

FISHERS ISLAND FOG HORN

APRIL/MAY 2014



News and Information about
Fishers Island, NY

YALE PRESENTATION UPDATE

***Sign Up to attend a presentation
- New York City on Wednesday,
May 28 and on Fishers Island on
Monday, June 23.***

The Island Community Board (ICB) recently reviewed and accepted the working draft of the report titled *Sustaining Fishers Island: A blueprint for protecting the future*. Prepared by The Yale Urban Design Workshop (YUDW), the document recommends steps to be taken to address the long-standing and long-term issues of population, jobs, infrastructure and the present and future costs of Island living.

Following up on the well-attended March 28 presentation given on Fishers, there are two additional sessions planned in New York and on Fishers.

YUDW's Director Alan Plattus and Project Manager Andrei Harwell will present *Sustaining Fishers Island: A blueprint for protecting the future* in **New York City on Wednesday, May 28** at the end of the day. The exact time and location will depend on the RSVPs.

For planning purposes, **please let us know if you will be attending the May 28 presentation in New York.**
Email the ICB by May 10 at ficommunityboard@gmail.com

The presentation will also be given again on **Fishers Island on Monday, June 23** at 4:45 pm at the Community Center.

There will be an informal gathering after each for discussion among those in attendance and the people from Yale.

Additionally, the first small group meetings, for those who attended the March 28 presentation, will be held Thursday, May 8 and Saturday, May 10 on Fishers Island. A separate email will go to those individuals and additional small sessions will be scheduled as needed.

Sustaining Fishers Island is available on FishersIsland.net. For ease of reading, downloading or printing, the document is broken down by chapters. After input from the Fishers Island community is collected and the final chapters are completed any revisions will be reposted to the website, and depending on interest and demand, a limited number of hard copies will be available (in an effort to be green and reduce printing costs). Please visit www.fishersisland.net and search Yale Study to easily access ***Sustaining Fishers Island online.***

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Issue Masthead Photo by Art Walsh

Sustaining Fishers Island

*A blueprint for protecting the future of
Fishers Island, New York*

... & not to leave the same in Indian Hills; & that the s. Mary & George
 make over this Lease to any Person, or Persons, without the Approbation, &
 Partridges, Peacocks, Quails, Rabbitts, or any other sort of wild Creatures
 main there for the use of the Lessor. And ^{that} the Lessee shall have Liberty
 for the creatures untill the first day of May next after the expiration of
 to these Presents above written have Interchangeably sett to their Hands.

Ann Winthrop

ORIGINAL 1734 LEASE FOR FISHERS ISLAND PURCHASED BY FERGUSON MUSEUM

by Pierce Rafferty, HLFM Director

The Henry L. Ferguson Museum recently purchased an original lease for Fishers Island that was signed on March 25, 1734 by Ann Winthrop, acting as agent and attorney for her husband John Winthrop, the Lessor and owner of all of Fishers Island. The Lessees were Mary and George Havens, of Fishers Island. This particular John Winthrop (1681-1747) was generally known as “John Winthrop, F.R.S.” to distinguish him from his famous forebears of the same name. He was the great grandson of John Winthrop, Sr., founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and the grandson of John Winthrop, Jr., the founder of Fishers Island and New London. His father was Fitz-John Winthrop. At the time this lease was signed, 280 years ago, he was living apart from his wife and family in London, England.

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

Along with the Lessees’ rights and privileges were a variety of restrictions that guaranteed the Lessor and his assignees ongoing access to parts of the Island and provided them several routes to potential additional income. These restrictions included the Lessor’s claim to “all Wrecks of the Sea, & Great Fish, Whales or Others, which may at any time come on Shoar.” The Lessor also reserved “the liberty to sett up any Mills, Dams, or Waterworks, & Digg any Earth, Clay or Stone, & Cull Wood or Timber on any part sd. Land; also the priviledges, Proffitts, Rights, Commoditys, whatsoever of Hunting, Fishing, & Fowling &c with free Egress & Regress to what is Reserved & Excepted.” The lessees were forbidden to “Cutt, or Suffer to be Cutt, Stripp, Peal, or Destroy any Vines, Pines, Spruce, Cedar, Walnutt, Chesnutt, Birch, Beach, Maple, Sassafrass, Ash, or Elm, or any Cherry Trees, tame or wild.” Mary and George Havens could only cut trees for firewood to be used on island and for repairing fences, buildings “& Utensills of the Husbandry.” The lease made quite clear that poaching was off limits, stating that “all the Deer, Partridges, Peacocks, Quails, Rabbitts, or any other sort of wild Creatures with their increase are to Run at liberty, & remain there for the use of the Lessor.” As for a place to stay while visiting, “the lessor doth reserve the liberty of One Chamber in the best House for his own use only” keeping also “Ten Acres of Land on the North Hill, with Liberty of setting up Fences, Warehouses, Stables, & Outhouses...” A small number of horses and cattle were to be kept in this North Hill enclave for use by the Lessor and assignees.

