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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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Fall 2020



The Post-Morrow Foundation is pleased that we have been able to keep our trails open this difficult year and going forward. With the Covid-19 Pandemic we have seen a marked increase in the use of our trails by our neighbors and residents of Bellport and Brookhaven. One newcomer noted that “We have Post-Morrow, a beautiful nature preserve, near our house. We go there on lots of long walks.” (NY Times, April 5, 2020 Scene City by Ruth La Ferla.)

(Continued on Page 2)

Our Trails are Open

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.

OUR TRAILS ARE OPEN (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

Many folks say how peaceful and restful it is to be on the trails and especially the Boardwalk along Beaver Dam Creek. Some have said they did not know we were here, and are so glad that they have discovered us. We offer a peaceful, mindful place for you to come and perhaps forget some of the difficulties this past year.

Our staff, Jim Hazard and Scott Budny have worked hard to keep the trails open. Hurricane Isaias presented us, along with the rest of the area, a challenge due to extensive tree damage. Our annex has generally been closed but can now be used by small group gatherings according to CDC guidelines. Flo Pope, our Administrative Assistant maintains a calendar of possible dates.

And so, we offer our trails and open space as a salve to all of you who have felt the pressures and anxiety of the past eight months. Please observe social distancing, wear masks, and be respectful of all of our visitors. Remain safe.



SPRING VISITORS TO POST MORROW

By Pauline Dubick-Hazard

Once upon a time during the Coronavirus last March, Jim Hazard our Facilities Manager fostered a family of Great Horned Owls that chose to nest in Post Morrow.

Jim arrived one morning in mid March to find an owlet on the ground in the driveway of a storage shed. It was a white ball of fluff about the size of a softball. He looked up in the trees and saw a squirrel's nest way up in an oak tree and suspected that it fell from there. Not knowing how to care for it, he called the Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue. They suggested putting a nest box nailed to the tree trunk as high as he could reach under the original nest. Using an extension ladder Jim nailed a milk crate to the tree and then placed the tiny owlet inside with a pink towel.

The Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Rescue consulted an owl expert who agreed to come examine the baby owlet. He found it to be uninjured and concurred with the recommendations in process. He thought the owl was about 6 or 7 days old. It was named "Driveway" because that's where it was found. It was suggested that Jim change the bedding if it got damp, which he did, and found droppings in the nest evident that the mother was providing food.

Sadly, on March 27 Jim found the owlet had died. Little Driveway is buried in the woods with a marker made by Pauline, Jim's wife. A local resident placed a bouquet of daffodils on his grave.

A few days later another larger owlet was found on the ground. This one was darker, and its feathers were replacing the white fluffy down. Jim called the owl expert and he promptly came with a tree climber to assist in raising the box nest higher on the trunk. Hope and excitement about this family returned once again. With binoculars they were able to find a third owlet in the original squirrel nest. While this activity was going on the owlet was chirping and the mother swooped down silently as if to attack, protecting her young. The tree climber quickly came down from the tree and the family calmed down.

Following that day, there were two windy, stormy days. Jim came every day to check the nest and would find the mother perched nearby. Once he found part of a fish and a rabbit under the box nest, evidence that the mother was still providing food. The day after Easter a severe storm with anticipated hurricane force winds threatened the owl family's nest. Jim found the mother inside the box nest with the owlet protecting it from the storm. Also, he found the 3rd owlet was safe in the original squirrel nest.

It took about 9 weeks for the owlets to mature from groundlings to flight. Visitors to Post Morrow observed the owls in the wooded areas for a few days and then they disappeared. Jim's sailboat is docked at the marina on Beaver Dam Creek. He went there to work on the boat and found owl pellets on the deck! The owls appear to have bonded with him and are occasionally seen by local visitors.

We were all delighted to experience this wonder of Mother Nature during this troubled time. Come and walk the trails and you might get a glimpse of a Great Horned Owl.



THE GREAT HORNED OWL

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* lives throughout the Hamlet of Brookhaven. We were graced with a family this spring which is described in the article by Pauline Hazard in this newsletter. You can hear them at night.

“With its long, earlike tufts, intimidating yellow-eyed stare, and deep hooting voice, the Great Horned Owl is the quintessential owl of storybooks. This powerful predator can take down birds and mammals even larger than itself, but it also dines on daintier fare such as tiny scorpions, mice, and frogs. It’s one of the most common owls in North America, equally at home in deserts, wetlands, forests, grasslands, backyards, cities, and almost any other semi-open habitat between the Arctic and the tropics.

