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HAGUE CHRONICLE STAFF PARTY

The Hague Chronicle held its end of the year party at the Locust Inn. We thank the Dunn's for their gracious hospitality and hope they are successful in their new catering venture. If you don't want to worry about doing all the work for your entertaining, they will host small luncheons, meetings w/appetizers or breakfast snacks at the Locust Inn. If you have extra guests to accomodate the Inn is open through the winter and they will pack a nice picnic lunch if you are going off to ski for the day. You can contact them at 543-6934.

We salute all the volunteers who help us get the Hague Chronicle out to you each month. They include Dottie Henry, Editor and Judy Stock, Publisher along with feature writers Nancy Wotton Scarzello and Mary Lou Doulin and cartoonist Stan Burdick. We thank the wonderful group who worked hard on the mailings including Ethel Andrus, Kathe Allen, Doris Bolton, Toby Hatfield, Janet Hoffay, Georgina Lindquist, Rudy Meola, Julia Middleton, Gertrude Raczowski, Marion Shoemaker, Elaine Smith, Betty VanSleet and Marguerite West. Additional thanks to Cathie Burdick for indexing, Bertha Dunsmore and Diane Trudeau at the Community Center and Board Members John Barber, Michele Gautreau, Mary Jo Keeler, Chris Ianson and George Ianson, Treasurer.



Delicious Cake
decorated for the
Hague Chronicle Party
by Jo Denno

PARTIAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

David Martucci, Sole Assessor, urges all **primary residence** homeowners to contact the office (543-6161) to see if they are eligible for the following exemptions:

Senior Citizens' exemption: primary residence homeowners over age 65 with household income less than \$17,725. This exemption must be renewed each year. Renewal forms will be sent in early January to those who had this exemption last year.

Enhanced STAR exemption: primary residence homeowners over age 65 with household income less than \$64,650. This exemption must be renewed each year unless an Optional Verification form is submitted. Renewal forms will be sent in early January to those who had this exemption last year.

Basic STAR exemption: all primary residence homeowners. This exemption does not have to be renewed each year, once the first application is approved.

Veterans' exemption: primary residence homeowners with military service during wartime periods. This exemption does not have to be renewed each year.

Details and applications are available Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The filing deadline is March 1, 2005.

SENIOR NEWS

Madeline Pelkey, President of the Senior Citizens Club, wishes everyone a Happy New Year and reminds all Hague Seniors that the next meeting is on Tuesday, January 25th at 1:30PM at the Community Center. The guest speaker will be Karen Kirkpatrick from the Council for Prevention.

She hopes that any Seniors (50+) who have not already joined the Club will come to check out the meetings in 2005. On February 22nd there will be a covered dish luncheon beginning at noon. Everyone attending this always popular gathering should bring a dish to share.

FOREST MANAGEMENT SERIES

Beginning February 16, 2005, a six-segment "letter series" on understanding forest ecosystems, forest habitats and forest management principles is being offered that will provide landowners of rural forest with skills to better enjoy and utilize their property. The series will involve a total of six mailings sent approximately every two weeks in a "self-study" format. The culmination will be a Field Experience Day at the SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, Huntington Wildlife Forest, Newcomb, NY.

The program is sponsored by the Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Warren County, NY DEC, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, NY Forest Owners Assoc., NY Tree Farm, Finch Pruyn Paper Company, Inc. and North East Foresters Assoc. All forest landowners are invited to participate.

Registration is required by Feb. 10. Cost for series is \$20 per person that includes all materials for the six sessions, and the Field Day Experience. For more info. contact Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development Council at 623-3090.

MONTHLY LGPC MEETING

The Lake George Park Commission will conduct a regular monthly meeting which will include the Commission's Project Review Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 25th, 2005 at 10 a.m. at the Fort William Henry Conference Center, Lake George, NY. following the Law Enforcement Committee meeting at 9 am. Public comments are welcome at each regular monthly meeting of the Commission.

WEATHER NOTES by Mary Lou Doulin

In spite of all the wild and varied conditions, the last half of December and the first half of January have been milder than normal with warmer temperatures. The thermometer reached the mid 50s on Dec. 23. Gentle breezes and 45 degrees brought in the New Year at midnight and the January thaw on the 13th brought temperatures sky rocketing to 54 degrees.

