

Star Island

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Kyle M. Belmont photo

Last Call: A Star Steward Bids Farewell

by Angela Matthews, Director of Development

There it was – my last season on Star Island – the start of Natural History Week and the echoes and harmonies of the Arts conference morning singers are only just fading. *Arise – arise – open your eyes! Arise and greet the day.* It is of course how each of us should live every day. And a whiff of salt air certainly helps the disposition. In fact a turn-of-the- 19th-century cure involving sitting in salt caves seems entirely sensible sitting in the middle of the ocean. My health and wellness is amply buoyed by the scents of salt arising from the sea around me.

Through the ups and downs of the past six years – and certainly more ups than downs – I am deeply grateful for this time we have had together. Look at all we've done. None of it would have been possible without you. Those of us who work here come and go. But you – the island residents – are here forever. If you ever doubt that go stand in the corridor between Elliott and Lawrance. These ancestors are as present as you are. Their essence lives on Star just as yours will. You are each a link in that unbroken chain of the Star lineage – of Star Stewards.

As December approached rapidly and clearly on the horizon I am fully aware of the adjustments I will have to make to a very different life. And it is a real and constant challenge of managing demanding pairs of polar emotions that always come with beginnings and endings. The experienced soul knows that it's an internal journey not an external one. I have to remind myself of that every day as I live the joys and sadness of the leaving – of ending.

I feel my own place as a link in the unbroken chain of Star Stewards and I am comforted in knowing I played a small part at a critical moment in time. We each do and it is at once humbling as it is invigorating. Star was. Star is. Star shall be. Like an eternal flame we

continued on inside

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Strategic Planning Sustains Island's Future

by Nick Dembsey, Board Member & Strategic Facilities Planning Committee Liaison

The Strategic Facilities Planning Committee is committed to ensuring the sustainability of Star Island's infrastructure. In general SFPC provides support to Island Manager & Director of Facilities Jack Farrell and the staff on facilities projects in a few different ways ranging from acting as a sounding board to providing direct technical expertise on specific projects.

A great example of creating sustainable infrastructure is the ongoing project to upgrade the Oceanic Hotel. Under Jack's able leadership a comprehensive multi-year plan has been developed with the SFPC's support. This plan addresses needed upgrades to the primary structure of the hotel (beam replacements), the exterior envelope to ensure water tightness (siding and window frames), the porch so that it meets current code requirements (load capacity and railing height), and the Atlantic stair egress (new tower and stairs). The SFPC has been engaged in this project acting as

a sounding board as Jack developed and then over time refined the plan as new challenges have been encountered and overcome.

The SFPC has also been involved based on our technical expertise in detailed design of aspects of this project such as the porch railing and the soon to be new Atlantic tower and stairs. As the project now moves from the North and East faces of the Oceanic hotel to the West and South faces of the hotel the SFPC will continue to collaborate closely with Jack and other staff to ensure success of this project in protecting our unique historic building. 🦋

Bright Future Begins With Solar Array

by Kyle M. Belmont, Program & Outreach Coordinator

At 47 square acres, Star Island's relatively small size is providing ample space to create a model for sustainable communities. Our most visible endeavor in this effort – a solar array – started operating on November 19, 2014. The project is designed to deliver up to 60% of Star Island's energy needs.

Star Island's Island Manager and Facilities Director, Jack Farrell recently took a closer look at the solar work and came away with these sentiments: "This solar project helps us to extend our values beyond our island community. This shapes our reputation in the region. We look innovative, responsible, forward thinking, and capable. We are doing something bold and taking leadership in an area of our values."

The beauty that is the solar project has taken time, and on occasion been a struggle after decades of only relying on diesel fuel for power. The project started with the search for a new Facilities Director and a three-year strategic plan that placed a great importance on moving towards sustainable energy and away from fossil fuels. Farrell's hiring brought about an increased motivation to make that move, and soon ideas were underway.

The next stepping stone was a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation in 2012 for \$10,000. Star Island used this money to hire the Island Institute of Rockland, ME to conduct a feasibility study of solar power on the island. After the study was completed, a Request for Qualifications and later a Request for Proposals were sent out, resulting in Revolution Energy as Star Island's partner to design and construct a solar array to power Star Island.

