



Jan 4, 2018 flooded Constitution Marina parking lot, 1st of 2 "100 year" storms!

Happy Spring (?)

Yes, the photo to the left shows a flooded parking lot on the [record-breaking](#) January 4th storm in Boston/Charlestown. While we were lucky that our car was on slightly higher ground, several of our neighbors were not so lucky.

Several of the [islands suffered damage](#) to docks and piers, erosion has further damaged many of the islands as well, and the State DCR, Federal NPS and Boston Harbor

NOW are all doing what they can to repair the damage to get ready for the season.

With the hoped for soon to arrive spring, we can now draw our attention to the harbor and islands. There have been quite a [few articles](#) recently about Boston's planning for [sea-level rise](#) - and the city has some efforts close to ready to happen.

You may have seen Mayor Walsh's announcement last week about a plan to "rebuild" the [Long Island Bridge](#) and to put some opioid and other social service programs back on the island. While the press announced anywhere from \$80-100 million dollars for "rebuilding" the bridge (the bridge was demolished), the cost will be much higher, so it is not clear how or when the project might happen - but it is encouraging at this point. It would seem that [Quincy](#) continues to protest the bridge though. When I was on Long Island working last summer, I was surprised to find the farm was in operation, lawns mowed, the electrical power on and even the fire station seemed to be staffed. Reopening the island with limited access at least is certainly better than no access at all.

Please take a moment and read about all the trips, opportunities and events that are scheduled so far for the harbor and islands. Our annual meeting is one of our biggest events and our friend Bob Mannino from the Nantucket Lightship will be a wonderful speaker - make your reservation for the Annual Meeting and any Citizen Science opportunities soon as they're all going to be "sold out" or full to capacity!

Have a wonderful spring!

Yours,
Walter Hope, Chairman FBHI



Walter, Pat, Rab & Paul at the 2018 Boat Show

Annual Meeting

FBHI Annual Meeting May 3rd

The Friends annual meeting will take place at the MWRA Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Historic Pump Station. There will be social time, a brief business meeting with an election of Board members. The guest speaker will be Bob Mannino, president of the [Nantucket Lightship/LV-112](#) in East Boston. He will show a power point presentation "U.S. Lightship Service 1820-1985". Light refreshments will be served and there will be a FBHI books and merchandise table. [Photos of the Lightship can be seen here.](#)



As a special treat the MWRA staff will offer tours up to the top of one of the digesters (only) before the meeting begins at 2:00. Top of the digester tours will begin at noon and go through 1:30. The meeting will begin at 2:00.

Pre-registration is required. Your name must be on the registration list when you check in at the MWRA Security Gate. RSVP by Thursday, May 3, 2018 at noon.

Please register **EVERY NAME** in your party when doing the Brown Paper Ticket reservation. The MWRA needs everyone in your party's name for the check-in list.

Come early and explore the perimeter park; and stay after the meeting to explore some more. The perimeter park has 5 miles of trails. Parking for the perimeter park has a separate parking lot than where the meeting will be held. You may explore the park first and then drive in through the Security Gate to the Historic Pump Station and park again there.

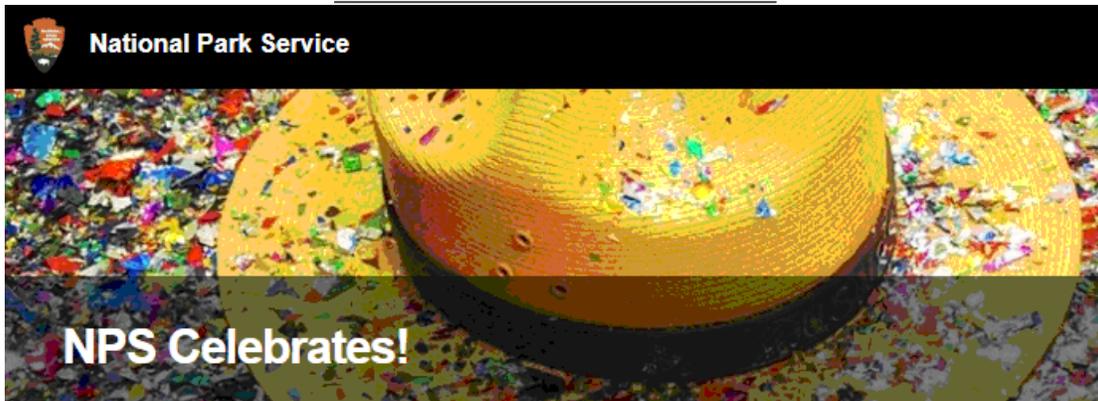
[REGISTER HERE](#)



Bob Mannino (center) on board the Nantucket Lightship

National Park Week - April 21-29

[Learn more about NPS Week Events!](#)



Saturday, April 28

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) invites you to attend DCR's Annual Park Serve Day, Saturday April 28, 2018 at parks across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

With the help of volunteers, DCR will spruce up park facilities, clean coastlines, clean and maintain trails, plant flowers, and more!

These valuable resources belong to all of us, and we can all take pride in them.

Since Park Serve Day began in 2006, tens of thousands of Massachusetts residents have helped to prepare Massachusetts state parks and beaches for the summer recreation season.

MASSACHUSETTS



PARK SERVE DAY

300 Hours!

The 2018 New England Boat Show had just over 46,000 attendees - Rab Sherman and a cast of volunteers worked over 300 hours to staff our booth for the 9 day show. Books, maps & T-shirts were sold, and we chatted with over 1000 attendees



Paul, Rab & Ann Marie at the boat show

hearing many stories of folks having taken tours with Edward Rowe Snow, and many questions about the moorings and docks in the harbor.

*Thank you to all the Volunteers who came out to the show and to **Constitution Marina** for your assistance!*

FBHI Volunteers Wanted

Volunteer Opportunities 2018

Since 1979 the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands have enlisted the help of and have trained individuals to provide volunteer service on Boston Harbor. They have built up a knowledge base enabling them to assist visitors in discovering the harbor's stories and exploring its landscapes. FBHI volunteers have been involved with programs and projects for the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park since it was first established. From the Boston waterfront to Boston Light they have helped visitors learn about the natural history, human stories and environmental treasures that make the harbor come alive.

As the National Parks of Boston system evolves new volunteer opportunities become available. The harbor islands are one piece in a larger puzzle of diverse programming and Boston history.

Volunteer Opportunities that may interest you:

- Volunteer with park rangers on Boston's waterfront
- Volunteer helping visitors on Georges or Spectacle island
- Help out on FBHI boat trips
- Learn to present a talk at a local library or to a group
- Help out with publications and mailings

This season volunteer positions are available at the Park Welcome Center in Boston, in the Charlestown Navy Yard, and a limited number of positions are open on Georges Island and Spectacle Island. You may contact either the FBHI Coordinator of Volunteers or the National Parks of Boston Coordinator of Volunteers for more information.

As advocates and providers of direct volunteer service the Friends have expanded our educational, environmental, and recreational opportunities in the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area.

[LEARN MORE and VOLUNTEER by going to our web page](#)



FBHI Volunteer & Board Member Paul Federico



Island visitors with Rab Sherman,
Volunteer & Board Member



Graves Light and Boston Light. Learn more & buy tickets [HERE](#)

2018 Boat Trips Announced

Visit **RAINSFORD** Island on Saturday, May 19 departing at 10am - Explore what was once a farm, then quarantine hospital, summer resort & small pox hospital. Learn more & buy tickets [HERE](#)

**Boston Harbor Lighthouses
Twilight Tour** on
Wednesday, June 27th at
6pm - Travel on UMass's boat
"Columbia Point" and see

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay Marine Mammal Safari

Join Save the Harbor/Save the Bay for a free Marine Mammal Safari on Boston Harbor.

On Saturday April 21, 2018, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and Massachusetts Bay Lines will host 3 free Marine Mammal Safaris to search for seals and porpoises and share songs and stories of Boston Harbor and the sea. These free trips are open to the public, but space is limited, so [reservations are required.](#)

We welcome school and community groups, youth organizations, friends, families, and children over the age of 5 under the supervision of a parent or guardian.

The 1st trip boards at 9:30am, departs at 10:00am, and returns by 11:30am
The 2nd trip boards at 11:45am, departs at 12:00pm, and returns by 1:30pm
The 3rd trip boards at 1:45pm, departs at 2:00pm, and returns by 3:30pm.
All three trips depart from and return to the Massachusetts Bay Lines dock at Rowes Wharf (behind the Boston Harbor Hotel). You can find directions at <http://www.massbaylines.com/wharf-and-contact/>

Please note that though these trips are free, space is limited, so [reservations are required](#) !





National Park Service Citizen Science April Opportunities

Saturday, April 21 - Visit **Lovells** Island during a coastal waterbird observation training with Mass Audubon

Friday, April 27 - Visit **Thompson** Island kicking off the Boston City Nature Challenge, and in the afternoon help document the first signs of spring on the Rose Kennedy Greenway

Saturday, April 28 - be part of DCR (Dept of Conservation & Recreation) Day and give back to your State Parks while contributing to the nation-wide City Nature Challenge event.

More info & registration for all of these great opportunities [HERE](#) Registration IS REQUIRED.

Also find information about opportunities in [MAY](#) as well!

Join us! Become a member or Renew!

While some of the other non-profits working in the harbor have *much deeper pockets* than us, we are a dedicated non-profit that for over 35 years has worked to provide service to the Boston Harbor Islands.

Consider this season helping us continue our work.

[CLICK HERE](#)

You will note there are 2 types of membership, "**lump sum**" or a set amount paid in one payment. The other option is a "**subscription**" membership. A subscription membership provides a donation from \$20 & up a month to the Friends and helps the group tremendously, and does so in an **easy to budget** way for you.

With the SUBSCRIPTION Feature, you can budget your increased membership level over 12 months - tremendously and affordably assisting the FRIENDS and receiving a wonderful new book at the same time!

A Subscription Membership can affordably provide:

\$20 a month = \$240 a year!

\$30 a month = \$360 a year!

\$40 a month = \$480 a year!

\$50 a month = \$600 a year!

Did you know that our boat trips are run as a "public service"? With the cost of the charter, we often run the trips at break even. **Members like YOU** are our major source of income. Thank you for being a Member of the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands! [JOIN US!](#) *Thank you for your support.*



[Visit the Massachusetts Bay Harbor Safety Committee web page to learn more about boating & shipping in MassBay!](#)

[See the new page about autonomous shipping!](#)

our volunteer board of directors



Walter Hope, **Chairman**; Suzanne Gall Marsh, **Founder**, Steve Marcus **Chairman Emeritus**; Robert "Rab" Sherman, **Clerk**; Richard Armenia, **Membership**; David Dingley, **Board Minutes**; Johanna Beers, Paul Federico, Charlotte Knox, Marguerite Krupp, Pat Leary, Kevin Rogers - **Library Outreach** & Ken Stein.

Interested in Volunteering to be on the Board, write an article for Tidings, assist with Membership Renewals, Marketing (online), or Bookkeeping and have the skills? **Contact us!**

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STAY CONNECTED:

