



# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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## HVFD OPEN HOUSE

The Hague Volunteer Fire Department hosted an open house at the fire hall on Friday, April 7. For all of you who didn't attend, it was a really nice and well-planned event. Fire Chief Chris Swinton took everyone on an extended tour of the facilities, explaining each room in detail. The refreshments, as always when the members of the fire department do them, were super.

In behalf of all those who attended, we thank you, the HVFD, for giving us the opportunity to see what the fire department facilities are and especially for all the service the volunteers give to our residents. It takes a lot of time and commitment to be a volunteer fireman and a great deal of money to keep the fire department operating. We as a community need to support these men and women in every way we can. Remember you just might be the one who needs them sometime in the future! ...dh



### FIRE CHIEF EXPLAINS EQUIPMENT

Chris Swinton  
Julia Middleton  
Georgina Lindquist  
Dottie Henry

### HVFD EMT's:

Lu Megow  
Joanne Trudeau  
Renee Swinton  
Diane Trudeau  
Linda Mury



photos by  
C. Ianson

SENIOR NEWS

MEMORIAL DAY 2006

The March meeting was a 'Howling Success' - our Guest for the day was Comedienne Gert Newton who entertained her audience with an act that kept everyone in stitches - and I don't mean just a chuckle or two - the room was filled with roaring laughter. This lady is a natural performer with a unique delivery of humor. If you ever have an opportunity to see one of her shows, do so. You won't be disappointed.

The Senior St. Patty's Day Bingo Party was a fun afternoon. Everyone went home sporting a White Elephant prize but the most exciting winners of the day were Marion Shoemaker & Vinnie Jones. First, they were both celebrating their St. Patrick's day birthdays and then they both won . . . THE SAME GAME! Wee Leprechauns at work, me thinks!

APRIL's MEETING will be on Tuesday, April 25th at 1:30 PM at the Community Center. Guest speaker will be Amy Collins from the N.Y.S. Consumer Protection Board with a program on IDENTITY THEFT & CONSUMER SCAMS. This is a rapidly growing problem these days especially for seniors, so should be a very informative meeting. Anyone who is interested in this topic, please feel free to join us. Visitors are always welcome. ... mp

COME ALL YE VETERANS

We asked you last month and got only a couple of responses. The Memorial Day Parade Committee needs to know the names of all the Hague veterans, of any war (or peace time).

We would also encourage you to march in the parade on May 27. Please e-mail Madeline Pelkey at scooter@bluemoo.net or telephone her at 543-6130 to get on the list.

SATURDAY, MAY 27TH will be Hague's fourth DAY TO REMEMBER! With just a few weeks remaining we hope you are all planning up a storm to prepare your winning float. Don't forget - prizes will be awarded for BEST IN PARADE - MOST CREATIVE - MOST PATRIOTIC - BEST YOUTH PRESENTATION (any theme) - plus - HONORABLE MENTION - ADULT & HONORABLE MENTION - YOUTH (any theme).

Please note, you do not have to have a business or belong to a club to take part. Just plan a theme, find the props and have some fun. Parade time is 2 PM with lineup at 1 PM. To register to be in the parade call Madeline Pelkey 543-6130.

Anyone interested in setting up for the Funfest at the Beach from 10 AM - 4 PM, (crafts or demonstrations of interest) please give Emily Cobb a call at 543-6325.

PARADE SUPPORT NEEDED

The Parade Committee thanks all who have already donated to this year's celebration. We are behind in contributions but plans are moving right ahead and it appears that it will be even bigger and better than previous parades. This is a big event for the community. We need your support!

Anyone who still wants to contribute to the day's activities, please make your check payable to the HAGUE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB - PARADE ACCOUNT and mail to the Hague Community Center, Route 8, Hague, NY 12836. All monies received go directly into a separate parade account. ...mp

HVFD NEWS

The HVFD thanks Shirley Smith for again providing a beautiful hand made quilt for the annual raffle. The drawing, held at the Beste scholarship dinner, was won by Melanie Fish.

In March there were 3 fire calls using 18 volunteer hours, and 4 ambulance calls using 30 volunteer hours.

With the dry weather thus far this spring, the Fire Department asks everyone to be cautious of grass fires.



HVFD MEMBERS AT MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

- Ernest Trudeau
- Lou Megow
- Jason Laundree
- Chris Swinton
- Bill Wells
- Tom Haskell, Jr.

Photo by J. Stock

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

May Friendship Day will be observed by Ticonderoga Church Women United on May 5, 2006 at the First United Methodist Church on Wicker Street in Ticonderoga. The business meeting will begin at 10:30AM and will include the installation of secretary Linda Moore.

A short worship program will follow the theme of "Signs of Growth: Sisterhood". The speaker will be A. Jane McEwen of Queensbury, a Senior Associate with J. Visions Consulting Co. and a past administrator of several not-for-profit organizations. She is a past governor of Zonta International, has traveled widely in that capacity, speaking often about the necessity for building sisterhood among the world's women.

