



Tidings

November 2009

**Newsletter of the
VOLUNTEERS and
FRIENDS of the
BOSTON HARBOR
ISLANDS, Inc.**

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www.fbhi.org**



**HELP THE FRIENDS
GO GREEN!
See page 2**

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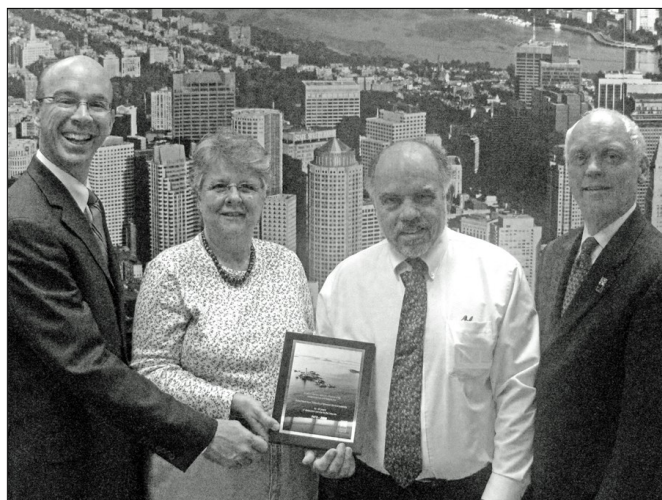
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November Harbor Series!

"Midday at the Meeting House"—Special Harbor Series in November at 12:15 PM on the following days at the Old South Meeting House: Island Hopping: Three Islands Through Time. This series is presented in collaboration with the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands. **Thursday, Nov. 5**, Spectacle Island & Its Native American Past; **Thursday, November 12**, Rainsford Island: "Mercy's Dwelling Place"; **Thursday, November 19**, Girls Night Out of the 1890s. All programs are \$5; Free for OSMH and FBHI members. See www.fbhi.org for details.

Congratulations, Friends!

At the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership meeting on May 19, 2009, the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands were recognized for 30 years of service. The award read in part: "The Boston Harbor Island Partnership congratulates and thanks [FBHI] for 30 years of service to the islands."



(Above) James Hunt, Chair of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership, Suzanne Gall Marsh, Steve Marcus and Bruce Jacobson, Superintendent of the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area

From the Chairman — Steve Marcus

It is quiet beside our big saltwater pond. The ferries have stopped running. Private boats are out of the water. The rangers are off the islands. Park facilities are buttoned up. Volunteers from the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands no longer face thousands of visitors who seek the grandeurs of a national park with questions such as "where are the snack bars?"

I know this can sound forced but, please, look me in the eye and know that I and the management as a whole are genuinely proud of you, the other volunteers, and the larger membership who stand behind the volunteers in the field.

(Continued on page 2)

I assure you those friends from our sister agencies noticed as well.

The trust you have built will allow us to start up several exciting new programs next year and reinvigorate services offered by the Friends in the past.

You can help us continue the growth in energy by contributing generously to an organization that preserves one of the region's most valuable and educational resources. And, unlike other organizations we will not press you to contribute instantly. We will give you ... how long does it take you to read three pages? The forms are contained in this newsletter.

As you head out for the winter, be well and thank you. Please come back next year and bring a friend or four.

But you need not leave behind your enjoyment of the park. We plan several lectures, panels, dinners and celebrations this winter. We invite you to join with your friends from the Friends throughout the year. When you do start back, begin with a visit to the Friends 30th anniversary display. It will remind you of all FBHI does and what a difference it has made

While we are entering a process to enhance our services there will be an impressive number of changes to park structures starting now and continuing for several years. We will try to bring you up to date in the next few tidings. A few are listed in the table below.

Construction	Location
The harbor island pavilion will be the first construction on the Greenway and a new gateway to the park.	Rose Kennedy Greenway.
Gut the existing Administration building and build a second structure beside it.	Georges Island administration and mine cable building. This complex is intended to be a visitor center with far more customer comfort, service and programs.
	A large maintenance garage has been built at the south end of Ft. Warren. It is intended to serve all the DCR islands.
At least one building will be demolished as unsafe. Four more are scheduled to be repaired.	Fort Andrews, Peddocks Island.
Peddocks Cottages. No immediate plans are written, but the new strategic plan calls for some long term renovation of some cottages	Middle Head of Peddocks.
Design work and fundraising have begun.	Renovation of Pier on Fort Warren.
Minot's Ledge Light has been designated for disposal.	Minots Ledge Light, outside the park but within the Park's view shed.

