

The Bluff Point Association (BPA)

June 2012

2012-2

President's Report

Summer came early and then disappeared, but hopefully is now back for good.

There are three special dates to remember:

July 21st - Annual meeting at Keuka College

Library (8:30AM coffee, 9:00 – 11:00 meeting)

July 28th – First “Annual” Pot luck Party

July 31st – Conservation/Social Gathering

6:30 pm - informal meeting of those interested in more info on the FLLT (see Conservation News).

We have had several changes to our Board this year and will be electing five new board members at the annual meeting. As you may recall Joyce Herbert and Rob Plummer retired from the Board after our last annual meeting. Charlotte Wytias moved to Colorado and Bruce Turner had a number of new commitments. These folks spent lots of time helping to achieve the goals of the BPA and I really appreciate all their help.

Your board has nominated Ray Copson, Martha Johnstone, Bob Morse, Tom Williams and Lynn Wuytowicz to fill our vacancies. Continuing on the board will be Scott Demmin, Lisa Saether and Tom Close. After 3 years as president, I will become the Past President, an unofficial board member.

Again this year, we have a full agenda for our annual meeting.

Routine Business Meeting – Approve minutes, receive Treasurer's report and election of directors and officers.

Local Update – Very quick update on local issues – budgets, taxes, hydrofracking etc.

Finger Lakes Land Trust – David Diaz and Elizabeth Newbold will present additional information about the partnership between your BPA and the FLLT. A short summary elsewhere in the newsletter indicates we are off to a great start.

Penn Yan Central School District – David

Hamilton, Superintendent, has agreed to give an update as to what has happened over the last year and where we are headed in the school system. I was especially pleased with work that the District and public did on this year's budget. Significant reductions in funding and increases in benefit costs made this year pretty tough to get the numbers worked out.

Keuka College – We are working with the college to have a senior representative give us a report on the college. They are our partners on the Bluff and we have not had a report since I have been active with the BPA. July is a tough time for them as their commitment to the Asian program is most active in the summer.

Finger Lakes Museum – President, John Adamski and new Development Director, Richard Lane will make a presentation on what has been accomplished, implementation of the “Branchport Campus”, and near term expectations.

BPA Program – We will have an open discussion on two significant programs within our group.

First: We would like to form several committees to spread the load and make the BPA more effective. We have not done as well as we should in auditing local committee and board meetings. We have also missed a few opportunities to involve the Bluff in community events (for instance we should have been organized to help with the TOJ clean-up day, June 16). We are considering implantation of a blog on our website to keep everyone informed of activities that affect us on the Bluff. All this will take active involvement of our members.

Second: We are planning to discuss the organization of the BPA. As you know we are not a 501(c)3 organization. Recent changes to the tax laws indicate that we may need (or want) to open the membership to include everyone on the Bluff and change the “dues” structure to meet current regulations. Two other local organizations have changed their structure to comply with these new rules.

I hope to see you all at the annual meeting. I think it will be another successful event.

Art Adams
President

Board Member Nominees

Ray Copson

Ray taught at several African Universities prior to joining the staff of the Library of Commerce. He retired from the Library of Congress and relocated to the Bluff, where he resides with his wife Donna at their home on Skyline Drive. Ray is active in the Yates Co. Genealogical and Historical Society and the Yates Progressives. He is currently working on a novel about the Civil War and African Slave Trade.

Martha Johnstone

Martha is a Rochester native, University of Rochester graduate, and spent childhood summers on West Bluff Drive. She and her husband, Jeff, returned to the Bluff in 2000 when they bought land and built a house on Pepper Road. Jeff practices law in Rochester but they spend most of the summer on the Bluff, as well as most weekends during the other seasons. They have two grown children and one grandchild. Her hobbies include gardening, music, reading, and local and family history. She is committed to protecting and preserving our area of the Finger Lakes.

Lynn Wuytowicz

Lynn was born and lived in Niagara Falls, NY until her mid-twenties. During her youth, she often vacationed on Keuka Lake and is a graduate of Keuka College. She has had careers in medical technology (Niagara Falls, NY and Rochester, MN), catering (14 years) and real estate (23 years). She relocated back to the area in 2010 to care for her aging Father. She presently subs at PYE and St. Michael's and is the sole proprietor of Busy Bee Party Assist and Concierge. Lynn enjoys hiking and kayaking.

Bob Morse

Bob Morse lives on Vine Road with his wife of 39 years, Robin. They have twin daughters and a son who has continued in the family grape business. His dad started farming here in 1951 with 13 acres of grapes and he and his family have grown the business to 165 acres which expanded to and across Skyline Dr. and the Branchport area.

Bob has been a member on and off of the BPA for 10 years and now he thought it was time to join the board to give his input from the large land owner and farmer side of the Bluff.

