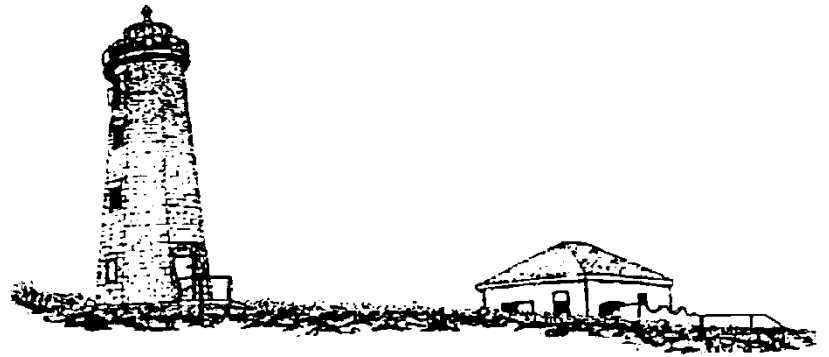


# Benton Beach Beacon



December 2017

## Dogs at the Beach

By Ellen Fales

The BBC Board of Directors recently reviewed the subject of allowing dogs on beach premises. In the past dogs have been allowed only from October 1st to April 1st. However, recognizing that so many family members do have dogs and that it is lovely to be able to have them at the beach on occasion, especially when the weather is nice, the board voted at the August meeting to significantly extend the time **during the off-season** that dogs will be allowed on beach premises. **Dogs will now be allowed on beach premises from September 15th to May 15th.** Dogs will be permitted during these dates only on an impromptu basis and NOT be allowed at a scheduled event (e.g. picnics, fall or spring workdays, campouts, etc.). Owners will be expected to clean up after their dogs and maintain control of them at all times. Especially in September, warm weather often beckons late season swimmers and dog owners are asked to be especially considerate in these instances.

Having dogs at the beach or anywhere on beach premises (parking lot, beach or Roger's Island) at any other time remains prohibited and we ask all beach users to adhere to this policy.

We will be putting these new dates into our official Benton Beach Rules and Regulations brochure and will send out an updated brochure to all family members.

## Mysterious Death at Benton Beach

By Joel Helander

When the campfire flickers low and the full moon climbs high over Benton Beach, it's story-telling time. Sometimes, the legends and wild stories challenge credibility, but the best stories are the true stories rooted in Sachem's Head history.



The story of the tragedy of Daniel Brown Leete who wandered our waterfront with a musket has been popular, as well as the beheading of then Pequot Indian Sachem or secret Shaumpishuh cave. Has anybody heard about Reverend Finch's tragic death at Benton Beach?

This true story is told in the backfiles of many Connecticut newspapers, especially the Shore Line Sentinel. Reverend Henry O. Finch, who was Acting Pastor of Guilford's First Congregational Church, and due to be formally installed as its pastor, was found dead "on a small

beach southeast of Vineyard Point, Sachem's Head."

These were the days before the shore section of Sachem's Head had been subdivided into cottage lots. Vineyard Point was a vacant expanse of pasture owned by the Newhall Family, who were carriage manufacturers in New Haven. The Newhalls were gracious in allowing campers to use the Point for overnight campouts. It is believed that 26-year-old Reverend Finch and members of his Bible class took advantage of the resplendent Vineyard Point location for their outing. The date was August 27, 1879.

According to the Sentinel, Reverend Finch arose about 6:00 a.m. and walked to the shore to gather moss and sea grass. When Rev. Finch left, Benjamin Mason said that he would blow a horn when breakfast was ready. Rev. Finch said they did not need to wait for him since he might go over to Mr. Chamberlain's (a tenant in the Daniel Brown Leete House) to go fishing. When Rev. Finch never returned, Benjamin Mason went searching and found Rev. Finch's body lying facedown on the sandy beach, which was undoubtedly Benton Beach next east of Vineyard Point.



At that time (1879), what is now the Benton Beach Corporation waterfront was one large crescent beach owned by the Barker Family of

Sachem's Head. Not until 1884 did the Bentons acquire the salt meadow and beach seaward of the Vineyard Creek.

According to the Sentinel, Rev. Finch's clothing was not completely wet, indicating that the cause of death was not necessarily drowning. However, Doctors Talcott and Reynolds from Guilford believed drowning was indeed the cause because of the condition of the lungs. There was also interesting speculation that he died from a heart condition due to "the fact that the right hand of the deceased, when discovered upon the beach, was found placed over the heart." The final opinion seemed to be that he had a seizure or "fainting fit" because there was said to have been a history of such a disorder in his family. If a seizure occurred near the water, Rev. Finch may have actually drowned.

