

Winter 2006

Volume XXXII, Issue 1

Our mission since 1915 is to hold and administer Star Island and other properties we acquire for religious, educational and kindred purposes.

**Star Island Corporation:
Ninety-One Years and Going
Strong!**

Inside This Issue:

From the President	1
Volunteer on Star this Spring	1
From the Executive Director	2
From the Director of Development & Community Relations	4
2005 Recognition	5
2005 Sustaining Stewards	12
Hiring Update	13
Shoalers in the News	13
Available Positions	13
Passages	13



Illustration courtesy Joyce Homan.

This issue of the Star Island Corporation Newsletter was edited and produced by Brian Winters with the assistance of all contributors. Thank you!

Star Island Corporation



From the President

The holidays are over, winter is waning (we hope!), the blue book has been at the printer for a while and your copy should have arrived. Spring is coming, soon to be followed by summer! At this time last year, I wrote a message about a magnitude of change in Star's future. Much has come to pass, some is still in process. A significant change is that Amy Lockwood, our new Executive Director, is on board. She introduces herself to you in the Director's column in this newsletter. I'm sure you will enjoy meeting her this summer on Star. I am already enjoying working with Amy. She is an excellent thinker and planner who catches on quickly to the spirit and nuances of the Shoals communities. In her first few months, Amy has already had an impact on the Board's thinking and

on the staff. We look forward to Amy and her daughter Sophie loving Star as much as we do and to a fruitful relationship that furthers our work and our dreams for our Island.

For the first time in years, we have far fewer capital projects planned or needed this summer and staff can focus more energy on a smooth open up that will have the Island humming in time for the first conferences. We will be embarking (pun intended) on a second year with the *Captain's Lady*, the same boat company as last year and with a new, improved schedule. There will be a real change-over time for our Pelicans, and conferences will come and go at very close to their historic schedules despite the need for two trips. The biggest difference will be parking and boarding from Rye,

(Continued on page 3)

Volunteer on Star this Spring

Did you realize that over one half of the labor required to open up the conference center is performed by volunteers? Spring is just a few short months away, and it's once again time to begin planning for spring volunteer work weekends on Star Island! There are plenty of projects lined up, primarily in the

areas of grounds work, painting, carpentry, and housekeeping. If you would like to sign up to help with this important work, please complete and return our volunteer sign-up sheet, available via e-mail from Joe Watts (jwatts@starisland.org) or by phone (603-430-6272). ±

From the Executive Director

Around Star Island there's a lot of talk all year round about "Open-Up." Getting ready for Open-Up, the challenges of Open-Up, the extensive planning Open-Up takes, the volumes of people who come from afar to participate in Open-Up.

Coming in brand new to Star, to be honest it took me a week or two to figure out exactly what Open-Up was—until I learned it's the early season when a small group of staff and volunteers move out to Star (in the early April cold) to start unboarding things and start systems running to warm them up, I wondered a bit. Was Open-Up the day we open the hotel door to the first conference? Was it a spiritual thing?

In the end, as with most new things, Open-Up turned out to be a little less mysterious once I started to get my feet on the ground and ask the right people the right questions. Since starting several weeks ago I have had the pleasure of working with warm and intelligent members of the staff and Board of Directors, who have helped me to start learning the ins and outs of the very special Star Island culture. I have also been very pleasantly surprised by the number of Star volunteers, members and friends who have gone out of their way to reach out to me by calling and sending notes to explain the parts of Star that are special to them and their hopes for the community. Every person I have met has been energetic, kind, and patient with my taking a little time to learn about their corner of the Star Island world. All of this energy, warmth and patience speaks volumes to me about the strength of Star Island and the potential for us to grow as we go forward.

We've been very busy in the Star Island Corporation office laying the initial ground work for a great summer—the Pelican hiring process is under way and we are just starting volunteer organization for the season. A number of committees are also continuing their work or refreshing it heading into this new year, and I am very glad to be setting

times to meet with each committee to participate in that work. (If you are a member of a committee I have not yet spoken with yet, I will be calling you soon—or please don't hesitate to call me!)

