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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 VEWSLETTER volume 14, number 1 Summer 2010

HAMLET TREES

The Brookhaven Village Association (BVA) has been planting new trees around the Hamlet for the last several years. You may have seen them. They usually have two cedar stakes on each side to keep them upright and sometimes have a green water irrigation bag around them so they may be well-watered over time. More than 128 trees have been planted so far in the Hamlet.

You can see a map of where they have been planted and the types of trees at: http://www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org/treemap/BVATreeMap.htm.

About 100 years ago, James Post planted Norway maple trees along Beaver Dam Road and other streets in the Hamlet. Recently they have been dying out due to age. Because of this loss of street trees, the BVA has undertaken to replace them in order to keep the lovely, shaded ambience of our roadways.



A White Oak on Beaver Dam Road. Joggers and bikers enjoy the shade of this venerable street tree.

Today, Norway maple is a frequent invader of urban and suburban forests. Its extreme shade tolerance, especially when young, has allowed it to penetrate beneath an intact forest canopy. Research has recently shown that forests which have been invaded by Norway maple suffer losses in diversity of native forest wildflowers compared with forests in which the canopy is dominated by native species such as sugar maple. This is at least in part due to the dense shade cast by Norway maples, and the shallow roots, which compete with other vegetation.

The BVA has developed a list of very diverse trees for the Hamlet. This is important because of the many diseases that afflict trees in our community. For example the *woolly adelgid* has attacked hemlock trees

continued on next page

HAMLET TREES continued



Two Sweet Gum trees and three Northern Red Cedars were planted this spring on Marydale Lane.

and only with a regimen of spraying do they remain healthy. Introduced from Asia in 1924 in the northwest, the woolly adelgid has spread throughout this area as well. Other pests include the asian longhorn beetle which attacks Oak trees, the emerald ash borer (it, as well as the asian longhorn beetle, travels in firewood and it is recommended that you not transport firewood from one location to another) and the birch tree leafminer. Planting a variety of trees ensures that if a disease attacks one tree, there are others that will stand. Diversity is important to insure healthy trees.

Trees are beneficial in so many ways. It is hard to imagine our world without them, but they are threatened by many natural and human factors. Climate change has affected trees in our area and the tree planting program has taken that into consideration as well.

The Black Tupelo is a tree that is commonly planted

by the BVA Tree Project. It is a beautiful tree especially in the fall when it displays lovely red and orange foliage. It provides nutritious fruit



Black Tupelo leaves in autumn.



Sweet Gum trees and cedars being planted on Marydale Lane.

for birds that migrate through our area and is a good shade tree for our Hamlet streets.

The following information was taken from *The*National Tree Benefit Calculator which is found on the
National Arbor Day Foundation's website;

Stormwater runoff (or "non-point source pollution") washes chemicals (oil, gasoline, salts, etc.) and litter from surfaces such as roadways and parking lots into streams, wetlands, rivers and oceans. The more impervious the surface (e.g., concrete, asphalt, rooftops), the more quickly pollutants are washed into our community waterways. Drinking water, aquatic life and the health of our entire ecosystem can be adversely affected by this process.

Trees act as mini-reservoirs, controlling runoff at the source. Trees reduce runoff by intercepting and holding rain on leaves, branches and bark, by increasing infiltration and storage of rainwater through the tree's root system, and by reducing soil erosion as they slow rainfall before it strikes the soil.

One 2 inch diameter Black Tupelo tree will intercept approximately 87 gallons of stormwater in one year.

Property values will usually increase due to the placement of trees along the street. Real estate agents have long known that trees can increase the "curb appeal" of properties thereby increasing sale prices. This benefit is calculated by a tree's LSA (leaf surface area).

One 2 inch diameter Black Tupelo will provide 86 square feet of LSA.

Home energy efficiency is increased by strategically placing trees. In summer, trees shading east and west walls keep buildings cooler. In winter, allowing the sun to strike the southern side of a building can warm interior spaces. If southern walls are shaded by dense evergreen trees there may be a resultant increase in winter heating costs.

Trees modify climate and conserve building energy use in three principal ways. Shading reduces the amount of heat absorbed and stored by buildings. Evapotranspiration converts liquid water to water vapor and cools the air by using solar energy that would otherwise result in heating of the air. Tree canopies slow down winds thereby reducing the amount of heat lost from a home, especially where conductivity is high (e.g., glass windows).

There is a reason that we all had to memorize this poem in elementary school.

Trees

I think that I shall never see A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day, And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain; Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me, But only God can make a tree.

Joyce Kilmer



A beautiful Copper Beech in the Hamlet.

One 2 inch diameter Black tupelo will conserve 4 Kilowatt/hours of electricity for cooling and reduce consumption of oil or natural gas by 2 therm(s).

Air pollution is a serious health threat that causes asthma, chronic coughing, headaches, respiratory and heart disease, and cancer. Over 150 million people live in areas where ozone levels violate federal air quality standards; more than 100 million people are impacted when dust and other particulate levels are considered "unhealthy." We now know that the trees can mitigate the bad health effects of pollution by absorbing pollutants like ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide through leaves and by intercepting particulate matter like dust, ash and smoke. In addition trees release oxygen through photosynthesis, thus lowering air temperatures which also reduce the production of ozone. And finally trees reduce energy use and subsequent pollutant emissions from power plants.

Climate change is impacted by trees. They reduce atmospheric carbon in two primary ways. They sequester or "lock up" CO2 in their roots, trunks, stems and leaves while they grow, which remains in wood

HAMLET TREES continued

products after they are harvested. Secondly, trees near buildings can reduce heating and air conditioning demands, thereby reducing emissions associated with power production.

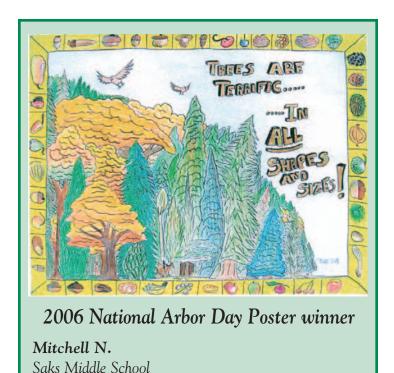
Combating climate change will take a worldwide, multifaceted approach but planting a tree in a strategic location is one way we can each reduce our individual carbon "footprint."

One 2 inch diameter Black Tupelo tree will sequester around 25 pounds of CO2 in one year.

See http://www.arborday.org/ for further information

Many residents of the Hamlet have contributed to the tree planting program of the Brookhaven Village Association. It was started under the leadership of Lynn Brown who continues to develop the program. Jeff Jensen, a local arborist and board member of the BVA also helps with the program. Local landscaper John Beitel also helped initiate the tree planting program and plays an active role in the program today.

Funding for the program has come through contributions of members of the BVA, the Post-Morrow Foundation and from the Caithness Community Benefit fund (through the Town of



Brookhaven and Council member Connie Kepert). In addition LIPA has a program to encourage communities to plant "wire friendly" trees. These trees planted under electric and phone wires will pose less of a problem as they grow up towards the wires. LIPA provides a subsidy for trees planted that qualify as "wire friendly".

Anniston, Alabama

POST-MORROW BOARD MEMBER RETIRES:

Norm Nelson, a board member of the Post-Morrow Foundation since 1997, retired from the board this spring. Norm grew up in Brookhaven, attending the Brookhaven School on Fire Place Neck Road. He now lives in Portland Maine with his wife Sally.

Norm brought his professional business expertise to the Foundation Board as well as his love for



Norm Nelson and Bruce Wallace. Recognizing Norm's service to the Post-Morrow Foundation 1997-2010.

Brookhaven Hamlet. He remains very active on the Board of Directors of the Carmans River Maritime Center which was founded by the Post-Morrow Foundation in 1999.

We will miss Norm's excellent guidance and stewardship at the Foundation and we are happy he will remain involved with the community through the Carmans River Maritime Center.

