



The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

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From the President

Spring has arrived, and the Museum is gearing up for a great summer season full of new exhibits, hands-on children's programs, stimulating lectures, and restorative nature walks. Many of you will remember last year's popular exhibit, *Photographers of Fishers Island, 1880s to 1930s*. This year's annual exhibit focuses on our photographers from the 1940s to date. For the first time, Director Pierce Rafferty is utilizing both floors of the Museum for a single exhibition. We are once again grateful to have Altus Partners and Chubb as our sponsors. Please note that there is also a special display in the Natural History Gallery entitled *Trash on Our Shores: Action Needed*, that brings attention to a growing problem.

We have a great set of speakers scheduled for this summer, including Russ Cohen, who is returning to teach us more about edible wild plants and foraging on Fishers Island. Author Patrick Lynch will lecture on the subject of *Long Island Sound and Its Coastline: 20,000 Years of Change*. Pierce's annual lecture will be *The Great Hurricane of 1938*. For all the architecture buffs, Jacob Albert will examine architectural styles in a talk entitled *From the Shingle Style to the Colonial Revival*. Our popular children's programs will once again be held on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. A complete list of lectures and programs can be found beginning on page 14.

Every Thursday in July and August, board member Terry McNamara will lead nature walks along beaches and Land Trust trails beginning at 10:30 a.m. Don't forget to bring your

binoculars! As you wander our many trails, make sure that you visit the Chocomount Cove Sanctuary, the newest addition to our Land Trust properties. To learn more about this beautiful new sanctuary, read the Land Trust Report on page 3.

I want to take a moment for reflection. The island in general and the Museum in particular lost two great men this past year: Dick Baker and Charlie Ferguson. Dick was one of a small group that gathered in 1960 to found the Museum. He served in many capacities on the Museum's Board for 43 years, stepping down as vice-president in 2003. Charlie became the Museum's second Curator in 1966 after the death of his brother Lee. He became vice-president in 1970 and president in 1978. He ably guided the Museum in that position for 25 years until he stepped down, also in 2003. We will deeply miss and warmly remember both of these amazing men who gave so much to the Museum and our community.

I want to end by thanking all of the Museum members, without whom the Museum would not be the vibrant institution it is today. Your generous donations enable the Museum to build and exhibit its collections, protect lands in the Land Trust, and offer a wide variety of programming. If you are not currently a member of the Museum, please consider joining. Finally, I want to invite everyone to join me at the Museum's opening reception, which will be held Saturday, June 30th, from 5 to 7 p.m.

—Elizabeth McCance, President



Photographers of Fishers Island, 1940s to Date. *Minus 9 Windchill*. Photograph by Marlin Bloethe, February 14, 2016



1st and 2nd Floor Main Galleries:
Photographers of Fishers Island, Part Two: 1940s to Date

1st Floor Foyer:
Photographs by Alex P. McKown

1st Floor Natural History Gallery:
Trash on Our Shores: Action Needed

2nd Floor Side Gallery:
Fishers Island Instagram



Gatehouse (Fishers Island) by Ben Nason, 2006.

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum 2018 Annual Exhibition
Photographers of Fishers Island, Part Two: 1940s to Date

Exhibition sponsored by:



AltusPartners
 THE POWER OF OBJECTIVITY

CHUBB®

Join us for the opening reception on Saturday, June 30th, 5 to 7 p.m. All welcome!

Land Trust Report 2017/Spring 2018

by Bob Miller

In 2017 the Museum's Land Trust was extremely fortunate to acquire the land of the new "Chocomount Cove Sanctuary" through the generosity of the C.V. Ferguson Family. This exceptional five-acre parcel extends from the East End main road to Fishers Island Sound. It is comprised of two potential building lots (FIDCO Lots 19-4 and 19-9A), which will now be held in their natural state in perpetuity.

The property includes a coastal grassland and extensive frontage on the north side of the island overlooking Chocomount Cove. It provides an important wildlife corridor and walking trail connection from the Sound to the trails in the expansive Chocomount Sanctuary south of the main road. This trail system now makes it possible to walk off-pavement from the shed at the Driving Range to Chocomount Beach, across the main road to Fishers Island Sound, and back through highly diverse habitats. A sign identifying this new Sanctuary will soon be placed at the trailhead, which will be roughly opposite Bull Rock. The new Sanctuary and its trails will be shown on a forthcoming updated map of Land Trust property trails.

With respect to stewardship, Land Trust properties continue to require maintenance and upkeep. Many volunteers, coordinated by Scott Reid, maintain and clear the extensive trail system. As noted in the April issue of the *Fog Horn*, controlled rotational burning of our native grasslands is important to maintain diversity of habitat; the Museum is grateful to the Fire Department and additional volunteers for conducting a very effective controlled burn of the southern portion of Middle Farms Flats this spring, despite persistent rainy weather. Except where standing water prevented mowing, saplings that survived the burn were mowed to ground level before migratory birds arrived, so we hope that native warm-season grasses will flourish in this area without major attention for the next few years.

The Land Trust relies on our native seed bank of warm-season grasses; we have not introduced seed from commercial sources. Unfortunately, invasive species still plague our sanctuaries, along with other areas of the Island. The Museum faces special challenges in the Middle Farms area, much of which is in the "Primary Watershed Protection Zone," where the use of herbicides is prohibited. We have attempted, with limited success, to control dense patches of black swallow-wort by using clear plastic to deprive them of water. We plan to experiment with this and other "passive" control techniques on the exotic ornamental grasses that have rapidly spread along the Middle Farms Road.

Despite these challenges, we have made progress. Major invasive vegetation clearing and planting of native species will continue in the Sanctuary behind the Museum and on Clay Point Road. We have removed many invasive plants from the Isabella Road grasslands. Most importantly, there is an in-

creasing awareness among Island residents that our remaining natural areas are critical to the Island as we know it. If we wish to continue to enjoy this land, it must be protected. We have had significant land donations over the last few years. Volunteer efforts have been impressive, and new sources of funds have become available to support this vital conservation work. Even as development continues, we hope that this increased awareness will lead to additional conservation efforts in the coming years.



View of F.I. Sound from Chocomount Cove Sanctuary, May 2018



Middle Farms Flats after controlled burn, Spring 2018



Test tarp for invasive control, Middle Farms, Spring 2018

Nature Notes

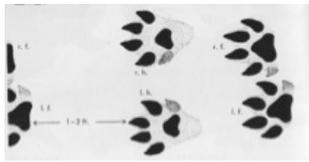
American Mink (*Neovison vison*)

by Terry McNamara

Each year there are reported sightings of a chocolate to dark brown weasel-like animal about two feet in length with a bushy tail. Detailed observations mention white on the animal's chin and throat and a tail about one third of its total body length. If you shine a light in this creature's face at night, its eyes glow a yellowish green. What is this mystery animal? The American mink. Though sightings are rare, minks are not. They've been spied in a wide range of locations on the island, from haunting Pirates Cove to dispatching rabbits along the Bike Path.

