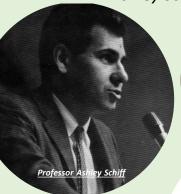


Oct. 1969

Dr. Ashley Schiff passed away









Oct. 2009

Ashley Schiff Memorial Courtyard was dedicated in his memory on campus

2010,12,14,16,18

NYS Assemblyman Steve Englebright (Setauket) has been introducing Assembly Bills that includes the establishment of Ashley Schiff State Park Preserve for permanent protection

Oct. 2019

Ashley Schiff Preserve celebrates its' 50th Anniversary





Oct. 1969

1960s-1970s

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The Preserve was dedicated in his memory

President John S. Toll

by President John S. Toll

Letter of Appeal

orial preserve was dedicated by Stony Brook University's first Presio,
wart Udall on 9 October 1969 to be "Forever Wild" they neglected to give
valually surveyed as an "Ecological Preserve Area", the preserve could be oblitera,
ministration decide, for example, that the land is prime building space for campu

ted that she will not develop the preserve during her administration, but up to now s anent, legal protection so as not to tie the hands of future administrations. But recent

ampus-based Friends of the <u>Ashley Schiff Park Preserve</u> and the SBU Environmental Club have ent to Dr Kenny during EarthStock, Friday 17 April.

he Ashley Schiff Park Preserve are also planning a re-dedication of the preserve on Friday 9th O of the establishment of the preserve. Stewart Udall and his son US Senator Tom Udall will be in

s set a petition goal of 10,000 signatures. It is open to all students, faculty, staff, alumni and

'sley Schiff Park Preserve

Mar. 2009

On the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Preserve, FASP and SBU Environmental Club organized a petition to present to President Shirley Kenny on Earthstock



Nov. 2019

The University Environmental Committee's (Tom Wilson, Chair) [Ashley Schiff Resolution] was adopted by the University Senate unanimously





### Letter from the President

I spent January 1st 2020 outdoors, riding my horse friend Lefty over the trails of Connetquot River State Park. The air chilled both of us, but Lefty loves to explore. His ear swivel with the abundant deer and stealthy foxes. When I was a child, I thought that winter woodlands were a dead place. But now I know better. The forest teases with signs of life. As we cantered over sandy paths, I found American wintergreen, also called Eastern teaberry. Drifts of brown oak leaves obscured the red berries, but the green leaves called for attention. I managed to upload the photo onto iNaturalist before Lefty ate the plant.

The end of a year brings on a mood of retrospection. The end of a decade makes that mood more intense. I say hello to the people out celebrating the new year with a walk in the woods with that unmoored feeling that comes with personal assessments. The Friends of Ashley Schiff Park have much to be grateful for. During our 50th Celebration of Forever Wild, Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn and Brookhaven Councilwoman Valerie Cartright personally spoke about the importance of open space to human health and to ecological health. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand supported that sentiment with a letter. Thanks to Councilwoman Cartright, October 4th is officially Ashley Schiff day! They're efforts renewed our hope that by the close of this new decade we see full and legal protection for our beloved park.

After decades of service to not only the Friends of Ashley Schiff Park but also to Stony Brook University, our Vice President, Paul Seigel, stepped down to enjoy a life of retirement. Paul is a living encyclopedia of all things Friends of Ashley Schiff and all things Stony Brook. Every time I had an important meeting, I met with him first so that he could explain both the history and reasonable expectations. With him by my side, I knew I had all the facts. Together we planned and schemed, and mostly we hoped. Paul, my friend, I will miss you on the board.

Maureen Murphy has stepped up to fill his shoes. Although I was at the meeting when this happened, and I can vouch for the fact that Paul shoved them onto her feet. It's been said that the people you want to lead are the ones that are most resistant to being leaders. Given all the service that Maureen has provided to the Friends of Ashley Schiff, I've no doubt that the sentiment is correct. Welcome, Maureen! And thank you so much for volunteering. I look forward to years of working together.

When Lefty and I got back into the barn, I put on his winter coat and gave him some hay. He started the year well, filled with everything he needed: exploration and exercise, cozy warmth, friendship and a snack. I hope all of you started with the same!



