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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 Morrrows that this legacy be continued through the establishment of the Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.

Post-Morrow Foundation NEWSLETTER

volume 26, number 1

Fall 2023

CELEBRATE PRESERVATION

THE ART COOLEY MEMORIAL PRESERVE
AT
ORCHARD AND HEDGES ROAD,
EAST PATCHOGUE



On Saturday, September 2, the Foundation celebrated the acquisition of thirteen acres in East Patchogue, formerly the Bianchi/Weiss Greenhouses. Proceeds will support the mission of the Foundation to protect the environment and manage this Preserve. We are grateful to all our sponsors and the generous folks who attended the celebration.

(Continued on Page 2)

Mission Statement of the Post-Morrow Foundation:

To preserve and conserve the rural, cultural and historical character of the hamlet of Brookhaven and surrounding areas in Suffolk County, New York.

CELEBRATE PRESERVATION (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

THE ART COOLEY MEMORIAL PRESERVE AT ORCHARD AND HEDGES ROAD, EAST PATCHOGUE

SPONSORS OF THE EVENT

WHITE PINE

The Robert McCain Company

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Karen Gunkel



Flower Girls



*Sarah Landsdale, Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning and
Dominick Thorne, Suffolk County Legislator, 7th District.*



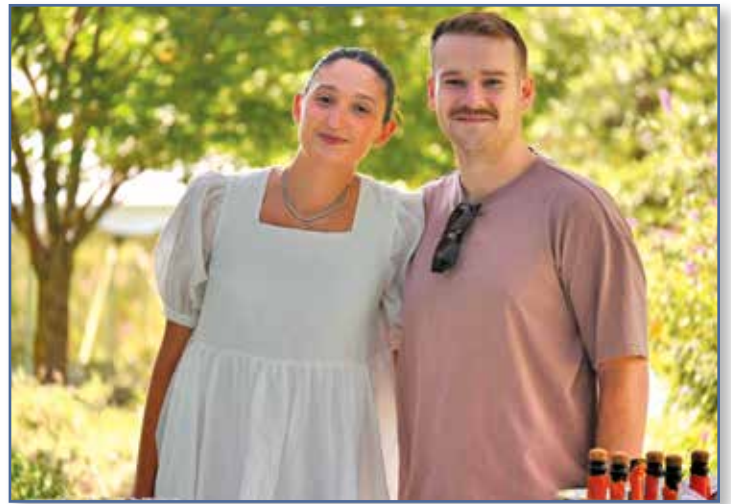
Music makers.



At the Celebration.



At the reception table.



Offering a glass of celebratory Prosecco.



Flowers thanks to the Hamlet Organic Garden.



Thanks to Jeff Masem, caterer.

THE ART COOLEY NATURE PRESERVE

BIANCHI/WEISS GREENHOUSES SUPERFUND SITE



Drone Photos by P. Wicik

Last year the Suffolk County Department of Planning and Economic Development approached the Post-Morrow Foundation to see if we were interested in assuming the ownership and management of thirteen acres in East Patchogue. The site is the location of the former Bianchi Orchid Greenhouse and was declared a superfund site 20 years ago. It has since been cleaned up by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and is now cleared for use as a passive preserve.

The Foundation purchased the property from the Suffolk County Land Bank February 17, 2023 and is making plans with the local community to create the property as a nature preserve. We are pleased to be working with the County and the community to maintain the property in a natural way with native plants and grasses.

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation the site requires a Site Management Plan (SMP) to be completed every three years. The plan requires the Post-Morrow Foundation to test the three monitoring wells



on the property. The DEC will be responsible for the monitoring of several sites down gradient from the property every three years. Post-Morrow has engaged the firm of Nelson Pope and Voorhis to do this monitoring. Accordingly, that monitoring has been done this year and the site is approved for “restricted residential use” and there are no signs of contamination. Thus, the Foundation has now been cleared to use the property as a passive nature preserve. We do not intend to put any structures there at the moment. We intend to mend where needed the fencing around the property, install gates for entry and create a path around the inside of the property. We further intend to maintain the native grasses and flowers within the site. It is expected that plans will evolve over the next several years as we work with the community.