The mink is found in diverse wetland habitats such as marshes, ponds, and tidal flats, and it occupies forests in the winter. This predator is a tireless wanderer. While generally active at night, dawn, or dusk, the mink adapts its behavior to prey availability, so it's sometimes seen during daylight hours.

If you can't catch sight of the animal itself, there are abundant signs of the presence of mink as well. You may see tracks in the mud or snow. The forefeet imprints are fairly round and 1½ inches wide, while the hind feet are 2¼ inches long. In



snow, the tracks are slightly larger. Look for holes in the snow where the mink plunged for prey or a trough in a snowy bank made by sliding—similar to that

made by an otter, but smaller. The 5 to 6 inch long scat is dark brown, cylindrical, and sometimes segmented; it often contains visible bits of bone and fur. Scat is generally deposited on rocks and logs near the den, and on the island it's often found along the shore of the pond behind the Museum. A mink den is indicated by the presence of a 4 inch hole in a pond bank, usually between tree roots or in or under logs. Most dens are temporary, and a male will have several over its 30-acre range.

The mink is a highly developed predator with excellent eyesight and ultrasonic hearing in the range produced by their potential prey. They are accomplished swimmers, able to dive to depths of over 18 feet and swim underwater more than 90 feet. They're skilled tree climbers who can jump from tree to tree and descend from trees head first. A mink's favorite food is the common muskrat, though it will also accept rabbits, mice, squirrels, chipmunks, fish, frogs, snakes, young turtles, birds, and crustaceans. A mink captures larger, struggling mammals by wrapping its body around them, killing them with a bite to the nape of the neck. They often kill birds, including larger species like seagulls and cormorants, by drowning. After feeding, the mink will cache excess food in its den.

Mink are solitary creatures; during their 10-year lifetime, males and females come in contact only to mate. Males' bodies are longer than females' and about twice as heavy. Males maintain exclusive territories that are marked with a scent often compared to that of skunks. When they meet, males fight each other viciously. Several female territories may overlap with that



American mink (*Neovison vison*). Photo by Pdreijnders from Wikimedia Commons

of a single male. The males are promiscuous. Mating occurs from February through April, and the female delays implantation until conditions are favorable. She burrows or excavates a nest 10 to 12 inches in diameter, lining it with fur, feathers, or plant material. One to ten young (typically four) measuring about the size of a cigarette are born in April or May. In about eight weeks the kits emerge from the den and accompany their mother foraging; they can often be seen during daylight hours at this time. The family disperses in early fall.

The mink has few natural predators, and the coyote and Great Horned Owl are the only mink hunters on Fishers Island. Trapping, which led to the extinction by 1860 of the subspecies that once roamed the rocky shores of New England, is no longer a threat, as the pelts, like other furs, are nearly worthless today. Mink are highly susceptible to mercury poisoning. Reproductive damage from PCBs has been reported and is a concern—as are certain pesticides, which accumulate in minks' tissues. Luckily, the populations are considered stable throughout New York State.

So keep an eye out for sightings and signs of these versatile, tenacious animals as you travel the island's roads, paths and trails.



American mink (*Neovison vison*). Photo by Sally Wilson from Wikimedia Commons.

Island History: Fishers Island Ferries

by Polly Edmonds

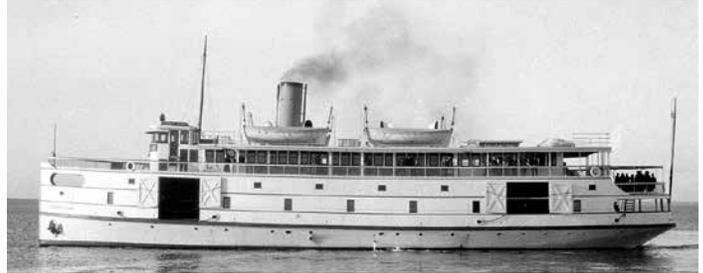
Director's note: The following account of ferry transportation in the 1940s is from the December 1967 issue of "Polly's Letter," a newsletter distributed by realtor, shop owner, and Ferry Commissioner Polly Edmonds. It was sent out semi-annually from 1964 until her death in the mid-1970s.

We were reminded recently that 25 years ago, late in November 1942, the War Shipping Administration purchased the M. V. *Islander* from the Fishers Island Navigation Company. They had already taken the ferry *Fishers Island* or *Block Island* as she is now known. The *Islander* was a 110-foot former sub-chaser of the old World War I "splinter fleet." She carried two cars. She had just had new diesel engines installed when the government claimed her. This may have been the start of the transportation problems which have plagued us to this day. After *Islander* left for Outside Patrol we had to depend on *Espada*, a 40-foot cabin cruiser owned by Warren Maynard, Sr. She was seaworthy but small. Of course, she carried no cars. Transportation of vehicles was done on the Army boat, *John Baxter*, which serviced Fort H. G. Wright. Later came the 60-foot fishing dragger *Mandalay*.

Obviously, this boat carried no cars either. The best place to sit was out on the open deck on top of the beer kegs and other freight. It was a chilly run in the winter, particularly in city clothes. Between them, *Espada* and *Mandalay* carried us through the winter of 1943. In May of 1943, the M. V. *Ranger* was purchased – another sub-chaser. We were again limited to two cars with the Army's *John Baxter* doing most of the heavy work. Many of you who came to the Island the summers of 1945 and 1946 will remember the long wait and the intricate maneuvering to get your vehicles across her narrow beam. In the summer of 1946, the M. V. *Pemaquid* was assigned to run. She broke down July 3rd and did not return until the middle of August. The last summer the Fishers Island Navigation Company was in existence was 1947. Our ferry was an old timer named *Sprigg Carroll* with a capacity of two cars. She was frequently breaking down and disrupting the best made plans of all concerned. On October 15, 1947, the Fishers Island Navigation Company ended its 58 years of operation. Shortly thereafter, the Fishers Island Ferry District was established by an act of the legislature to provide future service to the Island. Because it was organized so rapidly, it was first known as the Fishers Island Temporary Water Commission. Five commissioners were appointed by the Town Board of Southold, New York. The Army's *John Baxter* furnished transportation for passengers, vehicles and freight. In 1950, the Commission purchased the *Mystic Isle* out on the Great Lakes and brought her here for service that continues to this day. In 1967 the *Olinda* arrived. There have been many problems and there were more than a few boats over the past 25 years. We feel here that at last we are in a position to offer the best service in the history of Fishers Island.



