“The project is a perfect fit with Fishers Island School both environmentally and educationally and will catapult us to the next level in our continual quest to provide our students with rich, community-based learning opportunities.”

Karen Goodwin, Fishers Island School Principal

Two years ago Fishers Island School’s Board of Education adopted the Schoolwide Enrichment Model based on the school’s strong commitment to the core educational values that are embedded in the building of a living reef project.

Fishers Island School has partnered with Eccosolution to construct 3 small scale Bio-Rocks off the shoreline of Fishers Island. Bio-Rocks can be composed of coral, oysters, sea grasses, and/or salt marshes. Some of the goals of Bio-Rock are to provide shoreline protection, habitats for organisms, and water filtration. The geodesic steel dome structures are placed in the intertidal zone and coated with calcite and aragonite precipitated from the seawater using a small low voltage charge to the domes. The energy supplied to the domes will be captured by two 100-watt marine grade solar collectors and stored in two deep cycle marine batteries located on shore.

Fishers Island School science and technology students (presently approximately 19 student volunteers) in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to be involved in the endeavor. These students participated in the construction of the domes, and will be involved in their placement in the water, monitoring the development, and documenting the data. This project enables students to be involved in original research involving an innovative method of marine restoration. It will allow students to study the effects of increased biodiversity on an ecosystem, beach erosion, and wave patterns.

The Living Reef Project provides a yearlong experience that fosters all of these educational goals. It also provides a model project to demonstrate the viability of the technology for its multiple beneficial uses, all of which can be applied by the community on a Fishers Island-wide scale. Students are highly motivated to engage in this most important and exciting work.

Students, teachers, the principal and Board of Education members at Fishers Island School are tremendously excited about the opportunity for our students to work with the Eccosolution team on this project that will positively impact our island community in countless ways, from shoreline protection to marine restoration.

For the complete article, student reflections and the photo gallery of building the domes, please visit www.fishersisland.net
The Board of Trustees of Fishers Island’s H.L. Ferguson Museum announced on December 23 that Elizabeth McCance has been unanimously elected as the President of the Museum, effective immediately. She graciously accepted her new position.

The Museum’s Director Pierce Rafferty noted, “Penni Sharp had indicated to me several weeks before she died that she thought that Elizabeth would be a good choice as her successor. Elizabeth’s education and experience in the environmental field was of great interest and very important to the Museum’s mission. Strikingly, the Executive Committee came to the same conclusion and unanimously agreed that Elizabeth had the experience and interests to admirably fill the position. We all welcome Elizabeth and wish her well.”

Elizabeth joined the H.L.F. Museum Board in 2006. She has served on various committees including heading the leadership gifts effort to finish the Museum’s second floor space, which is under construction this winter.

In accepting her new role Elizabeth wrote, “I am very honored to be selected for this important position. It will be difficult to follow Penni’s remarkable leadership, but I look forward to working with the Board to help the Museum flourish in all its mission areas.”

Dr. McCance’s higher education began at Yale University where she earned her B.S. in Biology in 1989. She continued her studies as a graduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park where she received a M.S. in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development in 1992. In 2004 Elizabeth completed her Ph.D. at the School of Natural Resources and Environment and the University of Michigan.

Elizabeth joined Chicago Wilderness in 1996 as the Science and Land Management Teams Coordinator where she led the science and land management teams through a process to develop a regional recovery plan for biodiversity. In 2002 she was named their Director of Conservation. Chicago Wilderness is a consortium of more than 150 organizations (non-profit, government agencies, and for-profit) working together to conserve and protect the natural areas in the greater Chicago region. Her work primarily involved strategic planning, managing the network, and managing collaborative projects.

Prior to joining Chicago Wilderness, Elizabeth worked for the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Species Survival Commission, where she helped to administer an international network of 8,000 volunteers.

As a Project Manager for Criterion Ventures, a company that specializes in launching social ventures, Elizabeth worked on a project to help prevent people from going into debt trying to pay the uncovered costs of healthcare. She also worked on a business incubator in Miami that helped develop non-profits in the area.

Elizabeth was formerly adjunct faculty at Sacred Heart University, where she taught both master’s students and undergraduates. Courses ranged from environmental management to field ecology. She is now a full-time assistant professor at Norwalk Community College teaching environmental science and general biology. She is also starting a degree program in environmental management at Norwalk Community College.

A Board member of The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut since 2013, Elizabeth is a resident of Westport, CT and enjoys her summers at Fishers Island with her two young daughters.

Photo Credit: Ely Cervantes

MUSEUM CLOSED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION

Effective January 5th, the H.L. Ferguson Museum will be closed for the winter to all visitors to allow the unimpeded renovation of its second floor by Z&S Contracting, Inc. Exhibits and dioramas within the 1st floor gallery area will be wrapped to protect them from construction dust. The date of reopening will be posted in the spring or early summer.
EPA STUDY FINDS NEW LONDON DREDGE DISPOSAL SITE IDEAL

By Judy Benson, The Day, December 10, 2014

New London – The current dredge disposal site about 3.5 miles south of New London Harbor is the most suitable location for handling sediments that clog navigation channels, harbors and marinas, based on a physical oceanographic analysis of 11 sites in eastern Long Island Sound.

Results of the analysis, conducted for the Environmental Protection Agency by Frank Bohlen and Grant McCardell of the University of Connecticut Marine Sciences Department, were presented Tuesday during a meeting at Fort Trumbull State Park. Among the 30 attendees were several marina owners who emphasized their need to have convenient sites open for depositing dredge material.

Bohlen, professor emeritus of marine sciences, said that based on tidal action, storm surge, fresh water inflow from rivers, current action and other factors, fine-grain sand deposited at the New London site stays in place more than in the other sites evaluated. He provided a detailed explanation of how the study reached its conclusions. “New London was the only site in eastern Long Island Sound with a maximum bottom stress below .75,” he said, referring to the number for the optimal measure of stress found to keep sediments relatively immobile.

The EPA, in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers, is evaluating the environmental impact of designating one or more new disposal sites in the eastern sound after the New London site and Cornfield Shoals, off Old Saybrook, close as scheduled in 2016. The analysis includes consideration of continuing to use either of these two sites, as well as four other areas: Clinton Harbor and the nearby Six Mile Reef; an area off Niantic Bay; and another off Orient Point, Long Island. The analysis by Bohlen and McCardell included five additional sites. The Cornfield Shoals site, he found, had the highest propensity for sediment deposited there to move elsewhere.

Christian McGugan of Grenmor Marina and Marine Contracting in Mystic said he is concerned that New York State could object to the redesignation of the New London site because of its proximity to Fishers Island, or to any other site that is chosen. The objection could be brought under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

“This could set off an appeal process that no small marina operator could bear,” he said. He said alternatives being studied to handle dredge spoils, such as using uncontaminated material to rebuild shoreline areas and marshes, are impractical, and having to transport material to the central Long Island Sound dredge site near New Haven would double the cost of dredge projects.

Jean Brochi, project manager for the Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit of EPA Region 1, said other areas that will be studied before a final decision on a site include impacts on sea floor habitats and capacity of various sites. About 13.5 million cubic yards of sediment is expected to be dredged from the eastern sound through 2028.

A draft version of the environmental analysis, called an environmental impact statement, is scheduled to be released in the spring, she said. A final version, including a designation of one or more disposal sites or a “no action” alternative in which no area would be designated, is slated for December 2016.

FishersIsland.net Editor's Note: Members of The Fishers Island Conservancy have been attending the various hearings that have been held by the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Conservancy is actively monitoring and tracking developments in order to develop a plan going forward.
ENGAGEMENTS

Eliza Milliken & Zachary Sadow
September 28, 2014
New York, NY

John Smith & Adrienn Bakondi
December 24, 2014
Vero Beach, FL

Bates Parsons & Leah Keim
February 11, 2014
Denver, CO

Michael George & Neil Bajorin
October 5, 2013
Keene Valley, NH

WEDDING

Thayer Tolles & Ted Rogers
December 23, 2014
New York, NY

BIRTH

Alexander William Toldo
January 2, 2015
to Robin & Jared Toldo

REMEMBERING PENNI

Fishers Island Cemetery Committee mourns the loss of its beloved committee member, Penelope Chester Sharp. We hope that the beautiful native trees she helped select for the Cemeteries last year will celebrate her memory for years to come. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

The beautiful wreath that adorns the H.L.F. Museum this 2014 holiday season was created by Cookie Edwards in memory of Penni Sharp, the Museum’s president until her death in November.
IN MEMORIAM:

Penelope Chester Sharp of Northford, CT and Fishers Island, NY died peacefully at home on December 14 at age 76. Born and raised in Greenwich, CT, Penni attended Greenwich Country Day School, and graduated from Miss Porter’s School and Sarah Lawrence College. She earned a Master of Forest Science degree from the Yale School of Forestry. Following graduation from Yale, she served as the Director of Conservation for the Town of Wilton for ten years.

An accomplished botanist and wetland biologist, she worked until her death as a consulting biologist for many municipal and private clients in Connecticut. She held leadership positions in the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists, the Connecticut Botanical Society and was active with the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group. She was also the principal author of Trap Rock Ridges of Connecticut; Natural History & Land Use. In 2009, she was given the Connecticut State Award by the New England Wildflower Society.

On Fishers Island she served on the board of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum and its Land Trust for 28 years. As president from 2003 until her death, she was a widely respected leader who shared her considerable knowledge of the natural world with all who knew her. Penni was a dedicated volunteer and tireless advocate for the island and the protection of its environment.

