



# Tidings

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS, INC.

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## Harbor History Lecture Series

The Friends are cosponsoring a three part lecture series with The Bostonian Society.

- Tuesday, May 12, Dr. William Fowler Jr., Professor at Northeastern University and noted author, will speak on **"The Golden Age of Sail - the Revolution through the Civil War."**

- Thursday, May 28, Mr. Don Swann, Supervisor of Interpretive Services for the MDC will speak on **"The Age of Decline - post Civil War"**.

- Wednesday, June 10, Ms. Lorraine Downey, Director of the City of Boston Environment Department and Chairman of the Mayor's Harborpark Advisory Committee, will speak on **"Boston Harbor: Now and in the year 2000"**.

These lectures will be held at the Old State House (Washington and State St) and will begin at 6:30 PM and last about one hour with a reception following. Invitations with advance registration forms will be mailed to each member, but people are welcome to pay at the door. Member prices are \$2 each, nonmembers \$4. Memberships will be available also. For more information call the Friends' office, 523-8386.

## 1987 Board of Directors

Edward Barron	Suzanne Gall Marsh
Kay Beebe	George Marsh
Bill Beebe	Catherine McCafferty
David Carey	Karen O'Donnell
Steve Ells	John Stevens
Diane Greaney	Rich Williams
Blossom Hoag	Judith Wolfe

Alternate Board Members:

Marian MacLennan  
Wynelle Scenna  
Priscilla Williams

## Harbor Island Cleanup

The time has come for the islands to clean up and put on their spring look! Everyone is welcome to help with the Spring Clean up of the islands on Saturday, April 18, 1987. We will meet at Bay State Cruises, Long Wharf at 10:00 AM for the boat to Gallops and Lovells, and at Mass Bay Lines, Hingham at 10:00 AM for the boat to Grape and Bumpkin. You will be returning to the mainland by 4:00 PM.

Wear your cleaning clothes. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Remember to bring lunch, beverage, and water. Warm sunny days on the harbor mean you should also find your sunscreen and lip balm.

The boats are FREE, no reservations are necessary, so come and join us as we clean up the islands for the 1987 season.



## Land Day - 1987

Tuesday, April 28 there will be a Rally for the Environment at the State House in Boston. The purpose of this event is to demonstrate public support for protection of open space, agricultural land, state and local parks, urban parks, beaches, endangered species habitat, aquifer land, and river fronts. The days events include: 10AM - Tour of the State House, 11AM - Introduction to the Legislative Process, 12 noon - the EVENT - program with refreshments. Beginning at 1PM the afternoon is available for visits with legislators (set up meetings in advance). For more information call the Mass. Audubon Society at 367-1026 or the Environmental Lobby of Massachusetts at 742-2553.



## Boston Harbor Monitoring Program

Would you like a different volunteer opportunity? Organized by the Alliance for Boston Harbor Action the Boston Harbor Monitoring Program is a cooperative effort of citizens and nonprofit organizations whose purpose is to find solutions to the pollution problems plaguing Boston Harbor. This pilot monitoring program combines the efforts of the Boston Harbor Associates, FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS, New England Aquarium, Save the Harbor-Save the Bay, Massachusetts Bay Marine Studies Consortium, Massachusetts Audubon Society, and Northeastern University.

Monitoring is done on a weekly, two hour basis by groups of two or three citizen volunteers under the direction of a trained team leader. There are five on- and offshore test sites in the Boston, Quincy, and Dorchester Bay areas, where volunteers actively collect scientific data on the harbor's water quality. This data serves as a baseline for scientists to measure the progress being made, or not being made, by those involved in the harbor cleanup.

The volunteers have been very enthusiastic, and represent neighborhoods across Boston and the South Shore. They are all ages and bring varied educational backgrounds to the monitoring sessions. All volunteers have received hands on experience as part of their training. Data sheets are kept with the scientific information and individual comments from those who participated on weather conditions and any relevant data.

What next? Nahant volunteers will begin testing in Broad Sound shortly upon completion of their training. In July the Boston Harbor Monitoring program will be expanding to Deer Island Flats. Three members of the Friends, Mary Lunsford, Pat Embree, and Sue Smith, are participating. Interested members of the Friends are welcome and should call the Mass. Audubon Society office at 367-1026, to find out how to be a volunteer in the Monitoring Program.