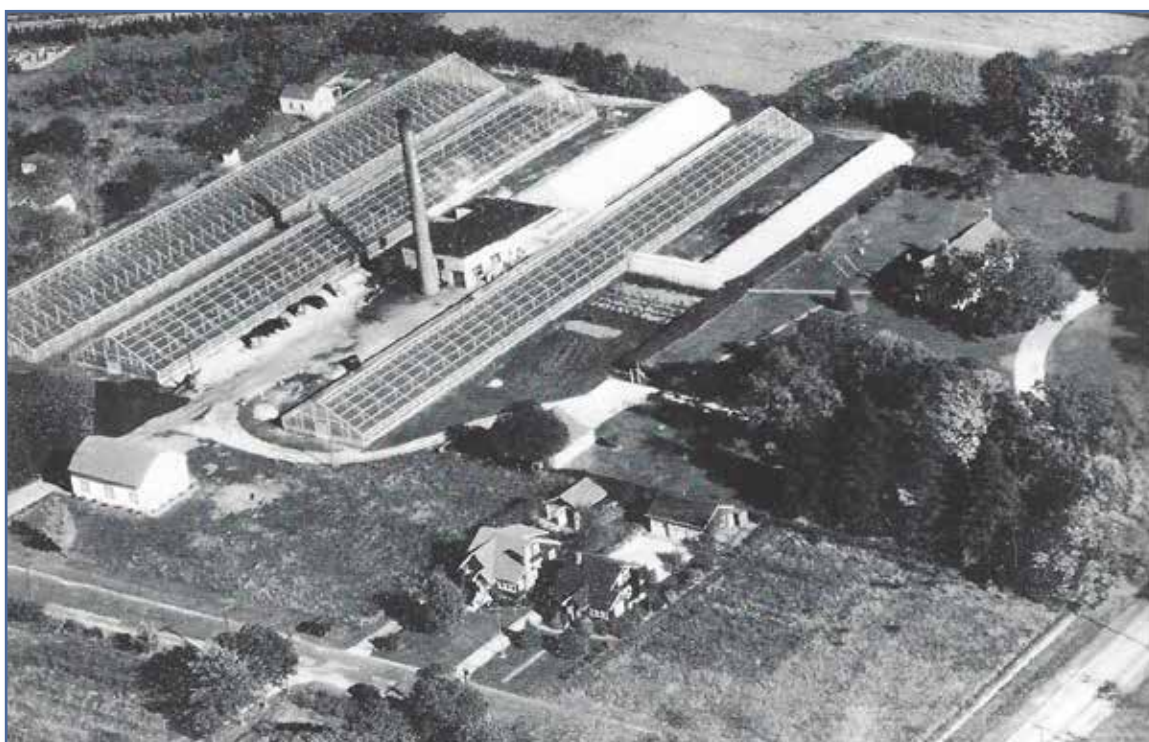
Thanks to the Suffolk County Land Bank, including Sara Landsdale, Janet Grelli, Mikael Kerr, Peter Scully, Joelle Greenland, Linda Shaw and others for all their help in making this purchase possible. And thanks to Suffolk County Legislator Dominick Thorne for his assistance in the project.

THE BIANCHI GREENHOUSES

“The business traces its start to Bianchi’s employment at the Hiscox Nursery next door. Eben Hiscox, his brother-in-law, started his nursery in 1915 just west of this property. After obtaining a loan from his father, Bianchi decided to start his own business in 1928. Bianchi began with roses at the seven-acre nursery, and by the 1940s, he was also producing gardenias, camellias, stephanotis, and orchids. In 1973, the greenhouses created a new cymbidium orchid. The new hybrid was developed over a period of seven years and was registered with the Royal Horticultural Society in London. The primarily yellow bloom was named the Patchogue.” (*Bellport Revisited; Images of America*, by Victor Principe)



Assemblyman Bianchi presenting the Rosalynn Carter Orchid to Mrs. Carter, Colonie Hill, March 21, 1980 (courtesy, Bill Bianchi)



*Bianchi Greenhouses in 1940 (from **Bellport Revisited; Images of America** by Victor Principe.)*

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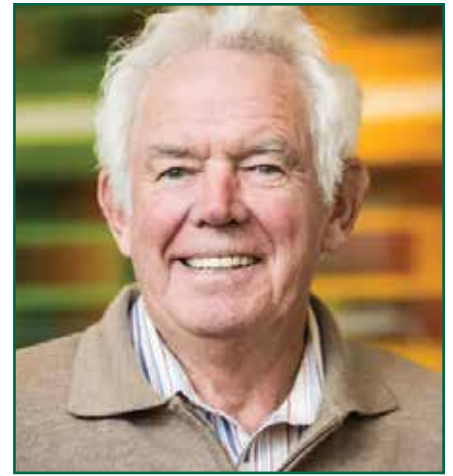
THE ART COOLEY NATURE PRESERVE

The Foundation, with the support of the community, has named the preserve for Art Cooley who lived in East Patchogue. Art was a beloved Science teacher at Bellport High School for over 30 years. He was part of a group of Brookhaven residents that founded the Environmental Defense Fund, now an international, environmental advocacy not-for-profit agency. As part of Art's legacy, he founded Students for Environmental Quality (SEQ) at Bellport High School, which has had a positive impact on the East Patchogue community and beyond.



Blue eyed grass

One of the first accomplishments of SEQ under Art's leadership involved "convincing the Dodge dealership on East Patchogue's Swan Lake that It should correct its polluting of the lake with what obviously was used motor oil. That eventual success is further appreciated today as the former site of the Dodge Dealership is currently a Town of Brookhaven Park." (Ron Rozsa, first president of SEQ, *The History of SEQ.*)



Art Cooley



Preying Mantis

SEQ and Art were instrumental in helping to pass the New York State bottle bill. Two of Art's students, Pamela Borg and Elizabeth Shreeve wrote *The Carmans River Story* which established baseline documentation for the passage of the Carmans River Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act that has served to protect the Carmans River since the 1970's. Art and SEQ worked with I. William Bianchi the New York State Assemblyman from this area at that time and who supported the bottle bill (1982) and the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act (1976) that protected Carmans River, establishing a link between the Bianchi family, this property, SEQ and Art Cooley.



