



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

October 2020

Volume XXXIII No. 2

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

October

Sunday, October 11
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Museum open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

November

Sunday, November 8
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Museum open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

December

Sunday, December 13
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Museum open
Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford

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

It's been great having our 2nd Sunday Open Houses back this summer and we've enjoyed seeing our many friends and visitors again. While we still can't hold our monthly member meetings, we've had another full and productive month. Here are some of the highlights.

Len Iannacone

Len Iannacone was an East Providence artist who loved to do realistic pen and ink drawings and paintings of local landscapes and buildings. One of his favorite subjects were the buildings and landscapes at Hunts Mills. Sadly, Len passed away this winter, leaving a gallery full of artwork. We are currently storing some of Len's artwork and plan to present an exhibition of his work next spring.



We're honored and grateful for the bequest that Len left to the East Providence Historical Society in his will. The \$5,000 will be used as a 1:1 match for those donating to the Annual Fund. Please see the information about the Annual Fund further inside the Gazette. Thank you, Len!

Continued on page 2

Thank You to Our Open House Sponsors



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P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI
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Nancy Allen *Recording Secretary*
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Nancy Moore *Publicity*
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Membership News!

A warm welcome to our new members:

- Patricia Birkes
- Mary Lu McNulty
- Christina O'Brien
- David O'Connell

President's Letter

Continued from page 1

Hunt House Front Door



Last month we reported that on an evening in August some youth decided to kick in the front door of the Hunt House Museum.

Fortunately, East Providence Police quickly responded to the alarm and were able to apprehend the vandals as they fled the scene.



We're now thrilled to report that Dean Martineau's finish carpenter Adam did a beautiful job restoring the door to its original historic look. Thank you Dean and Adam!

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

Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life

President's Letter

Continued from page 2

Hunts Mills Community Gardens

A group of volunteers has been meeting on Tuesdays beginning at 9am since late June to install 20 raised bed community gardens behind the museum. We have made great progress and now have the fence installed and many of the garden beds built. The next step is to accept applications from community members interested in having a garden next year. We've already had 18 people express interest, so if you want to apply, please do so soon! You can check our website for a copy of the application form, or stop by some Tuesday morning or during a Sunday open house to pick one up. Many thanks to Mayor Bob DaSilva and Billy Abbood and his staff from the East Providence Parks Division for their support in providing the fencing, the compost and the wood chips for the gardens. And also a big thank you to our volunteers including Danny Penengo, Angel Cabral, Ken Rix, Rod Annis, Nancy Moore and Pat & Bob Brown. We welcome more volunteer help!



Silent Auction: A chance to own an Iannacone print!



Before the March exhibit, we have decided to hold a silent auction of one of Len's prints at each of the next 3 open houses. Each month's Gazette will feature a matted print of a pen/ink drawing on which you can bid. The original framed work will be in the exhibit. This month's print is of the Oyster House at Watchemoket. Len's work is very stylized and finely drawn. The size of the print is approx 9x12 with a 2" matting. You can make a bid by calling the HS phone (401-437-0677) or emailing your bid to <info@ephist.org>. Be sure to leave your name and number so we can confirm your bid. The bids will be updated weekly on the phone/email until Oct 11. You do not have to attend the Open House to be the winner! We will mail the print to a winner who lives "away." Get yourself a little bit of EP history and help us raise much needed funds.

Len Iannacone

Len Iannacone was a frequent visitor at Hunt's Mills in the '90s when the EPHS began restoring Hunt House. He could be seen on the property sketching but he most loved talking with Ginny Berwick and Edna Anness. Len was a free spirit, wore long fur coats in the winter and loved Las Vegas where he had a second home. Born in 1942, Len was raised at the corner of Mercer and 2nd Street and remained an EP resident all his life. He attended RISD and earned his living as a draftsman and interior designer. Several years ago, he bought a building on Warren Ave. and turned it into his private gallery/studio: an amazing collection of drawings and paintings. When the HS was approached to take on this collection we jumped at the chance and now have all his works that concern our general area in our care. The subject matter is mostly historical buildings - right up our alley! We will keep pieces for our permanent collection and have plans to mount an exhibit of his work in the spring - the March Gazette will have the details.



Can Blue Herring be taught new tricks?

You may have seen the huge white bags lying in the 10 Mile just below the dam at Herring Rocks? Since the fish ladder was built, the fish have seemed to have trouble navigating the small falls there when the water level is low. The following pages detail the work the Nature Conservancy is doing in making trial passageways for the fish. The herring run of next April should be a different "kettle of fish!"

Ten Mile River

A proof of concept project for herring at Hunt's Mills

A decade-long effort to restore the Ten Mile River herring run has seen thousands of fish returning to spawn in Turner Reservoir each year. But many more fish still struggle to pass an exposed ledge below the ladder at Hunt's Mills. Uneven bedrock presents tough design challenges, so TNC is engineering a new approach.

