



August, 2014

# TIDINGS

*FBHI - 35 Years on Mainland, Island and Sea*

August 2014

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Dolly Bicknell, daughter of Edward Rowe Snow, cuts the traditional cake during Snow Day on Georges Island.

## Celebrate Edward Rowe Snow Day August 24

Edward Rowe Snow Day will be celebrated Aug. 24 on Georges Island within Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area with a variety of activities, free to all visitors

The event will include: Island tour by Mr. Snow's daughter Dolly Bicknell and a film about Mr. Snow's life and his contributions to preservation efforts for Boston Harbor.

Brian Tague, president of Friends of Flying Santa, and USCG Keeper of Boston Light Sally Snowman will be on hand. Photographers will share their pictures of New England lighthouses past and present and there will be a treasure hunt for the children. Dolly Bicknell will read one of her father's stories and will bring a birthday cake for all to share.

"Snow Day" activities take place from 11:30- 2:00 p.m. and will honor the many contributions Snow made as local historian, newspaper columnist and radio personality. Snow wrote a column for The Patriot Ledger for many years. Snow is remembered fondly as the man who worked

*A message from Walter Hope:*

## Thirty-five years and counting...

Hello and thank you for reading Tidings! This season we're celebrating our 35th anniversary. The Friends have stayed true to their roots and remains a truly grass-roots organization of dedicated volunteers dedicated towards promoting and assisting the Boston Harbor Islands.

In the early years we contracted with the then Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) & Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and provided our Volunteer Coordinators, Volunteer Island Captains and Island Volunteers on Gallops, Lovells, Peddocks, Grape and Bumpkin and Thompson Islands.

I started as a Volunteer on Grape and learned to love the harbor - and this was long before the harbor was even close to clean! I remember trips on the "Irene" from Georges to Grape (with the occasional break-down), being stranded one night on Peddocks, and meeting hundreds of people over the summers on the way out to Georges and Grape.

While some of the players have changed, the mission and beauty has largely remained the same. We've temporarily "lost" access to Gallops, but gained an amazing island - Spectacle. With the forming of the National Park Area, the founding of the Alliance, and the creation of Camp Harbor View on Long Island, the Friends have forged partnerships that are

There's still time to get out to the islands



*Explore Calf Island on September 20.*

All Friends boat trips are led by top experts and narrators. We go places in Boston Harbor that few visit. Laura Thibodeau Jones, author of "Generations: 1891-1940 Living on the Islands of Boston Harbor" will join us on the Calf Island trip, September 20.

**Note: We will not go to Great Brewster on Sept. 20. We will go to Calf Island.**

**August 20** Long Island sunset. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Leave from Rowes Wharf Water Transport, Boston.

**September 12** Lighthouse Cruise 11:00a.m. to 1:30p.m. with UMass Boston Marine Operations. Depart from UMass Harbor Campus, Fox Point Pavilion. View Boston Light, Graves Light and Fog

Station, Long Island Light and Nixes Mate.



*Take a Lighthouse Cruise on UMass Boston's MV Columbia Point.*

**October 11** Rainsford, 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Island Expeditions with Rowes Wharf Water Transport



lonely as the man who worked tirelessly to preserve Georges Island's Civil War-era Fort Warren. Edward Rowe Snow started helping the Flying Santa program in 1936, begun some years earlier, and he continued until the late 1970s. The Friends of Flying Santa carry on this New England tradition of providing holiday gifts and other supplies to isolated lighthouses.

The master of ceremonies of "Snow Day" will be David Skill of WATD Radio - 95.9 FM. Skill is a member of Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands. He has done feature series on the radio about the Boston Harbor Islands and narrates on FBHI Lighthouse Cruises.

"Snow Day" is sponsored by Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Friends of Flying Santa, and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

There will be other activities that day throughout the park sponsored by Boston Harbor Island Alliance, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and National Park Service. For a full listing

check the event calendar at [bostonharborislands.org](http://bostonharborislands.org).

have forged partnerships that are lasting.

