



The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Newsletter Vol. 19, No. 1 • Spring 2004

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From the President

It is mid-March on Fishers Island and although this past winter has been reluctant to loosen its grip, spring officially arrives on the 20th day of this month. On the Island, signs of spring are subtle, but present. Buds on the red maple trees are swollen and tinge the trees a soft reddish color. The ospreys return by month's end and barred owls are tending newly hatched chicks. On the first warm, rainy night, spotted salamanders and wood frogs migrate to their breeding pools to mate and deposit their eggs. In the natural world, much that has been dormant reawakens with the coming of spring.

The winter has been a time of dormancy for the Museum in a sense; the heat has been turned down and visiting hours have been "by appointment." Despite these appearances, this has been a period of activity for all of us involved with the workings of the Museum. For those who have not visited since summer's end, the deck has been completed with the addition of the Gazebo, which is actually a replica of the bandstand that once stood at the Parade Grounds of Fort H. G. Wright. This handsome structure will provide space for children's outdoor activities and a viewing station into the Museum Sanctuary. It completes our extensive renovation project.

The Museum opens again on Easter weekend, operating with limited hours through June. On July 2nd the summer season kicks off with an opening reception for "The Great Hurricane of 1938," our Annual Exhibition for 2004. Plans are also under way to bring a variety of lectures and programs to the Museum this summer. We will continue to offer weekly nature walks that will focus on many of the Island's different habitats.

During the past winter, Museum Director Pierce Rafferty and I visited three small museums in Rhode Island. We met with curators and directors of the Herreshoff Marine Museum, the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, and the Rhode Island Audubon Society Environmental Center. This "field trip" was very informative and we returned with a number of fresh ideas regarding collections management, exhibits, memberships, and museum shop. We hope that many of these ideas will be put into action this summer.

The Museum Land Trust, under the guidance of Bob Miller, Vice President in charge of the Land Trust, has made some significant acquisitions during the past year. Our hold-

ings now include 271 acres, a considerable percentage of the Island's total acreage.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Fishers Islanders who have helped the Museum become what it is today. Our first-rate Museum would not exist without the generous support of our many donors. I also wish to thank all of the Museum Board members for their time and efforts on behalf of the Museum. Board members have given many hours of volunteer time ranging from work on the exhibits, greeting visitors, assistance with the collections, research, financial advice, and fund raising. The Museum is also indebted to Pierce Rafferty, Museum Director, who has spent countless hours working at the museum in chilly winter temperatures updating computer files, seeking new acquisitions, and working on collections and exhibits, among other responsibilities.

We are looking forward to a busy and active summer offering programs for all ages. If you have not yet visited our new museum, we urge you to do so soon. For those who stopped by last summer, plan to do so early and often in 2004! We must also continue on our quest to restore our endowment. To that end, we are planning a major fund raising event for the summer. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the first ever museum-sponsored auction on August 7, 2004.

Looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at the Museum!

— Penni Sharp, *President*



2004 Hours – Saturday July 3 through Labor Day Tuesday through Friday: 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; 2 p.m.–4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. • Sunday: 11 a.m.–12 noon • Closed Monday • Fall and Winter hours to be posted



Raging Seas Surging over Money Pond, September 21, 1938: *This dramatic photo shows a wind-driven tidal surge sweeping over Money Pond at the height of the Great Hurricane of 1938. During the storm, Fishers Island was sliced from sea-to-sound in two low-lying places. The breach shown here turned Fishers Island's easternmost tip into a temporary "island" that encompassed only the McDonnell residence (today Luce) and the Simmons' "castle" (today Hanley).*

