

Illustration by
Dennis Puleston

Fire Place

BROOKHAVEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.
Spring 2020

Organized-1906

Incorporated-1944

President's Report

I will be leaving the Brookhaven Village Association this June, having spent 10 years as a director, vice president, and president. Looking back, it was a pleasure to work with my fellow board members. We came from various backgrounds, careers, and interests etc. But we all had one common goal; the commitment to volunteer our services for the good of our community.

Over the years I met with leaders of neighboring civic associations, elected government officials and employees. They were all constantly impressed by the scope and outreach the BVA had in the hamlet. As residents, we should be proud and appreciative of the services provided by our volunteers. Our April 8th monthly meeting was held online through the internet link "ZOOM", a first in the BVA's 114-year history. I encourage you to be active with the Village Association. You can begin by joining if you are not a member. An application is provided inside the newsletter.

2020 also marks my 40th year here with my family. I couldn't think of a better neighborhood to live in.

Our Annual BVA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17th at the St. James Church annex at 7:30p.m.

We hope to see you.

John Knapp
BVA President



First sunrise of the new decade at Squassux Marina
photo by Marie Knapp



**ANNUAL MEETING
NOTICE**



Brookhaven Village Association

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 2020 • 7:30 PM

St. James Episcopal Church Hall 260 Beaver Dam Rd. Brookhaven Hamlet

Guest Speaker: Anthony Graves, Town of Brookhaven Chief Environmental Analyst

Ice Eater Party

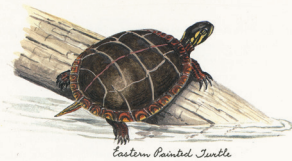


photo credit: Julia Villacara

The BVA would like to thank the following hamlet residents who volunteered their time this past Fall and Spring to install and remove the water circulators at the marina canals. They joined several board members, along with our dock master, Andy Rubin, and dock manager, Andy Lovito.

George Von Bartheld
Nick DePaolo
Mike & Abbey Ferrigno
Niko Fountis
Jeff & Brynn Johnsen
Lech Lipski
Matt Maia

Steve & Chris Marshall
Ron & Mike Martens
Dennis & Thaddeus O'Neil
Mike Rizzo



BVA 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: _____

Checks for Membership should be made out to the Brookhaven Village Association

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG

Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation

Hamlet residents have been incredibly generous in their financial support of the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation. Through your generosity we have restored the historic cemeteries, planted trees, spruced up Fireplace Park, funded scholarships to college-bound students and stayed active in environmental projects that protect our community and ecosystems. Thank you to the following generous donors who contributed to the Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation this past year.

Jane Abell	Paul Drummond	George & Margaret Koch	Debbie Love & Robert Sack
Kent Adee	David N. Ebner	Joan Koob	Christine Schaeffer
John K & Barbara A Antos	David Epner	Billy Kresse Jr.	Michael & Lynn Scheibel
Meredith Bain	Gary Schneider & John Erdman	Kathleen Lacey	Christine & Gary Schuhmacher
Ann Marie Bartoo	Wayde Binder & Horacio	Jennifer Lasker	E. Clyne & R. Schuhmann
Robert & Ellen Bilello	Fabiano	Jasmine Lee	Paul Weber & Thomas Schultheis
Frederick & Mary Billings	Michael A. Ferrigno	Linda Link	Stephanie & Arthur Shaw
Judith Bird	Shirley & Joseph Fetten	Lech Lipski	Matthew Sherman
Debbie Carplunk & John Blake	Mike Fink	Gary & Liz Lombardi	Pat & Kathy Shivers
Gary & Lynn Brown	Mary & Joseph Flaherty	Ann Lucas	William & Margaret Smith
Robert & Gloria Brown	Patricia Fox-Kilday	Margie Ludewig	Renee Smith
Alex Brown	Genevieve & Daniel Freedberg	Juliette Marotta	Irene Stahman
Andrew & Linda Bufalo	Laurie & Morton Friedman	Jeri & Dennis Marshall	Starke Family
Craig Cain	Robert Gallo	Mary McInerny	Dr. Robert Staudinger
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Joe & Laura Cipp	Steve Gould	Dennis O'Neil	John & Paula Tirelli
Peter & Jennifer Clement	Tim & Laura Hawryluk	Mark & Teresa Platt	A.Cohen & M. Van Lith
Carol & Donald Cole	Kelley & Stephen Heck	Kathleen Ponze	Marna Lea & Fred Varney
Mary Jane & Brian Cullen	Felix Iasevoli	Carol Tucher & Pete Puleston	John Walker
John Curiale	Jeff Johnsen	Deg Rasmussen	Bruce & Linda Wallace
Len & Susan Daconto	Tom Cashin & Jay Johnson	Margaret Realander	Joan Watson
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Constance Dayton	Julianna Kirk	Julia Fahey & Ben Rice	Thomas & Ellen Williams
Nick & Lillian De Paolo	Johnny Knapp	Lan Rice	David & Nancy Winslow
Joanne LaFace & Farrell Decker	John & Marie Knapp	Barry Rockwell	Frank & Karen Zahradka
John Deitz	Chris Joinnides & Mary Knowles	Bill Rockwell	Gary & Diane Zanazzi
Nicholas Delihias		Cathy & Tom Rolston	

Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation

Please consider donating to one of our funds dedicated to projects in the hamlet. Donations to these funds are tax deductible. To donate, please complete this form and send it with your check to:

Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation, PO Box 387, Brookhaven, NY 11719



Common, Surf, and White-winged Scoters (left to right)

Dennis Puleston Environmental Fund \$ _____

BVA Tree Fund \$ _____

Virginia Brown Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Hamlet Historic Fund \$ _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Checks must be made out to the **Brookhaven Hamlet Foundation**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BROOKHAVENHAMELTFoundation.ORG

John Knapp Sunset Salute



The Brookhaven Village Association started in 1906. Not long after that, John Knapp became a director on the BVA Board and now it is time for his Sunset Salute.

It was over 40 years ago when John Knapp purchased land in the neighborhood with the idea of building a starter home. John knew this was the place to call home and decided to stay. The decision was an easy one. He was sold on the rural character, open space, quick access to the bay and surfing on Fire Island. He has said, "Brookhaven is one of the few places where a 15-minute bike ride can turn into an hour-long conversation with a dozen people."

Before joining the BVA, John had been a regular at their meetings, having concerns about land use and zoning. While out for a 15 minute, turned hour-long jog, the secretary at the time (Rick Mohlmann) asked John to be a director. Luckily for the community, John agreed.

In 2010, John started as a director and chair of the land use committee. Shortly after (and purely by coincidence) the then president of the Board moved out of the hamlet. Vice President Frank Miller stepped-in to become president and John served as vice president from 2013-2016.

John went on to serve as president for the next three years.

In John's tenure on the Board, he played a crucial role in transforming and maintaining Squassux, preserving and testing air quality, monitored road improvements, drainage, and remediation projects. John made great contributions to the cleanup of Super Storm Sandy.

He was supposed to term out in 2019, but John offered to stay an extra year and help out. We are beyond grateful he did!

While John Knapp's time on the board will soon come to an end, he has promised to continue to stay involved with the BVA. He is willing to help in any way he can.

John would like to thank Post Morrow for granting the BVA access to the Annex, St. James Church for hosting both annual and boaters' meetings, Brookhaven Library for collaboration on projects, and all past and present BVA board members for their talents and commitment to the community.

And in this Sunset Salute, we would like to thank John Knapp!

Kevin Glynn

Interview with Deborah Love

The Brookhaven Village Association is sad to see Deborah (Deb) Love leave the board but she certainly deserves our fair farewell after completing her second nine year term!



photo credit: Robert Sack

Deb didn't grow up here. She grew up in New England hiking amongst the green hills and skating her local lakes so moving to Brookhaven, with nary a hill and an abundance of marshlands, was a big turn for her!

