



# NEWSLETTER

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## DEM Extends a Thank You

The following letter, dated Feb. 5, 1986, was received by our president, George Marsh.

"Dear Mr. Marsh,

"Thank you for your recent letter describing the activities of your very energetic group during the past season. I am deeply appreciative of your organization's efforts on behalf of this very unique park.

"Through the generous giving of their time, your many volunteers have certainly made a dramatic difference in the "visitor experience" by supplementing the limited number of DEM island managers and interpreters. We are very grateful to these individuals who sacrifice their precious free time so that others may more fully enjoy theirs.

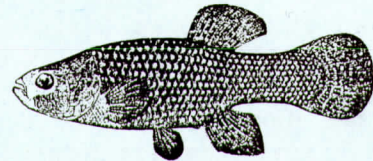
"All of us at DEM are very excited about the upcoming 1986 season, as we have some very exciting things planned for the islands, including: increased water taxi access, direct water taxi service from Hewitt's Cove in Hingham to Grape Island, development of Waterfront Park and Long Wharf in Boston as ferry launching points, and the opening [of] the new visitors center on Bumpkin Island.

"Please extend my thanks to all the members of your organization and congratulations on such a successful year!

Sincerely yours,  
James Gutensohn"

Commissioner

Department of Environmental Management



## Island Volunteer Open House

Over the past months the Volunteer Program Committee has been at work preparing for the Summer 1986 season. We have been using the evaluation written by Karen Wolkoff to improve upon the program. This year we are looking for 100 volunteers to help make the 8th year of the program our best! The selection of island "team captains" is underway, and our volunteer recruitment drive will be starting soon. We are looking forward to another great season working in the harbor.

This most exciting and vital program needs volunteers. Are you interested? Take this opportunity to find out how the special skills and talents you have make you the kind of volunteer we are looking for.

What does a volunteer do? Come to our Open House on April 22, 1986, 6:00 P.M. at our office, 19 Myrtle St., Boston. Watch our slide presentation, it will give you a good idea of what can happen on a typical day on the islands. Experienced volunteers, did you know that your enthusiasm is contagious? Bring a favorite story or special memory you could share with us. Your first hand knowledge will be most helpful.

Please see the enclosed application for island volunteers for more information regarding the open house and opportunities for volunteering. Also, check the calendar for some important upcoming dates.

--Walter Hope  
Donna Harvey





### Winter Day Trip To Thompson's Island

The skies were blue, the sun was warm, and the seas were calm, as sixty adventurous souls took to the hills and trails of Thompson's Island for our first trip of the '86 season. Organized by the Fund-raising Committee, the Feb. 15th trip replaced the annual Seafarer's Holiday.

Catherine McCafferty, a Friend's volunteer on Thompson's, gave an informative guided tour and Friend's member Ed Reiner of the EPA explained how the coastal wetlands and salt marshes were formed, and the important role they play as a "major link" in the food chain. Ann (Prince) Hecker, Friend's boardmember, along with her newlywed husband Scott, a Friend's member and intern at the Mass. Audubon Society, gave a nature walk pointing out many of the island's various birds and other species of wildlife.

Unfortunately, there was not enough snow for cross-country skiing, however the ice was good enough for skating. Many ring-necked pheasants and marsh hawks were sighted and an occasional rabbit would scurry across the path.

All in all, it was a great day for picture taking, stopping to ponder on an offbeat trail, or to simply absorb the tranquil and scenic vistas of this "Isle of Beauty".

--Joan Knox

### Fourth Annual Island Sunset Series

The Fund-raising Committee is again sponsoring this popular Monday evening series. The dates are: June 23, July 7, July 21, August 4, August 18, and September 8th. The island destinations will be announced in the next newsletter, so stay by your mailboxes!

All the series departures are from Boston Harbor Cruises, One Long Wharf, Boston. Look for a Sunset Flyer in the Summer Newsletter.

--Suzanne Gall Marsh

Special thanks to John LeClair for our membership brochures and various other printing jobs.



### What's Great about Grape?

As a summer resident of the Boston Harbor Islands State Park, I'll tell you what is great about Grape.

