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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

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Autumn 2016



DDT WARS

In April the Post-Morrow Foundation, Friends of Wertheim and Students for Environmental Quality hosted a presentation by Charles Wurster on the history of banning the insecticide DDT and the creation of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF).

In 1966 a group of scientists and environmental educators created the Brookhaven Town Natural Resources Council to discuss a variety of environmental issues. Meetings were held here in Brookhaven Hamlet at Dennis Puleston's home, and at the New York State DEC, Brookhaven National Laboratory and Stony Brook University. The group joined together with a local lawyer to initiate a lawsuit to ban DDT in Suffolk County. The incident that sparked the suit was the flushing of a tank of DDT spray by the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission into the Upper Lake of the Carmans River one summer afternoon. The dumping resulted in a large fish kill.

DDT Wars is the untold inside story of the nearly decade-long, scientific, legal and strategic campaign that culminated in the national ban of the insecticide DDT in 1972. DDT contamination had become worldwide, concentrating up food chains and causing birds to lay thin-shelled eggs that broke in the nests. Populations of many species of predatory and fish-eating birds collapsed, including the American bald eagle, osprey, peregrine falcon and brown pelican.

continued on next page

DDT WARS *continued*

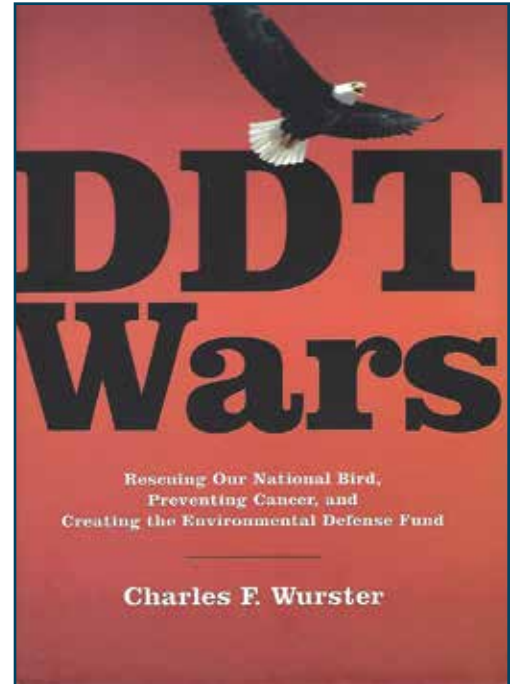
According to Professor Wurster there were four very positive outcomes of the lawsuit to ban DDT in the US:

- There are now two dozen carcinogenic chemicals that are banned worldwide, providing greater protection against cancer;
- There is a recovery of predatory birds such as the bald eagle and the osprey. Their numbers recovered spectacularly in the decades following the ban and there are now twenty five times as many bald eagles in this country as there were in 1970;
- EDF is now a globally influential agency working for climate change, the protection of our oceans, and eco- systems, promoting a healthy environment around the world, and
- The lawsuit set a local precedent establishing environmental law that can now be used to protect communities against environmental degradation.

Charles F. Wurster is a founding member of the Environmental Defense Fund and Professor Emeritus of Environmental Sciences, State University of New York at Stony Brook.



*Professor Wurster
at Wertheim*



POST-MORROW FOUNDATION GETS A FACELIFT

Sadly the two large spruce trees in front of the Foundation headquarters had to be taken down this year. It was not clear how they died, but possibly it was the salt spray of Superstorm Sandy, or perhaps just old age. They had been planted by Tom and Elizabeth Morrow in the early part of the twentieth century. We miss these two sentinels of the Foundation but their removal has lightened the little building that we call home.



The house in 1929



Felling the spruce tree at the Foundation



The house in 2016

WOODLAND FAIRY HOUSE PROJECT

The Post-Morrow Foundation would like to invite the local community to take part in our Woodland Fairy House Project. Participants have the opportunity to make a fairy house alongside our trails, or have fun trying to find them in their natural environment.

There are three Fairy Houses displayed in the Malcolm Fleming Annex for your inspiration and enjoyment. They are made by using natural materials gathered while walking along the Post-Morrow trails. No glue, wire, string, nails or any other man-made materials may be used to make fairy houses. Suggested building materials are branches, pine cones, mosses, lichens, vines, tree bark, roots, stones and leaves.

