The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

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From the President

I'm not the only one preparing for an exciting summer at Fishers – so are the ospreys! Watching an osprey lay an egg at night courtesy of an Osprey Cam recording is a treat to behold, and one that was unimaginable a few decades ago. Technology aside, this year promises to be one of the most "scientific" in the history of the Museum. Some twenty scientists in a range of fields have been engaged in a variety of projects that will enable different aspects of conservation management of the Museum's Land Trust properties.

The New York Natural Heritage Program scientists are in their second year of fieldwork. Besides mapping the ecological communities of the Land Trust, they are also documenting and cataloguing a range of animals and rare plant species. A final report covering two years of fieldwork is scheduled to be completed by the spring of 2023.

A Long Island Invasive Species Management Area team is also coming this summer to prepare a report on invasive management and habitat restoration, especially within two parcels where we are planning an extensive clearing of invasives. Jack Schneider, our Land Trust Stewardship Coordinator, invited two foresters from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to evaluate our woodland areas and to make recommendations for managing the woodlands for resiliency in the face of climate change and pests. He also invited two specialists to update a study of the maritime grassland at Middle Farms, a prescribed burn specialist to evaluate our existing management strategies, and the Connecticut State Plant Pathologist to review the status of beech leaf disease on Fishers Island.

Finally, the Museum, along with the Fishers Island Conservancy, continues to lead an effort to protect the Island's seagrass. The Fishers Island Seagrass Management Coalition is currently drafting possible community-based strategies that it plans to present in an open forum this summer. Stay tuned for more information.

While out on the trails this season, in addition to spotting stray scientists, you may also see new QR codes at trailheads. To access a wealth of new information, be sure to take your phone with you when you walk the trails.

HLFM Director Pierce Rafferty's 2022 annual exhibition, *Year Round: A Celebration of Community,* chronicles Fishers Island throughout the year with a focus on the people, events, and organizations that help bring the community together. A special exhibition entitled WINTER will also be on display, as will an exhibition of paintings of the island in winter by Rauno Joks, a former visiting doctor in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Our intensive children's nature program, Fishers Island Nature Discovery (FIND), will run in July this year. Sign up your children, ages 5-10, for fun-filled afternoons of nature discovery during the week of July 18th. Our regular Wednesday afternoon children's programs continue to delve into a range of natural history topics.

For the adults, we have an exciting lineup of speakers for Sundays at 4 p.m. that include authors, naturalists, scientists, and three members of the Fishers Island community. Please see pages 18-20 at the back of this newsletter for a complete listing of speakers and programs.

None of this important research and engaging educational programming would be possible without the generous support of our members. Thank you! We hope to see all of you at our opening reception at the Museum on Saturday, June 25th, from 5 to 7 p.m.

– Elizabeth McCance, President

Female osprey at left immediately after laying first egg. Male inspects and then covers egg while she rests on post. April 26, 2022. 9:43 p.m. Infrared Osprey Cam image.

A bunker being delivered to female on nest by male osprey, May 6, 2022. 2:47 p.m. Screen grab by Vicki Rafferty.

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum 2022 Annual Exhibitions

Dr. Ralph Hoch leading the 1978 Memorial Day parade from a red MG driven by Eddie White. Photo by Charlie Morgan.

Year Round: A Celebration of Community

Rivulet. Oil on canvas, 2000.

Guard Shack, East End, February 1989. Photo by Charlie Morgan.

WINTER *Special Exhibition 2nd Floor*

Paintings by Rauno Joks *Special Exhibition Natural History Gallery*

Join us for the opening reception on Saturday, June 25th, 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome!

Exhibitions sponsored by: Altus Partners The Power of Objectivity CHUBB®

Land Trust Report Spring 2022

by Bob Miller

Prescribed burn of Land Trust grassland at Middle Farms by FIFD, March 22, 2022. Photo by Jane T. Ahrens.

New grass shoots and cinnamon ferns growing on burned grassland, Middle Farms, May 8, 2022. Photo by Mecky Kuijpers.

The section of Middle Farms that is just south of the road was burned on March 22nd by the Fishers Island Fire Department, led by Chief Jeff Edwards, as part of HLFM's rotational burning program to maintain the maritime grassland. This portion of the "flats" contains shrubs and saplings that will be deterred by the burn. By May the bare and charred area will be succeeded by the vibrant green of new native grass shoots.

Among the shrubs in this area is winged sumac, a favorite food of the "Hickory Horned Devil," which is the largest caterpillar native to the United States and the larva of the Regal moth, *Citheronia regalis*. It is a spectacularly colorful and fearsome looking creature, but quite harmless. Although Fishers Island is outside the normal range of the species, a caterpillar was spotted late last August by Grayson Fisher, then age nine, and she and her father Murray steered others to the site. Soon small groups, including at times toddlers and nonagenarians, could be seen peering into the foliage along the nature trails hoping for a glimpse of the caterpillars, and excited shouts and laughter rang out when one was found. The caterpillars burrow into the ground in the fall, so pupae of the moths were safe during the burn and we hope for more happy caterpillar hunts in late August this year.

2022 is the second year of the survey of flora and fauna on Land Trust properties under the New York Natural Heritage Program. Among the more visible signs of this year's activities are wood "cover boards" in several locations which were cut and placed with the assistance of classes from the Fishers Island School. These boards are turned periodically to tally the snakes and amphibians sheltering beneath them. Please leave these boards in place to ensure that the Program scien-

Grayson Fisher with hand just below Regal caterpillar on winged sumac, Middle Farms, August 2021. Photo by Murray Fisher.

Close view of Regal caterpillar, August 2021. Photo by Jessie Doyle.

Fishers Island School students help distribute NYNHP coverboards, Middle Farms, March 16, 2022. Photo by NYNHP.

New sign for Middle Farms Pond Trail. Photo by Pierce Rafferty.

tists procure accurate data. The results of this and many other activities will guide us in our stewardship efforts.

The Museum is focusing specifically on improving the habitat on Land Trust properties. A major part of this effort is the control of invasive plants which are detrimental to the environment. Glossy buckthorn has been removed along the length of Chocomount Trail and we have hired specialists to address infestations of Japanese knotweed, phragmites, and porcelain-berry in several locations. Our stewardship coordinator, Jack Schneider, identified and will lead efforts to address a toxic infestation of the magnificent American beech grove in the Betty Matthiessen Sanctuary. (Please see the article that begins on page 12.)

In other habitat improvement efforts, old paving has been removed along the waterfront at the Chocomount Cove Sanctuary. Jack and HLFM board member Terry McNamara will meet in June with staff from the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA) to develop plans to encourage native plants and grasses there and elsewhere, particularly little bluestem. Large stone steps have been installed to control erosion on the path to the Chocomount Cove Sanctuary Beach and beach plums have been planted. In addition, we will be cultivating native plants at a new nursery along Belle Hill Avenue – details to follow.

Finally, our network of nature trails has been expanded and improved. Approval was very recently granted to install a nature trail on property along the north shore of Middle Farms Pond. It was acquired by the Town with "2% funds" with the assistance of the Museum in 2019. The Museum has a long-term stewardship agreement with respect to this property, and the new Middle Farms Pond Trail is now operational with a trailhead across from the Don and Kelley Young house (formerly Dwyer). We also opened a new trail early this spring on property donated by Porter Goss on Clay Point. The new "Kettle Hole Trail" has a trailhead across from Hooverness's entrance. Look for new signs at each of these trails made by Fishers Island School students.

We hope you will enjoy our Land Trust properties in 2022!

Joe Pye weed amidst grassland at the Matty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary, Middle Farms. Photo by Jack Schneider.

Nature Notes

The Common Crabs of West Harbor

by Terry McNamara

Dock Beach. It is July and the sky is a bright baby blue. You are wading out toward the swimming rafts, chatting with a friend. Suddenly, you feel the touch of something on the topside of your foot, breaking your idyll. Some underwater menace with several pointy legs scurries across your foot. After a good shriek, panic turns to curiosity. You and your friend stalk the shallows like predatory marsh birds. What kind of crab is it?

There is no shortage of suspects. In fact, we have quite a diverse group of decapods (meaning "ten legs") living beneath the surface of the waters surrounding Fishers Island.

Atlantic blue crab *(Callinectes sapidus)* off Munnatawket Beach, West Harbor. Photo by Mary P. Murphy.

Hermit crabs, European green grabs, Atlantic blue crabs, lady crabs, spider crabs, fiddler crabs, Atlantic rock crabs, Jonah crabs, black-fingered and **white-fingered mud crabs** are among the common crabs found beneath the clear waters of Dock Beach, hunting in the eel grass fields, or hiding under rocks at low tide.

Most of these crabs are predacious omnivores and scour the sea floor for fish, squid, clams, snails, old hot dogs, algae, seaweed, plankton – even other crabs of the same species. They are adept detritovores, scavenging dead plant and animal material, and as such play a key role in the ecology of the waters and marshes of our island.

Exoskeletons, Sex, and Seasonality

These animals are striking in that they possess highly developed exoskeletons that protect their bodies. However, as you might imagine, this exoskeleton also presents challenges for growth and mating. For the crab to grow, the old shell must be discarded and another formed. This process is called molting. This is also the time when the female can be fertilized internally by the male.

Some species, such as the **Atlantic blue crab** (*Callinectes sapidus),* use pheromones to attract a partner during molting. After the chemical connection is made the two will clasp each other in a missionary position. The male will hold the female

Atlantic blue crab *(Callinectes sapidus).* A pair of mating blue crabs is known as a doubler. Photo courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Program.

in this position and insert the sperm inside her where it is stored until used later to fertilize her eggs. The crabs will stay in this configuration (called a "doubler") until the female's shell has safely hardened and ensuring that no other male will mate with her.

The mating, molting, and egg laying cycles are times when crabs are more vulnerable than usual. These activities are uniquely seasonal for each of the crab species and so lead to an abundance of observations of different crabs (or their remains) at different times of year. For example, fiddler crabs *(Uca* sp.) spend the winter hibernating in the three-foot-deep burrows they maintain in the intertidal zone of the marsh. Other crabs move to deeper water in cold weather and return to the shallows to mate and release their eggs in the spring or late summer.

Long-clawed hermit crab *(P. longicarpus)* naked without a shell. Photo by Peter W. Chen.

Have Shell, Will Travel

Hermit crabs are distinguished by the borrowed mollusk shells they carry about with them. The smaller ones inhabit discarded common periwinkle and oyster drill shells that are used for protection for their soft abdomens. As they grow larger, they require larger shells like whelk or moonsnail. The broad- or flat-clawed hermit crabs *(P. pollicaris)* grow to five inches. The larger individuals tend to favor deeper water and

hence are rarely observed near the beach. The most ubiquitous species is the long-clawed hermit crab *(P. longicarpus)* that grows to 1½ inches long. Acadian hermit crabs *(P. acadianus)* are sometimes present as well. Generally, the various species are distinguished from each other by the shapes and colors of their claws.

European green crab *(Carcinus maenas)* on Munnatawket Beach, West Harbor. Photo by Mary P. Murphy.

Worst Invasive Marine Species

In West Harbor, the **European green crab** *(Carcinus maenas)* grows to almost 5 inches across the carapace and inhabits protected marine areas around rocks and other underwater structures. Their most distinctive feature is not shell color – which can vary from reddish to gray to a dark mottled green – but the five spines or teeth on each side of the shell. Additionally, there are three rounded lobes between the eyes. Like hermit crabs, they are active at all times of day. Unlike hermit crabs that feed principally on debris, green crabs are active predators. They feed on soft-shelled clams, young hard-shelled clams, and scallops, as well as worms and other small crustaceans. Their digging activity adversely affects eelgrass beds. These characteristics have earned them a place on many state's "Worst Invasive Marine Species" list. However, there are other crabs whose increasing populations are welcomed.

"Beautiful Swimmer"

The **Atlantic blue crab** *(Callinectes sapidus)* is appearing in greater numbers on both sides of the island. Their genus name, Callinectes, translates from the ancient Greek as "beautiful swimmer" while the Latin species name, sapidus, means "savory." The attractive green shell has a distinctive shape and can measure over 11 inches across the carapace, point to point. The rear legs are flattened making them excellent swimmers. The claws are blue giving them their common name with the mature females having red tips. They are aggressive predators preying on clams, mussels, oysters and any animal or vegetative matter available. Great care should be exercised when attempting to capture or handle them.

Lady crab *(Ovalipes ocellatus)*. Photo by Eric A. Lazo-Wasem. Courtesy of Yale University Peabody Museum.

Lady Bellum

The same can be said of the **lady crab** *(Ovalipes ocellatus).* Though it only grows to about 4 inches, its aggressive nature and hunting behavior sometimes cause painful crab-human interactions. If you've ever been pinched on the toe while walking in the shallow water of Dock Beach, the likely culprit was a lady crab. It often lies partially buried in the sand with only its eyes showing, waiting for its prey to swim by. It is easily recognized by its light-colored carapace, which is covered in reddish polka dots as are its powerful claws. Like the blue crab, it has distinctive flattened rear legs that make it an excellent swimmer enabling it to dart out and seize its prey. Should a foot disturb it while buried, this aggressive little crab uses its sharp claws to ward off the "attack." Happily, the remainder of our Dock Beach crab population is not particularly bellicose or fast moving.

Common spider crab *(Libinia emarginata)*. Photo by Eric A. Lazo-Wasem. Courtesy of Yale University Peabody Museum.

