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# Post-Morrow Foundation NEWSLETTER

volume 11, number 1

Spring 2007

## HABITAT AND HERITAGE A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Post-Morrow Foundation is hosting a Celebration of our Habitat and Heritage on Saturday, June 30 from 4 to 6 PM at the Foundation. 2007 marks the fifteenth year that Post-Morrow has been a part of our community.

We will be recognizing the partners who have been working with us to preserve the environment and the history of our community. Post-Morrow Foundation's mission is "to preserve and conserve the rural, cultural and historical character of the hamlet of Brookhaven and surrounding areas... This land to be kept in its natural state as a sanctuary, open space or natural garden". Increased public awareness of our community's heritage, its historic and cultural resources, and open space is one of our primary goals.

Traditionally, Brookhaven has been a community of farmers, baymen and boat builders. Post-Morrow has supported the Hamlet Organic Garden CSA and Deer Run Farm, helping to keep farming part of the community. The Foundation also supports efforts to keep our waters clean and maintain a healthy marine environment which promotes fishing, aquaculture and recreational uses of the Bay. In an effort to preserve our rich history of boat building we established the wooden boat school now operated by the Carmans River Maritime Center.

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*Egret - Photo by Frank Muller*

## HABITAT AND HERITAGE *continued*

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Some of our partners include the Bellport Garden Club, The Bellport Sailing Foundation, the Bellport/Brookhaven Historical Society, the Brookhaven Village Association, The Brookhaven Free Library, Carmans River Maritime Center, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Deer Run Farms, Ducks Unlimited, Friends of Fire Island National Seashore, Friends of Wertheim, Hamlet Organic Garden, The Herb Society of America Long Island Unit, The South Shore Estuary Reserve, Students for Environmental Quality and the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge.

We invite you all to join us and learn how fruitful these partnerships have been. Light refreshments and drinks

will be served with music by The Homegrown String Band. There will be a \$45 contribution, which will be used to support our work with these partners and help to cover the cost of the Celebration. We hope to see all of you there. Please call the Foundation for reservations and information.



*The Homegrown String Band will provide music for the Celebration*

## A NOTE FROM THE DENNIS PULESTON OSPREY FUND

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Dear Friends,

Appended below is a very brief summary of the 2006 season at the Dennis Puleston osprey nest. Once again, it was a very successful year for both the ospreys and the watchers. The Osprey Cam has had a huge following, and has certainly achieved our most optimistic goals as an educational tool and a memorial to Dennis.

Thanks to the vigilant effort of a core group of experts, the camera and web site have performed almost flawlessly for four successful seasons. When we first went on-line, in 2003, the Osprey Cam was absolutely unique in providing the technology to view the life cycle of birds with live streaming video on the internet. Since then, the technology has become more generally accessible, and there are now several excellent sites similar to ours for observing wildlife on-line in real time, although ours is still the best!



Sincerely,

*Tom Ludlam*

Chairman  
Dennis Puleston  
Osprey Fund

*The Dennis Puleston Osprey Fund receives mail, e-mail, written correspondence and sometimes photos from all over the world. This photograph is a print of a digital picture taken by Melanie Lynch of Annapolis, Maryland during an Osprey banding trip on June 18, 2005. The nest is on Jug Bay, Patuxent River Park in Croom, Maryland.*

# THE 2006 OSPREY CAM SEASON

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The camera was installed for its fourth season on March 17, with several ospreys circling above the nest as we worked.

Four eggs were laid this season, and three young ospreys fledged. The camera was taken down October 7, after the birds had left the nest for their migration south.

The Osprey Cam website had over 250,000 visits during the season, averaging about 1,000 per day during the peak months. The site's Observation Data Base recorded 7,631 entries over the season, as the worldwide community of observers monitored virtually every hour of activity. Our Guestbook has entries from 24 US states, as well as from Canada, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Germany, France, Australia, China, Egypt, and Cuba.

The Observation Data Base and Guestbook entries can be viewed from the Dennis Puleston Osprey Fund home page, which can be accessed from the Post Morrow website at <http://www.postmorrow.org>.