You can start your project by walking the trails. Bring a tote bag to hold your found natural objects. When you arrive at Post-Morrow to build a fairy house, please contact Jim Hazard, Facilities Manager, for a 'building permit' (telephone; 516-220-1323).



A Fairy house along the trail.

Jim will assist in scheduling small groups. Jim will use the permit information to keep track of the fairy houses. A pin map will show where the fairy houses are located, and will be updated as new fairy houses are completed.

We ask that you build near the edges of the trail so your fairy house can be enjoyed by others and so the woodland interior will not be disturbed. Be mindful of poison ivy and thorny vines.

- Pauline Hazard



Fairy house trail map and building permit

GEOCACHE ON POST-MORROW FOUNDATION TRAILS

Besides fairy houses to discover, there are also several Geocache sites on Post-Morrow Foundation trails. Located in hidden spots, you can find them via GPS and find a treasure and leave a note. The following description from Wikipedia explains what geocaching is all about.

“**Geocaching** is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called “geocaches” or “caches”, at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook (with a pen or pencil). The geocacher enters the date they found it and signs it with their established code name. After signing the log, the cache must be placed back exactly where the person found it. Larger containers such as plastic storage containers (Tupperware or similar) or ammunition boxes can also contain items for trading, such as toys or trinkets, usually of more sentimental worth than financial. Geocaching shares many aspects with benchmarking, trigpointing, orienteering, treasure-hunting, letterboxing, and waymarking.) (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geocaching>)

Here are some comments regarding the Geocache on the Post-Morrow trail, which are posted on the website noted below.

“A keyring pill bottle wrapped in black tape hidden on a pretty piece of parkland. Please bring your own pen. There is a log and a small green skull ring to start. Enjoy the walk!”

“Nice cache on a trail in a tree”

(The following is a coded clue as to the whereabouts of this geocache along with the Decryption key.)

Pybfr gb genvy, bar bs frireny bss-fubbgf, vapurf nobir tebhaq

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

(letter above equals below, and vice versa)

From the website:

https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC4PBNF_post-morrow-micro

THE HERB GARDEN AT POST-MORROW FOUNDATION

We are very grateful for the constant and loving upkeep of the Herb Garden at the Foundation. The Garden is maintained by the Long Island Unit of the Herb Society of America and its local members in particular, Dava Stravinsky and Pauline Hazard.

Recently the Herb Society installed a memorial stone bench in memory of one of their late members, and our neighbor, Karen Rowley. The bench will be inscribed with her name.

The Herb Garden was started in 1997 and here is an excerpt from our Newsletter of that year:

“The Post-Morrow Foundation and the Long Island unit of the Herb Society of America have entered into an agreement to plan and create a public herb garden on the Foundation grounds on Bay Road.

The Herb Society will provide the expertise, design the garden, and provide the plantings; the Foundation will provide the funding to build the circular brick walkway and a circular fountain, as well as the space for the garden.

The Long Island unit of the Herb Society hopes to enhance the grounds of the foundation and enlighten residents about the beauty, versatility, and usefulness of herbs. The garden will have a formal plan, with paths wide enough so that two people can stroll side by side, and the Morrow fountain at its center.

Marauding deer and dryness, two local challenges, will be addressed through special plantings, such as thyme, lavender, lamb’s ears and catmint.”



Karen's Bench



The Herb Garden at Post-Morrow

PROVOST AVENUE, BELLPORT

Liz Rosenberg of Binghamton, New York, donated a small parcel of land on Provost Avenue to the Foundation this year in memory of her beloved husband, David Bosnick.

“Liz Rosenberg is an American poet, novelist, children’s book author, and book reviewer. She is currently a professor of English at Binghamton University, and in previous years has taught at Colgate University, Sarah Lawrence College, Hamilton College, Bennington College, and Hollins College. Her children’s book reviews appear monthly in The Boston Globe.

