

Tidings

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS, INC.

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Tour of Fort Independence

All members are invited to a private tour of Castle Island on Thursday, Sept. 3 from 6:30 to 7:00. Meet at the main entrance of the fort. Afterwards, enjoy your picnic supper and relax. Please call and let me know if you are coming.

--Nancy Martin

Potluck & USS Constitution Too

This year's fall event, especially for our members, is a potluck dinner on Sept. 27th in the Hull Room of the Charlestown Navy Yard, preceded by a tour of the USS Constitution and the Museum. Please RSVP to the Friends office by Sept. 25. The tour will begin at 3:00 and supper will begin at 5:30. See the enclosed flyer for more details or call the office.

Deer Island

Here is your chance to explore Fort Dawes on Deer Island. We will meet at the Prison Gate on Saturday, October 10, 1987, and all go in together at 11:00 AM. Bring a picnic lunch and comfortable clothes. We will be leaving at 3:00 PM. Bring your camera and get a different view of the harbor. We will meet people at Orient Heights at 10:30 A.M. Please call and let us know if you are coming, 523-8386.



Scene at Deer Island.

"The Sail Down the Harbor"

An excerpt from the 'King's Handbook of Boston Harbor' 1882.

"The perfection of physical comfort is enjoyed when, on a warm day of summer, one leaves the hot and crowded streets and many cares of the city, and passes down Boston Harbor on one of its luxurious excursion steam boats. Here, without the distressing motion of the deep-sea swells, or the blank monotony of a level horizon, the bracing and invigorating air of the ocean is enjoyed to the fullest; while on either side are scores of picturesque and historical localities to attract the attention and give high zest to the journey."

The 'King's Handbook' is now available in a paperback edition at local bookstores or direct from the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.; \$11.50 for nonmembers and \$9.50 for members, this includes tax, postage, and handling. It is also available on Friends' island trips and other events.

--Suzanne Gall Marsh

Thompson Island Retreat

Again we journey to Thompson Island for our annual Halloween weekend. Thompson provides us with dorms, meals, and the chance to enjoy socializing and serene walks around the island. While previous years have had brainstorming sessions as a central theme, this year definitely will not be a working session. We are open to suggestions if anyone would like to sponsor, say, a hands-on session of some favorite craft, lead a discussion group, or organize some other activity. Details will be worked out and sent to members in September. For now, reserve the dates of October 31 and November 1.

An Island Spell



Early morn'ne does break
With sea-gull call and song,
Heralding up a new day, for
Which many a heart does long.

Smells of salt and seaweed
Fragrance the new dawning air,
Lifting souls to heights
Removing all worry and care.

The warming sun filters
Among the sumac and oak,
Bring resurgence to all,
But 'especial to island folk.

The slip and surge of the current
Forms rythm way down inside
And surfaces in a grin
Reflecting the strength of the tide.

Each island is different and special
But that's what makes them so grand.
From Calf where Julia once sported
To Brewster's drumlin and strand.

Even as day progresses
The islands hold all in their spell.
Their peace and serenity spreading
As ripples of deep harbor swell.

So when time arrives,
And our island we depart
A tiny piece will also go
Held dear within our heart.

Yet, a bargain fair it seems
For leaving leaves no pain,
As part of us is left behind
Till we return again.

Joe Kolb



GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Notes from Nancy's Diary

We have 100 volunteers working on the Boston Harbor Islands this summer. We had beautiful weather for all of our on-island training sessions in June. New Georges Island volunteers got some firsthand experience when they were paired with experienced volunteers. Thompson Island volunteers had a neat learning experience ambling around the island with Bill Perkins. Overnight volunteers met the Lady in Black on Friday evening when they camped on Georges Island. Saturday and Sunday on the islands were productive with the help of Team Captains, experienced volunteers, and the Island Managers. The Peddocks Volunteers are still without a home; they spent all of their orientation on Georges.

I have been out many times this season and have enjoyed camping in the sun, fog, mist, and even the thunder, lightening, and high winds of July 25th.

