

A FRANKLIN TRAGEDY:  
*What became of the Payne Family?*

By Tim Duerden

A few years ago, I was loitering in the graveyard behind Old Stone Hall. This particular graveyard has stones dating well back into the nineteenth century. Unfortunately, it is also in a sorry state of repair. Vandals appear to have demolished or otherwise defaced several of the markers and monuments.

One monument, however, attracted my attention. This was partly so because the large obelisk appeared to have escaped the wrath of the vandals and thus was largely intact. But it was also the great many names engraved in the stone that caught my eye.

Hewn into the obelisk were the names of 12 people: parents George and Catherine Payne and ten of their children, all of whom passed away before their parents' deaths

See **PAYNE**, continued on Page 9



*The Payne Family Monument*  
*Photo by Xina Sheehan*

TAKE  
BACK  
YOUR  
RIGHTS!  
*A New Look at Home Rule*

By Carole Marner

Recently the cities of Pittsburgh and Buffalo have been in the news for issuing laws that ban gas hydro-fracking within city limits. In both cases, these actions have grown from a popular awakening to the fact that corporations have assumed an ever increasing lock-hold over the future of local economies and thus over the lives of

See **RULE**, con't on Page 6



**ATTENTION, ALL GARDENERS!**  
A brand new, grand new use has been discovered for the grass pellets manufactured at Enviro Energy by the Miller family gardeners: they make a wonderful, all natural, soil conditioner and mulch.

Because the pellets are compressed and expand approximately 4 times when wet, they will loosen up heavy clay soil or retain moisture in sandy soil.

They also work well as an additive to ordinary potting soil, keeping it from compacting, holding moisture and creating an airy, healthy environment for root growth. But don't add too many, or your plant will soon be popping out of its pot.

As a mulch, just a few pellets sprinkled around the

See **PELLETS**, continued on Page 5



*Coming soon to a farm near you...*

**LANDMEN WILL SAY...**  
A Cautionary Tale

By Brian Brock

A new species of predator prowls our hills, stalking the unwary. They hunger not for your flesh, but for your signature. They're called Landmen, and they want your land for gas drilling. They will try to get it for as little as possible: for as little money and as little protection for you.

Landmen secure the rights to drill for oil and

gas. They manage the leasing campaign, research mineral ownership, acquire leases, clear up title defects, and negotiate lease trades and sales between companies. The ones you'll confront are those who are hunting for new leases.

In our region, most landmen work in the field for land service companies such as Elexco, Millennium, and Western. By subcontracting, energy companies such as Atlas Energy, Chesapeake Appalachian,

*Photo by Michael Rothbart*

Gastem USA, and Lenape can disavow any of the landmen's misstatements.

For instance:

- Landmen will say that you must sign right now. In fact, early lessors typically receive a lower bonus and royalty. Also, royalty payments depend on the price of natural gas, which is currently near a historic low.
- Landmen will say that all your neighbors have leased. In fact, they say the same to every neighbor.
- Landmen will say that unless you sign, your

**LANDMEN**, con't on Page 4

**CLIMATE**  
VS.  
**CLIMATE CHANGE:**  
*Clearing up the confusion*

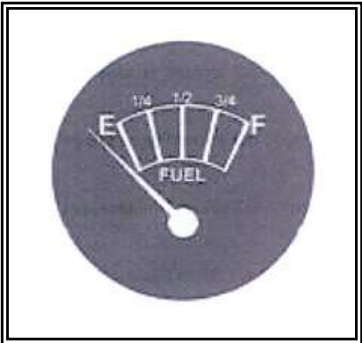
By William B. Rossow

People often ask how I can reconcile this past winter's very cold temperatures – colder than in many years – with the claim that there is global warming. But this very question confuses weather and seasons with climate.

It arises because of two key features of the relationship between the whole climate and the "local climate." To understand these features, we must first emphasize the difference between the "whole" climate and its parts, especially the local weather.

It is sometimes said that climate is the average weather, but this is not actually correct. The whole climate is the "statistics" of weather. This means not just the average weather, but all of its characteristic variations over long time periods and from place to place over the whole globe. Characteristic variations include the regular daily and

**CLIMATE**, con't on Page 5



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The Newsletter of the Franklin Citizens Commission on Peak Oil

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**HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE TO US!**  
At: The New Franklin Register  
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Franklin, NY 13775  
or by email: [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com)

## 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, we are a group of Franklin residents who meet for one evening a month at a member's home. We begin with a pot luck supper before we get down to actual business. All are welcome, to ask 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 meeting times, location and directions, email us at [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com)

You can also join our Peak Oil AwarenessYahoo Group.  
It's [POA\\_CNY@yahoogroups.com](mailto:POA_CNY@yahoogroups.com).  
That is, Peak Oil Awareness\_Central NewYork.  
This group fosters discussion of local efforts, potential or ongoing, to deal with the effects of Peak Oil on our communities.

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**The NFR thanks Seathrun O'Corrain for his unflagging support.**

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

I am warmed  
by a fire  
in the cool morning air

A blue jay  
cries for help  
with the winter ahead

Wood smoke  
drifts and curls  
in the brightening light

Soon stillness  
will be broken  
by the tasks of the day

-The Vermont Poet

*"One does see so much evil in a village" - Miss Marple (Agatha Christie)*  
...which is exactly what we learn in

## MURDER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET!

Well, my ad attracted attention. Not that I didn't expect it.

Lt. Baumhofer, or Baumgarten, or Bombscare,.. I'm terrible with names.

He wanted to know if I knew something the police didn't.

I asked him if the police investigated slow death by chemical poisoning as quickly as they did fast death by 1st degree murder.

Just the fact that he knew what I was talking about spoke volumes.

Just the facts.

Fracking kills. Hell, simple drilling kills.

He said to just be careful. He'd woken from a telepathic nightmare the night his wildcatter brother went up in flames on a drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico.

He said to let him know what I could, when I could.

No threats, no theories.

That's cool.

I always wondered why my roommate's rabbit had wild eyes and hair that stood perpetually on end. It used to jump straight up in the air. Or forward and forget to put its front paws down. Stupid wabbit.

Then we found that all the plugged-in electrical cords around the apartment had been gnawed through.

There was a terrible fire up at Coffin's place. He'll live but he's in the hospital.

I wonder if anyone saw the body parts. If they did, we're screwed.

Uh-oh. Here comes that kid Bobby. Every vendor at the market keeps an eye on that kid.

He's a home-schooler majoring in advanced tree climbing. And petty theft.

He started a website for pickpockets called the Artisanal Dodger.

His folks don't have TV and they don't take the papers.

They're planning a vacation to Afghanistan this year.

They think that people behind bars are bartenders.

Everything that kid touches explodes. He'd make a good minesweeper.

He has to take a piece of paper apart to see how it works.

Apparently the dead guy was poisoned.

Benzene. A lot of Benzene. Embalmed in Benzene.

Way overkill.

It's used in lacquers, varnishes, and dyes.

Highly flammable. Carcinogenic. Extremely poisonous. Nasty stuff.

That would explain the smell of paint under the temple, in the church freezer, and at Coffin's place.

That might explain the fire at Coffin's.

But really. Initially, he could have eaten it, stepped on it, been shot with it, or used a needle. He could have inhaled it, sat on it, combed it into his hair, or sprayed it on. It could have been in his denture crème, deodorant, foot spray, hair spray, hair coloring, Q-tips, nasal tweezers, cuticle removers, fingernail clippers, shaving razor, shaving crème, aftershave, mouthwash, eye drops, nose

drops, gumdrops, soup, soap, sap syrup.

Hell, it could have come in the mail.

Not much help, except...somebody embalmed him and who would have access to the tools and that much straight Benzene?

Jerry staggered into the kitchen and threw up.

I went in to help him and whispered that it must be a second body in the church freezer.

He threw up again.

Well, it was his house.

Hey, great! A new vendor at the market.

Older couple. Hungarian?

They're selling stuff laid out, piled up, poured out, hanging from what looks like an old turkey hutch of a stand.

Camera equipment, binoculars, crystal balls, magnifying glasses, sunglasses, used contact lenses, telescopes, lopes, monacles, mirrors, and microscopes.

I went over to welcome them, bought some binoculars, and asked for a card.

The old man apologized for the lack of signage. Said there was a problem with the sign painter and the printer.

I could hardly understand through the accent but I think he said 'Fokish'.

He also had a terrific lisp.

In the old days if you could count to 20 without taking your shoes off you could teach public school.

I needed another scotch.

I needed to count a lot higher than 20.

Something was starting to gel and it wasn't dessert.

Somebody built a two-story exterior staircase onto the three-story Masonic Temple. Don't ask me why.

I asked Danny if I could borrow his pipe bender. He gave me the key to the exterior second floor door and told me where his tools were.

I'd just stepped out onto the landing after finding the bender when someone grabbed me from behind and threw me down the stairs.

I grasped for air and got plenty.

It went on forever. Heart rushing, adrenaline pounding.

Pain.

Darkness.

I swam up through pitch tar wondering what tune Sisyphus hums while he pushes that rock.

It better not be 'Stairway to Heaven'. Everything hurt. I mean everything. Hospital room. Drug smell. Quiet.

Dark. And somebody else.

There was a big pile of bandages in the next bed that smelled like smoke.

Coffin.

I hope he can talk because we're both going to be here for awhile.

Well, I've got nothing else to do and all day to do it.

I asked Jeanie to bring me my mail.

She brought me some scotch.

And bills, bills, junk mail, and bills.

Another offer from a drilling company.

I asked her to please tell Jerry to visit. We had to talk about that second body.



# Your Neighbor's View...

## Consider the economic impacts!

Concern about health effects from drilling is only part of the problem. Consider the economic impacts.

First, there's the lack of insurance. Virtually every homeowner policy has a "pollution exclusion" clause. If a spill or other accident contaminates your water, you won't be covered. Nor can you get an "umbrella" policy for additional coverage anywhere in New York. The risk is too great. One accident and an insurer could be liable for the entire aquifer. Your only option is to sue.

Then there's the water testing you'll need on a regular basis to prove liability. Figure anywhere from \$400 to several thousand a year, and no guarantee it will be accepted in court, since there are no standard tests.

Then there's home mortgages. The FHA won't give you one if there's a gas lease within 300 feet of your residence. Many banks have even more restrictive policies and will even call your mortgage if your neighbor signs. They don't want the risk that your home will

become worthless.

Then there's property taxes. Road damage on narrow country roads is a certainty. Even if your town passes an ordinance requiring companies to post bonds, it might not be enough. Repairs can cost upwards of \$300,000/mile, according to the Delaware County Highway Commissioner. If damages exceed the bond, guess whose taxes will go up? There are also likely to be big increases to cover the added burden on fire, EMS and police services.

How many people are eager to buy land next to a drilling operation, with the traffic, the lights, the noise, the increased crime, the smell? Suffice it to say property values will decline sharply.

