Basha Kill Art Show Highlights
Wetlands Beauty and Biodiversity
MAILBAG:

Dear Paula and the BKAA Board,

Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient of the Catherine Abate Scholarship. It is such an honor. I am looking forward to carrying on the beliefs that Catherine Abate and I share about the environment. Thank you again.

Jenna Rumsey
Pine Bush High School - Class of 2019

Ms. Medley,

I am incredibly honored to be a recipient of the Catherine Abate Memorial BKAA Scholarship. Thank you for taking the time to read my essay and being able to see Catherine’s passionate environmental activism within it. I hope to continue to be aware of the environment around me so I can use my voice and change things for the better.

Sincerely,
Courtney Pekusin
Pine Bush High School - Class of 2019

MAILBAG continued on page 3

Dear Paula and BKAA,

It is almost time to renew my membership. Even though I’ve spent the last 2 years in Ohio, I want the place protected (Basha Kill) where I spent many happy hours with my sons and dogs helping clean, volunteering to scope the eagles or meeting like-minded new friends in our area’s wondrous wetland.

Although I like the Guardian in old fashion form, I get it on email so please save the expense of mailing it snail mail. Thank you for going the extra mile to get it to me in the past. I miss the Basha Kill a great deal, but I am discovering the beauty of Magee Marsh and the Ottawa Natural Wildlife Preserve in my area around Erie Lake.

And as always, thank you and all the courageous people who work so hard to keep the B.K. beautiful and clean.

Sincerely,
Vera (Ioannou)

CONTACT THE BKAA

Paula Medley 845-754-0743, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. email: info@thebashakill.org website: www.thebashakill.org

CONTACT THE DEC

Environmental Conservation Officers (ECO’s) & Forest Rangers Covering the Bashakill WMA for the NYS DEC

ECO’s: Officer Ricky Wood 845-665-5637 (cell)
Officer Thomas Koepf 845-612-6099 (cell)


Call 24-hour DEC Law Enforcement Dispatch at 1-877-457-5680 if the Officers are not available.

On The Front Cover:

“Haven Bridge”
by Stephen Erny, Acrylic on Wood
Photo by Kevin Kreischer
See More Photos on Pages 6 & 7 and Article on Page 8

The Guardian is published quarterly by the Bashakill Area Association Inc., PO Box 1121, Wurtsboro, NY 12790.

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Mission Statement: Since our founding in 1972, our mission has been to protect the Bashakill Wetlands and surrounding area from ecological degradation, to promote education and respect for the environment in general, and to preserve the beauty of the area.

We welcome new members who are interested in protecting the environment. Dues are $10 per person per year. BKAA is a not-for-profit corporation and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Summer 2019 New Members & Donors

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**DONORS continued on page 4**

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**MAILBAG continued from page 2**

**BKAA, June 14, 2019**

Although I have been enjoying the BKAA for a few years now, this was my first year as a member. I am very impressed with the quality of the Guardian Publications. They are very informative and the photographs are amazing! I wish I was more talented to be able to contribute to it. But if there’s any need for assistance in set-up, proofreading, or mailing, feel free to contact me.

Thank you,
Barb Carroll

**Dear Paula, June 25, 2019**

As always, many thanks for all that BKAA does to preserve the lands and wetlands in your Valley of Paradise.

Lin Fagan,
Treasurer, John Burroughs Natural History Society

**Basha Kill Area Association, July 10, 2019**

Enclosed are our dues and donation. We appreciate the updates, the newsletters, and the activism on behalf of the environment. Great Job!

Best Wishes,
Denege Patterson and Peter Blood

**Dear BKAA, July 2019**

In Walmart, I saw a man and his son picking out fishing lures. It was obvious they knew nothing about fishing. I got into a conversation with the father. To make a long story short, I told him all about the Bashar Kill. He looked BKAA up on his hand-held phone and became very interested in joining. I think he will be a good member.

Paul DiMaggio
2019 BKAA Calendar of Events
All activities free and open to the public!

Saturday, September 28, 10 am
Canoe/Kayak the Basha Kill with Scott Graber and Mike Medley
Join naturalists Scott and Mike for a late season venture on this first day of autumn. Bring your own vessel and binoculars. Meet at the South Road Boat Launch. Call Mike at (845) 754-0743 to register and for more details.

Friday, October 25, 7-9 pm
Free Public Star Watch by John Kocijanski of the Catskills Astronomy Club
Bring scopes and/or binoculars. Meet at the South Road Boat Launch, across from Bashakill Vineyards. To register, call John at (845) 798-8087.

For event updates, visit Catskills Astronomy Club’s Facebook page. Rain date the following day.

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There’s No Place Like Home

By Maura Muller

Last year, for the 4th of July, fireworks in our neighborhood started the week before and continued through the following weekend. With each explosion, our one dog cowered in fear and our other, feisty dog barked his head off as if his protests could make the noise stop. After enduring a week of noise and canine insanity, we vowed to get away for the next 4th of July holiday.

