

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New leader of the flock at the Wendell Gilley Museum



The Wendell Gilley Museum in Southwest Harbor, Maine is pleased to welcome Sean Charette as its new director. The search committee, chaired by longtime Trustee Eleanor T. M. Hoagland, conducted a nationwide search for a successor to founding Director Nina Gormley, who will be retiring this spring after 36 years of service to the Museum.

“Nina has worked tirelessly to establish the museum and preserve Wendell Gilley’s legacy. We are incredibly fortunate to have had her steady hand growing the Gilley into the outstanding museum it is today,” said Tad Templeton, President of the Museum’s Board of Trustees.

New director Sean Charette, a native of Maine, has returned to nest in his home state following an international career path that has included museum posts in Southeast Asia, Egypt, Europe and Alaska. Recently, he worked for the J. Paul Getty Trust in Los Angeles and headed up a three-museum education partnership in Western Massachusetts. Now he has settled on Mount Desert Island with his wife and daughter, who are thrilled to be part of such a beautiful place.

“I am honored to serve as the next director of the Wendell Gilley Museum,” said Charette. “This is a Museum with a vibrant personality reflecting the values Wendell Gilley was known for – a generous spirit and a love for creativity and the natural world. I’m excited to help continue the Museum’s long history of outstanding exhibitions and programs that share these values with our visitors and our community.”

For Gormley, working with Charette is a final feather in her cap. “I’m gratified by his profound respect for the established traditions and values of the Gilley, and excited by the new energy and ideas he brings to the job.”

Gormley says the museum will always remain close to her heart but that she is ready to be “free as a bird” to travel with her husband Jonathan, who retired from Acadia National Park in 2015. The couple have no plans to abandon their Mount Desert Island nest.

All are invited to help welcome Sean Charette to the Museum and the community at the next annual Open House and Carving Show on Sunday, May 28th from noon – 4 pm. There will be a celebration of Nina Gormley’s tenure in mid-July.

The Wendell Gilley Museum celebrates the life and work of Wendell Gilley, a pioneer in the field of decorative bird carving, by teaching the art of bird carving and presenting exhibitions and educational programs with a focus on people, nature, and art. The Museum endeavors to inspire appreciation of the visual arts, artistic creativity, and respect and care for the natural world. For current hours and programming visit wendellgillemuseum.org or facebook.com/theGilley, or call 207-244-7555.