

# Benton Beach Beacon



April 2006

## BBC Spring Work Weekend, May 27-28

By Ellen Fales

**Saturday, May 27th and Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.till...**

Spring is here and it is time to get the beach ready for the summer months. There are the usual projects, including cleaning out the beach house, putting the canopy up, raking the beach and general tidying. We also have a couple special things to do. The building of 6 dock pieces to replace the ones lost in the unusually high tide last fall is our most pressing project. Kathryn has generously offered to have the wood delivered to her house and precut the wood. She may even do some building of the pieces at her place. However, we will still need plenty of help on workday to help her complete this as well as lay the old remaining dock pieces. We also hope to give the beach house a new coat of exterior paint, so will be doing some power sanding and painting. Please note that this year's workday is being held a week later than most years due to conflicts with several families and college graduation dates.

Since Saturday is usually when more people can make it, we will be providing coffee first thing in the morning that day as well as lunch and iced tea at noontime. If Sunday is a better day for you, come and check the poster in the beach house to see what chores still need to be done.

So come whatever day is best for you. All cleaning supplies, paints, rakes, etc will be supplied.

## Annual Summer Benton Family Picnic, Saturday, July 29, 2006

By Ellen Fales

In the tradition of yester-year, we are planning to host an old fashioned Norton-Benton family picnic this year. We will be extending an invitation to our Benton family as well as those members of our extended Norton family. We hope to connect with many family members that we have not seen in a long time. The picnic will be held at the beach and be a potluck. We will be sending notices to members of both families in a few weeks with more details.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!!!!**

## The Eliot Line-up

By Joel Helander

Eight living members of the extended Benton family carry the name of "Eliot" in their names. This is, of course, no accident. It is a calculated remembrance of our Eliot pedigree, beginning with Eliot H. Benton (1889-1981) of Sachem's Head, whose mother was Fannie Mariah Eliot (Benton).

Fanny Mariah Eliot lived on the site of the former Guilford movie theatre at the southwest corner of Guilford Green. She, in turn, was the direct lineal descendant of the Reverend Joseph Eliot who came to Guilford from Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1664 to serve as minister of the First Congregational Church. Before Reverend Eliot's settlement in Guilford, this town experienced great unrest and turmoil in the church, prompted largely by the return of many

of Guilford's founding fathers to England after the monarchy had been crushed.

The Reverend Joseph Eliot was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, the son of the celebrated Reverend John Eliot (1604-1690), who earned the exalted title of "Apostle to the Indians." The elder Eliot was minister in Roxbury and passed a career in Christianizing the Native Americans. His translation of the Holy Bible into the Native American language, "Up Biblum God," is a treasure. Yale Beinecke Library (New Haven, CT) owns several copies.

We who carry the Eliot name do so with pride and reverence. The line-up is:

- Marjorie Eliot Benton Spalding (born 1916)
- Edwin Eliot Benton (born 1927)
- Curtis Eliot Perkins (born 1947)
- Joel Eliot Helander (born 1951)
- Kenneth Eliot Spalding (born 1951)
- Eliot B. Benton (born 1965)
- Benjamin Eliot Whelan (born 1986)
- Sarah Eliot Waugaman (born 1993)

## First Generation Cousin Updates

By Ellen Fales

How often many of us think of each other and wonder what each of us is up to. Below is a little biography on each of us first generation cousins, what we are doing in our lives, our hobbies, passions and maybe even dreams for the future.

*Families are held together by choice.  
Members are alike and unlike,  
Yet there is comfort in the sameness  
And excitement in the differences.  
When we respect and relish  
Both conditions,  
We can call ourselves....Family.*

--Maya Angelou

## Spalding Family

### Lynne Spalding Ott

I enjoy being a grandmother to Emily, 11, Peter, 9 and Danielle, 6. Emily is enjoying her first year of Junior High, reading, riding horses, gymnastics and her friends. Peter is active in

Boy Scouts, baseball and also enjoys reading and spending time with friends. Danielle does Girl Scouts, and like her sister and brother, loves reading and friends. I also spend time caring for my parents, spending many hours a week supplementing their caregiver. I help with Dr's appt and errands and consider it a blessing to be able to spend this time with them. I have been active in the local chapter of TOPS, as a member since 1995 and secretary the past 2 years. I am a member of the First Congregational Church Alpha Club, a deaconess and substitute Sunday School teacher for grades 2 and 6. I am currently working as a trainer and contract signer at Curves in Madison, across from the Madison Flower Shop. In the past, I trained as a CNA (certified nursing assistant) and enjoyed that work for a time also, working with the Madison VNA. I enjoy all kinds of history; family, Guilford, national, global and prehistoric, and enjoy watching home design shows on TV. I also enjoy many types of music; classical, Beethoven, Bach, Debussy, as well as county western artists including Shania Twain, Alan Jackson and others. My dreams for the future include traveling to the civilized countries of Europe and finishing my bachelor's degree at the Lyme Academy of Art. I look forward to seeing my grandchildren's accomplishments; graduations from high school and college and seeing them lead happy, fulfilling lives.

### Janice Spalding Falvey

I still have my massage therapy business called Body Balance that I started in 1988. I specialize in pelvic balancing. My business is a home office in Saybrook. I now have 7 grand children and am too young to have that many! Scott and Emily have 2 in New Hampshire. And Matt and Tiffane have 5 in Idaho.

### Donna Spalding Chemacki

This is my 26th year working at a primary school as a special Ed Para. Stan is still doing plumbing, although he had about 7 months of medical leave due to two broken ankles. On May 3, 2005 he was pinned up against a house by a backhoe. He has started to work part days again.

I like to spend time with my 2 year old granddaughter, Abbigail, [Todd and Kim's daughter], who lives in town and am looking

forward to a new grandchild being born to Tim and Sharon in August.

Stan and I go to Florida as much as we can. We love to go to the house in Gulfport...even in the summer. Having to work limits our ability to travel. Stan would love to retire in FL full time, but I'd like to do like Grandma and Aunt Florence...Both CT and FL. We'll have to be creative to do that though.

I'm hoping to have a vegetable garden again this summer. Going to Florida in the summer makes it hard to keep it alive and thriving though...I'll still try.

### ***Kenneth Spalding***

After graduating from Guilford High with Heather and Joel, Ken went to Bates College in Maine and stayed there after graduation. His career and volunteer work have been centered around conservation. He worked for the State of Maine for 29 years, starting with 8 years on the firetower at West Kennebago Mt. for 5 1/2 months per year. During those years he also worked the winter season in other various jobs and managed to travel between jobs during those years as well. Ken retired early from the State in Oct 2002 and went to work for a private nonprofit environmental group, RESTORE: The North Woods, primarily to advocate for the creation of a new, 3.2 million acre Maine Woods National Park & Preserve.

Over the years Ken has volunteered for many environmental groups. He was a founding board member of the Maine League of Conservation Voters, Maine Group of the Sierra Club, Dirigo Alliance and Kennebec Land Trust. He has also served as an officer on the boards of Maine Appalachian Trail Club and Natural Resources Council of Maine. He currently serves as Vice President of the Friends of Baxter State Park and on the board of the Friends of Bigelow. When sons Eric and Bryce were in elementary school Ken spent many volunteer hours in the classroom and was active coordinating and coaching youth soccer and basketball.

In 1981 Ken married Sue Geier and on Sept 12 this year they celebrate their 25 anniversary. Sue is from New York near Albany and has bachelor and masters degrees from the University of Vermont. For 20 years she worked in administrative positions for the University of Maine System including Director

of Residence Life at the UM at Farmington, Director of Admissions at UM at Augusta and Coordinator of Graduate Outreach for the UM Orono. For the past 8 years she has been Director of Guidance at Livermore Falls High School, just 15 minutes from home in Wayne.

Ken and Sue have two sons, 3 and 1/2 years apart in age and 4 years apart in school. Both benefitted from and enjoyed high school exchange trips to Germany and four foreign exchange students who lived with us at different times, 3 from Germany and one from Turkey.

