



Celebrating farm preservation

Senator Jack Reed, second from left, and members of the Nature Conservancy and the Department of Environmental Management braved the cold and wind on Monday morning to celebrate the tremendous effort put forth in saving the Neale and Dutra farms.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

Commission waiting to decide position on aquifer designation

By Sam Bari

The Conservation Commission discussed their mixed feelings about supporting the proposed island Sole Source Aquifer designation at their Feb. 12 meeting. Commission Chairman Chris Powell said, "The town is doing a good job of water conservation and at this time I don't think the designation of Sole Source Aquifer is necessary." He went on to say that the designation presented another layer of bureaucracy to contend with if any projects requiring federal funds are considered in the future. He also pointed out that the designation gives no tangible benefit.

Powell said he would attend the public Environmental Protection Agency hearing and listen to the presentation with an open mind. The other members of the commission had mixed feelings and said they wanted to attend the meeting before making a decision on the commission's position.

In other business, the commissioners discussed the involvement of the commission in the form-based zoning and comprehensive plan. Commissioner Mark Baker met with Town Planner Lisa Bryer to discuss the subject and studied the form-based zoning plan and smart code documents at length. A sub-committee chaired by Baker was formed with Commissioners Kate Smith and Pat Driscoll to define the commission's role and participation in the form based zoning.

A letter from Town Clerk Arlene Petit was read confirming the re-appointment of Chris Powell and Cathy Roheim. Their terms will run to Dec. 31, 2010. Powell has been the commission chairman for more than 20 years. Roheim's re-appointment marks the beginning of her second term.

Commissioner Jennifer Talancy researched the Mackerel Cove planting project to repair the damage suffered during the November storm that eroded much of the beach and destroyed most of the dunes. Talancy said replanting the east and west ends and the dunes would cost approximately \$2,000. She also said the planting should be done no later than the end of March.

Chairman Powell said that the Girl Scouts had agreed to be involved in the planting. He also told the commissioners he would talk to Town Administrator Bruce Keiser about funding the project.

Commissioner Carol Trocki

I picked the last tomatoes last Friday – out of the greenhouse, that is – the last red tomato from a plant that stood seven feet tall and measured five feet around. But lately it has been showing its age and only the tips of the shoots were still growing, so I cut the last few tomatoes off it, turned them into a delicious salad, and cut the plant down. Last year the plant lasted until just after Christmas, but the previous year I was still picking tomatoes on Feb. 26, according to my gardening notes.

Now, all I have left in the greenhouse to harvest are the key- or Mexican- limes, and a pile of herbs, but that's okay, the new tomato plants are four inches tall and growing fast. They'll be about a foot tall in another month and ready to go from the germination chamber and into the greenhouse.

This is what a greenhouse can do for you. It can cut down on carbon emissions, because you can grow your own salads, herbs, and vegetables even at this time of year, instead of having them trucked across country. A lean-to against your home can provide an additional heat source on a sunny day.

The greenhouse that is next to my studio was a humid 82 degrees last Saturday and Sunday when the weather was 45 outside. It can provide a place to relax in the warm without having to go to Florida, a place to start flowers and other plants when there's snow outside, and it can be your sanctuary away



The Island Garden

By Roger Marshall

from the kids, the TV, and other annoyances. If you want to know how to build your own, my book "How to Build Your Own Greenhouse" is available at Jamestown Hardware.

Now we can get down to the theme of this week's issue, seed catalogs. My pile is a foot or more high and I've picked a few that you might want to check out online.

British seedsmen Thompson and Morgan (www.tmseeds.com) have a quarter-inch thick catalog with a ton of both flowers and vegetables. New this year are two Italian plants, Genovese basil and tomato for that perfect taste of Italy. Their new flowers for this year are two with barely pronounceable names, eschscholzia "Fruit Crush" and echinacea "Pink Parasol," or you might want to try their "Salmon Velvet" trailing petunia. For sure I want to try their "Purple Rain" pansy and viola "Endurio Mixed" in my hanging baskets.

Another good place to go for flowers is van Bourgondien (www.dutchbulbs.com). They sell plants and I have had pretty good luck with everything I've ordered. You

might want to try "Peppermint Twist" phlox for a bright pink and white flower, or "Francesca" a new pale yellow green primula. They also have an echinacea; this one is "Pink Double Delight." If you're a dahlia fan, van Bourgondien has them, six pages of them.

Another place to get a variety of unusual and old favorite bulbs is Brent and Becky's Bulbs (www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com). Their catalog comes across as a little homespun, but the bulbs I tried last year and the previous year have done exceptionally well. Another place to try for flowers and shrubs is Bluestone Perennials (www.bluestoneperennials.com). They have a huge variety of shrubs and flowering plants that you will not find in stores. Talk about saving the best for last, White Flower Farm (www.whiteflowerfarm.com) in nearby Connecticut, has an incredible variety of shrubs and flowering plants for your garden. With White Flower Farm, you know that the plants are hardy enough for New England weather.

Picking the right plants for your yard and garden can add thousands of dollars in value to your property. But not only that, new flowers and shrubs can provide color and enjoyment that is not available in any other way, and for some plants it can add flowers and fruit that you can enjoy as winter's winds howl around the island.

Learn about the bay during vacation week

The Save The Bay Exploration Center is an interactive hands-on marine science learning center.

The Exploration Center's first-ever winter season began Saturday, Feb. 2. During school vacation weeks Feb. 18 to 22 the hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The center is located at 175 Memorial Blvd. at First Beach in Newport.

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 Photo by Don Miller

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A Jamestown Chamber of Commerce Event

YOU ARE INVITED TO
The Winter Breakfast Series
 two local marketing experts share their knowledge with you

Join Eric Cote of Cote D'Ambrosio speaking on the marketing strategies behind the success of the agency's local and national clients.

Tony Lush, President of Advanced Web Marketing will share his expertise on Keyword marketing and search engine optimization.

Who Should Attend: business owners who want to gain an edge to their web knowledge and gather insight to the secrets of successful marketing strategies.

Where: The Bay Voyage, 150 Conanicus Ave., Jamestown, RI

When: Thursday, February 28, 7:30-8:45am

Cost: \$15.00 for Chamber members and \$20 non-members, includes hot buffet breakfast, payment may be made at the door by cash or check

RSVP: by Monday, February 25 to info@jamestownRIchamber.com or 423-3650

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