The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

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From the President

This March, I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Cuba with an environmental group. We spent five days aboard a dive boat in the Gardens of the Queen marine protected area, snorkeling and SCUBA diving. The fish, corals, seagrasses, sharks, sea fans, rays, and other wildlife were tremendous. Their sheer numbers, both the quantity of fish per school and the overall diversity of marine species, offered a remarkable demonstration of the effectiveness of protected areas. Back from my trip, I am eager to explore the range of life in our own protected areas in the Land Trust.

Our Land Trust trails are in great shape. I hope you will visit them this summer, either on a scheduled nature walk, as a volunteer steward, or on your own. We have a great number of conservation projects going on: invasive species removal, creating parcel-targeted land management plans with visiting scientists and specialists, and treating Beech Leaf Disease, to name a few. You will find details of these projects within this newsletter.

Very excitingly, the Land Trust is expanding with the impending acquisition of two new undeveloped parcels, one across the main road opposite the entrance to Chocomount Beach and one adjacent to the Osprey Cam near Middle Farms Pond. We also look forward to the culmination of a two-year biodiversity survey conducted by the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP), the results of which will be presented on July 30 at the Museum. Preliminary findings confirm that Fishers Island is a very special place ecologically. Please see the summary article on page 6.

Not surprisingly, Museum Director Pierce Rafferty has put together three exciting new exhibits. The main exhibit, titled "The Sketchbooks of Charlie Ferguson," will showcase Charlie's spontaneous drawings and watercolors, as well as daily notes and natural history observations, spanning a period from the mid-1970s to mid-2010s. The other two exhibits are titled "Early Photographs of Fishers Island" and "Early Paintings of Fishers Island." Framed prints of the featured iconic photographs will be available for purchase, with proceeds supporting the Museum's Art Fund.

As always, we have an exciting lineup of guest speakers this summer. In addition to the talk on Fishers Island's biodiversity by scientists from NYNHP, Jacob Albert will give a presentation on the modern houses of Fishers Island, Trudy Coxe, executive director of the Preservation Society of Newport County, will examine the Gilded Age in America, and Pierce will give two illustrated talks: one on the wreck of the Steamer *Atlantic* on North Hill in 1846 and another on electric power generation and distribution on Fishers Island – its past, present, and possible future. Please see page 18 for our full list of illustrated lectures.

A special thanks to all our Museum members, whose generous contributions enable us to provide such a wide range of events, programming, and special projects. If you are not yet a member, we welcome you to join our community today. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Museum – or on the trails – this summer.

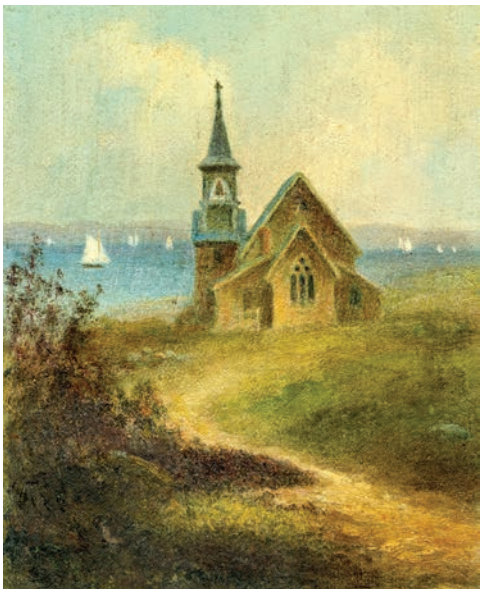
– Elizabeth McCance, President

Line of children on sandbar in front of Hay Harbor Club bathhouses, 1913. Photo by Brown & Dawson. "Early Photographs of Fishers Island" exhibit.

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum 2023 Annual Exhibitions

Untitled watercolor from C.B. Ferguson's "Fishers Island 2005."

The Sketchbooks of Charlie Ferguson



St. John's Church, c.1885. Attributed to Rev. Josiah M. Bartlett.

Munnatawket Hotel Dock, circa 1913. Photograph by Edward Quimby.

Early Paintings of Fishers Island
Natural History Gallery

Early Photographs of Fishers Island
Second Floor Gallery

Join us for the opening reception on Saturday, June 24th, 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome!

Exhibitions sponsored by: Altus Partners The Power of Objectivity CHUBB

Map of mid-Island section of Fishers Island with Land Trust properties shaded in light grey. Three new acquisitions are numbered 1, 2, and 3, and the Town parcel is marked T. These parcels are detailed in the following report.

Land Trust Report Spring 2023

by Bob Miller

There have been major developments in terms of land preservation and the expansion of our sanctuaries since the Land Trust report in the Spring of 2022.

In December 2022, the Land Trust received a donation of a 2.07 acre lot on Brooks Point from the family of Chris and Roddy Roosevelt. The lot is near other Land Trust properties donated by the Gaumond and Kuijpers families and expands a corridor of undisturbed habitat along Brooks Point Road.

In January 2023, contracts were signed for the acquisition of a 15.58 acre parcel of undeveloped land on the north side of the main road opposite the entrance to Chocomount Beach (the "Chocomount parcel"). Essentially, the Museum agreed to purchase the parcel from FIDCO, and the Town of Southold agreed to contribute $925,000 towards the purchase from its "Community Development Fund," which contains taxes levied on the sale of real estate. In exchange for its contribution, the Town will receive a conservation easement ensuring that the property will remain in its natural state. FIDCO also agreed to donate, upon the closing of the acquisition of the Chocomount parcel, a separate tract of 5.4 acres contiguous to our sanctuaries on Middle Farms – just to the east of the osprey nest videocam (the "Osprey Nest parcel").

Please refer to the attached map showing existing Land Trust properties in the mid-Island area, the Roosevelt parcel (marked 1), and the two FIDCO properties (marked 2 and 3). The new acquisitions are striking not only for their size, but also for the way they fit with the other protected land in this part of the Island. Preservation of these contiguous areas in such an ecologically diverse and sensitive area magnifies their environmental importance.

Discussions leading to these agreements were exceptionally challenging and time-consuming. The Town's protocols for providing funds for land conservation are detailed and strict. FIDCO had concerns about utility access that were difficult to address under the Town's protocols. These issues were ultimately resolved, and as of this writing the only matters to be addressed are those of due diligence required for the release of Community Development Fund money by the Town – particularly a survey. We hope that a closing can take place by the end of June.

In addition to the Town funding, the following individuals and foundations made substantial pledges to the Museum to enable us to acquire these properties (in alphabetical order):

Elena and John Brim
W. L. Lyons Brown, Jr. Charitable Foundation
Mary and Brad Burnham
Brad Collins
Fiddlehead Fund
Mark and Louise Gaumond
Roelfien and Arthur Kuijpers
McCance Foundation
John McGillian
Elizabeth and Richard Miller
Sam and Anne Polk
Fred and Sally Wakeman

The Town has become an important partner with the Museum in the preservation of environmentally sensitive land on Fishers Island. In 2019, facilitated by the Museum, the Town acquired a 5.33 acre lot between the Main Road and Middle Farms Pond and granted to the Museum a long-term stewardship license over the property (marked T on map). This parcel provided a significant connection between our sanctuaries on Middle Farms and other protected land to the east. The exis-

Handicapped-accessible ramp under construction at head of Treasure Pond Trail overlooking Middle Farms Pond. Photo by Bob Miller.

tence of this large stretch of contiguous environmentally important land was an important factor in the Town's determination to provide funds for the purchase of the Chocomount parcel.

