

FISHERS ISLAND FOG HORN

APRIL 2016



News and Information about
Fishers Island, NY

OSPREYS COME HOME TO NEW NESTING PLATFORMS

In the past two years, the Fishers Island Electric Company has been working diligently to replace older phone poles, and during the process decided to modify several locations that had existing osprey nesting platforms in dangerous positions over high voltage wires. Utility Co. President Chris Finan approached Museum Director Pierce Rafferty proposing that the relocation of five osprey nests would minimize the dangers to Electric Co. workers operating near protective ospreys, and help minimize damage to FIUC infrastructure from potential platform collapses and dropped sticks above live wires. An additional factor was that the ospreys themselves were at increased risk after recent equipment changes. A Museum committee formed to focus on moving five osprey nests and platforms to new poles in safer locations. This committee, including Pierce, Ken Edwards, Jeff Edwards and Steve Malinowski, immediately consulted with osprey expert Rob Bierregaard. (Rob is the ornithologist who tagged Fishers Island's two ospreys, "Charlie" and "Edwin.") Rob was 100% behind the relocation of the nests to platforms atop poles as close to the original sites as possible.

Jay Cushing, superintendent of electric operations at the FI Utility Company wrote, "In coordination with Pierce Rafferty and Jeff Edwards we created a plan that will be a better solution for our high voltage system, and of course the birds. We decided to install dedicated nesting sites at these locations.



One location is a new pole at the end of the driving range, this is the OspreyCam location. The other is just south of Chocomount Beach. This will create a more stable atmosphere and prevent the possibility of the ospreys coming into contact with the 8320-volt circuit.

"Along with the two Museum-funded poles, the Electric Company has donated its time and labor to build and install two more nesting platforms on guy wire poles. These locations, chosen by Jeff Edwards, have no electrical circuits and will be a nice nesting spot just east of "top of the world"."

The H.L. Ferguson Museum's OspreyCam is live and has a different configuration that faces west. A new pole for the nest was put up by the Utility Co. and the nest was moved away from its prior location above wires. The camera, still on the same

pole as last year, was swiveled around to face west, and now shows more of the road and recreation path in the background. A single osprey (likely the male) touched down on this nest last week, but the pair was first spotted on the nest over Easter weekend.



Watch OspreyCam at fergusonmuseum.org/osprey_cam/

FISHERS ISLAND CONSERVANCY'S ANNUAL BURN



By Jane T. Ahrens

March 2016

Thursday, March 24 the Fishers Island Fire Department volunteers held their drill on the west end and participated in a controlled burn of the Race, Airport and Parade Ground habitats in coordination with the Fishers Island Conservancy.

The concerted effort to reclaim our native grasslands from invasive plants began in October 2010. That was when the Fishers Island Ferry District, which oversees the property for the Town of Southold, signed onto the Conservancy's proposal and the burn plan was put into practice. What happens if we do not use fire as a management tool? Two undesirable things will occur. First, we will see more and more vegetation building up as potential fuel for uncontrolled fires. Second, Fishers Island's natural grasses, shrubs and trees are being overtaken by invasive vines and shrubs, mostly of Asian origin. The Conservancy is committed to preserving the natural flora on Fishers and pushing back the invasives. In the grasslands, fire is the best management tool we have.

"Burn Boss" Donnie Beck is a member of the Fishers Island Fire Department and the Fishers Island Conservancy Habitat Committee. He also serves on the Henry L. Ferguson Museum's Land Trust Committee. He has conducted controlled burns at the Fishers Island Club for the last 23 years. And, over the last few years, he has helped both the Conservancy and Museum boards create prescribed burn plans and apply for permits. Here Donny explains the burn process:

"In general, both the Museum and Conservancy try to divide their properties in thirds and only burn one section each year. This ensures the fire has enough fuel to burn effectively and most importantly, it leaves habitat for wildlife on the majority of each property."

"The burn itself is done the same way each time. Both the Conservancy and Museum have trail systems in place that separate the plots and act as fire breaks. The closely mown trails will not burn and help control the fires. We always start by back-burning on the downwind side of the plot and then work slowly up the perimeters to provide a buffer. The fires are started with either a propane torch or with outdated flares provided by the fire department. In all cases, crews monitor the perimeter of the burn and are prepared to extinguish any potential jump across the trails with water and tampers. Once a sufficient buffer is established we start dissecting the remaining plot by burning small sections across the middle allowing the fire to burn downwind until it extinguishes due to lack of fuel which has already been burned by the slow back burn."

