



OUR PARTNERS ON THE POND SERIES



THE BLOCK ISLAND CLUB (Part 1 of 2)

It was one of those not-so-great Block Island days in late August or early September of 1963 when two men came together to look at a piece of land for sale by Dorothy Sullivan. "Bud" Pomeroy and Dr. Edgar Frazelle were in search of some land on which to establish a boat and tennis club, not even sure at that point if anyone would be willing to join. The property included approximately ten acres of land and two homes, at a

cost of \$30,000 which they considered a horrendous price. During the following weeks, Dr. DuPont Guerry became the third investor.

The three men agreed to purchase the property where the current clubhouse stands. Dr. Guerry and "Bud" Pomeroy then left for a trip around the world, and while in Hong Kong were notified by Dr. Frazelle that the property deal was complete. This was a turbulent time, about the time of the John F. Kennedy assassination.

After the two houses on the property were sold, the new owners were in search of people to join the Club, charging \$130 for a membership. Stephen duPont became the first president and many people joined the Club. As the three Club founders were in search of a clubhouse, a Victorian-style lifesaving station was sitting in town near Old Harbor, and the three Club founders were willing to buy it and have it moved to the Club property. Mystic Seaport had a different idea and wanted it taken to the museum in Mystic, so Mystic Seaport offered to build a replica of the old lifesaving station in exchange for the old building.

The replica stands on the property today, and the first staff, a couple, moved in by the summer of 1965. Over the years, some of the staff have lived in the ship-like, attic quarters. After all those years, today you will still find sailboats heading out for lessons or races, the sound of a tennis ball on the tennis courts, the splash of swimming lessons, and the arts and crafts studio creating new, young artists. Along with all these activities, you will still find the tranquil, young toddlers hunting for crabs in hopes of winning the crab races.

The Block Island Club has weathered change on Block Island as well as change throughout the world, but one thing you can say about the Block Island Club, it stays about the same and stays true to its original intent to bring Block Islanders, summer residents, and vacationers together.

To learn more about the Block Island Club please visit blockislandclub.org or call 401.466.5939.

This information was taken from "Kitchen Baby" Turns Twenty-Five by James F. Spallone, Block Island Times, August 11, 1990.



Photos are courtesy of ©BIClub

OUR MISSION: To protect and enhance the environmental quality of the Great Salt Pond, including its shorelines and wetlands, and to promote appropriate and productive uses of the Pond's resources by residents, visitors and local businesses.

FUNDING: Individual contributions, membership dues, special events, program grants. IRS 501(c)3 non-profit.

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consider becoming a member of The Committee for the Great Salt Pond. For information and details, visit our website at cgspblockisland.org.