



## SENIOR CLUB NEWS

We hope you all are having a wonderful, warm and sunny summer so far!! Just a reminder to our Club Members - our Annual Picnic will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at the Hague Fire House Outdoor Pavilion starting at NOON. Bring a dish to share and the Club will provide burgers, franks, drinks and dessert.

The Senior Fall Outing is scheduled for Friday, September 18th, when we will be taking a Lake George Luncheon Cruise on the Lac du Saint Sacrement. Cost to Members will be \$10. Signup Sheet will be available at the Picnic so please bring your payment with you. Transportation will be by car pool.

September's meeting will be on Tuesday, the 22nd, at the Community Center starting at 1:30 pm. Our Guest Speaker will be Vicky Bueno, Community Health Educator for MVP Health Care in Schenectady, NY, with her program, Power of Positive Thinking. This should prove to be a very informative meeting. As always, refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in joining us, please do come. In fact, if anyone has any questions about joining the Senior Club, please give me a call at 543-6130. New faces are always welcome.

... Madeline Pelkey

## ANOTHER FROEHLICH AWARD FOR THE LGA

The Lake George Association (LGA) has announced a grant of \$368,045 for progressive lake-saving initiatives from the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation. This is the sixteenth consecutive award from the Froehlich Foundation. According to Walter Lender, Executive Director of the LGA, the funding provided by the Froehlich Foundation grant will be used as a local match to state and federal funding for several projects in the watershed. The LGA's popular Floating Classroom program will receive \$20,000 to help teach lake science and watershed management to area students.

With assistance from the Froehlich Foundation, the LGA's Lake-Saving Projects program was launched successfully in 1994 and has expanded and improved with each passing year. The goal of these projects is to protect Lake George's exceptional water quality by minimizing or eliminating negative impacts through stormwater management, stream corridor restoration and lake-friendly land-use practices.

## LATEST FROM THE HVFD



The Hague Fire Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) has been the recent beneficiary of some generous gifts which it wishes to share with the public it serves. The Ticonderoga Area Kiwanis Club annually directs a major emphasis award in the amount off \$1000 to the Hague community. We are grateful to be chosen as this years recipient. The award will be used toward the purchase of new light weight turn out gear for fighting brush and forest fires.

Recently Mrs. Peggy Darrin made a lead gift that, along with others, enabled us to obtain a much needed state of the art defibrillator with a heart and respirator functions monitor. This is a critical piece of equipment.

It is also the time of year when we say "Thank You" to all the talented Emps at Silver Bay for staging another wonderful musical for the benefit of the HVFD. This years show "My Favorite Year", capably directed by Mike McCord, packed the Auditorium on opening night, and resulted in \$2,520 for the Department. Thanks again to cast and crew for a great effort.

Last, but not least, kudos to our own members who worked so hard and the public for their support in making our recent steak roast another success

Due to a computer glitch, this month's logistics will be rolled in with the next issue.

With all the bad weather early this summer, it looks like all of us are trying to cram a summer of fun into the two weeks we have left. Let's all watch out for our own and each others kids, in and out of the water. ....Joe McCranels

## DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?



*HVFD first engine 1947*

**THE HAGUE CHRONICLE** is mailed out by volunteers on the Thursday after the third Tuesday of each month. The News deadline is six days earlier. Please send news or address corrections to the Publisher, Judy Stock at <[HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com](mailto:HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com)>.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AT FORT TICONDEROGA



On September 12 and 13, 2009 a Revolutionary War Encampment will feature units depicting the British, Continental, German and Natives involved in the War for American Independence encamping on the grounds of Fort Ticonderoga for the weekend.

On September 25 - 27, 2009, The Sixth Annual Seminar on the American Revolution will be held at Fort Ticonderoga. Weekend seminars will feature speakers on related topics. Call 585-6370 for registration or more information.