Lunch will be served at noon, catered by the Gourmet Gal of Ticonderoga. The cost of the lunch is \$10. Those planning to attend should register with Nan Reale at 585-4004 or Mary Lou Monda at 585-3447. Deadline for registrations is May 2.

### GLENS FALLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The fifth and last concert of the season for GFSO will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2006 at 4PM at the Glens Falls High School. Included in the program will be Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K488 with Pianist Ursula Oppens as soloist and Symphony No. 5 in D Minor, Op. 47 by Shostakovich.

### CHAMBER EXTENDS THANKS

The Hague Chamber of Commerce is pleased to acknowledge the completion of our first season sponsoring an AARP Foundation Tax Aide site at the Community Center. This FREE service was able to prepare federal and state taxes for people in our local and surrounding communities.

We thank our volunteers: Bob Whitaker, Jan Whitaker, Kay Maiaro, Graham Bailey, Rich Paul and the Community Center Staff for making this program possible. We look forward to providing this valuable service again next year.

### MAY 1 DEADLINE REMINDER

If you have ordered a hanging flower basket for the town in the past and plan to order one this year, please send your check in the amount of \$25 with name of person you wish to honor to The Enhancement Committee c/o Hague Town Hall, Hague, NY 12836. After May 1 orders will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

April Showers ...



Bring May Flowers!



### "ADVANCES IN CARDIOLOGY" PROGRAM

The Dan Padula Memorial Fund, a not for profit community service organization, announces the opening of it's 2006 Community Education Series on Wednesday, May 10. They again have chosen the Hague Community Center as the site of their first program in this series.

Dr. David Judkins of Adirondack Cardiology Associates will speak on recent advances in Cardiology, from medications to imaging. Dr. Judkins is a frequent contributor to local and regional medical meetings. His relaxed and down to earth speaking style allows the audience to appreciate the sometimes complex issues of modern medicine. A native of Lake George, Dr. Judkins joined Adirondack Cardiology Associates 8 years ago after practicing as an Emergency Physician. He and his family reside in Glens Falls, NY.

The presentation will begin at 7:00 PM with light refreshments to follow. Time is set aside at the conclusion of the lecture for questions. The Dan Padula Memorial Fund is proud to offer this free of charge program which is open to all.

### THE TASTE OF TI

The Ticonderoga Heritage Museum is hosting its fourth annual Taste of Ti on May 18 at 6:30PM at the Ticonderoga High School. This popular buffet features the fine fare of more than 25 area restaurants and food providers, all professionally displayed.

Seating is limited to 120 people and reservations are requested. Tickets at \$17.50 per person may be purchased at Rathbun Jewelers and Ticonderoga Paint and Decorating Center. Tickets are also available from Ti Heritage Museum board members.

For more information please call Jane Bassett at 585-6178.

### NLG ROTARY CLUB EVENT

The Rotary Club of Northern Lake George is sponsoring its annual Olive Garden Food and Wine Experience on June 13, 2006 at 6:00PM at the Queensbury Olive Garden, 756 Upper Glen St., Glens Falls.

This event is an excellent opportunity to sample the delicious wines and dishes of the Olive Garden Restaurant. Tickets for "all you can eat" are \$30 each for a super evening. Please contact George and Ronni Garrison for tickets at 543-6564, or any Rotary member.

Just a reminder that our reports for the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board and Town Board summarize the meetings and are not the official minutes. For complete minutes and further details see the Town of Hague website: <http://townofhague.org>. Check the drop down menus for the Town Board and Planning/Zoning Board. Of course, printed copies are available from the Zoning Enforcement Officer or Town Clerk.

#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 3/23/06

Chairman Robert Goetsch, Mary Lou Doulin, George Ianson, Tina King, Lindsay Mydlarz, Bill Pittman were present. Martin Fitzgerald, Jr. was absent.

#### Harrison, (43.17-1-1) Lakeshore Dr., TR1

The applicant wishes to erect a 4 ft. high by 320 ft. long fence 6 inches from the property line. Several people spoke in opposition to the project. The variance was denied 6-0.

#### Navitsky, (93.19-1-10) Lakeshore Dr., RC

The applicant wishes to construct a single family residence and garage on a legal, non-conforming lot. A variance is needed for the rear line setback and percentage of lot coverage. Chris Navitsky, who is the Lake George Waterkeeper, assured the Board that appropriate measures have been taken in case the Barton wastewater system, for which there is a deeded easement, should ever fail. The lot is a pre-existing .5 acres with present lot coverage of 4% and proposed of 16%. The driveway will be paved, and has been included in the proposed lot coverage figure. The rear set back for the existing barn is 9 ft. The barn will be removed, creating a 16 ft. setback for the new construction.

