

News from the Farm

Spring 2020



Hallockville Appoints New Executive Director

We are pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has voted unanimously to appoint Roberta Shoten as the new executive director of the Hallockville Museum Farm.

Formerly an executive with the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center, she succeeds Herb Strobel, who had been Hallockville's executive director for 12 years and who will remain with us part-time as program director to



oversee our summer camp and lead other special activities.

Ms. Shoten holds a master's degree from New York University and a bachelor's from the State University of New York at Albany.

She brings a wealth of relevant experience to her new job, gained from her 10 years at Westhampton Beach, where she served in leadership positions in development and operations, contributing significantly to the

theater's reputation, stature and expanded regional presence.

Hallockville's co-president, Christine Killorin, spoke with enthusiasm about Ms. Shoten. "After an extensive search, we're delighted and more than confident that we've found the perfect person to shepherd our very special organization to a bright future," Ms. Killorin said.

"Roberta has the leadership skills, people skills and energy to build on the great gains Herb achieved, and we are thrilled that she's agreed to join us," she added.

Alfonso Martinez-Fonts, Hallockville's co-president, had high praise for Mr. Strobel. "Herb has done an amazing job these past 12 years and we're absolutely delighted that he will continue to help shape our educational programs."

From the Director's Desk

I write to you with extreme enthusiasm about my new position as executive director of Hallockville Museum Farm and to express great pride at having been asked to help lead this extraordinary institution into the future.

I also write, however, at a time of immense personal challenge for each of us as we cope with the stresses and strains and, in some cases, personal loss brought on by a global pandemic never before experienced by any of us.

I can only hope and pray that the arrival of this newsletter will find you and your family healthy and safe.

As with most organizations, we have had to either postpone or cancel altogether events that had been scheduled for April and May. These include our popular Horseradish Festival, set for May 2nd, and our equally popular Fleece and Fiber Fair, which had been on the calendar for May 16th and 17th.

What happens after that we cannot predict, so we would ask you to check on the status of events farther down the road by going to our website: Hallockville.com.

We are particularly hopeful that we will be able to conduct our summer camp, scheduled to open on July 9th and run through August 14th. As you will read on page 4, registration is currently underway to sign up your children, grandchildren and other young people who may be visiting this summer.

We are also pleased to announce an initiative called *Hallockville Honeys*, which, as described on page 2, invites you to sponsor a bee hive, either on your own or in concert with family and friends.

Looking ahead, my goal will be to build upon the importance and vitality of Hallockville as a valued community asset. In this regard, I know I will be fortunate to be standing on the broad shoulders of those who came before.

For me, most important of them has been Herb Strobel, who has accomplished so much here over the past 12 years. He has been a wonderful mentor and friend from the day I came aboard, and I'm very grateful for that.

Herb obviously leaves me with large shoes to fill, and that makes me all the more delighted that he has agreed to remain at Hallockville on a part-time basis as our program director to to oversee our summer camp and assist with other education projects.

I'd also like to thank Megan Shpak, our former assistant director who left us recently, and to wish her well as her career in museum administration takes her on an exciting new path.

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In closing, let me say that I, along with Hallockville's Board of Directors, am acutely aware that the coronavirus pandemic, in addition to the serious health problems it has brought on, has also had an economic impact on all of us.

Nevertheless, I would ask you to keep in mind that Hallockville Museum Farm exists only with your financial support. Because of you and others before you, this vital community asset has been around for 40 years, with great promise for the future.

I deeply thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely, Roberta

Sponsor Your Own Bee Hive And Help Save the Food Crop

Although no one likes to get stung by a bee, these insects are critical -- indeed *essential* -- to human survival.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, bees pollinate 75 percent of the fruits, nuts and vegetables grown in America. Every four out of ten bites of food Americans consume are courtesy of the bee population.

Unfortunately, as you may know, bee populations have



been in severe decline for several decades for a myriad of reasons, including habitat loss,

pesticide use, climate change, air pollution, and disease.

So what can be done?

Hallockville Museum Farm wants to do our part to protect bees and at the same time raise awareness of the critical issue of bee decline -- and that's the motivation behind the *Hallockville Honeys* initiative.

We are partnering with Chris Kelly of North Fork Promised Land Apiaries, who will be maintaining hives on Hallockville's 28 acre campus.

Chris is a master beekeeper with, believe it or not, 50 years of experience tending hives across Long Island and is an enthusiastic and passionate advocate for these important insects.

We invite you to take part in this initiative by sponsoring your own hive for \$400 or by joining with friends and family and splitting the cost.

As a sponsor, you will learn about bees from a veteran bee-keeper, be there for the installation of your hive and take part in a "blessing for the bees."

We urge you to join this important program by either going to our website, hallockville.com, or calling our office and leaving a message at 631- 298-5292.

Sustainability Initiative

Build Your Own Habitat That's Strictly for the Birds

In our last newsletter, we reported how Hallockville has created a special habitat to support birds. The following tells how you can create one in your own backyards.

The best way is with a layered environment: perennials that provide nectar and seeds; shrubs for berries and shelter; and trees for nesting and escape from predators.

Not all plants flower at the same time and birds cannot rely on just a few plants. So this layered approach provides the diversity

needed to support different bird species.

Add a bird bath and a few bird houses and you'll be thanked with hours of song and



the knowledge that you're doing your own part to stanch the endangerment of wild birds on the North Fork.

There are many ways to create your own backyard habitat for birds. Here are just a few suggestions to get you started:

Vines and groundcovers: The vines of Virginia creeper and trumpet honeysuckle will provide perches, nesting places, shelter and fruit. Wild grapes are especially beneficial and provide food for at least 50 species of birds. And as a bonus, the stringy bark is used for nest building.

