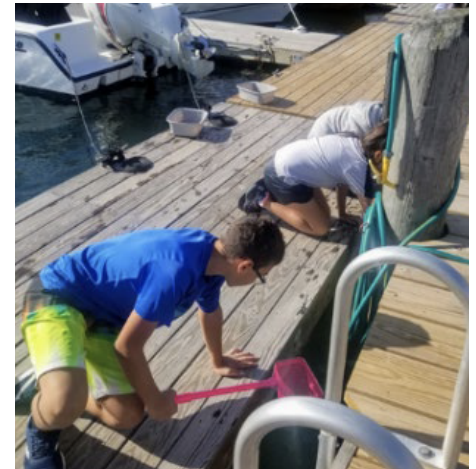




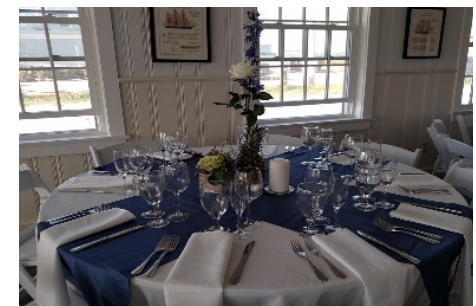
OUR PARTNERS ON THE POND SERIES



Located at 216 Ocean Avenue, the land now occupied by the Block Island Maritime Institute (BIMI) has had a long and varied history. The original structure, erected in 1917, was built for the benefit of United States Navy personnel and put into use on Christmas that year. The navy eventually pulled up stakes in New Harbor and the property was then put to commercial use, for a time becoming home of the popular Smuggler's Cove Restaurant. In the late 1990's, a developer hoped to purchase the lot and marina for condominiums. Instead, the property was purchased by concerned residents who wished to prevent further development. The property continued to house commercial ventures and also became home to BIMI, a nonprofit (501c3) organization. BIMI itself has gone through several iterations. For more than a decade, BIMI has provided varied programs for children and adults including sailing instruction, marine based programs for children, lectures, and the week-long Dolphin program geared to youth from disadvantaged communities.



BIMI's mission is to provide educational programs and maritime activities including marine science and maritime heritage for residents and visitors on Block Island. BIMI has worked hard to become a destination offering visitors an opportunity to both learn about as well as enjoy the marine environment of Block Island. One can visit the BIMI Center and enjoy the five fantastic outdoor aquariums featuring locally acquired species or register to participate in fun and educational programs that are held at the BIMI Center, on our docks, or at various island locations. Additionally, biweekly ecological harbor tours leave from the BIMI docks and weekly Tuesday Talks are offered in the Cove Room. If one simply chooses to relax, Adirondacks on the back lawn provide a great place to watch birds and boats as they pass.



Along with the BIMI Center, the BIMI property is home to a variety of other activities that provide revenue to support BIMI's ongoing public outreach and education. The Cove Room and grounds can be rented for weddings and other events while kayaking, fishing, lunch and ice cream are offered by other vendors at the site. Visitors to the BIMI property have many opportunities to Learn...to love Block Island.

For information and details, visit BlockIslandMaritime.org or call 401.500.3501.

Our thanks to Valerie Preler for the information and photos used in this article.

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.