



# BLOCK ISLAND CONSERVANCY

May 2009

Dear Members and Friends of Block Island Conservancy:

Recently Rhode Island Superior Court Judge Netti Vogel ruled in favor of a 3.08 acre expansion of Champlin's Marina, reversing on appeal a Coastal Resources Management Council denial reached two years ago on a 5-5 vote. There have been several well written articles about the situation in the Block Island Times; links to them may be found on our Web site ([www.biconservancy.org](http://www.biconservancy.org)).

The battle over the Champlin's Marina expansion has already been waged for six years but is clearly far from finished. Judge Vogel's decision has been appealed both in Superior Court and to the Supreme Court of Rhode Island by the Town of New Shoreham, the Conservation Law Foundation, and the Committee for the Great Salt Pond (CGSP). Although each group has its own attorney, the attorneys are working together to achieve our common goal.

Over the past six years, Block Island Conservancy has made modest contributions from our stewardship funds to CGSP for the legal defense of the Pond. The effort thus far has cost over \$210,000 and the new round of appeals is likely to incur even larger legal expenses. It is imperative that BIC now become a major contributor to this effort.

The latest round of fund raising is off to a good start. In April CGSP held a fund raiser in New York City where many friends of Block Island live. The first on-island fund raising event took place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Narragansett Inn and featured a status update from the entire legal team; similar events will follow throughout the summer. BIC will play an active role in these on-island events.

What can you do? You can help by making a contribution to BIC for this cause. These contributions will be kept in a separate interest bearing account and used solely to support the legal defense of the Pond. We will not take money from our funds designated for the acquisition of open space.

The Great Salt Pond belongs to all of us and is not for sale, nor should substantial portions of it be permitted to be taken for private, commercial purposes. Please help us in this very important fight by sending a check payable to Block Island Conservancy Inc., or use a credit card by providing the information on the enclosed envelope. We will keep you apprised on our Web site of the legal defense costs and the total contributions all parties have made as time goes on.

Thank you and best regards,

Stephen Record, President,  
for the Board of Directors

P.S. As always your contribution to us is tax deductible. Please also be aware that IRA owners who are at least age 70-1/2 may currently make charitable gifts from their IRAs without paying tax on the distribution. This tax advantage is expected to end on December 31, 2009. Contact your IRA plan coordinator for further information.