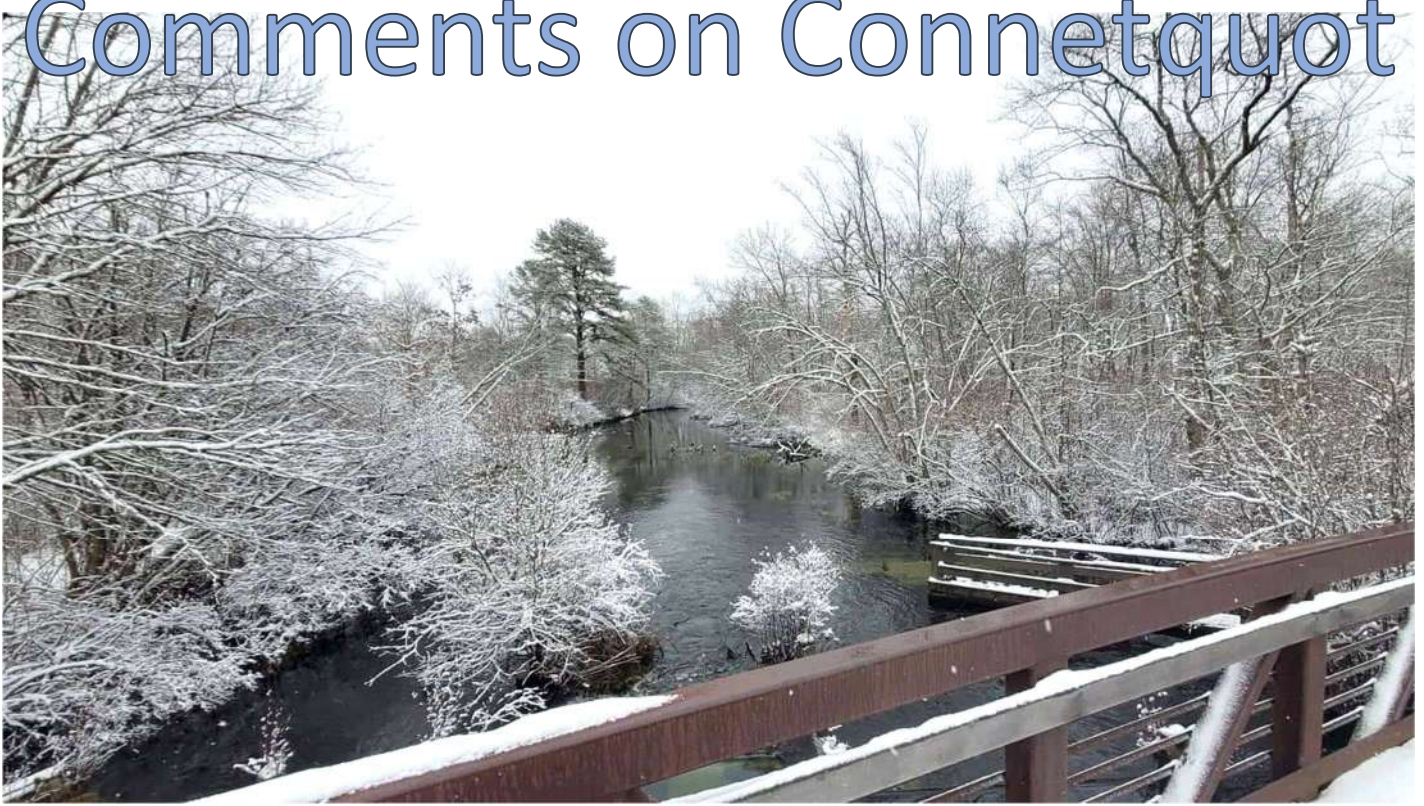


Comments on Connetquot



Published by the Friends of Connetquot River State Park Preserve

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 4 Winter 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and Greetings, Friends!

Our Silver Anniversary Gala honoring John Remmer was a wonderful evening of smiling Friends, great food, and fantastic conversation! Thanks to everyone who supported this event. It was a great way to get into the holiday spirit! Please read more and enjoy the pictures from the evening in this newsletter.

The Friends, Park staff and our scholarship candidates had a wonderful day decorating the Clubhouse in December. Many thanks to Board Member Keith Snedecor for the live wreaths, tree and decorations now on display. Come on the House Tour to enjoy the sights!

From our inception, our focus has been on saving the structures and history of the South Side Sportsmen's Club and Connetquot River State Park Preserve. We worked to improve the facilities and educate our patrons on what were the SSSC moral principles and the members.

We now embrace the direction for the next 25 years of the Friends of Connetquot. We plan to shift our focus away from the Clubhouse and the famous Club Members to concentrate our efforts on the 3,473 acres that comprise the Preserve – how can the Friends assist in the preservation of the native vegetation, improve the condition of Connetquot water flow and artesian well water feed and protect the beautiful fish and wildlife that call Connetquot their home.

We also look forward to uncovering information about the men and women who worked and lived on the grounds and kept the Clubhouse functioning. This research is being accomplished by the History Team. Such an amazing talented group of local history buffs! We have nearly 200 years of records to review, and if this sounds interesting to you, please contact me for more information on how you can get involved!

The Fish Prep Room Tin Ceiling Project is well underway, and we are planning an unveiling event in late winter or early spring. If you aren't getting our emails, you won't get the invitation, so *please* make sure we have your email address so we can contact you with all the details!

Stay well, my Friends!
Janetmarie Soley



Not yet a Friend of Connetquot? Please support our efforts to enhance our beautiful preserve. Go online! Visit our website, www.friendsofconnetquot.org/join.

Cover photo: Carole Scialdone

Historical Bits

by Bob Giffen

Anson McCook Beard, Jr. April 27, 1909 - May 10, 1997



Photo: findagrave.com

Anson Beard was a member of the Connetquot River Club when I was the trout hatchery foreman from the late 1960s to 1973. There were a number of members of the club that would come by the hatchery and ask questions about the trout and some that just wanted to talk about hunting and fishing. Mr. Beard was one of those members. One year he asked me to take care of his Labrador retriever for several months.

During duck hunting season he would sometimes come by wearing a magnificent, very warm-looking, full-length coat. When I asked him about his hunting coat, he told me it was his grandfather's and that it was made from the skins of the American buffalo. He said it was very warm even on the coldest days. I often thought of the history of that individual buffalo and the history of the hunters that wore that most interesting coat. Mr. Anson Beard seemed to be a quiet and reserved man, and I enjoyed talking to him.

Beard graduated from Yale University, worked as a money manager for the Wall Street brokerage house of Hayden, Stone and Company. An interesting note was that Mr. Hayden of the brokerage house was the benefactor of the Hayden Planetarium at the New York City Museum of Natural History.

It was the people to whom Mr. Beard was related that made him stand out. His father was a lawyer who played football for Yale University when it won the National Championship in 1891, 1892 and 1894. His mother was Ruth Hill, whose father was the railroad tycoon James Jerome Hill. Anson's mother later married Pierre Lorillard V of the Lorillard tobacco fortune. His sister Mary married Frederic Christian Havemeyer of the American sugar fortune.

Beard and his wife, Roseanne Hoar, had three sons. His youngest son was the wildlife photographer Peter Beard, a colorful character who once took a photo of himself in the mouth of a dead crocodile. He published several photo books on Africa's wildlife. He was also a big ladies' man, and his second wife was the model Cheryl Tiegs.

Anson Beard is buried in Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Cemetery in Southampton.

HOOF BEATS

by Carole Scialdone

Red, orange and gold... Autumn is Connetquot's most radiant and colorful season. Day by day, each trail ride reveals a new palette of fall hues. Every turn of the bridle path reveals another beautiful array of intensely glowing foliage. Equestrians, and their mounts, just can't get enough of this magnificent park.

On Saturday, October 22, the prestigious Smithtown Hunt held the final leg of their Hunter Pace Series at Connetquot, enjoying our beautifully maintained trails. They called Connetquot "an amazing park" and stated they will "definitely be adding this venue to our Hunter Pace Series again next year."

As the days grow cooler and the leaves begin to fall, we realize that winter is right around the corner. The trees will soon be bare and the chilly winds will whistle through the treetops. As the trees fall into their winter slumber, our horses will sense the change in the air. They will perk up and have a little extra spunk in their stride, making for an extra fun ride!