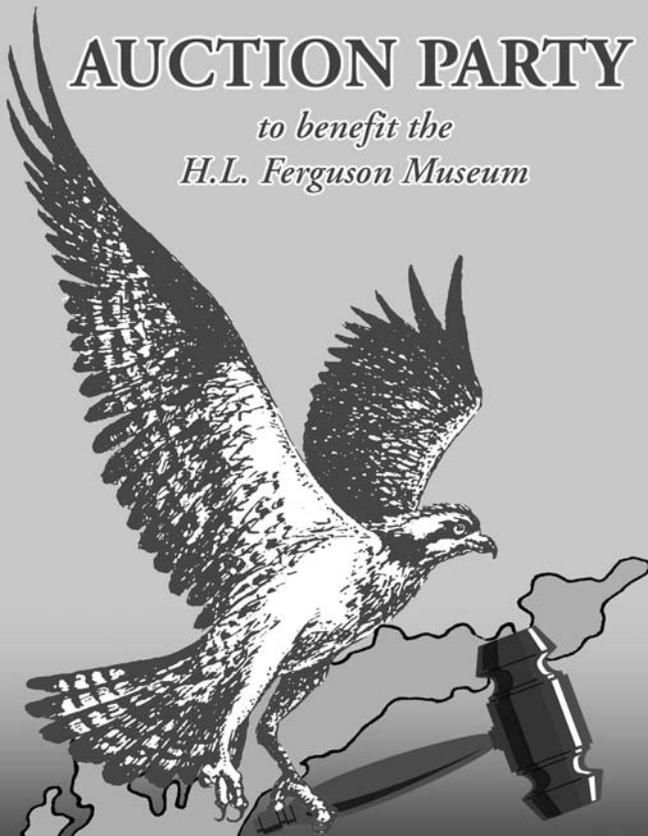
ANNUAL EXHIBIT 2004: The Great Hurricane of 1938

On the afternoon of September 21, 1938, what today is known as a Category 3 hurricane swept across Long Island and slammed into Fishers Island and New England beyond. The entire region was caught unaware and blind-sided by the storm's fury. The hurricane left a path of destruction and devastation unseen in this area since the Great Gale of 1815, killing over 600 people and leveling coastal communities from Connecticut to Massachusetts. This year's Annual Exhibition documents the storm, its aftermath, and its lasting legacy of change to the landscape and architecture of Fishers Island.

Opening Celebration to be held on Friday, July 2, 2004, 5-7 p.m. ALL WELCOME

AUCTION PARTY

*to benefit the
H.L. Ferguson Museum*



**SAVE THE DATE: August 7, 2004
Saturday evening at the Beach Club**

On Saturday evening, August 7th, 2004, the Museum will host an Auction Party at the Fishers Island Beach Club to raise funds for its endowment. Stephen S. Lash, Chairman of Christie's Americas, has graciously agreed to be our auctioneer for the evening. Tickets will be \$100 per person, or \$175 per couple, with drinks and food served during the festivities. Invitations with further details will be forthcoming.

The success of this event will depend entirely on the creative generosity of the Fishers Island community. Donations will range from fanciful objects to practical services. Consider giving a rare book that's gathering dust, or sharing some special skill (or far-flung vacation spot!) that only you can offer. There will be a silent as well as a live auction, so dream up (and dredge up!) fantastic items that will make this event a roaring success.

The following have agreed to coordinate the solicitation of gifts and services: Bagley Reid (Chair), Scott Reid, Catha Hesse, Sue Schutz, Jean Calhoun, Laurie Carney, Betty Ketner, and Christopher Sanger.

If you have items or services to donate, or wish to receive additional information, please contact:

Scott Reid, 327 Central Park West # 3A
New York, NY 10025 • Skreid65@aol.com

or Pierce Rafferty at the Museum: 631-788-7239

New Marine Dioramas

Of all the Museum's new features, the four Marine Dioramas have proven the most popular with children and adults alike. They were conceived by board member Carey Matthiessen to fill a glaring gap in our previous museum: a lack of exhibits relating to the seashore. The new dioramas provide unique windows on four critical shoreline environments: eelgrass, rocky shore, sand flat and salt marsh.

Collaborating with Carey were two exceptional artists: Charles B. Ferguson, President Emeritus of the H.L. Ferguson Museum, who painted all the background murals, and Peter R. Brady, who was responsible for the fabrication and installation of the dioramas. Mr. Brady has been a staff member at the New England Aquarium for over twenty years, most recently creating undersea worlds for their new "Amazing Jellies" exhibition.

The blank diorama backdrops were delivered to Charlie Ferguson at his winter house in Farmington, Conn., in February of 2003. Being too large for any one room, they were dispersed throughout his house, creating a maze-like obstacle course that obscured all trace of the familiar. Despite the awkward circumstances, he successfully completed the four large paintings over the next two months. They were subsequently trucked to Peter Brady's Boston studio, and from there to Fishers Island for assembly on site. Visitors frequently remark how seamlessly they blend into each diorama's foreground. Hats off to Charlie!

Children approach the colorful dioramas with gasps of delight and discovery, often wondering aloud what is "real" and what is not. It's not an easy question to answer from this



side of the glass, so we asked Mr. Brady to shed some light on his work. He informed us that there is a mixture of fabricated objects and actual specimens throughout the dioramas. The larger fish displayed (striped bass for example) are actual specimens that are on taxidermy-style mounts. The mounted birds come from the Museum's extensive bird specimen collection, with the exception of the double-crested cormorant that was generously provided by Ellen White. The smaller denizens of the dioramas (the lobster, various crabs and smaller fish, like the flounder) were "live cast" from molds of actual specimens, many of which were provided by Carey Matthiessen. (Mr. Brady confessed that he bought the lobster at Star Market and consumed it before creating his mold.) In some cases, actual clam and snail shells were utilized, but they are inhabited by plastic creations.

Peter Brady also revealed that the most difficult single item to fabricate was the seaweed, because its consistency and size made creating a mold impossible. To solve the problem, he had to sculpt a model of a single strand and cast numerous replicas. Once that process was completed, he painstakingly assembled all the strands into one convincing bed of seaweed. The sea anemones, being too unstable to cast, were also sculpted by hand. The end result is a wondrous combination of Carey Matthiessen's ideas, Charlie Ferguson's paintings, the Museum's specimens, and Peter R. Brady's wizardry.

The dioramas were produced with funds from the William C. & Cindy L. Scott Foundation; the Richmond Gray Family and Jeanann Gray Dunlap. These thoughtful gifts have enabled a great new addition to the Museum, for which the entire Museum Board and countless visitors are grateful.



Above: "Rocky Shore" diorama detail.

Top right: "Salt Marsh" diorama detail.

The Museum Library

Next time that you visit the Museum, spend some time in the Museum Library located in a room at the back of the main gallery. Its collection mirrors our mission with a strong focus on the pre-history, history and natural history of Fishers Island and the surrounding region. There are currently 645 catalogued books, plus 85 awaiting data entry. Rare books are held on reserve in the Museum's storage area, but all others are easily accessible on open shelves. There is a special section dedicated to children's books that proved very popular last season. Please note that this is a non-circulating library and all books and papers are for use within the Museum Library only.

One key part of the library is the Clipping File. Thousands of copies of newspaper clippings relating to Fishers Island have been filed both chronologically and by subject. Groton resident George Laughlin (Fishers Island High School, Class of 1948) has been a major contributor to these files, taking primary responsibility for researching New London's newspaper *The Day* from the 1880s to date. His efforts have been Herculean and deserve high praise from all.

New Library Donations

The Museum has recently received a donation of more than 60 books from Charles B. Ferguson, many of which came from the library of his father, Henry L. Ferguson, for whom the Museum is named. Included are rare natural history, hunting, and sporting life titles; personal diaries, and a book written by Mr. Ferguson from the perspective of one of his cherished Springer Spaniels, Tedwyns Tailagan. Many thanks to Charlie for these precious additions to the collection!

Harry and Susie Ferguson have donated a collection of over 30 bird books, many from the library of his father, H. Lee Ferguson, Jr., for whom the Sanctuary abutting the Museum is named, and from his grandfather, Henry L. Ferguson. There are numerous works on waterfowl and birds of prey, and reference works on topics like bird songs and egg identification. This thoughtful gift will certainly dovetail well with Charlie's donation.

A Fledgling Art Collection

In 2002, Mr. M. Llewellyn Thatcher donated an untitled watercolor (c.1920) of a wild turkey by famed bird artist Louis Agassiz Fuertes (1874-1927). Mr. Fuertes was a friend of Henry L. Ferguson and visited him on Fishers Island.

In 2003, Mr. W. F. Hotchkiss, Sr. donated two late-19th century watercolors of Fishers Island by David Maitland Armstrong (1836-1918), an American artist known for both his paintings and his stained glass designs. The untitled painting shown at right depicts Mount Prospect as seen from South Beach more than a century ago. The other watercolor, also painted in 1899, is a Hay Harbor landscape.

Thank you, Mr. Thatcher and Mr. Hotchkiss, for these wonderful gifts. The three paintings are important additions to our small, but growing art collection.



Henry L. Ferguson's bookplate

Many books that were passed down to the different branches of the Henry L. Ferguson family are now reunited on our shelves.

John and Libby Winthrop of Charleston, South Carolina, made a generous donation earmarked for the purchase of books relating to Winthrop family history. Their gift has greatly improved our holdings relating to Fishers Island's founding family. Many thanks!

Carey Matthiessen has donated numerous volumes, including works on aquaculture, marine ecology, and oyster culture. A marine biologist, Mr. Matthiessen was co-founder of the oyster farm on Fishers Island in the early 1960s, and ran that enterprise for four decades. Carey's much-appreciated gift provides the core of a growing marine reference section.

Others who have donated books include: James H. Baker, Kane Baker, Marnie Ferguson Briggs, Jean & Edward Crane, Sally Ferguson, Meghan Grant, Frances Simmons van Dyke, Robert P.L. Frick, Edwin H. Horning, Leila Luce, Tom Parker, Pierce Rafferty, Bagley Reid, Mrs. William C. Ridgway, Jr., Penni Sharp, Carolyn Stepanek, Sella Travers, Paul D. Vartanian, and James Wall. Institutions include Our Lady of Grace Church, and the Fishers Island Utility Company. The majority of the volumes were purchased with funds from an extraordinary grant given by several anonymous donors.

We thank each and every one of you for helping to establish our new Museum Library.



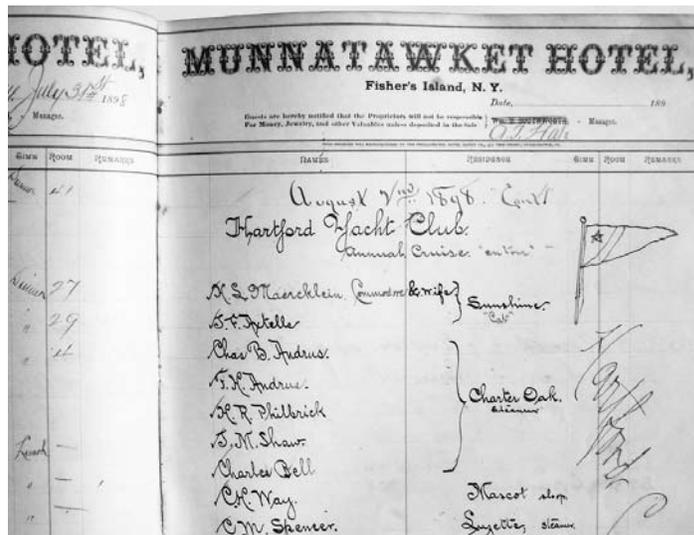
Untitled watercolor by David Maitland Armstrong, October 3, 1899

The History Collection

At the time of its founding in 1960, the Henry L. Ferguson Museum's holdings consisted almost entirely of Mr. Ferguson's unique collections of bird specimens and archaeological artifacts. Although miscellaneous historical memorabilia, photographs, and objects were donated in the ensuing decade, it was not until August 28, 1975, that the Museum's "Inaugural Fishers Island Historical Exhibition" opened to popular acclaim. Today, almost three decades later, the History Collection has become an integral part of the Museum, helping to fulfill our mission to collect, preserve, and exhibit items relating to Fishers Island's pre-history, history and natural history.

The History Collection was formed largely due to the efforts of two individuals: the late Mary Russell, who led the initial campaign in the mid-1970s to gather items of historical significance, and her successor as History Curator, Happy Gaillard, who assumed primary responsibility for organizing and expanding the collection. Without their dedicated efforts, the collection would not be what it is today.

