



STAR ISLAND NEWSLETTER

Star Island Corporation • Winter 2008 • Volume XXXIV, Issue 1

Our mission since 1916 is to hold and administer Star Island and other properties we acquire for religious, educational and kindred purposes.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The "FAB" Team 5

From the Development Office..... 6

From the President..... 2

Introducing Our New CEO, Vicky Hardy..... 3

1988: Twenty Years Ago in the Star Island Newsletter..... 19

Our Neighbors in the Shoals: An Island Kingdom..... 5

Passages..... 18

The Passing of a Star of Star: Albert W. Doolittle 1, 4

Poetry: A Walk on Star Island..... 2

Saying Thank You..... 7—18

Edited & produced by Brian Winters with invaluable assistance from Irene Bush, Justina Maji, Athena Steinkraus and all contributors. Thank you!

The Passing of a Star of Star: Albert W. Doolittle

Albert W. Doolittle died Sunday, October 7 at his home in Derry, NH at the age 93. Many of us knew Albert as the astronomer who helped us see planets and stars, the digger out of a precarious darkroom under Cottage D, the fellow who filled Gabions with rocks to protect our shoreline, and the guy who researched tennis court materials that would last through the winters at Star. Some knew him as a Star Island Corporation President and a dedicated Facilities Committee member. Al devoted himself to Star Island in so many ways. Albert also had wide ranging devotions and interests. He was devoted to Edith, his wife of 67 years, his three sons, Paul, David & Robert, and five grandchildren.

Albert graduated in the class of 1936 of Dartmouth College and was a member of the annual fund executive committee for the 1930s with a 69 year giving history. He worked as a civil engineer in Boston, and moved to Derry after retiring in 1979. A lifelong gardener, his interest in the environment led him to join the conservation commission to help preserve open space in Derry. Al was active in conservation and land management as a commissioner for 22

years. Very recently, a 94-acre piece of conservation was named for him and it is a beautiful piece of land and a tribute to him. (You can see it online: Google The Albert Doolittle Conservation Area.)

Albert helped to found an area hospice organization in the 1980s. He had been active in the YMCA Boston and helped to start co-op food stores in Hanover and Boston. He was an amateur telescope-maker and could name all the moon's craters and point out planets to anyone who was interested. Albert was passionate about politics and was dedicated to pacifism. He was a conscientious objector during World War II.

After the memorial service for Albert on October 13th, Edith said she was glad the Star Island Corporation held a meeting the same day because it probably diverted 50 or 60 people. They could barely squeeze in the more than 250 people who showed up, including his 94 year old college roommate.

At that corporation meeting, Bruce Parsons, former chair of the Facilities Committee and former board member and vice-president, gave a eulogy for Al. He shared several memories of

(Continued on page 4)



Photo courtesy Jeff Spoor

From the President



Photo courtesy Jeff Spoor

Great news! The Star Island Corporation Board has hired Victoria Hardy to be our new Chief Executive Officer. Vicky will finish her responsibilities at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston as the Academic Department Head of Design and Facilities and as a professor and join us full time March 10th. She has already begun meeting with the staff and me and has been able to attend the conference chairs and registrars meeting and the weekend Board planning retreat. She has also been working with the Director of Operations and Maintenance Search Committee and will hire the new DOM (expected by early March).

Vicky is a proven leader who has been at Wentworth Institute of Technology since 2003. Prior to Wentworth, she was the primary tenured Facility Management faculty at Ferris State University for almost ten years. Before joining Ferris State, she spent twenty years managing programs and facilities at Stanford University, in the Meadowlands in New Jersey, and in Detroit in addition to consulting in the arts and entertainment industry. Vicky was named the International Facility Management Association Distinguished Member of the Year for 2005, received the Boston IFMA Chapter Education and Professional Development Award in 2005, and was selected in 2001 as the IFMA Distinguished Educator. Vicky holds a B.Sc., a Master's Degree

in Management and is a graduate of the Stanford Management Development Program. She is also a Certified Facility Manager both in the United States and Japan.

"The opportunity to work for the Star Island Corporation was a delightful decision to make," Vicky says. "It is a mythic place, with wonderful energetic people, and a history that reflects the best of New England. How could I not come to work for this organization?" Vicky joins all of us in looking forward to this summer with great anticipation.

The Board offers its deep thanks to the CEO Search Committee for their determined and exhaustive work. The search process moved deliberately and expeditiously under the leadership of Bruce Parsons, committee chair, and Ted Webb, search consultant. The committee, which also included David Boynton, Lisa Duncanson, Liz McVey Erickson, Sharon Kennedy, Nick Mahoney and Sally Russell, received over 140 applications. With the guidance of Ted Webb, the committee interviewed the most promising of those candidates several times until they chose two for the Board to interview and select from.

Vicky brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Star Island Corporation. She brings with it personal familiarity with liberal religious faith and a spirit

and energy which match her experience and expertise. We are delighted to welcome her to our staff and look forward to introducing her to you soon.

—Brad Greeley

Poetry:

A Walk on Star Island

Once again, little girls, I have found
this secret spot—

bounded by rock,

enclosed by leaf,

secluded from sea and surf—

Your island grave.

An old-white shaft and three small
stones

Keep silent watch and no one
knows—

Until each year, in summer sun,
I step within the shadowy glade
And find you there.

I say your names:

Jessie

Mitty

Millie

And for the nonce, you live again!

Rest well, I shall return.

—Emily Conlon

Introducing Our New CEO, Vicky Hardy



We all look forward to getting to know Vicky Hardy, our new Chief Executive. On our behalf, Joe Watts, Acting Executive Director, asked Vicky some questions to help us all learn a little about Vicky and how she is thinking about Star Island. Here are her responses to Joe's questions.

Welcome to Star Island! What influenced your decision to take this new position?

Thanks! First, and most importantly, Star Island is such an icon in New England history that the opportunity to provide leadership through its next decade was very enticing. Despite the issues and problems of last summer, I saw an organization with a long history of providing a supportive environment for individuals, churches, and organizations to pursue and meet their spiritual and educational needs. In times of difficulty, it is important to take the long view and see that the Star Island Corporation has gone through many transitions and the Island still stands. So I anticipate that this summer will be one of the best, with all the efforts that have gone into making it successful.

What kind of things would you do to ensure that we have the best season ever?

First, it is important for everyone to know

that we have the best core team on the ground, with highly qualified senior staff that have remained through the transition. This includes yourself as the Conference Center Director, Justina Maji as the Assistant Conference Center Director, Kristin Laverty as the Island Registrar, and Sumar Maji as the Facilities Manager. In addition, we are interviewing and hiring a Director of Operations and Maintenance who will have a strong background in regulatory compliance, to be in charge on the island. This should go a long way to ensure that we will have a great summer. I particularly looked forward to the island volunteer weekends in May; I am a gardener and I understand that there are many weeds to be plucked and poison ivy to be destroyed!

You spoke of the long view; how do you see us addressing the financial needs of Star Island in the future and keep it affordable?

The good news is that Irene Bush continues to serve as the Interim Development Director and, with support from Brian Winters the Development Associate, will be working closely with me and Kristi Vazifdar, the Finance Manager, to identify our needs and possible sources of income. In addition, a substantive conversation has already begun with the Board of Directors about leveraging the Star Island assets to the best long term use. A draft five year financial plan is in place and I will be working with the Finance Committee of the Board to review that draft, and thinking creatively about closing any gaps between income and revenues. The goal is to make sure that Star Island can achieve its mission and in a safe and supportive environment.

So how do you raise money without chasing people all over the Island when they are here for conferences?

I can only compare it to my many years of raising money for theatres and perform-

ing arts programs. No one wants to come to a classical music concert and be cornered in the lobby by the CEO and asked for a contribution. The summer is time for us to talk to people in an informal way, get feedback, learn about particular interests, and then spend the fall and winter visiting with those people in their home environments. We also need to be asking people about their contacts with appropriate foundations, corporations, and other sources of money that can supplement the annual fund drive. This type of work takes longer to develop but ultimately can produce significant dollars, especially for our infrastructure and buildings. The important component is to have a plan for what we need and how to get there.

