



Gazette

Vol. XXI No. 6

April 2009

President's Letter

Kris Rose, President

Dear Members,

April showers bring May flowers. We shall see. Make your way to Hunts Mill when the rain stops and see if that little ditty rings true!

We are planning a "Hunt House Clean Up" on Sunday, April 26. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and be done by noon. I will supply snacks and drinks as a bribe! Please join us.

The March Pot Luck Supper was full of good food and good fun. The Yankee Swap was a success: a box of chocolates and a domino game were the sought after items.

Keep Tuesday evenings free for the "Wine and Weed" sessions at the Hunt House Museum. It will begin again soon. Everyone welcome!

Our April 27th members meeting will feature Jeff and Cheryl Faria on gardening. They will test soil samples society members bring in from their gardens. Get digging!!

See you soon.



COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING

Monday, April 27, 7 p.m.

Newman Church, Rumford

Jeff and Cheryl Faria, society members and Master Gardeners, will present the April program. They will 'perform' soil-testing for those who bring in a soil sample. They will also have seeds and seed starting material for those who plan a flower, herb and/or vegetable garden this growing season.

Refreshments and business meeting will follow.

'STEP OVER THE THRESHOLD DAY'

Statewide Open Houses of

Historical Interest

Saturday, May 9

The Hunt House Museum is included in this statewide event sponsored by Preserve RI. The museum will open a new exhibit, "The Re-Greening of Hunts Mills", which will tell its history of hydro electric power, the return of alewives and the coming fish ladder, use of the river for industry and pleasure and the reuse of the land for crop production.

Take your family for a trip around RI to see what's green in preservation.

The Gazette

Is published monthly by the

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

OFFICERS

Kris Rose	<i>President</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>1st Vice President</i>
Edna Anness	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
Cheryl Faria	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Pat Henry	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Peter Allen	<i>Treasurer</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>Immediate Past President</i>

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bob Tewksbury	<i>Buildings</i>
Jeffrey Faria	<i>Grounds</i>
Kris Rose	<i>Markers</i>
Mona Breault	<i>Membership</i>
Virginia Berwick	<i>Museum</i>
Edna Anness	<i>Acting Curator</i>
Doreen Bonney/Florence Adams	<i>Newsletter</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>Preservation</i>
Nancy Moore	<i>Program</i>
Florence Adams	<i>Publicity</i>
Reinhard Wohlgemuth	<i>Webmaster</i>

RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT

A bench for the gazebo has been donated in memory of **George and Nan Breault** by society member **Mona Breault**. Many thanks from those who find the gazebo a very pleasant place to sit.....especially the gardening volunteers.

We welcome **Louise Healy** as a return member to the Telephone Committee.

Several months ago, someone left a gold two piece East Providence High School class pin with a chain at the museum as a gift. Would the person who gave the pin, please contact **Edna Anness**, 434-3347 or **Virginia Berwick**, 434-0998. We would like to attribute the gift to the correct donor.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Two photos of the original Roger Williams Grange.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Any eligible member wishing to seek office for the June 2009-10 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 22 (4th Monday).

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**

HERITAGE GARDENS UPDATE

Cheryl Faria, Master Gardener

Last fall the Heritage Gardens (Hunt House Museum site) was given a recognition award from the **East Providence Beautification Commission**. The presentation took place at City Hall.

URI Master Gardener's "Harvest from the Heart Project". The Hunt House Museum site is being considered as one of three or four pilot Victory Gardens around the state. The goal is to teach school children about gardening. The produce will go to a local food bank.

