

F N I L

FRIENDS OF NASH ISLAND LIGHT



NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2020

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This year's annual meeting at the Union Church in South Addison is postponed until next year. We'll announce the date and presenter in next year's newsletter and we look forward to seeing you all then.

Greetings Friends of Nash Island Light members!

Aside from the bit of annual spalling of its brick, our lighthouse tower continues to hold up well, thanks in large part to the KEIM coatings applied in 2014. By the end of the summer a small work party will have "touched up" the tower and repainted and remounted the storm door which blew off over the winter.

We hope all of you saw the splendid article in the New York Times on board member Alf Wakeman's shearing of his sheep on the islands. If not, please see the link on our website: nashislandlight.org. Alf reports that this year there are 29 sheep and 24 new lambs on Little Nash and 76 sheep and 80 lambs on Big Nash. The result of the black ram he used last year – 14 black lambs.

In our effort to link up with other lighthouses in Maine the obvious first choice was Burnt Coat Harbor Light on Swan's Island, our sister light, also built by the Coast Guard in 1872-3 with the same dimensions, lamp, lens, deck and cupola.

Richard and Gray helped restore the keeper's house on Swan's in '07 and became friends with board members of B.C.H.L., Fran and Eric Chetwynd. When we wrote to inquire if they'd seen the article in the NY Times, they replied immediately, sent photos of their Light, and chair-person Keith Harriton provided the following for our newsletter:

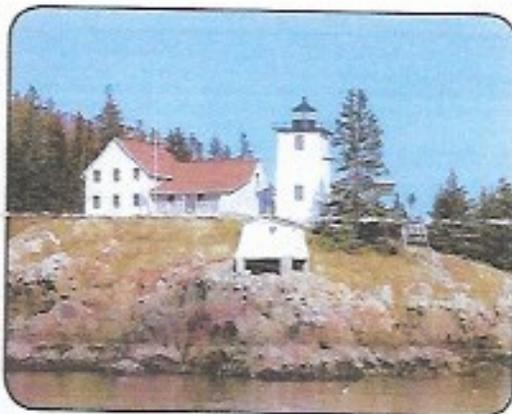
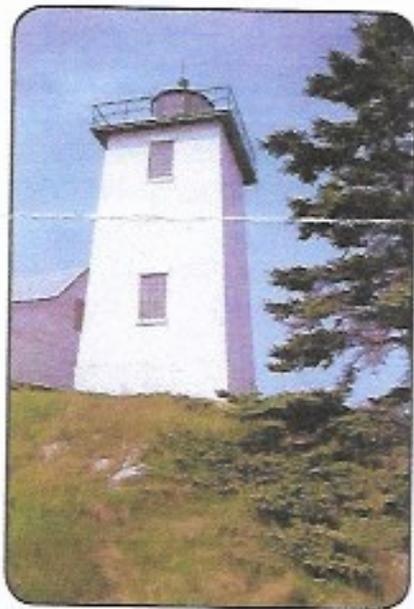
"Imagine sailing among unfamiliar ledges and islands of Penobscot Bay with the help of only a chart and a compass. That's the way it was around Swan's Island, until the Lighthouse was built on Hockamock Head in 1872. Its familiar shape by day, and light by night, guided boats into Burnt Coat Harbor, well known as a harbor of refuge. Its many Keepers not only carried out their duty to warn, but also to rescue and to offer a place of shelter for those in need.

Beginning in the 1870s, fishing was clearly the cornerstone of the Island's economy. Swan's Island captains were famous for mackerel fishing, and Burnt Coat Harbor was home to a fleet of fishing boats, many of which were

built on Swan's Island. Its commercial importance provided plenty of justification for the US Lighthouse Service's decision to build a light station at Hockamock Head. After the Lighthouse was automated, Swan's Islanders led by Roberta Joyce, a Selectwoman and Sunday School teacher, protested the changes made by the Coast Guard at the Lighthouse. As a result of the protests, the Tower was repainted and relit and the gutting of the Lighthouse was halted. In 1988, the Burnt Coat Harbor Light was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and, in 1994, the Light Station was deeded from the Coast Guard to the Town of Swan's Island.

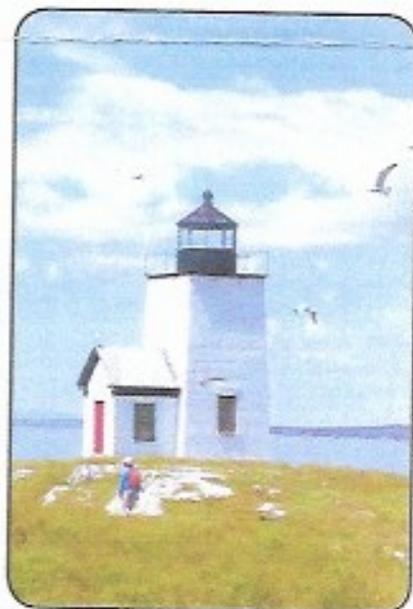
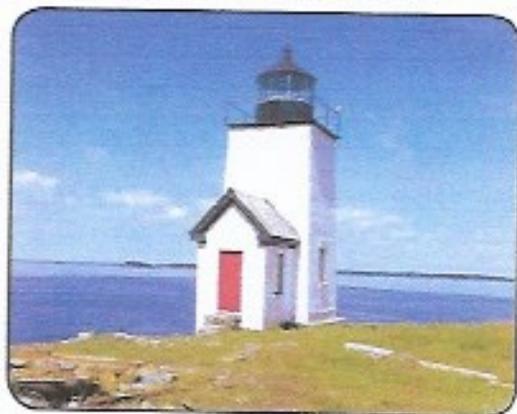
Since 2004, the Swan's Island Lighthouse Committee, guided by a group of brilliant and talented volunteers, worked a stunning transformation of the Keeper's House and Burnt Coat Harbor Light Tower, as well as the creation of Acadia style hiking trails on all of Hockamock Head. Since 2008, the Friends of Swan's Island Lighthouse (FOSIL), an associated non-profit corporation, raised the approximate \$800,000.00 to date necessary to accomplish the Town's Lighthouse restoration project.

The impeccable fifteen year rehabilitation effort required courage as well as architectural genius, fund raising magic, construction expertise, landscaping vision, marketing techniques, attention to every detail, and the diplomatic skills necessary to effectively interface and negotiate with local, state and federal agencies. And, praise be to our very generous donors! Roberta Joyce would have been proud of the inspired leadership and tireless efforts in bringing the iconic Burnt Coat Harbor Light back to life!"



Top photos: Burnt Coat Harbor Light

Bottom photos: Nash Island Light



Do you know these lighthouse-related terms?

Daymark: The daytime identifier of an aid to navigation. The unique color scheme and/or pattern that identifies a specific lighthouse during daylight hours.

ATON: An acronym for Aid To Navigation.

Don't forget!
National Lighthouse Day
is August 7

Do you know that the first known use of the word *lighthouse* in 1622 was also the first known use of the word *sternmost*? (farthest astern) (Merriam-webster.com/sternmost)