

The Banner Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC.

Volume #31

1st and 2nd Quarters 2013



Bannerman Castle Trust to Operate the *Estuary Steward* for 2013 Bannerman Island Tours

This past summer, the Bannerman Castle 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 is using the new acquisition to expand its visitor operations to Bannerman's Island by adding tours from new ports.

The *Estuary Steward* went into operation this spring. The Bannerman Castle Trust has hired Steve Nachbar, a licensed captain with years of experience working on the Hudson River, who will take on the responsibility of operating the *Estuary Steward*. The *Estuary Steward* will take over the *Pollepel's* routes from Beacon and Newburgh, and will add The Village of Cold Spring as soon as we can secure a safe floating dock at the Cold Spring Village Dock.

The *Estuary Steward* will make its winter home at White's Hudson River Marina in New Hamburg. Over the winter, the *Steward* was equipped with a new 135 horsepower engine; a donation from White's with a value of \$6,800.

The BCT is especially grateful to Barbara Ralston of Esopus Meadows Lighthouse, and, Jill Shaw from the 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.

Robert McKenna
Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.
Vice President

The *Estuary Steward* is available for private charters and parties on Bannerman Island. Contact Neil Caplan at 845-831-6346.

Tower Stabilization to Begin!



After a legal competitive bid, Tiny Houses of Putnam Valley was chosen out of six firms, to stabilize the remaining iconic Tower walls that make up the majestic castle complex on Bannerman Island.

Bids ranged from \$348,000 to \$2,200,000 for the same work. Tiny Houses, a woman owned business came in at the lowest responsible bid. Final cost for the project bid is \$323,500.

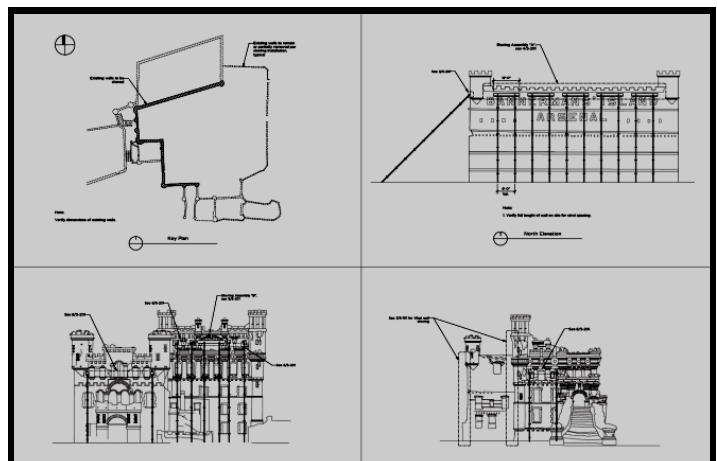
The project will begin work sometime this August. Designed by Jan Hird Pokorny Associates and engineered by Old Structures, the wall will receive steel supports on the face of the buildings to support the walls, until further, more permanent restoration can be done.

This phase of the project is funded by a 2007 EPF Grant and through donations by private foundations and individuals like yourself. It is estimated that the Tower wall stabilization will take 12-15 weeks to complete.

The BCT has just applied for another EPF grant for Phase Two: Stabilization of the walls of the #3 Warehouse. This project is slated to begin next spring, but will need your support. This is a \$300,000 project. We need to raise a \$150,000 match.

Donations can be made to the Bannerman Castle trust, Inc., by going to our website at Bannermancastle.org or call Neil Caplan at 845-831-6346 or mail your tax deductible check to: The Bannerman Castle trust, Inc., P.O. Box 843, Glenham, NY, 12527-0843.

