



# FRIENDS OF SEGUIN ISLAND Light Station

[www.seguinisl.org](http://www.seguinisl.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

Celebrating 218 years

*To distinguish Seguin Island Light Station as part of Maine's heritage,  
fostering connections with our area history for generations to come.*

Fall/Winter 2014

Issue #60

My first thought was to write about what I perceived, was the biggest event of the summer; the September 4<sup>th</sup> delivery of the bell to Seguin. But to me the event was more than that, it was the culmination of the efforts of many to complete a goal.

It's what a volunteer organization is all about. To achieve a common objective. It wasn't about the bell. It was all about the sharing, giving, and receiving. I felt honored and thrilled to be partaking in this special moment with all these respectable people. It makes a person proud to be part of such a devoted group.

The morning sun warmed everything and everybody. There was the slightest breeze coming off the ocean. It was going to be one of those stunning Maine summer days that we all dream about and cherish. The whole scene lifted everyone's spirits just that much more.

I was so delighted to witness the sheer happiness that encircled my fellow board members and the many volunteers that participated in the early morning event. But I got the greatest pleasure in watching FOSILS president, Ken Young, who clearly enjoyed the whole show more than anyone else. He spearheaded this endeavor, and with help of many, saw this through to the exhilarating delivery of the bell back to Seguin Island via helicopter. It's times like this that makes all the effort worth it.

If President Ken Young wasn't proud enough of FOSILS's achievements, his granddaughter's efforts put the icing on the cake. As many of you may remember from our last newsletter, Ken's granddaughter, Emma Lane, had submitted a project to help her earn the coveted Girl Scout Gold Award. The project was accepted and she did receive her Gold Award. Emma has produced a Keeper-in-Training packet of sorts to be handed out to youngsters visiting Seguin Island. The packet will contain clues for a treasure hunt that will enable children to explore and discover the history of the Island. Well done Emma and thank you.

Also in September, a spectacular photo of the Seguin Island lighthouse graced the cover of Down East magazine (see photo on page 6) and then in October, FOSILS received an "Organization Excellence Award" from Sagadahoc Preservation Inc. Outstanding!! Earlier in the summer Seguin Island was featured on a segment of [Hometown Maine](#), hosted by Norm Karkos of the local ABC TV affiliate, WMTW.

I'd like take this opportunity to remind all to encourage family and friends to join our outstanding organization in our effort to preserve such a distinguished piece of history. FOSILS is always looking for lighthouse keepers, volunteers, interns and docents.

Help us keep the light shining.

By Steve Thibodeau Jr., proud volunteer member of FOSILS

# President's Message

Wow!!! How do you begin to review this past season on Seguin?!! We had excellent keepers: summer Cynthia and Fred all the way from California with their dog. This fall brought Brenda and Bill and their friends Maggie and Dennis. Then Lynne and Tim returned and finishing off the season with Greg and Mary, Beverly, Cyndy and Michael. Each of these keepers maintained and improved our five trails, did special projects and entertained our many visitors. The most in one summer day were 134!



We also had volunteers from [Idexx Laboratories Corporation](#) in Westbrook, [Maine Island Trails](#) and navy personnel from the [Zumwalt Destroyer](#) on two separate occasions. Overnight campers from [Chewonki](#) also pitched in.

Our guest quarters were used throughout the summer with ten planned overnights. All the guests were thankful for their experience.

We contracted a lot of vital renovations to the brick work on our three buildings. There is more to be done next season and probably on-going. Also contracted new roofs on the boat house and engine house

Our extraordinary volunteers accomplished the replacement of facia and trim board on the main house, trim on the engine house windows, painting the boat house and engine house, brush removal under the tram and opening views all over the top of the island, renovation and improvements to the museum, and scraping and painting the tower railings.

We staged an "armada" to bring lumber and shingles to the island. Work accessing the necessary repairs to the tram structure has been done and structural repairs have begun.

Most exciting, it seems, was the return of the 1858 fog bell. It sits in a new cradle on the northeast side of the main house. This event was the culmination of a three year quest. Also we finished the static display of the 1890 steam engine in the meadow. Historic plaques have been installed at the site and the site of the two story barn.

For me, key to the whole operation, has been the spirit with which each of these tasks were undertaken and completed. The devotion to the maintenance and improvement of the island is unmatched. The relationship among the volunteers and the members of the board are excellent.

Plans are well underway for the 2015 season. We thank all of you for your support and the many ways you make our endeavors possible.

