



FRIENDS OF SEGUIN ISLAND Light Station

www.seguinislnd.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.*

Spring/Summer 2014

Issue #59

Meet the Caretakers for Seguin Island Light Station 2014

F.O.S.I.L.S. is proud to announce the new Lighthouse Keepers for this summer, Cynthia Privoznik and Dr. Fred Blomshield. They reside near the tiny desert town of Inyokern in the high desert of California on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains with Mt. Whitney to the northwest and Death Valley to the east. In this very remote, severe and stunningly beautiful area they both worked for the China Lake Naval Weapons Center. They met as engineering students in the school of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University in Indiana where Fred got his doctorate and Cynthia got her masters degree. Cynthia was a flight test engineer for over 31 years with NASA Langley, NASA Dryden and the Navy while Fred was a rocket scientist for over 31 years with the Navy. They are both currently retired from their DOD Government service and enjoying their retirement. Fred still does some consulting with government and industry in his very specialized field. Cynthia has concentrated on her painting, violin, ballet and needlework. They both enjoy snowboarding, biking, hiking, kayaking, backpacking, camping, scuba diving and traveling in their 32 years together. Lately they have enjoyed immensely taking care of the beloved New Dungeness Lighthouse Station on the 5-mile long Dungeness spit in the Strait of Juan de Fuca near the town of Sequim, WA. This lighthouse was built the same year as the Seguin Island Lighthouse in 1857. Here they learned all about taking care of a historic lighthouse, keeper's



Dr. Fred Blomshield and Cynthia Privoznik



Sacatar

quarters and station with the love and devotion that they deserve. They are slated to take care of the Battery Point Lighthouse Station near Crescent City, CA, for the month of June 2015. They have always had an attraction to lighthouses and were thrilled to learn that they were chosen to take care of the magnificent Seguin Island Lighthouse Station for the summer of 2014. They are so excited and looking forward to manning the Seguin Station with their beloved golden retriever Sacatar who is looking forward to escaping the hot desert and sleeping on a nice green, cool grass lawn for the summer.

President's Notes

What a relentless winter! Almost as relentless as the seas that pound the cove and craggy shoreline of our beloved Seguin Island. I think we are all getting curious to see what has been deposited in the cove; what is left of the boathouse from continuous wave action, and how the roofs and buildings and tower have fared this winter. On opening work day, May 17th, we found the Island to be in fair condition. See the short story about opening day on page 3.

We are thankful for Paul's brief service as our Administrative Coordinator. We are most happy to welcome Catherine Jacobs on board as our visible-to-the-world-face at the office on Front Street. Catherine comes with many years of work experience in many places in the area and as an active volunteer on Patten Free Library's Board of Directors. She and husband Jeff are also avid sailors.

We are looking forward to Cynthia Privoznik and Dr. Fred Blomshield's tour as our 2014 summer caretakers! They bring many life experiences and a working knowledge and love of lighthouses to their task! Welcome!!!!



The long awaited return of the Naylor/Sheffield bell to the island will happen this June if everything proceeds as planned. From a design provided by Jim Bennett, Merle Chaney is constructing a new steel cradle for the bell to be suspended from. We will also build a cement pad for it to rest on and Paul Couombe has generously provided the funds for a helicopter to bring the bell safely from Popham to the top of the island on the north side of the keeper's quarters. We will be able to pretty accurately let you and the press know the date of its

transportation!

Over the winter Cyndy Carney and her Development Committee have actively pursued several grants and were awarded some significant funds. Along with the results of our second annual appeal we have funds for building supplies and improvements to our collections. Thank you all for helping us stay solid as the Seguin Island rock!

After years of service, Ethan DeBery and Anne Bridgman are stepping down as co-chairs of the On-Island Committee. We cannot say thank you enough to you both. Mary Hillery and Sue Patton have assumed the august responsibility of co-chairs. They are already making plans for a fruitful year.

