



**The Newsletter of Franklin Local**

Vol. VIII, No. 2

Franklin, New York

SUMMER 2014

**‘INDEPENDENT, FEARLESS AND FREE’**

## DOUBLE TROUBLE!

**Just one #&\$!! pipeline after another...**

By Brian Brock

The market for natural gas in the northeastern U.S. is out of balance. There is too much supply in northern Pennsylvania and too much demand in New England. As a result, those producers are being paid much less than their consumers are paying. One solution is to add pipeline capacity, in order to ship the gas east.

In the fall of 2011, the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC proposed a new thirty-six inch gas pipeline to run between two of its existing pipelines, from Brooklyn PA through Franklin to Wright NY (see NFR, Spring 2012<sup>1</sup>)

-- only to abandon this Northeast Exchange project a few months later. TGP never would say why they abandoned the Brooklyn/Wright line, but it was being bought by Kinder-Morgan Energy Partners, LC. At any rate, Williams Partners, LP took over that route by proposing the Constitution project (see NFR, Summer 2012<sup>2</sup>).

In the fall of 2012, TGP proposed the Northeast Expansion project, a gas pipeline from Wright NY to Dracut MA. In the recent solicitation to suppliers (February 13 to March 28), TGP proposed a capacity of this Wright/Dracut line of 0.6 to 2.2 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d). Because they are going forward, presumably TGP signed up enough

See **DOUBLE**, continued on Page 9



Map of a distribution system for natural gas showing regional pipelines, including the proposed Northeast Energy Direct or "Proposed Pennsylvania to Wright, NY Route" (broad dashed gray line) and "Constitution" (narrow solid black line). Where the two would be co-located, only gray line of NED is shown. Compressor stations are shown along the pipelines, including existing (light gray squares, labeled "STA. #") and proposed (medium gray squares labeled "New C/S" or "Head Station"). A color version is available on line @ [franklinlocal.org/nfr](http://franklinlocal.org/nfr).

## NEW LIBRARIAN SETTLES IN

By Jim Mullen

Omaha native Carrie Fishner, Franklin's first new librarian in thirty years, took the long way here. After graduating from Northwest Missouri State, she got a job as a residence director at SUNY Cobleskill in 2002. She moved to Delhi in 2009, when her husband took a job as assistant director of housing at SUNY Delhi. While there, she earned her Masters in Higher Education Administration at Albany. She got her Masters in Library Sci-

ence at Buffalo in 2012.

After starting at the Franklin Free Library this March, Ms. Fishner seems to have settled in comfortably, doing traditional library duties, but also adding some modern touches.

"I think books are something that will never disappear, but I do see ways we can increase the use of technology. We have a Kindle on order that will be available for check out, we're on Facebook now, we have a new website that has a lot of new, up-to-date information on it. I'd

See **LIBRARIAN**, continued on Page 2



Student and adult facilitators at Franklin Central School

Photo by Debbie Valentine

## ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT: August workshop scheduled

By Noelle Granger

I have been coordinating and running the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) at Franklin Central School for three years. This program enables people of all ages to learn strategies that will help them handle situations in their everyday lives that may lead to conflict.

See **AVP**, continued on Page 2



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FFL librarian Carrie Fishner

Photo by Jim Mullen



The Franklin Free Library

Photo by Steve Monosson

**New Library Hours**

Tuesdays: 9-noon, 1-5pm, & 7-9pm  
 Wednesdays: 10am - 2pm  
 Thursdays: 9:30am-noon & 1-5:30pm  
 Saturdays: 10am - 2pm

**Summer Events Schedule:**

July 8th at 10am – Joel Smales BOOM! Percussion Concert  
 July 10th at 3pm – Bubbles! Story Time  
 July 15th at 10am – Ira McIntosh's Wild About Water  
 July 17th at 3pm – Let It Snow! Story Time  
 July 22nd at 10am – Robert Rogers' Puppet Company presents Little Leonardo and the Fantastic Flying Machine  
 July 24th at 3pm – Leo the Great Story Time  
 July 29th at 10am – Jesse & Rebecca's Monkey and Other Animal Songs  
 July 31st at 3pm – Reading Through the Ages Story Time  
 August 5th at 10am – Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre presents Alice In Wonderland  
 August 7th at 3pm – It's Alive! Story Time  
 August 12th at 10am - The Awards Party for everyone who registered for the Summer Reading Program!

**LIBRARIAN, con't from Page 1**

like to do some classes on the library's Overdrive system for downloading eBooks. Our magazine collection is barcoded now, so we can analyze it and maybe add some new subscriptions.

"We had a very successful Pajama Story Time last week, so we'll probably start doing that once a month. I'd like to look at doing movies on Saturdays, cartoons or family movies, something that parents can sit through, too.

We're constantly updating the Children's Books section and I've added a few new Young Adult books and graphic novels to see if there's any interest in that. For adults, the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of World War 1 is coming up and I'm hoping to set up a four week program combining books and lectures sometime in October."

Carrie wishes to thank Linda Burkhart for all her help during the transition, especially for her work on this year's Summer Program.

**Please note the changes in the library hours.**

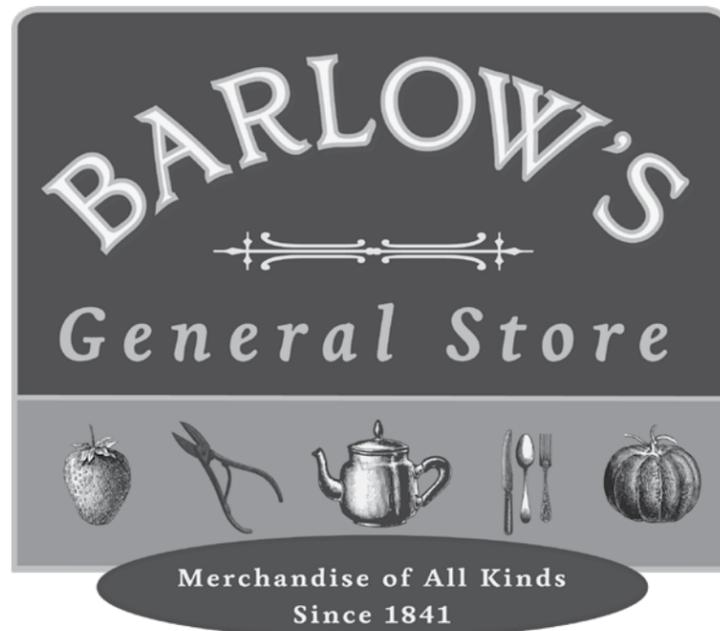
**AVP, continued from Page 1**

This learning is done through experiential activities that help develop community and empathy among the participants. It is the goal of the AVP student facilitators at Franklin Central School to help build community not only in the school district, but also in the larger, surrounding community.

This program is not only for people who experience violence in their lives, but also for anyone who is interested in community building and in helping with conflict resolution.

We are holding our first community workshop on August 7 and 8.

If you are interested in attending or receiving additional information, please call Noelle Granger at 607-343-3904.



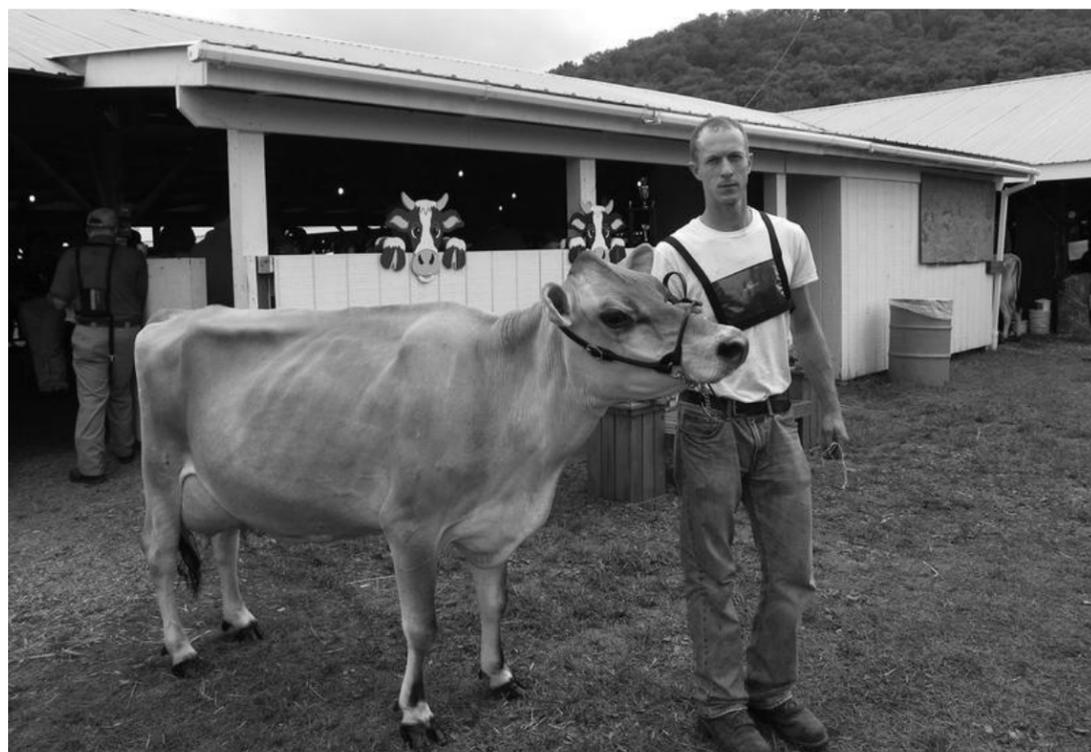
## FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

At this time this is the schedule for meetings remaining in 2014..

7/1/14  
 8/5/14  
 9/2/14 - Held in Treadwell at the Fire Station  
 10/7/14 (Budget workshop)  
 11/7/14 (Budget workshop)  
 12/2/14  
 12/30/14 (Organizational)

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Franklin Town Garage unless otherwise indicated.

To confirm, call the Town Clerk: 607-829-3440



Matt Terry and Courtney at the 2013 Delaware County Fair

Photo courtesy of The Daily Star

## 2014 FARMER OF THE YEAR

By Brian Brock

Congratulations to Franklin native son Matt Terry for his well-deserved selection by The Daily Star as 2014 Farmer of the Year.

Matt has been running his own dairy in Franklin since before he graduated from SUNY Cobleskill in 2000. From two 4-H project cows, his herd of Jerseys has grown to about a hundred and sixty. Of those, Matt is milking eighty-five in the grand old gray barn at the corner of Oak Hill Road and County Highway 21 (Franklin/Walton Road), owned by the Steely family. And these are not just any cows. Matt's cows have consistently taken home ribbons from the Delaware County Fair. Last year, his entry Courtney was awarded Supreme Champion. He farms over a hundred and twenty acres on the flats opposite the barn and on three hillside properties up Oak Hill, owned by the Masminos, Steelys, Spatolas, and Lipovacs.

Matt comes from a farming family. Both his parents are life residents of Franklin. His father Matthew grew up on a farm in Freer Hollow, and his mother Karen on a farm in Treadwell. They now live on Dunk Hill.

Many congratulations, Matt!

**WINDHILL WOODWORKS INC.**  
 Tim Mulroy 607.829.8455

**Franklin, NY**

**Cabinets and Millwork**  
 Kitchens Baths  
 Media Walls Home Offices  
 Libraries Paneling  
 Mantles

Specializing in local, reclaimed wood  
 Will install downstate and in Connecticut



# FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News  
Local Events

Local Issues  
Local Concerns



## WHAT'S UP ON FRANKLIN HEIGHTS?

By Betsy Babcock

What's going on up the hill? Rest assured it's not condos or a wild game park (those were actual rumors floating about). If you look up the hill from the village of Franklin, you'll see a new barn with a dark green roof. If you drive up Franklin Heights Road, you'll see plenty of activity for sure. Last year, Bryan and I were blessed with the opportunity to purchase a portion of the property on Franklin Heights that had been owned by Walter Rich, and his family for years. The Rich Family was beloved by the Franklin community and we feel a deep commitment to honor his legacy.

We purchased the property last fall, with its incredible view of the hills and village. Our goal is to keep it agricultural. We have been growing certified organic blueberries for some time on East Handsome Brook Road, and decided to add new fields on Franklin Heights. Last year and first of all, we put in deer fencing – to keep the deer

away from the plants. And, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the help of 130 friends and neighbors – we planted 13,000 new blueberry plants. Thanks to everyone!

In addition, we transplanted 600 more mature plants (old enough to have blueberries this year!) from our Handsome Brook field to Franklin Heights. Stay tuned for pick-your-own hours later this summer! Call us at (607) 829-2587 in early August and we'll let you know.

The big building you see as you drive past is a barn. The bottom floor has three sections: a walk-in cooler for our blueberries and a center section for the packing area. The third section is a kitchen that we hope to have licensed by NYS Ag

& Markets, so we can open it up to people in the community to use. We also hope to have this kitchen area become a place where folks can stop by for a cup of coffee and a cookie, a blueberry crumble or piece of carrot cake.

We feel blessed to have this special place in our care, and truly

want it to be a place that is shared with the community. Our plans include developing a food hub, where produce can be bought and sold, and a place for meetings and special get-togethers.

If you see our car there, please feel free to stop by and say hi, sit outside, and enjoy the view!



The new Handsome Brook Farm barn on Franklin Heights

Photo by Bryan Babcock

## THE MAYOR'S CORNER

By Tom Briggs

Last February, I was approached by my neighbor and Village Trustee, Paul DeAndrea to see if I would consider running for Mayor of Franklin. John Campbell had served six years with distinction in this position and after taking on many pressing village issues, including a major public works project, was not interested in serving another term. I had been on a committee three years ago to review the state of the village and its viability at a time when other small municipalities were being encouraged to merge with their respective towns, and I had become aware of and impressed with the efficiency with which the village conducted its business.

Because of the success of the water system upgrade and the sense that Franklin wouldn't need to undertake another project of this magnitude in the near future, I felt fairly comfortable that I could have the freedom to enjoy my retirement and still fulfill my self-imposed civic responsibility by throwing my hat in the ring. Because there was no opposition to my candidacy, I was elected unanimously by the thirty-plus civic minded village residents who took the time to vote, whether there was a contested election or not.

For those who might suppose that I'm just another person from parts elsewhere, inserting myself into the affairs of the village without paying my dues, I'd like to share some back ground. My forebears came to Delaware County as part of a post-Revolution population surge in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, settling along the Delaware River between Deposit and Hale Eddy. Most of my relatives were born, raised, and buried in this general area, enjoying the bounty of its beauty and

enduring the hard times that often accompany living in a remote area. I grew up in Deposit, left to go to college, returned in the mid 1970s and located an administrative job at the Delaware County Office for the Aging.

In 1983, I became the Director of the agency and in the following year moved to Treadwell in the Town of Franklin, where my wife Donna and I raised our family. In 2006, we relocated to the village of Franklin. During my thirty-four years of public service, I served on the boards of several organizations at the local, state and national levels. I was fortunate enough to rub elbows with people whose vision and drive helped me to understand the qualities that define true greatness. I was also fortunate to befriend many people who acted in a supportive role to whatever cause was being pursued. These were the unsung "worker bees" whose collective efforts were essential to growing ideas into accomplishments.

My vision for Franklin might be considered by some as modest, by others as almost unattainable. It would bring me great joy to see the people of this community work together in harmony to create a living environment that matches the social dynamic that prevailed in the not so distant past. Youth programs, fraternal organizations, the fire department and emergency squad, village improvement, library, the theater, the museum and other organizations are all in need of volunteers. People with ideas, whether they be local or "city folk," should be welcomed and encouraged to share their perceptions. We should all be sensitive to the marketing concept that private enterprise attaches to its products and services: to engender in the customer a sense of meaning and belonging.

To our advantage, Franklin is one of the real jewels of the Leather-

stocking area. We have a wonderful library, a good school system, a top notch theater, a well-trained and organized fire department and emergency squad, a museum complex that has tremendous potential, a well-kept historic Main Street, a thriving farmers' market, an active faith community and a nucleus of bright, creative, hardworking and positive people.

Of concern is our capacity for sustainability. Without an influx of young people with means and families, our Main Street will fall into disrepair, our school system will be in jeopardy, our volunteer organizations will experience significant under-enrollment, and this quaint little village will face the same hard times that many of the other upstate communities are already experiencing.

In the months to come, I hope to meet with representatives from the various community organizations to discuss their perceptions and to explore strategies that might be employed to have a positive impact on this village. I will also keep an open ear to the ideas of individual residents about how to recapture the sense of promise that fueled that quality of life in this community in days prior.

I look forward to the next two years, as I become better acquainted with village residents. I have great confidence that we have the ability to make good things happen.

### Good Cheap Food

53 Main Street  
Delhi, NY 13753  
607-746-6562

## FRANKLIN CHURCHES

### Aldrich

#### Baptist Church

Route 28, North Franklin  
Phone: 607-829-5502  
Pastor: Pat Judd

Sunday Service: 9:30 A.M.  
Location: 1/2 mile east of the Ouleout Golf Course

#### Franklin United Methodist Church

Main and Water Streets  
Franklin  
Phone: 607-829-2956  
Pastor: John Hill

Sunday Service: 10:45 A.M.  
Coffee hour following  
Sunday School for children  
following Children's Time  
Holy Communion, first Sunday of each month.

#### Treadwell United Methodist Church

68 Church Street,  
Treadwell  
Pastor: John Hill  
Sunday Service: 9:15 A.M.

#### St Paul's Episcopal Church

307 Main Street, Franklin  
Phone: 607- 829-6404  
All faiths welcome

Service every Sunday  
at 8:15 A.M.

First Thursdays Soup  
Dinner every month (except July 3rd), by donation, to benefit the interior restoration fund. 5-7 P.M.

Join your friends for  
homemade soups, chili,  
salad and conversation!

#### Community Bible Church

89 Center Street, Franklin  
Pastor: Dr. Walt Schlundt  
Phone: 607-829-5471  
Sunday School (Sept. Through May): 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship: 10:45 AM

We are a church that faithfully teaches the word of God and seeks to glorify Him through worship, service and in all that we do. We seek to fulfill the great commission through evangelization, missions and training. We offer two Ladies' Bible Studies and one Men's Bible Study.

This space sponsored by  
Handsome Brook Farm.

## EDIBLE FOREST? WHAT'S THAT?

By Patricia Tyrell

In case you have not heard, there is a lot of exciting stuff going on in neighboring Sidney NY. Specifically, through the efforts of local leaders and government officials partnering with State authorities, the New York Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) planning committee has secured over \$3 million in State funding.

The Executive Summary of Sidney's plan, developed by the NYRCR committee, states: "Sidney is a small community with big plans, turning challenges into opportunities through... consensus around climate change, a commitment to work with nature and its sheer determination to keep residents safe and make businesses resilient."

Sidney's mission has been viewed favorably by State authorities, including Governor Cuomo. The funding awarded to Sidney is due to the tremendous effort and all-too-rare-these-days foresight of all the parties involved on the NYRCR committee. Among other projects, the money will be used to relocate homes out of flood-prone locations and create a new residential area on higher ground. A 140 acre "green plain" or wetland will be established to mitigate flooding when

it does occur, and help filter out toxins that are often carried by floodwaters. A community edible forest has also been included in the plan.

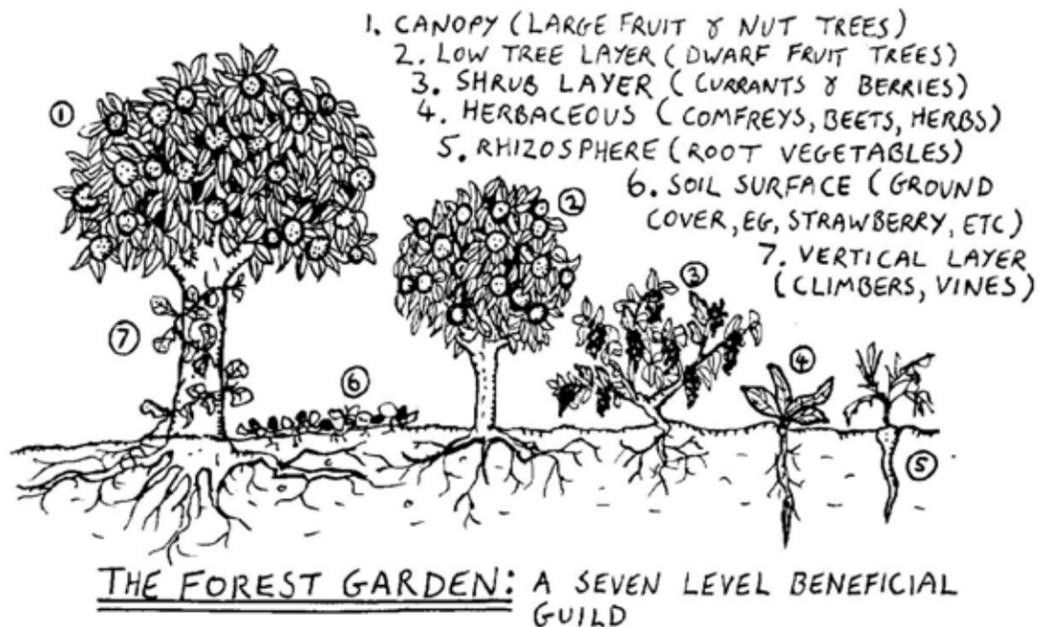
An "edible forest" is about working with Nature. It is an agricultural model based on the principles of a forest ecosystem. Imagine yourself standing in a woodland area, except there is hardly a thing there that you can not eat. The tallest trees have fruit and nuts on them, the shrubs

except you the human standing within it, are self-maintaining, complimentary partners. That's what makes it an ecosystem - it works on its own and once established, requires little intervention to thrive and become bountiful. And food is just the beginning of edible forestry's value. You or I, or in this case the people of Sidney, stand to gain a myriad of benefits not limited to satisfied appetites and better nutrition.

Other edible forests in

food forest, about to complete its first phase of creation this September. Food Forest Farm in Holyoke MA provides forest tours and consults with aspiring food forest managers. The Rahma Free Health Clinic Edible Forest Garden, in Syracuse NY, will provide both nutrition and medical care to the community it serves.

Motivated by recent and devastating losses due to two floods, Sidney has strategically worked to become the "progressive, dynamic and resilient place" that it claims to be. and stands to



are full of berries, and there are vegetables and herbs growing along the ground and on vines climbing to the sky. There are bees, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife that call these woods home.

All of these things,

the USA play host to educational and recreational activities, tourism and entertainment, as well as new local industries such as natural medicine and edible landscaping. Beacon Food Forest in Seattle WA, boasts about its seven-acre public

become a leading vision of success for the county and region. Perhaps, other local areas will take notice and begin their own developments, including edible forests, to ensure the future vitality and sustainability of their own towns.

## PET TALK

with Dr. Joan Puritz



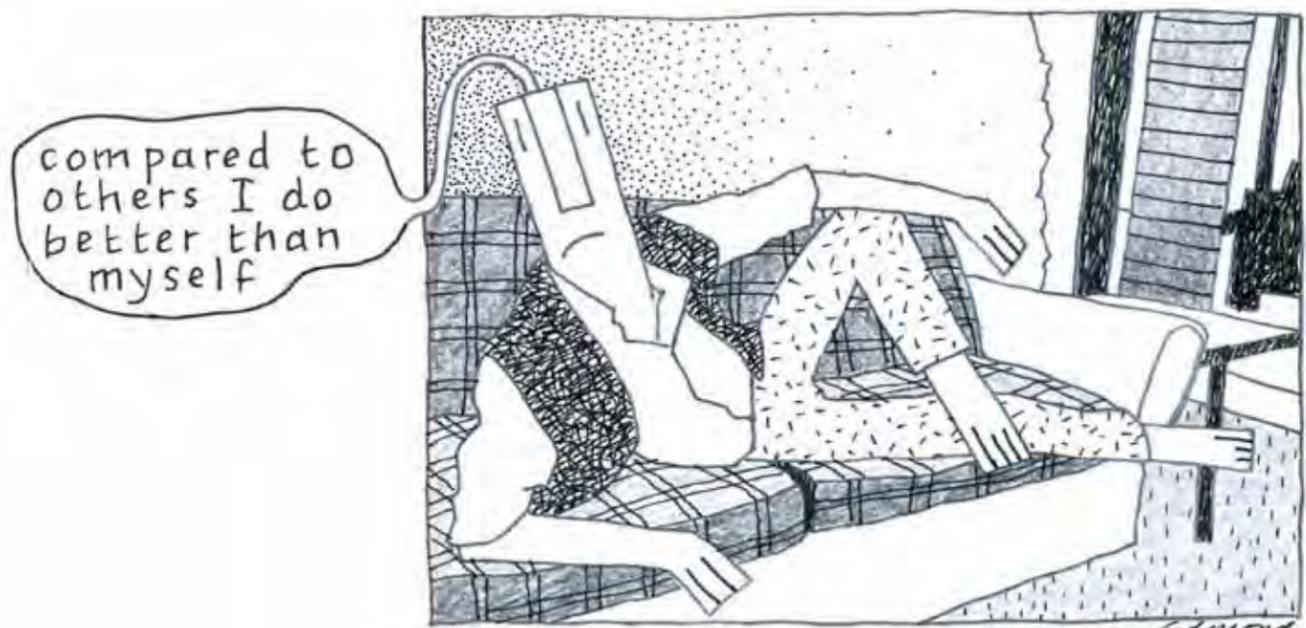
Spring into summer is a busy time for Dr. Puritz, so she could not write for this issue. But she's waiting to hear from YOU, dear Reader. If you have questions about animal care for Dr. Puritz, please email them c/o [nfr@franklinlocal.org](mailto:nfr@franklinlocal.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

## FRANKLIN RABIES CLINIC

A rabies vaccination clinic will be offered in Franklin on **Wednesday August 6th, 4 to 6 p.m. at Franklin Fire Hall,**

courtesy of the Delaware County Health Service  
607-832-5200

[delawarecountypublichealth.com](http://delawarecountypublichealth.com)



# COUNTY TAKES FRANKLIN LAND

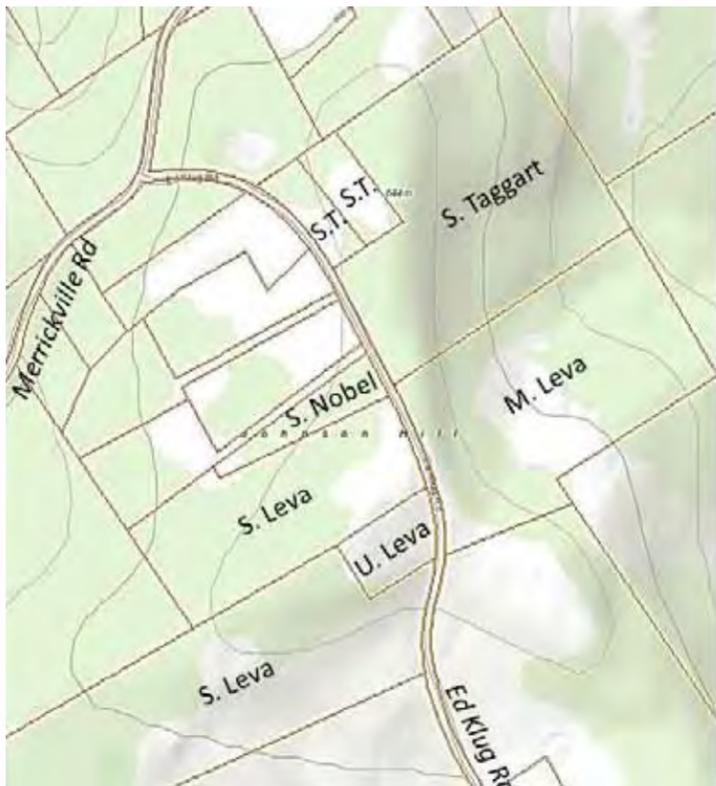
By Brian Brock

The federal government requires that Delaware County replace its emergency communication system, having sold the frequencies on which it operates. The existing system was built in the 1970s and replacement parts are no longer manufactured. Also, it reaches mobile units in only 65% of the county, whereas the new system should reach 95%. Costs are estimated at \$5 to 10 million, of which \$5.3 million has been covered by grants to date.

The required new communication towers are to be located near the existing ones, of which there are

up more of his limited road frontage. He suggested a property across Ed Klug Road, owned by his mother. According to Supervisor Taggart, an agreement was reached with the Leva family to locate the new tower on a half acre of Maria Leva's parcel, across from the existing tower. But since late last year, he said, the owners have been involved in a family squabble, and have not responded to numerous attempts to finalize the easement.

It is unclear why only a Leva family property is suitable. While they own four parcels that are above 2,000' along Ed Klug Road, Scott Taggart owns others nearby. The Leva family are



Map showing Johnson Mountain and Ed Klug Road

twelve. Phase I includes replacement of the four towers in primary locations such as on top of Franklin's Johnson Mountain, just south of Heathen Hill. Other primary locations are Houck Mtn., Walton; Mt. Pisgah, Andes; and Mt. Utsayantha, Stamford. The existing facility must be kept operational until the new system is completed, and the new tower also requires an equipment shack.

On Johnson Mtn., the county had planned to put the new tower and its shack next to the old one, but the land owner, Mr. Leva, complained that it would take

nonresidents, whereas Mr. Taggart lives in Franklin.

With construction now on hold, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously at their April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to begin eminent domain proceedings (Resolution 78). But apparently there were problems with the wording. So, in their meeting of May 25<sup>th</sup>, they rescinded that resolution and voted for the similar Resolution 114.

Seven of the twelve towers are planned for completion this year, and completion of the system is scheduled for mid-2016.

# IN THE KITCHEN

With Sue Avery

## BAKED ONIONS:

1 LARGE ONION per person  
WATER  
BUTTER

*Preheat the oven to 250 ° F. Do not peel the onions. Set them, peel and all, in a baking pan. You may need to shave a little off the bottom so that the onions will sit flat.*

*Add a little water, about an inch.*

*Bake for two (2) hours.*

*Remove from pan and remove the outer skins. Make a small well in the center of each top and insert a pat of butter, the size depending on your taste and inclination - about a teaspoon.*

*Salt and pepper to taste.*

*Vidalias are wonderful for this dish, but any nice, large onion will do.*

*Delicious!*



## FRANKLIN CHAMBER 2013 AWARDS: CRONAUER AND COSTELLO

The Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce, at the annual dinner in May, awarded Business of the Year to Cronauer Plumbing and Electric, and Person of the Year to Richard Costello.

Cronauer Plumbing and Electric has been owned and operated by Bob Cronauer for over 55 years, a testament to "doing the job right." He has served our community in many ways, including 28 years in the Franklin EMS. Bob has the highest level of training available in Delaware County

Rich Costello is a founding member of the Chamber and has helped with every Chamber project. Currently he is Chamber vice president. Rich has given to the youth of Franklin as a scout leader (having been in scouting for 25 years), serves on BOCES consultant committees, and has coached sports.

Organized in 1980, the members of the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce work to improve the business and community environments of the Town of Franklin.

Currently our website is being revamped and improved. Visit us at [franklinny.org](http://franklinny.org).



Rich Costello and Marc Burgin present Robert Cronauer of Cronauer/Brower Electric & Plumbing with Business of the Year Award

## FARMERS' MARKETS: *Spread Too Thin?*

By Tom and Denise Warren

We have been selling our grass-fed meats and eggs for twenty years at three regional farmers' markets. During that time, especially over the past three years, there has been an explosion of interest in buying local foods, mostly due to a new awareness of the importance of knowing how our food is raised, harvested and sold.

Ten years ago, there were three farmers' markets in our region: Cooperstown, Pakatakan and Oneonta. These centralized

town farmers' markets is that a market creates a community, a space for people to gather and socialize. It creates an opportunity for added income for small-scale or part-time farmers. But can this scattering of farmers' markets support the full time farmer, and will these markets survive as more participating farmers realize that he/she is not getting a reasonable return on his/her investment of time and money? Small farmers' markets tend to host only a handful of farmer-vendors, while larger, centralized markets

transportation, labor, market fees, market materials and signage. All the while, the farmers' incomes are shrinking.

So, while the growing number of farmers' markets may be good for communities and customers, it may not be best for farmers.

Tom and Denise Warren own and operate Stone and Thistle Farm.

1211 Kelso Road East  
Meredith, NY 13757

[www.stoneandthistle-farm.com](http://www.stoneandthistle-farm.com)

607-278-5800

Farm store open seven days year round 9 am to 6 pm.

**Stone & Thistle Farm**  
- grass fed beef, lamb, goat, pork, poultry and rabbit

**Kortright Creek Creamery** - grass fed goat milk, goat milk yogurt and chevre. Be a LOCAL Hero. Invest in the Creamery. For details: <http://www.stoneandthistlefarm.com/creamery.htm>

**Fable** = farm + table dining experience on the farm. Open for dinner on select Saturdays and for a farm tour and brunch on select Sundays May through October. Available for private parties and events.

**Farm Stay and Bed & Breakfast** open year round. Farmhouse Suite or Farmhand Cabin.

**FarmHands** - consulting services for new and beginning farmers seeking to establish or diversify their farm business.



markets attracted customers from several surrounding counties and provided strong, consistent revenue for the participating farmers. Today, every town and hamlet is determined to host a farmers' market. In Delaware and Otsego counties, there are currently twenty-one. In fact, the number of farmers' markets in New York has increased from 235 in 2000 to 521 as of August 2012, according to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

The good news is that there is growing interest in local foods, and it is handy for the customer to have "round the bend" access to farm fresh food.

But maybe not such good news for the farmers. The number of customers in our region who seek farm-fresh food at farmers' markets is growing, but slowly, and the number of markets is outpacing the customer base. The relatively small number of dedicated customers is now divided between a larger and growing number of farmers' markets.

New York City is home to 148 farmers' markets. That's about 56,000 people for every market. In Delaware and Otsego counties, there are 5,200 people for every farmers' market. While there is no direct data to support this theory, we believe that a greater percentage of people in New York City shop year round at farmers' markets than do locally.

A great benefit of small

can support twenty to thirty vendors.

There is also an environmental cost. If a farmer travels twenty or thirty miles to a market to sell just \$200 to \$300 of product, it becomes a carbon intensive endeavor.

An informal survey conducted at the farmers' markets in which we participate indicates that vendors have to sell at twice as many markets as they did five years ago, just to maintain the same level of revenue. And vendors' expenses are high, including



## CONSTRUCTION CONJUNCTION

By Brian Brock

Reconstruction of the intersection of Routes 357 and 28 by the New York State Department of Transportation is slated to start in the summer of 2015 and finish in the fall of 2016 – more than a year later.

Under the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, the goal of this project is to reduce accidents by creating better sight lines. DOT studied the intersection and published a report in June of 2007, concluding that it had ten times the accident rate of similar intersections.

Planning began in 2009, and a formal presentation was made to the town in August of 2011. Initially, construction was to begin this year. Instead, this June, DOT came to the Town Sheds to answer questions. At that time, the choice between a roundabout and a T-intersection had yet to be made. The T-intersection would require additional right of way.

In the intervening years, estimated costs have risen from \$800,000 to \$900,000. The Federal government will pay 80 percent and the state 20 percent.

In the current timeline, DOT construction would overlap the Constitution Pipeline project, creating additional congestion.

This project is #901858 in DOT district #9. Updates are available at [dot.ny.gov/projects](http://dot.ny.gov/projects)

## The Green Earth Health Food Market

Est. 1991

4 Market Street Oneonta, NY 13820



- Organic Groceries
- Local Produce
- Freshly Prepared Food From Our Cafe
- Community Room Offering Classes
- Vitamins
- Supplements

**Store Hours:**  
**Mon-Fri 8am-8pm**  
**Sat 8am-6pm**  
**Sun 10am-5pm**  
[GreenEarthOneonta.com](http://GreenEarthOneonta.com)



*Familiar faces*



Photography by Dana Matthews.  
See more work at [danamatthews.com](http://danamatthews.com)



# FOCUS ON ENERGY

## PEAK OIL: *The Repercussions*

By Gene Marner

Over the past seven years, The New Franklin Register has offered articles that attempted to help our readers to understand the relationship between energy supplies and the economy. In our issue in Spring of this year (<http://franklinlocal.org/nfr/nfr-index/>), I laid out a brief history of energy use and tried to describe how fossil fuel energy became essential to our modern way of life. In this article, I'd like to bring the story up to date, with our present predicament.

We all know that we use a lot of energy, most of it derived from fossil fuels. Until now, it has been so abundant and easily available that we take it entirely for granted. We walk into a room and switch on the lights. That's using electricity, much of which is generated by burning coal or methane gas. All our transportation of goods and people, all mining of resources, manufacturing of machinery and consumer products depend on diesel and other liquid fuels. Our workplaces are powered by fossil fuels; our vacations and amusements are powered by fossil fuels.

You see where I'm going with this: there is virtually no getting away from fossil fuel energy in our very energy-intensive lives - unless perhaps we go fishing. And even then, the fishing line is nylon (oil), the hooks are steel (coal), and the fishing tackle came to market in a truck (oil again). The fact that we cannot turn around without seeing or touching something that arrived courtesy of fossil fuels might explain most people's reluctance to contemplate a life with ever less oil and other fossil fuels. It seems natural to think that things will continue as they have all our lives.

I have often written that the depletion of fossil fuels is not a matter of belief or technology but a question of geology. If you keep using something that comes out of the earth, eventually you use it up.

There's another problem, however, and that has to do not with shortages of supply but with debt. In our system, money is not created by the government but rather loaned into existence by banks. The bank does not *have* the money it lends you; it creates that money out of thin air when you sign an agreement to pay it back - with interest. You, the borrower, create the real value of that money by going out and earning it at some productive task. The bank just collects the money you give them each month and pays bonuses to their executives.

In order for this system of mon-

ey creation to function, there must be continual growth in the economy to produce the new wealth that the new money represents. But without growing our supply of energy, there can be no growth. Faced with the need to keep this precarious system functioning, everyone - producers, consumers, bankers, workers, governments - has resorted to ever increasing levels of debt, rolling over old loans into new loans. Lending standards are relaxed in order to allow the borrowing to continue as the real economy slows. Eventually the debt burden becomes so great that interest payments take up all the productive capacity of a society. When that happens, the bubble bursts, for no one will either lend or borrow. Government debt, corporate debt, student debt, credit card debt, underwater mortgages: we're close to that point already.

How does the debt crisis affect energy availability? Leaving aside the urgent questions of climate change and environmental damage caused by fossil fuel extraction and use, let's just pretend for a moment that using fossil fuels is not irreparably damaging our life support systems, so we can just drill, baby, drill. With the cheap and easily extracted fuels already gone, what remains is deep under the sea or trapped in deep rock formations that must be shattered at great cost by fracking to release the fuels. Deep-sea drilling rigs cost between one and three billion dollars each to build and as much as \$500,000 a day to operate. That's real money and must be financed.

At the same time, we're trying to build so-called renewable energy systems. That means new infrastructure, new machines like wind turbines and solar panels. Factories must be built, ores mined and refined, equipment installed. All of that requires large amounts of energy and, equally, large amounts of financing.

Whether we're talking about drill, baby, drill or so-called renewable energy, the debt burden is just too great. We can see the evidence in the world around us. The oil majors are all cutting back on exploration and new projects because the returns are not good enough to justify the investment. At the same time, the financial system is seizing up as it chokes on more debt than can be serviced. That leaves energy descent and contraction as our certain future, whether we choose to embrace it and try to learn to live simpler, less energy-intensive lives—or simply wait for collapse to arrive like a tsunami.

## SON OF CONSTITUTION

By Brian Brock

After repeated requests by the Franklin Town Board, Leatherstocking came to the May meeting to brief them on a possible natural gas distribution line to run from the proposed Constitution Pipeline through Franklin to industry in Fraser, Town of Delhi. (Both Morningstar Foods LLC and Clark Inc. could be large consumers of gas.) Probably this pipe would be low pressure ten-inch high density polyethylene, but medium pressure four-inch steel is an option. Either would be buried three to five feet deep.

Leatherstocking Gas Company LLC is a joint venture between Corning Natural Gas Corporation and Mirabito Holdings. It has started constructing distribution systems in the townships of Bridgewater and Montrose, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania.

Mike German, president of Leatherstocking, showed two speculative routes. (See map on Page 9.) One would run 20.4 miles down County Highway 28 and State Highway 10 through North Franklin, Meridale, Meredith, and Delhi. The other would run 19.6 miles down Chamberlin Hill Road, State Highway 357, County Highway 14, and County Highway 16 through Leonta, Treadwell, and West Delhi. The latter is considerably different from the one shown last year to the councilmen of the towns of Delhi and Meredith, and to the trustees of the village of Delhi. That would have run down Otego Road to State Highway 357. Unlike the old, this new version does not go through the village of Franklin, and therefore to supply gas to the village a spur would have to be built from Leonta, a distance of 2.5 miles.

Leatherstocking does not have the power of eminent domain and would have to negotiate for all easements. It could gain that power by becoming a utility.

At the tap into the Constitution Pipeline (i.e. the station gate), there would be built a twelve foot by twelve foot utility building containing equipment to meter, reduce pressure, and odorize the gas. This distribu-

See SON OF C, Continued on Page 9

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP) is proposing a second pipeline in Delaware County that would slash through many of the same properties already threatened by the "Constitution" pipeline. These corporations cannot be allowed to destroy our rural communities by building infrastructure that would help them frack our farms, forests, and backyards.

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[StopThePipeline.org/tgp](http://StopThePipeline.org/tgp)



[www.StopThePipeline.org](http://www.StopThePipeline.org)

# PIPES AND POWER

Compiled by Brian Brock

**March 10<sup>th</sup>:** **Constitution Pipeline Company** takes delivery of first 500 lengths of pipe at Albany rail yards, months before expected certification and over a year before needed.

**March 10<sup>th</sup>:** **NYS Public Service Company** awards Delaware County intervener funding of \$50,000 for power line projects. Other awards made to Dutchess County (\$50,000); towns of Milan, Dutchess County (\$40,000) and Athens, Greene County (\$40,000); and environmental nongovernmental organizations Scenic Hudson (\$25,000) and OCCA (\$65,000).

**March 21<sup>st</sup>:** **Town of Davenport** submits to FERC its opposition to the pipeline.

**March 24<sup>th</sup>:** **Leatherstocking Gas Company** presents to the Village of Franklin plans for a local gas distribution line through Town of Franklin. Later it presents to the Town of Franklin on May 6<sup>th</sup> – see article page 8.

**March 24<sup>th</sup>:** **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation** requests extension of deadline for comments on Environmental Impact Statement from April 7<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>, citing insufficient information. This request is later joined by federal **Environmental Protection Agency** (4/7), **Department of Interior** (4/7), and **Army Corps of Engineers** (4/8); state **Attorney General** (4/16); local **Town of Meredith** (4/7); and environmental NGOs **EarthJustice** (3/25), and **Trout Unlimited** (4/2).

**March 26<sup>th</sup>:** **CPC** announces a chain of towers, 100 feet tall, along the pipeline, including one on Van Tassel Road, less than two weeks before the end of comment period. Test borings for the foundations were begun last summer. Later, FERC requests more information

**March 28<sup>th</sup>:** **Tennessee Gas Pipeline** ends Open Season solicitation of gas supply to its proposed Northeast Extension project.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>:** **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** holds a public hearing on their draft EIS at Oneonta High School, one of four such March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup>. CPC busses-in union workers from Rochester and Newberg to shore-up support and intimidate opponents.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>:** **CPC** submits to FERC some “documents required prior to end of comment period” only hours before deadline. FERC does not post them until after the deadline.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>:** **Delaware County Board of Supervisors** submits comments to FERC.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>:** **FERC** denies all requests to extend the comment period beyond deadline of today.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>:** **CPC** continues to submit to FERC requested documents after the deadline, and again on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**April 14<sup>th</sup>:** **Treadwell Fire Department** applies to CPC for a community grant for four new air packs and spare tanks.

**April 30<sup>th</sup>:** **NYSDEC** renews request for additional information, and again on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**May 14<sup>th</sup>:** **FERC** requires additional information from CPC before EIS can be completed and announces that the deadline of Friday June 13<sup>th</sup> will not be met.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>:** **Tennessee Gas Pipeline** announces almost doubling the length of Northeast Extension project by reviving the Northeast Expansion project through Franklin (see article on Page 1).

## SON OF C, continued from Page 8

tion system would not require a compressor.

This distribution line is contingent on the construction of the Constitution Pipeline. Even if that is completed by March 2016, construction of this line would not begin until 2017 or 2018. Prior to the Franklin/Delhi line, Leatherstocking is planning to build distribution lines from Millennium Pipeline to Windsor and then from Constitution Pipeline to Sidney. Other possible service areas are Bainbridge and Unadilla.

## DOUBLE, continued from Page 1

supply, but we don't know how many did.

For more than a year, it seemed as if TGP was content to plan for the Constitution Pipeline to supply gas to the input of this Northeast Expansion Pipeline in Wright. But the Constitution would supply only 0.6 to 0.8 Bcf/d. As a result of interest from Pennsylvania's gas producers, TGP has revived plans for the Northeast Exchange. Originally it was to have a 0.6 Bcf/d capacity, but with no booster compressor station.

Now, the recent plan adds just such a station somewhere in Delaware County, which would increase capacity. If built, such a booster compressor would be located around the middle of the route. Currently it is planned for the North Franklin or west Davenport area, east of State Highway 28. Additional compression engines would have to be installed at existing compressor stations at the input in Clifford PA and the output in Wright NY.

Compressor stations make poor neighbors, polluting the air with noise and

chemicals. The compressors spin 24/7/365, and the occasional venting sounds like a jet taking off. The small leaks and huge volumes of vented shale gas have been linked to a variety of signs of chemical poisoning such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, nose bleeds and rashes.

Together, the Northeast Exchange (southwestern half) and the Northeast Expansion (northeastern half) is being called the Northeast Energy Direct or NED. The southwestern half of this project, including the section through Franklin, has not even been pre-filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Of course the same was said about the Constitution Pipeline back in 2012.

In New York, the new TGP route is almost identical to the original one, but both show some differences from the Williams route of the Constitution. All three take a very similar path through Delaware County.

If both pipelines are built, their ill effects double. At best, a second strip of easements would double

the width of the easement corridor and at worst, create two separate parallel strips. Construction in 2015 and then in 2017 would take twice as long. Wear and tear on roads would double, as would traffic congestion. Tax assessments of infrastructure and easement payments would likewise double, but this would be offset by decrease in assessments of affected parcels. Affected land owners would be twice cheated of fair compensation. And while there has been some talk of local distribution of gas, two pipelines would not make such a supply twice as cheap.

Currently the timeline is: taking bids from potential suppliers of gas - February/March 2014; contracts signed by suppliers - August 2014; and submitting

an outline of the project to FERC (pre-filing) - September 2014, with the aim of beginning clearing brush and trees from the route by January 2017 and starting to ship gas to consumers after November 2018. Already along the pipeline route, affected landowners are receiving letters from the TGP subcontractor, The NLS Group, seeking permission for surveys.

At least TGP has the honesty to admit that a booster compressor is necessary, unlike Williams. Also they are clear that possible users of this gas could be “developers of liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) projects in New England and Atlantic Canada,” unlike Williams.

Once a utility corridor is established, it is easier to co-locate more utilities along it. But here we have

an adjacent easement being proposed before the first is even certified by FERC.

What does this portend for our future?

Archives of The New Franklin Register are available at [franklinlocal.org/nfr](http://franklinlocal.org/nfr).

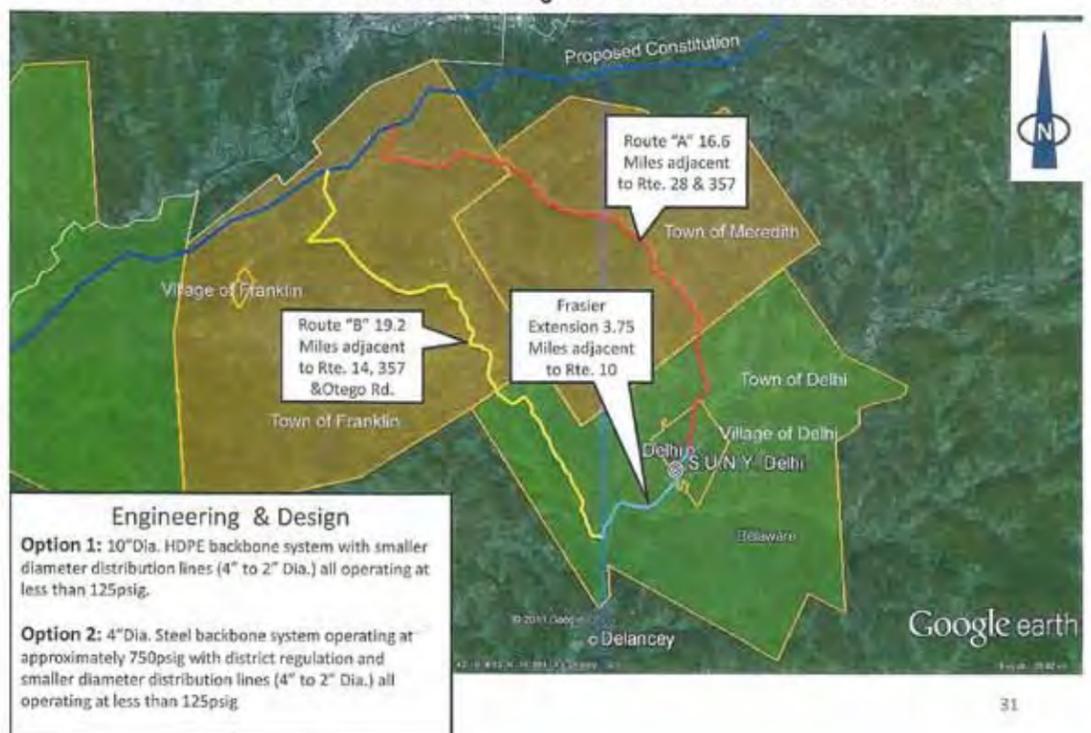
1. “Pipeline Fever”: <http://franklinlocal.org/pipeline-fever/>



2. “Constitutional Confiscation”: <http://franklinlocal.org/constitutional-confiscation/>



## Possible Distribution System Build in Delaware Co.



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## SETBACK FOR LOCAL GREEN ENERGY

By Tom Martone

Members of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) interested in local green energy were in for a bit of a surprise when the cooperative announced in its Jan/Feb 2014 newsletter that it was abandoning its long standing net-metering based agreement with its own members who had installed grid-tied member-owned distributed generation, such as rooftop or ground mounted solar systems or small residential wind turbines.

DCEC, which has about 5,200 members, is one of four small electric cooperatives in New York, founded in the early 1940s as part of the Rural Electrification Administration which brought electricity to unserved rural areas. The vast majority of New Yorkers are customers of investor-owned utilities, such as NYSEG and ConEd. Customers of investor-owned utilities in New York State who install distributed generation systems receive full credit at the retail rate for

each kilowatt hour their renewable energy systems produce. This arrangement, called net-metering, has been in effect since 1998. In stark contrast, DCEC's new member-owned distributed generation policy will credit members at the coop's wholesale cost of energy, which is under 3 cents per kwh. As the energy flows back and forth across the meter, to and from the grid, the member loses much of the value of the energy produced by the system they have invested in as the energy is bought and sold throughout the day. The effect of this is so dramatic that several members' yearly electric bill will more than triple under the new policy.

In fact, the new policy will virtually ensure that DCEC members will be unable to install economically viable solar and wind systems in the future.

DCEC CEO/General Manager Mark Schneider participated in a panel discussion closing out this year's Delaware County Sustainable Energy Symposium at Delhi College in March. Some DCEC members, having spent the day at

the symposium learning of many exciting advances in local renewable energy, wanted to know the rationale behind DCEC's policy. They described the negative impact the policy change would have on members' ability to add economically viable renewable energy generation to their homes. Those members were not satisfied with what they heard from their CEO/General Manager.

Since then, several members have been trying to get the CEO and the board of directors to reconsider the policy. They have attended board meetings, generally held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, and have spoken for their allotted five minutes about their concerns, trying to understand the cooperative's position. At this point, the board seems fully committed to this policy, even though they have been made aware of its potentially negative effect on its own members and on the growth of local green energy in Delaware County.

Each year, the cooperative holds an annual meeting to elect directors to the board and vote on

other issues. This year, three of the seven board seats are up for election. Perhaps changing the makeup of the board of directors is one way to coax the cooperative toward policies which promote clean energy, local economic development and enhanced resiliency on the cooperative's electric grid.

This year the cooperative holds its annual meeting on Friday, September 19 at the Delaware Academy in Delhi. All members concerned about guiding the cooperative towards policies which support local green energy and economic development in Delaware County should seriously consider voting to install three new directors this year.

Members can also exercise their vote through the absentee ballot procedure. The first step is to obtain an absentee ballot by filling out a request form and sending it to the cooperative by August 20.

You can find further details and a link to download the request form at <https://cooperativeenergy.club/2014/06/dcec-election/>

*Tom Martone lives in Bovina, and is a member of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative.*

*He says about 150 co-op members live in the Town of Franklin.*

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## ROOTING FOR IDEAS: The Rewards of Gardening in Real Time

By  
Don Statham

*"Time is the wisest counselor of all."* – Pericles

I was in my late twenties and living in Scotland when I made my first garden and by the time my wife and I decided to return to the states it had grown in size to a couple of acres. After we left, our cottage was rented to a man who professed to be a gardener, but that did not turn out to be the case and the garden, in large part, went back to the wild. Seeing the "garden" again, years later, was a shock. It was a hard but very valuable lesson to learn: that it's the *journey* not the end result that's important.

I have now been gardening for 24 years and I have a very different attitude towards gardening than when I started. In other areas of my life I am guilty of trying to save time, control time, steal time, or kill time; but I have gardened long enough now to make a truce with time. There is no point in saying, for example, "Oh, but you should have been here last week..." There is no permanence, perhaps especially in a garden.

Since its inception 14 years ago, I have photographed my garden here in the western Catskills, and no two years are the same. Borders change dramatically from year to year. Many plants have disappeared, others have multiplied or escaped and planted themselves, and I have photographs to prove it; a sort of free-for-all!



Don and dogs hard at work

The wonderful thing about gardening in the spring is that the plants are just beginning to grow and you have a clear vision of each individual plant. Early in the season I have a sense that I am in control of things, but by midsum-

mer the majority of plants have grown into each other. By high summer, I discover well-camouflaged weeds standing 6 to 8 feet tall in the borders. I have no idea how I let this happen, and yet it occurs every year.

The garden is one of the only things where you can be both in it, making it, and editing it at the same time. While planting a tree I might catch myself fantasizing about the tree as a mature specimen and, thus, place it accordingly. But I no longer feel dissatisfied with the young tree or wish it to be mature already. Garden-

Perhaps one of the best aspects about being present in the garden is the way one's intuitive abilities become sharper and louder. The environmentalist and writer John Hay said, *"It would never occur to most of us that 'plants' say anything at all, except in terms of what we read into them, or try to use them for. Yet in their responses to this wonderfully rhythmic and varying earth they are the most expressive of all forms of life."* (*A Beginner's Faith in Things Unseen*)

I also believe my plants express what they need if I am ready to "listen" with



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ing has taught me the folly of the idea of perfection and a love of the mysterious pleasure of being with things as they are in real time.

When the clocks leap forward in spring it feels like we have more time on our hands. While removing leaves and debris from the beds, we see life pushing out of the soil; spring bulbs, perennials, as well as buds on the shrubs

and trees, show so much promise! But let's face it: this does not last long. By late spring an intense succession of plants come into bloom one after another and don't stop until late autumn. With so much change doesn't it make sense to grab the moment and enjoy what is in front of you?

my eyes. The black-bearded irises "told" me to get rid of the bishop's weed that's choking it to death! The lilacs are clearly begging for a little wood ash to be worked into the soil around their feet. Plants, like children's needs, are quite straightforward. Gardening is perhaps a combination of intuition and action. After a while you just know when it's time to prune and shape that overgrown shrub. When we slow down and allow the garden to speak that's when our faith in the process allows magic to happen.

As Barbara Cawthorne Crafton, Episcopal priest, spiritual director and author, wrote, *"...so much care and feeding. Such competitiveness among the plants—some of them literally choke*

*each other to death if you don't get out there and put a stop to it. The big gorgeous ones get lots of attention, but then one comes along that looks almost dead all season and suddenly, almost overnight, blooms splendidly forth. Never write anybody off completely. You just don't know."*

As I write, I suppose I am thinking about time because I have been cooped

up all winter and that does funny things to my sense of time. With the additional daylight comes the ability to break ground and the garden is made again. Ravaged by winter there seem to be a million chores and it's easy to be caught up in the mad rush of "doing." I have to remind myself to take a deep breath and see what *is* - and to forget about what it should be.

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Roots Band

7/19 - NATION BEAT  
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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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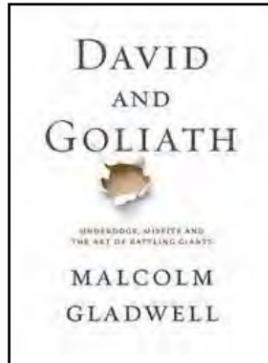
## AT THE LIBRARY

### JIM MULLEN REVIEWS NEW BOOKS



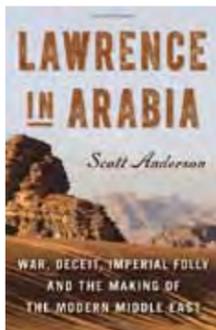
#### DAVID AND GOLIATH By Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell has become his own genre -- any well written, well researched, easily absorbed piece of nonfiction on a random but interesting topic is now called Gladwellian, as if that's a bad thing. It is not. Atul Gawande, Michael Pollan and Michael Lewis are all Gladwellian, but they stick to their fields -- medicine, food and high finance. Like John McPhee before him, Gladwell does not. He is all over the map, writing about science, pop culture, crime, whatever strikes his interest, and he makes us interested in it, too. He doesn't write about hot topics in the news but his subjects often become hot topics. The premise of "David and Goliath" is that in many cases, including the title story, if you dig deep you'll find the real, counter-intuitive-lesson of the tale. His subjects are as diverse as girl's basketball, three-strikes-and-you're-out laws, the disadvantaged children of the wealthy and a few more. As Way Bandy, the late make-up artist used to put it, "When you scratch the surface, there's always more surface." It could have easily been the title of this book.



#### LAWRENCE IN ARABIA By Scott Anderson

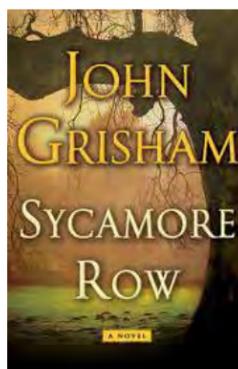
This is a spectacular addition to the large and ever-growing pile of Lawrenceania and it reveals his multi-faceted genius without all the conjecture about his sexuality and motives. It's just the facts, ma'am, and what facts they are -- Lawrence only spent only a year and a half "in theater," yet changed the course of WWI. He became famous because, unlike the was the only Brit one advancing. But (though he wasn't call guerilla war and because) he had no volt even though the a thing was laugh-ropes and Ameri-have tried to shape 28 year-old T.E. Law-his war but lost the peace to the same "military geniuses" who got their own troops slaughtered by the thousands in the trenches, the same people who called him "odd." Their sort lives among us still.



#### SYCAMORE ROW By John Grisham

A rural, white Mississippi multi-millionaire leaves the bulk of his fortune to his part-time, African-American housekeeper and not to his rapacious grown children. His children sue the housekeeper. How do you turn that little plot into a 500 page thriller?

Well, the will is hand-written without witnesses. The housekeeper has only worked for him for a few years and there is an older will floating around. Each page piles on new evidence, each page introduces new doubts and certainties. Is the housekeeper a charlatan or a sincere innocent? Will the grasping children win even though they don't deserve a nickel? This is the old John Grisham writing the way that made him famous. My one complaint is that he tries to explain "Southern ways" to non-Southern readers. It's like explaining a bagel to a Baptist -- it's pointless. They already know, or they won't care.



#### INFERNO By Dan Brown

Like everyone else, I read *The DaVinci Code*, and for all its inept dialogue and convenient coincidences, it was a fun ride. After all, novels are entertainment first, works of art last. Dan's trying to entertain, but sometimes it's so awkward, it's like watching someone on "American Idol" who can sing a little but can't tell the difference between a good song and a bad song. Dan Brown is singing the hell out of *Inferno* but it's a lousy song. It's *The DaVinci Code* set in Florence. Someone is killing people you don't care about in a way that you don't care about, linking them to the punishments in Dante's "Inferno," a book you don't care about. *Basta!* The real crime here is that he's murdered all the fun of being in Florence. If you love that town the way I do, get *Brunelleschi's Dome* by Ross King and prepare to be sad that you don't live there.

## THE CATSKILL MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL 2014

By Tony Breuer

"Films are contagious," concluded Academy Award nominee and Roxbury resident David France as he ended an inspiring keynote address at the Catskill Mountains Film Festival. And film-lover fever was at an epidemic level on May 2, 3, and 4, as creators and enthusiasts of the motion picture arts gathered for the festival's first big year.

The three-day event proved a resounding success and established itself as a promising new cultural institution in the central Catskill region. More than a hundred of the films submitted were shown at

carpet entrance and photo opportunities for the winners of the competition, after which festival director Jessica Vecchione opened the awards ceremony by thanking the generous sponsors, the dedicated volunteer committee members, and the talented filmmakers. David France's keynote speech emphasized the vital role films play in shaping and informing public opinion, as exemplified by his Oscar-nominated film *How to Survive a Plague*. The festival's honorary chairperson was SUNY Delhi graduate and Hollywood star Bill Pullman, who appeared on video (being unable to attend in person because of pre-



L to R, Festival Director Jessica Vecchione, filmmaker David France and Franklin graphic artist, Joe Williams

three locations — SUNY Delhi, The Open Eye Theater in Margaretville, and The Walton Theatre. Many of the films were shot and produced locally in the Catskills.

On Friday evening, at the VIP reception held at SUNY Delhi, University Provost John Nader welcomed the festival sponsors and dignitaries who mingled with the multitude of filmmakers in attendance. Among the local politicians showing their support for the festival was State Senator John Bonacic.

During the day on Saturday, the festival presented a screenwriting workshop given by Mark Jaffe Cohen and a panel discussion by representatives from Upstate Independents, a non-profit organization made up of film and other media artists. Both programs were highly informative and inspirational, especially for the young filmmakers in attendance.

Saturday evening began with the requisite red

vious commitments). Pullman acknowledged the important role festivals play in affording filmmakers a chance to exhibit their new works.

Academy Award-winning director and Roxbury resident Roger Ross Williams then presented a total of nineteen coveted "Catty" awards. Awards were presented in four divisions — Open, College, High School, and Middle School — with each division consisting of seven categories, including feature-length and short narrative films, feature-length and short documentaries, music videos, animation, and "iPhonography" (a novel filming technique that uses cell phone cameras). Most of the winners were from the Catskills region, although the best narrative feature film, *Blackbird*, was from Scotland. *Brothers of the Black List* and *Destiny's Bridge* were tied for the best feature-length documentary. (For a complete list of the winning films, go

See FILMS, con't on Page 15



## UpState Arts

By Jane Carr



### STAGECOACH RUN ART FESTIVAL IN TREADWELL JULY 5 & 6, 2014

Treadwell NY is a sleepy little hamlet of less than 300 people situated on Delaware County Route 14, twenty minutes from Delhi in one direction, half an hour from Oneonta in the other, and only three hours from NYC. But it's only "sleepy" on the surface. Treadwell is actually a thriving enclave of painters, sculptors, writers, musicians and photographers, with the Treadwell Museum of Fine Art, the Bright Hill Literary Center and the homes and studios of dozens of artists. On July 5 and 6, many of those studios will be open to the public from 10am to 5pm during the 19th annual Stage-

coach Run Art Festival. Over fifty five artists will be showing their work at twenty-three venues, a free tour running along the Old Stagecoach Turnpike that connects Unadilla on the Susquehanna River to Catskill on the Hudson.

Sculptor and painter Joseph Kurhajec, a founder of the Stagecoach Festival, has summered in Treadwell for over 35 years. His studio is housed in the Oddfellows Lodge, where his paintings, prints and sculptures draw on primitive imagery and religious motifs. Kurhajec winters in Paris and the Yucatan and has exhibited inter-

nationally. Over twenty-five years ago, along with artists Mila Macek, Barbara Scheck, Larry Engel and Roy Purcell, he formed an artists' association, but it floundered within a few years. When artist Jane Carr moved to Treadwell, Joe stopped by to welcome her as a new neighbor.

He was saddened that his original organization had not been successful. During conversations in Jane's vegetable garden, a new arts organization was formed and the first Stagecoach Run was held in 1995. At the first planning meeting, it was noted that New Hope, Pennsylvania is known for antiques, Cooperstown is known for the Baseball Hall of Fame. Why can't Treadwell be the destination for Good Art?

In this nineteenth year, the Stagecoach Run Art Festival adds several new venues. The latest is called *The Snake Hill Loop*, offering a Sculpture Garden and the East Brook Studio on the road of the same name, where visitors will meet artists Kathleen Hayek and GG Stankowitz, and enjoy collage and paper-making demonstrations. The sculpture garden highlights the woodcarvings of Hartwick professor Stefanie Rocknak, who has just completed a commission for a life-

size Edgar Allan Poe to be cast in bronze and placed in Poe Square in Boston. Elizabeth Niels and Marcus Villagran will also show their large garden ceramics, including fountains, clay containers and hand built statuettes.

The Fisher's Barn and Long Acre Farm, at the intersections of Warren Road and Warner Hill Road, will house over a dozen artists, showing work and doing demonstrations together for the second year. Down Route 14 toward Delhi are two venues: the painting studio of Susan Rochmis and her carriage house and gardens where guest artists will show stone garden furniture and up-scale lighting. The Old Soul Vintage & Recycled Barn further down Route 14 will house re-conditioned furniture, upscale crafts, and paintings by Cheryl Holtzman.

There are also venues in the nearby village of Franklin. Patti Coyle, who has opened her barn for the past three years, will be showing a new art installation entitled *The Hungry Ghost - An Installation of Memorials*. This installation looks at modern society's reaction to tragedy and the ways in which people pay tribute to the deceased. The Franklin Stage Company on Institute Street will feature a group show of masks.

To learn more about this year's festival, go to [www.stagecoachrun.com](http://www.stagecoachrun.com) or check us out on Facebook: [The Stagecoach Run Art Festival](https://www.facebook.com/TheStagecoachRunArtFestival). Maps for the self-guided studio tour will be available at local stores and businesses as well as on the website. Numbered yellow signs will identify the various locations. Many of the artist participants have light snacks available for their visitors.

For more information, call Jane at 607 829 3531 or Alan at 607 829 2897

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### ISAKSSON SCULPTURE AT GLIMMERGLASS

By Kelly Reller

Local artist Katarina Isaksson will have a piece of artwork on display this summer at The Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York. Isaksson's piece, entitled "Reflection," is one of 10 benches featured at this summer's festival in the installation "Take a Seat, Bring It Home," which was curated by Cooperstown's Sydney Waller and proposed by Artistic & General Director Francesca Zambello, who wanted to incorporate visual art on the company's campus.



The benches, which are found all over the company's 26 acres, are crafted by artists from

the region, creating a unique blend of local artistry. Isaksson's "Reflection" includes glass shards—re-used from a display at the Whitney Museum of Art—layered between tempered glass and steel. "Reflection" brings industrial elements to the rustic setting of the Glimmerglass lawns.

Born in Gothenburg, Sweden, and now living in Franklin, New York, Isaksson earned her Master of Fine Arts at Hunter College, where she currently teaches art. Her past work has been reviewed by publications including *Sculpture Magazine* and *New York Times*, and has been featured in *Elle Décor* magazine.

The Glimmerglass Festival season, as well as the Take a Seat, Bring It Home installation, will run July 11 through August 24. The Festival will feature new productions of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Carousel*,



Isaksson's work in place on the Opera grounds

Photo by Jessica Kray

Strauss' *Ariadne in Naxos* and Tobias Picker's *An American Tragedy*. The benches will be for sale, with partial proceeds benefiting The Glimmerglass Festival. For more information, visit [www.glimmerglass.org](http://www.glimmerglass.org).

Kelly Reller works in the Public Relations Department at The Glimmerglass Festival

## Bright Hill Press & Literary Center

Where Literature Lives!



- Bright Hill Press Books
- Word Thursdays Reading Series
- Bright Hill Literary Workshops for Kids & Adults
- The Word & Image Gallery
- Bright Hill Community Library
- Patterns Literary Garden
- The New York State Literary Website & Map

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New York State  
Literary Treasures

Bright Hill's Programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

# Summer 2014 at Bright Hill!

- July 5 & 6, 10 a - 5 pm** **Word & Image Gallery: Stagecoach Run Annual Fund-Raising Auction**  
**July 5 - 26** *Exhibit Continues - Many artists*  
**July 10, 7 pm** **Word Thursdays - Frederick, MD Poet Scot Slaby,**  
*Co-Winner, BHP's 2013 Poetry Chapbook Award*  
**Madison, WI Poet Andrea Potos + Open Mic**
- July 19, 9 am - noon** **Bright Hill's 4th Annual History & Nonfiction Day - Readings, Discussions**  
**East Meredith, NY Writer Sylvia Jorin;**  
**Meredith Square, NY Writer Wilfred Jurjens & More**
- July 24, 7 pm:** **Word Thursdays - Fort Lee, NJ Poet & Writer Joel Alligretti**  
**Ulverton, England Poet Geraldine Green + Open Mic**
- July 21, 22, 23:** **Teen Videography Workshop with Jessica Vecchione**  
**July 26, 4- 5 pm** **Stagecoach Fund-Raising Final Bidding Party**  
**July 28 - 31, Aug.** **"What Grows Where" Literary Workshop for Kids**  
**With Bus Trip to Pine Hollow Arboretum, Slingerlands**
- August 3, 3- 5 pm:** **Opening - Word & Image Gallery - "Submerged Portraits: Paintings"**  
**August 3- 29** *Exhibit Continues- Fly Creek, NY Artist Linda Suskind*  
**August 14, 7 pm:** **Word Thursdays - Albany, NY Poet Thom Francis Job**  
**Brooklyn, NY Poet Hilary Sideris + Open Mic**
- August 18-22:** **"Birds & Bees O My!" Literary Workshop for Kids**  
**With bus trip to Cornell Ornithology Lab & Sapsucker Woods**
- August 23,** **Dorothy Parker Day - Dress for the Algonquin!**  
**With Kevin Fitzpatrick, NYC Director, the Dorothy Parker Society**  
**+ Regional Poets - Free Readings, Discussions**
- August 28, 7 pm:** **Word Thursdays - Brooklyn, NY Poet Joanna Fuhrmann**  
**Ballston Spa, NY Poet Brian Dorn + Open Mic**
- September 7, 3-5 pm** **Word & Image Gallery - "Paintings"**  
**September 7 - 26** *Exhibit Continues - Oneonta, NY Painter Barbara Ardan*  
**September 11, 7 pm:** **Word Thursdays - East Rochester, NY Poet Claudia M. Stanek,**  
*Co-winner, BHP's 2013 Poetry Chapbook Award*  
**Toronto, Canada Poet Lolette Kuby + Open Mic**
- September 25, 7 pm:** **Word Thursdays - Binghamton, NY Poet & Translator Mario Moroni**  
**Brooklyn, NY Poet Cheryl Boyce Taylor + Open Mic**
- October 5, 3- 5 pm** **Opening - Word & Image Gallery "Erosions: Artist Books"**  
**October 6 - 24** *Exhibit Continues Iowa City, IA Artist Julia Leonard*  
**October 9, 7 pm:** **Word Thursdays - Brooklyn, NY Poet Nicole Callahan**  
**NYC Poet Chavisa Woods + Open Mic**
- October 23, 7 pm:** **Word Thursdays - Delhi, NY Poet Sharon Rutetenik**  
**Norwich, NY Poet Richard Bernstein + Open Mic**
- November 9, 3 - 5 pm:** **Opening - Word & Image Gallery: "Paintings"**  
**November 9 - 28** *Exhibit Continues - Oneonta, NY Artist Terry Fox*  
**November 13, 7 pm:** **Word Thursdays - New York NY Performance Poet Puma Perl**  
**Oneonta, NY Poet Annie Sauter + Open Mic**

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## FRANKLIN STAGE SUMMER SCHEDULE

### Saturday July 5th at 8

**FSC Hosts "THE TARNATION OF RUSSELL COLVIN"**

**A reading of a new play written & performed by Oliver Wadsworth**

This mesmerizing solo show tells the true story of an eccentric Vermonter of 1810 and the sensational trial that occurred after his murder.

### Friday July 18th at 8

**FSC Hosts Mettawee River Theatre Company**

**"THE DANCING FOX: Wisdom Tales of the Middle East"**

For the fifth year running, this extraordinary company performs an exuberant adventure outside on the Franklin Central School Playing Field in their signature style - storytelling with live music and masks, puppets and giant figure. A magical experience for all the family out under the stars. (Rain location: Chapel Hall).

### Friday July 25th - Sunday August 10th, for 14 performances

**FSC Presents "TARTUFFE by Molière, translated into English verse by Richard Wilbur**

One of the most biting and hilarious comedies of all time, Molière's devilish satire about deception and misplaced faith reverberates today as resoundingly as it did when first performed in 1664.

Friday July 25 at 8, Saturday July 26 at 2 & 8, Sunday July 27 at 5;

Wednesday July 30 - Sunday August 3 & Wednesday August 6 - Sunday August 10

(Wednesdays thru Saturdays at 8, Sundays at 5)

### Sunday August 17th at 5

**FSC Presents ART by Yazmina Reza**

An FSC rehearsed reading of the 1994 hit comedy about the nature of art and the dynamics of friendship.

### Friday August 22nd, Saturday August 23rd, Sunday August 24th

**FSC Presents JANE AUSTEN ON STAGE**

**A festival of adaptations by Tim Luscombe**

**Friday at 8 - NORTHANGER ABBEY**

**Saturday at 8 - PERSUASION**

**Sunday at 5 - MANSFIELD PARK**

Featuring a versatile and exciting ensemble of actors, FSC presents rehearsed readings of three critically acclaimed adaptations of Austen's novels on three consecutive nights.

### Saturday August 30th at 8pm

**FSC Hosts: COLLISION ENSEMBLE**

**An unmissable concert event**

**Collision Ensemble** is an improvisational collective of musical and visual artists made up of a quartet of SUNY-Oneonta music department faculty: Engineers/Sound Manipulators Andris Balins and Brett Masteller along with Drummers/Percussionists Blake Fleming and Julie Licata. Together with guest visual artists, the group weaves an exotic tapestry of poly-rhythmic percussion amid layers of three dimensional soundscapes. Compelling, visceral, spontaneous; an exhilarating creative journey.



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**FILMS, continued from Page 12**

to the CMFF webpage at <http://www.catskillmountainsfilmfestival.org>.)

Yet it's the films themselves — not just the awards and red carpet — that distinguish a festival. The quality and variety of the films presented were extraordinary. With so many filmmakers in attendance, enthusiastic audiences had an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the artists at Q&A sessions.

Student filmmakers had a rare opportunity to interact with award-winning feature, documentary, and music video professionals. Will Schwartz, a student filmmaker from Walton, commented, "Witnessing other filmmakers' projects and having new experiences with people who shared my interests was a dream come true and a giant step for me professionally."

Matt Kehoe, who won the music video award for *Froggie Goes a Courtin'*, remarked that the highlights of the festival were "meeting new people, forging new relationships, and discovering that the person you are meeting knows three mutual friends in the industry."

Festival-goers were generally in agreement that the Catskill Mountains Film Festival was a great success, and they were enthusiastic about attending in

the coming years. Screenwriter Robyn Pete, who traveled from Scotland to Delhi to receive the award for *Blackbird*, captured that sentiment perfectly: "After such a promising inaugural launch, I look forward to seeing what the future holds for CMFF."

But the final verdict should belong to Jessica Vecchione, the inspirational spark for this venture. "Films are contagious, and making them is downright addicting. There is no doubt in my mind that CMFF stimulated the imagination and the creative energy of current and future filmmakers, fulfilling our mission to provide a platform for Catskill filmmakers. The success of our first festival means that we will continue to expand our mission in 2015, beginning with our Workshops this coming September. We couldn't be more excited at the prospect of holding CMFF for years and years to come."

The imaginative "Catty" award was presented to winners of the CMFF filmmakers' competition. The statuettes were fashioned by local woodworker John Virga of Bovina Brown Bats ([bovinabrownbats.com](http://bovinabrownbats.com)) to reflect the festival's striking logo, cleverly designed by Joseph Williams of The Design District, Franklin, NY ([thedesigndistrict.us](http://thedesigndistrict.us)).

# THE GARDEN SESTINA

By Zara Zeidman, Gilbertsville, New York

In my beautiful garden  
Upon my golden tree of knowledge sits an apple  
An unknown, strong desire  
With my garden full of trickery  
Sit stupid rotten beasts  
Covering my Garden with human filth

I'll show him their filth  
They are not innocent in our Garden  
God admires His proud Beasts  
But allows them not an apple  
To show his hierarchy even he is full of trickery  
I know God's desire

To be rid of hairless eyesores is my desire  
I fear my scales show marks of their filth  
I show the girl beast that lovely apple, oh trickery  
She's so innocent she put little thought in the garden  
she shows her beast the apple  
and fears the thing she used to be, I whisper to the beast

Into her ear, she makes the beast  
Find the apple's desire  
and makes him take a large bite of apple  
God, I told You they were filth  
Banish them from our garden  
My life is trickery

But God saw my trickery  
He saw me whisper to the beast  
I fear he will too banish me from the Garden  
For he saw all my desire  
He said he would banish my filth  
to the ground with the fallen apples

I long to be in the trees of apples  
But I miss my trickery  
He calls me filth  
but did not banish me like the beasts  
maybe he wanted them gone twas his desire  
Rid them from the garden

My trickery did what it intended, beasts are gone from the garden  
My apple's core rotted to the ground  
But was my desire filth?

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

For all you fans of **MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET...**

As mentioned in the last issue, Jack is away on assignment and despite uninvited guests cannot provide for this month's issue. A death, a dinner, an arrest, and Santa... but not necessarily in that order. Stay tuned.

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**Sun 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM:** Breakfast and Brunch



These lovely girls above are all recipients of the Franklin Community Education Foundation Scholarship Award: Madeline McLaughlin, Kristin Cronk, Zoe Warren and Valentina Temple, feted at the home of Tom Morgan and Erna Morgan McReynolds.

# HAWKWATCH

By Carole Marner

The town of Franklin is blessed in many ways but over the past three years, it has been discovered that we are home to a truly remarkable winter resident - the Golden Eagle. And not just passing through. The eagles actually spend a few months here. This research has been documented by members of the Delaware Otsego Audubon Society, whose sanctuary on Franklin Mountain hosts Hawkwatch, one of the most important sites for observing and tracking migrating birds, most notably raptors, along the east coast of North America.

Located on the north-facing slope of Franklin Mountain, Hawkwatch provides an enormous view of the Susquehanna River Valley. Birdwatchers can watch the approach of the migrating birds flying down from the north from miles and miles away. On any day during fall migrating season, there will be a group of dedicated volunteers scanning the sky with binoculars and trading bird stories. A bird count is kept here throughout the fall migration. I have frequently gone up there with my grandson after school and occasionally there have been so many birds that I've been unable to keep up with the count. Hawkwatch is also a location for many activities year round, such as birding walks and lectures, a day camp for children in the summer and a raptor banding station.

Over the past few years, documenting the previously unknown presence of winter resident Golden Eagles has become the most exciting activity of the group. The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society has been organizing baited sites using wildlife cameras - motion activated, weather proof cameras - starting with six sites in 2011 and increasing to ten sites this past winter, 2014. The sites, conducted under License to Collect and Possess #1386, are set up after the close of deer hunting season and most continue operating into March. Eight of the 2014 baited sites were in Otsego County and two were in Delaware, located on high ridges, preferably wooded, with small openings in the for-

est cover. Posted private land is preferred so that hunters or trappers will not disturb birds attracted to the camera traps. Road-killed deer carcasses are used as bait. All carcasses are checked for the presence of bullet wounds before being placed. Those with bullet wounds are rejected completely or in part because the use of lead bullets has proven lethal to scavenging birds such as eagles.

