



Gazette

Volume XXXVI No. 5

April 2024

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

Upcoming Dates:

Spring Open Houses

1:00 - 3:30 pm

April 14, May 12

1:30 pm

Hikes at Hunt's Gazebo

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Family Games

1:00 -3:30 pm

"Roots" at the Education Center

Exhibit

"Bits and Pieces"

General Meeting

Monday, April 22

6:30 pm Weaver Library

"Green Jacket Shoal: Another
Dive 10 Years On"

Speaker : David Robinson

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

With spring officially here, we have been blooming with events, activities, and cultural happenings.

John Hunt House Museum Open House

Our first Open House of 2024 was Sunday, March 10th. Many people took advantage of the sunshine and came out for a docent-guided tour of the Museum and to hike the grounds led by Ernie Germani. Our young visitors played Colonial Games on the front lawn. Those curious about their genealogy dropped by the Education Center to ask how of our researchers Sandra Turgeon and Tom Warzeka.

We have a special exhibit in the Museum we are calling "Bits and Pieces." Many treasures from the Museum archives, not usually grouped together, are on display. Items such as Samuel Newman's Concordance and beautiful Amusement Park quilts are featured. This exhibit will continue at our April 14 Open House so be sure to come by.

East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916-4774

Tel. (401) 473-0677

Email info@ephist.org

Web Site www.ephist.org



Cemetery

Awareness

is coming!!

See page two for
more

OFFICERS

- Cheryl Faria/Jeff Faria Co-presidents
- Deborah Ormerod 1st Vice President
- Maggie Dooley Treasurer
- Eric Underhill Recording Secretary
- Sandi Barber Corresponding Secretary

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Paul T. Barnum Buildings
- Deborah Ormerod Curator
- Sandra Turgeon Education
- Cheryl Faria Finance
- Jeffrey Faria Grounds
- Sandra Turgeon Marker Program
- Carole DiFabio Membership
- Nancy Allen Museum
- Eric Underhill Newsletter
- Nancy Moore Preservation
- Nancy Moore Programs
- Nancy Moore Publicity
- Tom Warzeka Technology
- Kathryn McGovern Volunteer Coordinator
- 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



Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks

APRIL - MAY 2024

Join tours, clean-ups, conservation workshops, monument cleanings, talks, and other programs throughout Rhode Island

Free and open to the public

Information and calendar:

- www.rihistoriccemeteries.org/events.aspx
- www.preservation.ri.gov/ricw

image: xxx cemeteries, East Greenwich

R.I. Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries
R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

Our local events

April 13, Newman Cemetery, 10-12.

April 17, Newman Cemetery, 10-12

May 15, Littleneck Cemetery, 10-12

May 18, Newman Cemetery, 10-12

For all events: We will have paper bags and gloves. Please bring a rake and/or loppers.

At all events, you can learn how to properly clean grave-stones and/or help out with raking and cutting small brush.

Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life

John showing highlights of a seaside hike



Member Meeting - 'Men on the Move'

On Monday evening, March 18, we held the first Member Meeting of 2024 at the Weaver Library. Over 70 people came to hear John Kostrzewa and Ernie Germani talk about their hiking experiences.

John showed pictures along with detailed information about some of the 40 hikes he has taken over three years. He also shared tidbits of Rhode Island history found along these trails. Ernie described the hikes he leads at the Museum Open Houses and at other sites around the area. Thank you to Ryan McCauley and the Weaver Library for again letting us host this presentation at your wonderful facility!



Heavy Rains!

Twice in February heavy rains besieged the Hunt's Mills property. The 10-Mile River was roaring with so much water that 'Lake Hunt', the low ground behind the Museum, became flooded. Unfortunately, nearly a foot of water inundated our newly organized Garden Center. Jeff Faria has been working with a helper to clear it of mud and debris. City of East Providence engineers have plans to put in a drain to ensure that, in the future, any high water will not affect the Garden Center.

A very wet basement





Baby doll above...“Bits and Pieces” below

EXHIBIT: “BITS AND PIECES”

You have one more opportunity to view the “Bits and Pieces” exhibit. At the March Open House, our children’s room docent noticed that everyone’s favorite baby doll was missing from her carriage. A check of the exhibit revealed her lying in a wicker basket, being weighed for a “well visit.” She was sucking that infamous pointer finger instead of her thumb! Come learn more about why she was invented in the 1920’s. For those who remember long time members George Amaral and Dorothy Marshall: they rolled that carriage back and forth on the sidewalks of Summit Street when they were BFFs in the late 20’s.



