

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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Oyster Bay, New York 11771

The Volunteers of Sagamore Hill
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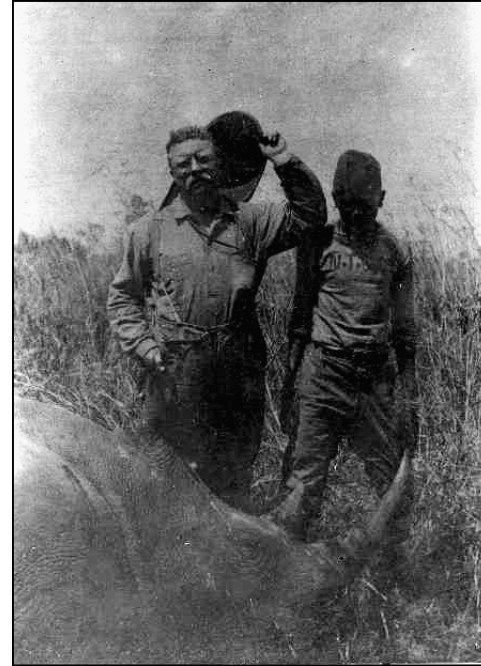
TRIVIA



Answer: It is a covered speaking tube, here shown with the cover raised.

A NEW PHOENIX ARISES

Newsday, in their Sunday, March 14 LI Life section had a three page write up about the One Hundredth Anniversary of TR's African Safari.



Over the years the reporters would have approached the late *John Gable*, Executive Director of the *Theodore Roosevelt Association*, who had a thirty year tenure, for information and insight. Following two successors to Dr. Gable, it seems that the "go to" person is the current Interim Director of the TRA, *Howard Ehrlich*. Howard was quoted extensively in the article. A long time Park Guide at Sagamore Hill and a collector of Presidential memorabilia, Howard has more TR knowledge than his recent predecessors and is extremely familiar with the house. So for the time being the Phoenix has risen from the ashes.

ELECTION OF 1912

When TR ran as an Independent for President in 1912, this song was on someone's lips: "**We're Ready for Teddy Again.**" The words were by *Harry W. Kerr* and the music by *Alfred Solman*. Try fitting that piece of information into your tour, but don't tell *Amy Verone*.

PAST HISTORY

If *Theodore Roosevelt* was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy by *William McKinnley* and *Franklin Roosevelt* was appointed to the same position by *Woodrow Wilson*, whom did *Warren G. Harding* appoint to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy? Why *Theodore Roosevelt, Junior* of course.

SITE NEWS: EVENTS

A new single room residence has been constructed on the edge of the site on Sagamore Hill Road. So far no residents have been seen in the house.

The "residence" is a Kestrel box, one of two donated by the TR Sanctuary and Audubon Center. This is part of an effort across LI to encourage the rebound of the species. They were installed by *Ranger Scott Gurney*.



The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

Volume 12, Issue 3



March 2010



Rough Rider reunion 1900
souvenir sword.



Doll wearing miniature of Edith's
inaugural ball gown.



"Roosevelt Bears" souvenir
pitcher.

NATIONAL PARK WEEK TO BE EXTRA SPECIAL THIS YEAR

Word has come down from the Secretary of the Interior that during National Park Week, Saturday, April 17 through Sunday, April 25, there will be no fees charged at NPS sites. Our site, however, will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, as usual.

Saturday, April 17 will also be Beach Cleanup Day and the Boy Scouts will be on site assisting the staff.

Saturday, April 24 will be Junior Ranger Day.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DATE SET

The **Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** will be held on Thursday, April 29. We will again be using the facilities of the *Matinecock Masonic Hall*. The Masons have again generously allowed us to use their premises and the *Friends of Sagamore Hill* will again provide for the refreshments. Maybe you will be receiving an award this year, or be getting a new hour-bar, but if you attend you will have a great time with fellow volunteers and staff members. At last year's event, *Angelica Roche* embroidered on the gloves, the initials of the winner of the **Curatorial White Glove Award**. A belated thanks Angelica.

SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

Congratulations to Park Guide *Andy Buttermilch* on his recent birthday. Staff and volunteers turned out to wish him well and have a piece of his birthday cake. His age? Ask him.



Superintendent *Tom Ross* announced the appointment of *Sherry Justus* as the new Chief of Interpretation, Visitor Services and Natural Resources. Sherry is a twenty year veteran of the National Park Service and will be assuming her position towards the end of April. More details will appear in next month's **Rough Writer**. The superintendent praised the interim work done by *Scott Gurney*, *Noreen Hancock* and *Josh Reyes* during the past eight months, while the position was vacant and during the selection process. *Scott Gurney* will be Acting Chief of Interpretation during April, until Ms. Justus arrives at the end of the month.

