

Clean-up at Belle Isle
Saturday June 9 9 - 12:00
Palermo and Lawn Streets



Belle Isle News

Newsletter of the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh

No. 27 June 1990



My appreciation for the work of the Friends has grown with each spring as I learn more of its history. The magnitude of effort involved in forcing local and state government to see the need for open space in East Boston, to see salt marshes with intrinsic worth, was no easy matter. The Friends of Belle Isle Marsh have accomplished that and more. Barbara Gard, one of the original three people to preserve Belle Isle, said to me recently that she had "never expected as much as we got", referring to the site staff at the reservation. The closing of the park this winter forced me to look at these efforts and the park's needs. My conclusion is that Belle Isle Marsh is very lucky to have the partnership of the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh and the MDC, but it is the Friends which the park needs most, and which ultimately will help it to survive. Your advocacy and physical labor, your enthusiasm and watchfulness, your interest and care, will be its insurance.

NOTES FROM THE MARSH

The reopening of Belle Isle Marsh Reservation in April as part of Earth Month renewed my spirit. The coming of spring to the marsh, in all its subtle glimmerings, has never ceased to excite me. Every April I begin to scan the creek beds at low tide for the tinge of green algae coating the mud. My scouting walks in the marsh include a moment here and there to drop down on my knees, pull aside the tawny *Spartina patens*, and triumph at the pale green shoots at the base of the faded stalks. I watch expectantly for the soaring hawks, and revel in the cry of the Killdeer announcing the return of summer residents. I have learned to see spring with an entirely new perspective since coming to Belle Isle.

It is with sadness tinged with excitement that I write this last column for the newsletter. Both Ranger Matt Tobin and I will be leaving Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. Matt will be moving back out to the MDC's Harbor Islands in June to supplement a much reduced staff. I will be pursuing a Graduate degree in Environmental Policy at Tufts University this fall. Both of us will miss the marsh.

I bumped into Rose Corrado (Rosie's Pond) in the park this past week and she said that with my leaving "What is going to happen to the park?" Well, the answer is clear, and certainly not dependent on me! All of you must continue to preserve this special place. You are the stewards; I am merely your tool. Someday I hope to

preserve and protect 100 or 1000 Belle Isles. Until I get to that point, I hope to pay my dues and perhaps sit on the Executive Board for a change in a different role. I know I leave Belle Isle in good hands. With love.

ROBIN SNYDER
SITE SUPERVISOR
BELLE ISLE MARSH

Editor's note:

Robin Snyder has been an invaluable friend, to the marsh and to those of us who strive to protect it. We know she will go on to do important work for all the Belle Isles in her future, and we wish her success. We hope she will carry with her our everlasting gratitude. Thank you Robin.

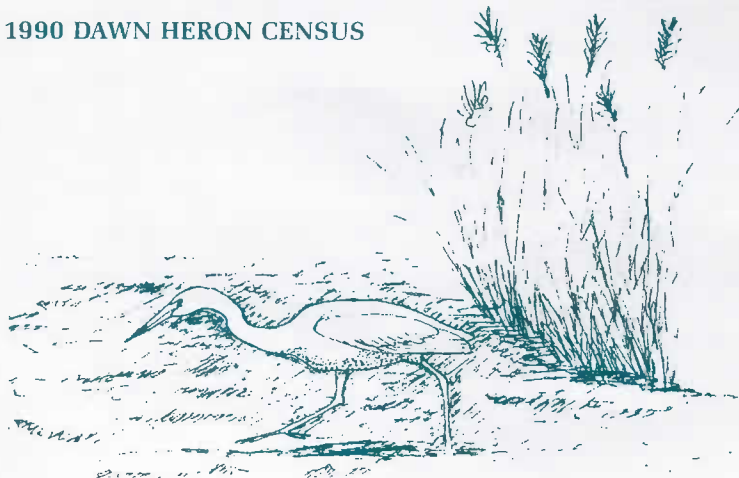
NEWS UPDATES

- Recently the Friends purchased a Japanese black pine tree named "Bradley", and with the help of Ms. Amara's and Ms. D'arc-Angelo's students from the Bradley School in East Boston, planted it at Belle Isle. Jim Falck, former MDC chief landscape architect, was on hand to give us his expert advice.

- The fund-raising spaghetti dinner and concert, held on Friday, April 27, at the Orient Heights Yacht Club, was a fabulous repast and great success, thanks to the beautiful benefit music provided by Roy Mueller and his accompanist. Special thanks also go to "Tony the Chef", for his generous assistance upon hearing of our need.

