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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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Winter 2002

— BEAVER DAM CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

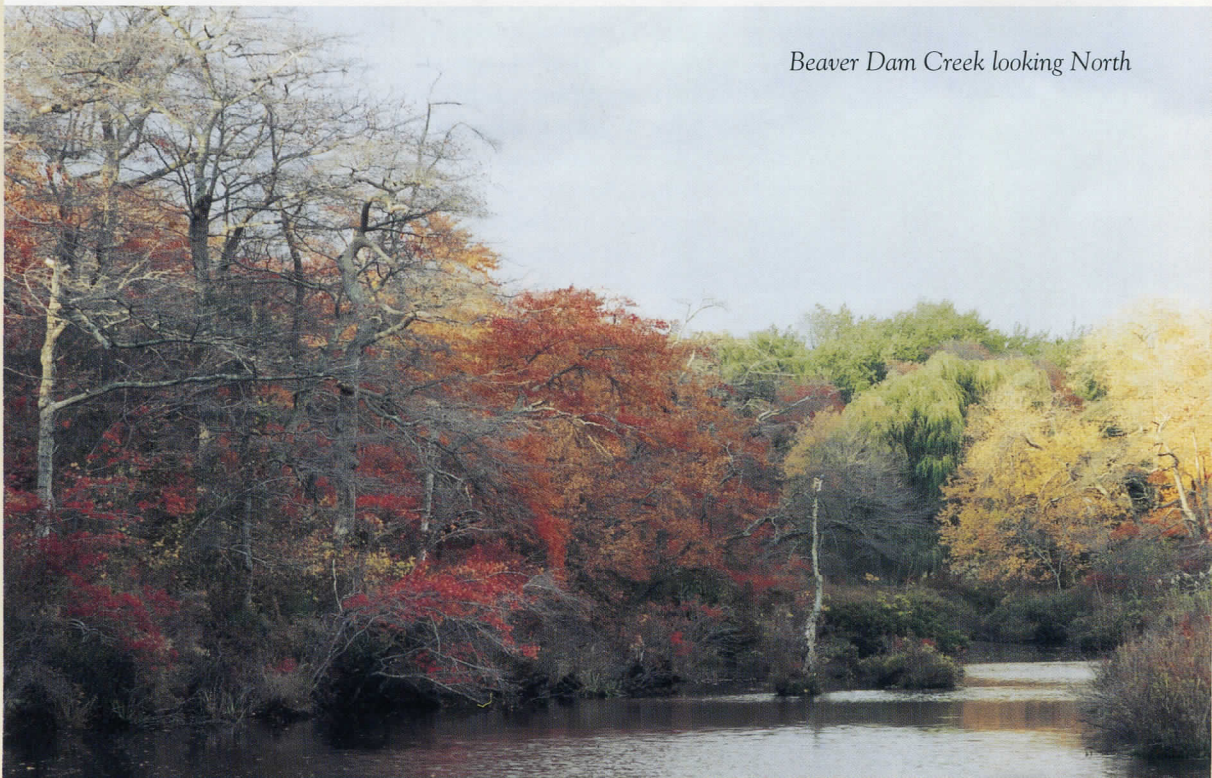
The Post-Morrow Foundation has joined together a collaboration of agencies to restore the wetlands along Beaver Dam Creek. One of the top priorities of the Foundation, the protection of the unpolluted waters and wetland areas of the Great South Bay and its tributaries, is of paramount importance to our community. This effort is part of the Long Island Wetland Restoration Initiative.

This collaboration is being undertaken because in the words of the Long Island Wetlands Initiative, "Great South Bay is considered among the most valuable waterfowl migration and wintering grounds on the Atlantic coast. Historically, Long Island had extensive coastal wetlands including saltmarshes, flats, brackish marshes, sea grass beds and tidal freshwater marshes. These wetlands and associated subtidal areas provided habitat for tremendous concentrations of wildlife including waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, other waterbirds, shellfish, fish and marine life." (Long Island Wetland Restoration Initiative brochure)

As described in the proposal for this collaboration, "Beaver Dam Creek remains today as a characteristic example of one of the numerous rivers, creeks, and smaller tributaries that were an integral part of the rich and diverse natural resources of this area. The headwaters of these creeks typically originated as freshwater springs or seeps, emerging from the glacially deposited sands and gravels that serve to purify these waters. They flowed slowly south toward the shallow bays as crystal clear water being further filtered through adjacent freshwater maple swamps and bogs. Eventually reaching the zone of tidal influence, these waters made the transition to an area of riverine marshes that supported a somewhat different suite of flora and fauna. Finally as the creeks widened and emerged toward the bay shore, they became typified by expansive tidal salt marshes supporting yet another assemblage of plants and animals. The clear waters entering the bay provided sustenance for a bay system that was rich with biota, beautiful to look at and economically critical to this region.

(continued on page 2)

Beaver Dam Creek looking North





Aerial photo of Beaver Dam Creek as it flows into the Great South Bay

“Unfortunately, as Long Island was developed numerous human activities proved to have detrimental effects on the natural qualities of these creeks. Sometime in the 1950s, Beaver Dam Creek was dredged north to Beaver Dam Road. As was typically the practice, the removed material was deposited atop the natural marshy shoreline for a good distance along both shorelines. In addition to a significant loss of wildlife habitat, several other benefits normally provided by naturally functioning wetlands, were also lost. Natural filtration of overland runoff, buffering against storm surge and the provision of nursery grounds for shellfish and fish are some of the most important. Additional negative impacts that have resulted from development include the input of storm water runoff, non-point pollution from other sources, hardening of some of the shoreline, and grid ditching under the guise of mosquito control within the remaining salt marsh acreage.

“The exhaustive effort that has resulted in a Comprehensive Management Plan for the South Shore Estuary clearly identifies the need to address these negative impacts. Corrective actions will result in both quantitative and qualitative improvements that can have both economic and social value. These improvements can only be fully achieved if indeed a comprehensive approach to any restoration effort is undertaken. The current conditions within the Beaver Dam Creek watershed offer an excellent opportunity to expect significant positive results from such an approach.

Furthermore, a successful comprehensive restoration effort with the Beaver Dam Creek watershed can survive as prototype for similar restoration programs along the entire South Shore Estuary.

“To address this timely opportunity, the Long Island Wetland Restoration Initiative, whose primary partners include Ducks Unlimited, Inc., US Fish and Wildlife Service, Suffolk County Vector Control and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, has begun the formation of a Beaver Dam Creek Restoration Task Force. This effort seeks to leverage the input, expertise, and resources of numerous entities that are involved with and concerned about habitat restoration within the South Shore Estuary. Such organizations include Post-Morrow Foundation, NYS Department of State, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County Planning Department, Bellport High School, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYS Sea Grant, Trout Unlimited, U.S Department of Agriculture and The Nature Conservancy, among others. Cooperative planning by the Task Force will lead to specific recommendations for short-term and long-term restoration actions, followed by effective implementation.

“Recommended restoration efforts will include such things as removal of dredge spoil from the marsh surface, storm water remediation, implementation of “Best Management Practices” for adjoining agricultural, residential and commercial uses, and restoration of tidal flow to formerly connected marsh segments. Implementation of this comprehensive, creek-wide action will lead not only to an improved Beaver Dam Creek watershed, but will serve as a model for restoration within the entire South Shore Estuary.”

(Proposal for the restoration of Beaver Dam Creek, The Beaver Dam Creek Restoration Coalition, January, 2002)

The primary objective of the project is to restore and enhance salt marsh habitat by restoring natural hydrology patterns. It is expected that this will 1) restore and enhance fish, wildlife and wetland habitat in Beaver Dam Creek, 2) reduce human health and safety problems resulting from degradation of the Creek and 3) implement a public education and stewardship program for the Beaver Dam Creek watershed.

A small pilot project was completed in 1998, which removed several tons of dredge spoil and restored cordgrass (spartina) to the marsh and stabilized the remaining spoil at the site by seeding Atlantic coastal panic grass. SEQ (Students for Environmental Quality) students from Bellport High School assisted in the restoration of the vegetation at the site. Cornell Cooperative Extension, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Post-Morrow Foundation coordinated the project. Informal observers have noted a return of several species of birds to the area and an improved tidal flow.

We will be publishing updates on the progress of this initiative in future newsletters. If you have any questions or would like further information please do not hesitate to call us at the Foundation.

THE BEAVER DAM CREEK RESEARCH REPORT

Under the direction of George Ruland of Bellport High School Science Department, students have been studying the environmental problem of Brown Tide in Beaver Dam Creek. As part of the new Regents curriculum students have been involved in various scientific inquiries. Last summer, Biology students from the High School conducted this research and have made recommendations regarding this problem.