Of the several winter weather advisories, most were conglomerates of snow, ice, freezing rain, hail and sleet.

Only the storm of January 8 was exclusively snow (4 inches). It has been like a weather roller coaster with such changing conditions. Now that the temperatures are dipping, ice is everywhere, except on Lake George. I haven't observed the Hague Brook frozen as yet and only occasionally viewed skimpy patches of ice near some shore lines. This is late timing. I imagine the bitter cold predicted for next week will alter that.

The turquoise skies and puffy, soft pink clouds have created stunning sunsets in recent days. All of this is leading up to winter hunkering in.

Prepare yourself for
an Arctic blast!



WINTER WEEKEND MUSIC SPECIAL

On Sunday, February 20th from 2 to 4 pm there will be a free Country Music & Blue Grass show at the Community Center.

The show will feature Doug Zeyak (formerly of the Good Times Drifters Band) with Bob Marcotte, Al Queen and Boo Corlew. Special guest on pedal steel guitar will be Chris (Tiny) Olson. Chris was formerly with Gene Watson and currently with Commander Cody Band.



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 12/23/04

The Board met with Robert Goetsch, Chair and members Bruce Clark, Mary Lou Doulin, George Ianson, Bill Pittman and Tina King. Nelson Waters was absent.

A joint public hearing with the Planning Board was held on Wilen and Wilson and then the ZBA conducted their regular business.

Wilen. (43.13-1-4). Lakeshore Dr. TR-1 wishes to divide his property resulting in two 1.08 acre lots, less than the required 1.1 acres. Attorney Viscardi recommended that the ZBA proceed with the variance request although he termed the .02 acre difference to be diminimus. One letter was read for the project and several against granting the variance. A request was made to keep the public hearing open until the January meeting which the ZBA and Planning Board decided to do in order for additional comments to be made.

Wilson. (93.12-1-10). Lakeshore Dr. TR-1 requested a variance to extend a roof over an existing deck which would extend beyond the 10ft sideline setback. Approved.

PLANNING BOARD - 1/6/05

The Board met with all members present. Board member Cathy Clark has made suggestions outlining a better process in procedure. The Planning Board also is continuing to discuss the zoning code definitions.

Wilen. (43.13-1-4). Lakeshore Dr. TR-1 wishes to divide his property resulting in two 1.08 acre lots, less than the required 1.1 acres. The Board made a recommendation at their 12/9/04 site review meeting to recommend approval of the variance to the ZBA. At that time they had not been given any of the correspondence relative to the project but a motion to reconsider their recommendation by Chairman Swanson was not seconded.

Wilson. (25.1-1-17 and 25.1-1-18). corner Graphite Mt Rd and Summit Dr. OC-1 resubmitted sketch plans with 2 alternatives for a proposed major subdivision of the 2-parcel lots into 10 -15 lots. The Planning Board discussed several issues such as minimal tree cutting, stormwater plan, septic and water, access and the incline. They discussed the zoning code requirement for green space or a fee from the developer in a major development. A question was raised about whether donation of land to a land conservancy would meet the requirement. They indicated a general preference for one of the plans although no formal approval was given. This project will also need APA approval.

Icke. (26.14-1-16). Waltonian Rd. TR-1 wishes to move an existing garage closer to the house (within 100 ft of the shoreline), modify a roofline and expand the size of the second floor bedrooms. A connecting breezeway was also mentioned in the application.

Waters. N. (25.4-1-18.11). Decker Hill Rd. OC-1 wishes to subdivide his parcel into 4 lots of 25, 22, 6 and 6 acres.

Craig. (60.13-1-13). Red Fox Lane. Arcady. TR-1 wishes to add a roof over part of the deck and enlarge the deck. Construction will be within 100 ft of the Lake.

Site reviews for the above three properties have been scheduled for 1/22/05 beginning at 9 am.

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MTG - 12/30/04

Supervisor Belden and Councilmen Meola, Megow and Gladu were present at this special Town Board meeting where a discussion was held with the museum architect. They also passed a resolution authorizing the Supervisor "to make the necessary transfers from line item to line item to balance out any overdrawn accounts at year end."

