



Natural History Conference 2010

Star Island ✧ Isles of Shoals ✧ Gosport, New Hampshire

April 2010

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to inform you that you have been registered for the 2010 Natural History Conference on Star Island in June. This letter contains important information for making the best of your time on Star!

✧ If you must **cancel**, please let me know promptly so that someone else can be registered in your place. Your registration fee will be returned if your cancellation occurs **six weeks or longer before the beginning of the conference.** The same deadline applies to your room and board deposit.

✧ Please be aware that the Star Island Corporation has a **cancellation policy** for conferees. This policy requires that anyone who is registered for a conference and does not attend (i.e. a “no-show”) or does not cancel at least two weeks prior to the conference be responsible for paying for the full cost of attending the conference. Of course qualifying exceptional circumstances will be considered.

✧ The conference begins on **June 19 and ends June 26.** Unless other arrangements are made with me well before the conference begins, it is assumed you will be in attendance for the **whole week.**

LUGGAGE: Neither Star Island Corporation nor the Isles of Shoals Steamship Co. assume any responsibility for handling, damage, or loss of any luggage. Leave your valuables at home. Belongings should be consolidated and securely packed (loose items may be damaged or dropped in the water during handling). No alcohol is permitted aboard the Thomas Lighton (so don't pack it in your carry-on). Luggage (clearly tagged with name and address) **MUST** be limited to:

- One small carry-on bag (this is where you pack your valuables, batteries, chargers, one outfit, and medications for an ***extra 4 days***)
- A specialty item (musical instrument, easel, tennis racket)
- Checked baggage may consist of
 - One checked bag (duffle ***without*** wheels is preferable) – limit 40 lbs. per person OR
 - Two smaller checked bags – limit 25 lbs. per bag

Luggage will be weighed at the dock and transported aboard Star Island's workboat. Please do not use garbage bags or paper bags, as they're fragile and difficult for staff to handle.

✧ **We will be departing for and arriving from Star from Portsmouth, NH.** The conference will arrive aboard the Isles of Shoals' Steamship Company (ISSCO) M/V *Thomas Lighton*. Unlike the last several years, the conference will arrive at the same time. *Arrive at the dock between 11:00 – 1:00 to check in. Boarding begins at 2:00 and ends at 2:20 without exception.*

DIRECTIONS to the Isles of Shoals Steamship Co. (ISSC) at 315 Market St.: *From the North*, as you motor south on I-95, take NH exit 7. At the end of the ramp, turn LEFT at traffic light, proceeding towards downtown Portsmouth. Go approximately 3/4 mile, staying in LEFT LANE as you approach the Portsmouth Sheraton on your right. The entrance to the ISSC is on your LEFT, directly across from the Sheraton. *From the South*, as you travel north on I-95, take NH exit 7. At the end of the ramp, turn RIGHT at traffic lights. Go approximately 3/4 mile, staying in LEFT LANE as you approach the Portsmouth Sheraton on your right. The entrance to the ISSC is on your LEFT, directly across from the Sheraton.

☛Conferees will park at the Isles of Shoals' parking lot at a cost of \$10.00 per vehicle/day or any portion of a day. Parking will be in blocks, so you must arrive and depart on the same boat. Boat tickets are \$44.00/adult. Parking fees and boat fares will be added to your room and board bill, payable at the end of the week on Star.

☛**If you are not planning on arriving or departing with the conference you must make special arrangements with me well before the conference begins.**

☛Midweek conferees and **day visitors** may travel to Star from Portsmouth or Rye Harbor. The *Thomas Lighton* will be running between Star and Portsmouth, NH 5 days a week through the summer, and the *Uncle Oscar* operates daily from Rye, NH. For more information, schedules and fares, please visit their websites, www.islesofshoals.com (603-431-5500) or www.uncleoscar.com (603-964-6446). You must make your own boat arrangements and inform me well beforehand to confirm your arrival to the conference or to determine if our conference can accommodate an **overnight guest**.

