

The Banner Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.

Volume #33

Fourth Quarter 2012



A Message From BCT President Len Warner.

During 2012, the Trust has been closing in rapidly on another significant preservation goal – the stabilization of the Bannerman Arsenal Complex tower, with expert assistance from our preservation architect, Jan Hird Pokorny Associates, Inc. (JHPA), and engineer, Old Structures. The tragic, partial collapse of the tower that occurred during the winter of 2009-2010 damaged what is arguably the most striking portion of the Bannerman warehouse complex. Since that time, the Trust has been focused on documenting and preserving the remaining walls, even as we launched the approved residence stabilization project. Following the successful completion of the residence stabilization for significantly less than our estimated project budget, the NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Parks) agreed to add the stabilization of the warehouse to the EPF Grant that funded 50% of the residence construction and to extend our timeframe for access to the grant funds. We faced numerous challenges, including the difficulty of raising funds during a very bleak time for the U.S. economy, and a concern that to be able to work safely on or near the walls of the tower would require long-reach cranes stationed on barges with prohibitively high mobilization and equipment costs.

We were very fortunate to receive good news on several fronts this year. JHPA and Old Structures determined that the remaining walls of the tower were stable enough to permit access via vertical climbing techniques, which have been used by specialty firms to conduct emergency repairs and survey work on historic buildings. JHPA prepared an emergency stabilization design for the tower that will allow a vertical climbing team to install shoring assemblies, using appropriate safety and personnel protection measures, on the exterior of the building where they will counteract the inward-leaning failure that is threatening the remains of the structure. The costs of this approach will be much less than a stabilization effort performed from a barge-mounted crane, and this project is now within our reach. Parks has approved JHPA's design and the Trust is proceeding to advertise the work to prospective contractors this month. Pending successful selection of a contractor, stabilization construction will be performed as early in the spring of 2013 as is practical. Parks has been extremely supportive of the Trust's efforts and extended our grant period through the end of December 2013, maintaining our access to 50% matching funds for our second stabilization project. The Trust has been keeping all of our neighbors who were impacted by Hurricane Sandy in our thoughts and prayers, and at the same time, we realize that with the extreme weather of the past several years, the time available to us to protect the remaining walls of the tower is extremely limited.



Bannerman Main Structure Walls (above) to be stabilized through this project. Top Photo and bottom photo by Kurt Hirschberg, Middle Photo by Thom Johnson.

While our plans for stabilization moved forward, we reached out to Choice Words to help us to identify funding sources worth pursuing and to assist the Trust with grant proposal preparation. Our efforts were rewarded when the Trust received the following grants for stabilization in 2012: J.M. Kaplan Foundation—\$25,000, National Trust for Historic Preservation—\$5,000, The Jane Nuhn Charitable Trust—\$20,000 in 2012 and \$20,000 in 2013. Additional grants included: The Dyson Foundation for a new Strategic Plan prepared by Fairweather Consultants—\$10,000, Chase Community Giving—\$10,000, which are positioning us to fund the construction. The EPF Grant requires that we pay 100% of the construction costs up front, and then apply for 50% reimbursement. For the residence project, we were

generously supported by M&T Bank, who agreed to loan us 50% of the construction costs pending reimbursement from NYS and thereby created a bridge that allowed us to pay our contractor without having to raise 100% of the costs.

We'll be looking for another 'banking angel' to help us next year, unless we are fortunate enough to raise all of the funds needed for the construction before we begin. With your continued support, we can raise the funds necessary to stabilize the warehouse tower and demonstrate that it is feasible to preserve the historic and aesthetic resources of Pollepel Island. Your passion and dedication to Bannerman Castle help to keep us working to save the treasures of Pollepel Island! The Trust wishes you a joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with every blessing.



The Banner

Volume 33 November 2012

Fourth Quarter

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MISSION

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. is a not-for-profit "Friends" organization of volunteers working with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Trust is dedicated to bringing together resources and funding to stabilize the buildings on Pollepel Island. The Trust aims to raise awareness and educate the public and government organizations on the value and history of the island. The Trust aims to raise funds for repairing the island, creating a master plan and eventually stabilizing the structures. The Trust is working to make the island safe for volunteers and for the public to enjoy the island as an educational, cultural, historical and recreational facility promoting heritage tourism in the Hudson Valley.

Become a "FRIEND" or a Volunteer

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. invites you to

become a "Friend of Bannerman Castle".

Help us preserve the castle.

For information call:

Neil Caplan, President (845)-831-6346

www.bannermancastle.org

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The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

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Neil Caplan, (left) BCT Executive Director and William Bauman, (right) Hudson Highlands State Park Manager, inspect plans by Ja Hird, Pokorny Architects and Old Structures Engineers for upcoming stabilization of the main castle structures, the #3 Warehouse and the remains of the iconic Tower.



"Over and Under the Arch" stabilized by Ken McShea in mid September as part of EPF Grant. (photo right)

BCT TO RECEIVE \$10,000 GRANT FROM 'CHASE COMMUNITY GIVING' By John Morzen

I was about nine years-old when I first saw the castle from the window of a speeding train. To this day, I still remember the feeling of surprise and awe I felt; wondering what that mysterious island in the Hudson was all about. A of couple years later, my intrigue would grow when I saw photos that my Dad had taken on the island, after he went there with Thom Johnson. The two made the perilous journey across the ice, shortly before the Trust was established.

Fast forward 20 years, and here I am, having helped manage the online presence of the Trust, coming up on three years this April. Being able to work with this group has been an absolute honor. Seemingly, everyone I meet, shares my intrigue with the island and wants to learn more about it. Over the past several years, our online fan base has steadily grown, and this year, we were lucky enough to be nominated for a Chase Community Giving Grant. That was incredible, but, it wouldn't be an easy task to actually win. We would need a lot of votes, and even more interest. With literally thousands of charities in the running, the one thing we did have going for us was the amount of growing positivity that we've been receiving online over the past several years.

During the voting period, I spent quite a few days and nights posting wherever I could, finding new places to post, calling in favors, reposting, and then doing it all over again. It was hard work, but I knew it would be worth it if we could get a grant to help toward the stabilization of the castle. I put quite a bit of effort in, but there is no possible way we could've gotten the number of votes, or gotten the word out to the extent that we did, without people who were just as passionate about this cause, as was I, and the other members of the Trust are. The morning after the voting ended, it was such a relief to see that all our hard work paid off—we had won a \$10,000 grant!

I would personally like to thank everyone who nominated us, voted for us, gave us moral support, and those who steadfastly helped us get the word out until the very end of the contest. Putting in that much effort as a group not only got us a grant, but it also helped introduce our cause to people who weren't previously aware of it. The castle, and the island it sits on, belong to all of us here in the State of New York. And now, because of those who helped us win this grant, we are a little bit closer to preserving it to be appreciated by people around the world, for years to come. Thank you for helping save a piece of history.

Bannerman Island's Volunteers 2012

Barbara Gottlock



This year, we have had a great group of volunteers on Bannerman's Island. Every Wednesday, a group of dedicated people, under the direction of Donna Blakemore come out to plant, weed, and water the amazing gardens on the island. In addition, they also clear trails, trim hedges, open up vistas and generally

maintain the island's landscape.

The group includes: Eugene Martin, Karen Schaack, John Lanc, Melanie Lanc, Barbara Baker, Linda Scott, Jay McClung, Thom Johnson, Barbara Bopp, Carla, Dorothy Basini, Wes Gottlock, and Roger DeVries.

In addition to our regular Wednesday crew, we had volunteers from two local businesses come to the island to support our preservation efforts. On August 8, 2012, a group of 24 people from IBM in Fishkill came out to work. Some of the group cleared trails, others put caps on our stairway posts, fixed up the trail going down to the Wee Bay on the south side of the island, and weeded and cleared out overgrown gardens. They were—Matt Baecher, Jane Baecher, Phil Metty, Jim Rockrohr, Bill Kelly, Kathy Kelly, Lou Fasano, Bob Bunce, Len Chieco, Sue Chieco, Jed Eastman, Bob Szafranski, Kevin Kramer, Pinping Sun, Joe Hanley, Keith Heilmann, Andrew Ippoliti, Jon Garlett, Larry Theisen, Kat Koelsch, Dan Storaska, Vic Moy, Ron Tompkins, and Chrissy Tompkins.

