



Tidings

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

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A Fun Day Exploring Georges Island

New and long term island lovers, visit an island and find out first hand about volunteering. We will leave from Boston Harbor Cruises on Long Wharf, Boston at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 16, 1987. The cost will be \$2.00 for members of the FBHI. Wear warm clothes and bring a picnic lunch, coffee and snacks are available on the boat. Experienced volunteers will be on hand to answer your questions. Call Nancy at 523-8386 if you have any questions.

Calling All Volunteers

Unique Volunteer Opportunities await you on the Boston Harbor Islands. Where else in Massachusetts can you volunteer in a state park that is an island? Where else can you get back to nature while still viewing civilization across the water? Where else can you ride a cruise boat and water taxi to arrive at your volunteer assignment?

The Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc. Volunteer Programs offer you all of this plus great people to work with. If you are a new volunteer, please fill out the enclosed form and mail it in. If you are an experienced volunteer and did not receive a returning volunteer application, please call the office.

If you want to ask lots of questions, please come to one of the Open Houses listed on the enclosed flyer. Bring a friend. All ages, families, married, single are welcome.

For more information please call Nancy at 523-8386. I am in and out of the office so our trusty machine will take your message.



Native Americans on the Harbor Islands

The people were seated in a circle, the sacred symbol of Native people. The music of the flute played gently, and the cleansing scent of burning sweetgrass and cedar filled the air. Is this the scene of an ancient tribal gathering on the Harbor Islands? No, it describes a Friends' get-together on November 23 to discuss the history and beliefs of Native Americans on the Boston Harbor Islands. Kathy Gill, Island Volunteer and a student of American Indian culture, presented a program which highlighted the historical and contemporary beliefs of local Indian people. The circle is a reminder of the interconnectedness of all Creation; traditional Native philosophy is essentially one of environmental protection. The Earth is our Mother, and the role of two-leggeds is to blend with Nature and care for her, rather than to exploit her resources.

Knowledgeable members of the audience contributed historical information on Native presence on the Harbor Islands, which were fishing and farming grounds prior to European settlement. During King Phillip's War in the 1600's, Deer Island witnessed the incarceration and starvation of many Indian people. Squanto played an important role as guide and interpreter for the colonials in Boston Harbor. For more information on history of Native people, the reader is referred to the pamphlet, "Prehistory of the Boston Harbor Islands" and the book, "All About the Boston Harbor Islands" by Emily and David Kales, both available from the Friends.

The evening was concluded with a potlatch (potluck dinner) and a lively exchange of conversation. The interest demonstrated at the gathering has led to plans for further programs on Native Americans on the Harbor Islands.

--Kathleen Gill

Friends Receive National Attention

The January issue of Outside Magazine featured, "Ten More Who Made a Difference" as the "Outsiders of the Year for 1986". These people were selected by a panel of judges who reviewed nominations submitted throughout the United States.

Among the "Outsiders of the Year" are: Sharon Wood, the first North American woman to climb Mt. Everest; Dodge Morgan, the first American to sail solo nonstop around the world; Robert Ballard, the man who found the Titanic; and Suzanne Gall Marsh, founder of The Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands.

The article about the Friends describes them as "A volunteer army . . . who still faces serious challenges: a half million annual visitors are forecast by century's end; the islands need more docks, ferries, and other improvements . . .".

Suzanne was nominated by Kay Beebe, a Friends Board member, who was honored as a 1985 "Outsider of the Year" for founding Volunteer Vacations which is a national program of the American Hiking Society.

There is a copy of the January Outside Magazine in the Friends' office.

Volunteer Training Sessions

You must be registered before you attend any of these events. For complete details, call the office for a brochure.

General Training - All Volunteers must attend one session.

Tuesday, May 19	6-8:30 PM
Friday, May 29	6-8:30 PM
Sunday, May 31	2-4:30 PM
Tuesday, June 16	6-8:30 PM

Birds - Membership welcome.

March 14	Peabody Museum, Salem, MA
June 12	Classroom Training
June 14	On Island Training

Wildflowers - Membership Welcome.

May 15	Classroom Training
May 24	Botanical Museum, Cambridge
June 7	On Island Training

Tidepool Animals - Membership welcome.

May 1	Classroom Training
May 8	New England Aquarium
May 9	On Island Training

First Aid and CPR - Membership welcome.

April 11	American Red Cross CPR
June 1 & 8	American Red Cross First Aid

Glad Tidings

Dear Members: This year we are going to try putting the newsletter out more frequently and give you news of upcoming events in a timely fashion. The next deadline for submissions will be April 1, 1987. It's not too early to start thinking about sending in your favorite island camping recipes and equipment recommendations, in addition to articles, announcements, poems, stories, and sketches. Send submissions to Robert Scenna, Newsletter Editor, 24 Piedmont St., Arlington, MA 02174.

Other Happenings

We are again cosponsoring the **New England Environmental Conference** at Tufts University on March 21 and 22. There will be over 40 workshops and interest groups on important current national and international environmental issues. Key speakers include Sen. Edward Kennedy, Joanne M Brown, Dr. Evelyn Murphy and others. Call 381-3451 for more information.

AHS Volunteer Vacations is an organization which sends teams of volunteers to remote areas to work with the National Park and Forest Service. For more information send a Long, Stamped, Self-Addressed Envelope to AHS Volunteer Vacations, PO Box 86, No. Scituate, MA 02060.



Of Course I Want to Join

The Membership Committee welcomes new committee members at all times. To give you an idea of what we do, here is our agenda for the next two meetings: Feb. 19 - the mailing of this newsletter and discussion of our three spring **HISTORY LECTURES** being cosponsored with the Bostonian Society (all right, so you missed this one, but we had fun); March 6 - discuss artwork for future display events (boat trips, Tufts conference) finalize history lecture series, and work on membership recruitment ideas. Meetings are at 6:00 PM at the Beacon House. For further info call Wynelle Scenna 643-8279 or leave a message at the office 523-8386.

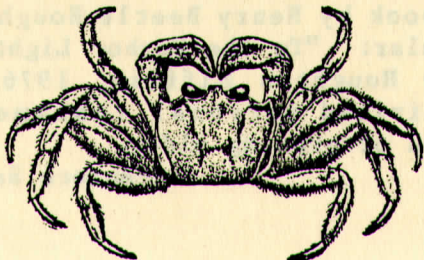
Notes from Nancy's Diary

I spent most of November and December working on the Evaluation of the 1986 Season of the Volunteer Program. Thanks to Joe Kolb I now have a nice chair on wheels. Does anyone have a bookcase so we can start our Library? In November we had our first Fall Celebration for the Volunteers. Kathy Gill, one of the original volunteers, shared with us her knowledge of the Native People of Massachusetts Bay. Members of the Friends come from many different cultural backgrounds, we do share with the Native people a desire to conserve the natural resources of the Islands for future generations. The sharing of food is an ancient custom which is enjoyed by members of the Friends at many events. Our potluck supper was a success and the leftovers were few.

Christmas was quiet at the office, but New Year's Day we all headed out to Thompson Island for winter exploring. George and Suzanne Gall Marsh sold tickets at Kelley's Landing to the 118 people who traveled on one of the three boats to the island. First time visitors and long time visitors, young and old enjoyed tours given by Joe Kolb, Wynelle and Robert Scenna, and Karen O'Donnell. Paul Nyren kept the water hot for cocoa, coffee, and tea in the main dining room. The Friends' slide show was ongoing, giving visitors an idea of the islands in their summer greens. Remember, this slide show can be shown to your favorite group. If you were chilly you could buy a sweatshirt from Mary Eaton or Janet Burgermeister who were selling Friends shirts and books. Thanks to all who helped, it was a great way to start the New Year of 1987.

January 2nd I could not resist a walk to Long Wharf. What a sight at high tide. Snow flying, boats riding high, waves washing up over the street. If you wanted to follow the Harborwalk around the Aquarium you would be wading in a foot of cold salt water. This same storm did some damage to the dock at Peddocks Island. The MDC tells me that the "Little Shack-Motif #2" is still standing. Winter trips will be to Georges Island.

January has been a month of planning.