Snag tree on the Preserve



Line of Locust trees



Blue stem and Indian grass, native grasses at the Art Cooley Preserve

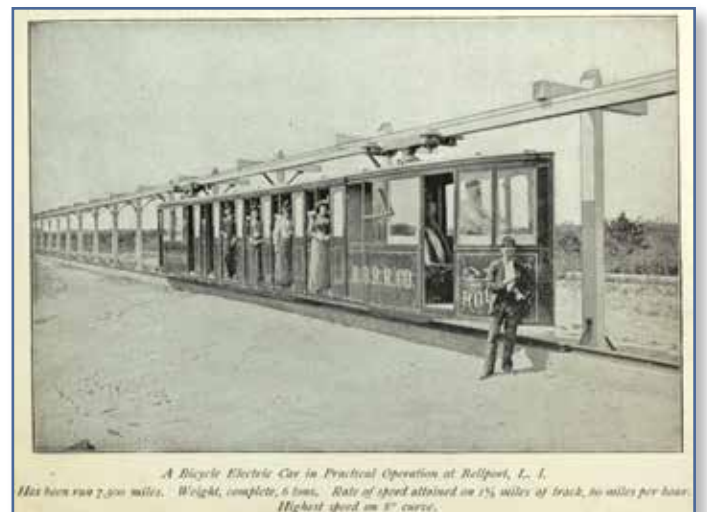
EAST PATCHOGUE

East Patchogue, sometimes referred to as West Bellport, sits between Patchogue Village and Bellport Village and has a most interesting history.

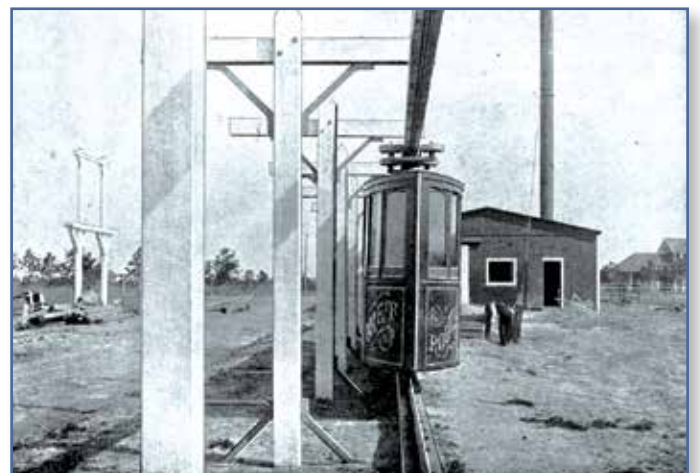
In the 1930's huge estates owned by the wealthy such as the Lymans, Durkee's, and Litts, were abandoned or sold, subdivided, and transformed into middle-class neighborhoods with names such as Patchogue Shores and South Country Shores.

“Despite it's steady development in the last decades, East Patchogue possesses great charm and beauty. For generations, it has been the home to large nurseries. An 1874 historical sketch described South Country Road “as a delightful road to drive over” The same is true today. The geography affords lovely vistas, and the many old houses and quiet distinction.” (*Images of America, Bellport Revisited*, by Victor Principe, 2008.

In 1884 Dunton Avenue was the path for a railroad that Frederick Dunton and George Hagerman used to build a “Bicycle/Monorail”. Running from Great South Bay to the Long Island Rail Road tracks on Montauk Highway, their vision was to create a complex system of rail transportation throughout Suffolk County as an alternative to the Long Island Rail Road. The turn in Dunton Avenue at South Country Road (that continues to this day) was to show how the Bicycle/Monorail could bank a turn and assure investors that it would work. Called the “Rocket”, the monorail could reach speeds of up to 60 mph. For a few years Dunton had a working prototype of his idea in operation but was unable to complete his plans due to competition with the President of the Long Island Rail Road, Andrew Corbin.



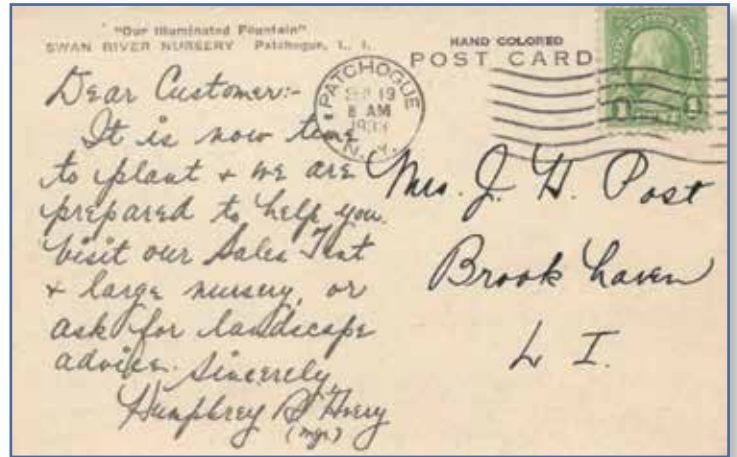
The Rocket 1894



Photos of the Bicycle/Monorail RR, courtesy of Joe Varsalona

The many nurseries in East Patchogue, including the Bianchi Orchid farm, were located along the Long Island Rail Road because it was nearby, and sometimes adjacent to, the nursery operation, coal could be delivered easily. Coal was instrumental in heating greenhouses so that the nurseries could operate year-round.