This June should see the beginning of the pointing of the brick work on the kerosene building and very vulnerable places on the main house and fog signal building.

We are all looking forward to continuing the excellent progress of the last few years and the excitement of long range goals being accomplished. We thank all our members and friends for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Kenneth H. Young,

FOSILS President



Opening Day 2014

Weather and seas dictated the opening this year. The original date of May 17 had to be scrapped. Sunday May 18th proved to be a better day. Ethan DeBery transported Cyndy Carney, Mike Boonstra, Anne and Greg Bridgman, and Fred and Cynthia, our new caretakers to the island, plus one dog.

They landed and loaded belongings and supplies onto the tram whose engine started right up. Cyndy Carney, engineer par excellent operated the grand diesel and all went well. There was no major damage to the structures on the island. Greg was able to get the cisterns filled and water was flowing in the house, despite a number of leaks

Undaunted, Fred decided on Monday to fix the pipes in the basement and believe it or not after several hours was happy to report that hot and cold water was running to both units in the main building. It was also reported that the grass was not as high this year and Mike was able to start cutting the lawns. Cyndy unpacked the museum and arranged the artifacts and displays for the season.

It was wonderful to step ashore again and to begin another season of welcoming guests to the island. We remind everyone that there are five moorings in the cove to tie up to when visiting the island

The Wednesday warriors will start their weekly journeys to the island May 28 leaving from Fort Popham. Check with Capt. Ethan DeBery to find the departure time in the morning.



Seguin Island: A Lofty Gem Near Georgetown Summer 2013 Video Documentary

hosted by
Fred J. Kahrl



FOSILS was pleased to receive a video documentary hosted by one-time FOSILS board member and light keeper, Fred J. Kahrl. The documentary was filmed last summer and was presented to the Board of Directors last November. The video was recorded and edited by Patti Mikkelsen of New Gloucester Community TV. The 54 minute long video production was narrated by Fred and he interviewed Mary Hillery (one of last summer's light keepers), Lorraine Skolfield Lowell (daughter of Clarence Skolfield, light keeper from 1936 to 1946), and Tom Skolfield, son of Clarence Skolfield.

Fred recounts how, as a young man, he was influenced by the late Clarence Skolfield. Fred took a keen interest in the surrounding lighthouses and his frequent visits with Clarence motivated him to join the U.S. Coast Guard.

On Fred's behalf, a copy of the film was also donated to the Georgetown Historical Society.

Some of you may remember from our last newsletter that three different video production teams visited Seguin Island Light Station last summer. Fred Kahrl's production with NGTV made it four.

From the Development Committee

Seguin receives grants for Island Repairs

Friends of Seguin Island Light Station has received **\$9,500 from the Davis Family Foundation** and **\$5,000 from the Maine Community Foundation's Belvedere Fund** for Historic Preservation. With these funds we will be re-pointing the bricks on the main house and oil house, replacing the fascia, gutters and soffits on the main house and finishing the window project. FOSILS will conduct all aspects of the project in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and will complete the project this year. FOSILS will be hiring professionals to do most of this work but our volunteer Wednesday Warriors will still be hard at work assisting in these projects. Join us for the fun or just come out and see our progress. **THANK YOU TO THE DAVIS FAMILY FOUNDATION AND THE MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR HELP IN KEEPING THE LIGHT SHINING!!**



Meet Catherine Jacobs

We are very pleased to introduce to the Friends of Seguin Island Light Station Catherine Jacobs, our new Administrative/Coordinator. Catherine comes to us with good skills in computer operations and a willingness and eagerness to learn about anything with which she is not entirely comfortable. In addition, Catherine brings a positive and encouraging attitude to her tasks and to the public.

In her previous role Catherine assisted an engineer at the Supervisor of Shipbuilding office in Bath. She is a past President of the Friends of the Patten Free Library and past President of the American Association of University Women. Catherine graduated from Bowdoin College earning a Bachelor of Arts in 1995.