Soon we'll be wearing heavy coats with hand and toe warmers required on every ride. Winter riding certainly isn't for the faint of heart. We require special shoes for our horses, with snow pads and borium spikes for traction, if venturing out in the snow. Keeping our steeds moving and fit all year is important for their health, and ours, so we won't let some cold air stop us from enjoying a nice work out with our best friends.

➔ 2023 BRIDLE PATH PERMITS are now on sale! Getting a permit gives the state a way of evaluating equestrian use of the park and using that information to allocate funding for repairs, staffing, etc. Be sure to pick one up at the entrance gate.



The view at Collins Crossing is magical.
Mary Grace

A Grand Event

Over two hundred guests filled Oakdale's Snapper Inn on December 1 to help the Friends of Connetquot honor John Remmer for his work in restoring historical structures in our park preserve. John certainly is deserving of recognition for all he has done, but focused as always on the park, he only agreed to be our honoree on condition that the proceeds of the dinner would go towards restoration work on Connetquot's historic Ice House, which will become an exhibit space.

The evening began with a cocktail hour, during which the crowd had time to survey tables filled with over fifty raffle prizes. A three-course dinner in the beautiful—and beautifully decorated for the holidays—dining room followed. Then of course came the speechifying, with past FOC President Ginny Fields, President Janet Soley and State Parks Regional Director George Gorman offering praise for John, and then John himself speaking graciously about his work and his family.

We think we made John happy, as this 25th Anniversary celebration earned FOC enough in donations to finance much of the work on the Ice House. Our thanks to Richard Remmer and the Snapper Inn for their hospitality. Thanks also to our own Janet Soley for a great job in organizing the event and to all the Friends who helped in many ways.



L. to r.: John Remmer poses with Janet Soley and State Parks Regional Director George Gorman; Gala guests choosing hors d'oeuvres under Snapper Inn's unique upside-down Christmas tree; John converses with former Park Manager Sue Wuehler and her husband Lou.

We thank these generous donors for making our Gala raffle a great success:

Ace Hardware, Oakdale
Art Flick Trout Unlimited
Audrey's Fine Baked Goods
Bagels by the Bay
Bayport Flowers
Captree Clam
Jo-Ann Carhart
Tom and Sherri Casey
Chasing Tails Bait & Tackle
CM Performing Arts Center
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Janice Fischer

Idle Hour Deli
J & H Tackle
KC's Pizza N' Wings
La Supreme Pizza
Long Island Maritime Museum
Long Island Trout Unlimited
Mary's Pizza and Pasta
Tom McCoy
Annie McIntyre
Joseph Mikulas
Minieri's Parkview Riding Center
Franz Nekwapil
Nicolls Point Marina
Oakdale Liquors
Jimmy Peck
Angelo Peluso

David Reisfield
John and Christine Remmer
Remmer-Whelan Family
River Bay Outfitters
Sayville General Store
Carole Scialdone
William J. Schretzmayer – Cool Temp
The Snapper Inn
Mark and Janet Soley
Keith Snedecor
Susanne Wuehler
The Gateway
Theatre Three, Port Jefferson
Vanderbilt Museum
Kay Vicker
Wild Birds Unlimited

A Remembrance



Special thanks to all who attended a September 12 memorial ceremony organized by the Idle Hour Fly Fishers at the Connetquot Hatchery to honor Dr. Richard Steinberger, who passed away last year. “Doc” was an avid and very knowledgeable fisherman and longtime FOC board member. He helped lead the effort to reopen the hatchery after the state shut it down because of the discovery of the trout disease IPN. It was wonderful to see park management, staff and members of FOC there in support of IHFF.



L. to R.: Joe Rubino,
Gerry Sabatino, Izzy Vasile
Photos: Joe Mikulas

The plaque unveiled at the hatchery reads,

**RICHARD “DOC” STEINBERGER
1948-2021
CHERISHED MEMBER OF THE IDLE HOUR FLYFISHERS
DEVOTED FRIEND OF THE CONNETQUOT RIVER STATE PARK
TIRELESS CHAMPION OF ITS PRESERVATION
HE NEVER MET A STRANGER
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS**

FOC FISHING OUTING, 2022

by Joe Mikulas



Sullivan Norton Photo: Tim Norton

The weather held out on October 14 for our eager attendees, and so did the trout. We welcomed many of the same smiling, fly-rodding regulars and some novices as well. Most of us would agree that assisting a “newbie” to catch their first fish is equal to or better than landing our first fish on a fly. That opportunity presented itself while accompanying two new guests, a dad and daughter. You can’t see the smile on the other side of the cell phone camera, but this nice rainbow trout posed and was successfully released.