As with most stories, this one starts with a love story: Deb met Robert Sack on the NYC subway in

1972 when she worked as a physical therapist at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and Robert worked doing eye research at the School of Optometry. As their relationship developed they would come out to Brookhaven where Robert kept a boat at Tookers yard for sailing. They were immediately drawn to the natural beauty of the area and to many of the people they met. In 1977 they found a house, originally built in 1811, near the Beaver Dam creek bridge that they could see themselves raising a family in. They met and befriended many local residents such as Tom and Ellen Williams, Betty and Dennis Puleston, Karen and Keith Rowley, and many others - mainly for their shared interests for environmental issues but also for their welcoming ways. I interviewed Deb in early March over deliciously homemade chocolate chip cookies and tea.

So, what drew you to moving here?

Deb: "I do love the Carmen's River and the marshlands. I really loved Squassux, I mean, here you have this picturesque community-owned marina with all these beautiful boats and easy access to the bay. We just loved that. I loved the Red barn (a barn that once stood [RIP] at the HOG pick up area and that hosted musical and theatrical performances by the local talent pool) but a lot of the draw was the open space, fields and woods and the library. And then as I met people and saw that this is what they valued, and they tried to maintain it...well, we wanted to be part of it!

The Pulestons really set the tenor of the neighborhood with their big parties and their knowledge and care

of the animals and the environment...I became good friends with Betty and I thought this was a magical little corner of New England on Long Island and I could live here even if there were no hills!

Describe how raising a family here was like.

Deb: "For them [her children] it was wonderful because of the space, the sailing, our boats, our canoe... we would cart the canoe to Beaver Dam creek and paddle into the bay. We kayaked a lot: We would kayak across the bay to Fire Island and have access to Fire Island. There was ice boating and skating, too, during the really cold winters. And then the Pulestons... Corey went on bird walks with Dennis, so even though he was elderly at that time her first appreciation of animal identification began with hanging out with Dennis and the Schiebels, who would go out together on their boat a lot. Dan really liked being part of the Pumpkin Patch Players who did their thing out of the Red Barn. Rebecca had a chance to ride Betty Puleston's horse and help raise a foal with other girls in the neighborhood. She got her mare bred so that the girls could enjoy doing that. We also raised peacocks and chickens from Betty. She was amazing that way.

As the kids got older the school [Bellport High School] was not bad for them. The music, theater, and art programs were very supportive of each of my kids. They went on to Cooper Union, Stanford, and Princeton. It was a good place for them to grow up. Another reason why this was a great place is that it is close enough to work in New York. Robert commuted for 40 years. When we first looked for a place to live we imagined a circle radiating out from the city to determine how far out we were willing to do it. Brookhaven was right on the edge!

What made you want to join the board of the BVA?

Deb: "Well, then I had kids. Back when there was no [organized] "community cleanup" but we always cleaned up the road because we hated litter and it was important for my kids to see that if you live in a community that you should give back to it, you should be part of it. I like the people on the board and wanted to contribute. So I started my first term in 1993 and that ran to 2002 which, by that time, I became vice president. While I was on the board the Brookhaven Hamlet study began. I don't know if you know what that was but it was started by Marty VanLith and others and focused on determining what the core values of the community were and how to preserve it and by working with the

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planning board made pamphlets and books they put together and it was really excellent.

The Dump was already an issue and we continued that push back which was started by others like June Hudis who warned everyone there was going to be problems even before it was built. And there were leaks and the groundwater got, and is still, tainted from the landfill from those leaks.

In 2001/2002 Lynn Brown and I started the tree planting program. Also around that time the board focused on the issues we had at the end of Beaver Dam road with rain-water runoff and litter. It was a huge parking lot and it was a place where crime happened. The [Brookhaven] town, at that time, was looking to build a way to develop the area so we were like “hey we have some ideas” so we worked together to limit the size of the parking lot and design and build the landscape there to filter rain runoff better. It didn’t go exactly as planned but it did make a huge difference. We worked on it again recently with the town and while it isn’t perfect it still functions to filter the run-off from the road from going directly into Carmen’s river. It is a place that people really use and enjoy fishing from. And that’s a wonderful thing.