The Chairs and Registrars Conference is just around the corner in February. We are looking forward to a great kick-off to the season with this key training session, and we are looking forward to a strong Council of Conferences Meeting in April as well. Between those meetings, the Board of Directors will be holding a retreat to start laying out ideas for direction for 2006 and beyond.

As we plan for these traditional pre-summer activities, we also know there will be some changes in the team that brought such a good summer to Shoalers last year. A number of staff will be new on our "unchanging" rock. You will not only be greeted by a new director, but also by some new and old faces in new roles. A number of staff members are leaving us to follow new pursuits—Ben Fowler, after July 1, to begin his formal career in ecological engineering, Deb Tomblason to become director of the Prescott Park Arts Festival and Linda and Bill Anderle to take positions at an organization similar to ours in

New Mexico closer to their children and their very darling granddaughters. We look forward to announcing our new team members in the Spring newsletter.

And, the icing on the cake in all of my own preparations for this summer is also coming up—next week I'll be dressed extremely warmly and out on the sea, finally, for my first in-depth facilities tour of Star Island. And following that, I'll be starting the New Hampshire Department of Safety's Boating Safety course, so eventually I'll be able to drive the Star boats! (Don't worry, I have a tiny bit of experience and am open to a lot of training.)

I would like to very sincerely thank each one of you—staff members, board members and other

(Continued on page 5)

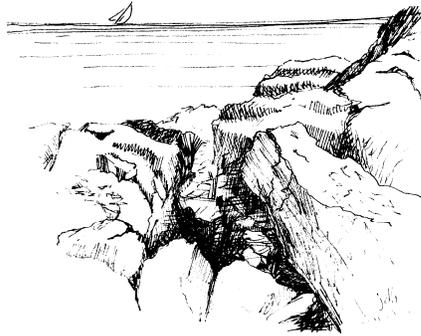


Illustration courtesy Joyce Homan.

(From the President, continued from page 1)

NH—which means our timing will no longer be controlled by the raising of the bridge in Portsmouth and the trip will take half the time.

As we move into this New Year, we are firming up some of the good practices we've put into place. A Committee on Appointments has been doing work that often fell to my predecessor presidents—finding appropriate Shoalers to serve on Star's committees. The board has been grateful for their fine recommendations and has approved every one of them. Of course we, staff, and current committee members have given them our suggestions. Many of the committees are revitalized and doing good work; some are just beginning to function. And, we have two new committees being formed—Risk Management to help us share good safety practices and advise staff on insurance matters and Property Standards to advise the board on any physical changes proposed for Star.

The Council on Conferences is the other newest governance structure. It too has been invaluable as the Star Island Corporation has tried to work in closer partnership with each of the conferences and as the conferences try to work more closely with each other. We've attacked together, not always harmoniously but with solid Star spirit, some really difficult issues—like what to do when conferences fall short in attendance and the SIC doesn't make budget. The Council worked out the principles for setting each year's conference calendar—a method that shared the pain equally between the early and late conferences. Before the SIC makes policy that affects the conferences, we rely on the Council to consider the issue and to provide its advice. The Council has also given conferences an opportunity to share “best practices,” program ideas and issues of mutual concern.

The board requested work to bring some equity to room and board rates which had been cobbled over the years with no rationale that anyone studying them could understand. As a result, overnight guests and the weekend conference participants were charged more than longer conference participants. After discussion at a Council of Conferences meeting a year ago, a task force with Ed Rutledge, Linda Anderle, Scott Steward and Kristen Laverty refined the principles underlying a

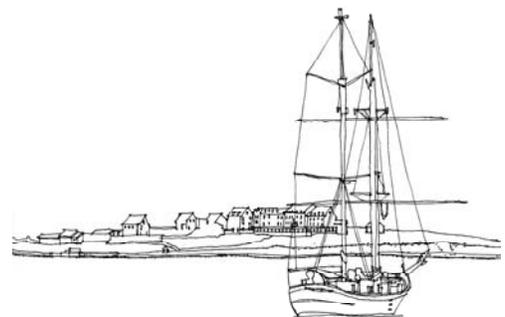
more equitable rate structure and developed the formulas based on fixed and variable. Now, we know exactly why we are charging each rate within each conference. Star's total room and board income will remain the same and conferees, depending on the length of their conference and the amenities provided, will pay a little less or a little more. We have been able to hold the actual room and board increase to no more than the rate of inflation.

