



The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

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From the President

Despite the calamity that is Covid-19 befalling us, spring has arrived. Daffodils and tulips are in bloom, birds are cacophonously chirping at dawn, and once again I feel that deep internal yearning to shed the layers of winter hibernation and get outside. When these signs appear, I also look forward to my annual relocation to Fishers Island. While we all hear the ICB and IHP reports and reluctantly accept that this summer will be different from past summers, we can still look forward to the beauty, serenity, culture, and community that draw us to Fishers Island like a flock of migrating birds.

Because mounting exhibits and developing programs takes lots of time, we have decided to move forward with a virtual summer, planning for the worst case and hoping to be pleasantly surprised. I am very excited, however, about the summer that we have planned. One silver lining in this forced virtual world is that the Museum may actually reach new and broader audiences. We may find new ways to connect with one another or seize previously-unused opportunities to explore and enjoy nature.

Our annual exhibit this summer is titled *Coastal Defense Forts of Eastern Long Island Sound: Abandonment, Ruination and Repurposing*, and, as always, it will include fabulous photographs (old and new) and Pierce's well-researched analysis of the history and current state of these former forts. We are grateful to Altus Partners and Chubb for their continued support of our annual exhibit and for partnering with us in creating a new venue for online shows.

In addition to the annual show, throughout the season the

Museum will periodically post images, historical documents, and recorded illustrated talks by Pierce. Thanks to a generous grant from the Jeanann Gray Dunlap Foundation, much content has been digitized and is ready to view on our redesigned website. Make sure you are signed up for our weekly emails to learn when new content is posted.

Our lecture series will continue this summer, Sundays at 4:00 p.m. You will be able to enjoy the lectures from the comfort of your living room, as they will be delivered via webinar. We'll share a wide array of lecture topics for adults as well as children's programs, all of which are listed at the back of the newsletter. Our Fishers Island Nature Discovery (FIND) program will lead students on self-directed missions followed by naturalist-led virtual discussions on their findings.

I also invite islanders of all ages to take some time to enjoy the ample public space the Land Trust has to offer. The Museum maintains 10 different trail systems within the 350-plus acres of open space protected by the Museum's Land Trust. Come listen to the birds, meditate in a quiet woodland, bask in the sun with the turtles, or soak in the spectra of wildflowers. This summer is an invitation to try something new.

Though no one knows when life will return to "normal," I am looking forward to a summer filled with fun activities. Rest assured that as soon as it is safe to open the Museum doors, we will! I am going to miss our social gatherings on the back deck, but I hope to connect with all of you through our many shared events this summer.

—Elizabeth McCance, President



The Eclectic Houses of Fishers Island and Beyond. A virtual illustrated talk by Jacob Albert, July 5th, 2020.

John Wilton

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum 2020 Annual Exhibition
**Coastal Defense Forts of Eastern Long Island Sound:
Abandonment, Ruination and Repurposing**



Pierce Rafferty.

Battery Marcy, south of former Parade Grounds, Fort H.G. Wright, Fishers Island, N.Y.

Our *virtual* Annual Exhibition opens online on June 27th.
Visit fergusonmuseum.org to see the show!



Two above: Matthew Male



Sarah Nystrom, USFWS

Ornithologists and volunteers observing terns and compiling nest data, former Fort Michie, Great Gull Island, N.Y.

Exhibition sponsored by:



Land Trust Report Spring 2020

by Bob Miller

Although many of the Museum's functions have been cancelled or curtailed due to the coronavirus, use of the trails and properties of the Land Trust has increased dramatically as people have sought activities consistent with social distancing. Individuals and cohorts can be seen at all times of day in the woods and fields, many with copies of the new Trail Guide provided last year.

It seems appropriate to include in this edition of the newsletter photos of a few of the spectacular overlooks available on our nature trails. These overlooks make for appealing destinations for outings in our sanctuaries.



View of Fishers Island Sound from Chocomount Cove Sanctuary Trail.

Completely understandably, the Fire Department could not assemble to supervise the burning of the southern portion of the Middle Farms grassland in March as planned. Approximately half of this area has now been mowed, but clearing was suspended in April due to spring flooding, the arrival of exceptional numbers of woodcock, and the imminent arrival of other ground-nesting birds. We hope to clear the rest of this area through mowing in the fall so that burning can continue on the same cycle in December of 2020 or very early spring of 2021.

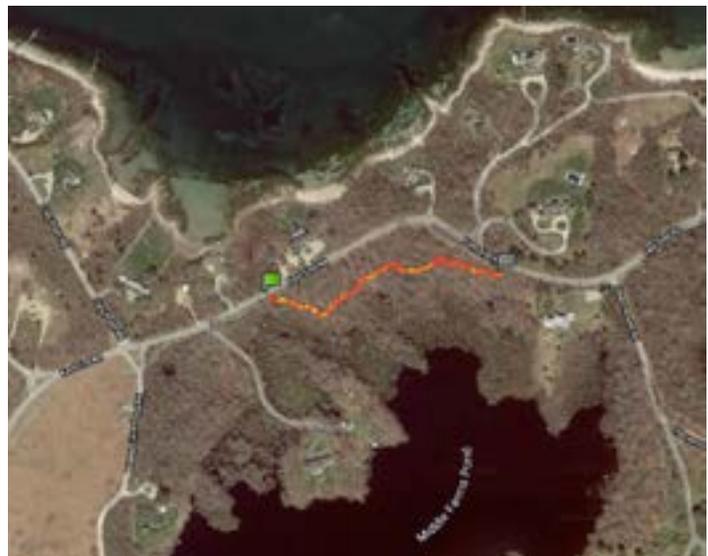
Our stewardship coordinator, Jack Schneider, was able to resume visits to the Island in March under an isolation protocol approved by Dr. Chris Ingram. We are happy to say that with Jack here the Land Trust has been able to accommodate this unexpectedly popular off-season use of trails, as well as to prepare for continuing safe and pleasurable use as the summer approaches. The Land Trust has access this year to a used pickup truck purchased last season, and to a light and versatile 2-wheeled tractor and other power equipment.

A license agreement has been agreed between the Town of Southold and the Museum whereby the Museum acquires a 10-year exclusive right to manage the 5-acre parcel acquired by the Town with "2% Funds" along with contiguous properties on the north shore of Middle Farms Pond long owned



Looking over clay pit to ocean from the Clay Pit Trail.

outright by the Museum. While the final license was apparently not signed by the Town at its March 24 meeting due to the coronavirus, we were authorized to complete a path to integrate the parcels, and it is nearing completion, and will very



Aerial photo with new trail marked on north side of Middle Farms Pond. The path winds through beautiful woodlands carpeted with mayflowers and has several lovely vistas of Middle Farms Pond.

During the Thanksgiving weekend last year, an exceptionally large number of volunteers joined Jack and Board Mem-



Stony Beach cleanup, Thanksgiving 2019. Photo by Scott Reid.

bers Scott Reid and Megan Raymond for a major cleanup of plastic and other debris on Stony Beach and the area south of the oyster ponds, and for a major clearing of several of our trails. Extreme winds in the late fall and winter caused an extraordinary amount of tree damage and trail blockages. These were promptly dealt with by Scott Reid, Walker Reid, Buford Reid, Tim Patterson, and JR Edwards, among others, and all trails are clear as of this writing.

The osprey nest on the shore of Beach Pond blew down in the fierce winds as well. The nest platform and pole were found by Ken Edwards washed up on the east end some years ago. Ken, assisted by JR Edwards, Jim Baker, and staff of the utility company were able to erect the nest platform with a sturdier support pole over the winter, and an active osprey pair is using it now.