M.V. *Islander* after conversion for service in World War II.



S.S. *Fishers Island*, taken for service in World War II.



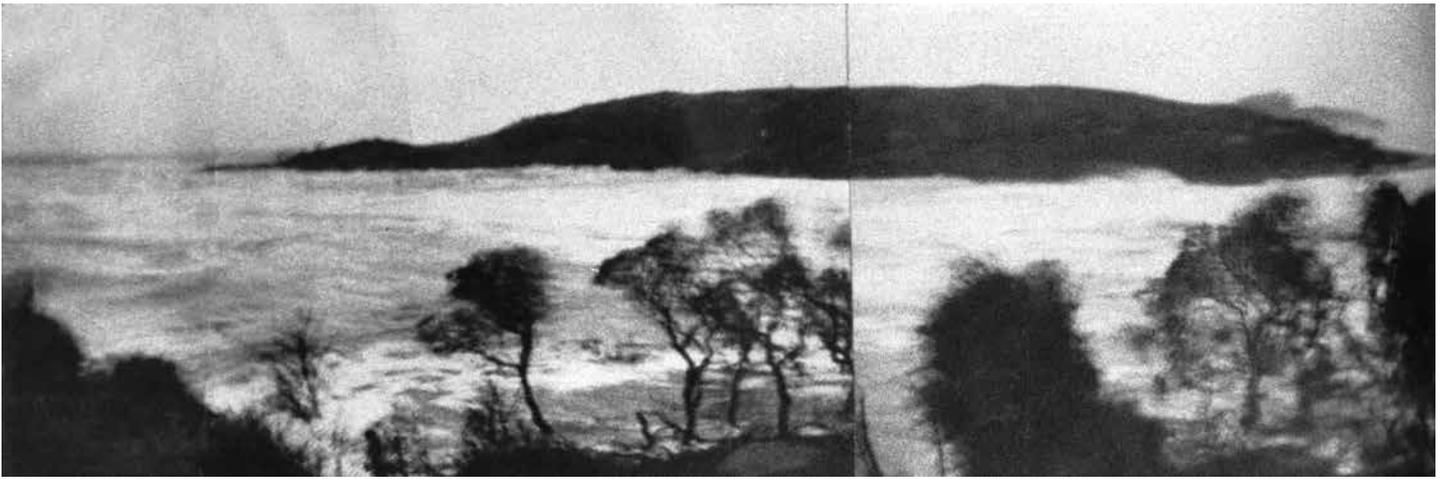
Fishing Dragger *Mandalay*, FI. ferry during winter of 1943.



FI. Ferry M.V. *Ranger*, former sub-chaser with two cars on deck.



S.S. *Sprigg Carroll*, the FI. ferry in 1947.



Water surging over Money Pond during the hurricane.

Island History

The Great Hurricane of 1938

The following account of the 1938 Hurricane's effect on Fishers Island was found in the Museum's files. It was unsigned. Please contact the Museum if you are able to identify the author. Please note that September 21, 2018 is the 80th anniversary of this horrific storm.

On September 21, 1938 it was reported that the Florida hurricane was coming our way. Several warnings were issued but none of these were heeded because everyone thought that it couldn't happen here. About 2:30 o'clock the wind began to blow very hard and it started to rain. At that time no one thought much about it but when the barometer kept going down until it had reached its lowest, people saw that they were in for it and got nervous. The rain hit the windows so hard that it seemed as if they would break and it wasn't long before they did. The excitement really started when trees became uprooted and some blew away. Garage doors broke from their hinges and buildings shook. One or two of these collapsed. The velocity of the wind during this was one hundred and five miles an hour.

The one fear in everyone's mind was a tidal wave. This was almost realized as the water covered the docks and the parade ground. The only thing to indicate that the Fishers Island dock was still there was the boathouse which was half covered with water but still standing.



Downed trees, Officers Row, Fort H.G. Wright.

As the wind kept blowing, roofs came off of houses, walls fell in, chimneys fell down, small houses were blown away and boats were washed up on the dock or shore.

During the storm the steward of the *June 16th*, a yacht owned by Mr. Fulton, came up to Doyen's store, in which my sister and I took refuge, and with tears in his eyes asked us if we had seen Captain Scewey, the captain of the yacht. He said that the *June 16th* was sinking due to a hole in her side and that all of his possessions were on it. This was one of the many tragedies during the storm. We saw a man almost get killed when the large sign over Plummer and Ballard's store blew off. If he had been standing upright it would have hit him on the back of the neck breaking his neck. As it was, he had just leaned over and the sign barely missed hitting him.

From three o'clock until six was the worst time. About six the rain stopped and the wind ceased to blow so much. The sun made a desperate attempt to come out, but did not. That night people were hurrying to the store to buy candles or flashlights as the power had been shut off due to hanging wires.

The next day dawned clear and sunny but, oh, how heart-racking were the sights! Down by the dock the storm did the most damage. There was a yacht on top of the yacht dock, a sailboat had sunk and all that could be seen was the mast; the *Hawk*, a yacht owned by A. L. Ferguson was laid slanting, half in the water and half on the dock, the *June 16th* was slowly sinking from a hole in the side and there was a large sailboat on the end of the dock. On the other end of the dock where



A.L. Ferguson's yacht *Hawk*, Fuel Dock, West Harbor.



Damaged Service Station Garage, West Harbor.

the Fishers Island boat docks it was clear to note how far the tide had come up. There was a raft in front of the Service Station. The roof of the Service Station had fallen in and come right through the roof of Mr. Ballard's car inside. The building next to it was just as bad and even worse because the side had fallen down. Farther up the road there was a small fishing boat on the rocks and a huge sailboat, belonging to Mr. Du Pont, beached.

Everywhere you went you saw destruction. Every house had been damaged either by the chimneys falling down, windows blown out, trees blown down or some such thing. The Post Office lawn was now only a scene of confusion. Almost all of the trees had been blown down taking with them large clods of earth. The plate glass windows of the Liquor Store and the Fruit Market had been broken. Croll's garage had collapsed and their house was a wreck.

On the east end of the Island much damage had been done to the rich people's houses. The new glass house belonging to John Brown was completely ruined. The water had washed away part of the roads and in some places had left a regular beach. The other houses were damaged the same way that the ones on the west end were. There were also a few other major damages, namely—the Fish market had been broken in two pieces and the whole steeple of the Episcopal church had fallen.