### “CELEBRATING DEGAS” AT THE SEMBRICH

The Sembrich Museum in Bolton Landing continues its two-week series of events “Celebrating Degas!” complementing the The Hyde Collection’s “Degas and Music” exhibit. The celebration, which began August 15, includes performances, film and lectures centered around French art, music and culture.

You can join them at the Hyde for “From the Paris Opera,” a program of arias and duets, paying homage to Degas on Saturday, August 22, at 7:30 pm. Soprano Phoebe Fennell, tenor Eric Fennell and pianist Michael Fennelly will perform a program including works of Bizet, Massenet, Gounod, Charpentier and Offenbach. Admission is \$20.

“Degas and the Culture of his Day” is a program of poetry and music presented at The Sembrich studio museum on Wednesday, August 26, at 5 pm. Through performance and readings, professors from Adirondack Community College will weave the work of four French poets (Paul Verlaine, Arthur Rimbaud, Stéphane Mallarmé and Paul Valéry) with works of art by Degas and music by their composer friends. This program is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program and Warren County (administered locally by LARAC, the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council). Admission is \$10.

Live organ accompaniment by William Hubert will add skin-tingling chill to the 1925 silent film classic “The Phantom of the Opera” shown on Saturday, August 29, at 7:30 pm. at The Hyde. The Phantom began his reign of terror at the Paris Opera in the famous 1910 novel by Gaston Leroux. Mr. Hubert’s performance incorporates musical themes from Gounod’s Faust. Admission is \$8.

The Hyde Collection is located at 162 Warren Street, Glens Falls. The “Degas and Music” exhibit, which includes 25 works of art, runs through October 18. To learn more, visit <[www.hydecollection.org](http://www.hydecollection.org)>.

For more information or to make a reservation for any of these events, please call The Sembrich office at (518) 644-2431 or 644-9839.

## FISH & GAME CLUB PIG ROAST

The Hague Fish & Game Club will hold its 1st Annual PIG ROAST on Saturday, August 22, 2009 at The Clubhouse on West Hague Road. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to “come hungry.” The eating starts at 3 pm and goes until the food is gone.

Enjoy some fine eating; roast pig, corn, potato, roll and dessert all for only \$10. Refreshments will be available.

ATV and horse rides will leave Club around 9:30 am for a fun morning ride, horseshoes start at 2 pm and there will be music and dancing throughout the day. Campers, tents and horses are all welcome.

## 2010 CALENDARS TO BENEFIT LGA PROJECTS



The Lake George Association (LGA) has collaborated with renowned Adirondack photographer, Carl Heilman, to produce a 2010 calendar, featuring beautiful images of Lake George, that will benefit the work of the LGA. Proceeds from sales of the calendar, made through the LGA, will go to support the conservation group’s Lake Saving Programs and Projects.

The calendar is available for \$14, plus shipping and handling. To purchase the calendar, contact the LGA office at (518) 668-3558. Previews of all of the images used in this calendar can be seen at <[www.lakegeorgeassociation.org](http://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org)>.

## LGA 17TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Lake George Association (LGA) will hold its 17th annual golf tournament on Monday, September 14th at the Glens Falls Country Club. The 124-year-old non-profit conservation group is seeking players and sponsors.

The tournament will feature world-class golf at a classic Donald Ross course with an awards reception barbecue following play on the patio. According to Nancy Cobb-Zoll, LGA Director of Membership Development and tournament organizer, early feedback from supporters has been very positive.

The shotgun start will be at 12:30 pm and the format is two best balls. To play in the tournament, it is \$150 per player, \$600 per team of 4. Prizes will be awarded for winners in men’s, women’s, and mixed teams for gross and net scores. Prizes will also be awarded for Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin and Hole-in-One. There will also be several raffle prizes awarded at the post-play barbecue, which takes place at approximately 5:30 pm. Several sponsorship opportunities are available and donations are being accepted for raffle prizes.

For more information, contact the LGA at (518) 668-3558.

## **SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING - 7/21/09**

Supervisor Belden and members Frasier, Meola, Martucci and Gladu were present.