The Board then met with Town Attorney Dominick Viscardi with reference to the enforcement of Local Law #1 of 2003 (aka the "Junk Law"). The essence of the discussion was that this law must be enforced by the Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) according to the law as it is written and it does not provide for establishing other options. The complete minutes of this meeting, which outline several issues relative to definitions and interpretations, are available from the Town Clerk, Debbie Manning.

The Board approved \$11,750 for the installation of RDA software with a yearly maintenance fee of \$2500. This software is the financial package used by Diane Trudeau for the town books.

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING - 1/4/05

The Board held its annual organizational meeting with Supervisor Belden, and Councilmen Gladu, Megow, Meola and Patchett all present. Resolutions were approved relative to the following items:

1. The regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Community Center preceded by an audit meeting at 6 pm. Both meetings are open to the public.

Con't on page 4 - Special Town Board

2. Evergreen Bank, Bolton Landing, is the official depository for Town funds.
3. The Glens Falls Post Star is the official newspaper for legal notices.
4. The mileage rate is \$.36 per mile for 2005.
5. The Supervisor is empowered to invest surplus funds to draw interest for the accounts from which the funds were drawn.
6. Board members will be funded to attend the NYS Association of Towns meeting with the Supervisor as the regular delegate and Councilman Meola as the alternate.
7. Deborah Manning is named as Record Management Officer and the Supervisor is the Appeals Officer.
8. Petty cash funds are \$25 for the Town Clerk, \$100 for the Tax Collector, \$50 for the Town Park, \$50 for the Town Justice and \$100 for the Supervisor.

2005 agreements with various organizations were approved with maximum amounts as follows:

1. \$300 for the American Legion for Memorial Day celebration.
2. \$185,000 for the Hague Volunteer Fire Department for fire and ambulance services.
3. \$150 for Dr. Mack for housing of seized animals.
4. \$2,500 for Hague Senior Citizens Club.
5. \$2160 for Community Action Agency for Senior transportation.

The following 2005 appointments were made:

1. Budget Officer is Dan Belden.
2. Code Enforcement Officer is Graham Bailey.
3. Town Naturalist is David DeFranco.
4. Community Center Coordinator is Bertha Dunsmore.
5. The Town Board will act as the Board of Health.
6. Care Program Officer is Sheryl Bailey.
7. Dog Control Officer/Animal Control Officer and Dog Enumerator is Linda Benway.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman is Robert Goetsch.
9. Planning Board Chairman is David Swanson.
10. ZBA member for a term to 12/21/2011 is William Pittman.
11. PB member for a term to 12/21/2011 is Catherine Clark.
12. Town Park Commission member for a term to 12/31/2007 is Martin Brown.
13. Deputy Town Supervisor is Rudolph Meola.
14. Deputy Highway Supervisor is Chester Frasier.
15. The Town Attorney is Dominick Viscardi.

The first regular meeting of the Town Board for 2005 was held with Supervisor Dan Belden and Councilmen Dick Gladu, Lu Megow, Rudy Meola and Bob Patchett all present. The minutes were taken by Town Clerk Debbie Manning.

The Board looked at the bills for the month during the Audit meeting beginning at 6 PM. The regular meeting started at 6:30 PM and after the Pledge of Allegiance a moment of silence was held for Harold Hoffay, Arthur Anisansel and Flo Lee.

Several people made comments under Privilege of the Floor given to the public. Bruce Clark made his monthly inquiry about the status of the sewer and heard that no funds have yet been transferred to pay back the loan and that the Town still will not take over the control of the sewer until items on the punch list are complete. Art Belden asked why the Town was not plowing areas that had been done previously such as the Catholic Church parking lot. Since it is not public property the Town will no longer be plowing it. Cathy Clark inquired about plowing on Overbrook Extension which she said the Town paved and named and now is not plowing. Further discussion was heard about the highways and Supervisor Belden indicated that the Town is plowing state road 9N and the county roads.

