



RELOCALIZATION : *A Community Solution*

by Gene Marner

Relocalization is a six-syllable word but it's really a very simple idea: it is the opposite of globalization - it means, roughly, going back to the way things used to be.

We all know - from literature, pictures, movies set in earlier times - what a localized economy looks like. Few of us in the industrialized world, however, have seen the real thing. In a localized economy, food comes from nearby farms and gardens, manufactured goods are produced nearby, while the craftspersons and artisans who make possible a life that is more than mere subsistence are near at hand. One has only to visit the Franklin Free Library and look at the advertisements in a Franklin newspaper of a hundred fifty years ago to get a sense of the diversity and vigor of the then mostly local economy. Blacksmith and creamery, jeweler and cloth merchant, hotel keeper, carriage maker, wheelwright, sawmill, grocer,

bootmaker, tailor, furniture maker, tanner, and many others produced much of what was needed for what was, in fact, quite a prosperous life.

What happened to all that local economic activity? The short answer is that cheap and abundant oil gave human beings the energy needed to move people and goods around the world at great speed. Today, as a result, very little is produced locally. Manufacturing that was once distributed around the country is now concentrated thousands of miles from the customers, in countries where wages are low and environmental regulations weak. The average American meal travels not from the outskirts of town but about 1,500 miles from farm to table. To be sure, in rural areas like our own, many of us still produce at least some of the food we eat. But who reading this knows a shoemaker? I don't mean the one who renews

your heels with a manufactured replacement heel, but the artisan who can make a shoe from local materials, starting with a hide purchased from the nearby slaughterhouse. Just thirty years ago in Franklin we had a lumber yard, two feed stores, two hardware stores, a department store, two groceries, a furniture store, and probably more that I've forgotten. In the absence of that local retail trade, we are all now dependent upon our cars - and the gasoline that fuels them - to take us elsewhere to buy what we need.

For two centuries, human beings have learned to think of the world as a much smaller place than it was for our forebears. Fossil fuels - first coal, then oil - made it possible to travel ever greater distances at ever more rapid speeds. Fossil energy fueled the rise of industrial civilization by enabling the exploitation of resources and markets in every distant corner of

OLDE FRANKLIN DAY A FINE OLDE TRADITION

by May Miller

Back in the neighborhood of 1980, the administration of Franklin Central School called a special meeting to discuss the future of Stone Hall. This magnificent building at the end of Institute Street is part of the original school complex. They were considering tearing it down because the roof was leaking and other repairs were needed.

A few interested residents formed a committee and took it upon themselves to save the building. It was decided to have a town wide old home day. At the time, it was advertised as Stone Hall Day. As more and more of the community became involved, the day became Olde Franklin Day. For many local organizations, this is their largest fund raiser.

Stone Hall committee still organizes the day and is responsible for advertising, getting vendors, entertainment, etc. Through the years, we have raised enough money to replace the roof, repair the cupola, replace porticoes over the steps, repoint masonry between the stones, completely rewire the upstairs and add new lights. A bathroom was added, rooms repainted and the weathervane duplicated and replaced. We installed storm windows as well as keeping up with needed repairs and other improvements.

At this time, Stone Hall Committee has about \$13,000 in 2 CDs. About half will be spent on Stone Hall in October 2007 and the rest around February 2008, wherever it is needed the most, to keep Stone Hall in good repair.

The committee is grateful for all the community support and involvement and welcomes new members and new ideas. We hope you will attend and support our efforts again this year.

Olde Franklin Day is Saturday August 25, 2007

See RELOCALIZATION on Page 4



The Quickway - Franklin, NY

Franklin artist **Lisbeth Firmin** is creating a portfolio of scenes of Franklin through the seasons, to be published as a calendar for 2008.

The original paintings will be on view in Ms. Firmin's studio during the Olde Franklin Day festivities, and subscriptions for the calendar will be available for purchase.

Sales of the calendar benefit the Franklin Improvement Society.

PEAK OIL FACTOID:

A gallon of gasoline contains the equivalent energy of 485 man hours of labor. At the new increased minimum wage of \$5.85/hour, that comes to \$2,837 per gallon (at minimum wage of course). Since we pay only about \$3.09 (today at Quickway), the difference of \$2,834 is a subsidy from our children's future

THE UPSIDE OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE!

by Jim Mullen

The Catskills will be two hours closer to the beach. Naming hurricanes a fun way to teach kids the Greek alphabet.

Many more extinct species on display at Natural History museums.

Fairbanks gets to bid for 2020 Summer Olympics. Money you save on heating helps pay for air conditioning.

Mmmmm! There's nothing like them January tomatoes!

Pleasure diving and deep-sea fishing in New Orleans revive its economy.

Visit the North Pole on a Fun Ship Cruise!

No waiting for those once-in-a-century storms - now they come every couple of years.

Get that deep, even tan you've always wanted in six minutes. Indoors. With your clothes on.

The NEW Franklin Register

Editorial Board

Brian Brock
Ellen Curtis
Brandon Dennis

Eugene Marner
Ellen Sokolow
Gregory Williams

Marjorie B. Kellogg, editor

What are we about?

The Town of Franklin Citizens' Commission on Peak Oil was authorized by the Resolution reproduced on Page One. Our purpose is 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.

We are a group of Franklin residents who meet on the fourth Thursday of every month, at a location determined at the previous meeting. Often, we meet at a member's house for a pot luck supper before we get down to actual business. All are welcome to join us, to ask questions and help us answer them, to share thoughts and ideas

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 are trying to imagine a more energy efficient habit of living, and more important, to develop ways to put it to work here in Franklin.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 23rd, at 7 p.m. - pot luck at 6 p.m.

We hope you will join us!

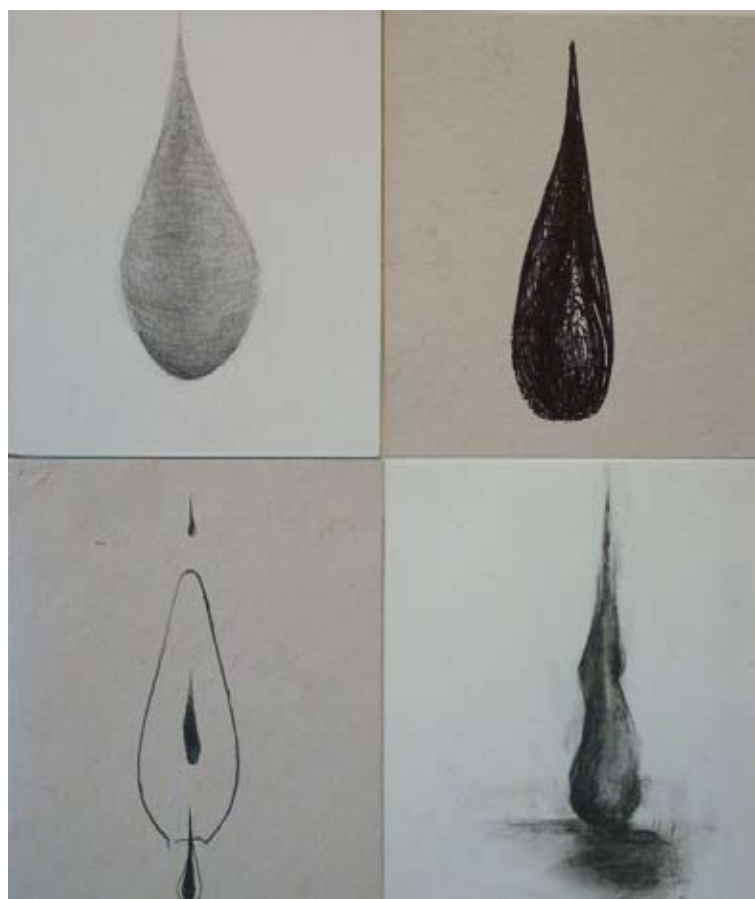
For directions, see events listings

Or you can join our Peak Oil Awareness Yahoo Group. It's POA_CNY@yahoo.com.

That is, Peak Oil Awareness Central New York.

This group fosters discussion of local efforts, potential or ongoing, to deal with the effects of Peak Oil on our communities.

The Citizens Commission on Peak Oil mourns the passing of our friend and colleague, George Schwinn, on May 25, 2007.



THE LAST DROP

by Treadwell artist Tony Martin

A Community Park for Franklin!

The Franklin Improvement Society is purchasing the two vacant lots on Main Street across from the Fire Hall. One of the main features of the park will be a fountain or water feature, in memory of Gary Parrow, a former teacher, coach and principal at Franklin Central School. Please consider a gift toward the parkland's purchase. The Franklin Improvement Society is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, so your contribution is tax deductible. This will be a long-term investment in your community both now and in the future. There will be permanent recognition for contributors in a special way.

Please note that no donation is too small, especially when it can be doubled when used to match a grant. Together we can create a beautiful "green space" in the center of our village. After purchase, the development of the park will incorporate volunteer time and donations of materials.

**Please send your donations to:
The Franklin Improvement Society,
PO Box 166, Franklin, NY 13775.**

Make your check payable to "Franklin Improvement Society"

A CENTURY OF FRANKLIN NEWSPAPERS

by Brian Brock

Franklin enjoyed almost a century of its own weekly newspaper.

Beginning in 1855, George W. Reynolds published the Visitor and continued for over eight years, except for a two year hiatus while owner and editor of the Binghamton Standard. For the first year or so, it was the Weekly Visitor before being renamed the Franklin Visitor and finally The Franklin Visitor.

From the start it was a Republican paper. During the travails of the Civil War, the paper was sold to Sturtevant and McIntosh, who merged it with their recently begun Delaware Republican of Delhi. (Mr. Sturtevant had previously worked at the Visitor.) Eventually that paper became the current Delaware County Times. Mr. Reynolds blamed the excess of competition for sparse advertising with the three other Republican papers in the county.

Once the war was over and county life returned to normal, The Franklin Register began publication in 1868 as an independent paper by Hitchcock and Smith. Both Visitor and Register were folios (four pages), first of seven columns and then of six columns. Over the first eleven years, the Register went through several editors, returning to being a Republican paper under Nathan L. Lyon in 1877. (Mr. Hitchcock went on to start the Walton Chronicle, which competed with the Walton Reporter.) Always the motto of the Register was "Independent, Fearless, and Free".

By 1879 there were thirteen newspapers in Delaware County. In that year, Joseph Eveland, who had apprenticed at the Visitor under Reynolds, bought paper from Lyon and edited it for the next 47 years; for most of those years with his son. Four years into his editorship of The Franklin Register, he transformed it into the Delaware County Dairyman and Register, a quarto (eight pages) of five columns. In 1891, Eveland shortened the title to Delaware County Dairyman, but news from our Town continued to appear under the heading The Franklin Register until earliest 1936. In 1926, after his son died the year before, he sold the paper to S.B.D. Belden. Due to shortages during WW II, the paper had to be shortened in 1943 and ceased publication for 7½ months in 1944.

Franklin's paper resumed publication in November of 1944 under Jesse Palmater, soon returning to a full eight pages. In the last years, the paper was weakened by a shortage of advertising. The fatal blow was the loss of their printer. The final issue was 7 March 1952, and the final editorial is reprinted in our Town's history "Through the years in the town of Franklin."

Each paper began with a logo, centered in the masthead, which was appropriate for the times. The Visitor had a fighting eagle with shield, the Register had the seal of our Empire State, and the Dairyman had long-horned cows and a dairymaid. Through the years, the paper shrank from a 19 X 24 inch broadsheet Visitor, through a 16 X 22 inch tabloid Register, to a 12½ X 19½ tabloid Dairyman. Contents of the papers changed with the times. Visitor and Register had columns of dense 10 point text. The Dairyman continued in this manner until illustrations were introduced in the early 1900's. Political cartoons were introduced in 1930, but a comic section was not introduced until the start of WW II. In contrast, advertising contained illustrations for the early years of the Visitor. Always a good buy, annual subscriptions of the Visitor and Register were variously \$1.00 or \$1.50, and those for the Dairyman were \$1.50 until 1946 when they rose to \$2.00.

Microfilms of most issues are at the Franklin Free Library, and some paper editions are preserved at the Delaware County Historical Society outside of Delhi, New York State Historical Society of Cooperstown, and Ouleout Valley Historical Society of Franklin.

The New Franklin Register continues this tradition. What you hold in your hand is a tabloid like the Dairyman, but at 11½ by 17 inches it is slightly smaller still – the same as the current Walton Reporter. The New Franklin Register has five columns, same as the Dairyman, but with 11 point type (slightly larger than the 10 point type in the Dairyman), making it easier to read. From our first issue, there has been humor, both written and cartoon. For a Franklin newspaper, there has never been a better bargain: Free! Your opinions and submissions can now be sent by mail.

The New Franklin Register is one of the topic of discussion at the monthly meetings of the Franklin Citizen's Commission on Peak Oil, on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Look for the location of each meeting posted in the Village and in the "What's Going On" feature of The Daily Star.

YOUR NEIGHBOR'S VIEW...

**THE PAST IS THE FUTURE:
FULL CIRCLE**

by Robert Lamb

Water flows down hill and wind blows across the hill tops. Our ancestors used these natural forces to do work for them. The use of wind and water has helped shape societies since the beginning of time. Wind powered and water powered wheels have been used to grind grains and move water for irrigation for centuries. These simple technologies are still in use in many societies today. The power of flowing water can make electricity which in turn can be used to power industry. Oil is no longer the cheap easy replacement product for wind and water power. It is time to embrace the natural powers that are abundantly available as a replacement for oil. We will never run out of wind, and water will always flow down hill. It is time to come full circle.

Our local towns and cities should begin to use some of our tax monies to address the problems associated with the use of fossil fuels. There are many people who do not want wind mills in their view, but I think wind mills are much more attractive than brown hazy skies created by fossil fuels. I for one would be more than willing to have a wind generation facility in my neighborhood that I could proudly point out to visitors as our contribution to the future. Locally, we need to build new hydro-electric plants and wind farms now. We must take action through our elected officials and push the vote for renewable energy in our respective towns. It will be a hard fight as nothing is ever easy or cheap. The investment must be made now. Technologies of today make wind and water power an attractive and feasible alternative to the polluting ravages of oil.

Hydro-electric power generation need not harm our environment. Dams do not need to be built on streams and rivers to produce electricity. We can use wind power to pump water to higher elevation impoundments (large ponds) and let gravity move it to produce electricity. Impoundments are a cheaper alternative to battery power or other electrical storage units. The ponds can also be used for aquaculture for the growing of staples like rice and fish. I believe Hydro-electric power and wind power are the cleanest and best choices in our future.

The time has come to embrace the old sources of power to make them work for us again in today's world. It is time to take the greed out of the energy production equation and incorporate ecological earth-savings measures.

"YOUR NEIGHBOR'S VIEW..." will regularly showcase opinion pieces from around our township. These views may not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of the New Franklin Register.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ISSUES FACING OUR COMMUNITY?

Please write to us and let us know: c/o The Editor
The New Franklin Register
P.O. Box 258
Franklin, NY 13375-0258



The Delaware & Otsego Light & Power Company was incorporated in August of 1902. Power for the Franklin and Otego communities was produced locally, by a dam on the Ouleout at East Sidney, until 1935, when the dam was destroyed by a July flood.

Franklin Farmers' Market

The new Franklin Farmers' Market had a promising start. Producers and customers alike were pleased and promised to be back in August. Despite the unusually chilly weather on July 1st, quite a number of people came to check out the stands. Eggs, meat and chocolates sold well. It was too early in the season for the local crops. But the August 5th market promises to have a nice selection of local fruits, vegetables, herbs, herb teas, and flowers as well as organic meats, eggs and local maple syrup and honey. Unfortunately, we'll have to wait till September for Laura's chocolates. But we hope to have pies and cookies. Please come and support our efforts to establish a local market.

For any questions please call Ellen Curtis at 829-5631 or Brian Brock at 829-3202.

Historic Walking Tour Brochures

In collaboration with the Delaware County Office for the Aging and the Rural Health Alliance, the Delaware County Historical Association (DCHA) is in the process of creating three new walking tours during this summer. The tours are designed for seniors and will highlight points of historic interest in three villages around the county: Margaretville, Walton and Franklin. The Margaretville and Franklin tours have already been published; look for a tour of Walton to appear before summer's end. The self-guided brochures will be available in stores and other prominent places in each of the respective villages, in addition to DCHA.

**EVENTS IN FRANKLIN:
AUGUST**

- 2nd Thu. 7:30 Franklin Planning Board, Town Garage
- 4th Sat. 11:00 Opening Day: **Pinocchio**, a family show
FSC, Chapel Hall
- 5th Sun. 10:00-2:00 **Franklin Farmer's Market**
Chapel Hall Lawn
12:30 Jazz Brunch, Nancy Kelly, vocalist, \$12.50
at the home of Tom and Erna Morgan
8:00 Reading: **Evolution** (Patricia Buckley).
FSC, Chapel Hall
- 6th Mon. 7:00 Franklin Fire Department, Franklin
Firehouse
7:30 Treadwell Fire Department, Treadwell
Firehouse
- 7th Tue. 10:00 Sounds of Strings, Harp, Viola, Violin,
Franklin Free Library
4:00 Friends of Franklin Free Library, FFL
7:00 Treadwell Comm. Im. Club, Ice Cream Social
Kellogg School
- 8th Wed 8:00 Treadwell EMS, Treadwell Firehouse
- 9th Thu. 6:00 Franklin Town Court, Town Hall
7:00 Word Thursday Readings, Bright Hill Center
- 14th Tue. 10:00 Stories & Songs of Latin America, FFL
7:30 Franklin Town Board, Town Garage
7:00 Ouleout Valley Historical Association, Stone Hall
- 16th Thu. 1:30-6:30 Am. Red Cross Blood Drive.
Methodist Church
- 20th Mon 6:00 Franklin Improvement Society, Village Hall
7:00 Franklin EMS, Franklin Firehouse
- 21st Tue. 10:00 Panigma Steel Band, FFL
- 23rd Thu. 6:00 Franklin Town Court, Town Hall
7:00 **Franklin Citizen's Commission On Peak Oil**
at the home of Brandon Dennis:
call 829-3515 for directions
7:00 Word Thursday Readings, Bright Hill Center
- 24th Fri. 6:00 Franklin Chamber of Commerce Auction,
Franklin Firehouse
- 25th Sat. 9:00-4:00 **Olde Franklin Day**, Franklin Village
8:00 p.m. Blue and Gray Ball, Franklin Firehouse
- 28th Tue. 10:00 NiftyNyckelharpa, Peter Blue & Co, FFL
- 29th Wed. 6:00 Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Dawn's Deli

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd Sun. 10:00-2:00 **Franklin Farmer's Market**
Chapel Hall Lawn
- 3rd Mon. 7:00 Franklin Fire Department, Fr. Firehouse
7:30 Treadwell Fire Department, Tr. Firehouse
- 5th Wed. School begins
- 6th Thu. 7:30 Franklin Planning Board, Town Garage
- 11th Tue. 6:30 Treadwell Comm. Im. Club Dinner,
Methodist Church
7:30 Franklin Town Board, Town Garage
- 12th Wed 8:00 Treadwell EMS, Treadwell Firehouse
- 13th Thu. 6:00 Franklin Town Court, Town Hall
7:00 Word Thursday Readings, Bright Hill Center
- 17th Mon. 6:00 Franklin Improvement Society, Village Hall
7:00 Franklin EMS, Franklin Firehouse
- 20th Thu. 7:00 Ouleout Valley Historical Association
Town Garage
- 26th Wed. 6:00 Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Dawn's Deli
- 27rd Thu. 6:00 Franklin Town Court, Town Hall
7:00 Franklin Citizen's Commission On Peak Oil
7:00 Word Thursday Readings, Bright Hill Center

If you are interested in having your local public event included in our listings, please contact Brian Brock at P.O.Box 258, Franklin, NY 13375-0258

RELOCALIZATION - con't from Page 1

the globe. We live in New York State and fly to Asia for business or pleasure in less than a day - a journey that not so long ago was dangerous, strenuous and lasted many months or even years.

Globalization has lead - at least in the industrial world - to unprecedented wealth and ease of life, and huge quantities of consumer goods. So what's the problem? The problem is that the global economy is a subsidized economy - an economy subsidized by the cheap and abundant oil that we have come to think of as a normal part of our economic life. Almost everyone alive today has grown up in a world where getting into a car or a plane to go somewhere seems to be no big deal. We buy things that have traveled 10,000 miles to reach us and again think that it is no big deal.

But we're wrong about that: it is a very big deal. For almost all of human history, no one got into a car or a plane to go anywhere, not only because the cars and planes hadn't been invented yet but because we hadn't yet learned to use the energy source that makes them go. For thousands of years, petroleum seeped from the earth in a few locations and was used to caulk ships and to burn for light. It is only in the past 150 years that we learned to burn oil to do work. And we have burned it in ever-increasing huge quantities.

The bad news is that we have now used about half of the world's original endowment of oil. Oil geologists, scientists, and increasing numbers of oil business leaders now acknowledge that global oil production has either peaked already or will peak sometime in the next few years. Passing the peak means that available supplies will begin to decline - forever. Declining supplies bring ever-increasing higher prices. As prices rise, the global economy - dependent as it is on cheap oil for moving goods and people - will become ever more precarious and will start to contract. As that process unfolds, the arrangements we now depend upon for feeding, clothing, and housing ourselves - as well as for transportation, education, medical care, and virtually everything else that we do - will be forced to change. The small world we have become accustomed to will begin again to seem very large indeed.

When oil prices spiked

at around \$80 a barrel right after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, some truck drivers refused to haul refrigerated loads from the West Coast because they couldn't afford the fuel prices. As I write in late July, oil futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange are running at just under \$75 for September delivery. Prices will probably continue to rise and fall for a while in a range between \$60 and \$75 until one day, in the not too distant future, oil will spike to \$100 a barrel, then \$150, and then on and on. On July 23, the business news website Bloomberg.com reported that "the \$100-a-barrel oil that Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said would prevail by 2009 may be only a few months away. Jeffrey Currie, a London-based commodity analyst at the world's biggest securities firm, says \$95 crude is likely this year unless OPEC unexpectedly increases production, and declining inventories are raising the chances for \$100 oil. Jeff Rubin at CIBC World Markets predicts \$100 a barrel as soon as next year.

"We're only a headline of significance away from \$100 oil," said John Kilduff, an analyst in the New York office of futures broker Man Financial Inc. "The unrelenting pressure of increased demand has left the market a coiled spring. New disruptions of Nigerian or Iraqi supplies, or any military strike against Iran, might trigger the rise," Kilduff said in a July 20 interview.

Oil investment banker Matt Simmons has written of the possibility of \$300 a barrel oil in our near future. Even at \$100, we shall be forced to begin to look after our needs closer to home. When we can no longer bring food from California, we'll need to eat food from Delaware County - the closer to home, the better.

It's important to recognize that relocalization is a process that will come to us whether we want it or not. As energy - and particularly oil for transportation - becomes scarcer and more expensive, we'll be forced to rely upon our local resources. The Franklin Citizens' Commission on Peak Oil is trying to educate our neighbors and fellow citizens about the realities of energy supplies. We are also trying to initiate a broad-based community discussion about how to rebuild our local economy in order to best use our resources and provide for our needs.

We have come up with a number of projects that will work only with community participation:

1. Food Security Network. The idea is that local producers add their names to a registry so that local customers know where they can buy locally produced fresh eggs, onions, cheese, meat, vegetables, etc. If local producers can come to rely on local customers to buy their products, they will be encouraged to expand production and thus increase the range of foods produced locally.