I don't have definitive news yet on the renewal of the Shoals Marine Lab lease—but we are almost there. I can tell you that SML will offer a strong program on Appledore this summer and, we hope, for many summers to come. New director, Dr. Willy Bemis, has great plans for SML.

We have had a difficult year in 2005. Too many goodbyes, too many projects—but many successes. Your participation in the Annual Fund was one of our best successes: we exceeded an ambitious goal by nearly \$70,000. Slowly, our endowment is growing and that too increasingly supports the maintenance, capital and staffing needs that we have. The hard work that brought this about and the careful long-range budgeting that we are doing set us up well for 2006 and beyond.

Once again, we embark on a new era for Star. May it bring us what we all want and need. If I've missed touching on anything of importance to you, please let me know. This can be a two-way communication if you have thoughts about Star that you would like the board to know. You can be in touch with the board by emailing board@starisland.org or by leaving a message at the office—603-430-6272. If the matter has to do with conference center operations, we will refer your query or comment to the appropriate staff member. You can expect a response from me, another board member or staff.

± Irene Bush



*Illustration courtesy
Nathan Lielstas.*

From the Director of Development & Community Relations

What a fantastic year it has been!

1,446 Shoalers and Friends of Star gave \$569,345 in donations to Star Island. In addition there were countless volunteer hours, without which we couldn't even come close to running the place, and gifts given directly to the Permanent Trust through bequests and memorials.

The 2005 roll call of those who gave so generously to Star Island is staggering in its breadth—across all conferences—and in its depth—those who stretched as far as they possibly could to increase their donation or give more time to a volunteer project or committee.

Star Island is one of those places where when we give; we also give to ourselves and each other. Please take time to reach out in gratitude to those you see listed here as we are grateful to you.

This is also a year of transitions at Star.

In the Development Associate role, we say “welcome” to Brian Winters, a wonderful addition to Star’s staff, and a fond “farewell” to Hilary Niles, whose cheerful demeanor will be sorely missed.

The Development Associate is responsible for all publications including the Star Island newsletter and the website. He also supports the fundraising efforts through management of the database and coordination of all mailings. You can say hello to Brian by email at bwinters@starisland.org.

As of the beginning of March, I am leaving as Star Island’s Director of Development to pursue other professional interests. I will not be leaving Star Island—a place that has been my “spirit’s home” since I first visited in 1981—and will undoubtedly see many of you again.

It has been a pleasure and honor working with you toward the shared goal of securing Star Island’s future with adequate funding and I’ve ap-

preciated the many lessons I’ve learned.

I sincerely hope that as Star Island’s first Director of Development I’ve blazed a smoother path for my predecessor to follow and that you will continue to support Star’s critical needs.

Namaste.

± Deborah Lielasus Tombleson

<i>Conference</i>	<i>Donations</i>	<i>Donors</i>
<i>Arts</i>	\$ 15,187	109
<i>All Star 1</i>	\$ 103,211	108
<i>All Star 2</i>	\$ 37,710	96
<i>Elderhostel</i>	\$ 655	12
<i>Friends of Star (unaffiliated with conference)</i>	\$ 43,215	97
<i>International Affairs</i>	\$ 57,210	124
<i>Institute of Religion in an Age of Science</i>	\$ 35,748	93
<i>Isles of Shoals Historic Research Association</i>	\$ 1,822	25
<i>Weekend Conference of the Laity</i>	\$ 4,644	50
<i>Life on a Star 1</i>	\$ 85,364	115
<i>Life on a Star 2</i>	\$ 53,784	124
<i>LRA (former)</i>	\$ 550	2
<i>Midweek Retreats</i>	\$ 4,642	55
<i>Natural History Conference</i>	\$ 25,038	60
<i>Pel Reunion</i>	\$ 24,275	68
<i>Religious Education</i>	\$ 24,920	105
<i>September Events</i>	\$ 1,858	28
<i>Staff (Current & Former)</i>	\$ 7,941	15
<i>United Church of Christ 1</i>	\$ 25,041	60
<i>United Church of Christ 2</i>	\$ 10,152	72
<i>Star Women</i>	\$ 3,060	17
<i>Young Adult Conference</i>	\$ 2,286	52
<i>Young Religious Unitarian Universalists</i>	\$ 1,032	10