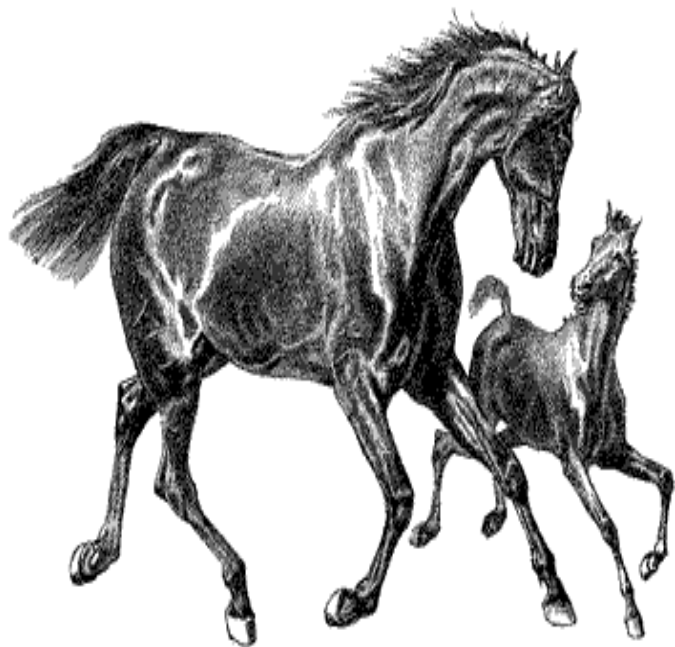
Finally, the gas companies will cap their wells with cement plugs and leave. When the cement slowly cracks over the next decades, leaking contaminants into our aquifers, who will pay? And that's only if the damage can be repaired.

Sound like a good deal to you?

Bob Rosen  
East Meredith

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## EGG-CITING FACTS:

A 1999 study at Penn State found that eggs from free-range or pastured birds had 10% less fat, 34% less cholesterol, 40% more vitamin A, and four times the omega-3's compared to the standard USDA data. The study also tested pastured chicken meat, and found it to have 21% less fat, 30% less saturated fat and 50% more vitamin A than the USDA standard.

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## NY BLUEBERRY-MAPLE SYRUP BREAD

1/3 c. Butter - *home-made from Moo Juice Farm raw milk cream, Franklin*

3 eggs - *from Stony Creek Farm in Walton, Applegarth Farm in Maryland, or from any number of local sources.*

3/4 c. maple syrup - *from North Franklin Maple Syrup*

2 1/4 c. half white flour - *from Farmer Ground, Trumansburg, NY (Franklin Farmers' Market)*

1 Tablespoon Rumsford baking powder - *Terre Haute, Indiana*

1/2 c. milk - *from Moo Juice Farm, Franklin*

2 c. fresh or frozen blueberries - *from Sutta's Pick-Your Own, Otego, or Handsome Brook Farm, Franklin*

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cream butter and maple syrup until light and fluffy.

Beat in eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

Sift flour and baking powder together.

Beat dry ingredients and milk alternately into the syrup/butter/egg mix, beginning and ending with dry ingredients

Fold in blueberries.


Pour batter into greased and floured 9 inch tube pan.

Bake for 45 to 50 minutes or until top is richly browned.

Unmold; cool on rack.

Serve with Goat cheese - *from Sherman Hill Farm, Franklin*

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# PEAK OIL FOCUS

## PEAK OIL UPDATE

By Eugene Marner

For the past four years, this newspaper has sought to inform its readers about Peak Oil. It's a complicated business, so we think it is time for an update and overview of the current situation.

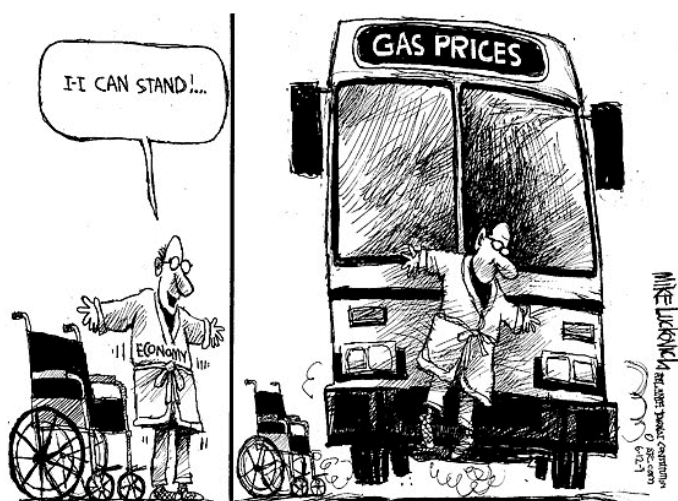
Many oil industry analysts agree that conventional oil production peaked in 2005 and all fuel liquids in 2008. Conventional oil refers to the stuff that once flowed abundantly in Texas and Oklahoma as well as Saudi Arabia. Easily and economically extracted from wells drilled on land, it is also low in sulfur—easy and cheap to refine. Unconventional oil includes everything else: deep sea wells, tar sands, natural gas liquids, high-sulfur heavy oil, bitumen and other more costly and technologically more challenging sources of fuel.

Wikileaks recently released cables that describe a Saudi oil official warning American diplomats that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will no longer be able to increase production to cover shortfalls in global production. In other words, that super-giant reservoir of conventional oil that was for so long the swing producer, always able to cover any shortfall elsewhere, has now peaked as well.

Critics of Peak Oilers, who apparently wish this problem would just go away, frequently claim that there is plenty of oil out there and there's no reason for concern. In fact, there probably is nearly as much oil as we have already used still underground, but this fact is misleading. It is the easy oil that is nearly gone. A hundred years ago, a couple of strong men with shovels could dig down and hit oil in Texas. Today, stripper wells slowly bring up the dregs of wells all over the Southwest, while drilling rigs costing \$1.5 billion must drill through a mile of seabed

lying beneath a mile of sea to reach significant quantities of black gold. Much more money is spent reaching today's oil and, more critically, much more **ENERGY** is used to get it out. The environmental risks are also much greater, as we have seen in the still unfolding disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

Similar problems accompany all the other unconventional oil sources. The tar sands in Canada are producing synthetic crude but they use a huge amount of natural gas to melt the



tar that is mixed with the sand, and much diesel fuel to power the enormous earth-moving equipment that hauls the sand to the cookers. In the process, hundreds of square miles of the Canadian province of Alberta are being turned into highly polluted zones that will no longer support any life. Out of sight, out of mind: as the tar sands are in an unpopulated part of Alberta, waste water is often dumped into rivers. When birds fly over some of those rivers, the air is so toxic that they fall out of the air, dead. Unlike the once much easier oil of the American southwest and the Arabian peninsula, the hard-to-get-to stuff exacts a steep economic and environmental toll.

It is important to remember that oil supplies are not solely dependent upon **RESERVES**, the oil that geologists believe is left in the ground. The process of getting it out, transported and refined is complex and costly. A reliable flow of oil must be maintained at a price that will not bankrupt the users of the oil. When we understand that we are talking about oil flows and not just the size of a giant pool of the stuff, we can recognize that many factors that have nothing directly to do with the process of extracting and refining oil can easily affect its availability. Politics, for example. The popular risings and democracy movements that are roiling the Middle East have, at the date of this writing, caused the price of crude to rise in London because the supply from the export nations suddenly seems less secure.

Houston oil geologist Jeffrey Brown has described what he calls the Export Land Model which works roughly like this: oil revenues stimulate the economies of the exporting countries; as their incomes and aspirations rise, the people want to use more of their own oil and export less. On the one hand, their fields are depleting and producing less oil each year and, on the other hand, the amount of oil that they are willing to export falls as more gets used at home. Eventually, they must stop exporting altogether.

During the past two centuries, Industrial Civilization rose to its present level of complexity because we humans were always able to apply ever more energy to power economic growth. During the past hundred years, the most critical energy source has been oil. For reasons we have discussed in past articles, there is no substitute for oil. Once oil supplies start to decline in earnest, economic activity must contract as well.

We shall soon be living in a world very different from the one in which we grew up.

**LANDMEN, continued from Page 1** will get neighbors will not be paid and therefore hold you responsible. In fact, energy companies need lease only 60 percent of the land in a drilling unit.

- Landmen will say that if you do not sign, the energy company will draw the boundaries of drilling units to exclude your property. In fact, state law requires them to collect the gas efficiently. Therefore, units must cover the landscape.

- Landmen will say that theirs is the standard lease. In fact, almost every clause or term of the lease can be negotiated. The 'boiler plate' lease that they show you was written to give every advantage to the energy company.

- Landmen will say that signing will win you the lottery. In fact, a lease is a complex business transaction that could occupy and encumber your land for your lifetime and beyond.

- Landmen will say that if you do not sign, then you

nothing. In fact, you are guaranteed at least 12.5 percent of any gas taken from under your property. And while it is true that you would forgo the signing bonus, without a lease the company may not trespass on your property.

- Landmen will say that a well on your property could produce billions of cubic feet of gas over its lifetime. In fact, to do so, your well would have to produce for decades, but Marcellus gas wells are only a few years old and no one knows how long that they will produce. Generally, gas production falls rapidly to only a few percent after a decade.

On the other hand:

- Landmen will not say that a 12.5 percent (1/8) royalty is the minimum royalty set by state law. In New



The landman's office: in your local motel

York State royalties of 20 percent (1/5) have been signed, and in the Barnett of Texas 25 percent (1/4).

- Landmen will not say that any promise they make to you is worthless – including the location of the spacing unit and well – unless it is written into the lease.

- Landmen will not say that if you have a mortgage, you may not lease without permission of the bank. If you do sign, the bank can (and probably will) demand that you pay off the mortgage in full, immediately. And your leased

property will be difficult to sell because many banks will not grant the buyer a mortgage on a property with a gas lease due to the accompanying unknown risk.

# Landmen will not say that once operations begin on your

property, they can continue forever. In Texas, some leases are still in effect after a century.

The Center for Future Civic Media at MIT hosts the website ([landmanreportcard.com](http://landmanreportcard.com)) where you can learn from the experiences of other landowners. You can compare this with how the industry claims to operate from Northern Appalachian Landman's Association at [nalalandman.org](http://nalalandman.org) or the national association at [landman.org](http://landman.org).

In case you weren't suspicious enough already:

- Landmen will start

a campaign by visiting the poor, the widowed, the elderly, and the least educated.

- Landmen will arrive on your doorstep unannounced, finding you unprepared.

- Landmen will show you a map with every parcel colored in as leased except yours. Out in their truck, there are many similar maps, identical except for which parcel is uncolored.

- Landmen will repeatedly visit and call even when you declare you are not interested. If unsuccessful, they will hand off your file to a fellow landman with more experience.

- Landmen will take the only signed copy of your lease with them when they leave. If and when you get your copy in the mail, any terms that were left blank are now filled in.

Unlike realtors, landmen are not regulated by New York State. As a result of complaints against land-

**LANDMEN, con't on Page 5**



**CLIMATE, con'd from Page 1** seasonal cycles of temperature, as well as the variation from the hot tropics to the cold poles. These variations also involve different types of storms -- tropical storms are different than mid-latitude winter storms, for example. A proper definition of climate includes more than just the temperature. Other atmospheric properties such as humidity, cloudiness and precipitation, as well as characteristics of the land (wet or dry) and ocean (cold or warm), must be taken into account. All these factors and variations together make up the whole climate. Statements about climate change are about changes in these statistics over decades and longer.