Along South Country Road there are several properties that reflect the farms and nurseries that have been there for many years. In August 2023, this year, the Town and County purchased the remaining 11.5 acres of the Avery Property Homestead. Dating back to 1752 this property once included land from Pine Neck to Blue Point. The property became the site of the Swan River Nursery in 1898 under the management of Charles W. Avery. Originally a very extensive property of over 200 acres at the intersection of South Country Road and Montauk Highway. The nursery property was owned by the Avery family for over 300 years.



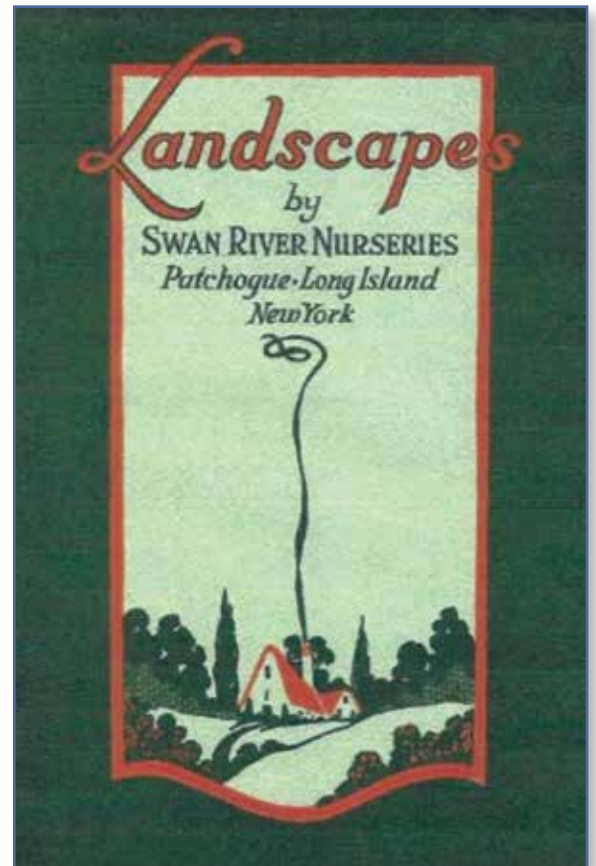
Post card from Humphrey Avery, the manager of Swan River Nursery to Mrs Post, reminding her to get ready for fall planting, September 19th, 1933.

The Miskoski family and later Doug Steigerwald owned The Long Island Flower Garden at 470 South Country Road which grew and sold flowers through 2016. The Durkee family developed their estate, which at one point was around 150 acres, along Durkee Lane and Southern Boulevard. Currently Bay State Flowers operates at 355 South Country Road. The Town of Brookhaven has preserved 10 acres of the former Orsinger family nursery on the corner of Union Avenue and South Country Road. E.L Whitbeck also had a nursery on Hewlitt Avenue and South Country Road.

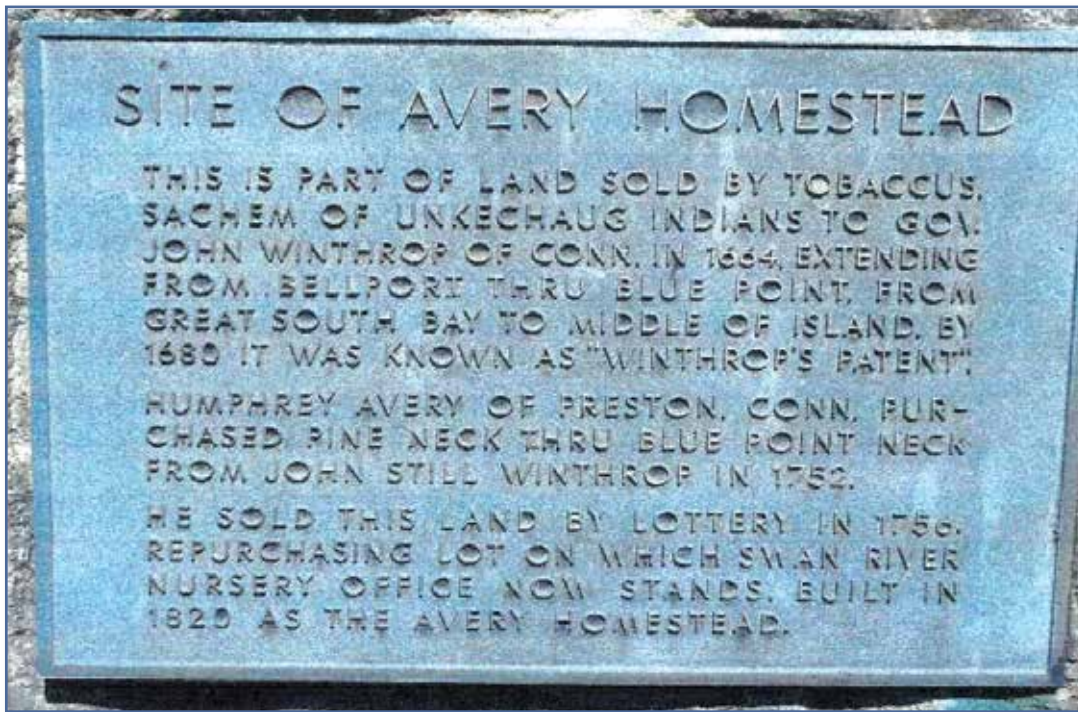


Bill Bianchi, the son of the original owner of Bianchi Greenhouses, and who worked in the company for many years said that he remembered a farmstand on the corner of Hedges Road and South Country Road owned by Charlie Willy. As a child he would go there to buy vegetables and fruit. On the south side of South Country Road, he remembered the Oak Park Nursery owned by Leslie H. McRobbie (who was married to Irene Lupton Avery) and which is now a residential development, Oak Park Estates. One can see many of the stately trees that were grown there, now on lovely residential properties.

While not on South Country Road directly, the Gallo Duck Farm on Gazzola Drive operated on Mud Creek which feeds Robinson's Pond on South Country Road. Suffolk County is now working on the Mud Creek Watershed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project; an approximately 50 acre park that will protect Mud Creek which eventually empties into the Great South Bay.



1930s brochure of possibilities from The Swan River Nursery 1898-1982 on the Avery property



Plaque on the Avery Homestead property in East Patchogue

POST-MORROW IN EAST PATCHOGUE

The Foundation first worked in East Patchogue to preserve the Fuoco Preserve on Hedges Creek at the corner of Dunton Avenue and South Country Road. Art Cooley had made a report to us about the wildlife on the property: "It looks like it had been cleared in this (20th) century..we saw only one warbler species, a yellow throat and heard one other which we couldn't find..There are muskrat and green frogs there and a male ruby throated hummingbird sitting on the top of a tree as if she were guarding a territory and a brown thrasher.. It is a nice woods that will only get better as it returns to an original condition. The stream has a good flow". The Fuoco family remembered that their father bought the property in 1951, that the property was well known for the strawberries grown there. They had memories of gathering water cress by the creek, and fishing for freshwater trout and perch in the clear waters that begin at Head of the Neck. (Post-Morrow Foundation Newsletter, spring 2000.)

The Foundation was successful in purchasing the property with the cooperation of the Fuoco family. It was subsequently purchased by the County and is now a county park of approximately 50 acres. The park lies adjacent to the Verne Critz Elementary School and South Country School District Administrative Offices.

The Foundation also owned a parcel on Abets Creek that was donated to the Town in order to transfer the waste water rights so that the Boys and Girls Club could build the building now on Patchogue Avenue in North Bellport.

We are pleased to be able to add to the preservation efforts that are happening in East Patchogue with the Art Cooley Nature Preserve, formerly the Bianchi Greenhouses.

A Copper Beech and a Ginkgo tree growing together in harmony on the corner of Hedges Road and South Country Road. They have probably been there for over 150 years.



PRESERVING THE GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF LONG ISLAND

[HTTPS://POSTMORROWGENEALOGY.ORG/](https://postmorrowgenealogy.org/)

Welcome to the Post Morrow Foundation Genealogy Website, your gateway to the rich tapestry of Long Island's familial history. Nestled within the digital archives of this foundation lies a treasure trove of genealogical records meticulously compiled and preserved over generations.

We invite you to embark on a captivating journey through time, tracing the roots of Long Island's diverse and dynamic families. Whether you're a passionate genealogist, a curious historian, or a descendant seeking to connect with your heritage, our database offers a comprehensive and invaluable resource. Discover the stories, connections, and legacies that have woven the intricate fabric of Long Island's past. Explore the Post Morrow Foundation Genealogy Website today and unlock the secrets of your family's history.

This website expands the scope of the original "Brookhavensouthaven" database created by John Deitz. As of October, 2023 we have over 44,520 individuals and 17,950 families. Almost 40,299 connect in some way to the Mrs. Elisabeth Morrow family tree. This new database adds to the work of John Deitz by including individuals' birthdates and marriages. We have also added their descendants and included individuals from the surrounding communities such as Bellport, Patchogue and Old Mastic. We invite you to be a part of our thriving community dedicated to preserving and celebrating Long Island's genealogical history.