2. Skills Registry. What are the skills and crafts that will be useful, even essential, in a low-energy, post-peak oil world? Gardening, food preservation, sewing, shoeing a horse, working with horses, cutting grass with a scythe, making furniture, etc. The list is potentially endless. This registry will provide the means for Franklin people to find out what is locally available. Nearby groups in Oneonta and Cooperstown have expressed an interest in participating in this sharing of skills.

3. Ride-sharing. Despite the rise in oil prices and decline in energy supplies, we will still want and need to move around Delaware County and the region. One obvious way to reduce our need for expensive oil will be to share rides. An on-line or physical bulletin board may help people to make the connections they need to get to and from other towns.

4. Community Green House. We have begun to look into the possibility of getting some foundation or other funds in order to set up a number of Community Green Houses which could provide fresh vegetables during the winter and could be a resource for Franklin Central School's science studies and lunch programs. There are now several such school and community based programs around the country that both improve school lunch quality and freshness and teach the children how to grow food.

Our meetings are full of ideas. What we need is more citizen participation in order to make things start to happen.

Please join us!

(See the first column of Page 2 for meeting times and contact information.)

Hand Scythe Demo: 12:30
Franklin Farmers' Market,
Sunday, August 5th

Brandon Dennis and his daughter Abigail will show you how it's done.

Franklin's Yard of the Month: July: 50 Center Street August: 611 Main Street

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce, in order to encourage the beautification of the village, convened a panel of three local gardeners to choose a Yard of the Month.

The judges' statement for July was as follows:

"For this first round, we looked only at properties within the village of Franklin, and only as they are seen from the street.

"We wanted a well-considered and well-maintained property, but in addition, we looked for variety and beauty in shape, color and texture, and for a harmonic relationship of the plantings to the house, and to the yard space as a whole. We admired the well-kept older homes with their mature landscaping, but decided that it might be more in keeping with our mandate if we spotlighted residents who have more recently enhanced their properties, and therefore, the overall beauty of the Village of Franklin.

"50 Center Street was chosen for the success of the whole picture that house and yard offer to the street. The shapes of the plantings and the contours of the beds flow comfortably from one to another. As the viewer passes by, the yard reveals a progression of satisfying compositions, its many shades of green enlivened by discrete flashes of yellow. A particular highlight is the hosta borders flanking the entry walk: pleasingly unconventional in that they reflect but do not mimic the exact shape of the path itself.

"On our strolls through the streets of Franklin, we were inspired by the many lovely yards and historic homes. Singling one out was very difficult. But everywhere, people are out working on their houses and in their yards. We look forward to seeing the results on our tour around next month."

Judges: Sondra Freckleton, Jane Couch, Marjorie Kellogg



Young Scythers:

Abigail Dennis and Ashley Vido, in Lower Kintore, New Brunswick, Canada

Austrian Scythe and Hand Crafted Haymaking Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce participants to the use of the Austrian Scythe and provide additional sources of information for those who want to pursue its use. The Austrians scythe is an excellent hand tool with which one can mow grass, trim weeds, or make hay for livestock.

Topics covered:

- How scythes are properly fitted to mowers
- Austrian scythe mowing techniques
- Blade Honing and Peening demonstrated
- Discussion of blade repair
- Discussion and demonstration of making hay by hand the European way

Date and Time: September 8th, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: 8903 County Route 16, Treadwell, NY

Duration: At least two hours and then as long as participants want to learn

Fee: Free

Hosted by Brandon Dennis and Abigail Dennis
Please call 607-829-3515 to register and get directions

Sponsored by the Citizens Commission on Peak Oil, to provide an exchange among community members of skills that will be more appropriate to a future where fossil fuel energy is scarce.

The Ant and The Grasshopper: a Peak Oil Tale

In a field one summer's day, a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest.

"Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and mowing every day?"

"I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant. "And I recommend that you do the same."

"Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper. "We have plenty of food at present!"

But the Ant went its way and continued its toil.

When the winter came, the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger, while every day it saw the ants distributing corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer.

Then the Grasshopper knew:

It is best to prepare for the days of necessity.

- Aesop