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### **Memorial Day Cruise**

Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Welcome in the 2017 Sailing season for a Casco Bay Cruise on Memorial Day Weekend! We will congregate at Sebasco Harbor on Friday, sail to Seal Harbor near the mouth of the Damariscotta River on Saturday and then sail south to the Bailey Yacht Club at the Cribstone Bridge on Sunday.

Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>: Arrive **Sebasco Harbor**, Sebasco, Maine. For those who want a mooring, you can arrange for one with Casco Bay Estates (207-389-2756). There is also plenty of anchor room on the north side of the harbor. Sebasco Estates also has a variety of activities on shore which you can use if you get a mooring.

Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>: Anyone up for a morning dinghy “jaunt” through the north end of the harbor to Malaga Island before we take off? This small island has a very interesting history, and the walking path has information placards at key spots. Today we sail northeast to **Seal Cove**, 24 nautical miles. There is a conservation shore preserve for exploration and we can have a pot luck dinner ashore.

Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>: Sail southwest to **Orrs Island Yacht Club/Cribstone bridge**, 31 nautical miles. The Yacht Club is on the west side of the Bailey/Orrs Island Cribstone bridge, with wonderful views, kayaking rentals, and beach sand! Bring your appetite for a restaurant dinner ashore.

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>: Before **we take off for home**, we can sit out on the rocks and have a pot luck breakfast of coffee cakes, muffins etc., and enjoy the view of both Will’s Gut and Harpswell Sound on either side of the bridge!



**Malaga Island** is a 41-acre (170,000 m<sup>2</sup>) island at the mouth of the New Meadows River in Casco Bay, Maine. It was the site of an interracial community from the Civil War until 1911, when the residents were forcibly evicted from the island. It is now an uninhabited reserve owned and managed by the [Maine Coast Heritage Trust](#).



**Seal Cove Shore Preserve** is about 11 miles south of Damariscotta. It lies on the western side of the cove bearing its name. A wooded property, it contains fresh and saltwater wetlands, towering white pines, and more than 2,000 feet of water frontage. The shoreline is marked by a minor cove or “bight” frequented by wading birds and small fish, including at least two species of sticklebacks—native minnows. Seal Cove itself provides wading bird and waterfowl habitat and supports extensive and economically significant clam flats. A spur trail leads along a ridge then crosses primeval wetland to the start of a one mile loop. We recommend walking the loop counterclockwise for the best views.



For many years, the residents of Bailey Island advocated that a bridge be built to connect their island with Orr's Island. The town of Harpswell, which encompasses both islands, turned down the request. However, when the Maine Legislature drafted a law allowing the state and counties to fund bridge construction, a plan emerged to build such a bridge. A contract was signed in 1926, with construction beginning on the Bailey Island Bridge in 1927 and finishing in 1928. The engineer for the project was Llewelyn N. Edwards, bridge engineer for the Maine State Highway Commission.

Design of the 1,150-foot bridge was complicated by the tides in the area known as Will's Gut. It was decided to build a cobwork bridge, using granite slabs as cribstones, acquired from local quarries in nearby Yarmouth, Maine. The slabs, longer than they are wide, are laid horizontally, first lengthwise, and then crosswise, in several layers. No mortar or cement is used. Granite slabs were considered sufficiently heavy to withstand wind and wave, while the open cribbing allowed the tide to ebb and flow freely without increasing tidal current to any great degree.

Some 10,000 tons of granite were used in the project. A concrete road was built on top of the cribstones. A sidewalk was added in 1951 and guard rails in 1961. The Bailey Island Bridge is reported to be the only granite cribstone bridge in the world.

In 2009 and 2010, the bridge underwent reconstruction to repair cracked or sheared stones. During the repairs, a 1,000-foot temporary bridge was placed alongside the cribstone bridge so that traffic could continue without disruption. Completed in 2010, the restored bridge maintains the dimensions of the original, and the replacement stones were obtained from the same quarry in Yarmouth that supplied the original.