The Boston Harbor Islands National Park Partnership has adopted a strategic plan for the period from now through 2016. The plan focuses on activities of the 13 partner agencies. The Friends participated actively in the development of the plan and expect to support what is implemented. For a copy of the plan, follow the link below www.nps.gov/boha/parkmgmt/planning.htm



Help the Friends Go Green! To save money and trees, we have converted to an online *e-Tidings*. So PLEASE make sure we have your email. If you're not sure, email us your contact information at info@fbhi.org. If you do not have email, we'll continue to mail bimonthly Tidings updates in paper form.

Greetings from the Coordinator of Volunteers, Carol J. Fithian

Our 30th season of providing volunteer service to the park has been a good one, despite rainy weather and program cancellations. Lots of Friends volunteers were involved with exciting activities on the islands. We had over 80 volunteers giving 6,000 hours of service to the park.

It is always a fabulous experience for me to watch new volunteers formulate their relationship with the islands and find the island that is the special place for them. Each discovers his or her own personal connection to a particular island and it is an observable moment when they know they have found "their" island. It makes volunteer training so rewarding because people come not sure of what they will do or how they will fit in, and as the season progresses they form their bond. It always happens. It is the best part of the coordinator's job to see the change occur. My slightly clichéd line when I am training a new volunteer is: "Volunteering on the islands will make you different." The wonderful thing is that it really does.

Many of you have seen the Ken Burns program on the National Parks by now, a great program that conveys the specialness of the National Park concept. I am proud to say that I can see this happen right within our own small but treasured organization. The islands make us all different because we can take the knowledge of them that has been accumulated over time and pass it on. That is how we make a difference.

Projects for 2010

We are developing new and exciting programs and projects. We will be working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to put together a program focusing on the history of farming on the Boston Harbor Islands. This concept is intriguing and encompassing as you explore it beneath the surface. You can then see how far back the story takes you. A picture is painted of the sustenance that the islands have given us and continue to bring to us on so many levels. If any of you would like to participate in

this please contact the Friends office.



Carol Fithian on the job

Preserving What We Have

We all know that pile of stuff, that cabinet filled to overflowing, those boxes containing pictures, articles—our "harborstash." Most of us have one in some manner or another, and the question arises, "what to do with it" as it grows and takes over our space. The project would be to begin to gather these items from those wishing to have them preserved and begin the process of sorting and archiving them. This is a large task and will take some time but it is an important task in documenting the history of the Friends of the Boston Harbor Island. We will be looking for volunteers to help with this and finding funds to help with the preservation costs. We as Friends are a valuable resource to the islands and what we have gathered because we love them is valuable as well! If you have ideas to contribute to this project, please contact the Friends office.

2009 Boat Trips



Despite the awful weather this year, the FBHI hosted a number of successful trips, including a series of sunset cruises and very successful tours of Rainsford Island. Many thanks go to FBHI boat trip volunteers: David Din-

gledy, Rab Sherman, Jeanne Leary, Marguerite Krupp, Ken Stein and Suzanne Gall Marsh. Tour leaders Ellen Berkland, Elizabeth Carella and Allen Gontz did an extraordinary job in unlocking the mysteries of Rainsford

Island to a rapt audience. Kicking everything off was the 30th anniversary boat cruise. Many thanks to Boston Harbor Cruises for donating the boat *M/V Frederick L. Nolan Jr.* for the April 30th event. The NPS/BOHA also distributed Nixes Mate pins that were much coveted!

Edward Rowe Snow Day 2009 — Article by Stephanie Schorow

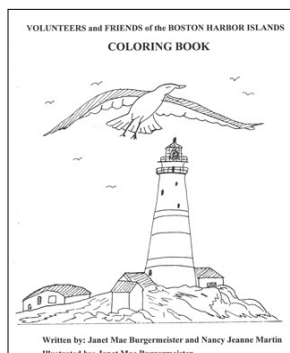


Scenes from E.R. Snow Day 2009 with Santa, Dorothy Snow Bicknell and Jeremy D'Entremont, and Mr. Snow himself during one of his birthday celebrations.

What an honor it was for me to be asked by John Forbes to speak at this year's Edward Rowe Snow Day on Aug. 23. I feel a great kinship to the historian/radio personality/guide/writer who did so much to save the islands that we all love. This year's event was marked by a special event: Flying Santa made an appearance by helicopter, delighting both young and old. Many thanks go to Friends of Flying Santa and Brian Tague for making this happen. The master of ceremonies for the event was Jeremy D'Entremont, author of numerous books on New England's lighthouses and coastal history, and special guest was Dorothy Snow Bicknell who was both eloquent and hilarious in telling stories of her famous father. The cake she brought was enjoyed by all. Jeremy was his usual well-organized and articulate self and I think all the members of the audience

learned more about Snow and his many accomplishments. I was very privileged to say a few words about the power of story telling and how creating narratives about the islands helps to deepen our understanding of the park. I also got my photo taken with Santa near his helicopter! Even for this adult, it was a thrill to watch him land.