Elizabeth McCance and Jack have collaborated with the faculty of the Fishers Island School on a conservation course in which a number of students participated. Unfortunately the program was not completed due to the school closing, but hopefully this collaboration will resume in the fall. Also, Elizabeth, Jack and members of our Land Trust Committee have begun an effort to build on the science developed by the Yale



Replacement platform goes up near Beach Pond. Photo by Ken Edwards.

interns who surveyed our sanctuary areas in 2012 by reviewing and expanding the studies of environmental values and characteristics of ten areas linked by similarity of habitat.

One of the great satisfactions of spending time on Fishers Island is a heightened awareness of natural rhythms and cycles—tides, bird migrations, changes in vegetation. Being in the sanctuaries and on the trails has felt like a special gift for many of us during this period of disrupted normal patterns. We hope that all Island residents will be able to return soon as summer approaches and the richness and diversity of our flora and fauna reaches peak.

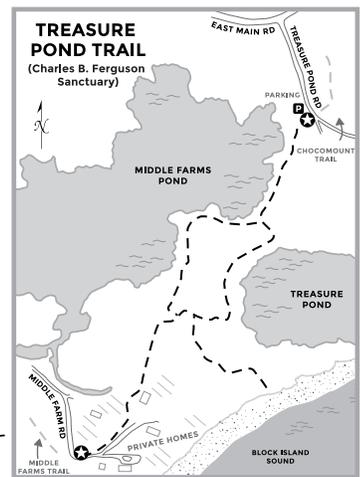


Two views of Block Island Sound from the "Outlook" spur of the Treasure Pond Trail. Photos by Pierce Rafferty.



New Trail Guide

If you would like a copy of the new Trail Guide contact the Museum by email (fimuseum@fishersisland.net) or telephone (631-788-7239) and the Director will arrange a contact-free pick up of the Trail Guide in an envelope left outside the front door of the Museum. For location of the new trail on Middle Farms Pond (not in the 2019 Guide), please see aerial photograph on previous page.



Fishers Island Seagrass Management

Coalition Update

The Fishers Island Seagrass Management (FISM) Coalition is getting ready to go into its fourth summer of activities. Even during these challenging times, we are still committed to the efforts required to protect our local natural resources. The Coalition has recently produced several educational materials that support its mission to promote community learning when it comes to seagrass. We have upped our online presence through our new Fishers Island Seagrass website (fishgrass.com) and Instagram account (@fishers_island_seagrass). The website provides information about the Coalition's mission and membership, the Island's seagrass ecosystems, FISM projects, volunteer opportunities and a calendar of upcoming events. Check it out!

On the website, you will find a page dedicated to our community-led Seagrass Management Plan development process that began this year. To help with our planning efforts we are using SeaSketch, a Web-based platform with tools designed to support collaborative ocean planning. SeaSketch will allow us to identify which specific areas of seagrass around the island that we want to protect. We are calling these areas Seagrass Management Areas (SMAs). SeaSketch will also help us take into account the goals of different users of these areas so that the needs of commercial and recreational users are met.

This past spring, Coalition members were trained to use SeaSketch and throughout the summer and fall, we will continue to use SeaSketch to create potential SMAs and further develop our Seagrass Management Plan. We will narrow our options through a review process that includes meetings, webinars and workshops with the Coalition, the town of Southold and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). We encourage Island residents (seasonal and year-round) to also participate in these meetings. We will be posting the dates of these meetings. Any questions regarding these activities and our planning process can be directed to the FISM Project Coordinator, Connor Jones (fishersisland-seagrass@gmail.com).

We also have two new physical pieces of educational material



Connor Jones, FISM Coordinator, in the HLFM Sanctuary, April 2020.



that are currently in distribution. The first is a postcard aimed at educating boaters on F.I., and visiting boaters from the mainland, about ways to minimize their impact on seagrass. The second is a tri-fold brochure that focuses on the impact fertilizers and lawn care have on coastal waters. This brochure is meant to inform Island residents and landscapers how they can change their habits. Reducing excess nutrient runoff from the land is a great way to ensure that our coastal waters stay clean and usable.

The Coalition is continuing its monitoring efforts this summer, collecting data on water quality and human usage. Water quality data are being collected through the University of Rhode Island's Watershed Watch program. Seagrass thrives in clean water, so the information we collect through Watershed Watch will help inform future management decisions.

We are going into our second year as a participant in California's MPA Watch. MPA Watch is a "network of programs that support healthy oceans through community science by collecting human use data in and around [our] protected areas." MPA stands for 'Marine Protected Area'; these are areas along the coast that are afforded certain protections in order to preserve underwater habitats and the organisms that live within them. They are comparable to National Wildlife Refuges, State Parks and National Parks that we have on land. An MPA is very similar to the SMAs we are working create around the island. When implemented, these areas will not only benefit eelgrass but also many other species including humans. When eelgrass meadows are healthy, they provide a number of ecosystem services including acting as habitat for juvenile fish, scallops and lobster, storing carbon to mitigate climate change, oxygenating the water and providing shoreline protection from storms.

By recording human use data at different sites around the island (8th Hole Beach, North Hill, West Harbor and Flat Hammock) we will be able to identify areas that are in need of protection while still maintaining access for recreational and commercial users. These data will help inform our Seagrass Management Plan development process. The FISM Coalition recruits volunteers to help with this monitoring, if you see one of them carrying a clipboard at one of our established sites feel free to approach them and ask them questions!

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to volunteer, participate, or just learn more about our activities.

Nature Notes

Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

by Terry McNamara

The muskrat may be the most common semi-aquatic mammal on Fishers Island, yet it is rarely observed. The first reaction you may have when encountering a muskrat is to identify it as a large rat. A well-fed mature adult can reach almost four pounds in weight, and a healthy adult is similar in size to a New York City subway rat. But, if the body is visible, even a cursory examination shows distinct differences. The muskrat has a brown, rounded body about 12 inches in length with a tail equal in length to the body. The tail is scaled with straight vertical sides. The rear feet are much larger than the front feet, and both are partially webbed with prominent claws. Despite their abundance, muskrats are difficult to observe, as they are principally nocturnal. They do not have good vision, hearing, or an acute sense of smell, so muskrats' primary defense strategy is concealment. Muskrats are very vulnerable when on land and completely at home in the water, able to remain submerged for up to 17 minutes. Their mouths have flaps behind the teeth that enable them to chew on plants while underwater. They spend most of the day in dens, burrows, and tunnels or in well-hidden eating areas in marshes and ponds. They even mate in the water. They are usually seen swimming, with only the top of the head and eyes visible. Their appearance is similar to an otter or a beaver, but noticeably smaller. The rudder-like tail is then the most distinguishing characteristic.

A muskrat's presence is often indicated by a conical mound



Common Muskrat pair. Photo by Tom Koerner, USFWS.

of vegetation with an underwater entrance, resembling a beaver lodge within a marsh. These dens can be observed in the marshes on the Fishers Island Club's golf course. The repetitive movements of swimming muskrats create narrow underwater trails in shallow water, so look for such trails as evidence of muskrat habitation. Another sign that muskrats reside in an area is the strong musky odor that they exude to mark their breeding territories. This powerful smell gives other muskrats information about the current residents; it may serve as a warning or an invitation.



Muskrat swimming. Photo by Justine Kibbe.

Generally, monogamous pairs occupy a breeding area and exclude other adult muskrats through scent marking and hostile behavior. Contact between the pair is limited to mating. Like their relatives, voles and lemmings, they are prolific breeders. Under favorable conditions, litters of 5-7 kits will be born three times a year. The young can swim and feed at two weeks and are fully independent at six weeks. Within a year's time, they have moved off to secure their own area. Although muskrats have great reproductive potential, they have a short life span. In the wild, a typical muskrat lives only one year. Some rare individuals have been documented surviving as long as four years.