Ugly by Design

The slowest member of our crab population is the **common spider crab** *(Libinia emarginata)* that has a carapace up to 4 inches and long slender legs. Due to its body and leg design, it can walk in a forward direction which is quite rare in crabs, where scuttling sideways is the norm. In addition,

Common spider crab on lobster pot. Photo courtesy of joo0ey/Flickr

A molted carapace of Atlantic rock crab *(Cancer Irroratus).*

spider crabs have sensory organs on the ends of their legs that enable them to locate food items, including starfish, as it plods along the ocean bottom. This crab decorates its shell with various spines and tubercles, algae, debris, and small invertebrates to avoid predation. The downside of this scavenger's vegetative camouflage is that it renders this crab very unattractive. It is common in every marine environment in the harbor, particularly the interiors of the few remaining lobster traps.

Fiddlers on the Marsh

The intertidal marsh areas surrounding the harbor are home to colonies of interesting small crabs living in burrows. These are mostly **marsh fiddler crabs** *(Uca pugilator).* They have a smooth, square-shaped body up to 1 inch long that is generally blue or purplish with dark markings. The males possess a brightly colored 2 inch claw that is used to court females and a small feeding claw. The female has two of the small claws. The small claws are used to gather clumps of sediment from which the vegetative matter is then painstakingly scraped into their mouths. As a result, it takes a male twice as long to feed. The crabs remain in their long slanting burrows during high tide and block the entrance to be safe from predation. They emerge to feed on decaying vegetation as it recedes, performing a vital role in the health and maintenance of the marsh ecosystem.

Jonah and the Rock

Some other types of crabs are not often encountered due to small populations or preferred habitats that make observing them difficult. For example, the presence of the **Jonah crab** *(Cancer borealis)* and the very similar **Atlantic rock crabs** *(Cancer irroratu)* are only betrayed by their empty carapace remains and detached claws in the wrack line on shore. These indicators appear seasonally as the crabs leave deeper waters to breed or lay their eggs inshore. Both crabs can measure up to 7 inches across their mottled red-orange shells. The species can be differentiated by examining the shell. The rock crab has purplish-brown spots and nine marginal sharp teeth on its shell. In contrast, the Jonah has yellow spots and has smooth-edged teeth. The Jonah has heavy, black-tipped claws while those of the rock crab are slender. Live juvenile rock and Jonah crabs can be seen in shallow waters. They migrate to deeper waters when they grow larger. These two species are quite tasty and have become more important commercially with the decline of the lobster catch.

Black-fingered mud crab *(Panopeus herbstii).* Photo by Eric A. Lazo-Wasem. Courtesy of Yale University Peabody Museum.

While these are the most common crabs that you will encounter – there are many more, such as **black-fingered mud crabs** *(Panopeus herbstii)* and invasive **white-fingered mud crabs** *(Rhithopanopeus harrisii)* that are attracted by bait on crab lines hung off a dock or caught in minnow traps.

The many crabs present in our waters are essential elements in the ecosystem that constitutes the Fishers Island marine environment. It is constantly changing as the waters warm and more invasive organisms appear because of our global economy. All members of our community can contribute to our understanding and recording of the changes that are occurring. Additionally, the observation of the crabs and collection of their shells and claws provides an excellent opportunity to use intellect and logic to identify different species for citizen scientists of all ages. Please share any of your noteworthy discoveries or additional species observed with the Museum or with the Fishers Island Biodiversity Project on iNaturalist.

Finally, despite all this talk of claws and pincers, we are quite certain (even without a thorough examination of the historical record) that the number of life-threatening toe and finger injuries caused by adverse crab-person interactions remains at zero – so get out there, turn over some rocks and meet your decapod neighbors!

More Nature Notes

A New Rare Plant Survey for Fishers Island

by Steve Young, Chief Botanist, New York Natural Heritage Program

If you happen to be in New London, Connecticut and look to the south, you will see Fishers Island, a mysterious and unknown place to many people and before last summer that included me. It is an extension of the Harbor Hill glacial moraine that continues to the northeast of the North Fork of Long Island. Little Gull, Great Gull and Plum islands lie along the moraine between Fishers Island and the North Fork. Its eastern tip is only 1.9 miles from mainland Connecticut but the western tip is 6 miles from New York's Little Gull Island, so it is closer to Connecticut and can only be reached by auto ferry from New London and commuter ferries from Noank. The development on the island consists mainly of large estates, their recreation facilities and support infrastructure. The eastern two thirds of the island is closed to the public. There is an old Army fort and small airfield at the western tip of the island where the ferry docks. In addition to the development, there are large natural areas associated with the estates, preserved as natural areas on Town of Southold property, or by the Henry L. Ferguson Museum's Land Trust.

When I started my position at the Natural Heritage Program in the early 90s, Gordon Tucker from the New York State Museum and Ed Horning from Fishers Island were in the middle of updating the flora of Fishers Island, the first time it had been done since Charles Hanmer had published a flora in 1940 (Hanmer 1940). In the 1999 summer issue of the Long Island Botanical Society newsletter, Ed Horning describes their work and 15 rare plants that they had documented, a number Ed considered remarkable (Horning 1999).

In 2020 Pierce Rafferty and Jack Schneider of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum contacted us about planning a rare plant, rare animal, and natural community survey of the 77 parcels of natural area that the museum owns or holds easements on. I was very excited to get a chance to start the survey since I had never been to the island and had never seen some of the rare species that grow there. In 2021 we began a two-year survey of the parcels that span the entire length of the island and have a total area of about 346 acres. With the generous help of the museum staff, I started the plant surveys, chief zoologist Matt Schlesinger headed up the animal surveys, and chief ecologist Greg Edinger performed the natural community surveys.

During my research into the rare plant species that have been found on the island, I looked at the rare plants that had been listed in Hanmer's flora and the plant specimens that had been collected by Tucker and Horning for their flora. Since the early 90s, more plants have been added to the Heritage rare lists, and a few have been removed, but the number of rare plants on the island that were once documented or currently exist on the island has grown to an incredible 67 species. The

Iris prismatica **(slender blue flag). Photo by Jack Schneider.**

list includes 52 species ranked S1-S2S3 (endangered or threatened) that are on the active list, and 15 species ranked S3 (rare) that are on the watch list. They include 32 species that were originally documented by Hanmer, 47 that were documented by Tucker and Horning, and 12 that have been documented so far by Heritage surveys. This number of active list species is the same as the number that have been documented in Long Island's coastal plain ponds, but the total number of rare species is more because the coastal plain ponds only have three watch list species. Therefore, Fishers Island, at 6.8 miles long and 4.2 square miles in area, has the most documented rare plant species of any comparable area in the state. Looking at the number of times some species were documented and the length of time since they were last seen, I think that 14 of those species are probably extirpated from the island.