The decision by FIDCO to transfer the Chocomount parcel for preservation and to donate the Osprey Nest parcel also further evidences FIDCO's extraordinary commitment to conservation on the Island. FIDCO has donated over 130 acres to the Land Trust. It is by far the largest contributor of land for sanctuary areas. FIDCO's donation of the Osprey Nest parcel will provide the "bridge" connecting our sanctuaries in the critical mid-Island area.

It is important to note that these three new parcels contain seven building sites identified on the June 1926 Olmsted Plan for development of the East End, which has been accepted as a de facto subdivision plan by the Town of Southold and Suffolk County. So, in addition to the huge benefit to the environment from these acquisitions, there will be seven fewer potential houses to be built – and to impact our viewsheds, roads, utilities, and other resources. Fishers Island's wellfield is within the sanctuary area, and a hydrologic study indicated that an important portion of our watershed area is within the Chocomount and Osprey Nest parcels.

The Museum in 1981 included in its mission statement the preservation in perpetuity of undeveloped property in its natural state. Since then, there have been more than 80 separate transactions resulting in the preservation and protection of 352.62 acres throughout the Island (including the Roosevelt parcel). The acquisition of the two FIDCO parcels will bring this total to almost 375 acres. It seems inevitable that the pace of land preservation must slow, and that the focus of the Land Trust will increasingly be on the management and stewardship of the properties for which we are responsible. But this seems an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the many who have donated land (see adjoining list), or financial support, or time and talent to make possible this progress in protecting the Island's environmental assets and natural beauty.

To briefly touch upon stewardship matters, the paths through the grassland at Middle Farms are the most consistently used of the more than 12 miles of trails we maintain. Scientists of the New York Natural Heritage Program recommended that the number of these paths be reduced to prevent fragmentation of this important habitat. In addition, to facilitate the controlled burning of the grassland, the Fire Department requested that we modify and enlarge fire breaks. We are therefore both reconfiguring and reducing the number of paths, and you will see "Trail Resting" signs in the area this season. However, paths traversing the center of the grassland will be maintained, with connections to "Penni's Path" on the west and parking area on the east, as well as perimeter paths, including the popular one along Beach Pond that connects to the trails in the Charles B. Ferguson Wildlife Sanctuary.

Also, we are conscious of the need to enhance access to the Land Trust sanctuaries. Our stewardship coordinator Jack Schneider has worked with the Fishers Island School and Race Rock Garden Company to create a handicapped-accessible overlook at the east end of Middle Farms Pond that we hope will be enjoyed by all (see photo at top left).

We hope you will enjoy the sanctuaries this season.

Individual Donors of Land* to the Land Trust of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum, 1977-2022

(in chronological order, alphabetically within year groups)

1977 Matthiessen, Erard A.
1978 Matthiessen, Peter
1981 Pike, Otis
1982 Doyle, L.F. Boker
1983 Doyle, L.F. Boker
1983 Miller, Robert J.
1984 Cushman, Allerton and Rita M.
1985 Geniesse, Robert J.
1986 Reid, Bagley
1990 Harris, David F.
Stickney, Albert III and Susan K.
1991 Noyes, Jansen Jr.
1993 Calley, John N.
Miller, Adrienne A.
1994 Pyle, Regina S.
1995 Calley, John N. and MacGraw, Ali
Newman, Robert James and Nancy Cant
Osborn, Henry C. III et al
Polk, Samuel S. and Anne H.
Sargent, Thomas A. and Allison D.
1996 Dunlap, Jeanann Gray
Geniesse, Robert J.
Searle, Robert S.
1999 Miller, Robert J. and Adrienne A.
Noyes, Jansen Jr.
2000 McCall, David B. Estate
2001 Bailey, Harriet
MacLeod, Barbara W.
Wilmerding, David R. Jr.
Wilmerding, Harold P.
2002 Boocock, Glenn Winnett
Harris, David F.
Salzman, Ammanda J.
Vartanian, Paul
Vartanian, Christabel
2003 Helfet, Anthony B. and Marjorie M.
2004 Gordon, Albert H.
McCall, David B. Estate
2005 Burr, Frank W. and Grace
Gorham, Barbara M. Trust
Kuijpers, Arthur H. A. and Roelfien A.
2006 Bogert, Louise Noble Estate
Boocock, Glenn Winnett Estate
Ferguson, Sarah Morewood et al
2009 Flower, Walter C. III
Gaumond, Mark E. and Louise D.
Milliken, Christopher C.
2010 Milliken, Christopher C. Trust
Milliken, Kate R. Trust
Van Hengel, Drusilla Drake Riley
Williamson, Anne W.,
Frederic Ely II, & Peter Laneres
2011 Krakowsky, Philippe & Lisa Posey
2016 King, Henry L. & Margaret G.
Rafferty, Christopher L. and Lamborn, Kathleen R.
Goss, Porter J.
2020 Borland, Anne Jay
Haver, Charles and Skolnick, Stewart R.
2022 Roosevelt, Christopher family

** Includes conservation easements as well as outright donations of property. Does NOT include transfers from FIDCO or other institutional donors, or purchases.*

Nature Notes

Atlantic Mole Crab

by Terry McNamara

Perhaps Fishers Island's most violent, turbulent environment is on our southern beaches, where the waves of Block Island Sound continuously break on shore. Although the coastline is generally rock and pebbles, there are several beaches where the substrate is mostly sand. It is in these areas, where sanderlings and semipalmated plovers skitter up and down the beach with the waves, that the Atlantic mole crab *(Emerita talpoida)* is in residence.

Walking at the water's edge along the sand, the area at first appears lifeless. Yet even the most casual observer may notice that this intertidal region, where the waves break and recede – an area called "the swash zone" – has an interesting physical characteristic. The agitation caused by a receding wave separates the sand particles, and the normally solid sand behaves like a thick liquid, a phenomenon called thixotropy. The mole crab evolved to flourish in this fluid environment, where the sand becomes a place to hide as well as a place to feed.

Often, if the wave action is gentle, V-shaped ripples will indicate the presence of buried colonies of crabs. They move up and down with the tide to stay in wet sand but sometimes get turned over by strong surf. During the winter months, mole crabs move to offshore sandbars to escape extreme temperatures. Fragile shells from damaged mole crabs are sometimes left behind in the wrack line.

Mole crabs range in size from 0.25 inches to over an inch in length. They are sand-colored, egg-shaped, and tapered on both ends. Like all true crabs, they have ten legs that evolved for swimming and digging. A long, V-shaped tailpiece folds under the body and anchors the crab in the sand. Like most of their relatives, mole crabs are brooders; the orange egg masses visible on the underside of females will be released when they're ready to hatch.

Unlike other crabs, which move side-to-side, mole crabs dig – and swim – backward. Their unique ability to burrow quickly and repeatedly has led numerous scientists to study their adaptations. The crabs bury themselves facing incoming waves in a sloped intertidal zone, leaving only their eyestalks and two feathery antennae above the sand. These antennae filter out suspended phytoplankton to eat as the waves recede over them. Children digging in the swash zone often briefly expose mole crabs, allowing them to capture the harmless creatures.

This summer, when you're walking any of our sandy "ocean" beaches, dig in the upper sections of the surf zone and see if you can find these hidden treasures.

Side view of Atlantic mole crab. Photograph by Terry McNamara.

Willet capturing mole crab, St. George Island, Florida. Photograph © by Earl Orf. www.earlorfphotos.com

Willet with mole crab in beak. Photograph © by Earl Orf.

New York Natural Heritage Program Biodiversity Study of Land Trust Properties

For the last two years, a team of scientists from the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) has been conducting an inventory of the Museum's Land Trust properties. Ecologists, zoologists, and botanists have used a variety of survey methodologies to study the Island's natural community types, rare plants, and rare animals. Their extensive work has culminated in a detailed report, which the lead scientists will present to the community on July 30 at the Museum. Here is a preview of their work and findings.

The NYNHP ecologists conducted a wall-to-wall assessment of the community types found on Land Trust properties and adjacent areas and classified 64 ecological communities. These communities include a wide variety of habitat types, from maritime and coastal oak hickory forests to red maple black gum swamps and maritime rocky beaches. Of the 64 ecological communities identified, nine are of state-wide significance and five are newly documented. Significant communities include the eelgrass meadows, coastal oak hickory forest, and shrub swamps. The NYNHP report noted that the grasses that comprise the 35-acre Middle Farms grasslands are atypical for a maritime grassland and provide unique and abundant wildlife habitat "worthy of preserving and enhancing." Our marine rocky intertidal community type is the largest occurrence recorded in the NYNHP database, and the report notes that Fishers Island has the best example in New York State of a maritime rocky beach community.

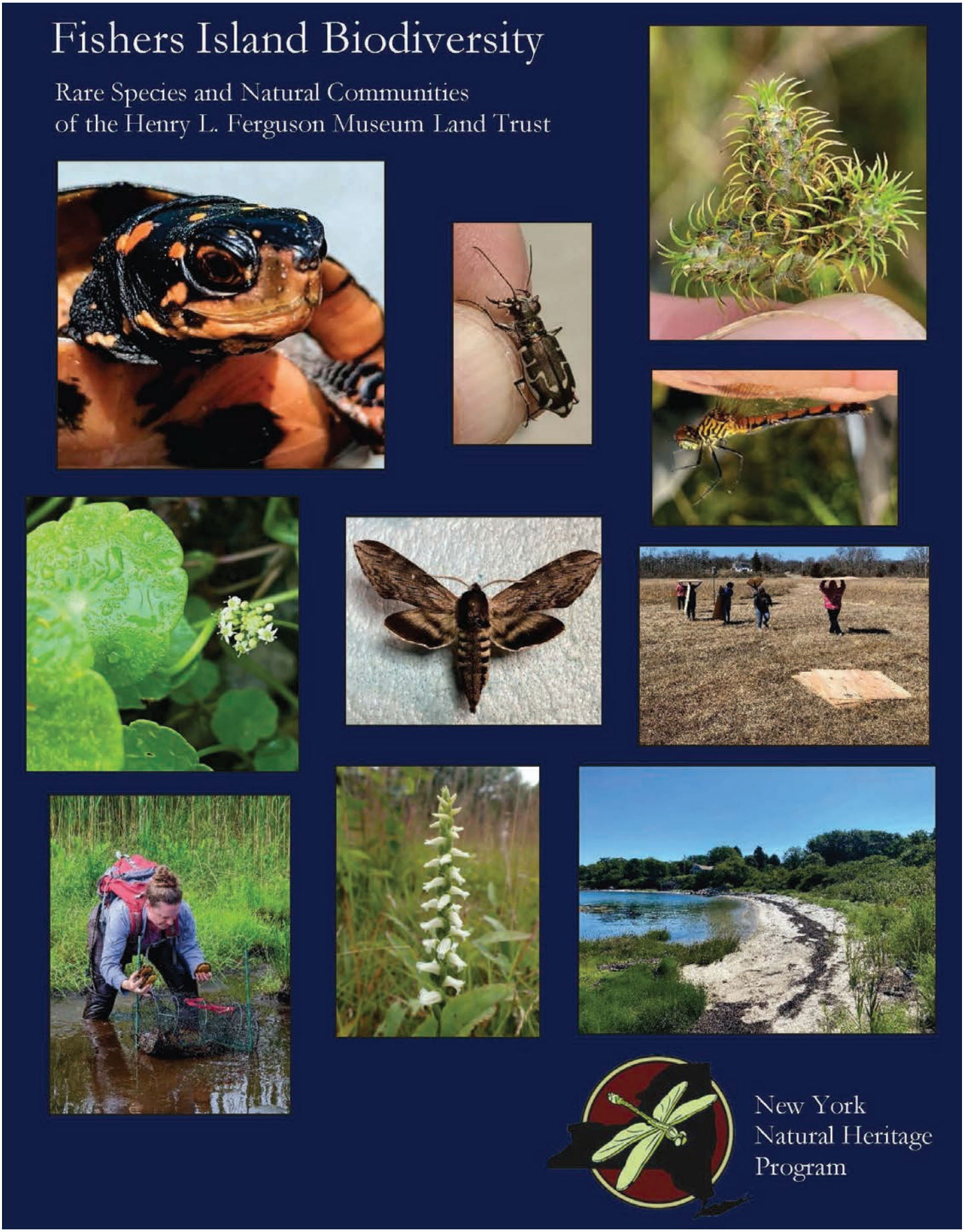
In terms of rare plants, the botanists considered both historical records and their own sampling. All in all, 65 rare plant taxa have been identified on Fishers Island – 35 of which are known to be extant – the greatest concentration of rare plants in the entire state of New York. Exciting species found on Fishers Island include Sea-coast Angelica, Green Screwstem, Large-calyxed Goosefoot, and Coastal Fireweed, among others. Additionally, a new population of state-rare coastal manna grass was discovered. The report notes that most of the rare plant species appear in various wetlands, and some of them are threatened by the expanding population of *Phragmites,* an invasive genus of common reed.

Given the detailed ornithological lists that have been compiled on Fishers Island over the decades, birds were not a formal focus of this study; however, rare birds that the scientists saw in the field were included in the report. The zoologists actively searched for turtles on Land Trust properties, and found three species: the painted turtle, the common snapping turtle, and the spotted turtle. The latter, last recorded alive on Fishers Island in the 1990s, is a species of concern, so it was exciting to discover juvenile spotted turtles on Fishers Island, an indication that we still have a breeding population.

Bumble bees, butterflies, moths, and dragonflies were also sampled. They documented five species of bumble bee, an important pollinator, and the ecologists believe that Fishers Island is an important breeding spot for the eastern migratory population of Monarch butterflies. The Red-banded Hairstreak, another butterfly they observed, appears to be expanding its range northward. The scientists documented two rare dragonfly species: the Seaside Dragonlet and the Rambur's Forktail. Remarkably, 393 unique taxa of moths were identified in this study, although several expected species were not found. Of the observed species, three were documented in New York for the first time and five for the first time on Long Island. In total, 27 rare moth species were observed.

Overall, this report provides a wealth of information to the Land Trust and the community about the biodiversity and ecology of Fishers Island, including the critical role the Island plays in providing habitat for rare and diverse species.

The primary authors of this report are Matthew D. Schlesinger, Chief Zoologist (pictured at left above), Richard M. Ring, Chief Botanist (pictured at center above), Gregory J. Edinger, Chief Ecologist (pictured at right above), Ashley M. Ballou, Zoologist, Katie G. Hietala-Henschell, Zoologist, Meaghan A. McCormack, Marine Zoologist, John P. Vanek, Zoologist, Erin L. White, Zoologist and Project Coordinator, and Stephen M. Young, Former Chief Botanist. Printed copies of the primary report (see cover on facing page) are scheduled to be available for distribution at the July 30 presentation. Appendices will be distributed as attached pdfs upon request.



Cover page of NYNHP report *Fishers Island Biodiversity,* published 2023. Photographs (left to right, top to bottom): Spotted Turtle, Hairy-necked Tiger Beetle, Dwarf Umbrella Sedge, Seaside Dragonlet, Manyflower Marsh-pennywort, Northern Apple Sphinx, students carrying coverboards, Ashley Ballou with hands full after checking a turtle trap, Yellow ladies' tresses, and Chocomount Cove.

Aerial showing eastern edge of former Fort H.G. Wright parade ground. Photo courtesy of Google Earth. The pond at center left, originally named "Lake Ladd," was later nicknamed "Movie Pond." Note the ditch, first cut by the US Quartermaster Corps circa 1908, that utterly failed to drain the pond. Remarkably, a simple rail line was also established by the military to haul sand from South Beach for the sole purpose of filling in the pond.

Island History

by Pierce Rafferty

While first constructing Fort H.G. Wright in the early 1900s, the US Army's Quartermaster (QM) Corps initiated a major campaign to drain and fill in wetlands throughout the Fort property. It was estimated that there were twenty ponds of fresh or brackish water on the acquired land, measured at one million square feet, along with 20 to 25 acres of marsh that provided optimum breeding areas for mosquitos. The QM Corps, assisted by teams of hired Italian laborers, attempted to eradicate the offending water bodies, swamps, and wetlands by cutting ditches and filling the targeted sites with dirt and sand taken from leveled hills and gun emplacement pits.

However, not all ponds at the Fort were easy to eradicate. One that survived was located southwest of today's movie theater. It was originally named "Lake Ladd" on military maps in honor of the QM Corps captain named Ladd who had been tasked with filling it in. Fed by groundwater springs, this water body defied repeated attempts to wipe it from the landscape. Edwin Horning (2019-2008), F.I. School teacher, naturalist, and Museum curator, chronicled the rich natural diversity of "Movie Pond" in his booklet *Birds, Plants, & Fish of Fort H.G. Wright* that was published in 1998. Sadly, the diversity he celebrated appears to have significantly diminished in the ensuing decades, mirroring nationwide declines in bird and amphibian populations.

Movie Pond

by Edwin Horning

Movie Pond is located across the road from the osprey nest, behind the Movie Theater. You can also reach it by going from the Ferry Dock to the eastern end of Whistler Avenue and turning right onto Town Road just past the Movie Theater. It is about 100 yards south on the right.

Movie Pond, though small, has a cast of thousands. It is a freshwater pond, never more than 4 feet deep, which becomes a dry mud flat during most summers. During the winter it is sometimes covered by ice thick enough to walk on. As Movie Pond warms, and winter turns into spring, the very first sound of life is the "peep peep" of the spring peeper, *Hyla crucifer,* one of the tree frogs. At first one or two, then an entire chorus is heard in late March. After mating rituals, hundreds of eggs are laid; they later become tadpoles, and later still, frogs. They supply food for birds such as herons, that visit the pond. During August, on rainy nights, hundreds of peep frogs appear on the pavement in front of the Movie House, and also on walls. I once was surprised to see one on our television screen.

During April, ducks begin to fly into the pond. Small numbers of mallards and black ducks appear, and occasionally, green-winged teal and blue-winged teal. Sometimes a flock of glossy ibises circle, land, and feed in the pond. Also during April, male red-winged blackbirds arrive; about a month later the females appear. Some will mate and nest in the area.

Looking past Movie Pond to Officers Row with Movie Theater at right. May 6, 2023. Photograph by Pierce Rafferty.

In May, the chorus of the peeper frogs is often joined by Virginia rail, and sometimes the "peent, peent" call of the woodcock is heard. The Virginia rail has nested in the broad-leaved cattails at the southeast edge of the pond. Later, in July and August, adult and young Virginia rails may be seen at the pond if one is quiet and lucky, for rails are extremely shy birds, more often heard than seen. On July 9, 1994, a very foggy day, at 9:00 AM, I made my way through the surrounding grassland to the pond. I was very surprised to see a large rail and two small "fluffs" near the cattails. I thought "king rail!" Moments later this thought was confirmed, when another rail with two fluffs appeared. The large rail was the king rail with her young and the smaller one the Virginia rail with her young. The king rail is very rare. This was the only time that I ever found it at the pond.

At least one pair of muskrats inhabit the pond and may be seen once in a while. Sometimes a food storage den, made mostly of cattails, may be seen in the pond. During the summer as the pond dries, muskrat trails in the mud can be seen.

After mid-July, several species of herons visit the pond to feed on peep frog tadpoles, and perhaps small water insects. Most likely the herons come from South Dumpling Island where they nest. Herons seen are the great blue heron (the largest of the herons), little blue heron (the adult is bluish, but immatures are amazingly white and difficult to distinguish from the two white herons, the great egret, and the snowy egret). The snowy egret has a black beak and golden feet. The great egret has a long yellow beak. Two other herons that appear in July are the green heron and the black crowned night heron. The most distinguishing field mark of the green heron is its long reddish brown neck; the black crowned night heron has a white breast and very black brow. At the same time, we can see the glossy ibis, an unmistakable, dark reddish-brown bird with a long, curved beak. All of these begin to appear in the pond in July, with more coming in August.

Appearing at the Movie Pond in late June and early July are the shorebirds that nested in the far north and are now migrating southward. The first to arrive is the tiny and brownish least sandpiper, the smallest of the sandpipers. The advance guard of three to five birds are often first seen at Airport Beach. They appear at Movie Pond after the water level has lowered enough to leave mud flats.

Next to arrive are the dowitchers, larger pigeon-sized brownish shorebirds with long beaks; they jab at the bottom under the water for food with a sewing machine action. The greater and lesser yellowlegs (recognized by their long yellow legs and long bills) arrive in August. Near mid-August, some of the rarer sandpipers arrive. One of these is the solitary sandpiper, with a pronounced white eye-ring. As the name implies, it is usually seen alone, although on rare occasions as many as four may be seen together. Another is the stilt sandpiper, which looks like a dowitcher but has a rusty cheek patch and a slightly more slender bill. A rarer bird is the Baird's sandpiper, that looks much like a semipalmated sandpiper, but a little bigger. They usually appear alone and mingle with the other sandpipers. In 1995, a single Baird's sandpiper arrived at the pond on August 17, when there was still water in the pond, and remained until the pond was completely dry on August

26. It was the last sandpiper to be seen on the mud flats of the pond during the summer of 1995. The semipalmated sandpiper, the second smallest, arrives in late July, four or five birds at first, and later as many as 40-50. It looks much like a least sandpiper, but is bigger, grayer, and has a broader beak.

Four other sandpipers have been seen at Movie Pond. They are the sanderling, the pectoral sandpiper, the spotted sandpiper, and the common snipe. They are all migrants from the north, except the spotted sandpiper, which nests on the Island. The spotted sandpiper is the only one with spots on its breast. It walks with a peculiar bobbing manner. It is never seen in greater than 4-5 family-sized groups. The sanderling is medium-sized and is the whitest of the sandpipers. It is never seen in numbers of more than 5 at the pond. The pectoral sandpiper is larger than the sanderling and has a sharp division between its white belly and brown-striped breast. Only one or two are seen at a time. The common snipe looks much like a woodcock but with a white stripe running along the center of its head. I have seen these rarely, usually a single bird at the edge of the pond.