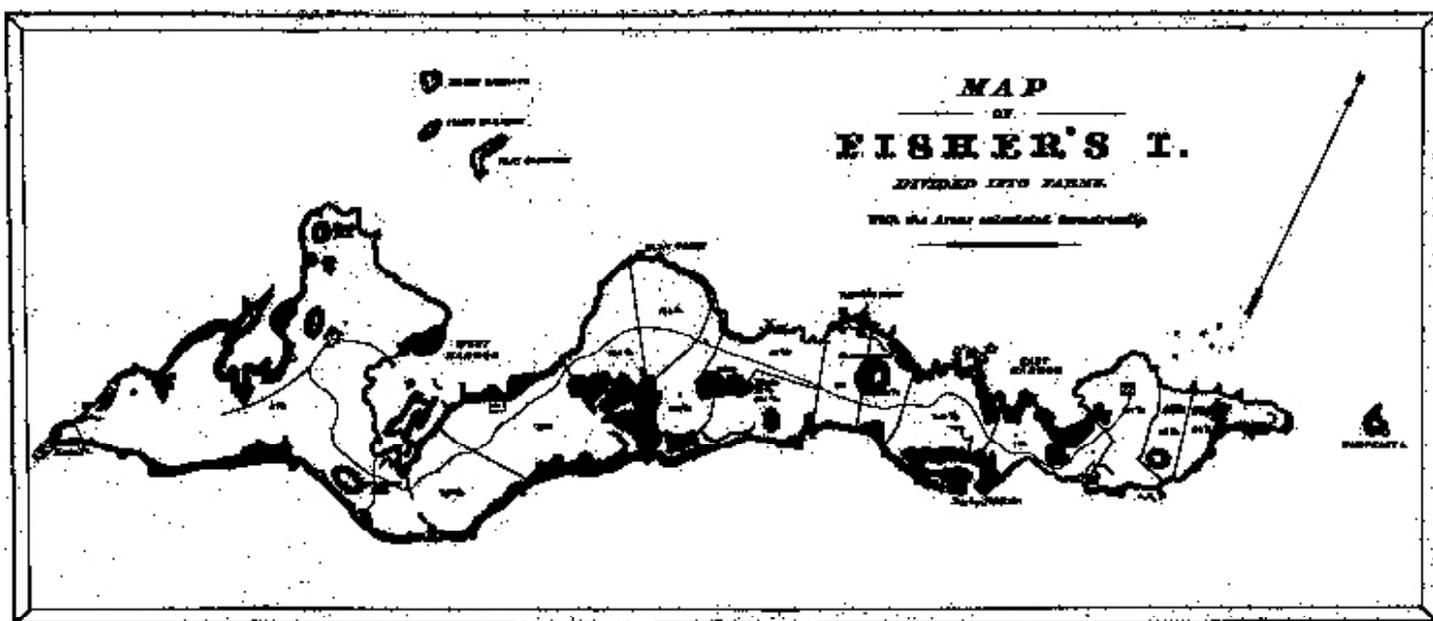
During the past year numerous individuals and several institutions have donated items for the History Collection, including maps, letters, home movies and photographs. The Fishers Island Utility Company gifted a treasure trove of historic Fishers Island deeds and ledger books, including the original guest book for the Munnatawket Hotel. (Amongst the guests signing in was author and scholar Henry Adams of Boston, Massachusetts!) All of these varied donations are greatly appreciated, for they not only provide an invaluable record of Fishers Island's past, but also enable curators to keep exhibits fresh.



Munnatawket Hotel Guest Book: The Hartford Yacht Club signs in, August 2, 1898

The following is a list of donors and the diverse items they gave during 2003. We are grateful to all of you! (Please excuse any inadvertent omissions.)

Richard S. Baker, original liquor bottles from the *Thelma Phoebe* wreck (1923), historic photos of Fishers Island Farms & Ft. Wright; Charles Brainard, Jr. & Katherine Brainard, Hay Harbor Club member's card (1927); Mr. & Mrs. Robert Coleman, compass from FI lobster boat and 19th century ditty box; Jim Diaz, "Stetson & Young" shipping tag (builders of "Falcon Hill"); Keith Christiansen, FI brick used at Mitchell College; Danny Doyen, photos from winter of 1977 by Charles Morgan; Jeff Edwards, Native American stone celt, Jeff & Catherine Edwards, Ft. Terry postcards; Ken Edwards, Sr., Mansion House linen (1921); Roberta C. Elwell, framed reproduction of her pen and ink FI grocery wagon illustration; Sandy Esser, historic pho-



On June 15, 1875, the heirs of Robert Ralston Fox, tried and failed to sell the eastern two-thirds of Fishers Island at auction as a series of farms. This map of Fishers Island divided into farms was provided to prospective bidders. It was donated by Linda Lyles Goodyear, a Fox family descendant.