Muskrats are solitary most of the year, coming together only to mate during breeding season. During harsh winters several individuals have been observed sharing dens for warmth, as they do not hibernate. The overall social structure is semi-colonial with monogamous pairs occupying home ranges that serve as breeding territories.

The muskrat is a voracious feeder year round. A typical home range is 100 to 150 feet in diameter, and most activity, including feeding, takes place within the central half of the area. Muskrats' diet consists principally of vegetation like cattails, sedges, rushes, and water lilies, with opportunistic prey like clams, mussels, frogs, and even slow-moving fish providing additional nutrition. There are usually 1-25 individuals per acre.

As population density increases, food becomes scarcer and the parents' home range expands, forcing the young into less safe areas. This abundance of easy prey causes the number of predators to increase as well. Eventually, vegetation is unable to regenerate quickly enough to keep pace with consumption. The shortage of food and increased predator population, coupled with hemorrhagic disease and parasites, cause the number of muskrats to rapidly plummet to a few individuals. The population of predators crashes as well. These crashes allow the marsh or pond to regenerate. After some time, as the vegetation flourishes, the number of muskrats begins to increase, followed by the predator population, and so it continues. The result is a natural population cycle of about 8-10 years, much like the one made famous by the muskrat's lemming cousins.

You may be fortunate enough to see a muskrat swimming in one of the ponds or coves this year; an Islander sighted one in Island Pond in January. The observer did not report tail slapping or chirping by the muskrat to alert his mate of an

intruder's presence. It is likely, however, that there are many more muskrats in the area.

Many people are familiar with muskrats as the providers of fur for hats and coats, but the animal's appearance in the flesh is a mystery to most. Hopefully you'll be lucky enough to see one of these remarkable animals in the wild here on Fishers.



Muskrat in marsh. Photo by R. Town, USFWS.



A Beautiful New Tree Graces the Front of the HLFM.

On April 8, 2020, a crew from Race Rock Garden Company replaced a diseased Sugar Maple with an American Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) that was generously donated by John and Libby Winthrop of Charleston, South Carolina. We are looking forward to a proper ceremony honoring the donors and our new tree when such gatherings are once again permitted.

Island Archaeology

New booklet examines life for the Native Americans on Fishers Island before John Winthrop, Jr., arrived...

Native Americans on Fishers Island is a booklet that explores how archaeological discoveries on Fishers Island illuminate the lives of the people who lived here hundreds and even thousands of years ago. The document is a revised and updated version of a 1976 paper Marion "Marnie" Briggs wrote, with illustrations by her father, the late Charles B. "Charlie" Ferguson.

Amateur archaeologist Henry L. Ferguson excavated many sites and collected numerous artifacts throughout the 1930s, igniting an interest in the Island's human history. Professional archaeologists conducted scientific excavations from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, greatly broadening our knowledge of the Native Americans who lived on Fishers Island.



Amateur archaeologist H.L. Ferguson at site on Fishers Island, 1930s.



Booklet is available by contact-free transfer at the Museum, or can be downloaded at fergusonmuseum.org in the Archaeology section.

Reading the booklet, you'll learn how Island life evolved over time. You'll find out when Native Americans first arrived in the Fishers area and how the environment changed throughout their tenure. Foragers may be interested in learning which foods they collected, while others will be intrigued to learn when, approximately, the bow and arrow replaced the spear for hunting. Learn about early farming development, when native people began to cultivate corn, beans, and squash.

When the Museum opens its doors once again, be sure to visit our Archaeology Gallery to view the mural by Charlie Ferguson that shows how Native Americans lived on Fishers, and the many displays of artifacts found by archaeologists over the years. Knowledge of the long and complex history of peoples on Fishers Island can only increase our understanding and love of this special place.

More Nature Notes

“Sleuthing for Rare Plants on Fishers Island, Suffolk County, N.Y.”

by the late Edwin H. Horning, former curator,
Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Originally published in *Long Island Botanical Society Newsletter*, Vol. 9, No. 3, May, June, July, 1999.

From early on I have had an interest in plant life. As a boy, I spent time during the summers pulling unwanted plants from the corn fields on my grandfather's farm and gathering hay from the hay lots (commonly called “haying-it”). But it was much more exciting to look for and find spring wildflowers such as hepatica, trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, and others growing on the wooded hillsides of western New York State. It was a ritual of springtime to gather leeks from the same hillsides and cowslips from the swamps, now called the wetlands. During the summer I gathered strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. In the fall, butternuts were gathered and stored in the attic. In late winter sap was collected from the sugar maples and evaporated over an outdoor fire into maple syrup.

In 1951, I came to Fishers Island to teach in the school. On a summer day I made a visit to one of my neighbors, Charles Hanmer. He had lived on the Island during summers from early in the 1900s and had collected plants from that time on. In 1935, Charles Hanmer compiled a list of plants that he had collected on Fishers Island, and in 1940 the list was published in *Torreya*, the botanical journal of the Torrey Botanical Club.

In the introduction to his article, Hanmer had this to say about his plant inventory: “The list contains about five hundred species, and I feel that it is fairly complete, although I am sure that more species will be added from time to time. Since 1926, a number of species have become very rare, or have disappeared entirely from the Island's flora. This refers largely to swamp plants, which could not survive the severe draining, with the resultant growth of briars and small trees. Much credit is due to my friend, Mr. Charles A. Weatherby, Senior Curator of the Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Massachusetts, for his careful determination of the species unknown to me.”

Following the publication of Hanmer's list in 1940 until 1999, a period of 59 years, significant changes have occurred on Fishers Island. The Hurricane of 1938 had a significant impact upon the Island's ecology, and a considerable amount of development has taken place. The plant life has also changed, some species have been lost but many others have been gained. Among those lost were orchids such as the Grass Pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*), Green Woodland Orchid (*Platanthera clavellata*) and Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*). Many other species have also disappeared from the Island, including Seaside Crowfoot (*Ranunculus cymbalaria*), Choke-cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Bird's-foot Violet (*Viola pedata*), Large Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*), New England Aster (*As-*



Edwin H. Horning outside the second Museum building. Photograph by Ethan Kibbe, circa 1997. Mr. Horning (1919-2008) was the curator of the HLFM from 1970 until 2002.

ter novae-angliae), Sickle-leaved Golden Aster (*Pityopsis falcata*), and others. Some twenty years ago I observed the last cranberry growing on the Island; the other species must have gone before my arrival.

Other plants previously reported by Hanmer to be plentiful have been reduced to just a few individuals. One of these plants is the Wood Lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*) which was reported by Hanmer to be abundant in the open Fort Meadows; currently, I know of only two plants from the site, both flowering in July. Frostweed (*Helianthemum canadense*) was reported to be common throughout the Island; at the present time I know of only two locations where only a very few plants can be found. Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) was picked in large quantities in the Fort Meadow as related to me by Ann Wall who was one of the pickers. This plant is still found growing along the highway but in very small numbers, I could never find enough for a strawberry shortcake. Another plant Hanmer found to be common was the Carrion Flower (*Smilax herbacea*), but I have found it on only two or three occasions.

During the past century, many more plant species have been added to the flora of Fishers Island than lost. One species that is now abundant along roadsides and elsewhere is Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*). This species was not reported from the Island by Hanmer although the native bittersweet (*C. scandens*) was listed as common. Today, one is hard pressed to find *C. scandens* on Fishers Island. Another invasive plant, the Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), was already listed as being very common and well established, and in 1999 it is even more thoroughly entrenched on the Island. Hanmer listed Wild Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) as

the most common tree and today it retains that designation. But today's cherry trees are not the tall trees seen in the forests of western New York, they are shorter, spread out and have many viral growths.