Three species of plovers visit the mud flats of the drying pond. The smallest and most abundant is the semipalmated plover. "Semipalmated" means that has small webs between its toes, visible only if you have one in your hand. It is nearly the size of the semipalmated sandpiper, with a shorter bill and a bar across its white breast. As many as 20-30 may visit the pond at one time. The black-bellied plover is much larger and has its black belly only in the spring. In August, it has a whitish belly, a gray back and a short bill. Only one or two of these are seen at a time. Many more may be seen at the Airport Beach. Another familiar plover at the pond is the killdeer.

Wilson's phalarope has been seen only once at Movie Pond. This bird has a very thin beak and swims buoyantly in the water in a spinning manner.

Beginning in late July or early August, dragonflies are seen flying back and forth across the pond catching smaller insects such as mosquitoes. Sometimes a pair of dragonflies flies over the pond in tandem, every so often dipping down to the water. There the female deposits eggs. Sometimes the female flies alone dipping to the water surface to lay her eggs. There are two groups of dragonflies, the darners and the skimmers. Of the darners, the most abundant are the green darners. Among the skimmers are the ten-spot, the golden wings, the whitetail, the red saddlebags, the wandering globetrotter, and perhaps others. All are very colorful and fascinating to watch as they glide over the pond.

Now, a brief description of the plant life in and around the pond. Along the path to the pond is grassland, the main species being switch grass or *Panicum virgatum.* Here and there among the switch grass are sedges *(Carex).* The stems of sedges are triangular while those of grasses are round. There are goldenrods that have yellow flowers beginning in August. It is in this field that one of our native orchids, the ragged fringed orchid, thrives among the grasses.

At the edge of the pond are typical wetland plants. One of these is bur-reed, *Sparganium americanum.* On this plant are separate male and female flowers. The female flowers are large green spheres about ¾ inches in diameter, while the males are small, about ¼ inch in diameter. There are members of the rush family, such as the Canada rush *Juncus canadensis,* and members of the sedge family, some of which are the American bulrush, *Scirpus validus,* wool grass, *Scirpus cyperinus,* and species of the spike rush genus *Eleocharis.* The broad-leaved cattail grows in clumps along the edge, providing a home for the Virginia rail. In August, the pond is bordered by a member of the buckwheat family, a smartweed called mild waterpepper.

Leaving the pond, walking through the small grassland, you pass through a small thicket. If it is September, you may see a small flock of bobolinks perched on shrubs of the grassland. The thicket is made up of small black cherry trees, with an understory of bayberry, autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle, bittersweet, wineberry, and others. In summer in this thicket you can see such Island nesting birds as the yellow warbler, the common yellowthroat, the kingbird, the redwinged blackbird, the house sparrow, and the song sparrow. In the autumn, you can see swamp sparrows in the grass, white-throated sparrows, phoebes, yellow-rumped warblers; near the pond I have seen the rare Lincoln's sparrow.

After leaving the thicket, turn right on Town Road. If you pass the grassland along the north side of the road in April and May, look for blue violets. If you walk into the grassland near the pond you will find the white lance-leafed violet.

Continue southward on Town Road and take the first turn to the right. You will see a large thicket on the left, a place where the members of the National Guard pitched their tents on large cement platforms.

Former Fort Wright tent platforms south of Movie Pond, May 10, 2023. Photograph by Pierce Rafferty.

The Fishers Island Seagrass Management (FISM) Coalition has entered an exciting year in its mission to promote community learning about eelgrass meadows. In August 2022, the FISM Coalition passed an outreach, education, and engagement plan with unanimous support. With this plan, the Coalition acknowledges the power and responsibility of community members in affecting positive change for our marine ecosystems. We know Fishers Island residents want to be environmentally responsible by sustaining our beautiful ecosystems for generations. This season in 2023, we want to empower residents and visitors of the island to make sustainable choices to ensure the integrity of our seagrass and the services it provides.

The Long Island Sound Study wrote a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (LISS CCMP) with a vision of a Long Island Sound packed with wildlife, bustling fisheries, and recreational boating access. This vision begins with community members who understand their effect on Long Island Sound and are cognizant of those actions that can harm the marine ecosystem. An essential aspect of this plan is the priority to restore and protect eelgrass. The LISS CCMP set a goal to restore 2000 acres of eelgrass by 2035; unfortunately, recent estimates of eelgrass extent show that LIS has lost more acres than it has gained. Fishers Island, the most abundant source of eelgrass in New York, lost 56 acres of eelgrass between 2012 and 2017. Because this goal is a high priority, the EPA has written a strategy document to address eelgrass in LIS. In the document, the EPA acknowledges the importance of the community involvement and engagement initiatives of the FISM Coalition.

The eelgrass around Fishers Island provides many ecosystem services that residents and visitors enjoy. It provides a complex habitat that can support a great deal of biodiversity. This habitat supports fisheries by giving shelter to juvenile fish food for grazers, and even provides lining for the nests of ospreys.This complex habitat gives snorkelers and divers exciting things to observe. Further adding to recreational enjoyment, eelgrass is an efficient filtration system that offers beachgoers and boaters crystal-clear waters. These meadows pull pollutants, like nitrogen, out of the water column, decreasing algal blooms and low oxygen zones. The eelgrass beds are also a powerful tool to prevent erosion. They reduce the power of currents and waves, preventing sediments' resuspension and promoting sedimentation within the meadow. Finally, eelgrass sequesters large amounts of carbon in its deposits. Despite only accounting for 0.1% of the coastal ocean, seagrass accounts for 10-18% of carbon sequestration in the ocean. To learn more about these ecosystem services, visit our website: fiseagrass.org.

This year, the FISM Coalition focuses on two main areas causing eelgrass damage. We chose these starting initiatives because these are areas where our community members can have a significant impact. Our first goal is to promote the reduction of fertilizer use on Fishers Island by educating residents about fertilizer timing, amount, alternatives, and the use of native plants. Although these goals will benefit Fishers Island eelgrass, it will also have broader ecosystem benefits of less water pollution (fresh and marine), restoring natural terrestrial biodiversity, and attracting pollinators and wildlife. Learn more about our landscaping initiatives on our Seagrass Safe Landscaping page of our website.

Our second goal addresses the cumulative boating damage Fishers Island residents and visiting boaters can cause to eelgrass beds. Our focus is the damage anchors and propellers create. During anchor fall and retrieval, they uproot 1-4 m^2 of eelgrass; this damage increases as hundreds of boaters drop anchor in eelgrass beds. In shallow waters of approximately 10 m and less, boat propellers can dig directly into the sediments and pull up large sections of eelgrass. These scars take almost three years to be repaired. In the meantime, the bare patches allow sediments rich in nitrogen and carbon back into the water column. These sediments shade eelgrass, pollute the water with nitrogen and release greenhouse gases. To learn more about seagrass safe boating and how to become part of the solution, visit the boating section of our webpage.

We hope you are all inspired to learn more about the Save our Seagrass movement that the FISM Coalition is starting. Please visit our website to learn more about us and Fishers Island eelgrass. There are also plenty of ways to become involved with us. Our growing citizen scientist network monitors transects throughout the island to gather data on how our eelgrass beds are used. We also monitor water quality at two sites to assess habitat suitability metrics for eelgrass. Contact our project coordinator, Hannah Vagts, at fishersislandseagrass@gmail.com to get involved in our network or ask her questions about our eelgrass and initiatives. You can also talk to her at the Museum or Island events; she will post information about where community members can find her during the summer, so keep an eye on our news and blog page!