Because climate is about such long time periods, we also need to know that atmospheric motions are capable of communicating -- mixing or distributing -- any local change over the whole globe in only a few months. Hence, climate is necessarily defined as global, not local. It is possible to talk about local weather statistics -- "local climate" -- but *climate change* refers to *changes over the whole globe*: some locations can be colder, while others can be warmer (remember, it is late summer in the southern hemisphere). But if the average of all these warmer and colder locations is warmer, then we have global warming.

For instance, the past several months were some of the warmest on record globally, despite our colder local conditions.

This leads back to the first point of confusion, which is the "non-local"

character of both weather and climate variations. Because the atmosphere reacts to differences in temperature between locations by moving to eliminate the differences, the weather makes connections over thousands of kilometers. For example, the strength of a winter storm in Franklin on a given day depends on conditions both to the west in the central US and Canada and to the east over the Atlantic Ocean. Similarly, the global climate depends on the distribution of temperatures over the entire globe and how the atmosphere responds.

Again, for instance: while Franklin was much colder this winter, the high Canadian Arctic was relatively warmer than usual.

The second point of confusion has to do with the fact that the responses to changes of the land and ocean can be much slower than that of the atmosphere. The large ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica have even longer response times. In fact, the ocean is another fluid in motion because of solar heating differences, but its responses are much slower, taking years to decades to re-distribute local changes. The oceanic and atmospheric circulations influence each other, which produces another "non-local" relationship over *time*. A change in the deep ocean that happens several months or years before can influence the atmosphere now. For example, weather in the United States is influenced by the El Nino in the tropical Pacific, by events that happened several months before.

What all this means is that, when we are discuss-

ing changes in climate, we are definitely *not* discussing a specific storm or season, or even several storms or seasons. Instead, we are discussing persistent changes in weather and seasonal *statistics*.

One storm or season can not tell us whether climate has changed. And we cannot say that climate has changed just one storm. We have to collect statistics over the whole globe and over a long enough time period to say anything about climate change. In fact, what makes climate change detection very difficult is that weather and seasonal variations are much larger than the variations of climate on time scales of decades. Local conditions may vary in different ways because of weather or because of the slower influences from the land and ocean on the weather. We cannot say that the climate has changed until these differences persist over long time periods and over the whole globe.

The recent winter conditions in the US northeast are only one contribution to the statistics, but if we have sufficient statistics, say, a hundred year time record, we can detect the slow, persistent shift of the statistics despite the confusing weather and seasonal variations. So, the local conditions in the past winter can *not* be used as evidence for or against global warming. Only a long, slow change of the temperature over the whole globe can be interpreted as global warming.

*Dr. William Rossow is the Distinguished Professor of Remote Sensing at the City College of New York. He has a home near Franklin.*



## A Letter from London:

### YOU THINK YOU GOT IT BAD?

Record breaking gasoline prices here in the UK, up in January to an average of 128.3 pence sterling per litre, or \$7.51 per US gallon, prompt me finally to

respond to your Spring 2010 issue (page 10). Oh that all your 'Bottle Statistics' were true! I can't speak for Canada and Australia, but gasoline is certainly not cheaper than bottled water in Britain.

Today in the west of London at our local branch of Tesco, the largest UK food retailer, water in bottles costs an average of 60.3 pence per litre, although you can pay more for a fancy label. Next door, Tesco's own gas station is selling standard unleaded at 129.9 pence per litre. That means one US gallon of gas for \$7.60 and the same amount of water for \$3.53.

Personally I'd price bottled water off the shelves and most traffic off the roads, but then I live in a large city which still, thanks goodness, has clean water continuously on tap and public transport as good as almost anywhere, even if snow does occasionally shut an airport or two.

We have signs of spring here. Hope you get yours soon as well !

Stephen Morris  
London, England  
Saturday 19th February 2011

Full info at:  
<http://www.theaa.com/onlinenews/allaboutcars/fuel/2011/january2011.pdf>

#### LANDMEN, continued from Page 4

men working for Fortuna (now Talisman) Energy, Attorney General Spitzer negotiated for better leasing practices. (See [http://www.ag.ny.gov/media\\_center/2006/dec/dec28b\\_06.html](http://www.ag.ny.gov/media_center/2006/dec/dec28b_06.html).)

Remember that landmen are professional negotiators from an industry with over a century of experience in getting what it wants. By comparison, you are a novice. Landowners who try to negotiate a gas lease on their own are bound to be fleeced. In fact, landowners who feel that they have been cheat-

ed by the leases they have signed have formed Fleased (see [fleased.org](http://fleased.org)). Wary landowners have formed coalitions and hired experienced lawyers to bargain for them. In Franklin, there is some interest in forming a local coalition, but no resident has stepped forward to organize one.

Above all, remember that as an adult, your signing of a lease is binding (no matter how uninformed you are) unless you can prove fraud, and the thing that landmen are best at is deceiving you without actually lying.

#### PELLETS, continued from Page 1

base of a plant will expand to keep weeds down and help retain moisture.

These pellets are weed free because of the heat involved in the manufacturing process. Containers of expanded pellets have been watered and nurtured at length without a single weed breaking the surface.

New York State does not allow Enviro Energy to claim a specific nutrient value without a fertilizer license, but they have had them tested and will gladly show you the positive results. Gigantic plants are thriving in undisclosed locations as the Millers' secret brigade of test gardeners run their field studies.

Enviro Energy is located on N.Y. State Route 7 in Wells Bridge. In the future, they hope to sell their pellets through gardening retailers.

For more information, visit <http://www.enviroenergy.com> or call 607-988-9013.

Earth eyes me  
with red anger  
through a  
hazy sunset

You did this,  
the stinking air  
the fetid water  
the aching ground

Comeuppance  
has come,  
the end  
that justifies  
the means

Power is not  
where you imagine,  
sundown grants  
no reprieve

- The Vermont Poet



Global weirding?

Photo by Steve Monosson



**RULE, continued from Page 1**

their people. Less well known is that these big cities have been following in the footsteps of many small towns around the country. It is rural America that has pioneered the growing assertiveness of local populations to take back jurisdiction over their communities and return it to its proper authority: the citizens.

Environmental concerns have been the catalyst in most of these cases. In 2006, the alarm was raised in New Barnstead, NH, when the huge multinational corporation, Nestle (with the approval of the state government) proposed to privatize public water. Soon other New Hampshire towns - Atkinson, Nottingham and Barrington - began an offensive against water privatization, followed by communities across the border in Maine.

Around the country, corporate plans to build toxic waste sites, construct huge polluting factory farms or mine radioactive substances within town borders are being met with local opposition. The urgent need to safeguard air, water and land resources has focused attention on the legal infrastructure that protects corporate exploitation, and has roused a determination that the laws must be changed. This movement seeks to re-examine basic legal assumptions, such as the validity of corporate personhood, or to look at how environmental laws created to protect our natural life-support systems have been slowly whittled away. Over a dozen townships in Pennsylvania, Maine, and New Hampshire have passed laws protecting "the right of nature to exist and flourish." Halifax, VA, as well as Mahoney, Shrewsbury and Packer PA, now impose penalties on corporations for "chemical trespass," i.e. the involuntary introduction of toxic chemicals into the human body.

Communities are now supporting one another and forming coalitions. On February 20, 2010, twenty-seven Pennsylvania towns and boroughs convened to sign the Chambersburg Declaration (see box). This document begins: "We declare

that the political, legal, and economic systems of the United States allow, in each generation, an elite few to impose policy and governing decisions that threaten the very survival of human and natural communities."

Many regional environmental and civil rights groups now offer support to these communities. Perhaps the most interesting is the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund ([www.celdf.org](http://www.celdf.org)). Its mission is two-fold. First, to educate through its Democracy Schools, which offer seminars on the history of corporate law and environmental regulation. Second, to advise communities on how to draft local ordinances that place the self-governing rights of municipalities above corporate rights.

Armed with these powerful educational and organizing tools, citizens are able to take back control of their own communities' future. Local ordinances may accomplish what big government cannot - or will not: they can put decision-making back in the hands of real people, instead of corporate "persons," and implement new policies, such as the rights of ecosystems.

Civil disobedience has a long and noble history in the United States in the fight against undemocratic laws: female factory workers in Lowell MA illegally striking for a 10 hour day in the 1830s; feminists illegally casting ballots; the Underground Railroad illegally rescuing slaves, and civil rights protesters illegally defying segregation statutes. But the municipal rights movement offers something new: *legal* grass-roots political action. With the law as a tool, these communities are creating a local alternative to the domination of unrepresentative corporate power. The principles behind these laws can be applied broadly to any area where corporate rights override local self-government or the well-being of the local ecology and human health. This could be the most significant national movement of the century, and it's growing fast.

People Power. Really.

## The Chambersburg Declaration

By the Undersigned in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, February 20th, 2010

### **We declare:**

- That the political, legal, and economic systems of the United States allow, in each generation, an elite few to impose policy and governing decisions that threaten the very survival of human and natural communities;

- That the goal of those decisions is to concentrate wealth and greater governing power through the exploitation of human and natural communities, while promoting the belief that such exploitation is necessary for the common good;

- That the survival of our communities depends on replacing this system of governance by the privileged with new community-based democratic decision-making systems;

- That environmental and economic sustainability can be achieved only when the people affected by governing decisions are the ones who make them;

- That, for the past two centuries, people have been unable to secure economic and environmental sustainability primarily through the existing minority-rule system, laboring under the myth that we live in a democracy;

- That most reformers and activists have not focused on replacing the current system of elite decision-making with a democratic one, but have concentrated merely on lobbying the factions in power to make better decisions; and

- That reformers and activists have not halted the destruction of our human or natural communities because they have viewed economic and environmental ills as isolated problems, rather than as symptoms produced by the absence of democracy.

### **Therefore, let it be resolved:**

- That a people's movement must be created with a goal of revoking the authority of the corporate minority to impose political, legal, and economic systems that endanger our human and natural communities;

- That such a movement shall begin in the municipal communities of Pennsylvania;

- That we, the people, must transform our individual community struggles into new frameworks of law that dismantle the existing undemocratic systems while codifying new, sustainable systems;

- That such a movement must grow and accelerate through the work of people in all municipalities to raise the profile of this work at state and national levels;

- That when corporate and governmental decision-makers challenge the people's right to assert local, community self-governance through passage of municipal law, the people, through their municipal governments, must openly and frontally defy those legal and political doctrines that subordinate the rights of the people to the privileges of a few;

- That those doctrines include preemption, subordination of municipal governments; bestowal of constitutional rights upon corporations, and relegating ecosystems to the status of property;

- That those communities in defiance of rights-denying law must join with other communities in our state and across the nation to envision and build new state and federal constitutional structures that codify new, rights-asserting systems of governance;

- That Pennsylvania communities have worked for more than a decade to advance those new systems and, therefore, have the responsibility to become the first communities to call for a new state constitutional structure; and

- That now, this 20th day of February, 2010, the undersigned pledge to begin that work, which will drive the right to local, community self-government into the Pennsylvania Constitution, thus liberating Pennsylvania communities from the legal and political doctrines that prevent them from building economically and environmentally sustainable communities.