Finally, would you like to share some more of your personal interests?

Sure! As I already mentioned, I garden, and will be looking forward to moving to the Portsmouth area in the fall and finding a little house with flowers in need of care! I also ski, both downhill and cross-country...once a full season is under my belt, I will be pursuing my love of these sports. In addition, I enjoy serious cooking (my son LOST 15 pounds when he went away to college!)...and will share recipes at the drop of a spatula. My son, Chris, is in graduate school at Cornell in the Master's in Landscape Architecture Program and he was one of the biggest advocates for my move to Star Island! This summer will be a terrific time for me and I look forward to many more years with SIC.

—Joe Watts & Vicky Hardy





Photo courtesy Irene Bush

former Pelicans. We include a few here:

Carey Kasky shared that she will always think fondly of the days when Albert led the repair of tennis courts during open up. She learned more than just about the difference between cement and concrete and was in awe of the man's work ethic and steadiness. "We were young strong women and needed a break long before Albert ever broke a sweat! I recall coming up with elaborate schemes to have reinforcements in the bushes so he wouldn't know we were working in shifts! Really, and Albert was mixing, raking away in his flannel shirt and jeans. I feel fortunate to have had an opportunity to work beside him."

Susy Mansfield reported that she and son, Sam, subscribe to *The Sky Calendar* probably as a result of Sam's spending a long afternoon with Albert in Derry ten years ago when he was just getting started with the night sky. Susy says the calendar is "how we know that Albert died at the time of a most unusual celestial triangle created by the conjunction of Saturn, Venus and Regulus, with the waning crescent moon cradled inside the triangle. Surely that was the chariot in which he rode to the stars."

Scott Stewart shared, "One of my fondest memories of Albert was sitting around the fire in the lobby late one night during open up, and he told the most interesting stories about walking around the sewer systems of Boston. I was enthralled; he was as interesting and as exciting as if someone had been telling a story about their exotic vacation to some remote site."

And Mark Adams shared a story that is so totally typical of Albert W. Doolittle, the man who was known as Mr. Do More.

"I feel fortunate to have met Al in my first years as a Pel in the early 70s and have many opportunities to work with him on various projects over the next 35 years. I remember Al always arriving with his telescope and tripod, but this particular time he showed up with a sundial. I thought that was nice until the time came to mount it on the front lawn. You see, there are thousands of rocks on Star, but only one would do for the sundial base and Al knew exactly where it was, about as far away from the front lawn as it gets, beyond Smith monument! It turns out that the rock Al wanted was part of the original Smith monument and had been rolled down the hill towards the ocean at some point when the monument was

rebuilt. It was early open up with just a few of us on island. Lenny Reed Jr., John Robbins, and I had the task of retrieving Al's rock. After all, how hard could that be? After accessing the location and size of the rock, we determined we could not move it manually so a different approach would be needed. After all, if Al wants this rock, it must be special so not bringing it back was not an option, and there was no way we wanted to be one upped by this older guy getting it himself. Since there was no road to Smith, we set out to do something only Pelicans (and perhaps Albert) would do. Thus a three day adventure began to take the old Minneapolis Moline tractor all the way to Smith to help us drag Al's rock back to the front lawn. Over the next three days, we cut brush, built temporary bridges over gullies and managed to get the tractor to beyond Smith, hook onto the rock pull it up the hill and then sled it back to the front lawn. Who else would you go through all this but for Albert? Needless to say, Al was quite happy when he returned to the island to find his rock right where he wanted it. Every time I see the sundial. I fondly remember this adventure, and can not help thinking that the arrow on the sundial is pointing up to the heavens at Albert. We will miss this gentle man." —Irene Bush



Photo courtesy Sean D. Elliot



The “FAB” Team

The Life on a Star Conference leadership would like to report on the success of their “Fill All Beds,” or “FAB” Team. They designed an “Ask me about Star Island” Button, helped to make marketing materials with the staff, and recruited volunteers from all over the eastern seaboard to do presentations or give services in churches and other venues to market ALL of Star’s conferences. Twenty-seven LOAS folks are currently signed up to do “show and tells” to highlight our Island home. “Such good work! I am already planning my stealth campaign at church,” said Lisa Heisterkamp-Davis.

