



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

March 2020

Volume XXXII No. 4

Dedicated to Preserving the Heritage and Enjoying the History of Our City

March

Sunday, March 8

1:00 - 3:30pm

Hunt House Museum
open

Fish Counting Workshop
(See info page 3)

Monday, March 23

6:00pm Cleanup

7:00pm Speaker

Public Meeting

Hunts Mills Ed Ctr.
65 Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

“Volunteer-In-Parks”

By Suzanne Buchanan

April

Sunday, April 5

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum
open

East Providence High
School Art Club Exhibit

CONTACT US AT:

East Providence
Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI
02916-4774

Tel. (401) 473-0677

Email: info@ephist.org

Web Site: ephist.org

President's Letter

by Cheryl Faria, Co-President

Welcome to the end of winter! It feels good to get back into our many activities at the East Providence Historical Society. Here are some of the highlights of things that have been going on since our last Gazette was published.

John Hunt House Museum

Last year we received a generous grant from The Champlin Foundation to overhaul, renovate and “spruce up” the Museum and the Education Center to prepare for our role hosting the April 2019 Preservation Conference. Building on that momentum, the Museum Committee, chaired by Nancy Allen, has been working on organizing the many items in our collection that have been in storage for years. The Museum Committee has also been busy implementing our new web based collections program. Please see the article about it in “The Curious Curator” section of the Gazette.

The Great Rumford Bake Off - Saturday, May 16, 2020!!

Last May we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Rumford Baking Powder by holding The Great Rumford Bake Off. Under the amazing leadership of Leslie Tente it was a great success with over 60 entries and over 400 people in attendance. In addition to the Bake Off, we had vintage games, food trucks, history and walking tours.



This year the event will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 11:00am to 4:00pm. The Bake Off will begin at noon and the day will be a community celebration of food, family and fun. We plan to have a speaking program followed by children's activities in the Education Center and a historic walking tour. Tours of the Hunt House Museum, food trucks and games will be available all day.

Continued on next page

The Gazette

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March, April, May, September,
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OFFICERS

Cheryl Faria/Jeff Faria
Co-Presidents
Deborah Ormerod *1st Vice President*
Nancy Allen *Secretary*
Dorothy Thornley *Treasurer*
Pat Henry *Rec. Secretary*

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Open *Buildings*
Deborah Ormerod *Curator*
Beverly Pettine *Education*
Leslie Tente *Events*
Cheryl Faria *Finance*
Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*
Sandra Turgeon *Marker Program*
Miriam Kenney *Membership*
Nancy Allen *Museum*
Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*
Nancy Moore *Preservation*
Nancy Moore *Programs*
Nancy Moore *Publicity*
Deborah Ormerod *Website Manager*

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 \$25 individual, \$35
family or business, or a Life
Membership for \$250.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society

and mail membership form to

East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916-4774

President's Letter

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A Day in the Life of a Child in 1751

We piloted this educational program last spring with 26 third and fourth graders from St. Margaret's School. We divided the children into three groups and the three groups rotated through three 45 minute programs.

- 1.) Museum Tour to learn about Colonial Life;
- 2.) Educational Activities in the new Education Center;
- 3.) Walking Tour of the grounds to discuss the history of the site and play colonial games.

Over the fall and winter the Education Committee, chaired by Beverly Pettine, has been busy fine-tuning the program with more interactive educational activities for the children and outreaching to East Providence Schools for 2020 participation. We plan to incorporate components of the program into our monthly open houses and the May 16th Bake Off!

Annual Fund and Endowment

We are thrilled to report that over 40 individuals donated to our annual fund in 2019. Some of the donations were earmarked for the Endowment Campaign, which has now raised \$27,245 against our three year goal of \$100,000. Once we reach \$100,000 to establish the Endowment, the plan is to use the annual draw to help offset costs and hire a part-time employee. Thank you to all who have donated!!

**Don't forget to check for electronic news and photos
about EPHIST at ephist.org and on Facebook.**

Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life



Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and
Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park
are pleased to offer

Volunteers-In-Parks Skills Workshop Series

Fish Counting

Sunday, March 8 ♦ 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Meet at Hunts Mills Fish Ladder, 65 Hunts Mills Road, East Providence, RI

The Skills Workshop Series is designed for volunteers to learn a new skill, sharpen skills you already have, and open new doors for future volunteer opportunities. Workshops count toward VIP training.

Get Ready For Spring – Volunteer Fish Counters Wanted!

The Ten Mile River Watershed Council (TMRWC) is gearing up for the 6th Annual Fish Count at the Hunts Mills fish ladder and is looking for volunteers to help count herring during the spawning season between late March and May.