Tom Williams

Tom and his wife, Robbie, have lived on East Bluff Drive since 1983. Tom first started coming to the Lake as a small boy more than 60 years ago, and can still remember the original dirt road that is today's paved East Bluff Drive. For many years Tom served on the board of directors at the Penn Yan Manor Nursing Home and the Clinton Crest Manor Adult Care Facility. He was a professor at Rochester Institute of Technology for 25 years and is still actively writing college textbooks on statistics.

Organizational Meeting

Following our July 21st Annual meeting, the BPA Board will hold an organizational meeting to formalize our working committees for the organization. Potential committees include:

Conservation Committee

Their role is to coordinate all conservation efforts as they are related to Bluff Point. Coordination between the newly formed partnership with Finger Lakes Land Trust being a primary focus. This would include educational, fund raising and helping those who are considering easements.

Audit Committees

Positive feedback from many of our members has been on BPA's role in conveying information regarding relevant areas of interest to Bluff Point residents. It seems to be a general consensus that reporting on status of Town Government, local school issues and other relevant local topics is most appreciated. To this end, we propose to form committees to audit the following:

1. Town of Jerusalem Board Meetings
2. Town of Jerusalem Planning Board Meetings
3. Penn Yan Central School District Board Meetings
4. Recreation/Activities (Keuka College, Museum, etc.)

To convey the information gathered, we need a communications committee that would coordinate newsletter efforts, optional email announcements and potential enhancements to our web site (*see To Blog below*).

The important message here is that we need your help. Your involvement will help all of us stay abreast of the

issues that effect our area and active participation will assure that our (your) influence will help determine the direction that our precious Bluff will take.

**To Blog or Not to Blog,
That is the Question**

A blog (weblog) is an efficient means of communicating information online. Typically, entries (the writings) are displayed so the most recent written work is displayed first. It is an easy, direct and effective way of communicating to a diverse group. Given the fact that many of our Bluff residents don't get to enjoy our beautiful winters, this might be a very useful tool to employ to communicate the 'happenings' year round. Thoughts?

Conservation News

Finger Lakes Land Trust staff David Diaz and Elizabeth Newbold will be speaking at the **Bluff Point Annual Meeting on July 21st**. The Land Trust will present information about land conservation options including conservation easements. They will also discuss the recently forged partnership with the Bluff Point Association which created a conservation fund aimed at promoting voluntary land conservation on Bluff Point.

On Tuesday, **July 31st at 6:30pm**, Lisa Saether invites Bluff Point landowners and community members to visit with David and Elizabeth at her home at 4009 Vine Road. This event will give members of the community the opportunity to learn more in depth about the conservation work that the Land Trust is doing on Bluff Point and across the region. The event will include light refreshments and there will be plenty of time to ask questions, socialize, and meet your neighbors.

JULY 28th BPA Annual Pot Luck Gathering
Pig Roast Hosted by Tom & Susan Close
6093 East Bluff Dr. 2:00 pm - ? (eat at 5:00)

BPA Donation

We are pleased to provide you with this issue of the Bluff Point Association Newsletter.

Bluff Point Association, Donation Form, 2011-2012

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: _____

Suggested Donation: \$15.00, make checks payable to **Bluff Point Association**.

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

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

Key Contacts

Bluff Point Association

Art Adams, President 315-521-4593
Lisa Saether, Treasurer 315-536-2620
Tom Close, Director 315-536-2779
Scott Demmin, Director 315-536-2736

Federal

29th District House of Representatives

Rep. Thomas Reed
Email via website: <http://reed.house.gov>
ph. (Washington, DC) 202-225-3161
ph. (Corning, NY) 607-654-7566

New York State

Assemblyman Phil Palmesano
Email palmesanop@assembly.state.ny.us
ph. (Bath) 607-776-9691

Senator Tom O'Mara
ph. (Bath) 607-776-3201

Yates County Legislators

417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527
www.yatescounty.org ph. 536-5150

Taylor Fitch (Chair), Donna Alexander, Bob Multer,
Doug Paddock
legislature@yatescounty.org

Town of Jerusalem

3816 Italy Hill Rd., Branchport, NY 14418
www.jerusalem-ny.org ph. 595-6668

Jim Balyszak, Watershed Inspector 536-5188

Daryl Jones, Supervisor
Mike Folts, Town Board
Max Parsons, Town Board
Mike Steppe, Town Board
Pat Killen, Town Board
Sheila McMichael, Town Clerk
Vernon Brand, Town Assessor
John Phillips, Town Code Enforcement Officer
Bob Payne, Highway Superintendent

Community Meeting Dates

At Yates County Office Building

County Legislature: 1pm, 2nd Monday of month
County Planning Board: 7pm, 4th Thursday of month

At Town of Jerusalem Offices

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:

7pm, 1st and 3rd Wed. of month at Penn Yan Academy

The Bluff Point Association

P. O. Box 72
Bluff Point, NY 14478