BEAVER DAM CREEK:

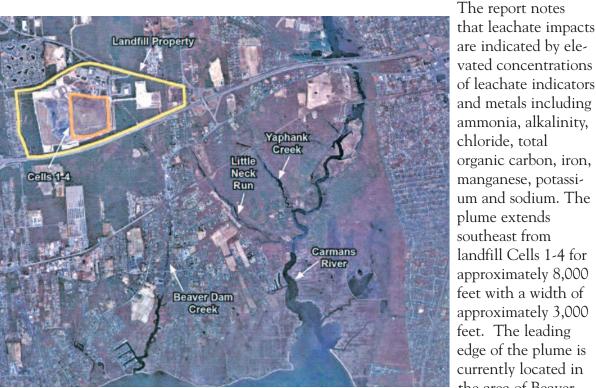
In our last issue of the Foundation newsletter we reported that the Brookhaven Village Association and the Foundation have been meeting with the Town to assess the damage inflicted on Beaver Dam Creek and the surrounding watershed from the leachate emanating from the Landfill. We are pleased to note that the Town has been diligent in monitoring the flow of the leachate and that they have provided public water for approximately 18 residents who had not previously been connected. Additionally the Hamlet

Organic Garden was provided with new wells that have reached a deeper, uncontaminated water source.

The consulting company for the Town, Dvirka and Bartilucci, Consulting Engineers, issued the "Leachate Plume Characterization Report" in June, 2010. The report issued findings and recommendations to the Beaver Dam Creek Working Group. This group was organized by

Councilwoman Connie Kepert at the urging of the BVA and the Post-Morrow Foundation. The Working Group also includes representatives from Trout Unlimited, The Citizens Campaign for the Environment, The NYS DEC and the Suffolk County Health Department, the Hamlet Organic Garden and various staff from the Town of Brookhaven. We would like to thank Councilwoman Connie Kepert, Director of Waste Management, Ed Hubbard and John Turner, Director of the Department of Environmental Protection for their interest in and support of the Working Group.

The information was gathered from 115 monitoring wells, and from surface water sampling at 5 locations on Beaver Dam Creek and 2 locations on Carmans River. In addition, 22 vertical profile groundwater probes downgradient of the landfill were made to determine the extent of the plume. The Suffolk County Health Department worked closely with the Town's consultant and collected water samples from 5 additional locations on Beaver Dam Creek, 4 locations on Little Neck Run and 2 locations on Yaphank creek (the latter two creeks are tributaries to Carmans River.)



Town of Brookhaven Department of Waste Management; Leachate Plume Characterization Report, Town of Brookhaven Landfill. June, 2010.

are indicated by elevated concentrations of leachate indicators and metals including ammonia, alkalinity, chloride, total organic carbon, iron, manganese, potassium and sodium. The plume extends southeast from landfill Cells 1-4 for approximately 8,000 feet with a width of approximately 3,000 feet. The leading edge of the plume is currently located in the area of Beaver Dam Road and impacts Beaver Dam

Creek on the west and Little Neck Run to the east.

The groundwater quality monitoring program will continue to track the leachate plume. The recommendations of the report were to continue to monitor the track of the plume through additional vertical profile groundwater probes. The Town will continue to conduct surface water quality monitoring and will develop a better understanding of the flow in Beaver Dam Creek and the dynamics of surface water/groundwater interaction.

The high levels of ammonia are particularly troubling in Beaver Dam Creek. However, a recent New York State DEC sampling study indicates there are still fish

BEAVER DAM CREEK continued

and invertebrates that appear to be healthy, living in the Creek. As the plume continues its path toward Great South Bay it has become more diluted than when it first entered the groundwater from the landfill. To fully treat the water and remove the ammonia entering the groundwater would be extremely costly and might have unintended consequences that could adversely affect Beaver Dam Creek.

The Town believes that the conditions leading to the leachate entering the groundwater have been rectified. They will continue to monitor and document the expected improvement in groundwater quality due to the capping of Cells 1-4 in 1997 and the collection of leachate from the landfill. Public water has been provided to all residents downgradient of the landfill. The full report is available for review at the Post-Morrow Foundation.

The Foundation and the BVA will continue to serve on the Beaver Dam Creek Working Group and work with the Town to keep a very sharp eye on the future movement of the plume in Brookhaven Hamlet.



Eric Hernandez, a senior from Bellport High School, testing water from Beaver Dam Creek. Eric has been monitoring the levels of dissolved Oxygen in the Creek for the past year as part of his Authentic Science Research program at Bellport High School. He will be attending Stony Brook University in the fall.

THE HAMLET TRAIL PROJECT:

SEQ students have been working with the Foundation to help define the trails within the Hamlet. Students and staff of the Foundation also participated in a workshop on trail making and orienteering (how to



SEQ trail team: Pictured above, SEQ students and advisors; Dan O'Connor, Sam Hoff, Emily Hoff, Elise Budd, Taylor Jones, Bill Corbett, Alex Pardo, Antonio Gomez, Dan Garisto, Dan Rinfret, Eric Hernandez, Gourav Khadge.

read maps and use a compass) with Orienteering Unlimited, a company that has made many maps for agencies and community groups and will be working to compose the trail maps for the Hamlet.



SEQ students Grace Healy (president), and Gourav Khadge (vice president) with advisor Dan O'Connor and consultant Ed Hicks from Orienteering Unlimited.

BELLPORT BAY SPAWNER SANCTUARY:

The Post Morrow Foundation received a grant from the Caithness Community Benefit fund for \$17,000 that supplied 109,000 clams that we placed in Bellport Bay.

Historically, Bellport Bay within the Town of Brookhaven has supported a significant population of



Mercenaria, mercenaria

the hard clam, Mercenaria mercenaria. Since the 1980's, the abundance of hard clams has declined. The loss of the hard clam population in our inshore waters may be adversely impacting water quality. It has had a major impact on the bay bottom ecology as well as to the local economy as a result of this decline in overall hard clam harvest.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation hard clam data shows that harvests have fallen by over 90% since 1976. Town hard clam census data indicates that since 1985 the average abundance of hard clams has fallen by over half. Various scientific studies suggest that fertilization success may now be impaired by the low density of hard clams resulting in lower sperm concentrations or reduced sperm viability due to increased time between release and contact with



Placing clams into Bellport Bay. Pictured here are Ken Budny and Derek Schleede.

Tom Carrano from the Town Department of Environmental Protection

assisted in this project.



Clams being delivered.

eggs. Thus, the restoration of hard clam populations depends upon areas of high density of clams.

Spawner transplants are an established shellfish management activity by which spawning stock is protected by placing them in strategic areas. Spawner sanctuaries have been recognized by Suffolk County as one possible option to revitalize hard clam resources. The South Shore Estuary Reserve Management Plan supports the spawner sanctuary concept to increase mollusk and shellfish populations.

A report by the Town of Brookhaven indicates that hard clams may play an important role in water quality due to their filtration capacity, and that the decline in abundance may be impairing water quality. From 2004 through 2007, the Town of Brookhaven partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Bluepoint to place over 500,000 clams in several sanctuaries located on the TNC bay-bottomland property. Data from the 2008 shellfish survey census indicates that theses sanctuaries are providing a substantial amount of seed for a vast area of the Great South Bay. However, it appears that the limit of larval transport ended at the western reaches of Bellport Bay (Howells Point).

The Post-Morrow Foundation project placed 109,000 clams in Bellport Bay. Spawning from this location should, through natural circulation patterns, transport the produced larvae throughout the Bay.

THE RED BARN:

Prints of this watercolor may be purchased from the HOG to benefit the Farm. If you would like to order a print, please e-mail the farm at: mail@hamletorganicgarden.org

This winter, the Red Barn, on Beaver Dam Road burned down. It was a sad loss. The Puleston family had encouraged community use of the barn and it was the site of artistic activity for many years. The barn was most recently the center of operations for the Hamlet Organic Garden where vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers were distributed to the members and where strawberry and garlic festivals were enjoyed.