### **That a Call Issues from this Gathering:**

- To create a network of people committed to securing the right to local, community self-government, the reversal of political, legal, and cultural doctrines that interfere with that right, and the creation of a new system and doctrines that support that right;

- To call upon the people and elected officials across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to convene a larger gathering of delegates representing their municipal communities, who will propose constitutional changes to secure the right of local, community self-government; and

- To create the people's movement that will result in these changes to the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Signed by:

The Pennsylvania townships of Hamlin, Lehigh, Millville, Shrewsbury, Bowmanstown, Pottsville, Norwegian, Cheltenham, Foster, Tamqua, West Chester, Peach Bottom, Erie, State College, Nippenose, Mount. Joy, St. Thomas, North Middleton, Guilford, Summit Hill.





# A SYSTEM IN CHAOS: New York's Regulation of the Natural Gas Industry

By Ronald E. Bishop, Ph.D., CHO

**From Chapter 43-B of the Consolidated Laws of New York State (known as Environmental Conservation Law, or ECL), §23:** *"It is hereby declared to be in the public interest to regulate the development, production and utilization of natural resources of oil and gas in this state in such a manner as will prevent waste; to authorize and to provide for the operation and development of oil and gas properties in such a manner that a greater ultimate recovery of oil and gas may be had, and that the correlative rights of all owners and the rights of all persons including landowners and the general public may be fully protected, and to provide in similar fashion for the underground storage of gas, the solution mining of salt, and geothermal, stratigraphic and brine disposal wells."*

This policy statement makes clear the legislature's intent to balance industrial development with environmental protection. This article seeks to examine the status of gas industry regulation in our state, and attempt some assessment of where it may be headed.

New York has a complex history in regulating gas development. The first domestic gas well was drilled in the stream bed of Canadaway Creek near Fredonia in 1821. New York was the first state to require the plugging of abandoned wells in 1879, and the first New York law to protect public water supplies from contamination was passed in 1885. No particular state entity existed to monitor compliance or enforce these laws, but an 1882 amendment to the well plugging law offered half of any collected fines to informants who reported violations. New York's Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission was formed in 1895, and the New York State Health Department was created in 1901. The Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission was reorganized as the Department of Conservation in 1910 – 1911. Legislation was adopted in 1933 to allow leasing of state lands for oil and gas drilling. In 1949, the Comprehensive State Water Pollution Control Act was passed.

New York repealed all previous oil and gas-related legislation in 1963, and amended Conservation Law to consolidate the Conservation Department's control of that industry's future development in the state. In 1966, the Department began to keep records on oil and gas wells. On April 220 (the first Earth Day), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was created from the old Conservation Department, elements of the Health Department and a variety of other state commissions. The state's Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) was extensively recodified in 1972.

In 1978, New York passed the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), which was revised in 1987 and again in 1996. This law required all state agencies to consider the environmental impact of all activities which they carried out or permitted, issuing environmental impact statements as needed. In response, the DEC's Division of Mineral Resources (DMN) prepared a Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Oil, Gas and Solution Mining (GEIS), issued as a draft in 1988 and finally adopted with revisions in 1992. Although not accompanied by a "rules package," this document became the primary guide for permit conditions attached to new oil and gas well projects until now. The DEC is currently revising a draft Supplement to the GEIS (dSGEIS) to address new technologies and issues of scale related to horizontally-drilled, high-volume hydraulically fractured (HV/HF) gas well projects.

How do all these laws, regulations and guidance documents work together?

Consider waste fluids: mineral resources laws and regulations don't define them at all, and whether they are managed as liquid or solid wastes depends on whether they are being transported (solids), treated (liquids), re-used or disposed (solids). In any event, they are classified as non-hazardous, regardless of what is in them. Further complicating matters, the GEIS recommended some practices that proved to be so unworkable, they are no longer used. An example is "pitless drilling," for which the rationale was that just letting gas waste fluids spray out onto the ground would kill fewer trees than would clearing a forested site for a wastewater pit.

Confused?

Just imagine the plight of our dedicated Bureau of Oil and Gas Regulation (BOGR) agents who have to administer these diffuse, incomplete and sometimes contradictory rules! Indeed, when their regulatory program was reviewed in 1994 by a panel from the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, a number of deficiencies were noted. Among the issues were an estimated annual discharge of 360 million gallons of oil and gas well flow-back fluids directly into streams, onto land and roadways, and a legacy of approximately 60 thousand abandoned oil and gas wells. The DEC had no data on roughly half of them, and two-thirds of the wells for which they had records showed evidence that they were improperly abandoned. The review panel considered the program's lack of resources to be its greatest deficiency.

Much about the DEC has changed in the last fifteen years, but some of the old problems persist. The Division of Mineral Resources

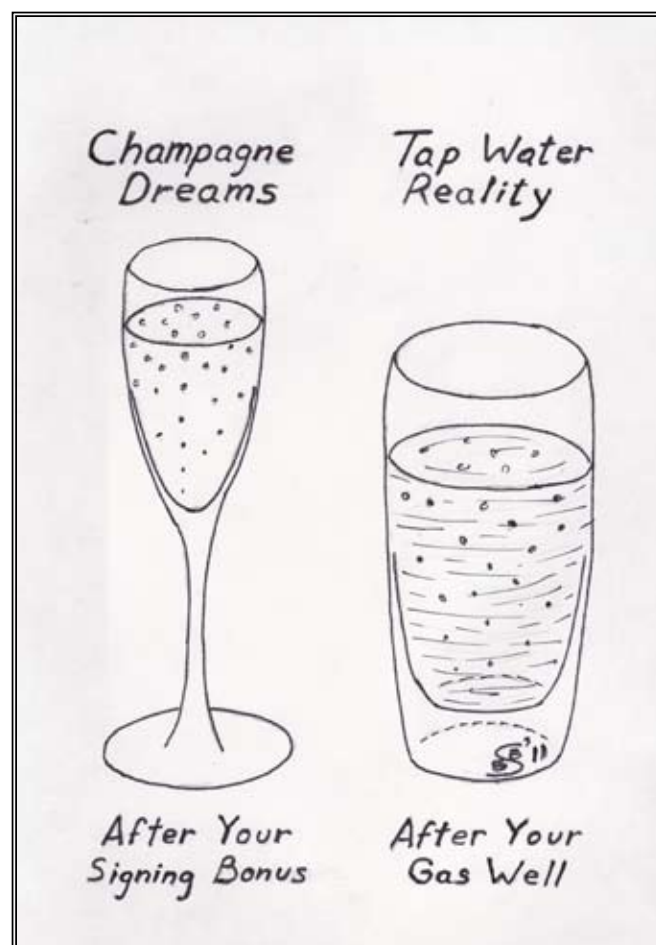
2008 Annual Report, dominated by production data (consistent with their mandate), estimated that 57 thousand abandoned oil and gas wells remain to be dealt with, including approximately 30 thousand for which the DEC still has no records. They are managing to plug about 200 per year; I'll let you all calculate how long they have to go at that rate. Their nineteen field agents also performed 2445 inspections in 2008, which resulted in 84 enforcement actions (a rate of 3.4%) for a total of \$10,500 in fines – an average of \$125 per citation. The BOGR now has sixteen field agents state-wide.

New York State has no mechanism to systematically evaluate gas industry incidents. Walter Hang of Toxics Targeting, Inc. reported 270 groundwater-polluting incidents since 1979, based on data from a DEC spills hotline; about half of those incidents involved gas production or transport. However, problems reported directly to DEC field offices or to county health departments have never been collated. Therefore, claims that there have been "very few" gas industry incidents can neither be confirmed nor definitively refuted.

Going forward, what kind of gas industry regulation should we expect in New York State? To the extent that past performance may be used to predict future performance:

- Relevant state codes and regulations will continue to be diffuse and incoherent,
- Regulators will focus more on production than on environmental protection,
- The new draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement will not repair all the "holes" in state law or the original GEIS,
- Our DEC's Bureau of Oil and Gas Regulation will continue to be under-staffed and under-funded, exacerbated by any new workload imposed by HV/HF projects,
- The state system for reporting polluting incidents will continue to be opaque, and
- Taxpayers will subsidize the plugging of abandoned wells for at least 280 years.

As you might expect, not everyone agrees with my assessment. Readers interested in an opposing viewpoint might do well to consult the recent work by the Groundwater Protection Council: "State Oil



and Gas Regulations Designed to Protect Water Resources." On the other hand, those who seek a broader and deeper legal context should read Hanna Wiseman's comprehensive article in the Fordham Environmental Law Review.

Ronald E. Bishop has a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and is a certified Chemical Hygiene Officer (hazmat specialist). He teaches at SUNY Oneonta.



## SUMMER HOUSING FOR ARTISTS

Franklin Stage Company (FSC) is seeking housing for theatre artists during its 15th anniversary season of admission free, professional theatre: June thru Sept 5, 2011.

FSC seeks housing for the whole period or for two shorter periods: June 5 thru July 17 AND/OR July 18 thru September 5.

We seek houses, apartments, and/or private bedrooms with kitchen/bathroom access; furnished or unfurnished.

If interested in helping us make our visiting artists feel at home, please contact Carmela Marner at 607-829-3700







# FRANKLIN LOCAL

Local News  
Local Events

Local Issues  
Local Concerns



## LOCAL PIZZA!

By Betsy Babcock

It's Super Bowl Sunday, and Bryan and I want a Stromboli and wings. We don't have to go to Oneonta...we have the best right here in Franklin...at Hometown Pizza. While waiting for our order, I had the chance to interview Leanne Taggart and Mo Boyles about their thriving village business.

**BB:** First, tell me about your family roots here in Franklin:

**Leanne:** I was born and raised here in Franklin. My parents are Jeff and Lori Taggart and I have been part of this community all of my life. Mo and I have two children, Nolan (2 ½ years) and now Jaron (1 month).

**BB:** What made you decide to go into the pizza business?

**Leanne:** I was a dairy farmer. But with dairy prices so low, I couldn't pay the bills. I had to try something different.

**BB:** What did your family think about the idea?

**Leanne:** At first, my father told me not to

do it. But I still went ahead. Now, after one year, he is so encouraging and has pushed me to buy the building.

**BB:** You bought the building?

**Leanne:** Yes, when we first opened in December 2009, I rented. We just bought the building from Matt Campbell in December 2010.

**BB:** What are your favorite parts of the business?

**Leanne:** I really enjoy cooking, preparing the food. And I like visiting with customers.



Leanne Taggart and Mo Boyles

Photo by Betsy Babcock

I want to eventually know everyone by name and serve the whole community. It's fun when you know the people and what their regular orders are.

**BB:** What are customer favorites?

**Leanne:** Our most popular item is our chicken wings. We sell A LOT of wings. Our top selling pie is cheese, then pepperoni.

**BB:** There have been a number of people who have attempted a pizza business in Franklin, but haven't lasted. Why are you successful?

**Leanne:** We don't have any employees. We work really, really hard. For example, I was back to work one week after Jaron was born. The other thing is consistency. You have to be consistent.