Planning for the general membership, open houses, annual meeting, volunteers, training, history lectures, and more. For dates please see the Calendar of Training Events. The Volunteer Committee planned these events and helped me on the enclosed Volunteer Brochure. Experienced volunteers, you may camp on Great Brewster and Calf Islands this year. The Volunteer Awards are available to all Volunteers who have given two or more seasons on the Islands. The awards are a small tie tack pin with the Friends Logo. Now is your chance to begin working towards your pin. Sue Smith is the new chairman of the Volunteer Committee.

The Annual Meeting was great! Great comments from our president, great committee reports, great new board members, great volunteers, great Sierra Club slide show, and great refreshments.

--Nancy Martin

Island Jaunts

Here is a list of island boat trips for this year. Mark your calendars; details will follow.

Spring Trips

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday, May 17 Great Brewster Island
Saturday, May 30 Boston Light on Little Brewster Island

Island Sunset Series

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Monday, June 22 Boston Light on Little Brewster Island
Monday, July 6 Great Brewster Island
Monday, July 20 Bumpkin Island
Monday, August 3 Peddocks Island
Monday, August 17 Lovells Island
Monday, August 31 Gallops Island

Fall Trips

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday, October 3 Great Brewster Island
Saturday, October 24 Boston Light on Little Brewster

Fund Raising Committee

In November the Fund Raising Committee sent out approximately 100 letters to Boston area corporations requesting donations. Anyone interested in helping please call the office and leave your name.

Castle Island After Sixty Years

I first visited Castle Island in 1926 when I was a high school boy pursuing the hobby of photographing the many big transatlantic passenger liners that frequented Boston's Harbor. What a wonderful vantage point! The main ship channel passes so close that ships are within hailing distance.

Castle Island, in those days, was not quite the gem it is today. There was no tree lined boulevard from City Point, no refreshment stand, no adequate "facilities", and no fishing pier. Fort Independence was closed. The half-mile walk over the barren landfill that connected the mainland to the island was a test of endurance when winter winds blew.

But that did not stop the island's faithful from walking the dirt road from Marine Park. Old timers remember that a small section of the wooden bridge, built about 1891, was still intact at the approach to the island. Before the landfill of the 1920's, the bridge was the only access to the island.

Among the faithful was a group of ship watchers which included amateur photographers who "collected" ships. Dick Hildebrand and his Graflex had photographed ships at the island since 1908. W.B. Bunting in his excellent book, "Portrait of a Port: Boston, 1852-1914", pays tribute to Hildebrand's photography. Bill Taylor's hundreds of negatives are preserved in the Mariners Museum. Both gave generously of their prints to the high school boy. Mr. Acores, another photographer, who had a studio on T-Wharf, was an occasional visitor. He used a glass plate camera mounted on a tripod. He took his pictures with a black cloth draped over himself and camera. Sometimes, when he was not satisfied with the photo of a ship in the calm waters of Boston Harbor, he retouched the plate by painting in tremendous seas worthy of a hurricane. His plates are at the Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass.

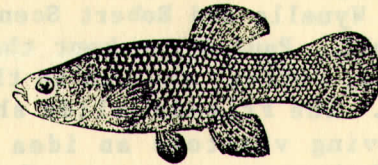
One of the ship watchers was a tall lad from South Boston whose specialty was waving, sometimes a handkerchief in each hand, to his favorite ship, the SAINT JOHN of Eastern S.S. Lines, employed year round in the coastwise passenger service from Boston. The captain saw him waving so often that he rewarded his efforts with three short whistle blasts. Each salute always brought yells of delight.

All the old photographers are gone. The port of Boston has changed radically in sixty years. There are now no regular passenger ships serving Europe and the Mediterranean. The coastwise passenger ships like the SAINT JOHN expired with World War II. Occasionally the QE2 and other cruise ships visit the port, but their numbers are insignificant compared to prewar days.

Fortunately, the years have been kind to Castle Island. Great improvements have been made. In 1932 a paved boulevard and sidewalks replaced the dirt road to the island. The pedestrian of earlier years would have welcomed the trees and benches that line the boulevard today.

