

# THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF EAST HAMPTON

the Village  
**Preservation**  
Society of East Hampton

FALL NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2018

• 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL •

# Historic Preservation

## A W A R D

at the VPS Annual Meeting of Members

*The Mulford-Baker House*



*"The Studio" of Thomas  
and Mary Nimmo Moran*



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD – A NEW INITIATIVE

*By Georgia de Havenon, Historic Preservation Committee Chair*

During a Trustee's meeting earlier this year, both Town Historian, Averill Geus and our treasurer, Curt Shade, brought up the idea of an historic preservation award. Curt was familiar with this type of program as he had been involved with a similar initiative which had proved successful at a township in New Jersey that is comparable to East Hampton in many respects. After much discussion and research, particularly in regard to the policies of the National

Trust relating to historic preservation, the Trustees decided it would be an appropriate undertaking for the Village Preservation Society. Establishing an award of this nature is in keeping with the mission of the Society "to preserve historic structures, neighborhood character, and quality of life in the Village of East Hampton." Furthermore, the award should encourage appreciation for the historic buildings of East Hampton Village and vicinity.

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# HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

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It was felt there was a need to not only recognize properties that have been saved from destruction, but also those that have been significantly restored, rehabilitated or reconstructed and thus help sustain the historic character of East Hampton and its surrounding hamlets. We see the creation of this award as an opportunity to recognize those who had undertaken an historic preservation project and to help shape public awareness of the importance of the historic nature of our surrounding environment.

In our inaugural year, we presented two awards. One award to be given annually for a property that has been restored by its owner, and another award to be given to a property that has been restored through non-profit or government funding. The latter award will take place only when an appropriate property presents itself. Nominations were made to determine the possible awardees and the winners were chosen by the Society's Historic Preservation Award Committee consisting of Christopher T. Cory, Eugene E. Cross, Jr., Georgia de Havenon (Chair), Averill D. Geus, Paul Goldberger, Curtis W. Schade, Robert A. M. Stern, Peter M. Wolf, Caroline Zaleski, Kathleen Cunningham (*Ex Officio*) and John L. McGuirk III (*Ex Officio*). Judging standards include architectural integrity, accuracy and quality of construction, craftsmanship and/or technical excellence, as well

as the proper use of historic techniques and materials. Each building or property should exhibit a special character of historic or aesthetic interest that enhances the cultural environment of the Village and vicinity.

The winner in the private residence category was the Mulford-Baker House of 1805, restored by Elizabeth and Patrick Gerschel. The house was moved from its original location on Pantigo Rd to Hither Lane and restored by Mrs. Gerschel who personally oversaw the process. After accepting the award, Mrs. Gerschel gave a short description of the restoration initiative she undertook.

For the non-profit/government category the remarkable efforts of the Trustees of The Moran Trust in raising funds to support a complete and historically accurate restoration of the 1884 Studio of Thomas and Mary Nimmo Moran were recognized. The award was presented to Michael Clifford, representing the Trustees of The Moran Trust.

The goal of this award is to raise consciousness about preservation in the greater East Hampton area. It is the hope of the Village Preservation Society that its members will support the award and will begin to nominate properties they feel should be recognized. Nominations can be submitted at any time during the course of the year and we can work with any individuals that may need assistance with the application. More information can be found at: <http://www.villagepreservationsociety.org/award.html>



*Elizabeth Gerschel accepts the award for preservation of the historic Mulford-Baker House – 1805 from VPS Chair, John McGuirk III as Historic Preservation Committee Chair, Georgia de Havenon looks on.*



*Michael Clifford, Vice President of The Moran Trust accepts the award for the restoration of The Studio of Thomas and Mary Nimmo Moran - 1884 from VPS Chair, John McGuirk III as Historic Preservation Committee Chair, Georgia de Havenon, looks on.*

*VPS Members and guests enjoyed a panel discussion of historic preservation initiatives and why they are important at the Annual Meeting of Members, September 22, 2018 at the Tennis House. Panelists were (left to right) Caroline Rob Zaleski, historic preservationist, Averill D. Geus, East Hampton Town Historian and Gene E. Cross, Jr., professional planner.*



## *Inaugural VPS Historic Preservation Award Winners*

Elizabeth and Patrick Gerschel were honored in the private residence category, for the relocation and restoration of the Mulford-Baker House built in 1805; and the Trustees of The Moran Trust in the non-profit/governmental category, who undertook an historically accurate restoration of The Studio of Thomas and Mary Nimmo Moran, built in 1884.

