



Ironworkings

The Friends of Long Pond Ironworks

www.LongPondIronworks.org

REPORT FROM THE HISTORIC DISTRICT FALL 2008

State Representatives Visit Site To See Hasenclever Furnace

Over a dozen officials from the State of New Jersey representing every department that has anything to do with the overseeing of Long Pond Ironworks, which is part of Ringwood State Park, came to our site in the spring to see the Hasenclever Furnace. Also present were three FOLPI board members, the archaeologist Jim Lee from Hunter Research, and Marilou Ehrler of HMR Architects. It was an impressive gathering, and they were here to come up with a plan to get the Hasenclever Furnace back to the condition it was in before the recent collapses. Different plans of action were discussed, as the group, many of whom had never been to the site before, stood in front of the furnace. The consensus seems to be that sections of the furnace wall around the collapsed areas will have to be taken down, and back fill behind these areas will be temporarily removed, before rebuilding can begin. Then something will have to be done to keep the walls from collapsing in the future. Options discussed include some kind of exterior support, soil grouting injecting of the back fill, or the use of mortar. At present, FOLPI is waiting for an approved plan of action so we can go forward.

What is significant, beyond the fact that we continue to make progress with this problem, is that so many important State officials came together as a group to help Long Pond. This meeting was the direct result of FOLPI President Beth Timsak's committing herself to getting the State of New Jersey's attention for our site. Bravo, Beth!

☞ Another successful 19th Century Living weekend has come and gone. Civil War reenactors from the 6th New Hampshire and 12th Alabama units were on hand over the weekend of May 31-June 1 to inform and entertain the crowd. About 179 visitors came to enjoy the goings-on and our site.

On Saturday night we also held our first pair of **Candle Lantern Tours**, and we will be holding two more this year (see the calendar on page 4.) They always book solid. **You must make reservations** by calling FOLPI at 973-6 7-1688.

☞ Executive Committee elections were held in July. Reelected were Beth Timsak, President; Paul Frost, Vice-President; Eileen Stemley, Recording Secretary; Joanna Stickle, Treasurer; and Susan Deeks, Corresponding Secretary. All are passionate about making Long Pond a great place to visit.

☞ The Long Pond Ironworks History Scholarship was awarded this year to Kelsey Hart, a senior at West

Milford High school who submitted the winning essay on history and will receive the cash prize. Kelsey plans to study history at Mount Saint Mary's College.



☞ On July 19, FOLPI volunteers turned out to empty the cellar hole of the "Yellow house" (above). It took a full morning and *many* garbage bags to remove the decades-old trash. Ringwood State Park employees took the trash away the next day. Our next step is to preserve the cellar hole by filling it with clean fill.

- ☞ On Sunday, November 9, FOLPI will hold the raffle drawing for Barbara Van Der Sluys's painting "The Wallisch Farm" at the Visitors Center. The proceeds from the raffle of this beautiful painting of a West Milford landmark will go toward stabilization of structures at Long Pond such as the 18th-century Hasenclever Furnace. In addition, many of Barbara's fine paintings will be on exhibit along with "The Wallisch Farm" during the **month of October**. The Visitors Center is open 1-4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. **See the calendar on page 4** for more information on the date and times of the raffle drawing and artist's reception.
- ☞ The rebuilt water wheel underwent its yearly turning this summer. This is done to prevent flat spots on the axle and to help the wood weather more evenly. Long Pond Ironworks is blessed with the only two remaining iron furnace waterwheels in the region. They stood in their original like-new condition until both were burned in 1977. In the 1990s, FOLPI received a large grant, part of which went to rebuild an exact replica of one of the wheels.
- ☞ FOLPI has received a \$10,000 grant to assist with the stabilization of the Hasenclever Furnace from a private granting agency. This is breaking news, and we are not yet at liberty to divulge the granting agency's name. But this is indeed *great* news, and we congratulate FOLPI Grants and Fund-Raising Committees!



View looking down Owl Peak or Hewitt Brook from the mill-pond dam towards the reservoir. The rear of the Stone Double House is on the right. Long Pond's first sawmill may have stood to the left of the brook. No remains exist.



A postcard winter view of the Ward-Ryerson-Patterson House in its original location off Beech Road. The house for many years was a public restaurant under a variety of names, such as the Wanaque Valley Inn and the Holy Mackerel. It was relocated to Long Pond when the Monksville Reservoir was flooded in the mid- 1980s.

Here is a great firsthand description of an iron furnace in operation during the colonial era. It is from the book *Forging America* (Cornell University Press) by John Bezis-Selfa:

30 piggs now cast that ly hot in the sand as they Run out of a hole in the bottom or Lower End of the furnace. The furnace is fed with ore and coal &c at the Top as if it were the Top of a Chimney. There they bring Horse Carts with the ore, the coal & limestone and there Stayd two men Day and night. The top of ye furnace is about breast high from the floor where they Stand to Tend it & ye flame Jets out Continually, is extinguished by the ore, Coal & Lime as they feed it. Each Couple Tend 24 hours in which time they Run or Cast twice. They have Small Baskets that hold about a peck & a half & they put in a Cart a number of Baskets full of ore & a Certain Number of Baskets of Coal and a Certain Number of Baskets of lime, all in exact Proportion, and as the materials Consume below in the furnace they filled up at the Top and out at the bottom. Besides the Iron that is drawn off near a day, there is a vast Quantity of Glass that Runs out Every now and then.

