



John Hunt House

# Gazette

Vol. XXII No. 6

April 2010

## President's letter

Nancy Moore, President



Hello Everyone,

Two weeks ago, the Board watched anxiously as the Ten Mile River obscured all signs of a dam and falls

at Hunts Mills. The water flow was prodigious and in the backyard. 'Lake Hunt' finally overflowed into the basement of the Meter House (next to the museum) up to a level of about one and a half feet. But our beloved Hunt House Museum stayed dry. Thanks to the new

roof, not a drop of water came into the attic. Member Dottie Thornley caught some of the action in the photos you see in this issue. Whew!

At this writing, we are making arrangements with Ray Frackleton of Newman Church to have the church's octagonal steeple framing moved to the Pump House. Our intention was to store the structure in two pieces in the Meter House basement but the area is still wet and the structure is a little larger than we thought (over twelve

feet in diameter) so we need to re-measure and wait for things to dry out. In the meantime, it will sit in the Pump House. It is a wonderful example of post and beam framing with each piece marked and pegged. The structure was severely compromised by powder post beetles and has been treated for that infestation. It is a piece of our history that will be significant and striking when we find a place to show it off. Drive by Newman Church to see if you can tell the difference in the new housing for the cell towers. It has been well done.

And lastly, we have been given a reprieve for the summer as to the start of the fish ladders. The contract bids came in much too high and the whole contracting process has been begun once again. We have now been told that the earliest we will see any disturbance of the area will be July and much more likely it will be the fall. So it looks as if we will have the June Annual Meeting/Picnic on the grounds after all - weather permitting.

Jeff and Cheryl Faria will bring seeds to the April 26 members meeting for you interested gardeners.



Photo by Dottie Thornley

'Lake Hunt' threatening the Meter House on the right.

**The Gazette**

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East Providence  
Historical Society

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**The East Providence  
Historical Society**

is dedicated to preserving the heritage  
and enjoying the history of our city.

**If you are not a member we invite  
you to join now.**

Annual dues are \$15 individual, \$25  
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Please make check payable to:

**East Providence Historical Society**

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**Mona Breault, 23 Case Street,  
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**Calendar Of Events**

**APRIL**

**Thursday, April 22,**  
Pembroke College Club of  
Providence  
Tour of Hunt House Museum

**Monday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.**  
Members Meeting – *Public Invited*  
Newman Church Memorial Hall  
Rumford

Program: *Roger Williams*  
*National Park*  
Speaker: John McNiff  
(See notes on next page)

**MAY**

**Wednesday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.**  
Board Meeting – *Members Welcome*  
Hunt House Museum  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

**Sunday, May 9, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**  
Hunt House Museum Open  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

**Sunday, May 16, 2:00 p.m.**  
Brown University's Salomon  
Center  
'Making the New England  
Mummies Dance:  
Creating and Hunting Antiques  
in New England'

Reservations: 331-8575 x 45  
Free Admission

**Monday, May 24, 7:15 p.m.**  
Members Meeting – *Public Invited*  
East Bay Manor,  
1440 Wampanoag Trail

Program: *Pomham Rocks*  
*Lighthouse Restoration*  
Speaker: Dave Kelleher  
Details in May Gazette.

**Gifts To The Museum**

Jesse Albright - Three framed  
pictures of Pomham Rocks  
Lighthouse and the East  
Providence shoreline including  
Silver Spring.



**Membership Form**

- New
- Renewal/Change

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 Individual

\$25 Family/Business

\$150 Life

## Nominating Committee

Any eligible member wishing to seek office for the June 2010-11 year should contact the society, 438-1750.

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE MAY MEETING ONLY. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting in June.

## Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

As the sun dries out our gardens, you may begin turning the soil only if it is not too wet. To test for workability, pick up a handful and squeeze. It should crumble apart in your hand with gently prodding. In a 100 square foot area, add up to 100 lbs. of compost, 2 lbs. of bone meal, 3 lbs. of clean wood ash or 5 lbs. of lime before planting. Many seeds can be sowed directly into the garden at this time. Try peas, root crops, leafy greens. Later this month, sow vine crops in peat pots indoors or in a cold frame and transplant into the garden after they have grown 2 sets of leaves.

Thin out crowded branches of dense lilacs to improve air circulation through the plants. Lilacs love lime, but do not over fertilize. Too much may cause bacterial blight if our spring is too wet.

Now is a great time to divide perennials and plant new trees and shrubs. Choose some that will give multiple season interest: Stewartia, viburnums, clethras and ornamental grasses could all enhance your garden!

At the April members meeting, we will have annual plant seeds for attendees as well as soil testing before and after the speaker. Bring in a small sifted sample from your garden or problem area and we will test the ph and offer recommendations.



Photos by Dottie Thornley

Some scenes of the Ten Mile River in front of the Hunt House during the storm of March 29.

## Members Meeting

Roger Williams National  
Memorial Park

Monday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.  
Memorial Hall, Newman Church,  
Rumford

Ranger John McNiff is a Warwick native who “went away and came back.” His “away” time included archeology work in New England, New York, Mexico and England. Since 1996, he has been in charge of Roger Williams National Memorial Park. Anyone who has heard his humorous, informative talk about how Roger Williams came to Providence and his life thereafter, will want to hear about the park’s plans for big changes and about John’s new interest: what did Roger Williams eat?

John has put in colonial cottage gardens around the museum building (similar to the historical society’s Lura’s garden). We know that his wide ranging interests will make this talk memorable also.

Refreshments and business meeting will follow.



*John Hunt House*

East Providence Historical Society  
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East Providence, RI 02916

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## Museum News

Edna Anness, Curator

The Pembroke College Club of Providence will visit the Hunt House Museum on Thursday, April 22 for a tour of the museum followed by lunch at the Grist Mill. Charlene Underhill will assist with the docenting.

On Tuesday, May 18, a group of Red Hat Ladies will tour the Hunt House Museum followed by a restaurant lunch.

If other groups would like to tour the museum, they can make arrangements by calling Edna Anness, 434-3347.

If any volunteers would like to learn to be a docent at the Hunt house Museum, they can also call Edna Anness, 434-3347, and she will be glad to meet at the museum and have a lesson or two. Bring a notebook and you can study at home. It is very easy to learn and actually quite fun to do. We have cue cards on the mantles of each room in case of memory lapses.

Starting on Saturday, May 1 (after the Newman May breakfast, of course) Deborah Ormerod and Margaret Dooley will start the learning process of being a curator. They will be accessioning and learning conservation methods an Saturdays in May starting at 10 a.m.