The Ten Mile River has three fish ladders providing river access to herring and other anadromous fish which allow the fish access to upstream spawning locations. Volunteers will be asked to count fish passing through the ladder once a week for a period of 10 minutes at a time and will record the readings of water temperature and river height. This workshop will discuss fish counting procedures and how you can independently volunteer for the program.

The Hunt House Museum will be open and there will be a hike led by BHC Trail Ambassador Ernie Germani at 1:30 p.m. at the Hunts Mills property.



Registration is required.

Contact Keith Gonsalves at Ten Mile River Watershed Council
by March 1, 2020 at Keith@tenmileriver.net.

Membership News

New LIFETIME member:

Mary Rosa

New members:

Jeanne Boyle
 Michelle Brissette
 Cory Howland
 Emily Lyon
 Richard Muto & David Lima
 Marvin Novogrodski
 Bonney Sevellon
 Richard Smith
 Rickard Smith
 David Weed

Count Rumford to Sell Hunt House! Financing Available



Just kidding, our museum is safe. Just a glimpse at the displays of some of our Open House sponsors.

Thank you for your help to make these events possible.

In Memory Of Clarissa Porter



Sadly missed...fondly remembered

November Open House Was a Rare Opportunity to See the Pump House



Mayor Bob DaSilva has been very supportive of the work of the EPHS and made it possible for visitors to get a rare glimpse of the inside of the historic pump house during the November Open House.

Ned Connors, historical expert on mill structures, was at hand to share information about the structure and its operation and was able to answer visitor's questions.

Volunteer Corner



Would you like to be more involved with the East Providence Historical Society? We certainly would welcome your help!!

Your help can be on an as needed basis for specific projects or as an active member of one our committees, or somewhere in between!

Please visit our website at ephist.org and review the many opportunities listed in the Volunteer Opportunities link. Or contact Cheryl Faria at cherylfaria@verizon.net; 401-419-8682 We look forward to hearing from you!

Something for Everyone at the December Open House

The Always Popular Hay Ride

Thanks to councilman Bob Britto and his family a team from Rebello Farms took happy visitors on a trip around the area. The gazebo was staffed by volunteers ready to serve cookies to the famished guests after the ride.



Thanks for the Help

Councilman Britto had some help from Count Rumford himself (Jeff Faria) to organize the crowds boarding the wagon.



Who says a visit to the museum is boring?

Sometimes you learn something . . .

. . . Sometimes, thanks to Kara Evans, it's just plain fun!



General Meeting

Monday, March 23 @ 6:00pm
Cleanup of Hunts Mills Grounds
7:00pm Speaker and
Refreshments

Hunts Mills Ed Center
65 Hunt's Mills Rd. Rumford 02916

"Your Chance to Volunteer in a National Park Setting!" by Suzanne Buchanan

The EPHS invites you to join us at the Education Center to welcome Suzanne Buchanan, Volunteer Coordinator for the Volunteers-In-Parks program in partnership with the Blackstone Heritage Corridor and Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. EPHS, the 10 Mile River Watershed Council and the EP Conservation Commission have all been involved in Valley programming for many years. A portion of East Providence anchors the southern end of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Buchanan will present the many unique volunteer opportunities available throughout the Corridor and highlight the support that local groups have given the volunteer program. Come learn about the BVHC Photo Ambassadors, Trail Ambassadors, Cemetery Ambassadors and how you can get involved.

We invite you to come early (6:00pm) to get a head start on the Spring cleanup at Hunt's Mills. Suzanne, EPHS, 10 Mile River Watershed members will be working along with you to make a difference, many hands make for a light load! Think of it as a 60 minute bend & stretch exercise, your volunteer time will be recorded and when you have finished your 60 minute volunteer cleanup and logged your volunteer time dessert & coffee will be ready.

Dates to Remember This Spring

Sunday, March 8 from 1:00-3:30pm

Open House at Hunt House Museum
Fish Ladder program (See ad on page 3)

Monday, March 23 at 6:00pm Grounds Cleanup
7:00pm Speaker/Refreshments

Public meeting at Hunts Mills Ed Center
65 Hunt's Mills Rd. Rumford 02916
"Volunteer-In-Parks"
By Suzanne Buchanan

Sunday, **April 5** from 1:00-3:30pm

Open House at Hunt House Museum
Opening of the East Providence High School Art Club exhibit

Monday, April 27

Public meeting at Weaver Library
41 Grove Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914
"Stone Walls"
By Robert Thorson - U Conn/ published author and authority on stone walls.

East Providence High School Art Club

The Historical Society is partnering with East Providence High School Art Club to showcase student work of historical and community centered art work. Items will



be on display starting at the April Open House on **April 5** and available for viewing through the June Open House. There will be a gallery opening at the May Open House with more details to follow.

