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August 2, 2012

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Dear Roma,

Hello Friends!

This issue of Tidings is sort of a 'show & tell' edition. We've been busy on and off the islands this summer so far, as well as some good news and sad news. This issue includes information on:

- Chairman's trip to 5 islands on 1 day
- Boston Globe article on the 1976 World Expo ([link](#))
- Native American Festival on Peddocks Island
- Link to photos of the Tall Ships
- Web page, nuride & Admirals Hill information
- Article about the Long Island Farm ([link](#))
- New boat for our boat trips
- Great Brewster trip note
- Death of member Kevin Regal

Thank you for reading, and thank you most of all for your support. The Friends are primarily supported by your membership. If your membership has expired, you can renew easily on our [web page](#) - it's instant! If you're on the harbor this summer and would like to write an account of your experience,

please send it to me for an issue of Tidings. We may print your story for all to see! ChairmanFBHI@gmail.com

Thank you!



Walter Hope, Co-Chair
PO Box 121020, Boston MA 02112 for personal notes, and stories...



(chart showing my travels...)

22 miles, 5 islands, 1 day. *Walter Hope, Chairman*

On Saturday July 7th I had arranged to visit many of the islands in the park by private boat, this is not normally possible, but it is one of the benefits of being Chairman! After some quick repairs to our engine, I took our 12 foot inflatable rib dinghy and departed from the USS Constitution and the Charlestown Navy Yard, and headed into the harbor. It was a very hot day, even on the water.

My first stop was **Spectacle Island**. The students from **Massachusetts Maritime** were manning the marina, and allowed me to dock on the beach-side dock. They were very busy helping tie up visiting boats, and seemed to be doing a great job. After many complaints by boaters earlier in the season, the rates were lowered for docking and mooring in the harbor.

Volunteers **Jackie and Stacie** were under the food service tent, new volunteer Stacie was being briefed about the history of the island by Jackie - also a board member. The weekend before volunteers had assisted with park rangers with children and kite building. Spectacle is a great place for kite flying because of the winds and the open fields at the top of both hills. On this day the beaches were busy with people both young and old, and boat after boat of visitors arrived. The snack bar at Jasper Whites Summer Shack was busy non-stop. After chatting with a ranger and hearing some wonderful stories about our volunteers working providing tours, and helping with the kite building, I departed. Next stop was Hingham Harbor.

At **Hingham Harbor** I stopped briefly for fuel. Thankfully our little boat sips fuel and I only needed 8 gallons (at \$4 gallon) to fill it up.

At **Grape Island** I met with **Rangers**. A large group of visitors had just left, leaving the island with a group of 15 or so young guys who were apparently role-playing a "dungeons and dragons" game. I overheard one say "*now we all can't be gods*" - comments like that I don't hear everyday! I walked around Grape Island and recalled my first years with the Friends in the mid-late 1980's. At that time the Friends were contracted by DEM (Dept of Environmental Management) and MDC (Metropolitan District Commission) to provide volunteers on the islands. I was once an Volunteer 'Island Captain' and coordinated volunteer training and coverage on Grape. I spent many weekends day and night on Grape, and loved the sense that I was far from the city and pollution, even though I was just an hour or so away from Boston.

The Ranger had wonderful things to say about Volunteers **Robert** and **Wynelle**, and **Victoria** and **Chris**. Both couples had helped tremendously with trail maintenance, as well as clearing new camp sites. Grape is one of the few islands with little in the way of man-made structures. The grape arbor was green with growth and the island was clean and well

maintained.

Upon departing Grape I traveled a route that I could never with our main boat, I went between **Slate Island** and Grape, cutting off significant travel time had I gone around the back-side of Grape.

Bumpkins Islands I was greeted at the dock by **Ranger Alex** and we chatted for a while. Both Volunteers **Tom** and **Tom** were working on Bumpkin on this day, and Ranger Alex took me to their special camp site. Both Toms have spent a significant number of years volunteering on Bumpkin, and **Ranger Alex** had explained he had been given a tour by Tom. The 'institutional memory' that Tom provided to Alex is something that isn't written down, the years of experience some of our volunteers have really helps with new Rangers. After chatting for a while about the temperature (roasting hot!), camp site reservation issues, I departed and met one of the water taxis at the dock. Several Volunteers were on-board and had just left Volunteer Training on **Peddocks Island**.