Weren’t you also on the Library board at that time?

Deb: “Yes, while I served my first term on the BVA I also joined and served on the Brookhaven Free Library board with John Binnington serving as President.

How would you describe your time serving the second 9 year term on the BVA board?

Deb: “I began again in 2011 when Kathleen Schiebel (now sir-name Lacey) was president. I still focused on quality of life issues like the clean-up, deer and cars, the Landfill, planting of trees, the end of Beaver Dam road, Fire place park, we got new furniture and repainted the gazebo there. Then I worked on the Scholarship committee, and the Squassux committee with low impact lighting and also erosion control, and, you know, trying to maintain the flavor of Squassux landing.

What do you do on the scholarship committee?

Deb: “We read letters [written by graduating seniors] and we decide who is going to win. It’s a bit more complicated than just reading their submissions. We take their academics and community involvement into consideration as well. Any graduating senior from the Hamlet attending either local high school or private school is eligible.

And that is the Virginia Brown scholarship?

Deb: “I knew Virginia Brown. She was such an active, energetic, articulate person. I always admired her.

Even after she finished her term on the BVA board, she remained a strong voice defending the environment, joining others like Art Cooley and Dennis Puleston. The Hamlet was renowned as a hotbed of environmental activism. Unfortunately, the fight against the dump has burned a lot of people out. It’s just so much work with little response from the town.

I think the common argument is that they make too much money [about \$40 million] to quit it. It’s political dynamite.

So, You seem to really cherish the area. What else would you like to say about Brookhaven Hamlet?

Deb: “One of the things that makes me happy to still be here is the Post Morrow Foundation which has become the stewards of maintaining open space around here. They really have led the way on making sure that land is preserved and open spaces are maintained. Sometimes Robert and I walk the trail once or twice a day. It’s really nice to have that so that anyone living here can enjoy them.

I like how things don’t change too much here. Really, over the 40 years we have been living here things are pretty much the same: We still have the [HOG] farm, we still have Squassux marina, we still have the library, and we still have the trails. But this place will only stay the way it is if people get involved in it and that is why the BVA is important. We have good people on the board but we have got to get more good people on the board. People have to realize the only way to keep this an oasis is to get involved and keep it that way.

Any other fond memories you have living here?

Deb: “Around the first time I served on the board Michael Ince and Kate Madison started the “Squassux Fair.” Michael and Kate made these wonderful flags and had kids join hands and there was such a sense of togetherness. We had the “silly sail” where people could make a boat out of anything they wanted to like an old tub or a tire or something and race down the river. And then were crab races and an “eel” race when people would run around. It was pot-luck and really a lot of fun and we did that for a number of years.

“I also love the time when we came up with “Daffodilomania.” The idea was that everyone would plant daffodils all along our roads. So a bunch of us got busy planting daffodils everywhere. But we started even before that: Robert [her husband] had a patch of daffodils that seemed to naturalize very well to the area so he began splitting them off and planting them everywhere near the house. Robert is the one who planted all those Daffodils. He thins them out and transplants them. Daffodilomania didn’t last because the deer eat most of them but for some reason they don’t eat the ones here.

Carlton Stewart

Spring 2020 Dockmaster Report

DOCK LINE DEBACLE

The last few years, Squassux has been subjected to tidal extremes I have never noticed, say a decade ago. This has resulted in stress on the docks from the buoyancy of floating boats, especially during high tides or storm tides. During slack or ebb tides, the boats weight pulls the docks downward. These local tidal ranges can exceed several feet up or down in a single tidal cycle. The result of improperly tied boats has caused significant damage to the docks that require expensive yearly repairs, and in some cases, destruction of the docks altogether. Therefore, as the Squassux dockmaster, I feel it is important to address this issue with a primer in the art of tying up your boat properly.

