

FISHERS ISLAND FOG HORN

MARCH 2014



News and Information about
Fishers Island, NY

YALE PRESENTATION ON FI SUSTAINABILITY

***Sustaining Fishers Island:* Public Presentation by Yale Urban Design Workshop**

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.

Director Alan Plattus and Project Manager Andrei Harwell of the YUDW will present the report on Friday, March 28 at 5:00 pm at the Community Center. There will be an informal gathering afterwards for discussion among those in attendance.

Sustaining Fishers Island is available on www.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).

Over the 3-4 weeks, following the March 28 presentation, there will be a series of small group sessions to explore and discuss the details of the report and the recommendations.

These small discussion groups present an important opportunity for all Fishers Island community members to be involved in addressing the issues and the possible remedies to follow.

Details and a schedule of the small discussion sessions will be announced at the March 28 meeting and will be posted online. All interested Fishers Island community members are encouraged to sign up to attend a session. There will be two "moderators" at each; the moderators will be people that have been involved in the study as it has moved along. There will be additional presentations and small discussion groups scheduled as the summer season approaches.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend:

The Yale Urban Design Workshop's
Presentation
*Sustaining Fishers Island: A blueprint for
protecting the future*

Friday, March 28 ~ 5:00-6:45 pm Fishers
Island Community Center



Sustaining Fishers Island

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EBB AND FLOW

Births:



February 7, 2014
 Clara Elizabeth Pinschmidt
 to Patrick and Ellen (McCance)
 Pinschmidt



November 16, 2013
 Campbell Reynolds Collingham
 to Tommy and Jamie (duPont)
 Collingham



OSPREY “EDWIN” (HOPEFULLY) HEADING OUR WAY

by Pierce Rafferty, HLFM Director

The male osprey “Edwin,” tagged with a cell tower transmitter last spring on Fishers Island, recently reappeared in Venezuela after “going dark” for several months over the winter while out of cell tower range. He had last been tracked on September 29, 2013, in northern Venezuela after his long migration south from Connecticut. Back data received by the Museum from these new transmissions reveal that Edwin spent much of the winter in the upper reaches of the Amazon River in Brazil before passing back through Venezuela on March 8 and 9, 2014, at the start of his northern migration. Edwin reached the Dominican Republic on March 10th and subsequently traveled through Haiti and Cuba. He crossed over to

the southern tip of Florida on March 16th, reaching the Orlando area in central Florida the following day. To follow Edwin’s on-going migration, please visit the Museum’s webpage www.fergusonmuseum.org under the “Track Edwin” tab.

Those who monitored Edwin’s travels last summer will remember that he quickly became a Connecticut-centric bird who spent little time on Fishers Island. It will be interesting to see if he heads back to our shores to reestablish a nest at his former Middle Farms Flats/Beach Pond site, or if he finds a mainland site more to his liking.

The Museum would like to thank the Spofford Foundation for funding this fantastic project and for pledging funds to tag another male osprey this spring.

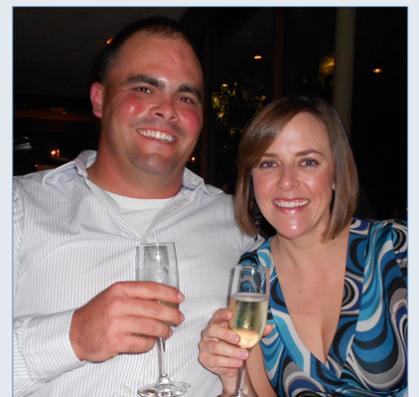
EBB AND FLOW

Engagement:

Cate Guimaraes and Rick Hoggard on January 25, 2014 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Ebb and Flow:

fishersisland.net/category/ebb-and-flow/



FISHERS ISLAND LAND USE WORKING GROUP

BACKGROUND

The Town of Southold is in the process of developing a Comprehensive Plan for the entire Town. This plan will provide a blueprint for future government action. Also, it is the basis for zoning and other Town Code. A Comprehensive Plan defines the Town's goals and implementation measures to ensure that future development and growth is consistent with the vision of the citizens of the Town of Southold.

