

August 2017



Lighthouses still have a purpose! Boat aground on Great Brewster Spit, Boston Light to the right.

Hello from Walter!

Hello Friends and Harbor Lovers!

Several weeks ago I had the honor of attending a **Water Transportation Conference** sponsored by Boston Harbor NOW & MassDOT. The participants were from a wide & varied group and the comments and potential for expansion of boat transportation in the Greater Boston area is enormous! If you think about it, we have no room for more highways, subway construction costs billions & our existing roads & bridges are falling apart - the quickest way to add capacity to get people to & from Boston is... by water! Below you'll find information on a survey Boston Harbor NOW is doing to find out what YOU want and need for daily, weekly or even just occasional commuting. [CLICK HERE to see what New York City has done](#) - it's working and is quite successful. **YOU have a voice - let Boston Harbor NOW & MassDOT hear it.** (code NPS).

On another note, I've often wondered why do we have lighthouses still, with modern technology (GPS) easily obtained on phones, tablets/iPads and on chart plotters on boats. I was reminded why a few weeks ago while at anchor at Great Brewster Island when a 40 foot boat came motoring through at high speed from the North to South towards Boston Light and Hull. Many of you will know what is there (it's marked in GREEN on nautical charts, GREEN = land!), or Great Brewster Spit in this instance! It was close to high tide and this beautiful modern boat ran onto and over the spit, sheering off her engine drives and came to a rest. Later in the day I took the photo above. Had the 'captain' only seen and understood the surf on the spit, or the charts, or the GPS or perhaps even looked at Boston Light & thought why is that there and what is it telling me?

A few additional boating notes, it appears that Spectacle Islands docks are open

- the past 2 weekends I've seen a good number of recreational boats at the docks. The moorings are delayed at this time, info on the moorings can be found [HERE](#).

And, Boston Harbor is in the midst of a "maintenance dredging" Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company has 2 dredges working from the Tobin Bridge to Spectacle until mid-December. Boaters should be aware that the dredge and barge/tug boat have very limited maneuvering and have the right of way. For info on [Barge & Dredge Awareness Click HERE](#) & for today's [work area click HERE](#).

Thank you for reading, I hope all of our readers click on the [Boston Harbor NOW survey](#) (enter code NPS) and provide your thoughts and opinions. This is a wonderful opportunity.

The [park calendar](#) is chock-full of activities, most are free!
The [ferry schedule](#)

And thank you as always for your support.

Yours,

Walter Hope, Chairman FBHI

Boston Harbor Now is conducting a comprehensive study of water transportation in Boston Harbor.



Participate in the process by visiting bostonharborsurvey.com and entering the code **NPS**.



The results of this survey will inform the future of transportation throughout the Harbor.

The water transportation study is being conducted on behalf of Federal and State agencies. You can learn more about the process at www.bostonharbornow.org/water-transportation-study.

This survey is being conducted by Steer Davies Gleave (SDG) www.steerdaviesgleave.com. The information you provide will be treated as strictly confidential. Please send any comments or questions to TravelSurvey@sdgworld.net.

code NPS

See the Fireworks on the Nantucket Lightship in East Boston!

WHERE: LV-112 is berthed at the Boston

Harbor Shipyard & Marina, 256 Marginal St., East Boston, MA; directions. There's free parking at the marina, but it's limited due to holiday weekend volume.

Thursday August 31st 7-10pm Suggested donation \$25 per person

[CLICK For Tickets](#)



Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is excited to extend the summer with six more free trips for youth and families with our All Access Boston Harbor program this month!

Join us on a trip to DCR's Spectacle Island on August 22-24, or Georges Island on August 29-31!



These trips are open to individuals, families, groups of friends, or chaperoned groups of youth and teens! Individuals and groups can register for those two dates via [this Google form](#). Please fill out the reservation form and join us next week! Learn to fish with Save the Harbor's staff, hear a story and song from Harbor Historian David Coffin, or just enjoy a relaxing day on the Harbor Islands with your friends and family. If you'd like to reserve space on multiple trips, please submit one form per trip.

Please arrive at 9:45am at the Blue Hills Bank Pavilion at 290 Northern Aveto begin your adventure with an interactive presentation about the harbor and islands. We will then walk as a group about ten minutes down the street to the World Trade Center to board Bay State Cruise Company's Provincetown II for a 10:30 departure.

Enjoy a few hours at the island before boarding the boat for your return trip: at

Spectacle, boarding will begin at 1:45pm for a 2pm departure; at Georges, boarding will begin at 1:30pm for a 1:45 departure. All trips return to the dock at the World Trade Center at 2:30pm.

Snacks are available for purchase at the Cafe on both islands. You are also welcome to bring your own bagged lunch.

All Islands in the Park enforce a carry-on, carry-off policy-- so please bring a bag for your trash so that you can dispose of it back at the boat!