The minutes of the November 16th special Town Board meeting had not been previously approved as we had indicated in last month's Hague Chronicle. After much discussion in public meetings the issue of vacation time for part-time salaried personnel is still pending. Councilman Gladu, who was on the Personnel Committee last month, made a recommendation to the Board. This month Councilmen Meola and Patchett are listed as the members of the Personnel Committee and will be meeting to discuss the issue further. After some maneuvering the minutes of the November 16th meeting were finally approved with a statement indicating that ZEO Graham Bailey will be paid for one week of his mid-February to mid-March vacation.

A bid for providing sand to the Town was received and accepted from Pat Armstrong.

Cont'd on page 5 - Town Board

The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it's the same problem you had last year.

John Foster Dulles

Cont'd from page 4 - Town Board

Committee Reports (names in parentheses indicate the Board members of the listed committee):

Assessor/Justice (Gladu/Meola) - Councilman Gladu stated that "We are positioning ourselves for equalization discussions with the state. We ran a complete reassessment last year and we will argue to stay at the 100% equalization rate." A letter of commendation "for providing fair assessments and meeting high standards for assessment administration" has been received from the NYS Office of Real Property Services. The Town has received \$8255 from their office (\$5 per parcel) for conducting reassessments at the 100% rate in 2004. In addition, Assessor Dave Martucci will be presented with a framed Excellence in Equity certificate from the NYSORPS. He will receive his award on January 25 at 12:30 PM, during the Warren County Assessors meeting at the Olde Log Inn in Lake George.

Buildings & Grounds/CC (Megow/Patchett) - Councilman Megow reported on continued work on the community center.

Care Program (Patchett/Megow) - no report

Finance (Megow/Meola) - Councilman Gladu mentioned an upcoming meeting on the new Town financial software.

Fire Dept (Gladu/Patchett) - no new report

Highway (Megow/Gladu) - There was some general discussion about highway conditions and the use of salt. The Town will keep one truck on Tongue Mountain and use the other truck for 9N. The Town spent \$25,000 on salt.

Insurance (Meola/Gladu) - RPFs (request for proposals) to be sent out.

Museum & Historian (Meola/Megow) - Councilman Meola reported that the Board had a meeting with Mr. Jones, architect who suggested that it would be more cost effective if the museum was an extension of the Community Center toward the basketball court rather than in the rear of the building as originally planned. The museum bylaws are almost ready.

Personnel (Meola/Patchett) - Committee will meet.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater (Gladu/Patchett) - Councilman Gladu spoke about looking to "improve efficiencies of the planning and zoning meetings by looking at scheduling and requirements and making sure concerns are put together in a more efficient process." He is continuing to work with Planning Board members on ideas for implementing recommendations in the Hague Comprehensive Plan. ZEO Bailey noted they will make an "effort to streamline the meetings and shorten them without compromising the intent of the zoning law." He is planning a workshop on zoning for our local board members with participants from NYS Department of State and the APA. Councilman Meola noted that he is working with the Town Attorney, Tim Costello from the Sewer Treatment Plant, Councilman Megow and ZEO Bailey to get input to revise the sewer law which will then be brought to the Town Board and probably require a public hearing. Supervisor Belden noted trying to work on an application for a new cell phone tower in Graphite.

Recreation/Promotion (Gladu/Patchett) - Sal Santaniello spoke about the Chamber of Commerce plans for the Hague Winter Carnival weekend on February 18-20th. The Board agreed to have the Town provide piles of snow for the Rotary sponsored snow sculptures.

Sewer District 1 (Belden/Megow) - The new structure at the Water Treatment Plant is almost completed.

Town Park/Beautification (Meola/Gladu) - Work has started on getting staff for next summer.

Transfer and Recycling (Megow/Patchett)- The Board approved a proposal from Casella, Transfer Station management, to accept yard waste. They will provide a container and charge customers a rate of \$25 per yard (about 3 1/2 60-gal. bags). Smaller amounts will be prorated. Yard waste is defined as grass clippings, leaves, small brush, and Christmas trees. Any other material must be approved before being accepted.

Youth (Meola/Gladu) -Councilman Meola reported that \$1600 in matching funds has been approved for the summer program. The funding for the opera program was not approved.

Con't on page 6 - Town Board/Supervisor



The time is always right to do what is right.

