

News from the Farm

Winter 2019/20



Campers meet the sheep Judianne Davis shows summer campers the finer points of sheep management and herding. Hallockville is home to the Arts on the Farm Summer Camp, a partnership with the Peconic Community School, serving more than 400 children, ages 3 through 12, on the museum farm's 28-acre campus during seven weeks in July and August.

From the Director's Desk

It's hard to believe that yet another year at Hallockville is almost in the books. But while the warm days of our summer camp and country fair are only pleasant memories at this point, that does not mean things have slowed down at the museum farm. We are already planning for a very active 2020!

Our winter lecture series starts in February, along with a variety of craft classes that have become popular in the last several years. And it won't be too long before our Spring Tea and Fiber Fair mark the return of warmer weather.

Many great things happened at Hallockville in 2019 and much of that success is due to the efforts of Megan Shpak, our assistant director.

Megan came to us in 2018 as an intern as part of a Masters in Museum Studies program through Johns Hopkins University. She quickly took on responsibilities related to curatorial work with our collections, and we were

pleased when she then transitioned into the assistant director role early this year. Megan has a broad set of duties that include program coordination, volunteer recruitment, promotion, and so much more.

In addition, she continues her academic pursuits, including attending a two-week study seminar in Nashville this fall.

I'm pleased to announce that Hallockville will be the recipient of grant funding from the New York State Council on the Arts beginning in the new year. We are grateful that NYSCA recognizes the value Hallockville brings to the Long Island community. The \$7500 award will support our general operations next year and allow us to re-invest income from other sources - including, most importantly, you - in new programming and needed maintenance and repairs.

None of what Hallockville does is possible without the financial contributions from our grassroots supporters. In this regard, you should have received by now our annual appeal mailing. I ask that you consider continuing your

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support of the museum farm as a valuable community resource.

Please return the appeal form with your contribution by regular mail or donate electronically through our secure website by clicking on the Support tab at Hallockville.com.

On behalf of Hallockville's board of directors and staff, I wish you and everyone important to you a wonderful and peaceful holiday season.

Regards, Herb

Ed and Anita Kennedy: Two Beloved Volunteers

Anita and Ed Kennedy first encountered Hallockville through a notice in a local newspaper asking for volunteers to read to elementary school students during New York's Annual Agricultural Literacy Week.

This was just the type of volunteer opportunity they were looking for after moving to Riverhead from New York City, and they have been faithful volunteers for more than 10 years — Anita giving tours of the Homestead to visiting school kids and Ed giving tours of the Homestead barn.

As veteran volunteers, they know more than a few interesting tidbits about the farmstead. Ed shares with visitors that there is a special opening for cats to access the barn's potato cellar to help keep rodents from eating the



crop. He also enjoys telling his young visitors about the potato displays in the barn, singing "Jingle Bells" when they pass a one-horse open sleigh, and explaining why it's important for horses to have shoes to protect their hooves.

Anita's favorite things in the Homestead include an ornamental wreath that looks like dried flowers but is actually made from human hair. She is also partial to the fireless cooker in the kitchen

that served as a crockpot, preparing meals while the family was out working the farm.

The Kennedys and volunteers like them are absolutely vital to the museum. Says Ed, "It gives me an opportunity to share with children that life was different at the time of the Hallocks and to convey that when a community gets together, something great can be accomplished!"

Hallockville Directors Elect New Officers



New Team Pictured clockwise from top left: Marge McDonald, treasurer, Connie Klos, secretary, Suzanne Johnson, vice president, Alfonse Martinez-Fonts, co-president, and Christine Killorin, co-president. Mr. Martinez-Fonts had been vice president, Ms. Killorin, treasurer. As co-leaders they succeed Paul Hoffman, who served as president since 2015.

Hallockville Members Elect Four New Board Members

On November 3rd, at the annual membership meeting of Hallockville Museum Farm, members elected four new board members.

They are: Lois Leonard (pictured), a retired speech and hearing specialist and Hallockville Gardener; Joe Dalimonte,

(pictured) financial advisor and buildings and grounds volunteer; Doris Stratmann, retired

dean of academic affairs at Suffolk Community College and former Hallockville vice president; and Dale Moyer, retired associate executive director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.