The Museum’s spring newsletter will provide more details of this important historical document. The purchase price was \$560.00. The seller was a rare document and paper dealer who auctions items on eBay. Many, many thanks to Sarah Malinowski for painstakingly transcribing this entire document.

EBB AND FLOW

Births:



March 25, 2014
Henry Wick Miller to Dorsey (Harris)
and Doug Miller



April 25, 2014
John Paul deCarteret Blondel 'Jack'
born to Carol Rossetto and John
Blondel



April 28, 2014
Maya Elizabeth Farrar to Isabelle
(Kinsolving) and Jonathan Farrar

THANK YOU FROM THE SCUMACI-MORRISSEY FAMILY

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the fire department volunteers, emergency medical personnel, ambulance and sea stretcher teams. Prior to moving to Fisher Island, I was told about what an amazing community it was and it was clearly demonstrated a few weeks ago when my son had his bike accident.

You can imagine the panic that I faced when hearing that Jack had fallen from his bike. When I arrived at the scene I was taken aback by the well-organized group of first responders that were assisting my son. Many of the faces were familiar, but some were not. I was impressed with the support and caring that was shown to me and to Jack. Fortunately, all turned out well and Jack did not have a concussion or any other sustaining injuries.

As a parent and new member of the Fisher Island community, I wanted to thank everyone that assisted that day. We have a unique, beautiful and caring environment here and I feel fortunate and blessed to now call Fishers Island my home.

Sincerely, *Gina Scumaci*

March 17, 2013

UNION CHAPEL MAY UPDATE

Spring is slowly springing on the island and the bite of winter seems to be departing just as slowly. Since our last Union Chapel update, we received 8 more Ministerial Profiles, giving us a total of 20 as of this writing. All of the candidates have been sent our Church Profile. A few candidates have withdrawn their applications because they have accepted another call, find our location a little remote, or have family members with conflicting commitments. A few candidates were not a good fit for our Chapel's needs.

There are several fine candidates that we have been in touch with. Once our seasonal Search Committee members return, we will continue the interviewing process. It is important to remind everyone that the names of the candidates must be held in strict confidence within our committee; we ask you to respect the essential confidentiality of this process. We will make every effort to keep everyone informed about our progress.

In order to not only follow the Search and Call process with due diligence, but also provide consistency and

stability for our congregation during the summer months, we have asked two of our supply guest ministers, who have spent time worshipping with us this past winter, to cover the summer months as full time weekly ministers for Union Chapel and happily, they both have accepted.

June 1 - July 20 Krysia Bereday Burnham will be on the island as our resident guest minister. And, July 27 - September 14 Sara Jane Munshower will take over as our resident guest minister.

Union Chapel is thrilled to have such excellent coverage during the summer months while we continue to focus on the Search and Call process.

We are blessed with a wonderful community and thank you for your continued prayers as we work through the process of finding our next settled pastor.

Committee members: Nora Howard, Anita Fritze, Harry Hurlburt, Harry Parker, David Burnham, Susie Renna, Diane Dexter, and Sarah Porter

In Memoriam: James W.B. Benkard

James W.B. Benkard, a senior litigator with Davis, Polk & Wardwell who devoted himself to pro bono death penalty and criminal defense work as well as to leading and invariably improving an extraordinary number of civic and social organizations, died on April 1, 2014. In addition to his distinguished litigation career, Mr. Benkard served as a leader of the Environmental Defense Fund, Vassar College and a host of other organizations.

James Benkard was born on April 10, 1937 in New York City, the son of the late Franklin Bartlett Benkard and Laura Derby Dupee Benkard. He attended St. Bernard's School in New York City, St. Mark's School in Southborough, Massachusetts and Harvard College, where he delighted in his role as sports editor for the Harvard Crimson. After college, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and then attended Columbia Law School.

In 1964, Mr. Benkard married Margaret Walker Spofford, who survives him together with their three children, Andrew Benkard, James Benkard, and Margaret Benkard Chaves, and their six grandchildren, Penelope, Dexter and Oscar Benkard, Evelyn Benkard Gaumnitz, and Maggie and Nathaniel Chaves. He is also survived by his sister, Joan Derby Benkard Jackson.

Upon graduation from law school in 1963, Mr. Benkard joined Davis Polk. Other than a year clerking for the Honorable Charles D. Breitel, he spent his professional career with the firm, litigating a broad variety of commercial matters on behalf of clients such as Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan, General Electric Co., and Prudential Securities, and heading his firm's pro bono practice. Mr. Benkard tried cases and argued appeals, including in the United States Supreme Court. In recognition of his litigation work, he was elected a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Mr. Benkard was known for his interest in guiding and teaching younger lawyers. After his retirement, he continued leading the firm's pro bono practice and mentoring the lawyers involved in the work. Mr. Benkard's death penalty defense work dates back to 1975, when he successfully represented Joseph James in a New York case that formed a series of events culminating in the elimination of the death penalty in New York. He continued to work with Davis Polk lawyers, the Legal Aid Society, and the Innocence Project on numerous criminal appellate matters and post-conviction proceedings. Recently, he successfully argued in the Tennessee appellate courts to vacate a capital murder conviction and won a new trial for his client. In 2013, Mr. Benkard was awarded the Norman Redlich Capital Defense Pro Bono Award by the New York City Bar Association's Capital Punishment Committee, in recognition of decades of hard work and skilled advocacy on behalf of death row inmates.

Mr. Benkard was a Trustee of the Environmental Defense Fund and for years oversaw much of their litigation activity. He also served on the board of Vassar College, St. Mark's School, Teachers College, Columbia University in New York City, and Prisoners' Legal Services. He was President of the Knickerbocker Club in New York City from 2003-2013 and a Governor of that organization for four decades.

Mr. Benkard and his family kept a house on Fishers Island, New York where he devoted himself to the community, serving for years as the Secretary and a board member of the Fishers Island Development Corporation, which maintains much of the Island, and as President of the Hay Harbor Club from 1981-1984.

Jimmy was renowned for his skill at public speaking. As a colleague noted, Jimmy's comments always contained a rare combination of specificity, cogency, and humor. His speeches were unfailingly marked by wit and grace and were highly anticipated. Members of the organizations he led, as well as his colleagues at Davis Polk, flocked to events that under other circumstances would be tedious, simply to hear and laugh with Jimmy Benkard.

A brief graveside service was held on Fishers Island Tuesday, April 8. A memorial service was held Wednesday, April 9 at The Brick Presbyterian Church, located at 91st Street and Park Avenue. The family would prefer memorial gifts in his memory be directed to either The Innocence Project or the Fishers Island Recreational Path Foundation, in lieu of flowers. Memorial gifts donated to the Fishers Island Recreational Path in memory of Jimmy Benkard should be directed to Ms. Yaritza Gello, P.O. Box 234, Fishers Island, NY 06390, or call Yaritza at 631-788-7043.

Also see at FishersIsland.net: *New York Times*, James Benkard, a Lawyer Who Defended Inmates on Death Row, Dies at 76, and Teachers College Mourns Trustee James Benkard



In Memoriam: Arthur Anthony Chaves

Arthur Anthony Chaves, 84, of Avon, passed away peacefully at his home with his loving family by his side on April 3, 2014.

He was born in Hartford, October 12, 1929, the son of Georgiana and Frank Chaves. Arthur is survived by his loving wife Joan (Guida) Chaves of 61 years and his five children; daughters Carol Chaves and her partner Richard Green, Mary Garofalo and her husband Anthony, JoAnn Chaves Cotter, son John and his wife Margaret Benkard Chaves, and daughter Margaret Hendershot Chaves. He is also survived by his sister Mary Danielowitz of Yalesville, 10 beloved grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, and many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his two sons, Arthur and Peter Chaves, his daughter Janet Rogan, his siblings Virginia Almada, Joseph and Fred Chaves.



Born in Hartford, Arthur graduated from Hartford Public High School and received his BA from the University of Hartford. He worked for 35 years at the Veeder-Root Company in Hartford and retired as Vice-President of Financing in 1988. He met his beloved wife, Joan (Guida), who was a student nurse at St. Francis hospital, in 1949. They were married in 1952. They resided in Windsor for many years, where they started their family of eight.

Arthur was a hard working family man. He loved using his artistic talents for painting and wood carving. He also had many wonderful memories at their summer home on Fishers Island, NY, where he enjoyed fishing, clamming, golfing, boating, and entertaining family and friends. A gentle, loving, humble man of faith, Arthur will be missed and fondly remembered.

A Mass of Christian Burial [was] held at 11:30 AM on Saturday, April 12, 2014 directly at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 265 Stratton Brook Road, West Simsbury, followed by burial in Riverside Cemetery, Windsor. His family [received] friends Friday, April 11 from 4-7 PM at the Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center, 301 Country Club Road, Avon. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: National Parkinson's Foundation, Gift Processing Center, PO Box 5018, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5018 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Published in The Hartford Courant on April 4, 2014



In Memoriam: Peter Matthiessen

Excerpt from *New York Times* article by Christopher Lehmann-Haupt

Peter Matthiessen, a roving author and naturalist whose impassioned nonfiction explored the remote endangered wilds of the world and whose prizewinning fiction often placed his mysterious protagonists in the heart of them, died on Saturday [March 29, 2014] at his home in Sagaponack, N.Y. He was 86. His son Alex said the cause was leukemia, which was diagnosed more than a year ago. Mr. Matthiessen's final novel, "In Paradise," is to be published on Tuesday by Riverhead Books.

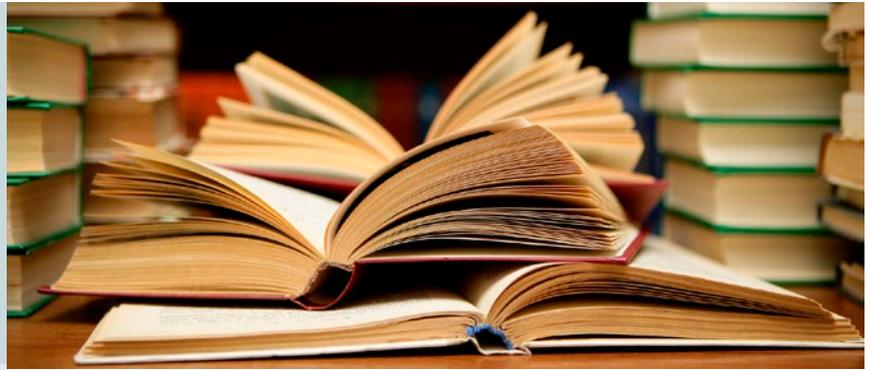
Mr. Matthiessen was one of the last survivors of a generation of American writers who came of age after World War II and who all seemed to know one another, socializing in New York and on Long Island's East End as a kind of movable literary salon peopled by the likes of William Styron, James Jones, Kurt Vonnegut and E. L. Doctorow.

In the early 1950s, he shared a sojourn in Paris with fellow literary expatriates and helped found *The Paris Review*, a magazine devoted largely to new fiction and poetry. His childhood friend George Plimpton became its editor. A rugged, weather-beaten figure who was reared and educated in privilege — an advantage that left him uneasy, he said — Mr. Matthiessen was a man of many parts: littérateur, journalist, environmentalist, explorer, Zen Buddhist, professional fisherman and, in the early 1950s, undercover agent for the Central Intelligence Agency in Paris.

To read the entire article, *Peter Matthiessen, Lyrical Writer and Naturalist, Is Dead at 86* by Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *New York Times*, please visit FishersIsland.net.

FIDCO STICKERS AVAILABLE

2014 stickers are required to be on vehicles after March 1 and may be obtained at the Utility Co. Office, Monday-Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. Stickers and Guest Passes may also be obtained at the Gate House during operating hours.



FISHERS ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The application period for all students who would like to receive the Fishers Island Community Scholarship managed by St. John's is May 1, 2014 to June 1, 2014.

To qualify for the scholarship, students must be residents of Fishers Island and/or graduates of the FI school and a full time student attending an accredited college, community colleges or vocational school. Other members of the Fishers Island community that are eligible for the scholarship are residents of 7 years or more who will be attending an accredited program. Continuing education, seminars, and other programs are not eligible. The scholarship program will support up to six years of education.

To apply for the scholarship, please complete the online form found at www.FishersIsland.net. Application essays and current academic year transcripts can be emailed to the Scholarship Committee at fischolarshipstjohns@outlook.com.

The Scholarship Committee and St. John's would like to thank the generosity of the Fishers Island community. With your support, the scholarship fund assisted 28 students last year in their pursuit of their academic goals.

If you have any questions, please contact Polly Talbott at fischolarshipstjohns@outlook.com or any Fishers Island Community Scholarship Committee members including Susie Brinckerhoff, Harry Parker, Ollie Scholle, Jenn Sanger, Polly Talbott

FISHERS ISLAND LIBRARY ADULT BOOK GROUP

The Library welcomes everyone to join our Adult Book Group that meets at the Library the second Thursday each month at 7:00 pm through June 12.

Book selections:

May 8: *The Butler: A Witness To History* by Wil Haygood

June 12: *Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd



SENIOR LUNCH

The last Senior Lunch of the 2013-2014 season will be held on Thursday, May 15 at noon.

All islanders over age 60 are invited.

The Senior lunches are held on the third Thursday of the month from October through May. If you would like to be added to the list, please let Heather Burnham know by calling 788-7662 or emailing the beachplum@fishersisland.net.