Many changes have taken place to the island vegetation over the decades with changes in land use, fragmentation (although large estates have reduced the amount of possible fragmentation), storm events, and the introduction of many new invasive species. Some invasive species like old world phragmites *(Phragmites australis),* Asian bittersweet *(Celastrus orbiculatus),* Japanese honeysuckle *(Lonicera japonica),* Japanese knotweed *(Reynoutria japonica),* rugosa rose *(Rosa rugosa),* and porcelain berry *(Ampelopsis glandulosa)* now dominate many areas of formally native vegetation. The floras of Hanmer, Tucker and Horning, and our work have documented a total of 45 invasive plant species on the island.

The 77 museum parcels encompass a wide variety of natural communities from sandy to cobbly to large boulder beaches,

maritime and freshwater wetlands and ponds, maritime grasslands, and uplands dominated by deciduous forest, shrubs, or vines. It's obvious that this wide variety of coastal plain habitats would support many rare species. Our surveys were focused on the museum parcels, so we were not updating all the rare plant occurrences that have been documented at the approximately 50 locations around the island.

Here are some of the rare species that I saw during the two weeks that I was on the island. Unlike the beaches of the South Shore of Long Island, the beaches of Fishers Island are composed of larger cobbles and boulders and are fairly difficult to walk on, so you rarely see people on them. In the past they had supported the most occurrences of the very rare Angelica lucida *(seacoast angelica),* but this plant was not seen at all during our surveys in 2021. One rare plant that was common on the beaches was *Chenopodium berlandieri* var. *macrocalycium* and Fishers Island has the most plants of any location in the state. *Honckenya peploides* (seabeach sandwort) was also very common on some of the beaches with its very recognizable stiff, four-ranked leaves. In small salt marshes adjacent to the beach, *Potentilla anserina* ssp. *pacifica* (coastal silverweed) and *Plantago maritima* var. *juncoides* (seaside plantain) grow in small populations. Another beautiful plant that we saw at four different locations on the island was *Spiranthes vernalis* (grass-leaved ladies' tresses). One location was only a few yards from the edge of the beach, a habitat where I had never seen it before. Jack Schneider showed me a population of the stunning *Iris prismatica* (slender blue flag) at the edge of a grassland where large numbers of *Eutrochium dubium* (coastal plain Joe Pye weed) are growing – quite a sight. In the freshwater wetlands, we saw a nice population of *Hottonia inflata* (featherfoil), large numbers of *Glyceria obtusa* (coastal manna grass), and the floating leaves of *Hydrocotyle umbellata* (many-flowered marsh pennywort). The pennywort also occurred in a wet spot along a grassland trail where *Juncus dichotomus* (forked rush) was its companion.

Spiranthes vernalis **(grass-leaved ladies' tresses). Photo by Jack Schneider.**

During the field season of 2022 our plant surveys will look at parcels that were not surveyed in 2021 and additional rare species that we couldn't find or needed additional location information for more targeted surveys.

Hottonia inflata **(featherfoil). Photo by Jack Schneider.**

Hydrocotyle umbellata **(many-flowered marsh pennywort) in flower. Photo by Steve Young.**

Fishers Island is a special place and a hotspot for rare plant species, and we are eager to continue our surveys this field season. We look forward to reporting back to you about our finds in a future issue.

Literature Cited: Hanmer, Charles C. 1940. *Plants of Fishers Island.* Torreya 40: 65-81. Horning, Edwin H. 1999. *Sleuthing for Rare Plants on Fishers Island, Suffolk County, New York.* Long Island Botanical Society Newsletter 9: 13-15.

Editor's note: This article was first published in *The Quarterly Newsletter of the Long Island Botanical Society* (LIBS) Vol. 31. No. 4 Fall 2021. Reprinted with the permission of Eric Lamont, president of LIBS, and the author. Due to space constraints, the photographs illustrating Mr. Young's article in this newsletter are different from those originally published in the LIBS newsletter. Also missing from this reprinting is a table created by the author that breaks out the rare plants of Fishers Island by scientific name, common name, rarity rank, and recorded study source with an asterisk indicating "species probably extirpated." If you would like a copy of this *Rare Plants of Fishers Island* table, please email Pierce Rafferty fimuseum@fishersisland.net and a pdf of same will be sent to you by reply.

Note also that Steve Young retired from NYNHP in early May 2022 after a distinguished career as their chief botanist. We thank him for all his contributions to the field of botany and for his work on Fishers Island.

Island History

The Morning After—Letter describing 1938 Hurricane on Fishers Island

by Letitia Rogers Revett

Editor's note: In April 2022, the Museum received a generous and thoughtful gift of Fishers Island-related documents and ephemera from Janice Revett Lloyd, whose parents, Letitia and Harley Revett, were teachers at the Fishers Island School from the middle 1930s until 1944. Included in the donation was a letter Letitia wrote to her parents in Rochester, NY describing her experiences on Fishers Island during the Hurricane of 1938. What makes this letter so remarkable is that it was written the very next morning after the storm.

The following details will help orient today's reader to places mentioned in the letter: The Hansen house, where the Revetts were living at the time of the Hurricane, is the former Peter and Sue Rogan house that is adjacent to and currently owned by St. John's Episcopal Church. The "farm's office" was the Fishers Island Farm's building, today's Utility Co. building. "Mr. Ferguson" was Henry L. Ferguson, president of the Fishers Island Farms. Mr. Hansen was Hans Hansen, the Island's postmaster. The Teacherage, where Fishers Island School teachers lived, is today Richard and Lowri Foyle's house. The Fishers Island School was then located on Montauk Avenue overlooking West Harbor, the site of today's Coleman residence. Pierre duPont's "sailboat" was the 65-foot schooner *Barlovento.* The following is a transcript of Letitia's letter. She also took these photos and wrote the captions.

Thursday: The Morning After

Dear folks,

Once again, the occasion to write my "experience" has arisen. I don't know how much the newspapers up north have stressed our little storm, but in case they've treated it lightly, let me tell you that Fishers Island took the brunt of a nice little hurricane.