You - our Friends and Volunteers - are a major part of that partnership. Thank you.

A new "player" came into the park recently - the Waller Family - owners of Graves Light. They were gracious enough to attend and provide a wonderful presentation at our Annual Meeting this spring. Having been recently inside Graves and outside in a small boat, I know that they've got a wonderful resource - a gem actually.

For a interview with the Wallers: [here](#). For more information about Graves visit our [web page](#).

I hope you've had a wonderful time visiting and perhaps volunteering on your beautiful Boston Harbor Islands this summer. As I write this, I'm preparing for an adventure to visit one of our island this weekend by small boat. Enjoy and please send via mail or email your old or

current photos you'd like to share. They'll be posted on our web page to celebrate our 35th. And please remember: Members are our core - and memberships expire. You can renew anytime on [line](#).

Without your membership, we can't do all the work we do. Thank you

Yours,



Walter Hope,  
Chairman FBHI



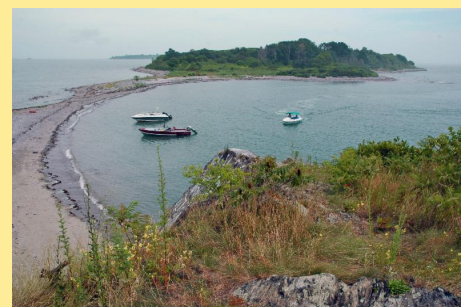
*Catching the boat on Rainsford Island*

**Ticket prices:**

Sunset: Adults \$25.00; FBHI member, Senior (65+) and Student with current ID \$23.00; Child (under 12) \$21.00.

Lighthouse Tours: Adults \$30.00; FBHI member, Senior (65+) \$27.00; UMass Student with current ID \$20.00.

Island Expedition: Adult \$30.00; FBHI member, Senior (65+) and Student with current ID \$27.00; Child (under 12) \$22.00; FBHI child member \$20.00.



*Visit Rainsford Island on October 11*

To book a cruise, go to

[www.FBHI.org](http://www.FBHI.org) or [www.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com)

**Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands**

**30 Shipyard Drive, #202,  
Hingham MA 02043-1601  
Telephone: 781-740-4290**

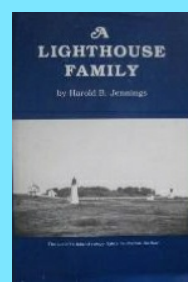


*Giles Parker NPS Superintendent (far right) with members of the Waller family at the recent FBHI annual meeting.*

**A message from Giles Parker**

Greetings from the Superintendent's Office, and thank you for your support as part of this incredible summer at the Boston Harbor Islands national park area.

By all accounts, this has already been a banner year - particularly as visitation and exposure of the park continues to rise. A large component of that has been the great weather, but we've had good weather before. The expanded




**A New "Voice"**

As part of the Friends Island Voices Program and as a 35th anniversary project, the FBHI is reprinting "A Lighthouse Family"

by Harold Jennings who grew up on Lovells Island. Copies will be available for sale in October. The book will be donated to libraries in Greater Boston through the FBHI Library Outreach Program in 2015.

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good weather before. The expanded ferry service from Boston Harbor Cruises has been a big piece of that too. Amazing programming and a public awareness campaign have continued to raise the bar.

But, I also do not think that it can be understated that the 35 years of the Friends of Boston Harbor Islands has been the foundation that we continue to build new stewards and new visitors. The lighthouse tours and associated media coverage for the Friends has also been a big part of that this year, and glad that we've been able to

promote with you. We at the NPS and the BHI Partnership look forward to continuing to work with you to build upon your good work. Hope to see you on the islands soon.



