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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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Summer 2011

MARIST BROTHERS PROPERTY

For the last three years the Foundation, The Town of Brookhaven and Suffolk County have been working to preserve the remaining nine acres of Marist Brothers property along South Country Road in the Hamlet. Finally this spring, this lovely property will be preserved for the community. It is anticipated that there will be some trails in the property and that some of it will be maintained as an open meadow. This property lies within the Beaver Dam Creek watershed, and is a vital natural resource. The Foundation has been aggressively pursuing the protection of this important creek for many years.

The house, known as Washington Lodge, and two acres will be owned by the Town and the Foundation, while the surrounding seven acres will be owned by the Town and the County. The Foundation will secure the house and property for one year, in order to determine whether there may be a productive use for the building. As of now, there is no such use proposed. It may become necessary to remove the structure in the future. The Town and Post-Morrow Foundation purchased the property to preserve the land and do not have the resources to maintain the building.

We are pleased with this partnership which also included many community residents who contributed to the Foundation in order to make this project successful. (Please see list on page 3)

continued on next page



Above is pictured an Eastern white pine, one of many beautiful trees on the Marist property. It is anticipated that there will be trails on the property open to the public.

MARIST BROTHERS PROPERTY *continued*

This property was originally owned by a merchant from New York City, and then by the entrepreneur George Constant Washington. Mr. Washington invented instant coffee at the time of the First World War so that soldiers on the battlefield could have hot coffee. He later sold the patent to the SANKA Company. Most recently the property has been owned by the Marist Brothers who had originally purchased the thirty-four acre property for a school.

Brother Gerard Cormier a Marist Brother, recounts the following history.

“The Marist Brothers bought this property in 1962. The 32-acre piece of land was going to be the ideal size and location for a new school, but the bottom fell out of the Catholic school trend soon afterwards so we decided to keep the property for our Brothers, especially for the summer months, when a good number of our Brothers were teaching summer school and had nowhere to go to let off steam. A busload of Brothers would arrive every Friday afternoon and leave each Sunday evening.

We allowed the Bay Community School to occupy the property during the school year. This school lasted about 15 years. About the same time the Bay Community School closed its doors, three Brothers were ending their previous assignment and decided to take over and make over the Bellport House. The last remaining of these three to occupy this house is Brother Gerard.

Brother Gerard Cormier is a Marist Brother who has devoted 43 years of his life to teaching High School, the last thirteen years of his career, teaching art. Marist Brothers are a teaching order, active in almost every country of the world. In the United States, they number about 200, teaching in colleges and high schools in several states.

When it was time to live in Bellport, and for the next 20 years, Brother Gerard spent his spare time painting and making furniture. His art was enriched by the beautiful landscapes and seascapes of Brookhaven and Bellport. He treasures the time spent in this area and for the many friends he has made. He will take all of his memories with him to his next residence in Queens.”

By Brother Gerard, courtesy of Chris Taylor and LuAnn Thompson.

In December of 2010, representatives from Suffolk County, the Town of Brookhaven, the Post-Morrow Foundation and the local community gathered on the site for a press conference to highlight this prospective purchase.

Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning commented, “The Post Morrow Foundation has worked tirelessly to



A grand old Silver Beech on the property

preserve this important watershed. The organization approached me two years ago about executing a public-private partnership and I knew it was a win-win proposal. I am thrilled we were able to get the deal done so that we can preserve this important watershed for future generations.”

“The Post-Morrow Foundation is very pleased that Suffolk County has been able to purchase the Marist Brothers property here in Brookhaven Hamlet,” stated Tom Williams on behalf of the Post-Morrow Foundation. “For many years we have felt this property was an important piece to be protected. It is part of the Beaver Dam Creek watershed and acts as a gateway to the Hamlet. Protection of the Marist Brothers property serves as further insurance that the Creek and important open space in this environmentally sensitive area will be forever preserved. We thank the County and Town, especially Kate Browning and Connie Kepert for partnering with the Foundation to make this important acquisition of land a reality.”

Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Connie Kepert said, “When the members of the community and the Post-Morrow Foundation came to me with their plans for the parcel, the benefits for the community and environment were clear. When I learned the purchase of the property would be a collaborative effort between my office and Legislator Browning’s office, I had no doubt that this was an excellent use of the Town’s preservation funds.”

Seven and a half acres will be acquired by Suffolk County, which is paying seventy percent of the purchase price, while Brookhaven Town is covering the remaining thirty percent. Brookhaven Town is also paying sixty-two percent on the house and two acre purchase, while Post Morrow is paying the remaining thirty-eight percent.

MARIST BROTHERS PROPERTY *continued*

“The Foundation applauds the assistance of the county and town with the preservation of this site from future development as it continues to protect the rural character of Brookhaven Hamlet,” said Bruce Wallace, President of the Post Morrow Foundation.

The property is directly north of South Country Road and in close proximity to the Dennis Puleston preserve and Deer Run Farm to the south, both of which were also County assisted preservation projects. This acquisition in which the land is preserved and the watershed protected, also solidifies the rural country-like character of the hamlet.



Pictured at the Marist Brothers property: Ken Budny, Bruce Wallace, Councilwoman Connie Kepert, Tom Williams, Marty VanLith, Patricia J. Trainor, Suffolk Legislator Kate Browning, Jen Clement, Ron Kinsella

We are very grateful for the many donors who contributed to assist the Foundation with the purchase of this property. We have listed them below.

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Alweis, Robert & Tammy | Graves, Anthony | Parker, Angelika & Clyde |
| Antos, Jack & Barbara | Hamilton Hawkes, Mary | Pettit, Diane |
| Apfel, Robert & Jai Imbrey | Hansen, Beth | Podgorsky, Barry & Greg Lhotsky |
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| Bleser, Edward & Carol | Heitner, Michael & David Brown | Read, Howard & Katia |
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| Dickensen, Matt/Roshon, Maer | McChesney, David & Jan | Tighe, Kelly plus one |
| Everitt, John & Ginny | Meinhold, Charles & Anne | Tripp, James & Caroline |
| Fleming, Kathy | Morley, Malcolm & Lida | Van Lith, Marty |
| Fletcher, Anna Lou & Frederick | Morrissey, Maureen | Varney, Fred & Marna |
| Friedman, Morton & Laurie | Motl, Pete | Wallace, Bruce & Linda |
| Galligan, David & Deborah | Murray April | Williams, Graheme & Gail |
| Glauberger, Lloyd & Nancy | O'Neil, Thad | Williams, Tom & Ellen |

EDGAR AVENUE



SEQ students placing markers for proposed path at Edgar Avenue



Edgar Avenue south of Jared's Path

The Foundation held a community meeting last year to present proposed plans for our nine acre property along Edgar Avenue. After incorporating this feedback into an updated plan, the Foundation has removed the invasive Wisteria vines and re-seeded the property to create more open spaces. Currently we are developing a trail system around the property with the

assistance of Students for Environmental Quality, led by William Corbett a science teacher from Bellport High School.

The Concept Plan developed by Landscape Architect Kyo Matsumoto shown here, incorporates local input with the Foundation's vision for an open walking path in a naturalistic, park-like setting.

Concept Plan for Edgar Avenue property



CARMANS RIVER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Tom Williams, Foundation Vice President, was one of many members of the Town of Brookhaven's planning committee to develop a comprehensive protection plan for the Carmans River. Other members included Town and County officials, representatives from the building trades and environmental groups. The draft plan was presented to the Town Council in March of 2011 and a public hearing was held in April. The Plan is now being studied and considered by the Town Council and a Generic Environmental Impact Statement will be conducted according to law.

The plan calls for an extension of the Pine Barrens core area to include more of the river corridor, protection of native plant and animal species that rely

on the river for survival and restoration of degraded sites and other violations. The plan also calls for an overlay district that will impose development restrictions and it calls for the transfer of development away from residential and open space areas within the watershed to already-developed commercial centers.

It is the hope of the Foundation that this beautiful, scenic river will remain pristine through the decades and be a legacy for generations to come.

The full plan can be seen on the Town's website: <http://www.brookhaven.org/Departments/PlanningEnvironment/Planning/CarmansRiverConference.aspx>

NEW BOARD MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome Lynn Brown to the Board of Directors of the Post-Morrow Foundation. Lynn is a life-long resident of the area and lives in Brookhaven Hamlet with her husband, Gary Brown. Her three daughters, Christen, Erica and Nicole, attended Bellport High School. (Erica, a former member of SEQ at Bellport High School, will be working this summer at the Fire Island National Seashore.) Lynn has been very active with the Brookhaven Village Association and leads the Hamlet tree planting program.



WETLANDS RESTORATION

Phragmites australis is an invasive species of tall marsh reed that has overwhelmed much of the wetland area along Beaver Dam Creek and Carmans River. Several years ago the Foundation embarked on a restoration plan for several acres of wetlands that had been destroyed by dredging many years ago. This project at the end of Clover Lane was done under the leadership of Ducks Unlimited and involved the physical removal of *Phragmites* and removing dredge spoil in order to enable *Spartina alterniflora* and *Spartina patens*, both native species, to return and create healthy wetlands.

The current restoration involves Post-Morrow property further north on the east side of the Creek. About ten acres of tidal wetlands has been treated by spraying an herbicide called “Aquamaster”, an EPA approved product for this purpose. The treated wetlands have been subsequently mowed by *Innovative Mosquito Management, Inc.* from Madison Connecticut, with the “Marsh Master II” fitted with a brush hog mower deck. The Foundation has worked closely with



Wetland area along Bay Road. The sign indicates that the area is part of the Post-Morrow wetland restoration project. To the right is “Black’s Pond”.

the Town Department of Environmental Protection and the New York State DEC to secure all necessary permits.

A second treatment is scheduled for the fall of 2011 and further mowing of the treated stands will take place three to five months after treatment. After that it is hoped that only spot treatments of isolated *Phragmites* that might remain will be needed.

The Foundation hopes to develop some walking trails along the bank of the Creek which has been opened up through this mitigation project.



“Marsh Master II” mowing *Phragmites* along Beaver Dam Creek

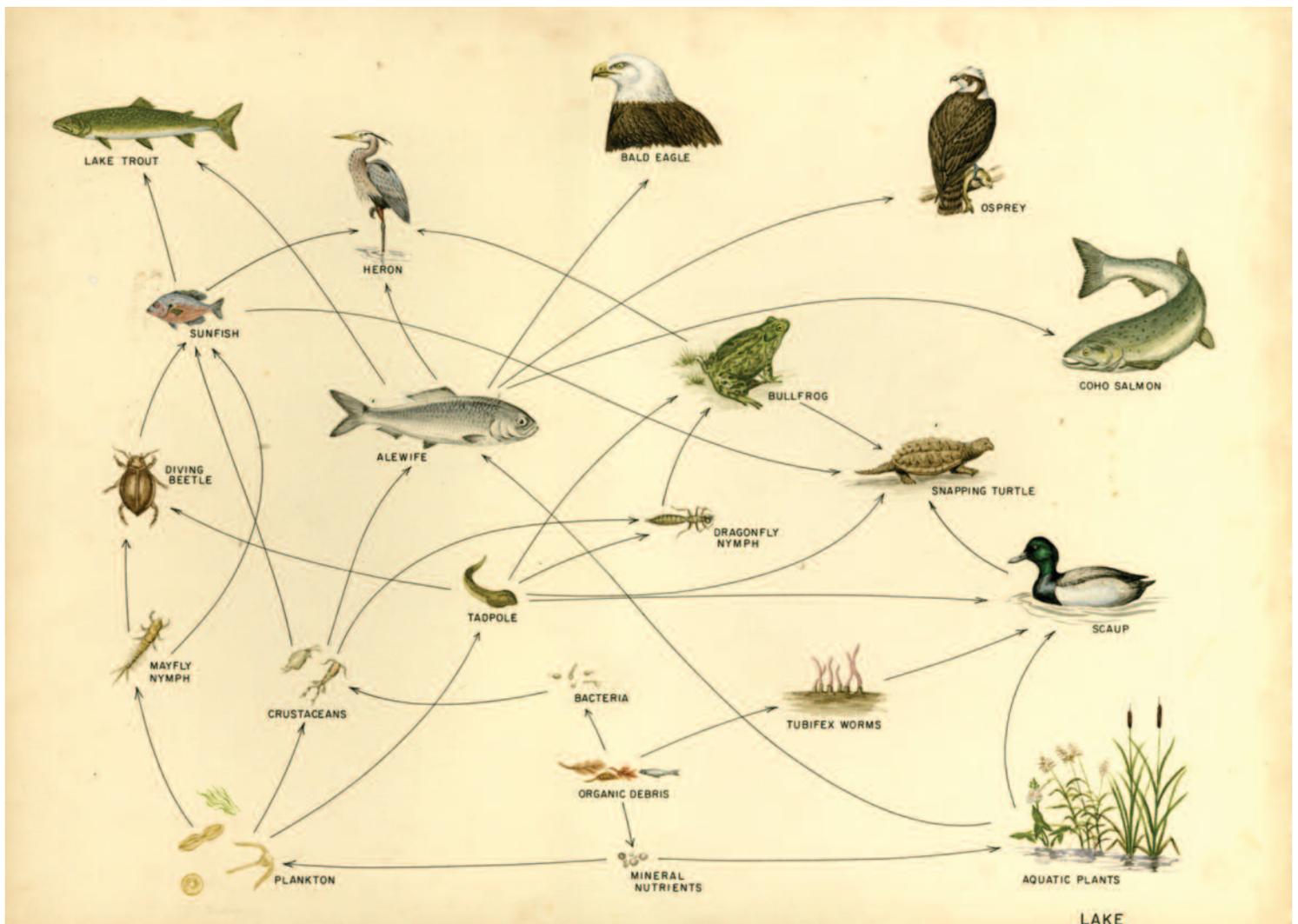
DDT AND THE RIVER

In researching the history of the river for the Carmans River plan we recalled the incident that helped to create the Environmental Defense Fund, an internationally respected environmental advocacy group.

In 1965, the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission was seen dumping DDT into the river, resulting in a very large fish kill. A lawsuit was brought against the County Commission by a group of local concerned scientists and environmentalists, including Dennis Puleston and Dr. George Woodwell, of the Hamlet; Dr. Robert Smolker and Dr. Charles Wurster, scientists from Stony Brook; Tony Taormina from NYS DEC; Art Cooley, a science teacher at Bellport High School, and a local lawyer, Victor Yannacone.

As part of the lawsuit, Dennis Puleston, a local Brookhaven resident, well known naturalist and artist and one of the original board members of EDF, drew charts showing how DDT entered the food chain and ended up contaminating wildlife. (DDT was found by Dennis to be the cause of the near extinction of the Osprey population in the United States. DDT thinned the shell of the Osprey eggs so that they were not viable).

Shown here is one of those charts showing how DDT becomes more concentrated as it travels up the food chain.



Lake; Exhibit #1, New York State Supreme Court, December 5, 1967, Drawn by Dennis Puleston, Courtesy of Jen Clement.



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— GIFTS TO THE POST-MORROW FOUNDATION —

The PMF newsletter is our one annual request to the community for support for the Post-Morrow Foundation. Like many not-for-profit agencies, the Foundation has suffered through the economic crisis of the last three years. Any assistance is most welcome and will assist us in our stewardship of lands and resources that protect Brookhaven.

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.



Spring in Brookhaven

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.