**BB:** What are your goals for the future?

**Leanne:** I would put a hood and griddle in if I could. I'd make more dishes and expand the menu. If I had a hood and griddle, I would almost do breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays. Eventually I'm going to expand.

Be sure to visit **HOMETOWN PIZZA**

226 Main Street  
Franklin NY  
(607) 829-2911

## FRANKLIN LOCAL WANTS YOU!

Franklin is blessed with a dozen or more civic groups, from the Boy Scouts of America to the Treadwell Fire Department. For example, the Chamber of Commerce provides public benches as well as the flags and banners that beautify our town. The Emergency Squads and Fire Departments protect local life and property. The Franklin Improvement Society created the Village Park, and organizes the Christmas Stroll. The Recreation Committee runs the Franklin Pool, and organizes Little and Pee-wee League baseball, softball and t-ball. The combined efforts of the Rotary and the Franklin Garden Club decorate Main Street with seasonal flower barrels and lighted Christmas Trees. By the hard work of people donating their valu-

able time, our community is made better every day for every one of us.

thorized a committee of citizens to study the potential local effects of increasing fuel scarcity and the resulting rise in the price of oil and gasoline, and eventually to suggest ways that our community might adapt. The Franklin Citizens' Committee on Peak Oil was the first such group in the nation to be chartered by a local government.

As the name suggests, Franklin Local works locally. Most people know us by our two most successful projects: The Franklin Farmers' Market and The New Franklin Register. Started in 2007, the Farmers' Market encourages local agriculture and commerce by bringing area farmers and craftspeople together with local consumers, as well as with customers from surrounding towns and villages. Born in the same year, The New Franklin Register provides local news and offers a forum for the presentation and discussion of local issues. It also continues the exploratory and educational work of the Committee on Peak Oil, as mandated by our Town Board. Originally self-financed, the NFR is supported by local advertising, and is distributed free of charge. All the work on both projects is done entirely by volunteers. In 2008, reflecting

our expanding responsibilities, we renamed ourselves Franklin Local.

During the five years of our existence, we have identified many potential ways to add to the ongoing work of Franklin's civic groups. One ambition is the creation of a state-certified community kitchen for the cooking and canning of local farm products for sale. Another is a community greenhouse to provide fresh vegetables over a longer season as well as for residents unable to keep a garden at home. Franklin Local is incorporating as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization to make us eligible for both public and private help in funding such projects.

But money is not the biggest obstacle to carrying out these useful ideas. The real problem is person-power. Many hands make light work, the saying goes. But Franklin Local has a current core membership of only five or six. This severely limits our ability to improve what we're already doing as well as to expand, to offer more to a broader community. It even threatens the viability of our current projects, which is why we say: **Franklin Local needs you!**

Perhaps there's a favorite public service idea



you'd like to turn into a reality, Franklin Local's broad range of interests and its not-for-profit status makes it the perfect venue for such efforts. Or perhaps you've been wanting to donate some of your free time, but haven't gotten around to it yet. The Farmers' Market needs volunteers to help with weekly music and entertainment programming, and others to help spread the word about our market to a wider range of customers. The New Franklin Register always welcomes new writers, photographers or illustrators, or simply folks willing to proof-read or to distribute each new issue.

We gather one evening a month for a delicious pot-luck and brief business meeting, at the home of one of our members. To be advised of the dates and locations of meetings, contact us at [franklinlocaltd@gmail.com](mailto:franklinlocaltd@gmail.com). Leave a message or just your email address, and we'll put you on our mailing list.

Join us, to make a real contribution to the greater Franklin community. We hope to see you soon.

## FRANKLIN GARDEN CLUB TOURS

The Franklin Garden Club has two garden events planned for this summer.

### A Special Event

June 5th will be our "Gardening with all your Senses" event, which includes a visit to three large gardens in Northern Franklin/East Meredith, including Sondra Freckelton and Jack Beal, renowned artists and gardeners, and Alden and Deborah Banks, local gardeners.

Early June provides a rare chance to admire lupines, *primula japonica*, baptisia, irises and many other early blooming perennials. The \$15 charge includes high tea (beverage and fabulous desserts) at Sondra and Jack's with a tour of their art studio.

### The Summer Tour

The Franklin Garden Tour on July 10th will include eight or more gardens in and around Franklin, showcasing mid-summer gardens, vegetable plots and stonework.

This \$10 tour will feature some gardens never toured before, as well as some favorites from some years past.





**PAYNE, continued from Page 1**

during the second half of the nineteenth century. According to the dates on the monument, most of the children had died before reaching adulthood.

But most striking, and definitely most mysterious, was the fact that six of the Payne children had expired within the span of a single month in the year 1862. Beginning with 18 year-old Mary on February 18, the macabre list continues with five of her younger siblings who died between March 13, 1862 and March 21. And what is more, four Payne children appear to have passed away within the space of two days - March 20 and 21.

What could have happened to this family? What could have wiped out so many young lives?

Fortunately, information on the Payne family was immediately at hand within the archives of the Franklin Free Library. The library has a small collection of old newspapers on microfilm, one of which includes *The Franklin Visitor*. I was in luck again, in that issues of the paper were available for the winter and spring months of 1862.

Even before I came to the period in which the Payne children had died, I had begun to guess at what had happened to the family. A quick perusal of the pages of *The Franklin Visitor* showed that several area children had passed away in early 1862 from diseases such as measles, typhoid fever, and diphtheria. Several deaths occurred in the villages of Croton (Treadwell) and Franklin.

Consider this entry in *The Visitor* of February 11, 1862:

*"The measles are quite prevalent in this and the surrounding towns. Generally, the disease is quite light, though we hear of some severe and fatal cases."*

And again on May 6, 1862:

*"Diphtheria still presents occasional cases in this vicinity, though not generally of the malignant type of last winter. It is truly regarded as one of the most difficult and dangerous diseases of modern times."*

And then I came upon the specific information I was seeking. In successive editions during March 1862, several tiny entries appeared, jumbled up among the other death and marriage notices, briefly announcing the deaths of the Payne children. Diphtheria, it seems had decimated the family.

Most startling to me at first was that even though a veritable epidemic of diphtheria had raged through local towns during this period, it had barely warranted a

mention in the newspaper. While an enormous percentage of the paper's column space was taken up with advertisements for homeopathic cures, medicines and potions, etc. (showing the overriding concern people of that period had for the maintenance of their health and the warding off of disease), the deaths of so many area children were merely listed along with all the other obituaries. The editor of *The Franklin Visitor*, however, made hardly a comment on the ravages of the epidemic, and none at all on the poor Payne family. This silence was not, perhaps, an indication of callousness, but rather a sign that disease and early death was an all-too common occurrence in the days before modern medicines.

Which brings us right back again to the Paynes.

Would the historical record allow a guess as to why this family in particular was ravaged by diphtheria? Was this Franklin family considered poor, perhaps, or unclean? Maybe they were not able to afford the luxury of a warm house in winter.

The evidence at hand pointed both ways. On the one hand, if the Paynes were a prominent family in Franklin, surely their plight would have warranted a more thorough coverage

in the newspaper. On the other hand, the monument in the graveyard, while certainly not overly ostentatious, was definitely not the kind of monument usually erected by a family on the brink of indigence.

To find out more about the Paynes, I visited the Delaware County Clerk's office in Delhi, where I was able to expand my knowledge of the family. The Paynes were dairy farmers, and quite prosperous ones at that. Their farm was situated in Leonta, where today Route 357 meets the Treadwell Road, about three miles east of the village of Franklin.

George and Catherine had a total of thirteen children. Census records show that the couple had a son, James, born after the holocaust that visited them in 1862. James, so it appears, survived into adulthood and took over the running of the farm after the death of his father in 1888. His mother, Catherine, passed away in 1899.

But that's about as far as I got in my investigation. The mystery as to why diphtheria visited the Paynes with such vengeance rather than another family is still just that - a mystery.

*Tim Duerden is the Director of the Delaware County Historical Association, and the author of A History of Delaware County*



Photo by Xina Sheehan

## PARK NEWS

By Kim Hyzer

After a few months off, we've starting making plans for more work in the park this year.

And, we are planning our first open air art show.

Even though we had the monument dedication on Old Franklin Day last August, we haven't had an official opening of the park. We will be having a small ceremony on Saturday, May 28 at 1:00 PM. This is the day we will be hosting our first open air art show. We will also be dedicating the fountain in memory of Gary Parrow, former Principal, teacher and coach at Franklin Central. The local 4-H club will be donating two picnic tables in memory of Trooper Jill Mattice who was killed in an automobile accident last year. She was the School Resource Officer at Franklin Central. These tables will be dedicated on the same day. If you have something you would like to donate to the park in memory of someone, please contact one of our members (see list below). Some ideas of what you could donate include a bench, a trash can, a tree, etc.

The Franklin Garden Club is making plans for more plantings. They are making observations of conditions in the park, including moistness of the soil and locations of sunlight to best determine what plants will grow well.

Dillon Costello is continuing work on the kiosk.

Later in the summer we plan to start work on

the blue-stone pathway that will be in front of the fountain.

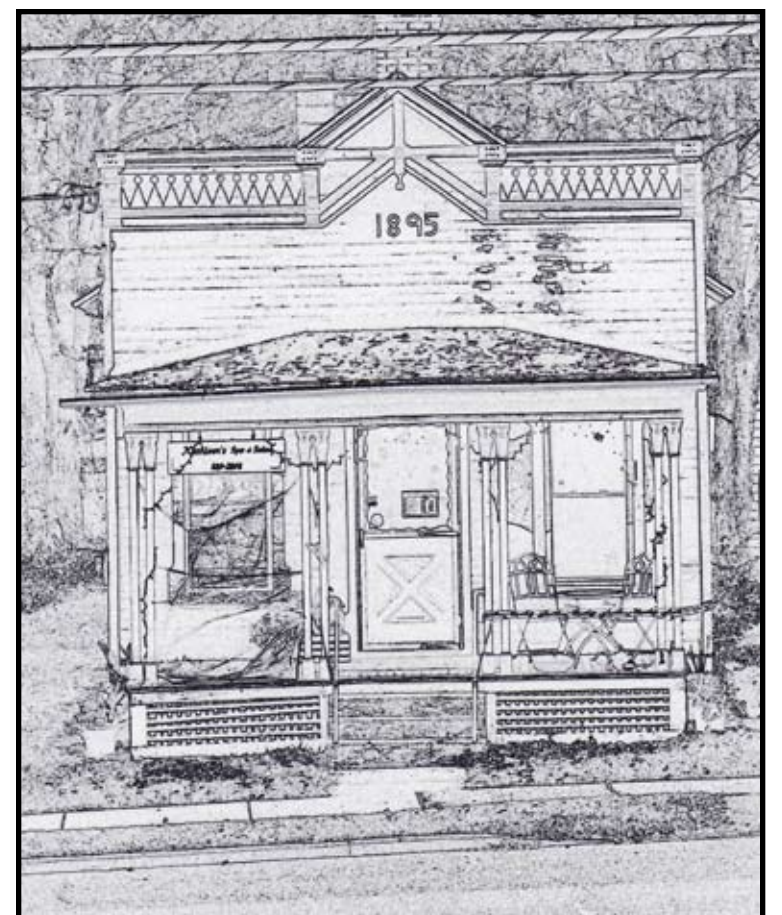
We are looking forward to a whole season where anyone can visit the park to sit, relax and reflect.

### Our Mission Statement:

"Our Society endeavors to encourage revitalization of our commercial district and preservation of Franklin's historic character. We hope to encourage improvements that will create a positive effect on our economic conditions and quality of life in Franklin. We hope to help our community to grow and prosper for generations to come. We hope to attract new residents, business and visitors to our community. We desire to work with and encourage organizations that already do so much for our community.

We have such a wealth of beautiful architecture in our village that has been well maintained and preserved. We would like to see our downtown area rejuvenated with viable enterprises."

The Franklin Improvement Society members are Nancy Cloonan, Linda Parrow, Kathy Campbell, Chris Geertgens, Marion O'Brien, Shirley Ferguson, Mike Wallace, Donna Whitbeck, Joyce Fairchilds and Kim Hyzer. We meet the third Monday at 7:00 PM. Starting in March, our meeting place will be the Town Hall. If you are interested in joining us in our endeavors, give one of us a call or come to the next meeting.



A Franklin Landmark

Graphic by John Thompson

### FRANKLIN TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

February 1st	3:00 p.m.	
March 1st	3:00 p.m.	Meetings are held at the
April 5th	7:30 p.m.	Town Garage, at the inter-
May 10th	7:30 p.m.	section of County Route
June 7th	7:30 p.m.	21 and NYS Route 357
July 5th	7:30 p.m.	
August 2nd	7:30 p.m.	Changes in time or place
September 6th	7:30 p.m.	are posted by the Town
October 4th	7:30 p.m.	Clerk, or call to inquire:
November 10th	7:30 p.m.	607-829-3440
December 6th	7:30 p.m.	
December 27th	7:30 p.m.	

**YOUR AD COULD  
BE HERE  
!!!!  
ADVERTISE IN  
THE NEW FRANK-  
LIN REGISTER**

**CONTACT JIM MULLEN  
607-829-5044  
OR**

**JMULLEN@FRONTIERNET.NET**





*Scituate Marshes* 1995, oil on canvas, 20 x 30" (Atten-Campbell Collection)

## UpState Arts

By Christopher  
Lloyd Wright

In October of 2009, the Richard Kubiak Gallery presented a well-deserved retrospective of the work of Eugene Lissandrello. Eugene's son, Chris Lissandrello, curated and hung his father's work at the Wilbur Mansion in Oneonta. This process was deeply meaningful to both Chris and his father. "It was as much about his work as it was about him," Chris says. "The work needed to be seen!"

This column begins with a son's gesture to his father because so much of an artist's life and work springs from how they are brought up. Often it seems that a son picks up where a father has left off. As with all of us, parents or guardians help to shape the person that the artist is today, then the artist puts it on canvas for all to see. Whether we mean to or not, when we paint, we paint ourselves.

Chris Lissandrello drew a lot of creative energy from his family. Both his mother and father were serious artists, providing a suitable environment and critical encouragement. It seems that Chris hadn't much choice but to evolve into an artist himself - it was all around him. After 1977, his sophomore year in college, he took some advice from his father and went off to The Rhode Island School of Design, Bethany College in West Virginia and Buffalo State for Art Education.

Eventually, Chris began making full sized paintings, and refined his approach to creative work. He confesses to be an organized and diligent painter, but his methods are diverse, from working in a studio from sketches and photos to going out into the field for *plein air* work, referencing nature first hand. Chris describes some of his work as "loosely painted landscapes, or complete abstractions, often with a vertical orientation." He may plan out a piece through numerous pencil sketches, then make smaller versions to work out his color palette, composition and movement, before embarking on the final version.

His paintings are well built, like a finely crafted house with a sturdy foundation, with layer upon layer supporting the whole work. About his more abstracted pieces, Chris Lissandrello says he allows a painting to "take on a life of its own, and I try to follow it to see where it wants to go." For Chris, that's the beauty of painting: "It becomes intuitional and sensory. It's my favorite part... like when musicians who improvise know when the music takes you

over and you feel blessed."

His abstractions have a flow that incorporates feminine forms, lines and shapes. Abstract painting, without a subject matter to refer to directly for understanding, may look simple and be given a "my-five-year-old-could-do-that" critique. But as Lissandrello says, "A really good abstract painting is difficult. You must achieve balance and unity, all the elements and principles have to coalesce in harmony, or it's crap." Many of the most famous painters of recent history were abstract painters of sorts; Picasso, Pollock, Kandinsky. Even Van Gogh and Seurat abstracted their surfaces with the innovative ways they applied the paint.

In addition to his painting, Chris Lissandrello teaches art at Sidney Central School. With a knack for creating an inviting and safe environment where students can feel welcome, comfortable and at peace, Chris projects a positive attitude that energizes the students' spirits so that creativity can flourish. He explains that as the students mature, it's harder for them to walk into class, let go of whatever's going on in their lives, and relax enough to create - in other words, have fun in the art room. For this reason, Chris approaches his class as he would his canvas, with a vision and an open mind. About teaching, he says, "With art at all levels, they call me a teacher, and there is some of that, but for the most part, I am a facilitator. The more creative, talented and inspired a student or class is, the more I try to stay out of the way. It has been a joy to watch."

Check out Chris Lissandrello's work on his Facebook page under "MyWork." He has also posted albums of his father's work and his student's work for all to enjoy.

### Some local art exhibitions:

**The Jericho Arts Council Student Show in the Town Hall Theater Gallery will be up March 26<sup>th</sup>. Bainbridge, NY.**

**A Cabaret Art Show in the Sidney High School Community Room until April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**The Senior Exhibition at the Sidney Memorial Public Library, May 25<sup>th</sup>.**

### Scheduling an art event?

Contact Christopher Lloyd Wright at [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com)

**To see work by Christopher Lloyd Wright, visit Face book and search for CLWRIGHT.**

## THE FLATLANDER DIARIES SPRING 2011

By Sunny Hill

It's spring, which means it's time to return to Franklin for the weekends. Fond memories of Franklin have sustained me this snow-filled winter. I remembered yellow and purple fields overflowing with wild flowers, the stillness of our serene wilderness, and the sweet taste of buttermilk pancakes, maple syrup and bacon. I remember the smell of oxygen-rich sweet air, the feel of logs carried to the wood burning stove.

Could a Flatlander survive a Catskill winter? We are used to being snowbirds. I imagine a Franklin Winter to be peaceful. You would cozy up to the fireplace reading a good book or paint a white flowing landscape. It's tempting to drive up for a New Year's Eve or Christmas party. Tempting, but so far I'm resisting. What the heck, they can always email me a picture.

Some people have winterized their second home upstate and continue to have weekends in Franklin year round. How brave they are. It is bad enough to have two lawns to mow, but two driveways to shovel? An alternative would be having an apartment where someone else plows your driveway.

Flatlanders have the task of balancing two sets of friends. Once we return to our Flatland neighborhood, we renew our "other" local friendships. At first, it may be difficult to sleep at night, so you recall what a day in Franklin was like. You imagine waking up to a beautiful sunrise, feeding the fish, the birds and the chipmunks. Then you imagine going to sleep after a magnificent sunset. After a week or two, it's like you never left.

Every day in Franklin is like a day in heaven. It's a little distant now having been away all winter. Was it all just a dream? To my Flatlander friends Franklin life is a fantasy. Who really stops to talk for one or two hours? Who hosts big parties and doesn't even charge admission? Franklin locals tell us that downstate is the illusion and Franklin is reality. I like to think they are correct. Many Flatlanders make it a full time real-

ity once retirement nears.

Did you bump into anyone from Franklin while you were traveling around this winter? A couple Flatlanders were spotted in Florida and New Jersey. I wonder how many more spottings there were around the world. Please write in if you bumped into a Flatlander while snow birding. It's a tiny world after all.

Now that Spring has sprung, it's time to return to Franklin. I welcome the sound of birds singing, the sight of trees sprouting their leaves and the smell of apple blossoms. There is work to be done: unboard the windows, charge up the tractor, ATV, motorcycle and truck batteries, put water in the pipes, clear out the mouse traps, scoop up the moth balls and get ready to inhabit our weekend home once again.

What crops will we plant this year? Will the tomato blight return? Did the Koi survive the winter in the pond? Will the chickadees remember me and still eat from my hand?

What concerts will be playing at Honest Brook? What's new on the Bee Hive menu? Will there be any new restaurants opening this year? A nice South East Asian or Indian restaurant would make a great addition to our neighborhood. As soon as we reconnect to our Franklin neighbors, we can catch up on all the news and gossip. Who got sick? Who had a baby? There is a lot we may have missed being away for the winter, but now we are back and eager to catch up. Again, it takes a couple of weeks to settle back in, but after that, it's like we never left. Those who say it is a fantasy don't have any idea how wonderful life is in Franklin.

It's Spring in Franklin and I'm glad to return for another Western Catskills year. Here's wishing that all your tulips pop up, the mice didn't eat your wiring, the humming birds return to their feeders and the rain didn't wash away too much of your driveway. May we all have a great Spring and appreciate every day we have here in Franklin.

*Questions or comments for Sunny Hill?*

*Please write c/o [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com)*

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See more at: [www.ElizabethNieldsClayWorkshop.com](http://www.ElizabethNieldsClayWorkshop.com)



*The Scituate Lighthouse in February - Chris Lissandrello - 1995 - Acrylic and oil on luan*

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## THE 2011 SEASON AT FRANKLIN STAGE



### JIM MULLEN AND MORE!

This Memorial Day weekend, Franklin Stage Company will launch its **15th Anniversary** season with two performances from Chapel Hall's resident raconteur, Jim Mullen. Mullen will delight us with all new material on Saturday, May 28 at 8 PM and Sunday, May 29 at 5 PM. Both performances are admission-free-but-donations-welcome, as fund-raising events for FSC.

On Sunday, June 5, at 3 PM, FSC will host a concert by The Little Delaware Youth Ensemble led by its music director, acclaimed violinist Julie Signitzer.

And Wednesday, June 29th, is opening night for the first production of the season, **Blithe Spirit** by Noel Coward, directed by Anton Dudley. **Blithe Spirit** will play for three weeks through July 17.

For more details of the summer's programming, please go to [www.franklinstagecompany.org](http://www.franklinstagecompany.org) or call 607-829-3700.

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# pet talk

with Dr. Joan Puritz

Hello readers, so glad to have you back and with me. Since my last writing I have been to Japan and back, but that is not what my article is about. I've had several good questions in the last few months to share with you. This has been fun.

