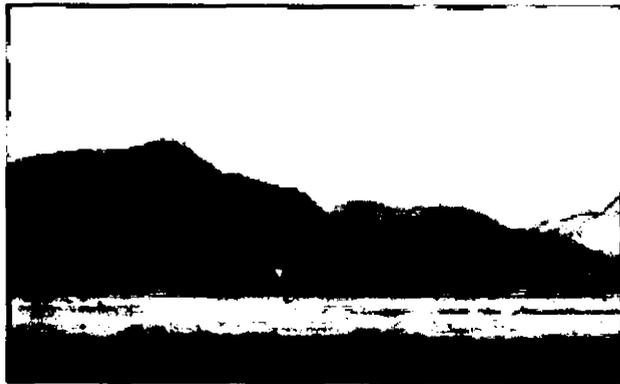




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May 2007



Detail, "From Rising House" by R. M. Decker.
Courtesy Adirondack Museum.

HAGUE MUSEUM OPENS WITH NEW EXHIBITS

On Sunday, May 20, 2007 from 2-4 pm the Hague Historical Society celebrates the Town's bicentennial year with the Grand Opening of the newly renovated Clifton F. West Memorial Room of the Hague Historical Museum. The public is invited to attend, and after welcoming remarks and Ribbon Cutting at 2:15 pm, to tour the Bicentennial Exhibit.

Hague's Historical Museum has been a rich resource for many writers and individuals researching genealogical data. Hague's small museum has been a treasure not really discovered yet. Popular books and articles written about the Lake George area credit our Museum and cite our past historians Vila Fitzgerald, Clifton F. West, and Ethel Andrus. "West Historical Museum" is credited several times for photos in Virginia Westerbrook's book, *Nature's Frolic Hour: Appreciating Lake George*. In Betty Buckell's *Old Lake George Hotels*, picture credits are given as "HHS" for "Hague Historical Society." Buckell also gives photo credits to Flora Sexton. And no wonder since Florie, as she was called locally, took photographs that matched in quality the work of her better-known contemporaries, photographers J. S. Wooley and S. R. Stoddard.

Hague's rich collection of Flora Sexton's photographs gives us a real sense of what Hague was like at the turn of the century when Hague bustled with summer gentry who came on steamers like the *Sagamore* to Hague's public dock, stopping first to deliver mail and passengers at Silver Bay and traveling on to Ticonderoga. People came and stayed for the season. Flora Sexton and her sister Theresa (Tressie) set up their photography tent in town on the banks of Hague Brook and took photographs of them as well as of local subjects and scenery.

In the early 1900's Hague's annual Swim Marathons brought contestants from near and far. They swam from Hague's Trout House beach to Lake George Village for a hefty cash prize. In February of 1899, a two-day "Horse Trot" on the ice was advertised by the Hague Trotting Association. Hague's horses raced in four events: the 3-Year Old Race for horses owned in Hague, the race for Road Horses owned in Hague, Horicon and Bolton, a farmer's race, and a free-for-all race. The horses raced in three to five "heats" of 1 to 2 miles on a diamond-shaped race course surveyed by W. G. Watts, whose map Ethel Andrus remembers but no longer possesses.

The Hague Historical Society's Grand Opening will present the Museum and Hague's rich history to the public. The Society cordially invites one and all to come to view the exhibits on May 20th at the Town of Hague Community Center on Route 8. Refreshments will be served.

...Chris Ianson

OUR DOWNTOWN SHOPS

It is always interesting to see what shops will be open in our downtown area for the summer. The ice cream-pizza shop is closed and apparently The View will not be opening this summer either.

However, the Hague Market, the Hague Creek Cafe and the Uptown Store will all be serving breakfast and lunches again and The Firehouse Restaurant will be open for dinners.

In the former private home across from the The Firehouse and Uptown Store, a unique shop is opening called Juniper Design & Goods. This shop has interior design services and a boutique that has something for everyone. Both levels of the house are filled with textiles, gifts, candles, and other interesting products. Plan a visit to see the variety of products offered.

Juniper is owned and operated by Sally DeLarm-Rypkema and Jim Rypkema. It will be open on weekends from 10:30 am to 5 pm and then daily from 10:30 am to 9 pm starting on June 29th.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

All members of the community are encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Bicentennial Committee to make any recommendations or suggestions to the Committee. The meeting will be held at the Community Center on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 at 6:30 pm.

April's Senior Meeting proved to be a most enjoyable afternoon. Our guest speaker, Craig Lonergan, presented his slide program titled, THE GOOD OLD DAYS IN GRAPHITE, which consisted of many stories taken from history books written on the subject of Graphite by his ancestors. These tales were very informative about the days of the mining era, many quite humorous and some even relating to descendants of families still living in the area. All who attended were glad they came.