Perennials: These grow near ground level. Pick a variety to help support birds throughout the year. In the spring that includes mayapple, baptisia, amsonia. In the summer: agastache, liatrus, milkweed, echinacea, black-eyed susan. In the fall: asters, solidago and New York ironweed.

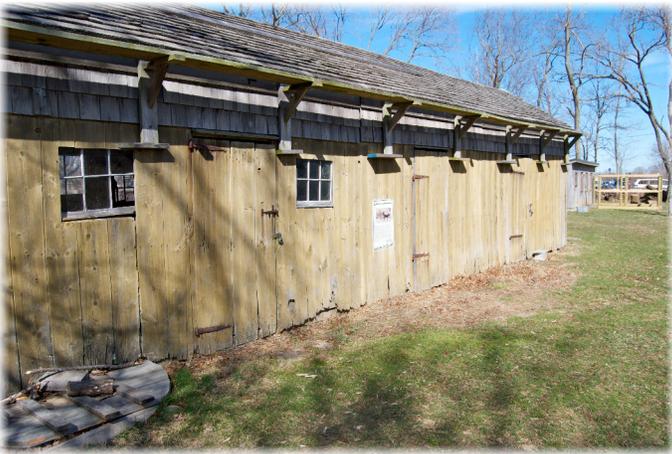
Shrubs: These plants provide beneficial cover along with much needed food during the winter: witch-hazel, nannyberry viburnums, red and black chokeberry, high bush blueberry and winterberry.

All year round feeding: Birds that migrate in the fall require fatty fruits such as flowering dogwood, spicebush and maple leaf viburnum to build fat reserves for their long journey. Wintering birds need fruits such as those from conifers, bayberry, hawthorns, crabapples and sumacs to help them survive subfreezing temperatures.

Trees: Oak trees host over 500 species of butterfly and moth larvae. Why is that important? Because these critters are essential food for baby birds. Other tree species to consider are willow, cherry, plum, birch and poplar.



Richard Wines notes that Bessie Hallock's caption for this 1926 photograph is "Humble equipment bringing wood to house." That's Halsey W. Hallock, Bessie's brother known as "Hal," driving the cart. Even though automobiles and trucks had been around for a couple of decades at this point, he never learned to drive!



The workshop/woodshed building as it looks today.

Hallockville Yard Sale Saturday, June 27th

This is your chance to clear and declutter your home while helping Hallockville.

We will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, June 27th (rain date Sunday June 28th) so this is a call for your gently used castaways and collectibles.



Bring your donations to the Cichanowicz house any time after May 15th or drop them off at the Hudson House.

We're looking for kitchen appliances and utensils, small furniture items and lamps, tools and equipment, paperback books, antiques, collectibles. etc. But please, no bedding, upholstered furniture, hardback books or children's toys. Vendors also will be selling wares.

Any questions, call Christine Killorin at 201-306-2218.

A Visit to the Past

The Story Behind One Of Hallockville's Historic Buildings

There are 19 historic buildings on Hallockville Museum Farm's 28 acre campus, most on their original sites, some moved there from nearby farms, some dating back to the mid 18th century.

Each has its own story to tell. Below is the story of the woodshop/woodshed as told by historian and former Hallockville president, Richard Wines.

Like most buildings on their farm, the Hallock family continuously altered and modified the workshop/woodshed building to meet changing needs.

Today it is a narrow building about forty feet long, a few steps from the kitchen end of the Hallock Homestead.

The oldest part is the western end, probably built as a wash house for the Hallock women in the mid-19th century.

A cistern still visible outside the door collected rainwater from the roof. Because the well water contained minerals that prevented their homemade soap from making suds, the Hallock women preferred this soft water for washing clothes.

The chimney served a small stove, since washing in that period basically meant boiling clothes. Both the stove and the hydraulic cement needed to make a cistern water tight were the latest technologies at the time.

Originally the roofline was lower and symmetrical, but later in the 19th century the Hallocks moved another structure with a salt-box roofline up against the old washhouse.

They then raised the roofline of the original building to match the newer addition, which became their woodshed to store firewood that fueled not only the kitchen stove, but also stoves in the sitting room and parlors.

The wood came from the north end of the farm near Long Island Sound as well as a wood lot on the south end of the farm near Herrick's Lane.

In 1894, after the women decamped to a more convenient washroom shed that had been added to the back of the Homestead kitchen, the original washhouse was repurposed as the farm workshop.

Like all nineteenth century farms, instead of throwing away broken equipment or furniture, they either repaired or repurposed it.

For instance, one side chair survives that had apparently suffered a broken leg. Instead of putting the chair out for garbage pickup – which, of course, never came to the Hallock farm – they spliced in a mismatched leg from another chair and painted it to camouflage the repair!



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Summer Camp Starts July 9th; You May Sign Up Now

Before you know it, school will be out and you'll be looking for things that your children, grandchildren or visiting young people can do this



summer.

Hallockville has the answer: *Farm Camp!* We'll be offering six weeks of camp on weekdays from July 6th through August 14th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Campers can enroll in either the junior program

(ages 5 through 7) or the senior program (ages 8 through 12). Each week's activities are centered around themes, including *Life on the Farmstead*, *Nature Explorations*, *Bees & Butterflies*, and more.

Where else on Long Island can children enjoy the summer surrounded by more than 500 acres of fields and woods?

Additional information including descriptions, tuition, and registration instructions can be found at Hallockville.com by selecting the *Programs* tab and then the *Summer Camp* option.

You may sign up up for one, two or all six weeks.

Hallockville's Mission To take Long Island back to its family farming roots and explore their relevance today.

Our Vision To create a vibrant, active and inclusive Hallockville community rooted in history and focused on the future.