The requested variances were approved, with the condition that there would be no further increase of lot coverage, because of the location in the RC zone, and that the easement for the maintenance of the existing septic system last in perpetuity.

For each of the following applications, a site visit was planned and a Public Hearing will be scheduled for next month.

#### Puckette, (42.12-1-18) Lakeshore Dr., TR1

The proposal is to add a 6 x 12 ft. addition to the rear of an existing non-conforming home. The addition will maintain the current 4 ft. sideline setback, thus requiring a variance.

#### Berger, (12.18-1-17) Lakeshore Dr., TR1

The applicants would like to remove a portion of their existing deck and staircase and construct a new staircase which would connect to the existing stairs to the dock. A variance is needed for the sideline and shoreline setbacks.

#### Whisher, (43.5-2-15) Graphite Mountain Rd., Hamlet

The applicant would like to build a 9x16 ft. addition to the rear of an existing non-conforming structure in order to house a refrigeration unit. A variance for the sideline setback will be needed. A variance to construct an 8x16 ft. addition to the rear of the building was issued in 1994, but the project was never completed.

#### Whisher, (12.18-1-15.1&12.18-1-15.2) Lkshre Dr., TR1

The applicant has requested a lot line change to allow having a 36 ft. dock on their residential property. Both lots are non-conforming and were created by variance in April of 2002. Variance approval was granted with the condition there be no further subdivision of the lots, which are jointly owned by Mr. Whisher and Ms. Eaton. A variance for the land area is needed.

#### PLANNING BOARD - 4/6 & 4/11/06

Chairman David Swanson, Rolly Allen, Tim Costello, Pam Peterson and Katy Wells were present. John Brown and Peter Foster were absent.

#### Fraser, (25.3-1-11.1) Graphite Mountain Rd., OC1

The Public Hearing was rescheduled for the May meeting.

#### Ragot (42.20-1-6) Lakeshore Dr., TR2

Planning Board members briefly reviewed the history of the four lot subdivision including photos of the property which show the area with the flooding problem. The NYSDOT expects to begin work in the area in the spring of 2007. The matter was tabled until the next meeting and questions about the flooded area will be submitted to the Town Attorney.

#### Whisher, (12.18-1-15.1&12.18-1-15.2) Lkeshr Dr., TR1

The applicants are requesting a lot line change in order to accommodate a larger dock on their residential parcel. Both lots, owned by Mr. Whisher and Ms. Eaton, are non-conforming, and were created by variance in April 2002. Conditional approval stated there be no further subdivision of the lots. The size of the restaurant parcel would be reduced from .99 acres to .97 acres, with shoreline frontage reduced from 278 ft. to 253 ft. The size of the house lot would increase from .18 acres to .20 acres with shoreline frontage increased from 61 ft. to 85 ft. No setbacks would be affected. Mr. Whisher explained that it is the angle of the existing property line which is limiting the length of allowable dock. The request was approved.

#### Navitsky, (93.19-1-10) Lakeshore Dr., RC

The applicant plans to construct a residence and garage on a legal non-conforming lot. The ZBA has granted a variance for the rear line setback and for the percentage of coverage. A stormwater plan has been submitted to the LGPC. The Planning Board approved the request pending approval of the stormwater plan.

(Con't on page 5 - Planning Board)

(Con't from page 4 - Planning Board)

Porter. (10-1-25-32) New Hague Rd., OC1

The applicant wishes to add a half bath to his newly constructed garage/workshop. It is the only structure on a 5.51 acre parcel. A new septic system is proposed. The Board deemed the garage/workshop a primary structure which is permitted under the OC1 zone and approved the request 4 - 1.

Site visits were scheduled for each of the following applications:

Nielsen. (76.12-1-15) Tower Pt Rd., Secdry Hamlet

The application is to construct a 14 ft. by 16 ft. sun porch to the east side of the existing home. The addition will be no closer to the lake than the existing building but will fall within 100 ft of the lake so needs Planning Board review.

Rebenack.(93.16-1-33) Sabbath Day Pt Rd.,TR-1R

The application is to replace an existing residence with a new log home within 100 ft. of the lake. The existing foundation will be removed and the new residence built 12 ft. further from the shoreline and a variance from the shoreline setback requirement is needed.

Puckette. (42.12-1-18) Lakeshore Dr., TR1

The applicants are requesting permission to build a 6x12 ft addition to the rear (road side) of their pre-existing, non-conforming home. The addition will maintain the current 4 ft. sideline setback, requiring a variance. The owners hope to expand the kitchen area and add a bathroom to the first floor of the home. The new construction will be within 100 ft. of the shoreline.

Berger. (12.18-1-17) Lakeshore Dr., TR1

The applicant wishes to remove a portion of an existing deck and staircase which encroaches on their neighbor's property. They propose to build a new staircase, with landings, on the lake side which would meet the existing stairs to their dock. New construction is within 100 ft. of the lake. A variance for the sideline and shoreline setbacks would be required.

