KEEPER'S LOG

Keepers of Burnt Island Light

December 2017

Inside this Issue:

Pancake Paddle-Ins	2
Art Auction	2
Topside Inn Event	3
Amazing Volunteers	3
Save the Date 2018	4
Making A Difference	4

Board of Directors

Howard Wright
Jean McKay
Jack Bauman
Penny Pollard
Kathy Harris
Carolyn Nichols
Dawn Kenealy

YOU TOO CAN HELP PRESERVE THE PEOPLE'S LIGHT FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Website & Email

keepersofburntislandlight.com
Keeperjean@gmail.com

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house….. The children of Keeper Joseph Muise were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of Flying Santa danced in their heads.

When the Muise family transferred to the Burnt Island Light Station in 1936, they were pleased to settle onto a 5 acre island so close to Boothbay Harbor. It would offer them a better life as compared to an earlier assignment on barren Mt. Desert Rock. On wooded Burnt Island, they could harvest their own Christmas tree without leaving home.

The highlight of their holiday season, however, was a visit from the Flying Santa. This legendary flight began in 1929 as a gesture of thanks to the lighthouse keepers who had guided floatplane pilot Bill Wincapaw safely back to his port in Rockland. As December 25th approached, the Muise children spent a good deal of time outside gazing across the sky and listening for the sound of an airplane's engine. When the moment arrived, their screams of glee drew out the entire family as Santa flew over scoping out his target. They hollered and waved to Santa as he tossed out the package that contained candy for the kids, a newspaper for Dad, an apron for Mama, and a Bible for the family. Adele, Prudy, and Ann were thrilled with the happening, but older brother Willard remained calm in hopes that Santa wouldn't think that they were all "island happy."

KEEP THE LIGHT BURNING CAMPAIGN

While the clock is ticking, we are working feverishly towards a plan to restore the Burnt Island Lighthouse before its bicentennial. Old, weathered and worn, Boothbay Harbor's beloved beacon will turn 200 years old in 2021. This lighthouse has given to the public in so many ways, but now it needs the public's help to return it to its glory in time for that monumental celebration.

To date, we are nearly halfway to the goal of $200,000, thanks to the tremendous generosity of many local businesses, organizations, artists, residents, and visitors. These funds will support: the restoration of the lighthouse; exterior restoration of the keeper's dwelling; and solarization of buildings.

A Dynamic Partnership

The ME Department of Marine Resources owns Burnt Island and its historic buildings, but has been unable to provide general funds for its maintenance and operation. As a result, our non-profit organization was born in 2008 to help them with their mission of education, recreation, and public access.

If you love what Burnt Island has to offer, then we ask you to become a part of this historic initiative — one that will keep the light burning. With just another $20,000, we will be able to apply for grants with an even match of $100,000. Therefore, your tax deductible donation, whether large or small, will make a huge difference.

PANCAKE PADDLE-INS ON THE "GREEN OUTDOORS"

Bill Green paddles to Burnt Island

This 14' Necky Kayak, made by Old Town Canoe, was won by Pamela Elwell as part of a fundraising raffle. Thank you to all who took a chance.

On June 19th, WCSH TV featured the Burnt Island Lighthouse as part of the "Green Outdoors." The segment was shot earlier that month when Bill Green paddled ashore to eat pancakes with fifth grade students from the Weatherbee School in Hampden who were on the island as part of a fieldtrip.

The show promoted our Sunday morning Pancake Paddle-Ins that took place during the months of July and August. People from near and afar paddled out in canoes and kayaks to participate in this fun event.

A hearty breakfast of blueberry pancakes with Vermont maple syrup (donated by Wyman's of Maine & the family of Keeper James McCullough), sausage, fruit, coffee, tea, and orange juice was consumed by the hungry paddlers. A guided tour of the lighthouse, keeper's dwelling and museum followed where they learned about the history of the station and the many uses of Burnt Island for the public's benefit.

All who came ashore left with a full belly and a better understanding of the reasons why this jewel needs to be preserved for future generations.

Teacher Matt Lindemann flips pancakes while Elaine Jones leads a tour.

ART AUCTION

On the weekend of May 5th, eight artists braved the elements to capture the beauty of Burnt Island on canvas, while two weeks later another thirteen added to the artworks destined for a mid-July auction.

The artists who contributed paintings and photographs were:

Julie Airoldi, Kevin Beers, Brad Betts, Karen Blackwood, Todd Bonita, John Butke, John Caggiano, Katie Cundiff, Alastair Dacey, Don Demers, Mary Erickson, Laureen Hylka, Jean Kigel, David Kynor, Corrine Mcintyre, Bob McKay, Roger Milinowski, Robert Mitchell, Diane Randlett, Fran Scannell, Sally Smith, Tony van Hasselt, and Amy Williams.

On July 12th, in the elegant setting of Pemaquid Hall, the evening began with attendees perusing the artworks, enjoying each other's company, and dining on fine food and drink. We are so thankful to Spruce Point Inn's owners Angelo DeGiulian and Joe Paolillo, musicians Pete Thayer and Bob Knowles, and auctioneer John Bottero of Thomaston Place Auction Galleries for their time and generosity. The "Keepers" would also like to thank the artists for making this event possible with special recognition to Don Demers for his paintings and dedicated services as chairman of the event.