The outreach toolkit includes an updated CD slideshow about Star, beautiful new brochures, blue books, an information sheet that highlights FAQs about each conference, a description of the Isles of Shoals, a mailing list sign-up sheet, and more.

If you can help to form a FAB Team or do your own outreach, request a toolkit by contacting the Portsmouth office.

Our Neighbors in the Shoals



Photo courtesy Sean D. Elliot

An Island Kingdom

Producer Andrea Melville reveals the continuing process of producing the first made-for-TV documentary on the Isles of Shoals. Visit barkingspiderproductionsvt.org for more

It all began on a beautiful June day in 2006 when Emmy Award-winning producer Andrea Melville visited Star Island with her family. That day, she rediscovered the magic of the Shoals and had the idea of producing a television documentary.

She learned there had never been a television program featuring the complete history of the Isles of Shoals. With an extensive program outline in hand, she

began writing grants to fund her one-hour documentary, *An Island Kingdom*. Books were read, historians were found and the first grant was awarded; taping began in May 2007. Since then, more than twenty hours of interviews, historic photographs and beautiful views of the Shoals have been taped—with more to go!

An Island Kingdom will include important historic events dating from 1614. The program will feature interviews with historians familiar with the history, culture and characters of the Isles of Shoals, historic photographs, film, drawings and paintings. Music spanning four centuries will be featured, composed by seacoast musicians. Actors reading letters and poetry written by residents and guests of the Shoals will enhance the program

while an actor portraying Nathaniel Hawthorne, who visited Appledore House Hotel in 1852, will become the “host” of *An Island Kingdom*.

Many current, on-going projects that highlight present-day restoration and conservation efforts that sustain the history of these islands and strengthen their importance off the New England coast will also be featured.

An Island Kingdom has received generous support from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the New Hampshire Humanities Council. This project is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a nonprofit arts service organization that will receive donations in behalf of *An Island Kingdom*. *

From the Development Office



Photo courtesy Linda Anderle

The resourcefulness and resources of Star Island community members like you have been its perennial strength—bringing skills and labor that are volunteered and resources that are financial. Together, a great deal has been accomplished over our long history and, at times, against overwhelming odds. This year, you came through as never before! We thank you for your generosity.

Especially good news is that the 2007 Annual Fund was a resounding success. Our goal was \$625,000 and the final total is just over \$650,000—\$25,000 above goal! We have hardworking annual fund representatives from each conference to thank. We received an additional \$30,550 for our endowment (including a bequest and several outright gifts from generous Shoalers).

We also report with great thankfulness the names of volunteers. There were many this past year and these contributions of hard work are an integral part of supporting Star and keeping it the special place that it is. We list also Sustaining Stewards and members of Fred and Ginny McGill bequest Society so you may find your name in more than one place.

You may remember that last year, we let you know that this report of your philanthropy would list the names of donors in broad categories to show our appreciation and to inspire people to give as

generously as they are able. Those who did not want to be so listed chose to be listed anonymously.

Gifts to the Annual Fund and Volunteering are only two of the important ways to support Star. There are many.

- You may want to consider a legacy gift—a bequest to the Fred and Ginny McGill Society or one of the many types of planned giving opportunities that provide you an income during your lifetime.
- This year, we have begun a Star Island Loan Program which seeks to raise \$750,000 of loans to fund capital improvements until a capital campaign can be successfully undertaken in the next 2 to 3 years. We cannot wait for such a campaign to make further fire safety improvements or to begin work on the west wall of the hotel. The minimum loan size is \$10,000 (to assure that the program can be administered easily although some people are giving a \$5,000 loan in 2008 and planning, if possible, to make an additional \$5,000 loan in 2009). We hope that Shoalers participating in the loan program will forgive their loans as part of the capital campaign (and, where possible, make an additional contribution as well). We also ask all loan participants to make their normal contributions to the Annual Fund.