The young minister's death caused a profound sensation throughout the church community and Guilford community. Quoting the Sentinel again, "scarce a dry eye could be seen in our streets..." Another newspaper reported that "his special gift was not the power of his intellect, but the faculty of gaining access into the hearts of those with whom he came into contact, and swaying their lives for good."

The pallbearers at the funeral in the First Congregational Church were all the young men from his Bible class. Afterwards, a large procession carried Rev. Finch's coffin down Whitfield Street to the railroad depot, where he was transported by train to his hometown in Keeseville, New York for burial.

## Ott Team

By Lynne Ott

2017 This year Hawaiian trip, individual cabin with awesome views. Exploring this scenic Shawgrali of Hills by foot through lush green foliage and gorgeous flowers and intriguing sounds of birds & horseback riding in the sand. Amazing waterfalls, sunrises & sunsets in this tropical paradise.

4/9/2015 all the family Lisa, Dave, 50th birthday.

Pete and Danielle joined Emily, to honor her 76 days teamwork and leadership skills certificate completing new instructors per 30 days of

kayaking with 8 other students making and breaking camp daily 2 days between and 2 new instructors, 30 days of back packing, last 10 days sailing all community needs divided up. Treamwork to make and break camp & cook, together - 8 other students.

4/8/2015. Emily awarded her certificate of leadership and teamwork skills learned in her N.O.L.S. program in New Zealand.

Emily worked hard this year as usual enjoying using occupational therapist studies in fieldwork. Both working with students here in Guilford and group homes in West Haven with young adults. Emily graduating with Master degree from Bay Path University May 2017.

Emily passing her boards in August 2017, is now a full-fledged Occupational Therapist and currently working in her field!

Emily for 8 years shadowed Holly Whelan, an exceptional occupational therapist for many years.

Danielle traveled to Iceland this year with her cousin Heather and Grandmother, Susanne, and Emily with friends 2015

Danielle Ott on the honors program through her school years.

Graduated Guilford High School June 15, 2017

Two capstone projects very interesting on speech therapy uses and complexities. January this year she began leading yoga instruction class on her own.

Danielle studies and trained to become a yoga instructor in 200 hours (as a senior) Sept. - Dec. 2016.

2017 January earning her certificate and official yoga instructor taught her own classes with family members, friend and growing enthusiasm for many interested yoga enthusiasts.

Danielle studied a course to build a boat which previous students of the class learned the most from than other courses.

Danielle built her own paddle board which she used this summer: sleek and beautiful in brilliant blue.

Danielle as a student 2016-2017 representative of Guilford elementary schools grant accomplishment presenting before board of education monthly meeting. Danielle earned

various awards presented to her by board members: one for community spirit – from President Obama – and one for activism against drug and other addiction (see her opinion piece published in New Haven Register, May 2017, <http://www.nhregister.com/connecticut/article/Forum-Revenue-from-legalized-marijuana-in-11311406.php>).

Danielle is enjoying her freshman year at Southern Connecticut State College studying hard and active in student affairs.

Looking forward to earning her speech therapy and language degree.

Pete earned Eagle Scout 2014 in Boy Scout Troop 494 as leadership and team builder.

Two Westwood trails have now 2 good bridges over water terrain.

Pete is studying hard towards his southern Connecticut degree in business management and finances.

Pete is currently working with his Dad at AXXA Advisors. Pete and his Dad are enjoying this and Pete is learning and helping. AXXA Advisors is pleased with Pete's work.

Pete earned his personal training certificate August 2016 and is a personal trainer.

Pete was hired by Planet Fitness and worked 2016 and part of 2017 with earning good money with finance.

On 1/28/2017, Lynne was surprised by grown son David trip to NYC play Elegant Art Deco Theater Dinner at Ruby Tuesday. Times Square and then walk to Empire State Building 86<sup>th</sup> floor and such amazing time and lots of fun and a realized dream.

David has been Boy Scout leader for 12 years. He enjoys facilitating the annual February snow camping trip of Troop 494. He has been working at AXXA Advisor for 25 years after graduating from Southern.

David cycled twice for cancer through five towns beginning New Haven, then to Wallingford, North Haven, Durham, Guilford, Branford, East Haven, and back to New Haven. Dave also volunteers with Project Purple against Opioid addiction.

Lisa Ott is associate professor at Southern Connecticut State College past four years. She is also the administrator for Guilford's mentoring program at the high school since

2008. In the program, she matches intellect and interests of 165 students to 165 adults. She also co-founded the Development Assets of Youth (D.A.Y.) program which engages youngsters in positive activities in the school and town.

Lisa with Danielle as against Opioid abuse – color run from Guilford fair grounds and glow run on Oct 14, 2017. Speaking with legislators in Hartford on several occasions and instrumental in NBA basketball player Chris Herron’s 15 year battle with opioid abuse, and how easy to get addicted and difficult to stop.

Project Purple flags are put out on town green, schools, and churches to remind people about opioid addiction.

Joel Helander officiated Hope Autumn Helander’s marriage to Alfred William Roy IV on Dudley Farm Guilford, CT 9/30/2017.

From Theete's Island Vancouver – Lucy Haywards 87 years young Oct. 1, 2017. Visited June 20th, 2017 her cousin Edwin Benton's 90th Birthday.

## Seven New Shareholders

By Joel E. Helander

The largest shuffle of stock in the history of Benton Beach Corporation occurred in November 2017 when the following lineal descendants of the late Eliot H. Benton (1889–1981) became shareholders:

- Victor Cabrera
- Joya Helander
- Danielle Ott
- Cassie Schaefer Petrichenko
- Alicia Schaefer



**Eliot H. Benton surveys his beach, August 1974. His father and grandfather before him owned the beach property. [Photo by J. Helander]**

Daniel Schaefer

Michael Schaefer, Jr.

Congratulations, Victor, Joya, Danielle, Cassie, Alicia, Daniel, and Mike!

## The Eliot Line-Up

By Joel E. Helander

Eleven (11) members of the extended Benton Family were christened with “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 theater at the southwest corner of the 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 Rev. Eliot’s settlement in Guilford, this town experienced great unrest and turmoil, prompted largely by

the return of many of Guilford’s founding fathers to England after the monarchy had been crushed.

Rev. Joseph Eliot was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, the son of the celebrated Rev. 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 Indian 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. Grant Eliot Gemme, the son of Kate Fales and Dan Gemme, is the latest family member to carry the name. Grant was born on July 19, 2017 in Providence, Rhode Island.

Here’s the line-up:

- Eliot H. Benton (born 1889)
- 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)
- James Eliot Chemacki (born 2006)
- Grant Eliot Gemme (born 2017)



**Grant Eliot Gemme**



**Zeb Benton Mehta**

## Births

### **Grant Eliot Gemme**

Kate Fales Gemme and her husband Dan welcomed their first child, Grant Eliot Gemme, on July 19th, 2017. He is the first grandchild and delight of Ellen and Chip Fales.

### **Zeb Benton Mehta**

Zeb Benton Mehta was born on September 25, 2017 at 2.40pm to Kasha Benton and Manish Mehta.

## Notes

### **Calendar of Events:**

Please contact Ellen Fales for all beach requests at (401) 783-2429, or [ebfales@aol.com](mailto:ebfales@aol.com) (preferred). You may also text her at (401) 932-5895. All Calendar of Events activity will also be posted on the BBC website. Scheduling is not necessary for small, spontaneous gatherings. Please also note that scheduling **does not** grant exclusive use of the beach during the event.

### Benton Beach Website

Electronic versions of the newsletter, board of director meeting minutes, the calendar of events, photos, and other notices are all available on the Benton Beach website, [www.bentonbeach.com](http://www.bentonbeach.com). The website is password protected. The username and password should only be shared among family members.

Username:  
bbcfamily

Password:

sticktogether



**Chip Fales has spent many hours re-building a portion of the stonewall on the BBC western boundary line**

### Mailing Addresses

If you have recently moved, please make sure the Benton Beach Corporation secretary has your current mailing address.

Timothy Chemacki  
167 Bashan Rd.  
East Haddam, CT 06423  
**Phone:** (860) 615-4993  
**Email:** space.explorer@gmail.com

### Content Submission

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



**Stormy surf pounds the shoreline**

Forum

Expected Will written! Magnet marijuana!

6/2017

Revenue from legalized marijuana in Connecticut won't offset human costs

By Danielle Ott

Proposing that the state will potentially raise \$200 million in new tax dollars from sales of retail marijuana is misguided and irresponsible, yet this is exactly what is being suggested in the Democrats' version of the budget that was just released.

The issue of legalizing retail sale of marijuana in Connecticut was debated earlier in the year by two committees of the legislature, and neither could generate enough votes to pass the bill out of committee, effectively delaying the decision for at least another year.

Even though I am still a high school student, I have checked some of the published scientific research on marijuana and I know that marijuana is a harmful substance. The scientific research is very clear that exposure to cannabinoids during adolescent brain development can negatively impact areas of the brain related to learning, memory, motivation and emotion even after use has ended.

In addition, it is commonly misconceived that marijuana addiction is not possible, likely because it is not as addictive as other substances. Yet, addiction is a real risk related to the use of marijuana and is much more likely to occur in youth who use.

It should not be surprising to anyone that marijuana affects the teen brain, but the general public has very little or no understanding of the risk.

Dr. Nora Volkow, director of NIDA (National Institute of Drug Abuse), a division of National Institutes of Health, states on her web page: "The research studies have shown that exposure to cannabinoids during adolescent development can cause long-lasting changes in the brain's reward system as well as the hippocampus, a brain area critical for learning and memory. The message inherent in these and in multiple supporting studies is clear. Regular marijuana use in adolescence is part of a cluster of behaviors that can produce enduring detrimental effects and alter the trajectory of a young per-

son's life — thwarting his or her potential."

A closely related question is whether legalization will result in increased teen abuse of marijuana. As a teen, let me assure you that it will, and the increase will be substantial. The statistics from Colorado over the past 10 years as medical marijuana was commercialized with more than 500 retail stores, and then fully legalized, led to a huge increase, giving Colorado the highest teen marijuana use rate in the U.S. It is common sense that legalization will increase marijuana use by Connecticut kids.

- Kids will believe the legislature would not legalize marijuana unless it is safe.
- Increased access leads to increased use by all ages, including kids.
- We all know media attention and advertising works.
- Candy, brownies, and packaging for kids, Pot Tarts?
- A bunch of PSA announcements will not overcome the impact of legalization on teens.
- Big money is at stake and the people pushing this are devi-

ous, so they will lie to you.

I urge the legislature to take this potential revenue source out of their budget and take the time to consider all potential costs. Before believing there will be a tax windfall, you must consider all the costs. When my mom was in high school, one of her Guilford friends, a high school freshman, was killed on his bike on Route 77 by a teen driver intoxicated by marijuana. If marijuana use increases, in addition to fatalities, consider the costs to Connecticut of paralysis cases covered only by Medicaid. The hospitalization costs for fractured skulls, broken bones, and massive burns. Consider the financial cost to Connecticut for detox and treatment of additional addicts, and the costs for educating additional suspended or expelled students. Consider the costs of all the additional schizophrenia and psychosis cases. Consider the social costs of alcohol and cigarettes and extrapolate that to increased marijuana use and addiction.

Connecticut should perform

an objective study of projected costs of increased marijuana use in the state. This should include law enforcement and regulatory costs, as well as medical and educational costs.

Finally, I am concerned that Connecticut's legislative leaders have disregarded the public debate, information that was presented at the committee hearings, and the views of the majority of our legislators and are using the excuse of potential new revenue to pass harmful legislation. I urge our legislators to reject this strategy and make a commitment to supporting the health and well-being of our young people and families.

Danielle Ott is 18 and a co-leader of Guilford Day, D.A.Y. (Developmental Assets for Youth) is a community coalition which works to reduce high-risk behaviors such as underage drinking and other illicit youth substance use and provides our youth with the opportunities, skills and values they need to grow into healthy caring and responsible adults.

How to have your say: Letters to the Register should include the writer's name and address as well as day and evening telephone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters may be edited for clarity and are routinely condensed so that as many opinions as possible can be published. Letters should be original to the Register. Email: letters@nhregister.com. SMS: Msg and Data Rates May Apply. Text HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Info at www.digitalfirstmedia.com/privacy-policy/

SMS: for news, sports & weather sent to your phone text: "nhnews" to 22700 text: "nhsports" to 22700 text: "nhweather" to 22700

Mail: New Haven Register letters to the editor 100 Spring Drive, New Haven, CT 06513 Fax: 203-789-5705

Facebook: Leave comments at www.facebook.com/newhavenregister Twitter: @nhregister @nhropinion @nhisports @nhvoices