The sight on our end of the Island looked bad, but when we saw the Fort we considered ourselves lucky. The parade



Damaged Fish Market, West Harbor (current site of BD contractors).



Debris line on Parade Ground, Ft. H.G. Wright.

ground now looked like a lake and debris was piled up on it like a shipping yard. There were even two or three ice boxes among this which had blown off someone's porch into the water. The plane which had landed down there was now a total ruin. There was a sailboat on the parade ground and no one knew to whom it belonged. The houses had the roofs blown off, chimneys blown down and the porches of the barracks were gone.

There was one other thing that was worrying people and that was, "What had happened to the Fishers Island boat?" This was soon answered when a tug came in bringing the news that it was damaged and would not be able to run for quite a while. This tug (Davis's tug as it was called) brought food, newspapers and other necessities over to the Island. This was the only way of communication between here and the mainland.

There were twenty people injured in this storm on the Island and three dead. The dead were: a soldier who had acute appendicitis and had to be operated on by candlelight, and a captain and mate of Louie Moore's boat which had been swept away. Their bodies were found on the Plant Estate in New London.

To see this Island now one would never believe that it was the beautiful summer resort for the rich. It makes one feel sad to see the things which have taken so long to build and grow destroyed in so short a time.



St. John's steeple in the street.

Nature Notes

Fishers Island Seagrass

by Elizabeth McCance

What Is Seagrass, and Why Should We Care About It?

Commonly mistaken for seaweed, seagrass is a flowering plant complete with roots, stems, and flowers that is adapted to life underwater. Globally, there are about 60 species of seagrass. The one most abundant in Long Island Sound and around Fishers Island is eelgrass (*Zostera marina*).

Found in depths up to 24 feet off the Island's coastline, these eelgrass beds offer a number of high-value ecosystem services. They provide shelter and nursery habitat for species such as fish, lobster, shrimp and scallops. Eelgrass is a food source and foraging ground for marine mammals, birds, and sea turtles. With their root systems, seagrass meadows trap and stabilize sediments, helping to reduce coastal erosion. The long, dense blades of eelgrass further protect shorelines from erosion by dampening wave energy. Eelgrass improves water quality by extracting nitrogen and producing oxygen. Finally, seagrasses help to mitigate climate change by storing carbon, thus removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

However, eelgrass and the invaluable services it provides are at risk. Seagrasses are under intense pressure globally, and this pressure is particularly acute in Long Island Sound. Historically, eelgrass was so abundant here that it was harvested for use as insulation and fertilizer, but today fewer than 2000 acres remain. A number of factors have caused this decline in the extent of eelgrass beds. Meadows are threatened by boating and dredging activity, which can literally scrape eelgrass off the ocean floor. When excess nitrogen from wastewater and fertilizers flows into the Sound, it fuels the growth of harmful algae that kill fish, threaten human health, and block the sunlight seagrasses need to complete photosynthesis; this toxic effect is called eutrophication. Sediment that washes into the water from coastal construction and erosion can bury eelgrass



Eelgrass dampening wave action, Barley Field Cove, F.I. Photo: seagrassli.org.

and create turbidity that also blocks sunlight, further hampering their survival. Finally, climate change is also a threat, both through rising water temperatures and extreme weather events that can produce wave energy damaging to the beds.

This combination of threats has caused an unprecedented loss of eelgrass in Long Island Sound. 90% of the historic eelgrass range in Long Island Sound has disappeared. Of the remaining 10%, 20% is located in the waters around Fishers Island, and these meadows comprise 98% of the eelgrass remaining in the New York waters of the Sound. Fishers Island is in a unique position and a key actor in the protection and recovery of eelgrass in Long Island Sound.



FISM coalition meeting at Museum, April 18, 2018.

A New Coalition Emerges to Protect Seagrass in the Sound

Given the many benefits of the plant to both the aquatic and human Fishers Island communities, the decline of seagrass is cause for concern. Recognizing the perils to this valued resource, the New York State Legislature established a Seagrass Task Force in 2006. In response to recommendations from the task force, the New York State Legislature passed the Seagrass Protection Act in 2012. This act calls for 1) the establishment of seagrass management areas (SMAs), 2) the development and implementation of management plans for the seagrass management areas, and 3) the consultation and creation of working relationships with relevant stakeholders in order to protect and manage the seagrass resource.

The waters around Fishers Island are the last stronghold for seagrass in Long Island Sound. While it may seem prevalent here, Fishers Island's eelgrass meadows are also at risk – the most recent survey indicates a 14% decline between 2012 and 2017. Recognizing the critical role of seagrass as part of a larger conservation strategy for the Long Island Sound, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) began working with the Island community in 2015. They shared the latest research on the threats to eelgrass and began monitoring water temperatures at eelgrass sites around the Island. Today, TNC provides capacity building, technical, planning, and management support; the organization helps the community collaborate with



Inspecting eelgrass, Barley Field Cove, F.I. Photo courtesy of seagrassli.org.

the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to identify management needs and opportunities to protect the island's eelgrass meadows.

In 2017, TNC partnered with the H.L. Ferguson Museum and the Fishers Island Conservancy to convene the community-based Fishers Island Seagrass Management Coalition (FISM). In order to include those organizations and groups that interact directly and indirectly with the Island's nearshore marine environment, the FISM Coalition is comprised of representatives from the H.L. Ferguson Museum, Fishers Island Conservancy, Town of Southold, ICB, FIDCO, Fishers Island Club, Hay Harbor Club, FI Yacht Club, Harbor Committee, FI School, Pirates Cove Marina, and the FI Ferry District, as well as groups related to commercial fishing, aquaculture, contracted ferries, landscapers, divers, recreational fishing and spearfishing .

The goal of the Coalition is to establish a co-management process for the island's seagrass meadows, one in which the Island community and the state would share seagrass management authority and responsibility. The stakeholder group has met three times to date (May 2018). Discussions in these meetings have revolved around how to implement the Seagrass Protection Act at Fishers Island and how to best organize the group. To better understand the Seagrass Protection Act and the resource its protecting, the coalition has invited guest speakers including Soren Dahl of the NYSDEC and Elizabeth Hornstein of the Peconic Estuary Program, and it has focused on identifying specific local threats to eelgrass. The group has also worked to clarify the group's vision and to identify and secure funding for the coalition's work.

Through continued discussion, joint fact-finding, monitoring, and information gathering, the FISM coalition plans to align community and state seagrass management goals. The coalition also plans to build a structure for participation and decision-making that is functional, collaborative, and inclusive. Future FISM coalition meetings will be posted on the community calendar, and community members are invited to attend, observe, and provide comments to inform the coalition's work.

