

PROGRESS REPORT ON

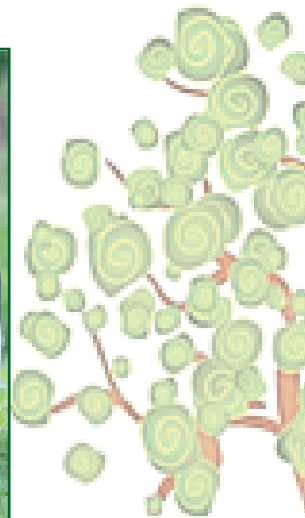
Formerly known as the Littauer Family's Hillside Farm the "Farm" as it is now called is very dear to the heart of NSLA. Our first letter of inquiry about conservation was sent to Mary Littauer on Split Rock Road, Oyster Bay Cove in 2003. And, the conservation purchase by the Town of Oyster Bay in 2007 set a local precedent by being the first Nassau County municipality to place a conservation easement on public land to ensure its second party, permanent protection.

So, it is with great pleasure that we present you with this update. The Farm published its first annual report in 2009, including a mission statement which follows: *The Farm at Oyster Bay is dedicated to furthering the understanding and enjoyment of horticulture and nature in a farm-like setting. It engages and inspires people of all ages to nurture deep and long-lasting connections to another time in the history of Oyster Bay, Long Island.*

We visited the Farm last week and were pleased to see that, while some great things had not changed, others were undergoing dramatic change. The beautiful, welcoming entrance was still covered with purple wisteria and orange trumpet vine. And, just inside the Chippendale gate, the walled boxwood garden was still there too, looking quite dramatic after a major, invigorating prune. The rose garden with its angled brick edges has 45 new rose bushes and a freshly painted shed.

The Farm will be opened to the public as planned, though not as quickly as first thought. Requirements for safety in public places are quite strict and as a result many dead and dying trees had to be removed with new ones planted in their place. Brick paths were evened between the house and garden to avoid tripping and falling. And, most dramatically, new plumbing, drainage and cesspools are in the process of being installed to accommodate public restrooms, which are also a necessity in public places.

One of the most exciting changes we witnessed was the beginning of the transformation of the pre-revolutionary three-barn complex into a Center for the Arts, Culture and Environment. When completed, the Center will house three large classroom/lecture spaces, a seasonal historic barn gallery, small work studios and indoor/outdoor farm displays.

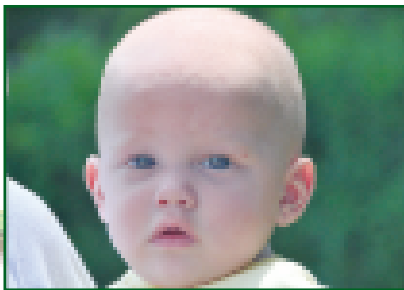


THE FARM AT OYSTER BAY

The Town of Oyster Bay has won two grants for the restoration of the Farm's barn complex. The first was a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to ensure structural stability, which has just been completed. It involved replacing the existing rubble stone underpinnings with a concrete foundation, carefully stripping the siding in areas that required reconstruction and replacing deteriorating sections with steel or treated lumber. Now there is a stable base for wall segments. In keeping with energy saving technology, the restoration will include the use of geo-thermal clean energy for heating and cooling.



The second grant is a matching \$2.5M federal grant, which will allow the renovation to be completed. It will include a new roof with treated wood shingles and an additional cover of wood sheathing and siding complete with new millwork.



While it is unlikely that the Farm will be opened on a regular basis until 2011, there has been quite a bit of activity to date. Senior citizens have played bridge in the parlor and done Tai Chi classes on the lawn. The Girl Scouts of Nassau County have planted and are maintaining a vegetable garden. Plein air painters have painted and local gardeners have toiled but most joyously, a sixth generation of family was born at the Farm this winter. Welcome to the world Tyler Christopher Roberts! You are a very lucky boy to learn to walk in the footsteps of five generations of family that have made their home at this wonderful place.



The plans for the Farm at Oyster Bay have exceeded our expectations and we can't wait to see you there enjoying it in the Spring of 2011. A special thanks to Steve Matuza, a new addition to the team, who has taken on this important renovation for the Town of Oyster Bay.