LOCAL IRON MINES

by T.T. Tailings

Long Mine

Long Mine is the last in a series of three mines that comprise an excellent mine hike in Sterling Forest. In the last two newsletters I talked about the first two mines, Patterson/Mountain and Smith. Of the three mines, Long Mine is probably the most impressive.

Mining began at Long Mine in 1761. The ore from here provided iron of an exceptional, very malleable quality. The ore was magnetite and therefore the was itself magnetic. The ore was mainly in two veins running parallel to each other, separated by rock. One layer of ore was reported to be 6 feet thick. Records from Southfields Furnace indicate that between October 1834 and December 1836, the furnace received 1,072 tons of ore from Long Mine. By 1838, calculations showed, 37, 00 tons of ore had been removed from Long Mine since its beginning. At that time, the mine had been worked to a depth of 40 feet. The most interesting thing about Long Mine is its ore is known to have been used to make the great chain that the American colonists stretched across the Hudson River to block British shipping during the American Revolution. The mine closed for good sometime in the 1890s.

As I mentioned earlier, I discussed the Patterson/Mountain and Smith mines and how to get to them in previous newsletters. To get to Long Mine from Smith Mine, look for a woods road that leads away from the lower end of Smith to the right. Follow this road for about one-quarter mile. You will be heading back to Route 84/Long Meadow Road. As you come within hearing distance of cars on Route 84, look for the mine on the left. At this point, the workings will appear as relatively small open cuts. As you're facing these small cuts, with your back to the woods road, the mine extends for about 700 feet to your left. The mine gets better and better as you follow the workings. They end in a spectacular opening that slopes underground about 30 feet. There are some excellent examples of rock left in place as pillars for support, a common mining practice.

Now I'm afraid I have to add a disclaimer: All three of these mines are in a restricted area of Sterling Forest. I can't suggest that you go there without advance permission from Sterling Forest State Park. Also, I must again remind you that mines are best viewed from the outside. Entering underground in a one hundred-year-old mine is ALWAYS dangerous.

Go To The Next Level: Volunteer

TAKING PART IN VOLUNTEER WORK IS A REWARDING experience. That's a plain fact. Donating your free time to an activity allows you to give back something to your community. It is good for the soul. Plus, nine times out of ten, all you're giving is your time, so volunteering is basically cost-free. Everybody knows this, so my question to you is: If you're not already volunteering for something, why aren't you?

This may be a less-well-known fact, but no one is already busy 100 percent of the time. We can always find time to fit things, whether unexpected or new, into our busy schedules. I'm asking you, for your own good, to donate some of your truly valuable time to bettering the world we all live in and share.

Now, I am, of course, prejudiced. I want you to give your time to Long Pond Ironworks. Long Pond, along with Ringwood Manor and its grounds, is a federally recognized National Landmark Historic District. (The "district" part makes us fairly rare; there are plenty of just plain National Historic Landmarks.) For this reason, among many others, Long Pond is a worthwhile place to give your time to, especially if you have any feelings about history.

Another really interesting thing is that FOLPI and its volunteers are actually in charge of our own town. Just because the company that once ran it and the people who lived in it have moved on doesn't mean the town ceased to exist. FOLPI still takes care of the property and the dozen-plus buildings and structures that are still standing.

Besides the maintenance work and grounds keeping, there is the running of FOLPI as a volunteer organization dedicated to interpreting the site and getting people and money to come to it. We need museum greeters and tour guides, fund raisers, and people to work on grants. Or you can help with public events like Lantern Tours. It seems like there's a thousand things that need doing. I couldn't even begin to list them all.

To find out how to get involved, **come to a monthly business meeting** and we'll talk. Make the leap of faith. You will be glad you did.



FALL 2008 Calendar of Events

Friends of Long Pond Ironworks

FOLPI Business Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Long Pond Ironworks Visitors Center and Museum. **Work Meetings** are usually held the following Thursday at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

The **Long Pond Ironworks Museum** is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., April to November. **Walking Tours** are conducted on the second Saturday of the month, 12 noon and 2 p.m., April to November. **Group tours** are available year-round by arrangement.

- **September 27 (Saturday): Candle Lantern tours.** Linda Russell performing. 7:30 & 9 PM
- **October 11 (Saturday): Walking tours of the Long Pond Site.** Visitor Center, 12 & 2 PM
- **October 25 (Saturday): Candle Lantern tours.** Civil War band performing. 7 & 8:30 PM
- **November 8 (Saturday): Walking tours of the Long Pond site.** Visitor Center, 12 & 2 PM

- **November 9 (Sunday): Raffle drawing and reception.** Barbara Van Der Sluys's painting "The Wallisch Farm." The artist will be on hand to talk about her paintings. Light refreshments will be served. **1 to 4 PM raffle at 3 PM**
- **November 22 (Saturday): End of year Volunteer Appreciation Party.** Visitors Center, **7 PM**
- **COMING EARLY NEXT YEAR:** Members-only Behind the Bushes tour and Water Power tour. Get the inside scoop on what went on in the Long Pond Village on these off-the-beaten-path explorations. Details in the next newsletter.

For information about any of these programs, please leave a message on the FOLPI Information Line (973 -6 7-1688). We will return your call.



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The Somers Stites House in the mid-20th century.



The Somers Stites house today. The house looks almost the same. it is the background that is a lot different.