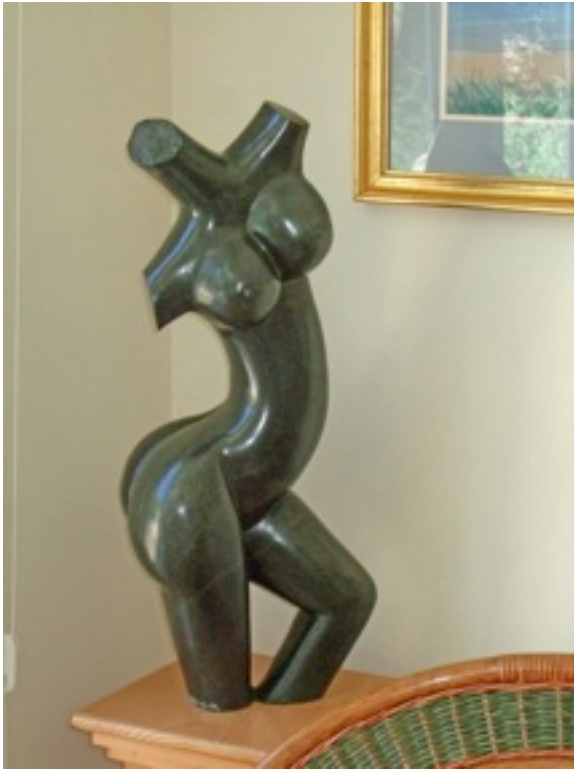


Harthaven Herald

all the news that fits

July 15, 2010



Shona Sculpture: On Wednesday, July 7th, Lou and Ginger Sullivan invited all Harthaveners to visit their home and view their collection of sculpture from Zimbabwe. Their report: "These very beautiful carvings are from artists who are members of the Shona people, the predominant ethnic tribe in Zimbabwe. These works are in art galleries and botanical gardens all over Europe and North America."

"Ginger and I have been collectors of Shona carvings since 1982, we have a few works in our home in Harthaven, including two in our flower garden

overlooking Farm Pond. Our Harthaven neighbors are welcome to come by at any time to see our outdoor pieces. If we are at home, we would welcome you come inside and see our indoor Shona carvings as well."



Phronsie Conlin is Ninety-One: on July 10th Phronsie celebrated her birthday at home in Harthaven and yet again the next day with her son Jed, his wife Carol and your editor at Jed and Carol's home in Vineyard Haven. "No one seems to think I look my age," Phronsie says. Even my Doctor thinks I look to be in the 70's. I'm lucky. Guess I must have good genes."

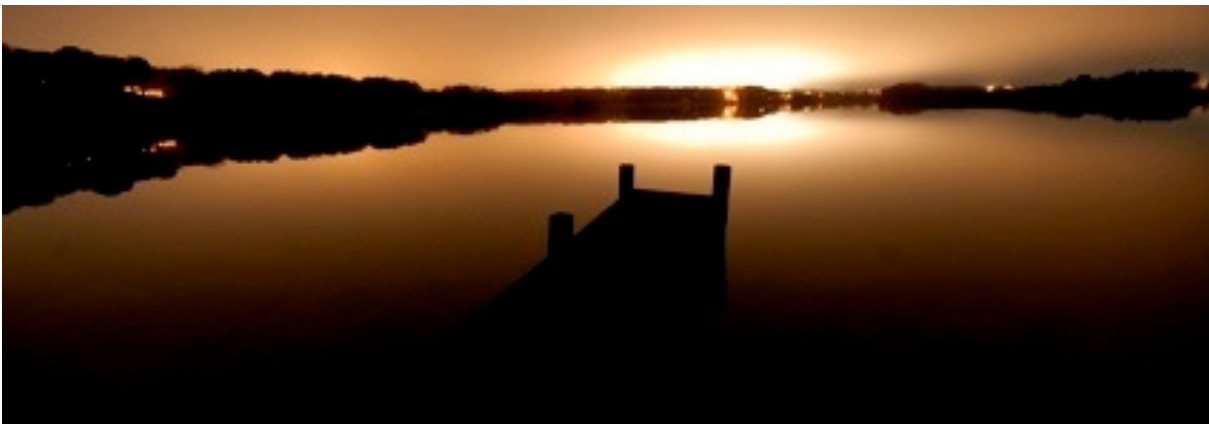
Left - photo of Phronsie when she was a little younger, aboard a catboat sailing outside Harthaven.



Father-Daughter Reunion: Peter Pease and his daughter Pauline set out early in July to paint together in Harthaven Harbor. “We had a great time doing this,” Peter reports. “We try to paint together every year. About seven years ago we were in Spain and went to paint in the Alhambra and Pauline got thrown out when she spread out her canvas on the floor of the Lion's Court. I got to stay, sitting quietly in a chair with my watercolors on my lap. She's always been the dangerous girl with the dragon tattoo.”



Harthaven right-of-ways are open: This in from Peter Yoars: “The right of ways to Farm Pond have been mowed and are now ready for use. There is one between the Abbe house and the Clark house. The other is between the Matt Thomas house and the Grandfield house. Enjoy.” Peter doesn’t mention that he mowed those ROWs himself. ed.



Farm Pond at night

Farm Pond

“You know Farm Pond. It’s the one with the wooden sea serpent floating in the middle, just south of the sea wall in Oak Bluffs. You might know that its name comes from the old de Bettencourt Farm that once bordered its shoreline, that it was once called Oyster Pond and Island Lake, and being larger than ten acres, it qualifies as a true great pond, one of the Vineyard’s smallest. You might know that not long ago, people fished from, swam in, sailed on, and ate oysters harvested from Farm Pond. What you probably don’t know is what kind of trouble the pond is in now. Nor what it’s going to take to fix it, or how long the fix will take, or how limited the fix might have to be.”

The above is from a great article by Tom Dunlop called “Saving Farm Pond” and printed in Martha’s Vineyard Magazine - September October 2004. **It’s worth a read at <http://friendsoffarmpond.net/farmpond.html>.**



The Friends of Farm Pond was formed in 2005 to help protect and revitalize the pond. The Association was launched by an informal meeting at the culvert and the group was solidified by inviting Jane Goodall to the home of Martha Shaw with the Island's environmental leaders to discuss how to effectively build community around an issue.

Friends of Farm Pond Mission: The Friends of Farm Pond is a group of concerned citizens who have gathered together to help to restore ecological stability to this fragile environment. Our mission is to repair the health of Farm Pond and its watershed which is threatened by 1) lack of circulation with the sea due to choking off the mouth of the pond 2) manmade effects of toxic local runoff, harmful home and garden chemicals, failing septic and cesspool systems, and nitrogen overload. 3) bacteria build-up by overpopulation of fowl and other invasive species. For more information see the Friends’ website at <http://friendsoffarmpond.net/>

What can you do to help clean up Farm Pond?

- Join the Friends of Farm Pond
- Pump out your septic system every three to five years.
- Landscape with native plants that require less fertilizer and water.
- Conserve water at home: buy efficient appliances, use less water in the bathroom, fix leaks, use biodegradable soaps and phosphate-free detergents.
- Store and properly dispose of hazardous chemicals (disposal dates are announced in the Island newspapers).
- Conserve land or contribute to land conservation.
- Copy this list and pass it on to friends and neighbors.

Helpers

Steve Moore, Carpenter - "Steve has done excellent work at my house - bathroom ceiling, trim and wallboards. He shingled my new garage, replaced rotted house trim, repaired gutters. fixed outdoor shower, and even found and fixed a squeaky floor in my den. He is honest and reasonable - a good guy." Ron Moore. "Steve Moore did some nasty tree, snarly vine and chainsaw cutting for us as well as chain sawing some downed dead pines. He also discovered some rotting trim which he replaced and re-shingled several areas on our house and shed." Peggy Moore. Steve's summer phone 508-696-1932; cell 508-904-3906.

