

The Conservancy Chronicle



www.greenwichpoint.org • P.O. Box 377 • Old Greenwich, CT 06870 • Spring 2012

A Message from President Chris Franco

Last spring we completed the five-year restoration of the Innis Arden Cottage. It's now one of the most beautiful and historic buildings on the Greenwich waterfront and has won numerous awards, including a 2011 American Institute of Architects award for "Best Historic Restoration and Adaptive Reuse" and an award from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation.

Now we're excited to be moving forward on our next project. The Old Barn, located next to the Cottage, is the oldest structure at Greenwich Point (1887), and a true "diamond in the rough." Restored to its original stone and shingle, the building will house the food concession and new restrooms and a wonderful new dining terrace on the beach side. The 1950s-era brick restroom building will be razed and a redesigned parking area and traffic circle between the Cottage and the Barn will create a beautiful and safe pick up/drop off area with handicapped parking and showers for beach goers.

With your help, we'll soon make this next project a reality.

A New 'Gateway' for the Point

"Restoring Innis Arden Cottage was a big step forward for Greenwich Point, but when the Conservancy's second project, the Old Barn, is complete, it will be transformative. The Cottage, the Old Barn and the newly designed and landscaped areas will effectively form a magnificent gateway to historic Greenwich Point." Standing before the Cottage, local architect and Greenwich Point Conservancy board member Krist Dodaro is eager to start the next phase of that transformation.

The Conservancy will go to the Representative Town Meeting in June to ask for acceptance of our gift of up to \$850,000 to complete the Gateway. The project will include restoring the stone and shingle exterior of the Barn, removing the center section added in later years (see photo of model), and adding a dining terrace with knockout Sound views.

Once work on the Old Barn is finished, parked cars and asphalt (in the area between the restored buildings) will be replaced with beach grasses, benches and a winding stone path. (See page 2 to learn how you can 'sign a stone.')



Proceeds from the Conservancy's annual Beach Ball will kick off the Gateway project. The GPC is also offering an opportunity for a generous donor who loves the Point to name the Old Barn's new dining terrace. Please contact President Chris Franco at info@greenwichpoint for details.

Greenwich Point Conservancy Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 30th at 6pm

Innis Arden Cottage

RSVP to admin@greenwichpoint.org

Booked!

“Innis Arden Cottage is such an exciting place. If I tell people we’re having a meeting there, they show up!” And Eileen Schaub, horticulture chair of the Old Greenwich Garden Club, knows. “Sixty members turned out for our last meeting, not the usual twenty-five.”

And it’s not only local gardeners who love the Cottage (the Riverside Garden Club meets there too). Other community groups that have held meetings or programs there include four Girl Scout troops, the Greenwich Land Trust, the Greenwich Historical Society, Penn Women, and the PTAC of Greenwich Public Schools Green Schools and Arts in Education Committees.



Barbara Norgard, Tommie Bulger, Kathy Riley, and Eileen Schaub at a recent Old Greenwich Garden Club terrarium workshop.



Dr. Frank Cantelmo (left) identifying plankton (on the Seaside Center’s flatscreen tv) for a visiting family.

Using Innis Arden Cottage on a regular basis are: the marine biology classes from Greenwich High School, the Conservation Commission, the Shellfish Commission, Bruce Museum, Friends of Greenwich Point, Audubon Greenwich, Soundwaters and, of course, the Greenwich Point Conservancy.

Bruce Museum’s First Sunday Science programs continue at the Seaside Center (1:30 to 4:30 pm):
May 6 *Greenwich Point – an International Crossroads of Birds;*
June 3 *Tag a Horseshoe Crab – Project Limulus.*



Chris Franco welcomed the audience to a Historical Society/GPC co-sponsored talk by Sylvia Hasenkopf on K.C. Budd, architect of Innis Arden Cottage, in observance of Women’s History Month.

Call-A-Ride and Greenwich Safe Cycling have booked space at the Cottage for later this Spring.

To reserve space for your organization, contact Conservation Director Denise Savageau at denise.savageau@greenwichct.org.

