



OYSTERPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE MUSEUM of ORIENT
and EAST MARION HISTORY

Winter 2011

NEWSLETTER

New Program: Traditional Crafts Workshops Teach Hands-On History



Rug hooking has been popular in America for almost 200 years, and began in the early 19th century as a way to produce decorative floor coverings using leftover scraps of cloth. Artist Gail Horton will teach rug hooking at OHS this January.

To celebrate and revive the North Fork's rich history of traditional handcrafts, the Oysterponds Historical Society is pleased to present a new series of workshops on traditional American crafts. Get to know your inner artist and learn centuries-old techniques taught by skilled artisans from the North Fork and throughout New England.

The instructors for each multi-session workshop – all working artisans – will impart traditional skills as participants create their own projects to take home. This season's series focuses on fiber, with classes in rug hooking, knitting, and traditional dye techniques. Classes will be held in historic settings such as the 19th-century Old Point Schoolhouse and 18th-century Webb House. Future workshop offerings will include caning, printmaking, woodworking, quilting and more.

So warm up those cold winter days with friends by immersing yourself in the North Fork's rich heritage of art and craft.

VISIT US ONLINE

www.oysterpondshistoricalsociety.org

WINTER 2011 TRADITIONAL CRAFT SERIES

Small class sizes and professional instructors mean registration is a must. **Participants must register at least 3 days prior to the first session.** Each class will have a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12 participants. Please call 631-323-2480 to register.

THE ART & CRAFT OF RUG HOOKING with Gail Horton

Learn the basics of this centuries-old American craft with accomplished artist and master rug hooker Gail Horton. Work with her to compose and create your own 12-inch square tile. Three sessions, all materials provided.

Jan. 22, 23, 29, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. \$65 per person.

INTRODUCTION TO KNITTING with Doris Coniglio

If you have ever wanted to learn to knit or if your skills are rusty, now is your chance to gain knowledge from one of the best. Doris Coniglio has taught hundreds to knit and will be your personal coach as you create an elegant scarf (beginner and intermediate patterns available). Four sessions, materials not included.

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 6:00–8:30 pm. \$65 per person.

DYING TO KNIT & CROCHET with Christine Henson Thorpe

The owner of the Now & Zen Yarns, formerly of Greenport and now online, will guide you as you work with color, needlework and your artist's eye. You'll learn dye techniques, and color theory and composition, and you will review the basics of knitting and crocheting as you finish your project. Three sessions. Yarn and dye kits will be offered at \$45, \$85, or \$125, depending on your choice to make a scarf using basic or luxury yarns, or a small throw blanket, in the class.

March 2, 9, 16, 11:00–1:30 pm. \$15 per person (plus your choice of yarn and dye kits)

OHS WISHBOOK

Give a lasting gift to OHS that directly supports operations and programs. Find the perfect gift for a friend who has everything or make a gift in memory of a loved one. Available on the OHS website.

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OHS Welcomes New Trustees at September Meeting

Four members of the community joined the board of OHS this past September and here they share why preserving the history and heritage of Oysterponds is important to them.

Christine Franke is a life-long resident of Orient, having descended from European immigrants who settled in Orient in the late 19th-century and became successful farmers. Her mother and most of her siblings were born in Orient and attended the Point School House. She has wonderful memories of attending both the Union School and the present elementary school, then graduating from Greenport High School. Professionally, she is a certified Adult Nurse Practitioner working in Southold, but she is also music director at St. Agnes Church and choral accompanist at Greenport High School. She and her husband, Jim, have three children, David, Jennifer, and Daniel. Christine thinks that OHS is the steward of our local heritage, and as a member of the board she wishes to help preserve that which our ancestors worked so hard to build as a legacy for future generations.

Jim Latham is a grandson of OHS co-founder George Latham of Orient and Elizabeth Edwards Latham of East Marion. He followed his father and grandfather into the lumber business and owns and operates Port Lumber Corporation in Riverhead, which specializes in marine construction materials. He summered in Orient throughout his childhood and has been a year-round resident for more than 30 years. The local waterways run through his blood and he enjoys boating, sailing, and fishing. He and his wife, Pat, raised their four children in Orient and Jim thinks we owe it to the coming generations to all “pitch in” and do our parts to ensure that the historical society's mission of preservation and education is carried forward despite hard times.

Kathy Smith remembers driving “out” to Orient from her family's summer home in Southold with her husband Taz. She admired the village's historic houses, never dreaming she would live in two different houses on Village Lane. The Smith's first house was located on the corner of Village

and Skippers lanes, from which they ran a small antique store. In 1998 they “traded” that residence for their present late 17th-century house. Kathy served seven years on the OHS board in the 1990s including three years as development committee chair, service on the collections committee and summer benefit committee, five years on the North Fork Fresh committee, and running the Christmas Shop with Ursula Murray for four years. She says, “Through the generosity and fore-thought of those who came before us at OHS, this community has one of the most well documented histories of any on the East Coast. As a member of the OHS board, I am pleased to offer my service as a caretaker of that historic legacy.”