During my years of botanizing on Fishers Island, each time that I found a plant new to me I went to Hanmer's list. I once found, near the edge of a pond, a goldenrod which I determined to be Elliott's Goldenrod (*Solidago elliottii*). I checked the list and found that Hanmer had not previously reported it. Later Bob Zaremba verified the identification. Near the same pond I found Slender Blue Flag (*Iris prismatica*) which Hanmer listed as occasional; today, there are only two stations of it at the Airport Field (formerly known as the Fort Meadow).

Among the rocks on the beaches is found the Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina subsp. pacifica*) which was listed by Hanmer as "common on sea beaches" and it still is. Another beach plant formerly listed as common is Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*) but it is much less common today. I have read reports of both purple and yellow fruited individuals, but I have never seen the yellow fruited one. On a late summer day I found on a drying pond a sedge with red roots, *Cyperus erythrorhizos*; I later found it at a second pond in late summer. Another plant found near a pond close to the shore was the rare Golden Dock (*Rumex maritimus var. fueginus*). I am quite sure that these last two plants were not on the Island in Hanmer's time or he would have found them. A goldenrod found at only one location on the Island is Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*); it also is not on Hanmer's list. Another goldenrod, Silver-rod (*S. bicolor*) has been found but once as has yet another, the Sweet Goldenrod (*S. odora*).

On 11 July 1985, Bob Zaremba visited Fishers Island and for two days he and I looked for rare plants. I shared with him all of my earlier discoveries and together we added several new species to the Island's flora. Among the plants that were new to me were three species of Spikerush (*Eleocharis obtusa*, *E. olivaceae*, *E. parvula*), Winged Sedge (*Carex alata*), Bicknell's Frostweed (*Helianthemum bicknellii*) and Poison Sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*).

Also in 1985, archaeologists from the New York State Museum, under the leadership of Robert Funk, began a study of Native American habitation sites on Fishers Island in collaboration with the H.L. Ferguson Museum of Fishers Island. Gordon Tucker, a botanist at the State Museum, also visited to investigate the plant life. I took Gordon on a tour of the Island and before the day's end Gordon suggested that we compile a flora of Fishers Island. He warned that it would take years to complete and asked if I was interested? Without even thinking I agreed to work with Gordon on the flora of Fishers Island. I was ready and eager.

In May 1990, we began work on the new flora. Gordon became a frequent summer guest at our home and we would spend long hours collecting plants in the fields. We were most fortunate that Charles Hanmer had published his study for it was to be our initial guide. Gordon also was aware of other

botanists who had visited the Island and was familiar with their plant collections in various herbaria. Among those botanists were Harold St. John, Bill Link, Alexander W. Evans, and others. As of 1998 we had found over 800 species of plants on Fishers Island, a very significant increase compared to the 500 some species reported by Hanmer.

In 1993, we submitted a report to the Suffolk County Department of Health and the Fishers Island Conservancy, entitled: *Fishers Island Water Supply and Water Shed Study: Ecological Component*. In the report, we commented on a remarkable number of rare plants occurring on Fishers Island. The following list appeared as Table 2 in our report:

Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants in the Watershed Area of Fishers Island, N.Y.

<i>Potamogeton pulcher</i>	Spotted Pondweed
<i>Carex emmonsii</i>	Emmons Sedge
<i>Cyperus odoratus</i>	Rusty Flatsedge
<i>Wolffia brasiliensis</i>	Watermeal
<i>Spiranthes vernalis</i>	Ladies-tresses
<i>Rumex maritimus var. fueginus</i>	Golden Dock
<i>Chenopodium rubrum</i>	Red Pigweed
<i>Chenopodium strictum</i>	Pigweed
<i>Potentilla anserina subsp. pacifica</i>	Silverweed
<i>Helianthemum dumosum</i>	Bushy Rockrose
<i>Muriophyllum pinnatum</i>	Green Parrot Feather Milfoil
<i>Angelica lucida</i>	Seaside Angelica
<i>Hottonia inflata</i>	Featherfoil
<i>Veronica peregrina</i>	Neckweed
<i>Aster vimineus</i>	Osier-Aster

There was one certain plant that was our Holy Grail. From the beginning of our study we searched for it. Charles Hanmer had found it and had listed it as common along the sea beaches. We checked most of the beaches where we thought it might be. We found its near relative, a plant very similar in general appearance, but the one that we were looking for continued to elude us. During one of Gordon's visits in 1996, we looked for it on the east end of the Island across the Sound from Stonington, Connecticut. Gordon had learned that in 1885 William Setchell of Stonington had found the plant on Fishers Island and Gordon figured that it might have occurred on an east end beach. We did not find it.

In 1997, Gordon returned to the Island and we did a study for a proposed bicycle path. On the early evening of July 31, while Katherine and I prepared dinner Gordon took a short walk. A short while later he returned and exclaimed, "I found it, I found *Ligusticum scoticum!*" [Scotch Lovage]. He had found it at the foot of a north facing bank near a spring, along the upper shore of a beach deep in Hay Harbor. It was a cool spot. It was not more than ¼ mile from my home and just where it should be.

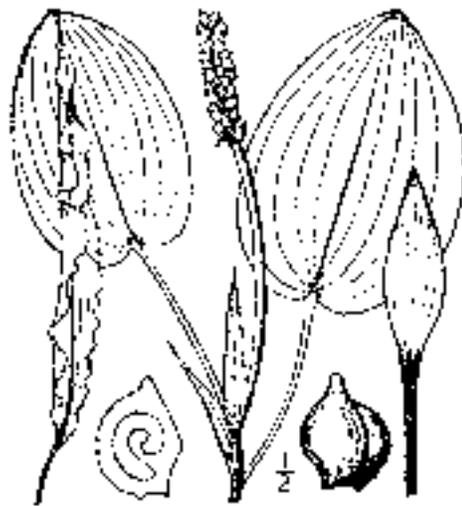
Gordon's last visit was on 4-7 August 1998. Hanmer had said that he was sure that more species would be added to the flora from time to time. We added two more. One was the

American Hazelnut, the other was an unidentified aster possibly in the *divaricatus* group; we plan to send a specimen to Eric Lamont for identification.

So what have we learned from studying the past and present flora of Fishers Island over a 100 year period? We have observed that the plant life of Fishers Island is dynamic, populations come and go, they increase and decrease in size from year to year. Natural forces such as hurricanes and northeasters, droughts and flooding, insect infestations, etc., can significantly alter the physical structure of ecosystems resulting in opportunities for plants to colonize new sites, and conversely, resulting in the loss of habitat for other species. But by far, the greatest single impact upon the plant life of Fishers Island during the past 100 years has been man. The irreversible destruction of habitat due to development and the alteration of natural wetland systems has resulted in significant changes in the Island's flora. Fortunately, outstanding examples of natural communities still remain on Fishers Island. About 45 species of rare, endangered, and threatened vascular plants occur on the Island, making this site one of New York State's most significant botanical hot-spots.

