

Hallockville Happenings

February 2008, Winter Edition

Our Generous Friends

The donor list in this newsletter is impressively long. As a museum, we are lucky indeed to have such generous supporters – and so many of you. Your membership dues and special donations fund well over a third of our operating budget – and most of our capital projects. In short, we could not keep the place together without your help. Your response to our year-end appeal was especially gratifying. Combined with very successful events such as the Fall Festival and Farm-to-Table Dinner, your support allows us to offer unique educational programs to thousands of school children and to undertake much needed capital improvements around our campus you all have appreciated so much. You also enabled us to balance our budget for the fifth year in a row – and put aside a little for much needed work on our alarm systems.

So, thanks again for your support.

2008 Calendar

Check out our 2008 schedule of events on the back of this newsletter. Mark your calendars for old favorites like our Fall Festival (a full weekend again this year), Victorian Christmas, Traditional Barn Dance, Farm-to-Table Dinner (sponsored this year by Suffolk County National Bank) and KeySpan Nature Walks with Mary Laura Lamont. A special highlight this year will be the dedication of the restored Trubisz Little House and Sprout House on June 8. Another highlight will be a tour of local gardens, including our own, organized by the volunteer Hallockville Gardner's. And, returning after a few years gap will be "Aunt Ella's Attic" – a yard and antique sale scheduled for June 7.

Volunteer Tuesdays

Have a little extra time on a Tuesday? Stop by the museum and check out our volunteers at work (or play?). As the weather warms, you will find our gardeners getting the grounds ready for the big tour in June. Most likely, you will also find our "Tuesday Club" of retiree carpenters banging away at a project someplace on the campus. They have just finished the interior of the Trubisz Sprout House and are currently working on a portable ticket booth that can be towed around our campus for events. You may also find volunteers keeping our buildings and grounds in shape, working with the archives, setting up exhibits or helping in the office, the gift shop or education programs. Hallockville is a really happening place on Tuesdays.

Whatever day of the week you have available, Hallockville can use your talents. Contact our new (volunteer) volunteer coordinator, Carol Grzywinski or any board

or staff member: 298-5292 or hallockv@optonline.net. We promise you a rewarding experience

A “New” Truck and Reaper

Have you noticed Hallie and Stella admiring the “new” truck parked in the Hallockville cow pasture? This is a donation from our friend, Ron Bush, who has his own marvelous collection of antique farm equipment on his family’s former dairy farm in Bayport. Ron noticed the bright red 1939 Ford truck that the museum acquired last year – the truck that almost exactly matches one in a circa-1940 photograph of the Cichanowicz farm garage that is incorporated into the new interpretive kiosk.

Still thinking like a farmer, Ron thought we should have his unrestored 1938 Ford truck for “spare parts.” “You never know when you might need a new rear end.” While we await the need for parts, the truck will sit in the pasture, sporting a “Hallockville” sign and serving as a landmark for the museum. By the way, if anyone happens to know of a flat-bed – in any condition – we could use it for this truck.

Ron has also donated a circa-1900 Deering Harvester reaper-binder. This is an important addition to the museum’s collection. The horse-drawn reaper developed by Cyrus McCormic and others in the 1830’s was probably the most important labor-saving agricultural invention of the century. It allowed grain farming to spread across the Great Plains and helped farmers everywhere increase production and productivity. Before this invention, all wheat, rye, oats and other grains had to be harvested laboriously by hand – using a sickle or scythe.

The wonderful photograph on one of the windows of the new interpretive kiosk shows David Halsey Hallock driving a similar machine on his 80th birthday, July 4, 1918.

We thank Tom Gallo, Jr. of Fred L. Gallo Used Auto Parts for transporting both the 1938 truck and the reaper to the museum.



Circa-1900 Deering Harvester reaper-binder donated by Ron Bush.



David Halsey Hallock driving a similar machine July 4, 1918, his 80th birthday.

Spring Renewal

What renews every spring? We are on the agricultural cycle. In April, when the Hallocks and Cichanowiczses began plowing for the new season's crops, it is also time to renew your memberships to Hallockville. Watch the mail for your renewal package – and sign up for the highest level that matches your situation. Your memberships keep us going. Thanks.

New Board Members

At its January meeting, the Hallockville Board welcomed two new members: James (Jay) Schondebare and Carol Grzywinski (Gevinski). Jay is a partner in the Ronkonkoma law firm of Schondebare and Korcz. He brings considerable public service experience, including as a member of the Southold Town Board and a trustee of Eastern Long Island Hospital. And, he is a self-described "history buff."

Carol returned to her native Jamesport after a career as a college professor at SUNY Canton, has experience with grant writing and fund raising and has good ideas for reaching out to the public through media. She has already been active, helping in the gift shop and at the Fall Festival – and most important she has volunteered to help coordinate our volunteers.

Please join us in welcoming Jay and Carol.

From Our New Executive Director: Herb Strobel

By the time you receive this newsletter, there will be a new face behind the executive director's desk at Hallockville Museum Farm -- mine. And I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I grew up on a dairy in Center Moriches where our family had 25 cows. We harvested hay not only on the farm but on land ranging from Yaphank to Westhampton Beach. As a youngster, I vividly remember trucks hauling potatoes, cabbage, and ducks and have fond memories of going to Beacon Feeds, Tryac, and Rolle Brothers to pick up grain and tractor parts with my dad. I received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Cornell University and joined the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Kentucky nearly 18 years ago. During that time, I have maintained active interests in our family farm and the preservation of farmland in eastern Suffolk County.

