



# The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

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## From the President

Now that the long winter is behind us and thoughts of the polar vortex thankfully fade, our attention turns to the most welcomed season—spring. Days are longer, peepers are peeping, and warblers migrate through the island. This is the bloom time for spring ephemerals, the wildflowers that make their appearance before the tree leaves are fully out. These flowers are so named due to the fact that for many, all traces of their presence disappear by summer. Some of these flowers that can be found on Fishers include starflower (*Trientalis borealis*), sessile-leaved bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*), wood anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*), and Indian cucumber-root (*Medeola virginiana*). Other spring wild flowers that are not as ephemeral (i.e. leaves persist beyond the flowering period) include the Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), the star-like false Solomon's seal (*M. stellatum*) and a variety of violets (*Viola spp.*). Spring is a good time to enjoy Museum trails and to look for these early wildflowers.

Unlike many of the island's flora and fauna, the Museum has not been dormant this winter. Our Director, Pierce Rafferty, has been hard at work planning for our upcoming season. The summer exhibit entitled "Coming and Going: A History of Transportation to Fishers Island" promises to be one of his most ambitious to date. We also have a number of programs lined up, both for adults and children. Our Smith

Vaughan lecture this year will be presented by Dr. Richard Primack whose current research focuses on the impacts of climate change on the flowering and leafing out times of plants and the spring arrival of birds. The main geographical focus of his research is Concord, Massachusetts, due to the availability of extensive phenology records kept by Henry David Thoreau at Walden Pond in the 1850s.

The Museum is also embarking upon a major project—the completion of our second floor. Since the new museum opened in 2003, the unfinished second floor has been used primarily for storage and exhibit preparation. There have been numerous occasions when we have wished that we could have used the space for lectures and programs, particularly children's programs during rainy days or when the outdoor deck was excessively hot. Building code handicap requirements oblige us to construct an elevator or lift to provide additional access to the second floor space. The Museum was spurred on to complete this project by the very generous donation of the late Jerry Riegel's nautical library from Barbie Riegel and her family. We now have the final plans and expect to begin the renovation in the fall of 2014. We would welcome any contributions toward this effort.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Museum opening party on June 28, 2014. All are welcome!

—Penni Sharp, President



Sessile-leaved bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*)



Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*)



Indian cucumber-root (*Medeola virginiana*)  
Photos by Thomas Kent.

# “Illustrated Ospreys”



Osprey, Plate 364 from “Birds and Trees of North America” by Rex Brasher. Museum Collection.

A special display at the Museum featuring artistic views of our favorite fish-eating raptor *Pandion haliaetus* that date from the 1700s to the late 1900s.

*The Henry L. Ferguson Museum 2014 Annual Exhibition*

## COMING AND GOING



Courtesy of Steamship Historical Society of America

Exhibition sponsored by:



**AltusPartners**



Join us for the opening reception on Saturday, June 28th, 5 to 7 p.m. All welcome!

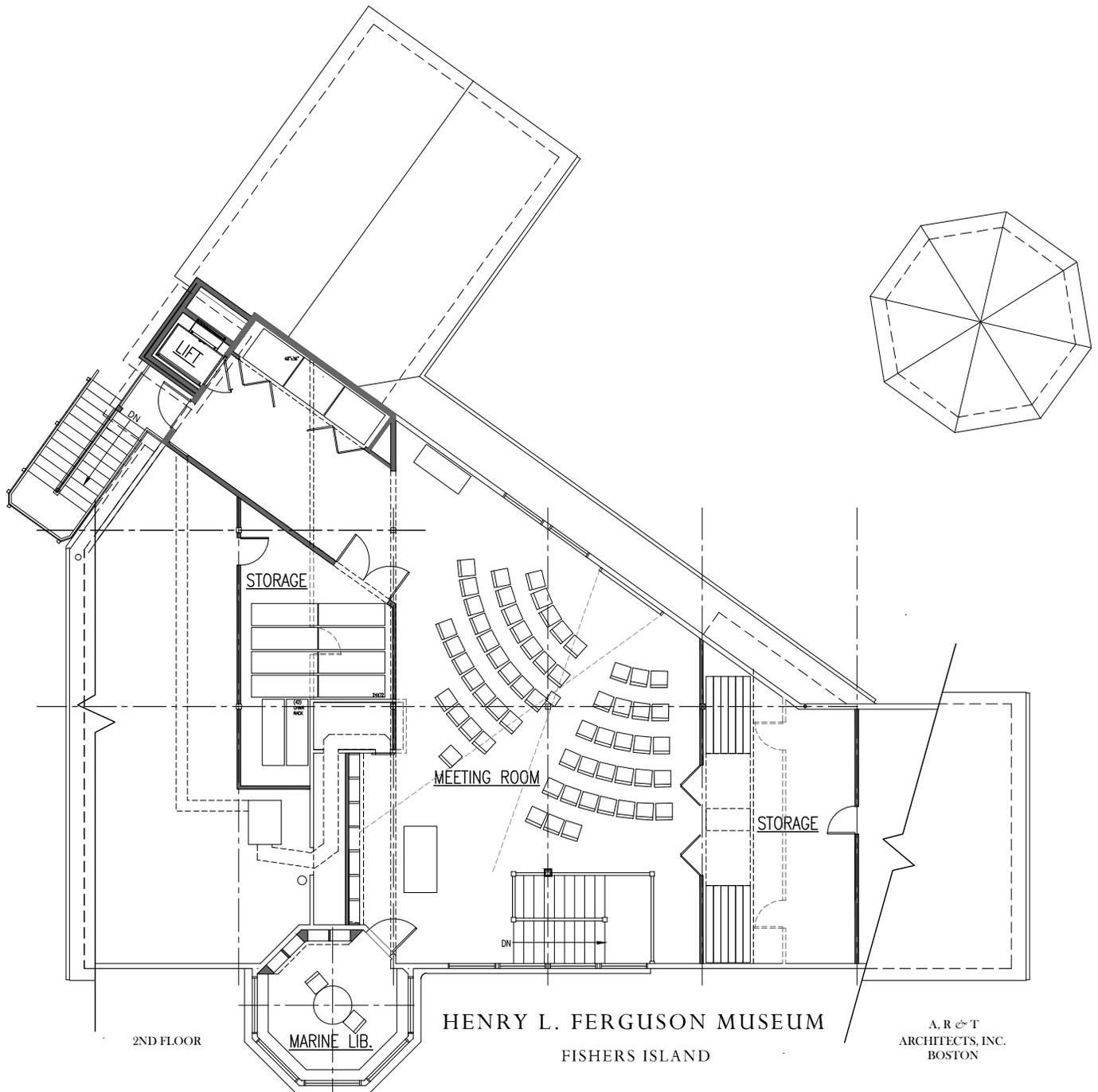
# The Museum Begins Second Floor Renovation Project

The Museum has commissioned a new plan to bring our unfinished second floor into more active use as a reference/research area for visitors and as a site for programming of all types. At our October 2013 meeting, the HLFM board voted to move forward with finished architectural plans from Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, Boston, Mass.

In addition to new reference and research areas, a finished second floor allows us to host lectures and presentations for approximately 60 people within the Museum rather than at borrowed venues. The plan below shows how this in-house seating will be arranged. Please note that these stackable chairs will be stored out of sight when not in use.

The open space on the second floor will also greatly increase program flexibility while attracting visitors to both floors of the HLFM. Finally, the renovation will yield additional gallery space on side walls, and dedicated storage space, primarily along the north wall nearest the News Cafe. In addition to the main stairway, access and egress will be provided by a lift or elevator.

We have recently received generous grants from the Thompson Family Foundation and the McCance Foundation that have launched our fundraising for this project. We hope that all "Friends of the Museum" will join in and support this dynamic expansion of the Museum's active public space.



# NATURE NOTES

by Penni Sharp

## Fresh Water Turtles of Fishers Island

On any sunny spring or summer day, anyone passing by one of Fishers Island's freshwater ponds may catch a glimpse of turtles basking on an exposed rock or fallen tree. These turtles are most likely to be painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*), probably the most common and conspicuous turtle on the island. They are often seen at the Madeline Avenue Pond and the Duck Pond. These turtles are also known as "sun turtles" for the time they spend resting in the sun. They can be seen basking from early spring into the fall. The painted turtle is a turtle of small to medium size and has a smooth carapace bordered with yellow and red markings. It can also be identified by its yellow neck stripes and the red and yellow stripes on its legs. The plastron (or belly portion of the shell) is yellow-orange.

Painted turtles thrive in muddy-bottomed still waters, avoiding fast-flowing streams and brackish water. They can tolerate a nitrogen-rich environment which results in dense blooms of algae and pond weeds, a source of food for the painted turtle. Painted turtles are omnivorous and in addition to algae and pondweeds, their diet includes fish, tadpoles, and a wide variety of invertebrates. Although aquatic, painted turtles are frequently found on land. Males tend to roam more often and widely than females which move primarily during the nesting season. Painted turtles may live to thirty years or more if not preyed upon by raccoons, foxes, or skunks. Their eggs, which can be deposited in gravelly soils, lawns, or fields, are also vulnerable to prey species.

Another common island turtle is the snapping turtle (*Chelydra s. serpentina*), the largest freshwater turtle in the northeastern United States. There are many records of large snapping turtles being seen on Fishers Island, including a 40 pounder removed from a back porch by Ed Horning and his son. These turtles are easily recognized by their carapace which is bordered along the rear by saw-toothed plates. The fairly long plated tail is also distinctive. They have large heads, long necks and a sharp hooked beak. Snapping turtles tend to be aggressive, thus should be handled with care or not at all.

Snapping turtles are found in a variety of aquatic habitats,



Snapping turtle (*Chelydra s. serpentina*) crossing road near Dwyer House. Photo by Justine Kibbe.



Close view of painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*). Photo by Greg Schechter.



Row of painted turtles sunning. Photo by Justine Kibbe

preferring permanent bodies of fresh water. They will also be found in brackish and occasionally salt water. On Fishers, they are common at Middle Farms, Barley Field, Mud Pond, and Treasure Pond. They are tolerant of pollution and disturbance and are known to concentrate toxins in their bodies without noticeable ill effects.

Another omnivore, snapping turtles consume aquatic plants, fish, crayfish, and occasionally ducklings. Plants and non-game fish are the preferred diet. Their eggs and young are prey species for a wide range of predators. Adult snapping turtles have few natural enemies and are killed primarily by humans out of fear or due to the presumed attacks on water-fowl and game fish.

Other fresh water turtles reported to inhabit Fishers Island

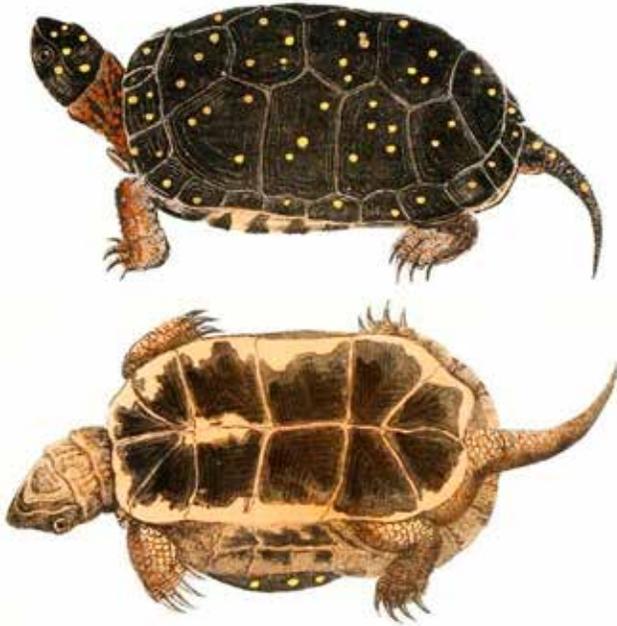


Snapping turtle in repose. Photo by Dakota L.

include the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) and the stinkpot or musk turtle (*Sernotherus odoratus*). The records for the spotted turtle are scant and the last sighting was in the mid-1980s. The spotted turtle looks much like the painted turtle in that it is of small to medium size and has a smooth carapace. It is distinguished by the many yellow spots sprinkled on its black carapace. It also has a large orange blotch behind each eye. This turtle, sometimes referred to as the “polka dot” turtle, is a Species of Special Concern in New York State. It is probable that they are no longer extant on Fishers Island. Any sightings should be reported to the Museum.