Sign a Stone

Here’s an opportunity to make your mark at Greenwich Point. The Conservancy is taking orders now for engraved stones that will be used to create a new seaside walk. The path, part of the redesigned and landscaped area that will connect Innis Arden Cottage and the Old Barn, will be paved with 6” x 12” white granite blocks.

Personalize your stone with your family or company name, mark an important event, memorialize a family member or friend. Up to four lines, with 18 spaces and characters per line, are included so you can even add your dog who loves to run on the beach.

The area redesign, landscaping and path will be done after restoration of the Old Barn is completed. But get your order in now — the supply of stones is limited. Engraved stones are \$200 each (see insert or order on line at www.greenwichpoint.org).



Beach Ball 2012: It's The Talk of the Town



an opportunity to 'sign a stone' for the new seaside path and become part of Greenwich Point history.

No wonder the Beach Ball, Greenwich Point Conservancy's annual benefit, is sold out every year!



Proceeds of this year's Beach Ball will help restore the Old Barn located next to Innis Arden Cottage. The restored building will house an updated food concession, new restrooms and a new dining and picnic terrace with tables and chairs overlooking Long island Sound.

Invitations will be mailed just before Memorial Day; please mark your calendar for Saturday, July 14th. Tickets can be purchased online at www.greenwichpoint.org. Contact admin@greenwichpoint.org for information.

Imagine arriving at Greenwich Point and being whisked by a 'chauffeur-driven' golf cart to a magnificent party on the bluff. Festive cocktails and delicious hors d'oeuvres, followed by a grilled salmon with red pepper glaze and steak dinner and forget-your-diet desserts. Served under a fabulous tent overlooking the Manhattan skyline.

And that's not to mention the steel drum and Double Down bands, a rum shack, silent and live auctions and



Beach Ball Co-Chair Kendra Farn Finz can tell you why: "It's the only outdoor benefit party with the stunning setting of Tod's Point on a summer night. We sell out each year because people are passionate about our mission — and know a fabulous party when they go to one."

Event Co-Chair Alison Farn Leigh agrees. "It's my favorite evening of the year; I feel as if I'm on vacation in my own town. I can celebrate with a fun crowd, enjoy the beautiful view of the New York skyline, eat scrumptious food — and help to preserve and restore the historic buildings at our beloved Tod's Point."



A Long Love Affair with Innis Arden Cottage and the Point

When Suzanne and Jack Prunier purchased a painting of a beach cottage at the Greenwich Arts Society's sidewalk art show in 1964, they had no idea that they were beginning a love affair with the building and its location. The building in the painting was the Innis Arden Cottage at Tod's Point. It has hung on the wall in the Prunier family home in Riverside ever since.

As the Prunier family grew in number, so did the Point grow in the family's affection. Summer picnics, bike rides in the fall, hide and seek at the mansion's footprint, the Seaside Museum, the Secret Garden, rock climbing and long walks became a part of life. When Jack Prunier retired from his practice of medicine, the Point was a daily destination year round. He converted his walks into power walks, circling the perimeter, discovering new trails, always commenting on its beauty, never allowing a piece of litter to stay on the ground.



At the same time, he became aware of the deterioration in many of the original buildings, including his beloved Innis Arden Cottage. When he and Suzanne were invited to join the Board of the Conservancy, it was a no-brainer and a source of pride.

In later years as his health continued to fail, the Point remained his favorite destination. The walks were shorter but the time spent resting on the benches at the Cottage gave him time for reflection and appreciation of a life well spent.

When Jack passed away this past February, the family was deeply touched by the many gifts made in his name to continue the mission of the Conservancy. He will be remembered as Greenwich Point's historic buildings are restored to their original glory for the benefit of all visitors.

Please contact Conservancy Vice President Alison Farn Leigh at info@greenwichpoint.org if you would like to make a gift in memory of a friend or family member.

An Awarding-Winning Restoration

The Greenwich Point Conservancy was honored, at a recent ceremony in Hartford, by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for the restoration of Innis Arden Cottage.

Connecticut State Senator L. Scott Franz (right), receiving the Award of Merit for Physical Preservation on behalf of the Conservancy, praised the GPC's work: "Without their efforts, these valuable assets could have been lost forever to our state's history."