During lunch, we enjoyed a hearty soup from the Snapper Inn, along with sandwiches from the Idle Hour Deli, and dessert compliments of Friends of Connetquot president Janet Soley. We especially thanked Ed Kelleher, Richard Remmer, Janet Soley and our loyal supporters for making this a successful outing. (Caroline from the Snapper Inn was a wonderful, gracious host for the luncheon.) We are pleased to announce that any profits from the event will go directly to assist with the needs of the hatchery. While some guests chose to depart following the morning session and lunch, many enjoyed a fine afternoon on the river.

It is our hope that the young lady in the photo left will consider continuing with the art and sport of fly fishing. As much as catching fish begins the process, ultimately, it is the lure of our park that captures us. We need young FOC members to become involved and continue the work and passion of all that have come to love Connetquot, through the efforts of the Friends.

Friends of Connetquot thanks Parks and Trails New York for the grant we received this past summer for the creation of an Interpretive Center at our hatchery. PTNY’s support is an important contribution toward achieving our goals.



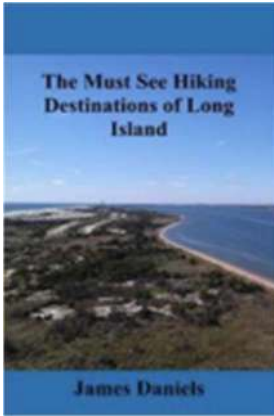
Friends of Connetquot Program Series at Connetquot River State Park Preserve

Lunar New Year Hike

Sunday, January 22, 2023 at Noon

Hike with author James Daniels. After our two-mile hike on the yellow and red trails to and from the hatchery, we will celebrate the New Year with traditional refreshments and then enjoy James' lecture on places to hike on Long Island.

James, the author of *The Must See Hiking Destinations of Long Island*, will give a PowerPoint presentation on the best hikes on Long Island, such as the globally-rare Dwarf Pine Plains of Westhampton, the hoodoos of Montauk and the 100-foot tall white pines of Prosser Pines. Books will be on hand for purchasing and signing.

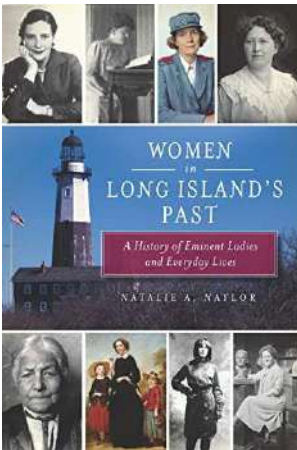


Recognizing Women: Celebrating Women's History Month

Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Women in Long Island's Past: A History of Eminent Ladies and Everyday Lives

Presented by Natalie A. Naylor



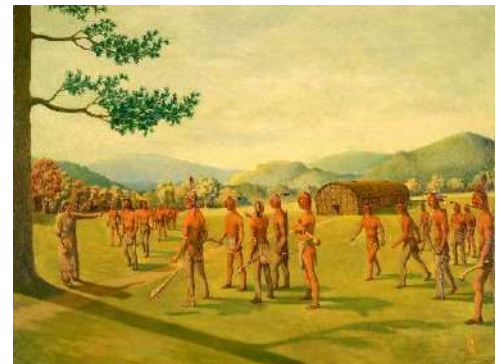
Women have been part of Long Island's past for thousands of years but are nearly invisible in the records and history books. From pioneering doctors to dazzling aviatrixes, author Natalie A. Naylor brings these larger-than-life but little-known heroines out of the lost pages of island history. Anna Symmes Harrison, Julia Gardiner Tyler, Edith Kermit Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt all served as first lady of the United States, and all had Long Island roots. Beloved children's author Frances Hodgson Burnett wrote *The Secret Garden* here, and hundreds of local suffragists fought for their right to vote in the early twentieth century. Discover these and other stories of the remarkable women of Long Island.

