

The Bluff Point Association (BPA)

www.bluffpoint.org

January 2016

2016-1

President's Report

We hope you all had a Happy Holiday Season and wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year. The Fall harvest was generous, with puffball mushrooms, venison, apples and pears. There are jugs of apple cider and perry aging in the cellar and the mushrooms are sliced and packaged in the freezer. It will be a gourmet New Year here at Close Quarters. Our annual meeting was held July 18th at the Keuka College Lightner Library. A summary of the meeting is included below, and minutes of the meeting have been posted on our website www.bluffpoint.org along with a copy of the overheads used in the meeting.

Tom Close, President

Annual Meeting Summary

Quick Takes

The Treasures's report was read and approved. The balance in the treasury as of July 7, 2015 was \$6,127.85. Martha Johnstone was re-elected secretary, Rodge Williams was elected treasurer, Marcia English, Fred Geyer, and Wendy Disbrow were re-elected as directors. Continuing for a second year are President Tom Close and communications director Lynn Wuytowicz. Art Adams, former president, continues as an ex officio board member.

Presentations

Finger Lakes Museum Update:

Natalie Payne, the Executive Director of the Finger Lakes Museum and Aquarium, reported on the progress of the museum including the renovation of the former Branchport Elementary School to serve as the museum's headquarters; the planned walking trails along Sugar Creek; and the timber frame barn for the Creekside Center.

Town of Jerusalem Sewer Expansion

Jerusalem Supervisor Patrick Killen outlined a proposal for the Jerusalem sewer district to expand sewer coverage through Branchport to the county line; to Crescent Beach, Keuka Lake state Park, East and West Bluff Drives, and Indian Pines to Ritchey Blvd.

Overlook Sign Project

Two interpretive signs were placed at the Esperanza overlook in June. The total expense for the sign project was \$4,578.88. A New York State historical marker, sponsored by the William Pomeroy Foundation was placed at the Overlook to commemorate John Beddoe's settlement of the Bluff - Branchport areas in 1797.

Adopt a Highway Proposal

BPA Director Marcia English presented a proposal that the Bluff Point Association take over the clean-up of a two mile stretch of NY Route 54A from Jud's Stone House Nursery to the Branchport fire house. Marcia also reported on a problem of disposing of leaves in the fall. See more details in the articles below.

Boat Launch Invasive Species Monitoring Program

Laura Henderson from Cornell Co-Operative Extension of Yates County presented the "Steward Program" being promoted by the Keuka Lake Association to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive plants and animals into the lake.

Cold Water Fisheries

BPA Director Fred Geyer described the Angler Diary Program for fishermen to record the fish they catch. Diaries can be obtained from Brad

Cold Water Fisheries cont'd

Hammers, Bureau of Fisheries Region 8, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Wildlife and Marine Resources at BradHammers@DEC.NY.GOV (585) 226-2466.

Penn Yan Central Schools

Art Adams presented a report from Penn Yan School Superintendent Howard Dennis. Highlights included: a one-time grant of \$50,000 via NY Senator O'Mara; an award of \$1000 to the librarian/AP US History program for video equipment to do a local history project; national recognition with a college scholarship for an elementary school student, 100% passing rates for Regents Physics, Geometry, and US History; Middle School Academic Bowl #1 in region; and recognition of Penn Yan Academy for expanding opportunities and improving performance for AP students. Maintenance projects include emergency repairs for cold weather damage and repair of the Middle School gym roof.

New Business

BPA directors announced plans to update the member list including member email addresses so that communications including periodic notifications and newsletters can be emailed to members. See the article below regarding Email Notifications and Newsletters.

