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JOINING FORCES FOR GREATER LAKE PROTECTION

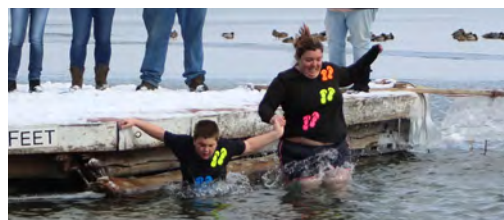
Boards of Lake George Association and The FUND for Lake George Announce Plan to Merge and Create Preeminent Lake Protection Organization

With unprecedented threats confronting Lake George's legendary water quality, the Lake George Association (LGA) and The FUND for Lake George are responding decisively — by joining forces.

Heralding a new era in Lake George protection, the boards of the LGA and The FUND today announced a plan to merge the two organizations, creating a single, preeminent protector for the Queen of American Lakes.

The new entity will retain the LGA name. The boards of both organizations have unanimously endorsed the merger and the LGA will now bring the proposal to its members for approval. The LGA is the oldest lake protection organization in the country, having been founded in 1885. The FUND for Lake George was part of the LGA until 1980.

(Continued on p. 9)



HAGUE POLAR PLUNGE

by Meg Haskell

The Annual Hague Polar Plunge, also known as "Freezin' for a Reason," was held on Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 2 pm at the Trout House Village Resort.

It was a beautiful, chilly day. There were over 50 participants and over \$15,000 was raised for the University of Vermont Children's Hospital!

The annual plunge will now be dedicated to the memory of Katy Laundree Wells, as she took the plunge every year and, in so doing, raised a great deal of money for the hospital.

A big thank you to all who donated and to our volunteers for all their help! ▣

(More photos on on p. 2)

Photos courtesy of Susan Zacharenko

ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT

by Bobbie-Jean Fish

The Hague Fish & Game Club's Annual Ice Fishing Tournament was held on February 27 and 28, 2021. The weather was great, the ice was amazing, and the registrations flowed through their sponsors who were: Fish307, Norm's Bait and Tackle, FMB Bait, Crossroads Country Store, Beach Road Bait and Tackle, and the Silver Bay General Store. The club feels very fortunate to have those sponsors to support their junior

anglers even during a pandemic! Belden Property Services and International Paper also made cash donations to buy fishing supplies for the youth division.

There were over 50 youth entries and 20 of them placed on the boards.

Three generations took first in northern pike: Eugene Barnaby, son Dillion Barnaby, and grandson Jaxson Barnaby. (See photo, right.)

(Continued on p. 3)



SENIOR CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze

Looking forward to getting back on track with the club!



Our meeting will be at the HVFD on March 23, 2021 at 1:30 pm. Gladie Graser will be retiring as treasurer. A big thank you to Gladie for 17 years of service! We'll install the officers for 2021. Bring a gift for Bingo.

On April 7th, we'll have Game Night at my house at 6:30 pm, so come on out and have some fun and snacks. We are having the White Elephant sale. We'll start collecting items April 14th. Call Maureen Cherubini at 518-543-6463 or me at 518-543-6502 to set a time to meet you, as nothing can be left outside the community center. ▣

CLARIFICATION ON "ICE-IN 2021"

Last month, we reported that "Ice-In" for 2021 had been called for February 12th, when sub-zero temperatures caused our area of the lake near Rogers Rock to finally freeze.

The Lake George Association's (LGA) official definition of "Ice-in" is: "When someone could walk from one end of the lake to the other solely on the ice."

Because the lake was frozen along the eastern shore north of Hague, which would allow a person to walk there, Patrick Dowd of the LGA and Larry Eichler of the Darrin Fresh Water Institute called the official "Ice-In" for Lake George on February 11th, so that is what will go in their official record books for this year. ▣

HVFD

by Meg Haskell



For the month of February, we had eight fire calls and drills and two EMS calls using 65 volunteer hours. We also provided scene support for the Polar Plunge.



Remember, as the weather starts to warm up, black ice can form on the roads, so please drive carefully. ▣

HAGUE POLAR PLUNGE (Continued from p. 1)



Photos courtesy of Susan Zacharenko

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of March 10, 2021:

All NY residents need to wear a mask or face covering when in situations where they are unable to socially distance.

| LOCATION | CASES | DEATHS |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| Worldwide | 117,882,360 | 2,615,503 |
| US | 29,137,386 | 528,652 |
| NYS | 1,713,030 | 48,573 |
| Warren County | 2,925 | 55 |
| Essex County | 1,372 | 26 |

Sources:

— <https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/26/covid-19-tracker>

— Additional source statistics can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

Local resources during COVID-19:

Warren County Public Health – 518-761-6580

Mental Health Assistance – 518-792-7143

Domestic Violence Assistance – 518-793-9496

State COVID-19 Hotline – 1-888-364-3065 ▣

2021 BESTE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

by Kathy Santaniello

Even though this year the pandemic situation did not allow for a formal awards ceremony, the scholarship recipients did receive their awards. The Beste Steering Committee and the Hague community are very proud of these students and we wish them the very best in all their future studies.

Nicholas Fitzgerald is a graduating senior attending the University of New Hampshire. He is a History/Political Science major and is interested in becoming a museum curator. He will be applying to grad school for Museum Studies and will be looking into internships for the summer in Boston and Washington, DC. He is the son of Martin and Heidi Fitzgerald.