A moment of silence was held for Henry Geils.

Mr. John Bruening gave recommendations for Hague signage. Councilman Meola will send a detailed letter to Mr. Bruening asking for a proposal for each sign project.

In reviewing the Sewer complaints, the Board determined that a Single Commercial Enterprise and Offices with four employees or fewer would be charged 1/2 EDU. Also a commercial building with one bedroom less than 500 square feet with a kitchen is charged 1/2 EDU.

Changes made in the sewer assessments were Rust for commercial space from 2 EDUs to 1 1/2 EDUs.; Juniper Designs from 1 EDU to 1/2 EDU; Trout House Village locations from 7 EDUs to 6 EDUs and from 10 EDUs to 7 1/2 EDUs.

## **TOWN BOARD MEETING- 8/11/09**

Supervisor Dan Belden and Board members Edna Frasier, Rudy Meola, Mark Martucci and Dick Gladu were all present.

Dave Wick, District Manager, of the Warren County Soil and Conservation District, gave a presentation to the Board on the Hague Brook Delta project. He noted that the timeline for dredging depends on getting all the permits and financing.

A moment of silence was held for Henry Aumiller.

### **Some Committee Reports**

#### **1. Assessor & Justice**

Dick Gladu reported meeting with Dave Rosenberg, the Bolton-Lake George assessor and the assessor from Ticonderoga. These towns are planning to do a complete reassessment. Commercial properties seem to be under assessed so to make it more equitable they have decided to go ahead with a reassessment. He noted that sales for 2009 are down significantly from 2008 so 2009 figures would not be a good data base to use. In 2004 there were 13 sales and in 2008 there were 19 sales. Dick will meet with Hague Assessor Dave Martucci and Ticonderoga Assessor Patti Osier to discuss further.

#### **2. Buildings & Grounds**

Mark Martucci reported that work will be done on the porch at the east end of the building. The ramp will be a delivery ramp. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be sent out and due back by September 1st so the Board members can review before the next board meeting.

#### **3. Finance & Insurance**

The biggest area of problem spending is with the sewer which needs to be re-looked at during budget time but other areas are in line with projections.

Mark Martucci noted that the county occupancy tax collections are down 25%.

#### **4. Highway**

Dan Belden said that the highway trucks have been hauling sand through the downtown area and wondered if they could use the back roads route.

#### **5. Planning/Zoning/Stormwater**

The DEC Part 608 regulations have a definition update that "All streams are navigable until they are proven not navigable." The next monthly meeting of the Lake George Park Commission will be held on August 25, 2009 at 10 am in the Hague Community Center.

The Darrin Fresh Water Institute tested nine sites in Hague. The total coliform and fecal coliform counts were well below limits. Hague had the best test results of any town on the Lake.

#### **6. Recreation/Promotion & Youth**

Rudy Meola reported that Donna Wotton was "doing a bang up job" on the plans for the Oktoberfest to be held on September 26, 2009. The Board did not approve his request that the vendor fees be waived for the event. Edna Frasier noted that vendors have paid for other activities in the Park and the Board already has put a lot of money into the event.

Rudy Meola reported that the Youth program at Silver Bay served 26 local kids. It is a very successful program which will end on August 28th. The local kids can participate because Silver Bay absorbs half the cost and the Town picks up the other half.

Mark Martucci reported that Mike Consuelo has been hired by Warren County as a Special Events Coordinator. He will meet with Mark (representing the Warren County Council of Chambers of Commerce), Dan Belden and a representative from the local Chamber to set up ideas for special events. His position is funded through the county occupancy tax. It is thought that with planning more events it might result in an increase in occupancy tax funds coming in.

#### **7. Sewer District #1 & #2**

Supervisor Belden says they hope to have both the north and south ends up and running by September 1st. He noted that property owners can't hook up until the system is running and tested and thanked people for patience.