Over several summers, Revolution Energy met consistently with the Solar Project Ad-Hoc Committee to review and refine plans, trouble shoot and collect data. While this work was going on, Revolution Energy also looked for project funding. The financial hurdle for this project brought everything to a near halt in early 2014. Deadline extensions did not result in a funding source, and hopes were seemingly dashed when a bank pulled out of the plan due to a conflict of taking on the debt and the equity of the solar project.

But that's when the story turns around. Years of work, meetings, conversations, and planning – and Farrell,

an Island Manager pushing for this project to succeed – finally came into funding through Ayer Electric. This local contractor, already knowledgeable about Star's solar goals, stepped in.

But a new funding source meant the need for an entirely new funding plan. This change resulted in Star Island taking on more of an up-front cost while receiving a steady and reliable energy source.

This project is a large investment, approved by the Board of Directors and Solar Project Ad-Hoc Committee, to be paid out over 13 years. Star Island is also working to secure more grant funding beyond several gifts from last year to support the project.

Star Island entered into an agreement with Ayer Electric at the beginning of the summer in 2014, and construction started in August. The project is now online. As the project neared completion in November, Farrell looked back and thought on the process: "It was about to die. Just to see the project – see these rows and rows and rows of panels and realize, wow, this is really happening."

The move to solar power involves much more than solar panels. Only one supplier of diesel is able to serve Star Island; the reduction in diesel usage will mean fewer trips to coordinate. Changes in equipment further reduce energy demand and byproducts like waste water. Equipment changes include higher quality and more efficient diesel generators to support the solar array.

Located in the shadow of the Tucke Monument towards the top of the rock line, the solar array consists of south facing panels mounted on concrete ballasts. No trails were changed, nor historic landmarks altered. The project is designed to withstand 130 mph winds. And the array has an expected lifespan of 25 years; the batteries about half that. The panels are very durable and can be wiped clean as needed. The Shoals Marine Lab on Appledore Island uses the same model of solar panels and reports that maintenance is not time consuming. 🦋

Our Mission

Our mission since 1915 is to hold and maintain Star Island and such other property as the Corporation may hold or acquire, as a center for religious, education, and kindred purposes consistent with the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ.

Our Vision

Our vision is to create on Star Island an environment that frees all who come to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence, and gain knowledge about the world as it might ideally be.

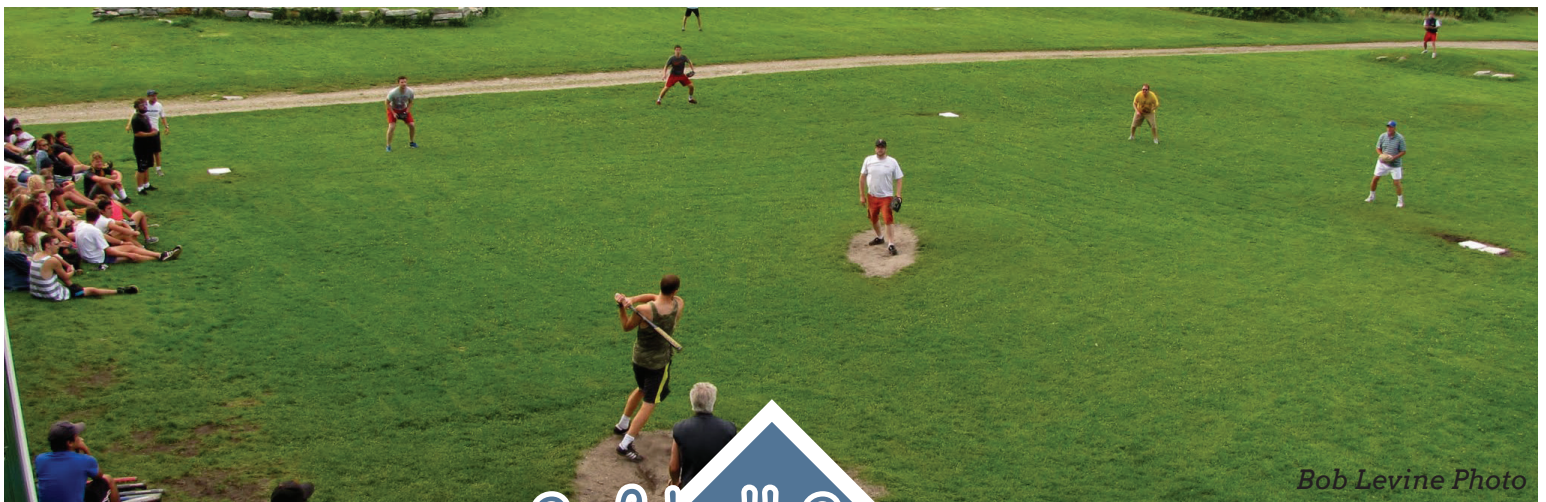
Throughout the 2014 summer, contractors and Star Island staff worked to prepare for and install our solar array. This months long task, years in the making, was recently commissioned and is providing power to Star Island.