**Dear Dr. Puritz,**

**I'm 91years old and have plenty of time to cook for my little mixed breed dog. I usually cook 50% chopped meat and the rest mixed vegetables with a little well-cooked rice.**

**I have read that cats are true carnivores and need to eat meat, whereas dogs do not need meat. Is this true? I would like to know your advice on what would be the best diet to promote a long and healthy life for my beloved companion. Trixie is "middle aged" and moderately active, going on several short walks a day.**

**I look forward to many more of your "Pet Talk" columns.**

**Sincerely,  
Charlotte Rieger  
Oneonta**

Dear Charlotte,

Let's start with the easy question. Cats are *carnivores*, or meat eaters. Many people believe that cats can eat many things other than meat, and cats will - look at a label on dry kibble type cat food - but is this the best food for a carnivore? I am not sure. Many pet owners and some veterinarians believe in feeding raw or cooked balanced diets to animals, which leads me to your next question. Your dog Trixie is an *omnivore*, eating both meat and vegetables. Like us, she could be a vegetarian, but it would be hard to balance her diet so that she got all the vitamins and nutrition she needs. Making your own food for her is fine, but you should be sure it includes everything a middle aged mixed breed dog needs. The requirements are different for size and breed, so I would supplement with a good quality dog vitamin.

The good thing about prepared dog foods is that the companies have done the research and have AFCCO approval that their foods are nutritionally complete. The bad part about prepared foods is that they are not all good, and many contain loads of cereal - that is, oats, barley, wheat,

and rice. This can lead to pet obesity and other problems. Dogs' diets should consist of mostly meats and vegetable and a little of the grains. There are many good books available with recipes for feeding dogs and cats. If I had the time, I would be cooking for my pets as well.

**Dear Dr. Puritz:**

**My cat, Kittles, is an indoor kitty, 6 years old, who loves taking me for a walk on her leash in nice weather. But her nails never get worn down, and being playful, she runs and jumps on the wooden furniture and puts on the brakes by extending her sharp claws. She has "antiqued" all of our furniture.**

**Are the soft tips that can be applied to the ends of cat's nails safe and comfortable for them? How long are they effective, and wouldn't Kittles just chew them off? I would appreciate your advice on this.**

**Thank you very much.  
Lillian West**

Dear Lillian,

What an excellent question. The soft plastic cover for a cat's or even a dog's nails are a wonderful, and a better alternative to declawing. This cover is glued to the nail and grows out in about 4-6 weeks.



Joan Puritz, DVM

They definitely save your furniture. Yes, some cats take a few days to get used to it, but they don't get depressed or too upset about it. At first, my cat chewed one off, but they come in a package of 18 or so, so I just reapplied it and he was fine. They come in clear, as well as bright colors. Declawing a cat means amputating all of his digits so that there are no claws left. With the soft covers such as "Soft Claws" or "Soft Paws," this painful procedure is unnecessary.

**Dear Dr Puritz,**

**I'm 82 and have always enjoyed having the small pets. I've had mice, hamsters and guinea pigs, and would like to get a pet domestic rat, as I've learned they can be quite affectionate and intelligent. But I can't find straight answers to three questions:**

- 1. Are rats active during the day or night?**
- 2. Do they need to live**

**with another rat (same sex) to be happy?**

**3. Do they need a large cage, or is a smaller one alright if I intend to have him out of the cage a lot of the time, teaching him tricks, etc.?**

**Thanks for your column--no one is too old to learn more about the wonderful animals who share their lives with us.**

**Sincerely,  
Henry Miller  
Maryland, N. Y.**

Dear Henry,

I have had several small animals in my life, starting with gerbils, then mice, then guinea pigs, then rats. Now I have a rabbit. I have to say my personal favorite is the rat. They are smart, and they like Cheerios and are pretty omnivorous. They can be taught tricks and don't mind baths if you start at a young age. They love companionship, so let me see if I can give you some answers.

1. Rats are often more active at night, but if you are up and playing with him during the day, he should fit in with your schedule. My rats slept at night because they were playing with me or my daughter when we got home from school and work.

2. In my experience, rats are happier with social interaction. If a rat is alone, he can become depressed, but if he is handled often, he will probably be alright.

3. Besides frequent daily handling and petting, environmental enrichment of the rat's cage is important. Rats like a covered space such as a cardboard box or tinted polycarbonate tunnel for their sense of security and seclusion. The rat will sleep in the box or tunnel but come out when it hears the owner, or the sound of a favorite food. Bio-Serv (<http://www.bioserv.com>) and Otto Environmental (<http://www.ottoenvironmental.com>) have tinted polycarbonate tunnels for sale as a rodent enrichment item. It is vital to keep a rat's cage clean. I used a 20gallon tank but there are many types of cages to choose from.

Also note: Rats are not for young children, who cannot be taught how to handle animals properly without supervision. Also, rat bites sometimes carry bacteria that can cause rat bite fever. Immuno-deficient people should be careful when handling them. Lastly, before you get a pet, you should always check to make sure you are not allergic.

Thanks for asking!

*If you have a question about dogs or cats, or even other creatures, send them by email to Dr. Puritz at [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com). She will answer your questions in a future column. No question is too complex or too silly!*



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## KEEPING UP WITH THE FRANKLINS

By Brian Brock

The Franklin Village park, our first park in the town of Franklin, is less than a year old, and already there is talk of a second park in the hamlet of Treadwell. This park would be cut from the approximately 22 acres of school property by dividing it into two parcels after a survey.. Delhi School Board would then put the school building and surrounding 5+ acres up for sale.

The remaining 16+ acres -- including playground, baseball, and tennis courts -- would be given to the Town of Franklin for a town park along with \$920,000. (The Village park is less than an acre, though land could be added in rear.) A museum to house the collection of the Treadwell Historical Society would be built with \$200,000 to \$300,000. The remainder of the funds would be put in trust to be conservatively invested for the maintenance of this park.



Bird's eye view of the Treadwell School property Photo: bing.com

This proposal from the Franklin/Treadwell Kellogg Committee was well received at a meeting of more than thirty residents in the Treadwell Fire House this February and has been accepted by Delhi. Discussions continue between the Committee and the Franklin Town Board over the financial arrangements. (Property and funds must be transferred to a municipality, and because Treadwell is an unincorporated hamlet, it can not take possession.) Most likely our Board would hold public meeting before finalizing this agreement.

This transfer would be funded from the capital account, one of the four accounts of the Kellogg Foundation. Any agreement must be approved by the New York State Attorney General.

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# THE GARDEN GATE

By Penelope R. King

For those of us who *like* weather changes, this time of year is perfect. It can be warm and sunny or snow. You never know, but hang in there. Sharpen your tools for the season, finish off jobs in the house to clear the decks for outside fun and work because it is coming. Start mild fertilizing on your house plants.

Clean your beds of old stalks and begin gently removing your winter mulch, but don't remove all of it at once. You may be uncovering buds just pushing up out of the soil. Exposing them to brilliant spring sunshine can damage them. Take your time. You can re-edge your beds, now, so they will look spiffy.

Cut out all the dead canes from your raspberry patch. You can do this with your wild berry canes, too. You can tell which ones are dead: they will be brown and dry all the way to the ground. Live canes will have swollen buds all along the cane, though some of their tips will be dead and can be cut off. Thin out your canes to the fattest ones, leaving at least 8-12" between canes, so each one will get light and air. Every few years spread about an inch of fresh compost or rotted manure under the canes to give them a good start.

Notice if woodpeckers have made a series of holes in the trunks of trees. They tend to attack birches but will go after other trees, too. I wrapped one tree in tree wrap but they just began pecking further up the trunk, so I hung some fake snakes in the tree and they left. Heh-heh. They didn't come back so keep your eye out for fake snakes and buy a bunch when you see them. I found some at a dollar store and some more at a toy store.

Now is the best time to check the edges of your pond, if you have one, to see what swamp willows and other unwanted woodies have rooted in over the winter. The ground is getting soft so that it will be much easier to rip 'em out now than later, when they have sent down even more rooting anchors and the ground has dried and become hard. Pull by hand or whack them out with a maddock.

Remember that commercial Hummingbird feeders DO NOT provide proper nutrition. They should be drinking nec-

tar, with all its interlocking and many nutrients. The colored sugar water will draw them, but it is as bad for them as refined sugar is for us. We, however, eat lots of foods. They don't, so rather than getting them hooked on refined sugars, help keep them healthy by planting flowers which will draw them. They are attracted to red, so keep that in mind. They love Bee-balm, Fuchsia, Columbine, Delphinium, Phlox, Penstemon, Physostegia, and Lupines, along with such annuals as petunias, impatiens, larkspur, salvia, snapdragons and any trumpet-shaped flower. Plant some near where you sit outside, and watch them close-up. You will find they are not the sweet little creatures of children's stories, but quarrelsome and territorial, chasing each other around and muttering between sips at blossoms. They will fly very close to you if you are quiet.

Butterflies are delicate and ephemeral visitors to the garden, and you can draw them, as well, without a lot of effort. Basically, they have simple needs: food, water and shelter. Food needs fall into two categories; host plants for caterpillars, and nectar for adults. Different species need differing host plants, but all plants are best

massed in clumps to attract the most insects.

If you have a moist spot in your landscape, keep it. Lots of butterflies use this depression for what is called "mud puddling." They drink there, as well as from dew and the drops caught on grasses.

Butterflies also need shelter from strong winds and rain, and a safe place to roost at night. Tall grasses and shrubs are natural safe spots for them, so don't be too neat—leave some rough areas on your landscape, if only along a back fence or behind a big shrub. Being super-neat means fewer wild critters.

When your vegetable garden soil has dried out enough, you can do some cleaning up and add some nutrients to the beds, like compost and well-rotted manure, especially to those areas you have designated for leafy vegetables such as lettuces, kale, parsley, green onions, oriental greens, mustard greens and chard. Please do a pH soil test before adding lime. You will want a pH of about 6.5. Adding agricultural lime at a rate of 5 lbs./100 square feet (i.e. a 10'x10' plot) will raise your pH one point. Don't just add nutrients because you think your soil needs them. They might not.

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# Brewery Ommegang Statement on Hydrofracking for Shale Gas

**Otsego County's pure water threatened by water pollution and other environmental risks.**

(COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK) Brewery Ommegang has completed a close examination of the development of hydrofracking for natural gas in Otsego County. We reviewed detailed and extensive information provided by gas industry professionals, publications and supporters of hydrofracking who propose that drilling is safe, necessary, and will be an economic boost to Otsego County. We also reviewed information from gas industry professionals who are opponents of hydrofracking, as well as environmental and historic groups who contend that the permitting procedure is flawed, drilling is not safe, our currently pure water is endangered; and economic benefits will not be realized. We have endeavored to be thoroughly objective in our analysis and we will make available the information we have gathered to anyone who is interested in understanding both sides of the argument.

**We have concluded that:**

1. Gas companies have the right to drill without substantive local public review and both state and federal regulatory investigations into the risks of the process are mired in political delays. Land-lease development and proposed drilling in the region has already reached an alarming level without any meaningful regulatory control and with very limited public awareness of the issues. Over 42,974 acres have already been leased by gas-drilling companies or their land agents and active drilling projects are now starting up in Otsego County.
2. The relative contribution of natural gas from hydrofracking to either the economy or the energy needs of the region is minimal and development does not materially contribute to a sustainable national or regional energy policy.
3. The number of documented spills, blowouts, leaking wells and other environmental accidents is significant and the environmental and human consequences have been serious in a number

of states, including TX, PA, WY, and WV. From our perspective, the most critical threat is contamination of the aquifers occurring directly above the Marcellus shale.

