

The Bluff Point Association (BPA)

www.bluffpoint.org

NOVEMBER 2016

Opening Statements

Well it's finally Fall, and as we write this the grapes are ripe, and the national bird of the Finger Lakes (the fruit fly) has returned in mass. If you want to keep them out of your wine, use a Bierdeckel, (literally "beer cover"), the cardboard thing that we now call a "coaster" was originally developed to cover a stein to keep leaves and bees out of our beer when not everyone had access to a stein with a lid.

At our September Board Meeting, the BPA Board discussed the question of why someone would be motivated to become a member of the Bluff Point Association. We reviewed the purpose of the BPA and how it can be relevant in the community. It was noted that our goals differ from those of the Keuka Lake Association, another worthy group in our neighborhood. The Bluff Point Association began in the 1980s as a property owners' group to address a development issue on the Bluff. In the BPA bylaws, the Bluff is defined by implication to be properties located South of 54A, between Penn Yan and Branchport. In the years since our formation, the BPA has: participated in discussion of proposed town regulations relating to development; worked with the School Board to improve communications; informed members about the Finger Lakes Land Trust; and in 2015 placed interpretive signs at the Overlook on Route 54A. Currently we sponsor the adopt a highway trash pickup on Rt. 54A between Jud's Stone house Nursery and the Branchport Fire House.

The Board generally agreed that our main function is to serve as a source of information for Bluff Point property owners regarding Town of Jerusalem issues and activities that affect the Bluff. Such issues and activities include: the proposed sewer project; the Penn Yan school district; planning and zoning; soil and water; Keuka College; the Garrett Chapel; and others. Through our newsletter and our website, members should be able to access town planning, zoning, and other agendas and minutes and keep up with school and legislative meetings. We agreed that we should encourage more Letters to the Editor of our newsletter so that

members can share their thoughts and concerns about issues that affect the Bluff. We also agreed that there should be a statement in the Newsletter and on the BPA website that dues for membership in BPA are not tax deductible because we are a (501) (c) (4) civic organization. **Please check this newsletter for the date your dues expire(d).** The newsletter will be published three times a year. Many board members have offered to cover one or more of the above topics for the newsletter. We would like to involve more people in the work of BPA and welcome your participation. ~

Tom Close

Leaf Disposal Composting Update

The BPA was approached by its members to help with an ongoing problem...leaf disposal. With no Town pick up, no designated Town drop off area or ability to burn, many had trouble disposing of raked leaves. Jonathan Hunt of Hunt Country Vineyards offered last year to allow Town residents to drop off their leaves at a designated area at the winery. He composts the leaves and makes use of them with his organic farming.

Jonathan reports that all went well with last years "deposits" – no abuses to his generous offer and everyone followed the rules for the most part. So the leaf "service" is offered again to those who need a place for their leaves. The site for the leaf drop off is right at the winery, on Italy Hill Road – bales of hay mark the area at the side of the road. **Bags used to bring the leaves must be taken home after dumping.**

The rules for the Italy Hill Rd drop off are:

What is accepted:

- Leaf waste
- Grass clippings from lawns that have **NOT** been treated with herbicides (i.e. any type of "Weed N Feed" product)

Vegetable based kitchen/garden scraps Livestock manure and straw/hay based bedding (for large volumes please make arrangements ahead of time

(Leaf Disposal Composting continued)

by emailing [italyhillcom- post@gmail.com](mailto:italyhillcom-post@gmail.com))

- Non-treated wood chips (i.e. from a tree service)

What is NOT accepted:

- Rocks
- Sticks larger in diameter than 1/2"
- Trash of any sort, i.e.: cigarette butts, water bottles, Styrofoam, etc.
- Ashes of any sort, i.e. campfires, bonfires
- Carcasses/meat scraps/bones
- Dog/Cat waste/litter
- Anything non-compostable

If you bring leaves/yard waste in bags you MUST dump them and take the bags with you. Anything NOT listed as accepted is prohibited.

These lists are subject to change; we will see how this works out.

Thank you Jonathan and Caroline for your continued help with providing the solution to our community need.

Any questions or comments please email: italyhillcompost@gmail.com

Marcia English

Keuka College Meeting

On Aug 18 Keuka College held one of a series of community meetings designed to inform the local population of the college’s plans and changes.

The college has partnered to help with the renovation of the Sampson Theater on Elm Street in Penn Yan. The building, erected in 1910, is on the National Historic Registry. The College will aim to put their theater program and some creative arts into the building. The College’s theater arts enrollment has increased and has won several awards - now offering a Creative Arts minor.

With the College lake front area designated as part of the Town of Jerusalem Waterfront Revitalization Project, the College hopes to provide classrooms near the water to study Keuka’s nature and wildlife first hand. This can also provide a community recreation resource as well as the possibility of an outdoor performing space.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Keuka Commons was also held on Aug. 18, a fabulous

must-see building for the community. It houses the student center, state of the art class rooms, faculty offices, a wellness/exercise space, book store and coffee shop. Some of these facilities were previously housed in the Dahlstrom Center. Therefore there is a plan in place to reallocate the now vacated space to enhance the campus community.

We are very fortunate to have such a resource as Keuka College in our community. There are a few who have concerns about the amount of property off the tax rolls. However, with the addition of over 1000 students and the supporting faculty, our community benefits an estimated \$108 million of economic input. Keuka students and faculty also offer the community endless hours of volunteerism that many organizations benefit from. The College brings us the offer to participate in wonderful cultural and athletic events as well as lectures hosted by this fabulous educational facility that makes learning contagious. Thank you Keuka College! We are fortunate to be sharing this beautiful community.

Check the website, community@keuka.edu for activities that you may enjoy.

Adopt-a-Highway

On October 1 ten weather-braving and dedicated volunteers showed up for the BPA’s bi-annual Adopt-a-Highway road pick up. A total of three large orange bags of trash were collected along with returnable cans and bottles being donated to the Branchport Library.

It was torrential rain when the group reconvened at the overlook, so unfortunately we didn’t pose for a photo this time!



Penn Yan Central School District Update

Recently in the news there has been a great deal of discussion regarding State Aid. State Aid is a general term that encompasses a variety of reimbursement funds distributed to school districts by the State Education Department. The term ‘State Aid’ represents a complex formula that was modified in 2007, in response to a groundbreaking lawsuit that called for New York State to provide a “sound, basic” education to all its students. The updated funding formula is based on a community’s economy, enrollment, need, and ability to tax. While its harshest critics admit that the current formula is considered progressive by national standards - that’s if the formula was followed exclusively. It isn’t. The formula is very convoluted, and takes into account not only the factors listed above but others as well; and there are different types of State Aid for different programs. “Poor districts” as defined by the formula, rely more heavily on State aid because they don’t have the property-tax revenue to fund their schools, and thus they receive much more of the State dollars.

Consequently, neighboring districts can have very dissimilar state aid percentages. An example of this disparity is evident in Yates County. The table below lists the percentages of every dollar that is reimbursed to the district by the State.

Aid Type	Marcus Whitman	Dundee	Penn Yan
General State Aid	48.3	59.4	27.9
Building Aid Reimbursement	71.8	81.7	58.7
BOCES Aid reimbursement	48.3	59.4	36
Transportation Aid	62.9	77.9	50.8

This disparity in State Aid factors into the overall budget for all three districts for the year. School district budgets are comprised of three funding sources: State Aid, Federal Grants, and local taxes. While Penn Yan has to cope with the lowest State Aid percentages in the County, we have also been able to maintain the lowest tax rate per thousand in the County.

16-17 Tax rate	Marcus Whitman	Dundee	Penn Yan
Per \$1,000 of assessed value	\$13.84	\$10.54	\$10.25

Once again, there is a rising movement within the state to reform the State Aid formula because of the continued perception that students are not receiving a consistent, basic, sound education. We will see where the State goes with the formula in the future.

Howard J. Dennis
 Superintendent Penn Yan Central School District
 hdennis@pycsd.org

You are making a Difference ...

Environment

25 years ago Keuka Lake was in deep trouble. It was at risk of becoming a Eutrophic lake. You can Google it, but trust me you wouldn’t want to live on such a lake or even near it, and you certainly wouldn’t want to fish on it or swim in it.

Concerned about this, people started to take action. Towns and villages expanded central sewage systems. Ordances were passed to improve septic systems. Increasingly, the general population was made aware of the deleterious effects of waste, debris and run-off entering the lake from the watershed.

Fast forward to 2016, and the situation is vastly different. On August 19th, Dr. Tim Sellers, a noted limnologist at Keuka College, described his long term research on Keuka Lake in his talk “The Life of the Lake”. Here is the take away:

“Because you, and many other residents in the area, have taken a pro-active approach to preserving our water quality, effectively managing sewage treatment and containing debris run-off, we live on one of the cleanest, most pristine of all of the Finger Lakes.”

The Keuka Lake's overall health in terms of nutrients, water clarity, plankton, and fish

(Environment continued)

production is excellent based on extensive testing. The doctor's report showed that for the last 25 years

nearly every measure has continuously improved. Phosphorus, the nutrient primarily responsible for algae growth, is at a Goldilocks level – enough to support the fishery food chain in the lake, but not so much that results in excessive algae growth, particularly the bad kind called “blue-green” algae. In fact, Keuka Lake is the only one of the Finger lakes where the good algae is densest below the thermocline, This makes it one of the clearest lakes. Recent measurements with a Secchi disk show visibility to more than 24 feet, whereas 25 years ago it was only 12 feet.

Keuka Lake is now an Oligotrophic lake, which is a very, very good thing. It will, however, take continued vigilance and action to maintain the lake at his highly desirable level. The lake's environment is a very fragile thing. It wouldn't take much for the situation to revert back to 25 years ago, and then we would face the situation some of our sister lakes have with blue-algae blooms that prevent people or pets from even entering the water!

Thank you for helping to make this a great place to live and to visit!

Here are ten things that the Keuka Lake Association (KLA) and the Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative (KWIC) say that you can do to keep our lake healthy:

1. Wash with soap or shampoo away from water
2. Wash pets away from water
3. Dispose of fish heads and entrails away from water
4. Dispose of ashes and yard wastes away from water
5. Compost all yard wastes
6. Minimize or eliminate fertilizer and pesticide use near the lake
7. Reduce water usage with conservation practices and technology
8. Inspect and pump septic tanks every 3-5 years
9. Filter and disinfect all drinking water drawn from the lake
10. Avoid feeding ducks, especially near swimming areas

Submitted by Fred Geyer

Community

This year has seen a continuation of remodels and new home construction around the lake. In some cases, the materials in the pre-existing structure and the furnishings that would otherwise be put in a dumpster can be put to good use elsewhere in our community. Yates County Habitat for Humanity welcomes usable building materials, and both the Keuka Comfort Care and the Once Again Shop take furnishings and appliances. In the rare event that none of these three can use such donations, the Ontario County Habitat for Humanity has a ReStore located in Canandaigua that accepts a variety of goods.

All three organizations want to thank all those Bluff residents who have donated materials and furnishings in the last year.

Submitted by Fred Geyer

VOTING IN YATES COUNTY

For many of our members, their residence on the lake or the Bluff is a second home or they maintain another legal residence elsewhere. Those of us who live part of the year at another location in New York State have the option of selecting which residence will be the one from which we vote. If there is more than one voter in the family, having each person register in a different location provides each with a “voice” in local matters. For those maintaining a legal residence in another state, this is a more complex issue and can involve tax consequences.

The Yates County Board of Elections maintains voter records and provides information and materials on registration and voting in local, state, and federal elections. The Board of Elections will provide access to an absentee ballot if it is not convenient for a voter to appear in person. For registration and voting information, visit their website at www.yatescounty.org/board_elections.

Martha Johnstone

Behind the Overlook Sign Story:

Red Jacket Image

The idea to place an image of Red Jacket on the graphic history sign seemed like a great idea, but it proved to be challenging and opened a page of history for all of us on the committee. This is what we learned about Red Jacket. First, neither Red Jacket, nor any of the Seneca Nation, owns any original images. The image you see on the sign is of *Sagoyewatha*, [He who causes them to be awake], also known as Red Jacket, ca.1828. It is painted by Charles Bird King (American, 1785-1862), an oil on wood; 17 ½ x 13 ¾ inches (44.45 x 34.925 cm). Our committee had to obtain permission from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY to use the image. The painting had been a gift of Seymour H. Knox Foundation, Inc. in 1970 to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. The image we used is a photograph by Tom Loonan of that painting. But, you can find this image on the internet in many forms. It took time to understand why the jacket depicted is sometimes red and sometimes blue.

Background Learned

In a Town of Jerusalem file, Jane Davis, former town historian, gathered information on Red Jacket for the dedication [June 9, 1981] of the sculpture created by Michael Soles and placed in Red Jacket Park. These black and white reproductions that Jane compiled were from a variety of sources and contained copies of drawings, sketches and paintings of Red Jacket. Included in this research, was a booklet by Robert John Wood. He states, at the end of his booklet, that he reserves all rights to reproduce any part of this material, including the line drawing on the cover. He gives his address in Hilton, NY.

This iconic line drawing is labeled, “The Great Orator of The Seneca”. It shows an image of Red Jacket wearing his 1792 Medal, given to him by George Washington in our capital of Washington, DC. We learn at the end of the booklet that King’s oil painting was reduced to this line drawing shown on the cover of the booklet. Charles Bird King was famous for painting Indian portraits. The portrait was one of 21 bequeathed by Charles Bird King to the Redwood Library, Newport, [RI] and then sold by that institution to Seymour H. Knox of Buffalo, NY.

Story of Red Jacket’s Two Coats

Red Jacket was invited, along with 50 other “People of the Longhouse” or Haudenosaunee men, to try to influence them before the signing of the 1794 Treaty following the Revolutionary War. Each Native American participant was to be given a military style uniform, blue for the United States, and a medal to show “friendship” and good will after their defeat [they were on the British side]. Red Jacket’s name had come from a red embroidered jacket presented to him by a British officer for his work for the British during the Revolutionary War as a messenger. He was proud of this British gift, but it was worn out by the time he went to Washington, DC. in 1792. There he was fitted with the custom tailored military coat. However, when presented with the finished coat, he wavered to accept it saying that he was not a man of war. [Truly he had not been as told in an `oral story of the Cayuga. When asked to fight against General Sullivan’s army, Red Jacket declined and was labeled a coward by the warriors.] A second coat was made for him of red, but it was not a military coat. Later, before leaving for home and knowing the blue coat was fitted for him alone, he said that he had thought about it, and knew that perhaps “sometimes” he “might” be in need of such a coat. As a result, Red



Jacket was the only man to leave Washington with a medal and TWO coats! Red Jacket’s Life Red Jacket was born [first saw the light] in Cayuga territory near the Canoga Creek. He was “born in council” meaning his parents had traveled to a meeting and that was the reason he was

(Overlook Sign continued)

born away from his village. Being part of a matriarchal society, Red Jacket lived with his Seneca mother's Wolf clan and his father, a Cayuga, in a village near Branchport. As a child of ten years, he was named Otetiani [Always Ready].

Red Jacket was an important figure and outspoken representative of the Haudenosaunee. It is important to note that Red Jacket never spoke English. Everything he said was translated from Seneca. While he played both sides between "white" governments, he was ALWAYS loyal and in full support of his Seneca people. He was raised following the Haudenosaunee traditions and he held steadfast to these ways and spoke to his people about following their traditions.

In 1830 (age 78), he died at Buffalo Creek [a reservation] and was buried there in an old Indian cemetery. Later in 1884, his body was exhumed and moved to Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, NY. The Buffalo Historical Society added a monument to the site. He lies with a number of other famous Seneca. The 1792 medal presented to him by George Washington can be found at the Buffalo Historical Society.

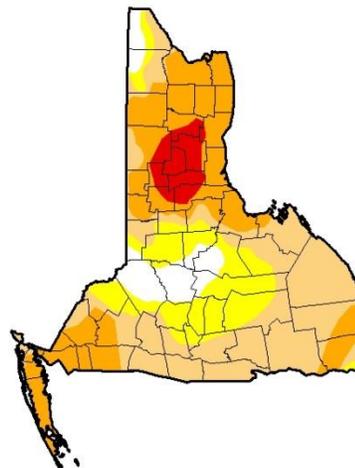
Annette Toaspern, Town of Jerusalem History Club

Agricultural Update

If you spent any time on the Bluff this summer, you would have realized it was exceptionally DRY! The rainfall was so low that the National Weather Service declared Yates County in an "Extreme Drought" condition (see Figure below). Communications from grape growers on yields on the Bluff have been variable, with reports of 30% and as much as 50% decrease from expected. This may not be such a bad thing when it concerns some grapes. In most years, growers should be thinning their grapes to allow the sun to reach the inner-most clusters and allow the vines to provide resources for

the clusters hanging on them. A proper balance of canopy and clusters produces the ideal amount of sugars and other phytochemicals that play a part in giving wine its interesting characteristics. For some growers, however, tonnage matters as their business depends on how much product is delivered to the buyer. On the positive side, the dry conditions meant lower disease and weed pressure, resulting in less labor input and an overall excellent quality product. This growing season has also been one of the warmest on record, second to the warmest year ever in 2010. We look forward to sampling the product of this year's harvest later next year!

Nicole Landers



**U.S. Drought Monitor
New York**

October 11, 2016
(Released Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.09	91.91	74.15	35.00	5.50	0.00
Last Week (10/04/16)	9.16	90.84	66.94	34.75	5.50	0.00
3 Months Ago (7/02/16)	10.43	88.57	44.39	11.39	0.00	0.00
Start of Year (12/31/15)	50.48	48.52	7.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (04/01/16)	9.21	90.79	64.25	27.12	9.94	0.00
One Year Ago (10/11/15)	70.05	29.95	5.07	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
 0: Abnormally Dry
 1: Moderate Drought
 2: Severe Drought
 3: Extreme Drought
 4: Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
 Brian Fuchs
 National Drought Mitigation Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

West Bluff Hill Update

For those of you who have lost a tire or almost lost a tire, wheel, axle or your whole car on West Bluff Drive hill from Pepper road to the lake, they have finally fixed the problem – at least temporarily.

The road actually runs through the park property and as such is the responsibility of the State parks commission. When the Park was opened the state took over West Bluff Dr. through the park. Those of us who are winter residents get to use this road from October 15th to May 15th.

By closing this section of the road to through traffic the Parks Commission had to provide an alternative, which was when the hill road was built. The state agreed at that time to maintain that road.

With springs and water runoff, the road had badly deteriorated over the years. In September the state filled the potholes and repaved large sections. A complete repair would cost far more than is available so we will have to wait for funds to be approved for a complete repair.

Rodge Williams

Membership Renewal

We are pleased to provide you with this issue of the Bluff Point Association Newsletter. To continue receiving future news and to support our many efforts affecting the Bluff, we invite you to renew or join the many other Bluff residents who support the BPA with their annual membership gift of \$15.

Bluff Point Association, Membership Form 2016

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address 1

Address 2

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Street: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Telephone: _____

Bluff Point Address: _____

Renewal New membership

Annual **Membership** Fee is \$15. Make checks payable to **Bluff Point Association**.

Send checks to: Bluff Point Association, PO Box 72, Bluff Point, NY 14478

Please check here if you would prefer to receive newsletters electronically.

I am including my contribution to the Bluff Point Fund, check made out to The Finger Lakes Land Trust; memo: Bluff Point Fund.

The Bluff Point Association

P. O. Box 72

Bluff Point, NY 14478

www.bluffpoint.org

Bluff Point Association

Art Adams, Director	678-319-0984
Tom Close, Ex Officio	315-536-2779
Wendy Disbrow, Director	315-536-3456
Marcia English, Director	315-536-9436
Fred Geyer, Director	315-536-7183
Martha Johnstone, Secretary	315-531-8889
Nicole Landers, Director	315-521-9857
Rodge Williams, Treasurer	585-813-3173
Lisa Saether, liaison FLLT	315-536-2620
Lynn Wuytowicz, Web Support	315-536-0912
lwuytowicz@gmail.com	

Federal

29th District House of Representatives

Representative Thomas Reed

Email via website: <http://reed.house.gov>

202-225-3161 Washington D.C Office

607-654-7566 Corning Office

New York State

Assemblyman Phil Palmesano

E-mail: palmesanop@assembly.state.ny.us

607-776-9691 Bath Office

Senator Tom O'Mara

E-mail: omara@nysenate.gov

607-776-3201 Bath Office

Governor Andrew Cuomo

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo

Governor of New York State

NYS State Capitol Building

Albany, NY 12224

518-474-8390

www.governor.ny.gov and choose 'Contact'

Keuka Park Association Ph. 315-536-0940

7pm 4th Wednesday of month at KP Fire House

Yates County Legislators

417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527

www.yatescounty.org Ph: 315-536-5150

legislature@yatescounty.org

Edward Bronson, Eldon Morrison, Douglas Paddock

Town of Jerusalem

3816 Italy Hill Rd., Branchport, NY 14418

www.jerusalem-ny.org Ph: 315-595-6668

Jim Balyszak, Watershed Inspector 315-536-5188

Pat Killen, Town Supervisor

Paul Anderson, Town Board

Max Parson, Town Board

Gary Dinehart, Town Board

Daryl Jones, Town Board

Sheila McMichael, Town Clerk

Vernon Brand, Town Assessor

Zac DeVoe, Town Code Enforcement

Rob Martin, Highway Superintendent

Community Meeting Dates

At Yates County Office Building

County Legislature: 1pm, 2nd Monday of month

Yatescounty.org (Legislature Link) 315-536-5150

County Planning Board: 7pm, 4th Thursday of the month

At Town of Jerusalem Offices 315-595-6668

Planning Board: 7pm, 1st Thursday of month

Zoning Bd. Appeals: 7pm, 2nd Thursday of month

Town Board: 7pm, 3rd Wednesday of month

Penn Yan Central School Board: 315-536-3371 7pm,
1st and 3rd Wed. of month at Penn Yan Academy