### **Other Business**

The Board passed three resolutions:

#### **Resolution #71 of 2009 - Telecommunication Option**

Authorized an agreement with Tower Development Inc. to lease land from the Town (at the Town Shed area) as a potential site for the construction of a cellular tower.

#### **Resolution #72 of 2009 - Discontinue Court Action**

Authorized the Town Attorney to "withdraw and discontinue.. all actions against Hannah Cole." She had been cited for a public nuisance as a result of barking dogs but the property has been reviewed by the Town Board and the matter has been taken care of to their satisfaction.

**Resolution #73 of 2009 - Action on Hague Brook Delta**

Authorized applying for funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Supervisor Belden reported meeting with Sheri DeLarm of the Firehouse Restaurant about problems in the parking lots. Closing the Town lots at 11 pm was discussed but other businesses also use the lots.

Audience member Bruce Rust suggested that "one day this board will have to revisit a noise ordinance."

Supervisor Belden received a letter from Time Warner Cable in response to his request for costs of construction of cable television to the Sewage Treatment Plant on Decker Hill Road. As of January 1, 2009, the Town had \$60,000 in their franchise account. Additional monies have come in since then. Rudy Meola noted that in November 2006, the Board authorized the Supervisor to contract with Time Warner to complete service to Split Rock Road and New Hague Road. The Supervisor said that the contracts were not received. The Supervisor was asked to get more information on the costs for Dodd Hill and New Hague Road.

Edna Frasier reported that Melissa McManus, a grant writer who works with planners, would prepare the paperwork on the American Legion building (Brookside Park) at a rate of \$100 per hour. Edna said that she can't predict the number of hours that would be needed but maybe 4 to 5 hours. The Board approved hiring her as a consultant.

The Board hired Bo O'Leary, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Trainee, as a full time employee starting September 1, 2009 at the pay rate of \$14 per hour since Tim Costello will be leaving next August. Since Bo has other health insurance he requested a portion of the savings to the Town. The Personnel Committee will check further into the insurance issue.

The Board approved a request from Mike White, Executive Director of the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC), to remove milfoil from the Hague Delta area at no charge to the Town from August 17 - 20th. Because the Vermont company's contract with the LGPC to remove milfoil ends in September, they want to get it done now.

Audience member Gene Moran suggested that there be more recreational facilities for our kids here. Supervisor Belden asked him to do a survey and find out if there is some interest. There have been programs in the past where the interest wasn't sustained.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 7/23/09**

Chairman Robert Goetsch and Board members Jon Hanna, Martin Fitzgerald, II, George Ianson, Lindsay Mydlarz and Bill Pittman were present. Glenn McKee was absent.

The Board deemed the applications complete and set site visits for two projects.

CORBO (26.6-1-8) 36 Forest Bay Rd. (TR-1R)

The applicant applied for a variance to construct a 5' x 32' walkway/deck to the lake side of an existing cabin, which currently sits 44' from the lake.

BURKLE (76.12-1-11) 41 Tower Point Rd. (Hamlet S-R)

The applicant would like to place a 10' x 18' storage shed 15' from the front line setback. The proposed area has been used as a parking area for many years, so the ground is already compacted and cleared of vegetation.

**PLANNING BOARD - 8/6/09**

Acting Chairman Dick Frasier, Pam Peterson, Bruce Clark, Mike Cherubini, Martin Fitzgerald and John Brown were present. EJ Siwek was absent.

CLARK (43.5-2-19 & 43.5-2-19) 9051 Lakeshore Drive (Hamlet)

The Board approved the applicant's request for a lot line change with one lot of 7.98 acres becoming 7.73 acres and a lot of 2.57 acres becoming 2.82 acres allowing for more level area for development.

CORBO (26.6-1-8) 36 Forest Bay Rd. (TR-1R)

The Board approved an application for a 14' x 22' screened porch, with a fireplace, over an existing flagstone patio which will sit 50' from the MHW of Lake George with the condition that it will not become living space.

TOWN OF HAGUE (43.5-1-25) 9073 Lakeshore Drive (Hamlet)

The Board approved the application to replace the current American Legion building of 741 sq. ft. with a new 402 sq. ft. structure with the condition that no trees are to be removed from the south side of the brook. The large oak is to remain on the north side of the brook.

BURKLE (76.12-1-11) 41 Tower Point Rd. (Hamlet S-R)

The Board approved the application to place a 10' x 18' storage shed 90' from the mean high water (MHW). The proposed area has been used as a parking area for many years, so the ground is already compacted and cleared of vegetation.

**SEEN ABOUT TOWN**



Sally Rypkema, owner Juniper Goods & Design

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



*Brendan Carberry*

We congratulate the seven students from Hague who were among the 2009 graduates of Ticonderoga High School. They are Jared Best, Brendan Carberry, Molly Ginn, Mara Haskell, Frank Lafferty, Aaron Lawrence and Amanda McCoy. This month we are featuring Jared and Brendan and will highlight the others in our September issue.

### JARED BEST AND BRENDAN CARBERRY THS '09

Jared Best, son of Larry and Tammy Best of New Hague Road and Brendan Carberry, son of Lorraine Carberry of Lakeshore Terrace are two outstanding young men from Hague who graduated from Ticonderoga High School in June in the top tenth of their class. Both excelled in academics, sports and extracurricular activities and both are headed to Clarkson University.

Brendan, who ranked 3rd in the class, took Advanced Placement classes in Statistics, Calculus and Physics and an advanced Spanish class. His Senior project was building and flying radio controlled model airplanes. He has worked on church and charity events as well as working on setup for the Hague Memorial Day Parade. Brendan excelled in cross country and track and is active in many water sports as well as snow sports and even unicycling. He has a long term goal to create a performance bicycle company.

With over 10 awards/scholarships each, Jared and Brendan have been acknowledged as excellent scholar athletes. These two friends have been assigned as roommates and are now off to Clarkson where they will use their formidable talents at the collegiate level. Jared plans to major in environmental engineering and Brendan in mechanical engineering. We wish these two outstanding young men much success in college.



*Jared Best*

Jared, who ranked 7th in his class, was on the National Honor Society and a member of the Quiz Bowl team which won the small schools competition. His Senior project was to create an electric moped. In addition to being a star in cross country and track, among Jared's activities was Prom King, Executive Board member and Venture Club President. He also participated in many community events and during his Senior year he worked on the Trout Brook Road cleanup, Earth Day cleanup and Elk's Veterans' Day dinner volunteer.

### PETER NEAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

At the Silver Bay Association, on August 10, the 2009 Peter Neal Memorial Scholarships were announced. These scholarships are presented annually to employees of the Silver Bay Association, based on high standards of work performance and financial requirements for a college education.

The winners for 2009 are:

Tim Sweet— Springfield College

Amanda Hill — Florida Gulf Coast University

Iain Bradbury — Springfield College

Rachel Destefano — Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Stephanie Hunt — SUNY Potsdam, Crane School of Music.

Family and friends established the scholarship in 1992, as a memorial to Peter Neal, son of Sally & James Neal of Venice Florida and Sabbath Day Point. Peter was a summer employee at the Silver Bay Association the summers of 1983, 1984 and 1985. He died of colon cancer in 1992.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this memorial may do so by sending a check to the Peter Neal Memorial Scholarship, Silver Bay Association, Silver Bay, NY 12874.

# Looking Back



Researched by the Hague Historical Society



The 100th Anniversary of Camp Mohican was celebrated at a small gathering hosted by Ken and Enid Engler earlier this month. Camp Mohican, founded in 1909 by Charles C. Batchelor, was located at the north end of Forest Bay. Clues at the site as to the camp's existence are "Camp Mohican" etched in the concrete where a flag pole had been erected and two bolts embedded in the rocks at the shoreline that were the fasteners for a diving platform. Another clue was found by Enid and daughter Karen when in an antique shop. They ran across a copy of an old ad that had run in a 1920 Harper's Magazine. The advertisement read "Camp Mohican. Hague-on-Lake George".

Though the camp only survived into the mid-1920's, members of the Batchelor family still reside in Hague and were pleased to join the celebration of the anniversary. They brought with them a number of interesting artifacts that had long been stored in an old trunk in the attic of their cottage. They also brought a booklet written about the lives of Charles Bronk Batchelor (1878-1968) and his wife Elsie (1886-1968).

The booklet tells us that Charles Batchelor was a gym teacher at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn and in 1909 he started a boys summer camp on "rented land at Indian Kettles Point on Lake George, one of the most beautiful spots in the world." Batchelor had "built tent platforms, a kitchen and large roofed dining porch, a high-diving tower and boat-house at the water's edge, an ice-house, other outhouses." The booklet's author, Ruth Batchelor Allen, remembers "eating on that dining porch . . . the unequalled deliciousness of the lemon sherbet and real vanilla ice-cream that came from Ticonderoga." There were about forty campers "plus counselors, cooks and a handful of wives and little children." The Batchelors sold the camp in the 20's not long after their small son drowned in the shallow water near the shoreline.

The more we learn of our history, the more we want to learn. Were you ever a camper at Camp Mohican? Did anyone in your family ever work there or speak of the camp? Let us know!

Please contact us at <haguehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com> or Hague Historical Society, PO Box 794, Hague, NY 12836.  
...Pat McDonough

## HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer's coming rapidly to a close and one good way to wind up the season is to come out for your Historical Society's program "Houses of Hague".



A little architectural appreciation, a little Hague history, and lots of family memories of the dozen or so houses will round out the program. Join us at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at the Community Center! You'll be glad you did!

## GRACE MEMORIAL CHAPEL CELEBRATION

Many residents of Sabbath Day Point and environs enjoyed the festivities of the 125th celebration of the founding of Grace Memorial Chapel. Games, ice-cream, bell-ringing, a worship service, rededication of the stained glass windows and birthday cake were all part of the August 8-9, 2009 events. After the Sunday service, Mrs. Frank Kireker was presented with a picture of the chapel painted by Susan Pierson on a piece of slate which came from the chapel roof. Mrs. Kireker was thanked for her generous support toward the restoration of the windows.



Presentation to Mrs. Kireker; Susan Pierson at right



Allie, Robert, Angela & Grace Strong



Janet Kireker



The Reverend Gerald and Eloise Van Heest

See more pictures on page 8

## ~SOUNDINGS~

**BORN:** Colin Jerome Lewis on June 26, 2009 in Bristol, PA to Marc and Janice Lewis of Langhorne, PA. Grandparents are Jerry and Joyce Holub of Sarasota, FL and Dona Lewis of Jonesborough, TN. Proud great-grandmother is Dolly Kennedy of Hague. Colin joins his older brother, Kyle, age 3.

**BORN:** Lillianna Cathleen Ball on July 18, 2009 at Madigan Army Medical Center in Fort Lewis, Washington to Major Tracy and Ben Ball. She is the first grandchild for Cathy and Jim Bolton of Ticonderoga.

**DIED:** Henry (Hank) Geils, of Silver Bay and Lake Wales, FL on July 19, 2009 at his home here. Mr. Geils has been a summer resident of Silver Bay for the past 50 years. He is survived by his wife, Ann, children Paul and Beth Geils, Martha Smith, five grandchildren and brother, John of Silver Bay and Southbury, CT.

**DIED:** Henry Aumiller, 95, of Schenectady, on July 21, 2009 at home with family by his side. Mr. Aumiller enjoyed the outdoors and his camp on Lake George was special to him. He is survived by his wife, Judy, two step-daughters and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his first wife, Bernice and his six siblings.

### SILVER BAY CELEBRATION



Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Auditorium on Saturday, August 8, 2009. In conjunction with this celebration, Silver Bay hosted a Community Day.

### Seen at Silver Bay



*Ann & John Barber*



*Carolyn Close*



*Jules Halm*



*Mike D'Attilio*

### SEEN AT GRACE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

### CELEBRATION



*Betty Noordsy and Diane Dickson*



*Elaine Deana*



*Harvey Noordsy*



*Katelyn Roselli*



*Bruce Ergood*



*Dick Matthews*



*Matthew and Chris Clark*

### Weather Report by JoAnne DeFranco

#### Hague Weather Report 7/18/09—8/14/09

July 2009 will go down in the record books as the wettest July since 1871. The last two weeks of July were consistent with the beginning of the month. Every day was cloudy with rain usually after 3 pm. The weekend of July 24-26 was the best weekend of the month with 5 days (Friday 7/24 through Tuesday 7/28) of sunshine and warm temperatures. The high was 93 on 7/29. Rain started by 3:30 pm on 7/29 and continued heavily all night. My rain gauge recorded 1.25" rain. Rainy periods continued 7/30, 7/31, 8/1 and 8/2 for a total of 1.6" over the 4 days.

Now the good news. Since August 4th we have had a return of summer-like weather. There have been warm sunny days and moderating night time temperatures in the high 50's and 60's. There has been very little rain. I know that we are hoping that the weather pattern has changed and will bring us an August that is more like our typical July.

On August 11 and 12, the Perseid meteor shower put on its usual August show of "falling stars". The skies were clear, fortunately, although the moon was a bit bright for a spectacular show. If you missed the meteor shower, mark your calendar for next August as it occurs each year at almost the same time.

Sunrise is at 5:58 am and sunset at 7:59 pm. The next full moon will be September 4th. The Lake George water temperature is 72.

## Nature News by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

### Update on Bats

Last summer my evening ritual was to witness the mass exodus of a hundred or more bats from the peak of the roof of my house. They lived in the attic and sometimes I could hear them at night rustling around up there, but mostly I was just a witness to their coming and going at dusk and dawn. I loved having them live with me, knowing their favorite food was the mosquitoes they kept at bay. I wrote about the mysterious death of hundreds of bats by a condition dubbed “white nose syndrome” named for the white fungus appearing on the dead and dying bats, and wondered how the bats would fare after another winter hibernating nearby.



Credit: Nancy Heaslip, New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Little brown bats with white-nose syndrome, New York

White nose syndrome is looking more and more to be caused by a cold-loving soil fungus that seems to thrive on several species of hibernating bats during the winter months. The fungus grows best between 41 and 50 degrees Fahrenheit, which is the optimal temperature for a bat hibernation site like the mines here in Hague. Although not exactly clear why the bats are dying, the leading hypothesis is that the fungus bothers the bats so much that they wake up to groom themselves during the exact time they need to be conserving energy to make it through the long winter. They expend energy when awake and their body temperature rises. No longer in hibernation, they shiver from the cold and need food to restore their energy reserves. Last winter hundreds of bats were found to be weakly flying around in the middle of the day, crashing into snow-banks and dying outside the caves. They were possibly looking for food in their awakened state. They should still have been hibernating and there were no flying insects around for the bats to eat. Laboratory tests have shown that bats affected with white nose syndrome have little or no body fat. They are starving to death.

As a result of white nose syndrome, many of the bats that survived the winter are so physically compromised that they can be exhibiting abnormal behaviors such as flying or roosting out in the open during the day or flopping on the ground as they die. Last week I was startled to come across a bat in the middle of the day. I almost stepped on it, but I heard a loud squeak as I came near it and saw it lying there, wings outstretched, in the blueberry bushes near the ground. It only picked up its head to yell at me for approaching, but otherwise didn't move. Very disturbing. The evidence is overwhelming that white nose syndrome does not affect people, as there has been no case of a human or a pet exposed to the syndrome getting sick. That said, dead or sick bats should not be handled

because a small percentage of them may carry rabies. It is much more likely that they are affected by white nose syndrome. A total of 650 bats with white nose syndrome from northeastern states were tested in the last year and a half, and only one bat had rabies. I left this one alone and it was gone by morning.