The recommended dock line material is nylon. Three strand lines work fine, but do stretch somewhat. They also are easy to splice. Braided line is stronger, softer, but costs more. Do not ever use cotton clothesline. It deteriorates quickly and has no strength. Here are some points about what to look for in a dockline:

- Dock lines should have preset loops on one end, about 12" in diameter for ease of securing them to cleats. The opposite end should be whipped or burned to keep them from fraying.
- For convenience, these lines should be left on the dock when you embark.
- Colors may result in sun fading, while white lines get dirty quicker. Rinse your dock lines when you wash your boat. Also, you can place lines in an old pillowcase and wash in a machine at home with lots of fabric softener.

Two considerations are thickness and length:

- For boats up to 25', 3/8" line should be adequate. Larger boats should have at least 1/2" thick lines.
- Line lengths should be 2/3 the length of your boat for the bow and stern, while the spring line should be the length of the boat.

Spring lines are absolutely essential to keep your boat alongside the finger docks. Without it, your boat will

always drift into mooring poles and your neighbor's boat. On fore and aft docks, spring lines are essential in keeping the boat from impacting and damaging the stern and the dock walkway.

Most alongside docks require at least three lines: bow, stern, and a spring line tied from the midship cleat to the stern post on the dock.

NO BOAT CAN BE TIED "TIGHT" ENOUGH TO KEEP IT FROM HITTING YOUR NEIGHBOR'S BOAT AND/OR THE DOCK. WIND, TIDES, AND CURRENTS MAKE THIS CONCEPT IMPOSSIBLE. RELY UPON YOUR BOAT RAILS AND THE USE OF BUMPERS AND OTHER CHAFF GUARDS TO PREVENT DAMAGE!!!!

When a boat is tied too tightly, and then the tide rises, the boat's upward buoyancy will pull on the dock poles and lift the dock, twisting and damaging it. After the tide recedes, your boat may hang up and damage itself from its own weight. During a storm, add slack, or scope, to all the lines to allow for your boat to rise and fall easily with the tide. When securing the end of the line to the dock poles, use two half hitches so the line can be easily slacked from the dockside.

If anyone has a question about these procedures, please ask me to check out your lines after the season starts.

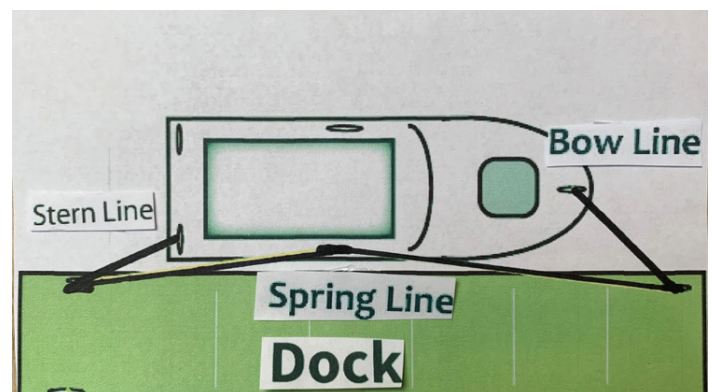


Diagram by Andy Rubin

Andy Rubin
BVA Dockmaster

It Is The Small Good That Leads To The Greater

For a compassionate community such as ours, it has been a challenge to find ways to safely help others through the Coronavirus pandemic. Even our local library, Brookhaven Free Library, and the Suffolk Cooperative Library System (SCLS), this became their challenge as well.

For the first time in its 108-year history, our library's doors closed to the public in March 2020. For BFL trustees, staff and director this was a hard choice having assisted hamlet residents more recently through the devastating events of 9/11, Superstorm Sandy and an economic crisis. The library is a refuge offering information, resources, guidance and support to our community members. "We were there to welcome and offer comfort to our people through really tough times," said Library Director Jamie Papandrea who had to make the judgement to close ahead of the Governor's mandate. "It was a very difficult decision. It's frustrating for us not physically being there to help people but it is the best way to serve our community right now. We're all being asked to do our part (to stop the spread of Coronavirus), in some cases with great sacrifice, and closing the library was what we had to do for the health and safety of our patrons and staff."