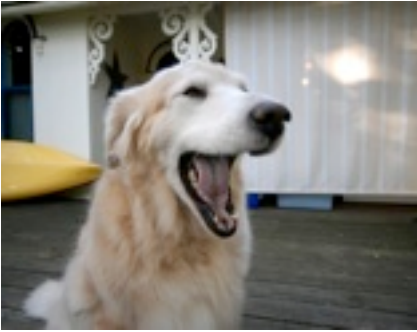


Clambake



Don't forget to send in your clambake forms to Peggy Yoars. The bake will be held at 3PM, August 28th at Buoy Beach, weather permitting (we have two other venues in case of rain or lots of wind, stay tuned as we get closer.) Also don't forget to VOLUNTEER to help. It really is fun to join up with your neighbors to put the bake on. Especially needed are volunteers who want to learn to become bakers and anyone who has a 4 wheel drive vehicle. There is an envelope and extra fliers on the bench outside the Yoars kitchen door (#37 Harthaven Rd., first house after the tennis court) for anyone who would like to save a stamp and hand deliver reservation and check

Editorial - Dog Beach



As I am writing this. the thermometer outside (in the shade) is nudging ninety. It's two PM and I want to go for a swim. So does Maile, my golden retriever, panting at my feet. "But not until five PM," I tell her. She just rolls her eyes. I figure there must be at least twenty families saying the same thing to their dogs. "Not yet." Okay, so let's take the idea of "Dog Beach" a little seriously. How hard can it be, out of a mile and a half of beach, to carve out, say, 100 feet for dogs? All the time. Any time.

Floor Cloths by el Edwards

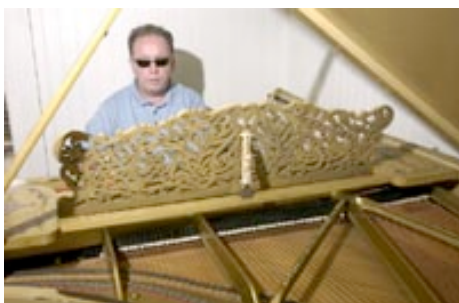
"Floor clothes have been around for a long time. Cheaper than rugs and a good use of old sails. They are easy to make. One year the kids made floor cloths as place mats. I have made small one to use under plants or under the dog's water and food bowl. Less mess." el



A little history - The image to the right appeared on the July 31st, 1948 edition of the Saturday Evening Post. The illustration is by well known artist Steven Dohanos who spent a lot time in Harthaven. The image is a collage. The house is actually fronting the Oak Bluffs Harbor, but the people were photographed on the deck of the Vibberts' home in Harthaven. They are, from left to right: Walter Hart, the artist's daughter-in-law, his son and his granddaughter, Sam low (with the boat) Virginia Low, Phronsie Conlin, Jack Vibberts, Frank Vibberts and the Vibberts' dog - Deke.



David Crohan - Vineyard Piano Man - visiting in Harthaven. At Mickey Graham's place - where else?



From an article in the Gazette, July 22, 2005.

Musical Memories: David Crohan Marks 40 Years with Tabernacle
By JULIA WELLS

“He is the Vineyard's own piano man and his story has been told dozens of times, but even in the retelling it is remarkable and ordinary and gifted and funny - all words that describe David Crohan himself. Above all else he is funny, with a relaxed, deadpan humor that spills out unexpectedly and uproariously,

some of it quite unprintable. And suddenly you are laughing along with him and rocking back in your chair and laughing some more.

Blind from birth, conservatory trained, he began to play the piano at the age of three and his formal training began at the age of seven. He grew up in a three-story tenement in Providence, R.I., and later attended the Perkins School for the Blind and the New England Conservatory, where he eventually received three advanced degrees in music. From the early days playing in Circuit avenue bars in the 1960s, to the 20 years that he owned David's Island House and played the piano seven nights a week, to the benefit concerts for Camp Jabberwocky, the Community Solar Greenhouse and of course the Tabernacle - David Crohan is a homegrown Island celebrity and an institution in his own right.”

