** - the Directors continue to work together to educate the community about the importance of protecting our salt marsh through published articles in local papers, guest lecturers, and events. Events in 2017 were stargazing the Pleiades and a super moon.
- **Wildlife** - Coyotes, Foxes, Snowy Owls, Blue Herons, White Herons, Hawks, Killdeer and Snowy Egrets along with many other birds continue to grace our marsh. The flow of salt water allows the mummichogs to prosper giving back fish to the ocean and food for the seabirds. As the marsh improves, we see more and more of these lovely birds.

Marsh Update

Soil removal

Our marsh restoration plans included removing fill pushed into the marsh many years ago by the Northeast corner, the side by Orchard street and by the parking lot. Fill was removed in 2016 on the Northwest Corner and in 2017 at the end of Longfellow Road. A good deal of the fill was used to level a lawn for a house on Orchard Street and most of the remainder was used to replant the grassy picnic area by the parking lot/fire pit. Disposal of soil contaminated with seeds or vestiges of invasive species is expensive and using the soil as we have, represents an outstandingly beneficial environmental solution. The levelling of the lawn will reduce fresh water runoff into the marsh. Fresh water runoff reduces the salinity of the marsh which encourages the growth of invasive plants. Clearing the right of way on the Longfellow Road extension has opened up a delightful vista for those passersby on Orchard Street and for the houses on Longfellow, Orchard and Locust Street that overlook this area of the marsh. Ed Principe, our Vice President did an outstanding job in working with the Lloyds to make this happen.

Marsh trenches

Emily Sullivan and the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management (NEMMC) used their rotary ditcher to clear twelve of the marsh ditches. The NEMMC performed this work at no cost to Goldthwait. This ditch cleaning helps the saltwater flow and keeps the marsh healthy. The ditches are like arteries for the body of the marsh and the free flow of water keeps the marsh healthy. They allow the fresh water from the surrounding areas and the drains that flow into the marsh to run out to sea and the sea water to run into the marsh with the high tides. They need cleaning every five to ten years. Emily Sullivan and her team at the NEMMC cleared them previously in 2010. Thank you, Emily!

Bushes and Trash North East Corner

The Northeast Corner had numerous invasive bushes and had a good deal of debris. DeRosa Environmental and WJC Services cleared this area. The brush still needs to be disposed of in 2018.

Finger of stones

Stones that had been pushed into the marsh by the "No Name" storm in 1992 were partially pushed back onto the beach by a hard working group of volunteers from MIT's Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity (<http://marblehead.wickedlocal.com/news/20170419/mit-fraternity-helps-out-at-goldthwait>). This fraternity has been volunteering at Goldthwait for numerous years and was initially set up by Carl King, a former neighbor and former Board of Appeals member for Marblehead. The Conservation Commission approved an RDA (Request for Determination) to allow us to remove the stones pushed into the marsh. This is important because the finger of stones that extends into the marsh impedes the flow of water. Removing this impediment will increase free flow of water and the health of the marsh.

Marsh Detritus

The debris that is swept by the tide to the edge of the marsh blocks the growth of the salt grass and help the invasive phragmites grow more easily. This year both the cub scouts (<http://marblehead.wickedlocal.com/news/20170516/marbleheads-pack-11-pitches-in-at-goldthwait> (Chas Leveroni) and the girl scouts (<http://marblehead.wickedlocal.com/news/20170426/scouts-get-down-and-dirty-for-earth-day> (Ghazi Kindle) and their attending parents raked and cleared a lot of the marsh saving Goldthwait more than \$1,000. Two great articles in the reporter on the work done by these two splendid groups.

Invasive Species elimination

Pepperweed – Emily Sullivan carefully hand applied an herbicide to eliminate the Pepperweed (again at no cost to Goldthwait).

Knotweed – Hand pulling by Goldthwait volunteers has reduced Knotweed by 70%.

Phragmites – Many cuts and one herbicidal application by DeRosa Environmental has reduced these considerably but it will probably require two more years for these to be completely eliminated.

Purple Loosestrife – Has increased greatly in the past couple of years. We were targeting these for elimination but DeRosa Environmental observed that this was a great attraction for the butterflies and pointed out that a Purple Loosestrife beetle usually will attack and eliminate the invasive plant when it becomes too pervasive, so we deferred any action.