Ryan Stanley and Nicole Wasilewicz test for nitrates at their experimental site near Beaver Dam Creek.

Some of these recommendations include:

- Clear items from the tops of local storm drains.
- Stop applying fertilizers to land adjacent to the Creek.
- Mulch cut your lawn (instead of collecting the mown grass).
- Apply less fertilizer to your lawn and property.
- If you live next to the Creek, make sure there is a buffer between your lawn and the edge of the water.
- Have your lawn service cut back on fertilizers as well as insecticides.

We are pleased the students are taking action to protect their environment and especially pleased they are working on the health of Beaver Dam Creek.



Bellport High School students Luke Martellucci, Ashley Ericksen, Julio Espinoza, and Rondell Flippen test for overall water quality at their experimental site.

THE MARRAN-DEMEURRE PROPERTY

The Marran family has generously donated to the Post-Morrow Foundation three and half acres of land on Abets Creek in East Patchogue. The property runs along the east side of Strongs Neck Road and north of South Country Road. It includes land along both sides of the Creek at this point and a small portion of land to the northwest of Strongs Neck Road.

In addition to this parcel, the Town of Brookhaven through its Open Space Bond Fund has been able to purchase two more acres just to the north of the Marran parcels that were slated for development. The Marran family's gift goes a long way to protect the headwaters of Abets Creek.

The parcel of land had been in the Marran family for a long time. Mr. Marran recalled that the Demeurre family originally owned it and used it for growing flowers. Over time the family sold off much of the property but preserved the land along the Creek.

The South Shore Estuary Reserve master management plan, released in February 2001, highlighted the importance of protecting the tributaries such as Abets Creek, to the Great South Bay. They are often ignored or even adversely impacted by human activities. In this case, happily, the Marrans had the vision to preserve this important waterway.

The South Shore Estuary Reserve's new educational outreach program will focus attention on the entire watershed of the Great South Bay. The Post-Morrow Foundation assisted in the protection of Hedges Creek two years ago, and is working with the Town and County on several other tributaries including as we noted, Beaver Dam Creek. We are happy to be a part of this great effort and we can all be very grateful to the Marran family for their generosity.



Abets Creek just north of South Country Road

THE DENNIS PULESTON OSPREY FUND

We are most appreciative of the many donors who have contributed to the Dennis Puleston Osprey Fund. This fund was established in memory of the naturalist Dennis Puleston in 2001 to provide monies to continue his work to protect ospreys. An advisory committee for the fund is being established. Led by Jennifer (Puleston) Clement, Art Cooley and Tom Williams, the committee will develop guidelines for the use of the fund.

Plans include the creation of a booklet on how to build and protect osprey nest platforms. The Post-Morrow Foundation website (www.postmorrow.org) will feature this project. The website will have information and articles on ospreys and will be a source of information on their protection.

Again, we thank those who have contributed to the fund and will keep our readers informed as we progress.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE DENNIS PULESTON OSPREY FUND

Marilyn Abbey & Family
Isabel Beadleston
Jane Belzak
Henry Borotraeger
Brookhaven Village Association
Ed Call
Robert & Judith Chernaik
Art & Nancy Cooley
Farrell Decker
Nicholas & Annette Delihias
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Nathan Thompson
Marty Van Lith & Anita Cohen
The Van't Hof Family
Tom & Ellen Williams
Owen Williams
Evan Williams
Richard & Ann Wiswall
Kim Woodle & Joanne Downs

THE OPEN SPACE COUNCIL DENNIS PULESTON CONSERVATION AWARD

We are pleased to report that Tom Williams, a member of the Post-Morrow Foundation Board of Directors, was the recipient of the Dennis Puleston Conservation award in December. This award is given in memory of Dennis Puleston each year by The Open Space Council, which has been a leader in advocating for the preservation of open space in Brookhaven Town for many years. Past recipients of this award have included Dennis Puleston, Marty Van Lith, Art Cooley and Pat Martinkovic.

Honored for his contribution to the preservation of open space, Tom also serves on the Town's Open Space Committee and is a long time member of the Board of Directors and currently serves as chairman of the Peconic Land Trust Board of Directors.