CALMING THE QUICKWATER

Spring flows on the Ten Mile River have to be just right for river herring to get by a natural obstruction at Hunt's Mills. At high water, fish are pushed back; at low flows, a 3-foot bedrock ledge is exposed—too tall for the herring to swim over. The addition of stone or concrete weirs would create a series of pools to calm the river and submerge the outcrop, allowing fish to ascend a watery staircase. But the river's rocky and irregular bottom is difficult to replicate in a computer model. And we want to get the design right before pouring concrete.



River herring are an important food source for ospreys, bluefish and striped bass.

SAND-FILLED SUPER SACKS

Rather than rely strictly on a computer model, we built a physical model in the river itself, using 30 sand-filled super sacks. Weighing 3,400 pounds each, the sacks were lifted by a special, long-arm excavator and moved into position over two days in early August. Four pools formed behind the sacks, each about six inches lower than the previous one.

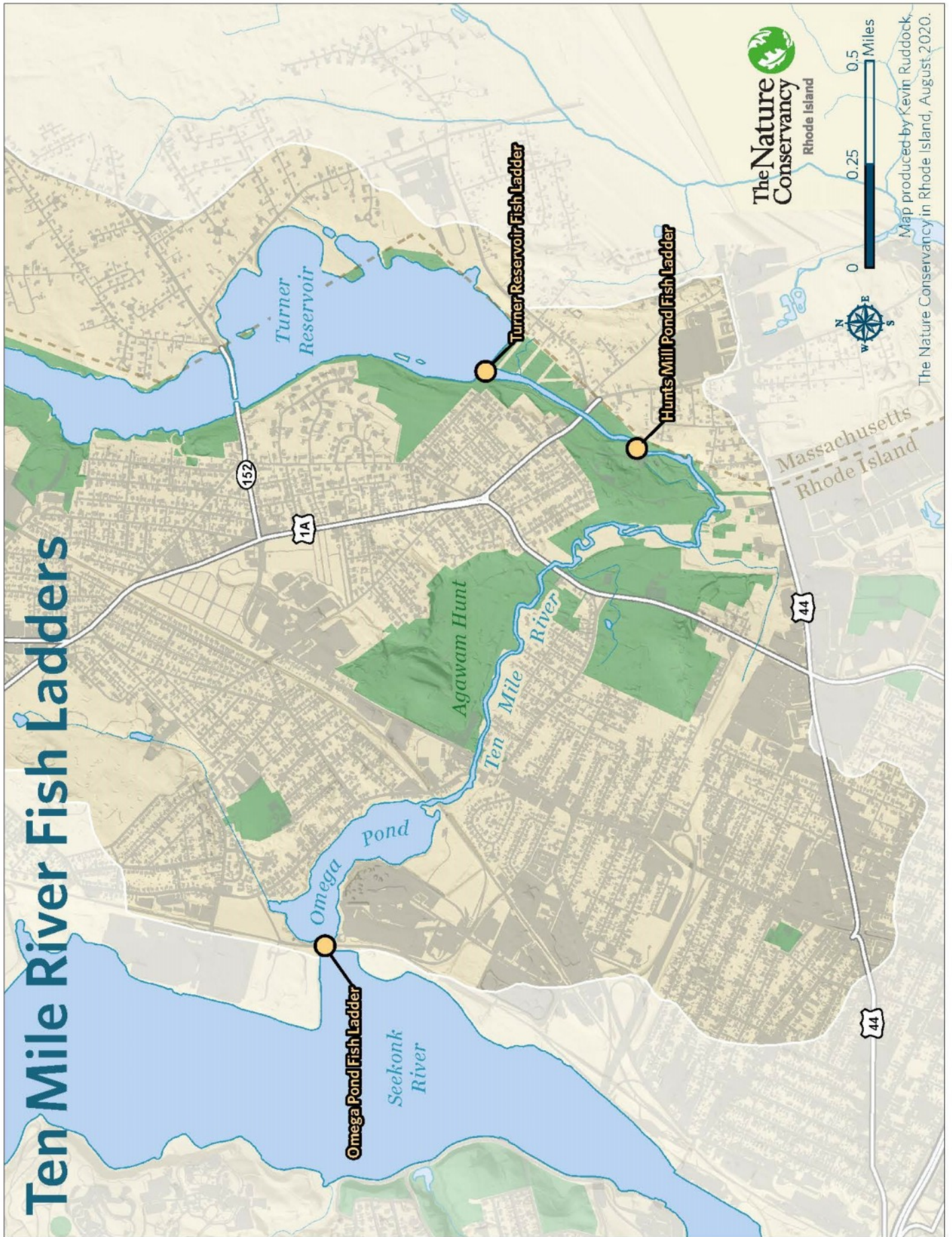
Engineers will use this physical model to design permanent weirs so fish can reach the ladder more efficiently. They will measure the resulting flow downstream and compare it to the swimming speed of river herring. Temporary weirs will be left in place through the Spring 2021 herring run to see how fish interact with the new structures at Hunt's Mills.

