

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

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

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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: According to remarks made by author *Candice Millard*, the Indians, watching from the jungle, had no consensus. Each man was a chief of his own family and they recognized no one as their superior. They had no organization.



POLICE AWARDS- ALWAYS A MOVING OCCASION

There are many slackers in this world, individuals who want to do less than their co-workers. Listening to the remarks made about the two police officers, who overcame severe illnesses and returned to their positions with the police, makes one realize that there are those who go above and beyond the call of duty. They do it not for money but for the pride and love of their profession.

Officer *Sharon Galvin*, of the Nassau Police Department, a twenty-two year veteran and a single mom, lost the back portion of her left arm when a large melanoma was removed. After a debilitating bout of chemotherapy she went back to work and then a routine check-up found cancer in her left lung. After the operation Sharon was back on the job.



Suffolk Police Officer *Michael Conklin*, a nine year veteran, finished a tour of duty and complained of severe back pain. At a local walk-in clinic they were unable to diagnose the problem and recommended he go to a hospital. Within twenty-four hours, Michael was paralyzed from his chest to his toes. It was found that he was suffering from Transverse Myelitis. Lesions had formed on his spine and he underwent surgery for their removal. After many months of extensive rehabilitation he was able to beat the odds and overcome an illness that leaves many victims paralyzed for life. Michael returned to full duty as a police officer.



SITE NEWS: EVENTS

To celebrate Flag Day, Sagamore Hill invited **The Northwinds Symphonic Band** to perform on Sunday, June 13th. Due to ominous weather, the venue was changed to *North Shore High School*. In the end, the concert was an absolute success. This 75 piece orchestra under the direction of conductor *Helen P. Bauer* played the old time favorites with a salute to *Theodore Roosevelt*. In attendance were *Sherry Justus* and *Noreen Hancock*. Noreen greeted the crowd of approximately 300 people and thanked Ms. Bauer for her efforts in putting the event together as well as creating and designing the programs. In attendance of course was *Theodore Roosevelt*, as portrayed by *Jim Foote*, who warmly welcomed the crowd in Roosevelt fashion. The band opened with *The Star Spangled Banner*, following intermission they played Luckenbill's *Sagamore Hill March*. This afforded the President the opportunity to walk around and shake hands with the crowd. The finale to the event was Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever*. We owe a special **Thank You** to *North Shore High School in Glen Head* for providing their theater for this special holiday performance.



The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

Volume 12, Issue 6

June/July 2010



Fourth of July Activities

SAVE THE DATES

Annual Picnic- Friday, July 16 at 6:00 pm. Please send back the tear-off from your flyer. No Flyer? Call Josh at 922-4271 ext. 26, tell him you are coming and that you will bring an appetizer, salad or dessert for five people.

Volunteer Educational Trip- Visit to Ellis Island- Tuesday, September 21 at 8:00 am. Watch for your flyer next month.

Holiday Party- Monday, December 6 at 6:30 pm. This year's party will be held at Jack Halyards (formerly Fiddleheads) Restaurant in Oyster Bay.

A SPECIAL VISITOR

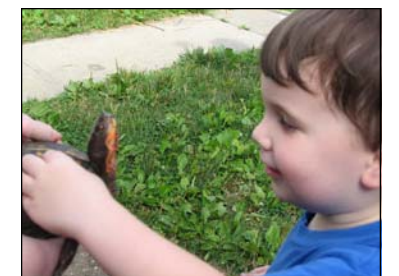
On Saturday, June 12th, the site had a special visitor. *Caroline Kennedy*, the daughter of the late President *John F. Kennedy*, came just in time for the 4:30 pm walk-through tour of the TRH. She was greeted by *Andrew Buttermilch* and *Adam Sackowitz*, who gave her and her party a tour of the Library and Drawing Room and the rest of the first floor. The interaction with Ms. Kennedy was an almost unimaginable sight for Adam, a staunch Republican. After the tour, Adam asked Ms. Kennedy to sign his yearbook,* which she did and wrote the following, "Thank you for teaching us our history" and signed it *Carry Kennedy*.

Born in 1957, *Caroline Kennedy* was the only daughter of *John and Jacqueline Kennedy*. President Kennedy signed the legislation that created Sagamore Hill as a National Historic Site.

* Adam travels with his own portable library.

OUR OWN PRIVATE ZOO

Noreen Hancock was taking her son Ian to nursery school when she spied a deer and a wild turkey on the site. In the photo below, Ian is holding what looks like a box turtle. Official confirmation on the turtle awaits a check by our own flora and fauna specialist, *Scott Gurney*.