Remember the polluted harbor water washes the shores of our islands twice every day. Help with the Citizens Monitoring Program so that by the year 2000 we can tell visitors: "Yes, you can swim in Boston Harbor".

--Audre' Parker, Co-op Student, NE Univ.

--Nancy Martin

## 19th Century Harbor Island Book Reissued

This spring, the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc., in association with Applewood Books, Inc., will reprint THE KING'S HANDBOOK OF BOSTON HARBOR by M.F. Sweetser. This classic history of Boston Harbor originally was published in 1882. A second edition was published in 1883, and the third edition, which we will reprint, was published in 1888.

Moses Foster Sweetser (1848-1897) was the author of 19 guidebooks about New England as well as several other literary, artistic and historical works. THE KING'S HANDBOOK OF BOSTON HARBOR describes all of the islands and the harbor environs from Hull to Nantasket to Dorchester and points eastward. In 11 chapters (302 pages) the reader is introduced to places and points of interest all around the harbor, including each of the harbor islands and such communities as Quincy, East Boston, and Winthrop. Sweetser's account is interspersed with fascinating historical facts and numerous illustrations, (Imagine traveling around the islands by steamboat for only ten cents!).

THE KING'S HANDBOOK OF BOSTON HARBOR is a wonderful guide to the Boston Harbor Islands as they were 100 years ago. The book reaffirms that the islands, as we know them today, have been a unique natural and recreational resource for thousands of visitors for well over a century.

The Friends are delighted to be re-issuing this guidebook. We hope that you will want to add it to your collection of books on the Boston Harbor Islands. The reprint edition will be published in soft-cover at a price of \$9.95 (Members will receive a 20% discount). It will be on sale at Friend's events and at local book-stores.

--Wendy Hawkes

"On every side the green islands rest  
Fair emeralds on a sapphire plain  
Full of poetic charm and artistic diversity  
And ahead is the great sea, vague, vast and dreamy."

--M.F. Sweetser





### Notes from Nancy's Diary

The Volunteer Committee continues to meet and plan for a successful 1987 season. A number of new people responded to the plea for help with newsletter mailings, Don Hovey, Bill Connell, Janet Burgermeister, Gertrude Lutz, and Fred Johnsen. This committee is always open to new helpers.

George O'Brien had a great day with 125 kids on an MDC sponsored trip to Georges Island during school vacation week. During February and March I shared the "Friends Island Slide Show" with the residents of Beacon House, the womens group at Emmanuel's Church in Wakefield, the AARP in Lexington, and the Cambridge Council of Boy Scouts. Thanks to Fred Johnsen and Paul Nyren for co-presenting with me.

March 7th was a wonderful touch of spring for me. The weather was mild and the bay like a mill pond as we headed to Georges Island on the Gracious Lady. Members of the Friends assisted with the tours both Saturday and Sunday. The picnic tables were in use at noon as we enjoyed the first picnic of 1987. Some visitors saw the beautiful Snowy Owl, others thought they heard the rustling of the Lady in Black as we explored the dark passageways of Ft. Warren.

March 14th found some of us at North Station waiting for the train to take us to the Peabody Museum in Salem for the first of the bird training series. John Nove designed a neat scavenger hunt around the museum. Answers to questions like "How long does it take a gull to reach adult plumage?" and "Which is larger a Herring Gull or a Great Black-Backed Gull?" were sought by the volunteers. We enjoyed socializing over lunch at a local restaurant. Remember all members are welcome at the various training sessions, please call the office for details.

I attended the opening of the Boston Harbor Exhibit at the Aquarium, representing the Friends. As an Aquarium Volunteer I interpreted the exhibit to visitors on Family Night, and I assisted at a thank-you party for the Boston Harbor Monitoring Volunteers.

The New England Environmental Conference was held at Tufts in Medford on March 21 and 22. The Friends were represented by Diane Greaney and Donna Harvey. Donald Conant, a member of the Friends, attending the conference came by the table and enthusiastically assisted both days.

Steve Ells, a new board member, was the moderator for the workshop on Boston Harbor Cleanup and Update, thank you Steve for your help in transporting the brochures and pictures.

