

# The Sag Harbor Express.

## Letters To The Editor

### Letters May 28, 2009

#### Cleanup at the Tuckahoe Hill Preserve on Sebonac Road.

Many thanks to everyone who helped out with the planting and cleanup at the Tuckahoe Hill Preserve on Sebonac Road. The work is part of a larger project to create a memorial for Kurt Billing at this preserve – one that Kurt was instrumental in creating – a 150-acre gem of woodlands dotted with vernal pools and boasting one of the most spectacular views on Long Island.

Anita Wright and the Group for the East End – an environmental advocacy organization whose board Kurt served on for many years – organized the planting and provided most of the plant material as well as staff members Jenn Hartnagel, Jenn Skilbred, and Kate Schertel to help out. Anita also enlisted students from nearby Stonybrook/Southampton College's wildlife and environmental club to pitch in. Vicki Bustamante of Warren's nursery donated additional plant material, John White provided Hollytone and help transplanting some red cedars, Scott Chaskey of Quail Hill Farm/Peconic Land Trust donated a truckload of compost, Dai Dayton supplied some cedar posts to protect the planting area, and George Lira brought his landscaping crew to help. Other friends of Kurt who helped out were Dave Steiber, Kevin McAllister, Jennifer Keller and Dan Oliva. Dan offered the use of one of his nearby water faucets to get the transplanted material through the summer season – that will be a huge help.

The cleanup effort was spearheaded by the Southampton Trails Preservation Society – another organization whose board Kurt served on for many years. Tony and Joan Garro, Ken Bieger, Grace Lloyd, Dave Stieber, Elizabeth Yastrzemski, Gregory Yahayan, and Jim Rewinski hauled five truckloads of debris out of the trailhead area of the preserve. **Ray Smith & Associates provided manpower and a machine to begin cleaning up the summit of Tuckahoe Hill.** More cleanup work remains on the summit; if you would like to help please contact me at 631-267-5228.

Special thanks to Southampton Town staff Laura Smith, Ron Carter and Mary Wilson, and Southampton Village Mayor Mark Epley and Village Superintendent of Public Works Gary Goleski. Without their help and support this project would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Mike Bottini

Mike Bottini is a veteran naturalist, outdoor educator, and environmental consultant. Mike also serves on the board of **SPOKESPEOPLE** of Eastern Long Island, a cycling advocacy organization working to create safer cycling conditions on the east end.