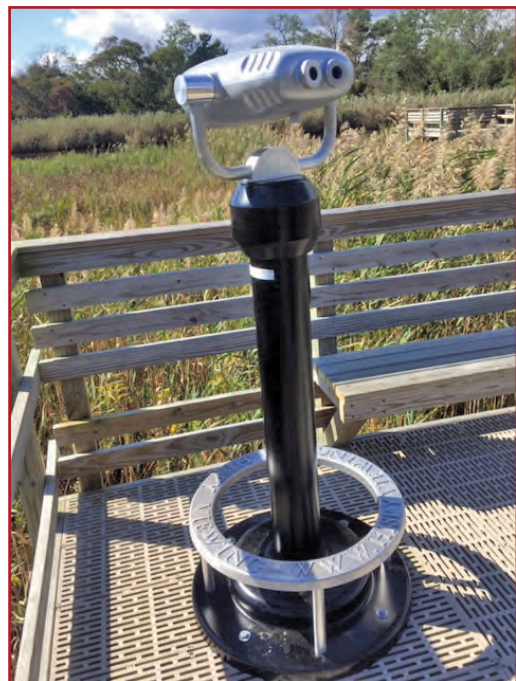


Great Horned Owl watching from her perch at Post-Morrow, photo by Jan Shannon

Great Horned Owls advertise their territories with deep, soft hoots with a stuttering rhythm: *hoo-h’HOO-hoo-hoo*. The male and female of a breeding pair may perform a duet of alternating calls, with the female’s voice recognizably higher in pitch than the male’s.” (https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Horned_Owl/sounds)

“Many owls roost in trees, often spending consecutive days around the same concealed perch and venturing out at night to hunt. A roosting owl commonly leaves visual clues to its whereabouts: a scattering of furry, oval objects on the earth below its perch. They are owl pellets.

Because owls often swallow mice, voles, small birds, and other prey whole, their digestive system has to deal with bones, fur, and feathers. The owl’s gizzard performs a kind of sorting operation: Soft tissues pass through to be digested, while indigestible sharp and hazardous bits like bones, teeth, and fur are formed into an oval mass. They pass back up the digestive system and are regurgitated as a pellet some hours later, often while the owl is at roost.



Quite a few other kinds of birds do this, from herons to hawks. Even swallows eject pellets of insect exoskeletons. But since owls don’t tear up smaller prey as a hawk might, the intact bones of an owl’s pellets offer a particularly exquisite insight into what it’s recently eaten. Students at all levels puzzle over them like forensic detectives, to learn hands-on about the food chain, animal anatomy, and principles of ecology.” (<https://www.audubon.org/news/what-owl-pellet>)

A Viewing Station

The Foundation has established a viewing station on the Boardwalk. Thanks to funding received in memory of Pete Motl, the Foundation has purchased a binocular that enhances viewing wildlife on the creek and in the marshlands. We are grateful to the many friends and family of Pete who made this possible.

CEED

(CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND DISCOVERY)

The Post-Morrow Foundation was pleased to host the summer program for CEED all in accordance with CDC guidelines for summer camps. The children went on hikes, conducted stream studies, and did seining in Beaver Dam Creek and at the end of Bay Road. They also were able to enjoy recreational programs all with the goal of developing an appreciation of the environment.

Some comments as reported by the Long Island Advance (LIA 8/13/20) included; "I loved the beach because seining was really fun and we caught so many big crabs". "My favorite part of camp was seeing all of the cool animals". "The camp was so fun and all of the kids were so nice to me". "My favorite part of camp was going to the water and going on the trails".

The camp was directed by Sally Wellinger, who is the newly appointed director of the not-for-profit group. CEED is restoring the Washington Lodge at 287 South Country Road creating an environmental center there for the community.

Photos by Patricia Paladines courtesy of CEED.



IN MEMORIAM

Isaac Rauch

Isaac Anderson Rauch died at twenty-nine of cancer on February 14, 2020. Born in New York City, he spent every summer of his life in Brookhaven and chose to live here his last year as he confronted the disease that would eventually take his life. An analyst specializing in municipal finance at Moody's Investor Services, he graduated from the Bank Street School and Friend's Seminary and earned a philosophy degree at Johns Hopkins and an MPA at Columbia. A man of humor and generosity, his greatest pride and joy was his ever-widening circle of friends. He loved to run through Brookhaven, walk the trails at Post-Morrow, and kayak on Beaver Dam Creek. Just as Isaac took pleasure and solace in the landscapes preserved by the Post-Morrow Foundation, his family is grateful to be able to remember him in a place he loved. (Courtesy of the Anderson/Rauch family)

We are grateful to the Anderson/Rauch family for their generous contribution to the Post-Morrow Foundation to remember their son Isaac Rauch. This will help the Foundation keep the boardwalk and trails in good condition and maintain them for generations to come.



BROOKHAVENSOUTHHAVEN.ORG

We are happy to announce that John Deitz has very generously donated his website to the Post-Morrow Foundation so that it may continue into the future. This website is used by historians and those looking for family ties and long ago relatives.

As Marty Van Lith, Brookhaven Hamlet Historian, said of the website and its importance to the community: *"Of all of the efforts that were ever made to uncover and document the 350-year history of The Fire Place, no one has come close to the hundreds of hours and many years that John Deitz dedicated to this undertaking. I can't think anyone else who could have done a more thorough and articulate job of recording our rich and diverse history – a huge gift to our hamlet and to future generations.*

John's BrookhavenSouthHaven.org website, which John financed himself, was itself a technical challenge, started at a time 20 years ago when websites were a new thing. His website has grown to thousands of pages of well-researched genealogy, historic structure inventory, photographs, and, as per John himself: "... brief 'sketches,' research projects, newspaper clippings, first-hand accounts, etc., on the 'history' of Brookhaven & South Haven Hamlets. It's more or less an on-line 'scrapbook.'"