On October 10, 2012, a group of very hardy volunteers from Hannaford's Supermarket came out to the island on a gray and rainy day. They cleared a large section of overgrown garden and planted some new plants. By the end of the day they were still smiling, although they all were soaking wet and covered in mud. The group consisted of: Brent Caron, Store Manager; Jeff Saulnier, Assistant Store Manager; Bri Castellanos, Assistant Store Manager; James Fullerton, Retail Management Trainee; Lucas Shellhaas, Evening Operations Manager; Frank McCann, Customer Service Manager; Teriann Mongelli, Bakery Manager; Donna Moore, Deli Manager; Chris Naccarato, Meat/Seafood Manager; Donald Paschall, Produce Manager; and Michelle Roth, Pharmacy Manager.

Bannerman volunteers also helped man a table at this year's Hudson Fest on the rail trail at the west side of the Walkway Over the Hudson. The group included—Toni Taylor, Barbara Bopp, Kelly Marsh, Maggie Tirante, Maria Robson, Mary Sapia, Terry Collins and Jim Collins.

On behalf of the Bannerman Castle Trust, I wish to thank each and every one of our volunteers for all the hard work they put into making Bannerman's Island the special place it is. I look forward to working with you again in the future.

If you wish to volunteer, please either email Barbara Gottlock at bgottlock@hvc.rr.com or call (845) 561-8023.



Top Photo: *Bathtub Beauties*, Barbara Gottlock, Donna Blakemore, Karen Schaack and Melanie Lanc.

Lower Photo: Captain Leo Baltazar driving BCT workboat.



Volunteers from Hannaford's Supermarket in Wappingers Falls came out to Bannerman's Island in the pouring rain.



Roger A. DeVries of Far View Contracting created trail markers (pictured above) to aid visitors on the island during our new self-guided tours. These tours allow visitors to bring their own picnic lunch, enjoy a little music, and see the island at their own pace.



In addition to the regular crew (Donna Blakemore, Thom Johnson, Karen Schaack, Barbara Baker, Linda Scott and Wes Gottlock), 25 volunteers from IBM came out to Bannerman. They worked on clearing trails, making the Wee Bay trail a lot easier to use, weeded and watered the gardens, and put caps on the stairway posts. We thank them for all the hard work they put in. It is amazing what was accomplished in a single day!

2012 Events Delight Crowds on Bannerman Island



Marvin Lowe impresses with his version of 'Old Man River' in Opera Company of the Highlands concert version of Show Boat on Bannerman Island.



Show Boat played to sold out audiences on July 7 and 8.



Shira Renee Thomas, Vira Slywotzky, Chantelle Grant, and Mathew Singer



Claudia Cummings, Artistic Director for Opera Company of the Highlands directs members of the Show Boat chorus.



Thaddeus MacGregor



Photography Camping Trips with Thom Johnson on Bannerman Island. Photo by Victor Christea

Two thousand twelve events were abundant on Bannerman Island and drew sell out crowds. For the first time, The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. presented Third Sunday Music Lunchbox Self-Guided Tours on Bannerman Island, presenting musicians, Adam Boheman, Rachel Grasso and Kimberly Zaleski, along with Deborah and Rich Simon's Mattawan Winds and Thaddeus MacGregor. Programs were sponsored by Mark and Sue Adams, M&T Bank, Robert and Mary McKenna, and, Torches on The Hudson.

Claudia Cummings, Opera Company of The Highlands partnered with BCT to present a concert version of Show Boat, which played to sell out crowds in July.

