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History of Post-Morrow

The Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc. is located in the Hamlet of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. Its principal office is at 16 Bay Road, Brookhaven, NY 11719.

Conceived by Thomas and Elisabeth Post Morrow and established in 1969, the Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the rural countryside character of the Hamlet and the surrounding areas. Through the acquisition of properties, either by gift or purchase, the Foundation seeks to establish a nature preserve and sanctuary for the benefit and enjoyment of the immediate community. The preservation of Beaver Dam Creek, where the Foundation owns over 100 acres, is a priority.

The Post and Morrow families have had a long tradition of philanthropy in the community. James H. Post purchased the land along Carmans River, now known as Squassux Landing, which was later donated to the Brookhaven Village Association for use as a marina. The land upon which the Brookhaven Free Library is situated was another gift. Elisabeth Post Morrow continued the tradition of her father by donating various gifts to community groups, mostly anonymously. It was the hope of the Morrows that this legacy be continued through the establishment of the Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.

Post-Morrow Foundation **NEWSLETTER**

volume 12, number 1

Winter 2008

BEAVER DAM CREEK WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

SPECIAL MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 4TH, 2008, 7:00 PM
POST-MORROW ANNEX
16 BAY ROAD, BROOKHAVEN HAMLET

We would like to invite the community to participate in a public outreach meeting and provide input on the watershed management plan that is being developed for Beaver Dam Creek. The Department of State, South Shore Estuary Reserve Council (SSER) has engaged the services of Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC, an environmental, planning and consulting company to assist in the development of this management plan.

The proposed goals and objectives for this watershed plan include the following:

1. Natural Resource Goals:
 - a. Ensure protection of tidal and coastal freshwater wetlands for the benefits of water quality improvement, wildlife and anadromous fish habitat, marine food production, flood and storm control, open space and educational opportunities.



Map of watershed area (Nelson, Pope & Voorhis)

continued on next page

- b. Restore wetland areas and wetland productivity where possible and appropriate.
- c. Identify and protect important natural resources within the watershed.

2. Water Quality Goals:

- a. Improve water quality through the identification, control and reduction of non-point source pollution.
- b. Inventory pollution sources and causes, and explore remedial measures.

