

Illustration by  
Dennis Puleston

# Fire Place

BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Fall 2014

Organized-1906

Incorporated-1944

## A Day on the River

A Day in the Life of the Carmans River is a citizen science project for students and teachers that takes place along the river in the spring and the fall. The event is sponsored by a host of state and local agencies and other interested parties including Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Central Pine Barrens Commission and Suffolk County Water Authority. Students and teachers from Bellport High School participated in the event this fall and collected data at Squassux Landing. The goal of the program is to help students develop an appreciation for and knowledge of Long Island's river and estuary ecosystems. Students collect samples from the river, analyze them and share their results with everyone participating in the project.

Students from 34 schools in 26 Long Island school districts engage in hands-on science exploration at three separate sites--the Carmans River, the Peconic Estuary and the Nissequogue River. The Day on the Carmans River gave Bellport High students the opportunity to collect firsthand information about their community and explore how this piece of the river fits into the larger ecosystem. The process helps students develop an appreciation for water safety and conservation issues and allows them to become stewards of water quality on Long Island. Environmental educators work with students at each site and the findings will be posted online at the website <http://www.portaltodiscovery.org/aday>



Bellport High students discuss protecting the Carmans River with Councilwoman Connie Kepert.

Photo: Paul Brady

Ellen Clyne



## President's Report

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer! I for one cannot remember a summer filled with nicer weather! Let's hope the upcoming winter is just as nice.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce some new members to our board and give a word of thanks to Mike Rizzo for his 9 years of service to the board. Mike could always be counted on to weigh in on a discussion with an insightful and helpful opinion. I would also like to thank him for stepping up and taking the Squassux chairperson slot when John Curiale finished out his term. Mike along with our dock master Andy Rubin have done a great job of keeping Squassux moving forward while also handling all the various issues and challenges that continually

pop up. Thanks, Mike! I would also like to take this opportunity to announce Andy Lovito has stepped up as Squassux chair. He is very enthusiastic and full of ideas that can improve Squassux without changing its unique character.

Finally I would like to introduce Chris Schaeffer, Matt Petheram and Carlton Stewart as new members of the board. All three have already started making an impact with their enthusiasm. I would like to thank them, both personally and as a representative of all the Hamlet residents, for volunteering their time and talents.

Frank Miller  
President

# Teens Taking the Lead in Community Service

Teens involved in programs at the Brookhaven Free Library had the pleasure of pairing up with the Brookhaven Village Association this year to spruce up the Hamlet. This partnership enabled Bellport Middle School and Bellport High School students to earn community service hours for school, church and various clubs and groups they're involved in.

On June 28th, they painted new number signs for each slip at Squassux Landing Marina. This project was organized by BVA President Frank Miller. On September 27th, they worked along side BVA Directors Carol Capaldo and Carlton Stewart to give our Hamlet a



Pictured is Pedro Rivera, Erin Gorden, Emma Johnson and Maureen McSherry.

good clean-up. The students walked from the top of Yaphank Avenue all the way to Squassux Marina with "grabbers" and bags, picking up garbage as they went.



What a rewarding experience this was for me and the young people who volunteered!

I have so enjoyed partnering with the B.V.A. and enabling our teens to work on projects that better our community. The students and I look forward to working together on future events!

Photo: Jennifer Rocco

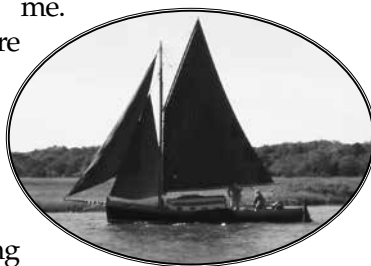
**Jennifer Rocco**

Young Adult/Adult Services Librarian  
Brookhaven Free Library

## Dockmaster Report Fall 2014

The weather this summer was spectacular. I do not remember so many parked cars and boats on the move in the past. Everyone seemed to enjoy Squassux to the fullest, which was satisfying for me.

Once again, all the slips were rented and all residents wanting slips were able to have a dock. I was also able to place quite a few provisional boats, which resulted in even more boating enthusiasts to cruise, fish, or find a beach. Now in mid October, the marina is still nearly full.



I was also pleased at the condition of the marina. Many of the docks have been recently replaced due to Hurricane damage from Irene and Sandy, and the infrastructure has held up, most notably the water and electric. Also, the roads seem in good condition, helped by the lack of rainfall, I think.