Rosenberg was born on Long Island to parents Ross and Lucille Rosenberg. She grew up in Syosset, New York with her older sister, Ellen. It was her sister Ellen who taught her to read when Liz was only two. She and her father would illustrate and write books for their youngest. Rosenberg’s interest in poetry and literature started at an early age and her first poem came at eight. Rosenberg is a board member of Chabad House and Beds for Kids - which provides children with a place to sleep.” *(Taken from Wikipedia)*



Provost Avenue, Bellport

“David Bosnick was a teacher. For thirteen years he taught eighth grade English at West Middle School, and a yearly class in Literature and the Law for the Philosophy Department at Binghamton University. He co-chaired the drama program at West Middle School in Binghamton, writing and directing original plays. Sadly he died in Belfast, Ireland while on a Fulbright scholarship with no apparent warning.

“He was a man of exuberance, a man of faith, and he would exhort his students at the end of every class with the following “Go forth you angels of eighth, you wizards of West, you acmes, you geniuses ~ get out there and light the world!” *(Obituary; Ernest Parsons Funeral Home, February, 2014)*

“... the famous “East Indian fable of the mustard seed, reminds us that no one is immune to tragedy. A grieving mother goes to the gods in her despair and demands that her dead son be resurrected and returned. The gods agree – if she can bring them a mustard seed from a house that has lost neither child nor parent, spouse nor sibling nor friend. The desperate mother roams door to door, returning empty-handed – and with a new understanding of the inevitability of loss.” *(Liz Rosenberg, Replacing the Irreplaceable; The End, New York Times Opinionator, July 22, 2015)*

We are grateful to Liz for this generous donation to the Post Morrow Foundation.

VOLUNTEERS FOR POST-MORROW

From time to time we have various projects that we would welcome volunteers to assist our staff with. In the fall and spring there are cleanups and leaf raking. We do work at Edgar Avenue and other sites around the Hamlet. Additionally there are sometimes projects in the office where we could use some help. Please contact Flo Pope if you might be interested and she can help you schedule a visit to us.

AUTUMN BASH

The Post-Morrow Foundation held its Autumn Bash in September on the grounds of the Foundation headquarters. It was very successful! With the help of our supporters and friends, we raised \$39,000 towards the extension of the Ken Budny Boardwalk into the next phase, and the continuing stewardship of our properties.

We are very grateful to our supporters, all the folks that gave to our silent and live auctions, and of course all of you, who came to our party which drew over 150 friends and neighbors.



Enjoying the beautiful afternoon at the Autumn Bash.



Board of Directors of the Foundation from right to left: Tom Ludlam, Chair, Lynn Brown, Secretary (and Chair of the Autumn Bash), Bruce Wallace, President, Ginny Everitt, Treasurer, Tom Williams, Vice President.



The Crew behind the bar; Gary Brown, Ed Palace, George Von Bartheld, Peter Thobaben.



Jim and Pauline Hazard.



Flowers donated by the Hamlet Organic Garden and arranged by Ginny Everitt and Jane Tierney.



Bellport High School SEQ student volunteers; Abbie Veitch, Chiara Scharpf, Gabby Tims.



Ken Budny's Beetle Cat, donated by Helen Budny; the bid was won by a local sailor and the boat will sail from Squassux Landing as it has for many years.



Brookhaven Hamlet Raffle Basket



Copies of the trail/tour guide to the Hamlet were available at the Bash. There are still copies available at the Post-Morrow Foundation and make a nice gift to a friend or family member who is interested in the history of the Hamlet.



Plates painted by Dennis Puleston, donated by Robert and Deb Sack.

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Linda Wallace and Flo Pope at reception

LIVE AUCTION DONORS

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 Kathy Butler - Finest Fitness for Two
 Patrice Casanova - Poulet Chic Photo
 John DiNaro - Sea Eagle Sculpture
 Dave Ebner - Wild Edge vessel
 Malcolm Morely - New Acquisitions: Works on Paper
 Signed poster
 Dick Richardson - Duck Decoy by Wilbur Corwin
 Barry Rockwell - Smarties Glycee Print
 Maya Schindler - Untitled Painting

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES AND THE MONARCH FLOWER

(MILKWEED; *ASCLEPIAS SYRIACA*)

Guests at the Autumn Bash each received a packet of milkweed seeds. The Foundation has been planting milkweed in our meadows and fields to attract Monarch butterflies.