Plans for Stabilization by Jan Hird Pokorny Associates





The Banner

Volume 34 August 2013

1st and 2nd Quarters

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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.
POB 843, Glenham, NY 12527-0843

BANNERMAN ISLAND GALLERY ART SHOWS

150 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508



August– September
WINDOWS ON MAIN STREET

October
DEBORAH O'KEEFE



November/December
HUDSON RIVER ARTIST GUILD

\$150,000 Match Needed for EPF Grant by December 13, 2013

The Bannerman Island Residence Emergency Stabilization Project was completed in July 2011 through a competitive Environmental Protection Fund Challenge Grant. This year, the Bannerman Castle Trust Inc. has a \$150,000 matching grant from the Environmental Protection Fund to help stabilize the main structures. We need to raise a minimum of \$150,000 to secure the EPF Grant by September 12, 2013.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! You can help save Bannerman Island by making a donation to The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. at www.bannermancastle.org or by sending your tax-deductible contribution to: POB 843, Glenham, NY 12527-0843

BCT RECEIVES \$5,000 Grant From The Hudson River Improvement Fund

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. would like to thank the Hudson River Improvement Fund for awarding us a grant for \$5,000 to help stabilize the Tower, part of the main arsenal structures. Special thanks to Josh Gran of Choice Words who wrote the grant for this project.

BCT WELCOMES MICHEAL DEVONSHIRE AND ROBERT A. DOYAL TO THE BCT ADVISORY COUNCIL



MICHEAL DEVONSHIRE is an architectural conservator with over twenty-five years experience in the field of historic preservation. He is skilled in materials analysis, conditions assessment, materials specification, and project management. His knowledge of building documentation and technology is comprehensive, with a particular emphasis on pre-Colonial Dutch and English wood frame buildings. Mr. Devonshire started his career as a restoration coordinator of the New York State Bureau of Historic Sites' office at the Schermerhorn Row Block in New York City. From 1981 to 1985, Mr. Devonshire served as senior conservator for the Center for Building Conservation (CBC), performing construction history documentation and materials investigation. For CBC, he directed several restoration projects, including the Hunterfly Road Houses in Brooklyn, New York, and the Lord & Burnham Palmhouse at Old Westbury Gardens on Long Island. He also directed window restoration and energy conservation retrofit tests at the Tweed Courthouse in New York City, and, worked on the Carnegie Hall restoration. From 1985 to 1987, Mr. Devonshire was a restoration foreman at the National Trust Restoration Workshop in Tarrytown, New York. In that position, he supervised restoration work at Wards Castle in Rye, New York, a structure that pioneered the use of reinforced concrete in the United States.




Robert A. Doyle, CAI, ISA, CAGA, CES—Principal Auctioneer/Appraiser—Rob is a certified appraiser, a certified auctioneer and a licensed real estate broker. A graduate of the International Auction School and the Certified Auctioneers Institute, he is deeply committed to the auctioneer profession. He was inducted into the National Auctioneers Hall of Fame in 2006, having served as the fiftieth president of the National Auctioneers Association, was also president of New York State Auctioneers Association, and president of the New York City Auctioneers Association. Rob currently serves on the National Auctioneers Association Foundation board of directors.

Just Off
Broadway Inc.
Theatre Ensemble

A Concert Version of
GODSPELL

"See this uplifting, joyous musical celebration"



"Bravo on the performance..."

Matt Costa 2013

Performed on Bannerman Island
Saturday, September 21, 2013
\$65 per person
Includes Cruise to Island
Self-Guided Tour of Bannerman Island and Show
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 845-831-6346

Hudson Valley Chefs Farm Fresh Dinner With Noah Sheetz **Saturday—September 7th**

A five-course gourmet meal will be prepared by five noted Hudson Valley chefs. \$125 donation.

Helen Bannerman's garden, next to the newly stabilized Bannerman Residence, will be transformed into a five-star restaurant complete with linens and plateware crafted from palm leaves. The Hudson Valley Chefs Dinner was so popular that we sold out two sittings and had over 30 people on a waiting list. There will be two seatings this year. Noah Sheetz called the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. Executive Director, Neil Caplan in 2010, after the disastrous collapse of the iconic tower walls, with the idea to help raise funds for the stabilization of the structures on Bannerman Island by holding a dramatic dinner among the ruins. Noah's vision developed into the creation of the Chefs Consortium which has presented numerous fundraisers for deserving not-for-profits. Noah, we are grateful that you chose Bannerman Castle to start the Chefs Consortium and look forward to this year's event. Reservations are advised because we sell out on this event.