Map showing seagrass extent, Fishers Island, as of 2017. Source: NYSDEC Statewide Seagrass Map, ArcGIS.

Conserving Seagrass

Human activities in the nearshore waters of Fishers Island

In anticipation of the Fishers Island Seagrass Management coalition producing a protection plan for the eelgrass found in our nearshore waters, the Museum joined a citizen-science program called Marine Protected Areas Watch (MPA Watch). In this program, volunteers are trained according to a specific protocol to survey various human activities that occur in the nearshore waters. This information is useful in determining what management activities may or may not be needed.

Museum volunteers started collecting MPA Watch data in 2019. After two years of data collection, the Museum hired Dr. Stephen Arnott of City College of New York to analyze the data. The goal of this program is to quantify the types and intensity of various human activities in or near the seagrass beds. For this work, five sites were chosen: North Hill, Flat Hammock, West Harbor, 8th hole of F.I. Club, and East Beach.

Over the course of the two summers, 50 transects were walked by the volunteers, who recorded 290 human activities. Of these activities, 213 occurred on-shore, 47 were boating activities, and 30 were off-shore activities. When all the activities were considered together (shore, boating, and offshore), there was a significant difference in the frequency of activity. West Harbor had the highest activity levels, followed by Flat Hammock, 8th hole, North Hill, and East Beach. Following the overall pattern, shore activities were most frequent at West Harbor, intermediate at Flat Hammock and 8th hole, and infrequent at North Hill and East Beach. Boating, however, was most frequent at Flat Hammock, West Harbor, and 8th hole, and infrequent at North Hill and East Beach.

Boating activity was recorded on 47 of the 50 sampling days. The types of boats broke down as follows: 28 powerboats, 12 sailboats, 3 recreational fishing boats, 3 kayaks, 1 jet ski and 1 commercial fishing boat. Of these boats, 25 were anchored, 12 were underway, 6 were moored, and 4 were classified as unknown status. The citizen-science data was supplemented with data on stationary boats taken from Google Earth Pro, which showed an additional 87 boats. From the satellite images Arnott noted that the anchored boats at Flat Hammock, 8th hole and North Hill were frequently located within or very close to the seagrass meadows.

MPA Watch volunteer recording boat activity, West Harbor, July 26, 2019. Photo courtesy of FISM.

MPA Watch volunteers learning observation protocols, July 26, 2019. Photo courtesy of FISM.

Arnott analyzed the relationship between activities and time periods. Not surprisingly, the summer months were busier than the fall months. Early afternoon (12-3 pm) was significantly busier than other times of day. There was not a statistical difference between weekdays and weekends. Relationships to weather were also analyzed, and again the results were intuitive. Activities were more frequent on hotter days and on clear days, compared to colder and cloudy days.

In summary, shore activities (e.g. relaxing or walking on the beach) were the most frequent type of activity, followed by boating activities, then off-shore activities (e.g. swimming, paddle boarding). West Harbor was generally the most active site, whereas Flat Hammock and 8th hole had intermediate levels of activity and North Hill and East Beach were the least visited. In terms of boating, there was a marked difference between the types of boating activities at West Harbor versus Flat Hammock and 8th hole. In West Harbor, most boats were moored in deeper water and away from shore, whereas those at Flat Hammock, 8th hole and North Hill were anchored very close to shore in the areas of seagrass.

Arnott concludes that based on the human activities sampled, boating poses the greatest threat to the seagrass. He recommends both further study of the issue and potential damage to the seagrass as well as education of residents both about the importance of eelgrass and the potential damage caused by boats.

MPA Watch continues today, and if you would like to volunteer as a citizen-scientist, please contact Hannah Vagts at fishersislandseagrass@gmail.com.

Conservation Science

Biocontrol of Swallow-wort Plants

Black swallow-wort, *Vincetoxicum nigrum,* is ubiquitous on Fishers Island. The vine's entangling tendrils and proliferation of leaves create a green mass that can overgrow and smother adjacent plants The sap of this vine is toxic, which is detrimental to monarch butterflies. According to a University of Rhode Island (URI) fact sheet:

> Research has found swallow-wort to be harmful to monarch butterfly populations. Because swallow-wort chokes out native milkweed species, monarchs often lay their eggs on swallow-wort plants, itself a member of the milkweed family. Larvae cannot feed on swallow-wort and, subsequently, the caterpillars die which further reduces the already endangered monarch populations.[1]

There are no simple, conventional methods for controlling black swallow-wort and its related species, pale swallow-wort, *V. rossicum.* One potential approach is biocontrol: the deployment of an herbivorous species that seeks out and exclusively feeds upon the undesirable plant.

After many years of testing, the University of Rhode Island Biocontrol Laboratory received federal permission in 2017 to release a species of moth, *Hypena opulenta,* whose larval stage feeds on the swallow-worts. Researchers, who demonstrated that the *Hypena* larvae consume exclusively swallow-worts and no other species, have been piloting the project with landholders across the northeast.[2]

HLFM Land Trust *Hypena opulenta* enclosure. Photo by Jack Schneider.

***Hypena opulenta,* adult moth. Courtesy of Creative Commons.**

The Museum has been working with URI since 2019 to establish a self-sustaining *Hypena* colony on the island. Each spring, we erect a portable screened enclosure in a shady spot over a vigorous bed of swallow-wort. This culturing facility includes a data logger that measures temperature and light intensity along with nectar bottles that feed the moths a diluted honey solution. We then introduce about 30 female and male *Hypena* moths, obtained from URI, hoping for mating and egg deposition.

Each week from June to September, we sample a portion of the enclosure, estimating the numbers of moths and larvae and the level of leaf damage caused by feeding larvae. As the season progresses, we see fewer moths, more leaf damage, and a progression through the five larval life stages. The egg-to-adult life cycle should take five to six weeks.

So far, we've had no luck establishing a self-sustaining *Hypena* colony – but we are not alone. As a presentation by URI scientists reporting the results of the 2020 season stated:

> All six 2020 releases showed successful larval development and 75-100% leaf damage to swallow-wort within the field cages. Only one of the five sites from previous years showed evidence of *H. opulenta* overwintering, but reproduction and establishment hasn't yet been confirmed at this site. Research on the photoperiod that initiates diapause induction of *H. opulenta* larvae indicates that the longest photoperiod of the summer may not be long enough in our area to allow for a second generation of this species.[2]

Despite this disappointing news, last summer the first generation of moths developed on the Island – along with thorough defoliation of the black swallow-wort within the enclosure. This spring, we'll reinstall the tent in hopes of capturing a second generation of moths as they emerge from their pupa stage.

1. **https://web.uri.edu/biocontrol/black-swallowwort/**
2. **https://web.uri.edu/coastalfellows/biological-control-of-invasive-swallow-wort-plants-vincetoxicum-spp-evaluating-field-releases-of-hypena-opulenta-moths/**

Conservation Science

Protecting Fishers Island's Forests

As steward of the Museum's Land Trust, Jack Schneider is constantly monitoring the health of the Island's natural habitats. In 2021, Jack noticed signs of Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) in the American beech stand along Island Pond Trail; he reported it to both the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. This action prompted the NYS DEC staff to undertake a study to assess the forest habitat in the Land Trust and make management recommendations to maximize forest health. The researchers came in April 2022 and surveyed the forests in Brick Yards North, Brick Yards South, Chocomount, and Betty Matthiessen preserves.