tos of FI c.1890s; John C. Evans, miniature *Mystic Isle* life preserver with photo (from purser's booth); Harry & Susie Ferguson, powder horn with engraved map of FI (1777); Henry Fisher, photos of Ft. Wright and Mansion House; Fishers Island Utility Company, historic deeds, Fishers Island Farms ledger books, Munnatawket Hotel Ledger Book (1892-1904), mounted English Springer Spaniel Field Trial prize ribbons; Robert P.L. Frick, invitation to birthday party for Maria Zimbalist (1919); Sandy Gaston, misc. photos relating to Fishers Island ferries; Linda Lyles Goodyear, original ledger book documenting FI land sales (1877-1889), "Map of Fishers Island Divided into Farms" (1875), James H. Lyles prospectus (circa 1885), misc. letters and ephemera; Winchester F. Hotchkiss, two watercolors with Fishers Island scenes by David Maitland Armstrong (both 1899); Nancy Hunt, Mansion House hangar; Mr. & Mrs. W. Boulton Kelly, hand-drawn whimsical map of FI (1923); Frank & Cassie Kernan, Fishers Island Estates "Private Land" sign; Hank & Leila Luce, prohibition-era liquor bottles from McDonell cellar; Steve & Sarah Malinowski, E.M. & W. Ferguson crate label, Poultry Division promotional brochure

(1890s); Mary Middleton, Wilbur's Store wooden cigar box, Mansion House brochure, ferry schedule (1956), historic photos (Ft. Wright, wrecks, Silva store, 1938 hurricane); Ellen McCance Parker, 16mm home movies of McCance-Ferguson wedding (1932); Vicki Pesetti, Fishers Island Yacht Club trophy plate (1939), Eddie Wittstein Orchestra megaphone; Pierce Rafferty, collection of 1,100 Fishers Island and Ft. Wright postcards, English Springer Spaniel Field Trial trophy plate (1935) & bowl (1936); Mrs. W.C. Ridgway, Jr., misc. blueprints and photograph of swimming at W. Ferguson residence; Thelma Hedge Shaw, lobster gauge, Hedge ice tongs; Langhorne B. Smith, New York Tribune newspaper with story of FI boxing match (1867); Mrs. John W. Soper, photos and documents relating to Gen. J.M.K. Davis; Charles Stepanek, oral history tapes (1980s & 1990s); Alan Thibodeau, ceramic ashtray by Ft. Wright soldier (1943); Larry & Sella Travers, LIS US Coast Survey map (1893), Hay Harbor Club tray and ashtray (1960s), North Dumpling currency and ephemera, misc. photos of golfing party FI Club (1950s); Bob Wall, "Fishers Island Flashes" Mansion House Hotel promotional cards (1940).

New Indian Finds

Two new archaeological finds have been reported to the Museum since last summer. Greg Thibodeau brought in a large grinding stone, or mortar, which he found on a beach along the south shore of the Island, near the 5th hole of the Fishers Island Club golf course. Jeff Edwards unexpectedly uncovered a beautiful, polished celt (woodworking tool) while gardening around a house on the north shore. These artifacts will soon be on display. Our thanks to both for sharing their discoveries.

Such discoveries remind us that the unraveling of Fishers Island prehistory is far from over. While the Museum collection contains literally hundreds of Indian artifacts of differing shapes, sizes and functions, undoubtedly more will come to light in the years ahead.

In such cases, the importance of careful record keeping cannot be too strongly stressed. If anyone should happen to find an "arrowhead," axe head, pestle, or any other such stone tool, please record as much about the area of discovery as is possible. Relying on one's memory for an account of the discovery site is not recommended. Not only the location, but also the depth of the find, and the adjoining features, i.e. a marsh, road, or sand bank, can be a helpful clue in placing this artifact in a broader historical context. Perhaps the object was part of an already

known site, or might even indicate the presence of a new one.

It is important to state that random digging should never be undertaken, except under controlled, scientific supervision. Once the historical record has been disturbed, or destroyed, it can never be restored. That said, responsible surface hunting is always to be encouraged and enjoyed. Be on the alert for stone pieces of unusual material, shape, or chipping. Keep a careful record of whatever you find and bring the piece to the Museum to share your discovery.



Mortar and celt (woodworking tool) discovered by Greg Thibodeau and Jeff Edwards respectively.

The Land Trust

Bob Miller, Vice President—Land Trust, reports that 2003 was a banner year for the Museum’s Land Trust. Late last year FIDCO donated 86.96 acres of land of exceptional environmental and scenic value in the areas of Brickyard Woods, the Skeet Range, Island Pond, Middle Farms, and the area between the Treasure Pond and Chocomount Roads. Significant private donations, including two contiguous building lots from a donor who prefers to remain anonymous, were also received in 2003.

