

October 2017



Happy  Halloween

Hello from Walter!

Hello Friends and Harbor Lovers!

The harbor season is winding down, but some events and volunteer opportunities still exist - Stewardship Saturdays and the Veteran's Day Cruise to Georges Island for example!

On Saturday, October 14th the National Park Service thanked the Volunteers from the Boston National Park Area locations (including the Boston Harbor Islands) with a celebration and lunch with prizes and live music. Some photos are below of this wonderful celebration. I'm very proud of our Volunteer Coordinator and our Volunteers - YOU make an important difference to the park. Thank you for your service!

Link [HERE](#) to a video of the [NPS staff singing a happy 'thank you'](#) to the Volunteers!

Click [HERE](#) for a ghostly account of happenings on the islands (more than just the Lady in Black!)

And thank you as always for your support.

Yours,

Walter Hope, Chairman FBHI

Veterans Cruise to Georges Island - November 11
Tickets available to the General Public as well



Honor veterans and active military with a special cruise highlighting the military history of the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park, featuring a visit to Fort Warren on Georges Island. Ferry passage free of charge for veterans and military and up to 3 family members. \$10 for additional friends and family and for the general public.

Registration required.

Departures from Both Charlestown Navy Yard and Long Wharf North in Boston.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Cruise hosted by the National Park Service, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Boston Harbor Now with generous support from the Arbella Insurance Foundation and Boston Harbor Cruises.



Upcoming Stewardship Saturday Programs

Stewardship Saturday's offer a great chance to help the park out as well as a chance to see the islands in the off-season!

See the park calendar at bostonharborislands.org for all our events.
Registration is required.

[October 28 Webb State Park](#)

[November 4 Thompson Island](#)

November 11 No Stewardship Saturday

[November 18 Grape Island](#)

[December 2 Worlds End](#)

[December 9 Webb State Park](#)

[December 16 Grape Island](#)

[December 23 Webb State Park](#)

[December 30 Worlds End](#)



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New Year's Day 2018

Boat Trip to Thompson Island

— Seafarers Island Holiday



Start the New Year on Sunday, January 1st, with an afternoon on one of Boston's fascinating Harbor Islands. Join the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands (FBHI) for our annual excursion to Thompson Island and take a breath of fresh air after the busy holiday season!



Enjoy a 45 minute boat ride through the Boston Harbor Islands and a panoramic view of the Boston city skyline. Explore Thompson Island's meadows, forests, beaches and 40 acres salt marsh while learning about its intriguing history. Pack a picnic lunch and go on your own adventure!



A Friends' tradition since 1980, being outdoors on a Boston Harbor Island is the best way to start the New Year.

The boat MV Freedom departs from Massachusetts Bay Lines, 60 Rowes Wharf, Boston at 12:00pm and returns to the dock at 4:00pm. Boarding begins at 11:30am. The nearest T stations are South Station (Red Line) and Aquarium (Blue Line).

No food is sold on the boat or the island. Park policy is no pets and no alcohol. There will be indoor space and a complimentary warm beverage available.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION — VISIT FBHI.ORG OR CALL 781-740-4290.

Adults	\$30.00
Seniors (65+)	\$29.00
FBHI members	\$25.00
Children (3-12)	\$20.00
Students (with ID)	\$20.00
FBHI member's children	\$17.00

Babies travel for free, but still need a boarding pass.

Tickets available now through FBHI.org and will also be sold dockside on New Year's Day after 11:00am at Mass Bay Lines, 60 Rowes Wharf, Boston.

In case of inclement weather, check the FBHI website and phone for updates.

If the trip is cancelled due to the weather, credits will be issued for future boat trips, merchandise, or membership dues.

CLICK for New Years Day Tickets

Yoga will again be offered at Thompson's Island on January 1st - Stretch and relax and pass the word!