So far, nine chapters of the Comprehensive Plan have been completed. They are available for download on the Town website at www.southoldtownny.gov/. Comments on the completed chapters continue to be accepted and may be submitted via email at tos2020@town.southold.ny.us or by regular mail to Southold Planning Dept., P.O. Box 1179, Southold, NY 11971.

The chapter being worked on currently is titled Land Use. This chapter is of particular interest to the Fishers Island community. The chapter will expand on the Fishers Island Strategic Plan that was completed in 2009, a plan created, vetted and accepted by the Fishers Island community, focusing on the uses that are compatible with the unique cultural and environmental values and demographics of the Island. The group that worked on the Fishers Island Strategic Plan has been reconstituted - as much as possible, plus a few additions - as the Land Use Working Group.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

At the Land Use Working Group's first meeting it was decided that the group would only look at the West End of the Island. It was also decided that the group needed to break into a smaller group in order to get some preliminary work done and then reconvene the larger group. The smaller group had several meetings and

reviewed the current zoning designations using a map that showed both the tax parcels and the zoning designations. The group mostly concentrated on areas with commercial activity, but also some with the possibility of more intensive residential use.

In early February the larger Land Use Working Group (as many as could make it) met with Heather Lanza and Mark Terry, the Town of Southold's Director of Planning and Principal Planner, respectively. The smaller group presented the result of their work so far. After much discussion, the Town Planners suggested that it might be better for the Island to create zoning designations that are specific to Fishers Island instead of trying to fit the Island into the current designations. For, example, in the current Town Code commercial zones are limited to just a few zoning districts that are "one size fits all", meaning the Business (B) zone has the same permitted uses in Mattituck (a large hamlet in Southold) as on Fishers Island. Some of those uses while appropriate in a larger hamlet may not be appropriate in a smaller hamlet such as Fishers Island. Thus, the Island may want to have a separate designation for commercial use that would not allow certain uses that are now allowed under the current business zone or add uses that are currently not allowed. Basically, the Town is giving Fishers Island the opportunity to create zoning that fits the unique needs of Fishers Island.

FUTURE

Nothing moves quickly in Town government and the first step is to get language in the Town's Comprehensive Plan Land Use Chapter that speaks to the uniqueness of Fishers Island and the need for zoning designations specific to



the Island. The work the Land Use Working Group is doing now will help the Comprehensive Plan team craft the language needed in order to be able to use it as support for the creation and implementation of new zoning. Once the Land Use Chapter of the Town's Comprehensive Plan is completed it will be posted on the Town's website for comments. Heather and Mark will also come to the Island for a public meeting on the Chapter.

Once the Comprehensive Plan is finished and adopted by the Town Board, Fishers Island – with the help of the Town Planners and the Town Attorney's Office – should be in the position to create the zoning that is being envisioned now. No new zoning designations will be enacted without public discussion and input every step of the way. A public hearing also must be held.

The Land Use Working Group and the Town welcome any input and involvement in this process.

LAND USE WORKING GROUP

MEMBERS:

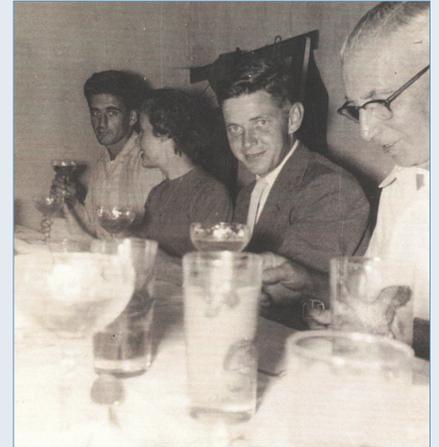
Ace Ahrens	Steve Malinowski
Heather Burnham	Nate Malinowski
Peter Burr	Gordon Murphy
Ken Edwards	Pierce Rafferty
Louisa Evans	Bill Ridgway
Judy Imbriglio	Penni Sharp
Sheila Kennedy	