H.L. Ferguson Museum Receives Grant to Support Work of FISM Coalition

Since 2017, Chantal Collier of The Nature Conservancy, Elizabeth McCance of the H.L. Ferguson Museum, Justine Kibbe of the Fishers Island Conservancy, and Joe Woolston have worked together to launch the Fishers Island Seagrass Management (FISM) coalition. From the outset, coalition members recognized the need for steady professional support to advance and sustain the work of the coalition. The coalition identified the need for a dedicated coordinator to facilitate the FISM collaborative processes and further the information-gathering and joint fact-finding efforts. Additionally, coalition members would like to establish a citizen monitoring program to gather data on the human impacts on the Island's seagrass beds.

Securing funding for conservation work is always a challenge, especially in the public grants arena, and the first grant proposal, written by The Nature Conservancy to support the FISM coalition, was not selected for an award. However, the New York Conservation Partnership Program presented an opportunity for the H.L. Ferguson Museum, as a land trust, to apply for a conservation catalyst grant, which seemed to fit the coalition's needs. On Tuesday, April 24th, the H.L. Ferguson Museum was awarded a \$40,000 grant to support the work of the FISM coalition. The Museum was one of 51 land trusts to receive a grant in 2018.

Next, the coalition will draft a job description and start looking for a coordinator to facilitate the group's work. Because only a portion of the funding requested was awarded, this grant will not cover all the monitoring work the group desires. The Nature Conservancy is already working, however, on a new grant proposal to submit to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund, and the coalition will continue to be on the lookout for other funding sources. Fishers Island is uniquely poised to take leadership in this critical conservation work. The coordinated efforts of the FISM coalition offer hope for the survival of eelgrass and the enduring health of the Long Island Sound.



Eelgrass, Barley Field Cove, F.I. Photo courtesy of seagrassli.org.



The Board of Trustees would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all who gave during 2017. We are grateful to each and every one of you!

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Mr. & Mrs. Luke Boswell	Dan & Aimee Colvin	Marian R. Ferguson	Ned & Mary Harvey
Taylor & Lizzie Boswell	Judith-Ann Corrente & Wim Kooyker	Nancy Ferguson	Marje & Tony Helfet
Ghislaine Boulanger & Charles Kadushin	Matthew & Claire Commons	Fiddlehead Fund	Wendy & Ted Henderson
Mary Boy	George & Leslie Conant	Chris & Laurie Finan	Lucinda J. Herrick
Robert F. Boyd	Margot & David Congdon	John Firestone	India Hicks
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Bradbeer, Jr.	Connecticut Audubon Society	Arnold Fisher & Sally Ogden	Kenneth & Mary Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Brainard, Jr.	Allyson & Steve Cook	Bertram Fisher	Mr. & Mrs. C. Clarkson Hine
Helen Braun	Anne Cook & Peter Conze	Emily & Murray Fisher	Tony & Emmy Hobson
Alex & Brett Briggs	Bard & Elizabeth Cook	Gracie Fisher-Owens	Hoch Family Partnership
Marnie & Kit Briggs	Elizabeth H. Cook	Jane Fisher & Michael Bowles	Bob & Meg Hoey
John & Elena Brim	Jeanie & Geb Cook	Sandy & Rossie Fisher	Mary & Larry Horn
Susie & Peter Brinckerhoff	Stephen A. & Cynn timer Cook	Fishers Island Oyster Farm	Martha Horning & David Silber
Sue & Jon Britt	Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Coolidge	Fishers Island Sportsmens Club	Winchester F. Hotchkiss, Sr.
Cary Brown & Steven Epstein	RoAnn Costin	Will & Diana Fiske	Nora Howard
Lauren Brown	Joan W. Cox	Mr. & Mrs. Christie Flanagan	Kenny & Nat Howe
Lee & Alice Cary Brown	Cypherd Family	Ann G. Hanes Flinn	Stephen & Julia Hulslander
Zoocy & Lyons Brown	Jean D. Crane	Leah & Fritz Foley	Rossie & Randy Hutcheson
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Brown	Dianne G. Crary	Ella Foshay & Michael Rothfeld	Christopher Ingram & Kapri Thomas
	Jane Crary	Lynn A. Foster	Lisa & George Ireland
	Robert Crary	Luke & Rhonda Fowler	Jeanet & John Irwin
		Linc & Molly Frank	Island Gardeners
		Maria Frank & Martin Pedersen	

Matt & Kate Jackson
 Susan Jeffries
 Dick & Beverly Jenssen
 JM Foundation
 John Hancock Matching Gifts
 Program
 Betty Edwards Johnson
 David & Jackie Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Johnson
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 Valarie Kinkade & Kevin Grant
 Delmore & Georgette Kinney
 Monique Kinsolving
 Michele & John Klimczak
 Philippe & Lisa Krakowsky
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 Rolfien & Arthur Kuijpers
 George & Tish Lamb
 Jane & Lewis Lamb
 Kathleen Lamborn
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 Susan & Peter Lawrence
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 Jean M. Leuchtenburg
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 Bob & Bobsie Macleod
 Morris & Susan Macleod
 Sarah & Steve Malinowski
 Jane Manopoli & Bob Patterson
 Dean & Joan Marchessault
 Rob & Jane Marshall
 Sam & Laura Marshall
 Alice & Will Massie
 Paul Matondi
 John P. McCall
 Elizabeth F. McCance
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry F. McCance
 Thomas McCance, Jr.
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 Dwight Miller
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 Elizabeth & Richard Miller
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 Gretchen Mols & Tod Williams
 Gordon Murphy
 Rosita & Grayson Murphy
 Mary P. Murphy
 Heather & Phil Musser
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 Ken Nimblett
 A.B. & J. Noyes Foundation
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 Wendy & Tom O'Neil
 Mollie & Henry Osborn
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 Andrew & Elizabeth Parkinson
 Bates & Leah Parsons
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 Kathy & Ged Parsons
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 Reyn Parsons & Cindy Buzby
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 Elizabeth Peishoff
 Mary Jean Pelham
 Pequot Bar & Restaurant
 George & Elaine Petersen
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts
 Program
 Charlton Y. Phelps
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 Prish Pierce & Marc Rubenstein
 Sam & Anne Polk
 Maisie & Chip Pollard
 Suzanne C. Pollard
 David & Dana Porter
 Cathy & Mike Posey
 Lila & Brooks Preston
 Marguerite W. Purnell
 Rosanne & John Purtill
 Brian Rafferty
 Chris & Sara Rafferty
 Corinne Rafferty & Dale Wichoff
 Vicki & Pierce Rafferty
 Karena, Martijn, Haley & Lily
 Rasser
 Ben Rauch & Margaret Scott
 Ru & Sheila Rauch
 Megan & Peter Raymond
 Laird & Joy Reed
 Helen Scott Reed
 Chandler Reedy
 Bagley Reid
 Elizabeth & Jim Reid
 Kate & Scott Reid
 Ang & Susie Renna
 Charlie & Suzie Rentschler
 Carol & Bill Ridgway
 Barbara C. Riegel
 Debbie Riegel
 Jim & Sandy Righter
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald M. Roberts
 Michael Roberts & Susan Young
 Jean & Brooks Robinson
 Patricia Roche & Richard Rooney
 Ted & Thayer Rogers
 Chris & Roddy Roosevelt
 Andrew & Sarah Rose
 Anne & Peter Rosenberg
 Madge Rosenberg
 Andrea & Larry Ross
 Carolyn Ross & Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Laurence P. Rubinow
 Jennifer Russell
 Win & Mary Rutherford
 John & Allison Ryan
 Le Dee & Bill Sachs
 Gina Sammis
 Katharine duP. Sanger
 Christopher & Nina Sanger
 Thomas Sargent & Allison Ijams
 John J. Scanlon & Ellen Pickett
 Alexandra Schlesinger
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 Kimball & Janet Woodward
 Sally & Joe Woolston
 Currie & Sim Wooten
 Mary Denny Wray
 Shelby Wyckoff
 Lizora M. Yonce
 Donnie & Kelley Young
*Please excuse any inadvertent
 misspellings or omissions.
 Deceased.