Kyle M. Belmont photo



Tim O'Connor photo



Bob Levine Photo

Softball Scores

2014

	YES	AS1	AS2	LRE	IA	SG1Y	SG1F	SG2F	LOAS1	LOAS2	PEL/LAITY
CONFERENCE	15	7	17	10	13	16	5	2	15	10	7
PELICANS	17	7	18	17	4	19	17	20	7	11	15

Notes: Rain cancelled the game against YAC in early June. The AS1 game lasted for three innings due to rain. The AS2 game finished in 8 innings.

fuel and sustain it generation after generation because we have to.

I've heard the stories of those who come and go and I am struck by one thing. No one has ever come to the work on Star thinking, I wonder how I can screw this up. Everyone comes with their best game – with their greatest love – with their purest dreams. Whether or not it ends well is not the point. Everyone wants to do their best. For me this is the most amazing lesson of Star. We are a very strong and vibrant family and we have great expectations. Every one of us has great expectations. And though we are not perfect, our intentions are. Adding a little forgiveness to the equation will relieve us of unnecessarily reliving times of conflict.

Last year, when I announced my plan to retire at the end of 2014 I couldn't help but think that December was a long way off. Now, here it is. Welcome the new director of development with new traditions and freshness of spirit and love for Star and the knowing that anything is possible when we join our spirits and our energies. Star's sustainability rests upon the enduring commitment – the stewardship – of every single shoaler. Please take a place on that team. Fare thee well in every sense of what that expression means. And great gratitude for all that you have meant to me. ⚡



Angela Matthews delivers remarks at the 2014 re-dedication of the Capt. John Smith Monument.

Passages

Former Pelican **Ben Saunders** married Judy Giddens on May 18, 2013.

Star Gathering 2 attendees **Leah Merrill** and **Adam Donovan** married on June 1, 2013.

Eric Folsom passed away on June 3, 2013. Eric attended Star Gathering 2.

Adam Ranney Rzepka married Amanda Rolfe on July 20, 2013.

Jalynn Elisabeth Titus was born on August 2, 2013. She is the daughter of Jamie and John Titus.

Former Pelican **Mikael Kennedy** married Melaena Cadiz on August 10, 2013.

Luke Oskar Dostal was born on September 27, 2013 to Megan (Jennings) and Mike Dostal.

George Hunnicutt was born on October 11, 2013 to Evan Hunnicutt and Cassandra Lopez.

All Star 1 attendee **Elizabeth Hendrick** married Michael Gregoire on October 13, 2013.

Owen Dowdall Nagel was born on November 12, 2013 to Emily Dowdall and David Nagel.

Marjory Wiren passed away on Decem-

ber 27, 2013. Marjory attended Life on a Star 2 for many years.

Bonnie Meek passed away on January 1, 2014. Bonnie attended Star Gathering UCC Family 2.

Irene Callahan passed away on Friday, March 14, 2014. Irene was the mother of Board President Sharon Kennedy.

David MacEachran passed away on March 30, 2014. David was a Smuttynose Steward.

David Lamb passed away on April 3, 2014. David was a Pelican and volunteer.

Dr. William Tannebring passed away on April 17, 2014. William was a long time attendee of Laity.