☛While every effort will be made to accommodate **room requests** made on your application, no firm commitments can be made. Keep in mind that construction projects on the island may have altered the room you remember and requested!

☛Please see the 2010 Star Island Conferences brochure or look online at www.starisland.org for specific information regarding room and board rates. **Please note that VISA and MASTERCARD are now accepted on Star Island for payment of room and board bills, lobby store and gift shop bills.** Please bring cash for use at the snack bar.

☛Although Star Island welcomes everyone, **all conferees should be aware that Star Island is not equipped to handle acute medical emergencies.** The Island Physician and the First Aid Station are available to treat minor injuries and illnesses; however, serious illness and injury will require a lengthy and costly transportation to the nearest hospital. In addition, pregnant women should note that Star Island has no facilities to accommodate a delivery. I ask that you seek a doctor's advice if you are in your last trimester. In addition, **conferees using prescription medication are advised to bring as many as four extra days' worth of medication in your carry-on luggage, not your checked luggage.** Island weather is unpredictable, resulting in possible delays in getting back home.

The **Natural History Conference** Planning Committee has planned a **wonderful week** full of activities, speakers and workshops, while the Island itself will greet us with its exhilarating scenery and refreshing ocean breezes.

I look forward to being with you on Star!

Ellen Campbell, Conference Registrar
207-843-5858
Email: ellenrc@myfairpoint.net

SPECIAL NOTES FROM CHRISSY ROBERTS:

- 1) Send her an email at nhcfamily@cox.net to confirm your email address.
- 2) ART AUCTION: Friday before the banquet, during Social Hour. Bring cash or check, and bid high and bid often, even against friends and family. If you're donating items from home, what you bring you must also be prepared to take home if it doesn't receive any bids. Same goes for work donated which you created during the week.



STAR ISLAND CORPORATION

Dear Conferee,

Welcome to Star Island...we are so looking forward to your arrival on the dock this coming summer! The 114th season of conferences, meetings, and personal retreats will begin on June 12th, and we are thrilled that you have chosen to spend some time with us.

This letter/packet contains information that will make your visit more enjoyable, and your planning more efficient. For those returning to Star, you will find major changes have occurred over the winter regarding our marine transportation. The ferry service to the island will now operate from the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company on Market Street in downtown Portsmouth. Information about the departure times and parking is included in this packet. For those who are coming to Star for the first time this year, this trip on the M/V Thomas Laighton, a 300 passenger – three deck cruise ship, will be a great introduction to your time on the island!

Last, but not least, may we share the thoughts of another New Englander anticipating a trip to her favorite island:

*If once you have slept on an island
You'll never be quite the same;
You may look as you looked the day before
And go by the same old name,
You may bustle about in street and shop
You may sit at home and sew,
But you'll see blue water and wheeling gulls
Wherever your feet may go.
You may chat with the neighbors of this and that
And close to your fire keep,
But you'll hear ship whistle and lighthouse bell
And tides beat through your sleep.
Oh! you won't know why and you can't say how
Such a change upon you came,
But once you have slept on an island,
You'll never be quite the same.*

Rachel Field

As we say on our website: “Spend a Day – Stay a Week – Remember for a Lifetime!” See you this summer....

Vicky Hardy, CEO

Joe Watts, Conference Center Director

P.S. Please see the reverse side for some important island rules & regulations...

Island rules are covered in a *mandatory orientation session* when you arrive on Star, and in printed materials available on the island. We are highlighting selected rules here because we want to make sure you are aware of them prior to your arrival.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO PRODUCTS & ILLEGAL DRUGS: Compliance is expected with all federal and state laws governing the use of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age, use of tobacco products by persons under 18 years of age, and the possession and/or use of illegal drugs. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted in public areas (except if included as part of a conference use function). Alcohol and tobacco products are not available for sale on the island. Those who engage in excessive drunkenness or possess or use illegal drugs will be required to leave on the next boat and will be charged for the full conference period.