The BVA Board views the maintenance of Squassux as a major responsibility and always moves quickly to address any problem. Andy Lovito, a long time resident boater has taken on the duties of Squassux Chairperson and is dedicated and pro-active in keeping Squassux in

great shape and operating smoothly. I look forward to a productive collaboration with him in the future.

There are no significant operating changes to report now, but I would like to highlight a few reminders of procedures that should be followed next season:

- If you plan on purchasing a larger boat, call me first for slip availability.
- If you want a slip for 2015, call me ASAP to be placed on the waiting list. Do not wait until spring.
- If your dock is broken or unsafe, alert me immediately.
- Check that your slip is available prior to launching your boat next season and call me if it appears to be occupied.
- If you plan to surrender your slip or will not use it during all or part of the boating season, let me know so others can enjoy it.
- Do not lend your Squassux key to friends or anyone else outside of your family.
- Kayakers must be residents, and can only launch/retrieve at the cement boat ramp.
- Whenever possible, avoid walking, parking, or placing equipment on embankments or grass surfaces.

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# Brookhaven Hamlet's Four-War Memorial

Arguably, our nation's history began with the battle at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775 - the beginning of the Revolutionary War. By then most residents of Fire Place, which was Brookhaven and South Haven hamlets' name at the time, were already on board the movement toward independence. A year earlier there had been a meeting at the South Haven Meeting House where they voted to support the unification of the colonies and to boycott Great Britain. And when war broke out, those who could serve joined the patriots under George Washington's leadership.

One such man was Lt. Thomas Rose, who died during his military service, on April 3, 1780. It is unknown if he was killed in action. Lt. Rose served with his brothers, Captain Nathan Rose Jr. and Jessie Rose, and their nephew, Nathan Rose Barteau. Their ancestors were the first verifiable settlers on Fire Place Neck.

Another commemorated veteran of the Revolution was Richard Corwin, whose house still stands at 408 South Country Road. He was a personal aide to General George Washington. Corwin was present at the battle of Yorktown and the surrender of Cornwallis. Washington once tested his fidelity as a guard by attempting to pass him in the night but Corwin would not allow Washington to pass. Corwin's son, Richard Jr., was a veteran of the War of 1812.

Thanks to a grant obtained by Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning, four groups – the Brookhaven

Village Association, Post Morrow Foundation, Fire Place History Club and Brookhaven Fire Department – are working to install a plaque at the memorial park commemorating the veterans of our nation's four earliest wars. The aim is to honor those from the Brookhaven and South Haven community who served, as well as to acknowledge the support our community has given to our country since its inception.

In all, John Deitz has found almost 40 tentative names to be inscribed on the bronze memorial plaque: 15 veterans of the American Revolution; two from the War of 1812; 20 from the Civil War; and one from the Spanish American War. The tentative list can be found at: <http://brookhavensouthhaven.org/history/HonorRoll.htm>

We would like to be as complete and accurate as possible

in listing those who served. If you or someone you know notices an omission in our list, please let me know. We are looking for soldiers who served in those wars while they were Brookhaven/South Haven hamlet residents, along with any documentation to verify this. Documentation might include service, census and family records such as photographs and stories handed down through families.

**Marty Van Lith,**  
BVA Historian  
18 River Lane  
[Vanlith@optonline.net](mailto:Vanlith@optonline.net)



In Memory of Richard Corwin who died Oct. 27, 1848, Aged 97.

Photo: Marty Van Lith

## Dockmaster Report...(continued from page 2)

- Be safety minded if you carry fuel to your boat and be careful to avoid spillage.

I have some remarks concerning the water service. Jeb Barry, Andy Lovito, and I have discovered hoses that were carelessly left on, either on shore or dropped in the water. Naturally, this is an expensive waste and reduces water pressure, especially on busy weekends when many boaters want to wash their boats. Please be responsible about turning off your faucets. Also, if you replace a hose in the spring, please discard your old one. If you suspect a water leak, call me. Hose brackets are always a great idea, but do not use the reel up type as they take up too much space.

The Squassux security service seems to have done an

effective job this year. The guards were always out and about, and were genuinely responsive to the needs of all boaters. There were few thefts reported and the monetary losses were minimal. Again, remember to lock the gate, especially during weekdays to help.

Lastly, all boats **must** be removed from Squassux by the close of the season on November 15th. This is so the ice eaters can be installed for the winter.

As always, if you have a question, call me at 521-4411 and I will try my best to be helpful. Enjoy the rest of the season, and I'll look forward to seeing you next year.