So, this year, using AirBnb, we booked a “remote cabin in the woods on a private pond”, near a big patch of state forest in Massachusetts. We drove 5 hours through stifling heat and finally arrived. Our host met us and asked us to follow her truck to the cabin. We descended on a pretty sad excuse for a road. It was more like a washed out ravine. We seemed in danger of tearing out the bottom of our Hyundai. We passed lots of odd and creepy private trailers, falling down lean-tos, tents, dilapidated cabins and such. I was beginning to hear banjos from the movie “Deliverance” playing in my head. Upon arrival, our cabin was hot and musty-smelling and gave me an asthma attack from the mold growing on the rafters and ceiling. Knowing how much Bob wanted a getaway, I kept my mouth shut. I didn’t realize at the time that Bob knew how much I wanted a getaway, so he kept his mouth shut too. We both silently decided to make the best of it. Sadly, there were so many things wrong with the place that the next morning (after a sleepless night on a bad mattress) when a family camping across the “private” pond from us began a huge construction project with saws and drills at 9am, we looked at each other and said, “Let’s get out of here.”

Back home the next day, I was moody and sulky, trying to relax with an early morning coffee when OUR neighbor broke out the leaf blower and the lawn mower and the saws and drills and began his own home improvement projects. I burst into tears. Bob said, “Come on, get dressed, let’s go, we’re getting out of here.”

We drove to the Basha Kill. We parked near the Stop Sign Trail and slowly walked the length of Haven Road. We brought cameras and binoculars and took up a snail’s pace to REALLY see what was happening that day. To our delight, many types of wildflowers were blooming. The wild roses smelled delicious. We were surrounded by a variety of dragonflies and the sound, almost like a symphony, of bees buzzing through all the blooming flowers. It was truly wonderful. Bob stopped to photograph the many beautiful features while I walked a bit ahead. A large black shape poked out of the reeds a few dozen yards in front of me. A dog? No! A bear! How exciting! It was just far enough away that I didn’t feel unsafe. I watched as it stepped out onto the road, dripping water and then gave its entire body a good shake, sending water droplets flying everywhere. I turned and shout-whispered, “Bob! Bob! Come here!” Waving my hands wildly trying to get Bob to come closer and take a photo. The bear crossed the road, walked a bit along the gravel edges and then gently slipped back into the water on the other side and was gone. The only proof to my story was the trail of wet paw prints left behind. I was thrilled.

On our way back to the car, Bob found a license plate on the road, turned so that only the grey side was showing, making it invisible. He suggested propping it up on the side of the road for whomever lost it to see when they returned. I guessed maybe it would disappear or go unseen by the owner. I suggested we head to the boat launch as I surmised it belonged to a trailer towing a canoe that had passed us an hour earlier.

When we arrived at the boat launch, I saw the trailer and people putting their canoe in the water. I asked if that trailer was theirs and did the license plate belong to them. They were literally speechless with delight. They could not believe that we picked up their plate and then drove to find them. They wondered how we figured out it belonged to them. I explained that we were just walking along the road and they were the only trailer that had passed us in about an hour, so I was hoping it belonged to them. I explained that Bob and I were Nature Watch volunteers for the Basha Kill and we figured they were headed to the boat launch. They thanked us numerous times, exclaiming how beautiful the Basha Kill was. We invited them to become members since they explained it was their first ever visit to the wetland.

So, a bad day ended with lots of smiles, wildflowers, dragonflies, bees, happy visitors and even a bear sighting. Who needs to travel to Massachusetts when I have the Basha Kill? Home, sweet, home.

BKAA Action and Information Alerts

are sent from the following email address:

libertylithoink@yahoo.com

To ensure that emails reach your Inbox, and not your junk or spam folder, add this address to your safe senders list (called ‘whitelisting’).

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More Basha Kill Inspired Art

“Mature Bald Eagle”
Photo by Eleanor Knieriem

“Cloudy Day Reflections”
Photo by John Kocijanski
“Haven” Susan Erny, Fabric (above left) *Photo by Kevin Kreischer* • “Basha Kill Path” Steve Duffy, Acrylic (top right) • “Grillo’s Bridge” Shane A. Laden, Photo (bottom)
This June, for the third year, we proudly joined the BKAA in a month-long art exhibit inspired by the Bashakill’s unique vistas and inhabitants. The show involved over 60 paintings and photos capturing moments in time in this precious Wildlife Management Area. Our front room focused on a collection of photos featuring eagles, young and old, in flight and in flight, among other images taken at the Bashakill. Examples of exhibit works are presented in this Guardian. We thank BKAA President, Paula Medley, for attending and answering many questions concerning history and maintenance of the Bashakill and describing those activities offered by her group. The WAA looks forward to future collaboration with the BKAA.

The WAA was formed 16 years ago with 6 members, increasing to 42 in 2019. In 2018 the Alliance became a non-profit organization and is staffed by volunteers. We are a diverse and prolific artist group, working in oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, collage, photography, and block printing. We also include potters along with textile and jewelry artists. Our John Neilson Gallery at 73 Sullivan Street in Wurtsboro is open Saturdays and Sundays 12-4. WAA artists also display at Mamakating Town Hall. The Alliance is non-judgmental and membership is open to all artists and patrons of Sullivan, Orange and Ulster Counties.