And then a call to action went out. BFL did not hesitate to answer it on behalf of Brookhaven hamlet.

The Coronavirus pandemic is not just a health crisis but is also a crisis for our nation's healthcare workers with a dire lack of necessary medical equipment and fundamental personal protective equipment (PPEs) leaving our bravest treating patients vulnerable to the virus and spreading it further. David Ecker, Director of Stony Brook University's iCREATE lab, recognized this need. He designed a template and began using the lab's 3D printers, devices capable of producing usable, plastic objects, to make face shields for hospital staff. The shields prevent fluids from hitting healthcare worker's faces while treating patients. One of the components of the face shield is the headband, which takes almost 3 hours per headband to print, minimizing the daily output of completed shields from the lab.

Roger Reyes, the assistant director at Suffolk Cooperative Library System, got involved and offered up SCLS' 5 printers to create a "3D print farm" in their Bellport headquarters with an output of 75 headbands per day. Reyes saw much more was needed and called on all Suffolk libraries and school districts to donate their own printers. There are 108 printers on site including 3 from Bellport High School and some from our Nassau County counterparts. "We have been getting a few each day as word gets out," said Roger Reyes. The printers are split into 2 shifts a day with a small staff operating within distancing guidelines working triage on the devices and sanitizing the finished items are producing over 275

headbands a day. As of April 27th, SCLS has delivered 4,465 headbands to Stony Brook University for complete face shield assembly.

The farm is also developing kits with all the necessary components allowing healthcare workers to construct and rebuild face shields at their own locations. SCLS has delivered 1,900 kits to 59 healthcare and EMS organizations in our area including Long Island Community Hospital.

"It was a no-brainer to answer this call to action," Jamie said. "We didn't have a 3D printer yet - we'd been thinking of getting one for hands on learning in the library - and we quickly purchased one to donate. This is a way we can serve our community during this crisis."

David Ecker's template and SCLS's farm has become a model for other communities banding together across the nation to set up similar production of face shields for healthcare workers. BFL's printer will return to our library when no longer needed to assist in SCLS' farm output.

When asked about BFL's role Jamie humbly answered "Oh, we just played a small role here."

As my father always told me "It is the small good that leads to the greater." That's exactly what BFL has done.

As our library remains closed until further notice, Jamie noted that BFL is being strategic and thoughtful about what messaging they are putting out on social media. "There is an overload of information being thrown at people right now. We don't want to add to it. And we don't want the important messages we need to connect with the community lost. We are still posting updates about our services and operations via social media and our BFL website. We encourage our community to follow and visit us often on those platforms. We have excellent resources for ebooks and learning tools for families available on our website." She added "just email us at bfl@brookhavenfreelibrary.org and we can help you with activities for the kids, any research you may be doing, direct you to important resources and organizations to donate funds at this time of exceptional need. While we recognize that our website, Facebook, Instagram and emails don't take the place of our familiar face-to-face interactions, we're still here for all and ready to help."

On behalf of the hamlet community, our deepest gratitude for all the essential workers within our community and those raised here for providing the nation health care, safety, food, mail, packages, utilities, repair services and all that makes this world continue to run. We thank you for your bravery, fortitude and selflessness.

We'd love to hear more stories of the small good leading to the greater in our community. Please email us at newsletterbva@gmail.com.

Julia Villacara

Together We Will Get By



be your neighbor or the family down the street that is in need.

Any amount you are able to give will make an impact.

To learn more on how to donate to the BVA Island Harvest Fund or LightHouse Mission, please visit our website at brookhavenvillageassociation.com

Or to make donations over the phone:
BVA Island Harvest Fund 516-294-8528
LightHouse Mission 631-758-7584

Thank you for your compassion and support.
The Brookhaven Village Association

During this crisis, the BVA has made donations to **Island Harvest Food Bank** and **LightHouse Mission** to help those in our community struggling from financial challenges or for our homebound, at risk elderly. We believe we are all in this together and are called to action by sharing our resources. We thank our friends and neighbors for joining us with their own generous donations. The BVA encourages all in our community that are able to please donate. In these uncertain times, it may

Remembering John Curiale (1958-2020)



Photo credit: Janet Quirk



Photo credit: Marty Van Lith

The BVA grieves the loss of a valued friend and community member John Curiale. John passed early February after succumbing to a sudden illness. His friends and family are devastated by his death. We at the BVA thought we would reach out to the community so that his friends could have a chance to show what an exceptional person he was in our little hamlet and how deeply he will be missed. Besides owning and operating a popular auto-body shop he also served on the BVA board from 2004 through 2013. He was on the Quality of Life committee his entire term, serving as chair between 2005 and 2010. He was also on the Squassux committee for the entire term and served as chair between 2010 and 2013.

Jim Schait, John's best friend, reminisces that "I've known him since we went to catholic grammar school together. John was a person who would help anybody if you asked. He had a tremendous heart. We would speak 3 or 4 times a day sometimes just to talk about our day mostly trying to make each other laugh. I could go on and on about us fishing together and just hanging out shooting the breeze but the thing I would most like to impart was what a wonderful person he was and he will be missed by many. I for one can say it was a loss that I won't soon get over - he was like a brother to me. We all will miss his smile for quite some time.

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Dockmaster and friend Andy Rubin fondly says "I was fortunate to have known him as a friend, a businessman, a fellow boater, and my boss as the Squassux Landing Chairperson. He always had a wide grin of a smile and a joke to tell. He would genuinely ask me how I was. He always impressed me by his concern for my well-being and remembered details of my life years later which surprised me. John served a nine-year term on the BVA Board and several years as the Squassux Chairperson. I came to know him well during that time since we had many tasks we accomplished together. He radiated enthusiasm and dedicated a great deal of his personal time in that capacity as a volunteer. He was always enthusiastic about his life in Brookhaven. I also needed his services at his body shop on occasion. He was knowledgeable, honest and his work was topflight. Often, I needed to call his business to discuss a marina issue and was afraid to bother him at work. But he was patient with me and eagerly found time for my concerns. I will miss John greatly."

Like many, Jeb Barry met John at the marina: "I first met John at Squassux Landing many years ago when he used to take his dad out fishing and he always had a smile on his face! I also had an opportunity to work with John when he was the chairman of the landing...he always appreciated my work fixing water leaks...and there were a lot of them back in the day...thank goodness that was redone. My wife and I also saw John with his family on many Friday nights at the big table at George's Luncheonette. He always flashed

that big smile...showing how happy he was with his family! John's big smile will live on in our memories."

Good friend Diane Fontana Titone loved to laugh with John "My most treasured memories of John were when he would come to the house with Ray (John's son). Ray would play with our dog and John would have coffee with us and we laughed until our sides hurt! I will always remember what a kind and generous person he was. Always ready to lend a hand whenever he could. John greeted everyone with his genuine smile! He loved nature and never have I met a more gentle caring soul! It has been my honor to have a friend like John in my life and I will forever miss him."

Board member JoAnn Stephani lost a friend and neighbor: "He selflessly placed garbage pails in our community and maintained them. You could find John on any given day, cleaning up our Hamlet, and always with a smile. Fishing and camping!! Too many tales to tell, we learned so much from this man. His Squassux Fairs! They were the best! It brought our community together by making friends of neighbors we never knew we had. That was John, his love of this Hamlet, and the people, bringing us together. Last, but absolutely not least, his love of his family: There was nothing more important to him. Whether you were actually his family or just a friend, he made you feel that you were special to him.

Dwayne and I will miss him, more than we can ever express. Tight lines, John! Until we meet again!"