**Andy Rubin**  
Dockmaster



# Virginia Brown Scholarship Awards

The Scholarship Award Committee had the pleasure this year of reading through an excellent group of essays. So excellent, that it was decided that one additional \$1,000 scholarship award would be granted in addition to the \$2,000 and \$1,000 normally awarded. The winner of the \$2,000 scholarship, Christopher Daconto, is attending York College of Pennsylvania and is majoring in Computer Science. The two \$1,000 scholarship awards were granted to Casey Leach and Satchel Johnsen. Casey is attending Maryland Institute

College of Art and majoring in Graphic Design and Art Education. Satchel is attending Messiah College and majoring in Politics. It was a pleasure awarding the scholarships to these fine young people. The essays are included in this newsletter and we hope everyone enjoys them as much as the committee enjoyed them.

**Janet Quirk**  
Virginia Brown Scholarship  
Committee Chairperson

## Christopher Daconto Winner, Virginia Brown Scholarship 2014

I am a senior at Bellport High School and currently very involved with volunteering in our community. I am an active volunteer at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital, LI2Day Breast Cancer Walk, Mary Immaculate Bible School, and Brookhaven Town Kids Camp. In addition I had the pleasure of participating as an altar server for seven years at Mary Immaculate Church, where my family has attended services for generations. The experience of volunteering has taught me responsibility, compassion and patience, and afforded me the opportunity to meet so many talented people who have inspired me to do great things with my life.

My plan for the future is to obtain a degree in computer science and a minor in business, two of my biggest passions. My enthusiasm for computers started at a very young age, and now I am able to utilize my skills at Brookhaven Hospital as an intern in the Informational Technology department doing projects for marketing and training. My passion for business came this year when I was nominated as Chief Executive Officer of my Virtual Enterprise Class. I found that the business world was exciting and I wanted to learn more. I enjoy learning new skills and spending time reading and challenging myself with online tutorials. My reading interests are history, science, computer programming, business and marketing. I am hoping that in the future I can use my computer and business skills to improve the quality of life in America.

Some of my other interests are traveling. As a matter of fact I am heading back to Germany again

this summer to spend time with a very good friend who was an exchange student who lived with us last year for ten months. The experience inspired me to consider actually living in another country for an extended time to really immerse myself into a different culture. Either way I will always have that infatuation with travel and plan on traveling after college as well. My other interest is directing and editing films for my friends, school projects and Brookhaven Hospital. Film making gives me an opportunity to express myself in a creative way and I am hoping that I will continue this in my college career and in my future endeavors.

My family has resided in Brookhaven Hamlet for over 60 years and I am proud to be part of this wonderful tight knit community. The last few years I have had the chance to be involved with the Brookhaven Village Association Cleanup Day and Students for Environmental Quality Club, which cleaned up the Post Morrow, trail off Edgar Avenue. These activities have shown me how important it is to keep our neighborhood clean and green. I strongly feel this project is so important that every student and community member should be involved. I am personally grateful for what Virginia Brown did for this community and what she has accomplished for preservation of land space. Just recently, I had the satisfaction of creating a short film which featured these trails. It was awarded Best In Show at Five Towns College Media Arts Show. Now not only am I able to enjoy the properties in which Post Morrow

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**Christopher Daconto Essay** *(continued from page 4)*

Foundation has purchased and protected but our community as well.

The twenty-six acres, which used to be the Marist property on South Country Road is located directly across the street from my home. At one point this property was sold for development of homes and it had looked like it was a done deal, we were all devastated. Luckily the developer decided to sell the property years later to a buyer who had different plans. The new landowner is going to use the land for farming and trails for the entire community to use. Today the Post Morrow Foundation also owns Marist property, and it is now protected as well.

Virginia Brown would have been so proud of this

amazing accomplishment for Brookhaven Hamlet. I grew up enjoying the trails and now not only will I be able to continue my hikes with my friends but the wildlife and land space will be protected for years to come. I have enjoyed so many of the amazing wonders of Brookhaven especially down by Squassux Landing where my entire family has enjoyed boating, kayaking, fishing, nature and family fun day activities on Carman's River and the Great South Bay. It's my hope that my family will be here for another sixty plus years and we will all continue in this effort to preserve this area for future generations.

Thank you,  
Christopher Daconto



## Casey Leach

**Winner, Virginia Brown Scholarship 2014**

As a senior of Bellport High School, I believe that it is important to have an active role in both the school and the community as I learn to be a citizen in the communities I will live in. After all, I have lived in Brookhaven Hamlet for seventeen years; it only feels adequate to give something back. Being that I am an aspiring artist, I wish to spread the aesthetic ideals that art brings to any place, whether it's a house, building, or society. That is why I was inspired to create a design for a sign for Squassux Landing Marina.