The WAA Mission Statement is “To promote participation and provide encouragement to local artists, both established and emerging, by providing gallery space to exhibit their work. To also allow members to teach and demonstrate their craft in order to engage the community in the arts.” Consequently, we offer monthly themed shows, as well as free opening receptions and classes. Please refer to our website at www.waagallery.org for this year’s events.

Poetry Corner:

Basha Kill
— John Miller

Driving up from the City,
And awakening to the presence of green,
I am struck again and again
On the downward slope of Interstate 17
By a glimpse, just barely a glimpse,
Of pale green,
A putting grass green
Surrounded by slopes a shade darker,
A quilted green of endless treetops,
Not a rooftop in sight.

Paddling under the reaches of oaks,
By shoreline cattails and reeds,
Then out to Bashakill’s wildest midst,
Dense with bullhead lily pads,
Pickerel and duckweed
That hiss as I slide over their backs.
Only eighty miles from Manhattan
And I’m Henri Rousseau peering out
Of his jungle garden.
I am Bogie at the wheel of the African Queen.

On land and shore-footed
I walk a path that tries to remember
Its glory years when rails
Put canals out of business.

What’s left are mossed over
Chestnut ties and a waterside path
That can’t walk a straight line.
Saplings, oak, birch and maple,
Wedge roots into stony roadbed,
Their oversized leaves
Reach into the sunshine,
Their hedges direct my steps
This way and that.

Summer Lights

I love to watch them fly
In evening’s dusk
And late night sky
The twinkling stars
Of passersby
Those lightning bugs
In mid-July

-Stephen Erny
News Briefs:

BKAA Participates in Mamakating Farmers Market

Fred Harding/Paula Medley

Since the initial Farmers Market held on Friday, July 5, 2019 from 4-7 PM on Mamakating Town Hall’s spacious lawn, 2948 Route 209, Wurtsboro, the BKAA has regularly overseen a table displaying wetland resource and organizational materials to enhance visitors’ environmental awareness and promote the BKAA’s Mission.

The Farmers Market, sponsored by Mamakating Local Development Corporation, features produce, flowers, honey, cider, meat, eggs maple syrup, and preserves from local venues like: Aaron Burr Cidery, Hidden Acre, Majestic, and Winterton Farms, R and R Produce, Right from the Hive, Woodside Blue Preserves, and Local Lady Eatery.

Besides the BKAA, Mamakating Library hosts a Childrens’ Hour and Crafts, Wurtsboro Art Alliance highlights local artists, Wurtsboro Board of Trade provides weekly business specials, and area artisans display their creative gems.

Live music by musicians Little Sparrow, J.B.Bones, Alyanna Martine, Jon Zanger, and Alyssa Goldstein contributes to the event’s festive atmosphere.

The Farmers Market will operate Fridays through October. For more information, email mamakatingfarmersmarket@gmail.com or fharding@hvc.rr.com.

Anonymous Donor Offers Prize for Best Basha Kill Wetlands Painting at 2019 Hudson Valley Plein Air Festival

Paula Medley

On behalf of the BKAA, an anonymous donor is contributing a $150.00 award for Best Basha Kill Wetlands Painting at the Hudson Valley Plein Air Festival, sponsored by Wallkill River School. All festival art will be exhibited on Sunday, October 13 from 3 to 5 PM at Orange Hall Gallery, SUNY Orange, Middletown.

The donor hopes to inspire more artists to feature the Basha Kill’s beauty and uniqueness in their works.

Poetry Corner:

Summer Bouquet

— Susan Erny

I think I might die in July
From that incredibly
Intoxicating
Captivating
Scintillating
Musty fragrance
The bouquet of all earth’s glory
Her lush, thick blooms
Coupled with
God’s humid breath
I am overtaken
By the goldmine I find
In this garden
Such color!
First I’ll sample the Echinacea
With its prickly stems
Next the sweet daisies
On to the caves of the snapdragons
Marigolds call loudly to me
Finally, my favorite
— bee balm!
Yum! Yum!

I am dizzy with joy
My legs are heavy laden
I must get this gold dust
Back to the hive
And tell the others
Of this treasure trove
It will be all the Buzz!
Nathan Ermer

(Editor’s Note: This article was originally published in the June, 2019 Conservationist magazine.)

Bashakill Wildlife Management Area (WMA), located beneath the Shawangunk Ridge, 65 miles northwest of New York City, is home to one of southeastern New York’s largest and most accessible wetlands. This 3,107-acre WMA contains almost 2,000 acres of emergent marsh and forested swamp, and is a premier destination for birding and waterfowl hunting. The Basher Kill, the stream that passes through the wetland’s six miles, supports a quality warmwater fishery and provides an enjoyable venue for flatwater paddling.

The protected, pristine wetland habitats and surrounding uplands form the basis for a diverse community of fish and wildlife, from breeding marsh birds and abundant neotropical migrants to river otters and the iron-colored shiner, a rare fish not found anywhere else in New York. Although the WMA encompasses more than 1,200 upland acres, it is truly the Bashakill’s wetlands, and specifically its emergent marsh, that attract wildlife and human visitors to the area. In the marsh, pickerelweed and arrow arum are the dominant plant species. Other common species found here include cattail and tussock-forming sedges. Invasive wetland plant species such as purple loosestrife and common reed are scattered in pockets within the WMA, but have not become so common that they have displaced native plants or compromised habitat integrity.

There are many reptile and amphibian species here, such as snapping turtles, pickerel frogs, and longtail salamanders, and the deeper water of the Basher Kill stream channel supports coontail and pond weed, as well as floating vegetation such as spatterdock. The forested swamp habitats at the Bashakill’s northern end are dominated by an open red maple overstory, with diverse shrub and herbaceous species in the understory, including buttonbush, winterberry, and marsh marigold.

High avian (bird species) diversity makes the Bashakill a magnet for the large community of local birders. Common breeding bird species include the wood duck, Canada goose, yellow warbler, and common yellowthroat. Other, less common species that nest at the WMA include pied-billed grebe, American bittern, and whip-poor-will. The WMA’s two bald eagle breeding territories are focal points for visitors’ attention, and people can appreciate these birds by using spotting scopes from easily accessible locations without disturbing the eagles.

Muskrat, mink, and beaver are distributed throughout the wetlands, and white-tailed deer, fox, and fisher can be found in the upland habitats and wetland periphery. The WMA contains a natural cave, Surprise Cave, which is not open to the public since it may contain overwintering bats that should not be disturbed.

The Bashakill WMA offers excellent recreational opportunities, many of which are accessible for visitors of all abilities. Because the area’s waterfowl hunting is widely recognized as some of the finest in the region, the WMA has special rules. Waterfowl hunters must apply for an additional DEC permit by contacting the DEC Region 3 office at (845) 256-3098 (see sidebar). These permits help
regulate this activity and provide a better-quality experience for participants. Trapping is also popular due to an abundance of aquatic furbearers, especially muskrat and mink, and requires an area-specific permit. Birding and nature photography are enjoyed at the WMA year-round, and Bashakill photographers routinely capture breathtaking images of the area’s abundant wildlife and spectacular landscape.

The D&H Canal towpath and the abandoned Ontario and Western railroad grade provide almost 12 miles of level, multi-use trails, and there is an accessible fishing platform at the water control structure. The accessible waterfowl hunting/wildlife observation blind provides opportunities for users of all abilities. Anglers routinely catch largemouth bass and bowfin, an unusual fish species that is widespread within the wetland.

The Basha Kill Area Association, an advocacy group composed entirely of volunteers, provides education and outreach to WMA users through a Nature Watch Program, and conducts an annual Bashakill clean-up day that is in its 38th year. The town of Mamakating has recently developed an environmental education and interpretation center adjacent to the WMA to further enhance the experience of area visitors. In addition, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Northeastern Cave Conservancy, and Wurtsboro Boy Scout Troop all fulfill voluntary stewardship roles at the WMA.

The range of recreational activities at the Bashakill WMA reflects the diversity of this wetlands area and provides visitors with a wide choice of options to enjoy nature.

**Site Features**

**NOTES:** Open year-round. Birding, waterfowl hunting, fishing, trapping, and nature photography are all popular activities. Trapping and waterfowl hunting require a special permit, which can be obtained from the Region 3 DEC Office. The WMA is known for its diverse wildlife, including 200 species of birds, and is a state-designated Bird Conservation Area. The WMA has fifteen miles of walking trails and several observation towers. There are two trailered boat launches and three hand launch sites. The site has several wheelchair-accessible features, including a fishing platform on South Road and a waterfowl hunting and wildlife observation blind on Haven Road.

**DIRECTIONS:** Located between NYS Route 209 and South Road, and bisected by Haven Road. South of the Village of Wurtsboro, the WMA is located just east of Route 209. Road parking areas are located on South Road, Haven Road, and Route 209.

**CONTACT:** For more information visit [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82727.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82727.html) or call the Region 3 DEC Office at (845) 256-3098.

Nathan Ermer is a Wildlife Biologist in DEC’s New Paltz office.

![Mink](image1.png) ![Largemouth bass](image2.png) ![The Bashakill marsh, looking north from Haven Road.](image3.png)
Wrapping Up The 17th Season of Nature Watch

Maryallison Farley

In its 17th year of operation, a dedicated cadre (42 people) of BKAA Nature Watch (NW) volunteers worked as educational ambassadors for the Basha Kill. They recorded observations about behavior of the nesting bald eagle pair at the southern end of the Basha Kill (Nesting Territory #35 of NYS DEC Region). We're happy to report that the pair raised two eaglets who successfully fledged. Like last year, ospreys did not build a nest across the Kill from the boat launch. However, individual ospreys were occasionally seen in the area throughout the season. The newer pair of bald eagles at the Basha Kill's northern end once again successfully raised and fledged two young eagles.