The Mulford-Baker House was built by Edward Mulford c. 1805, a son of Revolutionary War hero Captain Ezekiel Mulford, and a senior partner in the highly successful whaling firm of Mulford & Sleight in Sag Harbor, with eight or more ships cruising the Pacific. Originally built on family land on Pantigo Rd, the home was decorated with Honduran mahogany brought back by his ships. The house was moved from its original location on Pantigo Rd to Hither Ln in 1985, was restored and is now the home of Elizabeth and Patrick Gerschel. It was recently designated a national historic landmark in East Hampton's survey of shingle style homes. Mrs. Gerschel oversaw the entire restoration process herself.

"The Studio" of Thomas and Mary Nimmo Moran is a National Historic Landmark, built in 1884, and designed by Thomas Moran, the renowned landscape painter and illustrator associated with the Hudson River School. Mary Nimmo Moran, his wife, a landscape artist best known for her etchings, including many local East Hampton vistas, was the only woman elected to London's Royal Society of Painter-Etchers. The Morans entertained frequently, making their home the social center for the artists' colony. Thomas Moran's landscapes of the American west are widely considered the inspiration for the establishment of the National Park System, particularly his large canvases and watercolors of Yellowstone.



*Members and guests enjoy the professional panel discussion on the value of historic preservation.*

## **THREATENED, JARED DAYTON HEDGES HOUSE, WAINSCOTT**

*By Averill D. Geus, East Hampton Town Historian*

Until only a few years ago, the little hamlet of Wainscott was a village full of barns, tractors, and potato fields. With only one Main Street, a one-room schoolhouse, no stores or commercial buildings, there was an aspect of Brigadoon about this small undeveloped area of East Hampton. Wedged into a sliver of land between Rt 27 to the north and the broad beaches of the Atlantic to the south, Wainscott was a secluded but charming fishing and farming community for over three hundred years. A sizeable number of its houses were worthy of being designated historic. Because it has no historic district, Wainscott became the most threatened area in East Hampton after being discovered by developers and Manhattanites.

About twenty years ago, many who aspired to the ostentation of the some of the area's wealthiest homeowners, began destruction of Wainscott's fragile beauty. Two hundred year old houses were torn down with abandon to provide land for cookie cutter mansions. The signs went up and the land prices rose. Hard working farmers became millionaires – how could they resist? Recently, another developer appeared before the Town's Architectural Review Board in East Hampton - another request for permission to tear down yet another typical early 19th century house and replace it with a new 3,000 - 4,000 sq ft house.

The Jared Dayton Hedges House was a half house, meaning the other half was never built. Its big chimney had been removed years ago, along with its kitchen fireplace, but the structure remains mostly intact. The house is actually larger than it appears, with a 20th century addition attached to the rear. It is a plain Jane, no show off slate floors or marble baths, offering only plain strength, charm and comfort in a small package. Is this house worth saving? Or should another huge architectural statement be built on Beach Lane?

Along with its visual attributes, this little house has some interesting history. Thought to have been built around 1807,



*Left to right: Angel Schade; Michael Clifford, Moran Trust Vice-President; Curtis W. Schade, VPS Treasurer; and Arthur Graham, Village Trustee.*



*Left to right: Averill D. Geus, panelist, VPS Trustee, and East Hampton Town Historian; Pat Handal; Jeffrey Bragman, East Hampton Town Councilman; and Jeanne Hutson enjoy the party.*

*Bettye Loughead and husband and former VPS Chair, Robert B. Loughead enjoy the festivities.*