Eric turns 22 on April 26, 2006. He recently returned from a 10 day photography course to Sicily, Italy. On May 21, 2006 he graduates summa cum laude from the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford with a Bachelors in Fine Arts as a photography major. This summer he will work as a counselor for high school students attending courses at the Maine Photographic Workshop in Rockport, Maine. His plans are to get a masters in fine arts and teach at the college level.

Bryce is 18 and is having a great senior year in high school. He serves as president of the student body, is valedictorian of his class, was captain and starting forward on his school's state championship basketball team and received the Principal's Award for the senior demonstrating the best combination of academic excellence and exemplary citizenship. Next year he will be attending either Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine or Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY (we will know within the week).

### **Perkins Family**

#### ***Curt Perkins***

This September El (short for Eleanor) and I will have been married 10 years. We moved back to Missouri 3 years ago to be near Aaron & Abbra. Aaron lives nearby and works in a hospital as an orderly. He is going to school in the evening. Abbra, after spending a year married to an Airman in the Air Force stationed in Okinawa, decided to join the Air Force also. Last fall she graduated from basic training and is now an Airman, stationed in Okinawa with her husband. Paige is in first grade and working hard although she requires special education.

Mason is in kindergarten and doing quite well. El is working on returning to full time employment, outside our home. And I am contemplating what my next vocation will be as I must retire in 10 months, when I turn 60. But for now I am enjoying my flying and routinely fly to London.

In an effort to stay connected with New England, we have purchased a small house in Waterville, Maine, and hope to get to Connecticut more often.

### ***Nancy Perkins Kerner***

I work 3 days a week at a small family owned Candy Store, Wilbur's of Maine. Their base is Freeport, but they have a store in Brunswick that I work at. I enjoy saving the rest of my days to enjoy our 3 grandchildren, Miles, Zoe and Sean. I love to watch them enjoy the outdoors, chasing the chickens, and gathering eggs. Heather and her husband Jason (with Sean) moved to Maine last summer and are now in the process of buying a farm in Canaan to raise sheep on. They are only 8 miles from Amber, Mike, Miles and Zoe.

I enjoy working in the garden and yard, starting seeds indoors at this time of year and digging in the dirt. (Sounds like a Benton trait to me). I look forward to being at home full time to pursue some more hobbies like working in stained glass, and sewing, and learning a few more.

Jim is busy in his 18th year at Bath Iron Works since retiring from the Navy. He looks forward to retirement also. We would like to travel a bit. We only get as far as Rhode Island to visit with Mike once in a while, who is still coaching the Crew team at URI.

### ***Sue Perkins Peak***

Having crossed the 54-year marker puts me in that position I remember our parents, aunts and uncles being in, when last I lived in CT. After traveling the country with Ned for 28 years we have settled in Slidell, LA. This is not a part of the country we would have chosen to retire in but we were placed here and after 12 years in one spot our roots have become established here. Our children are here, or close by, and we have 2 grandchildren we see regularly. To clarify, one daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter are living with us until they

complete the rebuild on the Katrina damaged house. Further, Kimberly, who was living in Oregon, has moved back with us until she can find a work and living situation somewhere in the north. I spend my days being a fairly typical homemaker, with some gardening before the days get too, too hot. Part of the anchor here is our wonderful church home and friends.

Ned retired from the USCG in 2000. He continues to work; presently he is working at creating a mega port at the mouth of the Mississippi River. LA Politics, being what they are, has blocked him at every turn even though it would mean new jobs and revenue to the state. He will continue this so long as there is funding, for the good of the state. His kidneys have been trying to shut down for 2 years now and yet God's grace has kept him going without need of dialysis or transplant yet. I have been diagnosed with M.S. but remain symptom free, also God's grace at work in us. We dream of having a place in Maine.

