



EAST
HAMPTON

Trails Preservation Society

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Uncovering History Along the Trail

By Eva Moore

To hikers who frequent the trails in the Grace Estate and Grassy Hollow Nature Preserve, the “schoolhouse plaque” on the side of Northwest Road is a familiar sight. The plaque commemorates a 19th century one-room schoolhouse, which was located in the Northwest Woods nearby. The plaque was the only visible evidence that the school existed—until VP of Trails Maintenance Richard Poveromo decided that the town’s history should not be covered up; it would be a shame to allow the site of such an historically significant building, and the adjacent site of a farmhouse built by early settler Isaac Van Scoy to remain hidden under decades of deadfall, invasive vines, and debris. He decided to do something about it.

“I thought we [the EHTPS maintenance crew] should go in there and clean up the area, including the old Van Scoy cemetery. It could become a destination point for history buffs and add extra interest to the trail itself.”

The idea met with strong approval by the membership. A committee was formed to work with the town and the Department of Land Management. When the Town Board approved the project, workers began to clear the two areas, and plans were drawn up to create interpretive signage to be placed at the site of the schoolhouse, the house, and the original well, which had been boarded over to prevent those ambling in the woods (both two footed and four footed) from suddenly finding themselves in deep trouble.

“Starting last September, a total of twenty-five volunteers put in 200 hours of clearing the two areas with loppers, handsaws, rakes and wheelbarrows,” Richard told us.

When they finished, the brick-strewn depression marking the foundation of the two-story, 30 by 34 foot Van Scoy dwelling, built in 1771, and the foundation stones marking the corners of the 1827 schoolhouse were at last exposed to the light of day. The workers had also laid down

cedar logs to mark the perimeter of the schoolhouse, constructed a wooden enclosure for the well, and refurbished the cemetery fence.

The three 18" x 24" interpretive signs were set in place just before the uncovering ceremony on May 28.

That morning, a crowd of about 80 people, including Town Councilwoman Theresa Quigley, State Assemblyman Fred Thiele, and Peter Van Scoyoc, a descendant of Issac Van Scoy, toured the site. At a podium set up in the woods, Ms. Quigley shared memories of having

grown up nearby in an isolated house with no electricity or running water, and Assemblyman Thiele joined her in thanking EHTPS for spearheading the project.

Richard then stepped up to the podium and sketched the history of the Van Scoy family, the first settlers in the Northwest Woods. He pointed out that the house, which had been expanded in later years, was some 2,000 square feet in size and commented, to the delight of the listeners, “Not only was Isaac the first settler, he built the very first MacMansion in East Hampton.”

On your next trip to Northwest, perhaps to

attend a hike in the Grace Estate or Grassy Hollow, be sure to check out the new site: take the path directly in front of the parking area, which passes the cemetery.

■ A round of applause to all who contributed to this project (in alphabetical order): Steve Adler, Carol Andrews, Jim Arnold, David Bernstein, Frank Berrafato, Mike Bottini, Nick Bryan, Lee Dion, Bill Flynn, Andy Gaites, Dennis Loeb, Richard Lupoletti, Gene Makl, Charlie Marder, Mica Marder, Barbara McClancy, Brian Monahan, Eva Moore, Ben Morales, Vanessa Mothes, Victoria Von Frank, Andrew Walsh, Jeri Wellman, Rick Whalen, and Jim Zajac. A special thank you to Arlene Hinkemeyer for doing a fabulous job in publicizing the event.



ARLENE HINKEMEYER

Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Jr. spoke to the crowd of about 80 people who attended the May 28 ceremony congratulating EHTPS on its accomplishment.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hikers,

I know I speak for all the new officers of East Hampton Trails Preservation Society in expressing a mix of gratitude and anticipation in being elected to serve you for the next two years. From its inception a generation ago, EHTPS has transformed from a few people struggling against odds to rescue favorite trails from oblivion, to a large, well-respected advocate and best steward of a trail network unsurpassed in its accessibility and pervasiveness. While our town's expanses of preserved land and trail network have earned the envy of many municipalities, we face new challenges ahead, including finding ways to increase not only trail usage but also trail stewardship; and luring our next generations away from the siren songs of the latest online gaming applications to the pleasures of hiking through our woods and fields.

EHTPS leadership has shifted, but the core of our organization—two fine cadres of volunteer maintenance workers and hike leaders—remains unchanged. Please consider joining one or both of these dedicated teams. We welcome your participation at any level—once a week, once a month or once a year, and we happily provide the minimum training necessary.

On the news front, I'm pleased to mention our participation again this year in Goldman Sachs' Community TeamWorks program, which donated not only a generous financial sum but also a hard day's labor from eleven of Wall Street's finest, who helped clear and re-blaze the entire length of Foster's Path from the newly-revealed Van Scoy homestead all the way to Chatfield's Hole. I'm also happy to note acquisition by our town and county of the former Boys and Girls Harbor camp off Springy Banks Road in the Northwest Woods, abutting the Duke Hands Creek Preserve. Use of the property remains under discussion, but we harbor hope of walking trails, plus the possibility of increased opportunities for biking, kayaking and cross-country skiing.