Thus far, we have \$385,000 committed loans that we expect to receive before March 1, 2008 which has enabled a robust and very necessary capital expenditures budget.

If you would like to know more about how to make a legacy gift or join the loan program, please call us or send an email.

Thank you again for supporting Star in 2007.

—Irene Bush,
Acting Director of Development

Thanks to Our 2007 Annual Fund Reps

Rodney Lowe (Annual Fund Chair)
Brooke Bradicich (YAC)
Samantha Scolamiero (ARTS)
Sally Sapienza (ISHRA)
Becca & Andy Hutton (YRUU)
Roger Baldwin (NHC)
Ned and Kathy Tillman (AS1)
Dan Fenn (AS2)
Marc Spisto (RE)
Tom McNaugher (IA)
Jeanne Graustein (IRAS)
Sue & Charlie Stauffacher (UCC1)
Tammy Prull (UCC2)
Josh Davis (LOAS1)
Alan & Margaret Grometstein (LOAS2)
Deb Weiner Soule (PEL RN)



Volunteers, continued

Margaret M Saunders
 Rev. Donna Schaper
 Sara Schoman
 Martin Schrage
 Reinhard Schumann
 Cynthia Sears
 Judith Shapiro
 Jon Skillman
 T.F. Smoler
 Ben Soule
 Deborah Weiner Soule
 Emily Soule
 Rosemarie Smurzynski
 Judith Stames-Hamilton
 Jean Stefanik
 Annie Stewart
 Scott Stewart
 Elliott Stratton
 Bonnie Sylvester
 Nicole Sylvester
 Kathy Taylor
 Kit Taylor
 Theresa Tedesco
 Terry Terrell
 Susan Thorner
 Laura Tobin
 Jane Trudeau
 Carrie Tyler
 Kathryn Waters
 Aryn Weeks
 Jonathan Welch
 Jill Wenker
 Jennifer Whittall
 Steve Whitney
 Dan Williams
 Jackson Williams
 Wren Williams
 Wendy Wilson
 Cathy Wolff
 Christa Wooley
 Lauren Wooley
 Mark Woolley
 Lloyd Yanis
 David Yermack
 Jordan Young



Passages

George H. Bunnell, Midweeker, passed away on December 10. He is survived by daughters Barbara A. Pouliot and Lynn F. Bunnell, brother John "JB", twin sisters Nancy Bailey and Suzanne Matthews, and four grandchildren.

Miriam Forbes, long-time All-Star II Shoaler, passed away Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at age 91. She is survived by her stepson, Dr. Donald A. Forbes, her stepdaughter, Priscilla L. Hite, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Timothy S. Gimpel, 63, died on November 20 in Topsham ME of complications from Parkinson's Disease. Timmy was a Pelican in the 1960's. He is survived by his mother Edith, brother Bill, sister Betsy Mena, son Karl, two daughters Gretchen Peacock and Rachel Smith, and four grandchildren.

Margaret Hubbard of Lincoln MA., descendent of Celia Thaxter and long-time Shoaler, passed away November 22, 2007, in Newport RI at age 86. She is survived by her sons Eliot, Jonathan, Nicholas, and Nathaniel. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and one-

great-grandchild.

Paul Mitchell, a long time LOAS I and II Shoaler who never missed a Polar Bear dip, passed away on April 2, 2007, at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife Lou, daughters Rev. Bobbie Mitchell, Cynthia Tauxe, Jackie Ives Young and son James (a former night crew Pel), as well as eight grandchildren

Patrick Stevens, leader of Star Hampshire Traditional Music and Dance passed away suddenly on December 19 at the age of 54. He is survived by his wife Penny Reynolds and children Anita Stevens Rundles and Clark Stevens.

