Deputies Find Home-Away-from-Home

Nelsonville substation serves 24/7
By Liz Schectenbuk-Armstrong

Around 12:00 p.m. Monday (June 15), two Putnam County Sheriff’s Department vehicles raced down Main Street past the traffic light in Cold Spring, heading west, red lights flashing. It was a typical call for those who serve with the Sheriff’s Department western Putnam outpost, the substation created in the refurbished Nelsonville firehouse on Main Street.

For Patrol Division Sgt. Michael Szabo, the Carmel-based overseer of the substation, the early afternoon run soon ended: He and a colleague joined the Cold Spring Police Department on the scene of a reported domestic dispute in the Forge Gate apartment complex and then left matters to the village police to resolve. The incident demonstrated both the immediacy of the Sheriff’s Department presence in Philipstown and its interplay with its Cold Spring counterpart.

"I know having a substation over here is crucial," Szabo said, hosting a tour of the facility later on Monday. "The incident and Szabo said that six deputies now operate out of the substation, which Sgt. Mike Szabo oversees. "Deputies Brian Aisenstat, left, works at the substation, which Sgt. Mike Szabo oversees." (Photo by L.S. Armstrong)

Jolly Rovers Fueled by Camaraderie

Skilled trail volunteers specialize in stonework
By Allison Rooney

Sometimes it seems as if the stones were always there, with hiking trails built around them. Most people navigating through the forested slopes around us probably haven’t given much thought to the ‘Who put them there?’ question — unless, of course, they are unable to proceed along a path, even if there’s a clearing to do so, due to loose footing or unstable trails to allow forging ahead.

There are periodic construction efforts, some publicly funded, others supported through "Friends of" groups. But, until recently, no cohesive volunteer group existed to increase public access to these lands through sustainable, thoughtful trail construction.

"I know having a substation over here is crucial," Szabo said, hosting a tour of the facility later on Monday afternoon. "It really serves our purpose." (Photo courtesy of Jolly Rovers)

Hearing Monday on Butterfield Sales Tax Relief

Progress on Main Street Project
By Michael Turton

Butterfield Realty has applied to the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) for "straight-lease financing" up to $5.5 million to support the mixed-use development planned for the former Butterfield Hospital site. A letter from the IDA to Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy states that a public hearing on the application is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Monday, June 22, at the Cold Spring Village Hall. The letter was reviewed Tuesday (June 16) at the Village Board meeting.

IDA Chairman Richard Ruchala’s letter indicated that the financing relates only to the two commercial buildings planned as part of the project and can include "real property tax relief, sales and use tax exemptions, and mortgage recording tax exemption" as well as payment of "certain incidental expenses." While the letter states that property tax relief can be granted, Village Clerk Mary Saari told The Paper that Ruchala had told her that the application does not include a request for that form of financial assistance. In a telephone interview with The Paper, Ruchala confirmed that property tax relief is not part of the application. He said it includes a request for sales tax exemption on construction materials for the two buildings as well as sales tax exemption on the purchase of materials for outfitting them. The two buildings would also be exempt from the mortgage recording tax.

Trustee Cathryn Paddie pointed out that developer Paul Guillaro had agreed not to request property tax relief, in meeting of the Village Board on April 1. Merandy questioned the appropriate-ness of holding a public hearing on a Monday morning. With tongue planted firmly in cheek he commented, "That’s perfect, everybody will want to be there." Ruchala, however, told "(Continued on page 3)"

Steps at Bear Mountain — and with that the inauguration of the Appalachian Trail up Bear Mountain — and with that the inauguration of "certain incidental expenses." (Photo courtesy of Jolly Rovers)

Happy Fathers Day!
Sunday, June 21


FREE | FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015
69 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, NY. | www.philipstown.info
Up on the Farm

Small, Good Things

By Joe Dizney

Floral Displays Accentuate Philipstown Garden Club’s Silent Auction

For this Glynwood dinner, there were no “fancy” preparations: In accordance with seasonal al fresco dining and cooking, the descriptors, techniques and tastes leaned heavily toward a woodsmoked Mediterranean axis consistent with the actual culinary revolution responsible for the F2T phenomenon (Alice Waters, Chez Panisse et al.).

Cummings’ creative contribution and commentary consisted of sympathetic-yet-unexpected spicing and seasoning: the most commented upon dish of the evening was our second course — charred romaine lettuce with crumbled blue cheese (specifically, Old Chatham Ewe’s Blue) with a red onion relish (surprisingly seasoned with sumac) paired with grilled brochettes of rib-eye “dressed” with a spring charmoula. This particular preparation was a direct popular hit, but it is also an eminently versatile and easily adapted recipe, completely emblematic of Cummings’ philosophy and process.

Charmoula (aka charmoula or chermoula) is a traditional North African sauce used to marinate and/or flavor, meat, seafood and vegetables. It’s basically an herbal paste (not unlike pesto, albeit without the cheese) centered around an herbal base of cilantro and parsley. On the day I spoke to her, Cummings was organizing a potluck supper and demonstration for Glynwood’s CSA (community supported agriculture) farm subscribers.

She suggested the mixture as a superior secret weapon in getting the most from your CSA share, explaining its innate versatility: You can basically use any two herbs — tarragon, oregano, dill, parsley, cilantro, mint — that play well off of each other and whatever you’re going to serve it with — vegetables, fish, chicken, other meat; let’s see — garlic, definitely ... the traditional recipe calls for preserved lemons but I use lemon, or lime, juice.

Here, the spicing leans again toward the smoky notes — paprika and cumin — flavors that mesh well with grilled foods. (Cumin, red pepper, ginger or saffron are suggested as alternatives or additions.) The recipe reproduced here can be used as a rub or marinade for meat, seafood and substantial vegetables like eggplant, cauliflower or portobello mushrooms. Thinmed with a bit of additional citrus juice, vinegar or a flavored or nut oil, it becomes a finishing sauce to follow grilling. Top the grilled vegetables off with a dollop of Greek yogurt or some goat cheese and more charmoula or stir some into a bowl of cooked chickpeas or lentils and this ready-made sauce elevates a simple vegetarian meal.

Cummings generously revealed her inspiration for the specific influence: Boston-based, James Beard award-winning chef and restaurateur (restaurants Oleana, Sofra and Sarama) Ana Sortun, our guest chef at one of last year’s dinners. (Chef Sortun is also the author of the cookbook, Spice: Flavors of the Eastern Mediterranean, from which Cummings was interpreting a sweet rhubarb-rose petal jam for the CSA demo.)

But again, there’s nothing overly precious here. Cummings’ cooking is intuitive and she’s got solid instincts to match stellar raw materials.

“Taste this the food that comes from these places, the ingredients that come from our neighbors’ farms, and let the ingredients shine — I like the dandelion greens to stand out ... I want to cook the meat to the best of my abilities; give it a few accents. I try to keep things rustic and simple, but the flavor — the smell of the meat when it’s fresh ... raw, the freshness of the greens; the tomatoes when they’re in season — that’s what I’m aiming for.”

And that’s how it’s really done — up on the farm.

Tickets for Glynwood’s July 10 farm dinner — a special seasonal vegetarian meal prepared by guest chef Agnes Devereux of New Paltz’s Village Tea Room and Cummings — are $85/person and are available on the Glynwood website (glynwood.org). Advance tickets are also available for the Aug. 1 dinner ($85/person), which will highlight Glynwood’s peak-season offerings. The farm dinners run through November. Glynwood is located at 302 Glynwood Road, off Route 301, east of Cold Spring.
Deputies Find Home-Away-From-Home

www.philipstown.info

The Putnam County Sheriff’s Department substation on Main Street in Nelsonville

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Deputies from the Sheriff’s Department DCI – Division of Criminal Investigation. (Along with fulfilling other responsibilities, Szabo heads the Sheriff’s Marine Unit.) From vehicles to the boat and with other on-the-water demands. (Along with fulfilling other responsibilities, Szabo heads the Sheriff’s Marine Unit.) From vehicles to the boat and with other on-the-water demands.

24-hour protection, in shifts. Likewise, the department is trying to do law enforcement and "makes for community policing," Convery said then.

Szabo noted on Monday that "there's always a car in Philipstown" available. Tasks and calls involve the usual mix of police work — security and assistance at public events and responses to routine complaints or simple inquiries by residents, plus handling traffic violations, drug offenses, family arguments, and incidents of violence. "We've had murders in Philipstown" over the years, Szabo observed. He did not have immediate data on how many calls the substation handles. However, in advocating a stronger sheriff's role last October, Odell referred to 40-plus incidents a day in western Putnam. Whatever transpires, "we can process all our arrests right here" at the substation, Szabo said. When an alleged crime demands a prompt arrangement, the deputies can call a judge who will respond on an urgent basis — whatever the hour — and meet them at Philipstown Town Hall, site of the town Justice Court.

Hearing Monday on Butterfield Sales Tax Relief

The mayor also wondered about the timing of the application itself, suggesting that it would have made more sense to request funding assistance earlier in the development process. Ruchala told The Paper that Butterfield Realty's application was submitted in mid-February and that the lengthy review process had been extended because of "interdepartmental issues," which she said, is an opportunity for any new comments from the public. The IDA board will vote on whether or not to approve the project at its meeting Tuesday.

The IIA letter and Butterfield Realty's application can be reviewed at the Village of Cold Spring office during regular business hours. Public comments can be made at the public hearing.