The site was part of the curriculum for many schoolroom classes. The Foundation has received cards and letters - both from children and adults - addressed to the young ospreys and wishing them well in their new life.

The Dennis Puleston Osprey fund received donations totaling \$6,155.00 during 2006. Major donations came from the Gesso Foundation and from George Stoney's Community Foundation in memory of his daughter.



*Rick Mohlmann installing the web camera for the 2007 season.*

*The prospective osprey watches from above.*

*The current core group of volunteers led by Tom Ludlam,*

*includes Tom Throwe, Rick Mohlmann, Dave Shore, Anne Meinhold, Connie Ludlam, Will Throwe, Emily Throwe, Betty Puleston. John Pokorny helped with the camera installation this year, as did Jen and Pete Clement.*

*We are very grateful to this group of dedicated volunteers.*

# FIREPLACE BOAT BASIN

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With the assistance of the Foundation the Fireplace Boat Basin has been restored. For the last several decades the marina was patched together and had fallen into some disrepair. It now continues to be a special place for boat owners to keep their boats in a safe and well-managed facility.



The Fireplace Boat Basin is operated by the Carmans River Maritime Center, which leases out spaces to local residents. One of the special features in the newly renovated marina is the low bulkheading that creates a wetland area under the boardwalk on the south side of the marina.

# THE HAMLET ORGANIC GARDEN (HOG)

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We are pleased to report that the Post-Morrow Foundation and the Hamlet Organic Garden continue to work closely to support farming in Brookhaven. The Gesso Foundation has generously awarded a grant to the Foundation to support organic farming in Brookhaven.

With the support of the Gesso grant the Foundation and HOG will be able to begin an apprenticeship program for the 2007 season. A widespread practice among the organic farming community, apprenticeship programs support the goal of training the next generation of farmers. The program will enable two interns to participate in hands-on learning on how to grow organically as well as to learn marketing and the techniques to operate an environmentally sustainable farm.

The HOG has also reached out to the Bellport High School student group, Students for Environmental Quality (SEQ). Students from SEQ will work with the interns and provide volunteer help to the farm as well as learn about food production.

The grant will enable the farm to enhance its educational programs both for the interns and the members. The grant will also enable us to purchase some much needed equipment that will increase production on the farm.



The Hamlet Organic Garden has provided fresh organic produce to our community for 10 years. HOG represents a model for a small, organic farm that is financially and environmentally sustainable. In Community Supported Agriculture (CSA – See Post-Morrow Foundation newsletter, Spring 2005) farm “members” pay for their vegetables at the beginning of each growing season, sharing both risk and bounty with the farmer. The CSA model espouses farming and lifestyle practices that improve the environment. The farm strengthens the local economy. The HOG has been growing for the past decade and now provides over 200 families with weekly “shares” of fresh organic produce. The best way to ensure that small, local, organic farms continue to survive is by training the next generation of farmers, so they may start their own small farms. “Growing a community of well-trained farmers is just as important as growing healthy fruits and vegetables.”



The HOG is located on 11 acres in Brookhaven Hamlet. Throughout the summer and fall members pick up their share of food produced on the farm. Members volunteer to assist the farmers (Sean Pilger and Jill Garrick) in weeding, picking, and caring for the crops. The farm holds workshops on nutrition, food storage and canning.

For more information you may contact: [sean@hamletorganicgarden.org](mailto:sean@hamletorganicgarden.org) or go to their website at [www.hamletorganicgarden.org](http://www.hamletorganicgarden.org).

We are very grateful to the Gesso Foundation for their generous support.

## IN MEMORIAM

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Over the years, the Foundation has been the recipient of memorial gifts in memory of a friend or loved one. We would like to thank those who have given to the Foundation in memory of friends and family whose names appear below:

Marianna Bookless  
Ruth and Ed Call  
Steve and Will Dolger  
Karl and Doris Erhardt  
Verena Fassnidge  
Phyllis Fraser Champlain  
Thomas Gordon  
Williams Hedding  
Robert Hennesy  
Albert Hotchkin  
Helen Hubert Torrey  
Philip A. Hubert



John Karanik  
Malcolm Moore  
Lincoln Quappe  
Phyllis Shreeve  
Robert Starke Sr.  
Richard Stoner  
Cashel Stoney  
Dr. Henry Torrey  
Martin Van Lith Sr.  
Jim Vaughn Sr.  
Julia Wallace  
Joann Walsh  
Ernie Wruck Sr.