Pamela Peia passed away on April 29, 2014. Pamela attended International Affairs.

Star Gathering UCC 1 attendees **AJ Dickerman** and **Thais Archambeault** married on May 3, 2014.

Charlotte Clark-Lietar was born on May 5, 2014 to former Pelican Rob Lietar and Charity Clark.

August Kennedy Adam was born on May 7, 2014 to Julia Kennedy and Karl Adam.

Cynthia Wright Swaine passed away on May 18, 2014. Cynthia attended the Arts Conferece.

Ivy Brandenburg was born on May 19, 2014 to Anna Brandenburg.

Elise Gray passed away on May 24, 2014. Elise attended Life on a Star 1.

Mark Wollman passed away on June 3, 2014. Mark attended Life on a Star 1.

Cecilia Harris was born on June 21, 2014 to former Pelican Joel Harris and wife Jess.

Former Pelican **Erin Halacy** married Mike Tracy on June 28, 2014.

Eli Ryder Robbins was born June 30, 2014 to Laura and Teddy Robbins.

Persis Ballou passed away on July 16, 2014. Persis attended International Affairs.

Dale Bender passed away on August 15, 2014. Dale attended All Star 2.

All Star 2 conferee **Joni Abbadessa** married Kelvin Dowd on August 16, 2014.

Star Gathering attendee **Jess Duval** married Greg Towne on August 17, 2014.

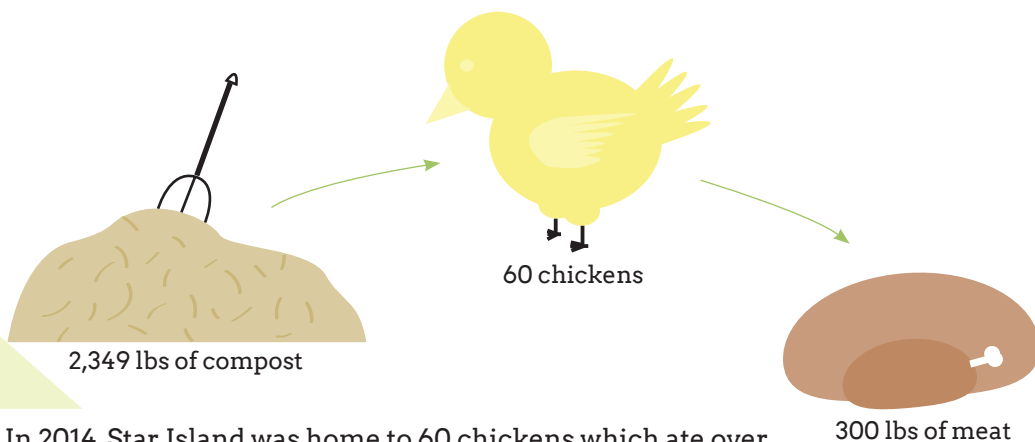
Piper Johanna Adams was born to former Pelican Chris Adams and wife Cara on September 27, 2014.

Former Pelican **Jon French** married Adrienne Dowd on September 28, 2014.

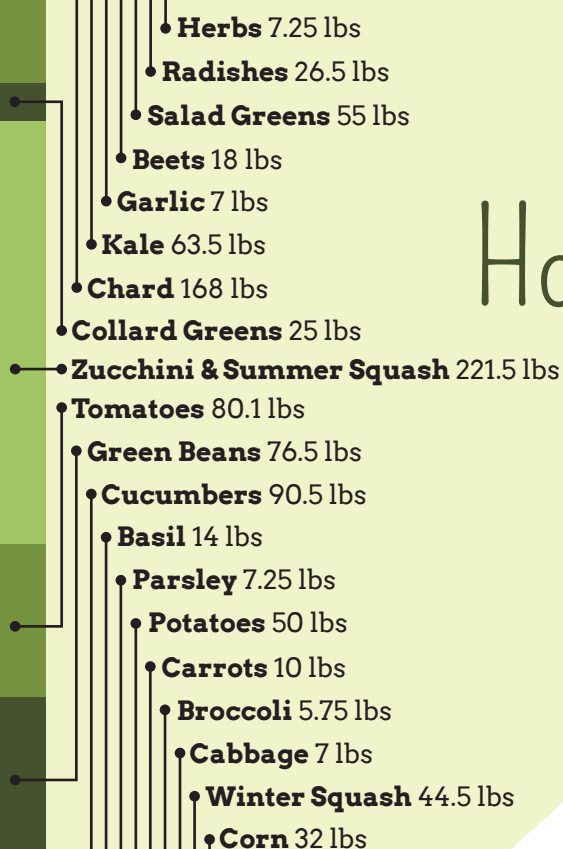
Former Star Island staff member **Jon Wahlgren** married Jessica Rubinstein on October 19, 2014.