- The Earth Day Walk on April 22 generated much enthusiasm, but as of this writing, we have not yet determined what financial benefit there was to the Friends.

1990 DAWN HERON CENSUS



DOGS, DOGS, DOGS

To the Editor:

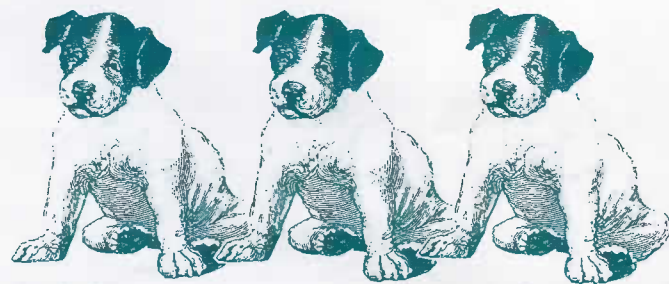
The reopening of Belle Isle Marsh was welcome news to everyone. This urban "oasis" permits occasional escape for many of us who may choose to birdwatch, or simply to stroll and contemplate.

I am increasingly dismayed, however, as I'm sure others are too, by the numbers of free-running dogs which I see on every visit. It's good to see people enjoying open space for any reason, but the dogs they bring should be leashed. Not only can the larger, more aggressive dogs be intimidating to visitors, but they certainly are threatening to nesting birds, which can be flushed from the tall grasses.

Robin Snyder, the Site Supervisor, is sympathetic to the problem, as is Commissioner Ilyas Bhatti of the MDC, to whom I have written. There is already a leash regulation which merely needs enforcement. Perhaps simply posting the regulation in the Belle Isle parking lot would help, together with the occasional presence of a parked MDC cruiser.

Action might come about if the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh were also to write to the Commissioner of the MDC at 20 Somerset Street, Boston, MA, 02108.

HAROLD REINSTEIN
WINTHROP



Date	Sunrise	High Tide
JUN 3	5:09	8:30
JUN 17	5:07	6:30
JUL 1	5:11	6:45
JUL 15	5:20	5:00
JUL 29	5:33	5:15
AUG 12	5:48	3:45
AUG 26	6:03	3:45
SEP 2	6:10	10:00
SEP 16	6:25	9:45
SEP 30	6:40	8:30
OCT 14	6:56	8:45

TO AN OSPREY

You, taker of lives
Now it is yours that was taken.

Lying on the roadside,
limp, struggling,
your eyes blinking,
You could not let go.
So we closed the world around you
to help you gather your peace,

And in that moment
You were gone.

BARBARA GARD



ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

On Sunday, March 11, at the FBIM Annual Meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Revere, new officers were elected and we were treated to a wonderful slide show and lecture by Tom French, Assistant Director of the Non-Game Division of Fish & Wildlife. Mr. French's topic was the "Endangered Species Program" and we thank him for his time, energy and considerable expertise. Newly elected officers to the Executive Board are as follows: President, Conal Foley; Vice President, Katie Durham; Secretary, Barbara Gard; Treasurer, Ann Lindsey. Esther Fich and Ellen Koretz were voted Members-At-Large. Robin Snyder, Karl Pastore and Matt Tobin engaged us with their whimsical "Pandora's Box" skit, Leo Rogers played his beautiful flute, and our afternoon was capped off with delicious homemade pastries and coffee. Thank you to all!

VOLUNTEER FOR WGBH

WGBH has set aside a period of its summer telethon strictly for environmental organizations. The Friends of Belle Isle Marsh has committed to provide 20 volunteers to cover the phones on SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, from 3:00 - 7:00 P.M. WGBH will provide a tour of its studios, a short orientation, exotic goodies to eat from good bakeries, and all participating groups get a unique opportunity for exposure. Please contact Katie Durham at 262-2535 as soon as possible if you want to participate. FBIM will provide transportation to the WGBH studios, which are located at 125 Western Avenue in Allston, Mass. You do not have to be an FBIM member to volunteer, however, if you own a FBIM T-shirt, please wear it. We promise an entertaining and enjoyable afternoon for all. Give Katie a call!