I then left for Lovells. Upon arriving at **Lovells Island**, there was no one at the dock or gazebo. I docked and walked around the island and eventually met two of the rangers. They were monitoring a large gathering of boaters on the North-Eastern side of the island. Lovells has become quite a gathering place for private boaters due to the low wakes/waves, and easy anchorage and beach area. We had no volunteers at Lovells that day.

I next went to **Georges Island**. Volunteers **Sue** and **'BB'** were at work at the Information Booth. I chatted with them briefly, they were doing a good job on a very hot day. I then walked around the island for a short while. There were many non-English speaking folks inside Fort Warren. This may be an opportunity or at least need to translate some of our documents to better serve the public. I stopped in and visited our new display to the left of the Hospital Room. A family was there reading the information on the display. We have been unable so far to have lighting in the room, a Ranger explained previously that they were having problems with the electricity generators on the island.

After a quick bite to eat at Jasper Whites Summer Shack, I departed Georges Island and left for home in Charlestown.

I had met and learned from both Volunteers and Rangers that our Volunteers are providing a needed service, as with any program there are lots of good things happening, and there *is always room for improvement*. Thank you to the Volunteers I met this day, and to the Rangers that I interacted with.

I took many **photographs** on this day, you can find them on our web page at:

<http://fbhi.org/chairmans-page.html>

On July 29th the **Boston Globe** ran a story titled "Boston's lost island neighborhood". Oddly enough, the Friends hosted a talk on the same subject almost a year ago in Braintree. The first paragraph is below, to see the rest of the article, go to our web page.

Boston's lost island neighborhood

July 29, 2012

The plan was breathtaking in its ambition: to build a whole new chunk of Boston, a boldly modern new section of the city stretching out into the harbor. A cross-shaped grid of floating platforms would carry hundreds of acres of soaring block-like buildings and public plazas. The site, stretching from Dorchester's Columbia Point out to one of the harbor islands, would first serve as a site for the 1976 World Expo, attracting visitors from around the world. Then it would become home to a brand-new neighborhood with housing for tens of thousands, public space designed to be a modern version of Boston Common, and a new subway line.

To see the rest of the story, go to our web page at:

<http://fbhi.org/thompson-island.html>

Our presentation from 2011 is also posted on this page for you to view.

Native American Festival on Peddocks Island



From the notes and photos of member James Philip

On the afternoon of July 22 we were fortunate to paddle in our kayaks to join the festivities and appreciate the natural wonders and Native American traditions of Peddocks Island.

A storyteller engaged children and adults to participate in the Native American Inhabitants activities. They dressed in their regalia (not costumes) and showed how their ancestors dressed, sang, and played. All who attended enjoyed celebrating 5000 years of successful life on Peddocks and the other islands.

The day focused on connecting the traditions, histories, and contemporary lives of Native Americans to the islands. The sound of Native women was wonderful to hear as they sang traditional and contemporary songs along with the beat of the drum as regional Native performers and community members gathered to commemorate the Native history of the Boston Harbor Islands and celebrate ongoing Native persistence of the peoples who called the islands home.

We joined the Nettukkusq Singers, and others from the Wampanoag Indigenous Program of Plimoth Plantation they sang, told stories and provided educational exhibits depicting the best of contemporary and traditional New England Native peoples culture. We saw demonstrations on culture related to the marine environment and weaving.

This event was co-sponsored by the Wampanoag Indigenous Program of Plimoth Plantation, MassDCR, NPS, BHIA, and UMass Boston's Institute for New England Native American Studies.

Some photos of the day appear on our Peddocks Island web page at:
<http://fbhi.org/peddocks-island.html>

*Thank you to **James Philip** for use of the photos and notes for the writeup of the day.*



Tall Ships

Our Tall Ships Cruise was a sell-out. 35 persons traveled onboard the --- and enjoyed a beautiful 3 hour tour of the inner harbor. Photos of some of the ships that were in port can be seen at:

[TALL SHIPS](#)

Our **web page** continues to change and is continually updated. We're attracting almost 5000 visits to our web page monthly. We're working hard so that all of our business can be performed on the internet as this is not the way of the future - but of NOW. Thank you for visiting our web site - and tell a friend about this wonderful resource!

Your ticket purchases and memberships can all be completed online (ticket purchases online provide you with a receipt which is also now your TICKET, removing the need for mailing tickets and the delay that can also create).

Coupled with our web page, we've now included information on every existing island in the harbor (see : **ISLAND INFORMATION**).

If anyone would like to provide additional information, links, or photos please contact ChairmanFBHI@gmail.com - we must provide credit and URLs for pre-existing information. In many cases if you 'google' one of the harbor islands, our web page comes up in the first 5 items.



Great Brewster Trip - July 24th

FBHI volunteer Rab Sherman answers questions for a group of visitors from Germany during a July 14 Boat Trip to Great



Brewster Island. The trip, one of many offered by the Friends this summer, brought a filled-to-capacity boat to this island in the Brewster chain. Despite the hot temperatures, visitors explored the island and walked the spit that

forms off Great Brewster and reaches nearly to George's Island. The views of Boston Light were spectacular and the group was also treated to the sight of young fuzzy gray gulls and their parents along the shore.

*Photo by **Stephanie Schorow***

We've partnered with **NURIDE** a web-based service that encourages people to commute to work with others, or to use public transportation (bus, boat, train), or by bike and walking. Our members can now take advantage of this service and earn points. The points are redeemable for discounts at restaurants, museums and on merchandise. **[CLICK to join NURIDE](#)**



Participating rewards include: Fuller Crafts Museum, Wadsworth Atheneum, Franklin Park and Stone Zoos, Ecotarium, Cambridge Brewery, Green Mountain Coffee, Dicks Sporting Goods, Finale Restaurant, Fahitias and Ritas, and many more!



Boat Haul Discount at Admiral's Hill Marina

Our member discount for a boat haul at Admiral's Hill Marina has been very popular with boaters. Please be aware that the discount is **ONLY** on the haul, and does not include other services (storage, repairs) while at the marina. **JOIN** the Friends to take advantage of the **20% discount for your boat haul!** Remember, our other boating discounts include **50% off BOAT US Membership, 10% off Sailing Lessons at Black Rock Sailing School, 20% off BHC Boat Trips** including the Provincetown Fast Ferry! See our **MEMBERSHIP PAGE** to learn more!



Good Medicine

"WORKING AT THE FARM, tending the gardens, is particularly suited to recovery. It's a place to quiet the mind, meditate, and focus on the tasks at hand. Growing food is a very clear activity; it's not complex in the way a lot of the world is. The sea breeze makes it a perfect environment to work outdoors."

To see the rest of this article printed in **Northeast Flavor Magazine** [click here](#)



Rowes Wharf Water Transport has a 'new' boat!

We're very happy to announce that the Rowes Wharf Water Transport Company has a 'new' addition to their fleet, the "**Waters Edge**".



This larger boat will be used by the Friends for transport on our Sunset Adventure trips. This means we can increase our guests and ticket sales from 35 persons to 45 persons. An added advantage of the new boat - a **restroom and a 2nd deck!** Trips will continue to board at Rowes Wharf / Boston Harbor Hotel.



As with all of our boat trips, tickets can be purchased online at www.fbhi.org Online ticket purchases provide you with INSTANT tickets (your Paypal receipt IS your RECEIPT). If you're not already a member, you can also receive INSTANT membership online as well at <http://fbhi.org/purchase-membership.html>



Member and boat trip participant Kevin Regal



Passed away on July 10th. The family asked that donations be made in his memory to the FBHI. For Kevin's obituary and donation information please see our web page at:



<http://fbhi.org/in-memoriam.html>

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