



Fire Place

Brookhaven Village Association

Spring-Summer 2012

Published for the residents of Brookhaven Hamlet.

Brookhaven Hamlet's Cemetery Restoration Project

In the 18 and 19th centuries, the first residents of our hamlet were farmers and fishermen, often both. They lived here through the entire span of America's early European settlement history, through the French-Indian War, the American Revolution and Civil War.

There was no community burying ground until the 1890s, so the multigenerational Rose, Hawkins, Carman, Barteau, Miller, Corwin, Hulse and a dozen other families made their family burial grounds on their land, sometimes combined with neighboring farmers. These 20 cemeteries in Brookhaven hamlet range in size from 40 headstones to just a few. Most of the smaller ones have now been lost due to neglect.

In 2008, about a dozen hamlet residents formed a committee under the auspices of the Brookhaven Village Association and the Post Morrow Foundation to restore eight of the largest and most historically significant of these family cemeteries. With generous support from our Brookhaven hamlet community to the BVA's cemetery restoration fund, and a grant from the Caithness Community Fund, we have accomplished our goal.



In the Barteau Cemetery, stonemason Hollis Warner shows a repaired headstone which his company installed in 1856.

Beginning with the restoration of the Revolutionary War-era Rose Cemetery on Jared's Path, we hired stonemason Hollis Warner of Peconic Monument Works in Riverhead to restore headstones at the following cemeteries: South Haven Church, Carman (after whom the river is named), Gilbert Miller, David Hawkins, Richard Corwin (who was George Washington's aide de camp), Azel Hawkins and,



Hamlet residents Ron Kinsella, Jen Clement, Diane Martens, Bob Brown and Betty Budny working in the Barteau Cemetery, March 2012.

currently undergoing restoration, Barteau. Later this year, the Nathaniel Miller Cemetery will also have some repair work done.

I wish to thank all who have helped, both financially and physically, in this restoration effort. I hope sometime in the near future to be able to lead a tour to some of these historic burying grounds.

Marty Van Lith, BVA Historian

Brookhaven Village Association **ANNUAL MEETING**

Special Guest Speaker – Adrienne Esposito

Executive Director, Citizen's Campaign for the Environment

Wednesday June 20, 2012 at 7:30 pm

St. James Episcopal Church, 260 Beaver Dam Road, Brookhaven, NY 11719
Please join us for a presentation and discussion of the environmental issues impacting citizens and ecosystems on the south shore of Long Island.

For more information about the President's Report on page 3.

Squassux Dockmaster's Report

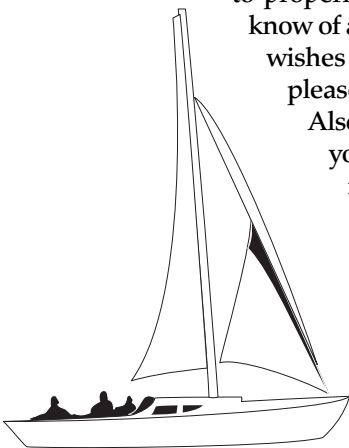
2012 Season Underway

Hello boaters. We are under way once more. Fortunately, the winter was quite mild with no ice damage, but we suffered earlier damage from tropical storm Irene and an abnormally high tide a month later. Some docks are still under repair and if your dock is unusable or unsafe in your opinion, put your boat in any slip until after repairs are made. Please call me and I will attempt to keep a list of where all boats are temporarily. Repairs recently have stopped due to some NY DEC restrictions, but I have been informed that we should be able to resume repairs soon.

The ice eaters, installed to replace the aging bubbler system we had, show great promise. While the winter was not severe, the devices we strung across the canals seemed to work very well when there were some icing conditions. We still have a few electrical problems to address, but are close to an overall and permanent solution.

Despite the rate adjustment this year, all the slips have been rented once again, which is good news for being able to properly maintain the marina. If you know of anyone in our community who wishes to lease a slip in the future, please have that person contact me.

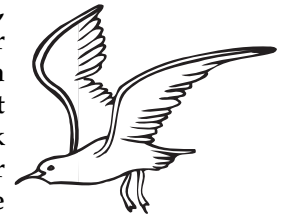
Also, if you are displeased with your slip in any way, or if you feel a safety issue exists, please call me and I will place you on the waiting list for a another berth or arrange a repair. As the season progresses, if you observe any behavior or activity that is questionable, also call me. My number is 631-521-4411



I am confronted with a boat beam problem. The finger docks were constructed long ago when boats tended to be much narrower in design. Now, to optimize space, boat widths are increased. Some 18 foot boats now carry an 8 1/2' beam. Many of Squassux' slips are much narrower so placing boats is problematic. Always give me advance notice if you buy a larger boat. If you have not done so, mail me a new copy of your boat registration for my records.

I have some observations regarding how boats are tied to the docks. First, use a quality nylon braided line of the right size for your boat. You cannot tie up your boat so that it does not rub against the dock. Winds, wakes, and tides conspire against this. Secure your boat fore and aft, and use a spring line parallel to your dockside rail. This will keep your boat from drifting into your neighbor. Put bumpers over the side between boats. Using them on the dock side is usually futile. Instead, make sure your boat rail is substantial and the dock posts are high enough to accommodate the rise and fall of the tides. If you instead tie

up the boat too tightly to the dock, you are inviting damage to the rail or will pull the dock out of the bottom altogether. In some cases, the boat can fill with water. Leave ample slack in your docking lines. Also, during or after there is a downpour, check the water levels in your boat, especially if you do not have a self-bailing hull. Otherwise your season could be ruined if your motor goes under.



I am frequently asked at the beginning of each season if services are online, such as water, lights, dock repair and the guard service. The Squassux chairman, John Curiale, and I put these wheels in motion to coincide with our opening on April 15th. Often, there are water leaks, short circuits, and scheduling problems with repair servicemen. We try to have everything resolved by early May, if possible, so please be patient. Also, the security service usually does not begin until we have quite a few boats in the water. My advice if you plan on launching in April is to leave nothing of value on your boat and carry what you need to the marina. This is also good advice the entire season to deter theft.

Once again, the GATE! Please close and lock the gate. When boaters report stolen items, what can be done if no one locks it? There are well over a million dollars of boats floating in our marina. If the gate is locked, strangers are not as likely to enter, especially during the day when activity is low and few boaters are on premises. I hope you all have a fun and safe boating season this year.

Andy Rubin, Dockmaster

Our New Neighbor



Photo: Lan Rice

A Message from BVA President

I have had a busy spring with the landfill fight, public hearings at Town Hall, and correspondence regarding the Carmans River Watershed Protection Plan. Since our last newsletter, the plan, which had been worked on for well over a year, was shut down by three Town Councilmembers, including our own Connie Kepert. Public complaints about the lack of community input, and the transfer of development rights within the Pine Barrens led to its ultimate tabling. My own concern is that much of the opposition had little to do with protection of the river, but a variety of other issues both real and imagined, which I won't go into here. Suffice it to say that if you are going to develop a plan that purports to have as its goal the protection of our precious river, you need to protect the river! I personally am aghast that amid all this infighting and NIMBYism there was not a single mention about what may be the river's

biggest threat, the Brookhaven Town landfill. By now you have heard of Supervisor Lesko's plan to enlarge the facility. Please be assured that the Village Association, the Brookhaven Community Coalition (BCC) and the Landfill Liaison Committee are adamantly opposed to this and will do everything in our power to prevent it. Currently, we have reason to hope that our efforts and those of the BCC are not in vain. I encourage you to come to hear Citizen's Campaign for the Environment Executive Director Adreinne Esposito, who will be our guest speaker at the BVA Annual Meeting on June 20th. Adrienne is known for her dynamic speaking style, which is both entertaining and informative. She will talk about the issues that are affecting us most right now. Hope to see you there.

Kathleen Scheibel, President

Squassux Spring 2012

It's early in the season and the weather is not as nice as it was in early March. That's good. It gives me more time before the boat has to be done. It's getting old and needs a lot of work this year to be seaworthy.

At Squassux, the winter was good to us. No ice damage. A few very high tides in late winter damaged a few docks on the river. The bulk of the damage was from

tropical storm Irene late last summer.

Dock repairs have begun but are not going smoothly. Once again, Andy is going beyond the call of duty to straighten things out. So when it's time to launch, there will be a dock for us to tie up to.

Won't be long now. See you then.

John Curiale, Squassux Committee

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION — Resident membership in the Brookhaven Village Association is open to individual and family residents of Brookhaven Hamlet, as defined in the BVA ByLaws. To become a member, complete this form and send it, along with your annual membership fee to:

BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION • P.O. Box 167, Brookhaven, New York 11719

Membership Category: _____ Family, \$15 annual fee _____ Individual, \$10 annual fee

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Other family members at this address: _____

List areas of special concern on back • Dennis Puleston Environmental Fund contribution: \$ _____

• BVA Tree Fund contribution: \$ _____ • Virginia Brown Scholarship contribution \$ _____

• Cemetery Fund: \$ _____

The Virginia Brown Scholarship

The Virginia Brown Scholarships are awarded each year by the BVA to college-bound seniors who reside in Brookhaven Hamlet. Steven Taylor, who graduated from Bellport High School in 2011, was the recipient of the \$1000 award last year. Steven has completed his first year at the University of New Hampshire. Here is his winning essay.



Knight and Day

By Steven Taylor

Checkmate. This word has echoed in my head ever since childhood. My grandfather tried to teach me the game of chess at a young age, though at the time I played it more like checkers. I charged forward and captured pieces. As in life, I was pushed from one direction to the other.

At the age of five, I was enrolled in a football program with 7 and 8 year olds. I was the pawn in many instances, being urged in someone else's direction. For example, when the coach wanted a mock offense to play against the defense, they would then put me in. I did not really have any say and I did what I was told.

Eventually I began to take control of my moves. When I started to bowl with my father in a Sunday morning league, again, I only saw bowling one-dimensionally by chucking a round ball down a lane as fast as possible. As I grew older, I realized bowling was more finesse than brute strength. I learned to study the oil patterns in the lanes to my advantage. Whichever pins still stood required time and thought to consider my next roll. I used this knowledge and more to strategize where, how fast, and with what spin to throw the ball. Essentially, advantages were possible if I studied the game. The knight in me was beginning to shine.

Much of my life was spent at the S.N.1 Boatyard. Very young, I remember being there with Mr. Starke, who taught me multiple life lessons whether he meant to or not. I logged more time at the boatyard than I did at my own home. I met and communicated regularly with many members of the Hamlet and enjoyed those

friendships and experiences that have come from that environment next to Squassux Landing. I bought my first boat during my freshman year in high school and I was on top of the world. It had two speeds: at the dock or full throttle. It could not make short turns in the water, but rather shot straight forward, like a chess rook in action.

It was this same year that I became more controlled in my personal strategic moves. I considered my options academically and chose more challenging courses in school. I played chess online with people around the world to better myself and then joined the school chess club which allowed me to form lasting friendships. My game improved and the board underneath expanded for me.

When I first learned chess, I was the pawn while adults were the kings of my chessboard. But as I grew, I moved up in this realm, and now believe I am perhaps a bishop or knight. Not yet a king, I have progressed from letting people move me in a direction they thought I should go, to where I move myself in life's direction that I decide. I know I will continue to get involved and be active in the Hamlet, even while I attend college. For me, my future is no longer just about the checkmate, but more about how the game is played.

The BVA presents one \$1000 and one \$500 scholarship in June at the Bellport High School Senior Awards Ceremony. For more information about the scholarships and the application process visit the BVA website (www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org).

I rode my bike around Brookhaven Hamlet and stopped people at random. I asked them all the same question:

What about Brookhaven Hamlet is most important to you?

Here are their answers.

Thank you to all those who participated.



Jeb
"Squassux Landing"



George
"Good neighbors"



Lynne
"The people - old, new, all are so interesting"



Ursula
"I really love how the community is so supportive of local business. It's such a close knit family"



Steve
"The sense of community in a beautiful setting"



Kevin
"Rural, low-key character, natural diversity - marshes, rivers, bays, estuaries"



Peg
"The beautiful wetland, Carmen river and HOG farm!"



Jill and Evan
"The people - it's wonderful to live someplace where you know everyone"



Mary
"The feeling of country with no streetlights or sidewalks"

Eagle Scout Project – New Floating Canoe Dock –

Satchel Johnsen, a resident of Brookhaven Hamlet, is a Senior at Bellport High School. He came to a BVA meeting in the spring of 2011 and proposed building a canoe and kayak dock to be installed at Squassux Landing as his Eagle Scout Service Project. We are grateful to him for all his hard work and service to the community. Last year Satchel built two bikes racks for us. One is next to the guardhouse and the other is on the west side of the boat yard. Everyone can enjoy the beauty of the hamlet and thank Satchel when they lock their bikes at Squassux or launch a canoe or kayak on the new floating dock!

Recently I (Satchel Johnsen) have built a float able canoe dock for my eagle scout project. It was definitely not all done by myself and couldn't have been. In the very early stages of my project board member John Curiale spent lots of time writing me multiple approval letters and signatures. I was very new to the concept of constructing docks, especially floating ones. I had a lot of planning assistance from local dock builder Walt Martens. Walt was also generous enough to donate the foam for the dock which is something that is not found at a local hardware store. After all the planning was done it came time to building the dock and that is when board member Jerimiah McGiff helped me out with a lot of the wood work and critical thinking. I also received a lot of help from local community members

BVA BOARD MEMBERS

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Carol Capaldo Jeffrey Jensen Chris Marshall
Jeremiah McGiff

DOCKMASTER:
Andy Rubin

HISTORIAN:
Marty Van Lith

FIRE PLACE EDITORS:
Ellen Clyne
Chris Marshall

The BVA Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Post Morrow Annex, 16 Bay Rd. Meetings are open to the public.

in the donation of supplies and hands to build the project. Besides having built and placed the dock so it can be used by fellow community members, I see that our town is one big family helping each other out and that is something that should remain unchanged.

Fire Place

*A Community Newsletter from the
Brookhaven Village Association
PO Box 167
Brookhaven, New York 11719*

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