

## SAVE THE DATE SPECTACLE ON SPECTACLE

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Save the date for Boston Harbor Now's signature fundraising event, returning to the Harbor once again this year as public health conditions allow. Sponsors and guests are treated to a one-of-a-kind evening in celebration of our harbor.

Funds raised through the event allow Boston Harbor Now to offer free and low-cost access for underserved communities to enjoy the Islands and waterfront, prepare for the impacts of climate change, and support Boston's working port.

Learn more about tickets and sponsorships here: [BostonHarborNow.org/Spectacle](https://BostonHarborNow.org/Spectacle)



## YOUR HARBOR YOUR IMPACT

BOSTON HARBOR NOW | SPRING / SUMMER 2021

### YOUR GIFT CREATES ISLAND ADVENTURES

Meet Sue Rushfirth, Island lover and Boston Harbor Now monthly donor.

When Sue Rushfirth first came to the Boston Harbor Islands in the early 90s, it was like a new world opening up, one that few in her circle knew about. *"No one in my playgroup, no one in my baby group—some of them weren't even aware the islands were there, which was stunning to me!"* Sue reflected. *"They had no idea that you could go to them. No one had ever been."*

Sue and her husband Terrance had moved with their young children to Sudbury, MA from the United Kingdom in 1989, and they were looking for family-friendly things to do and see around Boston. Sue recounted seeing the islands and immediately researching ways to reach them. When they finally got out there, Sue says she and her family were hooked. She even recalled the view of Spectacle Island as it was being transformed into the beautiful public park it is today. *"They were dumping the Big Dig stuff on there and every time we'd go by, we'd count how many more levels they were up."*

*"I love the idea of children coming out from Boston and having that same sense of thrill and adventure that my children did. Looking on the beach for some seaglass or going to the very very top of the drumlin and looking out over the view."*

Sue Rushfirth

### See Inside...

- Stone Living Lab
- Save the Date for Spectacle on the Harbor

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### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Boston Harbor Now is proud to report that we sent 70 trash pick up kits to committed volunteers this fall. Thank you to everyone who participated in picking up trash along the Harbor! Thanks to you, our Harbor is a better place for visitors and wildlife to explore. *Above: Volunteer Dave Alexander picking up trash on Peddocks Island.*

Learn more: [BostonHarborNow.org/Volunteer](https://BostonHarborNow.org/Volunteer)

### PARK OPENING DAY

We're happy to announce that on May 21st, public ferry service will return to the Islands! Head out to Spectacle Island that weekend and see the park website below to learn about what you need to know before you go.

Learn more: [BostonHarborIslands.org](https://BostonHarborIslands.org)

SEE UPCOMING EVENTS AT [BOSTONHARBORNOW.ORG/SUMMER2021](https://BOSTONHARBORNOW.ORG/SUMMER2021)

Text HARBOR21 to 41444 to give

Donate at [BostonHarborNow.org/DonorNews](https://BostonHarborNow.org/DonorNews)

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### From the President & CEO

As we bask in this new spring sun, we are reminded of the certainty of renewal, the regularity of the seasons and the resiliency required to survive and thrive.

During these difficult times, access to nature, our public parks, and our blue and green open spaces is vital to our health and well-being. The outdoors, and especially the Harbor, have offered much-needed renewal and comfort through all seasons.

As you will see in this issue, we are working hard on producing amazing public programs and vital climate research through the Stone Living Lab.

Because of your support, we continue to enhance public access to the Harbor while protecting the region from the increasing risks and impacts of climate change.

Thanks to your financial support, we will emerge stronger from these difficult times.

**Kathy Abbott**



### You're helping research climate resilience

Boston Harbor Now is proud to introduce the Stone Living Lab, a major new research, education, and discovery initiative within the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park. The Stone Living Lab's goal is to engage researchers, students, and the public in testing innovative, adaptive, nature-based approaches to climate adaptation, coastal resilience, and ecological restoration in a variety of coastal locations in and around Boston Harbor.

The Stone Living Lab is a partnership of the City of Boston, UMass Boston School for the Environment, Boston Harbor Now, the National Parks of Boston, the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation, and with funding from the Cabot Corporation.

Opportunities to sponsor research are available. To learn how to support the Stone Living Lab, contact Interim Director of Development Jack Garvey at [jgarvey@bostonharbornow.org](mailto:jgarvey@bostonharbornow.org)

**Learn more:** [StoneLivingLab.org](http://StoneLivingLab.org)

### YOUR GIFT CREATES ISLAND ADVENTURES

Her entire family shared her enthusiasm. *"It was the sense of adventure—there's something about an island, it has a sort of romantic feel to it. My children used to pretend they were marooned—that they missed the ferry and would have to stay the night."* It was these experiences that inspired Sue to start donating to support the Islands and become a monthly donor.

*"I love the idea of children coming out from Boston and having that same sense of thrill and adventure that my children did. Looking on the beach for some seaglass or going to the very top of the drumlin and looking out over the view,"* Sue said of her decision to make monthly donations. *"As a child, I didn't come from a particularly rich background, and I know how much I would have loved it. It would have been such an adventure for me. It just lifts the spirit somehow."*

Thanks to the support of generous donors like Sue, Boston Harbor Now was able to provide over 17,000 youth and families from Greater Boston with free and reduced-cost access to Harbor Islands and waterfront programming in 2020. Even with the challenges of the past year, for the first time, over 20% of public ferry passengers travelled to the Islands using Boston Harbor Now's Community Free Access free and reduced-cost tickets.

With your gift, Boston Harbor Now is working hard to make our harbor more welcoming, resilient, and accessible, so everyone can experience the joy and adventure that comes from a visit to the harbor, waterfront, and Islands.



**Start a monthly gift today,** and help create new adventures all year long.  
**Donate at:** [BostonHarborNow.org/DonorNews](http://BostonHarborNow.org/DonorNews)



### Make a Donation through your Donor Advised Fund

Each year, around 80% of Donor Advised Funds don't make it to charities. Have a fund? Ask your advisor today, and make your grant to Boston Harbor Now before another year goes by.