Movement on Main

Deputy Mayor Marie Early provided an update on the Main Street Project, initiated in 2006 to repair the worst sections of sidewalks and curbs along Main Street along with drainage works on Furnace Street and Mountain Avenue. Early said that because 80 percent of the $970,000 project is funded federally, "there are significant steps required, more documentation, reviews, approvals," the result being a longer schedule and higher cost. The project is administered by the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT). At a May 29 meeting that included DOT officials and CBA, the project's engineering firm, state representatives indicated that the expenditures and 10-year timeline compare favorably with similar initiatives elsewhere. To date, engineering costs have totaled $220,000 with another $200,000 anticipated. The remaining $746,000 will go to construction and related costs.

Early said that all required sign-offs have been received. A final walk-through this week will mean updating project details. Early said construction will take about three months, commencing early in 2010.

CFA grant to light Main Street?

As part of the Mid-Hudson Region, Cold Spring is eligible to compete for a share of $750 million in economic development grants available through New York State’s Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) program. Padde, who has been attending CFA workshops, said the program is intended to revitalize local economies through projects related to tourism, infrastructure and local character. She described an "aha moment" at a recent session when Putnam County announced it would pay the local matching share of a successful grant application. Padde suggested new Main Street lighting as a possible grant project. Acquisition of Bigbelly compacting garbage containers was also discussed. The next step will be for Cold Spring to receive approval to study potential projects in detail for consideration as part of a regional application.

Water, sidewalk issues

Greg Phillips, superintendent of water and sewers, reported recent complaints of discolored water. The problem, he said, could be due to warm temperatures, which in turn led to increased organic matter in an impoundment area upstream of the treatment facility on Fishkill Road. Flushing the system, a routine procedure that was conducted recently, won't help in this case, he said. Phillips said he is looking into further chemical treatment. "We're on it," he said. "But there aren't a lot of answers."

Trustees expressed concern to Building Inspector Bill Bujarski regarding a number of Main Street business issues. Included are increases in the number of sandwich board signs and outside dining areas — both of which are on village property. The recurring problem of shopkeepers displaying wares beyond the permitted 3-foot limit in front of Main Street shops was also highlighted along with an increase in the number of neon signs in store windows. Merandy said that a workshop would be devoted to the issues, several of which were described as matters of public safety.

Bowman

Cold Spring residents Brian Tinn and Cynthia Bach were appointed to the Code Update Committee. The volunteer committee is revising village zoning, which dates back to 1968, to bring it into conformity with the 2012 Comprehensive Plan.

Trustee Michael Bowman attended the meeting. Earlier this month his status on the Village Board had been questioned after he and his family moved out of Cold Spring into Nelsonville to assist his mother, who was seriously ill. His mother died on June 5. Merandy said there was a related discussion in executive session prior to the public meeting but no additional information was provided. Trustee Bowman acknowledged the support he has received, saying, "I want to thank everyone for their patience and for bearing with me... for their thoughts and prayers, for reaching out to me by email and leaving food at my door... I want to publicly thank everyone..."
Rearranged U.S. Navy Capt. Francis Joseph Schatzle, 83, died Tuesday, June 9, in Annapolis, Maryland. Born in Cold Spring (Nelsonville), New York, to the late Frank and Mary Schatzle, Frank cherished his hometown. Frank was the eldest of five boys, and he and his brothers, all exceptional athletes, loved to tell stories of growing up in Nelsonville and Cold Spring, attending Haldane High School, skateboarding on frozen ponds, running around Main Street and working all over the village.

Frank held the New York high school record for many years, raced in Madison Square Garden against Roger Bannister, and continued to race for decades. He graduated from Haldane High School in 1949, from Albany State in 1953 with a bachelor’s degree in physics and with a master’s degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

In January 1954, Frank was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy. When he was living in Jacksonville, Florida, he met his wife of 49 years, Ann Turner (1932-2010), whom he loved dearly. Ann, from Peterborough, England, met Frank when she was working as a stewardess. Frank enjoyed a distinguished 29-year naval career. Upon retirement in 1983, he was considered one of the country’s top hurricane experts.

Frank was a lifelong golfer who loved to tee off early in the “Dawn Patrol.” After retiring, he remained in Pass Christian, Mississippi. In addition to his wife and parents, Frank was preceded in death by his brothers, Arnold, Eddie and Danny Schatzle. He is survived by three children, Matthew Schatzle of Annapolis, Sharon (Jeff) Dobbs and Andrew (Amy) Schatzle, all of Pass Christian, and his brother, Philip Schatzle, of Cold Spring. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren: Clare, Jacob and Noah Schatzle of Annapolis; Stephen, Jack and David Dobbs; Alison, Nicholas Bond and Cooper Schatzle, all of Pass Christian.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23, at Our Lady of Loreto Church, 24 Fair St., Cold Spring, followed by interment at Cold Spring Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Haldane School Foundation.

Francis Joseph Schatzle

Conservation Easement Proposal on Hold

By Pamela Dean

The plan for addressing the proposal to the Garrison school district from the Hudson Highlands Land Trust for the school forest to be preserved through a conservation easement is basically that there is no plan at the moment. At the Board of Education meeting on Wednesday (June 17) a discussion among board members produced no action items.

Diana Swinburne, vice president, who was chairing the meeting in Raymond O’Rourke’s absence, said, “I’m uncomfortable having this conversation without our board president and without our two new members.” David Gelber and James Hoch are the new trustees who will join the board in July when Christine Foertsch’s and Theresa Oriand’s terms expire.

At the urging of Foertsch, who has been vocal in her support of a conservation easement on the property and of accepting the 70 acres that could be attached to the forest, the HHLT proposal was on the agenda for the meeting. But board members were reticent when the topic came up. Foertsch said, “I’ve been asking to have this item on the agenda for months and haven’t been able to get it on because of all the different things that were put on ahead of it.” Foertsch encouraged board members to speak out about their opinions and questions and to have a transparent discussion about the issue. She compared the use of the school forest as an asset and resource to the construction of the middle school.

Trustee James Cannon said: “There are two threshold questions. One is if the board wants to do anything at all. It has to be done within the constructs of the rules of the State Education Department and if we do want to do anything we have to follow all the regulations.” Swinburne stressed that the board was not looking out for proposals for the school forest and that the HHLT came to them.

Possible next steps that were raised during the discussion included getting an independent appraisal of the land to determine its value, needing advice from legal counsel about the board’s responsibilities, and the fact that the 70 acres that are attached to the conservation easement proposal as a donation could be donated without an easement if the owner chose to do so. The HHLT’s proposal has two options, both involving the purchase of a conservation easement by the HHLT.

A conservation easement essentially prevents the 78-acre school forest from certain types of development in perpetuity. GUES would still be the landowner and the HHLT would be a partner in helping maintain and manage the land. HHLT Board Chairman Chris Davis has offered a 70-acre parcel that would add to the school forest and give the school new access points that could make it easier to use. The full proposal that the board was presented is available on the HHLT website and more details, including a map of the site, are in an article in the May 29 issue of The Paper available online at Philipstown.info.

Cannon pointed out that the board has reviewed previous proposals from the HHLT for the school forest and that they need to find out from legal counsel what their options and responsibilities are at this time. With only two board meetings scheduled before the start of the next school year, it is unlikely that any action will be taken before the fall. Three parents spoke about their support of the HHLT proposal during the public comment session of the meeting, including MJ Martin, HHLT director of Education and Outreach.

Oblgacy

Garrison students enjoy School Forest Day several years ago. Photo by Alison Rooney

About Pastphen

Michael McKee, PhD
Licensed Psychologist
Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy (CBT)

35B Garrison Landing
Garrison, N.Y. 10524
45 Popham Road
Scaridsale, N.Y. 10583

(914) 584-9352
info@McKeeTherapy.com
www.McKeeTherapy.com

For more information on where to find things or what’s happening, visit:
Community Directory
Expanded Calendar
Arts & Leisure

all at
Philipstown.info
Underage Drinking and Summer Parties

Social Host Liability Law applies

By Michael Turton

Across Putnam County and beyond, it is the season of high school graduation. On top of that, summer officially gets underway on June 21. Both are cause for celebration among family and friends — and the festivities often take the form of a party — whether meticulously planned weeks in advance or thrown together on the spur of the moment. In either case, with few exceptions, alcohol is on the party planner’s list.

For parents, homeowners and tenants, the party season carries with it responsibilities and legal consequences, especially as they relate to serving alcohol to minors. In 2006, all six towns in Putnam County — Carmel, Kent, Patterson, Philipstown, Putnam Valley and Southeast — followed a statewide trend, passing similar legislation entitled the Social Host Liability Law.

While the safety and well-being of their children may be the top, common-sense priority for parents in monitoring activities at parties they host — or that are held at their home in their absence — the penalties for serving alcohol to minors when charged under Social Host Liability Laws are further cause for vigilance. In Putnam County, such violations are a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail. In most of the towns, including Philipstown, a fine of up to $3,000 can also be imposed. The Town of Kent, where the maximum fine is $3,000, is the lone exception.

Imposing penalties

Parents would be well advised to not only be aware of what the law actually says, but what it implies as well. Local town codes are identical in the conduct they prohibit, stating that “no person shall host, suffer, permit, organize, or allow a party, gathering or event at his or her place of residence or other private property … owned by or under his or her control, where three or more minors are present and alcoholic beverages are being consumed by any minor.”

In an email to The Paper, Capt. William McNamara of the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department commented on the meaning behind the words. “As I read [the law], a person need not be physically present at the party to be held liable,” McNamara wrote. He also pointed out that for charges to be laid, the minors who are served alcohol don’t have to be drunk. “It is not necessary to show that a minor is intoxicated by alcohol to charge a violation of the code,” he said.