Sustainability Initiative

Hallockville Creates Habitat To Support Birds and Pollinators

Does it seem to you that there are fewer birds now than when you were growing up? Sadly, this is only too true. According to a recent study, nearly 30 percent of wild birds in North America have vanished since 1970, a loss of three billion birds.

What is going on? According to Cornell University, the loss of natural habitats caused by humans is the greatest threat to breeding birds. Millions of trees have been felled



to build shopping centers, roads and homes. And in our own yards, we tend to plant grass and favor exotic plants from Europe and Asia which don't support native wildlife. In addition, birds need to eat local insects that only thrive on native plants that they have evolved with over thousands of years.

Pesticides have also taken a toll on pollinators like bees that assist in the reproduction of 90 percent of the world's flowering plants and more than 75 percent of the food crops humans consume. What can we do about it? At Hallockville, we have created a habitat area that will support birds and pollinators. The first steps were taken in 2017 when a plan was put in place to clear non-native plants from the area between the Homestead and the new Hallock State Park. A path was carved out and mulched, with materials donated by the Shamrock Tree Company of Cutchogue.



Over the next two years, we began to plant native shrubs and trees such as serviceberry, red chokeberry (shown), black chokeberry, elderberry, spicebush, dogwood and blueberries.

This year, we added a perennial bed with purple coneflower, rudbeckia, New England asters, milkweed, solidago, Joe Pye weed and mayapple, many donated by Trimble's Nursery.

What can you do on your own property? Protect and plant oak trees; add bird houses and bird baths; keep your cats indoors; avoid pesticides; and, next spring, plant native trees, shrubs and perennials. In our spring newsletter, there will be a list of beautiful, easy-to-maintain native plants.

Volunteers Spur a Quilt Revival And Also Revenue for Hallockville

Seven years ago, Connie Klos, then a member of a Long Island quilting guild, contacted Hallockville to see if there would be interest in having quilters demonstrate their skills at the museum farm. The response was enthusiastic, and thus began a quilting revival on Sound Avenue.

Connie, now secretary and a member of Hallockville's board of directors, soon began offering classes in embroidery and quilting, which led to monthly Quilt & Stitch gatherings that continue today.

Four years ago, the group began producing quilts, which they then raffle off to the public for the benefit of Hallockville, raising to date



in excess of \$5,000. Some of the members are experienced quilters, some are not. But all, says Connie, enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the monthly gatherings and the friendships that have resulted one stitch at a time.

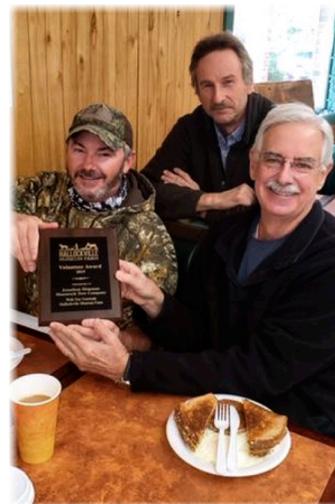
Pictured above, from left to right: Phyllis Capasso, Anna Hinderhoff, Connie Klos, Barbara Jamison, Mary Herold.

Volunteers Singled Out For Special Recognition

Four special individuals were presented with Volunteer Appreciation awards at Hallockville's annual members meeting on November 3rd. Included were Lois Leonard, for her countless hours as a Hallockville Gardener; Joe Dalimonte, for assisting with various and vital buildings and grounds projects; and Mary Herold, for her enthusiastic work with the Quilt and Stitch group.

Jonathan Shipman of Shamrock Tree Service of Cutchogue was recognized for his company's donation of labor and material needed in the creation of Hallockville's habitat area.

Mr. Shipman couldn't make the meeting, and so, as pictured, he was taken out for breakfast and given his award by Executive Director Herb Strobel and Co-President Alfonse Martinez-Fonts.





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Hallockville Staff

Herb Strobel
Executive Director

Megan Shpak
Assistant Director



Annual Country Fair and Craft Show Hallockville's largest single fundraiser, held this year on August 24th and 25th, attracted more than 3500 visitors. The Islip Horseman's Association's drill team, *The Spirit of Long Island*, was among the attractions.



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.