Continued on page 3



CONSERVANCY’S BURN CONT.

Fishers Island Conservancy

On behalf of the Fishers Island Conservancy, I would like to extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to Fire Chief Bruce Hubert and the entire Fishers Island Fire Department for their leadership in conducting the grassland burns this past Thursday at the Parade Grounds, Elizabeth Field and Race Point. These spring burns are critical to the work the Conservancy has done and continues to do in habitat restoration, maintenance and management at these sites. The grasslands are a very precious resource for all of us to enjoy so please come out and walk the paths as spring pushes out new green shoots and perhaps you will be lucky and catch a glimpse of our resident Northern Harriers hunting as I did on Friday. Again, the Conservancy appreciates the planning, organization and hard work of the Fishers Island Fire Department more than words here can express.

Sincerely, Thomas A. Sargent, President, Fishers Island Conservancy

Participating Fire Department Members:

Bruce Hubert, Donnie Beck, Jeff Edwards, Alex Kardziyak, Ace Ahrens, John Bergquist, Joe Brock, Robert Brooks, David Burnham, Chris Dollar, Kathy Dollar, John Doucette, Tawnya Eastman, Chris Edwards, Jess Hall, Dirk Harris, George Horning, Michael Imbriglio, John Kucsera, Nate Malinowski, Robert Rogers, and Greg Thibodeau.



IPP’S EASTER EGG HUNT

Island People’s Project (IPP) held the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the town green Saturday, March 26. Although the weather wasn’t its usual Easter best, everyone bundled up and had a great time. Thank yous go to the Lusker, Toldo, Harris, and Beck families for organizing, making the poster, coloring the eggs, and then hiding them. Each egg ‘hunter’ also received a chocolate bunny prizes. Special thanks goes to the Fishers Island Village Market for donating and refrigerating the 60 dozen eggs!



APRIL GARDENING

FROM MÉLIE'S GARDEN: THIS AND THAT

This weekend I took soil samples from my vegetable garden to send to UConn for soil analysis. Google UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory for more information. Each area on your property needs a different test. The directions of how you take the soil samples are very explicit and easy to follow. You bag up the soil and fill out a questionnaire and enclose a check for \$8 for each area you want to have tested. The soil analysis will be very helpful if you have plants that are not doing well in certain areas. My vegetables have been fine, but I think the soil is getting a bit tired and needs a bit of a tune up, so I am looking forward to their reply.

In January, I wrote about growing citrus indoors and got so enthused that I ordered from Logees a Meyer Lemon plant and a Melwa Sweet Kumquat. The Lemon bloomed soon after arrival and then shed all of its leaves. The Kumquat has not bloomed and looks quite happy. I called Logees about the lemon and was assured that I had done nothing wrong. Citrus will often lose its leaves after blooming, but if the plant blooms inside, you need to take a small paintbrush or Q-tip to brush the pollen from one flower to the other in order to get fruit. If the plant blooms outside in the summer, bees and insects will pollinate the plant. I have had a few flies and wasps in my house this winter, but doubt they will have been very good pollinators, so I probably won't have any lemons until it blooms the next time.

Recently I attended a lecture on succulents given by Katherine Tracy, owner of Advant Gardens, in North Dartmouth, MA. The plants are primarily grown for their foliage and drought resistance. The succulents have proven to be excellent container plants for the New England summer gardener. The plants are easy to care for as long as they are planted in well-draining soil. They only need to be watered when their leaves start to wilt a bit. Succulents can be easily removed from heavy containers in the fall and transplanted into smaller pots and brought inside. They can be replanted outside in the late spring. I have a number of succulents in a container that I have brought in each winter and they have done amazingly well with very little watering all year round. I am careful to put the planter in the shade when I first put it outside, so it doesn't burn, but after a week or two I move it to a sunny area where it is very happy for the summer. It is fun to select different shapes, sizes and colors of succulents to create an interesting looking combination and they are almost completely carefree.



FI CONSERVANCY SPRING MIGRATION BIRD COUNT

April 30 and May 1 @ 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

All are welcome to join the Fishers Island Conservancy as they do the Spring Migration Bird Count. Meet the University of Delaware graduate students at the Community Center. Bring your binoculars!