Natalie Naylor was on the faculty of Hofstra University for more than thirty years where she taught Long Island history, women's history, and other courses in American social history. She was director of the Long Island Studies Institute at Hofstra from its founding in 1985 until she retired in 2000. Dr. Naylor was president of the Nassau County Historical Society for twelve years and has been editor of its annual Journal since 1991.

Recognizing Women's Right to Vote in New York State

The Friends of Connetquot are delighted to host this Long Island Library Resource Council's traveling exhibit, which follows the path to women's right to vote in New York, beginning with the influence and authoritative power of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) women. The exhibit goes on to highlight the early cooperation between black and white women, the creation of the Colored Woman's Equal Suffrage League of Brooklyn in the late 1880s, the organization of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage in 1909, the Suffrage march from Manhattan to Albany and Washington, the impact WWI had at home and abroad, and the passing of the Equal Rights Amendment. The exhibit concludes with the Women's March in 2017.

Recognizing Women's Right to Vote in New York State will be on site March 11 through the 23 and available for viewing during Clubhouse open hours.



Peace Queen (Jigönsahsé) by Ernest Smith
Courtesy of the Rochester Museum & Science Center

Lectures are free for members of Friends of Connetquot. Non-members pay \$5/person.
Please consider becoming a member and enjoy our programming all year long. Seasonal parking rates apply.
To register or to become a member, please visit www.friendsofconnetquot.org.



Spotlight: Introducing Patrick Hein

Now that Connetquot Superintendent Susanne Wuehler has retired, the preserve is in the capable hands of another friendly face. Please join the Friends of Connetquot in welcoming Patrick Hein. We'll let him fill you in on his experience in his own words.

I began my career with State Parks on July 4th, 2009 (what a day to begin working at a beach!) at Robert Moses and Captree State Parks as a summer seasonal employee while going to Farmingdale State University. My main duties were to help clean the beach and restroom facilities, as well as do general landscaping and other maintenance tasks. In 2016 I received a full-time position at Connetquot River State Park Preserve, where I learned trail maintenance, worked at the hatchery, learned how to use a chainsaw, and began learning to operate equipment. I have now made it back here as the Assistant Park Manager!

In between, I went back to working at Robert Moses and Captree State Parks in August 2017 to hone my supervisory skills while being in charge of the vast summer seasonal staff at the beach. During this time, I also acquired a Commercial Driver's License and licenses for Public Health Pesticide Applicator, Petroleum Bulk Storage Tank Operator, and Certified Playground Safety Inspector.

While at Robert Moses and Captree I also took courses on woody plants at Farmingdale, which helped round out my knowledge for my promotion to Supervisor of the Grounds at Bayard Cutting Arboretum in March of 2019. At the Arboretum I learned about tree and plant healthcare and helped plant over 500 trees of various sizes, species, and cultivars on top of my other regular duties of supervising, training, payroll, equipment operation, and irrigation repair.

I am an avid outdoor recreation enthusiast. My main passion has become mountain biking, but I also love to hike, camp, snowboard, and just go for a walk in nature enjoying the peace, serenity, and beauty that our outdoor spaces have to offer.

All this has prepared me for where I am today as Assistant Park Manager of Connetquot River State Park Preserve, where I look forward to utilizing the various skills and knowledge that I have acquired over the years to continue the wonderful preservation of the land.



What's Happening in the Park

Patrick and his staff have been busy! He reports that Connetquot hosted a Casting for Recovery fly fishing event on October 2 and a Veterans for Fishing Day on Veteran's Day. The park carpenter has been building and installing new storm windows in the Clubhouse. Park staff have continued clearance pruning and removal of hazardous trees along trails, as well as cleaning culverts and river tributaries. They also planted native perennials, grown and provided by Bethpage State Park, around the hatchery raceways and stocked over 1,000 fish to Hempstead Lake State Park for the Fall Freshwater Fishing and Children's Festival. Connetquot was happy to have the help of a volunteer homeschool group that planted 2,500 daffodil bulbs near the Clubhouse and parking lot.

Finally, we'll pass along a letter from Patrick to FOC:

Dear Friends of Connetquot,

The staff at Connetquot River State Park Preserve would like to thank you for the generous donation of the two sycamore trees that have been planted on the front lawn of the Clubhouse on October 9, 2022.

These trees will significantly improve the historic landscape and aesthetic of the Clubhouse lawn, as well as providing much needed shade to the Clubhouse itself.