Carlton Stewart

Welcoming Old and New Neighbors



Photo by Julia Villacara

On a mild evening in January 2020, as the twilight of dusk arrived at Brookhaven's Washington Lodge, the Brookhaven Free Library hosted an event with our new-ish neighbor, the Center for Environmental Education & Discovery (CEED). 113 hamlet residents of all ages gathered around a blazing bonfire waiting for the main attraction: Owls. "I've been leading Owl Prowls for years and these are typically my most well attended hikes, but the Brookhaven community really surprised me with so many attendees," said CEED's Program and Site Director, Eric Powers.

Our mysterious, fly-by-night neighbors are returning to the area. With their increasingly prevalent calls in the dark grows our curiosity about these magnificent creatures.

Ranger Eric's presentation covered much information and a lot of well-informed audience participation in learning about our once ever present native neighbors. Common to our area are three types of owls; Screech,



Photo by Eric Powers

Great-horned (known as tigers of the forest), and Barn Owls. “We have rare visits from Snowy, Saw Whet, and Long-eared Owls,” added Ranger Eric. The presentation included photos, owls calls, examples of owl pellets, talons and a variety of fascinating facts much to the audience’s curious delight. The talk was followed by a full moon hike through the wooded trails at CEED with all eyes and ears out for owls in the trees above. But, as we all know, the only predictable thing about nature is its unpredictability. Neither owl nor moon could be seen but the excitement could be felt as the audience adjusted their eyes to the dark.

Growing up in the hamlet, I can remember nights filled with the sounds of owls on my family’s property in all seasons. Those “Who cooks for you” calls seemed as common as a Cardinal’s song. Over the last 3 decades, I have noticed a complete absence of their presence in the area. Within the last 4 years, I noted a slow return. It feels like a special occasion to be celebrated (and I have

- think Buddy in “Elf” when he sees Santa) to hear the once ubiquitous “hoot-hoot”. Eric added, “specifically in the hamlet, I have observed Great-horned, Screech and Barn Owls within the last 6 months.”

So is there a resurgence in the population?

“Like all animal populations, owls have long term trends up and down.” Eric further offered this explanation, “with Long Island’s explosive growth over the last several decades, I am seeing so many forests getting leveled for housing and business developments. It takes a decade or more for ecosystems to build back up in order to support apex predators such as Great-horned owls again. I feel that in this hamlet, Post Morrow has been protecting land from development and this has had a stabilizing effect in our community.”

He continued, “our owls like an older, mature forest filled with lots of good things to eat, like mice, salamanders, frogs and more. It takes time for trees to mature, hollow out, and be able to support our cavity nesting owls, such as Screech Owls. Our community, while an old one, is finally starting to stabilize from all the small-scale development projects and our ecosystem is starting to recover. Forests are coming back into their own. Nature is slowly returning. Which is why we chose this community for our new CEED nature center... to help nature recover, and teach people how to help become good stewards for our quaint farming community. We are removing invasive species and replanting natives. We are putting up bird, bat and bee boxes to help speed the recovery.”

To attract owls to your property, you can put an owl box up. Directions to build your own or purchase one can be found online. And the best times to hear and see our old friends? “ The nesting season, late fall and into winter, is the best time of year to hear Great-horned and Screech Owls. I’ve mainly heard Barn Owls in the summer and fall.”

The hamlet welcomes both old and new neighbors like CEED to Brookhaven. We’re pleased to have you all here.

To learn more about CEED, their mission, how to help the organization and to follow all the fun for all ages programs and events CEED offers at the nature center located at 287 South Country Road, please visit their website at ceedli.org and follow on Facebook and Instagram.

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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.

WWW.BROOKHAVENVILLAGEASSOCIATION.ORG



Join us for *Sunset Salute*

*for Out-Going
BVA Board President, John Knapp
and Director, Deborah Love*

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020

Meet the BVA Board of Directors, visit with friends, neighbors and enjoy a drink and light refreshments

5:00 - 7:00 PM

SQUASSUX LANDING

This event is *free* and open to all residents of Brookhaven Hamlet and members of the Brookhaven Village Association.

Fire Place

*A Community Newsletter from the
Brookhaven Village Association*

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