To make a reservation e-mail contact Neil Caplan at neilcaplan@aol.com.

845- 831-6346

Tickets are \$125 per person and \$56.00 is tax-deductible.

Garden On Bannerman Island to be dedicated in Memory of Evelyn Owen Palen



The BCT Garden Volunteers have planted a new garden at The Bannerman Family Residence to honor the memory of Evelyn Owen Palen. Virginia Donovan donated flowers and plants from her mother Evelyn's garden located in Balmville. A reception is being planned for the near future.

We're deeply saddened to announce the passing of our dear friend, Evelyn Owen Palen. Evelyn lived on the island in her youth, was a cherished member of the Bannerman Castle Trust, and on our board of directors. She's pictured here, attending the opening of the Wee Bay Gardens on the island in 2007.

Evelyn Owen Palen died Wednesday, November 21st at her home. She was 96 years old. She was born October 3, 1916, to Edward Owen and Iva MacNary Owen, at home, in Fostertown, New York.

She attended a one-room schoolhouse and graduated from Newburgh Free Academy at age 15. She was later declared emancipated from her parents and lived on Bannerman Island with her brother Leonard Wayne Owen, the assistant caretaker, and his family.

At 19, she went to Delhi Agricultural School and took both Secretarial and Dairy Commercial studies, graduating a two-year program in one year. She met Wade Palen on her birthday at Delhi. They loved to dance and were married at the Palen Farm on Creekside Road, south of Kingston, on January 22, 1938. Over the years they lived in Kingston, Auburn, Walden, and New City in New York; Ridgewood, New Jersey; Wilton and Stamford, Connecticut; Tacoma, Washington; and finally four miles from where she was born, in Balmville, New York.

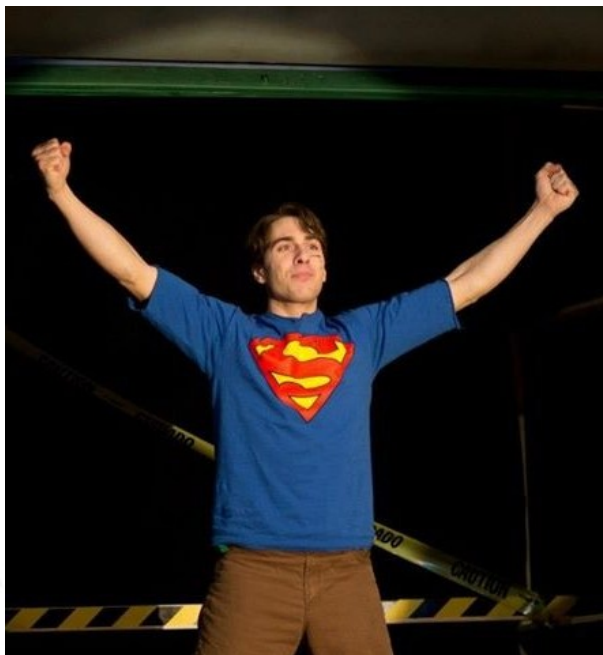
From 1946 to 1952, Wade and Evelyn built their unique home of concrete and cinder block in Walden, New York. Evelyn carried a concrete block in each hand while walking a narrow beam. She mixed all the concrete and all the mortar for the entire house herself while Wade created the forms, poured the concrete, and laid all the block. The house was designed to be efficient and easy to clean.

She was active in the Walden Women's Club, serving as a president and also as a Resolutions Chairwoman. In the 1950s she created Walden Day to showcase town businesses; the children were excused from school to attend. Evelyn and Wade taught square dancing to Explorer Post 33 and helped young boys grow into solid young citizens. Over the years many still wrote to her with their gratitude. She served on the board of the Bannerman Castle Trust and occasionally gave lectures about the Island on river cruises to benefit the Trust. Evelyn attributed her good health and longevity to her loving family, hard work, and yoga.

Jane Bannerman Donates a Lifetime of Sketch Books to The New York Historical Society in NYC.

At 103 and a half, Jane Bannerman, granddaughter of the builder of Bannerman Castle, has donated her collection of sketch books to The New York Historical Society. An exhibit of her travel books is on display in the library. A reception was held on July 29th. It was organized by her niece Virginia Bannerman Betts and the Historical Society.