Wishing you a wonderful 2020!

Sharon Pochron, President

## **Executive Board Members 2019**

Sharon Pochron, President

Paul Siegel, Vice-President & Scholarship Committee

Dorothy Schiff-Shannon, Schiff Family Representative

Sue Avery, *Secretary* 

Donna DiGiovanni, *Treasurer* 

Nick Acampora, Community Liaison

Lauren Donovan, Nomination Committee

David Taylor, Education Committee Chair

Chart Guthrie, Management and Planning Committee

Maureen Murphy, *Membership and Development Committee Chair* 

Hogyeum Joo, Alumni Representative / Social Media Manager

The Purpose of the Organization is...

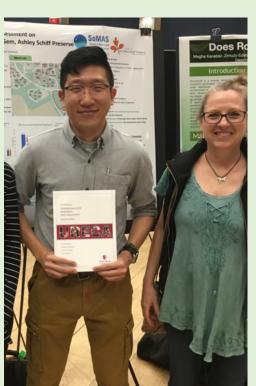
1.To Manage the Ashley Schiff Preserve as a "living laboratory" and an academic research site, and further ensuring that it remains as a "forever wild" woodland.

2. To Promote its educational and research value with students, faculty, staff, and the greater community

# 2018–2019 Ashley Schiff Preserve Scholarship Program

The Ashley Schiff Preserve Scholarship (ASPS) recognizes

Stony Brook University undergraduate and graduate students of outstanding academic ability who demonstrate a commitment to environmental preservation through academic studies or research projects using the Ashley Schiff Preserve. This scholarship of up to \$1,000 is awarded annually.



Scholarship Winner: Hogyeum Joo

SBU '19, BA in Ecosystems and Human Impact Project Title: 'Awareness Assessment of Ashley Schiff Preserve, Stony Brook University: Comparison between 2015 and 2019'

Hogyeum graduated from Stony Brook University in May 2019. He is pursuing a Masters degree in Sustainability Management at Columbia University, and also serves as Social Media Manager for the Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve.

## Research

**American Chestnut Restoration Program** 

The Ashely Schiff
Preserve has been
working on growing a
blight resistant
American Chestnut
trees in the Preserve
since 2014, to restore
the species and the
American landscape in
the area



### Guided Walks and Student Engagement



Several guided walks of the Preserve with the current Stony Brook University students and community members were made!

# Communication and Engagement

The Friends of Ashley Schiff Preserve is on Instagram now!



Feel free to contact the Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve with any questions regarding event schedule, visit, education/scholarship programs, or how to be involved.

And don't forget to like and share our posts, so more people know about Professor Schiff's legacy and the beauty of the Preserve!

# New E-Board Member Highlight David Taylor Educational Committee Chair



David Taylor is a professor of Sustainability at Stony Brook University. He teaches several courses in environmental humanities as a faculty of Sustainability Studies Program. He's also a poet and a writer.

His writing crosses disciplinary boundaries and genres—poetry, creative non-fiction, scholarship and science/technical writing; however, at the core of his work always is the concern for environmental sustainability and community. His poetry includes a book Praying Up the Sun (Pecan Grove Press, 2008) and a chapbook The Log from The Sea of Cortez: A Poem Series (Wings Press, 2013) based on John Steinbeck's 1940 collecting trip with biologist Ed Ricketts.

Dr. Taylor joined the Friends of Ashley Schiff Preserve as a Educational Committee Chair this year. He's expected to expand the Friends' view on the Preserve, its' natural beauty, and the values we're trying to keep as legacy. Welcome!

He wrote "Schiff Woods 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poem: A Variation on an Ode, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. 2019" to commemorate our 50<sup>th</sup> years of Forever Wild. He read to poem at the celebration event as well. The poem is on the next page.

### Schiff Woods 50th Anniversary Poem: A Variation on an Ode, Oct. 4, 2019

### By David Taylor

The way to enter the woods is not as escape, But as memory,

like words only you know and that reminds you of what you care about

names that ground you,

that help sink your feet to sand, soil, and detritus,
that bathe you in the sassafras-filtered, dappled sunlight,
as you stand, eyes closed, back against the tulip tree,
syllables that help you listen

to the faint oriole call off-trail,

fainter still, the bee humming with goldenrod bloom.

