Southampton Trails Preservation Society

The Pathfinder

Fall 2026

Still celebrating our 40th year!

Southampton Trails
Preservation Society

Introducing Our New President

We are pleased to introduce Miles Robert as the new President of STPS.

Miles has spent nearly 50 years in the fine paper manufacturing business. Born and raised in New York City, he discovered the beauty of the South Fork's trails after becoming a regular participant in STPS's weekly hikes. He soon became an active member of the organization and a strong supporter of its mission.

Today, Miles lives in Southampton and is excited to serve as President of STPS. He looks forward to helping preserve, promote, and expand opportunities for the community to enjoy the many wonderful trails and natural lands of the South Fork.

Please join us in welcoming Miles as our new President.



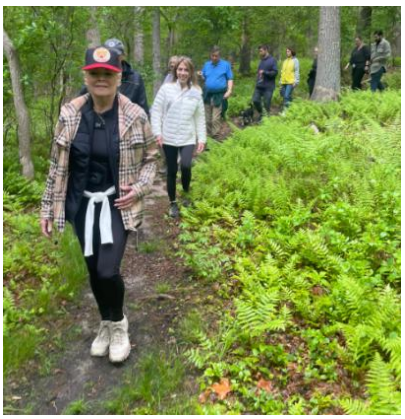
We also want to give special recognition to our outgoing President, Mark Potter, for his eight years of hard work, leadership, and dedication to STPS. We are grateful for all he has done for the organization.



Miles Robert and Tim Corwin test a newly installed bench.



The trail at Clam Island, Noyac



Hikers step out

Photos by Marianne Barnett



Hikers at the Anna and Daniel Mulvihill Preserve Photo by Marian Barnett

Note, this newsletter is printed seasonally but our hike schedule is printed every month. So go to our website to see the current listing of hikes and other activities. www.southamptontrails.org and click on "Events".

STPS website:

www.southamptontrails.org

- Monthly Events Schedule
-Descriptions of favorite hikes
-Online maps of favorite hikes
-Horses on trails
-Hiking Tips



Sam Herrick

Walking With Daddy by Hilary Woodward

Newly born, in 1954, I followed a legacy of eight generations on this wonderful place we call eastern Long Island. My Herrick family ancestors arrived here after a long ocean journey from England.

In 1640, about thirty years before the Herricks arrived, the very first settlers landed at Conscious Point in North Sea. Lore tells us that on landing, one of the women said, "for conscious sake, we have found dry land", thus its given name. Today, eastern Long Island still offers the Atlantic Ocean, sand, and the fantastic terra firma that provides continual life the land has provided for the many generations.

My dad, Sam Herrick, lived in Southampton Village but loved the abundant woods of North Sea, three miles north of the ocean. There, like other village residents, his parents had a summer cottage, or "Camp" as they called it, on a bluff over the bay between North Sea and Sag Harbor. He often walked the woodlands from camp to the family store, Herrick Hardware, on Main Street Southampton. He grew to love the long walk through the woodlands to and from the camp.

When we, his four children, were big enough to walk, he started Sunday afternoon jaunts through favorite areas. We walked in woodlands full of tall trees, always on the lookout for a possible treasure to discover. I loved looking for a land turtle or sitting on a big rock for a quick rest. Camps Pond north of Water Mill was a favorite for me. My older brother liked to scare me and one day he found some deer antlers and held them up to his head pretending to be a big monster.

We often went to Conscience Point, where my father told us of the brave settlers from England. It was a short walk from where we parked our old pickup truck down the narrow peninsula to the commemorative rock that the Southampton Colonial Society installed in 1910.

Back when my father learned the trails there were no standardized blazes to follow. Some of the trails were created by the native Shinnecock Indians ages ago. Others were cart pathways to woodlots for lumber or firewood. There are now many more hikers than we ever saw so many years ago. The Southampton Town Trails Preservation Society has shared and cared for miles of trails and have developed new trails for all to hike, bike, or stroll.

My Dad would be delighted!

