



The Elm Tree

25 years ago, in 1998, GLA President Sharon Bright Holub had a vision.

With her guidance, Sharon led a group of GLA members through the research, writing and production of a history of our beautiful Loudon Road's historic homes. The committee that created *Traveling the Loudon Plank Road* brought neighbors together to work and celebrate the historic character of Loudonville, an important mission of GLA.

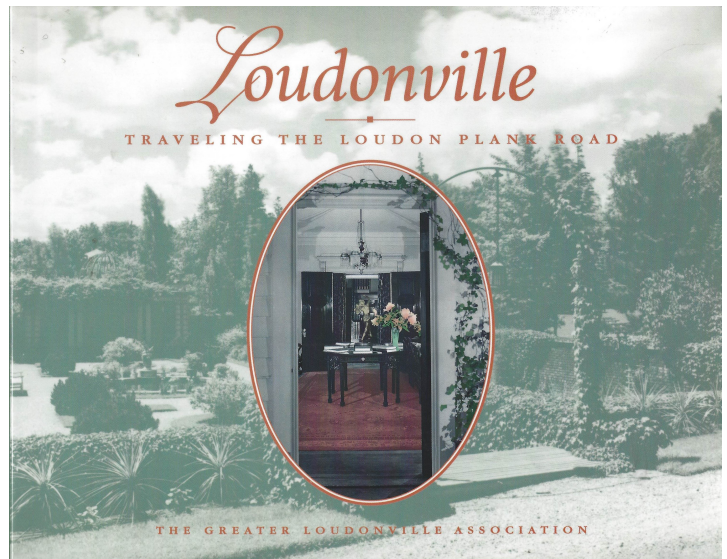
Celebrate!

Our **June 3, 2023 Spring Fling** celebrates the book's 25th anniversary and will be held at the home of Dr. Richard and Ms. Sharon Bright Holub. There will be a limit to the number of guests, so keep that in mind when you receive your invitation. We hope everyone will register promptly to ensure attendance. A limited supply of *Traveling the Plank Road* will be available and books may also be purchased at registration.

To Benefit

GLA is working to replace the crumbling brick wall at the Loudonville Triangle, a longtime keystone for our hamlet. Proceeds from our Spring Fling, its sponsors, and from book sales will go toward its construction.

More information about the GLA can be found on our website www.GreaterLoudonville.org. You can also contact us at info@GreaterLoudonville.org with any questions.



The Book Team, 25 years ago at the kickoff party:

- 1st row** Sam Johnson, Sharon Bright Holub, Libby Treadwell
- 2nd row** Mary Durgee, Carol Labatte, Camille Hoheb, Linda Blumenstock, Suzanne Lava
- 3rd row** Greta McNamara, Kevin Bronner, Sr., Steve Smith, Sue Smith, Amelia Weir
- Missing: Dianne Ewashko

President's Message



As our mild winter becomes a memory, our thoughts turn to longer daylight and warmer temperatures. The Greater Loudonville Association has exciting events planned for 2023!

First, a mailing has gone out for our "Gateway Project" which is dedicated to replacing the crumbling brick wall at the Loudonville Triangle. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of \$25,000 to revitalize the Loudonville Triangle, but we need your participation. Your contributions are so much appreciated!

As GLA celebrates the 25th anniversary of the book, *Loudonville - Traveling the Loudon Plank Road*, a history of Loudon Road's historic homes, we stop to remember Sharon Bright Holub, a past President of GLA and Editor of this book. She and her husband, Dr. Richard Holub, have graciously offered to host our GLA Spring Fling at their beautiful historic home on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 5pm. You will be receiving an invitation for this event in the near future. We will be honoring Sharon that evening and we hope to see you there.

The Greater Loudonville Association continues to be an active participant in the Town of Colonie and greatly appreciates the cooperation of Supervisor Peter Crummey and the Town Board in our efforts to keep Loudonville a wonderful place to live and work.

Happy Spring! I look forward to seeing you all soon at our many GLA events!