Jeri Woodhouse lives with her husband John in the former Knobloch House on Village Lane. Both have been active members of OHS since moving to Orient full-time almost 25 years ago and Jeri served a previous term on the OHS board. Jeri grew up on Long Island, is a graduate of Queens College with advanced degrees in both education and social work, and pursued her doctoral studies in public policy at Adelphi University. She is the former Chair of the Southold Town Planning Board, has worked closely with Southold's landmarks committee to preserve our historic buildings, and is deeply committed to protecting local farmland, which defines the rural character and heritage of the East End.

Ellen Zimmerman first came to the North Fork as a summer renter in 1984, and fell in love with its beauty, authenticity, and sense of history. She has owned her house in East Marion since 1995. She is chair of the East Marion Community Association history committee and is eager to work with OHS to strengthen its core mission of capturing, preserving, presenting, and interpreting the history of this extraordinary area. Ellen holds a Master of Science degree in urban planning and has worked for over 25 years as a management consultant specializing in administrative services, and records and information management.

Winter/Spring Programs: **Seafaring Oysterponds**

All presentations begin at 4:00 pm and are FREE.

Made possible by grants from the New York State Council for the Arts and the Suffolk County Office of Cultural Affairs

Presented at the Old Point School House:

- February 12 **“About Sea Shanties” by Anne MacKay**
Hear about the history and types of songs sung on sailing vessels and how maritime music bridges the globe. Come prepared to sing along in this musical trip through time. **Seating is limited, so please call for reservations.**

Presented at the Peconic Landing Community Center Auditorium in partnership with Peconic Landing:

- March 12 **“Medicine on the High Seas: The Tribulations of East End Sailors, 1700-1900”**
by Robert T. Bramson, MD
Hear the tales of medical difficulties faced aboard whalers, naval ships and other sea-going vessels. Scurvy, typhus, malaria, tropical diseases, and other trials made maritime travel a dangerous venture where the cures were nearly as perilous as the illnesses.
- March 26 **“A Schooner in the Offing” by Clyde Mellinger**
There is always a schooner or two in the waters in these parts, sloops also. The skippers and crews that sailed them walked the same streets of Oysterponds that we do today. Using voice recordings, photographs, paintings, family stories, and pictures from the bottom of the ocean, this presentation will bring to life the era of sail in Oysterponds.
- April 2 **“Schooner Rigged and Rakish: The Story of Orient’s *Lavinia Campbell*” by Ret Millis**
The *Lavinia Campbell*, launched in 1883, was a three-masted trading schooner whose home port was Orient. She delivered various cargos along the East Coast but mostly coal, and was not only unusually handsome, she was unusually fast. She suffered various misadventures and dramas in her career, and her story serves as a fine example of what our ancestors went through just to keep things running.

Upcoming Exhibitions

FEBRUARY: *GETTING ORIENTED*

William Steeple Davis artist-in-residence Annie Wildey’s work inspired by life in Orient, the land’s end of the North Fork. Members only preview is 4-6 pm on February 4, and the show will run from February 5-27, Saturdays and Sundays 2-5 pm.

APRIL: *FIBER/GLASS*

Local artists Yan and Francoise Rieger present a show of modernist fused glass and abstract tapestries. Members only preview is 4-6 on April 1, and the show will run from April 2-23, Saturdays and Sundays 2-5 pm.

JUNE: SUMMER EXHIBITION: OYSTERPONDS’ CHANGING FACE: THE FIRST MILLENNIUM

The first of a special two-year exhibition that will look at who our community is from its Native Americans to our present population, and what this had meant to Oysterponds through two millennia.

*These exhibitions are **FREE** to the public, made possible by grants from the New York Council for the Arts.*

For more information, call (631) 323-2480 or visit our website:

www.oysterpondshistoricalsociety.org

Give the Gift of Membership

If you have already sent in your membership renewal for 2010-2011, thank you! If you are not yet a member, please consider becoming one, or if you have forgotten to renew, please consider doing so. Your membership dues are an integral part of continuing our operations here at OHS. The benefits of membership include unlimited free admission to the museums, discounts to special events and programs and a discount on all purchases at the Beach Plum Gift Shop. Most importantly, you will experience the satisfaction of helping to preserve the heritage of Orient and East Marion for the benefit of every generation.

Individual \$30 Family \$50 Associate \$100 Sponsor \$250 Patron \$500 Benefactor \$1000

Renew by check: Please fill out the form below and mail form and payment and to: OHS, PO Box 70, Orient, NY 11957.

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Oysterponds Historical Society - Preserving the Past for Every Generation



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