BCT Advisory Board member Thom Johnson organized on-island photography tours, including overnight campouts with Hudson Valley Outfitters. Fundraisers included, the Fourth of July Picnic and The Bannerman Island Chefs Consortium Farm Fresh Dinner. Special thanks to Noah Sheetz, Rebecca Joiner, Liz Beals, and Jeff Loshinsky.



Hudson Valley Chefs Consortium sponsored the Third Annual Bannerman Farm Fresh Chefs Dinner on September 9th. Rain postponed the event which was originally to have been September 8th.



Thaddeus MacGregor and Thom Johnson perform in October's Third Sunday Lunchbox Self-Guided Tours



Fourth of July Picnic included a delicious barbeque prepared by Loughran's Restaurant of Salisbury Mills. Musical entertainment was provided by Classy Duets with Rachel Grasso on clarinet and Kimberly Zaleski on flute.



The Mattawan Winds performed in September at The Third Sunday Music Lunchbox Self-Guided Tours. Deborah and Rich Simons (right and center).



Hudson Valley Outfitters sponsored two overnight kayak fundraising tours in August and September. Contact HVO for 2013 campouts.



NYS Park Commissioners visit Bannerman Island on two separate occasions in August and September. *The trips were spearheaded by NYS Park Commissioner, Fred Osborn, (also a member of BCT Advisory Council). Left to right— Commissioner Fred Osborn; Hudson Highlands State Park Manager William Bauman; Commissioner; Edgar Masters & Taconic Regional Director Linda Cooper, and BCT Executive Director and Founder, Neil Caplan. The September trip included Commissioners Art Geller and Randy Fliesher and their families. Commissioner Fred Osborn escorted them to the island on his boat, 'The Petrel III'.*



SHELDON STOWE'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION RAISED OVER \$1,900 FOR BANNERMAN ISLAND PRESERVATION

Hats off to Sheldon and Michelle Stowe for hosting a 'Birthday Celebration Fundraiser' for Bannerman Island, honoring Sheldon. The event was held on Sheldon Stowe's mother's estate. Sheldon's father, Jerry Stowe was the curator at West Point and spent time on Bannerman Island in the early 1960s. Mr. Stowe collected many artifacts from Bannerman Island. Sheldon would often accompany his father to the island, where as a young boy, he spent the night in the lodge.

Sheldon is a historian and retired teacher, as well as a tour guide on Bannerman Island. Sheldon has an interest in colonial crafts and can often be found caning antique chairs.

This is the second event held at Jeanette Stowe's estate on the Hudson. The first was the Bannerman Island Crag Inch Dinner honoring NYS Park Commissioner, Carol Ash.

Sheldon spent several weeks preparing the grounds for the event, including setting up a tent that he crafted himself, using logs for poles and a reclaimed wood floor. The tent included mismatched furniture which added to its charm. The property has a stunning view of the Hudson River and Bannerman Island.

Come the day of the party, rain moved in, threatening to put a damper on the event. The band, Sacred Heart, was canceled. In spite of the rain, over 50 people attended. Friends brought their special food dishes. Beer, beverages and burgers were served. All had a great time. Happy Birthday Sheldon.

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. would like to thank Sheldon, Michelle and Jeannette Stowe for hosting this wonderful event. The event raised over \$1,900 for preservation efforts for Bannerman Island.

If you would like to have a milestone birthday or anniversary fundraising party for Bannerman Island, please contact us at (845) 831-6346.

ESTUARY STEWARD DONATED TO BCT BY ESOPUS MEADOWS LIGHTHOUSE by Robert McKenna BCT VP



This past summer, the Bannerman Castle Trust was the beneficiary of a different, but very valuable, type of donation. In late August, the BCT assumed ownership of the RV Estuary Steward, a 40' by 12.5' boat donated by the Esopus Meadows Lighthouse.

The Estuary Steward was commissioned in 2001 by Dutchess County BOCES as a floating classroom, a project funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Later, when its educational program was discontinued, the vessel was transferred to Esopus Meadows Lighthouse which used it to carry visitors out to the lighthouse once every two weeks. Hudson River Cruises is now transporting visitors to the lighthouse with departures from the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston.