Martin Luther King

Con't from page 5 - Town Board/Supervisor

Unfinished business

1. The Board discussed the 2-hr call-in policy for the Highway Department. The Personnel Committee will meet to clarify the policy and should have any necessary recommendations by February.

Under New Business, the Board:

1. Approved use of the Community Center for the Arts Fair on August 5-7.
2. Authorized the Supervisor to sign the agreement with the Town of Ticonderoga for \$1000 for the Youth program.
3. Approved receiving \$42,000 from Warren County for removal of ice and snow from County roads. (The Town also receives \$154,000 from NYS for ice and snow removal on the state roads.)
4. Did not make any appointments for Deputy chairpersons of the ZBA and Planning Board and Clerk of the Planning Board. Councilman Gladu had been asked to get nominees but the Board decided it had not yet determined the process so the appointments will wait until next month.
5. Approved attendance at a local planning day in Saranac Lake on March 21 and 22 for any Board members who wish to go.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Belden reported on work on Holman Hill. As we understand the issue, there was damage on the Holman Hill wall from an earlier earthquake and then during the sewer construction. The cost of the repairs is \$80,000 for which the Board approved expenditures of \$25,000 and Warren County will pay the remaining \$55,000.

The Supervisor said that the lease of a truck had been budgeted. They will lease a 2005 truck for 3 years at a rate of \$208 per month from a New Jersey company and sell the truck being driven now by Mike Manning.

Supervisor Belden said that he plans to meet with David Darrin to discuss items of mutual interest.

The Board will review a letter written by Councilman Gladu which outlines the highlights of accomplishments by the Town in 2004.

January 20th is the date by which all Town financial books should be submitted for review by the Town Board.

A list of all Town meetings for 2005 is available from Bertha Dunsmore in the Community Center.

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST

The High School Equivalency Test or GED will be given at Ticonderoga High School on Wednesday and Thursday, January 26 & 27, 2005 from 3:30 - 8:00 PM. Attendance is required each day.

To obtain an application, call the Guidance Office at Ticonderoga High School at 585-6661, Ext. 123.

Applications should be returned to:
Guidance Office, Ticonderoga High School,
5 Calkins Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Clifton West, town historian, wrote the following in August 1999. This history of the Cape Cod Village property on Route 9N was prepared from an abstract of deeds on file in the Town Historian's Office.

Lewis Burgess and wife Charlotte Burgess deeded the former John Jenkins farm to Walter and Ruth Watrous for the price of \$6,000. That included property south to the brook flowing from Jabes Pond to Split Rock Road.

Watrous was a rich sportsman before he bought this property. What is now Cape Cod included an oval race track where Watrous' horses were exercised. He also owned the Rock and Rye property in the village (Rt. 8).

In 1915 Enid Alden bought the Watrous farm and continued operations. Eldridge and Alice Lane were the first caretakers. They were my relatives. Mother and I visited there often. There was a big cornfield where Cape Cod is now. Two silos by the barn were filled with ensilage to feed the herd of Jersey cows that supplied dairy products for sale to local residents. There was a big greenhouse near the farmhouse. Miss Alden sold flowers in summer and vegetable plants to people who had gardens.

After Miss Alden died, her long time companion, Miss Mary Beste, inherited the property. She sold many pieces of land off the original farm.

In 1950 Gordon Manning of Glenburnie bought the present Cape Cod property for \$2,000.

An interesting bit of history comes to mind. The original District #2 school was situated on the lower side of Split Rock Road where Watrous owned. They did not want a school there. They bought an acre and built a school up there, District #2. The old building was moved north of the Jenkins Brook. This was a dwelling house until someone turned it into a summer restaurant. It burned years ago.

BORN: A daughter, Sadie Jane, to Laura and Peter Igoe on November 15, 2004 in Buffalo, NY. Laura and Peter are summer residents of Friends Point, Hague. Sadie is the granddaughter of Bunny and Frank Igoe, also of Friends Point and Medina, NY.

BORN: Twin sons, Michael John and Thomas Charles, to Kathleen (Fritz) and Michael Boylan, Atlantic Highlands, NJ. on December 10, 2004. Grandparents are Joyce and Thomas Fritz, Eatontown, NJ and Rt. 8, Hague.