Mary Brizzell

GLA Board

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Suzanne Perry
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Susan O. Smith
Thomas Suraci
Chris Wessel

Welcome New Members!

Alvin and Abbey Gamble
Gerry and Jill Conway
Rev. Christina Hunter
Shannon Brown
Matthew & Nicole Guilfooy
Eric and Christina Nail
Robert B. Feldman
Bradley Jacobs & Erin Deverdis
Paul Waterson &
Constance Rissberger
Kyle & Katie Simmons
Dennis P. Fiegel

Polo is one of the world's oldest-known team sports. The game is played by two opposing teams with the objective to score using a long-handled wooden mallet to hit a ball through the opposing team's goal. Each team has four mounted riders, and the game usually lasts one to two hours, divided into periods called chukkers. A particularly fun part of the event occurs at half-time, where spectators have the opportunity to walk onto the field for divot stomping - a tradition to replace the mounds of earth dug up by the horses' hooves.

LOUDONVILLE FOUR TO MEET PITTSFIELD
 The Loudonville polo team will meet Pittsfield in the rubber match of a series of three on Farrell Field, Loudonville Sunday afternoon. Pittsfield beat Loudonville early in the season in Pittsfield, but lost a second match in Loudonville.
FIRST PRIZE PLAYS



SPORT SPOTLIGHT By HY ROSEN



Snead Shoots 64; Polo Here Leads Star Open

Holiday Party at Schuyler Meadows



Greater Loudonville Association
PO Box 11144
Loudonville NY 12211-0144

Non-profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit 720
Albany NY 12211

or current resident

DATED MATERIAL

Coming Up!

May 11 at the Sage Estate

5:30

GLA Annual Meeting

Refreshments will be served.

The Couch Prize will be awarded.

Kevin Franklin, Town Historian, will give a short talk about the history of the Sages.

June 3rd at 495 Loudon Road

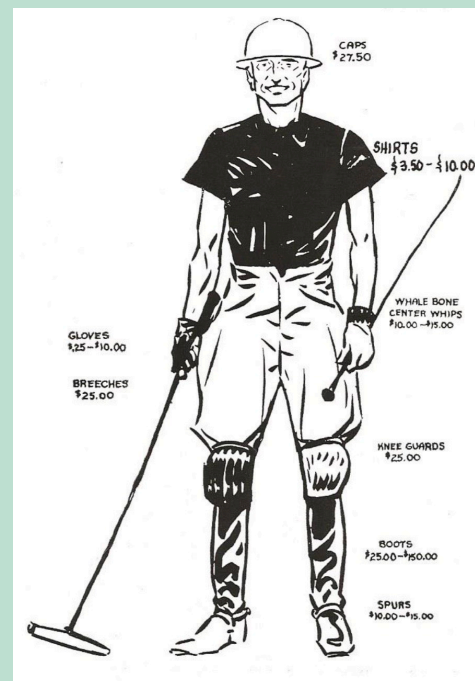
5 - 8pm

Spring Fling

Original home of CLA Whitney.

Invitations to follow. Proceeds will go to the reconstruction of the Triangle wall.

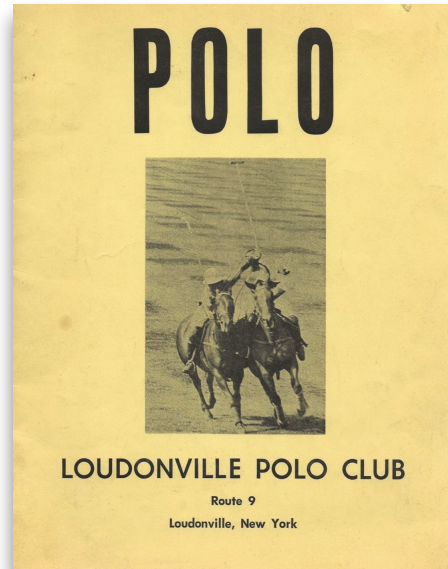
Outfitting a polo player in the 1960s



MARCO!