FIDCO 2016 STICKERS

FIDCO has 2016 application forms for auto, commercial and bicycle stickers available on their website at www.fidco.us. Just click on 'East End Stickers' and fill yours out today.

2016 stickers are required to be on vehicles as of March 1 and may be obtained at the Utility Co. office, Mon.-Fri. from 8:00 am until 4.30 pm. Stickers and Guest Passes may also be obtained at the Gate House during open hours.



ICB SPRING 2016: PRESIDENT'S LETTER & PRIORITIES

March 14, 2016

Hello and happy spring from the Island Community Board!



Over the last year, ICB has been meeting regularly and welcoming dialogue from islanders about several critical island issues. Last fall, ICB and the Waste Management District held several successful forums to answer questions about their plans, including **compost station tours** to help visualize the proposed upgrades. This winter, we have delved into committee work and long-range planning.

The Finance Committee has already **raised over \$2000** for our operating expenses this year, and will conduct a **fund drive by summer**. We hope you'll consider paying small membership dues of \$10 to ICB so we can continue our work on behalf of all islanders.

Finance is working closely with the Committee on Southold Relations to **conduct a tax analysis study**: what services do we get for the tax monies we send to Southold? We've gained Town Supervisor Scott Russell's support for this effort, and hope to capture data that we can use in a **five-year plan for infrastructure improvements** to the island, such as sidewalk repairs, and **gaining governmental and social services**, like hospice care, on Island.

The Southold Committee is **pursuing grants** available through Suffolk County and Southold for community development. It has also **created a FAQ** about the relationship between town and hamlet – it's a living document, so please submit any other questions you have to ficomcommunityboard@gmail.com!

The Governance Committee is **updating ICB's by-laws**, which should be ready for approval by Memorial Day, and is **starting the nominating process for this summer's elections** to fill the seats of Peter Brinckerhoff (seasonal) and Nate Malinowski (year-round). We were thrilled that over 300 people voted in last summer's elections, and hope even more will register as members to vote this year. Please contact me at mail@charlesthomasoneil.com or Dicky Riegel, chair of the Governance Committee at driegel@airstream2go.com, if you're interested in standing for election.

Finally, the Communications and Community Development Committee has coordinated some very fruitful **drop-in meetings with year-round residents**, and is **collecting community statistics** in preparation for the return of an **annual report** by Columbus Day. We'll be reaching out to island organizations to contribute reports, so we can gain a true snapshot of the island and use it help inform old and new residents or school families about life on the island!

As always, we welcome your input – written or in person – at our meetings!

Tom O'Neil, ICB President

The Island Community Board's 2016 Priorities

- Register 500 Fishers Islanders as ICB members.
- Hire a part time ICB manager when funding is available.
- Using the recently completed Fishers Island Development Plan, create a 5+ year plan to address economic development, population growth, housing, and Island infrastructure.
- Identify necessary improvements to Fishers Island roads and work with Southold to undertake repairs.
- Work with the Recreational Path Foundation and Southold to complete the recreational path extension from the East End gatehouse to town.
- Explore the availability of affordable fuel/utilities to year-round Fishers Island residents.
- Produce an ICB annual report for the community.
- Develop a Fishers Island information package for persons interested in moving to Fishers Island.
- Complete the updating of ICB's by-laws.
- Review the size of the board to better represent the entire Island community.
- Hold annual ICB elections in August 2016.
- Create a stable revenue stream for the ICB via a combination of voluntary dues and private contributions.
- Compare the amount of taxes paid to Southold by Fishers Island property owners to the estimated value of services provided by Southold to Fishers Island.

The Island Community Board promotes the economic, civic and social welfare of the people of Fishers Island, New York. It carries out this purpose by serving as a forum for the discussion of issues affecting the life of the Fishers Island community at regular open meetings, by prioritizing these issues and setting annual goals, by developing action plans to address these issues and achieve these goals, and by submitting such plans to ICB Members at their Annual Meeting.

EBB & FLOW

IN MEMORIAM: HAROLD E. COOK



Harold E. Cook passed away at home on Fishers Island, NY, surrounded by family, on Friday, March 18, 2016.