J. Arthur Tufts III, 85, passed away Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at Langdon Place in Exeter. Arthur and his late wife Jean called square dances for the Star Island community. Arthur is survived by three sons and their spouses, Jim and Leslie Tufts, Peter and Debbie Tufts, Thomas Tufts, one daughter and spouse, Anne and Tony Tufts, 11 grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, two brothers, Chuck Tufts, Ken Tufts, one sister, H. Elizabeth Ring, and several nieces and nephews. *



1988: Twenty Years Ago in the Star Island Newsletter



The 1988 Pelicans

The 1988 Season: General Manager's Perspective

Water seemed to be a recurrent theme during the early part of the 1988 season. First, there was too much in the wrong place when on June 17th, one day before the regular season began, a tank in the Oceanic tower ruptured and 1,500 gallons of salt water cascaded down the main stairwell into the lobby alcove. Then the cistern, which is not only the source of shower water but also serves as the sprinkler system reservoir, got to such a dangerously low level because of the draught that All Star I Conferees had to forgo showers for the week. Attempts to buy water for the cistern included calls to the Coast Guard, contact with commercial fishing boats, and the use of a barge with a 4,000 gallon above-ground swimming pool mounted on the deck. Fortunately, the cistern was replenished by a substantial downpour on July 8th and none of the avenues explored for buying water came to fruition....

Shortly after the season began, the sprinkler system was finally completed, as was enlarging and remodelling the Pelican Dining Room; specifications were drafted

and permits obtained for repairing the pier, and equipment for a new telephone system was ordered. The success of the Star Fund made these four projects possible. By next June, if planning proceeds on schedule, the new telephone system should be operating and the pier project should be well underway.

Through the efforts of Bruce Phoenix and his crew, Grace Lindquist, Lindy Anderson and other contributors, a new deck was constructed between Sprague and Y.P.R.U. to the delight of many conferees who arrived after August 5th. Also, having labored for almost two years, Al Doolittle and others finished the Cottage D Dark Room, which was made possible by support from the Isles of Shoals Association (ISA)....

—Tony Coddling

From Edith's Journal

September 15, 1988: Beautiful, cool, crisp, clear morning. The rowboat floats are safely stored on their rocks for the winter and half the rowboats are put to bed in their berth under the front porch. Shutters are up on the Rutledge Marine Lab after the water and animals were returned to the sea. The shutters for Brookfield's

big windows are resting against the west end of Brookfield awaiting their inevitable winter mount. The lawn remains a gorgeous green, requiring frequent grooming.

Have seen several large flocks of cormorants heading south, as well as many migratory transients, large and small, here on the Island.

YOU WILL COME BACK!

—Edith Pierson

Vaughn Cottage Notes

A vase, hand painted, signed and dated by Celia Thaxter (1880), was donated to Vaughn Museum on July 4th during all Star I Family conference by Phyllis Brookfield. The flower design on the vase is the scarlet pimpernel and the verse by Celia inscribed in her handwriting reads:

*"...The last chill asters their petals fold
and gone is the morning-glory's bell,
But close in a loving hand I hold
Long sprays of the scarlet pimpernel..."*

A generous and much appreciated gift, the vase will be on display on the shelves in Vaughn Museum along with the sizable collection of other vases, plates, cups and pitchers, all beautifully hand painted by Celia Thaxter, (1835-94), our island poet....

—Donna Titus, Vaughn Supervisor

From Your Closet to Ours

....Housekeeping was gifted in another way this past season through the dedicated work of our volunteer sewers.* (*those who sew, not those that flow.) They managed to turn a roomful of torn and discarded goods into an impressive amount of usable bedspreads, curtains and dresser scarves. For your time, talent and caring, we thank you. ✱



STAR ISLAND CORPORATION
10 VAUGHAN MALL, SUITE 8 • WORTH PLAZA
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801-4047

Phone: (603) 430-6272
Fax: (603) 430-6270
www.starisland.org
Email: bwinters@starisland.org

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID
MAILFORCE INC

*Register
Today!*

CONFERENCES ARE ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS NOW!
REMEMBER, IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO REGISTER BY MARCH 10TH.



Star Island Newsletter • Winter 2008