More. (93.12-1-13) Sabbath Day Point Rd.,TR1

The applicant requests approval to build an addition to his home and add a 2 car garage. Site Plan Review is needed for the more than 25% increase and new construction within 100 ft. from the lake.

Whisher. (43.5-2-15) Graphite Mountain Rd., Hamlet

Mr. Whisher is requesting permission to build a 9x16 ft. addition to the rear of an existing, non-conforming structure for the purpose of housing a refrigeration unit. A variance granting relief from the sideline setback is required. A variance for an 8x16 ft addition was granted in 1994 but the project was never completed. Mr. Whisher would also like to add a cement stoop to the road side of the building and has applied to NYSDOT for a permit.

PLANNING BOARD - 4/11/06

Chairman Swanson reconvened the regular monthly meeting of the Planning Board at 11:15 am.

Nielsen. (76.12-1-15) Tower Point Rd., HS-R

Approved conditional on septic inspection.

Rebenack.(93.16-1-33) Sabbath Day Pt Rd.,TR-1R

During the Site Visit made to the property several issues were noted (among them the size of the deck, height of the building, inspection needed for septic) and the Board would like the homeowner to explore them.

Puckette. (42.12-1-18) Lakeshore Dr.,TR1

The Planning Board did not approve the application and would like to see the homeowner investigate other options that would not extend the non-conformity and would meet sideline setbacks.

Berger. (12.18-1-17) Lakeshore Dr.,TR1

The matter has been referred to the LGPC. It was noted no variance was ever issued for the original deck which encroaches upon the neighbor's property. The Board recommended that the ZBA not approve the variance request.

Whisher. (43.5-2-15) Graphite Mountain Rd., Hamlet

The Planning Board makes no recommendation to the ZBA but noted that the addition could be moved over to be in compliance with the sideline setback and they would like to encourage the re-opening of the proposed business.

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 4/11/06

Supervisor Dan Belden and Board members Dick Gladu, Edna Frasier and Tom LaPointe were present. Art Steitz was out of town.

A moment of silence was held for: Doris Bolton, Clifford Decker, Rosalie Clorinda Meola Vecchlaretti

Under public comments Walt Grishkot, well-known area photographer and Balloon Festival organizer, spoke to the Board. He noted that there is so much charm in Hague and left an old promotional brochure which he had created. He also mentioned the Ice-Auger championships which he said were not done anywhere else and should be promoted.

Grishkot also spoke about the print which he has loaned to the Town and is hanging in the Community Center lobby (see Trout article on page 7).

Shawn Lobdell appeared again before the Board with an inquiry as to the current status of the lawsuit on the Cole property which has been going on since 1980. Although an attorney has been hired by the Town and assigned to the case it needs follow-up which Councilman Gladu agreed to do.

Committee Reports:

Assessor/Justice - Councilman Gladu reported that they still do not have the final numbers on equalization rates but expects Hague will be about 82% and Ticonderoga to be about 90% so Hague may have to pick up a larger portion of the tax levy. By May 1 the tentative roll will be issued and taxpayers can check their assessments. (See related article on page 8)

(Con't on page 6 - Town Board)

(Con't from page 5-Town Board)

Buildings & Grounds/CC - There is still concern about the costs of repairs at the Community Center and Councilman LaPointe will try to come up with a reasonable cost figure for comparison.

Enhancement Committee - Council member Frasier reported that the Baptist Church only wants a 4 ft flower bed, rather than 6 ft, and no bench in the area by the church. She also has written letters to property owners behind the downtown section of the brook with regard to a Town Enhancement plan in that area. Consultant Lisa Nagle will be at the Community Center on April 18th.

CARE - Board approval was given for \$392.40 for requested shelving.

Finance - Council member Frasier reported that the Town's end of the year fiscal report has been mailed in. She and Councilman Gladu will check to see that the Board gets reports every three months. Supervisor Belden reported that a CD came due today and was reinvested at 5.20%. Highway Superintendent Don Smith will do patching on the highways since there is not enough money left in the current budget to do a complete repaving.

Fire - Dottie Henry reported on the HVFD open house (see article on page 1).

A rabies clinic for both cats and dogs will be put on by the county at the firehouse on May 15 from 6-8 pm.

Highway - Councilman Gladu reported that he has put together a book to track repairs and the Highway Superintendent has completed the full department inventory. There were further discussions concerning the salt shed, maintenance of highway machinery at the landfill, a fund for highway equipment and the disposal of highway equipment no longer in use.

Museum & Historian - Council member Frasier reported that the Museum Board is looking currently at a plan to build off the west end of the Community Center and want to know if the town will support the trustee's decision before money is spent on architect's fees.