A Sampling of Additions to the Museum's Collection in 2017

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

Bunty Armstrong. Two postcard albums containing 288 vintage postcards with F.I. subjects that were originally collected by Tom Armstrong.

Mere & Tom Doyen. Misc. photographs, clippings and ephemera relating to F.I.

Harry & Susie Ferguson. Misc. brochures, books, documents, photographs and ephemera relating to F.I. and Ferguson family history.

Fishers Island Fire Dept. Framed Certificate of Incorporation for F.I. Lobstermen's Association, 1966.

Ann Flinn. Copy negative of "Aerial View of the Mansion House and the Cottage Colony" with two matching prints.

John Harris. Two Colonial-era musket balls found on F.I.

Andrew Kassarian. Detailed report by donor on the dynamite gun and its role on F.I. and at other coast defense sites.

Ann Marie Keating. Two copies of F.I. School Viking Yearbooks for years 1966 and 1967.

Barry Keegan. One copy of book: *Indigenous Lithic Sources of Northeastern North America* by Mark Brockmann and Barry Keegan.

Elizabeth McCance. 23 books, including eight Derrydale Press books on sporting life themes published in limited editions in the mid-1930s.

Bruce Oswald. Album with photos of 1938 Hurricane. Union Chapel event programs. F.I. Country Club application form, c.1957.

Mary Jean Pelham. F.I. School report cards for M.J. Smith, from 1st to 12th grade, 1939 to 1951. Misc. F.I. School certificates, 1947 to 1951. F.I.H.S. basketball team photos for 1941-42, 1942-43, and 1946-47.

Pierce & Vicki Rafferty. *Harpers Weekly* & *Scientific American* magazines, 1890s to 1910s, containing coast defense articles.

Bill Ridgway. Maps, plans and documents relating to the building of the Recreation Path, F.I.

Evelyn D. Schultz. Photographs, documents and clipping relating to the military service of Private Ernest A. Duford who

served at Fort H.G. Wright from 1936 to 1939.

Cindy L. Scott. 38 vintage F.I. postcards published between 1900 and 1965.

Ashley Smith. Three 11x14 color aerial photographs of the derrick barge *Century* raising the sunken barge *E-24* off F.I., 1986.

Lew Thatcher. Pocket-sized calendar with mounted aerial photo of Bonnie Knoll, the I. W. Bonbright residence, F.I.

Miss Emma Thompson. Advertising brochure for the Mansion House Hotel, F.I., with colorful map on cover, c.1940.

Rev. Candace Whitman. The book *Awakening the Past: The East Hampton 350th Anniversary Lecture Series, 1998*, published 1999.

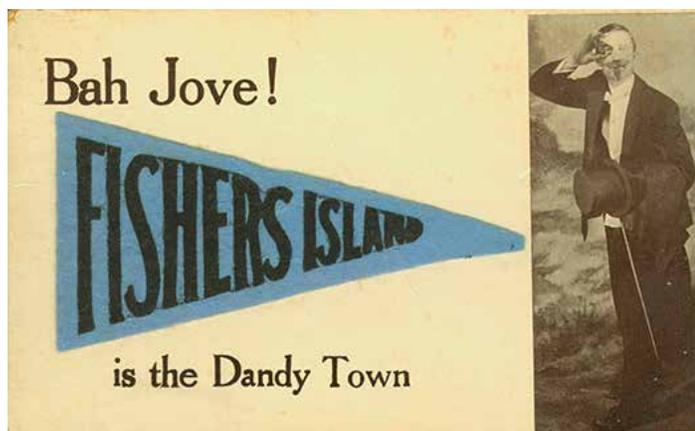
Museum Acquisitions in 2017.

Books include: *Celine: A Novel* by Peter Heller. *Landlord and Tenant in Colonial New York: Manorial Society, 1664-1775*, by Sung Bok Kim. *Wild Plants I Have Known and Eaten* by Russ Cohen. *Smugglers and Smuggling* by A. Hyatt Verrill, 1924. *Wildflowers of New England* by Ted Elliman & New England Wild Flower Society. Facsimile edition of a 1798 booklet *Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture*, published 2017 by E. Haddam Historical Society.

Newspapers and magazines include: One issue of *The Times* (London, England), published on Dec. 14, 1853 that includes a classified advertisement for the sale of Fisher's Island, N.Y. Complete copy of *Public Ledger* newspaper, Philadelphia, December 5, 1846, includes article on the wreck of the Steamer *Atlantic* on F.I. Detached page from French newspaper *Excelsior*, December 4, 1915, with illustrations of soldiers working the disappearing guns, Fort H.G. Wright.

Objects include: One quart F.I. Farms milk bottle found on the floor of F.I. Sound. Metal badge worn by surfman at F.I. Life-Saving Station, East Harbor, c.1910. Collection of Pequot Inn t-shirts, including the following years: 1997, 2003, 2004, 2006 (two different ones), 2009, 2013, 2014, 2015. Collection of t-shirts from the Armstrong's annual Hoover Hall parties.

Photographs include: Acme News photograph of the J.H. Holmes family on the dock, H.H.C., 1928. Real photo postcard of 16-inch Rifle, Fort Michie, N.Y.



