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Friends of Casco Bay Wins First-Ever Maine Award for Nonprofit Excellence

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Friends of Casco Bay was named the First Place winner of the first-ever Maine Awards for Nonprofit Excellence by the Maine Association of Nonprofits at its annual meeting in Portland on April 27th. Executive Director Cathy Ramsdell, CPA, accepted the award for Friends of Casco Bay. She said, “We are honored *and* delighted to receive recognition for all the ‘behind the scenes’ work it takes to move our mission forward. Being recognized for our sound and innovative management practices is a testament to our dedicated board, staff, volunteers, members, and funders. All their efforts help further our mission of improving and protecting Casco Bay. This means a lot to us.”

The Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP), a statewide membership organization committed to strengthening the capacity of Maine’s nonprofit sector, engaged a blue ribbon panel of Maine funders, business leaders, and members of the nonprofit community to evaluate the 27 submissions. Applicants were judged on a comprehensive survey of their business and management practices and an in-depth interview by a member of the evaluation committee. The panel selected Friends of Casco Bay based on its on-going organizational learning and sound and innovative management practices that contributed to positive, tangible outcomes related to its mission to protect the Bay. Noted Ramsdell, “These aspects are usually the invisible parts of how nonprofits work but are fundamental to the integrity, efficiency, and adaptability of nonprofit organizations.”

In addition to a cash award of \$5,000, Friends of Casco Bay also received a hand-carved award created by Burnham woodworker James Macdonald of the nonprofit Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport.

“The nonprofit sector plays a significant economic, social and cultural role in Maine. The scarcity of resources facing Maine nonprofits is real, but despite those limitations, MANP is continually impressed by the adaptability, creativity and ingenuity demonstrated by Maine’s nonprofit sector,” stated Scott Schnapp, MANP Executive Director.

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Photo: Friends of Casco Bay’s Cathy Ramsdell (center) and Will Everitt (right) receiving the First Annual Award for Nonprofit Excellence from Scott Schnapp, Executive Director, Maine Association of Nonprofits