Then the wind offers back,

That each leave has a voice too,

And even tree trunks bend and speak.

\* Turn off the cell phone and hide it as deep as possible in your backpack as though you are burying the dead. \*You are. \*Tell your friend with you to wander ahead or behind for a short time. \*To those you meet, nod and say, can't talk right now, I'm listening to something.

\*When they ask for what, smile, and keep walking.

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To enter the Schiff Woods is to place yourself in,

the push and retreat of crushing ice and stone, thaw and frost, snow, sand, and first shoots

of green making their way to sun and roots reaching down to water, shore and forest becoming, fire cleansing forest, regrowth and cutting, human enterprise and the decay of human enterprise covered by grapevine and leaf litter, all the flowers grown from bird droppings and acorns covered and forgotten by squirrels, trees grown old and now fallen in a nor-easter, Ashley Schiff and others taking students to these same way leavings now become woods, what offices have been built around it, what has done to keep the forest as it is.

These are why you are in the woods now.

What more do we need, but to know

we are a part of earth's memory ...

And should act that way

## Ashley Schiff Preserve 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Events

www.AshleySchiff.org

SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>

~

OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

### ASHLEY SCHIFF PRESERVE TREASURE HUNT

Find 10 beloved plants of the park and document them on iNaturalist! Win a 50th Anniversary t-shirt. For more details, please visit facebook.com/AshleySchiftPreserve

LOCATION: ASHLEY SCHIFF PRESERVE



Stant Brook 18

eagy 1969 - 2019 1969 - 2019 of Forest

Download iNaturalist!

This event is Open to Everyone!

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2ND

### FOREST SPIRIT PROCESSION

Join us on a journey to and through the Forest! Donned in wearable sculpture inspired by the sprit of the forest and accompanied by musicians, students and enthusiasts will proceed to the Preserve. **Sharon Pochron**, the President of the Friends of Ashely Schiff Preserve will guide the group thorough the forest, bringing attention to the botanical and geological wonders that await there

LOCATION: WANG CENTER STEPS (1:00pm)

The President of Friends of Ashley Schiff Preserve

**Sharon Pochron** 



FRIDAY OCTOBER

### **GUIDED TOUR TO THE WOODS**

Join our botanist and naturalist **Sue Avery**, and learn more about the unique ecosystem, geology, and history of the Preservel Meet at the Preserve Klosk on Nicolls Road (opposite of Lake Drive on SBU Campus)

LOCATION: ASHLEY SCHIFF PRESERVE KIOSK (12:00pm)



Keynote Speaker:

Sue Avery

Naturalist, Botanist, & Landscape Designer

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY OCTOBER

### THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join the celebration! Featuring our keynote Speaker **Suffolk County Legislature** *Kara Hahn* 

LOCATION: WANG CENTER THEATER LOBBY (5:30PM)

Suffolk County Legislature

Kara Hahn



For more information,
Visit AshleySchiff.org or
Facebook.com/AshleySchiffPreserve

Or email Maureen Murphy Maureen.m.murphy@stonybrook.edu

Ashley Schiff Preserve Stony Brook, New York

50 Years

# Ecological Art Performance Walk





Undergraduate students from various academic departments at Stony Brook University have been making artworks (with many being wearable works), which have been conceptualized and designed by each student to address a specific environmental concern. Some students used natural materials gathered at the preserve itself. The main themes forming range between their optimism about acknowledging Nature's vital role to human and other species and their pessimism about our collective role in polluting and endangering shared ecosystems. Many of the material to be used in the projects are recycled, found, or recovered materials. A guided tour lead by the president, Dr. Pochron was given to the students when they reached the Preserve after marching through the campus. -Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences

# The Ashley Schiff Preserve 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The year 2019 marks 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of two every important events – the passing of Dr. Ashley Schiff, and the Preserve's dedication as 'Forever Wild' on campus. Numbers of events were held on campus including guided tour of the Preserve, art collaboration projects, and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration event on October 4<sup>th</sup>.