HLFM Director's note:

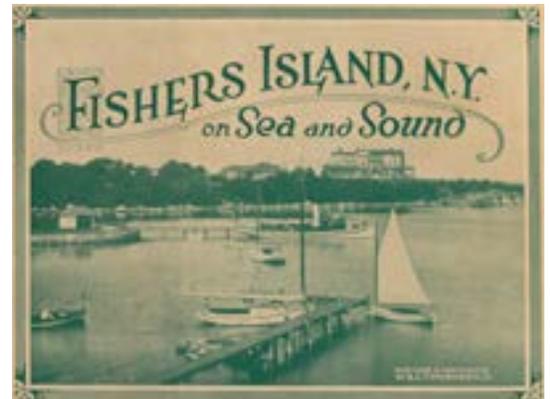
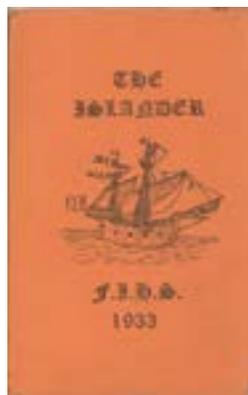
To complement and update the prior inventories assembled by botanists like Charles Hanmer, Ed Horning and Gordon Tucker, the HLFM undertook earlier this year to contract scientists from the Natural Heritage Program of the NYS DEC to conduct a rare plant survey on Fishers Island along with additional biodiversity inventories. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 outbreak forced us to delay our plans. Should any HLFM members wish to help fund this important project when we are next able to undertake it, please phone or email HLFM Director Pierce Rafferty at the Museum: 631-788-7239, or fimuseum@fishersisland.net. The range of floral and faunal inventories conducted will depend on the degree of support we receive from our members for this important project.



Seaside Angelica (*Angelica lucida*). USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database. Britton, N.L., and A. Brown, 1913. Another rare and endangered plant last recorded on the Horning and Tucker 1993 survey.



Spotted Pondweed (*Potamogeton pulcher*). USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database. Britton, N.L., and A. Brown, 1913. This rare and endangered plant was in the watershed area on FI. when Horning and Tucker conducted their inventory in 1993. Is it still extant on Fishers Island? Only a new inventory will answer that question.



Making History Accessible

Visit our website fergusonmuseum.org to discover a wide range of Fishers Island historical brochures, documents and ephemera, including vintage promotional brochures, FIHS Yearbooks, and rare booklets as seen above. Many thanks to the Jeanann Gray Dunlap Foundation for funding the digitization of major portions of the HLFM archives.

Island History

Fishers Island in the Revolutionary War

by *Pierce Rafferty*

The first rumblings of the American Revolution reached our shores in late May 1773, some six months before the Boston Tea Party. According to an account published in a New London newspaper, Fishers Island farmers physically drove British soldiers from the Island after they behaved quite boorishly at a pig roast.

The newspaper account stated: “The Captain, or Master or Esquire Howe, [Commander of His Majesty’s ship Cruiser] went to keep Sabbath on Fishers Island; they had got a pig...which they cook’d and after dining drank the King, [i.e. toasted the king] so they drank the King, Admiral Montague, and d_____ to America [i.e. damned or damnation to America]; which last toast was sounded with so great éclat that it disturbed the honest tenant; he went to desire them to be quiet, and they ordered one of the crew to beat him, which he not so well relishing, he called his negroes and hired men, in the whole he mustered seven, they each took a good cudgel and drove the never-to-be-forgotten Howe, with thirty odd of his crew off the island.” Quote from the *New London Gazette*, June 4, 1773.

In strategic terms, this fight had about as much significance as a brawl at the Pequot would today, but, if true, it does reveal that the farmers working the island were patriots, not Tory sympathizers. It also provides evidence that there were likely slaves still working on the island, as there had been during the preceding Mumford tenancy.

The “honest tenant” who resisted the British revelers was almost certainly Benjamin Brown of Rhode Island. His tenancy on Fishers Island began in 1756 when he rented the entire island for 500 pounds per annum from the island-owning Winthrop family. He soon settled into the bucolic business of stock farming, blissfully ignorant to how trouble-filled his farm would become. Interestingly, Benjamin Brown was a relative of John Nicholas Brown, a later and far richer resident of Fishers Island, who lived here in the mid-20th century. They descended from different sons of Chad Brown, the first of the Browns to come to Rhode Island.

For several years following the 1773 brawl, there is no indication that further struggle—small or large, hand-to-hand, or more significant—occurred on Fishers Island.

In 1775, in the wake of the initial armed clashes of the Revolutionary War at Lexington and Concord, the active rebellion (and clumsy British efforts to counter it) centered on Boston and its neighboring towns. Following the bloody battles of Breed’s Hill and Bunker Hill, the main British force was bottled up in Boston, under siege by outlying Colonial forces in Cambridge.

Before the outbreak of hostilities, the British had arranged with Boston merchants to secure necessary supplies, but after



“Genl. Howe Evacuating Boston,” engraving by J. Godfrey, circa 1861. Museum Collection.

active hostilities erupted, those connections were all but severed. Unscrupulous merchants and Loyalists still managed to conduct surreptitious sales, but nowhere near enough for the British to meet their quota by land alone. Consequently, they turned to the sea, where their Navy ruled supreme. They had the option of transporting food directly from England, but given the length of the passage, the volume of supplies needed, the high percentage of loss to spoilage, and the pressing demand, such a supply route was impractical. Instead, the British command dispatched a portion of their fleet on a massive foraging expedition.

In late July 1775, three British men-of-war, six transports, and several smaller vessels sailed out of Boston heading “east south east.” The fleet’s movements were of great concern to those at the top of the American forces, including George Washington, head of the newly formed Continental Army.

General Washington wrote a letter to the Continental Congress dated July 27, 1775, stating that he had received intelligence that transports with 600 men on board had left Boston and were bound to Block Island, Fishers Island, and Long Island to “plunder them and bring off what Cattle they may find.” Washington informed the Continental Congress in that same letter that he had received additional information that revealed “each transport had but 20 men on board” and that he had written to Governor Cook of Rhode Island and to General Wooster of the Continental Army, who was then in Harlem, in order “that they might take precautions for removing the Cattle of those Islands and preventing any surprize. As we are confirmed by every Account of the great Scarcity of fresh Provisions in the Enemy’s Camp.”

With the Continental Army in its infancy and the American Navy yet to be founded, the exposed stock farms on Fishers, Great Gull, Plum and Gardiner’s islands promised to be easy targets for the desperate British, unless preemptive removals were successful. The General Assembly of Rhode Island ordered that cattle and sheep be removed immediately from Block Island and sent approximately 200 men to take them off.

Because the British had a presence along the Rhode Island

coast, the livestock, including more than 1900 sheep, were rounded up and taken by boat to Stonington and then driven inland to Rhode Island. When the British reached Fishers Island Sound on August 6th, 1775, however, virtually all of Benjamin Brown's livestock was still in place—with the exception of a few market-ready cattle and sheep that had been removed by Connecticut authorities the day before the raid.

The arrival of the British vessels greatly alarmed the citizenry of New London who immediately sent off “an express” to alarm the surrounding towns. The defenders who rushed from outlying towns to the banks of the Thames soon discovered that the fleet's intended target was Fishers Island, where the British landed unopposed and in one day managed to take off “1,139 sheep, three milch cows, one pair of working oxen, about 25 young cattle, and ten hogs.” It was later reported in the New London papers that in the case of Fishers Island, the British had offered to pay for the stock. When Mr. Brown stated that he was unwilling to sell, he was threatened with a seizure without pay. He then reluctantly agreed to the sale.

After raiding Fishers Island, the British didn't tarry. By Tuesday, August 8th 1775, their fleet was anchored on the east side of Gardiner's Island, fully engaged in seizing its stock. The Gardiner overseer later wrote that the British seized one thousand sheep, other animal and seven tons of hay. As “payment” they dismissively left a half a guinea and a pistareen, a small silver coin worth about as much as its name implied, the equivalent of paying half an English pound for goods worth hundreds of times more.

