

Around Clamdigging Rowayton

Clamdigging *Around* Rowayton

By Cynthia F. Johnson

Clamdigging@Rowayton.org

Hearst Communications Inc.

203-838-5038

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Farm Creek Sightings:

It is beginning to look like the start of fall at Farm Creek. The Smooth Cordgrass, *Spartina Alterniflora*, the most productive marsh grass that borders the creek, is in bloom. The bright green blades provide shelter for birds and other animals; the seeds provide food. Yellow flowers, which are hard to see, bloom on just one side of the end of the center spikes. The yellow fruit grow alongside them. The tall form of this grass has the more pronounced flowers. The short form grows in the more depressed areas of the marsh. When the tide is receding, it is easy to see from the dark discoloration of the grass how high the tide was and how it filters the marsh.

Flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers can be seen circling over the creek and headed toward the beaches of Bell Island and Pine Point at high tide. A week ago, Rick and Brenda Pank witnessed huge flocks of these birds on Crescent/ South Beach foraging for insects and crabs found among the sea weed that washes up. They are already migrating South at night. By October, they will be gone. Among the species were several Semipalmated Plovers who like to forage alone or to mix loosely with others. With bright orange legs and stout orange bill, they have a complete dark black breast band and dark cheeks and a bright white mask. These same birds can also be

seen at Bayley Beach in much smaller numbers. Semipalmated refers to the partial webbing of these particular plovers and the Sandpipers' feet. (*Sightings by Susan Edwards*)

PHOTO ID: (0815A: *Semipalmated Sandpipers*), (0155A: *Semipalmated Plover*), (19984A: *Size comparison between Plover and Sandpiper*). PHOTO CREDIT: Rick Pank

Around Rowayton:

- The 2010 Rowayton Civic Association Summer Music Festival is again at Pinkney Park bringing you DAN HICKS AND THE HOT LICKS, **Sunday, August 22nd at 5:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited. This program is free and open to the public.
- Rowayton is a wonderful place to take a walk. Everyone knows it. No matter what the season, it is always a pleasure to admire the scenery. In an effort to encourage physical activity, the Healthy Lifestyles Committee of the *Healthy Norwalk Partnership* has created "Become a NorWALKER", a neighborhood walking program. The City of Norwalk Health Department has mapped out walking routes in order to encourage residents to incorporate activity in their daily lives. Some routes include information on areas of historical significance, while others point out environmental areas of interest. There are several routes mapped out in Rowayton ranging from a 1 mile route which is wheelchair and stroller-friendly to longer walking routes of 1.5 and 3 miles in length. There is even an "Historic Down Town Rowayton Tour" (an abbreviated version of the Rowayton Historic Society's "Down Town" self guided tour of Rowayton Avenue available through the Rowayton Historic Society) to help make the trek a little more interesting. These maps are free and available at the Rowayton Library or online. Come pick one up or go to **www.Rowayton.org** and click on *Local Government* and then *Walking Tours in Rowayton* and take a walk.

And while you are walking, consider the path you are walking and maybe take a few moments when you return home to take a survey from the City of Norwalk -- for all of the residents of Norwalk -- to give your input to help develop plans to build bike lanes, better sidewalks and other ways for bicyclists and pedestrians to get around the city (including Rowayton) more safely. This survey can be found at the www.Rowayton.org: just click on **6th Taxing District** shingle on the left and then select the Public Survey (or go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/XBDSZHL).

- Have you marked your calendar for Rowayton's first Steeple Chase, **Saturday, August 28th at 5 p.m.** at Pinkney Park; dress: "Halcyon" Derby Day Elegant? The Rowayton United Methodist Church invites everyone to come and enjoy a day at the races: Light Fare/Light Drinks. For more information, contact RUMC at (203) 838-0049.

PHOTO ID: (RUMC Steeple Chase Flyer). PHOTO CREDIT: Brian Kammerer.