Yesterday morning a good little breeze kept the water in the harbor quite stirred up, but 'twas nothing out of the ordinary until about two in the afternoon. Then it began a good downpour & with the help of the wind managed to lash around pretty much. The kids, of course, began to get excited & tickled at the goings on. No one realized until dismissal time how really serious it was. By four o'clock most of the kids had been called for or taken home. Harley then remembered he'd left the window open at Hansen's. So he, Mary Anna, & I made a dash for the car. I don't really know how we made it. I started out on the sidewalk & ended up in the schoolyard but we did manage to get in & get home. I was soaked to the skin from that little distance so changed immediately into my slacks & sweater. John Hansen came in then & said he had to go back down to the dock for his cash box so Harley & I bummed a ride with him. I realize now how foolish we were to go out into it, but I wouldn't have missed the sights for anything. Mr. Ferguson hailed us at the farm's office. He wanted to get to his house & his car was marooned. So John drove him as far as he could, but as trees had fallen & were falling right & left it wasn't very far. Mr. F. said he'd walk the rest of the way, got out of the car & was blown ten feet in the wrong direction. He finally got back in the car & we took him back to town. He's a man who weighs two hundred so you can imagine how strong the wind was. We then started for the docks. In that short time since we left school two big trees had been uprooted in the school yard, the stained glass window of the chapel was blown in, & a two car garage with sleeping quarters above had collapsed. The dock was a sight to behold. We (very foolishly) drove out onto it & the water was then coming up under the planks. You've seen movies of wild seas – well these were the same thing in reality. Yachts of all kinds & descriptions were being tossed like corks. Pierre duPont's $50,000 sailboat ran aground, crushed a smaller boat in its path & lay half on its side. We could see three of the crew in life preservers hanging on the farther side. We decided then it would be better for us to get in, so drove back to the house. We got into the garage & heard the Episcopal church bell ring. Harley, who had been holding the door open, let out a yell & John, Mr. Hansen, & I got out in time to see the entire steeple & entry way tumble down. Then I did get a little scared, for it was still going strong. Mrs. Hansen & Edith were in New London – The rest of us sat looking at each other & listening to it blow until about six o'clock. Then Mr. H. & I suggested we rustle up some supper which he & I did

The end of the big pine in front of school. Left wing of building.

Episcopal Church directly in front of Hansen's. Part of roof in driveway. We watched this fall.

– tomato & lettuce sandwiches & milk which was some better than coffee & plain boiled potatoes & salt. The electricity, of course, was all off & as that's the only means of light, heat, & cooking we were & still are in deserted circumstances.

When we'd finished eating, Harley & I went out again. The wind had died down to a moderate gale so we took time to survey the wreckage. (The velocity of the wind reached 105 miles an hour & the storm lasted from about one p.m. until probably midnight.) I can't begin to tell you in good style just how much damage was done so I'll list things as I think of them.

The teacherage had two windows blown in, all the big trees around it are down, the plaster in one of the bedrooms is all off. Miss Eno was sure the roof would go.

Boats of all kinds & descriptions were washed ashore & a

Army plane wrecked when blown over by wind . . . About fifty soldiers tried to hold it down. Tidal wave covered here later.

new plane on the post completely demolished. The pilot in trying to save it had his back broken & died from the effect this a.m. *[Editor's note: A soldier, not the pilot, was injured, but survived.]*

The tide came in way up over the road – boats now are left high & dry on it which really looks funny.

The National Guard camp is completely ruined – about twenty five mess halls etc. nothing now but lumber. (It's really funny to see the johnnies strewed all over the parade ground.)

Mr. Ferguson estimates his loss at about a million & a half.

The Brown house – that's the new glass one that was built last spring – had the top taken off & Mrs. B. & some of the servants were badly cut by flying glass.

We had no school today, of course, but we reported & got the kid's attendance at 8:30 a.m. Such wild tales as each one tells! We've been out since then still sight seeing & listening to the tales of woe.

Last night about nine we could see that the sky over New London was all aflame. Mrs. Hansen finally got back this noon & although I haven't had much chance to hear her entire story I guess she put in a wild night. The Fishers Island boat started back – got 1/3 of the way over & then turned to go back to N.L. – The passengers had to be taken off hand over hand along a life line. I just finished talking with her again & I guess New London was a perfect hell. A fire got going in one of the

Band Stand on demolished Fort Parade Grounds. Water rose this far.

main streets & Edith said they dynamited all night long trying to get it under control. Mrs. H. is still quite hysterical so we can't get a very coherent story from her. I haven't begun to tell you the damage on the island, but we all have been taking pictures which will explain more later. We're still eating sandwiches, have a limited water supply, & of course no electricity. This letter may go tomorrow & again it may not. Hope you haven't worried, but since you didn't at the time of the flood I've reasoned it out that you won't now. Will write more later – Am going up to Lamb's now to survey their damage.

I wouldn't have minded this all so much if we hadn't had so much rain – since Saturday afternoon we've had almost a constant down pour so that although it isn't particularly cold the dampness is very penetrating.

All for now – let me know if you had any storm.

Love, Tish

Garage which was located about 100 feet from both school & Hansen's. Chauffeur who lived in upper story escaped & managed to save two cars. [Today's Red Barn.]

Even More Nature Notes

Beech Leaf Disease on Fishers Island

by Jack Schneider

Beech tree groves are mystical places, the source of legend, poetry, and metaphor.[1] The green canopy creates a deep shade, the open understory interrupted by the sturdy, gray elephantine trunks, the forgiving fallen leaves laced by serpentine roots. These groves are evocative and full of both visible and unseen life. They are worth preserving.

Beeches on the Island

American beech is a dominant species within the coastal oak-beech forest community.[2] In 1639, Lion Gardiner reported large "...oaks intermixed with walnut and beech"[3] on nearby Gardiners Island, which likely describes what Winthrop would have encountered on Fishers Island as well.

This is confirmed by a 1734 lease agreement between the lessor Winthrops and George and Mary Havens stipulating that the Winthrops had full rights over the woods on the island, and that the lessees were forbidden *to cut or suffer to be cut or strip, peel or destroy any Vines, Pines, Spruce, Cedar, Wallnutt, Chestnutt, Birch, Beach, Maple, Sassafras, Ash or Elm or any Cherry trees…*[4]

Despite Winthrop's early edict, land use practices have nearly eliminated beeches on Fishers Island. Just five groves have survived – three on Land Trust property – although more may still be identified. While the groves on Land Trust property are protected, they remain vulnerable to disease and a changing climate.[5]

Beech Leaf Disease banding.

Beech Leaf Disease

I had been watching for signs of beech leaf disease (BLD) ever since attending an online lecture in 2020. Last May, looking upwards towards the beech tree leaves silhouetted against the sky, I spotted an abnormal gallery of shadowy bands within the leaves – a tell-tale sign of the disease.

First recognized in Ohio in 2012, by 2019 both American and European beech trees in the areas around New York City, western Connecticut, and Long Island, including Suffolk County, were showing the symptoms of BLD.[6]

Beech trees and saplings, Island Pond. Photo by Jack Schneider.

Since this disease is a relatively recent discovery,[7] much about it, including mode of transmission, pathology, and cure, remains unknown. But understanding and combating the disease has become a priority for forest managers, plant disease researchers, and other scientists, since beech trees are critically important for providing food and habitat that sustains a wide range of wildlife.

American Beech: Thin Skin, Shallow Roots, Long Life[8]

Beech tree graffiti on FI.

The American beech, *Fagus grandiflora,* is a storied species that can live to 400 years. One 365-year-old tree in eastern Tennessee was inscribed by Daniel Boone, *"D. Boon cilled a bar in year 1760".* Its girth (circumference) was 28½ feet when it fell in 1916."[9]

Although the smooth, grey veneer of bark is perfect for memorializing oneself with incised initials, this is a selfish act that triggers a cycle of imitators. It scars the tree for life at best. At worst, it could make the tree more vulnerable to infection from diseases like beech bark disease (BBD), a devastating insect-initiated fungal infection.