The stinkpot may persist on the island as one was caught and released from Middle Farms Pond in 1990. However they are secretive and nocturnal and thus would be seldom seen. This turtle has four musk-producing glands on the underside

of the carapace edges and it emits a foul odor when disturbed. The turtle has a high-domed carapace and it resembles an algae covered small rock. The plastron is small, leaving the turtle’s underside largely unprotected. The musk turtle has a large head for its body size and there are barbels (spiny appendages) on the chin and throat. Their preferred habitat includes slow-moving, muddy-bottomed rivers and streams and shallow, weedy coves of lakes and ponds. The turtle is primarily carnivorous and feeds on snails, leeches, worms, small fish and tadpoles. Museum records indicate that this turtle has only been documented at Middle Farms Pond, first by H. Lee Ferguson, Jr. in the 1920s and later by Ed Horning. Again, the Museum would be interested in any future sightings of this elusive turtle species.



Spotted Turtle illustrations from “North American Herpetology,” Holbrook, 1842.



Musk (or stinkpot) turtle in aquarium. Photo by Trisha Shears.



Spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*). Photo by John J. Mosesso, NB II.



Musk (or stinkpot) turtle (*Sernotherus odoratus*). Photo by Sandy Richard.

Rob Bierregaard, Research Associate of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia, returned to Fishers Island in late April at the invitation of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum. Rob's goal was to "tag" a second male osprey on Fishers Island with a cell tower transmitter, having successfully tagged male osprey "Edwin" last May. His first tagging attempt this time around was on April 30, 2014, at Money Pond near the eastern tip of the Island. Because of the cold weather and pelting rain that day, Rob substituted decoy eggs for the three eggs that he found in the nest. The real eggs were placed in an insulated container to protect them during the trapping process. (They were promptly returned to the nest after the trapping of a male osprey at this site proved unsuccessful.) The three eggs displayed a great variety of coloration that triggered a slew of questions from HLFM Director Pierce Rafferty that in turn led to this explanatory article on...

## The Incredible Egg

*by Rob Bierregaard*

The avian egg is a wonder of the natural world. Within its confines a fertilized egg divides again and again, developing into a young bird capable of chipping its way out of the paradoxically thin but strong walls of calcium carbonate that have protected it since its mother deposited the egg in her nest.

While trapping Ospreys on Fishers Island one rather miserably wet and cold day this spring, we had a chance to hold three Osprey eggs in our hands and to marvel at the beauty of their design.

From ovary to laying, an egg's development takes only about a day and a half, although the changes in the female that put her in condition to lay her clutch of eggs began a month or more before the eggs were laid.

Sometime in February, somewhere down in South America most likely, the female that laid the eggs we held began to feel an urge to head north to breed. The urge was triggered by some shift in her hormonal balance, the cause of which is a first-order mystery. For many birds, this change in internal chemistry is triggered by increasing day length. That makes sense for species that don't migrate, but it cannot be the case for Ospreys, some of which winter south of the equator, where the days are getting shorter, not longer, as the new year progresses, while others winter north of the equator, where the day length indeed does get longer as spring nears.

However it began, the gradual buildup of estrogen got the bird moving north. As she neared Fishers Island, perhaps 4,000 miles and 30 days later, three eggs in her ovaries started to develop and the deposition of the yolk—full of energy-rich lipids and orange-yellow anti-oxidants that will nourish and protect the developing embryos for the 37 days it takes until the young hatch—was initiated.

When she arrived at her nest on Money Pond, she likely saw her mate from many previous breeding seasons sky-dancing high above their nest, a freshly caught fish in his talons. He would have been calling as he hovered, then diving towards the nest. He would have pitched back up and hovered again, proclaiming his desire to mate and proudly demonstrating tangible proof of his prowess as a fisherman.

This courtship increased her estrogen levels even more, and she used the fish provided by the male to deposit more yolk into the oocytes where the three egg cells rested in her ovaries.

The male, too, was coming into sexual readiness and began to copulate with the female. He would land on her back as she stood in the nest, carefully balancing as she lifted her tail and turned it off to the side. As he twisted his tail around, the two performed what ornithologists refer to, tongue firmly in cheek, as a "cloacal kiss."

Female birds have but one uro-genital orifice through which digestive waste material is excreted, sperm enter, and eggs are laid. This orifice is called a 'cloaca'—the Latin word for sewer, appropriately enough.

Unlike mammals, the male's testes are deep inside his body. Sperm travel from the testes to his cloaca, where they are ready for transfer to the female. Just prior to the cloacal kiss, both the male and female evert their cloacae, so that during the brief encounter, the sperm can be transferred from his cloaca to hers. Once the copulation is complete, she retracts her cloaca and the sperm begin swimming up her oviduct.

At the other end of the oviduct, an oocyte, the capsule in the ovary that contains an egg and yolk, ruptures, and the egg and yolk package drop into the top of the oviduct. This is where fertilization takes place. The now fertile egg, sitting atop the sac of yolk passes down the oviduct, and a series of glands builds the rest of the egg.



Rob Bierregaard with trapped female osprey at Money Pond, 4/30/14



Three eggs from nest at Money Pond in insulated container, 4/30/14

The first job is providing egg white, which is 90% water plus some protein (mostly albumen). Then a second group of glands lays down two membranes that enclose the white and yolk—and make peeling hard-boiled eggs easy.

The next and penultimate step in the process is to make the eggshell. A gland builds the shell, mostly of calcium carbonate. The eggshell has more structure than one would suppose. There are different layers in the shell, and, most importantly, tiny pores through which the embryo breathes as it develops.

While the embryo is provided with all the water and nutrients it will need to grow, it will need oxygen for metabolism and a method to get rid of carbon dioxide. The pores in the shell permit this gaseous exchange. This eggshell forming process, by the way, is what DDT disrupted with such nearly disastrous effects on many species of birds.

The finale is to provide pigments. A normal Osprey egg is a light, creamy brownish hue, with splotches of a deep burgundy. The final set of glands is in charge of this eggshell decoration.