MESSAGE RECEIVED: BOTTLE LAUNCHED OFF FISHERS ISLAND LANDS IN ENGLAND

By Kelly Catalfamo: *The Day*
Published 03/31/2014

Fishers Island, N.Y. - When Ryan Rodd, 26, tosses bottled messages into the Atlantic Ocean, he doesn't dare to hope that they'll reach any place too exotic.

So he was thrilled recently when someone from England contacted him on Facebook and sent him a picture of an old liquor bottle with seaweed caught in the top, asking if it had any meaning to him.

Rodd has tossed an estimated 25 bottles into the sea since 2010, a tradition that started as a unique way to use some of the empty wine bottles from his work at the Fishers Island Club. Each bottle includes a short message about life on Fishers Island, Rodd's address and his signature well-wishes.

"Whoever you are, wherever you are, and whenever it is you find this, I wish you the best of luck in life," is Rodd's closing line.

But the "wherever you are," as far as he can tell from the letters he's gotten in return, is usually close by. A few letters came in from Watch Hill and Block Island - which is "still pretty cool," said Rodd - and one came from about 72 miles up the Atlantic coast.

He likes getting old-fashioned, handwritten letters, which he said is a "romantic part of the whole experience."

Letters are "the original form of social networking," said Rodd, who tosses the bottles from the beach during a receding high tide to prevent them washing back ashore.

It may have been a modern medium, but the Facebook message from an English woman was still thrilling to Rodd. He didn't allow himself to make any assumptions based on her listed location on Facebook, waiting for her to confirm where she found the bottle before reflecting on its journey.

"I couldn't believe that it had really happened," he said.

Rodd began documenting where and when he throws the bottles, what he writes and when he received a return message in January 2012.

The message that washed up on Bognor Regis Beach in West Sussex, England, traveled 3,351 miles in 493 days. Rodd slipped it into an old liquor bottle he found while helping clean up after Hurricane Sandy and included a brief account of the storm's impact on the island in his message

"Fishers Island is such a unique place," said Rodd. Encapsulating life on the island in a bottle and sending it out to sea "seemed like a cool way to reach out."

Rodd said he's "not much of a believer in fate," but feels like there's some sort of reason a specific person finds his message, a deeper meaning behind why they've connected.

And he said he loves being able to "catch a glimpse of what's going on on the other side, where that bottle's found." k.catalfamo@theday.com





APRIL AND MAY GARDENING TIPS

From Mélie's Garden

Little green shoots seem to be appearing in my garden, even though it doesn't feel much like spring on Fishers Island due to the cold wind blowing off of the ocean. When shoots start to appear it signals that it is time to get really busy with spring chores, in spite of the cool temperatures.

My Spring Chore List

Review notes made last fall of places to clear, plants to buy or move and seeds to order.

- Any brush clearing needs to be done ASP before the leaves really come out.
- Clean up flowerbeds, removing all dead leaves left from last year and any winter mulch like Christmas tree branches.
- Seeds need to be ordered before the varieties you want are sold out.
 1. Tomatoes should be started inside on Tax Day.
 2. Some seeds need to be started inside a certain number of days before the last frost date. There are great sites on the Internet that can help you calculate dates according to variety of seeds and frost dates in your area.
- Prune Boxwoods this month, if possible.
- Soil tests should be taken and extra soil ordered for the garden if needed. Homemade compost can be applied and mixed into the soil when you turn it over.
- Plant peas and sweet peas in the garden as soon as the soil can be worked and cool weather crops like lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, beets, and turnips in early May. Hold off planting Dahlias until Mother's Day.
- Prune roses when the forsythia blooms fade and start feeding in April. Start with 1 cup of organic fertilizer and 1 Tablespoon of Epsom Salt per plant and continue feeding once per month until July, but drop the Epsom Salt in June.
- Fertilize acid loving plants like Hydrangeas, Holly, Rhododendrons and Andromeda with Hollytone.
- Put down organic fertilizer in flowerbeds, but wait to mulch until the ground gets warmer in May.
- Transplant perennials once they are 2 to 4 inches tall and divide fall flowering perennials if needed. Wait to divide spring flowering perennials until the fall.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs like Forsythia, Viburnum, Azalea and Lilac within two weeks after blooming, so they have the summer to set new buds for next year.

And finally and most importantly, pull up any weed you see and have your gardens cleaned up and ready for mulching in May!

UNION CHAPEL SPRING FAIR & RAFFLE

The Union Chapel Spring Fair will be held on Saturday, May 24. The fair will be open from 10:00-1:00 and lunch will be served 11:30-1:00. Visitors will find delicious food items and beautiful crafts for sale.

The beautiful quilt, hand-made by Laura Edwards, will be raffled off during the event, as well as a specially prepared gift basket.