Fallon Kennedy is a fourth-year student who is now attending North Country Community College and has changed her major to Child and Family Services. She is the daughter of Brian Kennedy.

Connor Lawrie is a fourth-year student attending a five-year program at Rochester Institute of Technology, majoring in engineering. He is the son of Lara Smith-Ryder.

Skye Mason is a second-year student attending Siena College, majoring in English. She is the daughter of Mandy Cyphers.

Caitlin Myers is a first-year student now attending Adirondack Community College after a one-year deferral. She is majoring in Liberal Arts. She is the daughter of Rick and Julie Perkins Myers.

Many thanks to those who have donated to the scholarship fund over the years. To make a donation, please make checks payable to: "Beste Scholarship Fund" and send them to the Hague Community Center, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836.

A complete list of donors who have contributed to the fund since April of 2020 will be in next month's issue of *The Hague Chronicle*. ▣

LGLC ANNOUNCES ADDITIONS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) has announced the addition of three people to its Board of Directors: Sheryl Arenholz, Katie Bruening, and Amanda Metzger.



Sheryl Arenholz is the third generation in her family to enjoy the beauty and wonder of Lake George. Her lifelong relationship with the lake began as a young

girl during family camping on the islands each summer. Island camping evolved into summer months renting a house in Huletts Landing, until her parents built their home in 1994. She and her family reside in Virginia.



Katie Bruening has enjoyed many seasons as an educator for Camp Chingachgook's Outdoor Education program, located in Pilot Knob on the

shore of Lake George. Until the pandemic started in March 2020, she worked with a wide range of schools and age groups, helping to instill a sense of wonder and love of nature through programs that included hiking, canoeing, sensory explorations, science experiments, art in nature, and more. Bruening and her family live in Queensbury.



Amanda May Metzger joins the Board of Directors after volunteering on the LGLC Advisory Board since 2019. She is also a member of the

LGLC's NextGen Committee. Metzger works as the marketing director at the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce & Convention and Visitors Bureau. She is a freelance writer, photographer and videographer. In 2015, she was honored by the NYS Federation of Lake Associations with their statewide Media Award for continued coverage of lake issues. She and her husband live in Glens Falls. ▣

ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT

(Continued from p. 1)



Easton and Mason LaPointe (above) crushed it with these beautiful lake trout caught on Lake George. They were able to spend two days on the ice with their dad and friends, which is what it's all about!



This is Trout House villager, Trent Wilson, (above) a junior angler, with his third-place lake trout. So, the Fish & Game Club isn't the only one who benefits - Hague's local businesses do as well!

The club can't thank the Town of Hague enough as they partnered together to make this happen. It gets the kids out with parents and this tournament also brings people in to see our little town. They are looking forward to next year with even more ice fishermen, women, and youth!

Until then, keep those lines tight! ▣



Here are Brian Gereau and Cash Allen (above) with his second-place northern pike.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 2/25/2021

Chairman Robert Goetsch and Board Members Maureen Cherubini, Jon Hanna, Linda Mury, and Ray Snyder were present.

LAZARUS (93.19-1-16) 7740 Lake Shore Drive (RC)

The applicant is proposing the installation of a hillside trolley to provide handicap access to their lakefront property. The trolley is to run alongside an existing staircase and will be within 100 feet of the mean high-water mark, requiring an area variance and site plan review. The board unanimously approved the site plan review with the condition that the trolley be equipped with regularly-maintained auxiliary standby power for emergency use.

RYPKEMA (43.5-2-14) 9848 Graphite Mountain Road (HP)

The applicant is proposing the conversion of an existing commercial space into two additional apartments within their multiple-family dwelling located on a parcel of 0.38 acres. This proposal would bring the total number of units to seven. The minimum lot area per dwelling unit would not be met, therefore requiring ZBA approval. A public hearing was held at this meeting with no comments for or against. Egress (emergency exits) was reviewed. The building inspector has deemed egress adequate. The board voted to approve the motion to grant the variance four to one (Snyder).

ENGLER (43.5-1-26) 9077 Lake Shore Drive (HP)

The applicant is seeking to replace an existing legal non-conforming commercial structure (currently occupied by Made in Hague) with a two-story mixed-use commercial/residential structure. A variance for sq. ft. increase of more than 25% is requested for a lawful non-conforming structure (proposed 69% expansion). Setbacks have been met. The public was allowed to speak. Concerns were raised regarding poor traffic visibility for the residential driveway to be located on Overbrook Road behind the structure, poor traffic visibility turning from Overbrook Road onto Rt. 9N near the busy intersection with Rt. 8 (part of the proposed footprint of the building will be nearer to Rt. 9N than currently), and necessary excavation possibly undermining the hillside. One letter was read supporting the positive impact the retail space has on tourism and the tax base. A site visit was scheduled. A public hearing will be held at the next zoning board meeting on March 25th.

MILLER (26.14-1-8) 11 Birch Point Lane (TRIR)

At the 9/24/20 zoning board meeting, the board unanimously approved the applicant's variance to construct a retaining wall, patio, and a four-foot walkway along their lakefront. See *The Hague Chronicle* (October 2020) for details. The APA reversed the previously-granted variance due to insufficient information, requiring a resubmission. The applicants requested that the board entertain a motion to rehear a variance application. The board unanimously approved a rehearing and put it on the March 25th ZBA agenda. ■

PLANNING BOARD - 3/4/2021

Chairman Dick Frasier and Board Members Dan Belden, Meg Haskell, Judy Gourley, and Pam Peterson were present.