ELECTRICAL: Due to the limitations of the island's electrical system, and for safety reasons, conferees should not bring appliances with heating elements (e.g. heating pads, hair dryers, hot water immersion heaters). Conferees with medical equipment electrical needs (i.e. three-pronged outlets, CPAP machines) should notify the conference registrar.

FIRE DRILLS & EMERGENCIES: If at any time you hear our emergency signal, you *must* evacuate to the flagpole on the front lawn and await instructions. Violators will be required to leave on the next boat and charged for the full conference period. We conduct weekly drills on the island. People with mobility concerns should notify the conference registrar.

FIREARMS/FIREWORKS: Firearms and fireworks of any kind are strictly prohibited. Violators will be required to leave on the next boat and charged for the full conference period.

LUGGAGE: Luggage limits are strictly enforced. Each person may bring: one small carry-on bag (a backpack or small tote, including your personal items), a specialty item, such as a musical instrument, tennis racquet or easel, and one "checked" bag (preferably a duffle bag without wheels) weighing under 40 lbs. or two bags weighing under 25 lbs. each. Star Island Corporation and the Isles of Shoals Steamship Company assume no responsibility for the handling, damage, or loss of any luggage belonging to Star Island guests.

MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Bring enough of any needed medicine to cover the length of the stay *plus an extra four days*. All controlled medications must be kept under lock & key at all times (lock boxes provided on island). No prescription medications are kept on-island and there is no guarantee that we can get specific prescriptions filled. Star is a small island in a remote location with access only by boat, and there are inherent risks in traveling to and staying on Star Island which cannot be eliminated. We strongly recommend not coming to Star Island in any capacity if you suffer from any medical condition which might reasonably require emergency medical response. Individuals with assisted living requirements are asked to make the necessary arrangements to ensure the requisite level of care during their visit to Star Island, which may include hiring a health aide. Guests are responsible for their own medical condition while on the island, including monitoring of health conditions and making sure that they have adequate medication to address any possible medical issues which may arise. For more information, please review the registration form and the conference brochure at www.starisland.org/conferences/register.

MINOR CHILDREN: Parents retain full responsibility for their minor children (under age 18) at all times.

OUTSTANDING CHARGES: All outstanding charges must be paid in full or permission to return to the island may be denied.

PERMISSION TO USE STAR ISLAND: Star Island is private property, owned and operated by the Star Island Corporation, dedicated to religious and educational activities. Island conferences, as well as guests and day visitors, come to the island with permission from the Star Island Corporation. This permission may be revoked at any time if, in the sole discretion of those in charge of island operations, such action is deemed necessary because of behavior which causes disruption of a meeting, creates a threat to the health and safety of others, or causes damage to island property.

PETS & SERVICE ANIMALS: Guests are not permitted to have pets on Star Island. Service animals are welcomed, but we ask that you provide us with advanced notice.

SMOKING/OPEN FLAME: Fire is our chief concern, and thus smoking is only allowed while in the presence of a red butt can. Butt cans are located on first floor porches and decks and on the pier, and **cannot** be moved. Smoking and the lighting of matches, candles, incense, or any open flame are prohibited in all Star Island buildings. There is no smoking on the main porch of the Gosport & Oceanic buildings or on any porch where combustible materials (such as propane tanks) are present. Due to the danger of brush fires, smoking is not permitted on the grounds on any part of the island, including the rocks. Violators of this policy will be required to leave the island on the next available boat and will be charged for the full conference period.

SYRINGE DISPOSAL: All used syringes or "sharps" must be disposed of in designated containers. If someone is "stuck" as a result of careless disposal, the individual responsible may be required to undergo blood tests.

VALUABLES: Guests are discouraged from bringing valuable items to Star. There is access to some secured storage if necessary. Star Island Corporation is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.