4. The taking of huge quantities of water needed for the hydrofracking process and the heavy impact on local infrastructure cannot be sustained in Otsego County. Effective technologies for the treatment of the millions of gallons of polluted processing waste do not exist and there are no locations for waste disposal in New York capable of supporting the proposed scale of drilling.
5. The plans for drilling present a strategic risk to the entire Otsego County water supply. The New York City watershed has already been determined to be protected and this represents the clearest evidence that NY state regulators already understand a potential risk. The plans for drilling also pose a direct and material threat to the Ommegang Brewery. We draw water for our beer from aquifers beneath our 140-acre farmstead located close to Cooperstown, NY, at the head of the Susquehanna watershed. Contamination of our currently pristine water supply would jeopardize our brewery business and even the threat of potential contamination could be sufficient for the future of our company to be at risk.
6. We also join others in concluding that industrial-scale hydrofracking in the beautiful rural upstate region will irreparably damage the essential qualities that make Otsego County an excellent place to live, raise families, farm and brew beer. We consider highly visible, potentially dangerous, industrial development as directly opposed to what our rural location offers the people who have chosen to make their lives here and the millions who choose to visit the region every year.

**We therefore:**

1. Call for an immediate moratorium and ban on both vertical and horizontal hydrofracking in Otsego County and NY State. It is not enough to protect only New York City residents, land and water. All upstate residents and their water, land and heritage deserve equal protection under law.
2. Call for the rejection of and rewriting of the NY State Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) by

the incoming Cuomo administration. The current SGEIS is based on outdated and inadequate data and deeply flawed.

3. Support the transfer of control over hydrofracking in Otsego County and across New York to local authorities, allowing local communities to determine if they wish to accept the impact on their lives instead of those decisions being made at state and federal level.

**Brewery Ommegang will:**

1. Seek to defend the interests of our business, our employees and our community by actively campaigning for the prevention of hydrofracking in Otsego county and NY state by every available means, including legal action.
2. Provide practical support for Otsego 2000 as the principal focus for a coalition of many environmental and other citizen groups working to prevent development of hydrofracking in the region.
3. Bring together a coalition of other concerned upstate businesses in support of the Otsego 2000 campaign.
4. Petition Otsego County and Otsego County town officials to support an immediate local moratorium and a ban on hydrofracking, and petition our state government leaders, regulators and other agencies for the same at a statewide level.

**For further information, please contact:**

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11/15/10	251 D'Agostino Rd		Rural Residence		200,000	Calaci, Alfred	Sun-Up Rod & Gun #
11/17/1	County Highway 21	34.53	Rural Vacant > 10 ac	58,000	105,000	Zavaglia, Arcangelo	Supply, Thomas A. *
11/19/10	288 Walley Rd	5.5	1 Family Residence	67,000	33,500	Adams, Walter L.	Tings, John
12/02/10	895 White Hill Rd	74.9	Rural Vacant > 10 ac	140,000	201,268	Londoner, D-M	City of New York
12/02/10	Grange Hall Rd	15.9	Rural Vacant > 10 ac	27,000	15,000	Miller, Brian W.	Roccotagliata, John
12/03/10	3221 Russell Rd	0.96	1 Family Residence	55,000	58,000	Volkes, James	Renner, Jay
12/07/10	Chamberlain Hill Rd.	100.77	Rural Vacant > 10 ac	127,000	216,664	Ceseri, Ernestine	Franklin Delaware LLC+
12/07/10	State Hgwy 357	22.5	Rural Vacant > 10 ac	25,000	9,000	Whithead, Harry	Elmendoff, Brian ~
12/10/10	2389 Case Hill Rd	7.09	1 Family Residence	175,000	191,250	Lynn, Anne M.	Marullo, Dominic J.
12/13/10	276 Dumond Rd		1 Family Residence		302,250	Kerr & Keech	Kerr, Mary Ann # * +
12/16/10	226 Main St	0.48	Det. Row Building	70,000	85,000	Campbell, Matthew	Taggart, Leanne
12/29/10	252 Main St	4.8	1 Family Residence	183,000	240,000	Jensen, Carol	Campbell, Matthew*

# Includes parcel in neighboring town

\* Multiple parcels

~ Estate Settlement

+ Between relatives



# CARING FOR BLUEBIRDS IN OUR MAILBOX:

Spring is here. Time to take some helpful...

## Advice from the Audubon Society

### GIVE BLUEBIRDS A HELPING HAND

- Bluebirds prefer farmland, meadows and other open habitats. They rarely nest in woodlands or cities.
- Locate your nest box within 50'-0" of a tree, tall shrub or other solitary perch. The adults use this to scan the ground for insects, and the young use this perch on their first flights from the nest.
- Mount the box on a freestanding ¾" gal-

- vanized pipe or sturdy fence post, about 5'-0" off the ground. Face the box away from prevailing winds and toward the nearest tree or shrub, so that the young birds can fly easily to the perch rather than landing on the ground.
- Avoid locating your nest box near a forest edge or hedgerow. This reduces risk of competition with House Wrens, who often displace Bluebirds with their bulky stick nests.
- Tree swallows also compete with Bluebirds for nest boxes. The best solution is to place TWO boxes near each other, 5 to 15 feet apart. The

- highly territorial swallows will chase other swallows from the vicinity, but will not usually fight with a neighboring bluebird.
- Avoid using garden and lawn pesticides. Bluebirds are small-fruit and insect eaters, and are very vulnerable to poisoning from pesticides.
- Plant berry-producing shrubs that provide food: bluebirds especially like serviceberries, elderberries, spicebush, hollies and blueberries.

Bluebird nesting boxes are available on line and at many hardware and garden stores.

Jan 2, 2011  
To the Editor:  
I've found so many of your articles valuable. Is there a website you could direct me to which has archived editions?  
Someone (Kelly Snodgrass?) gave me this email address, but I didn't find a website.  
If anyone is coming through Andes, I'd like to have copies at Paisley's Country Gallery for distribution if that is fitting. We are open Thursday through Sunday, 10-5.  
Sincerely,  
Judy Garrison  
75 Main Street  
Andes, NY 13731  
845-676-3533

The Editor replies:  
Past issues of the New Franklin Register can be found on line at [Archive.org](http://www.archive.org/details/TheNewFranklinRegisterFall2010). For instance, the fall 2010 issue is at: <http://www.archive.org/details/TheNewFranklinRegisterFall2010>.  
Also, you should be able to enter "The New Franklin Register" into Google and see it on the first or second page. There are no ads or malware - Archive.org is non-profit and legit.

To the Editor:  
I was sent a copy of your publication by a mutual friend. We both have been serving on the board of FCWC (Federated Conservationist of Westchester County) for many years. I am currently also appointed to The Yonkers Green Policy Task Force, and am very interested in the developments in your part of NY State & especially how best to deal with the projects slated to the Marcellus Shale & other areas.  
Would you be so kind and put me on your email list so I can receive your publication directly.  
Thanks  
  
Nortrud Wolf Spero

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**FRANKLIN JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER**



IN THE TSUNAMI ZONE: Oregon's spectacular Cape Perpetua Photo by Marjorie Kellogg






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FRANKLIN VILLAGE CHURCHES

**St Paul's Episcopal Church**  
307 Main Street  
  
All faiths welcome to join us every first Sunday of the month for service at 1:30 PM, followed by fellowship dish-to-pass dinner.  
Second thru fourth Sunday of the month: service at 9 AM.  
First Thursdays Soup Dinner, monthly, by donation, to benefit roof replacement fund. Join your friends for homemade soups/chili/salad and conversation! 5-7 PM.

**Community Bible Church**  
89 Center Street, Franklin  
Pastor: Dr. Walt Schlundt  
Church Phone: 829-5471  
Sunday School (Sept. Thru 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. Our local outreach is Angel Food, a low cost help with your grocery bill. All can participate, there are no income requirements. Visit [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) for more information.

**Franklin United Methodist Church**  
Main and Water Streets  
Pastor: Rev. John Hill  
  
Sunday Service -- 10:45 AM  
Coffee Hour following  
  
Sunday School for Children following Children's Time Holy Communion -- First Sunday of Each Month  
  
*This space is sponsored by Handsome Brook Farm.*

# IN FRANKLIN:

## APRIL

1st Fri.	APRIL'S FOOL DAY	
2nd Sat.	10:00	Scones & Tombs: Northanger Abbey, F'lin. Free Library
3rd Sun.	3-5	Opening (Z. Gurdo, A. Sea) Bright Hill Center
4th Mon.	6:30	Franklin Explorers
	7:00	Franklin Fire Department Franklin Firehouse
	8:00	Treadwell Fire Department Treadwell Firehouse
5th Tues.	2:15	Cybermobile Treadwell
	7:30	Franklin Town Board Town Garage
	7:30	Recreation Committee Village Hall
6th Wed.	6:00	Treadwell Explorers
	7:00	Doodlebug Club Ogden's
7th Thurs.	5-8	Soup Dinner, Donation St. Paul's Episcopal Church
	7:00	Word Thursday (\$3) Bright Hill Center
	7:30	Franklin Planning Board Town Garage
8th Fri.	10:00	Equipment Auction Catskill Tractor
	7:00	Alice in Wonderland Franklin Central School
	8:00	Ouleout Valley Fish and Game Association
9th Sat.	7:00	Alice in Wonderland Franklin Central School
10th Sun.	8-12	Pancake B'fast, Donation Franklin Fire Department
11th Mon.	7:00	Franklin Village Board Town Garage
12th Tues.	7:00	Treadwell Community Improvement Club
	7:00	Doodlebug Club

To have your event listed, contact Brian Brock at [thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com](mailto:thenewfranklinregister@gmail.com)

7:30	Washington Reading Circle	
13th Wed.	12:00	F'klin/Treadwell Senior Dinner F'lin Methodist Chur.
	8:00	Treadwell Emergency Squad Treadwell Firehouse
14th Thurs.	6:00	Franklin Town Court Town Hall
	7:00	Franklin Local Marners'
15th Fri.	12:00	Angel Food Order Deadline, Community Bible Church
	18th Mon.	7:00 Franklin Emergency Squad Franklin
Firehouse	7:00	Franklin Improvement Society Village Hall
	7:30	Board of Education Franklin Central School
19th Tues.	PASSOVER	
21st Thurs.	6:00	Ouleout Valley Historical Society Town Garage
	7:00	Word Thursday (D.Marbrook, P.Petit) \$3 Bright Hill
22nd Fri.	GOOD FRIDAY & EARTH DAY	
23rd Sat.	8:30	Angel Food Distribution Community Bible Church
24th Sun.	EASTER	
25th Mon.	6:00	Ouleout Valley American Legion Post 1689
	7:30	Washington Reading Circle
26th Tues.	7:30	Treadwell Fire Dept. Auxiliary Treadwell Firehouse
27th Wed.	6:00	Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce Dawn's Deli
28th Thurs.	6:00	Town Court Town Hall
29th Fri.	ARBOR DAY	
May 1st, Sun., 11:00	Daffodil Jazz Bunch, \$50	Morgans'