EBB AND FLOW

Waite: The Fishers Island Connection

By Jane Ahrens

The New York Times obituary reads, “Ralph Waite, a multifaceted actor who became etched in television history as the craggy-faced, big-hearted patriarch of a rustic Depression-era clan on the popular 1970s dramatic series “The Waltons,” died on Thursday [February 13, 2014] at his home in Palm Desert, Calif. He was 85.” And reading further, “Tiring of the county bureaucracy, he sought meaning in religion, a reversal of his belief in college that secular philosophy was sufficient. He entered Yale Divinity School and earned a master’s degree. He was ordained a Presbyterian minister and served congregations on Fishers Island, off Long Island, and in Garden City, N.Y.”



Inquiring minds wanted to know more, to dig deeper about this man who everyone knows from show business and Hollywood. What was his real connection to Fishers Island?

The Union Chapel scrapbooks reveal interesting correspondence and a look at Rev. Ralph H. Waite’s service to the church on Fishers. Having graduated from Yale Divinity, class of 1956, Fishers’ Union Chapel was his first calling, and according to documented articles, he was Union Chapel’s first full-time pastor. Island resident Dick Baker confirmed that Ralph began serving the church on weekends while still at Yale, as many had before him. In 1955, he wrote a Christmas letter to the islanders in which he welcomes all to attend the church’s holiday events including a children’s Christmas party, Christmas Eve candlelight service, and a communion service on Christmas morning. In it he wrote: “The Christmas songs we hear on the radio and TV seem to be accompanied by a choir of angels. Where can we go this season and not hear, perhaps faintly, the choir of heaven? Outside the clear, crisp nights, the bright stars, the frosty breath, the crunch of snow – all combine to make music in our hearts and to make us feel there is music in the air. Inside – the warmth, the flushed cheek and bright eyes of a child, the smell of evergreen and Christmas food, the memories of bygone Christmases, call forth from deep in our hearts a song of praise to God for all He has given us. And we join the company of all men in all ages and with the angels to sing praises to the Father.”

The Sunday Service of Dedication of July 15, 1956 tells a bit more about this young minister. Not only are all the words that Rev. Waite said from the pulpit written in his hand in the church program – the Invocation, Dedication Prayer and Benediction – the back cover includes this thank you: “The building of the parsonage and the calling of a full-time minister would never have been possible without the support of the whole community. Many of our people have given of themselves night after night after working at their regular jobs all day. Help came from those outside the church as well. To all who have so generously given may we offer our thanks. In return for your good services we can only offer a glad heart and the hand of fellowships. Minister, Ralph H. Waite.”

Ralph lived in the Union Chapel parsonage with his wife Beverly and younger brother Donnie Waite, who graduated from Fishers Island School with Ken Edwards and Joan Jenssen in 1957.

One evening a basketball contest between the Ahman All Stars and the FI School Vikings raised \$18.51 for the Red Cross when Rev. Waite served as the Fishers Island Red Cross fund chairman with branch chairman Mrs. Henry M. Walsh. (The Vikings, including Donnie Waite and lead scorers Ken Edwards and Dick Baker, won 52-50). The Red Cross branch goal that year was \$880. It was anticipated it would be reached through door-to-door canvassing and membership renewal.

Rev. Waite also gave the Invocation at the class of 1957 graduation on June 21, 1957 followed by the address by class president Ken Edwards and the reading of the class will by Don Waite.

The caption on a large photo makes it clear that the young minister was feeling at home on the Island as he climbed a fence in the backyard of Gordon and Lucy Ahman in a silly pose as it reads, “Our fun-loving 'Ham' minister”. Diane Dexter sang in the Union Chapel’s youth choir when Ralph was here and Betty Peishoff remembers him chaperoning dances in the Church basement.