Just Off Broadway Presents **GODSPELL** in Concert September 21, 2013



Don't miss Newburgh's premier theatrical group, Just Off Broadway's encore performance of *Godspell* performed on **Bannerman Island**.

Godspell received critical acclaim this season as well as their triumphant production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

SO... What are you waiting for? What better way to help Stabilize Bannerman Island, than to share this truly remarkable casts energetic, emotional and heartwarming portrayal of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew!

Told in powerful songs and parables that will have you laughing until you cry! The shows ending will have you grabbing for tissues and dancing in the aisles. This cast is ROCKIN'!

Just Off Broadway Theater Group is based at The Historic, West Shore Railroad Station in Newburgh, NY. Up Coming plays include: "*Footloose*" and Little Shop of Horror.

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. would like to thank **Executive Artistic Director Joyce A. Presutti** and **Ed Romanoff** for offering this production as a fund raiser for Bannerman Castle Trust. The Estuary Steward will depart from Torches Landing. The event includes a cruise to the island, a guided tour and a wonderful night of theater with the performance of *Godspell*.

Tickets are \$65 and can be purchased at 845-831-6346 or call Zerve at 1-800-979-3370

THIRD SUNDAY SELF-GUIDED MUSIC TOURS RETURN BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Includes Cruise on *Estuary Steward* – Self-Guided Tour and Special Mini Concert on Island. Bring a Picnic Lunch!



***Better Late Than Never* June 16, — *The King's Highlanders* use *Highland Bagpipes*
*The Sweet Clementines***

August 18 — Departs Newburgh, Torches Dock at 11:00 a.m. and Beacon at 12:30 p.m.

Founded by two guitar-whiz English teachers, New Paltz based six-piece The Sweet Clementines play a literate, lyrical, and musically sophisticated brand of odd-pop. With an emphasis on substantial songs, the Clementines' sound nods to British invasion, psychedelic, folk, prog, and surreal cabaret without sounding much like any of the above. Vibraphone and violin lend depth and texture to the quirky, dreamy, baroque-pop arrangements. Their acclaimed new CD, *Though It Were the Kiss of Death*, has been played on WDST, WFMU, and WVKR, and is featured by the IndepDisc Music Club. The band has been making its name with performances at Bard's Spiegeltent, The Falcon, Clun Helsinki, the Living Room in New York City and at festivals, clubs and listening rooms throughout the region.

Thaddeus MacGregor

September 15—Departs Newburgh, Torches Dock at 11:00 a.m. and Beacon at 12:30 p.m.

Returns to Bannerman Island. Musical Bard of the Hudson, Thaddeus MacGregor delights audiences with his spirited and soulful interpretations of classic 19th and 20th century songs. He brings the past to life, performing on guitar and singing, and playing cigar-box guitar, mandolin, flute and fife. Kids of all ages are especially enchanted with his "partner", Wee Jim the Lumberjack (a wooden dancing musical figure from times long past). A real entertainer, Mr. MacGregor takes his audience on a fun side-trip through time!

TJay

September 7 — Performs at Hudson Valley Chefs Dinner

Most recently, TJay received the honor of being selected as RELIX MAGAZINE'S JamOFF! Contest winner. His song "Goldfish" is featured on the January/February Relix Magazine Sampler along with notable artists such as Gregg Allman and Keller Williams. After receiving a scholarship to play Division I college baseball, TJay had been pursuing a career as a professional baseball player; playing gigs on the side to raise a little extra money. It wasn't long before crowds grew and word started to spread. From there, the choice was easy. Now, TJay is a singer/songwriter/guitarist, but don't let the singer/songwriter brand fool you. TJay's style of writing incorporates rock/pop with jazz and funk to create an independent sound with huge potential for crossover. Drawing on influences such as Blues Traveler, Steely Dan, Billy Joel, Steve Miller Band, Dave Matthews, Maroon 5, and John Mayer, TJay's music is uniquely timeless and speaks to any musical taste.