Board Chairman Gale Halm said the plans should provide for display space, a workroom and proper archival storage area. If the extension is off the west end of the building, there would be access to the main room in the Community Center for any large program or reception and the current rest rooms could be used. A building inspector has visited the site and has said a firewall could be used instead of an expensive sprinkler system. Supervisor Belden noted that there currently is a firewall between the main room and the rest of the building. Considerations need to be given to fuel deliveries, water coming off the hill and the well area.

Councilman Gladu said it will be necessary to "nail down what it is and what it will cost and need to have the community buy into it." Council member Frasier also noted that she, "would like to know how the majority of the people feel." Councilman LaPointe volunteered to take the plans to a lumber company to get a design and estimate of costs. The Board agreed that when the construction is done that it would be off the west wing.

Personnel - Interviews will be set up for the hiring of Lifeguards and Park Attendants.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater - Supervisor Belden told Art Hatfield that he will stop in tomorrow to discuss the culvert and catch basin.

ZEO Cathy Clark reported on another busy month with 11 land use development permits issued, and applications received for 4 site plan reviews, 1 variance and 1 subdivision as well as 1 for wastewater. One land encroachment complaint was received and should be resolved soon. The ZEO requested a change in the stated office hours in order to be in the field as well as handle the office paperwork. In addition to these duties, enforcement of the Town's codes (including the "junk law") is expected. Councilmen Gladu and LaPointe will meet with the ZEO and make a recommendation to the Board which will be decided at a special meeting.

Recreation/Promotion - Councilman LaPointe reported that the Sno-goers club is working and that he will forward the Grishkot brochure to the Chamber of Commerce.

Sewer District #1 & #2 - Supervisor Belden attended a sewer grant meeting and the Town will apply for funds from the NYS DEC in order to cover the additional capital costs for the new sewer district.

Town Park/Beautification - The responsibility for Spring clean up around the town will be discussed with Town personnel. The County DPW has been out cutting trees near the shoulders of county roads.

Transfer and Recycling - The contract with Casella Waste Management has to be renewed every five years and there may be a rate increase. The "free dump" or "clean-up day" will be held on June 6th & 7th. Councilman LaPointe felt that it was not helpful to keep changing the hours the station was opened-they should remain as they are.

Youth - Council member Frasier said that the Youth program can be extended to 8 weeks from the present 6 weeks and it was approved by the Board. The State pays for half the cost through the Warren County Youth Program.

Under old business, the Board:

1. Approved the appointment of Bruce Clark to the Board of Assessment Review.
2. Accepted the resignation of Tina King from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Under new business, the Board:

1. Passed the necessary sewer resolutions and will keep the rate at \$400 per EDU.
2. Approved, after a lengthy discussion, the transfer of monies from the software purchasing account in order to cover payroll related to software training.
3. Approved a resolution allowing certain employees to elect a new retirement plan at no additional cost to the Town.
4. Eliminated the 2 hour call in for highway personnel by request of the department.
5. Approved the landscape work as indicated by Peter Foster.
6. Voted to put into the main room the Town computer available for public use.
7. Approved a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Lake George Park Commission for preparing land use planning strategies and form a Citizen Advisory Committee. The Town of Hague has been awarded \$5000 for these purposes by the LGPC.

# ~SOUNDINGS~

**ENGAGED:** Brittney Dhein, daughter of Rick and Paula Dhein of Telford, PA, and granddaughter of Lari and Del Dhein, to Andrew Mayer, West Chester, PA. They both will graduate from Franklin and Marshall College in May and will be married on July 22, 2006 in Pennsylvania.

**DIED:** Doris May Bolton, 82, Overbrook Road, Hague, on March 29, 2006 at Moses-Ludington Hospital, Ticonderoga. She is survived by a son, Donald, Hadley NY, daughter, Donna Aloi, Peru, NY, one sister, Virginia Corey, Clifton Park NY, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**DIED:** Clifford Owen Decker, 96, a native and resident of Hague for most of his life (West Hague Road), on April 8, 2006 at the Glens Falls Hospital. He had been a resident of the Fort Hudson Nursing Home, Fort Edward since Oct. 1997. He served as councilman for Hague for 12 years and was a member and one of the founders of the Hague Fire Department. He is survived by one daughter, Carolyn D. Randall, Rhinebeck, NY, and two grandchildren.

**DIED:** Leonard "Cabbage" Frasier, 51, Ft. Edward, NY, on April 12, 2006. He was the son of the late "Buck" and Ruth (Jordan) Frasier, Hague and spent his early years in Hague. He is survived by his companion, Donna Dickinson, three sons, one daughter, five grandchildren, three brothers, Alvin and Jerry, Hague, Eddie, AZ, and three sisters, Carol Frasier, Tina Touchton and Agnes Bates.

**HONORED:** Katherine Paterson of Barre, Vt. and Arcady Bay, Hague. Paterson was awarded the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for Literature given by the Swedish government. The \$640,000 prize is the biggest international award dedicated to writers of children's books.