The whole process takes about a day and a half for a bird the size of an Osprey. When the first egg is laid, the process is repeated, usually three times for Ospreys, so the third egg might be laid four to six days after the first.

The eggs we held in our insulated carrier were a bit larger than chicken eggs and much more colorful. And they were unusually varied. One—the first in the picture—was quite typical, while the middle one was perhaps as lovely an egg as I've ever seen. This special egg had the normal burgundy blotches, but the background was almost a pale raspberry red. Rather stunning. When the third egg was laid, I think the female's pigment glands went into overdrive, as almost half the egg is the deep burgundy normally seen only in blotches.

The middle egg was so different that a colleague suggested that it might have been laid by a different female. This does happen in a fair number of bird species—ducks are notorious for the behavior—but I suspect it wasn't the case here.

When I took the eggs from the nest, they were fairly cool. That fact, along with some material on the third egg in the photo, suggests that the last egg had just been laid and that the female hadn't really started incubating yet. That would bode well for the clutch of eggs, as the next night was a horrific one with buckets of rain, howling winds, and temperatures in the mid-to-low 40s. As I felt the house where I stayed shaking in the storm and closed a door that had blown open during the night, I thought about that female, lying down atop a 30' pole taking the storm full on. It made me cringe.

Newly laid eggs, before incubation has begun, can withstand a lot of chilling. It's much more damaging for an egg that has been incubated for a while to cool off. So, I suspect those eggs will be all right and will hatch sometime in early June.

We could not catch the male to give him his transmitter, but we did catch the female. We discovered by reading a well-worn bird band that she was almost 19 years old, having been banded in Waterford, CT, some 13 miles as the Osprey flies from Money Pond. In that time, I suspect she's flown over 100,000 miles migrating back and forth between Fishers Island and South America and has weathered many a storm as nasty as that one in early May. I expect to see her and her elusive mate feeding young this spring and summer, while we follow "Charlie," the adult male we were able to catch and tag at the other end of the island the next day.



Rob Bierregaard in bucket truck at Money Pond nest, 4/30/14

# A Report on “Tagged” Ospreys Edwin and Charlie

by Beth Jepsen

Edwin spent much of the summer last year in Connecticut, most frequently around Lake Konomoc in Montville and nearby water sources. In August he began to frequent the Hamburg Cove area of the Connecticut River. By mid-August he continued west and began an early migration down the east coast toward a likely, but unknown (to us) destination in either the Caribbean or South America. After reaching Florida he flew across Cuba, followed in quick order by Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Columbia. We tracked his migration across northwestern Venezuela until September 29 when his transmissions abruptly ceased. He “went dark” (i.e. out of cell tower range) at the base of the Cordillera De Mérida Mountains in Venezuela—a northeastern extension of the Andes Mountains. At that point, Edwin had been migrating for approximately 44 days.

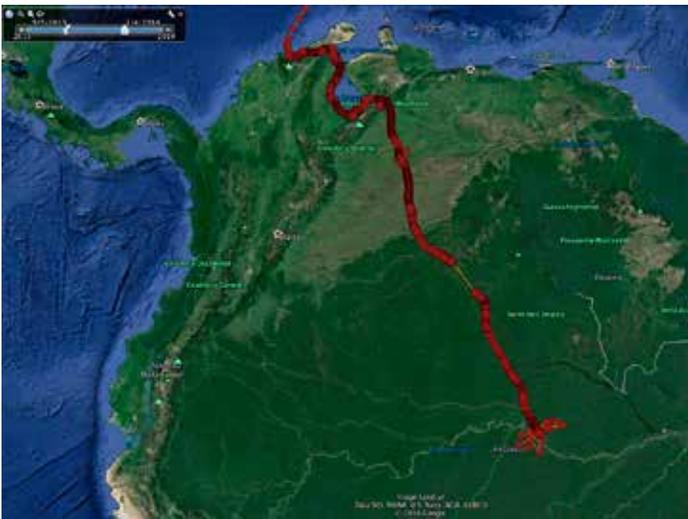
On March 8, 2014, Edwin suddenly reappeared in Barinas, Venezuela, just north of where we had lost track of him more than five months earlier. Back data received in later transmissions revealed that he had spent the winter along the Rio Solimões in Lago Amana, Amazonas, Brazil, on the upper stretches of the Amazon River. He started his migration north, passing through Venezuela, the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba. On March 16, he re-entered the U.S. by way of the Florida Keys. He spent a few days in Florida before flying north, up the east coast, always over land. He went “dark” again over Trenton, New Jersey, during a storm on March 24. In the late afternoon on March 25 Edwin’s data was picked up again placing him along the Niantic River in Connecticut.

Since his return to the area, Edwin has spent most of his nights on the Niantic River making frequent trips to near-

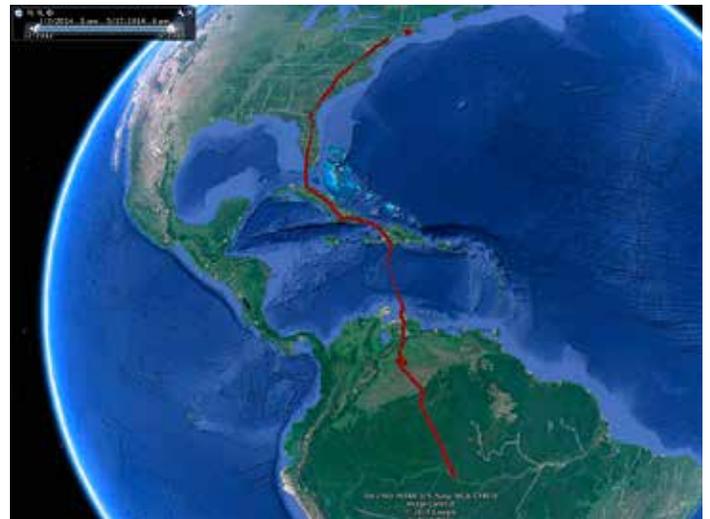
by Latimer Brook and Banning Cove to fish. From there he has also made numerous short trips back and forth across the Thames River to the Groton Reservoirs, as well as traveling west to Essex and the Selden Neck State Park area of the Connecticut River when alewife and shad were running strong. On a few occasions, Edwin has returned to Fishers Island and stayed overnight. His range includes Essex, Conn. to the west, Gardiners Island to the south, Quonochontaug Pond between Westerly and Charlestown Rhode Island to the east, and Pachaug Pond in Griswold, Conn., to the north.