Perhaps equally important and exciting, FIDCO is committed to providing incentives for private landowners to contribute otherwise buildable lots to the Land Trust. FIDCO has identified three additional blocks of potential building lots—one to the west of the augmented Brickyard Woods sanctuary, one in the Middle Farms area, and one to the east of the Chocomount Road—which it would be willing to donate in the future if private landowners transfer to the Land Trust a significant number of lots that could otherwise be developed. While there is no set linkage between private acreage donated and additional gifts from FIDCO, there is a very real potential for private land owners to “leverage” their gifts through FIDCO’s commitment to preserving as much of the Island as possible in its natural state.

In light of FIDCO’s incentive program, owners of multiple potential building lots are urged to contact Bob Miller—on a confidential basis if desired—to discuss potential donations. A detailed brochure is available at the Museum which describes the Land Trust and the potential tax benefits of donations of land or “conservation easements.” Whether property becomes part of the Land Trust by outright gift or easement, it will be maintained in perpetuity in its natural state as a wildlife sanctuary.

Sanctuary Properties of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Name/Location, Donors, Acres, Date

- 1) H. Lee Ferguson, Jr. Sanctuary, Museum bldg., Equestrian Ave., 3.76 acres, 1966
- 2) Betty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, Island Pond, E.A. Matthiessen and Peter Matthiessen, 8.00 acres, 1977 & 1978
- 3) Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, Middle Farms, Otis Pike, 2.38 acres, 1981
- 4) Brickyard Woods, L.F. Boker Doyle, 15.48 acres, 1982 & 1983
- 5) Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, Robert J. Miller, Conservation easement, 5.60 acres, 1983
- 6) Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, FIDCO, Conservation easement, 11.40 acres, 1984
- 7) Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, Allerton and Rita Cushman, Conservation easement, 1.68 acres, 1984
- 8) Key Post Sanctuary, Treasure Pond, Robert J. Geniesse, John N. Calley and Mrs. Duncan Ellsworth, 6.45 acres, 1985
- 9) Barlow Pond, Bagley Reid, 1.68 acres, 1986
- 10) Equestrian Avenue, Albert and Susan Stickney, 2.38 acres, 1990
- 11) West Harbor, David F. Harris, .75 acre, 1990
- 12) Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, Jansen Noyes, 4.00 acres, 1991

- 13) Middle Farms Pond, John N. Calley, 2.10 acres, 1993
- 14) Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, Adrienne A. Miller, 3.85 acres, 1993
- 15) West Mansion House Drive, Regina S. Pyle, 1.36 acres, 1994
- 16) The Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cant Wildlife Sanctuary, East End, James and Nancy Newman with assistance from Fred Hamilton, Michael and Mary Denny Wray, and Peter Steil, 6.78 acres, 1995
- 17) Hay Harbor, Henry C. Osborn, III, et al, .25 acre, 1995
- 18) West Street, Thomas A. Sargent and Allison D. Sargent, .09 acres, 1995
- 19) Chocomount Cove, Samuel S. Polk and Anne H. Polk, 1.82 acres, 1995
- 20) Middle Farms Pond, John N. Calley and Ali MacGraw, 2.30 acres, 1995
- 21) Barlow Pond, Robert S. Searle, 3.16 acres, 1996
- 22) Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, Robert J. Geniesse/FIDCO, 5.14 acres, 1996
- 23) Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, Robert J. Geniesse/FIDCO, 22.02 acres, 1996
- 24) North of main road at Middle Farms, Robert J. Geniesse/FIDCO, 1.06 acres, 1996
- 25) North of main road at Middle Farms, Robert J. Geniesse/FIDCO, 1.46 acres, 1996
- 26) Fox Avenue, Jeanann Gray Dunlap, 4.03 acres, 1996
- 27) Middle Farms Pond/ Block Island Sound, Jansen Noyes, Jr., 20.20 acres, 1999
- 28) Middle Farms Pond, Robert J. Miller and Adrienne A. Miller with assistance from Hamilton Potter and the Herbert Schutz Family, 3.52 acres, 1999
- 29) Clay Pits, McCall Family in memory of David B. McCall, Conservation easement, 1.45 acres, 2000
- 30) “Stony Beach” at Hay Harbor, David R. Wilmerding, Jr., Harold P. Wilmerding and Barbara W. Macleod, 5.20 acres, 2001
- 31) Chocomount Cove, Harriet Bailey, .75 acre, 2001
- 32) Chocomount Beach, Glenn Winnett Boocock, Conservation easement, 1.90 acres, 2002
- 33) Island Pond area, Paul D. Vartanian, 5.00 acres, 2002
- 34) Isabella Beach, Christabel Vartanian, Conservation easement, 1.34 acres, 2002
- 35) West Harbor, David F. Harris, 2.06 acres, 2002
- 36) North of main road at Middle Farms, Brenda T. Essex (Callaway), 2.99 acres, 2002
- 37) Barleyfield Woods, Ammanda J. Salzman, 4.29 acres, 2002
- 38) Chocomount Beach, East End, Colby M. Chester, III/ Gertrude S. Legendre via The Nature Conservancy, 12.00 acres, In Process
- 39) Chocomount area, anonymous, 4.92 acres, 2003
- 40) Middle Farms, Fishers Island Development Corporation, 9.93 acres, 2003
- 41) South of Brickyard Woods, Fishers Island Development Corporation, 17.15 acres 2003
- 42) Treasure Pond, Fishers Island Development Corporation, 23.42 acres, 2003
- 43) Island Pond, Fishers Island Development Corporation, 19.54 acres, 2003
- 44) Brickyard Woods, Fishers Island Development Corporation, 16.92 acres, 2003