**EXPRESSING THANKS:** Jim and Maddie O'Toole for the support offered by the community during his recent surgery.



## TI HIGH FOURTH PERIOD HONORS

The following Ticonderoga H.S. students from Hague have been listed on the honor roll for the fourth marking period:

- Grade 12 - First Honors: Sarah Bissell  
Second Honors: Andrew Trombley
- Grade 11 - First Honors: John Breitenbach  
Second Honors: Janine Best
- Grade 10 - First Honors: Samantha Abare  
Second Honors: Alanna Swinton
- Grade 9 - First Honors: Jared Best, Brendan Carberry, Shane Graser  
Second Honors: Molly Ginn

CONGRATULATIONS!

## HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A TROUT JUMPING?

Well, Walt Grishkot has! Way back in 1962 Walt was driving on Rt. 8 past Rock and Rye Falls, when a young boy hailed him down to tell him that the fish were jumping. He immediately climbed down the bank with his camera and took a couple of pictures of the rainbow trout jumping up the falls. They jumped so fast that he got more fish tails than fish. However, he found that he had only one of the entire fish out of water - but it was spectacular! This photograph has become one of the most famous fish pictures ever taken. It was printed in the Outdoor Life magazine in April 1962 with a full page spread. It also hung for a time in Grand Central Station in New York City. He showed the photo to Barney Fowler, who was at that time a columnist for the Albany Times Union and it appeared in that publication also. Outdoor Life considered it one of the most fantastic action pictures ever taken.

Jeanne Hastings, who owned The Old School House in Lake George, where she ran a gallery and taught painting, was so impressed with the photograph that she painted in oils a picture of the photograph and presented it to the Grishkots. Walt had a print made the same size as the painting (about 36" x 24") which he brought to the April Town Board meeting. The print is so well done that it is hard to discern the difference between it and the painting. It is temporarily hanging in the lobby of the Community Center for the public to view. Be sure to take the time to go see it. ...dh

## DOCUMENTARY HONORS

The DVD documentary "The Lost Radeau: North America's Oldest Intact Warship," released on November 30, 2005, has recently won several honors.

The 57 minute long documentary, made by Pepe Productions (Glens Falls, New York) and Bateaux Below, Inc. (Wilton, New York), about Lake George's 1758 LAND TORTOISE radeau shipwreck, a National Historic Landmark, has received two national film and video awards.

Hague summer resident Dr. Russell Bellico, a board member of Bateaux Below, Inc., had a major role in the documentary. Bellico was interviewed by the documentary crew and is seen throughout "The Lost Radeau" DVD.

For more information on "The Lost Radeau" documentary, including local or regional stores that have the DVD, see <[www.thelostradeau.com](http://www.thelostradeau.com)>.



The Lake George Land Conservancy has announced their spring events, all of which are free to the public. Registration is required for all events, and those interested in participating should contact the LGLC at 644-9673, or email ssmall@tnc.org for more information and to register.

**Sat. April 22 - Earth Day Celebration at Gull Bay Preserve**, Putnam, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. ~ Celebrate Earth Day by helping us get the preserve ready for the upcoming hiking season. We'll clear and mark a new trail and clean up existing trails and drainage structures. Tools and training will be provided, though participants are encouraged to bring their own tools if they can.

**Sat. April 29 - Arbor Day: Family Tree Planting at Cat & Thomas Mountains Preserve**, Bolton, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. ~ Families welcome! We'll plant native tree seedlings to help control erosion and restore an old gravel pit to its natural state. When you're finished, continue hiking to enjoy beautiful summit views of southern Lake George or discover one of the preserve's ponds. Bring a lunch and have a group picnic to finish off the day.

**Sat. May 13 - Nature Photography Workshop**, Tongue Mountain, Bolton, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ~ Join Larry and Maryde King and learn first-hand how to identify and photograph spring wildflowers in their natural environment. We will meet at the LGLC office in Bolton Landing for an introductory course on nature photography using film cameras and macro lenses. Then we'll carpool to Tongue Mountain to seek out and photograph spring flora. Space is limited--reserve your place now! Participants must have their own camera, film camera preferred.

**Sat. May 20 - Spring Migration Birding Walk** at Cook Mountain Preserve, Ticonderoga, 8:30 a.m. - noon ~ Join Audubon Society member Joan Robertson and LGLC staff on this exciting, easy intensity, bird watching outing. Cook Mountain Preserve has many habitats suitable for a variety of birds, including an old beaver pond and marshes, pine forests, and open fields. Binoculars and insect repellent are recommended.

CARTOONIST HONORED

One of the editorial cartoons from The Lake Champlain Weekly has been chosen to appear in Best Cartoons - 2006, an annual volume dedicated to world-wide cartoon choices, edited by Charles Brooks and published by Pelican.

On page 42 of the new book, a cartoon by Stan Burdick which appeared on Nov. 9, 2005, was chosen among over 200 choices for 2005. Burdick's cartoons have also appeared consecutively in the 2003, 2004 and 2005 editions.