To read the full story, see all the great photos and access Ralph Waite’s *New York Times* Obituary, please visit <http://fishersisland.net/waite-fishers-island-connection/>

MARCH GARDENING TIPS

From Mélie's Garden

Oh when, oh when, will spring arrive? It was lovely on Fishers Island a couple of weeks ago and I was able to prune my apple trees, but after two nice days the winter descended upon us again. The weatherman claims that the cold can't last due to the longer hours of sunlight in March, so the end of winter might be in sight and hopefully, we can get on with our spring clean up chores.

March is the time to prune and remove dead branches from trees and shrubs. And to clear brush before the leaves start to come out. However, in doing these tasks, there is one nasty thing to be on the look out for and that is Poison Ivy! I think that most of us can recognize the vine in the summer and were probably brought up knowing the rhyme "Leaflets Three Let It Be" and keep away from the vine with three leaves that are attached to a stem that then is connected to a vine. But the menace is still there in the winter, often growing up trees with a ropy hairy vine. So, two additional rhymes to learn are "Hairy Vine No Friend Of Mine" or "Raggy Rope - Don't Be A Dope!" If you suspect a vine is Poison Ivy do not touch it and only remove it wearing gloves using a long pair of loppers. If you pull it up by the roots, be careful that it doesn't break and the sap splashes on you. Place the cut vine in a garbage bag to remove. DO NOT ever BURN Poison Ivy or put it in a pile to die. If the vine is burned, the urushiol sap can get into your lungs and if the Poison Ivy sits in a pile, the sap will last years after the vine appears to be dead. If you think you have touched or brushed up against the vine or leaves, wipe the area off with rubbing alcohol and then wash with soap and water. Never ever take a bath if you think you have tangled with Poison Ivy, because the oil will get from your skin into the bath water and spread all over your body – always take a shower to be safe after you have worked outside.

Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) grows in North America and parts of Asia. Its sap, urushiol, often produces an itchy and sometimes-painful skin rash where the oil has gotten on to your

skin. This same oil is also found in Poison Sumac. The plants grow in woodland areas in filtered light, however, on Fishers Island they seem to thrive in sunlight and grow in a variety of soils. The rash will appear in 12 to 72 hours after exposure and can last up to two weeks or more. The only way you can spread it is when the oil is still on your skin, which is why a bath is a bad idea. Once the rash has broken out the oozing part does not spread the rash. If you get a bad case, it is a good idea to consult a Doctor because over the counter medications often do not work. Pets can get urushiol on their fur when walking through an area with Poison Ivy and the oil can get on you if you pat them. Pets do not seem to have an allergic reaction to urushiol, but it can remain on their coats for a long time. If you suspect your pet has the oil on its coat, put on rubber gloves and give it a bath in "copious amounts of lukewarm water and use a degreasing liquid soap like Dawn" which should remove the oil. The best way to deal with Poison Ivy is to avoid it if you can. If you see it on your property consult a professional landscaper for advise on how to get rid of it.



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 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.

The book selection for **April 10** is *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Check the Library Facebook page, the website www.filibrary.org, or call 788-7362



John Ski experiments with cooking the oil from the Cuvier's Beaked Whale blubber, with much success, based on his original whaling recipe.

PHELPS FAMILY THANK YOU

Dear Fishers Islanders,

March 2014

We want to thank everyone for the generous outpouring to the Sea Stretcher in honor of Stowe Phelps.

The Sea Stretcher saved Stowe's life when he had a heart attack in the summer of 1986. The Doctor was caring and rapid in his diagnosis and decision-making. The EMTs were attentive and made him comfortable. The Crew was aboard and ready to go in jig time, and they had the throttles on the firewall before the boat left the basin. The Bay Constables even looked the other way about speeding. Stowe tells the story better than any in his book of memoirs, and he was so grateful that he told it often over the 27 additional years of life that your work gave to him.

There have been cards and letters with donations from over 30 people totaling hundreds of dollars. Thank you for caring about Stowe as much as he cared about all of you.

- Charlton Phelps
- Phia Payne
- Meredith & Peter Rugg
- 5 Grandchildren
- 7 Great grandchildren



WE HAVE A WINNER!