3. Educational Goals:

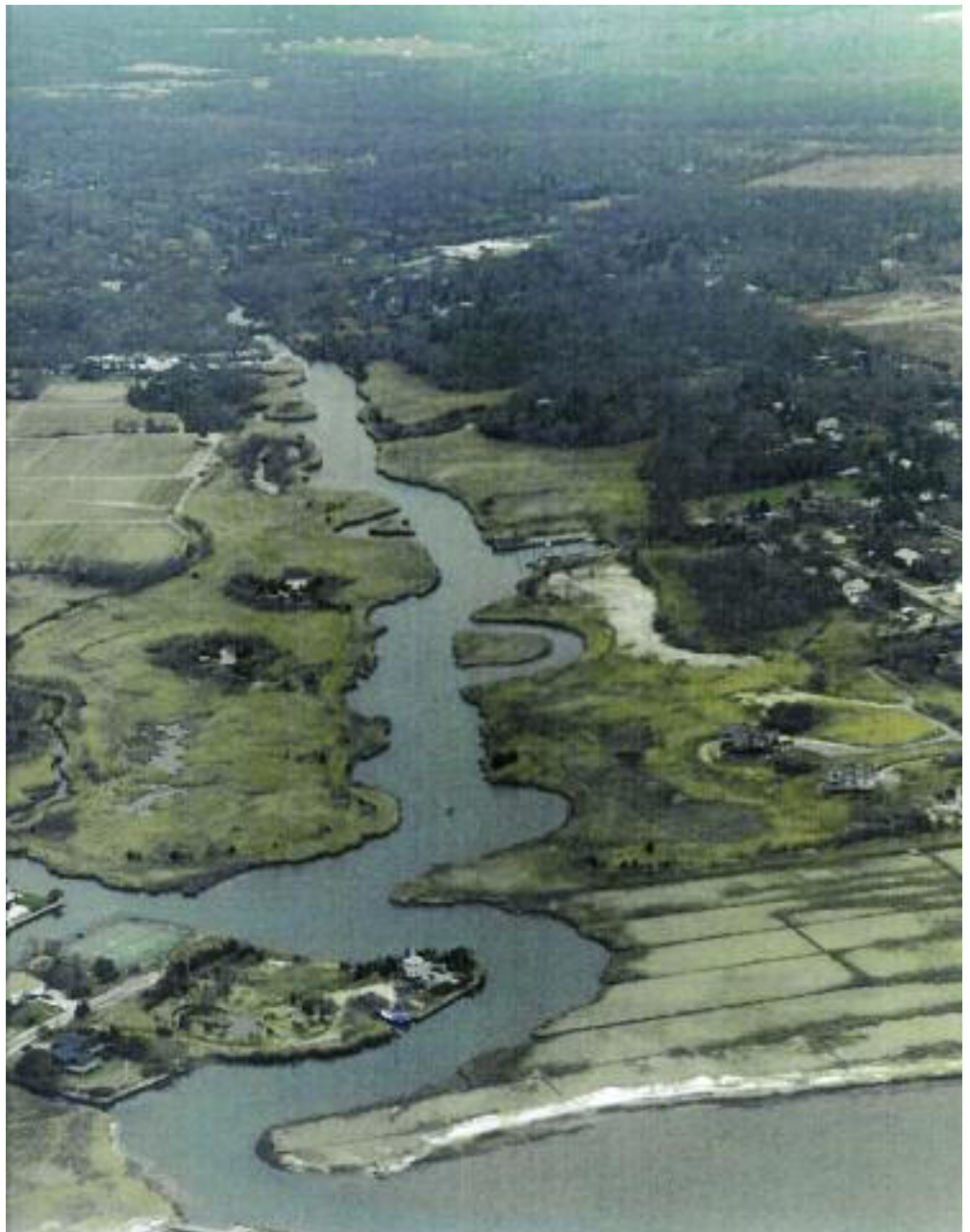
- a. Promote environmental stewardship to increase awareness of watershed resources by partnering with existing organizations to sponsor programs and outreach efforts.
- b. Encourage and promote an understanding and appreciation of maritime historic uses and cultural resources.
- c. Encourage and promote an understanding and appreciation of natural environmental resources and habitats of the Beaver Dam Creek watershed.
- d. Improve water quality education by informing watershed residents and businesses of common activities that cause water quality issues and simple solutions to reduce impacts.

4. Use Management Goals:

- a. Maintain, and expand where appropriate, public water access.
- b. Maintain and promote appropriate water-dependent land use.
- c. Improve and promote passive recreational and educational opportunities.

The watershed advisory committee invites the local community to participate in the public outreach meeting to provide input regarding water resource issues in the watershed, and to further refine the proposed goals and objectives.

Please RSVP to the South Shore Estuary Reserve Office at 516-470-BAYS or sser@dos.state.ny.us.



Aerial photo of Beaver Dam Creek

REPORT FROM AUBREY RUSSO, PRESIDENT, SEQ

For the last couple of weeks, Students for Environmental Quality have been collaborating with Chris Colahan, Director of Peconic Dunes, and Richard Lee, environmental educator, who both work for Cornell Cooperative Extension, on the Watershed Action Plan. Thanks to Clare O'Reilly, of the SSERC, who has updated us on new projects that we could participate in like this one, both Rich and Chris have been taking the time out of their schedules to educate S.E.Q. about GPS usage and how it will help us in locating local Stormwater drainage sites around the Beaver Dam Creek Watershed Area.

Our group consists of about ten members who come to the training sessions we've been having every Wednesday for the last couple of weeks. This training has been very helpful so far in locating all the possible Stormwater drains in our area that impact the Beaver Dam Creek Watershed Area. So far, we have used our GPS training to locate 30 drainage points on the Bellport High School property. In addition, we have visually located several nearby drainage points on public roads which we will soon identify with exact GPS latitude and longitude locations.

