

FNIL

FRIENDS OF NASH ISLAND LIGHT



NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2018

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the FNIL newsletter for Summer 2018. We are excited to announce the new website found at www.nashislandlight.org.

ANNUAL MEETING: TUESDAY, AUGUST 14 at 7PM UNION CHURCH, S. ADDISON featuring Biologist Brian Beal, Ph.D: Professor of Marine Ecology at UMM and Director of Downeast Institute. (See below for a detailed description). This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and we hope that you'll be able to attend.

Report on the Light: Richard Miles and John Page visited the lighthouse July 2018 for inspection. They report that the masonry is in good condition for the most part. Some touch-ups and fascia repair were completed. The storm door was replaced and new red paint was applied to the entrance door.

Since FNIL was envisioned by Ed Greaves and others in 1997 as a way to save the lighthouse from destruction her history has been collected in multiple boxes containing, documents, photos, maps, correspondences and reports. All of this information was painstakingly sorted out by our president Richard Miles along with the help of others over a one year period. Thanks to Marilee Lovit who collected most of the photos and records. Upon discussion among the board members of FNIL, by the end of summer 2017, a decision was made to hire Deborah Bailey of Barnstormer Website Design, Jonesport. Over the past 10 months a comprehensive digital archive was developed and is now available for viewing. The site is also updated with meeting notices and other events of interest, including maintenance updates and the 2014 video of restoration, photos of sheep shearing events and a slide-show and text history of Jennie Cirone and life on Nash Island. Elyse Rudner is the contact for website management. Let us hear from you with questions, suggestions and donations. And do be sure to link the site to others who may be interested. www.nashislandlight.org

AUGUST 14 Meeting Highlights:

Summary of Presentation: "A Journey with Soft-shell Clams"

Soft-shell clams typically rank second or third each year in economic importance of commercially important marine species harvested in Maine. This talk will explore some of the biotic and abiotic factors that regulate populations of soft-shell clams, as well as highlight how aquaculture can be used to stimulate growth in this marine industry. Results of field research conducted up-and-down the coast will be presented, along with new ideas about methods to sustain and enhance the fishery.

Who is Brian Beal?

Brian grew up in Jonesport, and graduated from Jonesport-Beals High School in 1975. He clammed and lobstered throughout high school and college earning enough money to pay for tuition and books at the University of Maine at Machias where he graduated with a B.S. in Biology in 1979. As his interest in marine science developed Brian attended varying academic institutions as a student, teacher, researcher and scholar. In 1994, Brian received his Ph.D. from the University of Maine at Orono in Marine BioResources. In 2000, he became a Fulbright Scholar and conducted research on the efficacy of lobster nurseries for cultured juveniles as a stock enhancement tool. Currently, he teaches courses in Marine Ecology, Marine Biology, Oceanography, Applied Statistics, and Experimental Design and Analysis at UMM.

Recently he has helped the Board of Directors of the Downeast Institute create the easternmost marine research laboratory and education center in the United States in the town of Beals.

To hear more from Brian read on and visit our website for his full responses to these questions.

QUES. 1: What do you think it takes to get young people involved in conservation and the caretaking of the downeast coast?

ANS: I think it takes mentors who engage in those activities. Mentors at home, mentors at school, and mentors in the community. If folks around them that they respect and receive encouragement from are involved in conservation activities and have a true conservation ethic, then that behavior will filter in the direction of the youth. (Go to website for full response)

QUES. 2: Where do you feel the natural environment and coastal development “touch edges” that may be in conflict?

ANS: I think that the natural environment and coastal development are always “touching edges.” If you take a close look at the State of Maine flag, you’ll see a farmer, fisherman, pine tree, and moose. The message is one of conservation, not preservation. Conservation means exploring ways to use (tap into) the natural environment in ways that help sustain the economy and the environment. (Go to website for full response)

QUES. 3: Can you talk about the climate change conundrum and the evidence that propels us to respond?

ANS: Scientists have shown via multiple lines of evidence that climate change (global warming) is real... The problem is that on a day-to-day basis, all of us continue to run our lives without issue... (Go to website for full response)

QUES. 4: What is your/the essential message you would like to share with people who care about the downeast coast?

ANS: There is so much to learn about the downeast coast because there is so much that is unknown. (Go to website for full response)

Special notice:

Board member Lily Wakeman, an enthusiastic member of a choral group, will sing us a song!

In addition, we will once again have our Nash Island posters, cards, DVDs, t- shirts, sweatshirts, tiles and hats for sale.

Your continuing generosity in support of the Friends of Nash Island Light is greatly appreciated. Your dues of \$10 minimum will renew your membership. Additional donations for maintenance of the Light are appreciated.