Some members of the Fishers Island School's freshman class presenting Jan Cook with the Race Rock Lighthouse print she won in their Class of 2017 fundraising raffle. The original photo was taken by Gail Cypherd on a blustery January day.



CUVIER'S BEAKED WHALE: WHALEBONE RECOVERY

An abbreviated version, for the whole article, photos and video please visit FishersIsland.net

The whalebone recovery work on the Cuvier's Beaked Whale, found on Fishers in February, took place at Hungry Point on March 1, 2014.

The team of volunteers was led by the Mystic Aquarium's Assistant Stranding Coordinator Skip Graf, with whalebone specialists from Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Lisa Eiriksson and her husband Karl, who found the whale February 20 while counting seals, coordinated the effort for the Fishers Island Conservancy. The Aquarium said, "The goal is to perform a necropsy and collect some skeletal and tissue samples and have them archived."

First harvesting the small rear pelvic bone, this bone is a scientific look back to millions of years ago when mammals walked the earth and before eventually evolving into sea going creatures. They also removed the whale's melon, the round 'sonar' mass in the forehead of toothed whales that is used for echolocation, especially in dark deep

waters.

Positively identifying the 18' 8" whale as a male weighing about 2 tons, they were able to establish its age between 8-10 years – fairly young considering they can live to be 60 and are generally 23' when full grown. The whale had been dead for some time before coming ashore on Hungry Point, so determining the cause of death may be difficult. Skip noted that based on the depth of the blubber layer the mammal was not starving when it died. Taking specimen samples of kidney and stomach tissue, and the worms found in the kidney, and noting the parasites found in the dorsal fin cartilage and dorsal blubber will allow for further analysis. Tissue samples from skin, blubber, muscle, kidney and stomach were taken for potential use in histopathology testing. They did note six or seven broken ribs on the right side of the animal, as well as his right mandible (jaw bone) which could have been caused by aggression from other males, boat-strike or may have occurred post-mortem. They are hoping to determine if these are injuries or damage to the dead carcass.

An Island thank you goes to Lisa for organizing the recovery effort on island

and supplying coffee and food on-site, to Karl for working the equipment and finishing with burying the remains, to David Burnham for supplying the mini excavator, to Jim Reid for filming the recovery, and to Greg Thibodeau and Joe Brock for their help with volunteer transportation.

More information will be available after the Mystic Aquarium's marine biologists complete their work and the skull and bones are carefully examined by Tom French at Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The skeleton will rest at the New York State Museum in Albany about a year from now.



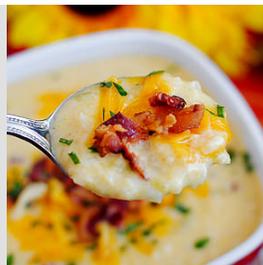


CLASSIFIEDS ON FISHERSISLAND.NET

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!

CAFÉ TO GO! Stop by the **Island Community Center Café** and pick up one of the tasty frozen soups, beef potpies, or chicken artichoke lasagna to have on hand for the night you don't feel like cooking. Made from scratch soups samplings: Vegetable Minestrone, Reuben Soup, Chicken & Rice, Creamy Tomato Pesto, Clam Chowder, Split Pea & Ham.



FISHERS IS ON FACEBOOK

Just visit FishersIsland.NY, www.facebook.com/FishersIsland.NY and 'Like' the page. This Facebook page feeds information from www.fishersisland.net and contains news and photos, announcements and upcoming FI calendar events.

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.



SPRING I FELLOWSHIP MARCH 1ST TO APRIL 13TH, 2014

We are pleased to welcome Spring I fellows Cassie Raihl (sculpture), Julie Tremeryn (fiction) and Siobhan Landry (video). Please visit the "Current Fellows" page of our website to learn more about Cassie, Julie and Siobhan.

Please join us for **Open Studios** on Saturday April 5th from 4-6pm @ the Ferry Annex Building.



SUPPORTING THE ARTS. ENRICHING OUR ISLAND.
www.thelighthouseworks.com