Friends Around the World



An Island Friend in Germany

by Suzanne Gall Marsh

Pavla Simkova is a Doctoral Candidate and Research Associate at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, Germany. For the past two summers we have gotten together on several occasions when she came to Boston to do research on her dissertation about Spectacle Island. "The Island and its city: the entangled histories of Boston and Spectacle Island" is the theme of her doctorate.

Being history detectives we've poured over a multitude of documents, enjoyed trips to the Islands, meeting FBHI members and connecting with people all around Boston who have been involved with both the history and transformation of Spectacle Island. Some of the people and places where Pavla did research this year: Marta Crilly at the City of Boston Archives, Jessica Holden at the UMass Boston Archives and MA Department of Transportation Library, Park staff Alex Hall and Beth Jackendoff and others, Kate Riveria whose grandparents lived on Spectacle Island and where she visited often as a child.

Beginning in the early 1990s the Friends were active members of the Spectacle Island Parkland Advisory Committee (SIPAC). FBHI was involved with the Committee at its inception and served for years until the Committee finished its work when the Island finally opened to the public in 2006. We have countless files of Committee agendas, minutes and plans. All of these SIPAC records are going to the [FBHI special collection at the UMass Boston Archives](#). Photo of Pavla Simkova and Suzanne Gall Marsh taken on the 6/28 FBHI trip to Boston Light.

Volunteer Coordinator's Column

Joelle

I thought I would share some personal thoughts about one of our truly unique volunteers, my service guide dog Joelle. In March 2006 when I first brought Joelle with me to work both on the islands and in Boston We attended park meetings to prepare for

the season. On our first day in Boston there was a severe thunder storm during and after our first meeting, a fire emergency at North Station with screaming alarms and rows of firemen evacuating the station, and a train problem leaving the city. We had to depart the train in Lynn and board buses for 2 stations then back on the train. Quite an introduction to harbor service!

Joelle loved the boats and public tours on the islands, disliked going into the water. She was not thrilled to be woken up to go to hike around Spectacle, but liked eating the grass on Bumpkin. She was out in the heat of the summer and went to a park meeting on Spectacle with temps four below zero. We hiked around Peddocks countless times and walked on the beaches of Lovells, Calf and Thomson on FBHI trips.



Joelle

She passed away last week at the age of 13 plus, and although I have a new dog to work with now I will always most miss Joelle because she was my first harbor dog.

Carol Fithian, Coordinator of Volunteers FBHI

Job Reflection Lessons learned on Spectacle Island

Stefano, who was part of a special program at Brookline High School, participated in a one week volunteer program on Spectacle Island last season. A teacher who worked with him, who volunteers at Boston Light and Spectacle is interested in developing this opportunity for other students in the future. To help booster this possibility Mrs. Shine, who also helps students at Brookline High School asked Stefano how his time on the islands has helped him in preparing for future work. Below is a summary of his responses.



He started by learning many fun and interesting facts about Spectacle. He learned about various plants and wild life on the islands and enjoyed picking blackberries.

He loved learning about other islands in the harbor as he discovered the spectacular views from the top of Spectacle. His goal was to develop his skills to sharing communicate what he learned with the public on island and to give a tour, to family and friends at the end of his time on island He found it interesting to learn about how the island is maintained, how it grew and expanded and its colorful history.

"This experience helped prepare me for my current job at Boston Duck tours" Stefano said, "on special occasions I get to share interesting stories

and facts about the city and the harbor."

We are proud to have worked with Stefano and the supportive interaction that other volunteers had working with him on Spectacle.

Carol Fithian, Coordinator of Volunteers FBHI



MV Irene

M/V Irene

A few volunteers and I are working on a special activity. Some of you may remember a blue boat with a red roof that used to service Lovells Island, and islands on the southern loop from Georges Island called the MV Irene. Many of us

greeted her in the early morning on the Hingham pier, and weekend late afternoons with all of our camping gear riding as the sun was setting back to Hingham. The spray would sometimes get us and the captain, Richie, would pass around M&Ms and we would feel as though summer could go on forever. So, to make this one last a bit longer we are hoping to set up a get together with Richie as one of his relatives is working on Georges Island this season. If I can locate enough people who remember him and the Irene I will bring out a cake and of course the largest bag of M&M I can find.

If you are interested in coming call the volunteer phone at 978 356 4406 or e-mail me at fithiancj@comcast.net I do not have a date yet but will pick one as soon as I see how many people might be interested. The MV Irene also provided boat service from Lynn Heritage Park to Georges Island for several years crossing the Broad Sound.

Carol Fithian, Coordinator of Volunteers FBHI

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!](#)

our volunteer board of directors



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

FBHI | 781-740-4290 | info@fbhi.org | www.fbhi.org

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