We tend to forget that Castle Island is part of the Boston Harbor Island State Park. Pay a visit there any time of year, enjoy the view of the harbor and its islands, and see why the good people of South Boston are justly proud of their Castle Island.

--John Lochhead



Other Interesting Reading

"The Crow Island Journal" by Clinton Troubridge. Published by Harper & Row, 1970. The journal deals with living for a summer on a seven acre island off a remote stretch of the Maine coast.

"Once Upon an Island" by David Conner, Published by Crown 1967. A true story of a couple who bought an island along the shores of British Columbia and set to build a simple resort so others could share the beauty they found.

"The Peninsula" by Louise Dickison Rich, Published by Lippincott. Louise D. Rich was offered a cabin on the Maine coast and in her inimitable style wrote about the simple life style of the hard working fishing folk of Gouldsboro Peninsula.

Any book by Henry Beetle Hough - but in particular: "To the Harbor Light" Published by Houghton Mifflin, 1976. Mr. Hough's spirited personal testament in celebration of growing older.

--Aurora Salvucci

**FIND OUT HOW YOU
CAN BECOME A
VOLUNTEER
ON AN ISLAND IN
BOSTON HARBOR.**

OPEN HOUSE

**SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1987
2:00 - 4:00**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT HEADQUARTERS
BUILDING 45
349 LINCOLN STREET
HINGHAM SHIPYARD
HINGHAM, MA**

**ISLAND SLIDE SHOW
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
REFRESHMENTS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
523-8386**

FIND OUT HOW YOU
CAN BECOME A
VOLUNTEER
ON AN ISLAND IN
BOSTON HARBOR.

OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1987

6:30 - 8:30 PM

OR

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 1987

2:00 - 4:00 PM

AT

BEACON HOUSE
FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS
19 MYRTLE AT JOY STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114

ISLAND SLIDE SHOW
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
REFRESHMENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
523-8386

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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.

Part of our dues goes to maintaining the organization and the rest helps support our mission for the Harbor Park: to encourage public use, balanced with an awareness of the need to protect this fragile ecosystem and historic environment.

- Your membership entitles you to:
- 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

We have many expanded and new activities planned for this year. It is only through your support and active presence that the FBHI 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. Check with your company's personnel office to see if they will match your tax deductible donation.

"Bring a friend to the Friends"

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print)

Name _____ Telephone _____ day
eve

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

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 Activities/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



Explore Long Island Head

Members are invited to join the volunteers as we explore Long Island Head and Fort Strong on Sunday, April 5, 1987.

We will meet at the North Quincy subway station on the Braintree branch of the Red Line at 11:00 AM. You must make a reservation. When you call the office, please leave your name and number and how many your car can hold, if you are willing to drive. Also, tell us if you need a ride. I need to give a count of people and cars to the Long Island Hospital who have consented to allow us to visit. We need to arrive together so all people must meet at the North Quincy station. We will be parking at the hospital and walking, so wear comfortable shoes and bring a picnic lunch.

If you have questions about the weather the day of the outing or need further information please call the Friends' office (523-8386).

Daylight saving will begin April 4th this year so remember to turn your clocks ahead.

--Nancy Martin

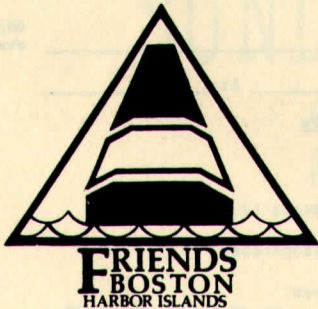
Coolidge Corner Movie Discount

Coolidge Corner Moviehouse, Brookline at the corner of Harvard and Beacon St., is offering a \$1 discount to FBHI members showing their 1987 membership card at the box office, for the movie "Waterwalker". This is an extraordinary outdoor adventure film taking one through the pristine beauty of Lake Superior and the thrilling river country that feeds into it. This is the final film by Canada's Bill Mason, canoeist, painter, and environmentalist. Call 734-2501 for times.

March 7-8, **Georges Island Expedition** -
For information call Margie Coffin (MDC), 268-5744, or the Friends office, 523-8386.

April 18, **Harbor Island Cleanup Day** -
Call the Friends office for more details.

Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc.
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