EHTPS has made great strides since its inception, but much remains undone: perhaps most crucially, an incredulous "Trails in East Hampton?" remains too constant a refrain among both visitors and locals alike. I encourage you all to share the secret of our beautiful trails this summer season.

Happy Hiking,



Jim Zajac
President, EHTPS

A Good Place for a Walk

EHTPS Travels in Italy – May 2011

By Sally Wendkos Olds,

with much assistance from Joan Porco and Eva Moore

You may not be able to go home again—but you can go to Italy again, which is what EHTPS did for this year's superlative hiking trip. Unparalleled views, challenging hikes, exceptional hikers, delicious food, absorbing history, heavenly weather, great shopping, lots of laughs and good cheer. And special moments, like:

- * The adventures involved in finding our hotel rooms in Santo Stefano, the charming medieval hilltop village in the Abruzzo region that was our first stop, where we were quartered in ancient peasant homes, reached by negotiating narrow cobblestoned streets, maneuvering steps, passing arches, gates, scaffolding, and piles of boulders.
- * The Mount Tremoggia climb up to 6,000 feet when our local guide Lorenzo helped hikers over rocky, snowy, and icy patches on the alpine flower-dotted trail, while two mountain goats nimbly criss-crossed the rocky terrain above us.
- * Our first delicious dinner in Santo Stefano, featuring local pecorino cheese, soup with local lentils, spelt with meatballs, asparagus soup with eggs and bacon, meltingly tender slices of pork with green beans, a rich yet light chocolate mousse.
- * Watching workers make that pecorino cheese on a nearby sheep farm.
- * Walking alongside nursing newborn lambs at the farm.
- * Hearing the song of a cuckoo as we hiked through Abruzzese meadows.
- * Soaking tired, aching feet in the bidets in our hotel bathrooms.
- * Sensing history at the Museum of Traditions and Transhumance in Castel del Monte, where we saw how families used to live, shepherds used to dress, and women used to weave.
- * Sensing a more recent spirit—of George Clooney—when we passed under the arches of the elegant mansion where he stayed when filming "The American".

(continued on page 4)



New Officers (from left to right) Nancy Kane, Eva Moore, Jim Zajac, Debbie Waldstein, Richard Poveromo, Larry Raymond, Barbara McClancy, and Gene Makl.
(missing – Sharon Statucki)

EHTPS OFFICERS 2011-2013

President, Jim Zajac
VP Administration, Eva Moore
VP Trails Planning, Nancy Kane
VP Trails Planning, Gene Makl
VP Trails Maintenance, Richard Poveromo
VP Hike Scheduling, Sharon Statucki
VP Member Services, Barbara McClancy
Secretary, Debbie Waldstein
Treasurer, Larry Raymond

EHTPS IN PHOTOS – (Special Events)



MARK LEVY

March 15 – Trails maintenance volunteer Carol Andrews does some needed early spring clipping.



MARK LEVY

March 16 – Hike leader Ed Porco reviews the trail during this late winter/early spring hike. Look everyone – NO SNOW!

May 28 – Grand Opening Ceremonies 18th Century Van Scoy Property Uncovered



ARLENE HINKEMEYER

Richard Poveromo recounts the history of the area and explains how his team of volunteers worked to uncover the 18th century Van Scoy home site, well, schoolhouse, and cemetery.



DRAWING BY BRAIN MONAHAN

Pen & ink rendering of an 18th century house to mark the Van Scoy home site.

April 17 – Annual Spring Brunch



MARK LEVY

Ed Porco presents outgoing EHTPS President Eva Moore with a beautiful bouquet in appreciation for her outstanding service to our organization.



MARK LEVY

Newly elected EHTPS President Jim Zajac enjoys the festivities.



MARK LEVY

Eva Moore presents Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Jr. with the EHTPS Friend of the Trails Award for his commitment to our mission.



MARK LEVY

Richard Lupoletti plugs our upcoming grand opening of the newly restored Van Scoy property in the Northwest Woods.