Catherine and her husband Jeff have sailed the Maine coast for 30 years and she is familiar with our beloved Seguin. She has a passion for conserving our maritime heritage.

We hope you will warmly welcome Catherine to our team when you have an opportunity.



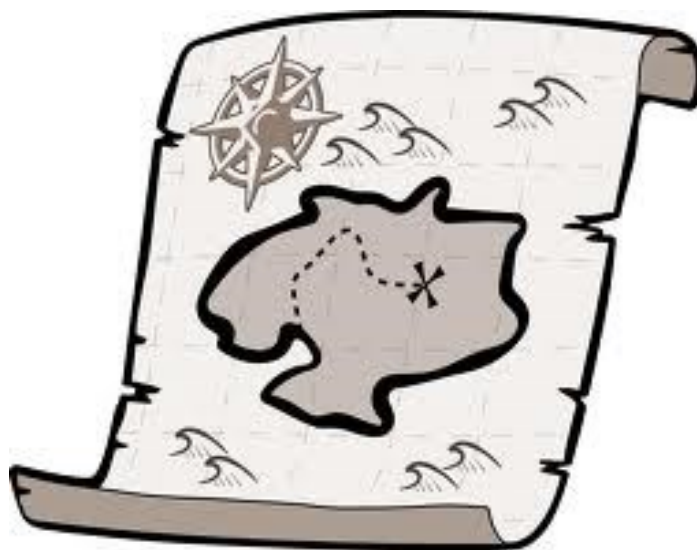
The Highest Award in Girl Scouts

Emma Lane, granddaughter of Ken Young, President of FOSILS, is attempting to earn the most coveted award of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest and most prestigious award that Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors can earn. Since 1916, Girl Scout's highest award has stood for excellence and leadership for generations of young women who have made a difference in their communities and beyond.

Emma, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, has a passion for Seguin Lighthouse and its history, has submitted a project to her Girl Scout Council of Eastern, PA. The project has been accepted for the Girl Scout Gold Award. Her proposal is to make visits to the island more interesting and exciting for students of all ages.

Emma will be creating a treasure hunt of clues to be given out in a packet from the gift shop. This hunt will enable them to explore and discover the history of the island. Keepers will have an instruction packet to accompany the clue package to be distributed to families.

Emma is a freshman at Rustin High School in West Chester. She hopes to have the project up and ready for the 2015 season.



MOORING MAINTENANCE AND USE

FOSILS has five guest moorings available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is one additional mooring reserved strictly for Coast Guard use. Don't get caught using that mooring. This year the FOSILS's moorings will receive some preventative maintenance. They will be hauled and inspected and any worn parts will be replaced accordingly. The outer moorings are located in 40 to 45 feet water. Overnight use of the moorings is acceptable and a donation to FOSILS is encouraged. We encourage boaters to use the moorings and please do "not" anchor in Seguin Cove because of the submerged cable leading onto the island. Remember, you will need a small dinghy to land on the island after mooring your boat. There is no dock or float for unloading passengers. See the list below for Captains providing services to the Island.

Captain Ethan DeBery

of

Seguin Island Ferry

Phippsburg — (207) 841-7977



Captain Ed Rice

of

River Run Tours

Bath — (207) 504-2628



Captain Thomas Ring

of

Atlantic Seal Cruises

Freeport — (207) 865-6112

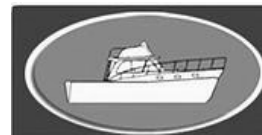


Captain Bruce White

of

HAY-VAL Charters

Boothbay — (207) 319-8123



Plan a trip today and relive the memories forever!