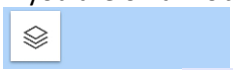
Current Board of Directors

Miles Robert –*President & Event Planning and Scheduling*
Marilyn Kirkbright – *Vice President*
Dai Dayton – *Secretary*
Tim Ferguson – *Treasurer*
Debbie Neumann & Valerie Frederick – *VP/ Horses on Trails (HOT)*
Vincent Scerbinski – *VP/ Membership*
Alexandra Penn – *Membership drive*
Tim Corwin – *VP Trail Planning and Maintenance*
Kate Rummel - *VP Community Relations, Communications, and Education*
Liz Karpin, Howard Reisman, Mark Potter & Eric Woodward – *Board Members at large*

Southampton Town Geographic Information Division, digital trail map:
https://gis.southamptontownny.gov/infocenter

This web address or QR code takes you to the Town of Southampton Info Center.

If you are on a mobile phone click:



and then click:



On some devices you can also press the Ⓐ And then the ☼ button to show your current location on the map.

If you are on a desktop click this dropdown:



You can find special detail topo maps of some of the hikes here by pressing:



Large East and West trail maps on paper are available for sale at the Southampton Town Hall clerk's office on Hampton Rd.

Maintenance !! By Howard Reisman

Our local woodlands and fields have had trails for centuries. Trails were first created by the Shinnecock Indians, next by early settlers and woodsmen, and for the past 40 years the Southampton Trails Preservation Society. There are over 300 miles of blazed Southampton trails, many of which are monitored and routinely maintained by the group to reduce encroachment by vegetation and to clear storm damage. In addition, in recent years the pine beetle epidemic has made our task harder. For example, on just the Barrel Hill trails north of Edge of Woods Rd. we have removed over 400 large pines fallen across the trails.

Our all-volunteer Trail Maintenance team is headed by Tim Corwin who schedules frequent work parties where all are welcome to help. Many of our Board members do so but recently and most prominently, Eric Woodward, Miles Robert and Dai Dayton have been Tim's valuable co- workers. For example, in August, Tim led a number of volunteer participants for a total of 59 hours of trail work at eight different locations. That work included removing fallen trees, trimming branches, mowing, and blazing. Earlier this year, new benches have been installed at Barcelona Neck and Laurel Valley. Bench repair has been scheduled at Whiskey Hill, and a replacement bench will be installed at Mulvihill .

In addition, Southampton Town now budgets a small amount for trail maintenance. Under Tim's direction an outside crew does some of the routine mowing and does some of the bigger clearing jobs. And not to be forgotten, the town's Community Preservation Department has a crew that maintains some of the trails on properties purchased with their funding.

Our "maintenance" team also works at establishing new trails and structures. Recent examples include the new CPF trail between North Sea Road and Coopers Lane in North Sea and our support of Colin Delalio's Eagle Scout project; thanks to a recent CPF purchase at the corner of Newtown Rd. and Red Creek Rd. the Paumanok Path has been moved off the roadside. Colin, with the help of classmates, designed, fundraised, and built a beautiful bridge across the creek.



Colin and his new bridge

It's been a busy year!

❑ **YES, I/We** would like to be a member of the Southampton Trails Preservation Society and want S.T.P.S. to continue to lead hikes; plan monthly hiking schedules; newsletter; cut, blaze and maintain trails; relocate signage and maps; educate the public about recreational accessibility and usage; and work with government officials and other organizations to protect our open space.

Send this form with a **check**.
Or join **online**: www.southamptontrails.org/join/ Pick individual or family

Southampton Trails Preservation Society

P. O. Box 1171, Bridgehampton, NY 11932

Individual:
____Student $10
____Annual $20
____Three-year $50
____Lifetime $250

Household/Family:
____Annual $35
____Three-year $95
____Lifetime $450

____New member, or
____Renewal

Name . . . . . .

Address . . . . . .

City/State/Zip . . . . . .

Phone . . . . . .**e-mail**. . . . . **Date**. . . . . .

I am interested in: □ Cutting and Maintaining Trails; □ Helping with Fundraising; □ Leading Hikes; □ Horses on Trails (HOT); □ Helping with Newsletter; □ Helping with Mailings; □ Other

Wanted — Trail maintenance volunteers – call Tim at 631-204-7821

Wanted — Trail hike leaders – email Miles at rmrgeneral@gmail.com

Trails----Peace on earth, right here in Southampton.

Southampton Trails Preservation Society
P. O. Box 1171
Bridgehampton, NY 11932