The RV Estuary Steward has an open deck that can be closed with rain curtains in inclement weather. The BCT will use its new acquisition to expand its visitor operations to Bannerman's Island by adding tours from new ports. The boat will work in conjunction with Hudson River Adventure's vessel, The Pollepel, which will continue to run from both Newburgh and Beacon.

The Estuary Steward is expected to begin operation next spring. It will make its winter home at White's Hudson River Marina in New Hamburg. Over the winter, the Steward will be equipped with a new 135 horsepower engine, a donation from White's valued at \$6,800.

The BCT is especially grateful to Barbara Ralston of Esopus Meadows Lighthouse, and, Jill Shaw from DEC for helping to effectuate the donation and transfer. We look forward to utilizing the new opportunities and increased capacity this new acquisition will afford our organization.



Painting by Jamie Williams Grossman

**'TAKE ME HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS'
SMALL PAINTINGS SHOW AT THE BANNERMAN
ISLAND GALLERY**

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. will present its annual holidays small paintings show, 'Take Me Home for the Holidays' at The Bannerman Island Gallery, located at 150 Main Street, in Beacon, NY, opening reception at 5:00 p.m. on November 10th. (Beacon's Second Saturday)—The show features small paintings by 13 noted Hudson Valley artists, featuring scenes from the Hudson Valley and Bannerman Island. This is an excellent way to support Bannerman Island and get to take home, a one of a kind painting capturing the beauty of the Hudson River Valley and Bannerman Island. A great holiday gift. There will be over 40 paintings in various mediums, including, oils, acrylics and pastels.

Jamie Williams Grossman curates 'Take Me Home for the Holidays' Small Painting Show". Jamie is a Signature Member and Vice Chairperson of New York Plein Air Painters (NYPAP). She is also the head of their Lower Hudson Valley Chapter.

Award winning artists include: Jeanne Demotses, Virginia Donovan, Carol Douglas, Carolyn H. Edlund, Gayle Clark Fedigan, Patti Ferrara, Jamie Williams Grossman, Deborah O'Keeffe, Mara Lehmann, Margaret Morales, Mary Mugele Sealfon, Robert Trondsen, and Nancy Woogen.

The Bannerman Island Gallery features a large array of paintings, prints, and photographs of Bannerman Island, Bannerman's Castle, and the Hudson River—as well as many other types of Bannerman Island memorabilia and media. Many of the pieces displayed in the gallery are one of a kind, and are available for purchase. Fifty percent of the sale of artwork is donated to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. for the preservation of Bannerman Island.

Plans for the Phase One Stabilization of the main structures, the Tower and the #2 Warehouses have been approved by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Support beams will be attached to the exterior of the walls, along with steel bracing to be used to support the fragile facades until more funds are raised for Phase Two. The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. is currently raising funds to match up to \$150,000 from an EPF Grant. In 2011, the BCT stabilized The Bannerman Residence with new floors and a new roof. In October, the grand staircase, (Over and Under the Arch) was stabilized. In the 2012 season, Bannerman Island played host to The Opera Company of The Highlands' concert version of Show Boat, as well as to Hudson Valley musicians who performed on Bannerman Island on the third Sunday of every month.

Buy A Painting...Help Save a Hudson Valley Landmark!

The Bannerman Island Gallery is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., and by appointment during the week. 'Take Me Home for the Holidays' Small Painting Show runs from November 10th to December 31st. For information about the show, please call New Caplan at (845) 831-6346 or (845) 234-3204. www.bannermancastle.org

SANDY HURRICANE REPORT

Neil Caplan, Arthur Chiusano (who has done some construction on the island) and Wes Gottlock boated out from Newburgh on November 2nd to assess damage and some other things. Generally, we did OK. There was some damage to the dock, a porta-potty, some downed trees but, fortunately, no evident damage to any of the structures. We will require a pretty good clean-up effort in the Spring to get things going, and let's remember this is only November. We have a long winter ahead of us. The picture shows damage to landing platform after Hurricane Sandy."



