



"Inveniam viam aut faciam."
Find a way or make one

Eagle Island Journal

A Publication of the Friends of Peary's Eagle Island

Volume XVIII, Number 1

Spring 2013

Presidents Message

It is with deep regret that I announce that our long term President, Oliver Brown died Friday, April 5th. Oliver was one of the founders of the Friends of Peary's Eagle Island as well as Treasurer and then President from 1998 to 2003. Ollie was president when I joined the Friends 20 plus years ago. My first meeting was at his home in Brunswick. It was at that meeting that I met Adm. Peary's two grandsons and their wives for the first time. I remember thinking at the time that these are the kind of people I'd enjoy sharing a commitment to a cause I believed in. I was right. I was inspired by Ollie's dedication and leadership plus all I learned about Admiral Peary and Eagle Island from reading everything I could get my hands on and lengthy discussions with both Ed and Bert the two grandsons. It didn't take long and I was hooked.

Oliver, more than any of the rest of us, was focused on the long term maintenance and preservation of Eagle Island. During his tenure such projects as the Composting Toilet, the fire suppression and intrusion alarm system for the main house, republication of Barbara King's book, "the Dream of the Far North", and our Webb site were completed. The island got its share of attention from the folks in Augusta at the Bureau of Parks and Lands thanks in large measure to Ollie's tenacity. Frankly I was a little concerned that we might overdo it and get our bosses mad at us until one day I overheard Steve Curtis (head of the Bureau of Parks and lands at that time) tell Ollie, "Don't stop bugging us. We need it." Ollie never did.

I learned a lot from Ollie during my tenure as president of the Friends and I've tried to live up to the standards he set and emulate his effective leadership. We'll miss you Ollie and our heartfelt thanks for all you did to foster our mission on Eagle Island. You left your mark Oliver Brown and that grand old State Historic Site will forever be a monument to your dedication. Harry

Volunteer for Eagle Island

Most of our volunteers come back to help us year after year. We expect that some of this outpouring of interest is due to the camaraderie they experience each year. The other reason is the magic of Eagle Island. It pulls them back each year and is an experience that makes the day a fun event. We need all kinds of volunteers.

Volunteers are needed to work on the Welcome Center now nearing completion. Volunteers work by the days on all the projects the house on the edge of the North Atlantic needs every year (it does take a beating), including the all important Trail Day in mid July when we open the wonderful trails for the season. Volunteers are needed to work on the all important gardens, the oldest having been there since 1912. And most importantly, we need more Volunteer guides (Docents) to help man the new Welcome Center. It's a fun place to be and we hope that all who read this will consider giving a day or two a try. Call Marnee Small if you would like to volunteer as a Docent 207-833-2853 or (marnee26@comcast.net.) And call Steve Ingram 207-833-6182 or (singram3@myfairpoint.net) for all outside work.

What do Eagle Island and a carpenter's tool belt have in common?

What do Eagle Island and a carpenter's tool belt have in common? They both need volunteers! A carpenter's tool belt needs a volunteer in it to do any good work; and Eagle Island needs volunteers on it to continue to do their good work. And this summer will be no exception.

Docent volunteers will continue to grow in numbers and enthusiasm. See Marnee's call for Docents elsewhere in this Journal. Again this summer we have tool belts that are just waiting for volunteers to put them to use. Coordination with the Bureau of Parks and Lands this winter has resulted in dividing the remaining tasks to complete the Welcome Center between Friends volunteers and BOPL maintenance crews. We will be responsible for completing the front deck and stairway as well as the deck and stairs at the back door. We also will be responsible for grading around the base of the Welcome Center so that water will not run under the building as well as the grading for the handicapped ramp. We have a designed a 'display case/counter' for the interior which we hope to have built by cabinet makers off island. We also will be building corner storage cabinets inside the building.

The Bureau has assumed responsibility for procurement, transportation to the Island, and installation of the sheathing for the interior walls and for the finished flooring. The Bureau has also taken responsibility for the design, purchase and installation of the solar electrical power system and fixtures and any supporting construction/alterations. The Bureau will also install the interior electrical system required (the Friends may be requested to run the wiring). The Friends will complete the interior finish work around the windows and doors, as well as purchase and install the venetian blinds. We will also do the painting/staining/polyurethaning to complete the interior.

By popular demand from last year's volunteers, the Friends will provide the person power to move all the lumber and supplies from the shore up to the building site. Many will recall what great fun that was last summer-and for those who weren't fortunate enough last year, you get first chance this year!

