



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XX No. 7

May 2008

President's Letter

Kris Rose, President

Spring seems to have arrived in our corner of the world. Let's hope that it sticks around for awhile. A sure sign of spring is when we all get the urge to dig in the dirt. Thanks to Jeff and Cheryl Faria and the Master Gardener volunteers, Lura's Garden (to the left of the museum) has been uncovered. It really is lovely and will look even better after they plant a few more things. Thanks guys.

May Program: See "Walker House/Rumford Center Tour" on this page of the Gazette.

Enjoy the nice weather. I hope to see many of you at the members meeting on the 19th.

WALKER HOUSE/ RUMFORD CENTER TOUR

Members Meeting, Monday, May 19, 7 p.m.

We regret to report that, because of a family emergency, Susan and David Nichols cannot welcome us to the Farnum House, Riverside, this May. We hope to visit there in the fall. On short notice, Preserve RI (Walker House) and the Rumford Center have invited us to tour their properties. Since both of these places are on North Broadway, perhaps some of us will do a walking tour.

The properties will be open from 6- 7pm. Newman Parish Hall will open at 7 p.m. as usual for those not doing the tour and wanting to settle in for coffee and conversation. The ice cream social will begin at 7:15 with a short business meeting and brown bag auction to follow.

For those doing the tour, please know a few things in advance:

WALKER HOUSE, the big red house located at the corner of Massasoit and North Broadway, is undergoing

an interior restoration. You will see several places opened up to their basic structure. This is an exciting chance to see 18th-19th century changes and the stresses they put on this intriguing old house. **Kurt Bagley** will be our host. He will be living in the house when it is habitable. **Park on King Philip Road, please. You may visit anytime from 6-7 pm.**

RUMFORD CENTER, the mill complex located at the corner of Greenwood and North Broadway, has been changing before our very eyes. This is a chance to keep tabs on those changes. The third floor apartments are nearly ready but be warned: there is **NO WORKING ELEVATOR** at present. This tour should be an interesting contrast to the tour we had when the project began and the one we will be invited to in the fall. **There is ample parking around the Center. Please meet at the Main Gate on Greenwood Avenue. Tours will go on the half hour.**

And a short note about the **ice cream social and brown bag auction**. We will have non-dairy available also. It is optional as to whether you bring something for the brown bag auction, but the more the merrier, as they say. Items of interest in the past have been lottery tickets (in a huge bag), cans of nuts, wine, a gas card? You get the idea: something useful / beautiful / unusual in disguise.

CURRENT EXHIBIT

*"Historic Buildings of East Providence:
Those Still Standing - Those Gone Forever"*

Come see our early historic buildings, reminders of our long and rich three hundred and sixty-five years of history that remain here in East Providence. Open second Sunday of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford.

The Gazette

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EAST●PROVIDENCE●HISTORICAL●SOCIETY
 P. O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774
 Tel: (401) 438-1750 Web Site: ephist.org

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Kris Rose	<i>President</i>
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	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>
Reinhard Wohlgenuth	<i>Webmaster</i>

The Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, will be open on Sunday, June 8, 1 to 4 p.m. Admission \$3. \$1 East Providence Residents. Free, Society Members.

Heritage Gardens Project, 2 to 4 p.m.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Jesse Albright - Three framed antique news ads for amusement parks to hang in the museum; a list of former East Providence dairies.

Susan Nichols/Bella Farnum (Susan's mother) - antique fishing/shellfishing trawler from the Viall House; book about house preservation entitled "Collecting Houses" by Anne W. Baker.

Weaver Library - carton of 49 old East Providence tax books.

Thank you. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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 family or business, or a Life Membership for \$150.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society

and mail with form below to:

**Mona Breault, 23 Case Street,
 Rumford, RI 02916**

CAPE VERDEAN MUSEUM

An extensive collection of maps, books, films, including photography, cookbooks, history and fiction has been added to the Cape Verdean Museum collection by an anonymous donor. This is a non-circulation collection available to the public in the museum's Reading Room during regular hours of operation.

The museum is located at 1003 Waterman Avenue, East Providence. Hours of operation are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free admission.