Photo by Steve Crotty

## Going to the chapel...

FBHI volunteers joined the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Boston Harbor Islands Alliance, the City of Boston, the National Park Service and many supporters of park projects for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated chapel on Peddocks Island on July 31. Save the Harbor Save the Bay brought a large group of children out to enjoy the island and Gov. Deval Patrick

who was on hand. Dignitaries shared their thoughts on the various improvements on Peddocks and credited the agencies involved for their efforts to renovate the chapel. Patrick thanked many for their dedication to and service on behalf of the harbor and the islands.

For more on Peddocks' future see [here](#).

or go to

[www.FBHI.ORG](http://www.FBHI.ORG)

## FBHI Member Benefits

FBHI membership has its benefits including eTidings, discounts on boat trips with FBHI, Boston Harbor Cruises, and more. For Membership Benefits - click [BENEFITS](#)

[Back Issues of Tidings](#)

## Members of the FBHI board

### are:

Chris Ahearn, Johanna Beers, David Dingley, Charlotte Knox, Walter Hope, Steven Marcus, Stephanie Schorow, Ken Stein, Rab Sherman, Suzanne Gall Marsh (Emerita).

This month's Tiding was edited and designed by Stephanie Schorow with copy editing, newsgathering, production, and moral support by Suzanne Gall Marsh, Carol Fithian, Kevin Rogers, Walter Hope and many others.



## An Update on the Work at Boston Light on Little Brewster Island

By Sally Snowman, USCG Keeper of Boston Light

Photograph by Paul Treseler taken on 7/18/14 FBHI Lighthouse Cruise

The Cistern building (1884) and Boathouse (1899) is getting a bright white coat of paint with green trim along with gorgeous Alaskan yellow cedar roof shingles that will weather a gray color. This was the original type of shingles utilized by the Lighthouse Service when these buildings were first erected, rather than the more favored red asbestos shingles that were on Boston Light wooden building c. 1923-1996.

The Keeper's House (1884) has scaffolding 360 degrees around the building up to the eaves with the removal of the red cedar shingles being replaced by yellow cedar. The sides will be prepped/primed and painted white with green trim.

The Oil House (1889) currently has scaffolding around it. The slate roof restoration has just been completed (8/7/14) completed with a new copper ridge cape and replacement wood under the eaves. Re-pointing of the brick work is in process and when completed, it sides will be painted white and trim green.

The interior of the lighthouse tower project continues to be a contamination containment site with 170 years of lead paint on the iron 76-spiral step, its post, and 4-iron doors being sand blasted off. The 155-year-old classical Fresnel lens has been extinguished for at least four weeks and maybe longer, wrapped in protective plastic with a plywood encasement built around it for protection during the restoration of the lantern room of new window frames, windows, and the copper ceiling refurbished. While the main optic is non-functioning, there are back-up lights on the first gallery/deck that are visible to mariners. Note: they are not visible during the daylight.

The exterior of the lighthouse tower remains with completely surrounded by scaffolding from the bottom all the way to the very top of the lantern roof. The rubble granite stone is in process of being re-pointed and re-mortared. When this very long process is completed, a marine environment type stucco will be applied to its surface to last for many years. The 5-aluminum bands remain in place.

Generator Room is also currently in process of having its brickwork re-pointed, as well, to be painted white with green trim. It, too, will have its red cedar roof shingles replaced with the yellow shingles.

From the water, Little Brewster Island has a much different profile due to the scaffolding on the tower and the Keeper's House, and also with two 24-foot storage trailers, a 36-foot camper trailer, stacks of supplies and equipment, such as a fork lift. The contractors work Monday to Thursday arriving to the island by boat 6:15 am and departing at 4:00 pm. There are five to eight day workers with as many as five more workers whosleep in the camper/trailer Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, nights, many times working until sundown. This makes for a long day for the workers and for the Keeper/AUX Assistant Keepers who are manning the island.