Hunt’s Mills Community Gardens

Renewal contracts were sent to the 26 gardening groups in the Community Gardens with raised beds. We are pleased to report that 22 of the gardeners are returning for a fourth season. Thanks to a generous donation, Jeff Faria has been leading an initiative to put up hoop houses on four of the gardens. This experimental project is to ascertain if we can start the growing season now and extend it further into the fall.

Hoop houses are sprouting!!!



Community Garden Seed Starters

The URI Master Gardener Seed Starters, under the leadership of Jackie Allen and Ann Fletcher, have been working to start seeds and seedlings for the gardeners. Seventeen seed starters consisting of Master Gardeners and gardeners from the community, have been meeting every morning in groups of 2-3 to work on the project. Last year, they started some 4,000 seedlings. Plants from those seedlings were donated to 26 gardening groups, offered at the Mother’s Day Open House, and handed out at Seekonk’s Memorial Day Parade. We plan to again follow this schedule for the 2024 season.



Johanna and Angel show off some seedlings

Overview of a ship's graveyard



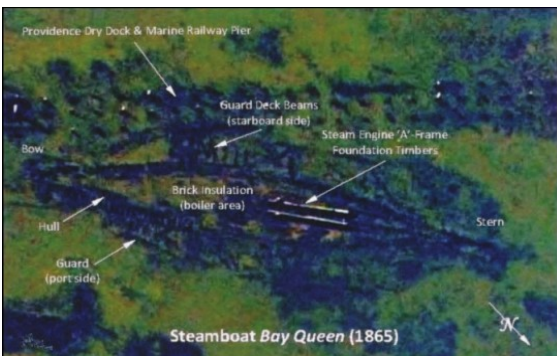
MEMBERS' MEETING April 22nd - 6:30pm - Weaver Library
"Green Jacket Shoal : Another Dive 10 Years On" with David Robinson

In April 2015, two divers braved the frigid waters of Narragansett Bay to see what lay beneath the shoal area (Green Jacket Shoal) at the mouth of the Seekonk River as it merges with the Providence River. One of those divers, David Robinson, then senior researcher with the URI Graduate Oceanographic Program, appeared at a 2016 EPHS members meeting with a wealth of information. He was very excited at what they had found and so were we, once we were brought up to speed. For several years, David frequently spoke to local groups and finally settled into a comfortable routine of boat tours with Providence River Boat, the Blackstone Valley Explorer, and various yacht clubs, which he continues doing. He has also changed jobs to become the Massachusetts Maritime Archeological Director with an office overlooking Boston Harbor. David has never lost his fascination with GJS, prepared a RI Sea Grant Reconnaissance Survey (2016) and has continued to research the 29 vessels lying on the bottom there. He has lots to report. We welcome our friend back to Weaver Library!

In the intervening years, the EPHS and EP HDC have discussed the possibility of making an application for GJS to enter the National Register of Historic Places in the Marine category. The Sea Grant work and Dave's ongoing research make a strong case. This spring, an interpretive sign will be placed at Bold Point, overlooking the Shoal, informing all visitors of "What Lies Beneath" (title of other presentations about the Shoal.)

For more complete information/ photos of the Shoal, please access the Nov/ Dec 2016 Gazette at ephist.org (archives-index)

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Bay Queen now (left) and then (below)



EVENTS TO NOTE FOR YOUR CALENDAR (check our Facebook page also, please)

Nobody home...



...gone fishing

BLUE HERRING AND GREAT BLUE HERONS

Mother Nature does her thing each March and calls the Great Blue herons back to the roost behind Home Depot in Seekonk. This writer checked the roost on March 18 and counted 6 adults in nests, 2 in the air, and 1 on the ground under the roost. The blue herring have entered the Bay! Watch for the fish flag at the entrance to Hunt's. If you wish to participate in the fish ladder count, please contact Keith Gonsalves at the 10 Mile River Watershed Alliance.