NW began the 2019 season with their annual Volunteer Training. Lance Verderame and John Haas were keynote presenters who gave an information packed update on “Birds of the Bashakill.” They armed volunteers with lots of knowledge to share with visitors at the boat launch. Nathan Ermer, NYSDEC Wildlife Biologist and Bashakill Wildlife Management Area Manager, attended training as a key resource person, as did Gary Keeton, local naturalist and historian.

With training under their belts, the NW Team then covered weekend shifts at the boat launch from April 13th to June 23rd (eleven weeks) and logged in approximately 1,554 visitors and 442 boats. This is a relatively high number of visitors tallied, especially when considing the excessive rain this season. We cancelled ten shifts because of rain! That means we lost 30 hours of coverage. Fortunately, we had an amazingly dedicated group who stuck with the program in spite of this bad weather and changing shifts. NW data gets compiled at season's end and this year, volunteer Eileen Lake stepped up to the plate and took on this major job. We then forwarded her summary to DEC for their use.

Our volunteers are at the core of this program, including Co-Leaders Maryallison Farley, Cathy Liljequist and Kevin Keller with Nora Brusinski and Eileen Lake joining in to help with key tasks. Nora assumed the essential task of sending weekly e-mail updates to NW members so that even when not on shift, they were updated about what was going on with the eagles and other wildlife. Nora's insightful summaries were appreciated by all. As previously mentioned, Eileen Lake stepped up to the plate and took on this major job. We then forwarded her summary to DEC for their use. Our volunteers are at the core of this program, including Co-Leaders Maryallison Farley, Cathy Liljequist and Kevin Keller with Nora Brusinski and Eileen Lake joining in to help with key tasks. Nora assumed the essential task of sending weekly e-mail updates to NW members so that even when not on shift, they were updated about what was going on with the eagles and other wildlife. Nora's insightful summaries were appreciated by all. As previously mentioned, Eileen Lake stepped up to the plate and took on this major job. We then forwarded her summary to DEC for their use.

Summing it up, I think a big part of what draws most to the program and keeps them coming back as volunteers, sometimes for years, is the pure enjoyment of talking with visitors at the Bashakill. Sharing information about this wonderful resource and introducing people to their first view of an eagle in the wild are experiences that are pretty special. We encourage you to think about joining us next season! Long-time volunteer Paul Gamer brought his grandson, high school student Sean Dufifie, as a new recruit this year. Sean loved NW and we look to see him at the boat launch next year.

Thanks to all our 2019 Nature Watch volunteers:

Wilma Amthor
Janet Barnett
Maureen & Willie Bowers
Nora Brusinski
Ann Cartwright
Gef Chumard
Jeanne Cimorelli
Steve Colman
Frank Coviello
Patricia Diness
Michael Dunckley
Ed & Nancy Duvinski
Mike Egan
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Eileen Lake
Robin Kukla & Cathy Liljequist
Michael Medley
Karen Miller
John & Marcia Monaco
Maura & Bob Muller
Kate & Joel Murphy
Kathy O'Sullivan
Margaret Dryer Perkins
Lara Sheikh
Lisa Soderblom
Matt Zeitler
BKAA Nature Watch Summary

BKAA South Road Boat Launch Visitors
Recorded by BKAA Nature Watch Teams
April - June 2019

BKAA Nature Watch Summary

Bald Eagle Nest Activity DEC Region 3,
Breeding Territory NY 35
Total: 28 Chicks Hatched Since 1998
*2018: at least one chick hatched, but none fledged

Eggs  Fledged
Rebecca Tejeda, First Time Bash Kill Visitor (during Nature Watch), is Entranced by a Tiger Swallowtail’s Exquisite Beauty

Photos by Bob Muller
“Happy for Herps”

Alva Jones

We who live in this region are most fortunate to be close to our 3,000 plus acre Bashakill Wildlife Management Area. I had often walked the railroad bed trail, whatever the weather or time of year. It had always been a peaceful and beautiful experience, admiring the changing foliage and wildlife. However, these outings, though enjoyable, had been undertaken with an uneducated eye!

Walking the same trail on Sunday, June 2nd, with Bill Cutler, herpetologist, afforded me an altogether different experience, one of unexpected revelations about our fascinating local flora and fauna. That day, Bill certainly deepened my understanding of the awesome riches of our Basha Kill.

On that clear, warm, sunny morning, twenty- two people gathered at Haven Road parking lot, hiked east across Haven Road bridge, and turned left onto the railroad trail. We ranged in age from a toddler to an eighty year-old woman (me); the group included a set of bright twins (Yes, I wasn’t seeing double ), Deanna Lickey, instructional assistant from SUNY Sullivan, and our energetic, knowledgeable leader, Bill.

Upon arriving at the RR parking lot, as though by prior arrangement, we were privileged to see a large snapping turtle laying her eggs in a scooped out area of soil. Her eggs were golf ball size, white, and covered in a leathery shell. Nearby, Bill showed us another snapping turtle nest whose eggs had been dug up and eaten by a predator. Also close by, Bill pointed out a much smaller, colorful turtle, called an eastern painted turtle. Both of these seemed undisturbed by our presence.

Bill led us north along the railroad bed, identifying native and invasive species; the latter included phragmites and purple loosestrife.