In 2014, seventeen winter resident Golden Eagles were photographed at eight sites and three Golden Eagles were captured and telemetered. Radio telemetry is now universally used to chart bird movements, in small local breeding territories as well as the huge path patterns of international migratory species. Besides species conservation uses, radio telemetry has important applications in the investigation of infectious diseases of migratory species. The capture, handling and marking of wild birds are activities strictly regulated in most countries. The radio instruments used are small and very lightweight and amazingly accurate over large areas and extended time periods. The birds are captured briefly with rocket nets and the telemeters are quickly attached to the center of their backs between the wings where they will not impede movement. Undisturbed, they can continue sending data for months, even years.

Studies of bird movements are vitally important for learning the interactions between their migration paths and the development of renewable energy, especially wind power. The mid-Atlantic region is becoming attractive for wind power development but it is also has the primary responsibility for the conservation of the eastern population of North America's Golden Eagles. This population is small, geographically separate, and potentially genetically distinct from western populations. Breeding in northeastern Canada and wintering in the southern Appalachians, the

entire Golden Eagle population passes through our region twice each year. Movement of these birds does not vary - migrating Golden Eagles concentrate in a narrow thirty to fifty mile wide corridor. The survival of these rare birds depends on responsible management of the habitat they use and it is essential to research and identify ways to mitigate prospective impacts on this and similar raptor species. Visit Hawkwatch this fall and perhaps you will see one.

*The Delaware Otsego Audubon Society Sanctuary is located at 52 Grange Hall Rd which runs from the Town of Franklin into the Town of Oneonta.*

*For detailed directions to the Hawkwatch as well as to learn about their projects and events, see their website <http://doas.us/>*



Golden Eagle being released

Photo by Gerianne Carillo



## MAXINE THE GOLDEN EAGLE: an update

By Helen McLean

In our last issue of the New Franklin Register, I introduced you to Maxine, a young female Golden Eagle that was part of a project tracking these birds in our area. Since then, we've had the disturbing news that she is likely dead from lead poisoning. Her body has not been recovered, but her telemetry unit did connect with a single tower. This is not enough information to identify her specific location, but all indications are that she was in or near the vicinity of a farm where invasive Eurasian boars had been killed with lead ammunition.

Some good news has come from this event - the issue of lead bullets has been addressed with some communities and already some changes have been made. For a more detailed account of this incident, see the May issue of The Belted Kingfisher, newsletter of the Delaware-Otsego County Audubon Society ([www.doas.us](http://www.doas.us)).

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Oct 25, 2015 - 7:30 PM

### ***The Canal Street String Band***

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Feb 7, 2015 - 7:30 PM

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March 8, 2015 - 7:30 PM

### ***The Dady Brothers***

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April 25, 2015 - 7:30 PM

### ***The DiGiallonardo Sisters - The DiGi's***

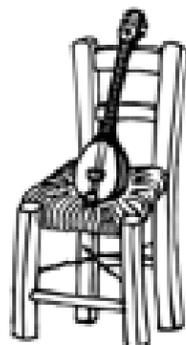
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**Required reservations can be made at DCOA - 607-746-6333**

#### ONEONTA

**First, third, and fifth Tuesday**

- 8:05 Delhi +
- 8:15 Meridale
- 8:30 Treadwell
- 8:40 Franklin
- 8:55 Sidney Center
- 9:10 Sidney \*
- 9:45 Oneonta #
- 1:00 Oneonta #
- 1:30 Sidney \*
- 1:45 Sidney Center
- 2:00 Franklin
- 2:10 Treadwell
- 2:25 Meridale
- 2:35 Delhi +

#### BINGHAMTON

**Second and Fourth Tuesday**

- 8:05 Delhi +
- 8:15 Meridale
- 8:30 Treadwell
- 8:40 Franklin
- 8:55 Sidney Center
- 9:10 Sidney \*
- 10:00 Binghamton !
- 2:00 Binghamton !
- 3:00 Sidney \*
- 3:15 Sidney Center
- 3:30 Franklin
- 3:40 Treadwell
- 3:55 Meridale
- 4:05 Delhi

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During inclement weather, expect delays.  
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**The 2014 poster for the Franklin Farmers' Market, with art work by Judith Lamb. This and posters for past seasons, with work by local artists, can be purchased at the FFM.**

# Your Neighbor's View...

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to a piece printed in the winter edition of the Franklin Register ~ "Geothermal Green An Energy Revolution at CVCS."

I have included with my thoughts two other excerpts from that issue — the "Coins for Kids" piece along with the somewhat humorous picture of the sign indicating the current state of gas prices.

After reading through the article several times, I must add to your answer to "What does it take to make change happen?" In addition to "a forward gaze and a lot of determination," I must include a lack of fiscal responsibility and a poor sense of stewardship of financial resources. While the objective of energy savings is certainly a good one, shouldn't the math of implementing any program to accomplish said savings be scrutinized?

Let's start with the figure spent on fuel oil: 35,000 gallons @ \$2.80 is \$98,000. Today's higher price of \$3.40 would put the total at \$119,000. A budget line item of this magnitude does require a close look, even more so in trying economic times, and I applaud Mr. Dupra for addressing the costs associated with heating the school. However, his "revolutionary" solution, an \$8 million geothermal heat system boggles my mind. The use of the terms "revolutionary," and "the gospel according to geothermal"

is telling, in that issues far more reaching than cost savings are at play here.

You note that "energy savings have exceeded expectations, at least \$125,000 in three years." Now, what did this cost us? I would say \$8 million dollars plus the financing of the bond issue. It seems as though the revolutionary thinkers don't include the 80% of that cost that was covered by state aid (please refer to the "Coins for Kids" piece - apparently, if the state is paying such money in certain areas, it comes up short in others.)

That notwithstanding, when you include the cost of financing the remaining \$1.5 million, the math is still not very impressive. If that amount was included in the bonds issued in 2009, the average rate of interest is 3.75%. On the \$1.5 million amount, that is a financing cost of \$56,250 a year, or \$168,750 for three years. Whoops, we lost any savings in fuel oil costs. While those bonds do begin to mature and the interest costs will decrease, the district will have to come up with principal payments ranging from \$300,000 to \$500,000+ to retire that debt. If current demographic trends continue, I would expect that amount to be paid for a smaller student body. If cost savings was the motivating factor here, I cannot see how this particular project would be seen as making any sense. Rather, I fear a monument to geothermal thinking standing underuti-

lized in the future.

If the improvements homeowners undertake in order to save money on heating, insulation, new windows, new boilers — result in savings of up to fifty percent, why can't school districts do the same? Or how about this novel idea — change the school schedule so that classes are not held in the depths of winter and instead have more of the schedule during milder months when heating the building and transporting the students are not so costly and troublesome?

Perhaps that would be too revolutionary to the entrenched patterns we have grown accustomed too. If we are truly concerned with costs and the "sustainability" of our local school districts, our thinking should be turned to developing budgets that fit the district, that can be sustained locally, and are not dependent on aid from the same places that we blame for unfunded mandates.

I can only believe that the true believers in the "gospel according to geothermal," funded with someone else's money, have convinced themselves and others that costs do not matter. This is, quite frankly, a shameful use of scarce financial resources. We in the Franklin School District are fearful of a closing of our school and yet applaud ridiculous financial decisions such as that made in Charlotte Valley.

Sincerely,  
Adam Niebanck

**The NFR replies:**

- Oil prices are bound keep going up, possibly quite sharply when the fracking boom busts.
- Geothermal provides AC, for which there will be increasing need due to climate change.
- Grants bring money into the community --- our tax dollars returning to do good at home.
- Uses of grant dollars are limited and may not be available for insulation or a new boiler.
- Radically rescheduling classes is impractical in the foreseeable future.
- In addition to saving dollars and cents, geothermal reduces the carbon footprint.



The Newsletter of the Franklin Citizens Commission on Peak Oil

**Editorial Board**

Ellen Curtis      Carole Satrina Marner  
Eugene Marner      Hank Stahler  
Associate Editor: Brian Brock

Editor  
Marjorie Bradley Kellogg

**HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!**

At: The New Franklin Register  
P.O. Box 258

Franklin, NY 13775

or by email: [nfr@franklinlocal.org](mailto:nfr@franklinlocal.org)

**What are we about?**

The Franklin Citizens' Commission on Peak Oil was authorized on December 6th, 2005 by a Town Board Resolution. Our purpose was to assess the needs and resources of the Town of Franklin in the face of Peak Oil, and to report back to the Town Board and to the people of Franklin.

Renamed as **Franklin Local Ltd.**, we are a not-for-profit corporation made up of Franklin residents. We meet once a month, at 7 P.M. in the Town Board Room. All are welcome, to offer questions and help us answer them, to share thoughts and ideas.

Please join us!

We have a number of projects that we hope to move from idea to action:

- Local food production network
- Skills and services exchange
- Goods exchange
- Ride sharing bulletin board and/or website
- Farm to School Program for school lunches
- Community Greenhouses
- Community Energy Production
- Community Health Network

In a nutshell, we propose to imagine a more energy efficient habit of living, and to put it to work here in Franklin, for a brighter, more sustainable future..

We hope you will join us!

**For local information, past issues of the NFR, and a calendar of local events, visit our website at**

**[franklinlocal.org](http://franklinlocal.org)**

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The New Franklin Register is an independent entity funded by our local advertisers and contributions from interested friends. We have no granting organizations to answer to, and no taxpayer dollars come our way.

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FRANKLIN LOCAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS, SIGN UP FOR OUR E-MAILING LIST.**

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Look for the sign-up form as seen below

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Franklin Local, Ltd. is a not-for-profit volunteer organization of residents of the Town of Franklin, NY, and the surrounding area. We are dedicated to

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## RECENT REAL PROPERTY SALES IN TOWN OF FRANKLIN

Date	Acres	Location	Property Type	Assess.	Price	Seller	Buyer
2/20/2014	1	4110 State Highway 28 S	1 Family Res	110,000	\$98,000	Drake, Ethel	Zimmerman, Alan E
2/21/2014	5.1	12144 State Highway 357	1 Family Res	85,000	60,000	Tammac Holdings,	Beaver Valley, LLC
3/05/2014	0.25	128 Center St	1 Family Res	73,000	65,000	Tilton, Alberta	Lambrecht, Joshua
3/11/2014	10.35	262 Heathen Hill Rd	Seasonal Res	75,000	90,000	Sandorf, Barbara	Lima, Thomas
3/20/2014	4.8	994 State Highway 28 S	1 Family Res	106,000	75,000	Yetman, William	Lynch, Roger P
3/25/2014	5	2312 Jackson Hill Rd	1 Family Res	74,000	60,000	Williams, Dorothy A	Crane, John R
4/04/2014	6.17	365 Overlook Dr	1 Family Res	142,000	188,000	Barrett, Henrietta M	Schwille, John R
4/10/2014	3	812 Rich Rd	1 Family Res	124,000	145,000	Byam, Floyd N	Finch, Ralph
4/15/2014	0.54	2561 Sherman Hill Rd	Mfg Housing	61,000	55,000	Traver, Betty	Melabianakis,
4/15/2014	5.5	498 Olin Evans Rd	Rural Res	130,000	110,000	Davidson, John L	Lupo, Salvatore
4/16/2014	1.33	1113 State Highway 28S	Mfg Housing	58,000	91,250	Collison, William	Collison, Kimberly
4/17/2014	74.37	Olin Evans Rd	Abandoned Ag	60,000	75,000	Davidson, John L	Bellino, Joseph P
5/08/2014		State Highway 28 S	Rural Vac >10		0	Numerous	County of Delaware
5/23/2014	16.39	167 Thoroughbred Rd	1 Family Res	115,000	147,000	Warner, Andrew J	Delgado, Marcos P

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