

Dai Dayton

~strong ties to this area as she was born in East Hampton to direct descendants of original European settlers.

~from an early age her passion was outdoors and horses

~Certified Arborist

~ Raised public awareness of the importance of preserving existing trails and creating new ones where possible.

~1986, Dai organized a group of horseback riding and hiking trail enthusiasts to form the not-for-profit, Southampton Trails Preservation Society (STPS).

~Through STPS, she raised the notion of trails from an abandoned resource to a matter important enough to become part of Town Code and the Planning process through the formation of Southampton Trails Advisory Board, which recognizes and protects both existing trails and trail opportunities in new subdivisions.

~Dai's dedication to the concept of multi-use trails to accommodate horseback riders, hikers, and all nature lovers has been demonstrated by her involvement in Town, County and State government. As an advocate, she helped create policy, invited officials out into the field, established good will with landowners and stake holders, and spent hundreds of hours clearing, cleaning, and maintaining the trails.

~Dai was an early and vocal proponent of open space acquisition as a means of preserving trails. She has established a policy of public outreach through STPS that includes free regularly scheduled hikes, rides, open monthly meetings, free newsletters, special events including the annual winter fund-raising dinner for STPS.

~With the Town's help, she spearheaded the organization of the Great East End Cleanup which through the years has removed tons of litter and debris and illegally dumped garbage from trails and surrounding woodlands. She was instrumental in creating enforcement strategies to prohibit illegal dumping as well as the ongoing problem of illegal motorized vehicles on protected lands.

~For years, while working full time and raising her children, Dai performed almost single handedly all the administrative and secretarial functions of Southampton Trails Preservation Society.

~After spending 19+ years as President of Southampton Trails Preservation Society, in 2006, and as the focus of STPS evolved and certain groundwork had been established, and with trails being recognized for the valuable resource that they are, the reins of STPS were turned over to our current President, Glorian Berk. This allowed Dai to turn much of her energy towards her first love, preservation of trails for horseback riders and headed the Equestrian Division of STPS, Horses on Trails (HOT). HOT reaches out to the community by sponsoring such events as Equine Emergency Rescue Training for local fire and rescue personnel, barn fire safety courses, cleaning adopted roads and planning group rides as well as sponsoring horsemanship clinics and raising money for open space and other causes through Ride-a-Thons.

~In addition, Dai has become even more deeply involved in another group she helped establish, Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt, by initiating such projects as eradicating invasive species and re-establishing the grasslands of Vineyard Fields in Bridgehampton.

~Dai also participates in the NY Lakes and Ponds program in the division which monitors the health of the ponds in the Long Pond Greenbelt.

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