Printed souvenir postcard, 1910. Donated by Bunty Armstrong.



Fishers Island Pharmacy postcard, c. 1950s. Donated by Bunty Armstrong.

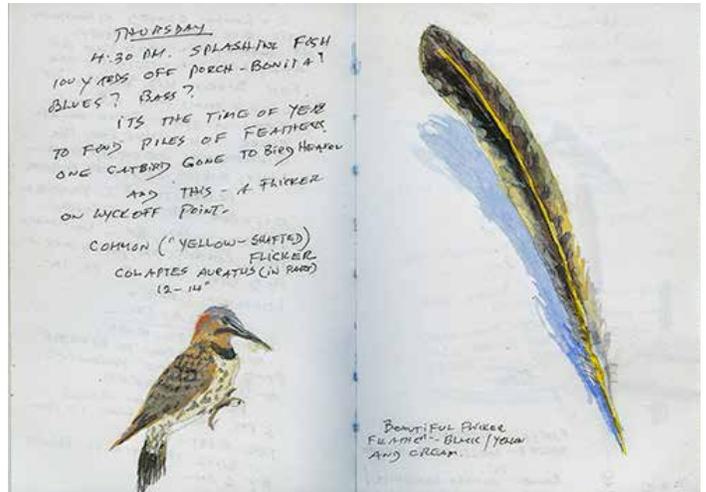
A Generous Donation from the Charles B. Ferguson Family



Charlie Ferguson posing with Tedwyns Tailagan, Field Trials, Fishers Island, 1931

In the period following Charlie Ferguson's death on January 7, 2018, his family searched through his many possessions for objects, books and creative works that were a good fit with the Museum's various collections. Several boxes were soon delivered to the Museum by his daughter Marnie Ferguson Briggs, a board member of the HLFM. Their contents included books, photographs, sailing and Field Trial trophies, maps, documents, ephemera, and paintings—the latter created by both Charlie and his father H.L. Ferguson. Highlights include

his and his older brother Lee's hunting "Game Book" spanning the period from the 1930s to the 1990s, H.L. Ferguson's original paint box adorned with Charlie's paintings, and an unopened liquor bottle from the wreck



Two pages from Charlie Ferguson's day book for 2007.

of the rumrunner *Thelma Phoebe*.

The greatest treasure trove consists of more than 70 small, black "day books" filled with Charlie's writings, drawings and watercolors. These were created both on Fishers Island and at locations around the world during his travels. There are some outlier books from the 1940s when he was still at art school at the Art Students League of New York, but most date from the early 1970s through to the mid-2010s. They contain some of Charlie's most spontaneous art works. Utilizing grant funds from the Jeanann Gray Dunlap Foundation, the Museum will have many of these books scanned and made available for browsing on kiosks at the Museum, with selections accessible at fergusonmuseum.org. The Museum would like to thank Charlie's three daughters—Julie, Hartley and Marnie—for gifting this wonderful facet of Charlie's artistic legacy to the Museum. We look forward to sharing it with the entire Fishers Island community.

An Auction Yields Two Works by Louis Agassiz Fuertes

On April 7, 2018, the Museum purchased at auction two works of art by celebrated bird artist and illustrator Louis Agassiz Fuertes (1874-1927). They had originally been given as presents to Henry L. Ferguson in the 1920s by the artist, who was Mr. Ferguson's friend and hunting partner. After H.L. Ferguson's death in 1959, the two art works were inherited by his son, Charlie.



After Charlie's death this past January, the family decided to auction the two pieces, along with other works by Fuertes, at Nadeau's Auction Gallery in Windsor, Conn. After obtaining Board authorization, Bagley Reid was given the task of bidding by phone and online on behalf of the Museum. He was assisted by Pierce Rafferty who was connected via FaceTime,

Bagley succeeded in obtaining one of the most desired works: an untitled watercolor on paper depicting a peregrine falcon striking a pheasant in mid-flight. There is a dedication in lower right on matting: "To Harry Ferguson A souvenir of many kindnesses. Louis Agassiz Fuertes."

Shortly after that success, a second Fuertes' work was purchased: a pencil and color pencil drawing on paper entitled "Fishers Island." It was dated "Sep 21 [19]22." Notes written by Charlie Ferguson about the drawing indicate that Fuertes borrowed Charlie's crayons at the beach so that he could sketch the birds at shore's edge. Charlie was only four years old at the time.

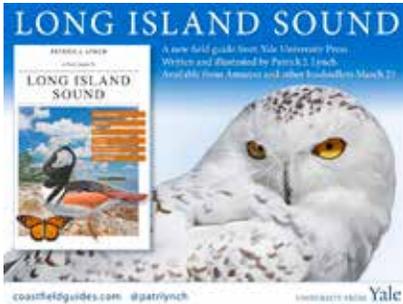


MISSION STATEMENT

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 2018

Long Island Sound and its Coastline: 20,000 Years of Change. Author and illustrator Patrick J. Lynch's lecture examines the geology and biology of our region's coastlines and



places our current environmental challenges within the context of changes that have occurred over millennia. Mr. Lynch's latest book, *A Field Guide to Long Island Sound*, provides comprehensive information on the environmental history, natural environments, plants, and animals of the Sound. **Sunday, July 8, 2018.** Time 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd floor. **Reception and book signing to follow.** *2018 Smith Vaughn Lecture on a natural history subject.*

Dig It! Archaeology for Kids. This program was designed especially for the Museum to introduce archaeology to the next generation. A Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, July 11, 2018.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Place: Museum. *Suggested donation: \$10.00*



Offshore Wind Farms and Our Coastal Communities. Dr. Tiffany Smythe, Adjunct Professor Of Marine Affairs at the University of Rhode Island, will provide an overview of the state of offshore wind energy development along the U.S. east coast and its implications for coastal communities, sharing research findings and lessons learned from Rhode Island's Block Island Wind Farm. **Wednesday, July 11, 2018.** Time: 4 p.m. Place Museum, 2nd floor.



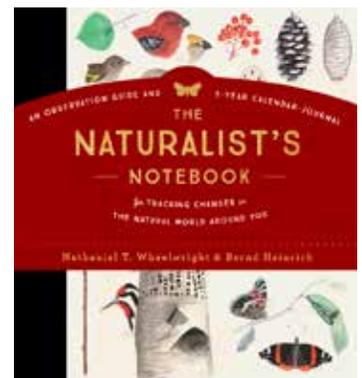
The Great New England Hurricane of 1938. This illustrated talk by H.L. Ferguson Museum Director Pierce Rafferty chronicles the impact of this legendary storm on Fishers Island. **Sunday, July 15, 2018.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd floor. Please note that this same talk will also be given on August 26, 2018.