These seeds were provided to us by *Blossom Meadow* in Southold, www.blossommeadow.com

“Monarch butterflies eat nectar from flowers, just as other butterflies do. Butterfly mouthparts are made for drinking nectar. If you look at a monarch butterfly’s head, you will see its proboscis, a long “straw,” curled up below its mouth. When it lands on a flower, it can unfurl the proboscis, stick it down into the flower, and suck up the sweet fluid.

“If you’re planting a garden for monarch butterflies, try to provide a variety of flowers that bloom throughout the months when monarchs visit your area. Fall flowers are particularly important, as migrating monarchs need plenty of energy to make the long journey south. Monarchs are large butterflies, and prefer larger flowers with flat surfaces they can stand on while nectaring. Try planting some of their favorite perennials, and you’re sure to see monarch all summer long.

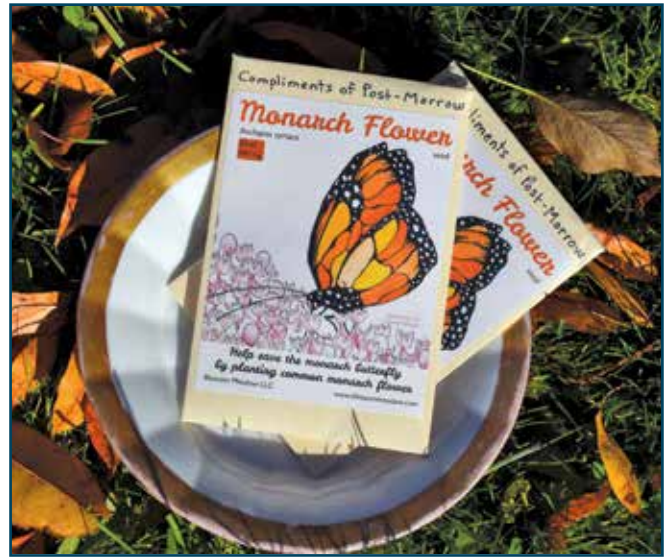
“Monarch caterpillars eat the leaves of milkweed plants, which belong to the family *Asclepiadaceae*. Monarchs are specialist feeders, meaning they will only eat a specific kind of plant (milkweeds), and cannot survive without it.

“Monarch butterflies gain an important defense against predators by feeding on milkweed as caterpillars. Milkweed plants contain toxic steroids, known as cardenolides, which are bitter-tasting. Through metamorphosis, the monarchs store the cardenolides and emerge as adults with the steroids still in their bodies.

“The caterpillars can tolerate the toxins, but their predators find the taste and effect more than unpleasant. Birds that attempt to eat monarchs will often regurgitate, and quickly learn that those orange and black butterflies don’t make a good meal.



An adult Monarch butterfly drinking nectar from a tithonia flower.
Photo: © Debbie Hadley, WILD Jersey



Seed packets of milkweed given out at the Autumn Bash

“Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) often grows along roadsides and in fields, where mowing practices may cut down the milkweed just as the caterpillars are feeding. Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is a showy, bright orange perennial that gardeners usually prefer for their flower beds. But don’t limit yourself to these two common species; there are dozens of milkweed varieties to plant, and monarch caterpillars will munch them all. Monarch Watch has a nice guide to milkweeds for adventurous butterfly gardeners who want to try something different.” (*What Do Monarch Butterflies Eat?*, By Debbie Hadley, <http://insects.about.com/>)

“The phenomenon of monarch migration in North America is well known and quite extraordinary in the insect world. There are no other insects in the world that migrate twice each year for close to 3,000 miles.

“Monarchs living east of the Rocky Mountains in North America fly south each fall, gathering in central Mexico’s Oyamel fir forest for the winter. Millions of monarchs gather

in this forest area, covering the trees so densely that branches break from their weight. Scientists aren't sure how the butterflies navigate to a place they have never been. No other population of monarchs migrates this far.

The Migrant Generation:

"The monarch butterflies that emerge from chrysalides in late summer and early fall differ from the previous generations. These migrant butterflies appear the same but behave quite differently. They will not mate or lay eggs. They feed on nectar, and cluster together during the cool evenings to stay warm. Their only purpose is to prepare for and make the flight south successfully.

