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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 2017

EDGAR AVENUE PRESERVE

The Post-Morrow Foundation has been working over the past several years to develop a native grass meadow at the Edgar Avenue Preserve. The field was initially overgrown with invasive plants, including wisteria, bittersweet vine, mugwort, mile-a-minute weed, Norway maples, ailanthus trees, and Russian olive among others. The meadow has been developed on about six acres of the eleven-acre Preserve. The remaining part of the preserve is still under landscape development.

The Foundation consulted Larry Weaner, founder of *Larry Weaner Landscape Associates*, a nationally recognized professional landscape design firm. He surveyed the property and gave us a plan for the development of the meadow.



Indian Grass (Sorghastrum nutans) at Edgar Avenue

Indian grass attracts birds and butterflies with its feathery plumes and golden seed heads. A native ornamental grass with an upright form and slender blue-green foliage, flowers stand on sturdy stems above foliage in late summer and darken to chestnut hues in fall. It is a dominant grass in the tall grass prairie. Fall color ranges from orange to purple. Drought tolerant and deer resistant, Indian grass is a host plant of the pepper-and-salt skipper. Birds feed on the seed and collect dried stems for nesting:

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/grass-and-groundcover-seeds/indian-grass-seeds>

continued on next page

EDGAR AVENUE PRESERVE *continued*

The Edgar Avenue Preserve has developed a healthy native grass meadow over the last few years. We are very grateful for the assistance of Dava Stravinsky of Bellport, a Master Gardener, and Owen Williams, field ecologist for the Fairfax County, Virginia Parks Authority, who helped to design and plant a mix of seeds that were acquired from Ernst Seed Company in Pennsylvania. The warm season grasses that have been most successful include big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and Virginia wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*). Other flowers that have been planted have not fared so well due to deer predation. We feel optimistic that other native flowers will work their way into the meadow.

According to the Massachusetts Audubon society, “Grasslands in the Northeast have provided home and sanctuary to grassland birds and other wildlife for many hundreds of years. In hayfields, pastures, and natural grasslands, birds such as bobolinks and eastern meadowlarks have raised their young, hunted for food, and returned each spring to continue this cycle. We are rapidly losing these and other grassland birds that were once a common and integral part of our countryside. As land use and agricultural practice have changed dramatically since the turn of the century, remaining grasslands have become smaller and isolated. With proper management, these small grasslands provide important habitat for some species of grassland birds.”

In addition to the Edgar Avenue Preserve meadow, the Foundation maintains two other meadows, one at Long Meadow Farm and one at the Burnett Lane Preserve. All three of these meadows are part of the Post-Morrow Foundation trail system and provide lovely walking trails in the Hamlet. Trail maps can be obtained at the Foundation headquarters, 16 Bay Road, Brookhaven.



Larry Weaner inspects the meadow



Owen Williams prepares the ground for the seeding of the meadow



Praying mantis in the meadow



Trail at the Edgar Avenue Preserve



Truax Seed Drill; The Peconic Land Trust was able to provide a seed drill to plant a diverse seed mix after the Foundation had cleared the land of most of the invasives



SEQ members: Maya McCullough, Abbie Veitch, Merwin Smith, Charles Olsen, and Chiara Scharpf with a Praying Mantis case (on stick) at the Burnett Lane meadow. These volunteers helped collect 40 praying mantis egg cases from the Burnett Lane field so that they would not be hurt during the spring cutting. They were then replaced in the field.

THE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE, (DENDROCTONUS FRONTALIS) HITS HARD AT POST-MORROW

The southern pine beetle (SPB) recently expanded its range into New York State. It has devastated areas of the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge, the Central Pine Barrens and other spots on Long Island including the Post-Morrow Foundation.

All pines can be affected by the SPB but the pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) are preferred species. The SPB burrows through bark into the cambium layer, infects the tree and overwhelms its defenses. It can take less than four months for this to happen. Prevention is difficult and the Pine Barrens Commission has been clearing and burning infected trees and their immediate neighbors in order to control the invasion. For further information you can contact the New York State DEC at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/99331.html, Cornell Cooperative Extension at http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/spbccearticle2.pdf or the Pine Barrens Commission at www.pb.state.ny.us

The Foundation has cleared and cut many infected trees in our woodland area but we fear that the remaining healthy trees may not survive. In order to combat this problem we purchased Long Island seed-sourced pitch pines from the State Tree Nursery in Saratoga, New York. We planted about 70 seedlings this spring. Many of them are staked so that you can see them along our woodland paths. We hope that these seedlings will grow and restore our woodland area.



Pitch pine seedling



Fairy House on the trail



Pitch tubes formed on tree attacked by SPB



Post-Morrow woodland – spring 2017 showing the destruction caused by the Southern Pine Beetle

STUDENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY RECYCLE AT BELLPORT HIGH SCHOOL

The Post-Morrow Foundation assisted SEQ to build a recycling center at Bellport High School. Abbie Veitch, past President and member since seventh grade, has led the club in their recycling efforts and her family provided the space in their garage for the recycling. Abbie graduated in June and attends American University in Washington DC, majoring in environmental studies. Before leaving for college, she wanted to establish a place at the High School for the program.

At a reunion of SEQ held at Jen Clement's home in Brookhaven, Abbie met Beverly Grant wife of Art Cooley, founding member of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and retired Bellport High School biology teacher, and who created SEQ in the 1970's. Abbie submitted a grant proposal to Ms. Grant's family foundation. They funded the project to build a recycling shed on the grounds of the high school. The Post-Morrow Foundation acted as the fiscal agent for the grant.



SEQ Recycling shed at Bellport High School: Tim Hogan, Principal of Bellport High School; Charles Olsen, past Vice President; Chiara Scharpf, President; Abbie Veitch, past President of SEQ

Principal Tim Hogan said "SEQ's efforts to recycle provide a great benefit to the school and because the students are doing it, it becomes more acceptable". We are grateful to the Grant Family Foundation for their generous support of this project.

ARDEA QUARTET EARLY MUSIC CONCERT

Ardea, an early music quartet, held a concert of mostly 16th century music in the Malcolm Fleming Annex this past December as a gift to the community and the Post-Morrow Foundation. Members of the quartet are Lawrence Lipnik, *viola da gamba*, recorder and voice; David Dixon, recorder; Diana Foster *viola da gamba* and recorder; and Deb Love recorder. Some of the musical selections were; *Canzone la Maggio*, by Florencia Maschera, *Sonate*, by Alessandro Scarlatti, and *Fantasia*, by Thomas Lupo.

The group complimented the very good acoustics of the Annex, and they hope to play again in the coming year. The concert was open to the public and the quartet encouraged donations to the Post-Morrow Foundation in lieu of a ticket fee. About 25 attended the concert. The Foundation was most grateful for the gift.



Ardea Quartet: Lawrence Lipnik, David Dixon, Deb Love and Diana Foster

CELEBRATE SUMMER EVENT ON THE BOARDWALK

The Ken Budny Boardwalk was officially opened on June 17th this year with a special event to celebrate the coming of summer. About 150 folks participated in the gathering to remember Kenny Budny and to enjoy the new addition to the Boardwalk. It now completes a trail that starts in the woods at the headquarters on Bay Road and then crosses the wetland marsh and returns along Beaver Dam Creek to the main property. We welcome all residents to enjoy and experience this beautiful trail.



Entrance to the Boardwalk trail



Enjoying the boardwalk



Reinhardt Schuhmann, Ellen Clyne, Annette Perry, Nick Delihias



Looking west on the Boardwalk



Gathering for the Celebrate Summer event

FRIENDS OF BELLPORT BAY

The mission of Friends of Bellport Bay (FoBB) is to improve the water quality of Bellport Bay through organizing, educating, and fundraising in order to succeed at the following:

- 1) support the new breach at Old Inlet
- 2) collaborate with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Brookhaven Town and Fire Island National Seashore to grow and plant shellfish in Bellport Bay
- 3) decrease direct pollutants into Bellport Bay by minimizing stormwater runoff into the bay, and
- 4) to educate and update the public on pollution mitigation strategies so they may help to reduce nitrogen pollution into the bay



Photo by Charles Flagg of the breach at Old Inlet looking north to Bellport Bay, September, 2017

FoBB hosted an event September 1st at the Bellport Village Community Center aimed at raising the consciousness of local residents on “best practices” for lawn maintenance. Edwina von Gal, a landscape architect from Easthampton, explained how homeowners can reduce pesticides and herbicides on their lawns and landscapes in order to help reduce nitrogen pollution in Bellport Bay. Ms. von Gal is the founder of the *Perfect Earth Project* that promotes toxin free lawns and landscapes.

(www.perfectearthproject.org)



Common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

Ms. von Gal recommends that we talk with our landscapers regarding the application of chemicals and ask them to work with us to reduce the use of chemicals in order to develop a healthy biome for our land. She suggested lawns be mowed high in order to suppress weeds and watered less often but more deeply. Pull weeds, do not spray them. In the fall leave the leaves and you can ask your landscaper to mow them and mulch them in to enrich the soil. She also suggests embracing diversity in your landscape, for example, love clover! You will provide a better habitat for pollinators that are so important to a healthy ecosystem.

In addition to Ms. von Gal, Ed Romaine, Supervisor of the Town of Brookhaven and Josh Slaughter, aide to Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning, spoke about the efforts of the Town and County to improve groundwater quality and

decrease nitrogen runoff into the bays and rivers. Suffolk County and Brookhaven Town are encouraging the installation of newly developed septic systems that greatly reduce nitrogen from household septic systems and from planned development communities. You can find out more about this program at the following website: (<https://apps2.suffolkcountyny.gov/ce/septicimprovement/>)

Charlie Flagg from Stony Brook School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences also presented an update on the breach at Old Inlet. He indicated that the breach is relatively stable and poses no threat to the bay or mainland. He suggested that it may eventually close on its own which is typical of these types of breaches. Dr. Flagg periodically flies over the breach and reports on the changes there. Go to: <https://www.somas.stonybrook.edu/2017/09/12/old-inlet-breach-flyover-2017-09-08/>.

FoBB is planning a follow-up meeting with landscape companies that serve the Bellport/Brookhaven area to discuss these practices with them and get their support for the effort to improve the water quality of the Bay. A booklet, *The PRFCT Yard Handbook* was handed out at the meeting and is available by contacting FoBB at; [BellportBay@optimum.net](mailto:bellportbay@optimum.net) or by contacting one of the Directors (Tom Schultz, President, Katia Read, Vice President, Mary Butler, Treasurer, Tara Kavanagh, Secretary or Sheila Malone board member). The website for FoBB is; friendsofbellportbay.org

AUTO BODY

Auto Body, described by the Parrish Art Museum in Southampton, as a “scrappy young art collective” held a reception on May 27 at the Foundation, 16 Bay Road for a sculpture installation by artist Evan Roberts called *Setting*. Roberts said that his work is meant to “explore and justify man’s place on the planet”. Roberts constructed several works in metal along the trail system and the boardwalk. A New York artist, Roberts received his BFA from Pratt Institute in sculpture in 2008. He writes that his work explores assumptions behind social mobility through painting, sculpture and site specific installations. <http://www.autobodybellport.com/>

Auto Body describes itself as “a curatorial group and creative platform started by a group of friends in 2014 that aims to engage and re-contextualize existing environments through the exhibiting of art works in unconventional and overlooked spaces”. Its members include Tyler Healy, Johnny Knapp, Aria McManus, Claire Read, Georgia Read, Will Rose, Quinn Sherman, and Charlie Stravinsky.



Evan Roberts, 2017 (photo courtesy of AutoBody)



Along the trail – Evan Roberts, May 2017



Along the Creek – Evan Roberts, May 2017

LONG ISLAND NATIVE PLANTS BOTANICAL DRAWINGS

BY DIANE BOUCHIER

An exhibition of Diane Bouchier's drawings of native plants was held at the Post-Morrow Foundation Malcolm Fleming Annex. It opened on April 4th as part of the annual meeting of the Bellport Garden Club. Ms. Bouchier works in colored pencil, capturing the delicate yet sturdy native plants in soft tones.

Diane Bouchier studied scientific illustration at Harvard's Peabody Museum and botanical illustration at The New York Botanical Garden, where she completed the certificate program.

Diane Bouchier is also the Founder of the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA), which has emerged as the leading international organization encouraging excellence in this art form in all media (www.asba-art.org).

She has taught botanical art and nature drawing for a number of different Long Island organizations, including presently at Gallery North in Setauket. A Stony Brook resident, she also offers public lectures on the history and contemporary revival of this artistic tradition.



New England Aster – drawing by Diane Bouchier



Diane Bouchier

STUDENTS 4 ARTS

Students 4 Arts once again graced the Post-Morrow grounds this summer. A program of the South Country Education Foundation, the program is designed to enrich the lives of students in the South Country School District; the Experience of Art offers an opportunity for them to experience the visual arts through mediums and techniques that are distinct from, yet complementary to those currently offered through the school district. (South Country Education website; <http://www.scefonline.org/students4art.html>)



MEMORIAL GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION

Rhoda Sparrow – 1916 – 2017

Rhoda Sparrow lived in Bellport nearly for 70 years. She and her husband Arnold H. Sparrow moved to Long Island in 1947 to work at Brookhaven National Laboratory and were pioneers in the field of radiation botany. She received a PhD in biology at Harvard. After Arnold died in 1976, Rhoda, who had retired, worked for over 20 years as a librarian at Bellport Memorial Library (now South Country Library). A gift was made to the Foundation by her family in recognition of their love for this community. The Foundation purchased a bench in memory of Rhoda and Arnold Sparrow which is placed overlooking Beaver Dam Creek.



Bench in memory of Rhoda and Arnold Sparrow

Anthony Drexel Duke – 1919 – 2014

A bench was donated by Awilda Mercado, Anthony Duke's longtime friend, companion and personal advisor. Anthony Duke, a Brookhaven Hamlet resident, was best known for his founding of Boys Harbor in Easthampton which provided a summer experience for underserved children from New York City. The agency flourished and became Boys and Girls Harbor expanding the program in the City and providing year round services for children. The bench is placed near the Annex overlooking the Herb Garden.

Rich Quinn – 1949 – 2016

Rich Quinn was an English teacher in the Patchogue-Medford School District for many years. He was a beloved teacher and

friend to many. One of his former students said about him; "Mr. Quinn was an amazing teacher. He was one that made an impact and a difference. A truly gifted educator, a warm spirit and a great sense of humor-he had all three in abundance". His great interest in the out of doors and natural history is reflected in the many memorial gifts to the Foundation in his name.

Gifts were also received in memory of *Mildred Lotko* and *Sylvia Norton*. The Post-Morrow Foundation is thankful to the family and friends who remembered these special people with a gift to the Foundation.

*Stone bench in memory of
Karen Rowley, donated by the
Herb Society of America,
Long Island Chapter*



THANKS TO OUR 2016 DONORS

We are grateful to the following donors who gave to the Foundation in 2016.

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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*Bald Eagle on Beaver Dam Creek –
Photo by Marty Van Lith,
October 2014*

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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.



Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta)

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 631-286-0686.