Be sure to stop in to see the work of our talented high school students.

The Curious Curator

Our curator, Deb, and the museum committee are jumping for joy over a new web based collections program, Collection Harbor. This program runs in the cloud, allowing us to securely access and manage our collection from any computer whether it be at the Hunt House, the Education Center or even at home.

The Historian's Circle

Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+

Nancy Allen
 Cheryl and Jeff Faria
 Laurie and William McWeeney
 Nancy Stevens
 Dotty Thornley

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Susan Cady and Gloria Cady
 Stephen Dickinson
 Pat Paulson McGrail
 Nancy and Dan Moore
 Lois Williams

Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Richard R. Bushnell and Paula Perkins
 David E. Czerwonka
 Woods Heating Service

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

James Robert Boyd, Jr.
 Carole DiFabio
 Jane and Allen Dennison
 Virginia Gonsalves
 Wendy and Gordon Hubbard
 David and Eleanor Kelleher
 Katherine Kazarian
 Wendy Edwards and Jerry Mischak
 Tracey Moline
 Kathy and Jack Richer
 Miriam Kenney
 John Puhacz
 Norma and Michael Reynolds
 Ed Serowick

Friends - \$1-\$99

Norma and William Conley, Jr.
 Joanne Perella and Eric Crook
 Stephen Greenleaf
 Mary and Richard Harrall
 Pat Henry
 Elizabeth Ingraham
 Valerie J. Lawson
 Ruth McCarthy and William Mitchell
 Barbara Barnes and Beverly Pettine
 Mark Saunders
 Charlene Underhill
 Andy Valerio
 Mary Ann and Robert Walsh
 Tom and Missy Warzeka
 Gary Zunda

Thank you to those who donated to our 2019 Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping to make a profound difference in the achievement of the Society's annual, strategic vision and endowment goals.

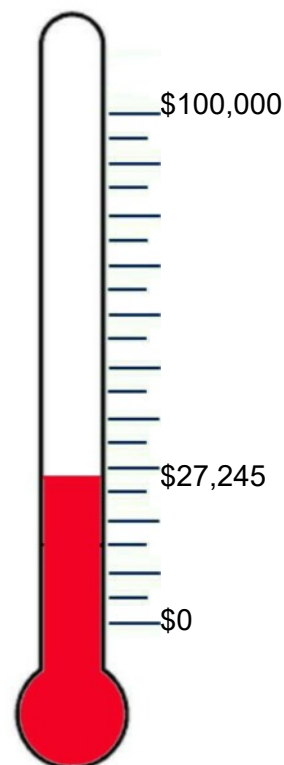
EPHS Endowment!!

We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 over three years to establish an endowment for the East Providence Historical Society. Once established, we plan to use the annual draw to offset costs and hire a part-time employee.

We have already raised \$27,245 towards that goal. Thank you so much to those of you who have already contributed. If you can help contribute to this goal, please make your check payable to the East Providence Historical Society with a note saying Endowment in the memo line. Your gift could be in the form of Planned Giving, an Annual Bequest or other donation recommended by your Financial Advisor. Remember, no amount is too small!

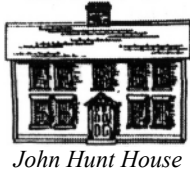
Thank you for considering this!!

Endowment Fund Progress



If there are any errors or omissions in this list, we apologize and ask you to please let Cheryl Faria know so we can correct it for the next issue of The Gazette.

401-419-8682
 cherylafaria@verizon.net



East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- While it is still too early to do much outdoor gardening, you can check on your hand tools and paint the handles of easily misplaced tools. It is also a good time to clean and repair your tool edges. Maybe order something new!
- The absence of snow this winter might inspire you to get into the garden early. One early chore would be replanting frost-heaved plants and cover them with mulch. We also enjoy looking for the first dandelion of the season and the first crocus!
- Once again this year, Ocean State Job Lot and URI have provided me with flower and vegetable seeds for our members. I will have them at the March Open House and the March 23rd member meeting.
- Now is a great time to start seeds indoors. Starting greens, broccoli, onions and leeks indoors will allow you to transplant them in about a month. You could also try planting some leafy greens and radishes in your flower pots on your deck or a sunny side of your property! I always say, “never plant all your seeds at one time, or in one location.”
- Turn house plants towards the window every week or two to keep them growing straight. Also watch for insects and maybe bring house plants outdoors on a warm day and wash its leaves to keep it free from dust, white flies, etc.
- Hope to see(d) you at our March 8th Open House or at the March 23rd meeting!!