GOETSCH (42.16-1-32) 34 Shattuck-Robbins Road (TR1-R) The applicant is seeking to subdivide a 9.72-acre parcel into four separate lots measuring 4.48, 2.46, 1.21, and 1.57 acres in size. A public hearing was held with one speaking for and no one speaking against. The board unanimously approved the site plan review.

BRENNAN (60.5-1-1) 15 Sentinel Pines (TR1) The applicant is seeking to subdivide a 4.05-acre lakefront parcel into two lots measuring 1.2 and 2.8 acres. A public hearing was held with no one speaking for or against. Board discussion was tabled until April's meeting due to the site map not being complete.

PARLIN (59.-1-11) 3 Dot and Jack Lane (RC/OCII/TR-1/TR-1R) The applicant is seeking to subdivide an 80.89-acre parcel into two lots. The parcel comprises four zoning districts. The proposed division line follows the contour of Route 9N. A PB site visit has been scheduled and the application has been referred to the ZBA. A public hearing will be held at the next planning board meeting on April 1st.

ENGLER (43.5-1-26) 9077 Lake Shore Drive (HP)

The applicant is seeking to replace an existing legal non-conforming commercial structure (currently occupied by Made in Hague) with a two-story mixed-use commercial/residential structure. A variance for sq. ft. increase of more than 25% is requested (proposed 69% expansion). A public hearing was held with much feedback for and against. The majority of people in support of the project mentioned the positive impacts Made in Hague has had on the community. Some mentioned the improved visual impact to the hamlet. Numerous Overbrook Road neighbors expressed concern about increased traffic hazards due to extending the southern portion of the existing structure closer to 9N, potentially reducing visibility at the Rt 9N, Rt 8, and Overbrook Road intersection, along with traffic hazards caused by a blind driveway to be located on Overbrook Road directly behind the structure. Neighbors residing behind the structure expressed concern about the visual impact to their yard views due to the new second story and driveway. The Planning Board unanimously made a negative recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals due to the numerous concerns expressed by the neighbors.

ENGLISH (60.13-1-11) Red Fox Lane (TR-1) The applicant is seeking to construct a principal dwelling on a vacant lakefront lot. A PB site visit has been scheduled. A public hearing will be held at the next planning board meeting on April 1st.

LEWKE (76.20-1-26) 8127 Lake Shore Drive (TR-1R/OCII) The applicant is seeking to convert their existing three-bedroom cabin into an accessory structure (detached home office) by removing the kitchen and shower. The proposed plan leaves a ½ bath in place. The applicant has plans to construct a new four-season home on their 3.4-acre lot. The reclassification of the existing structure is an attempt to salvage the building. A PB site visit has been scheduled. A public hearing will be held at the next planning board meeting on April 1st. ■

TOWN BOARD - 3/9/2021

Present were: Supervisor Edna Frasier and Board Members Joshua Patchett and Steve Ramant. Jack Bast attended via Zoom. Martin Fitzgerald II was absent.

A moment of silence was held for Audrey Baggs, Korinna Rockwell Spath, and Barbara Smith.

PUBLIC HEARING: Waste Water Treatment System, Lewke 76.20-1-1-26 TR-1R

The public hearing has been postponed until the April 13th town board meeting. The Lewkes are addressing a number of issues raised by Cedarwood Engineering, who represents the Town of Hague.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Assessor/Administration: Frasier – The assessor is taking training courses online. Tax bill addresses are being updated as a number were returned for incorrect addresses.

Personnel: Bast/Fitzgerald – A new ZEO, Michael Auerbach, has been hired and started March 11th. The board thanked outgoing ZEO Rion Marcy for his service, especially because he remained in his position until the new ZEO was hired, which was well past his resignation date of December 31, 2020.

Town Park/Beautification: Ramant/Frasier – The hiring process for the boat launch and visitors’ center summer positions will begin soon. Hiring for the life guard positions will wait until more is known about pandemic protocols. The transfer station continues to run in the red; the goal is to break even. A weight scale will be installed.

A revised traffic pattern will be implemented along with new improved signage. Additional changes are expected prior to the busy summer season.

Sewer District #1 and #2: Bast/Frasier – One landowner is non-compliant for sewer hookup and is scheduled to appear before the court next month to answer the violation of charges.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Private Home Short-Term Rentals: Town lawyer John Sylvester is working on a policy on how to monitor private rentals to ensure the proper bed tax money is being paid to Warren County. It will subsequently be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Boards. A Public Hearing will be held. Implementation is targeted for as early as May 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

The board approved the appointment of Michael Auerbach to the ZEO position starting at \$28,000 annual salary, working three days a week. He resides in Sabbath Day Point and Niskayuna.

NEW BUSINESS:

A group of citizens concerned about Lake George water quality is asking the boards of the eight lakeside towns to adopt a resolution asking the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) to take steps to develop a framework for a lake-wide septic inspection program. The resolution proposal will be added to the April 13th agenda. Representing the group, Ginger Henry Kuenzel shared with the board a white paper explaining the need for this. Contact [Ginger](#) if you are interested in more details.

BENEDICT’S EAGLE PROJECT SOARS THANKS TO COMMUNITY



Montgomery (Monty) Barton Benedict, a 16-year-old, three-season athlete at Ticonderoga High School, is a member of Boy Scouts of America, Troop #73, which is chartered

by the Hague Fish & Game Club under Corinna Woods. His Eagle Scout project is to refurbish the Ticonderoga community basketball courts, which are located along the LaChute River, diagonally opposite from the town’s baseball fields, waterfalls, and town park.

“The courts are in need of a lot of help and I was starting with benches, new

painted lines, reconditioned backboards and hoops, but the courts really need to be resurfaced since they have a few holes. I did not think our community members would be interested in seeing or helping to fund the full project since it would be so expensive, so I compromised and focused on raising \$3,000 and do as much as I could. The town approved the above renovations and I am very excited,” stated Monty.

To raise some money, Monty started a “GoFundMe” page. On the third day the page was up, Bob Porter, owner of the Wind Chill, donated and encouraged others to help Monty.

Brian and Rachel Little took up his challenge. Brian wrote on his Facebook page, “Jeez, just looking at these photos (of the court) brings me back to some of my most iconic childhood moments. What an

important piece of my life, these courts were my sanctuary...” Then, he changed the impact and direction of Monty’s project by announcing that he and Rachel were going to match any money raised for this project up to \$10,000 in the next 30 days! As of this writing, over \$5,000 has been raised and matched!

This Eagle Scout project now has the potential to completely renovate this “sanctuary” that so many youth and adults have spent hours and hours cherishing. Our community will have into March to be part of the match challenge which will allow this project to go much further than Monty ever dreamed.

Monty’s parents are Terry and Helen Barton Benedict; he is the grandson of the late Katherine M. Barton of Sabbath Day Point.

SOUNDINGS

DIED: Barbara Campbell Childs Smith, 88, of Hague on February 28, 2021, peacefully, at home with her daughter, Lara Smith-Ryder, son-in-law, Ronald Ryder, and favorite cat “Sam” by her side.

Barbara graduated from Western Michigan University in 1955 with a teaching degree. She was a school teacher her entire life. She taught elementary school and especially enjoyed teaching art. She was a substitute teacher until 2012.

She married the love of her life and soulmate, William Chandler Smith in 1958. Barbara and Bill “Chan” lived in several towns in NJ, but their favorite place in the whole world was their home in Hague, where they enjoyed every summer since 1968.

Barbara was very involved with various clubs including American Association of University Women (AAUW), where she was active since the '70s; she served as the president of the Madison, NJ branch from 1978 to 1980. She was an active member of the Presbyterian Church on the Green in Morristown, NJ.

She loved to sew, making her own clothing as well as many quilts. She and Bill were active with the Antique & Classic Boat Society (ACBS), where he was one of the founders and she served as the editor of their monthly

newsletter, *The Rusty Rudder*. She also loved watching *Jeopardy* and Alex Trebek.

Barbara was a huge lover of cats. She was a member of the American Cat Fanciers Association and a breeder of Persians, Himalayans, and Birmans, however, she never turned away any “stray or rescue” cat that mysteriously showed up on her porch.

She and Bill travelled all over the world. After his passing, she continued her love of travel with her son-in-law’s mother, Olive.

She was predeceased by her husband, William Chandler Smith. Barbara is survived by: her daughter, Lara Smith-Ryder (Ronald); grandsons, William Lawrie, Sean Lawrie, Ian Lawrie, and Connor Lawrie; and her sister, Bette Stencil.

There will be no services. Her wishes were for her ashes to be spread along with her husband’s this summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the Lake George Land Conservancy, ASPCA, Hague EMS, American Cancer Society, or any charity of choice. ❑

The Hague Chronicle is happy to publish announcements of births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries of 50/55/60/65+, awards, or deaths. Please send to editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

SMITH CHALLENGE COMPLETED

In 2020, Manning and Virginia Rowan Smith of Hague presented a generous challenge to encourage those who support the protection of Lake George to join LGLC’s Land and Water Society, (the LGLC’s legacy society), celebrating those who include the LGLC in their estate planning.

The Smiths pledged to donate \$5,000 to the LGLC for every new legacy pledge received. Those who included a specific dollar amount above \$5,000 with their pledge would be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to a total challenge match of \$300,000.

Not only was the challenge met, but it was exceeded, thanks to 42 new members. In response, the Smiths chose to increase their match to the final total of \$406,000! The Smiths’ donation has been added to LGLC’s Virginia Rowan Smith Endowment Fund, income from which provides annual support for important land acquisition projects in the watershed that protect the water quality of Lake George. ❑

BARRED OWLS IN HAGUE

There have been recent sightings of Barred Owls in Hague and in other areas around the lake.



These large owls are so common in this region, it’s easy to take their presence, and recognizable “who cooks for you” call for granted. This is their breeding season. For more information on these owls, click [HERE](#). ❑

LGA WINS GRANT FOR “SCIENCE FROM YOUR SOFA”

The Lake Champlain Basin Program has awarded the Lake George Association (LGA) a grant of \$9,561 to fund the development and creation of nine new entries and tie-in lessons and programs in the “[Science From Your Sofa](#)” video series, which is written, filmed, and produced in-house at the LGA office.



The video series, started in 2020, explains and explores topics surrounding Lake George’s water quality. The already-produced “Science From Your Sofa” videos can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/LakeGeorgeAssoc>. ❑

WALK ON WATER

by Margaret Kennedy

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) hosts an annual fundraising trek to Dome Island, which is about a mile off the Bolton Landing shore in one of the deepest parts of the lake at 187 ft.

The two-hour odyssey depends precariously on Mother Nature and her ability to freeze 32 miles of lake to a dependable thickness (approximately 6”), which would allow participants to “walk on water.”

Dome Island is a protected island, which was donated to the Nature Conservancy by environmentalist John Apperson in 1956. It is usually off limits to human traffic, so access during this winter trek is a unique opportunity.

Our adventure hinged on a 10 am on-line registration on January 11, 2021. Primed by the COVID-19 Vaccination Roulette game, I logged on precisely at 10 am, finding two slots left for 10 am and ten slots for 2 pm. We scored the 2 pm walk, with 200 people eventually on the waitlist. Now, we just had to wait for Mother Nature. We began to think, “maybe next year,” but finally “Ice-In” was declared the morning of February 11, 2021 by the Lake George Association (LGA) and the Darrin Fresh Water Institute. The Walk on Water to Dome Island would proceed on February 20, 2021!

At 2 pm, after signing in, gearing up, and meeting our trek leaders, Michele Vidarte and Henry Caldwell, we were off. With a group of approximately 25, we set off for Bixby Beach Road, our frozen access point to Lake George. As we stood on shore waiting to step off, it was obvious that bubblers were being used around the Bixby Boathouse to the immediate south (right) and also along the shoreline to the immediate left (north). We knew the LGLC had taken every precaution

to make sure the trek would be safe, but knowing the 10 am group had already returned successfully and that ice fishing huts peppered the area instilled another level of confidence. That said, as we walked out to Dome Island on that beautiful February day, we had to remind ourselves that we were indeed “walking on water.”

As you walk, you take in the awesome views from a different perspective, chat with fellow walkers, and observe the harshness and beauty of nature.



Photos courtesy of Michael Kennedy

At first, Dome Island blended into the distant shore, similar to the islands blending into the green landscape of summer when boating on the lake. As we got closer, taking pictures all the way, the island stood out and its size impressed us.

When we arrived, Michele gave us instructions and encouragement to scale the icy walls of Dome Island to

access a memorial plaque in honor of John Apperson. The inscription reads, “He gave this island to the Nature Conservancy to preserve for the visual enjoyment of the public and as an example of uninterrupted natural processes.”

The snow-covered island was difficult to hike due to a previous ice storm, which had formed a thick crust over the snow below. Each step required a strong heel to break a path, but it was worth the effort for the unique

experience of being on Dome Island.

Many trees have markers, which Henry Caldwell explained could be for a variety of reasons. Tree species and wildlife have always been observed and recorded; currently the hemlock wooly adelgid is being monitored. Dome Island differs from any other island we have been on in Lake George; it has a dramatic incline from the water on all sides, creating a substantial elevation that runs along the length of the island. It was the perfect island to donate for conservation as it lacks the level surfaces needed for camping or picnicking.

Since we were out on the ice, we decided to walk around the entire island; the leeward side was remarkably still. We wondered what the wind would feel like on the way back to shore. As we rounded the southern tip, we found out. Now that I have Googled “gale force winds,” I have to say we were in constant “near” gale force winds on the trek back. I was actually glad to be wearing the required COVID-19 mask because it was

also a layer of protection against the weather.

Our patient guide, Michele, was the last to leave Dome Island while Henry waited close to shore, asking what we thought and if we had any questions. We appreciate both of them for making our experience fun and memorable. ▣

WATER QUALITY MATTERS

by Mike Strutz

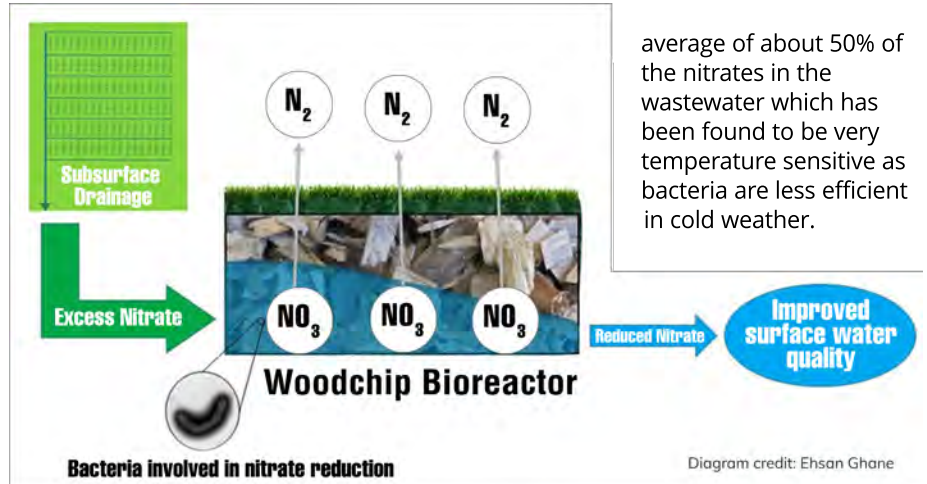
In the last article, I talked about the harmful algal bloom (HAB) that happened in the southern part of the lake, and what we, as individuals, can do to reduce the discharge of nutrients from our properties.

“Dedicated to Protecting the Water Quality of Lake George”

The other key element of the nutrient reduction plan is what municipalities can do to help. In the Town of Bolton and Village of Lake George, projects are underway which will reduce nitrogen in their wastewater.

In 2018 the Town of Bolton was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the FUND for Lake George for a demonstration project using woodchips to denitrify their wastewater. The technology was previously used for treating runoff from agriculture but this was the first application in the US for denitrifying municipal wastewater.

The idea is pretty straightforward. Hardwood woodchips from the



Adirondack Forest are used to replace sand which was used in the final polishing step of the treatment process.

In the illustration, provided by Michigan State University, denitrifying bacteria in the woodchips consume nitrate (NO₃) and convert it to nitrogen gas (N₂), which enters our atmosphere. Since the air we breathe is about 78% nitrogen, a little more is no big deal. The demonstration project has shown the ability of this woodchip technology to remove an annual

The Town of Bolton has received approval from the NYDEC to install two additional bioreactor cells and plans to construct this spring and summer.

In the next issue I'll review the upgrades at the Village of Lake George. For more information on how you can help, please visit the Hague Water Quality Awareness Committee on Facebook or contact one of our Steering Committee members: Al Rider (Chairman), Jim Beaty, Lance Clark, Ginger Kuenzel, Steve Ramant, or me. ▣

SALT REDUCTION WEB MEETING

On February 10, 2021, the FUND for Lake George held a web meeting during which they premiered The FUND for Lake George's documentary film, *The Roadmap to Road Salt Reduction: Success Stories from Lake George*.

The meeting featured the stories of how the Town of Hague, the Town of Lake George, and Warren County are reducing road salt use through a shared commitment.

Following the film, FUND Director Eric Siy, Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky and Phil Sexton, CEO of WIT Advisers, took questions from the nearly 150 participants.

Click [HERE](#) for the link. ▣

NEW STREAM AND STORMWATER PROTECTIONS ADOPTED

On Tuesday, February 23, 2021, the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) unanimously adopted its long-awaited stormwater management and stream corridor regulations to protect the clear waters of Lake George. These updated regulations, almost four years in the making, have the full support of the communities surrounding the lake and a large array of groups including municipal officials, environmental groups, design engineers, and the business community that recognizes that the lake is the lifeblood of the region's economy.

The new protections include several items, some of which enhance existing authorities and some of which are new. The new rules take effect April 1st and include:

1. Fertilizer applications are prohibited within 50 feet of any waterbody.
2. Development and vegetation cutting restrictions within 35 feet of DEC regulated streams (stream buffers).
3. All land development activities in the Lake George Park that require a stormwater permit must now address stormwater from existing impervious surfaces (retrofit provision).
4. All timber harvest activities need to have submitted a Notice of Intent/Conservation Plan Form in advance of logging activities.
5. All stormwater infiltration devices must be located more than 35 feet from any waterbody.
6. The setback for stormwater devices for "major" projects has been reduced from 100 feet down to 35 feet to better align with building setback standards.

See details [HERE](#). ▣

JOINING FORCES

(Continued from p. 1)

Leaders of the two organizations said “science-guided action” will be the new LGA’s foremost imperative, marshaling their respective strengths and resources to achieve breakthrough performance in water quality protection programs, public awareness and education campaigns, and advocacy for effective public policies protecting Lake George water quality.

Protection programs will focus on the lake’s most pressing threats: harmful algal blooms; nutrient loading from wastewater and stormwater runoff; invasive species, both aquatic and the new terrestrial threat, hemlock wooly adelgid; and road salt contamination — all compounded by the effects of a changing climate. Mounting pressure on the lake’s water quality was a driving factor in bringing the two organizations together.

“This is about unity and action to protect Lake George,” said Peter Menzies, president of the LGA. “The environmental threats to the Lake are increasing, and we will do more to protect it together. This merger is the right thing to do. Lake George’s unique beauty and spectacular quality deserve

nothing less than the exceptional stewardship that this organization will provide.”

“We have one beautiful and beloved Lake, and now we will have one voice and one powerful force for action to protect it,” said Jeff Killeen, chairman of The FUND. “Together, we provide an unmatched constellation of assets, resources and experts — the LGA, The FUND, the Lake George Waterkeeper, the Jefferson Project collaboration with IBM Research and RPI, and our many community partners, including property owners, local government officials and the Lake George business community — all with a shared vision of enduring protection.”

The new organization will be led by a board of directors, selected from the current members of the boards of the LGA and The FUND. Mr. Killeen will chair the new organization, with Mr. Menzies as Vice Chair. Eric Siy, currently executive director of The FUND for Lake George, will become President of the LGA. Walt Lender, currently executive director of the LGA, will serve as Senior Vice President.

“The reunification of these two strong organizations will provide our donors and members with a single, results-driven Lake George Association

with which they can partner to protect the Lake — an organization that, through its combined resources and strategic focus, will substantially strengthen those investments in protecting Lake George for today and for future generations,” said Mr. Killeen.

“The science-guided commitment of this bold new organization is powerful enough to take on the increasingly complex threats to our Lake,” said Mr. Siy. “Together, we will harness our world-class scientific and programmatic expertise to not only succeed in safeguarding Lake George, but to serve as a much-needed model for the protection of freshwater everywhere.”

“This is a historic moment for Lake George, for everyone who lives and works on the Lake, and for everyone who flocks to its shores for recreation and relaxation,” said Mr. Lender. “Lake George is better protected with the Lake George Association and The FUND together. In doing so, we uphold and carry forward a proud legacy of Lake protection.”

Members of the LGA will receive an informational packet about the proposed merger, along with a ballot for voting on the measure, via U.S. Mail and/or email. ▣

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 9TH ANNUAL HIKE-A-THON

Early-bird registration for the Lake George Land Conservancy’s (LGLC) Hike-A-Thon is now open. The event, to be held on July 5th, is free and open to the public and offers a variety of hiking and paddle options. The early-bird registration period goes until April 30th, and includes the incentive of a free t-shirt for each person registered.



“The Hike-A-Thon embraces the current need for outdoor recreation, for mind and body, and pairs it with building a sense of community,” said LGLC Communications and Outreach Manager Sarah Hoffman. “Because of

the pandemic, we morphed last year’s event to virtual, which meant we lost that community feel.

“This year we are excited to get back to in-person groups but understand that not everyone will be comfortable with that option, or won’t yet be traveling to the area. To get the best of both worlds, we feel confident that we can once again hold in-person hikes, with extra safety protocols in place, but are also extending the virtual option for those unable to attend in person.”

To keep the event participants safe, the LGLC has implemented safety guidelines that include distancing on the trails between family groups, wearing masks when distancing is not possible, and completing a health questionnaire at check-in. In addition,



the maximum size of each Hike-A-Thon group has been reduced from previous years’ capacities.

To register for the Hike-A-Thon and for more information visit <https://lakegeorgehikeathon.org/>, contact Sarah Hoffman at 518-644-9673, or email shoffman@lglc.org. For news and updates, follow the Hike-A-Thon on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LakeGeorgeHikeAThon/>. ▣

LOOKING BACK

by Pat McDonough

SENECA RAY STODDARD'S DESCRIPTION OF HAGUE

One of the functions of any historical society is taking a look back at how things used to be in its community: how and where our forebears lived, how they raised their families, and made their livings. One of the chroniclers of the early Adirondacks, of course, was Seneca Ray Stoddard, a pioneering photographer who utilized the emerging photographic arts to record the beauty of our mountains. Being a man of many talents, he also left us with maps of the Adirondacks and Lake George as well as books where he recorded the details of his travels.

In his 1873 "A Book of Today," Stoddard describes Hague as he saw it nearly 150 years ago:

"Hague, situated on a broad, sweeping bay on the west side, is said to be at the widest part of the lake. The general character of its scenery is peaceful, lacking the grandeur of the Narrows, but the artist will find plenty of matter for study in the great variety of foliage, lichens and mosses, the many-colored rocks, the rugged islands and the graceful elms, whose slender branches droop and sway like the weeping willow, the like of which is seen nowhere else at the lake.

"Good bass fishing is found nearby, and two fine trout brooks render the place attractive to those who throw the fly, while the shore, all the way back to Sabbath Day Point, is considered good deer ground. It is a point of departure for Lake Pharo, but seven miles distant.

"The "Phoenix Hotel" is three stories high, fronted by a two-story piazza; will accommodate about fifty comfortably, and is kept by J. W.



Rising, who sets a remarkably good table at a very reasonable price. The situation is pleasant, and the proprietor is always anxious to please and promote the happiness of his guests.

"John Wheeler's Trout house" is a little further north on the shore of the lake – a quiet sort of a place, where everybody seems "at home", and is noted especially for the trout dinners which they get up there, parties coming even from the head of the lake to indulge in them at one dollar per head.

"The store kept by Lewis Burgess supplies the luxuries to a large circle of country round about. A cobbler's shop comprises the remainder of the public buildings at Hague. At the beach a little way north, lies the charred hulk of the John Jay, destroyed by fire in 1856.

"From Hague the boat takes a northeasterly direction, passing, in its course, a high, rocky island, for some time used as a camping place by the "Waltonians," and still called by their name. It is one of the group known as Cook's Islands. Just north of it is "Cook's" or "Friend's Point." The east shore is "Putnam," from which extends, toward the west, the mountain called "Anthony's Nose." From the bay, on the south, can be seen, on the wall of perpendicular rocks a perfect face in profile, looking out toward the west, with smooth brow, Roman nose, firm lips and bearded chin. The boat runs close to the point of the nose, so that a stone could be easily tossed from the deck against its iron-stained sides. Here the water is said to reach its greatest depth."

If Mr. Stoddard were to travel down Lake George today, he would find the beauty of Lake George and its surrounding mountains little changed. He might even stop for a night at the still-welcoming Trout House Resort! ▣



TOP: Deer Leap from Sabbath Day Point; MIDDLE: Trout House, 1880; BOTTOM: The Bridge-Trout Brook, Hague 1877

FORT TICONDEROGA DIGITAL CAMPAIGN

Friday, March 19 - Virtual Program: SHOT: Beyond the Cannon Ball, Facebook, 5 pm

Curator Dr. Matthew Keagle explores fundamental artillery projectiles.

Sunday, March 21 - Virtual Author Series: The Revolutionary War Lives and Letters of Lucy and Henry Knox, ZOOM, 2 pm

In *The Revolutionary War Lives and Letters of Lucy and Henry Knox*, author Phillip Hamilton examines Lucy and Henry's struggle to preserve their family. This is a paid program that requires pre-registration.

Wednesday, March 24 - Virtual Fort Fever Series: Cadence and Clothing: Music Interpretation at Fort Ticonderoga, ZOOM, 7 pm

Fifes and drums/Fort Ticonderoga Drum Major, Michael Edson explains the role regimental music plays in the interpretive programs at the fort. This is a paid program that requires pre-registration.



