



December, 2014

TIDINGS

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

Happy Holidays from the Friends



**Celebrate the New Year with a trip to Thompson Island
Seafarers Island Holiday Jan. 1, 2015**

Since 1980 the Friends have sponsored this annual event.

Depart 12:00 p.m. from Massachusetts Bay Lines, 60 Rowes Wharf, Boston. Boarding begins at 11:30 a.m. The boat returns to the dock at 4:00 p.m. The closest T Stations are South Station (Red Line) or Aquarium (Blue Line.)

Bring a picnic lunch; there is no food sold on the boat or the island. Park policy is no pets and no alcohol. Rain or shine we go! Refunds will be given only if the trip is cancelled due to bad weather.

Prices: Adults \$30; FBHI members \$25; Seniors \$29; Students with ID and children (3-12) \$20; FBHI member children \$17; Babies (under three) free. First Night button holders receive \$5 off any ticket category on the day of the trip.

Tickets available through www.brownpapertickets.com/event/898766.

Cash-only tickets will also be sold on the dock one hour before departure. Call the Friends office 781-740-4290 or visit www.fbhi.org for more information.



A message from Walter Hope:

As winter begins, I've been looking back at 2014. It's been an odd year for me personally with the loss of our home - and then pleasure of our new home arriving only two months later. And here are some high points:

- Carol Fithian pulled a rabbit out of her hat and we were up and running with a wonderful cadre of volunteers this season.
- Suzanne Gall Marsh and others pulled together and put on another season of boat trips - including a replacement variety of trips traveling around the harbor looking at lighthouses thanks to UMass Boston.
- Kevin Rogers and his band of volunteers has been very busy providing library displays around the state and speaking sessions promoting the park.
- Kathy Dever has been volunteering at our Hingham Office. Thank you to her and her daughter for all of your assistance!

This summer was reportedly "record breaking" for visitors to the islands and passengers on the BHC Boats - an amazing task of flexibility on the part of the DCR and NPS staff, our Volunteers, and BHC's unique ability to modify schedules and add boats when extra capacity was needed. This fall, a well deserved Volunteer Appreciation Day was held on Thompson Island - thank you and congratulations to all!

With 2014 quickly fading, and our 35th Anniversary here - we're working behind the scenes on publishing an out-of-print book "Lighthouse Family" and we're in the beginning stages of looking at bringing one of Julia Arthur's silent movies back, perhaps to be a foundation perhaps of a fundraising event with a movie, music and education about Calf Island.

With all of this said, we've also lost some of our members this past year - including our own Karen O'Donnell. Karen was one of our original members, and served as Island Manager, Board Member, President, Vice President and adviser and cheerleader to the Friends. Please keep tuned for a special memorial in her honor in the future.

Thank you for your support and membership - remember you can always JOIN on our web page. Our membership provides support for

our group, and discounts.

We can't provide our talks and displays, volunteers on and off island, web page and advocacy without YOUR support.

Happy Holidays to you and yours,



Walter Hope,
Chairman FBHI



Read a tribute to Karen O'Donnell [here](#).

Please Note:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

Boston Harbor Islands Complex Resource Management planning process has begun.

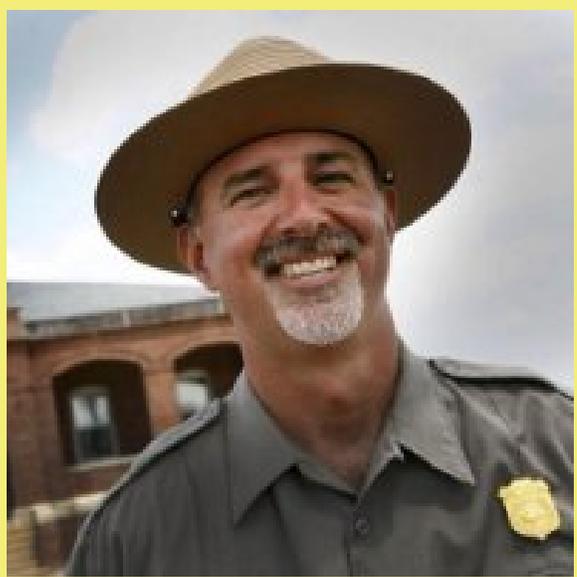
The first phase of public comments will be accepted until Jan. 9, 2015. For information go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/>



A Message from Park Superintendent Giles Parker

The close of each year invites an opportunity to reflect on what we've accomplished and take note of what lies ahead. To be sure, 2014 has been a tremendous year for the partnership in terms of visitation, new programs, expanded ferry service and increased visibility through strategic marketing. In addition, we have made major strides in our resource stewardship and youth engagement initiatives, and witnessed an increase in volunteer hours which is due, in part, to the incredible work of the Friends and financial support from Boston Harbor Island Alliance.



These are just a few of the partnership's many 2014 accomplishments:

Resource Stewardship

Photo documentation of historic and contemporary inscriptions and painted graffiti on Rainsford Island; pilot removal of contemporary graffiti imposed on top of historic inscriptions.



Modern graffiti covers historic graffiti on Rainsford Island

Ongoing contributions of harbor islands information to regional and national projects tracking plant phenology (e.g., timing of flowering, leaf growth, leaf loss) and marine invertebrate distribution.

Public Programming

In late spring, Boston Harbor Islands published its first newspaper. The newspaper provided visitors with a single publication with all the information needed to plan their visit. Content included a sampling of suggested day trips, locations of visitor centers, a park ferry schedule with terminal locations, a listing of events, and a park map. More than 50,000

Prescribed burn and vegetation control to enhance least tern habitat on Lovells Island.