The next British target was Plum Island. On August 11, 1775, General Wooster managed to land 120 troops on Plum from Oyster Ponds on the North Fork, where they engaged in a brief “cat and mouse” skirmish with British regulars, with many shots fired but no casualties. Some writers noted this as the first naval engagement and amphibious assault in the history of the Continental Army. The British were only able to

seize about 14 fat cattle, for which they left no compensation. After the British fleet departed for Boston, Wooster's men took the remaining cattle to the mainland and ordered that all grain on Plum be threshed and carried off to Long Island.

The British had, with relatively little effort, turned the offshore farms of Long Island Sound into giant “take out” shopping centers, yielding ample supplies with the bonus that payment was optional. The fact that the Winthrop family, then-owners of Fishers Island, had long-standing ties to the crown may have led the British to offer compensation to Mr. Brown, an act which generated some mainland suspicion about Fishers Island's loyalty, including claims that the Winthrop owners had facilitated the sale.

What had gone wrong with the livestock evacuation plan? General Washington, not the first to be confused about our Island's governing allegiance, nor the last, had sent his letter containing that intelligence to the Governor of Rhode Island, not the Governors of New York or Connecticut, who in the first case held jurisdiction and in the second was in a better position to affect the removal. Unfortunately, Washington's letter to Governor Cook of Rhode Island was never forwarded.

Remarkably, despite great potential benefit to the enemy, stock farming on Fishers Island was not shut down after the British raid of August 1775. However, the Connecticut authorities did on several occasions take preemptive steps to deny the enemy the Island's produce and stock. On July 3, 1776, on the very eve of the Declaration of Independence, the Committee of Inspection for New London and Groton resolved and ordered the removal of “horned cattle, sheep and swine from Fishers Island to the main, leaving necessary working oxen, cows, sheep and swine, for the use of the families there at their discretion.” The authorities were to have the stock appraised by “indifferent and judicious men” and subsequently to repay the owners. It is interesting to note that in time of war, the Colony of New York's jurisdiction over Fishers Island seemed to have no status and was rarely mentioned in the records of the various Connecticut committees and councils making strategic decisions about the farm supplies on Fishers Island.

The very next week, on July 9, 1776, General Washington once again penned a letter “To prevent the Enemy from attaining fresh provisions” on a variety of islands that stretched from Martha's Vineyard to Plum and included, of course, Fishers Island. However, this time he wrote directly to Governor Trumbull of Connecticut, stating that he feared the enemy would soon be on another plundering voyage. He asked Trumbull for his full attention “that the stock might all be removed quite out of the reach of the enemy.”

The Colonial Records of Connecticut reveal that livestock was removed from Fishers Island in July 1776, for they document that Mr. Benjamin Brown was later awarded 570 pounds and three shillings for that stock. But these animals, or others just like them, were soon once again grazing on Fishers Island, despite Washington's entreaties.

After the American forces were defeated at the Battle of



British military belt plate, circa 1778, dating from the reign of King George III (1760-1811). This belt plate was found at Race Point in the 1950s. Museum Collection.



Revolutionary War-era powder horn carved by American sailor Reuben Partridge in 1777. Illustrations include a map of Fishers Island, forts Griswold (Groton) and Trumbull (New London), and New London Harbor Light. Museum Collection.

Long Island in August 1776, the British naval presence in Long Island Sound was even more dominant. British frigates *Niger* and *Amazon* spent most of the winter of 1776/77 stationed near the west end of Fishers Island, effectively bottling up the mouth of New London's harbor. In mid-March 1777, a large British naval force anchored off Groton, once again generating great fear along the coastline. It was déjà vu all over again. In the words of New London's preeminent historian, Frances Caulkins:

An immediate descent was expected, and tumult and terror reigned for a time in the town. The object of the squadron, however, was to obtain, as they had the year before, the stock of Fishers Island, and this business they executed so thoroughly, as almost to sweep the island clean of produce. They took not only sheep, cattle, swine, poultry, corn, potatoes, wood and hay, but blankets, woolen cloth, sheeting, and other necessaries, for all which they made a reasonable compensation to Mr. Brown, in British gold.

Besides the seizure of livestock and supplies, much of the action in and around Fishers Island during the Revolutionary War involved the seizure and re-seizure of vessels, cargo and crews. Throughout the conflict British warships traversed the Sound, keeping the coast in "a torture of expectancy," as one historian put it. These warships frequently patrolled around Fishers Island, anchoring near West Harbor and often off the west end.

The island also functioned as a detached no man's land visited not only by both sides of the conflict but also by numerous smugglers, those engaged in trade with the enemy, and your standard brand of criminals. Fishers Island also provided a convenient and mutually acceptable site for occasional prisoner exchanges. From time to time loyalists employed the Island as a rendezvous point to link up with the British fleet, and conversely, deserters jumped ship on Fishers Island to join the colonial cause. Finally, the British used the Island at least once during the Revolutionary War, to offload what they called refugees, who were described in the press of the day as the refuse of jails, Irish convicts, and "artificers."

Despite these other incidental uses, the main story—the

dominant theme of Fishers Island during the Revolutionary War—centered on supplies and provisions. The British needed them, and the Connecticut authorities tried, somewhat fitfully, to deny their enemies access. The last of these attempts at denial came in December 1778, when a Connecticut council ordered the winter hay removed from Fishers Island, presumably leaving little else left to seize. At the time Elijah Brown, son of Benjamin Brown, was in charge of running the Island's farms. The following summer, on July 15, 1779, a British raiding party landed on Fishers Island and carried out the final and most destructive of the three major raids, perhaps out of frustration that there was little left to take, or perhaps because the war was proving intractable. The following newspaper account gives some details of this raid:

Last Thursday some people landed at Fishers Island, from the British Shipping lying off this Harbour, and placing some combustible Matters in the Cellar of the House lately improved by Mr. Brown, they blew up the Middle of the House, and then putting Fire to the windward End of it, consumed the Whole – they afterwards set fire to the Out-Houses and consumed them, as also a Quantity of Hay, &c. on the Island. (*Connecticut Gazette*, July 21, 1779.)

Not surprisingly, shortly after the raid the Brown family finally abandoned the island and departed for New London. Frances Bayard Winthrop, the owner of the island, subsequently petitioned the authorities in Connecticut and received permission to build a small brick building to house those tending his stock on Fishers Island. The inner core of today's Mansion House, the historic house that stands in right field of the ballfield, is the "small building" that was subsequently built in the early 1780s. Although it doesn't appear so, the Mansion House is at core made of brick.

The war wouldn't formally end for four years following this last sacking of Fishers Island. There were major events still to come in our region, most importantly the notorious burning of New London and storming of Fort Griswold, Groton, in 1781 by the traitor Benedict Arnold and his forces. But for Fishers Island, its farms in ruins and buildings burned, the war was over.



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A Sampling of Donations to the Museum's Collection in 2019

Please note that although space constraints prohibit a complete list, we greatly appreciate all of your donations.

Ann Banks. Group portrait of FIFD Drill Team No. 1., circa 1930s; Southold Town Police badge No. 7 (pinback), circa 1960. (The badge was worn by Stanley "Stich" Kowalszyk, who was the crossing guard at the second F.I. School on Montauk Ave.)



Beach Plum. Fishers Island-opoly Board Game (2007) custom-made by Marcus Pagliarulo; Fishers Island themed key chain; needle point ornament with F.I. silhouette and "18" (2018); F.I. laser cut metal bottle opener; art prints "Race Rock Light" and "Ledge Light" by Alan Claude; two F.I.-themed Christmas ornaments by Kitty Keller, and misc. other F.I. themed objects and notecards.