David has since moved to Palm Beach where he plays in one of the best restaurants, The Cafe Europa, a gig he has had for about ten years. There he and Mickey Graham hooked up once again and renewed their friendship. David remembers Mickey's mother, Edith, who went to the Piano Bar at David's Island House often in the sixties and early seventies and he composed a song for her (and Mickey) called, appropriately, “Mickey's Song.” He will be visiting Mickey from July 30th to August 9th. Among other venues, David will perform at the old Whaling Church to benefit COMSOG. From the event description: “Classical pianist, David Crohan will be back for his 26th year with a program featuring Chopin waltzes. Katie Mayhew will be singing Broadway songs, including selections from Cabaret, In the Woods, Grease and more.” Check the paper for the schedule.

Mickey will set a time when Harthaveners can come meet David.

Memories

We lost Stan Hart this Spring, but not his words. Stan wrote a lot about Harthaven in two long articles published in the Vineyard Gazette. Here's one excerpt - an impression of the island during the war years...

“On soft summer nights I rode ...past the Oak Bluffs Country Club (which was) ...humming with the great songs of the war, Moonlight Becomes You and I'll Be Seeing You. Navy officers from the airfield ...were dancing inside and army troops preparing to land at Normandy were there too. The girls of the Vineyard danced in their arms: the night was too short, days ticking by, the summer going too fast. An exalted ambiance of danger mixed with love, conspired in the night air to tantalize a 14 year old on his bike.”

Meeting on Farm Pond Flushing Improvement Alternatives

by Al Willens

The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration and its consultant, Applied Coastal Research & Energy (ACR&E), conducted a public meeting on July 8 at The Oak Bluffs Library to summarize the current status of the investigation of alternatives for improving the flushing of and circulation of water through Farm Pond, aimed at the long-run preservation of the pond and its marine flora and fauna. Several members of the Harthaven Community and other abutters to Farm Pond, as well as officials from the Town of Oak Bluffs attended part or all of the meeting. A slide presentation was made by ACR&E and this will be posted on the Friends of Farm Pond Web site (<http://friendsoffarmpond.net>) as soon as we receive a copy of the presentation.

There are many steps that need to be undertaken and approvals granted before any changes can be made to the existing culvert system, which is generally regarded as being substantially too small for the long-run health of Farm Pond. This will take time, but is viewed as doable. In addition, there are several sources of potential funding from state and Federal agencies that may pay a large portion of the ultimate costs.

The working conclusion is that this project should be pursued. Three alternative designs for circulating water between Farm Pond and Edgartown Bay, under Seaview Avenue, were presented: a single, 16-foot-wide culvert, at an estimated cost of \$710,000, two side-by-side eight-foot culverts, at an estimated cost of \$614,000, and a 16-foot-wide bridge under Seaview Avenue, at an estimated cost of \$1,750,000. There is no significant difference in the life span among the alternatives, or between their flushing potential. The bridge is probably the least feasible of the alternatives, because of its substantially higher cost and because there is a limit of \$1 million on Fish and Wildlife Grants, one of the main potential funding sources. A bridge also would have the greatest aesthetic impact. The twin, eight-foot culvert alternative is both the most cost-effective, and has the additional advantage of being amenable to having one culvert closed while maintenance work is done on the other.

In answer to a question from the audience, Shellfish Warden, Dave Grunden, said that shell fishing may again be possible some day in Farm Pond, most likely in the winter months, but that he could not make any promises at this point.



Beach Police - 508 693 0750.

Al Pease reports that he has had very good luck dealing with recalcitrant beach trespassers by calling (as a last resort) the Oak Bluffs Police. "They are very courteous and effective," Al told us at the annual meeting this year. He also reported that he requested buoys be placed off Harthaven's Buoy Beach to ward off boaters and that his request resulted almost instantly in two buoys being placed just outside of the raft.

Courtesy called for: Andrew Moore also reminded us at the meeting that we are part of Oak Bluffs and asked that we all be courteous when informing trespassers that our beaches are private or "not public beaches" as some suggested we say.