The barn was a place where kids learned acting skills, performed plays and developed an improvisational theatre program called "The Pumpkin Patch Players" under the guidance of Debbie Mayo a professor of drama at SUNY Stony Brook. Jennifer Puleston Clement recounted that "there were dyeing and felting workshops, basket making, HOG canning sessions, music jamming, and media events. At one time local artist David Ebner used it as a woodworking shop and Jen's



The Red Barn, Brookhaven Hamlet, painted by Brother Gerard Cormier. Br. Gerard is a long standing resident of the Hamlet and member of the art community here. He is a Marist Brother who has devoted 43 years of his life to teaching and for the last thirteen years of his career teaching art. He generously donated the watercolor to the Hamlet Organic Garden (HOG).

mother Betty and father Dennis stored a lifetime of treasures in that barn." (Fire Place, Brookhaven Village Association Newsletter, Angela Giannotti, Spring 2010)

CARMANS RIVER WATERSHED PRESERVATION PLAN STUDY

Jim Tripp, of the Environmental Defense Fund and Post-Morrow Foundation vice president Tom Williams serve as co-chairs of the Carmans River Partnership. This group was created in 1999 in order to protect a parcel of land (the Elias Property; proposed as the site for a Home Depot store) along the Carmans River. It has continued to meet yearly to bring together all interested parties concerned with the health of the river. In May 2009 the Partnership presented its proposal to conduct an in-depth study of the River to the Pine Barrens Commission.

This year the Town has committed to conduct a study based on recommendations of the Carmans River Partnership on how to further protect the river, its groundwater contributing area and the natural habitat in the river corridor. The river was designated as a "Wild, scenic and recreational river" by the New York State Legislature in 1972.

This spring the Carmans River was the subject of a symposium held by the Town of Brookhaven (a member of the Pine Barrens Commission) to discuss the scope of the Carmans River Watershed Preservation Plan Study. As part of the symposium, called the Carmans River Conference, Post-Morrow Foundation presented a "Visual Tour" of the River in order to set in context its beauty, cultural history and its ecological and economic importance to the community. The following photos are from that Visual Tour.

The full symposium presentations can be seen on the Town of Brookhaven's website at: http://www.brookhaven.org/Departments/Planning Environment/Planning/CarmansRiverConference.aspx

A VISUAL TOUR OF CARMANS RIVER

A social and environmental history of Carmans River presented to the Carmans River Conference, May 27th, 2010

by Thomas B Williams.

1 – Aerial photo of the lower Carmans River For hundreds of years the Carmans River has been used by area residents for hunting, fishing, recreation and the enjoyment of its beauty. It is one of the four largest rivers on Long Island and holds a special place in the hearts of many residents.

Originally called the Connecticut River (the Indian name for a long tidal river) it was later named after Samuel Carman who developed a mill on the lower Carmans and used the river to provide goods and services for the community.

Indians used the river as a source of food including oysters, clams,

and fish. European settlers arrived in 1655. In 1657, 256 acres of salt marsh meadow were purchased from the local Indians. European settlers knew immediately that this was important

property.

Seen as a great natural resource, there has been a long succession of efforts to preserve this river. The watershed is approximately 17,000 acres. Between the Town, County and U.S.



1 – Aerial photo of the lower Carmans River.

2 - Carmans River Tunnel Valley.

Government over 5,600 acres have been preserved.

In 1972 a group of students from Bellport High School with the leadership of Art Cooley, a teacher at the Bellport High School and Dennis Puleston, wrote "The Carmans River Story: A Natural and Human History," which helped designate the river as one of the first "Wild, Recreational and Scenic" rivers in New York State.

In 1993 The Pine Barrens Act was passed by New York State to protect drinking water for Suffolk. Carmans River is considered a Pine Barrens river.

Carmans River is A Groundwater fed river system with over 95% of

its water coming from groundwater.



3 – Aerial view of the Carmans River from Great South Bay to Middle Island.

2 – Carmans River Tunnel Valley: Developed by Gil Hanson from Stony Brook University's Department of Geosciences, this slide shows the river valley created by the retreat of the Wisconsin Glacier.

A VISUAL TOUR OF CARMANS RIVER continued



4 – Aerial view of the Carmans River flowing into Bellport Bay.

As defined by John Wesley Powell a watershed is; "that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and ...become part of a community."

3 – Aerial view of the Carmans River from Great South Bay to Middle Island.

The Carmans River is 11 miles long with a tidal portion of two miles from the Bay to Sunrise Highway.

This visual tour separates the river into four sections:

- The tidal river from Great South Bay to Sunrise Highway,
- Southaven Park and Hards Lake,



6 - Salt Hay (1906).



5 – Aerial view of mouth of Carmans River.

- The Yaphank area and two lakes and
- The upper river from the headwaters through Cathedral Pines, E. Barlett Road, and the Novak property.

The Tidal River

Used by Indians, Baymen, fishermen, sailors and farmers, the tidal area of the river is a rich source of nutrient material to the Estuary, where the freshwater river meets the saltwater bay. This portion of the river is dominated by the US Fish and Wildlife Wertheim Refuge and also serves as a recreational area for fishing, sailing, kayaking and canoeing.



7 – Squassux Landing (1905).



8 - Aerial view of US Fish and Wildlife Wertheim HQ.



9 - Wild Ducks on the River (1950).

4 – Aerial view of the Carmans River flowing into Bellport Bay.

This slide shows the river as it contributes water to the Bay and wetlands, (46 million gallons/day). This wetland area contributes abundant life to the estuary where the river meets the bay.

5 – Aerial view of mouth of Carmans River showing the rich wetlands that feed the Great South Bay. Much of the shoreline wetlands are owned by the New York State DEC.

6 – Salt Hay (1906) was collected by farmers for their livestock and to store ice during the summer months.

7 – Squassux Landing (1905) The River has been used as a place from which to sail to the barrier beach. For many years Squassux was a place where a ferry went to Old Inlet and Smith Point. Indians and then settlers set out to hunt whales from this place along the river.

8 – Aerial view of US Fish and Wildlife Wertheim HQ. In 1947 Maurice Wertheim gave his 1700 acre hunting and fishing reserve property to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It is now comprised of approximately 2400 acres.

In 1991 the County purchased the Robinson Duck Farm of 80 acres. Duck farming was practiced for many years in the tidal portion of the river.



10 – Fish ladder at Sunrise Highway.



11 - Sam Carmans Mill (1880).

A VISUAL TOUR OF CARMANS RIVER continued



12 – Daniel Webster and the Trout. (Currier and Ives, 1827).

9 – Wild Ducks on the River (1950). The Wertheim was a hunting preserve and still is host to ducks and other wildlife and is an important stopping place on the Atlantic Flyway for migrating birds.

Hards Lake and Southaven Park

The dam created by early European residents of this area created what we now call Hards Lake and ended the tidal portion of the River. There were other dams created on the river that reflected that the area participated in the industrial revolution. The river provided power for lumber, grist, and fulling mills

which separated the river into several mill ponds that have become the lakes in the river system.

10 – Fish ladder at Sunrise
Highway.
For 200 years the dam at
Hard's Lake prevented
Alewives from spawning
further north than Montauk
Highway. The
Alewives (a



13 - Aerial view of Hard's Lake looking south.

member of the Herring family) serve as a great food source for Ospreys and other wildlife and were also harvested by local farmers. There are plans to develop additional fish ladders to enable the alewives to travel further up the river.

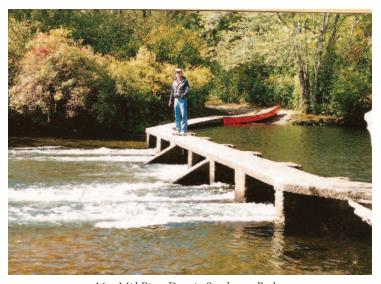
11 – Sam Carmans Mill (1880), where he provided goods and services for the surrounding community



14 - Map of the properties of Suffolk Lodge.



15 – Fishing on the river.



16 - Mid River Dam in Southaven Park.