Adrien Broom. Three metallic photos (aluminum) by donor from series "Lost in Thought, on the Fishers Island Ferry," 2018.

Joanne Burr. Linen postcards of F.I. scenes, 1950s.

Dianne G. Crary. Wasp nest; collection of F.I. T-shirts.

Patty Faulkner. Dinner and luncheon forks with "Mononotto Inn" name on handle.

Charles B. Ferguson Estate. *Curse You, Red Barn*, painting by B. Gasque, 1969; extensive collection of Fishers Island sailing trophies, primarily 1930s to 1980s; *Bishop's Birds: Etchings of Water-fowl and Upland Game Birds*, by Richard



E. Bishop (limited edition, 1936), inscribed and signed in pencil: "To H.L. Ferguson with many thanks for a wonderful day at Fisher's Island. October 22nd, 1937. Richard E. Bishop."

Emily Fisher. 3 matted and framed photographs by donor taken near and on former H.A. Jackson dock, East Harbor.

David Hoch. Medical equipment used by his father, Dr. Ralph Hoch; "The Fishers Island Game," a Fishers Island history-based trivia board game, circa late 1980s; punched movie ticket for Fishers Island Premier of *The World According to Garp*, July 24, 1982; scorebook for basketball teams at all levels, F.I. School, 1960s and 1970s; and framed photograph of lightning bolt over West Harbor.



Sharon Park. Albert F. Greene's fireman's uniform (jacket) circa 1930 with brass HDLIS (Harbor Defenses of Long Island Sound) Fire Dept. pin. This uniform was originally worn to provide Mr. Greene cover while smuggling alcohol between Fishers Island, N.Y. and Lord's Point, Stonington, Conn., during Prohibition.



Sharon & Tim Patterson. One copy of LP record album with cover: *Fishers Island Fun-D* album featuring "Drew-Corcoran Orchestra playing dance music and entertaining at Fishers Island. Vocals: Mrs. H. Lawrence Bogert, Jane duPont, Hal Corcoran and Eddie Drew," 1972; five-inch artillery shell casing (brass) found on former Ft. H.G. Wright property. **Elizabeth Peishoff.** Invitation to Commencement Exercises FIHS, June 23rd, 1947.



Vicki and Pierce Rafferty. Map: *Rhode Island and Connecticut*, published 1796; *A New Map of Connecticut from the Best Authorities*, published 1799; Fishers Island Sportsmen's Club, Inc. "POSTED" sign issued when Morgan S. Reichner was secretary; advertisement promoting tour of violinist Efreim Zimbalist, detached page from October 19, 1918 issue of *Musical America*; *Plum Island Biodiversity Inventory*, published by New York Natural Heritage Program, 2016.

A Sampling of Museum Acquisitions, 2019

Objects:



Chip Riegel. Five matted and framed photographs by donor of road paintings on Fishers Island, N.Y., circa 2008.

Deborah Shillo. Box of Pequot Inn stationery from the 1980s.



Mark Terry. Painting by donor, circa 2018, of rumrunner *Barbara* aground on Fishers Island, March 1925.



Five shares of capital stock for the Fishers Island Steamboat Company, Limited, with a par value of \$50.00 each share.

This stock was issued in 1888.

Brass artillery shell casing with "Fort Terry, N.Y. 1923" decoratively etched in relief on outside.

Photographs:



Prey of Coastal Storm, Acme newsphoto of Fishers Island dock, New London, Conn. after the 1938 Hurricane.



Lunch wagon near the Fishers Island ferry dock, New London, Conn., circa 1910s.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Henry L. Ferguson Museum is the collection, preservation and exhibition of items of Pre-History, History and Natural History of Fishers Island and, through its Land Trust, the preservation in perpetuity of undeveloped property in its natural state. It is organized for the education and enjoyment of the Island's community and visitors and for the protection of habitat for the Island's flora and fauna.

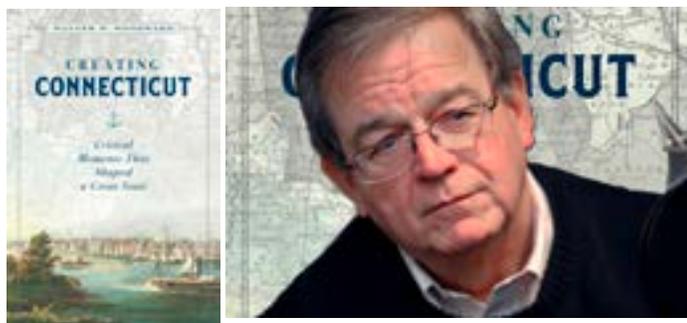
Museum Speakers and Programs 2020

Please note that due to Covid-19, the Museum's programs and lectures are all virtual until further notice. Instructions for joining the Museum's Virtual Talks and Virtual Programs will be sent out by email, and posted on fishnet, and the P.O. Bulletin Board. To sign up for the Museum's list, email fmuseum@fishersisland.net.

Animal Senses. Investigate the keen senses of different animals and discover how they compare to animals in books. Animal participants include live snakes, turtle, frogs and owls. Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) family program for ages 5 & up. **Wednesday, July 1, 2020.** Time: 2 to 2:40 p.m. Virtual Program.

The Eclectic Houses of Fishers Island and Beyond. Jacob Albert of Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, Inc., Boston, Mass., will give an illustrated talk focusing on Fishers Island's diverse, eclectic architecture. **Sunday, July 5, 2020.** Time: 4 p.m. Virtual Talk.

Terrific Turtles. Meet a few of the Nature Center's resident turtles as we discover their amazing adaptations, which turtles live in your neighborhood, and what you can do to help protect them. DPNC family program for ages 5 & up. **Wednesday, July 8, 2020.** Time: 2 to 2:40 p.m. Virtual Program.



Walter Woodward, Connecticut State Historian will give a talk on his new book *Creating Connecticut: Critical Moments That Shaped a Great State* (Globe Pequot). **Sunday, July 12, 2020.** Time: 4 p.m. Virtual Talk

Owl Prowl. Learn about owls' many adaptations. Children will "meet" a few of the DPNC's resident owls and ask questions about their remarkable lives. DPNC family program for ages 5 & up. **Wednesday, July 15, 2020.** Time: 2 to 2:40 p.m.



Virtual Program.

The Science of Climate Change. In a world where facts matter, learn about the science of climate change from F.I. seasonal resident, Peter Raymond. This talk will cover the history of climate change science and how modern day greenhouse gas concentrations are maintained. Pete is a professor of ecosystem Ecology at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies where he studies greenhouse gas exchange between ecosystems and the atmosphere and teaches 'The Physical Science of Climate Change.' **Sunday, July 19, 2020.** Time: 4 p.m. Virtual Talk.

Slithering Snakes. Snakes aren't scary, despite how they are often portrayed in stories! Participants will see live snakes and learn more about their important role in the environment. DPNC family program for ages 5 & up. **Wednesday, July 22, 2020.** Time: 2 to 2:40 p.m. Virtual Program.

The Bethlehem Pa. – F.I. Connection: How a Once Strong Link Became Uncoupled. This

illustrated lecture by HLFM Director Pierce Rafferty will examine the untold story of Fishers Island's once strong but now all-but-forgotten connections to Bethlehem, PA., focusing on the Bartlett family, owners of the Bartlett Cottages, the Linderman brothers, builders of the "Garp House" and today's Baccile house, and the Hoppes family, original owners of the Mononotto Inn. **Sunday, July 26, 2020.** Time: 4 p.m. Virtual Talk.