While not a part of the job description, Councilman Dick Gladu is the only person from Hague who has been attending the School Board public meetings. Because of the impact of the budget on property tax, Councilman Gladu has been active in urging tax relief legislation. He credits Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward with a "valiant attempt at trying to remedy the situation and she should be congratulated on her efforts."

The final public budget workshop of the Ticonderoga School Board is on April 18th where there will be a public hearing and adoption of the budget by the Board. The property tax report card is due on the 21st of April with May 9 being the final public hearing before the District vote on the 17th of May.

The budget was prioritized into three cases: fixed cost only, optional items of high priority, and the rest of the optional items. The fixed increase scenario contains expenditure up 4.6% to \$14,922,801 and tax levy up 1.54% to \$8,585,416. The priority 1 scenario would have expenditure up 6.3% to 15,161,701 with levy up 4.5% to \$8,550,419. The priority 2 scenario lists expenditure up 6.9% to \$15,247,801 and levy up 5.5% to \$8,910,418.

Enrollment is expected to drop from 1017 to 1005 for the 2006 - 2007 session. In terms of a cost per pupil comparison, looking at schools with comparable student population, Ticonderoga, at 1017 for 2005-2006, ranks 6th out of 14 with a per pupil cost of \$14,024 with a range from \$12,781 to \$17,665.

With enrollment decreasing, the state aid will be adjusted downward. There are other unknown revenue variables (such as a retirement incentive not currently in the budget).

It was noted at the Town Board meeting that Dick Frasier, Hague and Jay Fortino and Fred LaVallie, both of Ticonderoga are all running for re-election to the Ticonderoga School Board.

PROPERTY TAX RALLY

Statewide property tax reform groups have organized rallies and press conferences for early May. For more information see <www.cornwallny.com> and <www.hvpropertytaxreform.org> or contact Councilman Dick Gladu at <rgladu@nycap.rr.com> or 518-543-6618.



by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

## Tooth of the Lion

I wait until Mother's Day to pick the yellow blossoms. By that time there are enough blooming at the same time to fill a five-gallon bucket in one picking. I don't feel guilty about taking as many as I can, because any left behind (and there will be many) will soon fall victim to the mower's blade when my husband tackles the side yard. Next, I pour boiling water over the bucket of flowers, adding sugar, yeast and fruit. It ferments for a few days, then I bottle and let it age until Thanksgiving when we give thanks for the abundance of nature and toast with the golden elixir born in the spring ~ Dandelion Wine.

The French called it "dent de lion" or "tooth of the lion" referring to the pointed, toothed edges of its large strappy leaves, giving us "dandelion" as the common name for *Taraxacum officinale*. Long the poster child for lawn care products that kill the "noxious" weed, dandelion has been vilified in modern times, but this was not always so. Considered to be promoted by the Arabs in the eleventh century, by the sixteenth century it was so widely admired in Asia and Europe that it was known as the official drug of the apothecaries and its likeness graced their signs indicating that something healing could be purchased inside.

Today, it is still one of the best natural medicines available to us: packed with vitamins B & C, it contains taraxacin (a hepatic stimulant), inulin, lactulin (a sugar), choline, photosterols (which prevent the body from accumulating cholesterols), and potassium. The herb is most widely used in medicine as a broad-spectrum liver tonic and is probably the safest and most active diuretic ~ a plus that it is one of the best natural sources of potassium, an important mineral lost with conventional diuretics.

All parts of the plant are used: the roots for the liver and digestive support, they can also be dried and roasted for a nutritious coffee substitute (remember Postum?); the leaves for vitamins, minerals, potassium and a strong diuretic action as well as bitters for the liver and gall bladder ~ wonderful added to other spring greens in a salad or sautéed (with butter, onion and bacon) for a delicious spring treat.

Not lost on Europeans today, it is still widely cultivated and eaten there. Here in the U.S. we have it available not only in the wild; seed catalogs offer the seeds for growing in our gardens and we can buy the dandelion greens in our grocery stores.

And then there are the flowers, not only for the wine, but a feast for the eyes when you come upon a field not yet mowed by the farmer or a single blossom radiating sunshine. They follow the sun, turning their heads to face it as it moves across the sky, closing up when the sun goes behind the clouds or beyond the horizon, then opening up when the sun reappears.



Children love them for their sunny beauty too, picking a handful of the flowers only to find that the moment we bring them indoors, they close up and hide their yellow blossoms. And making a wish on the fluffy white seed heads, blowing the seeds as they carry our wishes on the breeze, adults groaning as they make landing on the manicured lawn.

Maybe we can look at this plant through the eyes of a child instead of through the eyes of the greenskeeper ~ a smile instead of a frown ~ just different ways to look at the world, I guess.