The highlight of July was the misty day we headed out to Boston Light on Little Brewster. All of you who stayed home missed a special experience. As we approached Boston Light it seemed to rise out of the mist, like the legendary village of Brigadoon in Scotland. The light was shining, the fog horn blowing. Both seemed very muted in the mist. We were unable to see Boston which meant that for a short time we could forget the city and enjoy our island in the mist. As we left the island the fog and mist closed in around us and the island disappeared.

The volunteers enjoyed an annual pot-luck supper on the roof deck of our office building. There was plenty of good food, company, and a beautiful sunset over the Charles River.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and I look forward to seeing you on the islands.

--Nancy Martin



Friends Camping Recipes

A couple of issues ago I put out a call for your favorite island camping recipes with the intention of publishing a few in 'Tidings'. I received more than just good food ideas; there were also tips on what to bring and how to cook in the wilds of the harbor islands. Too many good ideas. Rather than try to choose two or three, Wynelle and I have decided to put together a small 'FBHI Cookbook.' Please send any recipes, tips, or other survival ideas to Robert and Wynelle Scenna, 24 Piedmont St., Arlington, MA 02174.

Harbor Island Slide Show

Planning your winter schedule for your pet organization? Our slide show will bring the beauty of the islands to your group even in the cold winter months. Call the office if you are interested, 523-8386. The show is free but donations are gratefully accepted.

Children's Fiction

ABEL'S ISLAND - by William Steig, 1976, Bantam Books. A Neuberry Honor Book. The unforgettable tale of a lovable mouse, a furious storm, a lonely island, and a lesson about life.

JARED'S ISLAND - by Marguerite De Angeli, Junior Literary Guild 1947, Doubleday & Co. In 1750 Jared, an orphan, leaves Edinburgh to join his brother Colin in America. His ship is wrecked off the coast of the Carolinas. His rescuers give him a home but he leaves his kindly mentors when they propose attending school, and joins an Indian friend to live on an island where Captain Kidd's treasure is buried.

THIEF ISLAND - by Elizabeth Coatsworth, MacMillan & Co. 1943. Dave Little loses his home through an unwise investment and reluctantly brings his children, Susan and John to make their new home on a deserted island off the coast of Maine. Susan and John explore the island finding gold pieces of eight, a skeleton's cave, and mysterious footprints. Winter comes, bringing a terrible storm which keeps father on the mainland for two weeks and the children alone on the island.

--Aurora Salvucci

Monarch Butterfly

Did you ever wonder where the beautiful Monarch Butterfly came from and where it goes?

This butterfly flits from sumac to milkweed pod on all of the islands during the summer and then vanishes in the winter to the fir forests at high altitudes in the Sierra Madre of central Mexico. For many years the migration of these butterflies baffled scientists. It was not until they began tagging Monarchs that their migratory patterns became clear.

The Monarch is the only butterfly that annually migrates both north and south as birds do. But no single individual butterfly makes the entire round trip journey. In the fall the Monarchs from the islands and other locations begin to congregate and move southward.

Winter butterflies are sluggish and do not reproduce. In the spring, with warming trends, these butterflies head north, breed along the way and then their offspring return to New England and the islands.

A few interesting facts are: Monarch butterflies do not fly at night, they can fly 80 miles in one day, they only lay their eggs on milkweed plants, they adjust their body temperature to the air around them.

--Nancy Martin

Music, Music, and More Music

Steps have been taken to begin a Friends Folk Music Group. Now we need more people to join. It will be a fairly informal group that will get together to exchange sea songs, folk songs, etc. Bookings are guaranteed at many Friends events. We can assure a friendly audience and experience is not as important as enthusiasm. Call Robert Scenna 643-8279 (eve.), 542-8216 (day) or Don Hovey 266-5591.

Bostonian Society

Did you know that The Bostonian Society has a wonderful library with many sources of information on historic Boston and the harbor? Library hours are weekdays, 9:30 to 4:30, at 15 State Street, 3rd floor in the National Park Service building. For information, call Philip Bergen, Librarian, at 242-5614. The library is open to the public.