Once the pilot project at the High School is complete, the mapping of stormwater infrastructure will be expanded to the overall Beaver Dam Creek Watershed, where the students will field check existing infrastructure mapping and identify any unmapped stormwater management structures. The contribution of the SEQ is very much appreciated. (Post-Morrow Foundation)



Dan O'Connor, faculty advisor to SEQ, Aubrey Russo, President and Gabrielle Christensen mapping a storm drain as part of the watershed planning process. (Photo courtesy of SEQ)

IN MEMORIAM: JOOP AND DORIS VAN DER GRINTEN

The Foundation would like to thank the family of Joop and Doris van der Grinten for their very generous donation to the Foundation in memory of their parents. As they said in their letter to the Foundation;



Joop van der Grinten

“Doris and Joop van der Grinten lived in Brookhaven for nearly fifty years operating a nursery business. For those fifty years, they worked the earth and they devoted their lives to the preservation of the environment. Doris and Joop appreciated the natural scenic environment and enjoyed living in the wonderful community of the hamlet of Brookhaven. The good work of Post-Morrow Foundation in preserving open space and agricultural lands in the hamlet is a cause that would be close to their hearts.”
- Martin van der Grinten, Ruth van der Grinten, and Peter van der Grinten

WHAT IS THE BEAVER DAM CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN?

BY CLARE O'REILLY

(PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER LONG ISLAND SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE)

When it rains, water can travel on several paths - it can penetrate the soil, move as overland flow, or pass through a network of underground drainage pipes. Eventually, the water will reach the nearest water body, such as a stream, pond or wetland. The area of land that drains into a particular body of water is called a **watershed**. Protection and restoration of watersheds can contribute to improved water quality, which can be achieved through a watershed planning process.

Recently, the South Shore Estuary Reserve has initiated the development of a watershed management plan for Beaver Dam Creek by engaging the services of Nelson, Pope and Voorhis, LLC. A variety of partners are involved in development of the plan, which focuses on the relationship between land use and land cover, the movement and storage of water, and water quality. The watershed plan will guide partners in managing the land and how it is used in a way that will recognize the relationships between economic, social and natural processes, and keep drainage pathways functional and the water that flows through them clean. Development of the watershed management plan involves the surrounding community through an ongoing and flexible process to address their needs for protection and restoration of water resources.

Preparation of the Beaver Dam Creek Watershed Management Plan is overseen by a watershed advisory committee, whose members share responsibility in the watershed's protection and restoration. The group is developing clear planning goals that recognize previously completed work. The South Shore Estuary Reserve Office is organizing this effort, working to keep all participants updated on progress of the planning effort, gain consensus, and ensure an adequate forum for public participation throughout the process.

The following organizations are represented on the watershed advisory committee:

- Art Flick Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Bellport High School Students for Environmental Quality (SEQ)
- Brookhaven Village Association
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
- Ducks Unlimited
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Open Space Preservation Trust
- Open Space Council
- Post Morrow Foundation
- South Shore Estuary Reserve Council
- Suffolk County Department of Health Services
- Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Suffolk County Department of Planning
- Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
- Town of Brookhaven Department of Environmental Protection
- Town of Brookhaven Conservation Advisory Committee
- Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge

The watershed management plan will contain several components:

- The **characterization** section will describe the physical aspects of the watershed, such as topography, hydrography, sub-watersheds, soils, precipitation, land cover/land use and development trends, and habitats. This section will be informed by available data, and will identify key resource problems and issues impacting water quality.
- A **preventative** component will assess existing point and nonpoint source controls to identify gaps and recommend mechanisms to address these gaps, including amendments to local land and water use



controls such as subdivision and site plan review regulations and changes in routine roadway, drainage-way and stream maintenance practices. Recommendations in this section will identify actions that local governments, relevant state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations need to take to protect water quality and living resources.

- The **corrective** component will analyze gathered information and estimate pollutant loading, and target projects and other priority actions to remove pollutants and restore water quality. Tools such as pollution potential models can help in determining geographic priorities with the goal of reducing water quality and habitat impairments.

- An **implementation** component will specify actions to implement the preventive and corrective actions, including a strategy for monitoring pollution reduction performance. This section will also propose changes in institutional arrangements to coordinate implementation, and identify steps to revise local land and water use controls to protect and restore water quality and living resources.

By developing and implementing a watershed management plan for Beaver Dam Creek, this important local resource will be protected, and the overall quality of the stream and its surrounding habitat will improve over time. Local residents are invited to become involved by attending a public outreach meeting March 4th, 2008 or by contacting the South Shore Estuary Reserve Office at 516-470-BAYS or sser@dos.state.ny.us to learn more about the planning process.