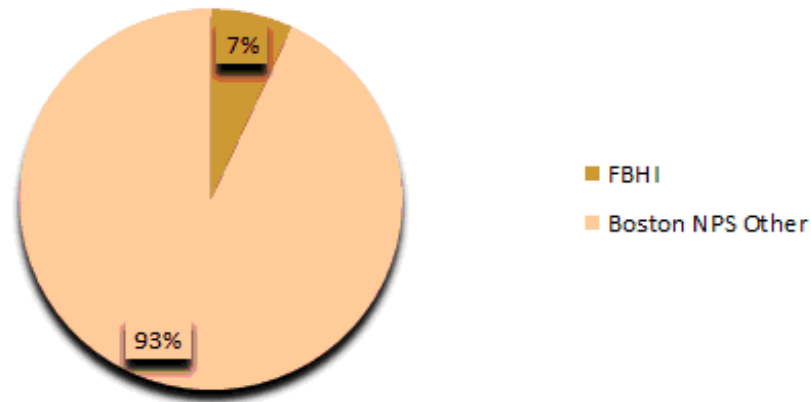
NPS Volunteer Thank You Event



Many volunteers from the NPS Parks in the Boston Area (Navy Yard, Bunker Hill Monument, Cassin Young, African Meeting House, Faneuil Hall and of course the Boston Harbor Islands) attended a wonderful thank you celebration at the Commandants Mansion Lawn in the Boston Navy Yard on October 14th. **53,283 hours of Volunteer Time** were provided to the Boston NPS in the past year and at a rate of \$29.88 per hour that **represents over \$1,592,096** of valued time donated to help our parks! As you can see from the chart below, while our contribution as a group is small, it is certainly nothing to shrug off! Unlike land-

based volunteers that often assist year-round, our season is short and often includes transportation difficulties.

Boston NPS Volunteers



Volunteer Coordinator's Column

by Carol Fithian

The onsite phase of the 2017 FBHI volunteer season is concluding. The focus of many turns away from Massachusetts Bay and surrounding waters to the land. This reminded me of the pilgrims making their first land exploration from the Mayflower on November 15 1620. They were looking for the ideal place to build a settlement, to start their new life. They were in the exploration phase of their discovery.

During the spring and summer of 2017 volunteers have as always shown up to help staff on the islands and at the Welcome Center on Long Wharf. Although this season has been much quieter than the celebratory anniversary one of 2016, volunteers have described many special meaningful interactions with visitors. Some have spent time with disabled visitors sharing information about areas in the park not easily accessed, some have encountered returning visitors from past seasons and spent time sharing memories and information about changes in the park. Some volunteers chose a different area in the park to serve, meeting new groups of people and learning additional history about the harbor. It was, as it is each year a time of discovering and service.

As the winter months approach, and like the pilgrims all settle in to the mainland new opportunities for exploration are possible. I encourage all volunteers, and members as well to read some of the new book offerings about Boston Harbor. Make a visit to the [Healy Library](#) at the University of Massachusetts - Boston and see some of the wonderful collection of [Harbor archive](#) materials and the wonderful [Thompson Island archive](#). Check our [Facebook](#) pages for winter cruise information and harbor stories and share some of your own!

Lastly a few people have been in discussion with me about possibly starting a Boston Harbor book club. We could pick one of the many books about the harbor or Boston read and share either through e-mail, Skype or a Saturday pizza get together. If you might be interested feel free to e-mail the volunteer office with your thoughts. E-mail: cjfithian@comcast.net

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

Walter Hope, **Chairman**; Suzanne Gall
Marsh, **Founder**, Steve Marcus
Chairman Emeritus; Robert "Rab" Sherman, **Clerk**;
Richard Armenia,
Membership; David Dingley,
Board Minutes; Johanna Beers, Paul Federico,



Charlotte Knox, Marguerite Krupp, Pat Leary, Kevin Rogers - **Library Outreach** & Ken Stein.

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

STAY CONNECTED:

