

The Bluff Point Association (BPA)

www.bluffpoint.org

April 2014

2014-1

President's Report

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of long time Bluff resident Jim Barden on January 5. Jim was a former member of the Jerusalem Town Board and Zoning Board of Appeals and an active participant in numerous town committees, most recently the open space and sustainable energy committee. He was a descendant of the Garrett family that built the Garrett memorial Chapel on the Bluff and was active in its preservation. At our January Board meeting, we voted to make a contribution from the Bluff Point Association to the Garret Chapel Trust in memory of Jim. Anyone wishing to make a contribution can send it to "Garrett Chapel Trust, c/o John Barden, 60 Indian Spring Lane, Rochester, N.Y. 14618".

The November general elections produced some surprises. In the County legislature race, Gary Montgomery; Margaret Dunn; Douglas Paddock; and Eldon Morrison were elected to represent District I (Italy, Middlesex, Jerusalem). Bob Multer (former chairman of the legislature) and Taylor Fitch (most recent chairman) were not successful in their bids for reelection. The new chairman of the Legislature is Dr. Tim Dennis from District II (Benton, Potter, Torrey). In the Town of Jerusalem, Mike Steppe; Max Parson; Daryl Jones; and Gary Dinehart were elected to the Town Council. Former Council member Patrick Killen was elected Town Supervisor and appointed former Supervisor Daryl Jones to the Town Council to fill his remaining term. In the District Attorney race, Valerie Gardner won over incumbent Jason Cook.

We had a mighty cold winter on the Bluff this year with most, if not all, of the lake frozen over. It was a delight to see the ice boats zipping around on the east branch. Unfortunately there have been reports that the extremely cold weather along with some really large temperature swings may have caused substantial damage to the grapes.

We year-rounders will do whatever we can to insure that the Bluff thaws out before our friends and neighbors return this spring. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Tom Close ~ President

Keuka Watershed Update

The Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative (KWIC) has the mission of planning for uniform regulation and inspection of wastewater management systems in the watershed. Paul Bauter who currently manages the KWIC is retiring and the Board of Directors, comprising The Town Supervisors and Village Mayors in the watershed, put out a request for proposals to handle the management function currently provided by Paul. Proposals in response to the request were received from Colby Peterson and Jim Balyszak (with Yates County Soil and Water) and from Fagan Engineers from Elmira. At their March 6th meeting, the KWIC Board discussed the respective proposals. Discussion centered around: cost (the proposal from Fagan contained a lower unit cost. In a phone call during the meeting, Fagan suggested that they could hire out the inspections for systems that they had designed.); potential for conflict of interest (Fagan plans to continue designing waste water systems to be deployed in the watershed); and staying with a known quality supplier (Jim and Colby currently provide inspections for the Towns of Jerusalem and Milo). The KWIC Board agreed to impose a \$25K/year cap that could not be exceeded without written permission of the Board. An extended renewal option (added by Jim and Cobly in their proposal) was voted down, with Jim Balyszak's approval, via phone, during the meeting. The Board voted to accept the proposal from Yates County Soil and Water Review Committee. Donna Gridley, member of the Town Planning Board, spoke about the new "Scenic Overlay District" designed to protect the view along route 54A. Art Adams discussed the refinancing of water and sewer bonds. See Art's latest update in this newsletter. ~ **Tom**

Jerusalem Waste Water Options

As many of you know the Town of Jerusalem has had an ongoing dispute with Penn Yan regarding the interpretation of our contract. The original contract was established many years ago and an addendum was added when we added sewers to East Bluff Drive. We are currently paying for a maximum capacity of 265,000 gallons per day. Our actual delivery to Penn Yan averages about 90,000 gallons per day and a maximum of 175,000 gallons per day. While we are delivering less than our allotted capacity, Penn Yan has often exceeded their share of the plant capacity and as a result has exceeded the permit amounts on numerous occasions. Penn Yan must now make improvements to the plant to meet all permit conditions.

As a result of ongoing discussions, the TOJ asked Larson Design Associates to investigate construction of a separate wastewater treatment plant as compared to continuing our contract with Penn Yan. The results of their preliminary study indicate that the total cost of each alternative would be about the same. Their study assumes an expansion of the current TOJ service area to pick up West Bluff Drive, Branchport, Crescent Beach and Keuka Lake State Park.

It will be interesting to watch the development of their study. I have always felt that those of us on septic tanks should find a way to send our waste to a treatment facility as a way to preserve the quality of "our" lake.

Art Adams

Penn Yan School District Update

David Hamilton presented a draft 2014-2015 budget at the February 12th Board meeting. The budget presented essentially keeps the same staffing and programs as last year and represents a small spending increase of 1.3 percent. Unfortunately he also forecast a reduction in State Aid, so the increase in our tax levy will exceed the 1.3 percent. The actual amount of State aid we can expect to receive and the amount we can safely take from existing reserves will determine our actual increase in tax levy. The hope is to keep the tax levy increase in the 2.5 percent range.

Superintendent Hamilton indicated that programs implemented in the last year were showing district wide improvements in student engagement and academic achievement and recommended that we have continued our investment in these programs, thus the commitment to no major staff or program changes. Increases in staff cost and employee benefits account for more than the total expense increase. Other areas of the draft budget are reduced in cost.

A summary of the preliminary budget discussed is as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>2013-14 Budget</u>	<u>2014-15 Budget</u>
<u>Projected Revenue</u>		
State Aid	\$13,844,450	\$13,435,976
PILOT	157,709	131,526
All Reserves	948,000	1,250,000
Medicaid	75,000	125,000
Miscellaneous (1)	370,000	350,000
Fund Balance	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>
Subtotal	15,795,159	15,692,502
Possible Tax Levy	<u>16,853,438</u>	<u>17,383,841</u>
Total Revenue	32,648,597	33,076,343
<small>(1) Incl. \$120,000 Bus sale</small>		
<u>Projected Expense</u>		
Instruction Gen Ed	\$11,244,916	\$11,681,561
Employee Benefits	7,662,938	7,898,981
Instruction Spec Ed	3,560,244	3,407,145
Debt Service	4,390,900	4,229,755
All Others	<u>5,789,599</u>	<u>5,858,901</u>
Total Expense	\$32,648,597	\$ 33,076,343

As of the March 19th Board Meeting the final projected figure to be voted on ended up at: **\$33,071,307** (per PYCSD Board Minutes 3-19-14)

The Board approved a resolution, at the March 5th meeting, calling upon the New York State Legislature to immediately end the Gap Elimination Adjustment and refund the money projected to be cut under the GEA to the school district. Presently School Districts are receiving less in State Aid than 2008-09.

Penn Yan School District cont'd

A PUBLIC HEARING on the 2014-2015 proposed Penn Yan Central School District budget will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at Penn Yan Elementary, 3 School Drive, Penn Yan.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN, that a vote will be taken on the annual budget, propositions and the election of Board Members on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m., at the Penn Yan Academy Gymnasium, 305 Court Street, Penn Yan. Voting machines will be used. Details of Propositions may be found at www.pycsd.org under "minutes" then go to "minutes 3-19-14".

Art Adams & Lynn Wuytowicz

Finger Lakes Museum Update

The Finger Lakes Museum staff and contractors have been busy at the Discovery Center, the museum's research and education facility. Within the former Branchport Elementary School, asbestos abatement has been completed and a new roof and septic system have been installed. On the outside, a new parking lot, drainage swales, and landscape improvements are on-going. Programs for K-12 curriculum include "Finger Lakes Foodways," a program created by museum educators Angela Cannon-Crothers and Pat Atkinson and presented to 4th and 5th graders in the Penn Yan, Naples and Canandaigua School Districts. Five custom lesson plans include Finger Lakes agricultural history, an introduction to soil science, basic seed composition and seed sources, the life cycle of plants, and transplanting practices. For adults, the museum has developed the Craftsmanship Program "St. Ayle Skiff" to teach the art of wooden boat building from scratch. The Branchport Farmer's Market has been open at the library through the winter. Construction of an outdoor aviary to house two live bald eagles and an indoor exhibit to accompany it are planned for the near future. Watch for showings of "Vine to Wine II" in 2014. Follow the museum's progress and programs planned for the coming spring and summer seasons at www.fingerlakesmuseum.org.

Martha Johnstone

Bluff Author Published

Congratulations are in order for our own Ray Copson, former BPA Board Member and Yates County History Center Trustee. The culmination of seven years of research, Ray's new book, *Benediction*, has had great exposure locally since its release in mid-November. Ray brings a wealth of knowledge to the story, set in 19th Century Africa and the American South. His work teaching at Universities in Kenya and Nigeria, along with his 27 years in Congressional Research in African Affairs at the Library of Congress, provided the foundation for *Benediction*.

Inspired by events that took place in the late 1850's and during the American Civil War, *Benediction* takes its readers on a journey, across the Atlantic where Caleb Lawson, a young Yankee recruit from Penn Yan, NY, finds himself aboard an illegal slave ship bound for Africa.

The year is 1859, and the United States is edging ever closer to disunion. A clandestine plot to revive the Atlantic slave trade brings the lives of an African girl and the Yankee Lawson together, forging a love that challenges slavery, imprisonment, and the violence of the Civil War.

A novel of historical fiction, *Benediction* is sure to woo ardent civil war and history buffs alike with its tale of romance and adventure.

Benediction is now available on Amazon.com, or it can be purchased at Long's Books in Penn Yan and at The Stomping Grounds in Geneva.

Follow Ray and his newly released novel, *Benediction* at RayCopson.com.

Lynn Wuytowicz

BPA Welcomes Vineyard View Winery

This Spring marks the first season for Vineyard View Winery, located up the hill on Williams Hill Rd, just below Coates Rd. A new enterprise of the Foltz Family. The Foltzes have been growing grapes on the hill for almost 100 years and decided that it was time to venture into the winemaking business.

Vineyard View Winery cont'd

Designed with the very local help of Earl and Marla Makatura, Vineyard View is a beautiful destination venue overlooking Keuka College and Lake. They offer a variety of whites, reds and a blush. Their winemaking is complimented with grapes from the Simmons Vineyard here on the bluff and Hunt Country Vineyards. Open Saturdays 11-6 and Sundays 12-5. Do stop by to say hello to Adam and Nikki Folts. Mention this BPA Newsletter and receive a free tasting! Check out their tasting room @ www.vineyardviewwinery.com

Lynn Wuytowicz

PY Airport Hosts Research Project

From December 2013 through January 2014, scientists and meteorology students from across the country converged on Penn Yan, Flint, and Tug Hill to understand better the atmospheric conditions and controlling mechanisms responsible for extreme snow accumulations across the region each winter.

Seneca Flight Operations at the Penn Yan Airport was host to the University of Wyoming's King Air Beechcraft weather research aircraft, as part of the Ontario Winter Lake-effect Systems project. An Open House was held at the Seneca Flight Operations Hangar, in December. UW's King Air was on display and open for viewing, along with the Center for Severe Weather Research's Doppler on Wheels (DOW) Mobile Radars (out of Boulder, CO). Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) the OWLeS project was a collaborative effort among nine universities and one non-profit organization, including the Universities of: Wyoming, Utah, Illinois, Penn State, Alabama at Huntsville, Millersville, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Albany and Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Department of Geoscience.

Scientists and students set about to study the lake-enhanced snowfall and the complex interactions between the local environment and the far-reaching influence of Lake Ontario.

For more information about the project go to:

<http://www.atmos.uwyo.edu/n2uw/>
<http://cswr.org/>
<http://owles.org>

Lynn Wuytowicz

TOJ Initiates Waterfront Revitalization

The Town of Jerusalem is preparing a waterfront revitalization strategy for its Keuka Lake and Sugar Creek waterfronts. Funding has been received from the NYS Department of State – with additional support from The Finger Lakes Museum and Keuka College. The plan will include: a community-based vision, goals for revitalization, strategies for the protection of waterfront resources; an analysis of natural and cultural resources; the identification of appropriate land and water uses; future waterfront projects; and the determination of local regulations. The plan will complement the development of the Finger Lakes Museum and the transformation of Keuka College.

A Steering Committee has begun work with the consulting firms of Ingalls Planning & Design and Trowbridge Wolf Michaels Landscape Architects. As part of the waterfront revitalization process, a community planning workshop was held at the Town Hall in November 2013. More than 50 residents came together to learn about the Revitalization Strategy and share input. The event provided a forum for informal community dialogue regarding the current and future conditions of the Town of Jerusalem. A major theme of The Planning and Design Workshop, was the community vision for improved green space and public waterfront access along Keuka Lake and the Sugar Creek Inlet, as well as economic vitality and viability in the hamlet of Branchport. A public boardwalk, dedicated cycling space, maintaining the rural character, and improving the village's urban landscape and appeal as a vital residential destination were a few of the issues identified in describing the community's long-term vision for the area.

To find out more about TOJ's Waterfront Revitalization Strategy or to share your thoughts on public access, recreation, resource protection, our hamlet "main streets", and economic development contact Mike Steppe: mikesteppe@gmail.com.

Or follow progress online at:

<http://toj-lwrp.tumblr.com>
http://www.jerusalemny.org/minutes/2012_min/Branchport-Hamlet-Plan.pdf

Lynn Wuytowicz

From The Grapevine

This winter's severe temperatures have certainly taken a toll on local vineyards, with the Viniferas seeing upwards of 70% damage in some areas. (See: <http://www.chronicle-express.com/> "Area vineyard damage being analyzed" 4-16). Although quantity may be affected, vineyard owners are still hoping for a quality harvest this year and are hurrying to get posts pounded, wires tightened and stapled, vines tied, new suckers panted, and fertilizer spread in order to be ready for the first spray.

Farmers are getting ready to plow and plant the fields accompanied by much excitement to plant and dream about a good crop and beautiful green fields. And then much anxiety to worry if there will be time to get everything done. We are grateful for their labors and look forward to enjoying the fruits of their work!

The first glimpses of spring also bring a rush of activity for our maple syrup producers. There are at least two maple syrup farms on the Bluff. They have been busy collecting, hauling, boiling and bottling. I can't wait to taste this year's batch!

Wendy Disbrow

Chinese Lanterns Safety Alert

For the past couple of summers now we have all been enamored by those beautiful and mysterious floating Chinese Lanterns, unless of course, you've had a still-flaming one land on your property.

As wonderful as these lanterns are to watch, as they float effortlessly up into the sky, they present a very real potential hazard.

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control holds the opinion that sky lanterns meet the definition of Recreational Fires as defined in Section 302.1 of the Fire Code and consequently require constant attendance until the fire is extinguished as required in Sec. 307.5 of the Fire Code.

Therefore, unless anchored or tethered, OFPC is of the opinion that sky lanterns cannot be constantly attended and thus present a violation of the Fire Code of New York State.

Code information retrieved from a distribution of the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. www.DHSES.GOV/OFFPC

Lynn Wuytowicz

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, 2014-2015

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. Please 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.

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
Ray Copson, Web Support 315-536-6891
Nicole Landers, CCE adviser 315-536-5123
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 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: palmesano@assembly.state.ny.us
607-776-9691 Bath Office

Senator Tom O'Mara

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607-776-3201 Bath Office

Governor Andrew Cuomo

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
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www.governor.ny.gov and choose 'Contact'

The Bluff Point Association

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Yates County Legislators

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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, Town Code Enforcement Officer

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
Budget Hearings Oct 28 & 29 in County Bldg
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