At a certain point, he guided us uphill into the woods to the right of the RR bed, where it intersected a rocky little stream. Here, Bill lifted rocks and scanned for the stream’s inhabitants. He carried a clear plastic baggie into which he scooped first, a wood frog, and then a red eft, releasing each after we had had a good look at these woodland inhabitants. I learned that the orange-red, one and one-half inch eft was “the terrestrial phase of a predominantly aquatic newt.” What riches we enjoyed especially as shared by Bill!

Reaching South Road, we visited the Town of Mamakating Environmental Education Center where we enjoyed depictions of area flora and fauna. Returning to our cars, we came across a dead snake on Haven Road. Bill identified it as a ribbon snake.

The weather, which had been sunny until then, clouded up and rain began to fall, but not before we had reached our cars, an informative and pleasant day behind us. Thanks, Bill!

NYS DEC Bald Eagle Restoration Program

Gene Weinstein

By the 1970’s, the bald eagle population throughout the country had been decimated. DDT, a pesticide used in farming, contaminated fish and waterfowl, both of which are important sources of an eagle’s diet. By interfering with calcium metabolism, the eagles were unable to produce eggshells that withstood the pressures of incubation.

When Peter Nye, Leader of New York State DEC Endangered Species Unit, took over in 1976, only one pair of nesting bald eagles was found in the whole state. It was his plan to restore an eagle population by acquiring eagle chicks from other states (mostly Alaska). Having been reared in captivity, it was not known whether or not a bald eagle would survive in the wild, much less reproduce and remain in New York.

Literally, an army of volunteers, scattered throughout the state, helped answer both questions. It was our assignment to report sightings in our respective areas including the bird's age, sex (if possible), wing tag or leg band alphanumeric, and other unusual observations such as injuries. During late February and March, we submitted nesting information to check both the integrity and insure security (especially when a nest might be disturbed during breeding). Pete would be notified when chicks were between three to eight weeks of age, since then they were unable to hop and fly from the nest. Later, he climbed the nest tree to band the chicks, facilitating continuing data collection.

In 2010 Pete’s final report listed the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Nesting pairs of bald eagles in NYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>323 - noted more recently</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Serving as a volunteer in the Bald Eagle Restoration Program for 22 years was a reward unmatched by most other experiences.
Moonlight Ramble With Gary Keeton

Ellen Pilipski

We were a group of 12, including our guide. There were folks from Westbrookville, Wurtsboro, Walker Valley and Port Jervis who were walk returnees. We also had 3 ladies from Kerhonkson, first timers, as was I. The weather was a bit cold when I left home. However, while walking, my jacket came off as pleasant temperatures prevailed. Though cloud cover obscured the moon, fireflies did a great job of lighting our way.

Gary first led us along Haven Road and explained about layers of peat, how channels were cut and glaciers created the valley. He mentioned that a dam further downstream pushed water back to what we now have and enjoy. He talked of fish, birds, butterflies, trees and 2 kinds of roses. One is the multiflora rose, originally used by farmers as living fences. Gary described how birds ate their rosebuds and deposited them, causing many plants to sprout near roadways, where they are frequently viewed today. There is also the pink rose which has a wonderful scent. Additionally, he stated that our parking area, site of a fossil ledge, is called Pigeon Hill as carrier pigeons were once used there. Regarding peat, he described how plants’ growth and decay over countless years produces many soil layers, preserving bones of animals which fell into the peat. Consequently, Gary believes the Basha Kill may have Mastodon bones.

We learned of various trees, some growing in wetlands and others on drier ground. Chestnuts were wiped out by blight, but there are Maples, Willow, Pine, Pin and Red Oaks. On the rail bed was a 70 year old Pine, thriving there since the trains stopped operating. Farther away was a group of 7 Pines appearing as one but really were 7 single trees from one dropped pinecone. We encountered concrete platforms where trains stopped for water and picked up milk jugs left by farmers to be taken to market. These jugs were marked by each farmer, then returned by train.

Later we arrived at “Travelers Spring”, so named because people came here to obtain fresh water, flowing from the Shawangunks. The spring was stoned in during the 18th to early 19th century. Multiple artifacts have been discovered nearby, like weight sinkers, emergent vegetation nets woven from reeds and bags fashioned from grasses. It is thought that the Native Americans fished here as their campsite remains also have been found.

The Bashakill has the largest nesting wood duck population in the northeast and nesting boxes have been built and placed in the Kill as well as surrounding forests. They are an amazing duck to be sure, but you must walk with Gary to hear more about them. I was surprised to learn that we have thousands of Snapping Turtles as well as Stink Pot Musk Turtles. We found a turtle nest that had been eaten, leaving only shells, but Gary assured us that this was okay since turtles lay up to 40 eggs each time. Actually, we could experience turtle overpopulation if not for predators.

Ending our journey and about to emerge onto Haven Road, we were finally graced with the moon’s presence, so we did, in fact, have a Moonlight Walk.

Gary provides a wealth of information, so everyone interested should join a future outing. Trip participants agreed to return because each time they learn something new. We are truly blessed to live in such an amazing valley.
Walking Through Time on the D&H Canal Towpath with Gary Keeton

Alethea Pape

The 108 mile D & H Canal towpath bordering the Basha Kill has the area's past incorporated in its layers. That history was revealed by Gary Keeton on a BKAA sponsored history walk, Saturday, July 6. We know that history and ecology are closely related. Who better to pull it all together than Gary, our local naturalist?

Initially, stormy weather threatened the event. Although Gary likely would not have cancelled, activities are always better with other people. Lovers of the Basha Kill don't cancel for weather either. Ten stalwarts from Yankee Lake, Mountaindale, and Fallsburg attended and were greeted with sunny skies. A canopy of trees sheltered us from direct sunlight. We enjoyed Gary's full attention as we learned canal history's relationship to the Basha Kill's flora and fauna, tying in effects the canal had on the environment and early settlers.

The walk commenced at the trailhead in Westbrookville. As soon as we crested the steep slope onto the towpath and stood upright, Gary went right into explaining the engineering feat of the canal’s construction. Directly to our left, we glimpsed the nearly two-centuries old hand-built stone wall. Our eyes followed to the dip of scooped earth that cradled barges as heavy as 30 tons. Past the canal bed, the earthen berme stood, no small endeavor in the wetlands. This enterprising spirit that sprung from the wetlands valley is the very reason we walk this path. Gary covered history on all points.

The slightly less than a mile walk was at a comfortable pace as we paused along its entirety. Traversing the path, we saw sides of the canal basin erected by hand and designed by engineers in 1828 without the technology available to us now. We ventured further back in time, hearing of the squaw-sachem, for whom the Basha Kill was named.

As we looked into the dry basin where water once flowed, we imagined boat captains pulling their stock of anthracite coal, just beginning the seven day trip to the Hudson River. We tried to picture the difficult situation of a 30 ton boat passing an empty ferry in the opposite direction. We walked on the same towpath as young working children, who led mules tethered to boats guiding their passage. The towpath that now sheltered us from the sun was then bare of trees or shrubbery, allowing for unrestrained trekking during a ten hour work day.

We learned of enterprising residents, who opened up shop, accommodating canal workers by allowing their hay barns to be used at night by exhausted child laborers and their mules. We also heard of disagreements that arose among locals and workers, along with some tragic tales. Gary even knew personal accounts of the original area families.

On the towpath, unintentionally introduced plant-life from canal laborers was visible, like English Ivy. Gary pointed out the Shawagunk Ridge nestling the valley, forming the wetlands with nutrient-rich runoff. At one time, the ridge was devoid of Hemlock and Fir trees from tanning production.

Gary answered questions throughout, customizing his talk with information from decades of studies, teaching students from kindergarten through college, and in outings for attendees like us. Now we have remnants of these past centuries with the towpath, providing a walkway and guide through wetland resources, including details hard to find on our own.

BKAA Natural History Walk

Jack Austin

After a rainy week, clear weather on June 22nd permitted 6 curious nature lovers (4 were retired educators from Monticello Schools) to walk the railroad trail from Haven Road.

We quickly found hundreds of tiny toads hopping along the edge of the Basha Kill, enjoyed views from the observation booth, then encountered endangered pink lady slippers, New York’s orchid, just after blooming. Along the path we also smelled fragrance from crushed wintergreen, discovered several American chestnut sprouts from an older stump, Indian pipes pushing through the forest floor leaves, and distinguished between white and black oaks as well as poison ivy and Virginia creeper leaves. Partridge berry, ground pine and crows foot were commonly seen. Songs of thrushes, vireos, nuthatches, woodpeckers and other woodland birds added to the morning air’s tranquility.

A great pleasure is sharing the knowledge and experiences each brings to these outings. At walk’s end, we stopped at the nearby Mamakating Environmental Center and enjoyed the hospitality of curator, Carol Covington. It was a wonderful day.
BKAA Educational Outings

Snapping Turtle depositing eggs

Getting a closer look at a young Wood Frog (bag provides protection to delicate amphibia sensitive to human sweat and oils) prior to release

Happy for Herps
Photos by Bill Cutler
On Sunday June 9, 2019 after several weeks of soggy weather, a group of twenty said hello to sunshine and each other at the Haven Road DEC parking lot.

Our host and guide for the hike was Marty Borko, SUNY Orange Professor Emeritus, coming all the way from Waverly, New York. The program was titled “Vegetation and Plants Relationship to the Basha Kill Ecology”

Our first example of Basha Kill plant life was from the mustard family – “poor man’s pepper”. Peppergrass spreads easily, is an edible and foragers appreciate it for its sharp peppery flavor.

Along the walk to the Haven bridge we saw Daisy Fleabane, Autumn Olive, Milkweed, Siberian Iris, the Button Bush and the Musk Turtle aka Stink Pot!

As we proceeded to walk north along the rail trail, Marty pointed to a Yellow Warbler making the bird folks happy, mentioning that it is one of the more common warblers.

Marty picked a White Oak leaf, warning us to beware of the Poison Ivy Vine. The White Oak is rarer than the Red Oak. Because of its hardness, the White Oak is used for furniture building and tool handles. As an aside, White Tail deer prefer White Oak acorns to Red Oak acorns because they have less tannin.