Will Fielding passed away on October 21, 2014. Will attended All Star 1.

2014 Totals

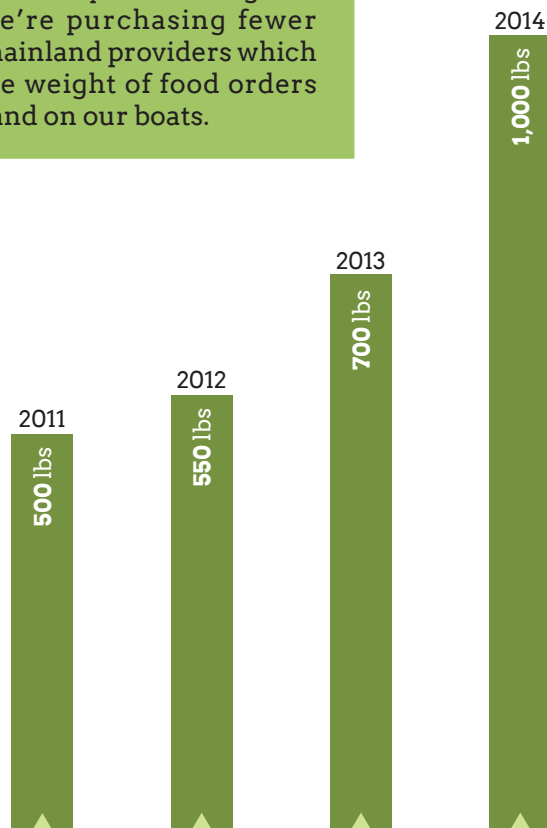


In 2014, Star Island was home to 60 chickens which ate over two thousand lbs of compost or what we call "yomp" on the island. This compost came from leftover food at the end of meals, scrapings from plates, and kitchen scraps. In the end, the chickens resulted in approximately 300 pounds of meat.



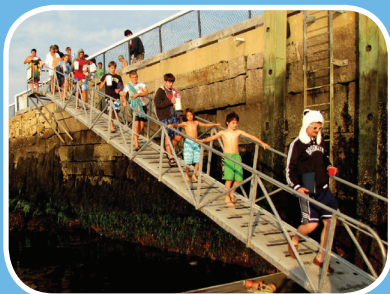
How Our Gardens Grow

With the help of interns, volunteers, and staff, Star Island's gardens have grown into a major force of sustainability on island. By harvesting our own food, we're purchasing fewer items from mainland providers which decreases the weight of food orders and the demand on our boats.



This graph shows the amount of produce harvested on Star Island over the past four summers. The numbers are approximate.

Preserving Summer Traditions



Polar Bear Plunges

Every morning a group of brave souls makes their way down to the dock. The sun is rising just beyond the breakwater and burning through some lingering fog as people of all ages take the early plunge into the cool New England water. Waking up for polar bearing may be hard, but once you jump in, you're surely awake for the rest of the day.



Softball Games

In the shadow of the Oceanic Hotel, the front lawn becomes home to softball games each week. Often pitting Pelicans — our summer staff — against that week's guests, these games bring the entire island together for an afternoon of cheering, sportsmanship, and great catches.



S'mores

A small fire crackles just above the rocky shoreline as youth and adults stand watch as their marshmallows turn golden brown over the flames. Friends wait with graham crackers and chocolate, and a feast is had. This weekly tradition is often accompanied by folks strumming guitars and singing camp songs.

Register Online for Summer 2015 @ StarIsland.org

Program Catalogs to be mailed soon



starislandcorp.com 

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