## Boston Harbor Islands in the News

*Our friend Sue Scheible has been busy writing about the Harbor Islands for the Patriot Ledger. Follow these links to some of her stories, reprinted from the Quincy Patriot Ledger by permission..*

### **GOOD NEIGHBOR:**

#### **Bonnie Gorman of Quincy volunteers for: Friends of Boston Harbor Islands and the Friends of the Thomas Crane Public Library**

By Sue Scheible  
The Patriot Ledger  
Aug. 6, 2014

QUINCY -- Bonnie Gorman volunteers for the Friends of Boston Harbor Islands. Bonnie, a nurse and social worker, has been with the Friends organization for four years and is also volunteer for the Friends of the Thomas Crane Public Library and a tutor for Quincy Literacy Volunteers.

"The Friends offers discovery of our environmental treasure, the Boston Harbor Islands National Park," Gorman said. "Quincy has 27 miles of coastline in the heart of it, and my neighborhood of Houghs Neck is home to two harbor islands, Nut Island and Raccoon Island. We hope to share these gems with others."

For more see [here](#).



Bonnie Gorman

### **Friends' lighthouse trip gives closeup views of Graves and Boston Light**

By Sue Scheible  
The Patriot Ledger  
July 20, 2104

HINGHAM - It was a rare chance to see the outermost Boston Harbor islands up close, and John Thompson of Braintree wasn't about to miss it.

"I come on as many of these trips as I can," Thompson, with a camera and long lens around his neck, said Friday aboard the MV Columbia

Point as it left the UMass-Boston pier. Bonnie Gorman of Houghs Neck, a volunteer with Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, was also on board.

For the next two hours, Thompson, 79, was busy snapping images, listening to narration about the islands, and taking in the sweeping views. Gorman was selling books about the island history, maps and T shirts for the Friends.

For more [see here](#).

## Library Outreach Program

### **Community Outreach: A Report by Kevin Rogers, Community Outreach Coordinator**



The Library Community Outreach Program is doing good work this summer getting the word out. Elaine Brockman continues to do an excellent job covering the Winthrop area thoroughly. Kathy Dever does a good job with libraries on the South Shore. David Dingley has done good work with his first two displays after agreeing to help the LCO Program. I have put up some displays in different parts of Metro Boston. Currently, there are over 40 displays and display boards up at libraries across Boston! We have done to 50 libraries this year with displays &



brochures. We still are looking for volunteers to help with this important program that connects people in suburbia to the Boston Harbor Islands. In the off-season we will be looking for volunteers to use their creativity ( following program guidelines) to create more display boards to help use promote the Islands at more libraries. The speaker part of the LCO Program will have been to 20 libraries by the end of the Season. Tom Schindler has helped at most of these and we have had other FBHI volunteers help at some spots. The Volunteers hand out brochures, breakdown talk displays, and answer questions after the talk. We could use more volunteers in this area. Please let Carol or myself know if you would like to help. There may be a few talks in the off-season, but the main talk season will begin in March 2015.

### **Revere Display on the Islands by Kevin Rogers**

We have had 17 talks so far with most drawing between 12 to 20 or 30 library patrons. A couple of talks of note were : 5/21 at Foxboro drawing over 50 people and Framingham drawing same. We were surprised when 25 enthusiastic people showed up on a sunny Saturday afternoon in Chatham.

The three remaining talks are:

- Thomas Crane Library in Quincy Monday Aug. 18th 7pm " Home on the Harbor"
- Thayer Memorial Library in Braintree Thursday Aug, 28th 6:30pm " Ft. Warren & Boston Harbor's Civil War Contribution"
- Woburn Public Library Thursday Sept.25th 7pm " Fort Warren and Boston Harbor's Civil War Contribution"

We welcome all who'd like to help with this program and thanks for all the kind words.

*Kevin Rogers FBHI Community Outreach Coordinator 339-933-2634. Please contact me at [kevinsouthshore@gmail.com](mailto:kevinsouthshore@gmail.com)*

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