He was born on December 7, 1934, in Bellingham, MA, to Harold and Inga Cook, he worked in the family business, Cook's Lumber Yard. Harold was a police officer and volunteered at the fire department. He remained active in politics throughout his life. A successful business owner, he operated Harold's LLC for 23 years on Fishers Island. Harold was known for his storytelling, and his sense of humor will be missed.

Harold is survived by his wife of 63 years, Jan; as well as four children, Patty Cook of Fishers Island, James Cook of Fernandina Beach, FL, Pamela Schlender, wife of Daryl, of Griswold, and Polly Ford, wife of Paul, of New London; along with 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; he also leaves behind a sister, Linda Kornicki; and godchild, Lori Ferris Cox. Harold was predeceased by two sons, Steven and Casey.

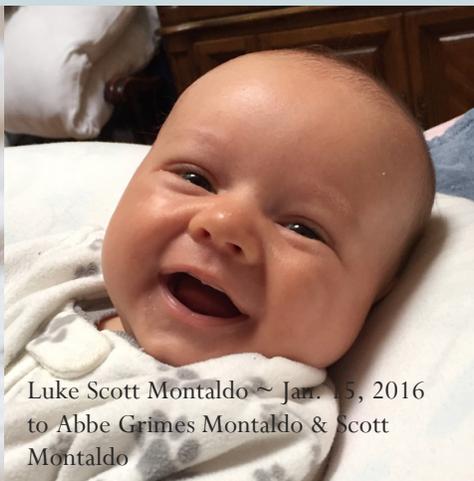
A memorial service took place Saturday, March 26 at Fishers Island's Union Chapel, followed by a Jubilee at the American Legion Post 1045 on Fishers Island.

In lieu of flowers, please visit www.angelflightne.org to support the visiting angels.

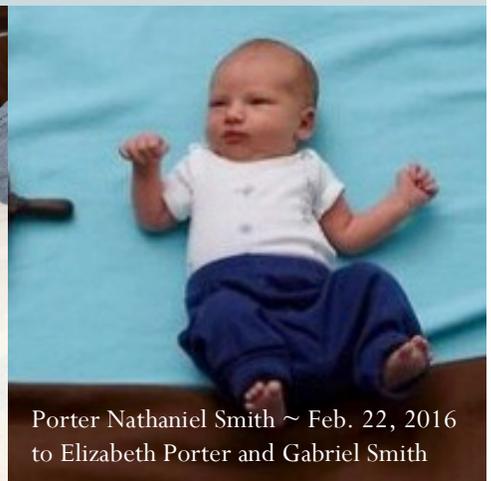
BIRTHS



Reed Aikens Stanley ~ Dec. 12, 2015 to Zachary Stanley & Jessica DiMartino



Luke Scott Montaldo ~ Jan. 15, 2016 to Abbe Grimes Montaldo & Scott Montaldo



Porter Nathaniel Smith ~ Feb. 22, 2016 to Elizabeth Porter and Gabriel Smith



William Houghton Lucey ~ Mar. 24, 2016 to Kate Harris Lucey and Pat Lucey



Izabella Mae Simmons ~ Mar. 26, 2016 to Katie Lamb Simmons & DJ Simmons

ENGAGEMENT



Kate Planitzer and Michael Harper August 25, 2015 in New York, NY

FISHERS ISLAND BULLETIN BOARD

IPP MORNING PROGRAM REGISTRATION 2016

Registration for the 2016 IPP Morning Program will open on **April 11th** for **year-round residents** of the Island, and on **May 1st** for **seasonal residents**. This year, the IPP Morning Program will run Monday through Friday from 9:00-12:00, from **Tuesday July 5th through Friday August 19th**.

Registration is 1st come, 1st served. Register at islandpeoplesproject.com with ActiveCamps.



SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Get to know the ins and outs of the Community Center and the Theater with a paid, resume building, opportunity on Fishers!

Fishers Island Community Center & the Friends of the Fishers Island Theater are looking for a highly motivated, energetic and organized individual to assist with a variety of tasks during the busy summer season. The individual must have knowledge of computer skills (word, excel, Photoshop, etc.) and be able to multi-task. To learn more and for an application please contact Elizabeth Reid or Sarah Porter at theficommunitycenter@gmail.com or 631.788.7638.

FIS CLASS OF 2016 HOSTS BINGO NIGHT

Fishers Island School Gym, beginning at 4:30 pm Fri., April 15

BINGO \$1 per card - lots of prizes for kids AND adults!