OUR PARTNERS

The USFWS Fish Passage Engineering Group is working with TNC and RIDEM to improve fish passage on the Ten Mile, Pawcatuck and Blackstone Rivers, under a contract with TNC's RI Chapter. The project at Hunt's Mills cost \$53,000 and will enhance a \$7.7 million investment in the Ten Mile River, led by the US Army Corps of Engineers, RIDEM, the City of East Providence and Save The Bay. It follows TNC's conservation of the Agawam-Hunt Club, just downriver.



SumCo Eco-Contracting created 4 staging pools for herring below the Hunt's Mills ladder.



EP Historical Society Endowment!!

We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 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. So far we have raised \$27,595 towards that goal.

Endowment Fund Progress



EP Historical Society Annual Fund

Thank you to those who gave to our annual Fund last year. Your generous gifts were used to help meet our goals in the 2020 calendar year. Thank you to those who are considering a donation this year! **Below is a list of what your gift will support in calendar year 2021.**

Thanks to a generous bequest of \$5,000 from Len Iannacone's estate the first \$5,000 in endowment donations will be matched 1:1! So your gift of \$50 becomes \$100, \$100 becomes \$200 etc.

General Operating Support

- Operating expenses of the John Hunt House Museum.
- Maintain and host monthly Open Houses at the John Hunt House Museum and Education Center.
- Provide monthly educational programs for adults and children.

Endowment Goals

- Raise \$100,000 over three years.
- Annual draw to offset costs and hire a part-time employee.
- Endowment gifts matched 1:1 for the first \$5,000.

The Nick and Nancy DeShetler Rumford Collection

Long before the events of the present day, we announced that the DeShetlers had gifted their extensive collection of Rumford Baking Powder Company treasures to us. Once we got ourselves up and running again this summer, one of the first things done was the new basement shelving to house a big portion of that collection. Carpenter/member Milton Chow did a great job fitting them around the corner! Of special interest are small gilt framed photos of Rumford products on sale in tiny stores in the "Middle of Nowhere, USA." We are not sure if Nancy and Nick have had to "shelter in place" in OH or have been able to make the move to FL as planned, but their fabulous gift is back on view in Rumford for good. Come visit!



Historian's Circle Giving Levels

- Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+
- Crescent Park: \$500+
- Vanity Fair Park: \$200+
- Boyden Heights Park: \$100+
- Friends: \$25+

Please apply my gift to:

- Annual Fund
- Endowment
- Split between the two

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Gift enclosed: _____

PayPal

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Please place your phone camera over this PayPal bar code for payment.

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Please make your checks payable to the East Providence Historical Society.

The East Providence Historical Society is a 501©(3) and all donations are fully tax deductible.

The 2020 Historian's Circle

Thank you to those who donated to our 2019 Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you helped the Historical Society meet our goals for the 2020 calendar year. Gifts given in 2020 will go towards our 2021 annual, strategic and endowment goals. Thank you to those who have already made a gift!

Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Sharon H. Dubois

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

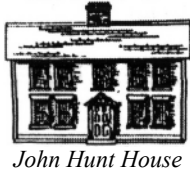
Rose Marie Sirenski

Friends - \$1-\$99

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

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Woods Heating Service



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

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Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

Fall is a good time to divide spring blooming perennials, like Iris, Clethra, Astilbe and Columbine.

Do not prune Rhododendron, Lilac, and evergreens until after they bloom in the spring. If they are so overgrown, needing major shaping, you can prune them now, but you will lose blooms for next year.

After our first frost, dig and store Dahlias, Canas, Gladioli and tender bulb/tubers in a place that will remain above 32° all winter. Mark your favorite colors before the frost, because after frost all will look the same.

Plant garlic after the new moon (October 18) and before the full moon (October 31)! Choose local garlic, not store garlic from China, and plant each clove with the pointed tip up, about 2 inches deep and 3 to 4 inches apart. Mulch with straw, salt marsh hay or leaves before the ground freezes.

Volunteer Corner

Would you like to be more involved with the East Providence Historical Society?



Among other things, we need help building 20 raised beds for the Hunts Mills Community Gardens being established behind the Hunt House Museum.

Please visit our website at ephist.org and review the many opportunities listed in the Volunteer Opportunities link. Or contact Cheryl Faria at cherylafaria@verizon.net; 401-419-8682



We look forward to hearing from you!