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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

volume 5, number 1

Summer 2001

—THE BURNETT LANE NATURE PRESERVE—

The Post-Morrow Foundation, the Thorofare Foundation and the Town of Brookhaven have joined with the Brookhaven Hamlet Community to preserve a twenty-five acre parcel of property formerly owned by Nancy Lee. The property fronts on Beaver Dam Road to the east of Burnett Lane and runs south crossing over the lane to its southern boundary, which is adjacent to U.S. Fish and Wildlife property.

The Thorofare Foundation, run by Patricia and George Cole of Brookhaven, became concerned because the property was threatened by development. Making a commitment to purchase the property, they challenged the community to secure the funds to complete the deal. The Post-Morrow Foundation committed to the project and joined in a fund-raising drive which enabled the community to reach the goal of one half of the total funding for the project. Over one hundred individuals from Brookhaven and Bellport contributed to the cause. (See below.) The Town of Brookhaven was able to match the local effort and provided the other half. Because of our community efforts and the support of the Town of Brookhaven's Open Space Program, we were able to purchase the property and it will be preserved in perpetuity.

"Not only is the land itself a precious asset to the Hamlet, but Burnett Lane, which runs through the property, is the last truly country lane in the area...Walk down Burnett Lane in any season, and you will feel as if you have stepped back in time. Rabbits hop across in front of you, deer peer out from the hedgerows on either side, and in the spring especially, birds are everywhere. In the summer there are places along the land where the trees and bushes nearly meet overhead, and in the fall the lane is ablaze with autumn color. It is a very special place."

(Thorofare Foundation letter, January, 2001)

Michael Ince also described the property as a place where many hamlet residents and those who grew up here, have enjoyed and cherished the peacefulness and special beauty of the hamlet. He wrote, "These wet woods sang and sing on spring nights with the calls of peepers. Woodcocks live there and perform their mating rituals on and over the dry field to the north. Great Horned Owls hoot there on moony nights. It is a beautiful place, and I like to think of it as The Dragon's Bed in memory of the little boy (young Dennis Puleston) who named it so so many years ago."



SOME HISTORY OF THE BURNETT LANE NATURE PRESERVE

(COMPILED BY KAREN ROWLEY)

George H. Burnett was descended from a long line of Burnetts who came to Massachusetts from England in the early 1600s and later settled in Southampton. He sailed on the "Sabrina" to the gold fields of California with a group of east end whaling captains and finally returned to Long Island to marry Frances Jagger of Southampton. He hoped to return to California where he had been successful in the gold fields, but his wife would not leave Long Island. They left Southampton and bought one hundred and seven acres in Brookhaven and built a house on Beaver Dam Road. Currently owned by Keith and Karen Rowley, this late Greek revival farmhouse was built in 1848-50.

The Burnetts raised four sons and two daughters in this house. They were George Hubert Jr., Isaac Conklin, Henry Theron, Thomas Jefferson, Inez I., and Annie France. When George died in 1893, he left no will, but his son Isaac was named administrator of the estate. Frances Jagger Burnett stayed in the house and died there in 1924. She is buried in Bellport. Inez married Henry Hand and they had a daughter, Frances White Hand, who was post-mistress of the Brookhaven Post Office in the middle of this century. At one time, the Hand family also lived in the house on Beaver Dam Road.

At some point, the family built the red barn which currently houses the Hamlet Organic Garden and other activities organized by the Puleston family. Bob Starke remembers working for the fisherman Henry Theron when Bob was a young man. The two sons, Henry Theron, a bayman, and Isaac Conklin, a farmer, never married. When Oliver Wellington bought the land and the house, he told Henry



Theron and Isaac Conklin that they could stay there forever. They lived there until they died sometime in the late 1940's.

After the Burnett brothers died, Mr. Wellington gave the house to his son Roger, who installed electricity, running water and heat, but who soon thereafter moved to Boston. The Rowleys bought the house from Roger Wellington in 1961. The twenty-five acre preserve was part of Cindy and Oliver Wellington's estate left to their daughter Nancy Lee of Bellport. Longmeadow Farm, a twenty-five acre parcel on Old Stump Road was part of the Burnett family farm and passed through the Wellington estate. The red barn and the Hamlet Organic Garden on Beaver Dam Road owned by the Puleston family, were also part of the Burnett family property.