As Fishers Island is located within the Atlantic coastal pine barren region, it may originally have had more pine trees than it does today. Yet with a history of agriculture, human disturbance, lack of fire, and weather events such as major hurricanes, pine regeneration has been suppressed, while the growth of hardwoods has been (unintentionally) encouraged. Today, Fishers Island contains primarily closed-canopy hardwood forest. The researchers noted that the sites they visited were dominated by black oak and red maple interspersed with black cherry, yellow birch, and Norway spruce. However, they observed some pitch pine and white pine regeneration in the understory.

The American beech forest is found along Island Pond Trail, where the trees have grown up in open, sunny conditions. While the researchers noted the symptoms of BLD in the Museum's beech stands, they were not able to determine the severity of the infestation without more intensive monitoring. The severity varies between groves. One grove is nearly totally defoliated while others are just starting to lose leaves. The Museum is undertaking an experimental program to try to ameliorate the disease progression.

The NYS DEC survey resulted in three recommendations for the Museum's Land Trust:

1. Implement forest management practices that will protect species diversity and promote regeneration of natural communities to make trees more resilient to forest health threats and climate change.

By protecting and managing areas of less-encountered tree species, we can protect the overall biodiversity on the island. Protecting the biodiversity of tree species will guard against forest devastation by diseases like oak wilt or the Asian longhorned beetle; neither disease has yet reached Fishers Island, and a diverse forest would minimize spread if an outbreak should occur. Opening the canopy will allow shade-intolerant species such as black cherry and yellow and black birch to regenerate and diversify the forest.

Brickyard Trail woods. Photo by Jack Schneider.

To protect and promote the pitch pine and the American beech, the researchers recommend prescribed fire. They felt that widely-spaced pitch pine is less likely to be attacked by southern pine beetles, and fire prepares the soil for seed germination. Further, prescribed fire helps to prevent wildfires, which could devastate rare ecosystems such as our maritime beech communities. However, the foresters' recommendation for thinning is a generalization based on localities where pitch pines are dense. Since there are no dense stands on Fishers, thinning of the oak and maple overstory coupled with prescribed fire and/or removal of leaf and tree litter would be a possible route to encourage pitch pine regeneration.

Researchers observed a number of invasive species in the forest – such as honeysuckle, buckthorn, and briars – particularly along roads. Because these plants promote tick populations and present a significant threat to maintaining desirable tree species, the scientists recommended that the Land Trust prioritize a plan for invasive species reduction.

2. Work with state, county, and federal partners to treat and monitor the BLD-infested American beech. Build partnerships to increase forest health management capacity.

The American beech are currently under threat from BLD, an infection that can kill a mature tree in under 10 years. While there is no established treatment for the disease, experimental treatments are available and recommended to protect the beech on Fishers Island. Because the experimental treatments require multiple management projects, the researchers suggested partnering with organizations working on this issue. Possible partners include NYS DEC, Forest Health Diagnostic Lab, Connecticut Agriculture Experimentation Station, and Suffolk County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

3. Prevent the introduction of new, harmful invasive species by bolstering interception efforts at island entry points.

As it is generally easier and more cost-effective to prevent invasive species' introduction than to control infestations, the researchers recommend that we increase invasive species prevention efforts, especially at the ferry terminal. Equipment coming from the mainland could transport invasive plant parts or soil containing invasive species; the invasive worm species currently making headlines are transported in soil, whether it be on equipment or in materials used for landscaping. Managing the worm populations within infested regions has so far proved impossible and the damage to the soil is irreversible. Egg masses for non-natives such as spongy moth and spotted lanternfly are also often transported on outdoor equipment. The DEC Forest Health Diagnostic Lab could help us implement screening protocols for high impact forest pests to prevent the most noxious invasives from overtaking Fishers Island's forests.

A Sampling of Donations to the Museum's Collection in 2022

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

Anonymous. Artwork depicting wreck of the rumrunner *Thelma Phoebe* on F.I. in 1923, drawn by Duke Riley on treated salvaged plastic that mimics scrimshaw.
Jane Carr. Egg tempera painting of Hedge's Fish Market, Fishers Island; *The Fishers Island Cook Book,* published by the Ladies Aid Society of Union Chapel, F.I. N.Y., 1917.
Nathaniel Chaves. Dog tags and misc. military buttons, etc. found on the former Ft. Wright property.
Patty Faulkner. Photo albums of IPP activities (1981-82) and Senior Luncheons (various years).
Silvana Gada. Photo of a group of men in front of Elk's Lodge in New London with sign in background: "Welcome Fishers Island Brothers," circa early 1960s.
James Hall. Mounted optical device used in Fort H.G. Wright observation station.
George Lamb. Photos of Boy Scout Camporee on Fishers Island, circa 1946.
Janice Revett Lloyd. War Department program for Fort Theatre, Nov. 1937.
Audrey Ludemann. Prize List, Fifth Annual Fishers Island Horse Show, 1931.
Sharon & Tim Patterson. Drawing of Cooper's Hawk by Ethan Kibbe.

A Sample of Acquisitions:

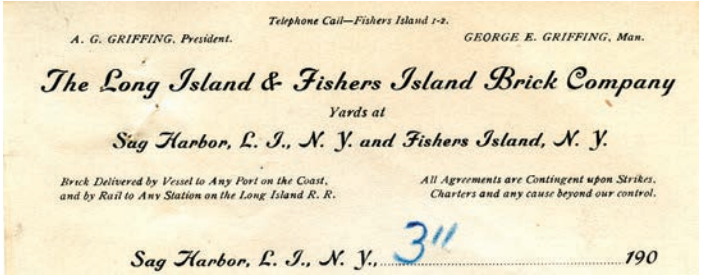
Artwork by Charles B. Ferguson, including 37 etchings, 10 paintings and 1 wooden sculpture.
Letterhead of The Long Island & Fishers Island Brick Co., circa 1905.
Luncheon plate from yacht *Leila* with F.I.Y.C. burgee and owner's flag. Date unknown.
Newspaper *New York Herald Tribune* (1914) with feature article on Katherine Harley, a champion amateur golfer who won the U.S. Women's Amateur of the USGA in 1908 as Miss Harley, and again in 1914 as Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson. Note: the H.A. Jackson house on Fishers Island, built in the late 1920s, is currently owned by Helen Scott Reed.

Photograph of people camping in tents on F.I., 1903.
Postcard of Civil War monitor USS *Jason* that guarded Fishers Island and New London during Spanish American War.

Boy Scouts walking to Camporee, F.I., c.1946. Donated by George Lamb.

A group of Elks in front of New London Lodge, circa early 1960s. Donated by Silvana Gada

Annual Holiday Senior Lunch at Union Chapel, December 2004. Donated by Patty Faulkner.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Long Island & Fishers Island Brick Company letterhead, c.1905.

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Leslie & Paul Tombari
Martha Torrance & Tim Tolman
Geoffrey Tracy & Norah O'Donnell
Bill & Deb Travers
Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation
Sarah C. Tremaine
Genie & John Trevor
Bobbie & Ed Trippe
Margie & Bill Ughetta
Warren Van Deventer
Claudia & Maarten van Hengel
Jane & Greg Van Schaack
Maureen VanDerStad
Christabel & Paul Vartanian
Kate & Tyler Vaughey
Sally & Frederic Wakeman
James Wall
Rob Walls & Eloise Corcoran
Deb Walters
Katherine Walters
Warburg Pincus
Eric & Katie Welles
Ellen Virden White
Elizabeth & Brian Wilhelm
Mrs. Harold L. Williamson, Jr.
Peter Williamson
Alex & Ginny Wilmerding
Anne & Charlie Wilmerding
David R. Wilmerding, Jr.
Jean & Chris Wilmerding
Sheldon & Paul* Withers
Bonnie Wittner
Kimball & Janet Woodward
Sally & Joe Woolston
Currie & Sim Wooten
Mary Denny Wray
Laurel Wyckoff & John Pierce
Charles Yokum
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 2023

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 the Program tab. As the event date approaches, check the Fishnet and website calendars and e-news announcements for details as to which in-person programs will also be presented virtually. Children's programs will be in-person at the Museum. Advance registration recommended as number of young attendees is limited to 15. Sign up for a given program by phone (631-788-7239) or email (fimuseum@fishersisland.net). The programs are listed at fergusonmuseum.org, or on the Fishnet calendar.