H. Lee Ferguson Wildlife Sanctuary. Sculpture by Mrs. Cass Canfield



Thanks to a generous gift from the A.B. & J. Noyes Foundation there is a new visitor adorning the Museum's front lawn. The sculptor, Walter T. Matia, is a Maryland-based artist known for his sporting dog and wild-life sculptures. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Foundation and to the extended Noyes family both for this gift and for their ongoing support of the Museum.

"Osprey" 1999, by Walter T. Matia

Speakers Program 2004

This year's Speakers Program is still in the planning stage. However, the following speakers have signed on, and several others will be announced later this summer:

Carey Matthiessen and **Steve Malinowski**. Carey, co-founder of Ocean Pond Corporation in 1962, will join with Steve, president of today's Fishers Island Oyster Farm, for a program that examines both the history and current operations of Fishers Island's oyster farm. (Slide talk)

Dr. John Pfeiffer, a Connecticut-based archaeologist who has investigated numerous archaeological sites on Fishers Island, will speak about Native American life on Fishers Island.

Peter Matthiessen, acclaimed author and naturalist, will speak about current environmental crises.

Dr. Michael W. Klemens, Director of the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance at the Wildlife Conservation Society, and a member of the American Museum of Natural History's scientific staff since 1979, will address aspects of Fishers Island's natural history.

Dates, times and additional speakers to be posted.

Nature Walks

During the summer, Nature Walks will start at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

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Pierce Rafferty, *Museum Director*
 Edwin H. Horning, *Curator*



Nature Detective Hunt for Children, Ages 4-12

Children of all ages love being detectives and searching for treasure. Harnessing these enthusiasms, the Museum is sponsoring a Nature Detective Hunt during Nature Days Week in early August. Participants will receive a "mini detective book" filled with clues for finding and identifying natural treasures. Museum and Island Peoples Project (IPP) volunteers will lead the young detectives in their search along three of the Museum's Nature Trails in groups organized by age. All will meet afterwards for a brief educational presentation of collected items and for the awarding of well-deserved prizes.

The program will go from 9 a.m.–12 noon, with all groups leaving from IPP. The date and further details will be posted. Volunteer drivers and trail leaders are needed. Please contact the Museum (631-788-7239) with any questions, or to volunteer.

New Web Page

The Museum's web page can be found at:

www.fergusonmuseum.org

Details about our operating hours, activities, Speakers Program, and Annual Exhibition will be posted as soon as they are known. Various features will be added later this year, including an online store for the purchase of Fishers Island-related books, photos, maps, post cards and gifts appropriate to our mission.

MUSEUM HOURS

Easter to July 2: Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

July 3 to Labor Day:

Tuesday through Friday: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Closed Mondays.

For special appointments:

Please call Museum Director Pierce Rafferty at home (631-788-7405), or at the Museum (631-788-7239).