Raffle Tickets may be purchased at the Post Office on Saturday mornings leading up to the fair. These tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Proceeds to benefit the Fishers Island Union Chapel. You do not need to be present for the drawing.



SUNDAY, MAY 18 2014



The Fishers Island Churches Golf Classic is a golf tournament held for the benefit of the three Island churches. The tournament is supported by the community through donations of time, gifts, tee sponsorships, auction items and tournament proceeds. The money raised from this tournament is split between the three churches. This year's event is May 18 at the Fishers Island Club. Learn more about supporting this event at www.fichurchesclassic.com.

THE LIGHTHOUSE WORKS

The first fellowship of 2014 came to a close on April 12. Our three fellows, sculptor Cassie Raihl, video artist Siobhan Landry, and writer Julie Tremeryn, culminated their six week stay with an open studios and reading on April 5 for the community.

In addition to being incredibly productive in their studios, all three fellows led workshops in writing and moviemaking in the Fishers Island School. Keep an eye out for the movie made by Siobhan, Cassie, and the kindergarten class! While we're sad to see these ladies depart, we're also looking forward to the next group of fellows, who arrive on May 19.

Many thanks to the school faculty and our friends in the community for all their support.

FI SCHOOL SPRING PLAY

Shakespeare Goes to Gravel Gulch is coming to Fishers Island School May 29 and 30. This production, directed by Judy Lenzi-Magoveny with assistant director Chris Dollar, is set in the old West.

Laura Edwards and Mary Pankiewicz are working their magic on the costumes, and the crew is looking for the following props (donations or to be borrowed): Several hay bales, large fake rock, old saw horses, cactus cutout, perhaps a pickle barrel, and of course, 2 rubber chickens!

Please contact Music Teacher Chris Dollar at c.dollar@fischool.com regarding any of these possible items.

FISHERS ISLAND'S SECOND OSPREY IS TAGGED: "CHARLIE" JOINS "EDWIN"



By Pierce Rafferty, Director Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Rob Bierregaard, Research Associate of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia, returned to Fishers Island on April 29 at the invitation of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum. Rob's goal was to "tag" a second male osprey on Fishers Island with a cell tower transmitter, having successfully tagged male osprey "Edwin" last May.

Rob and a small group of interested helpers spent a wet, cold and generally miserable day on April 30th repeatedly failing to trap the male osprey at Money Pond. The target bird landed three times on the trap, but didn't move his talons enough to become entangled in the fish-line filament slip nooses that covered the top of the trap. Although the male eluded trapping, the female was caught and had been previously banded. Rob reported in his on-line blog: "I'm claiming a case of severe brain freeze as my excuse for not writing the numbers of the band down correctly. When I submitted the number to the Bird Banding Lab, I was informed that that band number was never issued. Oops. So we did some detective work and tracked down the data from the late Jerry Mersereau, who banded Ospreys in neighboring Connecticut for decades. It turns out that Jerry tagged a young Osprey in 1996 with a band number that was just two dyslexic twitches from the number I wrote down. That would make the bird 19 years old. Old for an Osprey, but not the record. There's an Osprey in Scotland who is 27 years old now and has fledged 50 young in her long and storied career!"

We were far more successful on Thursday, May 1, Day 2. Working in the morning fog, Rob quickly trapped an osprey on the nest at the west end's Transfer Station. It was unclear if the bird in hand was the male or the female. About one half hour later, the captured osprey's mate returned to the nest. Markings and size quickly revealed that she was the female. She too was caught in the trap as she returned to her four eggs. (We later learned from a more careful transcription of her band that

she was a 15-year old bird banded as a nestling in CT.) With the sex of our first bird no longer in doubt, the female was released while Rob and helpers worked on strapping a one-ounce, solar-powered transmitter to the male osprey's back. Please note that the males are more useful for the current round of tagging because ornithologists are most interested in charting their hunting patterns and feeding locations. Females are generally nest bound while raising young.

This newly tagged bird has been named "Charlie" in honor of life-long Fishers Islander Charlie Ferguson, who ably served as president of the H.L. Ferguson Museum for 25 years, retiring from that position in 2003. He remains fully engaged as an artist at a young 95 years of age and will be welcomed back on Island in the next few weeks when he returns from his winter home in Connecticut.

The HLFM would like to thank David Burnham of the Race Rock Garden Company for his support in providing a bucket truck and an operator on short notice. Jared Barber of Race Rock did a great job as operator. We would also like to thank Gordon Murphy of the Fishers Island Ferry District, Chris Finan of the Fishers Island Utility Co. and Mike Conroy of the F.I. Telephone Co. for their help. The following individuals provided much appreciated assistance during the trapping process: John Ski, Tim Patterson and Ken Edwards. Finally, we would like to give special thanks to John and Nick Spofford and the M.W. Spofford Foundation for providing the financial support that made this project possible.