Wireless Society of Southern Maine

Seguin Island DXpedition

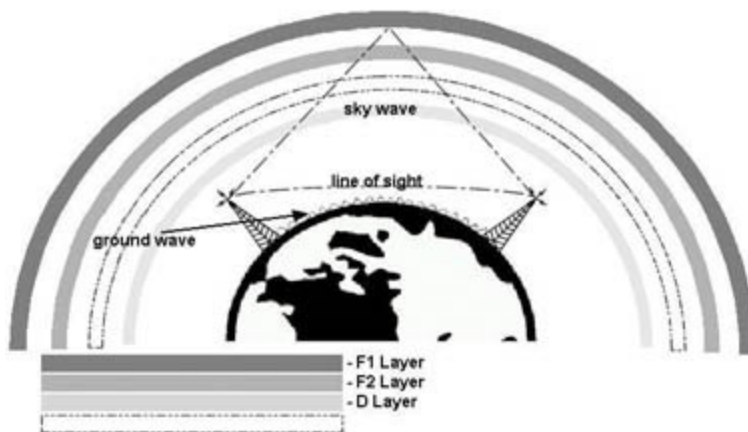
WSSM will once again be hosting it's annual **Islands on the Air (IOTA)** Saturday July 26th. IOTA is celebrating it's 50th Anniversary.

A **DX-pedition** is an expedition to what is considered an exotic place by amateur radio operators, perhaps because of its remoteness, access restrictions or simply because there are very few radio amateurs active from that place. This could be an island, a country, or even a particular spot on a geographical grid. "DX" is a telegraphic shorthand for "distance" or "distant".

Early DX-peditions were simply exploratory and geographical expeditions in the late 1920s and 1930s, in which one or more radio amateurs participated in order to provide long distance communications. DX-peditions are planned and organized to help operators who need to contact that area to obtain an amateur radio award. There are several awards sponsored by various organizations based on contacting many different countries. The base level of this award involves contacting and confirming 100 distinct geographical entities, usually countries, as defined by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

An "entity" for radio award purposes is any location that is either politically separate or physically remote (or both) from other jurisdictions/locations. For example, even though Alaska and Hawaii are politically part of the United States, they are separate DX entities (physically separate). Small countries, even ones surrounded by larger ones, such as the Vatican, count.

"Fostering connections" is part of our mission statement and FOSILS is proud to be part of the DXpedition tradition introduced by WSSM and IOTA.



From last year's Lighthouse Keepers

"The Lighthouse Keepers of Seguin (Or how we spent our summer vacation as the lighthouse keepers on Seguin Island)" was the title of the lecture at the April meeting of the Maine Appalachian Mountain Club, April 17, at the Curtis Library in Brunswick.

2013 Lighthouse Keepers, Mary Hillery and Greg Guckenburg, who are also AMC members, spoke to some 60 people. This crowd of outdoor enthusiasts seemed to appreciate hearing the history of the Fresnel lens and lighthouse keepers of old as much as the descriptions of hiking, birding, boating and serenity on Seguin's 64 acres.

When the audience was asked how many had already visited Seguin, almost everyone raised their hands. It is believed Mary and Greg spoke to a significant group of Seguin friends.



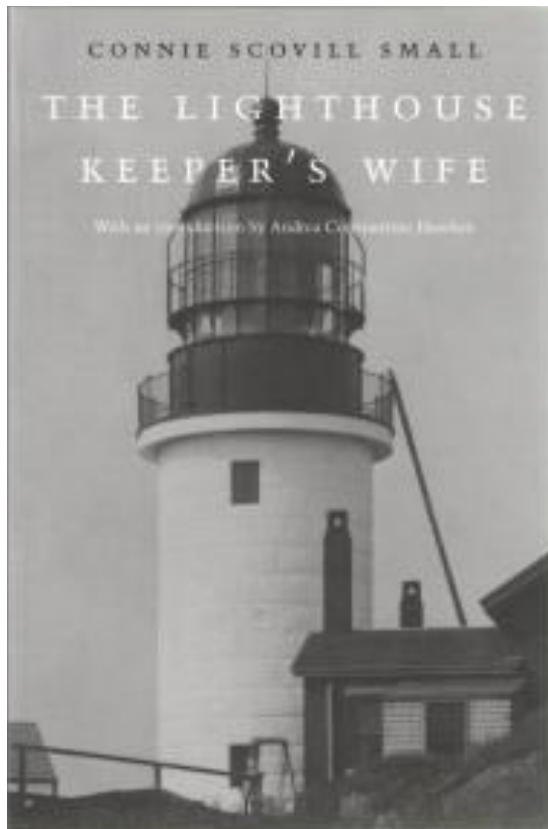
From the Memorabilia Committee

A review about a book with the Seguin tower on the front cover and a quote (below) on the back cover about Seguin at sunset.