Email Notifications and Newsletters

From time to time the BPA board is requested to notify our membership of an opportunity for service to the community. Often we are not able to communicate the opportunity in a timely manner via the newsletter. Examples include: scheduled pick up dates for the "Adopt a Highway Program"; and a recently received request for Bell Ringers for the Yates Christmas Support Program (formerly Christmas for the needy). The membership list that we use to address our newsletters and postcards includes fields for recording a member's email address and for indicating whether the member prefers to receive periodic notifications and/or the Newsletter by email. **If you wish to receive periodic notifications and/or the Newsletters via email**, please let us know by using the "[Contact Us](#)"

function on the BPA website, or by sending an email message to tclose1@roadrunner.com to let us know and we will update our membership list to indicate your choice.

Tom Close

Leaf Disposal Option

Several Bluff Point residents have brought a common community concern to our attention. With the no-burning regulation by the DEC and no organized Town pick-up, many Bluff residents have a problem disposing of their leaves in the fall. Some solve it with the illegal disposal in the creeks – a poor solution that can cause problems with lake water chemistry and aquatic life therein. This "solution" also causes the blockage in the spring that can help overflow the creeks onto the roadways. Some are able to have professional services – but many are left with few alternatives to safely and cheaply dispose of their leaves.

With lack of space and financial resources, there was no physical solution from the Town. However, TOJ Supervisor Pat Killen was able to brainstorm one solution that may appeal to those dealing with this issue.

Mr. Killen reached out to local organic farmer, Jonathan Hunt, from Italy Hill Produce, inquiring if he might be able to make use of leaf or other organic material for composting. Jonathan replied positively and will be having a culvert installed just west of the Hunt Country Vineyards driveway at 4021 Italy Hill Road Branchport, NY allowing access to a composting area he will create near Italy Hill Road. This will be a voluntary program, not administered by the Town, and only available as long as people adhere strictly to the guidelines as follow:

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

Leaf Disposal Option Cont'd

ahead of time by emailing italyhillcompost@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
- 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 for helping the Bluff Point Association with a solution to our concern. Any questions or comments please email italyhillcompost@gmail.com

Marcia English

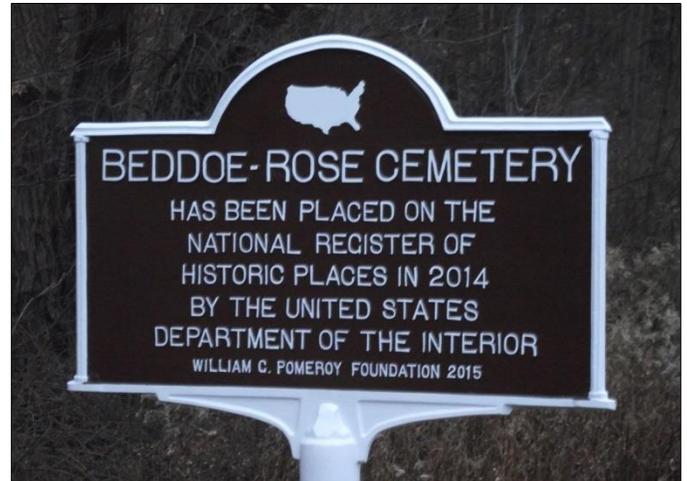
Historic Marker at Keuka State Park

Placement of a new roadside sign at the base of the white trail in Keuka Lake State Park will help the public find the Beddoe-Rose Cemetery, just a short walk up from Recreation Road. The new sign was provided by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation as part of its program to mark sites that have been placed on the National Historic Registry.

The Beddoe-Rose Cemetery received recognition on the National Historic Registry in November of 2014 with documentation provided by Don Wright and Chris Trombley, members of the Jerusalem History Club. Since there are a number of trails in the park, the new sign quickly confirms that the white trail is the one to follow. In 2012, a wooden Beddoe – Rose Cemetery sign was erected by former park manager, Jim Zimpher, and the site was

identified on park maps. The efforts to identify the historic value of this Jerusalem cemetery were made in hopes to curb further vandalism to the stones of these early pioneers to Yates County.

Interest in the Cemetery has been well confirmed by over a thousand people who recorded their appreciation for this historic site in a sign-in notebook in a wooden trail box placed there by the Jerusalem History club in 2014.