Sincerely,  
*Kenneth H. Young,*  
FOSILS President



## *Summerfest5 Success*

*Maine Maritime Museum in Bath was the site of the Friends of Seguin Island Light Station's annual fundraiser on Friday August 29<sup>th</sup> – an evening of friends, family and supporters of Seguin.*

*We kicked off the evening with Lauren Crosby providing a backdrop of music as folks arrived and mingled. With 85 attendees and over 30 live auction items to preview, there was much going on. This year we had live as well as silent auction items to preview, and new to our format was 6 different raffle themes and a special champagne table with the winning glass taking home a beautiful pair of sterling silver earrings for 'her' and a wooden hand carved pen for 'him'.*

*John Bottero, auctioneer extraordinaire was on hand to oversee the live auction as he has in each year we've celebrated Seguin through this event. Historically FOSILS selects a 'Volunteer of the Year' each spring, honoring them for the time, energy and passion they extend to Seguin. This year we opted to go a bit off schedule in order to honor John as the recipient. His award read in part:*

*"John has been instrumental to the success of our yearly Summerfest events... he has commanded the gavel, encouraging attendees to dig a bit deeper for our island. Having John as our Auctioneer has been crucial to the success of our auction format for the fundraising necessary to keep the island up and running and the Seguin light shining.*

*As a professional auctioneer he is well aware of what can make or break a fundraising event such as ours and he has provided FOSILS with guidance and suggestions to make the most of what we've brought forward as donations from Businesses, Board Members and Membership of our organization.*

*Thank you John Bottero..."*

*Byrne's Catering provided a delicious buffet and brought along their signature beverage to offer up, Seguin Sangria!*

*Seguin's 2014 Keepers, Dr. Fred Blomshield and Cynthia Privoznik provided our guests with an informative power point presentation that depicted the highlights of their time (with their dog Sacatar) on Seguin from Memorial Day through that very day.*

*We have many to thank for the success of our event this year – FOSIL Board and Committee Members, Volunteers, local business who were generous with their donations and our Corporate Sponsors:*

*[First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Bath](#)*

*[Wilson's Drug Store](#)*

*[Bath Savings Institution](#)*

*[Byrnes Catering/Irish Pub](#)*

*All in all a great success – we hope to see you all next year for Summerfest6 – we have already reserved the date so hold the date, Friday July 24, 2015!*

## From the On Island Committee

Volunteerism was one of the most striking features of the Seguin Summer 2014.

As always, our summer volunteer Keepers, Fred and Cynthia, maintained the dwellings, the lawns and the trails and gave tours of the Lighthouse to at least 2000 guests.

The "Wednesday Warriors" as we have come to call ourselves, are local volunteers who go out to work on the island every summer Wednesday that the seas allow. We paint, plumb, repair damaged wood on dwellings and on tram structure, cut sumac, and do whatever we can to maintain the island as a public historical and recreational treasure.

We couldn't do it all by ourselves though. We were very lucky to have two Saturdays, late July and late September, of US Navy volunteers from the USS Zumwalt. They prepped and painted the Boat and Donkey Engine House. One sailor told me, they do this kind of work all the time on the boats, but on this island it doesn't feel like work. After a hard days work on September 27, many of them jumped in the Cove and went swimming!

A Maine Island Trails crew joined us on a Wednesday in July to cut heavy brush under the tram supports. They even brought their own tools.

Four employees from IDEXX in Portland chose Seguin as the place their employer pays them to do a day of volunteer work. They scraped and prepped the outside railing on the Lighthouse catwalk. They plan to return next year.

Chewonki kids camped overnight and did trail work the next day. A Boy Scout Troop from Connecticut has already contacted us for volunteer work 2015.

2014 was a summer of volunteerism and great accomplishments, outlined elsewhere in the President's Report. The On Island Committee of FOSILS welcomes groups and individuals to join us 2015 for work on an island that "doesn't really feel like work."





## REMEMBER FAMILY and FRIENDS for the HOLIDAYS

Giving a special lighthouse gift will promote the majestic Seguin Island Light Station by helping to support, maintain, and preserve this important historic site. Check out an array of gifts found in our Front Street Bath Office and on the Seguin web site [www.seguinisland.org](http://www.seguinisland.org).

We are pleased to present Alan Claude's 2015 Poster Calendars (wall and desk sizes), featuring a beautiful depiction of Seguin Island Light Station seen on the month of March. The artist's rendition of Seguin Lighthouse also comes in an 8X10 poster and an acrylic encased magnet.



A gift of Membership is another way to help keep Seguin's magnificent light shining. Giving a Seguin Island Light Station Membership is a perfect way to give a meaningful gift without the worry of size or color. Do not forget that as a Seguin Member, you can take a 10% discount off any merchandise and are eligible to give and stay on the island in the Seguin Guest Quarters.



Also new is the Seguin china ornament, which is so good looking, you can keep the decoration up all year long! The porcelain ornament comes with a plain edge or scalloped. During December a display table will be set up in Bath's First Federal Savings Bank for purchasing that one-of-a-kind present. A memorabilia table will be set up at the Dare Fair, the first Sunday in December...come by and see all our unique items for sale.



## DOCENTS WANTED

Every Wednesday when the keepers are off the island for the day and the Wednesday warriors come out to work, Ken Young and Cyndy Carney have been serving as tour guides to the tower, museum and the rest of the upper island. Cyndy and Ken may not be able to make it out every Wednesday, so we are looking for four folks to whom we can pass our knowledge and give you a manual and training as Docents. It would probably involve being on the island 2 or 3 Wednesdays during the summer, or when the keepers can get off the island due to weather. If you are interested in volunteering please call the Seguin Office and register your interest there and Ken will be in contact with you in May. We are looking forward to this new adventure.

**HOW TO NAME A LOBSTERBOAT** [HOT NEW PORTLAND EATERY P. 111]

The Magazine of Maine EST. 1954

# Down East

SEPTEMBER 2014

## 5 GREAT LIGHTHOUSE DAY TRIPS

**PLUS**

- ▶ Bangor PD Goes Viral
- ▶ The Friendliest Village in Maine?

Seguin Island Light, off Popham Beach. p. 90

**FALL FAIRS** P. 135

\$5.99 U.S./\$6.99 Canada - [downeast.com](http://downeast.com)

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## From Fred and Cynthia's Sequin Island Lighthouse 2014 Blog

Anonymous has left a new comment on your post "[Day 82, 7 August](#)":

*"My grandson and I visited back in May at the light house and I have been following the blogs and the photos from the lighthouse ever since. We live in PA. Today I asked my grandson what lighthouse in Maine was his favorite and he did not hesitate - he said it was the Sequin lighthouse and the boat trip with Ethan. He is 12 years old. I have to agree with him. In fact, I think of all the things that I have done during this beautiful summer, nothing can compare to my trip to the Sequin lighthouse. It was just magical. The lighthouse has views that make you feel as though you are surrounded by an earth of peace and majesty and brilliance. An earth devoid of the troubles that beset the human experience. An earth apart. That reminds you of what might exist. What could exist. What should exist.*

*There are indeed places on this planet that make us rise above all the frailties of the human experience. Quiet, serene spots of profound peace. The wide world. Sequin offers that.*

*I am grateful that my grandson will remember our visit but I am also grateful that I had the chance to remember and relish a little piece of this island that sits so tall in the Atlantic and harbors such a wonderful secret."*

And then there was this just two days later:

*"Gus is here at my house this weekend and we talked about our visit to Sequin. Our visit made a huge impression on him. I am the person from Pennsylvania.*

*I have thought about Sequin throughout this summer. It is a magical place. It does remind me of peace and the best of what we have here on this planet.*

*I see so much sadness at my job, the deaths of young people and children. All of us doing our best and trying our hardest. I feel the heartache of the Palestinians as they try to survive in a world of hate and conflict. I feel the heartache of Iraq and the families who are trying just to survive.*

*Sequin offered a respite for me. Just the simplicity of the sea and the lighthouse.*

*I have been burdened my entire life by this terrible ability to remember most everything in my life but I also remember the finest moments, the most delicious memories that reinforce my belief in humanity. Sequin reinforced my love of this planet. A tiny spot that looks out over the most wondrous sea and expanse and sky.*

*So thank you. Please tell Ethan thank you too. It was a day washed in a sea that I won't forget. Gus and I have that now forever."*

Barbara





**The following article was published in several weekly newspapers this past summer:**

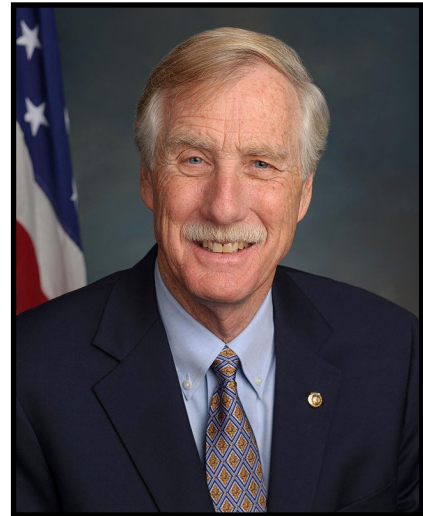
**By U.S. Senator Angus King**

**Independent-Maine**

**Thursday, July 17, 2014**

Scattered throughout Maine's thousands of miles of jagged coastline are more than 60 lighthouses. These iconic symbols of our state's rugged beauty and maritime heritage are more than just postcard-worthy buildings — for hundreds of years, they have helped seafarers navigate our rocky shores.