Removal of invasive non-native species to improve biodiversity and enhance scenic values on Grape, Bumpkin, Spectacle, Thompson, Peddocks, Lovells and Langlee Islands, as well as Worlds End and Webb Memorial peninsulas.

Systematic collection of information on mammals in the park, focusing on Thompson, Peddocks and Bumpkin islands.

newspapers were distributed to favorable reviews.

NPS staff made their biggest contribution ever to formal program on the islands, facilitating 800 programs with almost 20,000 participants.

Highlights include a family friendly tour of Fort Warren (Georges), kayaking and a "Family Fun Run" on Spectacle, and fitness activities as part of an August South Shore ShapeUp Day on Peddocks.

The Boston Harbor Islands Welcome Center on the RFK Greenway continued to serve as a hub for informal orientation to the Boston Harbor Islands. Contact numbers were about the same as in 2013, but interactions were more substantive and staff took note of the types of questions asked and character of information visitors were seeking. This information is being used to redefine the Welcome Center experience with the goal of converting passers-by into on-island visitors.

Youth Engagement

Programming through Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center (TIOBEC) engaged more than 3000 Boston school children in hands-on teaching and learning about science, technology, engineering and math through island resources.

TIOBEC's Summer Connections program finished its second of a two-year research study) funded by the Wallace Foundation. Through this study, rising 4th- and 5th-graders participated in a five-week program over two consecutive summers. Programs included classroom learning, team-building, character and leadership development, and environmental education with teachers, Outward Bound facilitators and Park Rangers. Findings from the study are being used to plan and develop new youth engagement initiatives focused on innovative, student-centered approaches to teaching and learning through island resources.

Seventy 9-12 year-olds from a Dorchester Boys and Girls Club participated in a four-day island immersion experience, including opportunities to tour Fort Warren (Georges), construct tents and identify plants (Peddocks), and summit the South Drumlin of Spectacle Island. Check them out here.

<http://www.youtube.com/users/BostonHarborIslands>.

Volunteerism

This year, 2801 volunteers contributed 31,206 hours of volunteer service to park resource stewardship, outreach and programs. Highlights include 5266 hours of field work to help protect native biodiversity in the park, 6855 to support public programming and 16,309 hours to support backlog maintenance, Youth volunteers (554) contributed 4,163 hours of service.

Volunteer programming received generous support through grants secured and administered through the Boston Harbor Island Alliance.

The year, the park has also experienced significant transitions. In April, we wished Hugh Hawthorne, the park's Director of Youth and Visitor Services, a fond farewell as he relocated to New Mexico to serve as Superintendent

for Gila National Monument. In May, Becky Warren, on temporary loan from Lowell National Historical Park, guided our summer operations through the end of August. We now welcome Liza Stearns who arrived in late October to serve as the park's permanent Director of Youth and Visitor Services.

Our long-time Administrative Officer, Sarah Waterworth, left the park for a detail to St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in May. In September, she was offered and accepted the position permanently. We are now poised to recruit and fill the Administrative Officer position, and hope to have someone in place by mid-year. In the meantime, a sincere thanks goes out to the many staff, partners and NPS colleagues who have been contributing to cover the many administrative responsibilities that were under Sarah's charge.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, the National Park Service looks forward to continuing our work with the partnership to make Boston Harbor Islands a world class park. To that end, we will continue to build our resource stewardship programs, including extensive removal of contemporary graffiti on Rainsford, ongoing Stewardship Saturday programming and documentation of shoreline conditions in partnership with researchers from Boston University and Northeastern University.

In terms of public programming, this summer we expect to conclude a Civil War education initiative that was launched several years ago, plan and pilot health and wellness activities with area youth groups, and expand our menu of theme-based tours and recreational experiences. We will continue to support TIOBEC teaching and learning initiatives, and will be working to refine the curriculum that supports our summer youth work programs. In addition, we will be installing and evaluating temporary exhibit panels at the Welcome Center as part of an effort to provide passersby with an experience that incites them to visit the islands.



A Civil War re-enactment on Georges Island from the previous decade. Photo courtesy of *Boston Herald*.

We look forward to seeing you on the islands!

Giles Parker

A Message from the FBHI Coordinator of Volunteers:

During this holiday season I am thinking of all of the wonderful people I have met through FBHI over the past 21 years. I am sad for those who have left us and grateful for the dedicated new members and volunteers who joined us in 2014. Each one brings their own gifts and talents humor, unique perspectives and love for the harbor.

It is always amazing to me how this changing body of water and the island rocks and hills captures so many hearts! If you find yourself in the middle of a dreary day during the next few months just reflect on how blue and sparkling

the water can be on that late afternoon boat ride back to Boston: or maybe the green trees hanging over the path on Peddocks or the blue sky over Boston Light. Remember the sincere warmth of the people you have met on the harbor and the intrigue of all of the wonderful stories shared out there.

Our volunteers gave 6917 hours of service this past season. Thank you to our members for supporting them through your membership and Thank You volunteers for all that you do.

Happy Harbor Holidays!

Carol Fithian





Do you purchase "stuff" online using Amazon.com?

Log onto your Amazon account and search for "SMILE" - then indicate that you'd like to support the Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands Inc

The FBHI will receive 0.5% of your eligible purchase dollar amounts - quickly and easily!

FBHI Member Benefits

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

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).

Thank you for reading TIDINGS! | Donate to the FBHI Easily via a monthly donation [CLICK on DONATE](#) & Thank you!

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