Looking over Island Pond, 1893. Note what is today the Betty Matthiessen Sanctuary in left background, then treeless.

Growth, Form and Age

Unlike the more upright, straight-trunk beech trees typical of coastal oak-beech forests found in other Fishers Island groves, most beeches growing at the Betty Matthiessen Wild-

life Sanctuary on Island Pond are stunted, with contorted branches emanating from lower on the trunk. This form is more typical of trees of the rare maritime beech plant community, which is influenced by oceanic forces, such as hurricane strength winds and salt spray.[10]

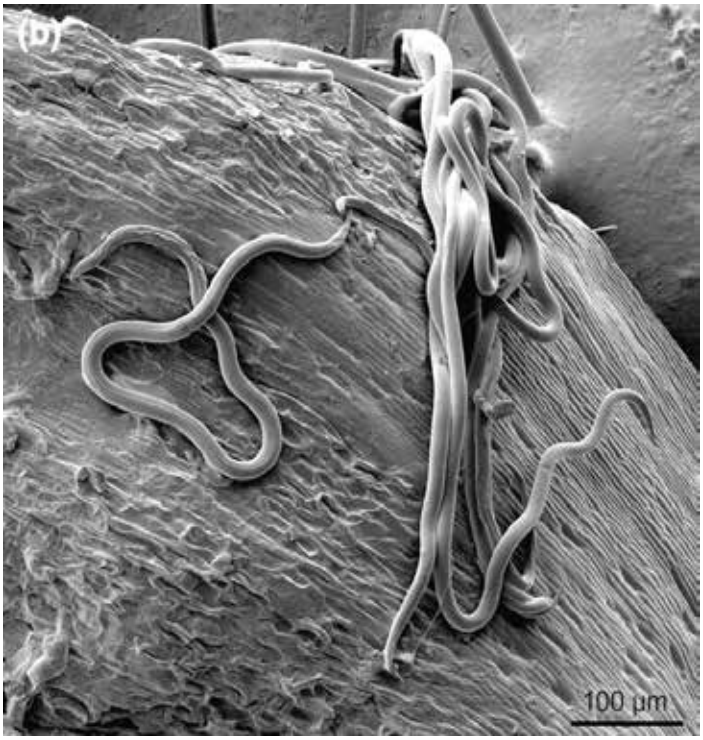
Counting annular rings is the only reliable way to measure a tree's age. A large branch, broken from an old beech tree at Island Pond last fall, showed 116 annular growth rings, which indicate the branch formed around 1905 and the tree a little earlier. This grove likely became established as farming practices were coming to an end in this area.

A healthy beech grove creates a canopy of shade and fallen leaves which form a brown, spongy, persistent blanket that inhibits the establishment of other competitive species. Beech saplings are often found in clumps growing out of the roots of the older trees. Otherwise, there is little understory.

The notable exception is the twig-like parasitic plant known as "beechdrop," *Epifagus virginiana.*

Epifagus lives exclusively on the roots of American beech trees. Beechdrop is an annual plant that lacks leaves and chlorophyll, relying on energy derived from the roots of older trees. While beechdrops are technically parasites, they cause no harm to their host trees; indeed, the presence of Epifagus indicates a high quality, undisturbed plant community.[11]

Although all five of the Fishers Island groves inhabit the same soil class, only one has an abundant population of beechdrops and three groves have none.



Electron microscopy image of *Litylenchus crenatae mccannii* ssp. n. adult females on bud sheath.[12]

Beech Leaf Disease and Treatment

A tiny (less than 0.1 mm long) worm-like nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae mccannii,* is the pathogen that causes BLD by invading the leaf.[12]

The nematode is likely transported by airborne agents, like birds, insects, parachuting spiders, spider mites, or even rain.

"In those areas where the disease has been present the longest, BLD has been observed to reappear and advance in subsequent years, with a reduction in buds and therefore foliage. Severe infestations have also been observed, affecting both understory and overstory beeches, characterized by increased canopy thinning, twig and branch dieback, followed by mortality within seven years, and sooner for saplings [within 3 years for saplings <5cm DBH]. In some areas, mortality rates as high as 90% have been observed among dense clusters of saplings."[13]

Although researchers have been testing various approaches towards finding a cure, there is none. A promising experiment found that a phosphite fertilizer basal drench applied during the third weeks of May and June reduced or cleared nematode loads in the newly emerging leaves of young trees after five years of treatment.

The effective mechanism is unknown, but the fertilizer may be acting to increase tree vigor and mobilize its resources against the disease since these fertilizers are widely applied at golf courses to increase the hardiness of turf grass. We will be monitoring this treatment and others currently being tested and assessing their applicability to the Museum's beech groves.

This map shows the locations of four of the five American beech groves on Fishers Island. Island Pond (aka Oyster Pond) is at upper right.

The Museum's Beech Tree Census

During October/November 2021, the Museum organized a census of beech tree groves on Land Trust property. The purpose of the Beech Tree Census was to locate and quantify the Museum's beech trees, assess the degree of disease present, and record key measurements to determine the feasibility of treating and preserving the beech communities on Land Trust properties.

The map above shows the locations of four of the five American beech groves on Fishers Island. Groves One, Two, and Three are on Land Trust properties. Grove Four, which is not shown on the map, is small and located on the south side

of East End Main Road near the Top of the World turn-off.

The census was accomplished thanks to volunteers from the Fishers Island School and the community. The team members first measured the grove areas with a highly accurate GPS receiver linked to a geographic information system (GIS) phone app. Then they flagged the perimeter and internal sections at each grove. Working in pairs, they sketched the approximate location of each tree within the section, assigning it a unique identification number. They noted the growth pattern – upright or prone – and whether any signs of disease were present. Finally, they recorded the tree diameter at breast height (DBH) by encircling each trunk and stem with a special forestry tape measure that graphically calculates diameter by dividing the circumference (inches) by pi.

This is a summary of their findings as of October 2021:

The Betty Matthiessen Wildlife Sanctuary – Island Pond

- Grove One is just under half an acre and hosts 100 trees with diameters 1" and greater. Of these, two trees have a DBH greater than 28". This grove is symptomatic.
- Grove Two is about a tenth of an acre and hosts 28 trees with a DBH of 1" or greater. Of these, two trees have diameters of 28" or greater. This grove is asymptomatic.

The L.F. Boker Doyle Sanctuary – Brickyard Woods

- Grove Three is over a tenth of an acre and hosts 34 trees with a DBH of 1" or greater and no trees with a DBH of 28" or greater. This grove is symptomatic.

Groves Four and Five are not on Land Trust property and were not formally surveyed.

