



To the MITA Community,

We appreciate and share your concern about the sale of Old Quarry Ocean Adventures. Like you, we are saddened by the thought of losing this special place, as well as the wisdom and care that Bill Baker brought to the Stonington region.

Old Quarry has been an important part of the Maine Island Trail since 2002. During that time, countless MITA members have camped at the campground, launched at the boat ramp, enjoyed guided tours, sought trip advice from Captain Bill, and bought supplies (and lobsters) from the store. As a resource for recreational boaters in that area, Old Quarry was beyond compare.

Bill and his crew helped enable safe and responsible access to a region that many consider to be among the best cruising and paddling grounds in the State of Maine, and perhaps the country. But Old Quarry wasn't just about access to the islands - there was also a deep commitment to stewardship. At Old Quarry, the principles of Leave No Trace were practiced as well as preached. For years, Bill and his staff kept a close watch over Hell's Half Acre Island as MITA island adopters. On our Deer Isle regional cleanups, Bill would meet us with his pickup truck at the dock and haul load after load of marine debris to the landfill. For his outstanding dedication to the islands, we honored Bill with recognition awards on three different occasions.

MITA moved swiftly when we were notified of Bill's need to transition out of the business last fall. We came together with every potentially interested organization we could imagine to consider ways to acquire the property and maintain the operations. In coordination with Bill, over the months to follow we reviewed and analyzed the circumstances and needs, discussed several possibilities and even supported property appraisal work. It was clear from the outset that there would be no quick solution given the dual challenges of property acquisition and operational needs. Simply put, Bill is a tough person to replace.

We understand Bill's decision to place Old Quarry on the market and to close the campground for the 2020 season. Nevertheless, we remain hopeful that the unique services that Old Quarry provided can endure. MITA is committed to doing all that we can to ensure continued access to the islands, ongoing boater safety and exceptional stewardship in the region, now and into the future.

Sincerely,

The MITA Team