On the morning of May 14, Edwin was at the Mill Cove area of the Thames River between Quaker Hill and Gales Ferry but left around 9:30 a.m.—just minutes before Charlie entered the area to fish (see below).

Rob Bierregaard successfully tagged a second Fishers Island osprey with a cell tower transmitter on May 1, 2014. The location was the Transfer Station nest on Fishers Island’s west end. This newly tagged bird has been named Charlie in honor of artist and life-long Fishers Islander Charles B. “Charlie” Ferguson, who ably served as president of the H.L. Ferguson Museum for 25 years, retiring from that position in 2003. We started to receive data from Osprey Charlie on May 1 that soon revealed that that he was fishing both on island and making trips to the mainland to hunt. For reasons unknown, Edwin abandoned the nest on Fishers Island last year and became a Connecticut-based bird. In contrast, Charlie has been dutifully returning to Fishers Island from his mainland trips bringing food to his mate. He spends his nights either near the nest, or in a cluster of trees near Winthrop Drive. He usually makes 2-3 trips to the mainland each day, but also extensively



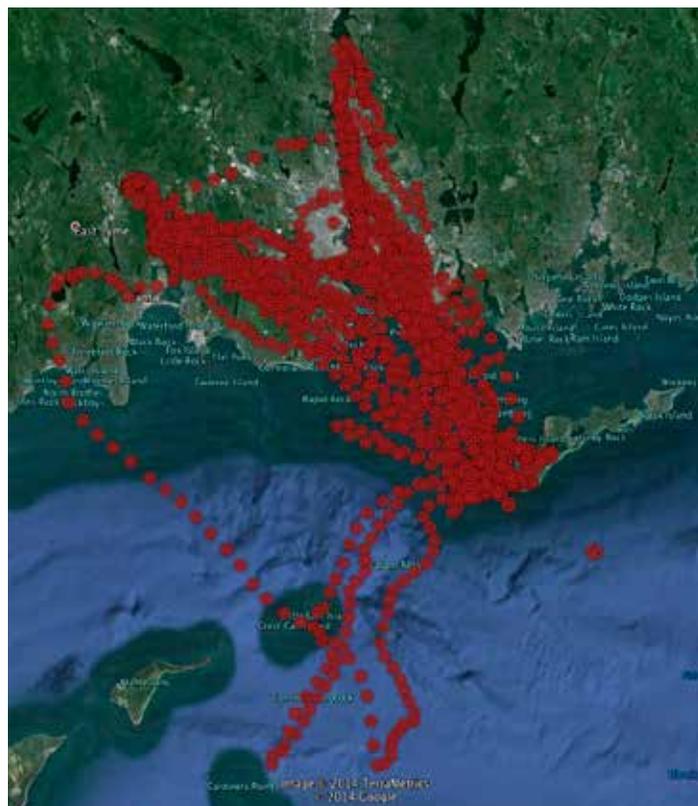
Edwin's southerly track to Lago Amana, Amazonas, Brazil (reached on 10/08/13).



Edwin's migratory track north from 2/16/14 to 5/17/14.



Edwin's tracks from 4/01/14 to 5/17/14.



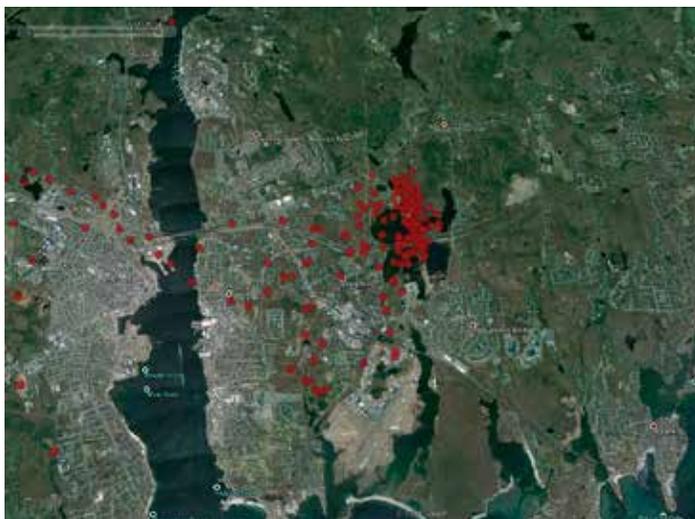
Charlie's tracks from 5/01/14 to 5/18/14.

fishes the shoreline of the west end of Fishers. Charlie's range is Gales Ferry to the north, Niantic to the west, the middle of Fishers Island to the east, and just off Fishers Island to the south—not quite reaching Gardiners Island.

In summary, Edwin and Charlie are polar opposites as far as behavior goes. Since he returned in March, Edwin has been the consummate wanderer, a bachelor dedicated to following the fish sources, but showing no indication from the outset that he intended to settle down, or return to last year's nest near Beach Pond. It will be fascinating to see if this pattern

shifts at all in the seasons to come. Charlie, on the other hand, is a dedicated mate, consistently delivering fish to the nest, protecting the nest when on Island, and assisting in nest tending while preparing for new offspring. His mate is currently sitting on a clutch of four eggs.

You can view individual tracking logs for both Edwin and Charlie on the Museum's website—and use the embedded Google Earth viewer to track their movements in more detail by clicking under the "Osprey" link in our main navigation heading at [fergusonmuseum.org](http://fergusonmuseum.org).



Edwin visits the Groton Reservoir, 5/02/14.



Charlie's haunts around Transfer Station nest. 5/06/14.



The Board of Trustees would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all who gave as “*Friends of the Museum*,” to the Land Trust, or “*in memoriam*” during 2013. We are grateful to each and every one of you!