Planning the Future of American Beech Trees on Fishers Island

Once plentiful, American beech trees are rare on Fishers Island. Despite their small size, these irreplaceable groves provide food and shelter to wildlife, including transient migratory birds. The beechdrop can live only in association with beech groves. American beech are part of the Island's natural heritage and historical legacy.

Due to the high and swift mortality of beech trees caused by this disease, time is limited for implementing a treatment plan that would be efficient and effective and minimize undesirable effects. Should an effective plan be vetted and chosen, volunteer and financial support from the Island community will be needed to preserve these majestic groves so that they may be enjoyed by Islanders for centuries to come.

The experience of being immersed in nature beneath their deeply shaded canopy and surrounded by sturdy tree trunks is like none other on the island. Without intervention, these beech tree groves and the experiences that they provide us, will be no more. These rare and beautiful groves are worthy of our protection.

Beech tree grove, Island Pond. Photo by Jack Schneider.

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13 Marra, R. 2020. #6 above.

A Sampling of Donations to the Museum's Collection in 2021

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

Jim and Diane Baker. FI-related photos, including launching of *SS Fishers Island* (1926) and ruins of Union Chapel after fire (1965). Misc. ephemera, including ten HHC Directories, 1920s and 1930s.

Jane Carr. "Nanalanne" house sign for Manton Davis house overlooking Isabella Beach.

Audrey Evans Di Maria. Scrapbook honoring Harold A. Evans, FI resident and WW II hero (Bronze Star and two Silver Stars).

Harry and Susie Ferguson. HHC snack bar tickets, ten and fifteen cents value (circa 1960).

Mark & Marnie Franklin. Untitled folk-art sculpture of crab created by master carpenter and artist Tim Cromarty. This artwork, assembled from found objects, won first prize in the 63rd Annual Mystic Outdoor Art Festival, 2021, in the Sculpture category. It includes sections salvaged from Fishers Island house renovations, and driftwood from beaches. 31"H x 47.25"W x 2.25"D.

Silvana Gada. Photos documenting building site for the Gulf gas station (now Texaco).

Richard and Beverly Jenssen. Photos of Reynaud's Restaurant, Fishers Island (1930s).

Janice Revett Lloyd. Series of photos of 1938 Hurricane damage on FI, and one of New London waterfront.

Kim Malley. Photo of a Sales Rep Calculator & Typewriter Class at the Remington Rand National Sales Training Institute, FI Club, Oct. 1949, and letters from donor's father to her mother describing his life in the program.

Sharon and Tim Patterson. "American Robin" pencil drawing by Ethan Kibbe. Untitled etching of Ruffed Grouse in flight by Charles B. Ferguson.

Kandi Sanger. Post-fire Polaroids of Michael Laughlin's residence, "Windshield." (January 1974).

Connie White Family. Misc. FI-related magazines, clippings, newsletters, reports, and Utility Co. bulletins (1970s); Sotheby Parke Bernet sales brochures for FI houses; and three FI School yearbooks (1960s).

A Sampling of Museum Acquisitions, 2021

Objects and photos:

Civil War regiment's ribbon for Lyle's Beach [Hotel] reunion (1890).

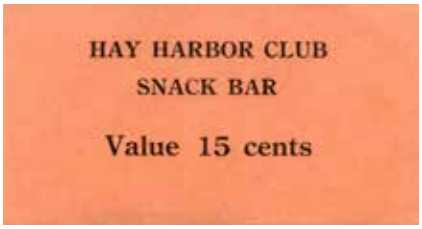
Three real photo postcards of Fort H.G. Wright depicting muster, tent life and dress parade (1909 and 1915).

Books:

The Captain, the Missionary, and the Bell: The Wreck of the Steamship Atlantic by Eric Larsson (2020).

Ceremonial Stonework: The Enduring Native American Presence on the Land by Markham Starr (2016).

The Listeners: U-boat Hunters during the Great War by Roy R. Manstan (2018).



HHC Snack Bar ticket. Circa 1960. Donated by Harry & Susie Ferguson.

Photo of a Sales Rep Calculator & Typewriter Class at the Remington Rand National Sales Training Institute, FI Club, Oct. 1949. Donated by Kim Malley.

Ruins of Union Chapel after fire (1965). Donated by Jim and Diane Baker.

Untitled folk-art sculpture of crab created by master carpenter and artist Tim Cromarty. 31"H x 47.25"W x 2.25"D. It includes sections salvaged from Fishers Island house renovations, and driftwood from beaches. Donated by Mark and Marnie Franklin.

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Barbara R. Stevens & Rufus G. King III
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Stickney III
Karl P. Stofko
Mrs. Annabel Strife
Mary L. Strunk
Katharine R. Sturgis
Anne Stutzman
Lori E. & Todd Swenson
Lenore Swenson
Bruce W. Talbot
Helen Davidson Tapper
Jim Tapscott
Rosie Taylor & Paul Thurkettle
Jean M. Thatcher
Lew Thatcher
Thompson Family Foundation
Virginia & Thor Thors
Leslie & Paul Tombari
Martha Torrance & Tim Tolman
Geoffrey Tracy & Norah O'Donnell
Bill & Deb Travers
Russella Travers
Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation
Sarah Tremaine
Genie & John Trevor
Bobbie & Ed Trippe
Cindy & Steve Tulka
Margie & Bill Ughetta
Hiram Upson
Warren Van Deventer
Claudia & Maarten van Hengel
Jane & Greg Van Schaack
Tyler & Kate Vaughey
Ann & John von Stade
Jim Wall
Melinda & Garrett Walls
Deb Walters
Katherine Walters
Bob & Margaret Warden
Richard Waters & Mary Cuthbert
Tod Williams & Billie Tsien
Jacqueline L. Williamson
Peter Williamson
Alex & Ginny Wilmerding
Anne & Charlie Wilmerding
David R. Wilmerding, Jr.
Jean & Chris Wilmerding
Bonnie Wittner
Ilene Wittner
Sally & Joe Woolston
Currie & Sim Wooten
Mary Denny Wray
Laurel Wyckoff & John Pierce
Charles Yokum
Yellow Farmhouse Education Center
Lizora M. Yonce

Please excuse any inadvertent misspellings or omissions.
**Deceased*

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 2022

Adult programs for the 2022 season are all scheduled to be in person at the Museum. They may also be simultaneously presented virtually on the Zoom webinar platform. Any changes necessitated by COVID will be posted. Programming announcements are sent to our e-news mailing list the week before the scheduled program. You can sign up for our e-news list at the footer of our website fergusonmuseum.org. For talks that are presented virtually, you can join the Zoom presentation at the scheduled time through the link on our website under PROGRAM, Calendar listings. Children's programs will be in person at the Museum. Advance registration is recommended as the number of young attendees is limited to 15. You are encouraged to sign up for a given program by phone (631-788-7239) or email (fimuseum@fishersisland.net). The programs are listed at fergusonmuseum.org, and on the fishnet calendar.