**NEW
BANNERMAN ISLAND MUG
Photo By John Morzen**

Get your free Bannerman Island mug when you donate **\$50 or more** to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. for preservation efforts on Bannerman Island

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POB 843, Glenham, NY 12527



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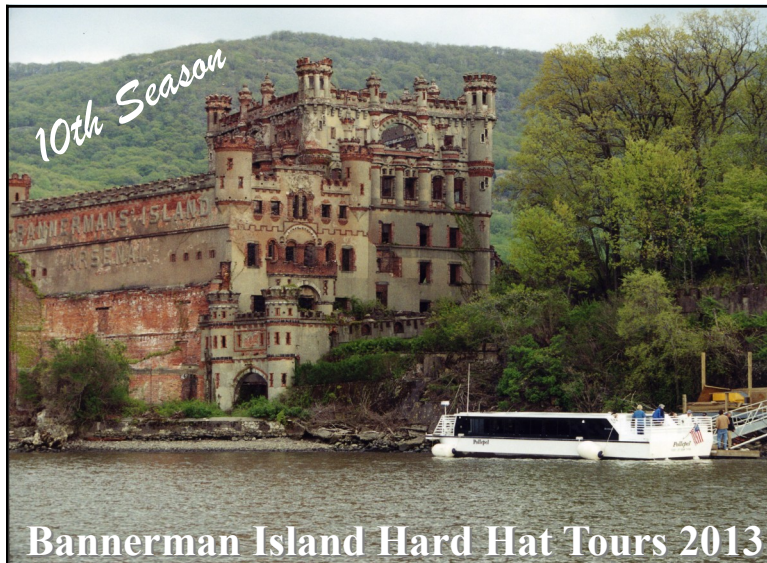
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New Performance and Observation Deck Completed at The "Tower" Lookout on Bannerman Island

A new performance and observation deck was installed in mid July with funds from The NYS Natural Heritage Trust.

NYSOPRHP Taconic Regional Director, Linda Cooper helped the Trust to obtain \$5,000 in funds that were to be used for projects on Bannerman Island. The deck was designed by BCT Board of Director, John Lanc, who is one of the principle engineers for Lanc and Tully Engineers. The deck was built by Arthur Chuisano. Special thanks to Linda Cooper, John Salvatore, John Lanc, Artur Chuisano and a crew of dedicated volunteers who carried the lumber to the site. Thanks to Roger DeVries and Barbara Bopp.



'Discover the Mystery, Explore the History' onboard Hudson River Adventure's vessel, THE POLLEPEL

Your Bannerman Island adventure begins at the Newburgh or Beacon waterfront every Saturday and Sunday, May through October. The Pollepel departs Torches Landing at the Newburgh waterfront at 12:00 noon and from the Beacon Ferry dock in Beacon, NY at 1:30 p.m. Book your Bannerman Island walking tour directly online by going to:

www.prideofthehudson.com/pollepelsschedule.shtml

Call Zerve to book by phone at 1-800-979-3370



Swann Inn of Beacon—
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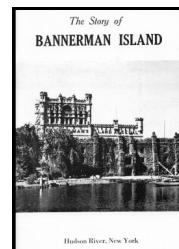
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Join The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. and receive a complimentary copy of *The Story of Bannerman Island*, by Charles S. Bannerman. You will also receive a subscription to the BCT newsletter, *THE BANNER*, along with a friendship card.

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STAMP

Happy Holidays

**‘Take Me Home For The Holidays’
Small Paintings**

Opens at The Bannerman Island Gallery,
November 10th

Meet the Artists Reception at 5:00 p.m.
150 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508

Photo by John Morzen

BECOME A “FRIEND” OF THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.

Join Today! Help Preserve a Hudson River Icon!

Please Note: The Bannerman Castle Trust Inc. has acquired a special activity permit from NYSOPRHP for all BCT on-island events.

The island is otherwise closed to the public for safety reasons, and landing is prohibited.

A copy of our latest annual financial report may be obtained by writing to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. or to the
Attorney General’s Office, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