On the front page of the website John notes that "During much of the 19th century, Brookhaven was known as Fireplace; but this name has not been used since 1871 when it officially became Brookhaven. Because the hamlet is in the Town of Brookhaven, there is regular confusion between them—". There are many entries on historic sites, family genealogy and subjects relating to the history of the Brookhaven and Southaven communities. Here is one of the entries about the McKeown family.

The McKeown Sisters at Valentine's Brook

This photograph is said to be of the three McKeown sisters – Anna, Elsie, and Bertha, all of whom grew up on Bay Avenue in Brookhaven. Bertha, the youngest, is in the foreground. Their parents were William and Anna Knies McKeown. It is said that the picture appeared in Harpers Magazine early in the 20th century. The location is the "goin' over" of South Country road at Beaver Dam Creek, looking west.



ROBINSON DUCK FARM WATERFOWL PROJECT

Early Success followed by Deer and COVID-19

By Craig Kessler, President LIWHG

The Long Island Wildfowl Heritage Group, Ltd., requested our support for an innovative waterfowl research project to be conducted on retired farm ground on the Robinson Duck Farm County Park. With the authority of the Suffolk County Parks Department and working in cooperation with the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), Craig Kessler President of the LIWHG contracted with local farmer Ken Glover to plant 10 acres of field corn in the spring of 2018. Prior to that, this acreage laid fallow for some 30 years and had become colonized by mugwort and other invasive species of little to no value. Therefore, initial rationale to the County was to take part of this passive use park and convert these 10 acres into something that would benefit wildlife, in this case the nearby waterfowl populations that are found in both Southaven Park and Wertheim NWR.



Robinson Duck Farm County Park, photo by Jen Clement

The management technique to be employed was to grow this field corn, a recognized winter food frequently used by several waterfowl species, and rather than harvest this corn, as would normally be done, allow the entire crop to be chopped and left on the ground once waterfowl hunting seasons were concluded at the end of January. This technique was monitored during February and March 2019 by a Master's Degree candidate, Aidan Flores, from ESF. The corn was cut in two five-acre cuts, one in February and one in early March. Scientific calculations were made by Aidan as to the yield and the commensurate response by waterfowl that came to the field in search of the corn. The target species was the American Black Duck, while we of course recognized that numerous other wildlife would benefit, including several other duck species, Canada geese, as well as turkeys, deer, and smaller wildlife. We of course do not necessarily seek to benefit deer, turkeys or geese but this comes with the territory.

In that year, I would summarize that the project worked to a tee. Within two weeks of the initial cut the birds had found it and we attracted on average 250 ducks nightly. The ducks came to feed at approximately dusk, but it was easy to observe and record the numbers of ducks coming from the north, presumably Southaven, and from the south that being Wertheim or farther points out on the bay. Based on the response that was recorded on a similar test plot in Orient in Years Two and Three, I would have projected the response by waterfowl to increase 2-3 fold, or 500-1000 birds nightly.

Unfortunately, that did not come to pass, as in year two, Spring of 2019, the crop was planted too late in June and the green shoots were completely decimated by the deer population to the point where there was not a single mature corn plant. Well, we had that all figured out and ready to plant corn by May 15 in Spring of 2020 and then COVID-19 hit. This may sound odd, but we all know that it has taken a toll in many ways. For us it involved the uncertainty of whether Grad Students would be allowed to come to LI, the difficulty of dealing with the various County personnel who were not working full-time and quite frankly a decrease in available revenue for the LIWHG as a whole. Hopefully, we will be back with a corn crop in May of 2021. I look forward to keeping you informed.



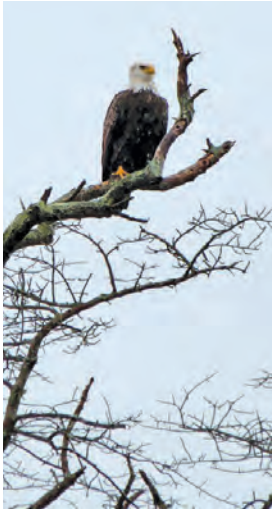
Mallards coming into cut corn February 2019.

(editor's note: The County of Suffolk purchased this land through its open space program in 1991)



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

*****ECRWSS***
 POSTAL PATRON**

email: Postmorrow@optimum.net
www.[postmorrow.org](http://www.postmorrow.org)

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— GIFTS TO THE POST-MORROW FOUNDATION —

The Post-Morrow Foundation did not hold a fundraiser this year and so this is our only appeal during 2020. We are very appreciative of your support.

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.



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.

The Brook Store, South Country Road, Brookhaven Hamlet