

# THE OGUNQUIT BREEZE

A MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE COMMUNITY  
FROM THE OGUNQUIT RESIDENTS ALLIANCE

## Town News

- **Town Manager Search Committee** limited to only 5 members from among 14 candidates by the Select Board (vote 4-1)
- **Human Resources firm** engaged by the Town to hire an assistant treasurer/clerk and assistant harbormaster
- Appointee withdraws following disclosure that **Select Board violated Town Charter** by appointing him to two Boards (Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals) (see [Charter section 801](#))
- **Entire senior lifeguard squad including the Captain (15 members) resign** over last minute operational reorganization as beaches open
- Boards resume meetings at Dunaway; **Zoom** access ends July 22nd
- **Trolley** operating 7 days a week, 9am-9pm

## A Big Thank You



Our best wishes to David Riccio, former Special Projects Manager, who secured almost **two million dollars** for the Town in state and federal grants including pandemic-related and FEMA.

We hope that the Town does not forfeit monies that are in process, and that future grant opportunities are not ignored the way they were before David was hired.

### Did You Know?

That all storm water washes directly into the Josias and Ogunquit Rivers and into the estuary and ocean?

[Student volunteers are stenciling drains to educate and remind us!](#)



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New Signs on the Ogunquit River Estuary  
*What is the Town doing about the contamination?*

# Faces & Places

## *Elizabeth Dunaway Burnham, the Steinway Piano and the Ogunquit Performing Arts Committee*

As is often the case as the years slip by, the history and the importance of an entity is lost and forgotten. This observation can be applied to the Ogunquit Performing Arts Committee (OPA).

In 1978, Elizabeth Dunaway Burnham oversaw the second major donation to the Town laid out in the will of her late father, Judson Dunaway. As he did in 1974 when he stipulated that his gift be used to build a community center, his second donation had strings attached to it as well. The terms of this gift specified the creation of an endowment fund to bring the highest quality regional, national and international performing artists to Ogunquit and Southern Maine, charging affordable ticket prices and funding a new Town committee specifically charged with fulfilling the mission of his bequest. The Town accepted these terms which also included a restriction on spending only the fund's interest to cover the expenses incurred by the committee.

Elizabeth felt that Ogunquit could support such a program that would add to its appeal as a welcoming place for artists, sculptors and summer theater. In November, 1978 OPA was formed with Elizabeth as its chair. She had been a piano student and teacher all her life, earning music degrees from Smith College and studying with noted teachers from Dunbarton College and Juilliard. As such, she was determined that OPA should have a piano worthy enough for the world's major pianists to perform on and donated additional funds for this purpose.



*Masanobu Ikeniya at the Steinway*

The 7'9" Concert Model C with an ebony finish came off the Steinway production line in Long Island, New York on May 20, 1896 and was sold to the M. Steinert & Sons Piano Company of Boston. The condition of the piano when they bought it in 1980 indicated that it had been badly neglected over the years. The restoration that Frank and Vincent performed returned it to a top quality concert instrument with a superb tone. Forgoing their rebuilding fees, they gave the piano to OPA, thus matching Elizabeth's generosity.

*Continued ↗*

The caveats put on the piano by the three donors were that it could only be used by OPA and that Frank and Vincent would continue to take care of its pre-concert tunings and frequent maintenance (free of charge). Today Vincent still honors this tradition and he also serves on the OPA board.



*Elizabeth Dunaway Burnham*

As for the 125 year old Steinway, it sits carefully housed in its own climate controlled storage space in the Dunaway Center - always winning praise from the pianists who come to play and the audiences who come to listen.

The OPA is alive and well and celebrating it's 43rd season which includes the Elizabeth Dunaway Burnham Piano Festival. Over OPA's 40 year existence, this volunteer committee has locally presented some 500 shows by more than 2000 artists showcasing a wide variety of performing arts including the Portland Symphony at Ogunquit Beach, the Portland Ballet Company at the Playhouse, Chamber Music Festivals at the Barn Gallery and Jazz Nights and Folk Festivals at the Dunaway Center, where OPA has replaced the seating, stage curtains and flooring as well as installed a new lighting system that now further enhances the performance experience.

Every phase necessary in assembling a performance season including budget planning, booking, contracting, promotion and publicity is handled by the OPA committee and its volunteers. Add to that, the technical set-up, receptions and staging of the performances and you realize the amount of manpower needed to successfully accomplish this undertaking.

OPA deserves respect and appreciation for its perseverance in maintaining the vision that the Dunaway family had to enhance the quality of life for all the people of Ogunquit. It's important that it be protected and allowed to stand alone as it continues fulfilling the mandate set by the benefactors who created it. OPA must remain as the sole caretaker presenting cultural entertainment that is rarely offered in a small four square mile town.

Access the OPA Performance Schedule and, if you are interested in joining this committee, please [contact them through their website](#). They are looking for new members and will be pleased to have you join them.

# Natural Resources

## *Marginal Way: Invasives versus Native Plants*

Walking the Way years ago, one would be surrounded by asters, beach pea, goldenrod, bayberry, cedar, milkweed, dwarf arborvitae, dwarf juniper, staghorn sumac, stunted pines, and even poison ivy. These plants would be the dominant ones in the over 100 species growing.

If not for recent control efforts, one could feel caught in a horror movie while walking the path today with Asian Bittersweet crawling up the trees and engulfing the branches and leaves until strangled; Japanese Knotweed looking beautiful and harmless, all the while tunneling under ground and throwing up new shoots as far as 60' away to overtake any other plant in its path; or Black Swallow-wort intertwining through shrubs and laying a trap for unsuspecting Monarch butterflies thinking they are laying larvae on milkweed only to be poisoned by this fatal attraction.

This does not include the damage caused by phragmites, multiflora rose, nightshade, Norway Maple, bindweed, barberry, burning bush, mile-a-minute, garlic mustard and more.

All of these plants have invaded the length of the Marginal Way and have moved onto abutting properties. These plants threaten biodiversity; they do not support the food web for native insects, birds and animals. Unfortunately, humans have created much of this problem with their love of exotic plants that have not evolved in our local region and often outcompete native species which are the ecological basis upon which life depends.

### **New Law Protecting Bees**

The Maine Legislature passed the strongest U.S. law restricting bee-killing neonicotinoids in residential landscapes.

Neonics are insecticides that affect the central nervous system and are highly toxic to bees and butterflies. These systemic chemicals, when absorbed into plants, contaminate nectar and pollen and remain in soil and groundwater long after they're applied. A significant body of scientific evidence links neonic use to massive bee population losses, threatening not only honeybee colonies, but also Maine's 270 species of native bees. Check the labels on your household products to avoid their use.



For the past 8 years, the Marginal Way Committee and a bevy of volunteers have spent thousands of hours of work on the conservation and restoration of native plant material.

From Locust Grove, by the Bird Sign, the Seaside Garden, the Geology Sign/Plaque area, to Cedar Grove and more, thousands of native plants and plugs, through planning, diligence, and financial support from walkers leaving donations at the Light House, through the Beautification Fund, private donations, Marginal Way Preservation Fund, and a small Town budget have "renativated" this amazing Rose Maritime Shrubland – a commitment that is made "in perpetuity."

Instead of invasives dominating, one now sees Beach Plum, Serviceberry, low and high bush Blueberry, Black Chokecherry, Goldenrod, Achillea, Aster, Milkweed, Juniper, Sweet Fern, Joe Pye, Sugar Shack, Viburnum and more.

As the Marginal Way Committee continues the never-ending work of controlling invasive plants and restoring native plant communities, watch for the following:

- 9th Annual Pod Picking Day August 14th
- More Native Plant Installations in the fall
- A Native Plant Sale/Educational Fair next spring
- Projected in 2022, a special program/planting with the Wild Seed Project

**To sign up as a volunteer, send an email to:**  
**[ogtnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:ogtnativeplants@gmail.com)**

### **Wildseed Project**

Need help with native plantings or finding a local nursery? This Portland group is a wonderful resource.

**[Check out the Project here!](#)**



**[ogunquiltbreeze@gmail.com](mailto:ogunquiltbreeze@gmail.com)**

# Ogunquit Heritage Museum

The annual Friends of the Ogunquit Heritage Museum Garden Party celebrating one of Ogunquit's jewels was held last month. If one didn't know better, it could have been any sparkling day in June in years long ago. Such was the inspiration of the displays and historic gardens befitting the 1780 James Winn House with participants chatting over the recollections that Ogunquit's history brings to us.



The house was donated from its original site on Route 1 and moved to the Dorothea Grant Common where it sat on the sidelines in disrepair for a number of years until a museum was inspired by a group who wanted to keep our Town's history alive. The historic house was moved to its present site in 2003 with the Town as the museum landlord. A committee and curator jumped on board, and the fundraising from the non-profit Friends of The Ogunquit Heritage Museum help to support its educational goals and programs.

It's a must when in Ogunquit to visit this sacred place which holds ancestry records, old films, a display of photographs of Maine's famous movers and shakers and the Playhouse summer stock with Hollywood greats. Materials that bring our memories to life and most of all extraordinary art! The garden is only the beginning..... [Check their website for hours.](#)

## Stories in the Woods with Wells Public Library

Kids ages 2-5

Thursday, July 15th, 10am-11:30am

Beach Plum Farm Preserve

register: [info@gwrlt.org](mailto:info@gwrlt.org)

or call 207-646-3604



## Woodies in the Cove

The 10th annual "Woodies in the Cove" Car Show sponsored by the Historical Society of Wells and Ogunquit will be held on August 14, 2021. The beloved annual show brings together Woodies from the model "A"s of the 20's to the tin Woodies of the 50's. Interest in these unique vehicles has made this show one of the largest attended and most popular car shows in New England and on the East Coast. The show is the largest fundraiser for the Historical Society and remains free to the public. People of all ages are welcome to come and see this rolling history museum come to life. For more information on entering your vehicle in the show, contact the Event Coordinator, Sonny Perkins, via email : [woodiesinthecove@gmail.com](mailto:woodiesinthecove@gmail.com).

The event will be held next to McDonalds on Route 1 in Wells, Maine, at 974 Post Rd and runs from 8:30am until 2:00pm, followed by a parade from the venue through Ogunquit and into Perkins Cove between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. You can also check out their [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) at "Woodies in the Cove." See you there!

### Music in the Park

[Sundays in July 5:30-7pm](#)

Dorothea Grant Common



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Sign up by emailing

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