BORN: A boy, Ryan Gregory to Mark and Catherine Samson. Ryan is the third grandson of Nora (McCarville) Dougherty. The McCarville family have been summer residents of Forest Bay since 1957.

MARRIED: Emily Bullock, to Rob Van Dyk in Brattleboro, VT on November 11, 2004. Emily is the daughter of Audrey O'Brien, Hague and Brattleboro.

MARRIED: Gregory Samson, son of Nora (McCaville) Dougherty to Natasha Tajirian on November 13, 2004.

DIED: Florence S. Lee, 86, Queensbury, formerly of Silver Bay, NY on December 16, 2004 in Queensbury. She is survived by a son James and a daughter, Judy Newman and three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Flo's husband, Ev, who died several years ago was one of the first volunteers to serve on *The Hague Chronicle* staff. Ev and Jim Broderick served for several years running the paper off on a mimeograph machine.

DIED: Arthur Alfred Anisansel, Jr., 92, Friends Point, Hague and Jupiter, FL. on January 9, 2005 in Jupiter. Mr. Anisansel served as trustee for the Grace Memorial Chapel, Sabbath Day Point for more than 35 years. He is survived by one son, David A., Henrietta, NY and one daughter, Cynthia M. Rosbrook, Manlius, NY. He is also survived by six grandchildren.

DIED: Suzanne J. Fitzgerald Aguado, 55, on January 7, 2005 in Poughkeepsie, NY. She was born in Ticonderoga, graduated from Hague Central School and St. Peter's School of Nursing in Albany. She is survived by her mother, Florence Fitzgerald, two sons, Jonathan Golbourne, Nebraska and Jeffrey Golbourne, Wappingers Falls; two brothers, C Frank Fitzgerald, Zephyrhills, FL and George Fitzgerald, Temple, TX.

DIED: Adolph Contreni, 82, Raleigh, NC, on November 30 in Raleigh. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Ella Frasier Contreni, son, David, Hasbrook Heights, NJ, daughter Carol Sadusky, Raleigh, NC and son, Michael and his companion Marilyn Goldfisher, Saddle River, NJ.

(corrected from December 04 Soundings)

SECOND MARKING PERIOD HONORS

Congratulations to the following Hague students who have received second marking period honors at Ticonderoga High School.

12th Grade:

First Honors: Aren Laudree, Maureen Palait

Second Honors: Danielle Connors, Joshua Frasier, Wyatt Peterson, Richard Zacharenko

11th Grade:

Second Honors: Sarah Bissell, Marissa Coffin, Michelle Coffin, Andrew Trombley

10th Grade:

First Honors: John Breitenbach, Akashia Swinton, Kacheena Trudeau

9th Grade:

First Honors: Samantha Abare

Second Honors: Alanna Swinton

COLLEGE SUCCESS

Congratulations to Becky Ryder, West Hague Rd., Hague, whose final first semester grades from Hudson Valley Community College added up to three A's and one B. Becky is majoring in Early Childhood Education. She is the daughter of Korinna Ryder, granddaughter of Gladys and Vernie Rockwell and great-granddaughter of Inza and Ernest Jordon, all of Hague.



A CHIMNEY QUESTION

Virginia Westbrook, a local historical consultant, would like to talk to anyone who knows if they have a fireplace or chimney built by Fayette Dunklee. If so, she would appreciate your contacting her at 597-3983 or <thevaco@nycap.rr.com>.



CARTOON SHOW

There will be an exhibit of 40 original editorial cartoons by area cartoonist Stan Burdick of Ticonderoga at Crandall Library in Glens Falls from February 12 to March 4, 2005. The collection is called "Life and Laughter - 2004" and contains art pieces that appeared in the *Lake Champlain Weekly* publication during 2004.

Crandall Gallery on the second floor of the library regularly displays works of area artists. In this case, viewers will be taken on a pen-and-ink journey through the tumultuous year just passed, as portrayed by an editorial cartoonist with 50 years of experience. Among the featured cartoons can be seen the race to the presidential election with Kerry and Bush, a humorous slant on the gay marriage trend, the gas price escalation, and the tardy NYS budget fiasco.

