

# FNIL

## FRIENDS OF NASH ISLAND LIGHT



### NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2025

#### Board of Directors

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**This year's free and public annual meeting will be held at 6pm on Wednesday September 3rd at the Cape Split Chapel. We have a very exciting speaker and performer lined up: Dr. Stephen Sanfilippo, who has been researching and performing historic songs of the sea since the early 1970's. He frequently lectures and has performed from Virginia to Prince Edward Island, Canada with his banjo, guitar and concertina. Please join us for what will certainly be an entertaining, joyful and educational evening.**

#### Greeting Friends of Nash Island Light!

Have you had the special pleasure of viewing Nash Island light from shore, passing by while sailing, or the distinct honor of setting foot on Big and Little Nash Islands to enjoy the resplendence of the grassy hummocks, the native iris in bloom or the blinks flower?

We are so fortunate to have access to a place of beauty such as Downeast Maine where preservation efforts remain strong and the maintaining the vitality of this beautiful and wild coastline is a priority among residents.

For those of you who are our longstanding friends, thank you for your continued support. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the efforts of the Friends of Nash Island Light, allow us to briefly introduce this effort. Established in 1997, FNIL is a non-profit organization which took possession of the Nash Island lighthouse for the express purpose of restoration and maintenance.

For more history on the lighthouse, we encourage you to view "Jenny's Island Life" on YouTube, a film made by Michel Chalufour about Jenny Cirone's life growing up on the island with her family, including her father, the lighthouse keeper. Jenny lived on the island for 19 years and maintained a flock of over 200 sheep who continue life on the island today.

For further exploration, please visit our website, which has information about the lighthouse and its history at [www.nashislandlight.org/](http://www.nashislandlight.org/).

**Treasurer's Report:** Kristin Look, FNIL's treasurer reports that during 2024 a total of 44 donors contributed a total of \$5,345 to FNIL with gifts ranging from \$10 to \$1,000. Total expense during the year was \$1,082.51. No repairs were made to the lighthouse in 2024. We spent a total of \$33,000 on lighthouse repairs and maintenance between 2022-2023. At the end of 2024 FNIL's endowment fund at Maine Community Foundation stood at \$71,059.72, with \$5383.32 in its checking account. Kristin says that continued support of FNIL's donors is critical to FNIL's ability to maintain the Lighthouse for the long-term.

**The Lamb and Sheep Report:** This Spring on Little Nash Island, 21 lambs were born from 20 ewes and 1 ram (Hyas). On Big Nash Island, 78 lambs were born from 82 ewes and 2 rams (Owen and River). There were two bottle lambs this year: Pelé and Toro. We are pleased to report they are happy and healthy!



**Other Updates:** A large cleanup endeavor was executed on Big Nash Island, consisting of about 47 community members and campers from an international camp who helped fill an entire contractor dumpster full of trash that had washed up on the shores.

All of the corral and fencing work done last year has held up well through this season. A contractor is assessing the lighthouse to determine the extent of work required to shore up the floor joists and door and doorframe. The paint job on the lighthouse is holding up well. Volunteers are always welcome.