Kid's Guide to Tree ID. An essential element of nature exploration is being in the woods, surrounded by trees. How many of the surrounding trees do you know? What animals depend on these trees for survival? Practice your tree identification skills, meet several Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) animals who rely on trees in the wild, and do a leaf rubbing craft. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, July 6, 2022.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.

Turtles of Fishers Island and the Surrounding Region. An illustrated talk for an adult audience by Kim Hargrave, education director of the DPNC, Mystic, Conn. Incredible creatures, turtles have survived eons with remarkably little change. Kim's talk takes a close look at the lives and habitats of turtles in our neighborhood. Learn more about the threats they are facing due to habitat loss, climate change and the pet trade, as well as what we can do to help. **Sunday, July 10, 2022.** Time: 4:00 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. Program is suitable for older, interested children.

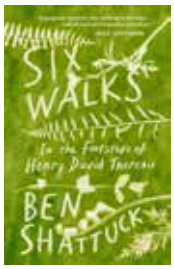
Fishy Fun! Slimy, scaly, slippery and speedy, fish are a standard part of most aquatic habitats. Learn about fish anatomy, life cycle and interesting adaptations. Check out art that fishermen create with the fish they catch and practice making your own fish prints. Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, July 13, 2022.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.

Nature, Culture, and Democratic Space: The Resonance of Olmsted in a 21st Century Practice. An illustrated talk by celebrated landscape architect Thomas Woltz, who will discuss the presence of Frederick Law Olmsted's work and legacy in contemporary landscape architecture as practiced by his firm Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects. **Sunday, July 17, 2022.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor.

Fishers Island Oyster Farm. An illustrated talk by Steve Malinowski that highlights the day-to-day operations of a thriving family-owned and managed farm that he cofounded in 1981 with his wife, Sarah. **Sunday, July 24, 2022.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd floor.

Benefit Premier: The History of Race Rock Light. This 45-minute video, produced by Marisela La Grave and Pierce Rafferty, chronicles the remarkable story of how a lighthouse came to be erected on a dangerous submerged ledge amidst some of the most unpredictable and swiftly moving tides on the East Coast. Benefit for New London Maritime Society's Race Rock Light Restoration Fund. Reception immediately following. No entrance fee. **Tuesday, July 26, 2022.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Fishers Island Theater.

Aquatic Adaptations. Learn about the amazing creatures that live in pond habitats and the adaptations that allow them to navigate their aquatic homes. Meet several of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center's resident pond animals, play a snapping turtle game, and make a frog call craft. A family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, July 27, 2022.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Advance registration recommended. Limited to 15 children. Suggested donation: $10.



Six Walks: In the Footsteps of Henry David Thoreau. An illustrated talk by Ben Shattuck, author of an intimate, entertaining, and beautifully crafted book about his journey to retrace Thoreau's path through the Cape's outer beaches, from the elbow to Provincetown's fingertip. Reception and book signing to follow. **Sunday, July 31, 2022.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor

Water Birds. Learn about the specialized beaks, feet, and feathers of birds adapted to living in and around the water. Inspect interesting bird artifacts and take part in a hands-on bird beak activity. Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 3, 2022.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Advance registration recommended. Limited to 15 children. Suggested donation: $10.

The Napatree Point Conservation Area: Past, Present & Future. An illustrated talk by Dr. Peter V. August and Grant G. Simmons III, respectively president and vice-president of The Watch Hill Conservancy. Stewardship of the 86-acre preserve is an ever-changing challenge. Dr. August and Mr. Simmons will review the scientific monitoring that is guiding and shaping their stewardship and management programs for Napatree Point. **Sunday, August 7, 2022.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor.

All About Owls. Meet a live owl as you learn more about their unique adaptations and nocturnal habits. Listen to owl calls to see which ones are living close to you. Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 10, 2022.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Advance registration recommended. Limited to 15 children. Suggested donation: $10.

Seagrass and Society – Underwater Plants as a Critical Resource. An illustrated talk by Dr. Jamie Vaudrey, Ph.D., on seagrass, the ribbon-like plant found rooted underwater along Fishers Island's coastline, that is a vital and vibrant resource for both marine animals and humans. **Sunday, August 14, 2022.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor.

Awesome Amphibians. Meet native frogs and salamanders and discover the amazing adaptations that these amphibians have. Learn about these creatures' unique life cycles and why their future is so uncertain in New England. Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 17, 2022.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Advance registration recommended. Limited to 15 children. Suggested donation: $10.

The History of Water Systems and Distribution on Fishers Island. Part 1 of a Utilities Series. This illustrated talk by HLFM Director Pierce Rafferty is the first in a series of three that will survey the past, examine the present, and look to the future of utilities on Fishers Island. **Sunday, August 21, 2022.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor.

Crustaceans: On Land and Sea. New England's coastline is home to countless species of crustaceans, but these armored creatures are not confined to the ocean. Many live in our forests and freshwater habitats! Come learn about the hidden world of crustaceans and their awesome adaptations for life on land and at sea. Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) family program for ages five and up. Wednesday, August 24, 2022. Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Advance registration recommended. Limited to 15 children. Suggested donation: $10.

Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season. An illustrated talk by noted ornithologist and author Roger Pasquier, an associate in the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History. Learn why we should think about birds in winter during August. Here on Fishers Island and throughout the Northern Hemisphere many birds are already preparing for the most challenging season of the year. **Sunday, August 28, 2022.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. Reception and book signing to follow.

Construction Zone: Beavers at Work. Beavers are always secretly at work somewhere nearby building their own habitat and building habitat for many other animals in the process. Come learn about nature's amazing engineers, meet animals that share their habitat, and build your own beaver dam to test! Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 31, 2022.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Advance registration recommended. Limited to 15 children. Suggested donation: $10.

Gulf Stream Perspectives. An illustrated talk by W. Frank Bohlen, physical oceanographer and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Marine Sciences at the University of Connecticut. The Gulf Stream has for centuries been of interest to navigators, oceanographers, and artists. Today, it figures prominently in discussions of climate change. Dr. Bohlen's talk brings into focus the combination of subjects that illuminate this remarkable natural phenomenon. **Sunday, September 11, 2022.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor.

Fishers Island Nature Discovery Program
The FIND program will be held in the afternoon during the week of **July 18th to 22nd** for children ages 5-10. The schedule and signup will be sent out by e-news and posted on fishnet and the Museum's website. This year's program will be run by educators from the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center.

Nature Walks

Nature walks will be led by board member Terry McNamara on **Thursday mornings in July and August.** Meet at the Museum at 10:30 a.m.

Museum Hours

June 26th 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 (631) 788-7239, or email fimuseum@fishersisland.net.
All safety protocols will be posted.

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

La Cache du Jour. A page from Charlie Ferguson's Day Book F.I. 2012.