It is well known that Saratoga is one of the more renowned equestrian sporting destinations, but a lesser-known fact is that the equestrian sport of horse polo was also played right here in Loudonville!

Charles Lee Anthony (CLA) Whitney of Loudonville was one of the pioneer polo players in the country. He was instrumental in the creation of the Albany Polo team in the early 1900s, just two decades after polo had been introduced to the US. In the 1930s, he made arrangements with Mrs. Farrell who lived on Old Niskayuna Road, to build a polo field on their property adjacent to their home. The Farrell field was located on present-day Cobble Hill East. Horses would be led from the CLA estate, known as Wyebrook Farm on the corner of Spring St and Rt 9, up through Springwood Manor, and out a farm road which intersected with Old Niskayuna Rd. The practice field existed right across the street from Farrell field,



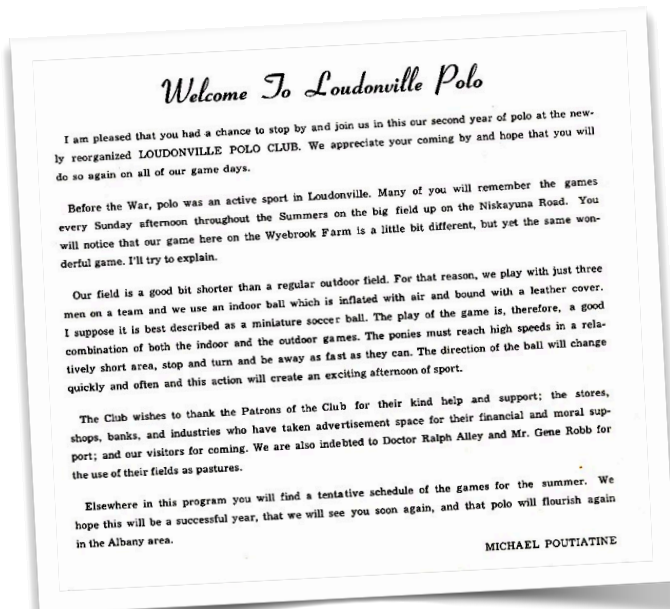
finer points of riding. When Tom joined the team at age 14, he and CLA were the only grandfather - grandson polo duo in the US.

Loudonville Polo was suspended during WWII because Mrs. Farrell was tired of the dust and noise. Tom Wheeler and his younger brother Charlie then played on the Pittsfield Polo Club team which won the National 12-Goal Tournament in IL in 1948. They played with famous polo greats on most of the well-known fields in Eastern US and Canada. Tom graduated from Williams College and was President of Whitney's, an upscale department Store in Albany. He lived in Loudonville on CLA's Wyebrook Farm, and eventually polo was being played on his front lawn in the 1960s.

Loudonville Polo continued to draw spectators on Sundays at 2pm from May through September. Loudonville Polo Club was recognized as part of the United States Polo Association and competed against other teams from Skaneateles, Rochester, Cortland, and Huntington NY, as well as Pittsfield MA and Gilbertsville, PA. This was a highlight of the summer for Loudonville residents for the duration of the Loudonville Polo Club's existence.

Next time you drive on Old Niskayuna Road or Route 9, imagine how the view may have been different in years past with dust being kicked up by polo ponies as the Loudonville community cheered on their home team! Today, the closest parallel to that scene might exist at the GLA's holiday and July 4th events at the Loudon Green Park - where the Loudonville close-knit community spirit perseveres.

Kathryn Martel Lyons



President's Message from the polo program, written by Michael "Pooch", Poutiatine

and is currently very much intact, surrounded by pine trees. Every Sunday afternoon during the summers, up to 2,500 spectators would be in attendance to watch a match. The highlight of the Loudonville season was the match against the West Point Officers, which drew the largest crowd of the summer.

During this time, CLA taught his grandsons Thomas B. Wheeler, Jr and Charles Wheeler the