Message in a Bottle

July Visit to Boston Lighthouse

We began our trip in a blanket of fog that laid over the harbor. Carefully the boat cruised out to Little Brewster Island past islands gently shrouded in mist, and lobsterboats hauling their catch in mid-channel. Ahead of the bow rose the high drumlins of Great Brewster Island, then the flash of the lighthouse was perceivable. The captain radioed the keepers on duty who told us it was okay to come into the docking area and that the fog was beginning to clear somewhat. As we approached the dock the cameras clicked wildly...the light was doing its "duty" and warning ships of the rocky shores in the gloom of fog. Such a wonderful opportunity to visit the lighthouse in weather that made its existence a necessity over 200 years ago!

After docking, the 105 people enjoyed exploring the rocky shore, having a picnic lunch on the grass, and climbing the tall tower to the outside platform for a spectacular view of the island, its buildings, and surrounding shores. The fog cleared enough to see some of the surrounding area, but Boston wasn't visible.

After our 4 hour stay, we boarded the small boat and shared our impressions of America's first lighthouse seen, so less, in the fog! It was a "different" kind of visit.

--Elizabeth Pohl

To many of us, a note found in a bottle can conjure up visions of secret maps to diamond or gold mines, or messages from exotic areas like the West Indies, Australia, and Tahiti. However, the latest message found by Island Volunteer David Carey, on Great Brewster Island contained letters from a closer source. While doing a beach trash pickup on Sunday, July 19th, Dave, his wife Marge, and yours truly, came across a plastic bottle with not one, but three letters in it. They were penned by students/visitors to the Hull Lifesaving Museum. We each took a letter to write to the senders. So, very soon, Cheryl, Julie, and Kevin should be getting a reply to their dispatch from the deep.

--Joe Kolb

Autumn on the Harbor Islands

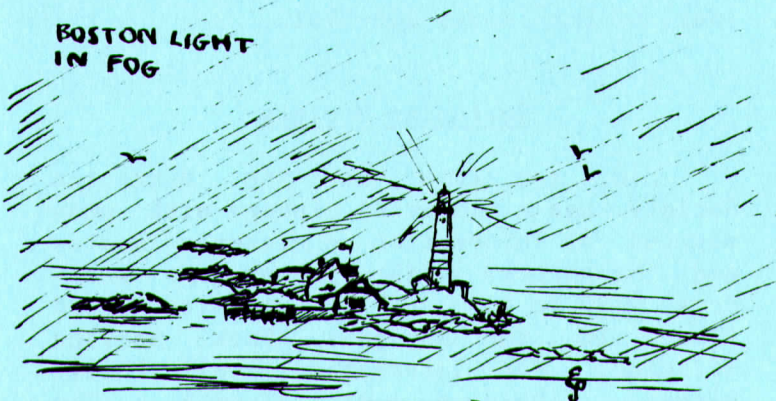
The sumac's red blaze and the ocean's sapphire tones are special characteristics of autumn on the harbor islands. Visiting the islands in September and October is a must!

The free inter-island water taxi that operates between George's Island and several of the other islands will provide weekend service during September and October. Check at the George's Island information booth for departure times, or call 740-1605 (D.E.M.-Hingham) for information.

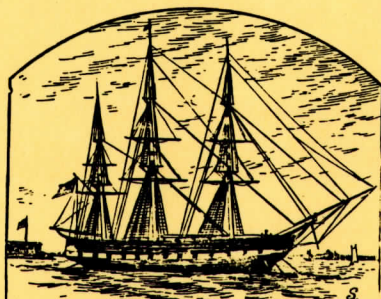
Aquarium Exhibit

Boston Harbor - The Place - The Problem - The Plan is the title of the newest exhibit at the New England Aquarium. This small but dynamic space teaches visitors about CSO's, sludge management, diseased fish, how to conserve water, the islands, and the Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant. An underwater view of the harbor today and in the year 2000, and a view of the harbor from full length glass windows gives the exhibit a touch of reality.

BOSTON LIGHT
IN FOG



The Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands



The U. S. Frigate "Constitution."

invites its membership
to a **FALL SPECIAL EVENT**
Sunday, September 27, 1987

3 pm

Charlestown Navy Yard

Guided tours of the USS Constitution and its Museum
Meet at the Constitution's gangplank

Celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the United States
Constitution!! And how long has it been since you've
actually been aboard the USS Constitution??

5:30 pm

Friends' Potluck Supper

The Hull Room

Visitor Information Building, Second Floor

Beverages Provided, room open at 2:30 for drop-off

RSVP by September 25
Nancy Martin 523-8386 (please tell her what you'll bring)

Directions to the Charlestown Navy Yard:

By MBTA from North Station: turn right onto Causeway Street. Left over the Charlestown Bridge, then right onto Constitution Avenue. Follow the red line on the sidewalk for the Freedom Trail!

By car: From Route 93, follow brown signs for the USS Constitution. Or, take the Charlestown Bridge to Constitution Avenue (as above). Ample free parking is available inside the gates of the Navy Yard.

From Long Wharf: take the Boston Harbor Cruises sightseeing boat at 2:30 pm. Fare is \$3 with a FBHI membership card. Note that the boat stops running at 5 pm, so you can only use this form of transportation to arrive at the Navy Yard.

FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM



Goal: to encourage public use, balanced with an awareness of the need to protect this fragile ecosystem and historic environment.

The Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands Inc. was created because the Boston Harbor Islands are an unique natural and historic resource. We believe that our members belong to the Friends because they wish to protect the Boston Harbor Islands while also promoting the enjoyment that is felt by being involved with this unique environment. We are following an old American custom of banding together to magnify our individual efforts to better our way of life. Our diverse membership provides assistance to the Greater Boston community and the Boston Harbor Islands State Park through volunteers, interpretative services, and public education.

- Benefits:**
- boat ticket discounts
 - FBHI newsletters Tidings
 - island volunteering
 - act in a Living History performance
 - learn more about the islands
 - opportunities to make new friends
 - special activities
 - discounts on items sold by FBHI

The Friends is a nonprofit membership organization. It is only through your support and active presence that we will succeed in reaching its goals in this, our ninth year. Send your check made out to the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc., today--we'll send you your 1987 membership card by return mail.

"Bring a friend to the Friends"

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print)

Name _____ Telephone _____ day
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ eve

TYPES OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

Note: Memberships and donations are tax deductible

- Economy \$6 _____
- Individual \$15 _____
- Family \$28 _____
- Sustaining \$50 _____
- Patron \$100 _____

We will send you a membership card.

New _____ Renewal _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(please check)

- _____ Island Overnight weekends (June-September)
- _____ Island Daytime (June-September)
- _____ Living History programs
- _____ Newsletter/Writing skills
- _____ Membership Activites/Clerical
- _____ Finance
- _____ Fund Raising/Cruises
- _____ Exhibit preparation/Art skills
- _____ Other:

Additional Tax Deductible Gift \$ _____
 How did you find out about us?

Please mail application with check payable to:
 Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.
 PO Box 9025
 Boston, MA 02114

* August 23 - Cruise to Boston Light on Little Brewster. Leave Long Wharf, Boston Harbor Cruises at 10 AM

C

- August 28 - Thompson Island evening sessions end

A

* August 31 - Gallops Island, Sunset Series. Leave on BHC at 6 PM

L



* September 3 - Tour of Fort Independence on Castle Island, promptly at 6:30 PM

E

- September 13 - Harborpark Day

N

* September 27 - Potluck/Constitution Tour

D

- October 1 - Newsletter Deadline. Send articles to Robert Scenna, 24 Piedmont St., Arlington, MA 02174 (643-8279 eves.)

A

* October 3 - Day trip to Great Brewster

R

* October 10 - Trip to Deer Island

* October 24 - Day trip to Little Brewster and Boston Light. Reserve early.

* Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 - Thompson Island Retreat

* are FBHI sponsored events

Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.
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