The new marker was placed through the efforts of Annette Toaspern of the Jerusalem History Club, who completed the application for the new sign for the Town of Jerusalem; by Town of Jerusalem Supervisor, Patrick Killen, who supported the effort; and by Keuka Lake State Park Manager, Ross Lovell, who installed it.

The 54A Overlook signs, also provided by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, have attracted the attention of many visitors since their installation last June. The BPA would like to acknowledge the many people who worked to create the signs, researching and writing the text and designing the layout. In particular, the BPA would like to thank the writers' group, Anne Salisbury, Annette Toaspern, Chris Trombley, Tom Close, and Martha Johnstone; Kent Salisbury and Chris Trombley, who contributed their skills for the layout and design work, and the Town of Jerusalem for their assistance with the permit application process and sign installation. Sign text may be viewed at www.bluffpoint.org "Topics of Interest – News on the Bluff".

54A Overlook and Historic Signage cont'd



Onlookers enjoying new overlook signs

Schools on the Bluff

It is maybe not such a well known fact that, at one time, the Bluff was home to as many as 7 schools and two Post Offices (see Map included herein). A fact discovered during a recent visit to the Yates County Office Building whereon I stumbled across an 1899 Map of Yates County. Resident historian, Fran Dumas, was most helpful and forthcoming with information about the schools and Post Offices of days-gone-by. Another trip to the Underwood Museum, where I came upon an historical compilation of some of the Town of Jerusalem's earliest education efforts, proved even more enlightening. An historical compilation of Yates County Schools by Jennie Hiler, "Rural School Memories", is filled with a plethora of historical facts and memories of former students.

Jerusalem District No 2 – Keuka Park, or "21" as it is referred to on the Deed was deeded by Keuka College to the Jerusalem School District in 1903. Legend has placed it where the Southernmost gravel parking lot now exists on Central Ave directly across from the Weed Physical Arts Building and field. Per the deed, the property reverted back to the College when the education system was consolidated in the mid 1950's. The school building stood on this site until it was dismantled in 1969.



No. 2/21 School – Keuka Park

Jerusalem District No. 3 – Kinney's Corner, established in 1829, stood opposite the Bluff Point Methodist Church. A new school building was dedicated in 1876. When 54A was widened in 1930 the schoolhouse was moved to Coates Rd just behind the church. Featured on the 2012 House Tour, it is now a stunningly restored private residence, original belfry and all.



No. 3 School – Kinney's Corners

Jerusalem District No. 4 – Fingar, had its earliest beginnings in 1815 with the organization of the Baptist Church on Bluff Point that operated the school referred to as "Heck's Schoolhouse". Located close to the historic Heck Cemetery, at the intersection of Skyline Drive and Vine Road, it lives on today as a private residence.

School on the Bluff cont'd



No. 4 School – Fingar

Jerusalem District No. 5 – Kenyon, was located at the intersection of Scott Rd and Skyline Drive. It has been repurposed into an observatory.



No. 5 School



No. 5 School in its current condition

Jerusalem District No. 19 – Cinconia, located on West Bluff Drive, was established in 1880 and remained in operation through 1934. School 19 students were then bussed to No. 14 School in Branchport. The building has since been moved from its original lakefront location, across the road and up the hill and repurposed into a two story residence.



No. 19 School - Cinconia

Jerusalem District No. 18 – Wagener House, or **Kern**, as it was most often referred to, was built in 1876 on the Southernmost tip of the Bluff. It remained in operation until the mid 1930's when it was closed and students were bussed up to No. 14 School in Branchport.



No. 18 School

Schools on the Bluff cont'd

Jerusalem District No. 20 – Huff, located at the top of Brown Hill on Vine Rd, was established in 1885. The original school building was destroyed by fire in 1913. The new school was completed in 1914. No. 20 now stands in its original location as a lovely private residence.