Also shown are the missing weapons of mass destruction, insurgents in the Iraq War, a mad cow incident, acid rain devastation in the Adirondacks, and Mars aliens playing a trick on NASA with a bucket of water.

Burdick has been staff cartoonist for the *Glens Falls Post-Star*, *The Plattsburg Press-Republican*, *The Hague Chronicle* and other newspapers. He takes pleasure in creating spoofs and spinoffs of both national and regional events. His work often depicts current cultural trends with a humorous twist.

HAGUE MEMORY TREE

The following names have been added to the list for the Hague Memory Tree since December 13, 2004:

Bill and Mary Ellen Armes, Harold Bolton, Margaret (Peg) Bolton, Gordon Cameron, George Carter, Ruth Carter, Roland Carter, Charles Conlon, Mabel Conlon, Ernest Conlon, Wilbur Conlon, Wallace Conlon, Eleanor Conlon, Carrie Conlon, Robertha Conlon, Adolph Contreni, Edward Hubley Crabbs, Eliza Hamilton Crabbs, E. Hamilton Crabbs, Bertha Reiff Crabbs, David Dent Crabbs, John David Crabbs, Jenò Del Signore, Bernard & Anna Denno, Kenneth Drake, Merritt Durgy, Samuel Eannace, Marilyn Frank, Hazel Frasier, Harry Frasier, S. Richard Frasier, Elaine Frasier, Edwin and Peggy Hinck, Diane Hunter, Dick Hunter, Joseph Hunter, Robert Hunter, Fee Ives, Buster Leach, Bessie Masten, Eber Masten, Ursula Montbriand, Nelson Patchett, Grace Patchett, Janet Urice Perreault, Claire Piantadosi, Connie Ramagli, Lucio Ramagli, Martha Kuck Reiff, Frank Ruyder, George Savage, Bessie Smith, Jay A. Urice, Jeane A. Urice, George N. Urice, Marguerite N. Urice, Elizabeth Conlon Waters, Dannie Waters, Miles Waters, Gabriel Wright.

The Hague Emergency Squad thanks all those who participated in the Memory Tree project, by remembering loved ones. The total raised was \$481.

GOALS

If we have not achieved our early dreams, we must either find new ones or see what we can salvage from the old. If we have accomplished what we set out to do in our youth, then we need not weep like Alexander the Great that we have no more worlds to conquer. There is clearly much left to be done, and whatever else we are going to do, we had better get on with it.

~Rosalynn Smith Carter

NATURE NEWS

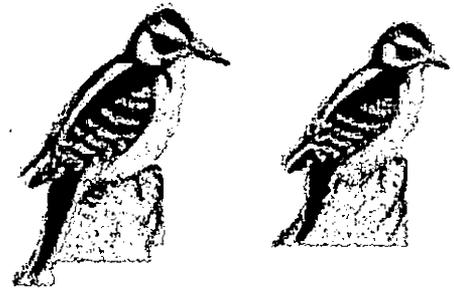
By Nancy Wotton Scarzello

Each month, when I sit down to write this column, I often rely on my background as an herbalist and my work with native plants to draw on for subject matter. I could easily write about plants every month but when I took on this assignment I knew that I would have to come up with some other material now and then. What I didn't know, when I first began writing the "Nature News", was how much I would enjoy researching different subjects and how much I would learn.

I have always had birdfeeders at our house and have enjoyed watching the birds up close, but I would consider myself a very casual birder, not a "binocular-toting" serious birder like both of my parents. So, in the interest of research, last February I participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count. The information said it was easy to do, required no expertise, novices welcomed and there was no registration fee -it met all my criteria so I signed on. Participants from all across the country can spend as little as fifteen minutes per day counting the number of birds for each species they see and reporting their findings at the end of the four-day count.

I had some blue jays, chickadees and a couple of crows on my list. Pretty uneventful, I'll admit, but it prompted me to expand the experience this year by participating in a related program called Project Feeder Watch. This one takes place from mid December through mid May (you can sign up anytime, though) and I thought I might see a wider variety of birds. A \$15 fee is required for this one, but I received a very nice packet with complete instructions, a poster of the most common birds likely to be seen to help with identification and other suggestions for the beginner.