McNamara added that in addition to Social Host Liability Law, anyone who gives or sells alcohol to a minor can also be charged under New York State Penal Law for unlawfully dealing with a child and/or endangering the child’s welfare. In addition he said, someone who hosts a party involving underage drinking “may open themselves up to extensive civil liability under New York’s Dram Shop Law” for injuries caused to a third party by someone under the age of 21 who had been served alcohol at the party.

Arrests have been made locally under the Social Host Liability Law. McNamara pointed to a case last fall when Putnam County sheriff’s deputies responded to a call in Putnam Valley involving a party at which several minors were consuming alcohol. The homeowner was present and admitted to hosting the party and being aware that minors were drinking alcohol. “Four of the minors were younger than 17,” McNamara said. “The woman was charged with nine misdemeanor counts of unlawfully dealing with a minor, four misdemeanor counts of endangering the welfare of a child, and one count of violating the local social host liability code.”

Parents seeking advice about hosting a party at which alcohol will be served and minors will be present can contact The Putnam County Communities that Care Coalition, 67 Gleneida Ave., Carmel, NY 10512, or phone 845-225-4646. The coalition also provides information on its Facebook page.

Residential Fire in Philipstown Quickly Contained

Blaze extinguished upstairs

Just after 7 a.m. on Tuesday, June 16, the North Highlands Volunteer Fire Department responded to a structure fire on JoAnn Place, just west of Perks Boulevard. Firefighters extinguished a blaze in an upstairs bedroom at the home of William and Mary Flaherty. The couple escaped without injury. The cause of the fire was unknown, although first responders on the scene speculated that an electrical problem was to blame.

Other fire companies that answered the call included Cold Spring, Garrison, East Fishkill and Rombout. The Flahertys’ son, Bob, a member of the Philipstown Town Board, discovered the fire as he walked past the home of his parents that morning.

The Family of Michael E. Timm appreciates the support, gifts, and kind wishes from the community of Philipstown.

Thank you for your help during these difficult three months.

Gergely Pediatrics

Dedicated to keeping your child healthy & thriving

Dr. Peter Gergely, MD
Janet Elia, CFNP
Danielle Chiaravalla, CFNP

• Collaborative practice for children & adolescents
• Board Certified Pediatricians & Licensed Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
• Welcomes patients with developmental or behavioral issues

Meet with us for a FREE first time consultation

34 Route 403, Garrison, N.Y. 10524
tel: (845) 424-4444  fax: (845) 424-4664
gergelypediatrics.com
Two from Beacon Accept Appointments to U.S. Military Academy

Two students from Beacon accepted offers of appointment to one of the nation’s service academies. Junus Sela and Andrew Grella were both nominated by U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18) and accepted offers of appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Maloney has ability to nominate students to West Point, the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado; the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. To assist with the nomination process, Maloney established a committee of military and civic leaders from the Hudson Valley that interviewed potential nominees, reviewed their applications and made recommendations. The academies make the final decision on who receives an appointment of admission.

“These students have demonstrated impressive academic, leadership and character qualities,” Maloney said, “and I commend their commitment to serve our country.”

Area Residents Graduate from Regional Colleges

John Kearns of Cold Spring graduated on May 9, 2015, during Emmanuel College’s 93rd Commencement Exercises on its campus in Boston. Kearns received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English communication, media and cultural studies during the ceremony.

Founded in 1919 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Emmanuel College is a Catholic, coeducational, liberal arts and sciences, residential college with a 17-acre campus in the heart of Boston’s educational, scientific, cultural and medical communities.

Ryan Kenna of Cold Spring graduated as a member of the Class of 2015 at Union College during the college’s 232nd Commencement on Sunday, June 14. Kenna graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in English. Kenna is a 2011 graduate of Haldane High School.

Union College, founded in 1795 as the first college chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, offers programs in the liberal arts and engineering to 2,100 undergraduates of high academic promise and strong personal motivation.

Three Philipstown residents graduated from Mariast College the weekend of May 22. Emily Lombardo received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history/adolescence education. Jacqueline Simard received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and Vincent Tamagna received a Bachelor of Science degree in liberal studies — organizational leadership and communication.

Mariast is an independent comprehensive liberal arts college with an enrollment of 4,800 full-time undergraduate students. Founded in 1929, the college offers 44 major fields of undergraduate study and 12 graduate degree programs.

Graduation Dates and Times

Haldane will hold its high school graduation ceremony at 10:30 a.m. this Saturday, June 20, in the “bell” parking area up on the hill.

Garrison Union Free School’s eighth grade graduation takes place at 6 p.m. next Wednesday, June 24.

Beacon High School’s commencement will take place at 9 a.m. at Dutchess Stadium on Saturday, June 27. Stadium seating is unlimited and no tickets are required. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
Paramount Hudson Valley Turns 85
Marshall Tucker Band helps blow out candles
By Alison Rooney

Of the nearly 2,000 glorious motion picture palaces built by Publix Pictures, a subsidiary of Paramount Pictures, back in the 1930s, the Paramount Hudson Valley is only one of a handful still in operation. The others, in differing current guises, dot the country, in places like Austin, Denver, Seattle and Kansas City.

On opening day — June 27, 1930 — 1,500 movie goers were treated not only to the main feature, The Big Pond, starring Claudette Colbert and Maurice Chevalier, but to an overture performed by the Paramount Symphony orchestra. With eight decades of peaks and valleys

entered what its current owners hope is its ninth, flourishing, life just two years ago, when Red House Entertainment, led by its founder, Peekskill-raised Kurt Heitmann, took over its management and operations. Red House was, in fact, formed expressly for the purpose of regenerating the Paramount. Now, the Paramount will mark the occasion of its 85th birthday with a concert by the Marshall Tucker Band, reprising a successful performance given at the venue a year ago.

Heitmann, a multi-Emmy-winning audio engineer whose company focuses on entertainment and sporting events, had a soft spot for the Paramount dating back to his years spent growing up in Peekskill. He says that he and his partners were realistic about the challenges in front of them upon taking over the management of the theater. “We had a plan going in … and there were three things we wanted to accomplish: keeping the theater open and vibrant, establishing it as a community theater, and attracting big name acts.”

Filling the house

In its heyday, from the 1930 opening through the end of the 1940s, the Peekskill Paramount had no trouble filling its expansive block of seats. Its up-to-the-minute design, by the specialty firm of Charles and George Rapp, featured, in a description of the day, “a mammoth cooling and air-conditioning plant, a beautifully furnished lounge, rest rooms and many other exclusive features.” A Wurlitzer theater organ, rest rooms and many other exclusive features. “We had a plan going in ... and there were three things we wanted to accomplish: keeping the theater open and vibrant, establishing it as a community theater, and attracting big name acts.”

Dinosaurs in Dockside Park June 27

A hungry Tyrannosaurus Rex will make a short work of sunset picnickers when the Cold Spring Film Society opens its Fifth Annual Free Summer Film Series in Dockside Park on Saturday, June 27, with the blockbuster Jurassic Park (Steven Spielberg, 1993). The lineup of outdoor movies screening on the Cold Spring waterfront includes a mix of classics, cult films and family favorites.

If dinosaurs at sunset aren’t your thing, go for classic pairings: Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant light up the screen on July 11 in The Philadelphia Story (1940), and Jimmy Stewart and Grace Kelly shine in Hitchcock’s thriller Rear Window (1954) on Aug. 22. Not cool enough for you? How about Paul Newman facing 50 eggs in the 1967 favorite Cool Hand Luke or Harrison Ford as the dystopian replicant hunter in Ridley Scott’s sci-fi masterpiece Blade Runner (1982). From Hitchcock to Disney, Tom Cruise to Sean Young — this summer film season has got a star-studded something for every taste.

All films start at sunset in Dockside Park (entrance just north of the Cold Spring bandstand). Admission is free and open to all.

Visit coldspringfilm.org for the full schedule or to make a tax-deductible donation.

Radio Free Beacon

The Ground updates community radio for the Internet age
By Brian PJ Cronin

Thunderous sounds of rock ‘n’ roll blast through the studio of The Ground, Beacon’s new community radio station. The problem is, they’re not coming from the studio itself.

Vicki Vergolina, who co-founded the station with Josh Kogan, is standing in the former assistant principal’s office in the old Beacon High School. This office, once a pit stop for troublemakers on their way to detention, has been the home of the station since January. After months of planning, building, and pre-recording some initial shows, The Ground officially launched with 12 shows earlier this month. But the high school is also home to bakers, art studios, and musicians; and it sounds as if someone directly below Vergolina’s office is playing。“It sounds as if someone directly below Vergolina’s office is playing.”
FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Kids & Community

Classic Films for Children: Swiss Family Robinson (1960)
4:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
450-265-5937 | chapelrestoration.org
Bannewman Island Guided Tour & Summit Hike
6 p.m. Newburgh dock
800-979-3370 | bannewmanctca.org

Film & Theater

[Viva Cinemal Latino Film Festival]
Noon. First films
1 p.m. Featured
9 p.m. Reception
450-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org
8 p.m. The Depot Restaurant
Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Boscobel
8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-631-3390 x100 | tarrytownmusichall.org
10 a.m. Parking area off Route 9D, Garrison
10 a.m. Thayer Hotel, West Point
8 a.m. Parking area off Route 9D, Garrison
10 a.m. Thayer Hotel, West Point
914-428-0035 | tarrytownmusichall.org

Summer Menu AT THE GARRISON
Raw Bar, Charcuterie, Daily house-made pasta, Burgers, and more.