STORY WALK

Brookhaven Free Library and the Foundation again sponsored the Story Walk. This year's story was *Who is the Beast* by Keith Baker. We are pleased to collaborate with the Library. Thanks to Rita Binelli.

POST-MORROW FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From right to left; Bruce T. Wallace, President, Ginny Everitt, Chair, Rebecca Kusa, Lynn Brown, Kathy Butler, Treasurer, Chris Schaeffer, Secretary, Matt Porter, Tom Williams, Vice President.



DANCE FOR SUNSET

Once again Fabian Bernal organized a Dance for Sunset at Post-Morrow. "Fabian is an artist and designer based in New York. His performance art curation aims to make the arts more accessible to diverse demographics as a way of building community". He is also the owner of Good Morning, Bellport, a floral and arts company dedicated to building community." (Program, *Dance for Sunset*, 8/26/23) Fabian is working with the Boys and Girls Club of Bellport to involve young students in dance.



Jones/Zane Dance Company



The performing dance group was the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company. "The company was formed in 1982 out of an 11-year collaboration between Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane. During this time, they redefined the duet form and foreshadowed issues of identity, form and social commentary that would change the face of American dance. The Company has performed worldwide in over 200 cities in 40 countries on every major continent and is recognized as one of the most innovative and powerful forces in the dance-theater world" (from *Dance For Sunset* program 8/26/2023)

Musical guest Devin Woodson singing *Feeling Good*, by Joel Corry and Nina Simone



Photos courtesy of Bill Steele

Birds flying high, you know how I feel
 Breeze driftin' on by, you know how I feel
 It's a new day
 And I'm feeling good
 And I'm feeling good
 You know how I feel

Sun in the sky, you know how I feel
 It's a new dawn
 It's a new life for me, yeah
 And I'm feeling good
 And I'm feeling good
 And I'm feeling good

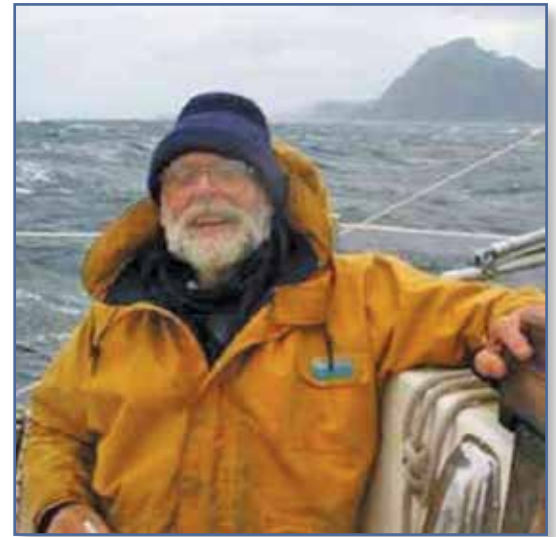
You know how I feel
 River running free, you know how I feel
 It's a new dawn
 It's a new life for me

Fish in the sea, you know how I feel
 Blossom on the tree, you know how I feel
 It's a new day
 And I'm feeling good



IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Eric Forsyth



Award-winning electrical engineer, sailor, and author Captain Eric Boyland Forsyth, 91, passed away on August 22, 2023, after a short illness. He was born in Bolton, England in 1932 and attended Bolton School. At Manchester University he joined the Royal Air Force Reserves, where he completed pilot training and became a fighter pilot. He moved to Canada in 1957, where he was then joined by his fiancée, Edith, an M.D. He and Edith were married in Canada, after which he completed his B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Toronto.

In 1960, he and Edith were both recruited to work at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, New York. After moving to Long Island, Forsyth obtained his master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Columbia University. His long and distinguished career at the Brookhaven National Laboratory included managing the Superconducting Power Transmission Project, serving as Chairman of the Magnet Development Committee for The ISABELLE Project, and finally as the Chairman of RHIC (The Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider). Forsyth led the team that designed the superconducting magnets used in RHIC, and his magnet designs were also the basis for the magnets later used in the Large Hadron Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known as CERN.

For this work Eric was presented with the Herman Halperin Award, the highest annual recognition by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers for power transmission research. Forsyth was also a Fellow of the Institution of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), a registered professional Engineer in Canada, and a chartered Engineer in the E.U. He was an acknowledged world authority on the application of superconductivity.

Eric had many interests including restoring vintage Bentley automobiles and driving them on road rallies. He built his yacht Fiona from a bare hull. Following his retirement in 1995, he sailed the Fiona nearly full-time for the next 20 years with many different crew members. Among his numerous voyages, he made two circumnavigations of the globe, cruised the Antarctic and Arctic regions, and traversed the Northwest Passage. Eric was a member of the Seven Seas Cruising Association, which awarded him the Seven Seas Award; the Cruising Club of America, which awarded him their prestigious Blue Water Medal, given annually to one amateur sailor worldwide, in recognition of his Antarctic cruise; and the South Bay Cruising Club of Long Island.