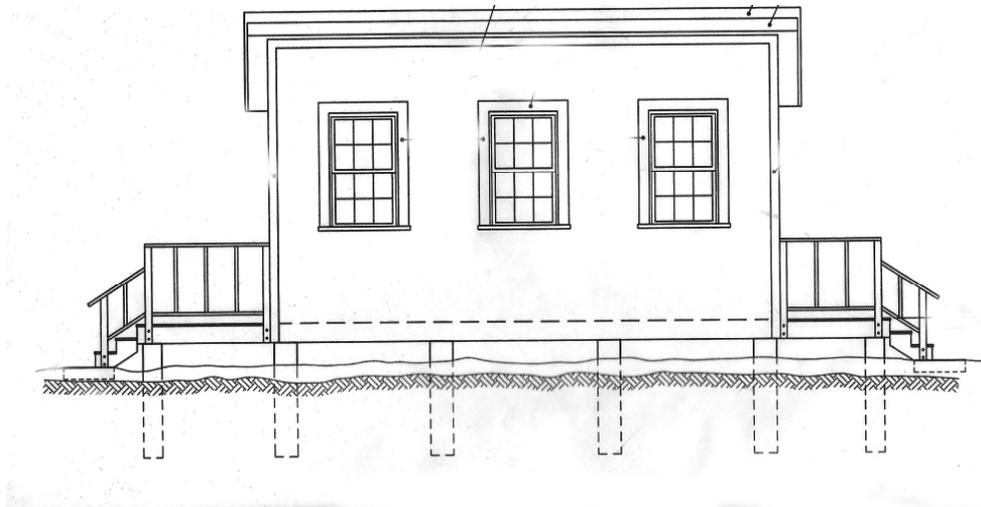
The target date to complete the work and to dedicate the Welcome Center is late July. Perhaps the Friends annual meeting could be combined with this event. The Bureau has set a tentative date to install the float in mid May and in order to complete our work as early as possible we may have to seek access to the island prior to any use of the float.

In the meantime, if you are interested in volunteering to help complete the Welcome Center please give Steve Ingram a call 207-833-6182, or send an e-mail, singram3@myfairpoint.net. Of course, we will be looking for volunteers for trail work and for Trail Day, tentatively scheduled for July 13 (with rain date July 14). We will send a separate call for Trail Day early in the summer.

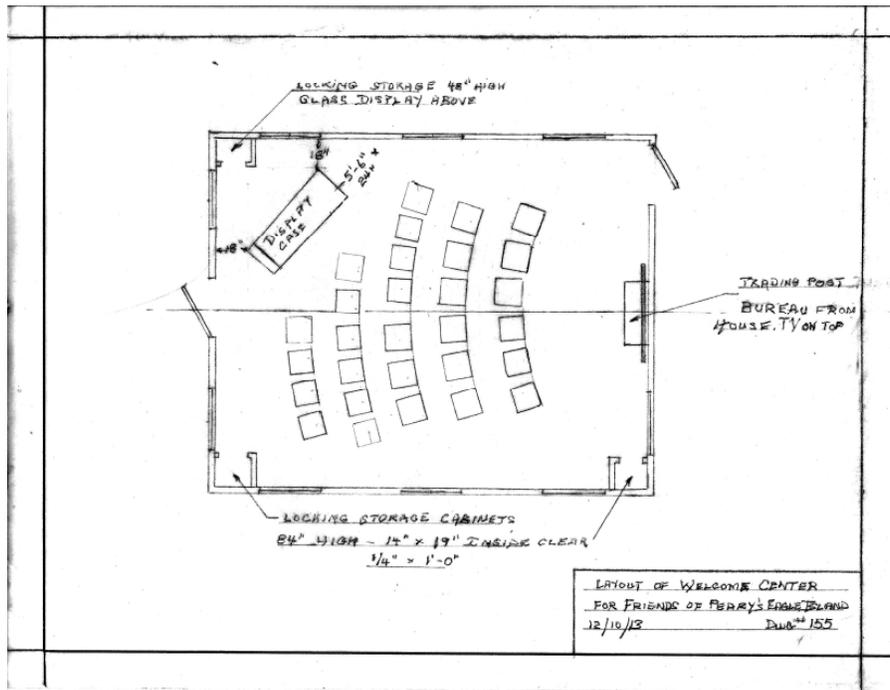
Spring breezes seem to sweep across Casco Bay, over Eagle Island, directly toward the mainland. And in quiet moments, if you listen, those breezes carry the Island's call. Hear it? Grab your work gloves and hiking boots and get ready! *Steve*



This view shows where the front deck and stairs will be placed



This view shows the two decks and stairs



Proposed interior layout of the Welcome Center.

Note large locking storage cabinets in three corners, one of them big enough to hold cleaning supplies as well as volunteer packs safely for the day, the others big enough to hold all of our souvenir supplies that we sell.

Published by the Friends of Peary's Eagle Island, P O Box 70, Bailey Island, ME. 04003

Visit our web site—pearyeagleisland.org

President: Harry Rich, Treasurer: Bill Bartley, Secretary: Noel Golz, V.P. Docent Coordinator: Marnee Small, V. P outside volunteers: Steve Ingram, V.P Fund Raising: Ned Dewey, Web Master: David Stuntz, Special projects: Barbara Tucker, Dick Regan, Bob Nelson, Bob Johnson.

Friends of Peary's Eagle Island
P. O. Box 70
Bailey Island, ME 04003

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bailey Island, ME
Permit No. 2



TRIP TO THE MAINLAND

*Please excuse me for watching;
but I've been out there quite awhile,
and it's nice to see someone.*

*Please excuse me for listening;
but I've been out there quite awhile,
and it's nice to hear someone.*

*Please excuse me for approaching;
but I've been out there quite awhile,
and it would be nice to touch someone,*

*Please excuse me for leaving;
but I've been in here quite awhile,
and I hear my solitude*

a calling

Dave Chaney was the Park Ranger and caretaker at Eagle Island from 1985 to 1998. He often lived there alone and over the years he composed many poems which he published in a delightful booklet "Only a Reflection" which expresses what life on an island was like. This is one of the many poems