The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife

by Connie Scovill Small

With an introduction by Andrea Constantine Hawkes



In a genuine and remarkably captivating voice, Connie Scovill Small writes about her twenty-eight years of lighthouse living and service along the Maine and New Hampshire coasts with her husband, Elson. While her autobiography is a compelling narrative about a life of “people risking their own lives to help men and ships: a life of order and duty,” it also inspires and encourages us to “look up and never down” in our shared search for a meaningful existence in the inevitable isolation and uncertainty of living.

This edition of *The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife*, prepared under Connie Small's supervision as she approached her one hundredth birthday, presents Connie's text supplemented with many photographs from the author's collection.

Excerpt from Connie Small's chapter regarding Seguin -

I loved being in the tower at sunset. When I took the lens cover off and the light flashed, I could begin counting from Portland to Pemaquid as almost simultaneously the lights came on—thirteen of them. It was like saying “hello”, “hello”, “hello”, all down the coast. ... The lights were lifelines to the sailors and navigators.

This book is available on Seguin Island, the Bath office, and on our website – www.seguinisland.org.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

FOSILS IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PRESERVE SEGUIN ISLAND LIGHT STATION FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. SEGUIN HAS MANY AN UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY TO BE EXPERIENCED, TAKE PART IN PRESERVING A UNIQUE MAINE ICON. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF FOSILS (ALTHOUGH IT'S ENCOURAGED) OR A BOARD MEMBER TO VOLUNTEER. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO BE GOPHERS ON WEDNESDAYS AND WEED WACKER OPERATORS. WE ALSO HAVE SOME SPECIFIC PROJECTS THAT FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS CAN SIGN UP FOR SUCH AS...SCRAPING AND PAINTING THE PICNIC TABLE IN THE MEADOW, WIRE BRUSHING THE SHINGLES ON THE DONKEY ENGINE HOUSE AND PAINTING THEM, ESTABLISHING THE DISPLAY AREA AROUND THE 1890 STEAM ENGINE RELIC IN THE MEADOW AREA AND MANY MORE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE @ 207-443-4808 TO LEND A HELPING HAND.



Summer Events 2014

Opening Day

Memorial Day, May 26th

Bath Heritage Days

July 3rd through July 6th

Town of Phippsburg 200th Anniversary

visit www.phippsburg.com

Seguin Island DXpedition Ham Radio Operators

Saturday, July 26th

National Lighthouse Day

Wednesday, August 7th

Georgetown Working League Fair

Saturday, August 9th

Summerfest V

Friday, August 29th

Closing Day

Columbus Day, October 13th

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

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Signature: _____

☐ Yes, I would like my newsletter emailed

Revised June 2012



Thank you very much for your support!

FOSILS Board of Directors • • 2014

Ken Young – President
Cyndy Carney – Co-Vice President
Kevin Crosman – Co-Vice President
Anne Morong – Secretary
Deanne Morong – Treasurer

Ethan DeBery • • Nat Hicks • • Dee Perry
Ellen Womer • • Steve Thibodeau Jr. • • Sue Patton
Deb McKenna • • Mary Hillary

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!

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 with your email address.



Thank



You!



FRIENDS OF SEGUIN ISLAND, INC.

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Telephone: (207) 443-4808

New Office Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 8:30 — 3:00

Administrative Coordinator- Catherine Jacobs

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