In addition to his well-received memoir about his ocean sailing experiences, Forsyth wrote and published three historical novels depicting the adventurous life of an RAF pilot in the turbulent 1930s and '40s as Great Britain gradually was drawn into war with Germany—*Wings Over Iraq* (2022), *Wings Over the Channel* (2022), and his latest, *Wings Over Germany*, published in May of 2023. He also shared his adventures with the worldwide sailing fraternity over the years by means of films, videos, and numerous magazine articles, most of which appear on his official website, www.yachtfiona.com.

Eric is survived by his son Colin, his daughter Brenda and her husband Robb, and granddaughters Fawn and Gabriella. He was preceded in death by his wife Edith in 1991.

Those who wish to honor Captain Eric Forsyth's memory are invited to donate to the Post-Morrow Foundation www.postmorrow.org, whose mission is to preserve and conserve the rural, cultural, and historical character of the hamlet of Brookhaven, New York.

(<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/eric-forsyth-obituary?id=53101557>)

Remembering Andrew Otis Gardner

Andrew aged 50, died peacefully surrounded by his family, in his home in Portland Oregon, on December 16, 2022, surrounded by his family, after a long battle with brain cancer. He was born in Bellport, New York, to Donald and Elizabeth Gardner. In high school, Andrew excelled academically, played trombone in the marching band, was a goalie on the varsity soccer team, and earned an “Overall Excellence” award, graduating in 1990.

Andrew first faced brain cancer in 1993 as a student at Macalester College in Minnesota. There, he majored in chemistry and was a goalie on the collegiate soccer team. The tumor was surgically removed, but Andrew had to relearn how to speak because of the operation. Remarkably, he graduated from college in four years. He then went on to complete a master’s degree in environmental health sciences at the University of Michigan.

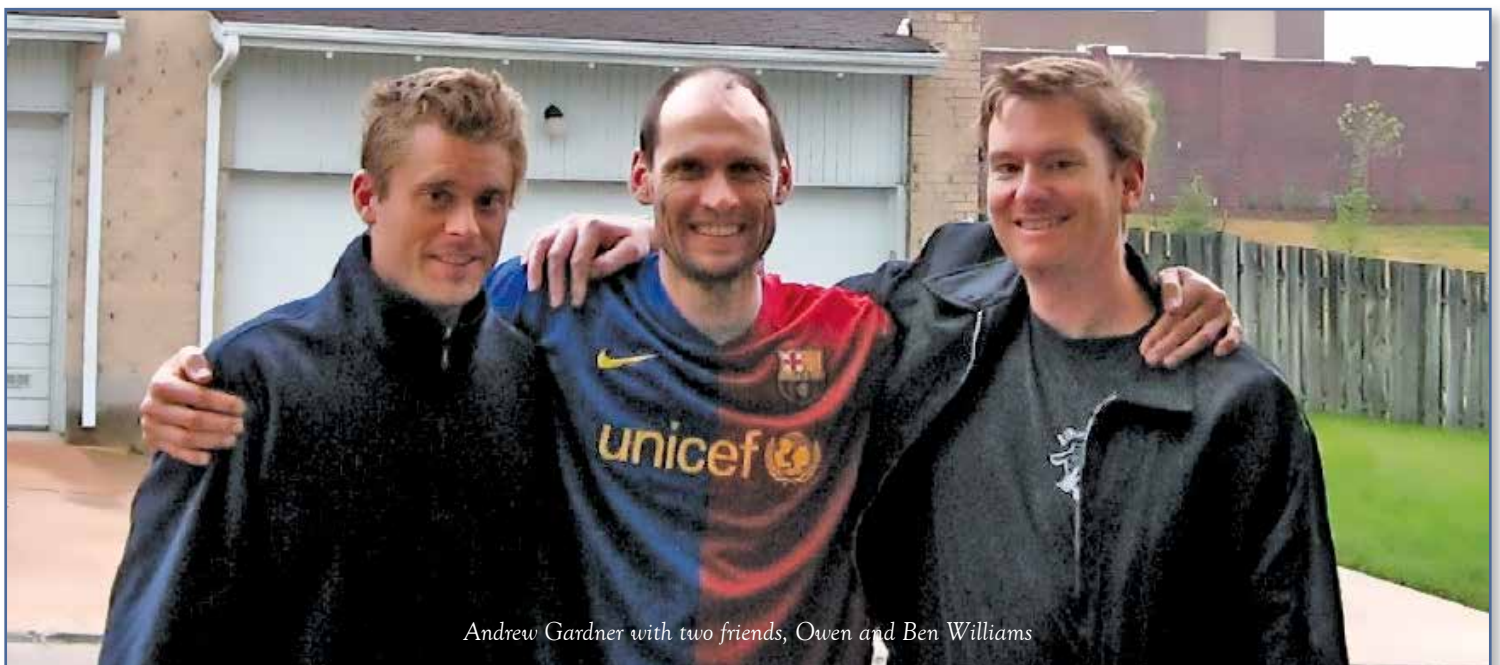
To his family and friends, Andrew was a gentle giant with a wickedly sharp, often obscure, sense of humor. He saw himself as a supporter, offering an ear, a hand, or a nudge to help others. He was an avid cyclist who encouraged people to ride and would make sure no one got dropped from a group. He cared deeply for the environment and would rather repair or make something out of things he had, than buy new. His incredible memory for history, politics, geography, sports, beer, music, movies, (just about anything, really) allowed him to connect to many with ease—and to often provide a much-needed crossword puzzle answer.

