

LIVHOF Environment Inductee 2010



RICHARD SCHARY

Friends of
Massapequa Preserve

Founded in 2000

Richard Schary is committed to saving Long Island's environment for future generations. His love and respect for nature and the environment first developed in early childhood. He taught Environmental and Physical Education in elementary schools for thirty-three years. In retirement, he devoted ever more time to concerns over the loss of green spaces on Long Island.

With his wife, Lisa, Mr. Schary has been instrumental in forming coalitions of concerned citizens to prevent over-development in areas such as the Kings Park Psychiatric Center and SUNY Old Westbury Woods. He is an appointed volunteer on five Nassau County government committees, such as the Open Space Advisory Committee, and is an active member of many other environmental groups.

The Friends of Massapequa Preserve was founded in 2000 to restore and protect the 423 acres in this Nassau County park that had been very poorly maintained. Fundraising, hard work and activism on the part of members has led to the Preserve being named "Best Nature Walk" and "Best Nature Preserve" on Long Island and it is regularly visited on sunny weekends by over 6000 visitors.

2010 Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame