

This newsletter is produced by Milton Elis and the Volunteer Advisory Board for the volunteers and staff of the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.

**Superintendent**  
Thomas E. Ross

**Editor**  
Milton Elis

**Layout/Design**  
Karen Heiser

**Contributors**  
Mark Koziol

**Comments?**  
**Milton Elis**  
1 Jarvis Avenue  
Syosset NY 11791  
516 921-3414

**Phone**  
516 922-4788  
922-4271 x16 Visitor Center direct line

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Sagamore Hill National Historic Site**  
20 Sagamore Hill Road  
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

**The Volunteers of Sagamore Hill**  
20 Sagamore Hill Road  
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

## TRIVIA



ANSWER: The Reverend *Dwight L. Moody*, the YMCA evangelist, was a friend of TR, SR. and a frequent visitor to the Roosevelt home. The Reverend spoke using vivid hand gestures and the young Theodore began emulating him at an early age.

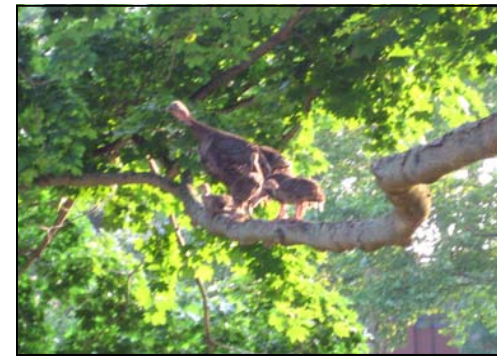


# The Rough Writer

## The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

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## Annual Picnic

### PICNIC PANDERS TO THE PALETTE

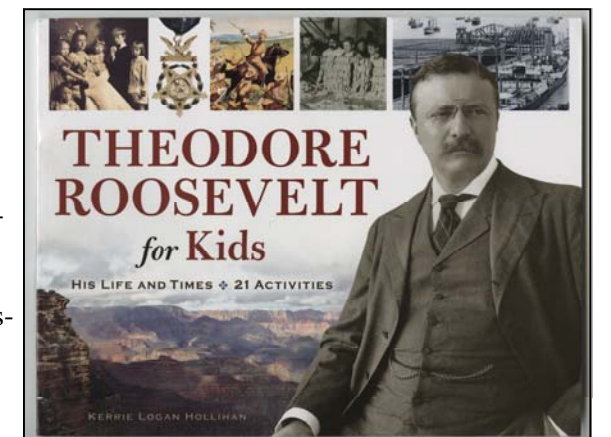
What more could one ask of a good Volunteer Coordinator than to be an outstanding cook. *Josh Reyes* demonstrated himself admirably. Assisted by *Roy* and *Asenath Fuchs* as the food expeditors, the hamburgers flew off the grille at gourmet speed. The seventy-two staff, Friends, volunteers, spouses, children and buddies feasted on a wide variety of salads, appetizers and beans. "Let no man go hungry", a new TR quote, was the watch word of the evening. *Rita Onorato* saw that there was plenty of meat (and veggie burgers) to satisfy all.

*Wayne Wagner* saw to it that no one was thirsty. Water, soda and other spirits were in plentiful supply. After years of hearing that there was not enough root beer, his loudest critic was humbled with two A & W's. *Ginny and Jay Perrell* were the sommeliers for the evening. The wild turkeys that roam the site provided extra entertainment as the mother and four chicks wandered nearby. When frightened, the five birds flew into the nearest trees. Who knew that turkeys fly?

Just in case someone was still hungry a plethora of cakes, cookies and brownies flew off the table. Each contribution was more delicious than the last. With tummies groaning, we all applauded *Andrew Buttermilch*, who was given an Arrowhead to commemorate his six years of devoted service to Sagamore Hill. *Tom Ross* and *Sherry Justus* thanked Andrew for his past and present service. All his friends signed the back of the Arrowhead to remind him of his good times here. He is planning a trip to Spain when he leaves the site.

### NEW TR BOOK PUBLISHED

*Kerrie Logan Hollihan* has just published "*Theodore Roosevelt for Kids: His Life and Times*." This is a one hundred thirty page activity book which includes a biography of TR and is for children ages nine and above. Two of the activities in the book are: how to create a campaign button and steps to make a felt Teddy Bear. *Mark Koziol* supplied a number of TR related photos prior to publication. Those photos "making the cut" include a picture of the Lincoln Ring, TR at age nine sitting on his favorite chair and TR looking out over *Abraham Lincoln's* funeral procession as it passed his grandfather's house.



## PRESIDENTIAL SITES CONFERENCE

by Mark Koziol

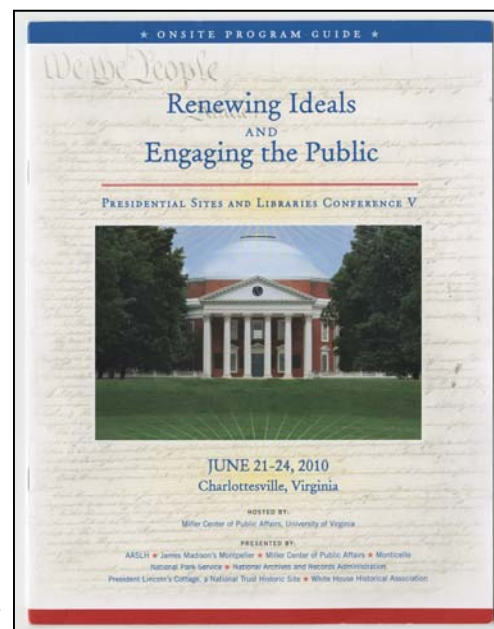
On June 21-24, I attended the **Presidential Sites and Libraries Conference** in Charlottesville, Virginia. The theme of the conference, with sessions held at University of Virginia, was *Renewing Ideals and Engaging the Public*. The conference mixed traditional panel discussions, keynote speeches by historians like *Joseph Ellis*, *Michael Beschloss* and *Annette Gordon-Reed* and numerous field trips to Presidential homes.

The panel discussion about **Presidential Oral Histories** concerned the importance of preserving history through interviewing former presidents, their cabinet officials and White House staff members. Recently, oral histories are taking the place of diaries that were once kept by public officials and are no longer in vogue. The Miller Center at the University of Virginia has been conducting these interviews since the 1960s and has been able to interview dozens of officials from the administrations of Presidents *Hoover*, *Truman*, *Eisenhower*, *Kennedy* and *Johnson*.

The panel discussion about **Presidential Site Visitor Centers** had staff members from the President *Abraham Lincoln* Cottage in Washington, DC and *James K. Polk* Home in Tennessee talking about their sites re-use of existing buildings to create new Visitor Centers. The re-use of the buildings allowed each private museum to create room to greet visitors, have a small exhibition gallery and room for educational programs. A person from the Montpelier Foundation, *James Madison's* home, discussed the details in designing and creating a visitor center complex from scratch. Like many newer VC's of the past decade, Montpelier's Visitor Center complex was designed to have minimal impact on the environment and landscape and is hidden from view from the presidential home.

Historian *Joe Ellis* held the audience spellbound with many insightful stories on why the founding fathers matter and what their achievements were (creating the first republic larger than a city-state) and their shortcomings (not resolving the issue of slavery and Native American conflicts). Historian *Annette Gordon-Reed* discussed her two books about *Thomas Jefferson* and *Sally Hemings*.

The visit to the **Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies** and the Jefferson Library allowed the 20 conference attendees the chance to see how the center uses its extensive website to display primary documents to educate the public about the life and times of our third president.



### TRIVIA



QUESTION: Why did TR talk with "karate chop" gestures?

Touring *Thomas Jefferson's* home, Monticello, reminded one of Sagamore Hill. On display everywhere were wonderful artifacts like Jefferson's book collection of science and literature subjects and several animal trophies of beasts from the American Western frontier.

Mt. Vernon was as equally exciting to visit as Monticello. Treated to a behind the scenes tour, the conference attendees saw the third floor (usually closed off to the public tours), where *Martha Washington* kept a bedroom after George died in 1799. The public rooms had marvelous artifacts such as the 6 dining room American landscape oil paintings. In the main hallway, mounted in a glass case on the wall, is the key to the French Bastille, a gift from *Marquis de Lafayette*. In Washington's office were marvelous artifacts such as his book collection and his presidential chair, used in New York City and Philadelphia, the national capital cities during his 8 years as president.