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*Please excuse any inadvertent  
 misspellings or omissions.  
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# ISLAND HISTORY

by Pierce Rafferty

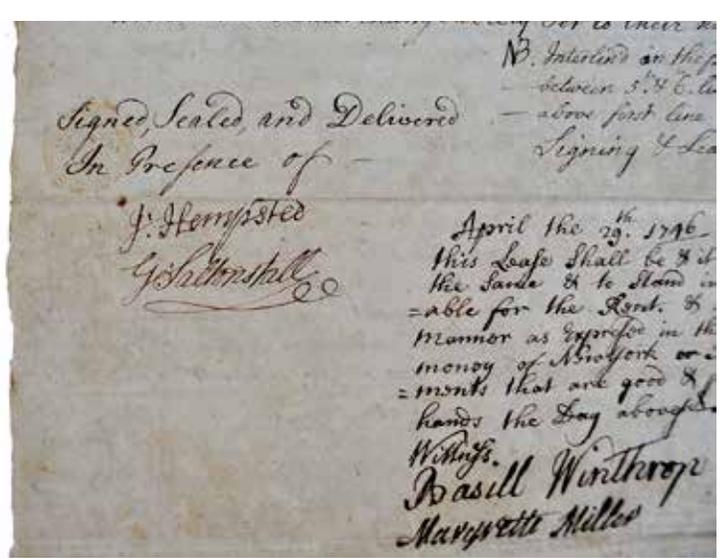
## Two Historic F.I. Leases Purchased by HLFM

It may come as a surprise to many that for much of its fabled history Fishers Island was an absentee-owned rental property. From the mid-1600s until the early 1810s, successive generations of island-owning Winthrops more often than not rented out all of Fishers Island to lessees as one undivided property, often throwing in the surrounding “hammocks”—South and North Dumpling and Flat Hummock—as extras. The lessees worked the island as a stock farm or dairy, or brought in their own subtenants to do the farming.

In March 2014, the Museum purchased an original lease for Fishers Island from a rare document dealer that was signed on March 25, 1734, by Ann Winthrop, acting as agent and attorney for her husband John Winthrop, the Lessor and owner of all of Fishers Island. The lessees were Mary and George Havens, of Fishers Island. This particular John Winthrop (1681-1747), generally known as “John Winthrop, F.R.S.,” was the grandson of John Winthrop, Jr., the founder of Fishers Island.

This one-year lease sheds light on how the Winthrop family managed their Fishers Island property as absentee owners and features a fascinating mixture of rights and restrictions. For the sum of 600 pounds per annum, Mary and George Havens received the use of “all the Houses, Buildings, Edifices, Barns, Stables, Workhouses, Fences of wood or Stone & all meadowland fresh or Salt, with, the Coaves Creeks & Ponds, & all Priviledges... & also such Stock of Neat [domesticated] Cattle, Sheep, Swine & Horse kind.” The lease documents that 81 Fishers Island oxen and cattle resided on the Island at the time of signing, including a pair of oxen, 42 cows and a mixture of young steers, bulls and heifers. There were eight breeding mares and 20 swine, as well as 1,350 sheep “with their Fleeces & their Lambs.” The Havens family, as Lessees, had the right to farm the island and profit from crops, dairy products, wool, and livestock, returning at the end of the lease period the livestock of the same number and value as they had received at the beginning.

Along with the lessees’ rights and privileges were a variety of restrictions that guaranteed the Lessor and his assignees ongoing access to parts of the Island and offered them several ways to receive additional income. These restrictions included the Lessor’s claim to “all Wrecks of the Sea, & Great Fish, Whales or Others, which may at any time come on Shoar.” The Lessor also reserved “the liberty to sett up any Mills, Dams, or Waterworks, & Digg any Earth, Clay or Stone, & Cull Wood or Timber on any part sd. Land; also the priviledges, Profitts, Rights, Commoditys, whatsoever of Hunting, Fishing, & Fowling &c with free Egress & Regress to what is Reserved & Excepted.” The lessees were forbidden to “Cutt, or Suffer to be Cutt, Stripp, Peal, or Destroy any Vines, Pines, Spruce, Cedar, Walnutt, Chesnutt, Birch, Beach, Maple, Sassafrass, Ash, or Elm, or any Cherry Trees, tame or wild.” They could



Detail from 1741 lease. Photo by Jane Ahrens.

only cut trees for firewood used on island and for repairing fences, buildings “& Utensills of the Husbandry.” The lease made quite clear that poaching was forbidden, stating that “all the Deer, Partridges, Peacocks, Quails, Rabbits, or any other sort of wild Creatures with their increase are to Run at liberty, & remain there for the use of the Lessor.” As for a place to stay while visiting, “the lessor doth reserve the liberty of One Chamber in the best House for his own use only” keeping also “Ten Acres of Land on the North Hill, with Liberty of setting up Fences, Warehouses, Stables, & Outhouses...” A small number of horses and cattle were to be kept in this North Hill enclave for use by the Lessor and assignees.

In early May 2014, the Museum obtained a second Colonial-era lease for Fishers Island from the same rare document dealer. Dated January 8, 1741/2, this lease was between Madam Ann Winthrop of New London (acting once again as agent for her absent husband) and lessee George Mumford “late of South Kingston in the County of Kings County now of Fishers Island in the Province of New York.” Please note that George Mumford has received considerable attention in recent decades as the owner on Fishers Island of African slave Venture Smith whose narrated life story was first published in 1798. The 1741/2 lease was “signed, sealed, delivered” by George Mumford in the presence of Joshua Hempsted, celebrated Colonial-era diarist, and Gurdon Saltonstall, Jr., minister of New London and son of the former governor of Connecticut. The lease ran for four years at the price of 950 pounds per annum—an almost 40% hike over the 1734 rent! Added to the bottom of the document was a signed one year extension for the year beginning April 29, 1746 at the discounted price of 275 pounds per annum. The signers of the extension were George Mumford and two of John and Ann Winthrop’s children: Basill Winthrop and Margaret Miller.

Most of the rights and restrictions in this second lease were similar to those in the 1734 lease, but the nonpayment clause was much harsher. The Winthrop owners detailed how delinquent tenants could be expelled, removed, and cast out if the rent was just twenty days past due. For the full transcripts of both leases, please visit [www.fergusonmuseum.org](http://www.fergusonmuseum.org) and click the link on the home page.

## Additions to the Museum's Collection in 2013

**Richard S. Baker.** Holiday card from FI Farms and Nav. Co. sent out after '38 Hurricane. Collection of "Soundings" newsletters, FIHS (1969-74). Program for Minstrel Show, Ladies' Aux., FIFD (1929). FIHS Handbook, (1937-1938). "Suffolk County's Ten Great Townships of Long Island," book (1939). Seven photos of Harold Baker & H.L. Ferguson at Ft. Ticonderoga on archaeological dig. Five photos of rumrunner Bali ashore on FI (1922).

**Charlie Brainard.** Wooden stake used to mount "tinny" decoy.

**Charpentier family.** Six photos of damage to FI Club and Beach Club property in Hurricane Carol (1954).

**Joan Cox.** Wooden trade sign for Madame LeGere's "Modiste" shop.

**Rosalyn Driscoll.** One copy of "Windswept," a book of color photos of T.W. Russell house by Rosalyn Driscoll.

**Heather Burnham.** "The Saga of the International One Design," book (2012).

**Barbara A. Edwards.** Collection of FI Gazettes in three binders: Vol. 1 through 24, (1987-2010).

**Jeff & Catherine Edwards.** 8th Grade Graduation Program, FIS, Class of 1943. Program for Spring Concert, May 8, 1942, FIS. Program for Spring Concert, June 1, 1944, FIHS. Three Ft. Wright postcards, (c.1920) and one Race Rock postcard (c.2000s).

**Nancy Howell Fielding.** Original architectural drawing (colored pencil and watercolor on paper) of Big Club clubhouse, Charles R. Wait, Architect (c.1926).

**FI Ferry District.** Six posters mounted on board showing proposed development of Thames Wharf, NL, Conn. (1987).

**Henry Fisher.** Color snapshot of actor Robin Williams posing on ball field, Fishers Island, NY (1981).

**Mary R. Gilbert.** "Old Fisher's Island Days and Ways," book of poems by Mary Edmonds.

**Nora Howard.** Silver shot glass trophy from FI Club Four Ball Tournament (1940). Two snapshots of Turk Righter house w. addition (1993).

**Richard Jenssen.** Zippo lighter inscribed "F.I.Y.C." with date: "8/31/1954," (Hurricane Carol). Collection of Dean Kamen's North Dumpling Island currency (c.1980s).

**Raymond Lamb.** One FIHS ring initialed "R.O.L." One map of Fishers Island drawn in crayon on cloth. One FIS program for Card Party and Dance for the Benefit of the Class of 1949.

**Angela Lavone.** Genealogical study of descendants of William Walworth, book (c.2012).

**John Laughlin.** FIHS Yearbook "Mirror" for 1948.

**Lighthouse Works.** Promotional Posters and ephemera printed by Lighthouse Works.

**Cynthia Scott Oliveri.** Photo of Ray Edwards, Sr. in uniform. Date unknown.

**Harris Parsons.** Three sailing photos, two 1930s, one 1950s.



Wreck of the Rumrunner Bali, east of Chocomount Beach, 5/30/32. Donated by Richard S. Baker.

**Mary Jean Pelham.** "Race Rock Light" Hassan Cigarette Card (1912). Program for FIS Senior Class Graduation (1965). Program for Spring Concert, June 1, 1944, FIHS. Program for FIHS Senior Class Graduation (1965). FIS 8th Grade Graduation Program (1951). FIHS Graduation Program (1951). Program for Organ Concert, Saturday, July 10, 1999, St. John's. Program for Organ Concert, Saturday, July 10, 1999, St. John's. Group photo portrait FIHS Basketball Team, 1937/1938 & 1949 seasons. Collection of 15 vintage photos of FI (1920s & 1930s).

**Stowe & Charlton Phelps.** Silver-plated "Mansion House" spoon. "Many Good Years: A Memoir," book, by S. & C. Phelps (2012).

**Louisa Preston.** "Sea Breezes, The Folklore Magazine of FI." "Newspaper Accounts of Shipwrecks, Strandings, and Nautical Mishaps On and Around Fishers Island, N.Y." by P. Rafferty (2006). "1996 International One Design World Championship. Fishers Island Sept. 8-13, 1996," brochure. Multiple mint-condition copies of 13 different printed postcards featuring color photos of Fishers Island NY & environs taken & published by donor (1990s & 2000s).

**Pierce & Vicki Rafferty.** Annual Pass, FI Nav. Co. (1905). By-Laws, FI Civic Assoc. (1955). "Directory of Staff and Student Officers NAVAL TRAINING SCHOOL (Harbor Defenses) Fishers Island, N.Y.," booklet (1944). FI Ferry schedules 1930, 1961 & 1966. FI Ferry ticket, unused (2002). FIDCO sticker, unused (2004). First Class passenger ticket for the SS *Munnatawket* (1902). "Fort Mansfield," booklet (1992). Harper's Wkly, includes "The Loss of the Steamer *C. Vanderbilt*," (1859). NY Times, includes article on the wreck of the Steamer *C. Vanderbilt*. (1859). Harper's Wkly, includes illustrations and article about dynamite gun fired on FI, (1901). Harper's Wkly, includes illustrations and article about Naval Manoeuvres (1896). "The Homestead," includes article on "Fisher's Island: An Entailed Estate," magazine (1859). "Lloyd's Register of American Yachts," directory (1910). "Long Island Resorts," brochure (1911). "Manual of Summer Resorts," brochure (1908 and 1911). McClure's Mag., includes article "The Sea-Builders," (1900). Menu for Christmas Dinner, Ft. Wright, NY. (1941). Menu for Mansion House Hotel, July 4th, 1937. "Mountain Lake Sanctuary," brochure (1961). "The New London Merchants: the Rise and Decline of a Connecticut Port," book (1996).