2009 Master Gardener Tour. The Heritage Gardens have been selected to be on the URI Master Gardener tour Saturday and Sunday, July 18 and 19. (Cont'd next page)

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

APRIL

Sunday, April 19, 2 to 4 p.m.
Heritage Gardeners
Hunt House Grounds, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Saturday, April 25
'Scoop Day' at Omega Pond
Meet at Grace Church, Roger Williams Ave, Rumford

Sunday, April 26, 9 a.m. to noon
Hunt House Clean Up
Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Monday, April 27, 7 p.m.
Members Meeting *Public Invited*
Newman Church, Rumford
Program: Seed Starting/Soil Testing
Master Gardeners, Jeff and Cheryl Faria

Tuesday, April 28, 4 to 7 p.m.
"Wine and Weeding"
Hunt House Grounds, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

MAY

Wednesday, May 6, 7 p.m.
Board Meeting *Members Welcome*
Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Saturday, May 9
Preserve RI Statewide Event
"The Re-Greening of Hunts Mills" Exhibit
Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Sunday, May 10. 2 to 4 p.m.
Heritage Gardeners
Hunt House Grounds, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Tuesdays, May 12 and 26, 4 to 7 p.m.
"Wine and Weeding"
Hunt House Grounds, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Monday, May 18, 7 p.m. (3rd Monday)
Members Meeting *Public Invited*
Newman Church, Rumford
Program: Convict Ship in Providence Harbor
Member Reinhardt Wohlgenuth, Storyteller

HERITAGE GARDENS UPDATE

(cont'd from page 2)

About thirty gardens have been selected from around the state. It's quite an honor that Heritage Gardens was chosen. (Our thanks and appreciation to **Jeff and Cheryl** on behalf of the historical society.)

2009 Heritage Gardens Schedule: We plan to continue meeting on the second Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. and two Tuesdays a month from 4 to 7 p.m. for '*Wine and Weeding*'.

The schedule: Sundays: April 19, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11.

Tuesdays: April 28, May 12, May 26, June 9, June 30, July 21, August 4, September 8, October 13.

HUNTS MILLS DAM REPORT

Nancy Moore, Historical Society Preservation

On Thursday, April 9, Edna Anness, Jeff Faria and Nancy Moore met with all parties concerned with the building of the fish ladder at Hunts Mills dam. Represented were the City Planning Department, Department of Environmental Management, state wildlife service, RI Historic Preservation, Army Corps of Engineers and a historical consultant with expertise in mill sites. This was a last look at the river and the final plans before construction begins this summer.

All parties were pleased with the compromises finally agreed upon. From the historical society's point of view, the foundation at the site (which is NOT the original gristmill foundation) will remain intact with the south wall opened to allow the ladder to run inside up to the pool at he horseshoe dam level. Another part of the ladder will run parallel to the foundation in the river and will barely be visible from the picnic area.

The cistern, piping and corrugated metal will disappear, greatly improving the sight lines from the river bank. Any pieces of stone found on the site will be saved and repositioned after the heavy construction is done. Interpretive signs will highlight the historical significance of the site.

Best of all, the site of the original grist mill will not be disturbed. Not best of all, the rebuilding of a grist mill at the site with a working wheel will no longer be feasible as the ladder will fill the raceway.



East • Providence • Historical • Society
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Pat Gerstein - Short Story Club

'SCOOP DAY' AT OMEGA POND

Saturday, April 25

Roger Williams Ave. at Grace Church

Have you ever read about the group of faithfuls who gather at the Omega Pond Dam each year at this time to scoop alewives from the river into the pond so they can spawn upstream as far as Hunts Mills? Fish and game personnel have stocked Central Pond with alewives for four years and these fish are returning to their home waters. Unfortunately, three dams stand in their way back to Central pond but as of this summer there will be fish ladders constructed at Hunts Mills Dam and Turner Dam. Omega Pond Dam will be built next summer, hopefully.

If you want to know more about this attempt to return fish runs to the Ten Mile River, mark Saturday, April 25 on your calendar and head for the pond. Watch the East Providence Post for more information.

GARDENING TIPS

Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

Treat for crabgrass with a pre-emergent fertilizer. Ask at any hardware or home center.

Prune your rose bushes this month if you haven't already. Remove any damaged canes and any mulch which covered the crowns over the winter. Cut back weak looking canes above a living bud for hybrid tea roses.

Apply fertilizer to fruit bushes, spring flowering bulbs that have not bloomed yet or appear that they will not bloom. It takes a great deal of energy stored in the bulb to flower. Allow the green leaves to remain after blooming to help the bulb store energy for next year.

Sharpen your mower blades for the season and rake to remove dead grass (thatch) and other debris.