He loved the ocean and would often reflect while gazing at “the offing,” the visible swath of open sea that extends from just offshore out to the horizon. At home, Andrew was “Daddy” and head chef for his family (his roasted Brussels sprouts were the best!), supporting them through his wife’s long hours of medical training, and helping his daughter learn to bike, ski, and climb.

Andrew faced brain cancer again in 2009 and again in 2019. Sadly, in 2021, a new, more aggressive type of brain cancer grew in his brainstem. He underwent additional treatment, suffering several serious complications along the way, yet set his quiet goal on being present with his family and friends for as long as he was still living well, by his terms. He is survived by his wife, Ashley; his daughter, Aubrielle; his sister, Susannah, and her children Sophie and Max; and his father, Donald. He was predeceased by his mother, Elizabeth, in 2014.

Andrew lived life with this terrible disease so bravely, and for so long, without complaint. He is dearly loved and dearly missed. We wish him fair winds and following seas until we meet again.

(Long Island Advance, December 2022)



Andrew Gardner with two friends, Owen and Ben Williams

NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE POST-MORROW FOUNDATION

We are pleased to announce two new members were elected to the Board of Directors this year; Matthew Porter and Rebecca Kusa.



MATTHEW PORTER

Matthew Porter has been the Unit President of the Suffolk County Probation Officer's Association since 2015. He also served as a probation officer for Suffolk County since 1995. He tells us; "As a lifelong local resident of the Bellport-Brookhaven community, our future generations should be able to enjoy the rich history and beautiful landscapes that has been my pleasure to enjoy"

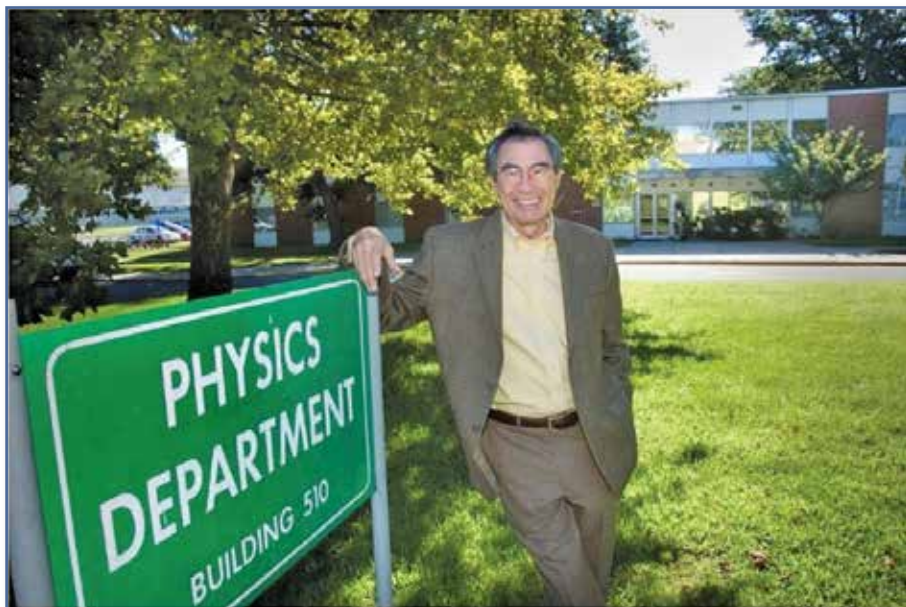
We thank Matthew for joining our board and bringing his love for the community to support our efforts to the Foundation's Board.

REBECCA KUSA

Rebecca graduated from Stony Brook University with a Master of Arts in Marine Conservation and Policy.

She currently serves as the Outreach Program Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy (Shelter Island, NY) where she Oversees recruiting, training, and management of a new, multifaceted volunteer program for Mashomack Preserve. She also Assists in the creation of educational programming in alignment with the preserve's Conservation Action Plan.

We are looking forward to Rebecca's strong environmental and technical skills to enhance our work to fulfill our mission.



THANKS TOM!

And we say goodbye to Tom Ludlam who has served on the Board since 1996. He has said he will be involved as much as possible and has already assisted us with our strategic planning effort. We owe him a great deal of thanks for all his good work as Board member and chairman for the past 10 years.

THANKS TO OUR 2022 DONORS

The Foundation is very grateful for the support of our donors this past year.

Rose Marie Ambrose
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Leila Atkinson
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Ira & Andrea Lipkke
Lech & Joyce Lipski
Jane Love
Tom & Connie Ludlam
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Paula Ludlow
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*Bald Eagle on Beaver Dam Creek –
Photo by Marty Van Lith*

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