We are also most appreciative of the ongoing research that Richard O. "Rob" Bierregaard, Jr. conducts involving ospreys and other raptors and hope that "Charlie" contributes useful data to his efforts. Rob's website can be found at www.ospreytrax.com. The Museum's website has ongoing updates on our tagged ospreys. Go to: fergusonmuseum.org.

FISHERS ISLAND FERRY UPDATE



Freight System

The Ferry District has implemented a new digital freight system for freight and deliveries integrating the TrakPad system. This technology will improve the process and accountability.

The freight offices in New London and Fishers capture and track all deliveries. The TrakPad will automatically notify the customer by email of its acceptance in New London, and which ferry it will most likely be arriving on. Package tracking numbers issued by UPS, FedEx and USPS are utilized. Customers may pick up their items after they have been logged in accordingly, 30-45 minutes after the ferry arrives in Silver Eel.

Munnatawket Work

The dry dock work on the Munnatawket, scheduled at Fairhaven Ship Yard near Buzzards Bay, is complete and the boat is back in New London. The work at Fairhaven was carefully monitored, and the District was better able to track the progress and expenses on a weekly basis. Extensive work was done on the bow thruster enabling the boat to run more efficiently, and hull plate replacement guarantees a safer and sounder ride. The work totaled \$176,000, well below the budget of \$225,000 allowing the hull painting to be completed. As planned, new life rafts and launchers were also installed. Life jacket boxes have been repaired, the cabin is more secure from the weather and the Munnatawket is back in full service.

Race Point

Scheduled maintenance on the Race Point continues, and will she will be ready for full summer service. Rust removal is on the 'to do' list when the weather improves.

Reservation Request

Please make every effort to make a ferry reservation for any vehicle, especially those leaving Fishers Island. The reservation manifest for each trip is reviewed carefully for crew and boat scheduling and planning. For example, a manifest indicating a certain number of reservations may dictate which ferry is utilized on a specific run, and of course it is much less expensive/cost efficient to use the Munnatawket when vehicle traffic allows.

During the Peak schedule vehicles over 18' will have a surcharge. Additionally vehicles over 6'6" tall are encouraged to have a reservation and note the vehicle height to ticket agent.

Ferry Schedule

The Spring Ferry Schedule went into effect on April 6 with the addition of the cherished Monday 5:30 am boat leaving Fishers, and the additional late boat Friday night to meet the 10:15 Shoreline East train. The addition of the noon boat on Sundays also accommodates church-goers and offers more flexibility to other Sunday travelers. The Peak Ferry Schedule begins on June 15. The District would like to thank everyone who took the time to review the draft schedules and give thoughtful feedback.

As in the past, the District is in contact with Amtrak and Shoreline train companies to attempt to align the ferry and train schedules, however the train companies can not guarantee their timetables will not change. With this in mind, please call the New London Ferry Office at (860) 442-0165 should you find yourself on a delayed train. The District will make every attempt to hold the last ferry for a reasonable amount of time.

Photo: Mystic Isle in the Great Lakes before the purchase by and move to Fishers Island Ferry District



CLASSIFIEDS ON FISHERSISLAND.NET

Check out the Classified Ads on FishersIsland.net! Items for sale, positions available, school fundraisers and more.

And you can place a classified ad for just \$25./month!

FI SCHOOL CLASS OF 2016 HOSTING DRAWING

A sterling silver 3-bangle bracelet with a Fishers Island charm and made especially for the Class. The island is cut out of the charm. Valued at \$300 – only 200 tickets to be sold. Drawing will be held when the 200th ticket is sold or the end of the year – which ever comes first. Each ticket is \$20.00, available from faculty member Tawnya Eastman (631) 788-7444, t.eastman@fischool.com.



AMERICAN LEGION

Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 11 from 8:00-noon - \$8. tickets at the door.