12 – Daniel Webster and the Trout. (Currier and Ives, 1827) Sam Carman's mill pond was used by fishermen for years and the river and its lakes are still a source of great fishing. In 1827 Daniel Webster caught a 14.5 lb trout which he ultimately took to New York City and was served at Delmonico's. The Weathervane on the Old Southaven Presbyterian church is fashioned after his historic catch.

13 - Aerial view of Hard's Lake looking south.

14 – Map of the properties of Suffolk Lodge.

In 1858 August Belmont organized the Suffolk Club. Anson Hard bought approximately 1300 acres in 1923



17 - Aerial view of Carmans River and Southaven Park south of the LIE.

and sold his land to Suffolk County in 1964 for Southaven Park.

Later the County added the - 514 acre Cathedral Pines and 58 acre Prosser Pines in the northern reach of the River. The County holdings in the watershed are approximately 3000 acres.

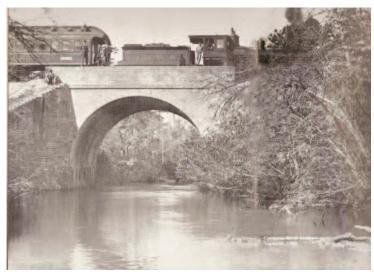
15 – Fishing on the river.

16 – Mid River Dam in Southaven Park.

17 – Aerial view of Carmans River and Southaven Park south of the LIE.



18 – Lily Lake (lower lake).



19 - The Long Island Rail Road (1900).

A VISUAL TOUR OF CARMANS RIVER continued



20 – Willow Lake (upper lake).



21 - Novak property.

Yaphank and Millville

Yaphank was formerly named Millville because of the several mills that were there in the 18th and 19th centuries. Because there were 12 Millvilles in New York State in 1846, the name was changed to Yaphank; taken from the Indian name Yamphanke meaning "bank of a river". In addition to their commercial value to the community the lakes served as a recreational resource with fishing and swimming in the summer and ice skating in the winter.

18 – Lily Lake (lower lake) The 1762 Homan-Gerard Mill was originally a cotton mill and became a lumber mill and grist mill.

19 – The Long Island Rail Road (1900) One line went through the mill region of the upper and lower lakes and another line through Brookhaven and they hoped that it would connect local industry to New York City.

20 – Willow Lake (upper lake). The original owners of the Swezey Avey House (Now owned by the Town of Brookhaven) on Willow Lake operated one of the Mills there in 1739.



22 - Canoeing on the river.



23 - East Bartlett Road just south of Cathedral Pines County Park.



21 - Novak property.

22 - Canoeing on the river.

23 – East Bartlett Road just south of Cathedral Pines County Park. In 2006 the County incorporated the 700 acre Warbler Woods Dennis Puleston Nature Preserve into the Suffolk County Park system.

24 – Start of flow – May 2010, just south of the Longwood Public Library on Route 25 in Middle Island.



25 - Window on the River.



24 - Start of flow - May 2010.

The Beauty of the River

25 – Window on the River; this photograph, taken from the Headquarters of the Wertheim Refuge shows the quiet beauty of Carmans River.

"Surely, this still beautiful area and its wealth of natural resources deserve to be treated by all of us who live here, and also by our close neighbors.. with a full measure of respect, understanding and love."

This quote from Dennis Puleston, who worked to save the Osprey and create the Environmental Defense Fund, is taken from his book A Nature Journal (1992). It was placed on the Suffolk County Parks Department sign for The Dennis Puleston Nature Preserve at Warbler Woods, a 700 acre park in the Carmans River watershed on Yaphank/Middle Island Road.

Many thanks for their photos and assistance in compiling this tour:

Marty Van Lith
Mac Waters
Steven Berger
Jennifer Puleston
John Potente
The Post-Morrow Foundation
Eva Gregowski and Toni Rivara



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Edgar Avenue:

Edgar Avenue, June, 2010. Much of the invasive Wisteria has been cleared to ensure the health of the trees. The area remains a place for residents to walk and enjoy this lovely property. Be sure to notice some of the birches and elms there.