Raffles \$1 per ticket or 15 tickets for \$10 - lots of prizes here too!

Pasta Dinner will be served for \$6 per person

Sundae Bar to follow dinner for \$3 per person

All proceeds benefit Fishers Island School's Class of 2016



NEW YORK STATE ELECTION DATES

April 19, 2016 – Presidential Primary Election

June 28, 2016 – Federal Primary Election

September 13, 2016 – State/Local Primary Election

November 8, 2016 – General Election

Polls will be open at the Community Center. Check FishersIsland.net for times.

SHOP AMAZON ONLINE & HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE SEA STRETCHER!

Use AmazonSmile to have 0.5% of all your purchases donated to the Sea Stretcher. Just type **smile.amazon.com** and your amazon account will come up just like normal. Then you will be prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. Type in **Fishers Island Sea Stretcher** and for eligible purchases AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.



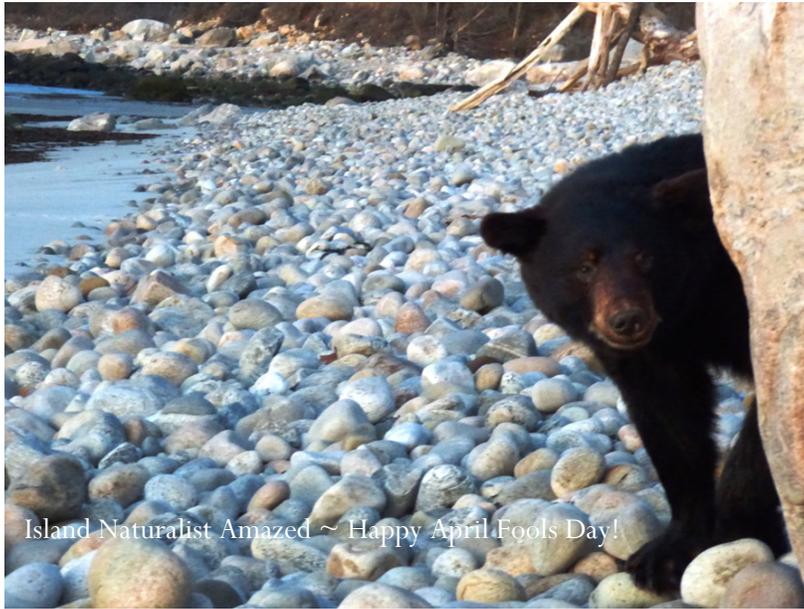
FI STERLING SILVER NECKLACE

Bar is approximately 30mm, length is approximately 18".

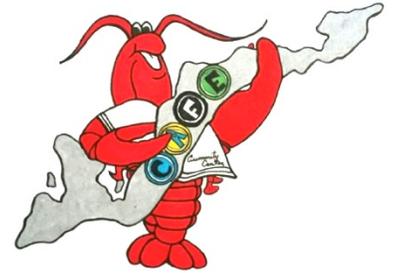
Only 10 necklaces available at \$65 each.

Please see a FIS Senior or Tawnya Eastman for more information or to purchase a necklace. All proceeds benefit the Class of 2016.

SAVE THE DATES:
VISIT [HTTP://FISHERSISLAND.NET/EVENTS/](http://fishersisland.net/events/)
FOR ALL UPCOMING FI EVENTS



Island Naturalist Amazed ~ Happy April Fools Day!



FI COMMUNITY
CENTER'S
ISLAND CAFÉ &
BOWLING

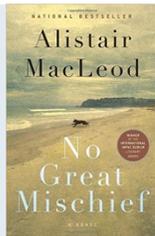
Now Open for

Lunch 12:00-1:00 Tues-Fri
Dinner 5:00-8:00 Tues-Sat

LIBRARY BOOK
GROUP

Thursday, April 14
7:00-9:00 pm

No Great Mischief by A. MacLeod



Join us for the
Senior Luncheon
on April 21.
*All community members
age 60+ are welcome!*

**Senior
Lunch**



Marlin Bloethe Photo

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', have photos to share, suggestions or an interest in advertising, please contact Editor Jane Ahrens at (631) 788-7487 or finyinfo@gmail.com. Contact Sarah Porter to place an event on the Community Calendar at www.fishersisland.net/events/ at (631) 788-7683 or fishersislandevents@gmail.com.

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COMING MAY 2016