## **Milton Benton's Family**

### ***Jill Benton***

I spent 19 years in education, working as a librarian at the center for Humanistic Studies in Detroit, supporting students learning to be psychologists. This job recently came to an end and I found myself with an opportunity to return to my roots in Connecticut. I am still in the searching process for new work. I am thrilled to be a homeowner for the first time. My partner Daphne Hauber and I have purchased my Mom and Bob's home in Killingworth and are looking forward to being neighbors with my sister Heather and her family. We hope to be settling in around May 15th and I look forward to reconnecting with our family. My new address will be 5 North Chestnut Hill Road, Killingworth, CT 06419 and phone will be 1-860-663-1306

### ***Heather Benton Collinson***

I graduated from Lasell Jr. College in 1971 and then completed a year of secretarial school. I initially worked for Caldor, Inc department stores and was a full time bookkeeper for the Old Saybrook store. I married John Collinson in 1982. John has a political science degree from the University of New Haven and is a

licensed oil burner technician with Valley Oil Corp. in Portland, CT. Our first daughter, Claudia Eleanor, was born in 1984, and our second, Laura Beth, in 1988. I devoted myself to raising the girls in our Killingworth home for many years. I was involved in volunteering at the Killingworth Nursery School Co-op, Platt Nature Center and as a Girl Scout Leader. Claudia currently attends college in Seattle, Washington. Laura is working full time and will attend college in the fall.

I have always been creatively involved, with early years spent drawing, painting and sculpting. My recent endeavors include knotting, felting, quilting, cross stitching, origami making, ornament crafting, Easter egg decoupage, jewelry and wreath and basket making. I am presently employed with the Madison School Department as a cashier for the school lunch program at Daniel Hand High School. I enjoy gardening, letterboxing and walking, and of course, serving on the Benton Beach Board of Directors since the 1980's.

### ***Martha Benton***

I am still enjoying life in New Hampshire. I live in Concord and continue to work at Goffstown High School. Next year will be my 30th year at Goffstown High School-my 10th year as a guidance counselor. I love my job and continue to find it very rewarding though it is very challenging at times. I am very fortunate to work for a great administration with a young principal who conveys his value and respect for the work of our department. This year our school is vying for recognition as the high school of excellence in New Hampshire. As a finalist we were among three other high schools to be visited by the selection committee in March. We will find out how we fared in May.

I also was coaxed out of coaching retirement by a former player who took over the varsity field hockey coaching position at GHS. For the past two years I have had great fun coaching the JV team while assisting with the varsity team. This year the varsity team played for the State Championship under the lights on Astroturf. It was very exciting and the team played great, though they ultimately lost by a one-goal margin and had to settle for runner-up.

I am looking forward to summer break and the chance to get outside, work in the garden and visit my sisters in CT.

Ultimately life is good!

## **Helander Family**

### ***Joel Helander***

I have lived in the John Benton Farmhouse in Sachem's Head for exactly ten years. More than ever, I find the reward of just being at home after work and on lazy weekends. I have worked in the State of Connecticut Probate Court system for the same period of ten years. Bicycle riding is one of my religions (8 miles every other day) and I almost live for the summer for boating exploits on Long Island Sound, where Benton Beach is a favorite destination. As everybody knows, the hour of high tide always rules! I still fly an American flag from offshore Goose Island, which I acquired in 1989.

### ***Holly Helander Whelan***

I am continuing my work as an occupational therapist and it brings me endless satisfaction and joy. Jim and I will be empty nesters next year, and hope to connect with some of our long lost interests and passions: that is after we finish recycling bunny cages, go-karts, tree house, goat pen, dirt bikes, children's clothes, old furniture, etc., etc. It feels sad and happy, and very good to begin to clean up, organize and simplify. We look forward to gardening, landscaping, boating, crafting, and spending quiet time at our cabin on the North River,...amidst the long work hours. My midlife dream is to stay healthy, enjoy family and friends, and to appreciate each new day.

### ***Sarah (Wendy) Helander Cabrera***

Daniel and Sarah (Wendy) have lived in Guilford for nearly nine years in a century old historic home two doors from the Guilford Train Station. From this strategic location near the village, Dr. Daniel is able to commute weekly to the office for his healing practice in midtown Manhattan, NY. Before September 11, 2001, he commuted daily, but prefers the new schedule because he can avoid use of the subways, etc.

On weekends, Daniel's domain is primarily the Guilford backyard, where he tends a large vegetable garden with an ingenious irrigation system. This year, the Cabrera garden will consist of 50% corn, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, basil, string beans, cucumbers, and watermelon. Daniel is environmentally astute and nature oriented. He takes pride in his sophisticated compost heap, which uses everything compostible.