Dayton Hedges House, Wainscott

by a brave soldier of the War of 1812, Jared Hedges, left the house to his son, Jared Dayton Hedges. He was a whaler, sailed to the Azores, Madagascar, Mauritius, and St. Helena on voyages that took him over the seven seas. He raised eight children in this house, among them the father of a man named Dayton Hedges. Little acorns sometimes produce mighty oaks and Dayton exemplified the saying. He was a remarkable man, who when only 21 years old, became the Supervisor of Brookhaven Town. In 1919 he took his young family to Cuba where he made a fortune. He built a large textile mill, modern villages, school and health care facilities as well as housing for his workers, which at one time, numbered 3,000 men. He established a six-hour workday. Citizens named a town for him and he was proclaimed the adopted son of three Cuban cities. In 1948, he built a rayon factory, a cotton mill and owned several beef cattle ranches. Dayton returned to East Hampton after WWII, bought a house on Lily Pond Lane where he spent several summers. He became a benefactor of his hometown, sponsoring the writing and printing of Jeannette Rattray's book, *East Hampton History and Genealogies*. He also gave the Hedges Room to the East Hampton Library. Dayton died before the Castro Revolution when all of his industries were nationalized but statues of him remain in town squares.

In Wainscott, his family's house still stands proudly on Wainscott Hollow Rd, its fate still undecided. Should this house be saved?

## ENERGIZE EAST HAMPTON

*By Gordian Raacke, Executive Director,  
Renewable Energy Long Island*

If you are looking to save money on utility bills while protecting our beautiful environment, a new partnership initiative, Energize East Hampton, offers 'one-stop-shopping' to residents and businesses looking to save energy and money while helping to achieve the Town of East Hampton's

100% community-wide renewable energy goals. The Town of East Hampton, the not-for-profit Renewable Energy Long Island and several program providers support this new initiative. Among Energize East Hampton's offerings are free home energy assessments and assistance with efficiency upgrades under the Green Homes program, free smart thermostats, up to \$950 pool pump rebates and free commercial lighting efficiency upgrades from South Fork Peak Savers. The Solarize East Hampton program, through which residents and business owners who sign up for solar installations will be able to take advantage of group rates below market prices offered by GreenLogic Energy, only until October 31, 2018. GreenLogic Energy became the Town of East Hampton's designated solar installer through a thorough pre-qualification process. More information on all Energize East Hampton programs is available at [EnergizeEH.org](http://EnergizeEH.org) and on [Facebook.com/EnergizeEH](https://www.facebook.com/EnergizeEH).

## AIRCRAFT NOISE UPDATE

*By Peter M. Wolf*

It was the worst summer in memory of aircraft noise disturbances. And, still, the Town continues to try to form an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to permit adoption of reasonable noise restrictions within the confines of its current obligations to that agency via the FAA Part 161 process. Available aircraft operations data reported through the end of August, which does not necessarily reflect all of the operations that occur, and does not include the busy Labor Day holiday and subsequent weekend traffic, were up roughly 5%.

Aircraft noise complaints remain a critical element of the Town's efforts to place enforceable curfews, restrict numbers and concentrations of flights, and possibly impose a ban on the noisiest aircraft, through the FAA's Part 161 process. The Town has yet to incorporate noise complaint data from AirNoiseReport.com, the easiest complaint system for the aircraft noise affected to use, with PlaneNoise, its official complaint collection agency. As of this writing, total seasonal complaint data were unavailable. In addition these data do not mirror the vast extent of disturbances, as so many of the noise affected have tired of filing complaints, feeling helpless in the face of this terrible plague. The Town must address complaint fatigue and any diminishment of complaint numbers as a consequence of this phenomenon, as long as complaint data remain relevant in this fight.

However, the increase in operations is surely a warning sign that if the Town cannot effectively curb use of this airport to significantly reduce the aircraft noise disturbances which are ruining the peaceful enjoyment of home and property for so many, then the growing sentiment to close the airport may become a reality. It is already gaining adherents and velocity.

# WELCOME TO SUMMER PARTY

By Melissa Egbert Sheehan

On June 9th, we had our annual "Welcome to Summer" Cocktail Party for our members at the Maidstone Tennis House. It is always a fun way to celebrate the beginning of summer. Everyone enjoyed the delicious hors d'oeuvres made by our trustees, while listening to the wonderful music of the Jane Hastay Trio. The party always provides a lovely opportunity for our members to get together in a beautiful

setting and to hear what we have been doing as an organization. We look forward to having the party again next summer.



(l to r) Bitsy Wainwright, Missy Egbert Sheehan (Event and Membership Committee Chair), Jacqueline Tuohy and Katy Duckworth-Schachter enjoy the season opening activities at the Tennis House.

# TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON BUSINESS AND HAMLET STUDY UPDATE

By Kathleen Cunningham

The Town of East Hampton is wrapping up its over two-year long Business and Hamlet Study, a component of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, by conducting public hearings on reports prepared with public input on each hamlet in the Town. Public hearings for each hamlet are being conducted separately, so concerns that may arise during the public hearing for one hamlet will not prohibit the forward progress of another for which public input is complete.

The entire process has provided much opportunity for public comment, including: charrettes conducted in each hamlet; two for Montauk segregating the downtown from the dock area; walks in each hamlet; several public meetings to present draft reports; with public comment submitted and evaluated along the way. The first of five public hearings will be on Wainscott on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. East Hampton will be on Thursday, October 18, 2018, Amagansett on Thursday, November 1, 2018, Springs on Thursday, November 15, 2018 and Montauk on Thursday, December 6, 2018. All meetings will begin at 6:30 and be held at Town Hall, 159 Pantigo Rd.



Please fill out, cut along the line and mail to **THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 2015, East Hampton, NY 11937 • [www.villagepreservationsociety.org](http://www.villagepreservationsociety.org)

Please enroll me as a member of The Village Preservation Society of East Hampton for the Membership Year from January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members in this Membership \_\_\_\_\_

For year round Newsletters and information, please print winter address

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contributors of:

- \$ 25,000.00 will be listed as **Chairman's Circle**
- \$ 10,000.00 will be listed as **Visionary**
- \$ 2,500.00 will be listed as **Advocate**
- \$ 500.00 will be listed as **Patron**
- \$ 100.00 will be listed as **Friend**

- \$ 15,000.00 will be listed as **President's Circle**
- \$ 5,000.00 will be listed as **Champion**
- \$ 1,000.00 will be listed as **Benefactor**
- \$ 250.00 will be listed as **Supporting Member**
- Regular Membership (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Membership Year runs from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.**

I would like to be active. My special interests are: \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) support VPS principles but do not wish to be listed as a member.

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# THE VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2015

East Hampton, NY 11937

www.villagepreservationsociety.org

## LOW NITROGEN SEPTIC SYSTEMS – CHANGING OUR BEHAVIOR

*By Polly Bruckmann*

To begin the process of restoring the health of our surface water bodies local governments are beginning to adopt regulations requiring new buildings or redevelopment of certain sizes to install new, low nitrogen septic systems. These systems represent a big shift in how we think about and treat our wastewater. The Village Board is proposing a requirement that all new residential buildings and any residential development representing over 25% of the present building to install new low nitrogen septic systems. No legislation on commercial properties has been proposed until decisions regarding a possible wastewater treatment plant have been made.

The main function of these systems is to remove nitrogen from our wastewater stream by running the polluted water through bacteria rich filters that feed on the nitrogen, dramatically reducing the amount that stays in the water before it reenters the ground. Our old septic systems do not do accomplish this, which is the primary reason why our water bodies, like Georgica, Hook and Town Ponds, are so unhealthy and challenged.

In an effort to promote better public understanding of how these systems operate, how they are maintained, general costs and other site requirements, the VPS conducted an informational forum on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Hoie Hall, 18 James Ln, East Hampton. While VPS does not promote one system over another, the two contractors who presented their systems for general informational purposes, Mr. Joe Densieski, regional distributor of the Hydroaction System from Riverhead and Mr. Bryan McGowin, regional distributor of Fuji Systems, are both

approved by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

Rebates for priority properties are available through the Town via the Community Preservation Fund, a portion of which was approved by voters to fund water quality improvement projects

last year. There is also a pool of State and County funding to help boost the program along. Priority properties are coastal areas and lands closest to surface water bodies as they contribute nitrogen quickly as separations from ground water are not deep. Percolation rates of polluted water are based in large part to their proximity to ground water. The closer a system is to surface or ground water, the faster the nitrogen will make its way to the water. In fact, as water tables have been quite high with recent storms, some

systems for shoreline homes are likely in surface water bodies or ground water. Other pollutants like fertilizers, personal care and cleaning products, as well as pet waste, also contribute to the degradation of our water.

The VPS supported the Village “No Dumping” medallion program, which launched on August 6, 2018, with placement of small, blue medallions on the drain pipes that feed into the watersheds of Georgica and Hook Ponds. This is another public outreach effort to educate people to pick up after their pets. Proper disposal of pet waste is an essential component to reducing the nitrogen load in our surface water bodies.