Original No. 20 1885-1913



No. 20 - Built 1914

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Lisa Harper, Yates County Genealogical and Historical Society, Fran Dumas, County Historian, and Annette Toaspern, Jerusalem History Club, for their invaluable research assistance in locating the necessary resources and for providing the digital photos included herein.

Lynn Wuytowicz



No. 20 As it stands now

P.O.'s on the Bluff

At one time Bluff Point was home to two Post Offices, the Cinconia Post Office located on West Bluff Drive and the Kern Post Office located at the tip of the Bluff on East Bluff Drive. The mail was delivered to the post offices via Steamboat. Back then, there was no home delivery, you had to make the commute to the Post Office to pick up your mail. Although no definite dates of operation are readily available, both Post Offices are recorded on the 1899 Map of Yates County, which is available for viewing in the County Building, and in the 1897 United States Postal Guide.

Seneca White Deer Need our Support

The fate of the nationally renowned White Deer that inhabit the 7000 acres of land at the former Seneca Army Depot is in perilous jeopardy as the Seneca County Industrial Development Agency (SCIDA) initiates the bidding process for the property. In an effort to protect the Seneca White Deer and support ecotourism, Heron Hill Winery owners, John and Jo Ingle, have made a **\$200K matching grant offer in effect through January 31**. For more information on how to take part in the campaign to save the Seneca White Deer go to: <http://senecawhitedeer.org/> or <http://www.heronhill.com/>

Bluff Point Association Archives

One day in the summer the BPA received a call from Valerie Newell, a member who had found, in her house, a collection of newsletters from the 1980s, the very early days of the BPA's existence ("East Bluff Drive Property Owners' Association"). She wondered whether we would like to have them for our archives. Yes! We gratefully accepted the collection with the understanding that we would keep them in our archives and that we would make copies for the local history sections of the Branchport Library and the Penn Yan Library.

Valerie's house on East Bluff Drive was built in the 1940s by the Anderson family of Elmira, "taking it from the old steamboat landing it was then to the wonderful place it is today". The newsletters were preserved by Bunny Greenlee, who was "a dedicated 'laker' and supported the mission and interest of the Bluff through her membership in BPA..." We encourage BPA members who have similar items that reflect our history to share them with us. We will gladly make copies or retain the originals in the BPA archives.

If you have items for the BPA Archives please contact Martha Johnstone at: bluffpoint@lochwood-ny.com Thank you!

The Bluff Point Association Needs You!

Need an outlet for your creativity? Passionate about preserving our Bluff Point way of life? Interested in being active in the community? Not currently a member of the Bluff Point Association? Consider joining today. Just fill out the Membership form below and submit to the Bluff Point Association. Annual dues are only \$15.

Already a Member and interested in serving in a leadership capacity? Please contact one of the Board Members listed on the following page. We'd love to hear from you!

Tech savvy types especially needed!!

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

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

Address 2

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.

Bluff Point Association

Tom Close, President 315-536-2779
Wendy Disbrow, Treasurer 585-813-3173
Martha Johnstone, Secretary 315-531-8889
Lynn Wuytowicz, Communications 315-536-0912
lwuytowicz@gmail.com
Marcia English, Director 315-536-9436
Rodge Williams, Director 315-536-3456
Fred Geyer, Director 315-536-7183
Ray Copson, Web Support 315-536-6891
Lisa Saether, liaison FLLT 315-536-2620
Art Adams, *ex officio* 678-319-0984

Federal

29th District House of Representatives

Representative Thomas Reed

Email via webstie: <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'

The Bluff Point Association

P. O. Box 72
Bluff Point, NY 14478
www.bluffpoint.org

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

Gary Montgomery, Eldon Morrison, Margarty Dunn,
Doug 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, Supervisor
Mike Folts, Town Board
Max Parsons, Town Board
Mike Steppe, Town Board
Daryl Jones, Town Board
Sheila McMichael, Town Clerk
Vernon Brand, Town Assessor
John Phillips/Zach 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 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

Save the Seneca White Deer! Details inside.
New: Keuka Park Association contact info and mtg dates.