Pond Life. Ponds are full of incredible creatures. See the frogs, turtles and insects that make up a pond's ecosystem and learn more about their fascinating life cycles. DPNC family program for ages 5 & up. **Wednesday, July 29, 2020.** Time: 2 to 2:40 p.m. Virtual Program.

The Future PRFCT. *How Gardens can save your sanity, your health and the birds too!* Edwina von Gal, landscape designer and founder of the Perfect Earth Project will discuss why and how landscapes, no matter how small, can play a lead-



ing role in healing our injured ecosystems, curing your eco anxiety, and bringing bounteous beauty to your property. Her talk will cover the basics of nature based design with practical, irresistible tips for beginners to professionals, as she invites all to toss the chemical crutches and step into a whole new world of land partnering. **Sunday, August 2, 2020.** Time: 4 p.m. Virtual Talk.

Beaks, Feet & Feathers. Explore the amazing adaptations of birds! Meet a live bird and learn how to identify the birds you may see in your backyard. DPNC family program for ages 5 & up. **Wednesday, August 5, 2020.** Time: 2 to 2:40 p.m. Virtual Program.



An Introduction to Backyard Butterflies by Kim Hargrave, Education Director Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. Have you ever wondered what butterflies were visiting your backyard? Join us for this online class for an introduction to our backyard butterflies. We will discuss how to attract butterflies to your yard, their important role as pollinators and learn more about their incredible life cycles. This talk is designed for adults, but suitable for interested older children and teens. **Sunday, August 9, 2020.** Time: 4 p.m. Virtual Talk.

Frogs – Facts vs Fiction. Did you know that in the winter some frogs freeze or that you can't get warts from a toad? See some of the Nature Center's resident frogs as we learn to separate the facts from fiction regarding these awesome amphibians. DPNC family program for ages 5 & up. **Wednesday, August 12, 2020.** Time: 2 to 2:40 p.m. Virtual Program.



Storms or Trophies or History: Why Do We Sail? A talk by John Rousmaniere. Challenging, romantic, and (some think) strange—the challenges and appeals of sailing always inspire entertaining discussion. The debate will be reviewed by John Rousmaniere, along with a few sea stories and tips for safe sailing. A widely experienced sailor, he has written widely about the sport in books that include *Fastnet*, *Force 10* (about a storm he survived), *The Annapolis Book of Seamanship* (a

“boating bible”), and histories of races and organizations, including the Fishers Island Yacht Club. **Sunday, August 16, 2020.** Time: 4 p.m. Virtual Talk.

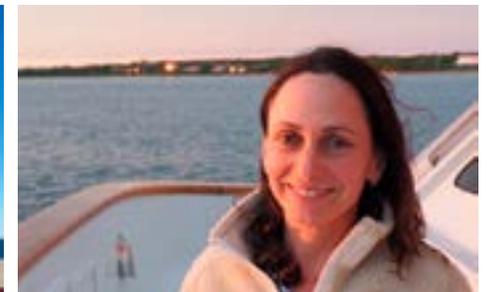
Remarkable Raptors. See live hawks and owls, as you learn more about raptor's important role in the ecosystem and discover which ones you might be able to see near your house. DPNC family program for ages 5 & up. **Wednesday, August 19, 2020.** 2 to 2:40 p.m. Virtual Program.



Regenerative Gardening. *How to Garden with Mother Nature while reducing your work load, increasing your production and nutritional quality, while also reducing your costs.* Craig Floyd is a tenth generation Farmer from Stonington who currently is the Farm Manager at the Giving Garden at Coogan Farm which is owned by the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic. A social activist, and a Regenerative No-Till No Spray farmer, Craig is a Ted Talk presenter as well as a frequent speaker on regenerative farming techniques. He teaches a year-long Regenerative Farming Course and his volunteer-run Giving Garden has donated over 65,000 pounds of produce in the last five years. **Sunday, August 23, 2020.** Time: 4 p.m. Virtual talk.



No children's program scheduled for **Wednesday, August 26, 2020.** If one is added, it will be announced by email.



Blowin' in the Wind? The Latest on Offshore Wind Development in the Northeast. The Block Island Wind Farm, the United States' first and only offshore wind farm to date, began supplying renewable energy to Block Island and mainland Rhode Island in 2016. This five-turbine, nearshore wind project is likely to be only the first of many larger offshore wind farms to be developed further offshore in the waters off New England and the Mid-Atlantic. Dr. Tiffany Smythe, professor of maritime policy at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, will provide an update on offshore wind development throughout the region and share highlights of her research on the political and social dimensions of offshore wind farms. **Sunday, August 30, 2020.** Time: 4 p.m. Virtual Talk.



Fishers Island Nature Discovery Program
 The FIND program will be held for children ages 7-11 for a week in July and a week in August. The schedule and sign up procedures will be sent out by email, and posted on fishersisland.net and the Museum's website by early to mid-June. Due to Covid-19, participants will be provided with a daily FIND nature challenge that they will undertake in the field operating independently without direct accompaniment of Museum staff but with the supervision or permission of parents or caregivers. Each day of the program, FIND Director Murray Fisher and a co-educator will host a group Zoom meeting of participants to review the discoveries made during the morning's explorations.

Land Trust Trails Are Open
 Please observe proper physical distancing protocols, walking in groups of no more than six. We also are asking people to walk clockwise on the trails where practicable.

Nature Walks
 The decision as to whether the Thursday morning nature walks will be held this season, with proper physical distancing and small group size, will be announced via email and posted on the website.

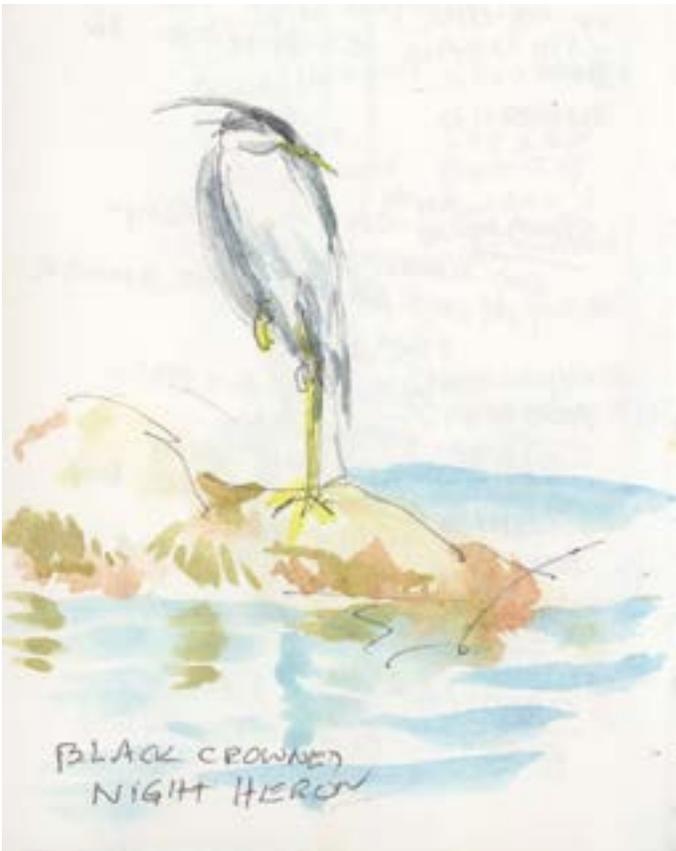
Museum Hours
 Due to Covid-19 virus outbreak, the HLFM building is closed until further notice.

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

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A page from Charlie Ferguson's daybook *Fishers Island 2008*.