The U.S. Forest Service has closed caves and former mines in 33 states, from Minnesota to Maine, from New York to Virginia. In New York, some of the affected caves have lost 80 – 90 % of their bats. This past May, they estimated over 500,000 bats had been killed by the fungus. And why should we care? Scientists don't know what effect the death of so many bats will have on the surrounding ecosystem. One possibility is a surge in agricultural and forest pests. There are 47 species of bats in the United States and most are primarily insect eaters. The caterpillars and larvae that eat the leaves and stems of crops and forest plants are kept in check by bats, which feast of their moth and beetle parents. Bats also play a key role in keeping insects such as mosquitoes under control. A single little brown bat can eat up to 1,200 insects in an hour. Between April and October, they usually eat their body weight in bugs per night. The loss of 500,000 bats means that 2.4 million pounds of bugs aren't eaten in a year!

Making up ¼ of all mammal species, the 1,116 species of bats worldwide provide a lot of benefits to humans and the world ecosystem: They pollinate flowers, devour insects and fertilize plants. Around the world, bats pollinate or disperse the seeds of more than 300 important species, including wild bananas, wild avocados, saguaro cactus and agave plants, from which tequila is distilled. No bats, no tequila, no margaritas!

Bat guano (excrement) has important benefits to humans too. It is popular as a plant fertilizer because it is all natural and totally organic. Two hundred years ago it was used to make gunpowder! And today, enzymes first discovered in bacteria that grow in bat guano are used in laundry detergents. Questions have been asked if the bat syndrome has anything to do with colony collapse disorder, which struck honeybees around the country previously. Not directly, since bats do not eat honeybees, but a new class of insecticides is a suspect in both ailments. It should be noted that bee research has received consideration for funding from Congress, while bat research has not.

This year the most bats I counted leaving my roof at dusk was six. This week there has been no evidence at all. I have noticed the clouds of mosquitoes and they have kept me indoors at night. Do I have hope? Yes I do, that the balance of nature will eventually right itself with or without our help. But, I have faith that humans will eventually find the cause and put all efforts into learning our part in it and rectifying the situation. Mostly I just pray for the best outcome and rejoice when I see the little creatures flying about in the evening sky.



### HAGUE CALENDAR

#### August 2009

- 22 3 pm Fish & Game Club Pig Roast
- 25 10 am LGPC meets at Hague Community Center
- 25 noon Senior Picnic at HVFD pavilion
- 27 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals

#### September 2009

- 1 7 pm Historical Society Program - Houses
- 3 7 pm Planning Board
- 7 LABOR DAY
- 8 School Starts
- 8 6:30 pm Town Board
- 11 News deadline for *The Hague Chronicle*
- 12 - 13 Fort Ticonderoga Encampment
- 14 LGA Golf Tournament
- 17 Mailing of *The Hague Chronicle*
- 18 Senior Club Fall Outing
- 25 - 27 Fort Ticonderoga Seminar
- 26 noon - 6pm Oktoberfest in the Town Park

#### MISSING WATER TRAMPOLINE

A Sportstuff Playstation Water Trampoline & Raft (black center; red, yellow and white sides) is missing from its mooring in Oneida Bay. The owners would appreciate any information . Please contact *The Hague Chronicle* at <haguechronicle@nycap.rr.com> or call 543-6517.



#### HAGUE TRANSFER STATION

July 1 - September 1 (Labor Day) 2009

- Wednesday: 9 am to 5 pm
- Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm
- Sunday: 12 noon to 3 pm

#### HOURS CHANGE SEPTEMBER 7th (Labor Day)

- Wednesday: 9 am to 5 pm
- Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm
- Sunday: CLOSED

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE  
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