I've always had an appreciation for my little town of Brookhaven Hamlet. A majority of my childhood was spent taking frequent walks, with my two golden retrievers, down the quiet roads, or going to the marina to fish, or taking our boat to the (no longer existing) Old Inlet Beach. To me, this town is a small gem, a picturesque community that embraces its natural beauties. In the Hamlet, nature plays a dominant role in shaping the minds of its people; life doesn't seem as complicated: simple and beautiful. I believe Virginia Brown felt the same way about Brookhaven: she was always concerned for the environmental qualities of our town, and spoke very fondly of the natural beauty of the small community and Old Inlet. Despite its size, however, the town is always changing, whether it's a small alteration, like tree planting along the railroad, or a great one, such as the formation of the "new inlet" after Superstorm Sandy. It's interesting to see how, as the community grows with me, I feel that, like myself, it has become more mature, making it more significant to me than before.

In terms of academic capabilities, I am eager to learn what and how much I can accomplish, based upon

the information I have already gained throughout my life. I have been focused on my academics, striving to maintain my "A" average in the numerous advanced placement courses, like: AP Government and Politics, AP French, AP Studio Art, and AP Literature. In fact, the joke I tell everyone is that I'm "too school for cool," since I find education to be a higher priority than my own social life. I do, however, take part in many activities from sports to school clubs. Currently, I am captain of our cross country team, and one of the top discus throwers for spring track and field (I am captain of this, as well). I am president of our Science Honor Society, an officer in Math Honor Society, and president of our Art Club. Apart from leadership positions, I am also avidly a part of National Honor Society and French Club, as well as the cartoonist for the school newspaper, *The Clipper*. As of today, I stand in the top ten of my class out of 360. I am ranked sixth. In regard to art, I was also featured in a number of local art shows, such as: NYSATA's (New York State Art Teacher Association) student exhibition, the Media Arts Show, the Baffa student exhibition, and the Parrish Art Museum student exhibition, and continue to submit work. I also painted a mural on the wall of the Guidance Department, as a way of thanking my school. It depicts two seniors looking out towards the Earth, and all that awaits them. My most recent accomplishment is that my art has been recognized by Heckscher Museum of Art and is now being featured in the museum, after being chosen out of hundreds of other artists' works.

Art to me is ubiquitous. Anything that can be

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**Casey Leach Essay** *(continued from page 5)*

observed, felt, heard, or stimulating to the senses has contributed to art in some way shape or form. However, thoughts and an imagination are what set the art in motion; it's what makes it stand out. As an artist, I personally find many things to be fascinating, thus I'm very curious about how an object functions and/or how it can be viewed. I feel the more I explore, the more I'm inspired. I create what I call "thoughts on paper"; it is a way in which I can communicate the vision I see. Thankfully, I have unbelievable support from my family; my father allowed me to miss school to visit Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) last year for an art evaluation day and a tour of the campus. As a teacher, my mother has often been upset over budget cuts in education, which is understandable. She knows for the last few years I've been leaning towards the art world. Unfortunately, my district, like many others, has felt the need to decimate the art and music programs. They are considered superfluous by many. I'm fortunate that my parents understand how much art enriches and explains the human and natural world. Teachers and other adults often talk about the "good ole days" when there was a plethora of activities to choose from. That is why I want to prove that art is necessary for the community and school, and dedicate my time to see if I can make art as significant to others as I believe it is. MICA is exactly what I was looking for

in a college, I plan to dual major in Graphic Design and Art Teaching with the hopes of educating the public of art's significance.

As I head out of Brookhaven Hamlet, I take with me many memories. This town allowed me to explore its nooks and crannies due to wonderful things like Students 4 Art, a summer camp that invited local artists to teach and inspire students like me. For four years, I met men and women who used the beauty of the Hamlet to help express themselves: woodcarvings, naturally-made wind chimes, dream catchers, and hand-made fabrics used to print whatever we found on the fields of Post Morrow. I, myself, often run through the fields along the west side of Old Stump Road in preparation for my cross country meets. I love when I would meet a family of wild turkeys that live off of the eastern part of Old Stump; they have no fear of man or vehicle, which makes me worried sometimes for their well-being! We have invited all types of birds to our yard with my grandfather's hand-made bird feeder (my 10 year old birthday present), my father's hand-made bat house, and with 12 bird houses strategically placed around our yard (made by a friend on Chapel). I hope when I come home for the holidays over the next four years that I will see the same unfettered wildlife taking advantage of our Hamlet's long stretches of woods and marinas. Virginia Brown's legacy will help ensure this. It's an honor to be considered for this scholarship.