May's monthly Club meeting will be on Tuesday, May 22nd, at 1:30 pm. with guest speaker being Julie Coons, Representative of the Glens Falls National Guard, who is coming to pick up our "Care Packages" for the Warren County Troops in Iraq. She will explain in detail more about this Care Program and tell some of the stories that the soldiers have shared with their families at home. Anyone wishing to donate an item/s to the cause please bring to Community Center before the 22nd. All will be included in our boxes. Suggested items: Beef Jerky, unscented toiletry products, stationery materials, boot socks, gum, nuts, hard candies, etc. . . . mp

55-ALIVE AARP DRIVER COURSE

The Hague Senior Citizens' Club will be holding this driver safety course for seniors (55 yrs +) on Monday, June 25th at the Hague Community Center from 9 am to 4 pm. Instructor will be Charlie Antonetti. Fee for course is \$10.00 per person and checks should be made out to AARP. By completing this course, one is entitled to a 10% discount on their auto insurance for three years, plus would receive a decrease in points on license, if any.

Registration is limited, so please call to enroll - Madeline Pelkey - 543-6130.

CHORALES TO GIVE CONCERTS

The Champlain Valley Chorale of Ticonderoga and the Pleasant Valley Chorale of Elizabethtown announce joint Spring Concert presentations, featuring the Faure Requiem, to be given at Saint Mary's Church in Ticonderoga on Friday, May 18, 7:30 pm., and at the Elizabethtown-Lewis School in Elizabethtown on Sunday, May 20, 3:00 pm. The public is invited to attend these admission-free concerts.

On Saturday, May 26, for the fifth year in a row, the Hague Senior Citizens' Club will sponsor Hague's Memorial Day Parade and Celebration. Rain or shine in this bicentennial year, the all-day celebration events are sure to provide a day to remember. The Senior Citizens Committee, under the leadership of President Madeline Pelkey, invites you to come and join the fun.

The Parade Committee truly appreciates donations that have been given but they have received less than in the past, so if anyone still wishes to contribute, checks can be made payable to: The Hague Senior Citizens Club - Parade Account, and mailed to Hague Community Center, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836.

The celebration begins at 10 am at the Robert Henry Memorial Park, a.k.a. Hague Town Beach. Fun for the kids includes face painting, cotton candy, the dunking booth, games, and of course, the playground.

Display tables offer a variety of gift items such as flowering plants, Hague Bicentennial souvenir mugs, T-shirts and sweatshirts. Sure to be a hit is the Senior Citizens' white elephant table with bargains galore and the last hot copies of *What's Cooking in Hague, Recipes and Reminiscences* - the little red book that reveals more hot stuff about Hague than hot recipes.

Nancy Scarzello, Nature News writer for *The Hague Chronicle*, will be there to sign copies of her new book filled with nature articles from past issues. The Hague Historical Society will have available its new fund-raising notecards featuring an R. M. Decker print.

A live concert by the Cambridge Band begins at 12:30 pm at the beach parking lot. Music by WOKO will be on tap all day with radio personality Steve Pelkey. This year's special new attraction is Linda Benway's Ready-to-Go Doggie Show with guest speaker Dan Rossignol, featuring "The Dog Whisper" at 10:30 am, Dog Contests at 11 a.m. and at noon, the N.Y. State Police K-9 Unit.

Promptly at 2 pm the parade starts followed at 3:30 pm by the Memorial Dedication. Hague clergymen, Father Steven Moore and Rev. Rusty Bissell along with John McDonald, Superintendent of Ticonderoga Schools, Hague Town Supervisor Dan Belden, Brigadier General James O'Toole, U.S. Army, retired, Frank Koenig, American Legion, and Ray Mury, President of HVFD will all participate in the program. Ticonderoga student Shane Graser will read an historic selection from the diary of James Balcom titled, "Memorial Day 1890."

...mp/ci/js

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 questions to <HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com> or to the address below.

The Hague Chronicle is supported by its readers and you may send your yearly tax deductible contribution to:

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE
PO Box 748
Hague, New York 12836-0748

Editor: Dorothy Henry

Publisher: Judith Stock (518-543-6517)

ROTARY ITALIAN NIGHT

The Northern Lake George Rotary Club is holding an Italian Night on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 6 pm. The fine food and wine evening will be held in Gullen Lounge in the Inn at Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks.

The cost for this delightful evening is \$28 per person and will help support the work of the Rotary Club. For tickets or further information call John Barber at 543-6870 or Stan Burdick at 585-7015.

REUNION COMMITTEE ACTIVE

The Hague Central School Reunion Committee met last week and sent out 400 registration forms for the August 16 -18, 2007 reunion being held in conjunction with the Hague Bicentennial. More forms are sent out as new names are submitted to the committee. The forms are due back in by June 4th so that final planning can take place.

The exhibits and displays for Reunion Headquarters still need to be planned as well as the program for the Reunion luncheon so additional ideas and helpers for the planning are needed.

The Committee also formed the Hague Central Alumni Association for all students, staff and friends of the former Hague Central School. The association will act as an umbrella for the planning of events now and in future years.



Kathy Santaniello and Linda Case will act as Co-Presidents, Bob Chamberlain was elected Vice-President and Judy Stock and Jim Bolton will serve as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. By creating an alumni association the friends of Hague Central School, whether student, teachers, staff member or interested citizen, can help keep alive the memory of Hague Central School.

For more information on the reunion or the alumni association, contact Judy Stock at <haguejudy@nycap.rr.com>.