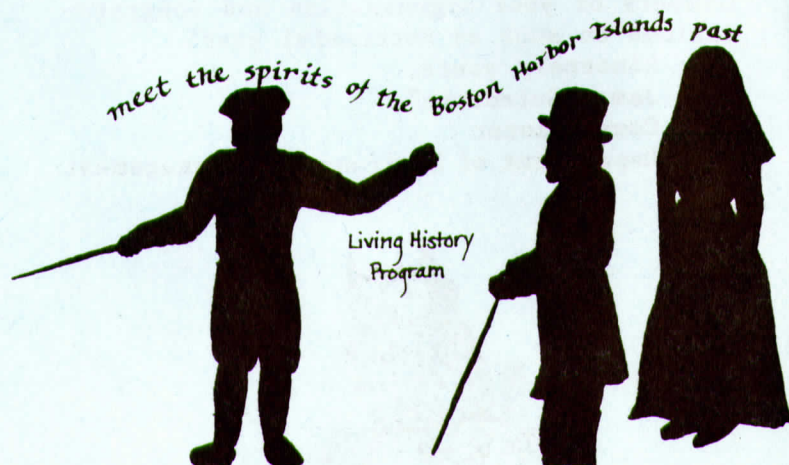
Like most islands, there are plenty of fruiting shrubs like raspberry, blueberry, and the ever-present sumac. As you approach Grape, you become aware of an aura that makes this island stand out. There, right before your eyes is the grassy lawn, unruffled and uncluttered by the remains of military buildings or civilian homes. There are no tarred or pebbled paths. Grape offers beautiful shady green trails on which to walk serenely and commune with nature - hearing and seeing birds other than gulls.

But what is fantastically great about Grape is getting to know and spending time with the new kids on my (island) block. So come on down and find out. You too may fall in love with them and this great island. Your expectations will be even greater. Grape extends a warm welcome to everyone to explore its marshes, trails and beaches, or just picnic. Visitors may participate in one of the island manager's programs or camp in a secluded site on the most diverse and beautiful island in the harbor. There is truly something special about Grape that made a former volunteer say, "It feels great to be back on Grape".

--John Hannaway

### Peddock's Island Trip

Special thanks to the Living History Volunteers for their special Peddock's Island program on March 9th. Ann Hecker and Donna Harvey developed the characters and script. The characters were a native American, a Puritan, Leonard Peddock, a bootlegger, a fishermans's wife, and a waitress from the Island Inn.





## Annual Meeting Report

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Friends was held on January 19, 1986 at the Beacon House in Boston. The purpose of this gathering was to elect the 1986 Board of Directors and to provide the members with up-to-date information on the programs of the organization and significant harbor related issues.

In spite of the heavy rain, the meeting was well attended by an overflow crowd exceeding 100 persons. Planning and preparations for the meeting were carried out by the Membership Committee, chaired by Donna Harvey and Wynelle Scenna.

The meeting was called to order by Wynelle, Mistress of Ceremonies. President George Marsh welcomed those in attendance and spoke briefly about organizational progress and foreseeable goals.

The guest speaker, Catherine Barner, Project Coordinator for the DEM, gave a talk with illustrations providing a preview of the Long Wharf restoration and development project as it will proceed during the next four years. Ms. Barner's excellent presentation evoked numerous questions to which she provided informative answers.

Other noted special guests were Mark L. Primack, Harbor Islands Coordinator for the MDC Georges Island Staff and Sue Heilman with Walter Silver of the Thompson Island Education Center.

The Nominating Committee of Suzanne Gall Marsh, Bonnie Neggers, Paul Nyren (Chairman), and Carol Reed presented a report of their work and the resultant slate of nominees for the Board of Directors. Nominees for the Board of Directors were introduced and a brief resume of their qualifications was given to each voter. Subsequent voting ratified, without any dissent, the election to the Board of Directors for two years the following members: Edward R. Barron, Katharine F. Beebe, Ann Prince Hecker, M. Blossom Hoag, Phillip Hyde, George C. Marsh, Karen J. O'Donnell, and John H. Stevens.

Recognition was given to incumbent Directors continuing on the Board - Lillian Beauvais, Diane Greaney, Margaret Hamilton, Donna Harvey, Walter Hope, Suzanne Gall Marsh, Tom Narcavage, and Bonnie Neggers.

A report of Membership Committee activities was delivered by Co-chair Wynelle Scenna and attention was called to copies of several beautiful photos submitted for the postcard contest. Donna Harvey reported on the plans and needs of the

Living History program. Treasurer Tom Narcavage reported on the progress of the Finance Committee. It was noted that this was the first year that an annual budget was prepared and approved before January 1. A report on the activities of the Personnel Committee was given by Karen O'Donnell, indicating that they planned to hire a Volunteer/Membership Coordinator within the next month. Walter Hope, Chairman of the Volunteer Committee, predicted that 100 volunteers would be needed for the biggest season yet in the Harbor Island State Park. Suzanne Gall Marsh, Chairman of the Fund-raising Committee, reported that her committee was achieving promising results and recruitment of a boat trip coordinator was in progress. Editor Robert Scenna reported on plans for the newsletter and solicited articles and artwork for forthcoming issues.