## INVASIVE SPECIES AND BEAVER DAM CREEK

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Ducks Unlimited has received a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Aquatic Invasive Species Eradication Grant Program. The grant will work together with the Post-Morrow Foundation as well as other landowners along Beaver Dam Creek to remove *Phragmites* and restore the tidal wetlands to their natural state.

“*Phragmites australis* has become extremely widespread and problematic on Long Island over the last several decades. As stated in the NYS Invasive Species Task Force Report (August 2005), ‘It is probably the most harmful invasive species in the marine district.’ Its

presence and characteristics along the Beaver Dam Creek are reflective of its widespread abundance along almost all tributaries to the South Shore Estuary Reserve. Most significantly, dense monotypic stands of *Phragmites australis* displace native wetland communities including body plant and resultant animal species. When this occurs; critical wetland functions including wildlife habitat, nursery grounds for finfish and shellfish, storm water storage capacity, water quality issues, and recreational and aesthetic values are all but lost. The degraded condition of the proposed treatment site stands in stark contrast to how these tidal marshes looked and functioned in their natural state.”

(Taken from the grant application, Ducks Unlimited, February 28, 2006)

As readers of this newsletter know, the Foundation has worked extensively over the past 10 years to improve the degraded wetlands along Beaver Dam Creek. Most recently, together with the Long Island wetlands initiative, the Foundation restored approximately 8 acres at the end of Clover Lane along the Creek by removing extensive dredge spoil and *Phragmites* and planting *Spartina alterniflora* and *Spartina patens* the native species that have been displaced by the *Phragmites*.

*A scene along Beaver Dam Creek showing the impact of Phragmites that has eliminated a healthy wetland area along the shores of the Creek.*



# THE PEAT HOLE

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Through a donation from the Carl Jacobs Foundation, the Post-Morrow Foundation has prepared a cultural/historic landscape survey of the Peat Hole.

Purchased in 2004 with funds from the Brookhaven Town Bond Act, the Suffolk County Open Space Fund, and with support from the community, a parcel of land that extends into the waters of the Peat Hole has been preserved for future generations.

“Known as the Ice Pond in the late 1800’s and as Edey’s Pond, after Birdsall Otis Edey in the early 1900’s, the Peat Hole has been a special place for Bellport and Brookhaven residents for many generations. Ice skating has been its special attraction for children and families, while also serving as a bird sanctuary and tributary to the Great South Bay.” (Post-Morrow Foundation, Newsletter, Fall 2003)

The report has been prepared by Jayme Breschard, a planner for the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council



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who grew up in the neighboring community of Mastic Beach. She will be presenting her findings at a meeting of the Bellport Village Trustees on **Monday evening, June 25th at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center on Bell Street.**

Ms. Breschard will talk about the historical significance and integrity of the Peat Hole pond within the Village of Bellport. She has completed a Natural and Historic Districts Inventory Form, which is an official form of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (commonly called a "yellow form"). This document will establish a narrative description of the property and a statement of historical significance.

Historic documentation can provide important information related to the significance of a property for use by historians, researchers, preservationists, architects, and historical archaeologists as well as for interested citizens. Research is used early in planning to gather information needed to identify and evaluate properties.

# NEW BOARD MEMBER

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It is our pleasure to announce that the Foundation has appointed a new member of our community to the Board.

Ginny Everitt of Bellport was elected to the Board this year upon the retirement of long-time board member, Faith McCutcheon. Ginny lives in Bellport with her husband John Everitt. She currently serves as a member of the Board of the Bellport Bay Sailing Foundation and of the Lake Grove School and is a director of the Altar Guild, Christ Church Bellport. She has a strong background in administration and finance and will bring those strengths to the Board.