CALENDAR EVENTS

- The Massachusetts Field Office of the Nature Conservancy offers field trips to unique habitats. On JUNE 3 Jim MacDougall of the Essex County Greenbelt Association and Nature Conservancy staffers, will lead you into Ravenswood Park in Gloucester in search of oaks, pines, ferns, boulder gardens and the sweet bay magnolia. For \$20 you may participate in this walk, and gain membership also. Telephone 423-2545 for information about this walk, and many others planned for the summer months.



- The Boston Harbor Association will sponsor a series of fun and educational cruises in Boston Harbor. On Tuesday, JUNE 19, 5:30-8:30 P.M. "Forts & Lights: The Harbor as Protector". On Tuesday, JULY 24, 5:30-8:30 P.M. "Playing in the Nation's Dirtiest Harbor: Recreational Opportunities in Boston Harbor". On Tuesday, AUG. 21, 5:30-8:30 P.M. "Tugs, Trawlers & Workboats". On Sunday, SEPT. 23, 1:00-5:00 P.M. "Progress Report: Boston Harbor Clean-Up". All cruises depart from Long Wharf and Northern Avenue in Boston. Call the Boston Harbor Association at (617) 330-1134 for reservations. \$80 for the series; \$25 for single cruises.

- Spring and Summer Boat Trips by the Friends of Boston Harbor Islands. On Thursday, JUNE 21, a Summer Solstice Cruise evening trip is planned, and on Tuesday, JUNE 26, a Music and Dance Cruise on board the "Fort Independence" among the harbor islands. The J. Q. Stevens Jazz Ensemble will provide entertainment. The boat will depart Long Wharf at 7:00 P.M. and return at 10:00 P.M. Tickets are \$15. Call Fran Dragon at 523-8386 for more information. Other Sunset Cruises are scheduled for July 2, 16, 30, and August 13 and 27.



- **Saturday, JUNE 2, Massachusetts Maritime Festival in Salem.** A Festival for the Whole Family. Peabody Museum 10 to 5: food, games, folk tales, crafts, ships and boats, tours, movies, exhibits. Evening concert at Derby Wharf, 7:00 P.M. to dusk: Pete Seeger.

- **CLEAN-UP AT BELLE ISLE MARSH on Saturday, JUNE 9, from 9:00 to 12:00 P.M.** Please meet at Palermo and Lawn Streets. Wear boots and old clothes. Garbage bags and other equipment will be provided. Help us keep this beautiful marsh clean.

- **ARTS IN THE PARK at Belle Isle Marsh.** Scheduled for Saturday, SEPT. 8, with Sunday, Sept. 9 as our raindate. All artists, amateur or professional: we need your support! This is a wonderful opportunity for artists to display their work and help support this important environmental cause. Please contact us early to donate your services. We plan to have a large display, and we hope you will be part of it. Please contact Gail Miller at 567-5072 for more information.



- The Metropolitan District Commission's Reservations and Historic Sites Division has interesting and varied volunteer opportunities for individuals interested in: water quality monitoring, archaeological research, photography, art, educational programs, natural resource management, mapping, wildlife management and landscaping. Contact the Reservations Supervisor at 322-2851 to volunteer.

Belle Isle News is published four times per year by the **Friends of Belle Isle Marsh**, a non-profit environmental activist organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Belle Isle Marsh. We are staffed entirely by volunteers and funded only through generous contributions. Membership dues are \$8.00 per Family; \$5.00 Individual; \$1.00 for Seniors and Youths (under 16). If you would like to become a member, or can volunteer your time or services, please contact Gail Miller at (617) 567-5072 for more information.

SUMMER MARSH WALKS

Join us at Belle Isle every Sunday throughout the summer for our interesting explorations of beautiful Belle Isle. In June all walks will start at 10:00 A.M. In July and August all walks will begin at 9:00 A.M. Please join us! Meet at the entrance gate to Belle Isle on Bennington Street. If you need to check a date, please call Conal Foley at 846-0786.

FBIM T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

They're here, they're hot, and they're gorgeous! If you need yet another T-shirt for the summer months, order one of ours in mint green, tropical pink, wild orchid, light blue, aqua or watermelon at \$10 each. Contact Gail Miller at 567-5072. Support FBIM and wear one of these attractive shirts. (Made by Hanes in 100% cotton, they come in medium and large only).



This newsletter was produced by Carlene Meeker with the assistance of Gail Miller, Robin Snyder, Soheil Zendehe and Katie Durham. It was printed by Delta Printing of Lynn, Massachusetts.

Friends of Belle Isle Marsh
P.O. Box 575
East Boston, MA 02128

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, Mass.
Permit No. 3225