As a token of appreciation for his dedicated services, President George Marsh was given a book of his favorite tales.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to: Margaret Hamilton for efficiently and the thoroughly maintaining financial records; Donna Harvey for keeping Living History alive; Joan Knox for dependable services as office manager, graphic artist, and other endeavors; Suzanne Gall Marsh for 8 years of service in many capacities; Karen O'Donnell for 8 years of service in various responsibilities; Robert Scenna for improving the newsletter and timely editing and publishing; Wynelle Scenna for 5 years of service in various responsibilities; Karen Wolkoff for 2 years of outstanding performance as Volunteer Program Coordinator.

After the meeting, slides and movies of past years volunteer activities were shown.

As a finale to the meeting, a plaque was presented by Lillian Beauvais commemorating those who had held the office of President. All three - David Dann, Suzanne Gall Marsh, and George Marsh were present. In making the presentation, Lillian Beauvais related how she felt instrumental in affecting the meeting, a few years ago of Suzanne Gall and George Marsh, whose relationships with the Friends blossomed into a recent marriage.

The Annual Meeting adjourned to the Beacon House library where all were invited to join George and Suzanne for a reception in celebration of their marriage.

--Paul Nyren



## Boston Harbor - 1840

The following quote is taken from James Silk Buckingham's "The Eastern and Western States of America" published in London, 1842.

"Having engaged our passage for Augusta, the capitol of Maine, we embarked (at Boston) in the afternoon for the Kennebec River. The vessel was small and crank, and excessively crowded with cargo on deck, besides having upwards of two hundred passengers, and very scanty accommodations. She was reputed, however, to be the fastest boat in the Northern waters, and had encountered some heavy gales without damage; so that we hoped for the best, especially as the wind was favourable, the water smooth, and the night closing in with every promise of fair and steady weather.

"As we left the wharf, and stood down the harbour or bay of Boston, the sight of the city was very imposing. It was one of those rich autumnal sunsets so common in this country which leaves the whole of the western sky suffused with a clear and glowing red and orange tint, and against this background the tall spires of the numerous churches and the noble dome of the state house or capitol, crowning the Beacon-hill, stood out in the boldest relief, while the numerous vessels that thronged the city wharfs, the navy yard at Charlestown, with the surrounding suburbs of South and East Boston and the villages and separate mansions studding the neighboring hills, formed altogether a glorious marine picture, such as Claude or Stanfield might have delighted to transfer to their canvas.

"Our progress down the bay, and among the numerous islands that guard its entrance, with the scattered forts and batteries protecting the several passages to and from the ocean, was a continued scene of interest; and when we cleared them all, and bore up our eastern course for Maine, the night was exquisitely beautiful, the moon being at the full, and giving a light hardly inferior to that of an English winter's day, while the stars literally poured down a flood of radiance on the waters. . ."

--John Lockhead



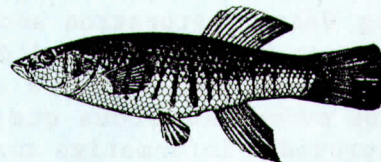
## Photo Contest

The results of the photo contest are out! All members received the proof of this in their Annual Meeting postcard announcement. We received many beautiful slides and prints and have added them all to our library for future exhibits. These were all mounted and on display at the Annual Meeting.

The winner was Robert Scenna for his photo taken from Georges Island during last year's volunteer orientation.

The judging was done by three non-members (two being experienced photographers and one being the publisher of the postcard, who was able to provide insight into what makes a good postcard picture). Many thanks to all who entered! Thanks to you we have increased the quality and quantity of our exhibits.

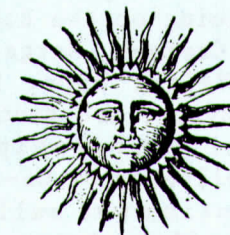
--Membership Committee



## Spring Outing to Great Brewster

Save Sunday, April 27, 1986 for the Friends Annual Spring Outing. Destination is the elusive Great Brewster Island. Please note a later than usual departure time of 11:00 AM - return c.5:00 PM. Bring a picnic and dress for island weather conditions. The boat leaves from Boston Harbor Cruises, 1 Long Wharf. Tickets are \$8 adults; Children under 12 are \$5. Senior citizens, students, and Friends get a \$1 discount. The trip is sponsored by the Fund-raising Committee.

--Suzanne Gall Marsh





# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS STATE PARK

Would you like to

- Camp overnight on an island and watch the sunset over the Boston skyline?
- Help thousands of visitors explore the Boston Harbor Islands?
- Meet lots of new people and develop new skills?
- Work to preserve the rich natural and historical past of Boston's unique urban park?

You can! By joining the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands Volunteer Program. No special skills are needed, just a love of the outdoors and a willingness to commit three weekends or five weekend days of your time this summer.

Since 1979, the FBHI volunteers have worked alongside the Park staff to greet visitors, give island tours, provide information about the Park, and perform vital trail and beach maintenance.

We have opportunities for both daytime and overnight camping assignments. We provide transportation, training and uniforms.

The Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands is a non-profit organization that promotes awareness of the Islands through harbor cruises, art exhibits, special events, and the Volunteer Program.

April 22nd 6-9pm  
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE  
Learn about the Volunteer Program, see a  
slide show of volunteers at work, meet  
volunteers and park staff.  
(Refreshments.)  
19 Myrtle at Joy Street, Beacon Hill-  
Boston

I'm interested in the FBHI Volunteer Program. Please  
send me an application. \_\_\_\_\_ Please call me. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
Friends of the Boston Harbor Isl.  
VPC  
PO Box 9025  
Boston, MA 02114  
523-8386



# Annual Spring Trip to Surf-Beaten Great Brewster



Boat departs 11:00 Sunday April 27

Long Wharf - Boston Harbor Cruises - 227-4321

Return: approximately 5:30 to Long Wharf

Reservations not required - Tickets sold dockside:

(\$1 discount for Friend's members,  
senior citizens & groups of 10 or more)

Adults \$8  
Children under 12 \$5

Program Activities - Island Tours:

Living History

Island Flora

Social & Natural History

bring a picnic lunch  
come and have a wonderful day



523-8386



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

We believe that our members belong to the Friends because they wish to protect the islands while also promoting the enjoyment that is felt by being involved with this unique environment. We are following an old American custom of banding together to magnify our individual efforts to better our way of life. Our diverse membership provides assistance to the Greater Boston community and the Boston Harbor Islands State Park through volunteers, interpretative services, and public education.

Part of our dues goes to maintaining the organization and the rest helps support our mission for the Harbor Park: to encourage public use, balanced with an awareness of the need to protect this fragile ecosystem and historic environment.

Your membership entitles you to:

- boat ticket discounts
- FBHI newsletters
- island volunteering
- act in a Living History performance
- learn more about the islands
- opportunities to make new friends
- special activities
- discounts on items sold by FBHI

It is only through your support and active presence that the FBHI will succeed in reaching its goals in this, our eighth year. Send your check made out to the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc., today--we'll send you your red 1986 membership card by return mail. Check with your company's personnel office to see if they will match your tax deductible donation.

"Bring a friend to the Friends"

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ day  
eve

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### TYPES OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

Note: Memberships and donations are tax deductible

Economy \$6 \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$28 \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

We will send you a membership card.

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Tax Deductible Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about us?

#### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(please check)

\_\_\_\_\_ Island Overnight weekends (June-September)

\_\_\_\_\_ Island Daytime (June-September)

\_\_\_\_\_ Living History programs

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter/Writing skills

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership Activities/Clerical

\_\_\_\_\_ Finance/Fund Raising/Publicity/Cruises

\_\_\_\_\_ Exhibit preparation/Art skills

\_\_\_\_\_ Other:

Please mail application with check payable to:

Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.  
PO Box 9025  
Boston, MA 02114

### Calendar of Events

- March 22 - Long Island Reunion/Picnic (1985 Volunteers). Reservations only.
- March 27 - Volunteer Program Committee Meeting 7:00 PM at the Beacon House.
- April 10 - Membership Committee meeting. 6:00 PM at the Beacon House.
- April 17 - Open House for environmental groups at the Beacon House.
- April 19 & 20 - Island Spring Clean-Up Days. Call the office for further details. Co-sponsored by the DEM, MDC, and the Friends.
- April 22 - Open House on the Island Volunteer Program. 6:00 - 9:00 PM.
- April 27 - Annual Spring Outing to Great Brewster Island. 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM.
- May 4 - Informal boat trip to harbor islands (intro to park).
- May 8 - Membership Committee meeting. 6:00 PM at the Beacon House.
- June 1 - Newsletter Deadline. Send contributions to Robert Scenna, 24 Piedmont St., Arlington, MA 02174.
- June 23 - First Island Sunset Supper Cruise of the summer.

Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9025  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)-523-8386



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FIRST CLASS

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