- It's not too late to register for 2010 Rowayton Soccer, online at www.rowaytonct.com. Rowayton Youth Soccer is a recreational community soccer program run by volunteers for children from 4-14 years old and will run for 10 weeks **from September 4 through November 6** this year. Registrations received after August 20 will incur a late-fee of \$25 (in addition to the registration fee) and will be accepted on a space-available basis only. If you have any questions please contact Dan Scovel at dscovel@tokenekeresearch.com or Andy Schadt at andrew.schadt@soluxe.com.
- On **Friday, August 20th from 6-8 p.m.**, Brendan's 101 will be hosting the opening reception for artist Lynn Stephens Massey's new exhibition "Summer Treats." The show will run through September 8th. For more information, go to

Brendan's 101 at 101 Rowayton Avenue or visit their website at www.brendans101.com.

From the Rowayton Arts Center:

“Billings Farm,” an oil painting by Wendy Moore of Pound Ridge, NY, was awarded *Best In Show* for the “Just Paint” exhibit of acrylic and oil artwork at the Rowayton Arts Center. Acrylic Painting winners are 1st – Lisa Thoren (Darien), 2nd – Jessica Huse (Norwalk); 3rd – Susan Frey (Stamford), Honorable Mention – Anne Anderson (Darien), Karen Gorman (Old Greenwich) and Jeannine Soper (Rowayton). Winners for Oil Paintings are 1st – Joel Flora (Rowayton); 2nd – Lily Langotsky (Rowayton); 3rd – Robert Morris (Norwalk), Honorable Mention – Tony D’Amico (Fairfield), Merion Frolich (Norwalk), Mary Morant (Darien) and Dana Sharkey (West Redding). Artist and gallery owner Wendy Nysten of Westport selected the winners from 65 acrylic and oil paintings by 45 Rowayton Arts Center members. **The exhibit continues through Sunday, September 5. The RAC gallery is open from 12:00-5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Sundays.** Admission is free.

In addition to the award winners, other Connecticut artists are Dana Goodfellow, Mary Morant and Peter Thoren of Darien; Betty Ball, Pierre Lahaussais, Edith McLean, Margo Reynolds Packer and Eunice Roy of Rowayton.

Currently celebrating its 50th year, the Rowayton Arts Center offers a new schedule of classes for adults and children this fall. For information call (203) 866-2744.

PHOTO CAPTION: Local award winners at the opening of “Just Paint,” an exhibit of acrylic and oil artwork at the Rowayton Arts Center, included (from left) Lisa Thoren, Jeannine Soper, Anne Anderson and Lily Langotsky. The exhibit runs through Sunday, September 5.

Volunteering in Rowayton

If you are a Rowayton Soccer parent and are interested in volunteering in Rowayton for the Rowayton Youth Soccer this coming fall, please contact Dan Scovel at dscovel@tokenekeresearch.com or Andy Schadt at andrew.schadt@soluxe.com. Many thanks!

High Tide @ Bayley Beach

For the week **August 20th through August 26th** at Bayley Beach in the afternoons, high tide will be at 9:14p on August 20, 10:03p on August 21, 10:48p on August 22, 11:28p on August 23, 11:50a on August 24, 12:26p on August 25, and 1:01p on August 26. Source: Nobeltec® Tides & Currents™ courtesy of Joyce Meurer, Bell Island Enterprises. For a complementary *summer* tide calendar, come pick one up at the Rowayton Library.

In the News

We may be lucky enough to have a clear night this coming week and, if we time it right, we can gaze up at the stars and see the International Space Station (ISS) flying across the sky. The ISS is visible this week over Rowayton at the following times and locations in the sky.

SATELLITE	LOCAL DATE/TIME	DURATION (MIN)	MAX ELEV (DEG)	APPROACH (DEG-DIR)	DEPARTURE (DEG-DIR)
ISS	Fri Aug 20/04:22 AM	2	23	15 above NNW	23 above NNE
ISS	Sat Aug 21/04:49 AM	4	58	15 above NW	17 above ESE
ISS	Sun Aug 22/03:44 AM	1	25	25 above NE	15 above ENE
ISS	Sun Aug 22/05:17 AM	4	36	15 above WNW	17 above SSE
ISS	Mon Aug 23/04:12 AM	1	45	45 above ESE	17 above ESE
ISS	Tue Aug 24/09:04 PM	2	53	16 above SW	50 above ESE
ISS	Wed Aug 25/07:59 PM	1	17	17 above SE	15 above ESE
ISS	Wed Aug 25/09:32 PM	3	43	15 above W	38 above N
ISS	Thu Aug 26/08:24 PM	4	65	16 above SW	16 above ENE
ISS	Thu Aug 26/10:01 PM	< 1	19	19 above NW	19 above NNW