KEYS PLEASE

Help! We are down to only two house keys for use by volunteers. Have you accidentally taken one home? Please check to see if you have one of the keys and return it to the Visitor Center. Thanks.

VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Shawn Roche and his wife *Angelica*, recently visited Washington, DC for a few days. While there, they caught up with former Sagamore Hill staff *Tom Twiname*, *Jennifer Jablonski* and *Carley Schildhaus*. *Rich Althaus* joined the group for part of the week-end.

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

The **Friends of Sagamore Hill** held their annual meeting on June 30th. This year's event was special. There was a barbeque held behind the Visitor Center with Superintendent *Tom Ross* as the host and expert chef. *Walter Fish* conducted the last meeting of his term as elections followed the dinner. *Gerard "Gerry" Alfani* was elected Chairman of the Friends. Other officers elected were *Roy Fuchs* as Vice-Chair, *Virginia "Ginny" Uhlinger*, Recording Secretary and *Walter Fish* continued as Treasurer. The oath of office was administered by *Tom Ross*. *Robert Klang* volunteered to be Membership Chairman.

Plans were made to hold a fund-raising cocktail party at the Sagamore Yacht Club in Oyster Bay. A date in September has yet to be finalized. After the business portion of the meeting, Curator *Amy Verone* displayed ephemera (curatorial speak) for odds and ends in a museum's collection. Shown were recent donations that had belonged to *Frank Harper*, TR's private secretary from 1910 to 1914. Frank saved papers, invitations, place cards, itineraries and thirty steno books loaded with information in **Pitman**, the stenographer's shorthand of that era. This is a treasure trove, if someone can be found alive who can read Pitman, since **Gregg** shorthand has been the shorthand of choice for umpteen years. Good luck Amy.

SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

Martin Moffitt of Bayville has joined the Maintenance staff as a permanent employee. Martin recently transferred from Jacob Riis-Fort Tilden National Historic Site. Another new summer seasonal with Maintenance is *Tyler Collins*. *Steve Richman*, a former volunteer, is now a GS-4 Seasonal Park Guide at Sagamore Hill. *Ed Demaria* has returned to Maintenance for the summer. *Brittany Juul-Nielsen*, a former volunteer, is working this summer as a STEP Curatorial employee. *Andrew Buttermilch*, a Seasonal Park Guide, will be given a farewell at the Annual Picnic, July 16th. *Robert O'Keefe*, a Seasonal Maintenance worker, who worked on weekends, has moved on to another position off the site. Our sympathies go to *Kerrie Ross* on the recent loss of her mother. *Kris Veljak* is now working as a seasonal ranger at Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor, ME.



Martin



Brittany



Tyler



Edward

GUESS WHO I FOUND?

This writer recently visited *Adams National Park* in Quincy, MA. This park has two separate locations, both in Quincy. The first site consists of two houses: the birthplace of *John Adams* and that of his son, *John Quincy Adams*. The second location has "**Peacefield**", the Old House that was the home of *John Adams* when he returned to the United States from France in 1788. Here, the second President lived until his death in 1826. *John Quincy Adams*, our sixth President, then lived out his life in the same house, passing away in 1886. When touring the house, we were shown a portrait of *George Washington* hung in the dining room. Then I discovered a framed photo and greeting from *Theodore Roosevelt*. Our guide explained that everyone loved Washington, hence his portrait. But why TR's picture? It seems that *John Adams* grandson, *Charles Francis Adams* was the next occupant of **Peacefield**, followed by Charles's son, *Brooks Adams*. TR and Brooks Adams were classmates at Harvard. Mystery solved. TR inscribed a greeting to Brooks, with a picture, in 1905. Brooks and the Adams family donated the house and grounds to the public in 1929.



WAS TR PART NATIVE AMERICAN?

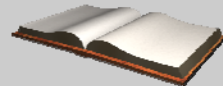
Native Americans would show success in battle by displaying the scalp of an adversary. We don't think TR ever scalped anyone but he had a thing about hair. A recent visitor to the TRH asked, "Where are the hair samples that were displayed when last he visited the house?" There may have been a display of hair at one time in the museum. TR did have a thing about hair. He owned a locket which contains *George Washington's* hair. He was given the famous Lincoln Ring by *John Hay*, which contains a lock of *Abraham Lincoln's* hair. We have in our collection *Alice Hathaway Lee's* hair from when she was two weeks old and when she was one year old. TR also cut off a lock of *Alice Lee's* hair just after she had died.