GOLF. DINE. STAY.
Discover The Garrison
845-424-3604 | thegarrison.com

The Calendar
For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info.
Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

Kids & Community
Path Through History Weekend
paththroughhistoryweekends.com

Sandy Hackett’s Rat Pack Show
8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Bryan Adams
8 p.m. Bethel Woods
200 Wood Road, Bethel
866-781-2922 | betheldiscovercenter.org

Peter Cals & Band
8 p.m. BeanRunner Café
201 S. Division, Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Christine Lavin & Don White
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-845-1300 | townecrier.com

Lucky House
9 p.m. Whistling Willy’s 
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-205-2012 | whistlingwillys.com

Lee B
9 p.m. Marx’s on Main 
246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6297 | maxsonman.com

Travel as Waves
9 p.m. Quinn’s
330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnabeacon.com

Melissa Fraudotta Band
9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-0624 | 12grapes.com

New York Hilton
10 p.m. The Hudson Room
23 Division St., Peekskill
914-788-3663 | hudsonroom.com

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Kids & Community
Path Through History Weekend
paththroughhistoryweekends.com

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Boscobel
10 a.m. Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

Farm Store Open
9 a.m. - Noon, Glywood Farm
362 Glywood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3365 | glywoodfarm.org

Ultimate Family Yard Sale
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Stormville Airport
426 Route 216, Stormville
845-221-6561 | stormvilleairport.com

12th Annual Roosevelt Reading Festival
9:45 a.m. - 5 p.m. FDR Library (Wallace Center)
4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park
845-460-7745 | fdrlibrary.marist.edu

Free Guided History Tours
10 a.m. - Noon. West Point Foundry Preserve
845-861-2540 | westpointband.com

Vertical Gardening
10 a.m. The Depot Cooperative Extension
1 Genesee Road, Brewster
845-278-6730 | counties.cce.cornell.edu/putnam

Clearwater Great Hudson River River
9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Croton Point Park
877-435-9940 | clearwater.org

Cruise Tour of Bannerman Island
11 a.m. & 12:30 & 3 p.m. Beacon dock
800-979-3370 | bannermanresort.com

Aiming to Please Program
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Knox’s Headquarters
280 Forge Hill Road, Vails Gate
845-962-5408 | rvparks.com

Katy Center Days
11:30 a.m. Nature | 1 p.m. Waterfall
Hudson River Expeditions
845-809-5935 | hudsonriverexpeditions.com

4-H Puppet Show
11:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Family Fun Day
Noon - 4 p.m. Therapeutic Equestrian Center
115 Boxwood Lane, Cold Spring
845-645-3409 | myfettettakings.com

Beer, Bourbon & Bacon Festival
2 p.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds
6500 Spring Brook Ave., Rhinebeck
beerbournabacon.com

Constitution Island Seafood Gala
4 p.m. Bus tour from Metro-North station, Cold Spring
845-265-2501 | constitutionisland.org

Free Admission
5 - 8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
845-471-0589 | midhudsonmuseum.org

Summer Solstice Farm Dinner
5 - 8 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Sake Tasting
5 - 7 p.m. Quinn’s
330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnabeacon.com

Hikes
Castle Rock Unique Area (Moderate)
10 a.m. parking area off Route 9D, Garrison
917-690-1169 | midhudsonvista.org

Fortress West Point Historic (Easy)
10 a.m. Thayer Hotel, West Point
845-424-3353 x17 | nhc.org | Registration required.

Kids & Community
Manitoga Tours
1:30 p.m. Extended | 5:30 p.m. Sunset
584 Route 9D, Garrison
845-831-0012 | midhudsonvista.org

Film & Theater

[Viva Cinemal Latino Film Festival]
10:30 a.m. First films
1 p.m. Featured
9 a.m. Reception
9 a.m. Parking area off Route 9D, Garrison
9 a.m. Parking area off Route 9D, Garrison
9 a.m. Parking area off Route 9D, Garrison
8 a.m. Parking area off Route 9D, Garrison

Music

Clearwater Great Hudson River River
11 a.m. Joanne Shenandoah & Clearwater Family Band
1215 p.m. Angelique Kidjo
145 p.m. Sherry Lynne
3:15 p.m. Los Lobos
4:45 p.m. Neko Case
6:15 p.m. David Crosby
7:45 p.m. Citizen Cope
Croton Point Park
877-435-9940 | clearwater.org

Gospel Café
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

West Point Band: Saturday in the Park
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

Abcs of Jazz
8 p.m. BeanRunner Café
See details under Friday.

Marcus Lovett with Laurence Holgood
8 a.m. Sedgefield Boathouse
1026 Barrett Circle West, Kent
845-228-2000 | artsonthelake.org

Live Music

8 p.m. The Depot Restaurant
1 Depot Square, Cold Spring
845-425-5000 | coldspringdepot.com

The Bacon Brothers
8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall 
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-633-3390 x 00 | tarrytownmusichall.org

SUMMER MENU AT THE GARRISON
Raw Bar, Charcuterie, Daily house-made pasta, Burgers, and more.

GOLF. DINE. STAY.
Discover The Garrison
845-424-3604 | thegarrison.com

The Gift Hut
In the U.S.A.
Gifthut06@aim.com
Phone 845.297.3786
Made in the U.S.A.
Very unique!
SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Father's Day
Kids & Community
Path Through History Weekend
Beacon Flea Market
Clearwater Great Hudson River Revival
Beacon Farmers' Market
Kayak Tours
Clearwater Cruise Tour of Bannerman Island
Children and Families: Aquatic Creatures Feature
Children's Day
Free Admission for Fathers
Desmond-Fish Reception
Kids: Open-Mic Night
Film & Theater
Steel Magnolias
The Many Storms and Last Days of Thomas Morton (2015) with Q-and-A
The Writer's Table (Preview)
Kids & Community
Bridge Club
Beaches and Books Early Literacy Program
Health & Fitness
Yoga with a View
Film & Theater
National Theater Live: The Hard Problem
Music

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

Kids & Community
Knitting Club
Cruise Tour of Bannerman Island
Highland Garden House
Behind-The-Scenes Tour
Film Store Open

TUESDAY NIGHTS

Music
Chris Cerano
Meetings & Lectures
Framed Protection Workshop
Tuesdays on the Farm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Kids & Community
Mahjong Open Play
Desmond-Fish Library
Tinkergarten Trial Class (ages 1.5 to 5 years)
Bonfire Summer Reading Kick-off
Towne Crier Cafe Children and Families: Tinkergarten Trial Class (ages 1.5 to 5 years)
Photo by Towne Crier Cafe

New student special: $40 for 1-month unlimited yoga
914-737-6624  |  12grapes.com
6 - 8 p.m. 12 Grapes  |  12 N. Division St., Peekskill
4 - 6 p.m. Mandeville House
845-424-3020  |  desmondfishlibrary.org
1005 Lower Station Road, Garrison
7 p.m. Garrison Institute

Music
Chris Cerano
9 p.m. Quin's | See details under Friday.
Meetings & Lectures
Framed Protection Workshop
2 p.m. Howland Public Library

Wednesday, June 24

Kids & Community
Mahjong Open Play
10 a.m. - 1 p.m., VFH Hall
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-4618  |  philipstowncreation.org
Desmond-Fish Library
10:15 a.m. Music & Motion for Toddlers
2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134  |  beaconlibrary.org
Riverfront Kids Chorus (ages 9-13)
4 p.m., Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon  |  845-264-3393
rivertownkids.org

Click for more information.
**The Calendar**

**Graduation Ceremony**
6 p.m. Garrison Middle School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3405
gus@.

**Health & Fitness**
Chair Yoga for Seniors (First Session)
9:30 a.m. Continental Village Clubhouse
703 Main St., Beacon
845-865-1300 | townecmca.org

**Films & Theater**

**Children’s Films**
7:30 p.m. Hudson Room | Details under Friday
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

**Music**

**Kids’ Events**
7:30 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-865-1300 | beaconlibrary.org

**Sports**
H.V. Renegades vs. Lowell
6:35 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

**Health & Fitness**
Chair Yoga for Seniors (First Session)
9:30 a.m. Continental Village Clubhouse
703 Main St., Beacon
845-865-1300 | townecmca.org

**Films & Theater**

**Children’s Films**
7:30 p.m. Hudson Room | Details under Friday
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

**Music**

**Kids’ Events**
7:30 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-865-1300 | beaconlibrary.org

**Sports**
H.V. Renegades vs. Vermont
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

**Film & Theater**

**Children’s Films**
7:30 p.m. Hudson Room | Details under Friday
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

**Music**

**Kids’ Events**
7:30 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-865-1300 | beaconlibrary.org

**Sports**
H.V. Renegades vs. Vermont
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

**Film & Theater**
International Film Night: Waqia (Saudi Arabia, 2012)
7 p.m. Howard Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-865-1303 | beaconlibrary.org

**Music**
Train / The Fray / Matt Nathanson
7 p.m. Bethel Woods. | 845-768-6000

**Sports**
Baseball with Santa Rosa Takes to the stage inside the theater at 7 p.m. On the preceding Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20, ¡Viva Cineman!, a Latin Film Festival includes films with a dancing demonstration and on-stage lessons, followed by a preview screening of a new film, Havana Rumba! On Saturday, June 20, include a program of Film Short Films, geared for children (12 and up) with animations and narrative shorts written and directed by Hispanic filmmakers and animators.

The goal of diversity does not extend solely to audiences, but to genres of programming. The Paramount has performed presentations by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival touring company, children’s programming, and shows as part of the Peekskill Music Festival. The lineup of artists and shows over the next few months features, among others, a little bit of country, in the form of Wynonna, then a little bit of rock ‘n’ roll, Southern style, with The Outlaws. Carlos Vives, the singer-songwriting daughter of Gordon Lightfoot, comedy from Sinbad and another singer-songwriter who was a part of the “Ramones’” Joey Ramone, and an evening of American Pie while living near vicinity of Gordon McLean. In addition, a Nov. 7 program in the form of a one-man show examines the life of the African-American actor, singer, orator and political activist Paul Robeson, whose outdoor performances in Peekskill in 1949 sparked the hatred that fueled the infamously racist.

With a goal of cultivating artists from within the regional community, and from that, developing reciprocal support from the community for the theater, the Paramount has booked many local bands as opening acts. Just last week Philipstown’s three-woman harmony-singing group MotherLode opened for Judy Collins, while the Westchester group Sundown will do the same for the Marshall Tucker Band. Some of the bands and artists are drawn from a contest called Best of the Hudson Valley, which has given bands and bands an opportunity to play on the Paramount’s stage. In addition, regular open-mic nights alternate monthly with comedy nights, some victor wins up being rewarded with opening act gigs.

“Movie palaces used to be the center of the town, the catalyst for it. Now malls can do it,” Heitmann said.

For information on the Paramount Hudson Valley’s upcoming events, including the 85th birthday celebration, visit paramonthonudsonvalley.com or call 914-739-0039.

---

**Paramount Hudson Valley Turns 85**

(from page 7)

Ticket sales as movies themselves were supplanted by other forms of entertainment, including television, in the 1950s and beyond. At the same time, Paramount and other theater-owning studios faced anti-trust lawsuits from the Justice Department charging them with monopolizing their product by screening them exclusively at their own theaters.

Paramount sold the building in 1971 and it was acquired by a tax default by the City of Peekskill in 1971. The city then leased the building to a nonprofit, the Peekskill Area Arts Council Inc., and the newly named Paramount Center for the Arts emerged from all these transactions. Despite improvements to the physical plant, with restorations done to walls and ceilings showing off some of the original tin ceilings showing off some of the ob-
Radio Free Beacon (from page 7)

feet is hell bent on mastering John Bonham's drum fills from Moby Dick in double time and triple-voluntary.

“I guess we’re going to have to do something about that,” says Vergolina. Over-enthusiastic drummers are just one of the challenges that The Ground has had to overcome. The project began two years ago after Kogan and Vergolina met each other through a mutual friend. Kogan, an environmental engineer and community activist, had a vision of founding a local radio station in Beacon in order to bring the city together and give people a chance to be heard. Vergolina, who has worked in radio since the 1990s, thought it was a great idea. After some fundraising to purchase the equipment, they put out a call for hosts and got a few brave takers. They’re still looking for hosts (anyone who is interested in having a show should contact the station at thegroundradio@gmail.com) and equipment (if you’ve got a working turntable or a rack-mounted CD player you don’t need anymore, let them know), but their dream of broadcasting to Beacon has finally been achieved. One day, they hope to have an actual terrestrial radio signal. For now, you can listen online at thegroundradio.com.

There, you can find the archive of all shows that have been recorded so far as well as listen in to the live stream. Even shows that are recorded, you can listen online at thegroundradio.com.

There are so many people willing to invest their own time and their own income into something that doesn’t make money but is instead about making your community richer.

“Meredith and I decided to do it together because every time we get together we’d just talk about food — different recipes we had just tested, and debunking techniques we’d heard about,” Clair said. “This is a way to force ourselves to go out and learn new things. All of our show topics are very simple and direct like ‘broth’ or ‘greens.’ Next week is GMOs (genetically modified organisms). So then we spend all week researching it. Radio is pretty seamless with teaching. Radio is like standing in front of a large group of people and expounding on topics, answering questions. It’s basically what I already do all day long.”

For Terry Nelson, host of Mistapec Beacon and founder of the Beacon International Film Festival, The Ground offers a nice change of pace from what he normally does all day. “It’s a great release from working on the film festival, because it’s something that I enjoy, but I’m not in charge of it.”

Nelson grew up with FM radio, which he used to discover new music. “Stations in New York City were playing lots of really diverse music,” he said. “It wasn’t like it is today.” With Mistapec Beacon, Nelson brings back that old-school eclecticism by playing a wide range of styles in between interviews and sharing his own thoughts.

And when he’s not broadcasting, he’s listening. “The shows are all so different,” he said. “Everyone has their own distinct voice. It’s really good to hear from your neighbors, hear what’s on their mind and what they like to listen to.”

As diverse as the existing 12 shows are, Vergolina would like to hear more. “People and expounding on topics, answering questions. It’s basically what I already do all day long.”

“We’re not steering the content because it’s up to the community to do that.”

Come on in, we want all voices. We want all walks of life. We’ll train you and you can come in and just mess around. I’m excited to see what people bring to the table.”

And as she says that, the drums, mercifully, stop and the studio fills with silence.

Clair and Heuer, who are professional culinary instructors and food photographers, respectively, came up with the idea for the show as a way to share their passions with the community.

Joining the conversation

“There’s a lot of creative souls here and there’s a lot of people with a lot to talk about,” Vergolina said. “Sometimes they don’t connect. But if we can get some conversations going out there, people will discover some new things. There’s some interesting folks in this town.”

Jennifer Clair agreed. “There’s so much talent here,” Clair said. Clair co-hosts, with her friend Meredith Heuer, a food talk show called Chewing The Fat. “There are so many people willing to invest their own time and their own income into something that doesn’t make money but is instead about making your community richer.”

“Stations in New York City were playing lots of really diverse music,” he said. “It wasn’t like it is today.” With Mistapec Beacon, Nelson brings back that old-school eclecticism by playing a wide range of styles in between interviews and sharing his own thoughts.

And when he’s not broadcasting, he’s listening. “The shows are all so different,” he said. “Everyone has their own distinct voice. It’s really good to hear from your neighbors, hear what’s on their mind and what they like to listen to.”

As diverse as the existing 12 shows are, Vergolina would like to hear more. “We’re offering the platform,” she said. Clair and Heuer, who are professional culinary instructors and food photographers, respectively, came up with the idea for the show as a way to share their passions with the community.

Joining the conversation

“There’s a lot of creative souls here and there’s a lot of people with a lot to talk about,” Vergolina said. “Sometimes they don’t connect. But if we can get some conversations going out there, people will discover some new things. There’s some interesting folks in this town.”

Jennifer Clair agreed. “There’s so much talent here,” Clair said. Clair co-hosts, with her friend Meredith Heuer, a food talk show called Chewing The Fat. “There are so many people willing to invest their own time and their own income into something that doesn’t make money but is instead about making your community richer.”

“Meredith and I decided to do it together because every time we get together we’d just talk about food — different recipes we had just tested, and debunking techniques we’d heard about,” Clair said. “This is a way to force ourselves to go out and learn new things. All of our show topics are very simple and direct like ‘broth’ or ‘greens.’ Next week is GMOs (genetically modified organisms). So then we spend all week researching it. Radio is pretty seamless with teaching. Radio is like standing in front of a large group of people and expounding on topics, answering questions. It’s basically what I already do all day long.”

For Terry Nelson, host of Mistapec Beacon and founder of the Beacon International Film Festival, The Ground offers a nice change of pace from what he normally does all day. “It’s a great release from working on the film festival, because it’s something that I enjoy, but I’m not in charge of it.”

Nelson grew up with FM radio, which he used to discover new music. “Stations in New York City were playing lots of really diverse music,” he said. “It wasn’t like it is today.” With Mistapec Beacon, Nelson brings back that old-school eclecticism by playing a wide range of styles in between interviews and sharing his own thoughts.

And when he’s not broadcasting, he’s listening. “The shows are all so different,” he said. “Everyone has their own distinct voice. It’s really good to hear from your neighbors, hear what’s on their mind and what they like to listen to.”

As diverse as the existing 12 shows are, Vergolina would like to hear more. “We’re offering the platform,” she said. Clair and Heuer, who are professional culinary instructors and food photographers, respectively, came up with the idea for the show as a way to share their passions with the community.
Students Present Fashion as Art III Event set for June 19 at bandstand

Fashion as Art is back for its third year. This year high school students Alex Gariepy and Wylie Thorquata are organizing the event with help from Gallery 66. The fashion show highlights creations by local high school students. This year’s original creations will take as their theme the various looks of “Decades” and will include fashion designs by over a dozen students. The enthusiasm of the show has spread and several male students are present at the crash site. Plans are underway to preserve the wreckage site along with a memorial ceremony in the fall. Hikers should meet in the parking lot at the intersection of Sunnyside and Fairview Roads in Fishkill. Look for the “Scene Hudson Fashion Hilton” sign. Bring water and bug spray. The rain-or-shine hike will start promptly at 10 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m. The free event is part of the 1 I Love NY Path Through History weekend. Pre-registration requested at 914-819-8792 or coyoteroce@verizon.net.

Desmond-Fish Library to Host Genealogy Workshop
Presentation on June 23 will focus on online resources

The Desmond-Fish Library will host a free genealogy seminar at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, as part of its ongoing Summer Learning Series of free computer classes for adults. The session will be hosted by local genealogist Cathy Liburne and Chip Rowe and cover the basics of navigating Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Findagrave.com and other popular family history sites, as well as how to use the information you find for boots-on-the-ground research trips.

The summer computer learning series continues with Social Media Promotion for Businesses, Freelancers and Non-Profits, on Tuesday, June 30, followed by Make your Website with Wix (July 7), Protect its, on Tuesday, June 30, followed by Protect your Identity Online with Free Tools (July 14) and a special clinic on Etsy for beginners and advanced users (July 21). All sessions are free and begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Desmond-Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403 in Garrison. Phone 845-424-3020 or visit desmondfishlibrary.org for more information.

Music by Local Composer Ben Yarmolinsky
Performed by divi.sion
Event set for July 5 at Chapel Restoration

A concert of new and recent chamber music by local composer Ben Yarmolinsky will be performed by the divi.sion music co-op from 4 p.m. on Sunday July 5 at the Chapel Restoration. The diverse program will include March” for flute, clarinet and piano, “Violin Sonata, Dark Eyes Variations” for flute clarinet and piano quartet, “Twinkelkle Variations” for piano trio and “Piano Quartet and Ballpark Variations” for clarinet, piano and cellos.

Yarmolinsky, a resident of New York City and Cold Spring, is a singer/songwriter, lyricist, guitarist, accompanist, conductor and lecturer. He majored in music at Harvard and spent two years in Paris, studying guitar at the Ecole Normale de Musique and privately with Nadia Boulanger. In New York, Yarmolinsky studied composition with David Del Tredici, Lester Trumble, and Ned Rorem and received a doctorate in music in 1995 from the City University of New York. He is professor of music at the Bronx Community College and author of numerous musical compositions. Members of divi.sion who will perform are Margaret Swinchowski, flute; Don Makrynski, clarinet, Kurt Briggs, violin, Matt Goeko, cello, and Renée Cometa Briggs, piano. The Chapel Restoration is at 45 Market St., Cold Spring. Suggested donation is $20. $10 for students and seniors, free for children under 12.

Registration Open for Run 4 Your Life Event
Brewster walk/run takes place Sept. 27

The Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) has announced that online registration for the Second Annual Run 4 Your Life event is now open. Building on last year’s success with over 300 participants, this year’s event will take place on Sunday, Sept. 27. The first 25 adult runners or walkers to register online receive a free T-shirt, a one-month membership to NY Sports Club and commemorative race glass. Run 4 Your Life is actually three events of various distances, starting at 10 a.m. with a 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) race, followed by a 1-mile walk and a kids’ half-mile Fun Run. All events will start and finish by the PCDOH at 1 George Road in Brewster.

All proceeds, commission of health for Putnam County, said: “The event was conceived not only to promote running and walking as ideal ways to enhance fitness, but also to showcase how much more fun they can be when shared with family and friends. So it is a full morning of fun, rain or shine, complete with free post-race refreshments for all.” Online registration can be accessed through the Health Department webpage at putnamcountyny.gov/health, where entry forms can be downloaded.

Organizations that would like to sponsor or have volunteers who would like to help out on race day can call PCDOH at 845-808-1380.

Tick Talk: Panel to Discuss Ticks, Disease
Experts speak July 2 at Desmond-Fish Library

The Desmond-Fish Library will offer a Tick Talk panel discussion at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 2. A panel of experts will present the most current information on ticks, the pathogens they carry and treatments or resulting illnesses.

The panel includes Matt Decker, Hudson Highlands Land Trust stewardship coordinator, who will share his knowledge of how ticks fit into the food web, their life cycle and factors that effect their populations and rates of Lyme infection. Dr. Matt Frye is an extension educator with the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program at Cornell University. Frye’s presentation will cover identification and basic biology of the four common tick species in the area. Information on how individuals can avoid ticks with personal protection and habitat management will also be discussed.

Putnam County Health Department’s Kristine Boyle, health educator, and Rachel Green, senior public health nurse, will discuss ticks and the diseases they can carry as a public health concern, the importance of prevention measures, and tick-borne illness treatment.

The Desmond-Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403 (at the corner of 9D) in Garrison. For more information about the library’s upcoming programs, visit desmondfishlibrary.org or call 845-424-3020.

TV Guide Chief and Controversial Tennis Player Speak in Kent

Journalist Neil Hickey and Dr. Renee Richards, both Kent residents, will have a conversation on the occasion of their recent Books at the Lake, on Saturday, June 27.

In his career as a premier journalist, Hickey interviewed five U.S. presidents, spent a day with Henry Kissinger and walked through a minefield in the war to liberate Kuwait. He was New York bureau chief of TV Guide, and is a former editor of the Columbia Journalism Review. Richards’ life as the first athlete to play successfully in professional sports as a transsexual and then to coach tennis champion Martina Navratilova returned to the news as a result of Caitlyn Jenner. Although as a noted eye surgeon she has worked with some of the most famous surgeons, Richards is better known for two autobiographies, Second Serve and No Holding Back. Hickey brought out Adventures in the Scribblers Trade this year and Richards released Spy Night & Other Memories last year. As Hickey reports in Second Serve, they met as neighbors in Kent and have played tennis together for 20 years. The evening, to include Q-and-A and book signing, is open to the community with no charge. Reservations to rsvp@artsonthehudson.org or 845-228-2065 are encouraged. AotL is located in the Lake Carmel Arts Center, 640 Route 52, Kent Lakes.

Photograph by Cathy West Mullins

Eric Rizzi makes his way down the runway in an outfit designed by fellow student Macdara Heame at the 2014 Fashion as Art show.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Galazzo
**Free Trial Class Offered June 22 on Early Childhood Education**

Early childhood education classes through Tinkergarten are available in Cold Spring and Beacon. Local leader Kim Chase will offer a free trial class for children 18 months through 5 years of age on June 22, at the West Point Foundry Preserve in Cold Spring. Tinkergarten is a unique grassroots effort that brings early childhood education to local green spaces in communities around the country. Tinker-garten classes are brought to life by active parents and community volunteers with the idea of kids learning skills that matter through outdoor play-based activities. Meghan and Brian Fitzgerald started Tinkergarten as a side project sparked by their desire to ensure their own kids could experience the unbridled, outdoor play that they enjoyed as children.

Chase, the Westchester Tinkergarten leader for Cold Spring and Beacon, has taught environmental science education for over 30 years. She is also a musician and brings a musical element to her classes. She lives in Cold Spring and has two young children.

To register for the free class and learn more, visit tinkergarten.com/leaders/kim.chase.

---

**Clearwater Festival Takes Place This Weekend**

The 2015 Clearwater Festival will take place on Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21, at Croton Point Park in Croton-on-Hudson. Festival gates open to attendees on Saturday at 9 a.m.

Clearwater’s Great Hudson River Revival (aka “the Clearwater Festival” or “Revival”) features seven sustainably powered stages with dance, storytelling and family-oriented programming as well as a jubilant Handcrafters Village at the Living Waterfront with small boat exhibits and rides, the Artisanal Food & Farm Market, environmental education displays and the World Café, a place to enjoy a sample of foods from the Circle of Song where audience participation is the focus. The festival is wheelchair accessible and most stage programming is staffed with American Sign Language interpreters. Learn more at clearwater-festival.org.

---

**Scoliosis Awareness Walk June 27**

Scoliosis Awareness Walk June 27

Straight Walk with Curvy Girls

The Hudson Valley chapter of Curvy Girls Scoliosis Support Groups will host a scoliosis awareness walk and a 6 p.m. on June 27 (rain or shine) at Scenic Hudson’s Long Dock Park in Beacon.

To celebrate International Scoliosis Awareness Day, the Hudson Valley Curvy Girls will walk to raise scoliosis awareness in the community. In true ‘Curvy Girl’ spirit, the group will also collect funds to help children in Africa with scoliosis receive treatment in Ghana. Participants can enjoy beautiful trails at the park, learn about scoliosis, and support children in Africa. Refreshments will be available to participants throughout the walk.

Scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine that impacts infants, adolescents and adults. The primary age of onset is 10 to 15 years; scoliosis occurs equally among genders. Females, however, are eight times more likely to progress to a curve magnitude that requires treatment (scoliosis.org).

The Hudson Valley chapter of Curvy Girls began in 2012 to help local girls and their families with the emotional impact that the condition brings. It believes that by offering advice and support to one another, girls feel less alone and are empowered to face the challenges of scoliosis in their lives with confidence.

Hudson Valley Curvy Girls meets on the first Saturday of each month at locations in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Contact Hudson Valley Curvy Girls at HVNY@CurvyGirlsScoliosis.com or 845-454-2504. Join the event at facebook.com.

---

**Toast of the Town June 27 at Boscobel**

1800s cocktail party with presentation by Max Watman

Boscobel will host Toast of the Town, a presentation on cocktails of the 1800s and the tools that were likely to accompany them, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 27.

This year’s guest speaker is food and drink journalist and author Max Watman. The evening will encompass the history of alcoholic drinking and lead a selection of antique cocktails. Warwick Valley Winery & Distillery will provide samples, and for guests and explain what goes into each and why. Live period music performed by Thaddeus MacGregor will follow.

Toast of the Town takes place in the west meadow, under the pavilion at Boscobel on Route 9D just south of Cold Spring. Space is limited, purchase tickets in advance at boscobel.org. The $45 admission includes four sample-size cocktails, light snacks and live music along with the presentation. A designated driver rate is available. (All guests must be age 21 or over).

Visit boscobel.org or call 845-265-3638.

---

**Chapel Restoration Screens Swiss Family Robinson**

Film series returns June 23

The Chapel’s Classic Films for Children series is back with an end-of-school-year adventure tale for the whole family. Walt Disney’s 1960 version of Swiss Family Robinson instantly became one of the studio’s biggest hits. The tale of a family shipwrecked on a deserted island, forced to contend with wild animals and pirates, is a must-see for kids and adults alike. The New York Times review went so far as to say that “any parent who denies it to the kids deserves to be shipwrecked on an island.”

The event begins at 4 p.m. on June 23, at the Chapel Restoration (45 Market St., Cold Spring) with a special screening of a student-made documentary film Muhekeontakon – The Forgotten Valley, by Haldane students in Simon Lucan’s fourth grade class. Swiss Family Robinson starts at 4:30 p.m.

Suggested donation is $5. For ages 7 and up. Some content may be unsuitable (and scary) for younger children.

---

**Beacon**

Beacon Builds Team for Battle of the Books

Participants meet Thursdays June 25-Aug. 27

Beacon’s Howland Public Library and 23 other libraries from the five counties of the Mid-Hudson Library System are recruiting students entering grades 4 through 8 to participate in the 11th annual Battle of the Books. The Battle of the Books is a nationally recognized literate game in which young people answer trivia questions based on specific books that they have read during the summer. It is designed to expose young people to good books and new friendships and to build teamwork skills and good sportsmanship while enjoying friendly competition.

Students at Howland Public Library will participate in coaching activities and practice battles every Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. between June 25 through Aug. 27 (including pizza). The library will supply the books and team T-shirts. Then on Saturday, Sept. 12, all 24 teams will participate in the regional Battle of the Books at the George Fisher Middle School in Carmel, where the 2015 Battle of the Books winner will be chosen. The Beacon Bees were champions in 2010 and 2013.

As with most public library programs, there is no fee to participate. The program is funded through individual libraries and donations from friends. Howland Public Library received a special donation from the Friends of the Library, the Allstate Foundation and M&T Bank. To register or for more information, contact Angela Figlia, Youth Services, at angela@beaconlibrary.org or 845-833-1155, ext. 103.

---

**Saudi Film Wadjad to Show at Howland Library**

Free screening June 26 in Beacon

The Saudi Arabian film Wadjad will be shown at the Howland Public Library in Beacon at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 26. This film provides a unique glimpse into the day-to-day existence of young girls and women in Saudi Arabia. In particular, it tells of two girls, who dream of owning a bike. The film runs for 97 minutes and is rated PG. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the film starts promptly at 7 p.m.

The Howland Public Library shows a different international film each month. All films are shown in their original language with English subtitles. Admission is free and no registration is required.

For more information, contact Alison Herrero, adult services librarian, at 845-833-1154.
Along the way, they’ve built a loyal, passionate customer base, those who make long, constant trips up Route 9 with little ones in tow. But those customers were in for a surprise when a third branch of the store suddenly appeared overnight on the east end of Beacon’s Main Street, with seemingly no advance notice. Was it for real? Or a hallucination caused by constant sleep deprivation?

Rest assured, the Beacon location is for real. And though it may have appeared out of nowhere, Beacon has long been on founder Jenn Sullivan’s radar. She found the perfect spot, 484 Main St., two years ago. The only problem was that someone else was in it. At the time, the storefront housed the offices for The Roundhouse, which had just opened across the street. “I always figured that they wouldn’t need these spots forever because I knew the Roundhouse would expand,” Sullivan said. “In my head, two years ago, I said ‘This spot is going to be available someday.’”

Sure enough, after a Mother’s Day meal at Dogwood this past May, Sullivan and her family wandered down Main Street and were shocked to see that the prediction had come true: The Roundhouse had indeed moved their offices and the space was available.

Or was it? She put in a call first thing Monday morning and learned that the space was already spoken for. A few hours later, she got a call back. Well, maybe it wasn’t. When she went back to look at the space again on Tuesday, she knew she had to move fast. “Once I saw the room back there I knew it was perfect,” she said, pointing to the sizeable space in the back of the store divided by a set of doors. She knew that without the divided space, she wouldn’t be able to hold workshops and classes. “It’s hard to find a space like this with so much room in the back. It’s like Rhinebeck; all the storefronts are old and narrow.”

Sullivan signed a lease that Friday and opened three weeks later. “It’s going to be a chaotic month while I play catch-up,” she said. “I didn’t expect the community response to be so overwhelming. Already people are coming in and asking when classes will start and I tell them ‘I haven’t even had a chance to buy folding chairs yet!’

Essentials for mama and baby

The space may be chair-free for now, but Sullivan has already confirmed that there will be playgroups, breastfeeding support groups, a chiropractor, an acupuncturist, prenatal yoga, mom and baby yoga, and a lactation consultant. In the meantime, the storefront is fully stocked with a variety of products, including an extensive line of baby carriers. The carriers are a must, as they’re the reason why the store exists in the first place.

When Sullivan was a new mom in 2004, she ordered a baby carrier online and when it arrived she couldn’t figure out how to use it and didn’t know who to ask for help. “I was driving down to the city, going to stores there with a ring sling baby carrier, and most people didn’t even know what that was,” she recalled. “I thought, ‘There’s got to be a better system.’ So our focus has always been helping people use products that are kind of unusual. People like to go to a place where they can touch stuff, be heard, and talk to other people.”

Helping new parents figure out baby carriers may have been what endeared the store to so many in the first place — ask anyone who has attempted to

(Continued on next page)
Phragmites Are Moving Up the Mountain

By Pamela Doan

Daily driving on a winding, steep dirt road allows me a lot of time to observe roadside plants and take stock after season and year after year of changes. This year I’m noticing a lot of spreading of a nasty invader, Phragmites australis, or the common reed, in surprising areas that are drier than its typical wetland habitat. There are patches along the road of 10 stalks or fewer in some places and then larger patches of 20 or so stalks showing up in small areas where drainage collects. Right now they are 3- to 4-foot-tall stalks with leaves, but soon they’ll become the more recognizable frond-topped reeds dedicately waving in the breeze.

There’s a marsh near the west end of East Mountain that phragmites have been colonizing for years now, but it’s just been in the past two years that I’ve noticed their upward movement. Phragmites spread via seeds and rhizomes. In the case of the roadside patches that are appearing, I’m guessing that the machinery that’s used by the highway crews to maintain the road is moving it around. The marshland has phragmites at the road edge and their seeds are being spread as work proceeds.

Phragmites are found throughout the eastern U.S. and in some areas of the west and have been around probably since the 1800s, brought here attached to ships. As of this year, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation banned them from being sold, imported, purchased or introduced and Philipstown already had regulations on the books. In many high-value sites, like the Chesapeake Bay or locally Constitution Marsh, battling phragmites has been a long and costly endeavor.

When phragmites are introduced into a wetland, they can quickly dominate and form a dense stand that crowds out and blocks light from any other wetland plants. It affects the movement of water, and drastically alters wildlife habitat. Eric Lind, director of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, said: “We took a more proactive approach in controlling it. Research on tidal marshes with comparative bird studies showed that bird populations diminish in phragmites-dominated marshes. We knew we’d improve something measurable for the bird population here.”

In the marsh, they acted on it in the early stage and were successful in restoring the areas where they could remove it. Getting rid of phragmites is no easy task. The root systems can be several feet into the ground and the reeds can grow to 15 feet high. If there are even small rhizomes left behind, it can grow back.

Acting immediately when it shows up is the best chance of effectively getting rid of controlling phragmites. In a single summer, phragmites rhizomes can spread up to 10 feet through an area by runners. Herbicides are one method of killing it, but must be applied by a professional if used near or in a wetland. It’s the law. There can be serious consequences for aquatic plants and animals, birds and other wildlife if herbicides are applied incorrectly. There are also certain stages of the phragmites’ life cycle when herbicides can be more effective as well, and a professional will know how and when to do it.

At Constitution Marsh, Lind said: “We’ve tried multiple methods. Our main approach is called solarization, which is flattening it and then covering it with large heavy-duty black tarps. It overheats it and prevents it from photosynthesizing.” Since this method will kill all the vegetation that tarp covers, the marsh used herbicides on small patches where phragmites were mixed in with good, native plants they wanted to preserve. Lind stressed that it was best to take action early and that in their case, the goal was to prevent the plant from spreading and they had to balance the work and expense involved.

Mets Top Giants to Capture Little League Minors Championship

By Mike Meropol

The Giants had beaten the Mets three out of the four games when they had faced each other in the regular season and plenty of runs had been scored. But in the Minors’ championship game played on Saturday, June 13, when they faced each other for the fifth time, it was the Mets who came out on top, winning 2-0. For five innings pitchers from both teams fired goose eggs. Hunter Erickson for the Mets held the Giants hitless allowing just one baserunner over 50 pitches. Julian Ambrose squeezed a crying baby into one of those things while wearing it and trying to read the instruction manual at the same time—but customers keep coming back because they also know that they’ll find things there that they can’t find anywhere else.

“It’s the organic thing, the small batch thing,” she said. “Some people don’t want big production items. They want a unique, high-quality item that they can use for their first kid and then still be able to use it for their next two kids. It’s not fluff, but it’s good quality. You’re not buying a boutique outfit that’s only going to fit for three weeks.”

No matter how many kids shoppers have had, typical parents will always face new questions and new problems. Which is why Sullivan’s staff is made up of moms who have all used the products themselves, making them uniquely qualified. Though there’s one important exception.

“We have one college student on staff,” Sullivan said. “But that’s because when all of our kids get the same virus because they all play together, we need someone who can pull through.”

Waddle n Swaddle

(From previous page)

Phileston Little League Minor Mets celebrate their winning championship with coaches Stacey Twoguns, left, Lee Erickson, center, and Scott Higbee, right. Photo provided by Lee Erickson

By Pamela Doan

D

www.philipstown.info

erunner over 50 pitches. Julian Ambrose

eggs. Hunter Erickson for the Mets held

o n top, winning 2-0. For five innings

been scored. But in the Minors’ cham-

pionship game played on Saturday, June

year of changes. This year I’m noticing a lot of spreading of a nasty invader, Phragmites australis, or the common reed, in surprising areas that are drier than its typical wetland habitat. There are patches along the road of 10 stalks or fewer in some places and then larger patches of 20 or so stalks showing up in small areas where drainage collects. Right now they are 3- to 4-foot-tall stalks with leaves, but soon they’ll become the more recognizable frond-topped reeds dedicately waving in the breeze.

There’s a marsh near the west end of East Mountain that phragmites have been colonizing for years now, but it’s just been in the past two years that I’ve noticed their upward movement. Phragmites spread via seeds and rhizomes. In the case of the roadside patches that are appearing, I’m guessing that the machinery that’s used by the highway crews to maintain the road is moving it around. The marshland has phragmites at the road edge and their seeds are being spread as work proceeds.

Phragmites are found throughout the eastern U.S. and in some areas of the west and have been around probably since the 1800s, brought here attached to ships. As of this year, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation banned them from being sold, imported, purchased or introduced and Philipstown already had regulations on the books. In many high-value sites, like the Chesapeake Bay or locally Constitution Marsh, battling phragmites has been a long and costly endeavor.

When phragmites are introduced into a wetland, they can quickly dominate and form a dense stand that crowds out and blocks light from any other wetland plants. It affects the movement of water, and drastically alters wildlife habitat. Eric Lind, director of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, said: “We took a more proactive approach in controlling it. Research on tidal marshes with comparative bird studies showed that bird populations diminish in phragmites-dominated marshes. We knew we’d improve something measurable for the bird population here.”

In the marsh, they acted on it in the early stage and were successful in restoring the areas where they could remove it. Getting rid of phragmites is no easy task. The root systems can be several feet into the ground and the reeds can grow to 15 feet high. If there are even small rhizomes left behind, it can grow back.

Acting immediately when it shows up is the best chance of effectively getting rid of controlling phragmites. In a single summer, phragmites rhizomes can spread up to 10 feet through an area by runners. Herbicides are one method of killing it, but must be applied by a professional if used near or in a wetland. It’s the law. There can be serious consequences for aquatic plants and animals, birds and other wildlife if herbicides are applied incorrectly. There are also certain stages of the phragmites’ life cycle when herbicides can be more effective as well, and a professional will know how and when to do it.

At Constitution Marsh, Lind said: “We’ve tried multiple methods. Our main approach is called solarization, which is flattening it and then covering it with large heavy-duty black tarps. It overheats it and prevents it from photosynthesizing.” Since this method will kill all the vegetation that tarp covers, the marsh used herbicides on small patches where phragmites were mixed in with good, native plants they wanted to preserve. Lind stressed that it was best to take action early and that in their case, the goal was to prevent the plant from spreading and they had to balance the work and expense involved.

Mets Top Giants to Capture Little League Minors Championship

By Mike Meropol

The Giants had beaten the Mets three out of the four games when they had faced each other in the regular season and plenty of runs had been scored. But in the Minors’ championship game played on Saturday, June 13, when they faced each other for the fifth time, it was the Mets who came out on top, winning 2-0. For five innings pitchers from both teams fired goose eggs. Hunter Erickson for the Mets held the Giants hitless allowing just one baserunner over 50 pitches. Julian Ambrose squeezed a crying baby into one of those things while wearing it and trying to read the instruction manual at the same time—but customers keep coming back because they also know that they’ll find things there that they can’t find anywhere else.

“It’s the organic thing, the small batch thing,” she said. “Some people don’t want big production items. They want a unique, high-quality item that they can use for their first kid and then still be able to use it for their next two kids. It’s not fluff, but it’s good quality. You’re not buying a boutique outfit that’s only going to fit for three weeks.”

No matter how many kids shoppers have had, typical parents will always face new questions and new problems. Which is why Sullivan’s staff is made up of moms who have all used the products themselves, making them uniquely qualified. Though there’s one important exception.

“We have one college student on staff,” Sullivan said. “But that’s because when all of our kids get the same virus because they all play together, we need someone who can pull through.”

Waddle n Swaddle (From previous page)
Turtles Walked at Boscobel
Storm clouds worry humans but not reptiles

By Mary Anne Myers

The snapping turtles may have gotten more exercise than the human guests at the annual Turtle Walk at Boscobel on Saturday morning (June 13). Thunderstorms threatened, but not before Eric Lind and his team from the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center & Sanctuary had introduced the stars of the hour: three female turtles that had recently created marshland nests where they laid 30 to 35 small round leathery eggs. From those eggs that survive their natural predators, baby snapping turtles will emerge next fall or spring. The three nesters, each estimated at 30 years old, moved with some freedom around the brick floor of Boscobel’s Belvedere Lookout. As Lind explained their history and warned guests to mind their dangling toes, the turtles’ snapping reaction, he explained, is defense not offense. While not currently at risk of extinction, snapping turtles do face threats from habitat loss and road crossing. He advised anyone who wants to help a turtle cross the road to approach it carefully, only from behind, and to encourage the turtle forward in the same direction it is moving. Once the team returned the females to their temporary tube, Lind then brought out an older male snapping turtle, with estimated age of 30 years and weight of 40 pounds. As the question-and-answer period wound down, Boscobel’s executive director Steven Miller invited guests to stroll the grounds looking for new nests, but many opted to dodge the raindrops and seek breakfast in the village.

Jolly Rovers Fueled by Camaraderie (from page 1)

Once fully trained, Ingui and his colleagues fully believe that their volunteers are more than capable of doing professional work. “Volunteers in the right environment can do top-class work, and we hold every volunteer to a standard,” Ingui said.

Empowered by heavy lifting

Although female membership was low at the start of the group, women now make up more than a third of the JR. Despite what would appear to be heavy lifting demands, Ingui says “The techniques we use aren’t muscle power; we work smarter, not harder. Any of our members can move 1,000 pounds of rock by themselves, and it’s empowering. People never think they’d be able to take a 4,000-pound boulder, split it into 1,000-pound sections and move them. But it is possible, and you then take that sense of accomplishment wherever you go.” Age isn’t a factor either, with current volunteers ranging from 21 to around 65; 18 is the minimum age.

Despite the difficulties of the work, and the (un)sual lack of personal experience in it, there has yet to be a shortage of volunteers – who are often comprised of people who have encountered the JR team at work in the woods and become curious. Perhaps it is the JR’s stated mission that inspires so many: “...we specialize in the creation of stone works such as staircases, retaining walls and other structures using the old world techniques of dry stone construction. Like similar structures from the ancient world that survive to this day, our work aims to continue the legacy of aesthetic and sustainable principles achieved by those early builders. Stone survives the test of time, and when constructed properly, structures built with it can be inviting and inspiring, welcoming people who sit at desks. This is a growing of skills. When, in our lives, especially with the demands of modern life, can we create with our hands something that will be there for hundreds of years, and put together the creative and the physical? With Jolly Rovers, the stonework gets people interested, but it’s the camaraderie which keeps them there.”

Working locally at first, the JR have seen their services sought in an ever-increasing radius. In the past two months alone they have taken the stonework skills learned on Bear Mountain to improve public space all over the country, working on projects from Texas to Tennessee, and an inquiry recently came from Australia. The JR work on both existing trails and create new ones. “In the northeast, so many trails have been in existence for 60 or 70 years,” Ingui explains, “it’s hard to relocate them in a sustainable way. This includes steep, heavily eroded trails.” Their process begins with partners, often government or nonprofit groups, and the combined group makes decisions together. The work of the JR at their home base continues as well, as the Bear Mountain Trails Project is still going on, albeit now in its final stages.

Behind the Steps at Bear Mountain

July 11 hike enables visitors to discover evolution of trail project

On Saturday, July 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Jolly Rovers, in association with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, will take visitors “Behind the Steps at Bear Mountain.”

Hike the Appalachian Trail with some of the professional trail builders and volunteers who crafted the stone stairways and retaining walls along its scenic ascent to the summit. Discover what went into the construction and volunteer cultural evolution of this project. You’ll hear what goes into shaping a stone from a boulder to how it travels hundreds of feet to its final, precise destination. You’ll learn about the psychology of trail design and how individual volunteers formed into a community. This 2-mile hike aims to inspire all who attend that people can still build great things, both structurally and social.

In the words of Jolly Rovers’ Chris Ingui: “The hike is the story of what it was like coming to Bear Mountain and how Jolly Rovers and the volunteer community developed. How the inspiration for that project turned into the Jolly Rovers; something that can be replicated. We hope that people get inspiration from the hike, not just about what people can build in stone, but build with each other in community and volunteerism.”

The hike is rated moderate, with all ages welcome and breaks planned throughout. To reserve a spot, email info@hhlt.org or call 845-424-3358, ext. 6.