Spring Scholarship Drive
Announcing a new $25,000 match for all gifts made before June 1 to support programs for schools and students.
Your gift will allow us to continue to provide financial aid to students and schools attending the extraordinary programs on Hurricane Island. Thank you!

“...as a unique educational organization of the deepest importance to the next generation of Maine’s scientists and citizens...Far too many Maine students get little or no exposure to the practice of science, and this plays a major role in their reduced likelihood of pursuing STEM training and professional practice. Hurricane Island is a big part of trying to fix that problem.”

–John Anderson, Ph.D., College of the Atlantic

Leadership on Hurricane Island / Barney Hallowell, Executive Director

When we first announced our name, the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership, we were asked: what does leadership have to do with science? And what does science have to do with leadership?

Leadership, in fact, is central to what we do and who we are. We inspire our students to be strong, informed, and articulate advocates for science and effective and motivated environmental leaders. We teach leadership through the lens of science, training our students to design and develop research projects, which requires them to work collaboratively with their peers, persevere despite obstacles, communicate with various audiences about their observations and findings, and cope constructively with challenges—and even failure.

Much of what we do is founded on leadership development concepts as described by the Next Generation Science Standards; that is, to reinforce social-emotional skill development through science learning activities, such as activities that require teamwork, communication, scientific testing, and making responsible decisions that will translate to success in life.

What does this actually look like on Hurricane Island? Sometimes you’ll find students rock climbing on the quarry wall or rowing the gigs in Hurricane Sound, which are great leadership activities. But the real substance of character education at the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership is experienced through the lens of science. On Hurricane Island, you will see students designing field research projects in groups. You will watch them leading their teams conducting intertidal monitoring tasks. You'll hear them debating a science policy topic with local relevance in the Swallow’s Nest. You'll hear them presenting their findings to a group of teachers, scientists, and peers in the Mess Hall. On Hurricane Island, students learn to embrace the critical importance of helping change the world as scientists and environmental leaders.

Aquaculture Update
Scallop aquaculture has arrived at Hurricane Island and the Vinalhaven School. Our Education and Research staff have been visiting the Vinalhaven School once a month to work with middle and high school students on a new scallop aquaculture test program. Each time we visit, students monitor the growth of their own baby scallops, which spend their time growing in lantern nets off the edge of a floating dock at the Vinalhaven Fishermen’s Coop. These efforts are funded in part by the Vinalhaven Land Trust.

Middle school students from Northport’s Edna Drinkwater School grew kelp in their classroom last fall and planted it off Hurricane to grow over the winter. Their crop has taken off – we checked it in January – and is right on track for a spring harvest. Teacher John Van Dis said he got “goosebumps” seeing our recent photos of the kelp growing off shore and was “thrilled to show those pictures to the kids.”

Hurricane Island continues to bring hands-on lessons in aquaculture to Maine classrooms, and to provide professional development for teachers who deliver aquaculture curricula.
News from our Development Office

- We are fortunate to receive artwork by the late artist Joseph Fiore, gifted to us by Maine Farmland Trust, a statewide membership organization that works to protect farmland, support farmers, and advance the future of farming. “We are so pleased to be able to provide this gift to the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership, because you clearly share Joe Fiore’s love of nature and work to instill this same appreciation in the next generation” says MFT’s Anna Wilthit Abaldo.

- For a second year, friends of Hurricane Island Gene Gardner and Jo-Ann Ramsey are generously funding a partnership with Portland High School that will enable several students to attend our summer programs through scholarships. This year we are also working with PHS teachers to create a more in-depth collaboration that will align curriculum between student experiences on Hurricane Island and student-driven projects back at PHS throughout the school year. Thank you, Gene and Jo-Ann!

- In late fall 2015, 100 years after the Tillson Granite Company shut down its operations on Hurricane Island, the pipe organ from the Island’s Catholic Church was returned to and installed in our mess hall. You can read the story of relocating this beautiful and historic working instrument at www.hurricaneisland.net/island-updates/organ. It was quite the adventure!