In addition to TR's own hair at age one, the archives contains the following:

- Ted's hair from 1893
- Kermit's hair when he was twenty months old in June 1891
- Ethel's locks when she was eight.
- Archie and Quentin's hair from June 15, 1901
- Archie's hair when he was five.

That makes a total of twelve (mini) scalps. *Geronimo* didn't do that well.

TRIVIA



Question: During the River of Doubt expedition in Brazil, why didn't the Indians wipe out the explorers as they proceeded down stream?

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ROUGH RIDERS RIDE

Was that Captain *Bucky O'Neill* leading the **Rough Riders** across the field at Sagamore Hill? It must have been, since the **Rough Riders** were still mounted troops. I must admit that he bore a strong resemblance to *Bill Uhlinger* of the **Nassau-Suffolk Horsemen's Association**. According to *Bill Blyer* of *Newsday*, everybody loved their mounted display. According to a count taken by *Bernie Muller*,



twenty-two hundred and sixty-six visitors toured the first floor of the house on Sunday, July Fourth. It was a scorcher and *Noreen Hancock* reported the heat cut into the attendance at the craft tent. *Bob Wulphorst* was manning the phones from his second floor window at Old Orchard and saw that cars filled all the spaces in the orchard.

The heat wave continued on Monday when we had about five hundred visitors touring the first and second floors of the TRH. On Tuesday, with the temperature hovering at about 100, nearly every tour was filled to capacity. The Museum saw capacity crowds, many drawn to the air conditioned building as an oasis, in a hill-top Sahara.

NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

We welcome back *Joel Joseph* to active duty. Joel has been with Interpretation for over fifteen years. After taking time off to recuperate from a serious illness, Joel is now working at Old Orchard. He misses his week-end buddies at the TRH but finds that meeting all the visitors at the museum is also a rewarding experience. Joel has elected to take advantage of a New York State program that allows him to work four days a week as a Workers Compensation Hearing Officer. For this article, he emphasized that the amount of pay he receives is commensurate with the time he puts in on his full time job. After fourteen years of communicating with *Milton Elis* by phone and e-mail, the two finally met at Old Orchard at the end of June.



Teresa Kepertis is back for the summer as a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher. She will be working with the group putting together "TR's Travelling Trunk" which will be used at schools when the house is closed for renovation and repair.

THE TOOL SHED

The Tool Shed is being brought back to life with the installation of hand saws, scythes, a shovel and a number of sharpening stones. Shortly, there will be a large photo inside the shed that depicts activities on the Roosevelt farm.

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JUSTUS TO ALL NEWS FROM THE CHIEF OF INTERPRETATION

This summer is already a busy time at Sagamore Hill. After two full days of activities on the Fourth and Fifth of July, we do not plan to taper off on our schedule of events. Thank you to our volunteers who helped make the events a success.



Schedule of Events- Sundays at 2:00PM

July

4th- Professional Storyteller *Jonathan Kruk* (part of our July 4th and 5th **Independence Day Celebration**)

11th-*Frank Hurley*: Beekeeper presenting program on the use of bees

18th- *Johnny Cuomo*: Stories and songs for kids

25th- Traditional Irish Music: *Jessica Semins, Dan Lowery* and *Johnny Cuomo*

August

1st- *Paumanok Driving Club*: Horse and Carriage Demonstration

8th- Traditional Fabric Arts: *Long Island Guild of Rugcrafters* and *Long Island Quilters*

15th- *Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Sanctuary*: Birds of Prey Program

EDMUND MORRIS FINISHES THIRD TR BOOK

On Friday, May 29, *Edmund* and *Sylvia Morris* visited Sagamore Hill. While *Sylvia* was taking a tour with two friends, *Edmund* was doing some last minute fact checking on *Quentin Roosevelt*. The third book on TR will cover the years from the end of Roosevelt's presidency until January 6, 1919, when TR passed away. The manuscript has been given to the publisher and Mr. Morris had a few weeks in which to make any changes he felt were necessary.

VOLUNTEER ADVISORY BOARD

The **Volunteer Advisory Board (VAB)** has openings for three new members. The VAB represents the interests of the volunteers with Park management. The VAB also serves as a conduit for management plans, policies and actions that affect the park, volunteers and visitors. Each member of the VAB serves for a minimum three year term and currently meetings are held on the first Wednesday of odd number months, at 2:30 pm at Old Orchard. If you are interested in serving please call *Wayne Wagner*, Nominating Committee Chairman at 516-781-0028; *Milton Elis*, VAB Chairman 516-921-3414; or *Josh Reyes*, Volunteer Coordinator at 516-922-4271 ext. 26. **Serving is a rewarding experience.**

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