

# The Bluff Point Association (BPA)

www.bluffpoint.org

JUNE 2016

2016-2

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## President's Report

Welcome home Pilgrims. This winter was so mild that it seemed like we would never get any ice on the east side of the Bluff. So on a warm sunny day in January I foolishly pulled out my bubbler; and sure enough, Nature got even. Two days later I had to throw a big rock through the ice to get the bubbler back under the water. But now the magnificent school of giant carp has again taken up residence under our dock and the view from the front porch is framed by leafy green.

The mild Spring weather brought a bumper crop of Garlic Mustard. You can see it growing along all the roadsides and in our woodlots. Garlic Mustard is considered by some as an invasive weed. Others (me) see it as an invasive salad. We par-boiled, bagged and froze about 10 pounds of garlic mustard greens which should last us all summer. Take a look of some of the delicious recipes at: [http://www.afha.us/garlic\\_mustard/gm\\_recipes.pdf](http://www.afha.us/garlic_mustard/gm_recipes.pdf)

At our annual meeting in 2014 we heard from President Diaz- Herrera of Keuka College who presented plans for the expansion of the College. The mild winter weather allowed construction to continue apace at the College throughout the winter; and the Keuka Commons building is now starting to exhibit its completed form.

The annual meeting in July will be my last meeting as President. I sought the job as a way of getting to know my neighbors and I must say it was completely fulfilling. Looking back, the Board accomplished some neat things during my term (installing the signs at the overlook; clarifying the corporate structure of the Association) Looking forward, please bring ideas for future projects to the annual meeting.

Special Date to remember: **July 16th – Annual Meeting at Keuka College Library** (8:30 AM coffee, 9:00 – 11:00 meeting) We'll be electing a new President and two Directors at the meeting. I look forward to seeing you. ~ 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 fall and spring leaves. Jonathan Hunt of Hunt Country Vineyards offered a win-win situation by allowing Town residents to drop off their leaves at a designated area at the Hunt Country Winery. He composts the leaves and makes use of them with his organic farming.

We are happy to report that an update from Jonathan tells us that all went well with last falls "deposits" – no abuses to his generous offer and everyone followed the rules. So the leaf "service" is offered again to those who need a place for those leaves, spring or fall. 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 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
- Carcasses/meat scraps/bones
- Dog/Cat waste/litter
- Anything non-compostable

## **Leaf Disposal Composting cont'd**

**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](mailto:italyhillcompost@gmail.com)

Marcia English

## **NYS Master Forest Owner Program**

Late this winter I had the opportunity to walk my woods with Master Forest Owner Steve Miller and recently retired DEC Regional Forester Jim Bagley. It was a richly educational experience. I learned a lot about my woods and names for some of the stuff that I had observed over the years, but never had a name for. I also learned that I have emerald ash borer in all my ash trees (about 20% of the woods); infestations of buckthorn, multiflora rose, frost grape, Honeysuckle; and on the positive side, some sugar maples that I can tap.

After the visit I was given a nice file folder with a summary of the Foresters' observations from the visit and informational pamphlets on steps that can be taken to remediate the pests and how to make Maple Syrup.

As I teach in the Hunter Education course, Conservation is "the wise use of natural resources". Since over 14 million acres of woodland in NY State are privately owned (over 3/4 of New York's total forest area) it is important that this valuable resource is wisely managed. The Master Forest Owners Volunteer Program provides private forest owners of New York State with the information and encouragement necessary to manage their forest holdings wisely. Their experienced and highly motivated volunteers are available to meet with forest owners in their woodlots to discuss forest owner objectives and how to find the assistance they need. Master Forest Owners (MFOs) have received training from Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources that complements their experience as forest owners.

All MFOs are graduates of a 4-day training program, where they learn about sawtimber and wildlife management, forest economics, and ecology. The MFOs continue to receive information updates, attend refresher classes and maintain contact with natural resource managers from private, public, and academic organizations.

For more information on contacting or becoming a Master Forest Owner, visit the website at:  
<http://www.cornellmfo.info>

Tom Close

## **Jerusalem History Club**

The Jerusalem History Club was founded in January of 2011 by Annette Toaspern, who loves history. JHC members developed these goals: 1) Share & Enjoy History, 2) Preserve town history and bring it into the digital age and make files more accessible to the public, 3) Develop projects that will enhance and preserve the town's history and 4) Assist the Town Historian whenever possible .

The club holds monthly meetings or programs at the Branchport Library, attends historical presentations of interest, and enjoys field trips with an emphasis on history. Group members do research on their own topics of interest or in coordination with other organizations such as we did in aiding with the BPA signage at the Rt. 54A Overlook. Members helped in the 2012 Jerusalem House Tour put on by the Yates County History Center (YCHC). Some of our programs have been put on DVDs which are available at the Branchport Library. Information gathered by the group has been placed at the Town of Jerusalem Office, the Branchport Library and the Yates County History Center with the goal of making Jerusalem history more available to the public. Placement of historical research etc. at the Branchport Library expands our No. 2 goal, to promote more public access since the town office with its files and YCHC are closed most evenings and weekends. Another topic discovered when an index of town historical files was compiled, and a few individual files reviewed, was to expand the historical record of the Bluff or Bluff Point and West Lake Road out of Penn Yan. The lake farms, cottages etc. have not all been

## Jerusalem History Club cont'd

documented. With constant development of the lakeshore and subdivision of farms; and with replacement of buildings, the character of Jerusalem has changed immensely and will only continue to change. Research and documentation is an ongoing and monumental task but is crucial to preserving Jerusalem's History for generations to come, "before it is gone". This is where we hope the Bluff Point Association members might want to participate. Our group can help to coordinate and facilitate research. The farms along West and East Bluff and on top of the Bluff need recorded histories. Members have worked on Bluff cemeteries, rural schools and a few cottage properties, but there are many of interest, maybe yours, still to be documented. Any images [meaning: sketches, paintings or photos], owner or family stories, deeds and abstracts, maps that will tell the tale of your property will help our goal to tell the history of the Bluff. We do not want to collect originals, only scan or photograph items to be documented.

Everyone is welcome to attend History Club Meetings which are held at the Branchport Library. Contact Annette at 315-536-9887, or e-mail her at katoasperm@hotmail.com for more information. JHC will share our notebook of projects at a table at the BPA annual meeting. We are an informal organization and contact is usually done by emails.

We look forward to the opportunity of working with you! Next JHC Meeting is June 29 @ 3pm.

Annette Toasperm  
The Jerusalem History Club

### Adopt-a-Highway

On May 24th eleven enthusiastic and energetic volunteers showed up for the BPA's 1st Adopt-a-Highway road pick up. A total of three large orange bags of trash was collected along with 45 returnables which was donated to the Branchport Library.

The view of Keuka Lake at the Overlook has improved greatly since the installation of the BPA Geology and History Signs. Now there is a clearer view with less vegetation resulting in an improved enjoyment of the site.



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## Penn Yan Central School District Update

The end of the school year is fast approaching and there are many amazing ceremonies, concerts, and athletic competitions taking place here on campus. The Budget is behind us, and our focus is now on planning for the upcoming year.

I wanted to share with you some information that I put together for a taxpayer who had requested it. This gentleman inquired about longitudinal data on the district's cost per pupil, as well as a breakdown of the General Education and Special Education student cost data.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PY Total</u>	(Similar District)
2010-11	\$20,694	\$18,515
2011-12	\$20,822	\$19,171
2012-13	\$18,137	\$19,560
2013-14	\$19,660	\$20,204
2014-15	\$19,952	\$21,113

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GENERAL ED</u>	(Similar District)
2010-11	\$ 9,584	\$ 9,167
2011-12	\$ 9,392	\$ 9,489
2012-13	\$ 9,047	\$10,119
2013-14	\$ 9,237	\$ 9,602
2014-15	\$ 9,652	\$ 10,059

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SPECIAL ED</u>	(Similar District)
2010-11	\$25,458	\$22,692
2011-12	\$31,003	\$25,077
2012-13	\$29,652	\$25,823
2013-14	\$27,562	\$25,356
2014-15	\$26,565	\$25,739

In general, this is good news. Our overall cost per pupil is less than similar districts as defined by the State Education Department. Our General Education pupil costs are noticeably lower than those of similar districts. And although our Special Education pupil costs are slightly higher, you will note that we have made significant strides in the last four years toward reducing these costs.

This cost reduction has been accomplished through a series of steps, one of which includes bringing back

students from placements outside the district. We found that we could partner with neighboring districts to create classroom settings that are appropriate for the needs of the students within the districts involved. A number of districts participate in this process, among them primarily Dundee and Marcus Whitman. This model also allows us to mainstream students in a traditional classroom setting for parts or all of the day, as needed. As a result, Penn Yan has been able to achieve an integration rate of 85%, one of the highest in the state. We will continue to work on maintaining this trend in per-pupil cost reduction.

This summer, we are moving into Phase II of the previously-approved Capital Project. Work will be done in various areas throughout the district including flooring, ventilation and heating, security upgrades, lighting fixture upgrades, exterior façade maintenance, door replacements, and parking lot repair in select locations.

We wish you all a wonderful summer and encourage you to visit us here on campus to enjoy the facilities.

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

### TOJ Code Enforcement Officer Changes

A farewell and warm congratulations go out to **John Phillips** on his recent retirement. John has served as The Town of Jerusalem Code Enforcement Officer for 21 years. His friendly face and warm personality has helped many residents navigate the stressful building projects that happen throughout our town. We wish him a happy retirement!

Filling John's big shoes is **Zach DeVoe**. Graduating from Prattsburgh High School, Zach has been a carpenter for the past few years – very familiar with the building trades. Zach is married with two sons and lives in Pulteney. The Code Enforcement Officer position is a Civil Service job - Zach passed the test with flying colors. Now beginning his State mandated training, Zach is attending 6 different 3 day training sessions to complete his certification. Welcome aboard Zach! We all look forward to working with you!

## **Giant Hogweed Discovered on Bluff**

Hazardous giant hogweed, a federally listed noxious weed, has been discovered growing on the East side of Skyline Drive in the Scott Rd vicinity. There is a strong possibility others may have hogweed in the neighboring properties This is of concern as seeds do "blow in the wind" or travel by animal.

Residents/property owners in this vicinity are encouraged to become educated in identifying the plant. **Giant Hogweed can cause serious blisters and burns when it comes into contact with skin and is exposed to sunlight.**

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has a great resource on its website to help the public identify giant hogweed and plants that look similar: cow parsnip (native), wild parsnip (invasive), angelica (native), poison hemlock (invasive).

For help in identifying and managing weeds on your property contact Emily Staychock at Yates Cornell Cooperative Extension at: [ecs268@cornell.edu](mailto:ecs268@cornell.edu) or 315-536-5123 or the DEC hotline at 1-845-256-3111.

Extreme caution is required when removing Giant Hogweed. The following are a couple of helpful resources on how to control and dispatch of:

[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/ghc\\_ontrol.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/ghc_ontrol.pdf)

<http://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/hogweed.aspx>

<http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/giant-hogweed-8-facts-you-must-know-about-the-toxic-plant/>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html>.

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## **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](http://www.bluffpoint.org)

### **Save the Dates!**

**BPA Annual Meeting ~ Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Jerusalem History Club ~ Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

### **Bluff Point Association**

Tom Close, President	315-536-2779
Rodge Williams, Treasurer	585-813-3173
Martha Johnstone, Secretary	315-531-8889
Lynn Wuytowicz, Communication lwuytowicz@gmail.com	315-536-0912
Marcia English, Director	315-536-9436
Wendy Disbrow, 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, <i>ex officio</i>	678-319-0984

### **Federal**

29<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month

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

County Planning Board: 7pm, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of month

#### **At Town of Jerusalem Offices** 315-595-6668

Planning Board: 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of month

Zoning Bd. Appeals: 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month

Town Board: 7pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month

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