ARTS FAIR VENDORS

Vendors are being sought for the 35th Annual Hague Arts Fair sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Both inside and outside spaces are available and the registration deadline is June 15. Contact Karen Laundree at 543-8841.

AREA EVENTS

Crown Point will hold its 139th Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 28, at 2 pm.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War. Fort Ticonderoga, which played a pivotal role in that historical era, has many events planned. To see a full schedule of the programs visit <www.fort-ticonderoga.org>.

INAUGURAL TRIATHLON IN JUNE

On June 30, 2007 as many as 350 athletes may be in Hague to participate in the first North Country Triathlon. It will be an Olympic distance triathlon, containing a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-kilometer bike ride, and a 10-kilometer run (relays will be offered). The race will begin at 7:30 am at the Hague Town Beach.



Race coordinator Randy Engler is working closely with the Town of Hague and the Hague Chamber of Commerce to create an event that is not only fun and safe, but one that is sensitive to the environmental concerns of the region. "I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend my summers on Lake George and it is my goal to

promote events that are both environmentally and socially responsible," said Randy Engler.

A portion of proceeds will benefit The Hope Lodge located in Burlington, VT. The Hope Lodge is part of the American Cancer Society© and will provide cancer patients a free, comfortable *home-away-from-home* lodging experience for themselves and their loved ones while receiving treatment at Burlington's cancer center.

For race registration, volunteer opportunities, and other information visit <www.northcountrytri.com>.

REPORT ON THE HVFD

The first quarter of 2007 saw minimal activity for the Hague Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Squad. We have our citizens to thank for keeping things safe at home. We have, however, been busy with regular Friday night training drills, as well as several maintenance projects at the Fire House.

We continue to put out the word to welcome new members into the department. We are looking for EMTs, Firemen and support members.

A CPR course will be offered beginning at 9 am June 2 at the Fire House. It is open to the public, and you can get information from any fireman after the fabulous Memorial Day parade.

For safety's sake, please remember that there is a ban on outside burning. ...jm

ANTIQUÉ CAR SHOW

On Friday, August 17, 2007, an antique car show will be held in Hague as part of the Bicentennial Celebration Weekend.

Area residents who own antique autos may participate in this show by displaying their cars in reserved parking spots in downtown Hague from 11 am to 3 pm.

To register and reserve a display spot for your vehicle, please contact Rolly Allen at 518-543-8822 or email <rjaadr@capital.net>.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 4/26/07

Chairman Robert Goetsch, Lindsay Mydlarz, George Ianson, Bill Pittman, Glenn McKee and Martin Fitzgerald, II. Donna Charboneau was absent.

MARSCHNER (43.17-1-6) 29 Springdale Manor Dr. (TR-1)

Many letters of support were received and the Board approved the application to add a second story to the house.

GLADING (12.18-1-5) 9606 Lakeshore Drive (TR-1)

The application was placed on the agenda for the next meeting and a site visit was scheduled.

PLANNING BOARD - 5/3/07

Chairman Dave Swanson, E. J. Siwek, Rolly Allen, Pam Peterson, Peter Foster, Tim Costello and John Brown were all present. Town Attorney Dominick Viscardi was also in attendance.

GLADING (12.18-1-5) 9606 Lakeshore Drive (TR-1)

The applicant has requested a variance for more than 25% increase of square footage to a legal pre-existing non-conforming house which sits about 45.5 ft from the Lake. The owner would like to enlarge the second story of the house by 600 sq. ft. The footprint of the structure would not increase. Pam Peterson suggested that because of the ledge rock and close proximity to the Lake that a storm water plan be developed. The Planning Board voted to recommend approval to the Zoning Board, 7-0.

VAN VOORHIS (42.12-1-25) 8956 Lakeshore Drive (TR-1)

The Site Plan was previously approved and Contractor George Farinick submitted new drawings of the proposed project. Modifications include the removal of the original structure and replacement with a new building which will maintain a 50 foot setback from the brook, as conditions of approval demands. Several large trees were removed during excavation which was necessary, according to Mr. Farinick, for safety reasons.

MARCHETTI (93.8-1-10) 5 Bass Bay Rd. (TR-1R)

The applicant is requesting an 10' x 10' addition to an existing bedroom which would be 69 ft. from the Lake. A site visit will be held.

In other business, at the request of the Planning Board, Attorney Viscardi presented a proposal for changes in section 160-62 of Article XI of the Zoning Code concerning Nonconforming Uses and Structures. Robert Goetsch and George Ianson from the Zoning Board of Appeals were also in attendance for the discussion. The Board voted, 7-0, to recommend the change to the Town Board.

A public hearing will have to be held. This reporter hopes that the Town Board requests a thorough examination of the proposal including why it is needed and what it does, including many examples, before any public hearing is held. For a public hearing to be effective, the public needs to be able to understand what all the ramifications of the proposal are.

The Planning Board also heard a report from Councilman Gladu on the work of a committee looking into cell phone coverage. Since a local ordinance is needed before a tower can be erected, samples of ordinances on telecommunication towers from other towns had been provided to the Board. They asked Attorney Viscardi to review the documents for use by Hague.

