



Belle Isle News



Newsletter of the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh No. 29

December 1990

UPCOMING PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline for Entries: March 1, 1991

Mail Entries to:
FBIM
P.O. Box 575
East Boston, MA 02128

Prizes by: Hunt Drug Co.

Rules:

Open to all amateur photographers.

Enter as many photos as you wish.
You may win only once, however.

Entries should be 3x5 prints, color or black-and-white. Only photos taken at Belle Isle Marsh should be submitted. Write your name, address and telephone number on the back of each entry.

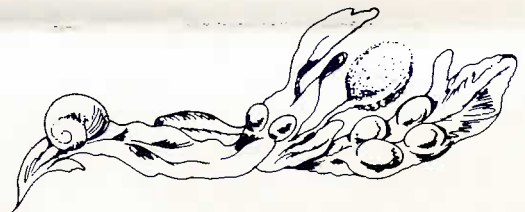
Photographic gift certificates will be awarded as prizes in five categories: best overall, people, scenery, plants and birds.

If no prize winner is chosen in one category, duplicate winners may be chosen in another category.

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at our Annual Meeting in March, 1991.

1991 ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date, March 10, 1991. Our annual meeting, as always, will be held on the second Sunday in March. Our next newsletter will focus on this. It's not too early to think about nominating someone to our Board.



COMMON SENSE

"O ye that love the environment!
Ye that dare oppose not only
pollution, but the polluter, stand
forth! The good earth, air and
water are being overrun with
pernicious trashing. Sparkling
places have been assaulted round
the globe. The industrial maw has
long abused her. Profiteers
regard her like a stranger and
give her warning to depart. O!
Can we retrieve America from this
Age of Usury and recover in time
an asylum on earth?"

With thanks and apologies to
Thomas Paine and his Common Sense.

Conal Foley

ARTS-IN-THE-PARK

Our 4th Annual Arts Festival in September brought young and old together on a beautiful day to Belle Isle to enjoy many art media: visual and performing. The featured musical group, "Wildest Dream" delivered a lively repertoire which touched everyone's soul. The storytelling for the children was very expressively performed by Wendy Frank. The trash-to-art contest was a creative success, testing the wits of the young participants. The pony rides and drawing contest undoubtedly scored big with the future caretakers of Belle Isle.

Several artists displayed their varied talents in unusual, stimulating forms. Our thanks to Dorothy Mahoney, President of the Winthrop Arts Association for her assistance.

Lastly, we extend our appreciation to all the volunteers (too numerous to mention) and to Karl Pastore and Marcy Beitel of the MDC. Hearty congratulations to our own Eleanor Casey and Mary Mitchell, who carefully organized each and every detail of this successful event after raising the money to pay for it! Major donors were Massport and the Boston Arts Lottery.

Other contributors of money, goods or services were:

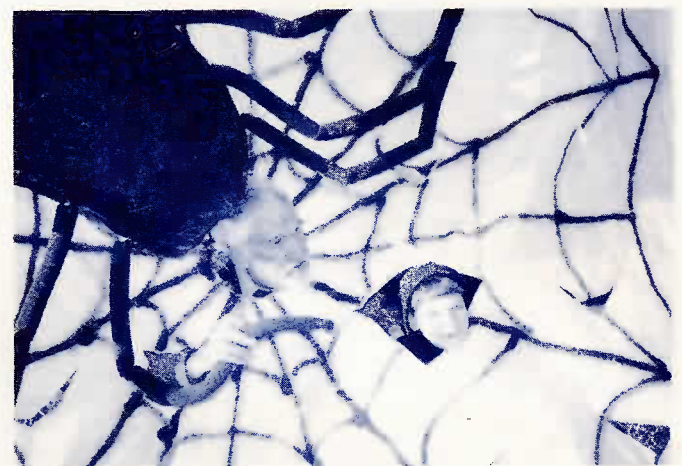
Joel Cote, Ultimate Music of Revere; Center Pizza, Winthrop; East Boston Savings Bank; Robert DeLeo; Jeveli's Restaurant, East Boston; J.J.'s Restaurant, Winthrop; Joseph Franzese; Anthony Frizzi, J.T. Place & Son Inc.; David Goll, Winthrop Arms Hotel; McDonald's of Winthrop; Samuel's Pharmacy of Winthrop; P. Tavilla & Son; Robert Travaglini; Alva Williams.