At Snow Day, we were also delighted to see, hot off the press, the first copies of the Islands Coloring book, a reprint of a coloring book written by Janet Mae Burgermeister and Nancy Jeanne Martin and illustrated by Burgermeister. The reproduction of the coloring book was a joint effort between the Friends (with thanks to Larissa Fawkner) and the National Park Service. The young people in attendance were very appreciative.



Special THANKS go to the NPS/BOHA for printing 800 copies of the coloring book and especially Mary Raczek who worked on the project with the FBHI team of Larissa, Suzanne, Janet and Nancy.

A Garden Grows On Long Island

The Friends tackled another new project this summer. The staff of Long Island generously donated a strip of land in the agriculture area of Long Island to the Friends for some kind of project. This happened well into the spring so Katherine Fogarty, Carol Fithian, Steve Marcus and Stephanie Schorow had to scramble to get something into the ground.

The decision was made to try to plant some vegetables, despite the late date and thanks to the generosity of Marini Farm on Linebrook Road in Ipswich and Bonnie's Gardens in Cambridge, volunteers planted corn, beans, pumpkins,

summer squash, winter squash and tomatoes. Katherine did a superb job in getting out to the plot on a regular basis to water and keep track of the growth. We lost the tomatoes to the blight that killed many of the tomato plants on Long Island and around New England and something – perhaps rodents – seemed to find the squash plants tasty. As Katherine reports, "Overall, we got 1 green bean, no tomatoes (blight), no corn (didn't grow big enough), 3 small summer squash (we had others that were picked or eaten by someone or something else), 7 small winter squash, and no pumpkins (planted too late)."

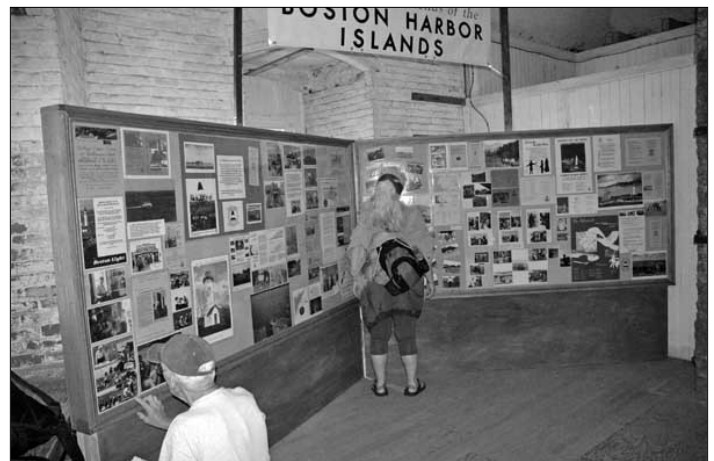


Photo by Katherine Fogarty

Given how late the garden was started, it is luck we got anything at all! More importantly, we can plan this winter for next spring. Perhaps we could try creating a butterfly haven or a "three sisters" garden or a pumpkin patch that would supply Halloween on the Harbor. What do you think? Send us your ideas. Many thanks to Erica La Fountain, Bob Dillon and Annie Burke for their help.

Sharing the Friends with Others

Suzanne Gall Marsh and carpenter extraordinaire Sean Gallagher, with input from Larissa Fawkner, put together an exhibit of photos, brochures and other memorabilia from the Friends' eventful 30-year history. The exhibit was installed within the walls of Fort Warren on Georges Island where it helped to tell visitors about the history of the group that has done so much to preserve and protect the islands – and have a good time in the process. Incidentally, work is in full swing on the new visitor center at Georges, and we are hopeful that the result will be a marvelous introduction to the islands. Many thanks to the DCR for transportation and space and to the Boston Marine Society for funding. Special recognition goes to Susan Kane, Denise Sarno-Bucca and Tim Getchell.



The exhibit at Fort Warren on Georges Island with photos and other memories of 30 years of service

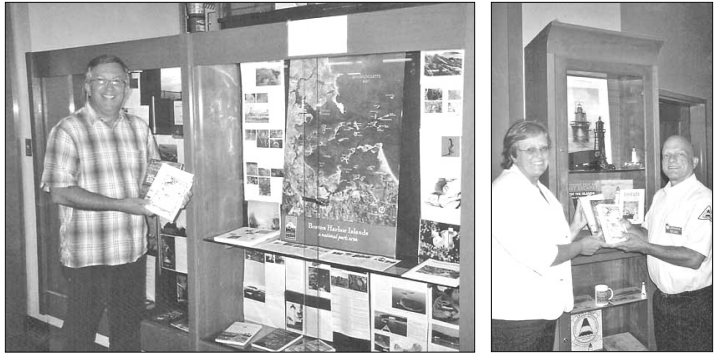
Feedback

This has been a pivotal year for the Friends. The board is planning an intensive all-day meeting on Nov. 21 to look at the future of the organization and decide what direction to take in the next 30 years. We are preparing a survey to send to members for feedback.