Hudson River Adventures Retires the *Pollepel* for Bannerman Island Tours

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. would like to acknowledge Hudson River Adventures for 18 years of service, providing Bannerman Island Lecture Tours on the *Pride of the Hudson* and Bannerman Island Walking Tours on the *Pollepel*. Hudson River Adventures has decided to retire the *Pollepel* this year and concentrate their efforts on cruises on the *Pride of the Hudson* which runs out of the Newburgh waterfront. Hudson River Adventures has been a wonderful partner for Bannerman Castle Trust, and deserves much credit for believing in our dream of opening and preserving Bannerman Island. We would never have been able to open the island without their help. On behalf of the BCT Board of Directors and our Advisory Council, we thank Lynne, Billynda, and Kevin for their service. We wish you much success with the *Pride of the Hudson*. For Hudson River tours call 845-220-2120.



Bannerman Island Tours
on Bannerman Castle Trust's new vessel *The Estuary Steward*

Tours on the *Estuary Steward*
AND
Third Sunday
Self Guided Music Tours
Adults \$35 Kids 11 & under \$30

4th of July
Picnic Bash \$75
WEEKLY CHARTERS AVAILABLE

Call ZERVE to reserve tickets **800-979-3370**

'Discover the Mystery, Explore the History'
onboard **The Bannerman Castle Trust's new vessel, *The Estuary Steward***. Your Bannerman Island adventure begins at the Newburgh or Beacon waterfront every Saturday and Sunday, May through October. *The Estuary Steward* departs at 11:00 a.m. from Torches Dock in Newburgh and from the Beacon Ferry dock in Beacon at 12:30 p.m. Book your Bannerman Island walking tour directly online by going to:
www.bannermancastle.org

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



Swann Inn of Beacon—
Bannerman Island Tour Packages
Get \$5 off room rate and \$3 off two
Bannerman Island Walking Tours.
Call us at: 845-831-6346

2013 Kayak Tours May—October

Hudson Valley Outfitters	Call: 845-265-0221
Storm King Adventure Tours	Call: 845-534-7800
Mountain Tops Outfitters	Call: 845-831-1997

BECOME a BCT "FRIEND OF THE CASTLE" or a BCT SPONSOR!

Join The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. You will also receive a subscription to the BCT newsletter, *THE BANNER*, along with a friendship card.

I WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF "THE BANNERMAN SUPPORT SYSTEM" and make a tax-deductible donation to the Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc.

\$ 25.00 Individual Friend _____	\$ 2,500.00 Freshman Sponsor _____
\$ 40.00 Family Friend _____	\$ 5,000.00 Junior Sponsor _____
\$ 50.00 Institutional _____	\$10,000.00 Senior Sponsor _____
\$100.00 Sustaining _____	Your Donation \$ _____
\$500.00 Contributing _____	Renewal Friend Yes _____ No _____
	New Friend Yes _____ No _____

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E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

Please make your tax-deductible donation check payable to:

THE BANNERMAN CASTLE TRUST, INC., PO Box 843, Glenham, NY 12508

You can charge your donation to your credit card.

Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Discover _____



The Banner

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STAMP

New This Year! The Estuary Steward



THE ESTUARY STEWARD motors to Bannerman Island for guided walking tours, Saturdays and Sundays, May through October.

**ASK ABOUT PRIVATE CHARTERS,
WEDDINGS and PARTIES!**

Call Neil at 845-831-6346

Dear Friends of Bannerman Island,

The Bannerman Castle Trust, Inc. has put together an exciting 2013 Fall Season of events that will take place on Bannerman Island for your enjoyment. Events help with stabilization efforts. The *Hudson Valley Chef's Dinner*, Saturday, September 7, \$125.00,

Just Off Broadway's uplifting concert version of *Godspell* Saturday, September 21

Reservations required for events. Call 845.831.6346.

For reservations for *Third Sunday Music*, Self-Guided Tours and Bannerman Island Tours on our new vessel, *The Estuary Steward*, call ZERVE at: 1.800.979.3370.

Hope to see you at one of our events!

Neil Caplan

**BANNERMAN CASTLE—
TOWER STABILIZATION BEGINS**

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.