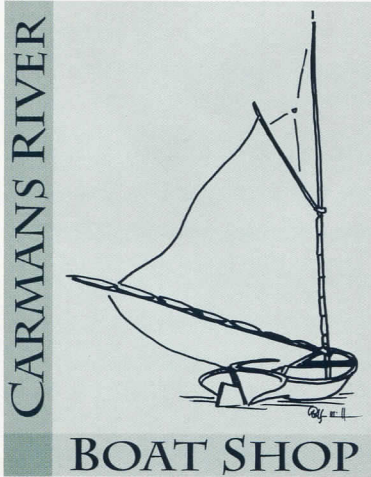
DEER RUN FARM

We are pleased to announce that Deer Run Farm formerly known as Lohmanns Farm, plans to open the farmstand on South Country Road this year. Bob Nolan who has taken over the management of the farm had a successful first year and looks forward to opening the stand to the public. Long a popular fixture between Bellport and Brookhaven, the farmstand will again offer fresh vegetables during the late spring and summer.



The farmstand undergoing renovation in anticipation of this summer's opening

THE CARMANS RIVER BOATSHOP



The Carmans River Boatshop sponsored one building project this past year. Under the guidance of Mike Garlin several residents built a “Six Hour Canoe”. Mike has completed one of the canoes but the other four are in various stages of completion. Builders joked that perhaps the name six-hour canoe referred to how long it would float. And as beginning builders they opined that six hours is a long time.

We have also put the Elvira under cover so that we can begin its restoration. Bob Starke of Brookhaven donated this beautiful Gil Smith sloop to the Foundation.

The Foundation is waiting for several permits to arrive so that work can begin again on the boatshop in Tookers yard. We are optimistic the shop will be completed this spring at which time we plan to have an open house



Norm and Sally Nelson and Andrew Cole work on their Six Hour Canoes.



The Six Hour Canoe clamped at the gunwales.

FAITH MCCUTCHEON: WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Board member of the Post-Morrow Foundation since 1979, and secretary since 1983, Faith McCutcheon was recognized by the *Long Island Advance* as the “Woman of the Year” for her many contributions to the Brookhaven community.

As noted in the *Advance* of January 10, 2002, “Whether picking up strewn bits of garbage in the neighborhood while making the daily rounds with her dog Charlie, or serving on a Brookhaven Village Association (BVA) committee to fight landfill development, Mrs. McCutcheon has devoted her life to protecting the environment, preserving local history and helping the less fortunate”.

She graduated from Bellport High School in 1941 and

served as a teacher in this district from 1945-47 after raising her family she taught again from 1968-1983. She was born in Brookhaven, in the home of her father Malcolm Fraser. “Looking out for each other in those days was a way of life, and often a source of survival” she said.

Faith and her family have been generous to the Foundation. In 1998 she donated a parcel of land on Beaver Dam Creek to the Foundation. It lies adjacent to a small house and pond just east of the Creek, which also used to belong to her family and are now part of the Foundation properties along the Creek.

The Foundation Board is extremely proud of Faith’s accomplishments and her valuable contributions to our community.

THE SCOOTER PROJECT

As described in our last newsletter, the Foundation along with the Long Island Maritime Museum and the South Bay Scooter Club are working on 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, and 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.

We are very grateful for the donations toward this project. We are still looking for additional information. You may contact the project Coordinator Elena Brodie-Kusa by e-mail BrodieKusa@aol.com or through the Foundation at 631-286-0686.

Great South Bay Scooter Project donors,

Nelson & Johanna Briggs

Aileen Eppig

Christina Grahn

Donald Makowiecki

Timothy Rumph

Weber & Grahn Conditioning Corp.

NOTE: Look for the Annual South Bay Scooter Club Ball.
(Date to be announced)



Ed Rant and William "Cut" Redden talking over their days on the ice of Great South Bay. Here, they recollect one particular windy, icy day. "It's a way of life" they reminisced. "Nothing is like being out there on the ice"

"OVERTAKING THE WIND"

Cut Redden: "We brought her down in the middle of the week one time and there was ice on the bay, and no one was on. We got on at Smith's Shore – you couldn't get on in Bellport. I had gotten off from the Phone Company, I was working for the Phone Company at that time, and I had gotten a day off and I went scootering. We brought the scooter (Aurora), the first one that he (Harless) built for us. She only touched the ice about six inches on the runners. She was as wild as could be!

We sailed off. It was a northwest wind and we sailed off Smith's Shore and sailed up towards Howell's Point, staying in the middle of the bay where there was good thick ice. We made some nice time sailing up here, and to turn around, come back-we had to take long jibes and tack down wind because the wind was right on our rear.

Now your father (Steve Rant's) could feel the wind on his rear all the time, because I sailed with him and he'd be hollering at ya, your Uncle Henry there- "head 'er up, head 'er off" - because he could feel us losing it and I knew we were going to lose it sooner or later, but we never did. But we moved down that bay in long, soaring jibes but at tremendous speed! We felt some vibrations and I hollered back to Vince Amey who was tending sheet for me. "What's going on? What are you doing?" - he hollered back to me "nothing-I'm doing nothing." So I rounded her up and brought her up into the wind and we laid her over and went all through the rigging and everything was tight. There was no pins coming loose or shackles being loose or anything, so we sailed off again and came back down the bay and the same thing was happening - so when we got home that night I talked to Harless about it and he said, Bill said to me, "what you are doing is you are sailing with cotton sails - you are running out of your vacuum and you luffed just for a moment, and that gives you a vibration. You have to be moving to do that! *Overtaking the power of wind.*"

(Videotape of Cut Redden and Ed Rant, September, 2001, Post-Morrow Foundation)

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

This fall, Something Old, Something New of South Country, Inc non-profit fiber arts cooperative moved into the Brook Store at 378 South Country Road, Brookhaven. Formerly the home of Treasure Island Antiques, the Brook Store is in the heart of the Brookhaven Hamlet community. The Brook Store has served as the home of the Brookhaven Post Office, a general store and a recording studio for Bill Bonyun, a widely known educator and folk singer.

Something Old, Something New trains women in various traditional women's arts and skills for business and pleasure. Calling themselves the "sewing ladies of Something Old, Something New" they are women who pursue the arts of sewing, quilting, weaving, basketmaking, jewelrymaking and more. Many of their members come from the Caribbean, Central America, the Middle East and Europe.

Founded by Nell Bard of Brookhaven, the group came together through the Boys and Girls Club of the Bellport Area in 1995. In their own words their mission is to:

- Teach traditional women's arts to each other, including sewing, basketmaking, weaving, and jewelry making and to improve our skills together.
- Recycle donated materials, otherwise destined for the land fill, into clothing, household goods, and crafts.
- Market and sell our products and services at a fair cost as a way of generating income for ourselves and our cooperative.

- Sustain our own and each other's commercial ventures.
- Contribute to our community by training unemployed and or unskilled women and men in these arts, providing them a lifelong source of enjoyment and pride and, if they wish, a vocation.

The Cooperative is generally open Tuesday through Friday, from 10am-3pm and on Saturday from 11am to 3pm. You may call them at 631-286-4071.



Quilt made by the Cooperative and hats by Annie Elfenbein Rowland.



Pictured in the Brook Store are Something Old, Something New members: Joanne Downs, Patricia Cole, Nell Bard, (sitting left to right) Barbara Michelsen, Janet Altman, and Ann Wiswall. Not pictured are Isabel Diaz, Annie Elfenbein Rowland, Bridgette Nelson, Luz Ramos, Valerie Shervington and Doris Walton.



Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"I would like to thank you for extending the use of the Post-Morrow Foundation Nature trail and the Herb Garden to the South Shore Even Start Program. As you know we are a family literacy program serving the families of the South Country and Patchogue-Medford School Districts. The uniqueness of our program is that we always work with parents and their children at the same time.

This spring, when the lavender in your herb garden was at its peak for weaving, we were invited by the Long Island Herb Society to come and learn how to make Lavender Wands. Three of our families and their six children along with the staff enjoyed a morning of weaving, playing and relaxing in the beautiful herb garden. Our mothers had a chance to speak with several members of the L.I. Herb Society, which they enjoyed very much. We were also supplied materials to make these wands with the lavender in our organic community garden with our other families who were unable to make it.

This summer, while our parents were in class learning English, we had the chance to take the children on nature walks and scavenger hunts in the Post-Morrow Nature Trail. Children of various ages really enjoyed the trail. The learning opportunities were endless. Our children learned what a blueberry bush was, an oak leaf, a cedar tree, ferns, wild rose bushes and how to count how old a tree is once it has been cut down – among many other things.

We appreciate the use of the facilities and look forward to using them with our children throughout the school year to maximize their learning experiences with nature.

Sincerely,
Nicole Drinkwater MSW,
Program Coordinator

<Editor's note: We apologize for not including the Friends of Wertheim as a contributor to the Burnett Lane Preserve project.>



—Photo by D. Straivinsky

Jennifer holds a beautiful lavender wand.