Ginny says she believes strongly in the mission of the Foundation. “Post-Morrow has provided a vision for the community that is outstanding. In addition to the financial legacy of the Post and Morrow families we hope other members of the community will join with us to strengthen our ability to fulfill our mission.”

We welcome Ginny Everitt to our board and the Post-Morrow Foundation.



# CARMANS RIVER MARITIME CENTER

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The Carmans River Maritime Center held an educational program for youth and adults with funding from the South Country Education Foundation this spring. This project pairs parents and their children to learn how to build a kayak, to spend valuable time together and to learn traditional wooden boat building techniques.

This spring six boat builder pairs made 6 beautiful Mill Creek Kayaks under the direction of Gene Westhoff, vice president of the Center. Quoted in the *Long Island Advance* (March 22, 2007) Denise Sabellichi, who with her son, built a kayak, said "It's a wonderful program. It's such a bonding experience. I'm hoping my daughter wants to do it as well". Crafting such a beautiful boat with your child is an experience that will be remembered for two lifetimes.



*Proud graduates of the Boat School (courtesy Gene Westhoff)*



For more information regarding upcoming projects and courses please contact the Carmans River Maritime Center at [www.carmansrivermaritimecenter.org](http://www.carmansrivermaritimecenter.org).

*Mill Creek Kayaks - Gene Westhoff (red hat) proudly shows his student's work at the Carmans River Maritime Center. Photo courtesy of the Carmans River Maritime Center website.*

# STORMWATER REMEDIATION AND PET WASTE

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Suffolk County under the leadership of Cornell Cooperative Extension, has been providing information to residents regarding Stormwater Pollution and its effects on our environment. As rain or melting snow flows over roads, driveways and lawns, it can pick up pollutants like motor oil, fertilizers, litter and pet waste.

The Environmental Protection Agency considers stormwater pollution the nation's greatest threat to clean water. One effort to prevent runoff from roadways has been created at the end of Beaver Dam Road. Formerly, Beaver Dam Road extended to the edge of Carmans River. Waste oil drippings, trash, litter and pet waste were easily washed into the river when heavy rains ran directly off the road end into the river. Now there is a catch basin that can prevent most water from flowing directly into Carmans River as it filters through the sand and plantings that have been installed there. Studies have shown that waters of the Bay are severely impacted by stormwater.

In an effort to do our part we are asking our friends and neighbors who walk their pets on Post-Morrow property to bag their pet waste. We have set up buckets with a supply of bags so that you can pick up after your pets. These can be found at the entrances to several of our properties where

many residents take their pets. We are requesting that everyone respect this request to pick up pet waste so that it will not wash into our waters or be a nuisance to others who walk these paths. Similar programs to pick up after pets exist in Bellport, as well as New York City.

You may have seen one of these medallions on the sidewalks along South Country Road between Bellport and Brookhaven (County Road 36). There is one on the NW corner of Main Street and Station Road in Bellport Village and on storm drains at the intersection of Beaver Dam Road and South Country. They mark the storm drains and remind people not to drop anything in the drains so it won't pollute groundwater or enter the Bay.



For more information you may visit the web site established by Cornell Cooperative Extension and Suffolk County that provides information to all residents. <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk/Programs/MARhome.htm>.



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## **POSTAL PATRON**

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[www.postmorrow.org](http://www.postmorrow.org)

***The Post-Morrow Foundation Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.***

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## — GIFTS TO THE POST-MORROW FOUNDATION —

We are grateful to the many individuals who have contributed to the efforts of the Foundation to preserve the unique beauty of our community. Gifts to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

Ways to help the Foundation include:

**Matching gifts:** If your employer has a matching gifts program, your gift to the Foundation can be doubled or tripled. Please check with your employee benefits office.

**Memorial gifts:** A gift in memory of a loved one or friend is a special tribute to someone who loves the area. We would be happy to notify the family of your charitable gift.



**Gifts of land and/or historic material:** We welcome gifts that reflect the heritage of our community.

**Bequests:** If you would like to extend your support of the work of the Foundation to preserve our heritage you may include in your will a bequest of cash, securities or property to the Foundation. If you would like to discuss a potential bequest please call Bruce Wallace, President at 286-0686.