This project owes a great deal to Patricia and George Cole of the Thorofare Foundation for working to preserve this special place and their commitment to purchase the property.

We would also like to thank those individuals who donated to the Burnett Lane Nature Preserve, without whose generosity the project could not have happened:



George and Pat Cole from the Thorofare Foundation, Supervisor John J. LaValle, and Bruce Wallace from the Post-Morrow Foundation, signing the new deed to the Burnett Lane Preserve property.

David Adams
The Agler Rice Family
Foundation
David & Mary Alburger
Ellyn Childs Allison
Charles & Judith Anderson
Ed & Meredith Bain
Edward Bank
Nellys Bard
Jeffrey & Christine Bellante
Richard & Chantal Berman
Michael Bilecki &
Rebecca Burkhead
Thomas & Sheryl Binnington
James Bonomo
Brookhaven Village Association
Hugh Brown
Carol Burns
Donald Callahan
Elizabeth Coffin
Linda Cox
John & Donna Curiale
Donald & Regina David
Robert & Lynda Deckers

The Post-Morrow Foundation has assumed the responsibility of managing the Burnett Lane Nature Preserve. In a three way agreement between the owners of the property, the Town of Brookhaven, The Post-Morrow Foundation and the Thorofare Foundation, we have begun to plan for the maintenance of the property as an open field habitat. This means that we will keep the field from reverting to dense woodland habitat.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide assistance to the Foundation in keeping the field clear and advice on how to maintain the habitat so that it is a place where grassland and open field animals and birds can be sustained. 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.” (*Conserving Grassland Birds, Massachusetts Audubon Society*)

The Burnett Lane Preserve is known locally as the place where Woodcock mate in the early spring. In the dusk and early morning they can be seen rising high in the sky and then diving down again to perform their peculiar mating dance. The Woodcock need the open space near a wetland area in order to successfully breed. Such places are disappearing on Long Island.

The Foundation has also received assistance from Ann Meinhold of Southaven who has installed several bluebird nesting boxes on some other open fields belonging to the Foundation. It is our hope that working together with local environmentalists, the community and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, that we will be able to provide additional sanctuary for our grassland and open field habitat birds.



American Woodcock

Illustration by Dennis Puleston from *A Nature Journal*, Norton, 1992

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cecile Defforey | Francine Katzman & | Malcolm & Lida Morley | Reinhardt Schumann & |
| Nicholas & Annette Delilhas | Robert Schancupp | Henry & Linda Morrissey | Ellen Clyne |
| Lillian & Nicholas DePaolo | Steve Kelly | The Nature Conservancy | R.Stephen Seibt |
| Dennis & Nancy DeVito | Ronald & Lynn Kinsella | Norman & Sally Nelson | James & Mary Slattery |
| Harvey Dolger | John & Marie Knapp | James & Julie Nelson | J. Lee Snead |
| Eileen Green Realty Corp. | Ed & Barbara Knowles | Lucia Nelson | John & Jody Starke |
| David & Doris Epner | Jane Kobe | Ed & Elizabeth Palace | Socrates Stavropoulos & |
| Galante & Co. | Lisa Konnerth & | Steven Perlo | Ekaterina Varsos |
| Michael & Gail Garlin | Randy Peabody | Francis Pettrignani | John & Dava Stravinsky |
| Richard & Angela Giannotti | John Labarca | Gail Pettrignani | William Struyk |
| James & Laurretta Haag | Steven Laird | Andrew & Terrie Pipa | Bruce & Doris Tooker |
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| Robert & Gertrude Ince | Steve Marshall | Barry & Deborah Rockwell | Kathy Varsos |
| Jay Johnson | David & Jan McChesney | Keith & Karen Rowley | John Walker |
| Michael Jones & Peter Kingan | Mark & Sarah McCormack | Kenneth Russell | Tom & Ellen Williams |
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| Robert Kapnek | Rolf & Anne Michelsen | Enrico & Paola Sala | Kim Woodle & Joanne Downs |
| Alon & Elizabeth Kasha | Francis & Omaira Miller | Lynn Scheibel | Gary & Diane Zanazzi |
| | Clifford Miller | Gary Schneider & John Erdman | |

THE DENNIS PULESTON OSPREY FUND

Where Dennis Puleston grew up in England, the osprey was never a common bird. When he moved to the Hamlet of Brookhaven after World War II, he was impressed that ospreys nested high in old trees along the Carmans River. Little did he know then that his beloved ospreys would seriously decline in his lifetime only to be restored by his commitment to their well being.

At the request of the Gardiner family, he studied ospreys each year on their island in Gardiners Bay. He discovered that the rate of successfully fledged osprey chicks was dropping dramatically. He brought unhatched eggs for analysis by new scientific techniques conducted by Dr. Charles Wurster at Stony Brook University. High levels of DDT confirmed the warnings of Rachel Carson in her 1962 book, Silent Spring, and prompted action to ban DDT.

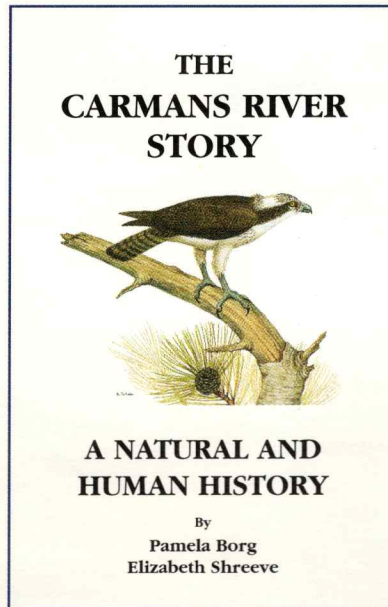
As an expert naturalist testifying in a Suffolk County courtroom in 1966, Dennis along with others presented the scientific evidence showing that DDT thinned eggshells. This trial spurred the creation of the Environmental Defense Fund in 1967 with Dennis as its first Chairman. By the time he

passed the leadership baton of the Board five years later, William Ruckelshaus, the first administrator of EPA, had banned DDT in the United States.

Because the osprey is so much a symbol of the environmental health of Long Island and is so intimately connected with Dennis, friends and family of Dennis have formed the Dennis Puleston Osprey Fund.

The purpose of the fund will be to encourage research on ospreys on Long Island, to improving the nesting opportunities for these magnificent birds and to educate the public about them.

Those who wish to support this fund should make checks out to the Post-Morrow Foundation-Dennis Puleston Osprey Fund, PO Box 204, Brookhaven, NY 11719. (All donations are tax-deductible.)



The effort to protect Carmans River was a particular concern of Dennis Puleston. Here, the cover of The Carmans River Story shows a drawing by Dennis Puleston of his beloved Osprey.

IN MEMORIAM - DENNIS PULESTON - 1905-2001

Lift me to the nest

Our community was greatly saddened by the death of Dennis Puleston on June 8th, 2001, in Brookhaven. Several hundred friends and family gathered at the Puleston home in Brookhaven on a recent Saturday to recall how he had touched so many lives.

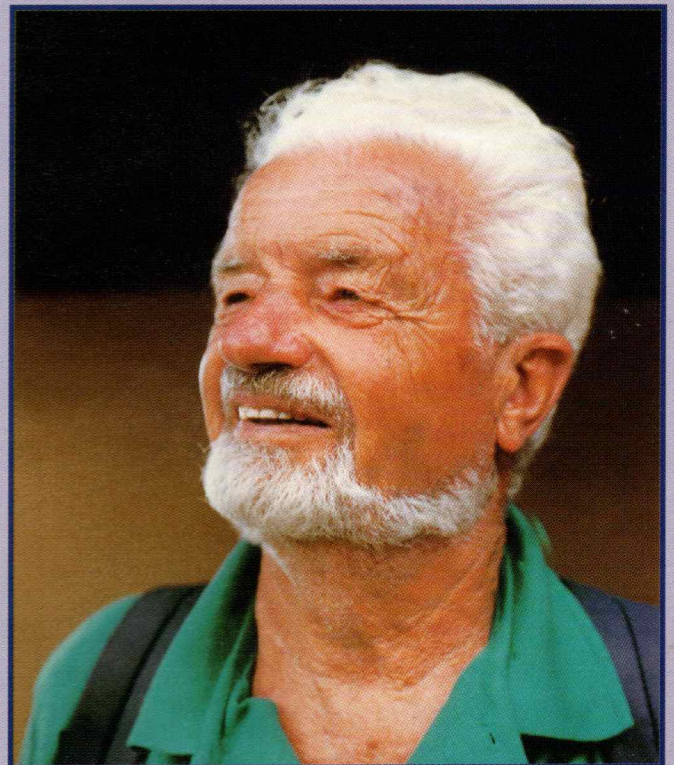
Dennis Puleston profoundly influenced the lives of many people who grew up here amid the marshes, woodlands and meadows of Brookhaven, and he launched the careers of explorers, naturalists and environmentalists now working in the field. He inspired us to appreciate the beauty of Brookhaven Hamlet, the Carmans River and all of Long Island.

Dennis dedicated his book A Nature Journal (W.W. Norton & Company, NY, 1992) to his family and friends, "who know, love and work to preserve the best of Long Island and its natural wonders."

A teacher to all of us, Dennis took us to the salt marsh, and the river bank as well as to the uplands where warblers passed through our Long Island landscape. He shared with us the song of the mockingbird. He became our conscience in building a movement to protect our unique community.

On many mornings you could go with Dennis on a trek out at dawn to see what birds had graced our community that day. You were always welcome to tag along as long as you brought your binoculars and the respect and love of the environment.

As his children told the gathering on Saturday, we all learned how to see the richness of our land and waters. "You put a kinglet in my hands; you lifted me to the nest of a thrush."



SESTINA FOR MY GRANDFATHER

On the night you died, the mockingbirds
Sang in the moonlight from the leafy trees.
June. The start of summer. And all of this
Is somehow meant to carry on without you -
Tides and houses, the apple trees, my heart,
The river, the ospreys on their pole, the world.

Your going seems to hollow out the world.
You knew and loved so much: the names of birds,
The places that you carried in your heart.
Now where has all that gone? Those entries
From the log of your life, what made you you -
You've left and taken with you all of this.

Your dying shocked me. I thought you'd beat this
Too. You'd lived through shipwreck, two world
Wars. As a child, I used to follow you
Down to the marsh and the mist nets and the birds.
At the banding table set beneath the trees
You put a kinglet in my hand. Its heart

Fluttered in my fingers. In my heart
I keep a thousand memories like this.
The spring we lay under the apple tree's
Bright branches, looking up. You made the world
Unfold. Pyramids and tropic birds,
The northern lights - I saw these things with you.

Later came old age. An unmapped sea you
Sailed in bravely. When they opened up your heart
And we darted back and forth like shorebirds
You charmed the busy nurses, "Look at this!"
And showed them your tattoo. Your wide world
Folded to a small room and a view of trees.

The family you began has thrived like trees
Near water. How my daughter loved you!
and it was love that kept you in the world
So long. A love stronger even than your heart.
It has survived it. I promise this.
Your love is with us, present as the birds.

We're lucky you were here, gracing the world
With your full heart. I remind myself of this
At evening, when the trees are full of birds.

Carin Clevidence - June 2001

THE GREAT SOUTH BAY SCOOTER

Ice-boats in general and the South Bay Scooter in particular have played an important role in Long Island's winter landscape for generations. From the earliest days when these unique craft were used by fisherman and lifesavers, until today, when the sport of ice-boating is enjoyed all over the Island, these boats and the families who build and sail them are an important thread in the tapestry of Long Island history.

The Post-Morrow Foundation and the Long Island Maritime Museum, in cooperation with the South Bay Scooter Club have outlined a project to document the Scooter Club's long and varied history as well as the history of scootering here on Long Island. The project will include, but is not limited to:

- * Documentation of boat designs, drawings, as well as extant craft;
- * Compilation of oral history interviews with current and past scooter owners and sailors;
- * Design and completion of a viewable database of photos, publications and documents relating to scootering history.

A committee, consisting of three members of the South Bay Scooter Club, Steve Rant, Don Makowiecki and Christina Graham (Commodore), as well as Doug Shaw, Executive Director of the Long Island Maritime Museum and Tom Williams from the Post-Morrow Foundation have designed the project and hope it will result in a publication and perhaps a video record of scootering on Great South Bay.

The Post-Morrow Foundation has provided some seed money to start the project and the committee is searching for additional funding to assist in its completion. (Donations can be made to the Post-Morrow Foundation - Scooter Fund.) We are also looking for anyone with information about scooters. This would include stories, photos, plans or drawings or any archival material which would help us document this special Great South Bay activity.

We need your help. If you have anything which relates to this project which you would be willing to share with us, we would like to borrow the material and scan it or copy it for the record. Please call us with your ideas, information or comments here at the Foundation. The Coordinator of the project will be Elena Brodie-Kusa, who has worked extensively with ABC News on the creation of "The Century", a 27 hour television production which was seen on ABC Television in 1999. You may contact Ms. Brodie-Kusa by e-mail <BrodieKusa@aol.com> or through the Foundation at 631-286-0686. The mailing address is P.O.Box 204, Brookhaven, NY 11719.



Photo by Patrice Casanova

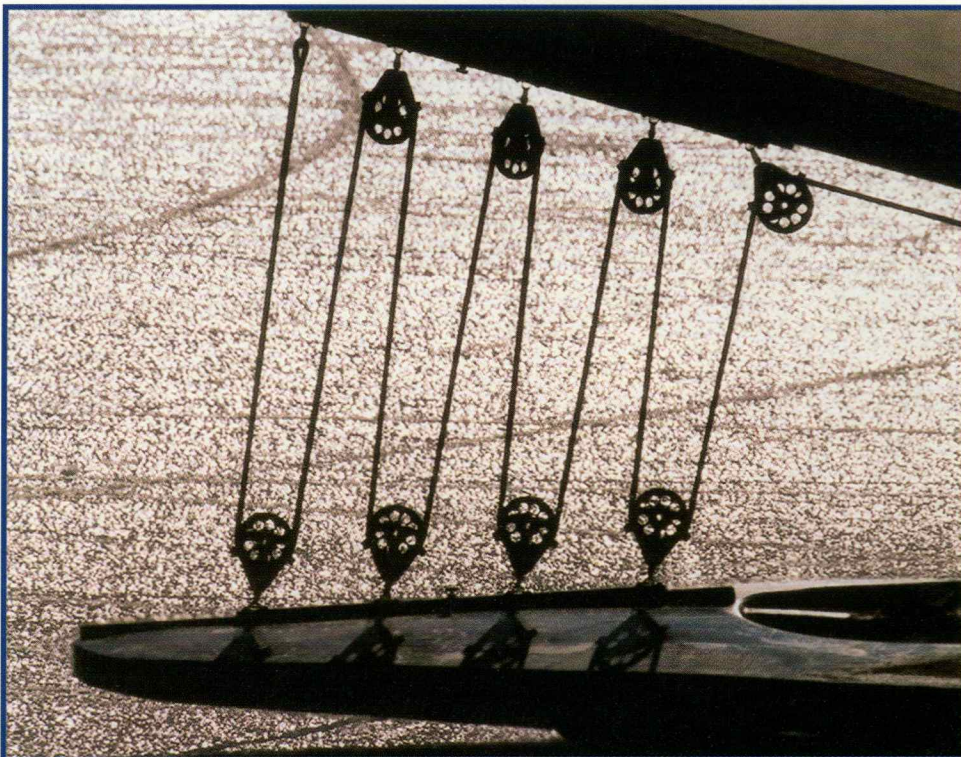


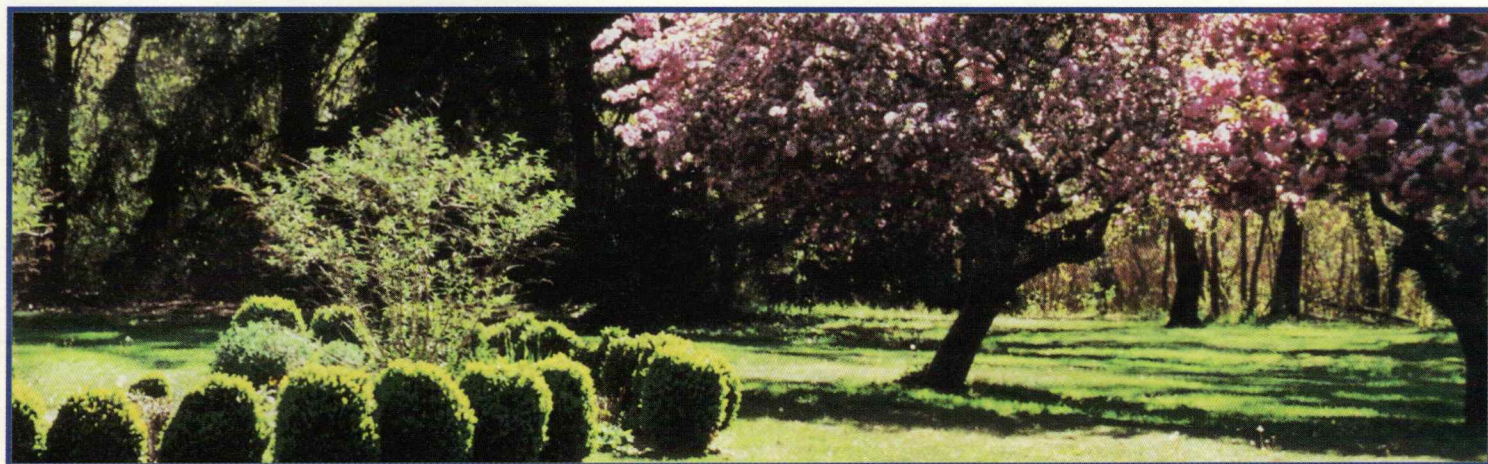
Photo by Patrice Casanova

THE HERB GARDEN AT THE POST-MORROW FOUNDATION

The herb garden at the Post-Morrow Foundation in Brookhaven, New York is maintained by the members of The Herb Society of America, Long Island Unit, and was dedicated in May 1998. The garden is planted with herbs that are relatively drought tolerant and resistant to grazing by deer. It is the members' hope that the public enjoys the garden and is inspired to try these useful plants in their own private plantings.

Plants Found in the Herb Garden at the Post-Morrow Foundation

Shrubs	Rosemary <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Arp'
Butterfly Bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i> 'Nanho Purple'	Rue <i>Ruta graveolens</i>
Boxwood, Dwarf English <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> 'Suffruticosa'	Silver Sage <i>Salvia argentea</i>
Sub-shrubs and Perennials	Mexican Sage <i>Salvia leucantha</i>
Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i> 'Moonshine'	Meadow Sage <i>Salvia n.</i> 'Mainacht'
Anise Hyssop <i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Sage <i>Salvia officinalis</i>
Anise Hyssop <i>Agastache</i> sp. 'Pink Panther'	Sage <i>Salvia officinalis</i> 'Berggarten'
Anise Hyssop <i>Agastache</i> 'Blue Fortune'	Golden Sage <i>Salvia officinalis</i> 'Aurea'
Chives <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Purple Sage <i>Salvia officinalis</i> 'Purpurea'
Garlic Chives <i>Allium tuberosum</i>	Salvia <i>Salvia</i> sp. 'Purple Rain'
French Tarragon <i>Artemisia dracunculus</i> var. <i>sativa</i>	Lavender Cotton <i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>
Silver Mound <i>Artemisia</i> <i>Artemisia schmidtiana</i> 'Silver Mound'	Lavender Cotton <i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i> 'Nana'
Calamint <i>Calamintha n.</i> 'White Cloud'	Green Santolina <i>Santolina virens</i>
Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Winter Savory <i>Satureja montana</i>
Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Magnus'	Hens and Chicks <i>Sempervivum tectorum</i> .
White Coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'White Swan'	Lamb's Ears <i>Stachys byzantina</i>
Silver Spike <i>Helichrysum thianschanicum</i>	Betony <i>Stachys monnieri</i> 'Rosea'
Orris Root <i>Iris germanica</i> var. <i>florentina</i>	Feverfew <i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>
Lavender <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> 'Hidcote'	Creeping Thyme <i>Thymus praecox</i> 'Highland Cream'
Lavender <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> 'Munstead'	Woolly Thyme <i>Thymus praecox</i> subsp. <i>arcticus</i> 'Lanuginosus'
Lavandin <i>Lavandula x intermedia</i> 'Grosso'	Thyme <i>Thymus praecox</i> subsp. <i>arcticus</i> 'Minor'
Rose Campion <i>Lychnis coronaria oculata</i>	Silver Edge Thyme <i>Thymus</i> 'Argentea'
Golden Lemon Balm <i>Melissa officinalis</i> 'Aurea'	Lemon Thyme <i>Thymus x citriodorus</i>
Sweet Cicely <i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	Golden Lemon Thyme <i>Thymus x citriodorus</i> 'Aureus'
Catmint <i>Nepeta x faassenii</i> 'Dropmore Purple'	Golden Lemon Thyme <i>Thymus x citriodorus</i> 'Archer's Gold'
Catmint <i>Nepeta x faassenii</i> 'Blue Wonder'	Purple Vervain <i>Verbena bonariensis</i>
Catmint <i>Nepeta x faassenii</i> 'Dawn to Dusk'	Variegated Yucca <i>Yucca filamentosa</i> 'Variegata'
Catmint <i>Nepeta x faassenii</i> 'Six Hills Giant'	Biennials and Annuals
Greek Oregano <i>Origanum</i> sp.	Annual Clary Sage <i>Salvia viridis</i> -reseed
Italian Oregano <i>Origanum</i> sp.	Bulbs
Golden Oregano <i>Origanum vulgare</i> 'Aureum'	Daffodil, Hoop Petticoat <i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i> var. <i>conspicuous</i>
Variegated Oregano <i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Jonquil <i>Narcissus jonquilla</i>
Marjoram <i>Origanum vulgare</i> 'Thumbles Variety'	Star of Bethlehem <i>Ornithogalum nutans</i>





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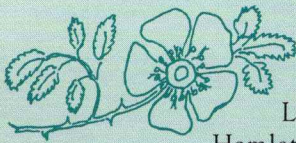
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POSTAL PATRON

The Post-Morrow Foundation Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

GREEN FERTILIZER



The Foundation has been working to reestablish part of Longmeadow Farm, just north of the Hamlet Organic Garden, into tillable fields. We have plowed approximately six acres of the field and planted buckwheat. It is often used as a first crop after land has been cleared of trees. Buckwheat is known as a "green fertilizer", that is, a non-chemical or non-synthetic fertilizer. It takes up the minerals phosphorus and calcium from the soil, which are then released back into the soil in an available form when the crop matures and is plowed back in to decompose.

Assisting the Foundation was Fletcher Bedell of Bellport. A member of the Long Island Antique Power Association, Mr Bedell has several vintage tractors with which he participates in various meets of the Association. These are fine working tractors and he was able to plow the field so that it was ready to be planted with the green fertilizer, buckwheat. We are grateful to Mr Bedell for the time and effort he donated to the Foundation. We would also like to thank Steve Hilles of the Hamlet Organic Garden for his advice and help in planting the buckwheat. At the time of this writing, the buckwheat was six inches high and will be turned over toward the end of August.