2005 Annual Fund Gifts \$ 569,345 1446

2005 Bequests and Gifts to Permanent Trust \$ 893,185

Note: If you add up the columns, you will come up with a larger number of donors than 1446 because some folks give to more than one conference. They are counted as 1 under each conference they give to and only once in the total.



Passages

Reverend William D. Hammond passed away on November 17, 2005 after a long illness. He was 89. Rev. Hammond is survived by his wife Grace Lindquist, a frequent LOAS conferee, and their three children, Donald & Thomas Hammond, residing in Michigan, and Gail Hammond-Stone, residing in Arkansas.

Elizabeth “Betty” Proctor passed away on October 31, 2005 after a brief illness. Betty first attended Star Island in 1948, with her husband Arthur. She chaired the first World Order Conference (now International Affairs) in the early '50s. She was a regular attendee at International Affairs week and worked in the Gift Shop for many years. She was a past President of the Isles of Shoals Association (Unitarian-Universalist) and was for many years a member of the Star Island Corporation. Her granddaughter Heather was a Pelican for four years. Betty is survived by her son, John Proctor. ±

Shoalers in the News

Lois Williams’ new book *Religion at the Isles of Shoals: Anglicans, Puritans, Missionaries, UUs and UCCs*, with illustrations by Bobby Williams, is now available. Rev. Bradford Greeley’s introduction notes that it “traces the religious history of the Isles of Shoals from its earliest development through 400 years of evolution...[bringing] to life the drama of what prepared the way for today.” Williams, her husband, Peter, and their family have been coming to Star Island for 35 years to attend All Star I. Five of the Williams children as well as a daughter-in-law & son-in-law have been Pelicans, and in 2005, five grandchildren were conferees.

All funds from sales of Religion at the Isles of Shoals go directly to the Star Island Corporation—the book will be available in the book store this summer, or you can order directly by sending an \$18 check (\$15 for book, \$3 for mailing) made out to Star Island Corporation to Lois Williams, 9418 Thrush Lane, Potomac, MD 20854. ±

(From the Executive Director, continued from page 2)

community members – for having supported me so strongly already in what I now see as my own Open-Up at Star. Indeed it is a time of opening doors and something of a spiritual thing, in addition to being (what I finally learned the real one is) a time of fast work, a lot of logistics, and much creative troubleshooting. I am excited to head into the season of “big Open-Up” this year and into the season where I will be able to meet all of you.

± Amy Lockwood

Hiring Update

The winter might seem like hibernating time, but January and February are among our busiest preparation months for a wonderful Star Island summer! We’re in the process of hiring new staff people to join the Star Island team. Many of the positions we seek to fill are traditional seasonal positions. In addition, several of our long-time friends are leaving the Star Island Corporation to pursue other family or career goals. As a result we have several year-round, full-time positions open.

You’ll find the list of open positions below—to apply for any of the open positions, please send a resume & cover letter by e-mail to office@starisland.org. If you do not have internet access, materials may be mailed to Joe Watts, Assistant to the Executive Director, care of Star Island Corporation.

Island Registrar (5 month position)

Applications due February 13

Assistant Facilities Manager (6 month position)

Applications due February 20

Boat Captain—primary (6 month position)

Applications due February 20

Boat Captain—secondary (5 month position)

Applications due February 20

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