Both sites, privately operated, have built large scale and impressive Visitor Center structures that afford much room for gift and book stores, full-size theaters, restaurants and public meeting space that can be used for activities, such as children's programs, lectures and author talks.

## COOLING THE TRH

With all the days where the outside temperature have been in the nineties, one wonders how the Roosevelts kept cool inside the house. When the house was first constructed, there were no trees on the site to offer shade. Since the house was on the highest point of Cove Neck, it would have had the advantage of sea breezes. The front door was a two-sectioned Dutch door. At the rear of the house, prior to the addition of the North Room, there was a similar Dutch door. By opening the top halves of the front and rear doors, the sea breeze could cool the house. The original screen doors are in the basement of the TRH

When the North Room was constructed, the large north facing storm windows included a small pane of glass that could be opened. With these windows opened in the rear of the house and the top of the front Dutch door opened, there was a certain amount of air flow. The original air shaft into the roof, which originated on the second floor, permitted hot air to rise and pass out of the house. *Sue Sarna* advised that with the awnings lowered, sunlight was kept off the lower portion of the house. The house had shutters which were closed during the day and the windows on the shady side of the house were opened. Drapes were also drawn on the sunny sides of the house.

Today, the heating system blowers in the basement can force air through the grates. *Bo Stein* pointed out that during TR's lifetime, the boilers had no air intake system so there was no cooling through the grates. Since the house was not electrified until 1918, the use of electric fans was not possible. The attic fan on the third floor is a comparatively new addition put in by the NPS. Thank goodness for all the portable fans that help keep our visitors cool.

## NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

*Josh Reyes* has been busy recruiting volunteers to give tours and to work at Old Orchard. Three of the newest are:

*Lily Michelson*, a student at Huntington High School (pictured)

*Lizz Farrell*, a senior at Adelphi University

*Robert Voyles*, a student at the U. of Delaware



## SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

*Jeremy Hoyt* has been appointed as a new Park Guide. Jeremy comes to us from Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve in Louisiana. He will be devoting a portion of his time in Curatorial Services when he starts in August.

## JUSTUS TO ALL

### NEWS FROM THE CHIEF OF INTERPRETATION

If unable to come to the site for your usual tour of duty, please call the Visitor Center (516-922-4788) and advise them you will not be available. If you know that you will be absent on some future date, please record that on the board over *Debbie Bulck's* desk in the Visitor Center. If you are due to work at Old Orchard, please call *Josh Reyes* at 516-922-4271 ext. 26. This will assist us in arranging to have coverage at both the TRH and Old Orchard.



**Reminder:** Please carry a radio while on a tour. More are on order.

### Schedule of Events

#### August

- 1<sup>st</sup> - *Paumanok Driving Club*: Horse and Carriage Demonstration
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Traditional Fabric Arts: *Long Island Guild of Rugcrafters* and *Long Island Quilters*
- 15<sup>th</sup> - *Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Sanctuary*: Birds of Prey Program
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Nature and Wildlife Photographers of Long Island (3:00PM: Special Photography nature walk for amateur photographers)
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Nature Program for Kids

## PARANORMAL SIGHTINGS (GHOSTS)

Have you seen or heard any ghosts while working at the TRH or Old Orchard? Most people don't believe in ghosts, but a number of people have had experiences that they cannot dismiss. Both *Kris Veljak* and *Andrew Buttermilch* have heard doors slam and footsteps coming from the second floor, while they have been in the staff room of the TRH. Investigation found no one else in the house on both of these occasions.

While giving a tour on the first floor of the TRH, *Noreen Hancock* saw a dark robed figure go into the South Bedroom. *Noreen* had *Jessie Ponz* check out the room to see if there was anyone present in the room. *John Scotto*, a former ranger, saw an apparition walking down the back stair to the first floor and walk through the wall of the kitchen. The figure *John* saw appeared to be descending the old spiral staircase that predated the current staircase. Do you have any experiences to add?

## RECENT REPAIRS

New flagstones were recently installed around the flagpole and the bricks in front of the TRH were picked-up and re-laid in a tighter pattern. It turned out that the last installation of the bricks had left too much "wiggle" space and there was a danger of a heel getting caught between the bricks.