"Environmental factors trigger the migration. Fewer hours of daylight, cooler temperatures, and diminishing food supplies tell the monarchs it is time to move south.

"In March, the same butterflies that made the journey south will begin the return trip. The migrants fly to the southern U.S., where they mate and lay eggs. Their descendants will continue the migration north. In the northernmost part of the monarch's range, it may be the great grandchildren of the migrants that finish the trip.

How Scientists Study Monarch Migration:

"In 1937, Frederick Urquhart was the first scientist to tag monarch butterflies in a quest to learn about their migration. In the 1950's, he recruited a handful of volunteers to help in the tagging and monitoring efforts. Monarch tagging and research is now conducted by several universities with the help of thousands of volunteers, including school children and their teachers.

"The tags used today are small adhesive stickers, each printed with a unique ID number and contact information for the research project. A tag is placed on the butterfly's hindwing, and does not impede flight. A person who finds a tagged monarch can report the date and location of the sighting to the researcher. The data collected from each season's tags provides scientists with information about the migration path and timing.



Monarch butterfly feeding on common milkweed

"In 1975, Frederick Urquhart is also credited with finding the monarch's wintering grounds in Mexico, which were unknown until that time. The site was actually discovered by Ken Brugger, a naturalist volunteering to help with the research. Read more about Urquhart and his lifelong study of monarchs.

Energy-Saving Strategies:

"Remarkably, scientists discovered that migrating butterflies actually gain weight during their long journey. They store fat in their abdomens, and use air currents to glide as much as possible. These energy-saving strategies, together with feeding on nectar throughout the trip, help the migrants survive the arduous travel.

The Day of the Dead:

"The monarchs arrive at their Mexico wintering grounds en masse in the final days of October. Their arrival coincides with *el Dia de los Muertos*, or the Day of the Dead, a Mexican traditional holiday that honors the deceased. The indigenous people of Mexico believe the butterflies are the returning souls of children and warriors." (*Monarch Migration, the Longest Repeat Migration in the Insect World*, By Debbie Hadley. Updated January 28, 2016.

Local varieties of Milkweed in a plug (small seedlings) form are available at the Long Island Native Plant Initiative located at the Riverhead campus of Suffolk Community College. www.LINPI.org. Each spring they have a sale of native plants and we recommend that you consider this as a source of Milkweed plants for your landscape garden (as well as other native plants, grasses and shrubs)

KEN BUDNY BOARDWALK

The Foundation has completed the first phase of the boardwalk over the marshland and along Beaver Dam Creek. The walk extends the woodland trail out to the edge of Beaver Dam Creek where residents can enjoy the calm presence of the Creek. Jim Hazard designed a trail sign from one of the old spruce trees that was recently cut down from in front of the main building.

One visitor called it the *High Line* for Brookhaven Hamlet. We invite you to walk and enjoy this spectacular walk along the creek.



A place to sit along the boardwalk

Sign designating the Ken Budny Boardwalk; by Jim Hazard

WEDDINGS AND EVENTS AT POST-MORROW

This year we hosted several weddings and events at the Post-Morrow Foundation. The grounds and Annex make a beautiful setting for such occasions. Flo Pope our Administrative Assistant (631-286-0686) will be happy to answer any questions, and help you make arrangements for your special occasion.



Tent on Post-Morrow grounds, fall 2016



Newlyweds 2016

THANKS TO OUR 2015 DONORS

*We are grateful to the following donors who gave to the Foundation in 2015.
Their assistance helps the Foundation maintain its effort to keep Brookhaven Hamlet and the surrounding area
in its natural state and to protect the environment as our legacy to future generations.*

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Fireplace Literary Club
Moriches Bay Power Squadron
The Agler Rice Family Foundation
The L.I. Herb Society
Long Island Master Gardeners
South Bay Art Association
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*Bald Eagle on Beaver Dam Creek –
Photo by Marty Van Lith,
October 2014*

email: Postmorrow@optimum.net
www.postmorrow.org

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GIFTS TO THE POST-MORROW FOUNDATION

A gift of any amount is most welcome and will assist us in our stewardship of lands and resources in the Brookhaven community.

We have included an envelope for your convenience or you can go to our website, www.postmorrow.org and contribute via the “donate now” pay-pal button.



New England Aster

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.