So, if you get a chance to pre-mow your dandelions and want to make some dandelion wine, I'd be happy to share the recipe, email me at forestbay@wcvr.com.

## WEATHER NOTES

by Mary Lou Doulin

For the last four weeks we have gone from days when we wear tee shirts to days when we would go back to wearing winter coats. Mostly though it's been beautifully sunny weather. The last week of March was nearly perfect with temperatures in the 60s and 70s. On 3/31 the thermometer reached 75 degrees, a full 21 degrees above normal. It is 4/16, Easter Sunday, and the smelt are running in Hague brook. Many species of birds have returned and the chipmunks and squirrels are very active.

We are on the cusp of that magical time of year when brown spring transitions into green and flowering spring. The daffodils and forsythia are blooming on the roadways and gardens and the bluets and hepatics are appearing in the woodlands. We are a little above last year's precipitation rate but most of what we received came much earlier. Currently we are very dry. We had less snow than usual and consequently less snow melts. Rainfall is less and infrequent. However, even the slight rain that we have received seems to make the grass much greener. Not too long before all our snowbirds return and summer will be in full swing.

## LGA SPRING PROGRAMS

The LGA is offering an exciting program for kids and families. Called Frogwatch, it is a volunteer-driven, long-term frog monitoring program managed by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) in partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Training sessions will be held at the LGA's office on Wed., 4/26 from 12:30 to 4:30PM and on Thurs., 4/27 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Participants will learn to identify native frog calls as part of the training.

The LGA also manages 2 water quality monitoring programs: CSLAP and Stream Team. Citizens Satewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) is an on-lake program, while Stream Team is popular with people who don't have easy access to the lake. Training sessions for these programs will be in mid-May and late June, respectively. The data acquired by the volunteer monitors is used by the LGA staff to identify and develop projects to protect Lake George's water quality.

For more information or to register for the Frogwatch, CSLAP and Stream Team training sessions, contact Karin Badey at the LGA, 668-3558.

**FOOD PANTRY**  
Open every Thursday: 1- 2pm  
New Participants Welcome

April

- 25 1:30pm Senior Citizens Mtg. (p. 2)
- 26 1pm Extra Helping Distribution
- 27 7pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 27 7pm Elementary Spring Concert & Art Show

May

- 4 7pm Planning Board
- 5 Church Women United Friendship Day (p. 3)
- 7 4pm GF Symphony (p. 3)
- 9 6:30 pm Town Board
- 10 7 pm Cardiology Program (p.3)
- 10 Fort Ticonderoga Opening Day
- 13 Fort Ticonderoga Neighbor Appreciation Day  
(free admittance)
- 15 6-8 pm Rabies Clinic (see "Fire" p. 6)
- 18 11am Carillon Garden Club
- 18 6:30 pm Taste of Ti (p. 3)
- 18 7pm Middle School Spring concert
- 18 Next *Hague Chronicle* is mailed
- 19 Willie Nelson in concert - GF Civic Ctr  
(for info: 518-798-0202)

**CHECK YOUR LABELS**  
**Date highlighted?** Your renewal date is approaching and your donation will be appreciated.  
**Date circled in red?** This issue will be the LAST unless we hear from you.



## *Easter Sunrise Service*

by Christine Ianson

Easter Sunrise Service at the beach is a Hague tradition, and this one is also a goodbye from Nelson Waters and his wife, Dottie. They're moving to California. I'll miss them.

Promptly at six a.m. local residents wait for the service to begin, still greeting each saying "Happy Easter". The sun is already streaking the clouds and sky in hues of pinks and tangerines over the ridge to the east. Behind the people and above Holman Hill the white shell of the moon is fading into the blue. The Reverends Buchanan and Waters give the signal. A quiet hush now, as I step behind the ministers to click my camera to record this Kodak Moment. It's in vain. The camera is without its brain...no photo chip. So no photo.

The sun lightens the ripples of the lake as Rev. Buchanan prays the invocation. The people raise their voices in the wind and sing the beautiful hymn, "He Lives." Someone whispers, "The ducks are singing, too!" Rev. Waters reads from St. Matthew recalling the women at His empty tomb--ordinary women first of all, and later, ordinary men, too. I think of the fishermen like some of these men here, casting their lines into the water of the lake and of life.

I come away with the image of the angel sitting on the rock that had been rolled away. A rock that could not keep Him in the tomb. He lives on in us ordinary people—maybe even sits "on the rock of our hearts" in the words of Rev. Waters.

The service ends by 6:30 a.m. I catch up with friends and walk with them across the grass to the road. All have been invited to a pancake breakfast at The Hague Baptist Church, a beautiful old building built from the glacial rocks that are around here everywhere on the shores of this lake. I wave goodbye and drive back home. Clouds begin to darken and gather. I look towards the hills beyond the ripples of the lake and am surprised to hear the call of a loon. I have not heard one in a few years. Just that one call, as if a blessed assurance. He lives!

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