At first I was completely focused on the counting itself since it is very important that you don't count the same bird twice. You do this by keeping a tally of the most birds of any single species that you see at one time and then just report the highest number in your tally. For instance, you see 4 chickadees at your feeder and a while later that day you see 6, then later 3. You report 6 chickadees since that was the most you saw at one time that day. Sounds easy, right? It isn't. Chickadees never sit still and the most I've been able to count at one time, and be sure I didn't count the same bird more than once, is eight. Try blue jays, they're easy to spot. There are five under the feeder, two in it, six up in the tree waiting, four in the compost, two more flew in, now there are seven under the feeder and two in the tree -then the dog comes around the corner and they all fly off before I have any idea how many there are!



Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers

I had observed woodpeckers in the yard, heard them pounding on the trees, seen them at the suet feeder, but if you had asked me whether the bird was a Downy Woodpecker or a Hairy Woodpecker I would have laughed and said that "Woodpecker" was as detailed as I could get. But with Project Feeder Watch I had to get specific in my report. Now I needed to pay better attention because the two are differentiated merely by their size, the Downy being about 6" and the Hairy about 9", not a grand distinction at a feeder 40 feet away from my window. I swore the bird was the smaller Downy; my husband was convinced it was the larger bird that he saw. It wasn't until I happened to see two woodpeckers in the tree at the same time that I realized we had both - seeing them side by side the difference became clear. I guess I'll admit that the idea of counting birds put me off a little since it seemed that the purpose was numbers and not a holistic look at the birds themselves, their behavior, their habitat, but I soon noticed that I would get distracted and completely entertained by them and the counting became secondary. I probably will never be the "serious" birder that my parents are but I am now a "binocular-toting" one that can tell the difference between a Downy and a Hairy Woodpecker.

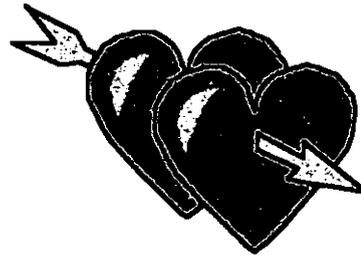
The Great Backyard Bird Count for this year takes place from February 18-21, 2005. You can learn about the project and sign up at <www.birdsource.org/gbbc>. It's fun, free and will give you a taste of "Citizen Science".

You can also participate in the longer term Project Feeder Watch. At their fabulous website <www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw> you can see how scientists rely on the information that participants provide to give them clues about changes in the environment. A great activity for children, beginning or casual observers as well as the "serious" birder which I highly recommend if only for the entertainment that happens right outside your backdoor.



Black-capped Chickadee

January - February 2005



January

25 1:30pm Senior Citizens Mtg. (p. 2)
 26 1pm Extra Helping Distribution
 27 7pm Zoning Board of Appeals
 27 - 28 NYS Snow Sculpting
 Championships, City Park, Glens Falls
 29 - 30 Heritage Craft Show,
 Civic Center, Glens Falls

February

3 7pm Planning Board
 4 - 6 Friends of Crandall Library Book Sale, GF
 8 6:30 pm Town Board Meeting
 14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
 17 11am Carillon Garden Club
 18 - 20 Hague Winter Weekend (see flyer)

Ethel Andrus found the following tips in a recent magazine. The item stated that Mark Twain wrote them more than 100 years ago.

Twelve Tips for a Positive Attitude

1. Make up your mind to be happy. Learn to find pleasure in the simple things.
2. Make the best of your circumstances. Everyone has problems. The trick is to make laughter outweigh the tears.
3. Don't take yourself too seriously. Don't think that somehow you should be protected from misfortune that befalls others.
4. You can't please everybody. Don't let criticism worry you.
5. Don't let your neighbor set your standards. Be yourself.
6. Do the things you enjoy doing, but stay out of debt.
7. Don't borrow trouble. Imaginary burdens are harder to bear than actual burdens.
8. Hate poisons the soul, so don't carry grudges. Avoid people who make you unhappy.
9. Have many interests. If you can't travel, read about new places.
10. Don't hold post-mortems. Don't spend your life over sorrows and mistakes.
11. Do what you can for those less fortunate than you.
12. Keep busy at something. A busy person has less time to be unhappy.

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