*Website, capeverdeanmuseum.org.
 Telephone, 228-7292.*

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Any eligible member wishing to seek office for the June 2008 - '09 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, Monday, June 23.

Membership Form New Renewal /Change

Name(s) _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:

\$15 Individual	\$25 Family/Business	\$150 Life
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

Monday, May 19, 7 p.m.
Members Meeting *Public Invited*
Newman Church, Rumford
Walker Houser/Rumford Center Tours,
6 - 7 p.m.

JUNE

Wednesday, June 4, 7 p.m.
Board Meeting *Members Welcome*
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, June 8, 1 - 4 p.m.
Hunt House Museum Open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Heritage Gardens Project, 2 - 4 p.m.

Monday, June 23 (4th Monday), 6 p.m.
ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTIONS/PICNIC
Hunts Mills Recreation Area
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT

George Donovan, society member, received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the East Providence Fire Department.

Cheryl Faria, historical society Recording Secretary, was elected to the Seekonk Library Board of Trustees in the April 7 election.

The following volunteers worked in the Heritage Gardens at the Hunt House Museum.

Sunday, April 13, 2 - 4 p.m.
 Historical Society Members: **Mona Breault, Jeff & Cheryl Faria, Pat Henry, Dotty Thornley.** Master Gardeners and new historical society members: **Laura Archambault, Sandra Campopiano, Nancy Dutra, Mark Enander, Pam Flavin, Colleen and Jackie Murphy.**

Tuesday, May 6, 4 - 7 p.m.

Mona Breault, Cheryl and Jeff Faria, Pat Henry, Laura Archambault, Susan Coupe, Jackie Murphy.

Jesse Albright, Edna Anness, Billie Arden, Mary Lou Blecharczyk, Mona Breault, Pat Henry served as museum docents on Sunday, April 13.

Edna and Lowell Anness, Ginny Berwick, Joan Hanlon, Nancy Stevens, Andy Valerio served as museum docents on Saturday, May 10 for the opening of the exhibition "Historic Buildings of East Providence: Those Still Standing - Those Gone Forever". **Edna Anness**, Museum Curator, is credited with the display.

Jesse Albright, Edna and Lowell Anness, Ginny Berwick, Charlene Underhill served as museum docents on Sunday, May 11.

Ginny Berwick, Mona Breault, Susan Nichols, Kris Rose provided the goodies for the April 28 members meeting.

PRESERVE AMERICA GRANT

The City of East Providence has received a national grant of \$25,000 from the **Preserve America grant program**, a White House program overseen by Laura Bush. As described by the program, "The City of East Providence will conduct a historical inventory, background research, and the installation of interpretive signage for Hunts Mills, a site that displays Rhode Island's contribution to the Industrial Revolution." (We all know Hunts Mills goes much further back than that.) This grant will compliment the \$150,000 that was received last year for ADA compliant use (handicapped access) of Hunts Mills. The historical society was proud to support this grant application.

And on another interesting note from Hunts Mills: the Pump House is generating (pun intended) a lot of interest as use for a "green" educational site.

Warm Welcome To Our New Members
Bruno and Pauline Ramieri
 Community and Teachers Federal Credit Union



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Providence, RI
Permit #2712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GARDENING TIPS

Master Gardener, Jeff Faria

MAY:

May is when everything really starts to grow. Your biggest challenge this month is weeding. Getting vigorous weeds now will mean less weeding later in the season. Try to pull them before they go to seed spreading many more weeds for later in the season.

Mid-May is a great time to plant containers of annuals for placement on patios, walks, steps and decks. Use fresh potting soil mixed with compost, if you can.

Wait until the full moon on May 20th for setting tomatoes, peppers and tender plants unless you can protect them from a late spring frost.

Staking tall and lanky perennials such as peonies, delphiniums and perovskia will allow them to remain handsome even after a hard rain.

Your lawn and garden needs only about an inch of rain per week. Water a couple of times per week when there is no rain. Use tuna cans to measure how much water your sprinklers put down in a given time. This will save the environment and your wallet.