Agriculture has changed a lot since I was a young person -- there are no more cow dairies, a lot less potato trucks, and just a few duck farms. But farming remains important to the culture and economy of the East End. Hallockville's mission of re-connecting the community with our agricultural heritage is an important part of helping maintain this heritage. Hallockville is a unique resource on Eastern Long Island -- no where else will you find historic buildings, artifacts, animals, and gardens surrounded by working farmland and open to the public. Add to that educational programming that serves thousands of children each year and the many events hosted by the museum farm, and it's easy to understand why I consider Hallockville a wonderful place for re-connecting with our shared agricultural roots.

There's already a full slate of exciting events and initiatives planned for 2008. You'll be hearing about them through this newsletter, our website (soon to be re-vamped), and other periodic announcements. I encourage everyone to participate in whatever capacity you can – as a participant, volunteer, or financial supporter. And spread the word. Let your friends know what a great place Hallockville is!

Don't be a stranger. Feel free to contact me. Let us know what you like about the museum farm and what can be improved. Rest assured that suggestions and concerns will be thoughtfully considered. I appreciate the warm welcome

that I've already received from the Hallockville family and look forward to meeting many more of you. I am also deeply appreciative of the efforts made over the last several months by Hallockville's Board of Directors, volunteers, and dedicated staff. They deserve a lot of thanks during this time of transition.

Mark Your Calendars

The Hallockville Gardeners are planning a unique garden tour Saturday, June 21 from 10 AM to 4 PM. It will start at the Museum Farm's historic gardens and then continue on to five local gardens and a CSA farm. Roses will be in bloom and the gardens at their peak. A box lunch will be included. There will also be several garden-related speakers and a plant sale.

The gardeners are busy getting ready. Among other steps, they have already purchased seeds for the heirloom vegetable garden and arranged for Jack Weiscott of Ornamental Plantings Nursery to grow these into plants, as he has done free of charge for the last several years.

Stake Out Your Plot

Spring is just around the corner. Really! The catalogues have come and many of us have ordered our seeds. It's time to plan our gardens. For those of you who need space to garden, Hallockville will again have a community garden for members. Plots are 20 feet by 20 feet – plenty of room for some peas and carrots. Water will be supplied and fencing is planned. Please spread the word to others who may be interested. This is a wonderful way to get in touch with the real agricultural roots of the North Fork Fork in a setting that puts you right in the middle of farm country. For more information call Jim Romansky at 631-779-3141 or contact the Hallockville office at 631-298-5292. There is a \$50 fee to help cover costs.

Our Growing Endowment

At the museum farm we not only grow hay, potatoes, corn and rye. We have also grown our endowment to over \$70,000 – a seven-fold increase in less than seven years. But we need your help to keep it growing and to make it sustainable. . If you care about the long-term preservation of the agricultural heritage we all share (“long-term” as in “after we are all gone”), this is your chance. Make a donation -- or designate the Hallockville Endowment Fund in your will. The Board has set a goal of reaching the half-million dollar mark in five years.

Winter, Spring and Summer on the Farm (For Children)

Hallockville's new break program “Winter on the Farm” allowed children to experience what living on a farm in the winter might be like. Children eagerly

bombarded their parents at the end of each day, arms full of new creations like indoor winter gardens, traditional Welsh cakes, handmade mittens and snowshoes, and many other projects that each child got to take with them. Less tangible, but perhaps more important, was a certain sense of awe at simple tasks like collecting eggs from our chickens, and baking with them -- a true "farm to table" experience.

So what does Hallockville do now that this terrific winter program is over? We plan for Spring! If you missed our winter break program, please join us for "Springtime on the Farm" **April 21 – 25th**. These educational programs bring fun, hands-on activities to children outside of the classroom and also help build a basic knowledge and love of our local history.

And, for summer. This year, we will be offering six themed weeks of fun and adventure!

July 7 th -11 th	Revolutionary War
July 14 th -18 th	Lewis and Clark Explorer Adventures
July 21 st -25 th	Arrgh...Pirates
August 4 th -8 th	Discover Nature through History
August 11 th - 15 th	Life on the Farm
August 18 th -22 nd	Old Fashioned Games

For more information on these programs, please visit us on the web at www.hallockville.com or contact Michelle Tollner at 631-298-5292. Summer program registration opens **April 1st!**

[if there is room, you can add the following items]

Hallockville on YouTube

Haven't seen the museum's introductory film by award-winning documentary artist Glenn Gephard? Want to see it again or share it with friends? Check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ac35ggQVtqI> Or, follow the link from our website, www.hallockville.com.

Posts or Planks?

"Oh deer!" The heritage vegetable garden (behind the Homestead) maintained by the Hallockville Gardeners is being overrun by Bambi and her friends. We need some barn boards or similar lumber to make historically appropriate rustic pickets for a fence. Similarly, our new community garden (at the edge of the farm field behind the Homestead Barn) is facing the same four-legged problem. We plan a wire fence there, but need posts, preferably 8-10 footers. We also could use a rototiller in working condition to till these gardens.