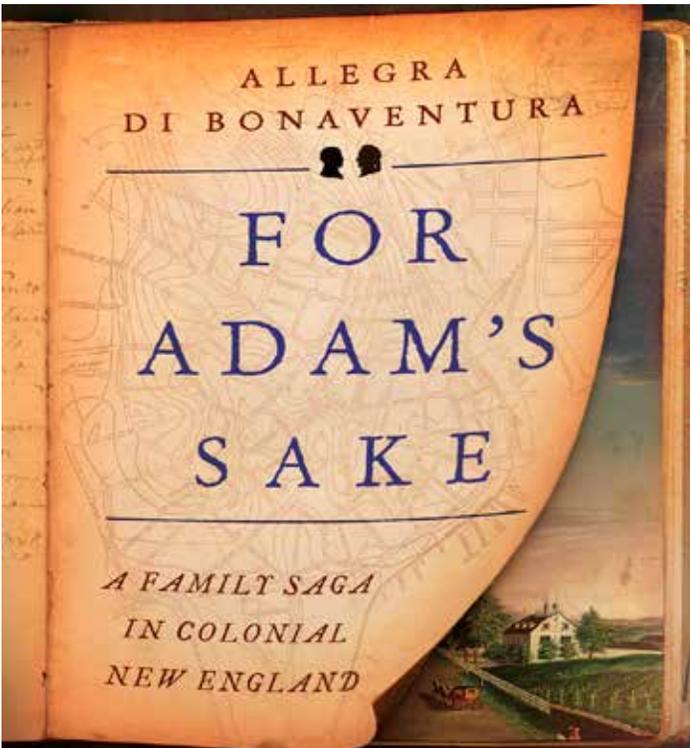
## MISSION STATEMENT

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 2014

**Peek into a Pond.** 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! Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) family program for ages 5 and up. **Wednesday, July 2, 2014.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Location: The Museum. Suggested donation \$5.

**Ooze...** Learn all about how slugs, salamanders, worms and toads use slime to help them move and protect themselves. DPNC family program for ages 5 and up. **Wednesday, July 9, 2014.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Location: The Museum. Suggested donation \$5.



Author Allegra di Bonaventura will speak on July 27, 2014 at Union Chapel.

**"Fishers Island's Ferries Over Time."** HLFM Director Pierce Rafferty will present an illustrated talk on the history of Fishers Island's ferries from the first known visit of a passenger steamer to Fishers Island in 1825 to the modern motor vessels of the mid-to-late 20th century. The talk complements the Museum's 2014 exhibition "Coming and Going: A History of Transportation to Fishers Island." **Sunday July 13, 2014.** Time: 4 p.m. Place Union Chapel.

**Ick...** Scat pellets, skin, bones and other icky things that animals leave behind give us clues as to who's living in our neigh-

borhood. DPNC family program for ages 5 and up. **Wednesday, July 16, 2014.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Place: The Museum. Suggested donation \$5.

**Zip! Zap!** Don't be slow or you may get eaten! Learn all about how animals use zipping, pouncing, bounding and other quick movements. DPNC family program for ages 5 and up. **Wednesday, July 23, 2014.** Time: 2-3 p.m. Place: The Museum. Suggested donation \$5.

**"For Adam's Sake."** Author Allegra di Bonaventura presents an illustrated lecture based on her celebrated new book "For Adam's Sake." She has written a wonderfully detailed study of family life in 17th and 18th century New London and surrounding communities that focuses on a slaveholding family. "For Adam's Sake achieves an amazing, seemingly impossible conjunction—the best book ever on New England family life and the best book ever on the family context of American slavery, neither pretty—a riveting story and great history based on astounding research." —Jon Butler, author of *Becoming America: The Revolution Before 1776*.

**Sunday, July 27, 2014.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Union Chapel.

**Ahoy Matey!** Children can dress as pirates to set the mood for a walk down the plank on the way to loads of swashbuckling activities. We'll share a pirate story, sing some pirate songs, and use our spy glasses and maps to find the buried treasure. A Children's Museum of Southeastern Conn.(CMSC) family program for ages 3 to 6. **Wednesday, July 30, 2014.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Location: the Museum. Suggested donation \$5.

**Metamorphosis.** Magical changes happen when animals go through a metamorphosis. Learn to identify animals at different stages of their lives and meet some top transformers like frogs, salamanders and bugs. A DPNC family program for children ages 5 and up. **Wednesday, August 6, 2014.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Place: the Museum. Suggested donation \$5.

**"Walden Warming: Climate Change Comes to Thoreau's Concord."** An illustrated lecture by Dr. Richard B. Primack, Professor of Biology at Boston University. For the past 12 years, Professor Primack and his team have been using Henry David Thoreau's records and other data sources to document dramatically earlier flowering and leafing out times of plants, the earlier ice out at Walden Pond, and the more variable response of migratory birds. Perhaps most noteworthy, plants in Concord are also changing in abundance due to a warm-



Dr. Richard Primack will speak on phenology and climate change. August 10th. ing climate. **Sunday, August 10, 2014.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Union Chapel. Reception to follow at the HLFM.

**Owl Prowl.** Get up close and personal with a live owl and learn about owls' unique adaptations for nocturnal life. A DPNC family program for ages 5 and up. **Wednesday, August 13, 2014.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Place: The Museum. Suggested donation: \$5.00.

**"Connecticut's Indigenous People."** An illustrated lecture by anthropologist and archaeologist Dr. Lucianne Lavin about her award-winning new book entitled "Connecticut's Indig-

enous Peoples." Dr. Lavin is Director of Research and Collections at the Institute for American Indian Studies. She is author of more than 100 articles and reports on the archaeology and ethnohistory of the Northeast, editor of the journal *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut*, and co-director of the Connecticut Native American exhibition at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. **Sunday, August 17, 2014.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Union Chapel.

**Slither: Learn All About Snakes.** Live snakes are the stars of this popular DPNC family program for ages 5 and up. **Wednesday, August 20, 2014.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Place: The Museum. Suggested donation: \$5.00.

**"Fishers Island's Ferries Over Time."** HLFM Director Pierce Rafferty will present an illustrated talk on the history of Fishers Island's ferries from the first known visit of a passenger steamer to F.I. in 1825 to the modern motor vessels of the mid-to-late 20th century. The talk complements the Museum's 2014 exhibition "Coming and Going." **Sunday August 24, 2014.** Time: 4 p.m. Place Union Chapel.

**Nature Walks:** During July and August, Nature Walks will start at the Museum on Thursdays at 2 p.m. unless changes have been posted.

**Museum Hours:** June 29th 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.

**Off Season Hours:** To be posted. For special appointments: Please call Museum Director Pierce Rafferty at the Museum.

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