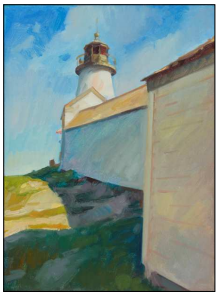
After the final lot (#46) left the block, the auctioneer's hammer fell with over $32,000 raised for the Burnt Island Lighthouse's restoration - a truly successful event!

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Boothbay Region Chamber of Commerce for hosting the auction's preview and post-sale. The outstanding paintings below, and others, are still available for purchase by stopping by the Chamber or calling them at 207-633-2353. Treat yourself, or that someone special, to a wonderful Christmas present.

By: John Caggiano - $950

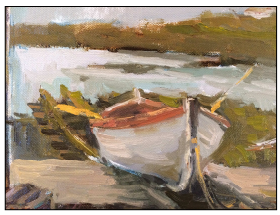
By: John Caggiano - $1,200

By: Bob McKay - $1,500



By: Alastair Dacey - $1,200

By: Amy Williams - $500



By: Katie Cundiff - $475

EVENING SOCIAL AT TOPSIDE INN to "Keep the Light Burning"

Mark & Buzz, Topside Inn

Win Mitchell, Boothbay Craft Brewery

Ralph Smith, Mine Oyster

Every day, the Topside Inn's owners Mark Osborn and Buzz Makarewicz gaze across the harbor recognizing not only the beauty of the Burnt Island Lighthouse, but its importance to the region. Therefore, when news of its restoration became public, they wanted to help.

On the beautiful evening of June 22nd, the Topside Inn teamed up with two other businesses to host an evening social. They, along with the Boothbay Craft Brewery and Mine Oyster, provided food and drink for guests in the form of elegant hors d'oeuvres, locally grown oysters, and a special beer called 10 Lewis Ale brewed to honor Burnt Island's history.

Those in attendance had an enjoyable evening and some were lucky enough to win prizes in the form of products, gift certificates, and services donated by other local businesses.

A heartfelt thanks to the Topside Inn for hosting this special event, and to all of the businesses that contributed towards making this fundraiser possible.

Drink 10 Lewis Ale and Support the Lighthouse!

This local beer is one that tells a story, both of which always go well together! "10 Lewis" refers to the original source of light that was made up of ten Lewis patent, reflector, lamps that were arranged in a circle and burned whale oil. To keep all lamps burning required an "Imperial Attitude" for sure. Cheers!

AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Making A World of Difference on Burnt Island

When you step ashore on Burnt Island, you are struck by the natural beauty that surrounds you. Have you ever wondered who was behind those picturesque gardens, flower boxes, and wood-chipped trails? The dedicated group of gardeners who make it happen are: Susi Hamblen, Linda Redman, Maureen Harris, Roxanne Smith, Susan Bremer, Donna Strawser, Debbie Mikulak, Jane Southworth, Brooke Greenleaf, Bill Cooney, and Roger Young. Are you available to join them every other Monday?

If you haven't attended the Burnt Island Living Lighthouse program, place it on your to-do list for 2018. Every Monday and Thursday in July & August, the Novelty leaves Pier 8 at 1:45 PM for an outstanding, living history program. Receiving scores higher than Colonial Williamsburg, the family of Keeper Joseph Muise comes alive to share real stories about what life was like on Burnt Island in 1950. This year's volunteer interpreters were: Keepers Howard Wright, Dave Racicot, Jack Bauman & Ken Fitch. Mamas were: Penny Pollard, Carol Hillmann, & Peggy Racicot, and the children who stole everyone's hearts were: Della Hahn, Emery Lorrain, Emmy Bouchard, Cassidy Leeman, Madeline Bouchard, Bea Recoing-Tallen, Sophia Mansfield, Gabby Crowell, Azalea Bennett, Journey Bennett, Nick Giles, Hannah Hills, Teal Beavis, Maeve Cullina and Ronan Cullina. Gift shop attendees were: Susan Welch, Carol Osterman & Joyce Davis. A special thanks goes out to program founder Jean McKay, and her faithful assistant Karen Grindall, for making it possible. Burnt Island is able to fulfill its mission of education and historic preservation because of its wonderful volunteers. Would you like to join the cast in 2018?

KEEPERS OF BURNT ISLAND LIGHT

Keepers of Burnt Island Light
PO Box 738
Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04538

WE'RE ON THE WEB
keepersofburntislandlight.com

CAN YOU HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Serving the Mariner since 1821

We look forward to your participation in the "Keep the Light Burning" campaign. With your help, the lighthouse will be restored to its glory in time for its bicentennial celebration in 2021.

Remember, our goal for this year is to raise another $20,000, which will allow us to apply for grants with an even match of $100,000.

Burnt Island relies on the support of generous donors like you. Your tax deductible donation will help ensure the success of the lighthouse's restoration.

Please send check payable to Keepers of Burnt Island Light, PO Box 738, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538 or donate at: www.keepersofburntislandlight.com.

Every donation makes a difference regardless of size. Thank you in advance as your gift will truly be appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE

Historical Tour of Hendrick's Head Light

Fundraiser to Benefit the Burnt Island Lighthouse

August 15, 2018