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 5/8/07

Supervisor Dan Belden and Board members Art Steitz, Dick Gladu, Edna Frasier and Tom LaPointe were all present along with Town Attorney Dominick Viscardi.

Under Public Comments, Rudy Meola reminded the Board that Section 103 of the general municipal law under contracts states that all purchases more than \$10,000 shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bid of those who provided sealed bids. He said those regulations were not followed for the proposals for work on the foyer flooring at the Community Center and characterized the process a "travesty". Board members generally agreed that they had made a mistake in the process. Councilman Gladu then made a motion to resubmit a statement of requirements and go through the correct process. The other Board members felt that since the materials have already been purchased by the Town the proposal would only be for labor which would be under \$10,000. Attorney Viscardi suggested they go through the process since "you won't know until you get the bids. It would be on the safe side." The Board, wanting to get on with the work which has been delayed for years, voted 4-1 to reject the motion.

Committee Reports:

Assessor/Justice - Councilman Gladu reported that the tentative roll is out and that the equalization rate dropped from 79.5 last year to 70.5. The Board of Assessment Review will meet on May 22nd. The current members are : Bill Floor, Dick Dykstra, Barbara Belden, Diane Farinick and Bruce Clark. Training, which is necessary for BAR members, is being held prior to that meeting. The Town Board designated Ray Mury as an alternate so that he can attend.

Buildings & Grounds/CC - The work on the Community Center floor will start this week. Since the restrooms will be closed for new flooring and repairs, the Community Center will be closed on Thursday and Friday. The Historical Society will have access through the rear doors to put in the new exhibits on Friday. Supervisor Belden mentioned an additional problem is the ramp on the back deck which needs fixing and suggested a new handicapped ramp be put in.

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CARE/Enhancement Committee - The Enhancement Committee is waiting for the final plans from the planners for the Town Park walkway. Any contractors will be asked to wait until after Memorial Day so that there will be no disruption for the activities at the Park on May 26th.

Finance & Insurance - Board member Frasier reported that there is \$170,000 in the general fund, \$161,000 in the highway fund and the Town be putting \$150,000 sales tax revenue into a CD.

Highway - Councilman Gladu reported that the highway budget is doing well. Plans are to roll over \$32,000 of the CHIPS money (highway funds from the state) to give the town enough money to do paving on Summit and the landfill road.

In a discussion on the inspection of the town roads and culverts, Councilman Steitz alerted Highway Superintendent Don Smith of the damage to the downtown sidewalks from the plows. Cathy Clark asked if the culverts near the Laundree and Rust properties on Rt 9N will be checked and cleaned. She said that they back up causing flooding and that zebra mussels have been found there. Cathy wondered why the machines that are owned by the LGA aren't being used to clean up the culverts. Superintendent Smith says they need to have someone trained on it and felt the LGA or someone else should have that job. Councilman Gladu asked Cathy and Don to meet and work out a plan. Supervisor Belden said, "If we clean them we can bill the state."

Museum & Historian - Council member Frasier reported that the renovations in the museum are almost complete. The Museum will be opening on May 20, 2007 and the renovated room will be called the Clifton F. West Memorial Room in the Hague Historical Museum. Later in the meeting Rudy Meola voiced his objection over the name of the museum. He felt that the name Clifton F. West Historical Museum which was designated in 1998 should remain. The issue was referred to the committee (Frasier and LaPointe).

Personnel - Councilman Gladu reported that he had "factored in all the comments" and is ready to print out a copy of the revised Personnel Policy for the Board to review.

Planning & Zoning - A recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Boards for a change in Article IX will be made to the Town Board but approvals by the APA and Warren County are necessary first. Then there will be a public hearing and the Board will vote on it.

A successful training session for 43 people from around the area was held at the Community Center. A January 2006 state law requires mandatory training for Zoning and Planning Board members and this session was one of the ways to fill the requirement. Supervisor Belden thanked ZEO Cathy Clark for the good job she had done in setting up this meeting.

Recreation/Promotion & Youth - Rudy Meola said there will be a meeting next week of this committee and mentioned the Youth Court which seems to be successful but which we don't participate in because we are "so far out of the loop."

Sewer District #1 & #2 - After Town Attorney Viscardi stated that the resolution needed to be read into the Public Record, Town Clerk Debbie Manning stoically read all six pages of Resolution #45 to hold a public hearing on May 29th at 6:30 pm with regard to the establishment of Sewer District #2. The hearing is necessary because NYS Audit and Control questioned the figures which are different from the original plans. The original plans called for capital costs for each property (or EDU) to be \$256 per year, but the new figures have the cost at \$395 per year. If there are no calls for a permissive referendum in the 30 day period from the public hearing, they will be able to continue with the sewer plans.

Town Park/Beautification - The applications of Susan Adair, Evelyn Gravelle and Joe McCranels were accepted as attendants at the Town Visitor Center. Currently there is no attendant but Councilman Steitz remarked that a few honest people have left money for the use of the boat launch. During the summer there will be an attendant for 6 hrs per day, 7 days a week and they work out a schedule of coverage. The boat launch will be closed from noon until 4 pm on May 26th for the Memorial Day festivities.