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## **Satchel Johnsen**

### **Winner, Virginia Brown Scholarship 2014**

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Every now and then I stand at the end of the floatable canoe dock I built in Squassux for my Eagle Scout Project and stare at the natural beauty that surrounds us. You look down Carman's river and see Indian Landing where hundreds of years ago Native American's would make smoke signals to bring in the boats after many hours of fishing. You look due South and it is the same waters my grandfather made a living off of clamming in the 1970's. Then you look all around the compass rose and you are surrounded not only by beautiful waterways and wildlife but by people who care about the community we live in.

Since I was born I called Brookhaven home. I lived at the end of Edgar Avenue and to this day I still remember the Hurricane of '98 where water came up to our doorstep and visiting the Puleston's farm to visit my favorite horse that I fondly called Patrick. I still remember my first summers as a little kid being full of adventure. Whether I was crabbing at Squassax or learning how to surf my first waves at Old (New) Inlet, I was always taking advantage of the natural yet luxurious opportunities Brookhaven had to offer.

Back then I was just a little menace having fun and not thinking about the history and culture that is instilled with the citizens of the Hamlet. People such as Jeb Barry put a lot of time into the community down at the boatyard and making sure it is clean. It is the acts of service that Jeb and many others perform that inspired me to become a part of the community as well. When I was in sixth grade I had to do a service project in order to receive my scouting rank of star. After witnessing people driving too fast and thinking of all the wildlife around us I decided to make signs for Wildlife Crossing and hang them around Brookhaven. After receiving many thanks from people and a certificate of recognition from the board I felt special. To me it proved that if everyone made a little contribution to their community, not just Brookhaven, the whole world could be a better place. One year later I made bike racks and put them inside Squassux so people would have a place to put them, not just dropping them on the ground. Then my next act of service was building a Floatable Canoe dock. This was a big project

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**Satchel Johnsen Essay** *(continued from page 6)*

and it was for my rank of Eagle Scout. The purpose of me making the dock was for the people who love the waterways just as Virginia Brown did could have a place to launch out of and canoe/kayak all around. While building my project I saw the overflowing amounts of generosity that people in this community have. I received many donations in supplies which helped a lot since it was an expensive project, and most importantly the carpentry expertise of Jeremiah McGiff who spent time helping me and many other boys conquer the project. Between all the help I received from members of the community the project was finished. The pride I felt after completing the dock

wasn't just personal satisfaction in completing one of my projects but it gave me a greater sense of pride and joy about the community I serve for.

Brookhaven Hamlet is a place that will always be in my heart and I will return to without a doubt in the future. In the Fall I will attend Messiah College in Pennsylvania to study one of my greatest interests, political science. With the recent events involving the Town of Brookhaven and the possible expansions of the dumps, I hope to come back to New York and fight for the protection of the lands around us that are being polluted for the sake of making money. Brookhaven Hamlet isn't just the Garden of Eden on Earth but it is a place we all call home that we must protect for years to come.



Natalia Jordon, Angelica Grossology and Michael Sangiamo working to clean up the hamlet.

Photo: Jennifer Rocco

## ***BVA Membership Application***

Membership in the BVA helps support our projects in the neighborhood. Please consider joining or donating to one of our dedicated funds.

New Membership Application – Resident membership in the Brookhaven Village Association is open to 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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Fee (\$15 annually): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dennis Puleston Environmental Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

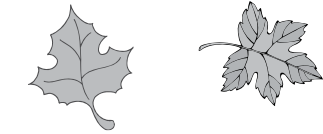
BVA Tree Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Virginia Brown Scholarship: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Cemetery Restoration: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit our website at: [www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org](http://www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org)**





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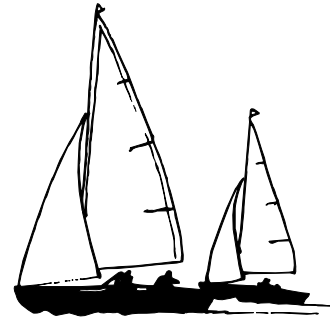
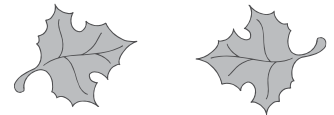
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Ellen Clyne    Chris Marshall

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.

Visit our website at: [www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org](http://www.brookhavenvillageassociation.org)



## Fire Place

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

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