Best Built Nest. Birds are not the only living creatures that build nests. What other animals build nests that can withstand all types of weather and protect their young? Meet native nest builders and try your own hand at nest building! A Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center Program (DPNC) for ages five and up. **Wednesday, July 5, 2023.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.

Wreck of the Steamer *Atlantic.* An illustrated talk by Museum Director Pierce Rafferty that chronicles the dramatic story of Fishers Island's most deadly and consequential shipwreck in November 1846. **Sunday, July 9, 2023.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor.

Critter Camouflage. Animals are the masters of disguise! From stripes to mimicry, learn the ways animals hide and why. Meet live animals, create camouflaged paper creatures, and play camouflage games. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, July 12, 2023**. Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.

Ceremonial Stonework: The Enduring Native American Presence on the Land. Documentary photographer Markham Starr will present an illustrated talk on the ceremonial stonework left behind by the indigenous population that occupied New England for 12,000 years. **Sunday, July 16, 2023.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. Reception to follow.

Animal Detective. Become an animal private eye! Learn how to read the clues animals leave behind. Tracks, scat, feathers, and fur are just a few of the signs we'll discover as we decipher what our animal neighbors have been up to. Participants will also create an animal track to take home. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, July 19, 2023.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.

Modern Houses of Fishers Island and Beyond. This illustrated talk by Jacob Albert of Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, Inc., Boston, Mass., traces modern movements in architecture from the International Style to Post-Modernism, as reflected on Fishers Island. **Sunday, July 23, 2023.** Time:

4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. Reception to follow.

Nocturnal Animals. Owls, opossums, skunks and bats are just a few of the animals that get up when we go to bed. Explore their nocturnal world, meet a live owl, and discover just how incredible their night-time senses are through games. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, July 26, 2023.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.

Rare Species and Natural Communities of Fishers Island. In this richly illustrated talk, three scientists of the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) will present the results of a two-year inventory of the H.L. Ferguson Museum's Land Trust properties. **Sunday, July 30, 2023.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. Reception to follow.

Sounds of Nature. These sounds are music to our ears! Meet some of our animal friends who love to make noises while learning about how and why animals communicate. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 2, 2023.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.

America in Transition: The Gilded Age Years. This illustrated talk by Trudy Coxe, CEO & Executive Director of the Preservation Society of Newport County, will cast light on an underappreciated but incredibly lively period in America that bridged the late 19th to the early 20th century. **Sunday, August 6, 2023.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. Reception to follow.

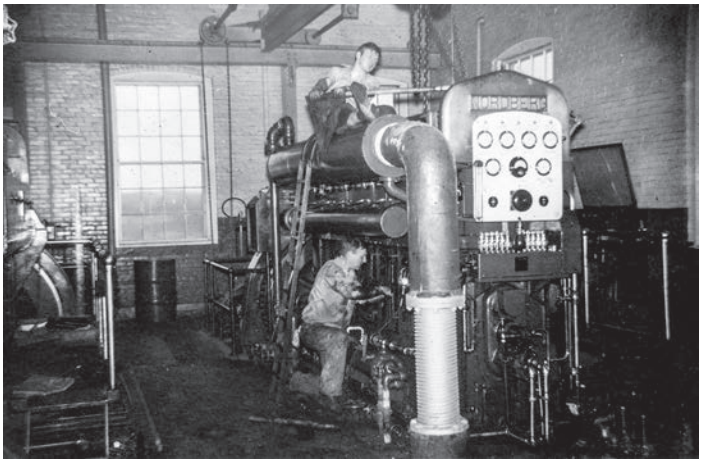
Owl Prowl. Come dissect an owl pellet and meet a DPNC resident owl. Learn about the life cycles and amazing adaptations of these remarkable birds. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 9, 2023.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.

The Great White Shark – Close to Shore. An illustrated talk by Jon Dodd, Executive Director of the Atlantic Shark Institute, detailing the latest white shark research in Rhode Island and adjacent waters. **Sunday, August 13, 2023.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. Reception to follow.

Nature Journaling. Learn about the world and engage your creativity with nature journaling! Children of all ages can start their very own journal with activities such as plant pressing, nature observation, drawing, and more. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 16, 2023.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.

Trespassing, Fences and Fire. Join us for an illustrated talk by celebrated artist, author and naturalist James Prosek, who will discuss his current project documenting Texas prairies. Prosek has spent the last two years visiting remnant prairies across Texas learning about the complexities of grassland ecosystems and revealing their beauty through visual art. **Sunday, August 20, 2023.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. Reception to follow.

Animal Communities. Humans aren't the only animals who love their friends! Join us to learn about the many ways animals help each other and hear heartwarming stories of animal friendship. A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 23, 2023.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.



ELECTRICITY: The Past, Present & Possible Future of Power Generation and Distribution on Fishers Island. This illustrated talk by Museum Director Pierce Rafferty surveys the past, examines the present, and looks to the future of this integral component of the Fishers Island community. **Sunday, August 27, 2023.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor.

Water Wonders. Take a close look at how water shapes and changes the earth, and how humans impact our water. Use the 3D Enviroscape model to see how water moves through the environment and become a drop of water in the water cycle game! A DPNC family program for ages five and up. **Wednesday, August 30, 2023.** Time: 2 to 3 p.m. In person at Museum. Limited to 15 children. Advance registration recommended. Suggested donation: $10.

Hawks of Fishers Island and Our Local Area. An illustrated talk by Kim Hargrave, education director at the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. Learn the natural history of our local hawk species and their current conservation status in New York and Connecticut. Kim has given a series of very popular and engaging talks at the Museum on a range of topics, including bats, butterflies, and turtles. **Sunday, September 10, 2023**. Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor.

Franklin D. Roosevelt and the "Quoddy" Tidal-Electric Power Project. "Quoddy" was to be built off the coast of Maine and New Brunswick and would generate enough electricity to power much of New England. It was part of Roosevelt's trust-busting "public power" initiatives such as the Boulder Dam and the Tennessee Valley Authority. FDR's pioneering project was highly controversial and full of intrigue. Author Mark Borton will reveal the full story that is documented in his new book, *Moondoggle: Franklin Roosevelt and the Fight for Tidal-Electric Power at Passamaquoddy Bay.* **Sunday, September 24, 2023.** Time: 4 p.m. Place: Museum, 2nd Floor. Reception and book signing to follow.

Fishers Island Nature Discovery Program
The FIND program will be held in the morning during the **week of August 14 to 18** 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 once again 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.

Excursions
At the time of publication, the details of several excursions were not finalized. Look for e-news announcements with trip details and sign-up information.

Museum Hours
June 25 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.

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Flicker Feather. A page from Charlie Ferguson's sketchbook, *F.I. 2007.*