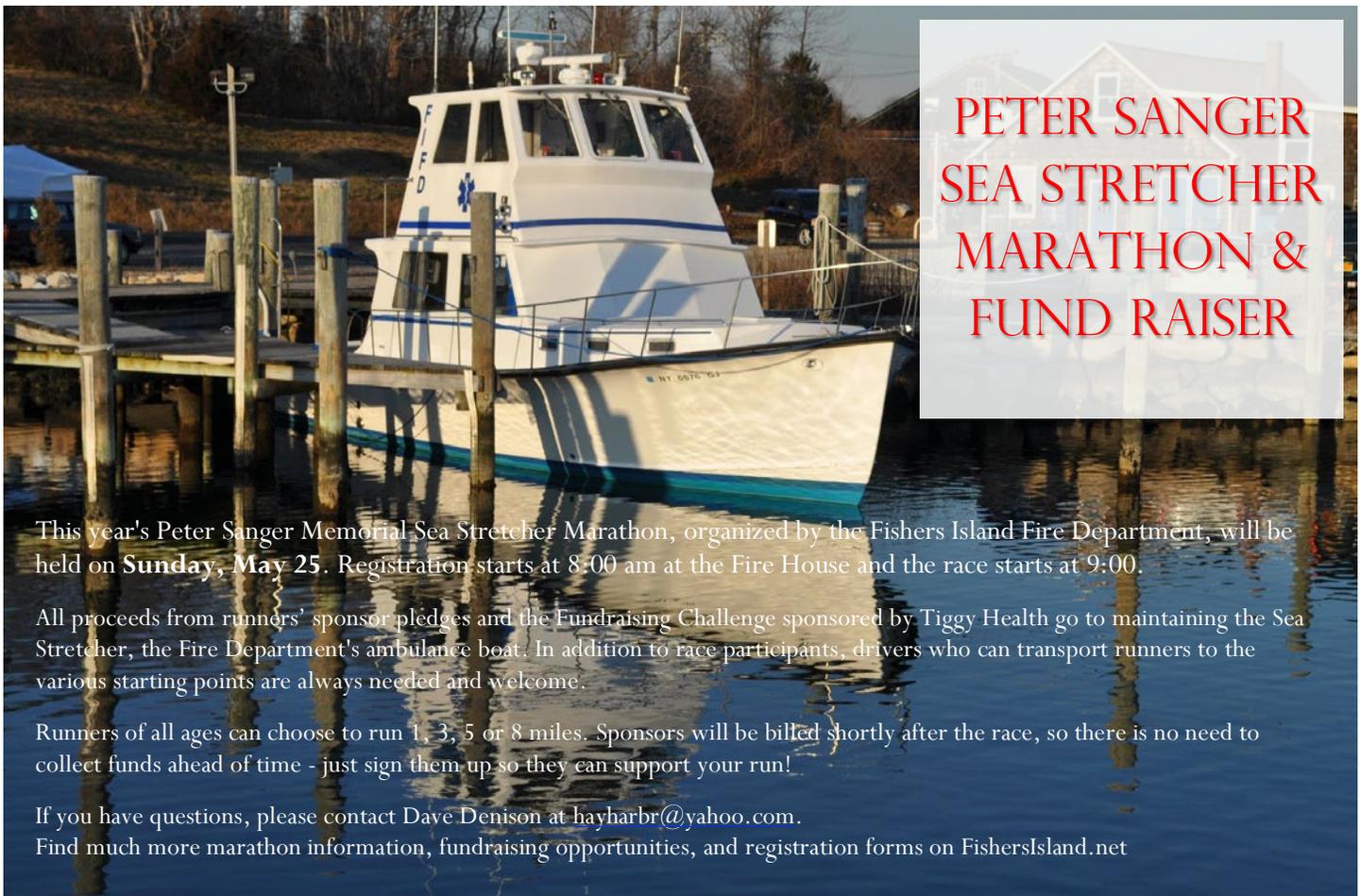
The **Memorial Day Parade** begins at noon, followed by the Picnic Lunch Sunday, May 25. Everyone is most welcome!

FISHERS ISLAND FOG HORN

P.O. BOX 464, FISHERS ISLAND, NY 06390

If you have something you would like posted on FishersIsland.net or in the Fog Horn - a story idea, an event 'save the date', photos to share, suggestions or an interest in advertising, please contact Jane Ahrens at (631) 788-7487 or info@fishersisland.net.

Contact Sarah Porter to place an event on the Community Calendar at www.fishersisland.net/events/ at (631) 788-7683 or fishersislandevents@gmail.com.



PETER SANGER SEA STRETCHER MARATHON & FUND RAISER

This year's Peter Sanger Memorial Sea Stretcher Marathon, organized by the Fishers Island Fire Department, will be held on **Sunday, May 25**. Registration starts at 8:00 am at the Fire House and the race starts at 9:00.

All proceeds from runners' sponsor pledges and the Fundraising Challenge sponsored by Tiggy Health go to maintaining the Sea Stretcher, the Fire Department's ambulance boat. In addition to race participants, drivers who can transport runners to the various starting points are always needed and welcome.

Runners of all ages can choose to run 1, 3, 5 or 8 miles. Sponsors will be billed shortly after the race, so there is no need to collect funds ahead of time - just sign them up so they can support your run!

If you have questions, please contact Dave Denison at hayharbr@yahoo.com.

Find much more marathon information, fundraising opportunities, and registration forms on FishersIsland.net