Alva Williams with Artists



Artist Madelyn Lord's Sculpture



Conal Foley in web

**NOTES FROM YOUR RANGER,
KARL PASTORE**

First, to those who don't know me, let me introduce myself: my name is Karl Pastore. I've recently taken over Robin Snyder's position as supervisor of Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. Having previously had the pleasure of working at Belle Isle as a ranger, as well as being a lifelong resident in this area-it's a thrill to be supervising this beautiful reservation.

My first installment of "Notes" that I thought I would share with you, are some of my concerns, goals and ideas for Belle Isle in the coming year.

An obvious concern of mine is the continued staffing of this reservation. Because of the state's fiscal situation, the on-going management of Belle Isle will remain in question. (And, at the risk of sounding like a state bureaucrat trying to save my job), I feel strongly that continued staffing is vital to the protection and development of this area as a valuable natural and educational resource. Which brings me to some of my goals for Belle Isle Marsh.

Many of my management goals will be similar to Robin's. For example: maintaining the reservation borders, working closely with FBIM to keep an eye on encroachment and related issues, and programming for schools, community groups and the general public are all important tasks to undertake or continue. Programming is an integral part of the overall management of Belle Isle. Its accessibility, its relative small size and its variety of habitats all make this site an ideal outdoor classroom. In addition to the weekly FBIM-led Sunday walks, I will be presenting

a program every other Saturday at the park (see this newsletter calendar listing).

I would like to mention a few, and to me, exciting projects that I would like to accomplish this year.

Observation Blind at Rosie's Pond -

This idea has been floating around for a while, but with the placement of the second tern platform at Rosie's Pond, I think its time has come. I have been visiting a number of reservations and sanctuaries for an appropriate design for a blind. If you are interested in helping with this project, please call me.

Border Trail -

Access to some areas of the reservation is difficult if not, at times, impossible. The marking and establishment of a well-planned trail (from the Bennington Street parking lot to Saratoga Street) will increase the opportunities for programming and enjoyment of Belle Isle. Of course the construction of a trail and observation blind requires much thought and planning. Both Barbara Gard and Katie Durham have offered to help on this project. Again, if you are interested, please contact me.

Other ideas:

The BIFCO Property -

This site is a complete mess! It also cuts the reservation in two, making access to the Saratoga Street marsh and meadows difficult and unpleasant. I hope that by contacting the appropriate officials, this property can be released from Land Court and cleaned up. The installation of a sign on the Saratoga Street side will let people know that this

part of the reservation is protected wildlife habitat.

These are just a few of the projects on my Belle Isle "wish list". As always, working with the Friends is essential to the success of these projects, so please call me if you have any comments, suggestions, or questions. I can be reached at 727-5350 or 322-2851. See you at Belle Isle.

Editor's Note: Tern nesting was successful on the original platform at Rosie's Pond last summer, presumably by the same pair of terns as was seen in previous years. We hope that the second platform will be occupied in the future by their offspring. A pair of tree swallows also exhibited nesting behavior and seemed to be feeding young hidden from us. Our next agenda item for this area is to construct and install purple martin houses. Purple martins are voracious mosquito eaters.

BONACORSO CONTRUCTION COMPANY

On August 10, 1990, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued an Order and Notice of Noncompliance to the Bonacorso Construction Company for disposing of Duracryl, a material containing Methyl methacrylate "...which could potentially

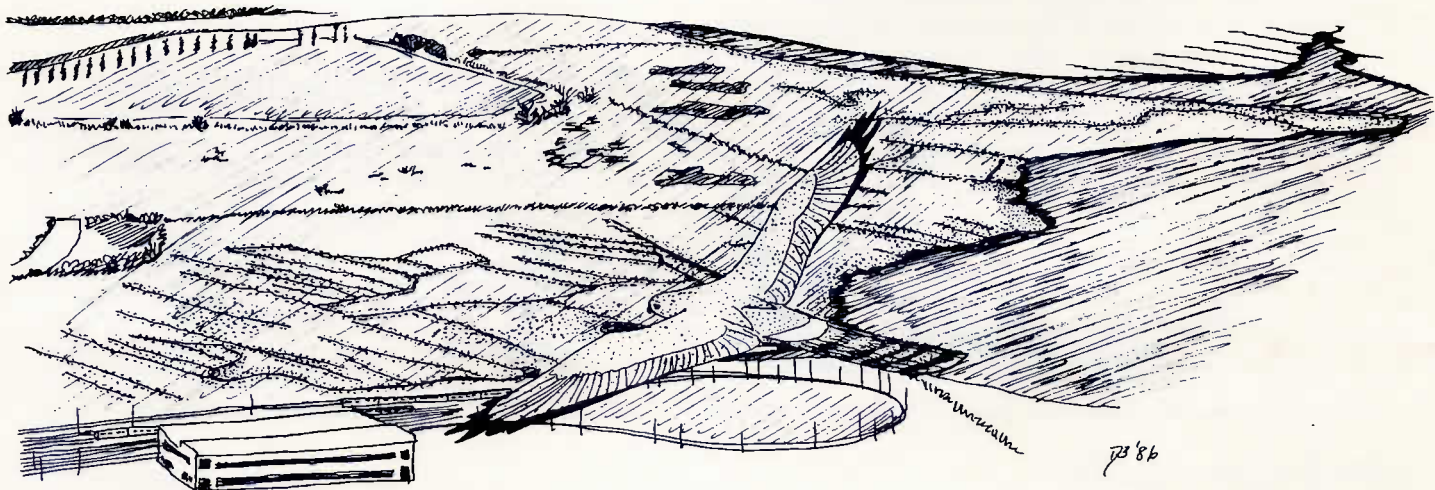
endanger human health, safety...or the environment...", in 1988 at the company's Morton Street property, adjacent to the Winthrop side of Belle Isle Marsh.

In addition, a Civil Penalty was assessed in the amount of \$5,000 for this violation. Bonacorso has appealed this fine.

Although the Friends believe this fine to be a mere slap on the wrist, we nevertheless appreciate DEP's decision in this action. We also thank the anonymous citizen who brought this matter to the attention of Winthrop Fire Chief Flanagan. We thank him for pursuing this violation.

We also are aware of other infractions at this property. Mr. Bonacorso allowed fill to be pushed toward the marsh on adjoining town land to increase access to his property. We urge neighbors to watch this area carefully and to report to the Conservation Commission any unusual or potentially illegal activity.

In the absence of Carlene Meeker, our volunteer professional artist and producer, this issue of the newsletter was prepared by Esther Fich, Barbara Gard and Soheil Zende.



ROSIE'S POND IS "ON THE MAP"

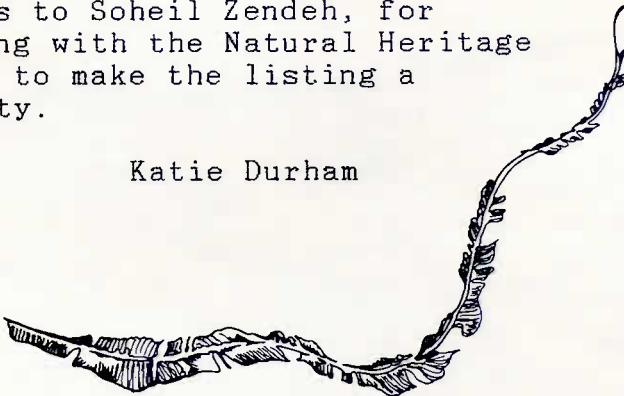
Over the years there have been several milestones in the preservation of Belle Isle Marsh. We would like to share the latest good news.