HABITAT AND HERITAGE: A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT

On June 30th 2007, the Foundation held a Celebration of 15 years of Community Preservation. The Foundation has many community partners and could not do the work we do without them. The following photos depict the wonderful day at the Foundation Headquarters at 16 Bay Road in the Hamlet of Brookhaven.

1. A floral decoration courtesy of the Hamlet Organic Garden.
2. The Hamlet Organic Garden (HOG). We are glad to have this farm within our community. This year we received a generous gift from the Gesso Foundation to assist the HOG in developing ways to grow organic produce for their members.
3. Sean and Jill Pilger. Farmers of the Hamlet Organic Garden.
4. Carmans River Maritime Center Display: The Center has been building these beautiful “Mill Creek Kayaks” for several years. There is currently a class building several more at the Center’s shop at the end of Newey Lane.
5. A view of the Celebration and the Herb Garden: This beautiful Herb Garden was planted and is maintained by the local chapter of the Herb Society of America. Special thanks to Dava Stravinsky and Karen Rowley for their constant care of this special garden.
6. President Bruce Wallace and Board trustee Norman Nelson.
7. Dorothy Jones, Trustee Emerita, Richard Thomas and John Deitz: John Deitz has created a very special website with a great deal of Brookhaven history. www.brookhavensouthaven.org will provide you with a wonderful tour of the Hamlet. Together with Marty Van Lith John has led two walking tours of the Hamlet explaining our wonderful varied history.
8. Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning and two guests.
9. Gene Westhoff, president of the South Country Education Foundation and Board member of the Carmans River Maritime Center: Gene explains the craft of building wooden boats. Gene is the lead teacher for the Mill Creek Kayak program.
10. Bob Nolan and Brian Cullen: Bob Nolan produces many varieties of vegetables on his Deer Run Farm across the Creek. He and his wife Janet run a popular farm stand that is a great destination for our community and we thank them for contributing to the Celebration. Brian and his wife Mary Jane Cullen are great assets to the Hamlet. Brian is co-president of the King Kullen family business and Mary Jane is currently president of the Brookhaven Village Association.
11. The Homegrown String Band: They played lovely music for the occasion.
12. Bounty of the HOG.



We are grateful to our 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.

Some of our other partners include the Bellport Garden Club, The Bellport Sailing Foundation, the Bellport/Brookhaven Historical Society, the Brookhaven Village Association, The Brookhaven Free Library, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ducks Unlimited, Friends of Fire Island National Seashore, Friends of Wertheim, The South Shore Estuary Reserve, Students for Environmental Quality and the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge.

THE DENNIS PULESTON OSPREY CAM: 2007 SEASON

TOM LUDLAM, CHAIRMAN

The fifth season of the Osprey Cam began on a chilly day in early March, as the team assembled in the meadow south of Betty Puleston's barn in Brookhaven Hamlet to re-install the camera and audio system onto the nest pole. Typically the ospreys return from their winter habitat around St. Patrick's Day, and, true to form, by mid-March an osprey pair was in residence on the nest, and the annual cycle of courtship and mating had begun. By mid-April three eggs were being cared for on the nest. As in past years, the daily routine was watched and reported on by a legion of devoted observers on the internet. The online guest book on the Osprey Cam site has entries from virtually every time zone around the globe and, with hundreds of observers making entries in the observation log, every important event has been recorded, with notes from eyewitnesses.

During the 2007 season two chicks were hatched, both in late May. Both chicks successfully fledged, each taking its first flight from the nest on July 19. The young birds got their cram course in the lessons of life during the final summer months, flying and fishing over the Carmans River and the Great South Bay. By mid-September all four of the nest's occupants were headed south, probably for the Caribbean or the northern reaches of South America, each taking its separate path. In October the camera was once again removed for the winter.

The season was not without its unsettling moments. On June 14 the adult female osprey was attacked in the nest by an intruder bird, and for a time it appeared that she had been badly injured. In the end all was well – she had lain motionless for a long period, shielding the chicks and causing a great deal of concern among the watchers. During this episode we received phone calls imploring us to intervene to save the mother bird and her chicks. A bad outcome would have been heart-wrenching for our many observers, but the strict philosophy of the Osprey Cam group is not to interfere with the naturally occurring events in the nest. (In fact, there was really nothing we could have done in this case.) We are mindful that nature can be a harsh and sometimes violent place, and there is a blunt disclaimer to that effect on the Osprey Cam site.