The Library Legacy Project

The Library Legacy Project is going extremely well. Copies of Harbor-related books were delivered to more than 60 public libraries this summer and copies will also be delivered to Harbor-Connection School libraries this winter. Additionally Kevin Rogers did a magnificent job in setting up Harbor Island exhibits in libraries in New England, including Halifax, Hanson, Randolph, Pembroke, Hanover, Kingston, Whitman, Abington, Middleboro, Raynham and Stoughton. If your local library would like an exhibit and books, drop a line to kevinsouthshore@gmail.com.



2009 In Photos!

Below: training on Peddocks, photo by David Dingledy; New Bedford Volunteer Thank-you event, photo by Ken Stein; Kate Rivera talks of growing up on Spectacle Island during a summer tour, photo by Stephanie Schorow.



Below: tours of Rainsford Island, led by Allen Gonz, Elizabeth Carella, and Ellen Berkland. Photos by Ken Stein



Below: Marguerite Krupp with cake, Skip Empey and Jeanne Leary with Suduko Lighthouse Quilt made by Martha Empey; and Volunteers at New Bedford Whaling Museum thank-you event



Friends Membership Application and Donation Form

Friends members receive:

- Ticket discounts with a variety of Boston Harbor Boat Companies
- *Tidings* Newsletter and *e-Tidings* updates
- Volunteer opportunities on land, sea, and the islands
- 10% discount at the Island Alliance/Park store at Fan Pier
- Discounts on all Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands merchandise.

Membership Levels

____ New	____ Sustaining \$75
____ Renew	____ Patron \$150
____ Individual \$25	____ Donor \$250
____ Family/Dual \$40	____ Benefactor \$500

Memberships at Sustaining or higher levels are entitled to a gift. Call 781-740-4290 for details.

Please make checks payable to FBHI

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I'd like to contribute \$_____ to the FBHI Annual Appeal

Total payment \$_____

Join the Friends by mailing this form with a check or money order to:

Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, 349 Lincoln Street, Building 45, Hingham, MA 02243-1601

Be a Friend this Holiday Season!

Dear Friend of the Boston Harbor Islands:

The Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands appreciate your support. People like you make our efforts on behalf of the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area both possible and worthwhile.

Because of your generous contributions, our members have helped visitors to the Boston Harbor Islands National Park to:

- Learn about the islands through information booths and guided tours;
- Enjoy hiking the islands on trails kept free of tree limbs, brush, and undergrowth;
- Find the perfect spot for an island campfire or campsite; and
- Become activists and advocates for the preservation and care of our island heritage.

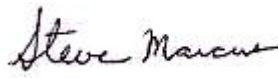
Now, the Friends are at a crucial juncture. After 30 years of service and advocacy, we are facing new challenges in a struggling economy and in determining our role for the future. We face ever-increasing costs to our services, especially with fuel expenses for the boats needed for our cruises. We are working hard to in-

crease our use of new Internet technologies to reach out to the next generation. Our mission remains clear and our resolve steadfast: to sustain the Boston Harbor Islands as invaluable resources of history and recreation for you, for your children, and for the generations to come.

But we need your help more than ever before.

This year, we are including our annual appeal letter in *Tidings* to save on printing and postage. Please send your check made out to FBHI to the office. A tax-deductible gift of \$25, \$50, or \$250 will be more than welcome and acknowledged. When you are considering your holiday charitable giving, please consider the Friends, who have spent three decades working to preserve and enhance the Boston Harbor Islands so that these precious jewels can continue to be a source of joy and education.

Thank you once again for supporting the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands. We look forward to seeing you during our 2010 season.



Steven S. Marcus
Chairman



Suzanne Gall Marsh
Founder



NonProfit Organization

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Return Address Requested

Save the date: Seafarers' Island Holiday, January 1 or 2, 2010

Mission Statement

Created in 1979, the Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands is a non-profit environmental and educational organization that encourages public use of the islands, balanced with the need to protect their fragile ecosystem and historic environment. Our diverse membership provides services to the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area through volunteer programs, public education and advocacy efforts.

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- Charlotte Knox
- Suzanne Gall Marsh, Founder
- Kevin Rogers
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