Pond Life. Come discover what creatures are living in our ponds. We'll have nets and buckets so you can take your best shot at catching frogs, tadpoles, fish, insects and more! **Wednesday, July 18, 2018.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Meet at the Museum @ 2 p.m. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. *Suggested donation: \$10.00.*

From the Shingle Style to the Colonial Revival. This illustrated lecture by architect Jacob Albert of Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, Inc., Boston, Mass., will examine these distinctive architectural styles with a focus on Fishers Island. **Sunday, July 22, 2018.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd floor. **Reception to follow.**

Birds of Prey. Come meet live owls and hawks and learn about their natural histories at this DPNC family program for children five and up. **Wednesday, July 25, 2018.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Place: Museum. *Suggested donation: \$10.00.*

The Naturalist's Notebook. An illustrated lecture by Nathaniel T. Wheelwright, a lifelong naturalist and former summer resident of Fishers Island whose grandfather was Matty Matthiessen. Nat recently retired as Professor of Natural Sciences at Bowdoin College in Maine. His *Naturalist's Notebook*, co-produced with



best-selling author Bernd Heinrich, teaches nature lovers of all ages what to look for outdoors no matter where they live. **Sunday, July 29, 2018.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd floor. **Reception and book signing to follow.**



Don't Burst My Bubble. What is a bubble? Have you ever seen a square bubble? Create a bubble wall and hold hands through it! Different activities are offered from putting a child in a bubble to bubble prints. A Children's Museum of South-eastern Connecticut (CMSC) program. Pre-school through grade 3 (ages 4 through 8). **Wednesday, August 1, 2018.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Place: Museum. *Suggested donation: \$10.00.*



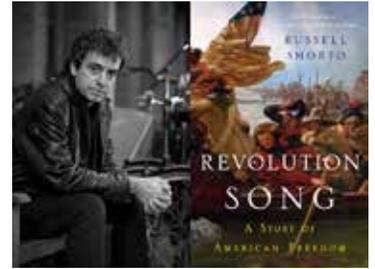
Naming Nature and Why We Draw. An Illustrated Lecture by artist, naturalist and author James Prosek. Prosek published his first book at age 19, *Trout: An Illustrated History*, which featured 70 of his watercolor paintings of the trout of North America. He is an active conservationist and is working on a book about how and why we name and order the natural world. **Sunday, August 5, 2018.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd floor.

Engineering by Nature. From spider silk to beaver dams, nature is full of amazing engineering. Discover how scientists are using design principles from nature to create new technologies to make boats go faster and



electric lines more efficient. Using simple materials, attempt to engineer a beak that is as efficient as nature. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 8, 2018.** Time: 2 to 3 pm. Place: The Museum. *Suggested donation: \$10.00.*

Revolution Song. Historian Russell Shorto, author of the acclaimed history *The Island at the Center of the World*, will speak about his new book, *Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom*. In this work, Mr. Shorto examines the Revolutionary War era through the lives of six people, one of whom is Venture Smith, a Colonial-era slave who spent his childhood on Fishers Island. **Wednesday, August 8, 2018.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. **Reception and book signing to follow.**



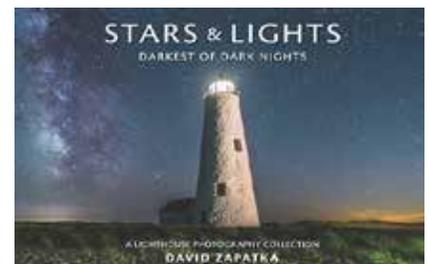
Under the Sea. Using imagination, children begin their exploration of the ocean habitat by interacting with sealife artifacts. They examine different seaweeds, meet some sea creatures, classify discovered shells, and use realistic stamping to create individual art. A CMSC family program for pre-school through grade 2 (ages 4 through 7). **Wednesday, August 15, 2018.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Place: Museum. *Suggested donation: \$10.00.*

Foraging Fishers Island: What's Wild and Edible. A talk by naturalist and wild food enthusiast Russ Cohen. **Wednesday, August 15, 2018.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd floor.

Please note also the related Nature Walk that Russ will lead the following day on August 16, 2018.

Museum Nature Walk with Russ Cohen, naturalist and wild food enthusiast. Russ, currently in his 44th year of teaching courses about wild edibles, will lead a foraging walk on Fishers Island. **Thursday, August 16, 2018.** Time: 10 a.m. to approx. 11:30 a.m. Place: Meet at the Museum at 10 a.m. Limited to 30 people. To assure a spot, please sign up by contacting the Museum by phone (631-788-7239) or e-mail (fimumuseum@fishersisland.net). This "Penni Sharp Nature Walk" is sponsored in memory of Penelope "Penni" Sharp, the HLFM's president from 2003 to 2014.

Stars and Lights. An illustrated lecture by David Zapatka, whose extraordinary photographs of lighthouses at night were published in book format in 2017. **Sunday, August 19, 2018.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. **Reception and book signing to follow.**



Owl Prowl. Get up close and personal with live owls; dissect owl pellets and learn about owls' unique adaptations for nocturnal life. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 22, 2018.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Place: Museum. *Suggested donation: \$10.*



The Great New England Hurricane of 1938. This illustrated talk by H.L. Ferguson Museum Director Pierce Rafferty chronicles the impact of this legendary storm on Fishers Island. **Sunday, August 26, 2018.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd floor. Please note that this same talk will also be given on July 15, 2018.

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

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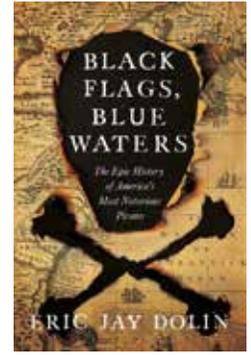
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Black Flags, Blue Waters: The Epic History of America's Most Notorious Pirates. Author Eric Jay Dolin's latest work reveals the dramatic and surprising history of American piracy's "Golden Age," spanning the period from the late 1600s through the early 1700s. **Saturday, September 15, 2018.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. Reception and book signing to follow.



Nature Walks:

During July and August, Nature Walks will start at the Museum on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. unless changes have been posted. Terry McNamara will lead the walks. Posters will be put up on the Post Office bulletin board each week that will reveal the subject and location of the upcoming walk. However, all groups must meet first at the Museum as walk locations sometimes change.

Museum Hours: Sunday, July 1st to Labor Day:

Tuesday through Friday: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 4 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 or e-mail the Museum.

Off Season Hours: As posted, or by appointment.