Rescheduled: "Second Serve" with Tom Brun

Monday June 3 - Weaver Library

Those of us who attended the first serving of "Love at the Indoor Court" on that infamous Dec 11 date will never forget the ride to and from Weaver Library. Did you try in vain to get there? There was a respectable showing for the circumstances but many of you wrote to us asking that Tom be rescheduled. Tom has agreed to reprise AND open the Indoor Court for an open house from 5-6pm before the 6:30 presentation. Thank you, Tom. (more details in April Gazette)

Rescheduled: "Pirates and Pirate Hunters of RI"

May 20 - 6:30pm -
Weaver Library

A Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse presentation. Details at the FPRL website.



MAY - JUNE EXHIBIT - EPHS OPEN HOUSE

This is our "don't miss" collaboration with the art department at EP High School. If you haven't been to this exhibit, make a point of being there this year. Details in the May Gazette.

*The East Providence Historical Society and
The East Providence High School Art Department*

Present:

**Historical Architectural Landscapes and the
Wildlife that Surrounds Them**

Student work will be on display May 12th and June 9th (1:00-3:30)

*Art Reception will be **May 12** 1:00pm to 3:30pm*

at

East Providence Historical Society
65 Hunts Mills Rd, Rumford

HISTORIAN'S CIRCLE

January 1 – December 31, 2023

Thank you to those who donated to our Annual fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping the Historical Society meet our annual, strategic and endowment goals for the 2024 calendar year.

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

Angel Cabral

Cheryl and Jeff Faria

Hugh Kiley

Dotty Thornley

Lois Williams

Laurie & Bill McWeeney

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Hugh Kiley

Nancy and Dan Moore

Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Nancy Allen

Jacqueline and Lee Ashcraft

Richard Bushnell
and Paula Perkins

David Czerwonka

Margaret Dooley

Darryl Hardern

Hugh Kiley

Jack and Kathy Richer

Carole DiFabio
and William Litchman

Elizabeth Ingraham

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

Peter G. and Sandra M. Barilla

Barbara Barnes & Beverly Pettine

Vickie and Pete Barnum

James Boyd, Jr.

Malinda and Ivan Colon

Romeo G. DaSilva

Gordon R.

& Wendy L. Wood-Hubbard

Kevin Zona

Pam and Paul Goulet

Miriam Kenney

Julie Lundgren

Nancy McBride

Kathryn McGovern

Pat Paulson McGrail

Tracey and Todd Moline

John and Elaine Puhacz

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Edward Serowick

Bonney B. Sevellon

Friends: \$25-\$99

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and John Eng-Wong

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and Alison A. Bowden

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Candy Seel

Lois Thompson

Charlene Underhill

Tom Warzeka

Gary and Jean Zunda

Gilmore's Flower Shop

Thank You!!

If there are any errors or omissions in this list, please let Cheryl Faria know so we can correct it for the next issue of *The Gazette*. 401-418-8682 cherylfaria@verizon.net

Gardening tips from Jeff Faria

URI Master Gardener

Experiment with starting seeds, like onions, radish, spinach and lettuce, spread in larger 9 x 12 aluminum pans and transplant when the sprouts emerge and show their first set of true leaves.

Using a rain barrel, at all downspouts of your home, not only conserves water for you to nourish your plants in your garden, but it saves overflow into sewage plants, if collected, and released as early as two days after a major rainstorm. This eases the burden on municipal waste treatment into the bay. Contact your local DPW for free or reduced cost rain barrels for your home!

Early April is a good time to start our favorite trio of vegetables! Tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant!! They love warmer weather. Add basil and you are all set! Start these in a warm area at 75 to 80° (a heat mat is best), which helps them to germinate, and then move them under grow lights once they sprout. A sunny window will yield leggy, spindly and weak seedlings. Move your plants outdoors during the day for an hour or two to help them grow strong. Do not forget to bring them indoors at night! Remember, they are babies!

Transplant strawberries, with the crown of the plant slightly above the soil level. Mulch to prevent weed encroachment.

We will offer "cold weather" seedlings at the Museum Open House on April 14. Please stop by our Open House for a few leafy green vegetables to add to your spring garden!

The eagle may have had a wing broken...



but what the storm broke Paul Barnum fixed.



John Hunt House

East Providence Historical Society
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East Providence, RI 02916

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Thank you for supporting the
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Society.



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