Councilman Steitz reported that the bathrooms have been opened. He also will submit a job description for a new summer position. A person is needed who can clean the bathrooms, keep the parking lot clean, pull weeds, water the flowers, paint and be a general handyman for \$10 per hour. The funds are covered under a general budget line.

In other business, the Board

1. Established the dates of June 6 and 7 for the 2007 Free Dump Day. No yard waste and no household garbage may be deposited. There will be a pick-up for Seniors.

2. Heard an update on the 9N walkway plans from Jim O'Toole, Chairman of the Walkway Committee. He presented a proposal to look at the feasibility of a bike path and walkway from the Town Center to Silver Bay. The committee has been advised there may be grant money available from the Federal Highway Administration as well as the state. Jim requested the Town do an RFP (Request For Proposal) to get an engineering company to help with the application process which the Board approved.

Cont'd on page 6 - Town Board

3. Approved a request by the Bicentennial Committee for \$500 for a time capsule which will be opened in 50 years. Remarks were made concerning the emphasis of the Bicentennial. It was suggested that more emphasis should be on the history of the Town and the families who have been here for a long period of time.

4. Accepted the lowest bid (\$1400) on a proposal for flower bed maintenance by Peter Foster.

5. Heard a report from Marty Fitzgerald on a proposal for use of the Sand Pit at Sabbath Day Point. Then approved \$1500 toward the necessary engineers preliminary site plan and to ask Warren County to help with the application process for grant money.

Councilman Gladu reported for general information that the final budget for the Ticonderoga School Budget shows a 2.83 percent increase in the tax levy.

Supervisor Belden reported on a meeting he attended at Silver Bay which seeks to get more people involved in the programs that the YMCA of the Adirondacks has to offer.

NATURE TALKS SCHEDULED

The Lake George Association (LGA) and Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) have a number of interesting programs during the next month. All programs start at 7 pm, are free and open to the public and light refreshments will be served.

On May 31st, a talk on "Adirondack Wildflowers" by Maryde and Larry King will be held at LGA headquarters.

On June 14th, Al Hicks will give a talk on "Bats in your Backyard" at the LGA.

And on June 28th a talk on "Lake George Fish: Natural History and Ecology" will be given by Emily Zollweg at the LGLC.

WITH THE LGA AND LGLC

The 122nd Annual Meeting of the LGA will be held at 9 am on June 16th at the Lake George Club

The LGLC is holding an engraved brick fundraiser for their Preservation Patio in the new Macionis Family Center in Bolton Landing. Any person, family, business or other group may donate to the fund and have an engraved brick put into the new patio. The deadline for this campaign has been extended to May 25th. For an order form or additional information contact the LGLC at 644-9673 or visit <www.lglc.org>.

NEWS OF YOUR CONGRESSWOMAN

Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand voted to reauthorize the Head Start program, the highly successful early childhood education program for low-income children. Children who attend Head Start are more likely to enter Kindergarten with the necessary, age-appropriate social and educational skills.

Rep. Gillibrand also voted to approve the Student Loan Sunshine Act, bipartisan legislation that would clean up the relationships between student lenders and colleges. With evidence mounting of conflicts of interest and other unethical practices in the student loan industry, Rep. Gillibrand said today that this bill was urgently needed to better protect students and families, who are working hard to pay for college from abuses, within the student aid system.

Gillibrand voted in favor of the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (H.R. 1684), which authorizes \$39.8 billion dollars for homeland security funding. This amount of funding is \$2.1 billion more than the President requested in his budget. The Congresswoman's office is actively working with local first responders to aide in the grant application process. For more information on how to apply for a DHS grant, local agencies and departments should contact Congresswoman Gillibrand's Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-5614.

Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand announced that Adirondack Community College in Warren County will receive federal funding from the Department of Education's Upward Bound Program. Upward Bound is a program that mentors students from high school through the completion of college.



~SOUNDINGS~

BICENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE

BORN: Kayla Rose Navitsky on April 23, 2007. Chris (our Waterkeeper) and Beth Barton Navitsky are the proud parents. She is the grandchild of Kay Barton and the late Charles R. Barton, Jr. of Barton Mines and Silver Bay. Her paternal grandparents are Clem and Mary Navitsky of Maybrook, NY and currently living in Anchorage, Alaska.

Calling all Hague Youth --- 6 to 17 years old. What do you think belongs in the Hague Bicentennial Time Capsule? What do you think is most important about Hague, New York, the US, and the world that you would want future citizens of Hague to know about the time in which you lived?

HAGUE STUDENTS EXCEL

Just imagine what the world was like 50 years ago in 1957. Personal computers weren't even a twinkle in Bill Gates eye! IPO -- 50 years ago they may have thought to plant it and see if it was a fruit or vegetable. Space travel... a man on the moon.... cell phones... instant communication.... all new. What will Hague and the world be like in 50 years? Is the news of the day more important or technology? What do you think?

An amazing 88% of the Hague students attending the Ticonderoga Middle School are on the third marking period Honor Roll. Every single Hague student in the sixth grade made the list.

Please be a part of helping to decide what will go into the Hague Time Capsule to be opened in August 2057! Call Debbie Manning at Town Hall (543-6161) and sign up. ...hdeb

Grade 6

First Honors: Olivia Bissell, Grace Ginn, Bryana Goetsch, Chelsea Kearns, Karney Manning

Second Honors: Kenneth Deragon, Shane Swinton

Grade 7

First Honors: Abigail Gurney, Corey King, William Lawrie, Harley Trudeau

Second Honors: Edward Kearns

Grade 8

Second Honors: Jennell Coffin, Autumn Winney

On the Sentinel Merit Society for the third marking period are sixth graders Olivia Bissell, Grace Ginn, Bryana Goetsch, Chelsea Kearns, Karney Manning and Shane Swinton.

Seventh grade Sentinel Merit Society members are Abigail Gurney, Edward Kearns and Harley Trudeau.

WEATHER NOTES

by JoAnne DeFranco

April 16-May 13, 2007:

The last two weeks of April were typical spring-like weather with warm sunny days in the 60's and low 70's. Night time lows dipped down to freezing. It was wonderful to watch the late April snowfalls melt away and the grass turn green. The ice was out of Lake George by April 18th in the north basin. In the south basin it lingered until April 22-ish. We had a few showers on April 29-30.

HAGUE HONORS AT THS

For the third marking period at Ticonderoga High School, the following Hague students have made the Honor Roll.

Grade 9

First Honors: Kaley Manning

Grade 10

First Honors: Jared Best, Brendan Carberry, Molly Ginn

Grade 11

Second Honors: Samantha Abare

Grade 12

First Honors: Janine Best, John Breitenbach, Christopher McTyier, Akashia Swinton, Kacheena Trudeau

Second Honors: Stephanie Nast, Jason Siwek

Trees started to bud out on May 1. The first five days of May were cool again with high temperatures of 55-60. May 9-11 temperatures were up in the 80's. The high on May 10 was 89. Severe thunderstorms ushered in a cold front and cooler temperatures for Mother's Day weekend. Sunday, May 13, there were frost warnings but here in Hague temperatures did not get quite that low.

The bugs are starting to hatch out. The mountains are turning that fresh shade of green as the leaves come out. The grass is growing and most people are on their second cut of the season. It is safe for the snowbirds to return to Hague, winter is over and the weather is improving.

SEMBRICH OPERA MUSEUM

The Marcella Sembrich Opera Museum, 4800 Lake Shore Drive, will be opening for the season on Friday, June 15th at 10 am and is open daily through September 15. Hours are 10 am to 12:30 pm and from 2 to 5:30 pm. Admission is by donation.

For additional information see <www.operamuseum.org> or call 644-9839.

LOCAL GYMNASTS COMPETE

The YMCA Northeast Regional Gymnastics Championships were held recently in the Civic Center in Glens Falls. Two of the competitors were Kaiya and Autumn Tamlyn, daughters of Bruce and Sarah Tamlyn of Silver Bay.

Kaiya, age 12, was the all-around first in her division with a 2nd in vault, 5th in bars and 1st in floor. Autumn, age 9, competed in Level 4 and was 7th overall with an 11th in vault, 3rd in beam & 3rd in floor.

LARAC ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

LARAC, in Glens Falls, will hold its annual festival on June 9th and 10th.

ADIRONDACK HARVEST

A press release has given us information on Adirondack Harvest, the "buy local" initiative and agricultural advocacy organization of the Adirondacks. They will sponsor greenhouse tours during the week of May 21st through May 25th in six northern New York Counties including Essex and Warren whose listings are below. Local greenhouse operators will open their doors to the public for a few hours and give informative tours.

For more information or to find the complete schedule see <www.adirondackharvest.com>.

Monday May 21 - Friday May 25th: Schroon Falls Farm (Essex County). 9:00am to 6:00pm daily. 2002 St. Rte. 9, Schroon Lake. Schroon Falls Farm's mission is to bring the widest variety of hardy and interesting plants to the gardeners of the Adirondacks, in a beautiful garden setting. They constantly trial new plants in their gardens and seek feedback from other gardeners as to how our plants fare in their gardens. Their staff is a group of gardeners, with all levels of experience, who love plants and happily share their knowledge with fellow gardeners. From the south it's 2 miles north of exit 28 at the northernmost intersection of Rte. 9 and Miller Rd. Call David or Ginni Campbell at 532-9492 for more info.

Monday May 21: Lazy River Farms (Warren County). 10:00am to 12:00pm. 3620 St. Rte. 9, Lake George. Lazy River has been in business for 8 years and grows within 30,000 square feet of greenhouse space. They specialize in seasonal annuals, hanging baskets, shrubs, trees and nursery stock. Additionally, they have over 12,000 perennials. All plants are grown by them in their greenhouses. Call Jason Younes at 623-5726 for more info.

Tuesday May 22nd: Mead's Nursery (Warren County). 10:00am sharp for tour. 365 Ridge Rd., Queensbury. Mead's is a landscape nursery, a garden center and has a shrub yard for tree display. They operate 7 greenhouses on 9 acres and their store carries garden supplies. Landscape crews are available as well. Their main crops are annual flowers and vegetables, hanging baskets, and perennials. Parking space is limited. Call Madeline Mead at 792-6533 for more info.

Carriage House Garden Center (Essex County). 10:00am to 12:00pm. 4002 NYS Rte. 22, Willsboro. Carriage House is a family run business with many greenhouses. They raise bedding plants, perennials, herbs, nursery stock, sell composted manure, offer landscape design, installation and maintenance and hydro-seeding. They also sell fresh vegetables, berries, Christmas trees and wreaths in season. Call Christine or Mike at 963-4330 for more information.

Wednesday May 23rd: Rivermede Farm (Essex County). 1:00pm to 3:00pm. 49 Beede Ln., Keene Valley. Rivermede Farm operates a diversified vegetable and small fruit operation using 4 unheated high tunnels, 6 heated greenhouses, and a variety of other means for season extension. This has enabled the farm to grow and sell products all year long with minimal winter heating. The tour will show the bedding plant operation in full swing as well as the early stages of the high tunnel plantings. Go through the village until you pass Rivermede Farm market on your right. The next right is Beede Lane. Go right, across the Ausable river bridge and turn left into Rivermede's long driveway. Call Rob Hastings at 576-4686 for more info.

Thursday May 24th: Drinkwine's Produce (Essex County). 10:00am to 12:00pm. Storefront at NYS Rte. 22 (Streetroad), Greenhouse at 3 Woody Lane, Ticonderoga. Drinkwine's offers farm fresh vegetables, herbs, berries, bedding plants, cut flowers, fall mums and jams. In Ticonderoga, from the Portage left onto Treadway St. and follow to intersection with Woody Lane and turn up the hill. The greenhouse is behind the house at 3 Woody Lane. Call Henry Drinkwine at 585-6346 for more info.

Friday May 25th: Cornell University E. V. Baker Research Farm (Essex County). 10:00 to 12:00. 38 Sayward Lane, Willsboro. The Cornell University E.V. Baker Research Farm is a 352 acre agricultural research facility located along Lake Champlain in Willsboro, NY. This tour will discuss construction and production issues associated with high-tunnels in northern NY. Call Mike Davis at 963-7492 for more info.



by Nancy Wotton Scarzello

American Bittern

A week or so ago, while driving just north of Ticonderoga, we passed by the marshy area where there is water and cattails on either side of the road. Unfortunately, we also passed a recently killed bird and we pulled over so I could move it out of the center of the road. It was then we discovered that this was a bird we had never seen before ~ only that it looked to be some kind of heron-like bird.

Back at the house, we looked it up and found that we were right in a sense...it was a heron-like bird, actually in the heron family...an American Bittern. Described as a medium-sized heron with an overall length of 24 to 34 inches, slender body, long neck, beautiful greenish-yellow legs with four toes and long curving claws on each, and a long sharply pointed bill. The coloring of the upper side of the bird is brown and tawny with fine speckles of black. The undersides are heavily streaked with brown and white.

When alarmed, a Bittern will "freeze" with its neck stretched up and its bill pointed skyward; this pattern of vertical stripes camouflaging the bird against a background of marsh grasses and cattails. Sometimes it will gently sway in this position as if to imitate reeds moving in a gentle breeze or it may move so slowly that it escapes observation while changing positions. Most often the Bittern goes unnoticed, resembling a rail or stake sticking up among the reeds. Thoreau says that the Bittern is the genius of the bog; so adept he is at concealment while hunting for food or guarding the nest.

When foraging, the Bittern relies on camouflage and stealth, waiting motionless for its prey to pass by, then darting forward and seizing the prey in its bill. Stalking the vegetative fringes of the marsh, the bittern finds small fish (catfish, eels, perch), tadpoles, frogs, crayfish, salamanders, snakes, aquatic insects and even dragonflies to round out its diet.

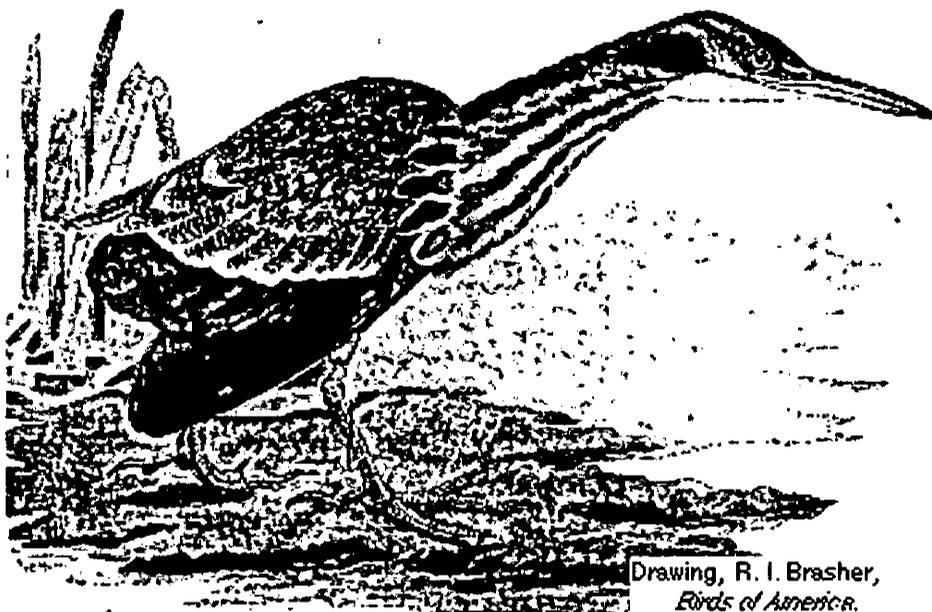
The Bittern's breeding range is from the Mid-United States to Northern Canada where it inhabits freshwater wetlands, marshes and reedy lakes with tall marsh vegetation like cattails, grasses and sedges. Beaver-created wetlands are its preference. It winters in similar areas and in brackish coastal marshes, migrating as far south as the West Indies and Central America. This one seemed to be crossing the road between the two marshy areas, maybe seeking out a nesting site here among the cattails.

Unlike most herons, female Bitterns do most or all of the work in nest building, incubating eggs and feeding the young. The nest site (built by the female alone) is a platform of grasses, reeds and cattails lined with fine grasses. The 3-5 pale brown-olive-buff eggs are laid in the morning, one per day, and then incubated by the female for 24-28 days. Once

For information on Nancy Scarzello's new book, "Nature Through the Seasons", a compilation of articles written for *The Hague Chronicle* from 2003-2007 with photos and artwork, email <forestbay@wcvr.com>

hatched, she feeds the chicks with regurgitated partially digested food for the one to two weeks they stay in the nest and continues to feed them for up to 4 weeks after leaving it. It is unknown when they take their first flight, but experts guess that it is around 7-8 weeks of age.

But the most unusual characteristic about the Bittern is its voice. The resounding, eerie calls it uses to communicate have been described as



Drawing, R. I. Brasher,
Birds of America.

sounding like the sucking of an old-fashioned wooden pump when someone tries to raise the water, accompanied by a hiccough-like swallowing of air. The sound has a peculiar acoustic property to it making it difficult to gauge the distance and location of its source, and the farther away the bird is, the more it sounds like a stake being driven into the ground. This sound lends itself to a variety of other well-known names for the bird: Stake Driver, Thunder Pumper or Mire Drum.

Vulnerable because of its reliance on large marshes, the American Bittern population has been undergoing a substantial decline in recent years due to the loss and degradation of its habitat. In 1982 and 1987, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the species as a Nongame Species of Management Concern because of changes in wetland isolation and eroding habitat quality. Additionally, and of direct concern to us here in the Adirondacks, acid rain has been shown to be a significant factor in this decline. The damaging effects on wetland habitat and the reduction of food supplies from acid rain are evident.

The American Bittern remains relatively unstudied due to its secretive nature, mastery of concealment and inaccessible habitats. We feel both blessed to have had the opportunity to learn about this bird up-close and saddened that human impact had directly caused this one's demise.

May			June		
18	7:30 pm	Chorale in Ticonderoga (p. 2)	6 - 7	Free Dump Day (p. 5)	
19	10 am - 2 pm	Free Warren Co. Rabies Clinic at the Hague Fire House.	6	6:30 pm	Open Bicentennial Meeting (p. 1)
20	2-4 pm	Hague Museum Celebration (see p.1)	7	7 pm	Planning Board
20	3 pm	Chorale in Elizabethtown (p. 2)	12	6 pm	Rotary Italian Night (p. 3)
22	1:30 pm	Senior Citizens (p. 2)	12	6:30 pm	Town Board
23	1 pm	Extra Helping Distribution	14	7 pm	Talk on Bats (p. 6)
24	7 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals	15	Flag Day	
26	MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION (see flyer)		15	10 am	Sembrich Museum opens (p. 7)
31	7 pm	Wildflowers Talk (p. 6)	16	9 am	LGA Annual Meeting (p. 6)
			17	HAPPY FATHERS DAY	
			21	Next <i>Hague Chronicle</i> mailed	

ONGOING EVENTS

2nd Monday: Senior Bus to Glens Falls
 1st Monday: Fire Department
 1st Tuesday: Mohican Crafters
 3rd Monday: Chamber of Commerce
 3rd Tuesday: Mohican Crafters
 3rd Tuesday: Fish & Game Club
 3rd Tuesday: Sno-goers
 3rd Thursday: Carillon Garden Club



MIND & BODY EXERCISES

Wednesdays T'ai Chi classes with Mae Pagan
 6:15-7:15 pm at the Community Center
 May 15 through June 20

Saturdays Pilates Mat classes with Brenda-Jean Rider
 Upstairs at the Hague Creek Cafe
 10 am - Beginner; 11 am - Intermediate



UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR

May 26: Memorial Day Parade & Funfest
 June 30 - July 2: Swim Marathon/Triathlon
 August 16 - 19: Hague Central All Student Reunion
 August 17 - 19: Bicentennial Celebration Weekend

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Wednesdays
 & Saturdays:
 9 am - 5 pm

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 of the Town of Hague*