Trees

Alas, a huge pine tree at the end of Longfellow was dangerous and had to be removed by Keating tree service. A large black cherry tree at the end of Page Road extension was threatened, but Carpenter & Costin trimmed and fed the tree and it is now doing well.

Action items for 2018

Saltmarsh

Collapse of the Culvert Wall: The wall by the culvert at the Devereux parking lot is not on Goldthwait property, however, the collapse of this wall has resulted in a great deal of grit and stones being carried into the marsh as the flow of water off the parking lot carries the parking lot grit into the marsh. This culvert is critical because it carries most of the sea water into the marsh and out back again with the tidal changes. The culvert runs about a quarter of a mile under the Devereux parking lot and Ocean Avenue. It also carries out about half the street/storm drain water from the town of Marblehead to the Ocean Avenue culvert. Much of the water that goes into the Devereux parking lot drains across the parking lot and over the wall by this culvert, directly into the salt marsh, because this culvert wall has collapsed. Unfortunately, this flow of water carries away part of the parking lot, filling the salt marsh with sand, rocks, and any other debris that is left on the parking lot floor. So far, several tons of this manmade fill have been carried into the marsh causing a natural barrier to be formed which impedes tidal flow. The free flow of salt water into the marsh is crucial to the health of the marsh so this is most concerning. In addition, unwanted sand, dirt and grit is a wonderful starting area for invasive plants to grow. The flow can be seen on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/jD8dvK-laKE>. We have been working with the town for two years to correct this issue. Amy McHugh, Superintendent of Marblehead's Water and Sewer Department filed for a permit to perform the repair work to correct this problem in January 2018. The cost of the restoration work is around \$300,000 which is a large item for the Water and Sewer Department's budget. We may need to call on you, our members, to show the budgeting groups in the Town that you support this initiative.

Sand Pile

The pile of sand by the beach is about twenty feet onto Goldthwait property. Charles Quigley, Marblehead's Town Engineer and Conservation Agent, met with Goldthwait to scope out the issue and he will work with the town to have the sand pushed back onto town land when the heavy equipment is available after the winter. Moving the sand back reduces the risk of the sand being carried into the marsh.

Perimeter Ditch

The NEMMC has agreed to construct a perimeter ditch for the marsh at no cost to Goldthwait but will only do so when all Phragmites are eliminated. Elimination of the Phragmites will probably take two more years.

Ditch Clearing

The NEMMC identified twenty ditches that could need some clearing and they will examine these early this year.

Northeast Corner

The cut brush needs to be removed and the remaining stones that were pushed into the marsh need to be pushed back.

Plantings

In the Northeast corner we plan for a wildlife corridor. Some knotweed still grows in this area. We will wait for a couple of years to ensure that the knotweed is eliminated as it would be difficult to treat the knotweed if it is the middle of freshly planted bushes.

The planting for the freshwater area will not be made until the phragmites are eliminated as it would be difficult to treat the phragmites without damaging the new plants.

Financial Summary

Revenues

Donations were up significantly over 2016. Our appeals for the restoration work were heard and we think the improvements to the marsh encouraged additional donors to contribute. Of course, the Livingston Taylor fundraiser was a huge success financially as well as bringing so much joy to so many people. In summary, we raised \$72,905 in 2017, a record amount for the reservation. We had no interest income in 2018 as the restoration work had depleted our reserves.

Expenses

- Banking costs were up as they included PayPal fees. We used PayPal for the first time to help us with the concert and it was very successful.
- Trash collections are down with fewer trash collections in 2016.
- Legal fees are higher than usual due to the restraining order and other legal correspondence.
- General Liability Insurance is zero due to timing as it will be paid in early 2018.
- Workers Compensation is less due to an audit review which reduced the current year bill; there was a partial refund from the prior year.
- Lawn Care and spring clean-up costs were lower than previous years when we had extensive weeding.
- Mailbox and stickers were in line with previous years.
- The Office Supplies and Stamps were lower than 2016 because we did not reprint the Ben Strohecker notecards, and email was used to distribute other communications.
- Supplies were lower than 2016 as 2016 included mulch which was not purchased by Goldthwait in 2017.
- Beautification expenses were lower than 2016 as extensive work was done in 2016 (new sign; two new tables; granite gateposts). In 2017 we built a new fence to close the gap up to the granite gateposts.
- Utilities are much higher in 2017 as we had to upgrade our website which was hacked. The cost was \$1,532 which paid for the new site for three years. We needed a secure site especially for the sales of tickets for the concert. No data was compromised, and no funds were lost. Betsy Rickards fixed the site in record time.
- Marsh restoration cost labor is low. This cost is for the local youths that we use to perform marsh work. It was not clear what work independent of the contractor would be needed until late in the season. We were fortunate to get a couple of excellent workers, Duffy Byrne and Cooper Johnson.
- Marsh restoration work was high as it was the primary initiative for the year in restoring the salt marsh: WJC Services - \$45,959 provided the bulk of the work in removing, sifting and preparing the cleared area; DeRosa Environmental Consulting – \$8,067 (herbicide, cutting planting salt grass); W.H. Goodwin and Lassana - \$5,915 (raking and clearing detritus from the marsh); Keating's – \$1,900 (cutting down the pine) and Carpenter & Costin - \$1,025 (trimming and feeding the black cherry tree).
- Payroll tax decreased in line with lower employee expenses than in 2016.

Total expenses were \$81,399 lower than 2016 due to lower administration costs, weeding costs and restoration work and fewer grounds improvements.

Net Income for the year was a loss of \$8,435 leaving a bank balance of \$8,996 at the end of 2017. With the bulk of the restoration work completed, we expect to be able to rebuild our cash reserves in 2018.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Income					
Donations	23,049	25,193	21,436	54,598	63,058
Fund Raising Income		31,928		3,140	26,876
Fund Raising Expenses		(6,833)		(2,007)	(17,030)
Total Contributions	23,049	50,288	21,436	55,731	72,905
Interest	339	451	255	40	
Total Revenues	23,388	50,739	21,691	55,771	72,905
Expenses					
Banking	130	150	127	97	215
Trash	1,480	1,350	1,475	1,495	1,015
Legal	54	54	54	291	354
Directors Insurance	921	921	921	921	921
General Liability Insurance	884	884	880	620	
Workers Comp Insurance	538	325	492	930	378
Lawn Care and spring weeding	7,023	4,655	8,455	3,705	4,582
Mail Box	186	192	192	200	200
Stickers	453	569	504	504	504
Office Supplies/Stamps	375	397	202	1,788	663
Supplies	456	187	435	1,329	81
Beautification Tables etc	180	3,057	2,167	3,525	939
Utilities	74	243	266	91	1,661
Marsh Restoration Labor	932	1,134	8,554	2,603	1,998
Marsh Restoration Other	13,331	3,402	13,502	68,083	65,265
Payroll Tax	537	413	1,751	1,112	604
Payroll Parking lot	1,765	1,315	2,160	4,111	1,625
Plumbing/Electrical	238		466		336
Security/Police Detail	586	286			
Total Expense	30,142	19,533	42,602	91,405	81,339
Net Income	(6,754)	31,205	(20,911)	(35,634)	(8,435)
Cash Reconciliation					
Bank Balance	2,435	8,140	53,059	17,431	8,996
Certificates of Deposits/Paypal	40,336	65,812	7		
Add Current Accruals					
Effective Cash Balance	42,771	73,951	53,065	17,431	8,996



Please cut along the dotted line and return with your donation.

Goldthwait Reservation Inc, P.O. Box 1025, Marblehead, MA 01945-5025
2018 Membership Form

_____ \$ 30 Individual

_____ \$ 45 Family (two stickers)

_____ \$ 100 Donor

_____ \$ 250 Sponsor

_____ \$ 500 Patron

_____ \$ 1,000 Benefactor

If your employer has a matching gift policy, kindly enclose the appropriate form with your donation.

_____ Matching gift form enclosed _____ email (please send us your email so we can keep you updated on restoration efforts). We welcome your participation. Please let us know if you would like to become more involved.

Membership/gifts to the Goldthwait Reservation Inc. are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Membership information is not sold, rented or exchanged and is used solely by Goldthwait Reservation Inc for member communication.