Sarah is a committed mother to their 9-year-old son, running the household and engaged in every day home schooling. She is an accomplished homemaker/cook in the vegetarian way, self-taught nutritionist, and massage therapist. She has never lost her lifelong affinity for cats and kittens, since she now has five of them as beloved pets.

At nine years of age, Juan Victor home schools in three disciplines: knowledge of the individual (health, psychology, biology, etc.); knowledge of society (social sciences); and knowledge of the environment (history, politics, math, etc.). He has recently studied the 1639 Guilford Covenant, which he can recite in its entirety from memory. He is very knowledgeable about affairs of the garden and compost and loves to play in and around a backyard stream that wends its way through a jungle of phragmites to tidal wetland. Juan Victor takes private piano lessons and has learned to love Johan Bach.

### ***Forrest B. Helander***

I continue plugging away at my landscaping business. I try to make time to fish and hunt. Bowhunting deer is a priority. Lorri continues to focus on the kids but makes time to hike 3-5 miles most every day. The kids continue to enjoy our dog, cats, chickens, rabbits, etc. Hope (16) is a sophomore at Daniel Hand High School and is an apprentice blackbelt in karate. Joya (12) is a striker for Madison Travel Soccer (8 goals last fall season).

## **Edwin Benton Family**

### ***Kathryn Benton***

My life is lots of work and not enough play! I am currently juggling lots of construction projects, the best of which is building my Dad's new house in Sachems Head. I also have a lot

of projects at home and hope to be able to get to some of those soon. I enjoy spending time with my sons Jared (16) and Justin (13) whenever I can. My one indulgence is a bouquet of fresh flowers on the kitchen counter. I have a new tenant, Mark, and am glad to have his company.

### ***Laura Benton Waugaman***

I received a BS and a MS in Art Therapy. I have never formally worked as an art therapist. I did train as an art therapist at Yale New Haven Hospital. I worked at a community crisis center for the adult mentally ill population. I then managed a group home for adolescent girls. I worked as a child family therapist at two different children's community mental health agencies. I now work as a school counselor in an Elementary school. I never imagined that I would work in the schools. I always thought that I would go into private practice. Working in the schools has turned out to be a great blessing since my schedule matches Sarah's (my daughter) schedule. While I started as the crisis counselor for Park City School District, I much prefer the hugs and smiles that I get everyday going to work in an Elementary School. In addition to counseling, I teach Life Skills classes to all the kids in the school. This is prevention at its purest. Some of my greatest professional accomplishments have been from the kids. Last year I had a 1st grader come to my office with her mother and ask if she could take my picture. I said "of course", without having any idea what it was about. Her mother informed me that she would be drawing my portrait for the Reflections competition (yearly event that has a different topic for creative expression). I later found out that the topic for the competition was, A Different Kind of Hero. Wow, what an honor!! I know that I have found my calling in life.

On the home front, Sarah is turning 13 years old at the end of the month. She is such a wonderful girl. We are very proud of her. She had a few bummy years but now she is a high honor student, with a great group of girlfriends. She makes beautiful jewelry and has sold some of her earrings to my coworkers. She has been invited to the Rocky Mt. Talent Search program. This means that she is invited to take some courses at Denver University (where Randy graduated) and at University of Utah this summer. If we can pull it off, she will be taking a forensics class in Denver. I am most proud of

the person she has become. She is kind and caring of other people. Randy and I will be celebrating 15 years of marriage this May. He continues to be my best friend in life. I feel very lucky! Randy works for Compass group in the Chartwells division. He sells food contracts to school districts in the North West. He has been with this division of the company for 3 years now and is very unhappy with the constant travel, never mind the lack of business sense school districts demonstrate. He is working on an opportunity that will keep him in Park City -- but no more talk of this, I don't want to jinx it.