The left column is the satellite (The International Space Station). The next column is the local date and the local time for best viewing. The third column gives the duration, or the length of time in minutes the spacecraft is expected to be visible, assuming a clear sky. The fourth column gives the maximum elevation the vehicle will achieve above the horizon (90 degrees is directly overhead). The fifth column tells the direction and elevation at which the spacecraft will become visible initially. The sixth column gives the direction and elevation at which the spacecraft will disappear from view. For best results, you should look in the direction and at the elevation shown in the appearing column at the time listed. Because of the speed of the orbiting vehicles, telescopes are not practical. However, a good pair of field binoculars may reveal some detail of the structural shape of the spacecraft. For more information, visit spaceflight.nasa.gov.

Summertime is a great time for star gazing and if you are interested in identifying more of what is above, you can pick up an Evening Sky Map (courtesy of SkyMap.com) at the Rowayton Library or at www.Rowayton.org and click on Sky Map.

At the Rowayton Library

- The Rowayton Library has unveiled a new display of *Olivia* memorabilia in celebration of her creator Ian Falconer's birthday (**August 25**). Mr. Falconer, a childhood resident of Rowayton, wrote and illustrated *Olivia*, *Olivia Saves the Circus*, *Olivia...and the Missing Toy*, *Olivia Forms a Band*, and *Olivia Helps with Christmas*. His new book (*Olivia Goes to Venice*) will be out in September. His illustrations have also appeared on twenty-six covers of *The New Yorker* magazine, and he has designed sets and costumes for the New York City Ballet, the San Francisco Opera, Chicago Lyric, and the Royal Opera House (Covent Garden), among others.

Also, as Mr. Falconer has generously consented to allow *Olivia's* image to be used as a library card icon for the Rowayton Library, if you wish to get a new library card, you can choose an *Olivia* by Ian Falconer (or one of the other styles: The Rowayton Library *Classic* by Nina Craig, WPA mural *Packet Day* by George Avison, or the Rowayton Civic Association's *Rowayton* logo). For more information, please contact the Rowayton Library.

- On Tuesday, **August 31st from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon**, the Goodwives Quilters and the Rowayton Library will bring to the Rowayton community ***Peace by Piece: The Norwalk Community Quilt Project***. Everyone in the community is

invited to add quilting stitches to this fabulous community quilt. The Goodwives Quilters are happy to join in this collaboration and invite the Rowayton children and adults to share in this project. Take a moment on Tuesday, August 31st and put in your 6 stitches. For more information on Peace by Piece, you can contact Lizzy Rockwell at (203) 434-2469, email: lizzyrockwell@mac.com.

- As the school year is just around the corner... the Rowayton Library will be bringing “You’re the Star Detective” Summer Reading Challenge to an end – but not without introducing the kids to a REAL “STAR DETECTIVE.” Norwalk Police Department’s Detective Jay Allgood and his partner will be leading a discussion and forensic demonstration on what it takes to be a *real detective*. Everyone is invited to participate. There will be pizza and summer reading prizes for everyone. **Save the Date: Tuesday, August 31st at 4:30 p.m.**
- The Summer Reading Challenge prizes for **the week of August 23rd** are ***Gray/White/Brown/Black Crazy Bands*** for every 5 books read. And don’t forget about the ***Read to Achieve*** T-Shirt courtesy of the New York Knicks. All shirts are “size-large”. Just bring your “Starred Notebook” with 25 or more stars and collect your shirt (while supplies last).
- And, if you can spare an extra jar of peanut butter and jelly, the Christian Community Action Food Center Food Pantry in Norwalk could really use them. So far, we have collection about 50% of our goal of 500 jars and only a few weeks left in our food drive. Let's help our neighbors.
- It’s not too late to finish that school summer reading. The Rowayton Library has a complete collection of the Norwalk Public Schools reading list books available. Come in – do a little summer reading/browsing – kindergarten through high school. For more information on Rowayton Library programs, please call (2030) 838-5038. All programs are free and open to the public. Some may require

a courtesy reservation. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

*If you wish to let us know about things going on in Rowayton, please email
Clamdigging@Rowayton.org*

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