FISH AND FRIENDS HONORED



The *Matinecock Masonic Historical Society* chose **The Friends of Sagamore Hill** as their first honoree at a Commemorative Dinner-Dance held on March 18, 2010 at the Metropolitan, in Glen Cove. Chairman of the Friends, *Walter Fish*, accepted the *Col. Theodore Roosevelt Award for Community Service* from the Historical Society and a second award from the *Matinecock Masonic Lodge*. At

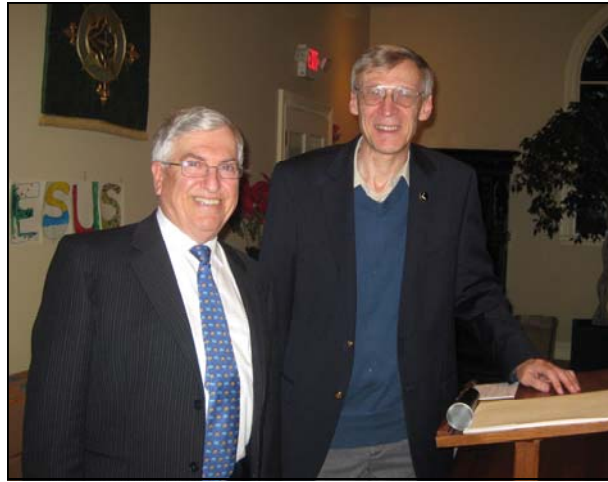
the presentation and festivities were members of the Board of Directors of the Friends, their spouses and ex-officio members of the Board, Superintendent *Tom Ross* and Chair of the Volunteer Advisory Board, *Milton Elis*. For speech material, *Mark Koziol* researched TR and the Masons and Walter threatened to read all thirty pages of the material prepared if the audience didn't quiet down and listen to him. Everyone present bought raffle tickets and *Gerry Alfani* and Milton won baskets of stuff. It was nice to see Walter receive recognition for all the energy he exerts to keep the Friends a viable group. Not only does the site receive funds from the Friends, but they regularly underwrite volunteer activities. A **Thank You** goes a long way.



Curtis Field Walter Fish Warren Obes

FIRST GABLE LECTURE

The first program of the series featured Mr. *Henry Osmers*, the official Montauk Point Lighthouse



Jerry Alfani and Henry Osmers

historian. Mr. Osmers spoke on *Theodore Roosevelt at Camp Wikoff*. His presentation covered the evacuation of American troops from Cuba to newly built Camp Wikoff at Montauk Point. He detailed TR's overstepping his position as Colonel of the Rough Riders to petition President *William McKinley*. TR wanted to get the troops out of Cuba where they were dying from tropical diseases and get them to a safe haven where the ill could recuperate and the healthy remain that way until their discharge from service. Since there is no longer any trace of Camp Wikoff at Montauk, Mr. Osmers put the camp's location into perspective of today's Montauk Point.

After the program refreshments were served to the fifty or so in attendance. Some of those refreshments were again provided gratis by the *BayKery Café* of Oyster Bay.

TRIVIA



Question: What is this on the north wall of the large guest room?

STORM STALLS SAHI

The recent rain storm, that crippled parts of Long Island, took its toll on Sagamore Hill. Power was out from Saturday until Wednesday, March 17. There were grounds tours given, but the planned Volunteer Roundtable on Tuesday was cancelled. **The program has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 13, at 10:00 am in the conference room at OOM.**

SECOND GABLE LECTURE

Mark Koziol will be the second speaker at the **John Gable Lecture** on Tuesday, April 27 at Christ Church Parrish Hall, 61 Main Street, Oyster Bay. Mark's topic is "**Theodore Roosevelt: His Life, Health and Death.**" Doors open at 7:00 pm and the program starts at 7:30 pm.

WALRUS TUSK THEFT ATTRACTED VISITORS

Tuesday, March 9th, turned into a busy day. The site had sent out a press release about the missing walrus tusk. Three television stations descended at once to film the large guest room. **News 12 Long Island, WLNY TV 10/55 and Fios1 LI**, lined up to get their cameras into the room.



To each of the reporters, the event generated more questions than when *Judge Crater* disappeared in New York City. Surprisingly, during the week, few visitors asked questions about the missing tusk.



NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

Another TR sighting: Curatorial volunteer, *Karen Heiser*, visited the *Brookfield Zoo* outside of Chicago. While walking around, she discovered a landmark fountain set in the middle of an American prairie. The prairie was filled with wildflowers, indigenous to the western plains, and there also was a topiary buffalo. The fountain and surrounding area was dedicated to *Theodore Roosevelt* by members of the *Chicago Zoological Society*.



TR: CENTER OF LONG ISLAND READS

Candice Millard's book, **The River of Doubt**, about TR's Brazilian adventure, is being read and discussed across the Island. An annual April event highlights one book and discussions are held in most Long Island libraries. In conjunction with the reading of the book, many libraries have TR related programs. Ms. Millard will be speaking at Plainview-Old Bethpage Library at 10:00 am on April 13 and in Riverhead that afternoon. The East Meadow Library will have *Jim Foote*. The Syosset Library has three different events and the Matinecock Masonic Lodge is sponsoring an event. Check with the library in your area to see if they are part of this TR celebration.



FRIEND'S BOARD MEMBER WINS ELECTION

Andrew Bader, a member of Friends of Sagamore Hill board was recently elected a Commissioner of the Plainview-Bethpage Water District. Congratulations Andy.