We have been fortunate over the five years that the Osprey Cam has been operational that in each of these seasons an osprey pair has settled in the nest and successfully fledged at least two young, even though not all of the hatched chicks have survived. The table below summarizes the activity over five seasons in Dennis Puleston's osprey nest. It has been a fascinating experience for a world-wide audience. With its large following on the internet, as well as coverage in local media, the Osprey Cam has met our most optimistic goals as a means of educating the public about these magnificent birds, and as a memorial to Dennis.

At its inception in 2003 the Osprey Cam was a unique technical advance, providing a view of wildlife via live streaming video and stereo audio to any computer in the world through the internet. There are now a number of wildlife "cams" on the internet with similar excellent quality. We are pleased to have been successful pioneers, and recognize that the project cannot continue indefinitely. At its heart the Osprey Cam is a computer project, and computer technology typically gets old in a span of about 18 months. Our camera site, and the group of dedicated volunteers that maintain it, has had remarkable staying power. As this is being written, we are making plans to re-install the camera for its final season in 2008. We look forward to yet another year in the breeding cycle of these wonderful birds, and we want to give special acknowledgement and thanks, on behalf of the Post-Morrow Foundation, to the many donors who have made this effort possible.

Dennis Puleston Osprey Cam: A summary of the seasons

Season	Arrival	Eggs laid	Chicks Hatched	Chicks Fledged
2003	Male: March 23	April 8	May 17	
	Female: March 23	April 11	May 18	
		April 14	May 20	July 16
		April 18	May 24	July 16
2004	Male: March 15	April 5	May 13	
	Female: March 15	April 8	May 15	July 5
		April 11	May 17	July 12
		April 14	May 20	July 14
2005	Male: March 18	April 11		
	Female: March 18	April 14	May 19	
		April 17	May 21	July 15
		April 20	May 23	July 16
2008	Male: March 22	April 14		
	Female: March 22	April 17	May 23	July 20
		April 20	May 28	July 25
		April 23	May 29	August 3
2007	Male: March 14	April 16		
	Female: March 17	April 19	May 25	July 19
		April 22	May 28	July 19

DENNIS PULESTON OSPREY FUND:

The Dennis Puleston Osprey Fund, established in memory of Dennis' life-long love of the Osprey is very grateful for the generous donation of the Gesso Foundation which greatly assisted us this year in the operation of the webcam. We would also like to thank the committee led by Tom Ludlam for their volunteer work donation to keep the project operating this past year. Members of the committee include: Rick Mohlmann, Anne Meinhold,



David Shore, Max Ludlam, Emily Throwe, and Tom Throwe. Deborah Long from the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge has also greatly assisted the project.

*Osprey examining
Beaver Dam Creek
restoration project.
(Photo by
Marty Van Lith)*

BATS AND BAT HOUSES

Our facilities manager, Kenny Budny has been building bat houses for the Post-Morrow Foundation. If anyone would like to know how to build or buy a bat house you can call the Foundation or drop by and talk with Kenny. While many people are a bit shy of bats they are a vital part of our ecosystem.

Bats are well known for helping in the control of insects. "As primary predators of night-flying insects, bats play a key role in the balance of nature, consuming vast quantities of insects, many of which are costly agricultural and yard pests. Furthermore, many insects avoid areas where they hear bats." (Organization for Bat Conservation website; www.batconservation.org)



Newly installed bat house at the Post-Morrow Foundation

STORMWATER SOLUTIONS: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD

(NELSON, POPE AND VOORHIS, LLC)

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly nearby waterbodies. By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Here are some tips for healthy household habits.



Household Maintenance

- ✓ Dispose of household chemicals properly at a hazardous waste collection location, not in storm sewers, drains, or cesspools. Take advantage of the Town of Brookhaven “STOP” Program – Horseblock Road (adjacent to the landfill); 286-8551 – open weekdays and Saturdays; 9:00 - 12:00.
- ✓ Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorous to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into tributaries and bays.
- ✓ Sweep, rather than hose, driveways and other paved areas around the home. Do not sweep sediments into the street.
- ✓ Clean up after your pet. Carry disposable bags while walking your dog to pick up and dispose of waste properly.
- ✓ Use a commercial car wash or wash cars and boats on a pervious surface using non-toxic, biodegradable cleaners. Avoid having wash water directed into storm drains. Use a hose nozzle to prevent water from running when not in use.
- ✓ Maintain motor vehicles to avoid any leaking fluids such as oil, gasoline, anti-freeze or brake fluid which may enter stormwater runoff and degrade water quality. Recycle all used motor oil by taking it to a service station or local recycling center. Do not dump used motor oil down storm drains or on the ground.

PEAT HOLE POND

Through donation by the Carl Jacobs Foundation, the Post-Morrow Foundation has arranged for the preparation of a New York State Office of Parks,

Recreation and Historic Preservation Historic and Natural Districts Inventory Form and a cultural landscape treatment plan for the Peat Hole Pond in the Village of Bellport, Suffolk County, New York.

The goal of this project is to aid in the continuing efforts for

preservation opportunities in and around the Peat Hole Pond. These opportunities include the registration of the Peat Hole Pond as a historic landmark, whether at the local, State and/or National level, and to provide a landscape preservation maintenance guide so that the Peat Hole Pond may aptly serve as a public conservation and recreational area.

Research, inventory and documentation, and site recommendations for the Peat Hole Pond have been completed by Jayme Breschard, consultant with a MA in Historic Preservation Planning from Cornell University. Archival research and oral history interviews began in August, 2006. Historic research and cultural landscape treatment proposals were presented to the Bellport Village Trustees on June 25, 2007. The final report was completed in August, 2007.



FOUR-SEASON YARD WORK TIPS

Spring Maintenance

- ✗ Don't dump swept up sand onto gardens or storm drains. This sand contains salt and other pollutants.
- ✗ Avoid 2-in-1 products that mix pesticides and fertilizers.
- ✓ Recycle winter twigs and leaves by using them as a base for a new compost pile, or chop it up (with a lawn mower or shredder) for use as mulch around shrubs and planting beds.
- ✓ A thin layer of compost on your lawn and planting areas later in the season provides organic nutrients for healthy growth.

Summer Care

- ✗ Don't over water your lawn, or water more than once per week. Frequent watering weakens grass by discouraging deep root growth.
- ✗ Avoid mowing your lawn less than 2" in height.
- ✓ Be water conscious. Lawns only need 1" of rain per week, either from rain or irrigation.
- ✓ Use a rain gauge to measure rainfall, or place a shallow can beneath the sprinkler to measure water levels.
- ✓ Install an inexpensive rain sensor on your automatic sprinkler system to effectively prevent sprinklers from coming on during or after a rainfall.
- ✓ Keep mower blades sharp to reduce moisture loss and prevent disease spread, and mow your lawn to a height of 2 to 3".
- ✓ A thick layer of mulch (at least 2") around trees, shrubs and planting areas reduces moisture loss, keeps plants cool, and reduces weeds.



Fall Leaves & Fertilization

- ✗ Don't dump leaves into waterways or wetlands. This can clog ponds and waterways, as well as lead to water quality problems.
- ✓ Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste, and tree trimmings for compost in your own yard. Do not place yard wastes into curbside drains which drain directly to water bodies.
- ✓ Fertilize your lawn with a single dose of slow-release or organic fertilizer early in the season for a healthy lawn next spring.

Winter De-icing & Planning

- ✗ Avoid using rock salt to de-ice your sidewalks and driveways. Rock salt can be harmful to many forms of aquatic life as well as damage infrastructure.
- ✓ Instead, use Calcium Chloride or Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) products to melt ice, or use plain sand if you are only looking for a little traction.
- ✓ Sweep up sand from your sidewalks and driveway in between storms, sift and re-use.
- ✓ Identify and remove invasive plants in natural areas of your yard. Consider replacing them with native plants in the spring.
- ✓ Consider creating a rain garden by turning your downspouts away from the driveway and into a low spot in your yard. Plant the low spot with appropriate low-maintenance native shrubs and perennial flowers.



Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.

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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.



Avocet recently spotted in Beaver Dam Creek restoration area.

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.