From Nubble Light in York to West Quoddy Head Light in Lubec, Maine's lighthouses serve as indispensable beacons of safety up and down our coast, guiding sailors, fishermen, and recreational boaters home. Some of these impressive structures are almost as old as America itself.



It was President George Washington who signed the Lighthouse Act of 1789 into law, establishing a federal role in the support, maintenance, and repair of lighthouses. The ninth act of the first Congress, this law stands out as the first public works act in the history of the young United States. It played a pivotal role in the construction of Maine's first lighthouses, including Portland Head Light, where whale oil lamps were first illuminated in January of 1791. Maine's second oldest lighthouse, Seguin Island Light Station, was commissioned by President Washington in 1795. Towering over the mouth of the Kennebec River from its perch on Seguin Island, it has the distinction of being the highest lighthouse in Maine. Anyone who has made the trip out to Seguin knows that it is truly one of Maine's special places. On a clear day, you can even see Mount Washington in the distance. Although the original light tower on Seguin was replaced in 1857, the current lighthouse is as impressive as the island it sits on. Seguin Island Light Station is home to a very rare lens. Seguin's First Order Fresnel lens is made up of 282 identical glass prisms, which help concentrate the light into a single beam. Seguin's signal is visible from over 20 miles away.

Seguin Island Light Station and Portland Head Light are just two of Maine's many treasured lighthouses. And just as these buildings have guided mariners for two centuries, it falls to us to preserve and protect them for future generations. Congress recognized this fact in 2000 when it passed the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, and a long list of organizations — including the American Lighthouse Foundation in Maine, the Maine Lights Program and The Maine Lighthouse Museum in downtown Rockland — work tirelessly to promote lighthouse heritage and preservation.

Last year, Senator Collins and I worked to designate Aug. 7, 2013, as National Lighthouse and Lighthouse Preservation Day to mark the 224th anniversary of the Lighthouse Act of 1789. I'm hopeful that we can do something similar this year. As the lights continue to burn on the coast of Maine and along America's shores, we strive to honor our state's and nation's proud lighthouse heritage.



## CHANGES ON THE BOARD

FOSILS is pleased to announce that a few new board members have been added. Please welcome Stefanie McElman, Kim Emerson and Rose Mulligan. Ken Young will be stepping down as President and will be replaced by Deb McKenna. Our new Vice-President will be long time board member Anne Morong.

### Social Media and Digital Newsletters

For those of you who are on Facebook, please find our page and hit the "like" button.



For those of you that would prefer to receive our semi-annual newsletter in the PDF digital format, instead of in print, please provide us with your email address and we'll send you a digital copy each time. The digital version will now have full color photos and links to other points of interest within the newsletter. [membersemail@seguinland.org](mailto:membersemail@seguinland.org)

### Events Calendar

**Dare Fair**  
December 7, 2014

**SummerFest 6**  
Summer 2015  
July 24, 2015



#### Friends Of Seguin Island Membership Form

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my (our) contribution for continuing (new) membership in the Friends of Seguin Island, a non-profit corporation, organized for the purpose of maintaining and preserving Seguin Island Light Station and its historic structures.

#### Membership Levels

First Mate (16yrs or younger) ( ) \$ 10.00

Captain ( ) \$ 30.00

Seguin Family ( ) \$ 55.00

Assistant Keeper ( ) \$ 100.00

Lighthouse Keeper ( ) \$ 250.00

Commodore ( ) \$ 1,000.00



Thank you very much for your support!

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I would like my newsletter emailed

*Revised June 2012*

## FOSILS Board of Directors • • 2014

Deb McKenna – President  
Anne Morong – Vice President  
Dee Perry – Secretary  
Deanne Morong – Treasurer

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Kevin Crosman •• Ellen Womer •• Steve Thibodeau Jr.  
Sue Patton •• Mary Hillary •• Kim Emerson  
Stephanie McElman •• Rose Mulligan

## PLEASE HELP US REDUCE COSTS!

We are going green and saving the trees, as well as the island. In one effort we can reduce postage and paper by emailing you the newsletter.

Contact us at: [membersemail@seguinland.org](mailto:membersemail@seguinland.org)  
with your email address.



Thank



You!



## Many Thanks

The Board of Directors of FOSILS meets monthly in the First Federal board room - a very comfortable and convenient meeting space— one more way they show their support. Once again, we appreciate all that First Federal Savings and Loan and their employees do to support our efforts.



*Everything You Love About Maine, in a Local Bank!*

## FRIENDS OF SEGUIN ISLAND, INC.

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