- Also for a second year, we have received funding from the Conservation Media Group. With the help of CMG Fellow Wilder Nicholson, we recently released three short videos which help convey the mission and purpose of the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership to schools, students, and donors. One film highlights “A Day in the Life” of a student on Hurricane Island; one demonstrates our research priorities; and the third showcases our energy-efficient facilities and sustainable systems. You can see them on our website: www.hurricaneisland.net/cmg.

CALENDAR 2017

- Teachers attending our popular Learning Retreat for School Leaders in 2016.
- In addition to a busy season hosting schools from all over, many of whom are returning, here’s our calendar for on-island events!
- April 22: FREE Teacher Day
- May 7: Volunteer Day
- May 10-15: Wilderness Advanced Life Support
- May 13-15: Introduction to Permaculture
- May 15-20: Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician
- May 26-29: Wilderness First Aid
- June 2-10: Island Design Assembly
- June 4: Volunteer Day
- June 7-12: Wilderness First Responder
- June 26-28: Learning Retreat for School Leaders
- June 29-July 9: Penobscot Bay Leadership Collaborative (Boys age 13-14)
- July 30: Farm to Table Dinner
- July 7-9: Family Weekend ($20/pp includes food, housing, transport)
- July 9-15: High School Island Ecology
- July 12-15: Advanced Bird Banding
- July 16-22: Beginner Bird Banding
- July 16-22: Middle School Marine Ecology
- July 19-22: Courage Earth Retreat
- July 23-29: High School Advanced Marine Ecology
- July 30-August 5: High School Sustainability
- August 1-3: Southern Maine Writing Project
- August 5: Annual Meeting/Hurricane Society (5th giving circle: newly 100 strong!)
- August 6-12: Middle School Island Ecology
- August 13-19: High School Marine Biology
- August 19: Farm to Table Dinner
- August 13-26: Women of the Sea (Girls grades 9-12)
- August 26: Blue Door Celebration
- August 30-September 7: Island Design Assembly
- September 2: Farm to Table Dinner
- October 14: volunteer Day
- For questions or more information email programs@hurricaneisland.net

New Programs

We’re excited to share details about two of the new programs we’re offering on Hurricane Island in 2017. For more information about these and all our programs, visit our website.

The Women of the Sea (WOTS) program is an integrated, STEM-based, marine biology and sailing program offered jointly by the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership and the Boothbay Sea and Science Center. Twelve young women from Maine will spend two weeks learning about oceanography, marine biology, marlins, history, and sustainability. Participants will spend one week on Hurricane Island and one week aboard S/V Vela, a 50-foot gaff headed sloop. The program will culminate in a community presentation of student findings.

Jesse Watson of Midcoast Permaculture Design will teach an Introduction to Permaculture course on Hurricane Island this May. Permaculture is a design method and set of techniques for creating resilient human habitats while increasing ecosystem health. Participants will learn how to design their home gardens for resilience and sustainability.

For more information about these and all of our programs, visit www.hurricaneisland.net.

Grant Builds Education Capacity

Hurricane Island is thrilled to have received an $80,000 grant from Jane’s Trust to help us build our year-round capacity and expand our programming both on and off the island. One of the strategic objectives these funds have enabled is the hiring of a year-round Science Educator, Robin Chernow. Before joining us as a Science Educator for the 2016 season on Hurricane, Robin worked at Philadelphia’s FirstHand Lab, facilitating hands-on science labs for middle school students at the University City Science Center. Originally from Chester, NJ, Robin earned a B.S. in Geology from Haverford College, where she was a member of the women’s soccer and track teams. Her geology and ecology courses fueled her interest in the natural world, and she conducted fieldwork in Spain, Argentina, and Belize. Robin is currently at work fulfilling the requirements for a State of Maine Teacher Certification, and describes teaching science in an outdoor setting as “the coolest job I can imagine.” I’m excited to help others witness and explore the wonders of our planet.”

Robin amidst columnar basalt in Andalucia, Spain, 2014