Those who attended our 1990 annual meeting will recall the excellent presentation by Dr. Thomas French of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. One of his responsibilities is the supervision of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, which maintains the state's Atlas of Habitats of Rare Wetlands Wildlife. A wetland site is added to the Atlas when it can be proven that a rare species of animal has bred there.

Since 1984, common terns, a species of "special concern" in Massachusetts, have nested in Rosie's Pond. Originally making do on top of a pile of debris, the terns have enthusiastically taken over the two nesting platformms erected in recent years. Since then, we have been rewarded with many more nesting attempts and several successfully fledged chicks.

Rosie's Pond will be included in the Natural Heritage Program's 1991 Atlas. What is the significance of this listing? Projects which might alter the terns' habitat in the marsh must now meet higher standards. Many thanks to Soheil Zende, for working with the Natural Heritage staff to make the listing a reality.

Katie Durham



CANOEING AT BELLE ISLE

On a perfect September day, over 30 canoers paddled through the grasses and little creeks of Belle Isle Marsh at high tide. Without a doubt this is a wonderful way to experience the beauty of Belle Isle, particularly in early Fall when the Salicornia sp. is changing from green to red.

Because this event was listed in the bulletin of Coastweeks '90, it attracted several newcomers to Belle Isle.

Court Booth and Robin Snyder were the guides, organizers and safety crew for this event. Many thanks to them.

BOSTON HARBOR WATERFOWL COUNTS

Sundays, January 20, February 17, March 31, 8 AM to 1 or 2 PM, on the Winthrop side of Boston Harbor, there will be a continuation of the "duck counts". This is the 10th year of these counts and we would like new participants. Meet at Orient Heights, Blue Line Parking Lot.

Experience not required.

Warm clothing, binoculars required.

Contact Katie Durham 262-2535

WISCONSIN WINTER

The Golden Delicious Apples
lay
on the November ground
like
winter-blooming
wild-
flowers.

Barbara Gard

METROPARKS/FBIM PROGRAMS
AT
BELLE ISLE MARSH RESERVATION/PARK

Meet at parking lot bulletin board
inside Bennington Street entrance.

SUNDAYS:

Weekly, one-hour walks
10 AM, led by Conal Foley
(for information: 846-0786)

*SATURDAYS:

Special Programs,
led by Ranger Karl Pastore
Please pre-register with Karl
at 727-5350 or 322-2851.

*WINTER ADVENTURE, January 12, 10
AM. The Salt Marsh looks desolate
at this time of year, but a
surprising number of critters
survive here throughout the
winter. We'll explore the obvious
and not-so-obvious signs of Belle
Isle's winter residents.

*BELLE ISLE: FIRE AND ICE,
January 26, 10 AM. Climate
changes are cyclical: the earth
has naturally gone through many
cold and warm periods. Join us as
we look at how the last ice age
helped to create Belle Isle Marsh
and how global warming could
destroy it.

*BORDER HIKE #2, February 9, 10 AM
to 1 PM. In the deep of winter
we'll hike along the reservation's
borders to Saratoga Street. Join
us on this invigorating walk and

Belle Isle News is published four times per year by the
Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, a non-profit environ-
mental activist organization dedicated to the protection
and preservation of Belle Isle Marsh. We are staffed en-
tirely 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.

help us to develop plans for a
perimeter trail.

*PLANTS IN WINTER, February 23, 10
AM. "All the leaves are brown,
and the sky is gray...." It's not
easy to identify plants in
winter. Join us as we use some
interesting techniques to identify
some of Belle Isle's vegetative
inhabitants.

Warm clothing and warm, waterproof
boots are a must. You might want
to bring a snack, hot thermos and
binoculars.

EARTH DAY WALK UPDATE

Since our last newsletter we have
received a check for just under
\$500 from the umbrella
organization which coordinated
this event: Cooperating
Association of New England Parks
Inc. (CANOPI). We thank all of
our supporters for their donations
of footwork and money. We will
use these funds wisely.

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