Welcome New Members January 2011 - July 2011

Lydia Brancaccio, Water Mill; Laurie DeVito, Sagaponack; Charles Schell, East Hampton; Bob & Francoise Simon, NYC; Judith Bresler, NYC; Rita Santo, Montgomery, NY; Leslie Levi, East Hampton; Phyllis Schlessel, East Hampton; John Chimples, Montauk; Bernard Rosenbaum, NYC; Helen New-Roussel, Amagansett; Toni Hope Meltzer, Coconut Grove, FL; Rebecca Jones, Southampton; Sean Hogan, Fairfield, CT; Ireen D. Vandewater, Babylon, NY; Barry Wells & Loretta de Marne, East Hampton; Laraine Rothenberg, NYC; Dean Andrews, East Hampton; Virginia L. Esposito, Yorktown Heights, NY; Ann Lucas, Brookhaven, NY; Victoria Von Frank, East Hampton; Norman Brosterman, East Hampton; Jeff Fagen, East Hampton; Barbara Molinari, Baltimore, MD; Tim Armstrong, NYC; Andrew Stoll, Brooklyn, NY; Dr. Barbara A. Donnellan, Hauppauge, NY; Brian Bilzin, Miami Beach, FL; The Bernstein Family, East Hampton



ARLENE HINKEMEYER

Speakers at the ceremony, organized by Richard Lupoletti, include EHTPS President Jim Zajac, EH Town Board member Theresa Quigley, who grew up in the Northwest Woods, Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Jr., and VP Trails Maintenance, Richard Poveromo, who spearheaded the project. Also in attendance was local Van Scoy descendant Peter Van Scoyac.



ARLENE HINKEMEYER

Jim Zajac, Gene Makl, Ray Hartjen and Theresa Quigley hold a confab around the newly capped well.

A Good Place for a Walk

Continued from page 2

- * Thrilling to the famous (or infamous) Amalfi Drive with its gorgeous views and alarming near-encounters with oncoming traffic.
- * Enjoying the very-Italian response to confusion about our bus tickets in which the public bus driver stopped on the Amalfi Drive to solve the problem, ignoring honking drivers.
- * Learning how *limoncello* is made and enjoying complimentary glasses of it at almost all our restaurants.
- * Trying to taste every flavor of *gelato*, even if that meant we sometimes had to eat it mid-morning. You have to do what you have to do.
- * Walking in the Mill Valley nature reserve on a trail above tiers of lemon trees and down into a forested area along a rushing river, waterfalls, and the remnants of a mill that once used water power to extract iron ore and to make paper.
- * Passing the spirited political rally in the main square of Amalfi—and finding out the next day that the opposition party to Berlusconi's had won.
- * Eating fresh-caught *orato* (sea bream) at da Costantino with its stunning views over Positano.
- * Thrilling to the aptly named *Sentiero dei degli* (Pathway of the Gods) in Positano, where every turn of the trail, first beneath towering cliffs and then high above the coast, brought Olympian views. Divine indeed.
- * Following Salvatore, the guide in Pompeii, who shepherded our group through the high spots, but—all agreed—did it much too fast.
- * The message in our rooms from the owners of Sorrento's elegant Imperial Tramontano, the literary stopping place for such distinguished writers as Byron, Keats, Stowe, and Ibsen, which assured us, "You who are visiting now are just as welcome and honoured a guest."
- * The email from one hiker's husband back home who worried that the multiple steep charges on her credit card on one day meant that the card had been stolen—but no, she reassured him, she had just been lucky enough to find "a few baubles" to bring home.
- * One spectacular sunset after another.



22 EHTPS travelers enjoy spectacular hiking in Italy.

- * Our long rocky walk to *Finis Terrae* (Land's End) from Termini (the geographical equivalent of Montauk?), at the end of the Sorrento peninsula, where we ate our bag lunches and dreamily looked out to sea.
- * Day hikes ranging from 4 to 7 miles per trip, totaling almost 70 miles.
- * Taking photos from the ferry of I Fariglioni, the famous three big rocks jutting up next to the Isle of Capri.
- * Visiting Villa San Michele up in Ana Capri, onetime home of Axel Munthe, the Swedish doctor, writer, and animal lover who lived there in the early 1900s, where he studied the psychology of illness.
- * The morning eleven of us women walked up and then down from Capri's Villa Jovis, the ruined villa of the ruthless Roman emperor Tiberius, and were serenaded by the much more *simpatico* Roman, the guitar-strumming owner of the café where we stopped for cappuccino.
- * Making the acquaintance of the fat and fluffy Matisse, namesake of our Hotel Gatto Bianco in Capri with its ceramic white cats on stairways and in lobbies.
- * Discovering Italian wines like Montepulciano d'Abruzzo and Falanghina.
- * Partying on the Gatto Bianco terrace courtesy of Perry and Mitzi, who lived up to their royal suite by hosting us regally.
- * And maybe best of all: Our puckish guide Lieven's comment (after telling us more than once that he had never led such an old group before) that when he gets to be our ages he hopes he'll be able to do what we did—and to enjoy it as much. He couldn't wish for anything better.

ATTENTION Trail Lovers!

If you

SEE something,
SAY something.
REPORT all illegal
use of our trails.

CONTACT:

EH Town Police @ 537-7322
SH Town Police @ 728-5000
Richard Lupoletti @ 324-1127
Andrew Walsh @ 327-2893

FOLLOW-UP

with an official police report.

Trail Times Editor: Jeri Wellman

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