In my free time I still love art. I use oil pastels. I have also made a few quilts. I enjoy skiing in the winter. This winter I did make progress in my skiing ability. While I enjoy skiing fast and hard down black diamonds, I still hold back on the higher parts of the mountain. Randy is an expert skier and I do get frustrated when he takes me up the extreme parts of the mountain and says, just follow me, as he gracefully skies down in deep powder. I follow, cursing, with no grace. My goal for next year is to ski down Jupiter Peak.

My greatest hope for the future is to grow old with Randy and see Sarah become an adult. It will be wonderful to retire and become a ski bum! Park City is Beautiful. While our home is small, we do have two extra bedrooms and we love visitors.

### ***Jennifer Benton Ruiz***

I moved back to my roots in Guilford in May, 2004. My son Maxwell, who will be 5 in June, and I love being so close to our family now. I am currently working at Starbucks in Madison and also drive a school bus in Madison, and just love both jobs. In June, I hope to have my massage therapy license and develop a business. Maxwell attends Cradles to Crayons. He loves all sports. He is a very athletic and agile little boy and will attend kindergarten in the fall. We love to comb beaches for sea glass. I make jewelry with our finds and am hoping to take a silversmith course soon to incorporate this into my jewelry making. We arrived back in CT just as my Dad was breaking ground on his new house and we have so enjoyed visiting him and Kathryn and Eliot there and watching as it progresses.

## **Roger Benton Family**

### ***Ellen Benton Fales***

I am still working in hospital nursing; this June marks 29 years. I have been at the same hospital, South County Hospital, in Wakefield, Rhode Island, for 17 years now. I have only ever been an Intensive Care Unit nurse and still love it. I work half nights and half days and look forward to the day when all three children will be out of college so I can work a little less!! Kate graduates from Providence College this May and will be moving home for a while. She is searching for a teaching job in her major, special Ed or elementary Ed. Missy is finishing her sophomore year at Plymouth State in NH and Andrew is finishing his junior year of high school. Chip returned home last October from a year away, deployed with the Marine Corps, and is back to his regular job as Director of Security at the Newport, RI Navy Base. My great passions are vegetable gardening and reading and my favorite part of the year is camping at Benton Beach with Sandy and her family. My dream for the future involves a little house on a lot of land in the woods, with lots of cats, and grandchildren that live no more than 15 minutes away!

### ***Sandy Benton Schaefer***

I work as an Instructional Assistant in a multi-handicapped special Ed room at Killingly Intermediate School. This is my 8th year there, with one year at the elementary school, and I really love it.

Mike is currently the City Planner for the city of Norwich and has been there 3 months. He is still flagging wetlands on the side.

My hobbies include doing stain glass projects, taking care of the animals- 3 dogs, 1 cat, and 2 cockatiels. For entertainment we enjoy going out to dinner, watching movies at home and spending time with the kids. Michael, 26, is getting married on August 19th. His business, Schaefer Landscaping and Stonework, keeps him very busy. Dan, 24, is working as an electrical engineer at Fortune Plastics in Old Saybrook. Cassie is a freshman at UConn, in the nursing program, and Alicia is finishing her sophomore year in high school. My dreams for the future involve having lots of grandchildren,

growing old with Mike and going back to college to get my bachelors degree.

## Marjorie and Delman Spalding's 65th Wedding Anniversary

By Joel Helander

May 17, 2006 marks the 65th wedding anniversary of Marjorie and Delman, who were married in the First Congregational Church of Guilford. They have made Sachem's Head their permanent year 'round home since 1969. Delman was born on South Fair Street in Guilford in 1916. Marjorie is the oldest living native of Sachem's Head, having been born in the Benton farmhouse in 1916. This year is another banner year for the couple because of their pending 90th birthdays. **CONGRATULATIONS** for these grand milestones! Their home address is: 365 Vineyard Point Road, Guilford, CT 06437.

## Notes

### Calendar of Events:

Please contact the Benton Beach Corp. secretary for scheduling a special beach event. This is not necessary for small, spontaneous gatherings. Please also note that scheduling **does not** grant exclusive use of the beach during the event.

**May 27-28:** Beach Work Day

**July 29:** Family Picnic

### Content Submission

Please submit any articles or family updates to Tim Chemacki for incorporation into the next issue (*preferably by email*).

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