Thank you again for your tree donation. They will be appreciated by our many patrons for years to come!

Sincerely,
Patrick Hein

Give Us Your Best Shot: As always, we encourage you to share your photos of the Preserve with us. Send us up to four photos in .jpeg or .png digital format for a chance to receive a year's subscription to the FOC newsletter. Photos must be current (within a year of submission) and shot within the park. Please give the approximate location of the scene, if possible. DEADLINE for next issue: March 5, 2023. Send your files to Tom Casey at: 2caseys@optonline.net.

This issue's winning photo, by **Henry Wagner**, is on page 8.

Entries will be judged by the Friends of Connetquot, Inc., and their decision is final. Each image submitted must be the original and unpublished work of the participant, who must also be its copyright owner. The participant shall retain copyright to the image entered for the competition. By submitting an image for the competition, the participant will be regarded as having granted the organizer the right to use the image in print, broadcast and/or electronic media without any fee payment, for the purposes of promoting the competition or promoting the Friends of Connetquot, Inc. Where any image is so used by the organizer, the participant will be credited accordingly.



Above: In collaboration with the Islip Arts Council, FOC and Connetquot State Park Preserve hosted an art exhibit from September 13 to October 2. Among the works displayed was this triptych that certainly catches one's eye!
Photo: Joe Mikulas

A late addition to our program schedule, slightly out of order:

**Friends of Connetquot Program Series
 at Connetquot River State Park Preserve**

*Celebrating Black History Month:
 The Cuban Giants*

**Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 1:00 PM
 The Cuban Giants - the First Professional Black
 Baseball Team
 Presented by Mary Cascone**



The Cuban Giants—the first professional Black baseball team—got their start in Babylon in the summer of 1885. Town of Babylon Historian Mary Cascone will present a program on the team's start in Babylon and their early years in professional baseball, the myths about their name and their position in baseball history

Mary Cascone has worked in the Town of Babylon Office of Historic Services since 2006, and was appointed Town Historian in 2014. Her projects for the Town of Babylon have included seven local history books, more than 20 historic markers, creation of the Town of Babylon History Museum, and a history blog:

<https://tobhistorian.blogspot.com/>.

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Mission Statement

The Friends of Connetquot is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation and history of the 3,473-acre Connetquot River State Park Preserve. We work to help management protect a pristine environment and historic buildings and artifacts. We also support educational programs, fishing facilities and hiking and equestrian trails.

The records of the Friends of Connetquot can be viewed in our room at the Preserve. The New York State Office of Charities Registration holds copies of the annual charities reports required by law.

PLEASE NOTE: Automatic defibrillators are available in the administration office, the BOCES room, the main building and at the hatchery. Preserve staff is trained in their use.

For Emergencies in the Preserve: Call the New York Park Police at 631-669-2500.
 Also notify the Entrance Booth at 631-581-1005.

Lectures are free for members of Friends of Connetquot.

Non-members pay \$5/person.

Please consider becoming a member and enjoy our programming all year long. Seasonal parking rates apply.

To register or to become a member, please visit www.friendsofconnetquot.org.

Deck the Halls: The festooned deer head is just one element in a well-decorated Men's Dining Room in the Clubhouse.



Visit us at www.friendsofconnetquot.org

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Lunar New Year Hike

January 22

Women in Long
Island's Past

March 11

Women's Right to
Vote Exhibit

March 11-23

Remembering
Doc Steinberger

Welcome Pat Hein



FRIENDS OF CONNETQUOT
BOX 472
OAKDALE NY 11769



COME JOIN THE FRIENDS



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 25, 2023

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

RADISSON HOTEL, HAUPPAUGE, NY

110 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway

Great Parking

Minutes off the L.I.E.

Large Exhibition Hall

Outdoor Casting Area

80-seat Presentation Theater

Additional Demos & Workshops

Saltwater & Freshwater Equipment and
Seminars

Questions/Comments:

Contact Ken@Arstark.com (516)316-3640

or Paul@RiverBayOutfitters.com (516)415-7748



Idle Hour Fly Fishers member Pete Ceponis nets a Brook Trout on September 12, 2022. Photo: Henry Wagner

Please check the date on your mailing label and renew your membership if it has expired. Together you and the Friends of Connetquot can have a powerful impact on revitalizing the Connetquot Preserve for future generations.