## Kristen Gillibrand United States Senator

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand received an Environmental Champion Award for her commitment to protecting our environmental and public health, and she supports open spaces. We were thrilled that Magdalonie Campbell, the Eastern New York Regional Director fro Senator Gillibrand sent a letter of greeting. Thank you for your support and for helping us celebrate 50 years of Forever Wild!





Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (New York)
Committee Assignments

- Environmental and Public Works
- Armed Services
- Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
- Special Committee on Aging

# Valarie Cartright Town of Brookhaven

Valerie Cartright, Councilwoman,
District 1 from the Town of
Brookhaven has upgraded and
renovated numerous public parks
across her communities and
spearheaded the opening of a new
passive and historic park in her
district. We were thrilled when
Jennifer Martin represented the
Town on Valerie's behalf to read a
proclamation officially making
October 4th, Ashley Schiff Preserve
Day!





# Kara Hahn Suffolk County Legislator

We invited Suffolk County Legislator, Kara Hahn, as our keynote speaker because she has served on the Legislature's Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee, has twice served as the majority leader, and has served on the Parks and Recreation Committee. She has spearheaded a movement for cleaner parks, reduced reliance on plastic straws, prevented hydro-fracking wastewater from coming to Suffolk county, banned the sales of products containing microbeads, and has worked to preserve open space, among many other environmental accomplishments. As she addressed our group, we learned that she and her friends often use the trails through the Ashley Schiff Preserve for running. Thank you, Kara, for your Proclamation of support!



# The University Environmental Committee to adopt Ashley Schiff Resolution





RESOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY





Brook University, joining the University in 1964 and remaining a member of the faculty until his

nonest", and committed to the practice and promotion of integrity within the university community

renowned for his ceaseless work outside of class to improve undergraduate life. He was credited with providing the Cardozo residents' with a seemingly unending flow of celebrity guest visitors, with a calendar of educational events unmatched by any of Stony Brook's twenty other residential colleges' (Stony Brook Statesman, October 3, 1969, page 1).

Professor Schiff was a conservationist and expert on the politics of forest management, a direct action on this campus to preserve outstanding natural features, donate and co plantings to beautify the campus, and educate students on the natural environment by his "bramble

and young family, his memorial service under a linden tree on campus was attended by five hundred students who "loved him, because they learned from him, and they learned from him because he combined his scholarship and his humanity with great integrity" (Statesman, ibid).

Thomas Wilson, Chair *University Environment Committee, Stony Brook University* 

"Therefore be it resolved that the University Senate at Stony Brook University: ... Calls upon the Stony Brook Administration to implement and support formal, written, and permanent protection of the Ashley Schiff Preserve as a "Forever Wild" natural area on the Stony Brook campus" - Ashley Schiff Preserve Resolution

The University Environmental Committee adopted the Ashley Schiff Resolution on Monday October 7th, 2019. The resolution urges the University's upper administration to keep the forest Forever Wild. The University Senate passed it unanimously.

You can access the full resolution at www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/univ-senate

## Guardians of the Glade Award 2019



Guardian of the Glade award recognizes those individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve.

This year's Guardian of the Glad Award was awarded to our secretary and naturalist, Sue Avery, and our Membership and Development Committee Chair, Maureen Murphy for their contribution to the Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve! Thank you, and Congratulations!

# Congratulations!



Paul Siegel, Vice President

Paul Siegel, our Vice President and Scholaship Committee Chair is retiring from Stony Brook University after years of service! Paul has been a member of the Friends since its resurrection by the campus environmental committee. He has at various times served as vice chair and chairHe sees the Preserve as providing a tangible measure of honoring the University's beginnings and one of its early professors.

The Friends of the Ashley Schiff Preserve thank you for your service to the university and to the Friends, and Congratulations!

Thank You our Supporters!

We appreciate your generosity and support for the Friends and the Preserve.

We all thank you for a wonderful year, and wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy new year 2020!

<Celebrating 50 years of Forever Wild, Starting a New 50 Years with You>