Thursday, March 25 - From the Ground Up: Transferware, Facebook, 1 pm

The introduction of transfer printing in the 18th century created a new method of ceramic production.

Saturday, March 27 - Virtual Living History Event: Proceed to Canada with all Possible Expedition

A series of programs will demonstrate American reinforcements streaming north in March of 1776 to support their stumbling army in Canada. All programs will be presented on Fort Ticonderoga's Facebook page at the times listed:

- **11 am — Artillery Artificers**
The behind-the-scenes work needed to keep the artillery firing.
- **1 pm — "Sleds Belonging to the Public"** Oxen moved the Army's supplies over the frozen Lake Champlain and cannon on their way to Canada.
- **3 pm — Reefing Hooks, Caulking, and Mallets** The work of caulkers sealing the seams on bateau.

SUPPORTING THE HAGUE CHRONICLE :You can make a tax-deductible donation to *The Hague Chronicle* any time [HERE](#). Our all-volunteer staff thanks you for the encouragement and the support you provide! We couldn't do it without you!

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is a monthly news journal, which has been published by volunteers since January 1972. Please send all news items and Soundings by the deadline listed in the calendar, to editor@thehaguechronicle.org Please send any questions to publisher@thehaguechronicle.org .

Publisher: Judy Stock
Editor: Bobbi Bryant Taylor
Layout Editor: Chris Quinn
Treasurer: Bob Whitaker

Staff: Claire Best, Tina King, Ginger Henry Kuenzel, Pat McDonough, Sandy Powell, and Jan Whitaker
Intern: Gabrielle Keller

FORT'S ANNUAL GARDEN & LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM GOES VIRTUAL

The King's Garden at Fort Ticonderoga will present the Ninth Annual Garden & Landscape Symposium virtually on ZOOM on two consecutive Saturday mornings, April 10 and 17, 2021. This online program will feature practical, easy-to-implement strategies for expanding and improving gardens or landscapes. It is suited to beginner or experienced gardeners and features garden experts who live and garden in the north.

Presentations will include:

- Sarah Salatino - "Water Wise Perennials and Gardening"
- Bill de Vos - "Tree Care Concepts"
- Amy Ivy - "Improving Your Garden Soil"
- Andrea Luchini - "Beyond the Beauty: Gardens and Mission at Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home"

Fort Ticonderoga staff presentations will include:

- Director of Interpretation Cameron Green - "Grow with Us! The King's Garden Greenhouse"
- Horticulturist-in-Residence Ann Hazelrigg - "Brief Gardening Tips"
- Vice-President of Public History Stuart Lillie - "The Pavilion: Home & Garden"

Pre-registration is required. You can register for either or both Saturdays. The program schedule and pre-registration forms can be found [HERE](#).

TICONDEROGA ARTS: DOWNTOWN GALLERY

Thanks to a generous grant from the Glen and Carol Pearsall Foundation, Ti Arts has renovated the showroom. There are new hanging and lighting systems and the walls and floor have been painted.

From March 25 – April 17, 2021, the Ticonderoga Middle School Art Show will be on display.

JOB OPENINGS AT NLGYC

Looking for a summer job or know someone who is? Join the team at the Northern Lake George Yacht Club to provide instruction in sailing, swimming, and tennis to kids ages 3-14! A few positions are still available, and they'd love to hear from you!

Contact nlgycj@gmail.com for more information or you can find the job application on their website www.nlgyc.com. ▣

MASON/STAR PUBLIC DINNER

After a several month-long break due to COVID-19, the Mason/Star dinners will be resuming in April on a take-out basis. A public roast pork loin dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F. & A.M. and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be served ON A TAKE-OUT BASIS on Friday, April 23, 2021, from 4:30 pm until all is gone at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street. Tickets remain \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 12 years old and under, and will be sold at the door. Parking for pickup will be available along Montcalm Street and at the Hancock House. ▣

THE HERMIT OF HAGUE

by A Friend of the Hermit

*The Hermit of Hague, that old coot,
Did think of himself as a hoot
He would tell you a joke
And give you a poke
But you wanted to give him the boot.*



CALENDAR

MARCH

- 14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
- 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- 19 5 pm Ft. Ti Digital – Shot
- 20 SPRING EQUINOX – Start of Spring!
- 21 2 pm Ft. Ti Digital – Knox letters
- 23 1:30 pm Seniors Club Meeting at HVFD
- 24 7 pm Ft. Ti Digital – Music
- 25 Ti Middle School Art Show begins
- 1 pm Ft. Ti Digital – Transferware
- 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 27 START OF PASSOVER
- 11 am Ft. Ti Digital – Artillery
- 1 pm Ft. Ti Digital – Sleds
- 3 pm Ft. Ti Digital – Bateau caulkers

APRIL

- 1 7 pm Planning Board
- 4 EASTER
- 10 9 am – 12:15 pm Ft. Ti Garden & Landscape Symposium
- 12 START OF RAMADAN
- DEADLINE for the April issue of *The Hague Chronicle*
- 13 6 pm Town Board
- 17 9 am – 12:15 pm Ft. Ti Garden & Landscape Symposium
- 21 Latest the April issue of *The Hague Chronicle* published
- 22 EARTH DAY
- 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 23 4:30 pm Mason/Star Dinner

TRANSFER STATION HOURS: September 2 through June 30

Wednesday: 10 am to 4 pm | Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm | Sunday: CLOSED