--Nancy Martin  
Coordinator of Volunteers and Membership

### Camp Stove

How would you like to have a camp stove that is cheap, simple and very useful? It's a charcoal stove that you can make from an old "tin can".

The typical charcoal hibachi is useful for grilling, toasting, etc., but doesn't provide enough concentration of heat to boil water and it is usually bulky and heavy.

This light weight "tin can" stove can induce a higher intensity of heat to provide for greater cooking diversity and it is easy to make.

Start with a large food or beverage can, preferably one gallon size, the larger the better, or use a piece of stovepipe about one foot long. Cut out both ends, or at least the top end, of the can. About midheight of the can drill or punch holes through both sides in two sets of holes at right angles to each other.

Drill, punch, or cut a series of holes, about 1/2 inch in size around the can, close to the top and also close to the bottom. These are air circulation holes. Trim or flatten all protruding sharp edges.

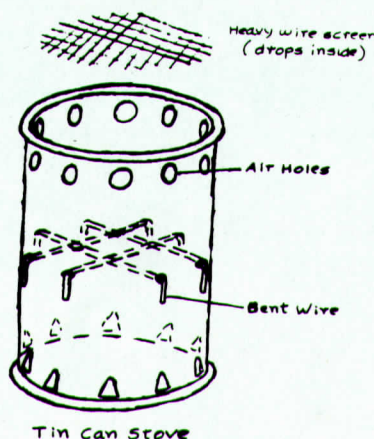
Cut off pieces of clothes hanger wire and push a piece through each set of holes around the middle; leave enough wire protruding at each side to bend down to hold in place.

Cut out a piece of heavy screening and place it inside on the criss-cross wires to hold the charcoal up.

Charcoal loaded into the top may be ignited by burning loosely packed tinder in the bottom or with lighter fluid. Set your lighted stove on rocks or dirt so as not to burn the grass, table, etc.

Don't forget the charcoal.

--Paul Nyren





## Calendar

(FBHI sponsored events are marked "\*". "\*\*" requires registration. Call the office for details 523-8386)

\* April 18 - Island Cleanup. Leave Long Wharf or Hingham at 10:00 AM. Free.

- April 22 - July 9 - Boston Harbor Paintings and Photography at Boston National Historical Park. Call 242-5601.

- April 24 - Voyage of the Mimi - Lowell Lecture Series at NE Aquarium

- April 25 - Georges Island opens.

- April 25 & 26 - Ship Model Maker Symposium. USS Constitution Museum. Call 426-1812.

\*\* April 26 - Rescheduled Long Island Trip.

- April 28 - Land Day. State House 10:00.

\*\* May 1 - Tidepool training, Classroom.

- May 1 - Exploring Antarctica by Sail - Lowell Lecture Series at NE Aquarium.

\* May 3 - Volunteer Open House, Hingham 2-4:00 PM.

\*\* May 8 - Tidepool training, Aquarium.

- May 8 - Adrift - Lowell Lecture Series at NE Aquarium.

\*\* May 9 - Tidepool training, on island.

\* May 12 - Dr. William Fowler Jr., "The Golden Age of Sail - the Revolution through the Civil War." Held at the Old State House at 6:30 PM. \$2, nonmembers \$4.

\*\* May 15 - Wildflower Training, classroom.

\* May 16 - Georges Island. 10:00 AM from Long Wharf, BHC. \$2.

\* May 17 - Great Brewster Boat Trip.

\*\* May 19 - Volunteer Training 6-8:30 PM.

- May 23 - Water Taxis begin operating.

\*\* May 24 - Wildflower Training, Museum.

\* May 28 - Mr. Don Swann, "The Age of Decline - Post Civil War". Held at the Old State House at 6:30 PM. \$2, nonmembers \$4.

\*\* May 29 - Volunteer Training 6-8:30 PM.

\* May 30 - Little Brewster Boat Trip.

\*\* May 31 - Volunteer Training 2-4:30 PM.

\*\* June 1 - First Aid Course.

\* June 1 - **Newsletter deadline.** Send articles to Robert Scenna, 24 Piedmont St., Arlington, MA 02174 (643-8279 evs.).

\*\* June 7 - Wildflower Training, on island.

\*\* June 8 - First Aid Course.

\* June 10 - Ms. Lorraine Downey, "Boston Harbor: Now and in the Year 2000". Held at the Old State House at 6:30 PM. \$2, nonmembers \$4.

\*\* June 12 - Bird training session, classroom.

\*\* June 14 - Bird training, on island.

\*\* June 16 - Volunteer Training 6-8:30 PM.

\*\* June 19-21 - Volunteer Overnight Orientation.

\* June 22 - Little Brewster, Sunset Series.

- July 1-5 - Harborfest '87.

\* July 6 - Great Brewster, Sunset Series.

\* July 20 - Bumpkin, Sunset Series.

\* August 3 Peddocks, Sunset Series.

\* August 17 - Lovells, Sunset Series.

\* August 31 - Gallops, Sunset Series.

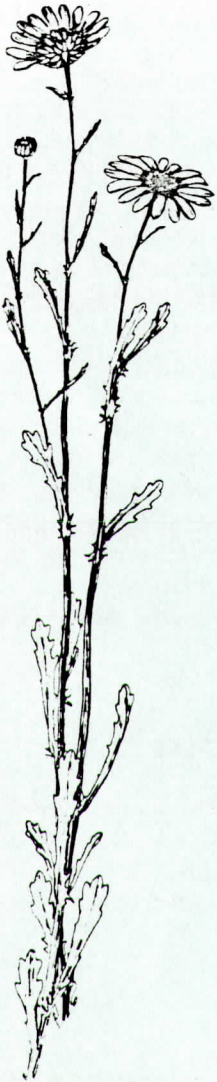
- September 17 - Harborpark Day at Christopher Columbus Park. BRA. Call 723-2282.

- September 19 - October 12 - Coastweek.

\* October 3 - Great Brewster Boat Trip.

\* October 24 - Little Brewster Boat Trip.

# MEMBERSHIP FORM



We believe that our members belong to the Friends because they wish to protect the Boston Harbor 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 Tidings
- 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

We have many expanded and new activities planned for this year. It is only through your support and active presence that the FBHI will succeed in reaching its goals in this, our ninth year. Send your check made out to the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc., today--we'll send you your 1987 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  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ eve

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 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/Cruises  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibit preparation/Art skills  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

Additional Tax Deductible Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 How did you find out about us?

Please mail application with check payable to:  
 Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.  
 PO Box 9025  
 Boston, MA 02114



### Happenings at Hewitts

On Saturday, March 28, nine members of the Board of Directors and the Volunteer Committee visited the Friend's Hewitts Cove site and discussed the possibilities that a South Shore base has to offer. Located in a building next to DEM headquarters, the 2nd floor space will be divided between the Friends and Mass. Bay Lines. The Friends began the process of acquiring use of the space in 1985, and now have a five year Special Use Permit. We even have our logo on the door!

Right now, the space needs a lot of work. In addition to cleanup - the space is full of old furniture, (usable) shelves and partitions, promotional material and cooking equipment from the Mass. Seafood Council, and ample evidence of visiting pigeons -- the space needs a new roof, new windows, new wiring, and probably a new floor. On the brighter side, Brian Shanahan, (DEM) Park Supervisor, told us that the DEM has money for a new roof and will be putting it on in late spring. It was suggested that building supply companies could be approached for donations of materials for repairs.

In discussing the issue, the Friends

agreed that the growth potential for Hewitts Cove and the value of a location there far outweighed the site's present dilapidated state. Bill Beebe will head a task force that will plan and implement development of the space. George O'Brien will be project manager for Hewitt's Cove. His immediate concern is to seal the windows and clean out the space.

The June issue of Tidings will have more information on Hewitts Cove. Anyone attending the South Shore Open House on May 3 (2-4 PM) will have a chance to see the site for themselves...and maybe pick up one of the Mass. Seafood Council's (weather-beaten) brochures on how to prepare a pollock or golden fried squid rings.

--Catherine McCafferty

### Information Sharing

Robert P. Toland, Historian, Castle Island Assoc. will present a lecture titled The Heritage of Castle Island, Tuesday May 12 at 2:00 at the West End Branch Library, 151 Cambridge St., Boston.

Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.  
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