An avid singer, she belonged to Cappella Cantorum and greatly enjoyed performing in the group’s concerts and travelled with them on singing tours to Spain, the Dalmatian Coast and Venice, where she sang in St. Mark’s Cathedral. Devoted mother and grandmother, she adored spending time with her son and daughter and her four beloved grandchildren. Penni was also a wonderful cook, a New York Times crossword devotee and loved walks with her Labrador.

She is survived by her husband, Gregory A. Sharp, her son, Stephen M. McPherson, Jr., her daughter, Eugenie Chester McPherson Trevor, her grandchildren, Ashlyn and Alexa McPherson, Eliza T. Trevor and John B. Trevor V, her sister Clare Stone, her brothers Colby M. Chester, IV and Geoffrey Chester, her nieces Jessie and Olympia Stone, Jennie Moran and Elizabeth Anne Chester, Abigail Chester and nephew Nathaniel Chester. A celebration of Penni’s life will be held at a later date. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Henry L. Ferguson Museum.

IN MEMORIAM:

Peyton Randolph Gray, a long-time resident of Plymouth Meeting, PA, died peacefully on December 30, 2014, after a long struggle with cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Jane Webster Gray, his children Slater Gray Gillin, Peyton Randolph Gray, Jr., and Jane Bowman Gray, his grandchildren James Gray and Henry Scott Gillin, as well as his brothers Robert Daniel Gray and Lyons Gray, and many other family members.

Born March 1, 1951, in Winston-Salem, NC, Randy graduated in 1969 from St. Mark’s School and from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1973. The first half of his career was dedicated to investment banking and venture capital, after which he served many years supporting environmental causes including serving as the Pennsylvania State Director of The Nature Conservancy and Director of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed.

A lifelong commitment to service was evident in his many posts, including serving on the Boards of Chestnut Hill Hospital, Board Chair of Chestnut Hill Academy, Whitemarsh Open Space Committee, Sunnybrook Golf Club as well as the Vestry at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Chestnut Hill, PA.

Randy's loyalty, honesty, wonderful spirit and quick wit will be sorely missed by his family and friends yet will abide in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

A Memorial Service will be held at Paul’s Episcopal Church in Chestnut Hill, PA. on Thursday, January 8th at 2P.M. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be sent to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chestnut Hill, Fox Chase Cancer Center, or The Island Health Project, Inc. at Fishers Island.
IN MEMORIAM:

Lucie Ann Nauman Torrance, 89, died peacefully on Thanksgiving, November 27th, 2014, at Pomperaug Woods in Southbury, CT. She was the daughter of the late Arthur P. Nauman and Lucie Margaret Todd Nauman of Grosse Pointe, MI. Lucie attended Grosse Pointe Country Day School prior to attending Smith College in Northampton, MA and later Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. She worked as an artist and designer for Bates Fabrics and the New York Times, and took courses at the Arts Students League in New York and later at UCONN.

For over thirty years she was the wife of the late Walter F. Torrance, Jr. of Woodbury and Southbury, CT. They were married in November of 1952, and after a divorce in 1988, she continued living in Woodbury. For the last 10 years, she has resided at Pomperaug Woods in Southbury. She is survived by four children, Lucie Todd Turrentine (Tom) of New Canaan, CT; Martha E. Torrance (Tim) of Seekonk, MA; Stephen H. Torrance (Beth) of Lancaster, PA; and Sarah G. Torrance and her companion Joe Pickard of South Londonderry, VT. In addition, she is survived by nine grandchildren and step-grandchildren and one great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her sister Connie Hannon of Jupiter, FL.

Lucie loved animals, gourmet cooking, entertaining, reading, music, and international travel - especially to tour gardens. She tolerated the skiing, hiking, and sailing that her family subjected her to. She had a discerning eye for art, design and antiques. She was always known for her dry sense of humor and her ability to make friends wherever she went.

She was a member of the First Congregational Church in Woodbury, the Highfield Club, the Middlebury Swim Club, the Alliance Francaise and the Junior League, and volunteered with Planned Parenthood, Head Start in Waterbury, the Woodbury Library and the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra.

A Memorial Service was held January 3rd at North Church, Woodbury, with an informal reception and remarks at 11:00 a.m. at Pomperaug Woods in the Garden Room. In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made in her memory to Planned Parenthood of CT - which Lucie supported throughout her life - at 345 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511.

JANUARY GARDENING TIPS

FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN

It is hard to believe that this January, the Fog Horn online is a year old. I started writing gardening in 2010 when the Fog Horn was still in its infancy and printed like a newsletter. Free issues were available at the Post Office, Library and the Market. Meredith Doyen was the editor then and she had asked me if I would write about gardening on Fishers Island. We thought it would be nice to have a couple of articles in the newsletter in addition to meeting announcements and real estate adds. Pierce Rafferty was also recruited to write his wonderful historical columns. The new digital version of the Fog Horn under Jane Ahrens wonderful direction, has brought it farther than any one of us would have imagined in 2010.

It has been challenging for me to write these monthly gardening pieces, since I am far from being a writer, but I have enjoyed sharing my experiences with fellow island gardeners. Fishers Island is a difficult place to grow things due to the often-extreme weather; a cold spring and some times, a very dry summer. But the fall is usually beautiful and flowers bloom well into October and early November. I am hopeful that this year, other island gardeners will want to share their gardening experiences on FishersIsland.net and in the Fog Horn. Last year, Joe Henderson wrote about invasive plants and Dave Dennison shared his gardening expertise in an informative interview. If you have gardening information or experiences you would like to share please contact me or Jane Ahrens and we will be happy to include them in this column.

I always enjoy the time in January to look over new seed catalogs, catch up on garden reading and think about what to plant in the spring. This year I want to be sure to include plants for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. It was so lovely to see one or two butterflies in my garden last year. I feel it is up to all of us “home gardeners” to try to create natural habitat areas in our landscape that will encourage these important beings. The winter months are times to daydream and plan for this year’s growing season, so enjoy this quite time and Happy New Year to all!
BULLETIN BOARD NEWS CLIPPINGS

TRACKING CHARLIE THE OSPREY
January 1, 2015

Charlie Tracking: January 1 – Maria la Baja, Colombia
Visit the H.L. Ferguson Museum’s website and Charlie’s Blog:
http://fergusonmuseum.org/osprey-cam/tracking-charlie/

BOOK OFFERS RARE ACCESS TO PLUM ISLAND
December 13, 2014

The island’s forbidding aspect comes from the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, a federal laboratory that for years has been the subject of speculation, misinformation and fiction. The lab and the entire island are off-limits to pretty much everyone.
It’s no surprise, then, that the island’s history has been obscured by time. An impressive new book, A World Unto Itself, reveals the story in full, and it contains a surprise or two.

WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY CARD & BUCHANAN’S LANDSCAPES
December 10, 2014

Receiving commissions for things like the White House Holiday card is not something that comes easy. It may appear as if it is selected by chance, or even worse by nepotism, but after talking with landscape painter Emily Buchanan I have learned that neither of these is the case. Such commissions are won through controlled factors such as hard work, dedication and a savvy marketing strategy.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN 2015: SELFLESS SERVICE
January 4, 2015

Kapri Thomas is paying it forward in 2015 – with your help. She has set a fundraising goal of $10,000 for the year with the proceeds going to the Women’s Interlink Foundation in Kolkata, India. She will be traveling there in December to volunteer her time to support victims of sex trafficking, helping to provide the tools and resources to make sustainable and productive changes in the lives of women and children struggling for a better life on the streets of Kolkata.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CHARLIE?
January 1, 2015

Fishers Island is following Team Alvimedica as they compete in the Volvo Ocean Race! Why? The American team’s skipper is Fishers Island’s own Charlie Enright.

UPDATE: Leg 3 Abu Dhabi to Sanya Began January 3, 2015 – 4,642 nautical miles
Follow the race via links at www.fishersisland.net

FI SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WANTED
December 2014

Fill a vacancy as a new interim member from January through the elections in May. A great opportunity for an interested Fishers Island year round citizen to participate on the Board for five months without needing to first be elected. Interested citizens should write a brief letter of interest to School Board President Jamie Doucette, c/o

Find out more about any of these posts at www.fishersisland.net
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.

SERIAL LUNCHEON
Thursday, January 15
Noon
Union Chapel

TIGGY’S 11 DAY WINTER CLEAN EATING
Learn more at www.fishersisland.net and her website www.tiggyhealth.com
Everyone is welcome!

FI SCHOOL ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE
For commuting students 2015-2016 School Year
Thursday, January 15
8:00 am – 12:00 noon
RSVP to Aly at 788-7444

Tiggy’s 11 Day Winter Clean Eating
Learn more at www.fishersisland.net and her website www.tiggyhealth.com
Everyone is welcome!

LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
Thursday, January 8
7:00-9:00 pm
Lila
Fishers Island Library

COMING SOON
OPEN FOR LUNCH
Monday-Saturday
FI Community Center

VISIT FISHERSISLAND.NET PHOTO GALLERY TO VIEW MORE!

JUSTINE’S ISLAND TREASURES
Justine Kibbe, Fishers Island Conservancy’s Naturalist shares some of her favorite photos.

Dawning on Me by Justine Kibbe

WALSH’S WANDERINGS
Fishers Island as seen through the lens of Art Walsh’s camera.

Looking for Lunch by Art Walsh