Among the 20 to 30 plants Marty identified and discussed were:

Witch Hazel used to make a skin healing astringent. Reindeer Moss which is not actually a moss, but a lichen, an important food for reindeer (caribou),

Horsetails although poisonous to livestock, are used by humans in folk medicines.

Multiflora Rose originally introduced as a soil conservation measure is now considered an invasive species. Hips of the plant are edible.

Earlier in the morning, a man walked up to us and asked if we might move our parked cars to double up instead of keeping them in a single row… taking up the whole parking lot. He said a group with six horse trailers were about to show up from Pennsylvania to ride the tow path and rail trails. Someone suggested that we could move our cars to the secondary lot, which we did. It was a great idea.

As we left, there were in fact 6 horse trailers in the parking lot. Oh, I have it from a reliable source that horses love the Basha Kill as much as we do!
Photos by Carolyn Kessinger

Indian Pipes (left) and baby toad (right). Photos by Jack Austin

BKAA Natural History Walk
Moonlight Ramble
Photos by Ellen Pilipski

D&H Canal Walk
Photos by Alethea Pape
2019 BKAA Campers

(Editor’s Note: For the first time, this year’s campers all attended Camp DeBruce in the Catskills. While there, they encountered adventures that enhanced their self-confidence and environmental awareness. Here are their stories.

Notably, the trappers course was conducted by volunteer instructors who dispensed legally harvested pelts to generate increased interest in trapping.)

MARY CLARK

Thank you for sponsoring me to Camp DeBruce. I had so much fun. I went on the overnight and it was a blast. We made a mini village and we slept in tents. I also did a skit about the counselors in the zombie apocalypse. I ran over Shaq, one of the counselors. I also made so many friends there, my cabin was awesome! Emily (mama goose) was my cabin counselor and she was awesome. She kept an anonymous box where we could address any problems. Overall it was another great experience that I will cherish forever, thank you so much!

JUSTIN COSTELLO

I just wanted to say thank you for the great opportunity I had this summer to attend the DeBruce DEC camp. I had a great time and learned a lot of new things about nature. We had an overnight trip and got to sleep in a tent. It rained but was still fun. The best part of the week was when I got chosen along with my friend Chase to come back again next year and be volunteers!

ALEX DECKER

Hello my name is Alex and thank you for the scholarship. I enjoyed going back to Camp DeBruce again. My favorite part of camp was the camp Olympics. Some of the activities at camp were water sports. Thank you for giving me the scholarship to go.

ASHLEY KING

I lived in the city until I was 12 years old. Living in the city did not allow me to connect with nature. When I moved upstate, it helped me appreciate my environment. I found out about the Bashkill sponsorship through my school and I am glad that I decided to apply. Through the sponsorship, I was able to attend Camp DeBruce, which was an eye opener for me. The camp helped me realize and appreciate nature around me. As a person who initially lived in the city, I did not have the opportunity to do things outside. At Camp DeBruce, I did many things outdoors. I went hiking on Balsam Mountain, which was very tough, but at the end I got to see a very rewarding view. I made smores, set up a tent and slept overnight in the woods, which was fun. I learned how to make a bonfire and build a shelter in the woods, how non-renewable energies can affect earth and how to identify the different types of trees.

My favorite part of the camp was the Trappers Safety educational course. In the course, I learned the safety rules...
of a responsible trapper, I learned how to set different types of traps outside, and I learned how to skin an animal. At the end of the course, I took a test to get my Trappers License. I passed the test and I am looking forward to starting trapping very soon. I am very glad I went to Camp DeBruce and I would be happy to do so again.

SHEALYN LEON

My first sleep-away camp experience was good. Camp DeBruce was really fun and educational. The counselors and staff made sure everyone was included and had a good time. They were very caring and funny. My overnight was for trapping safety, the day after we took the safety class. The class taught us how to trap and what the furbearers were. Since we were the most interactive class, the instructors gave away three pelts, I won the raccoon pelt. My favorite part about camp was the skits and all the cool campers. Seeing all the skits and making our own skits was exciting, and meeting new people was thrilling. Overall, my camp experience was delightful, I went into camp nervous and anxious but left relaxed and calm.

LEO MESSENGER

In this essay I will explain why and how I had a fun time at Camp DeBruce. At camp we had an opening camp fire where they did a lot of funny skits. The one I like the most was JC Penney. In the skit, a bunch of people were saying that they got their clothes from JC Penny. At the end, a person named JC Penny said they took all of his clothes and he was wearing a box! That was probably my favorite moment.

I made a few friends but there were a lot of people that I would talk to here and there. Overall, I had a great time at camp with cool people, good food, and great entertainment. I cannot wait to go back next year.

OWEN MESSENGER

DEC camp was tons of fun! We got to camp outside in the wilderness and I got to meet new people. Me and my friends went on a hike and camped in the woods with our counselors. Even though it was raining we still played games and had fun. We had a big campfire and roasted marshmallows before bed in our tents. It was super fun. I met so many new people and made friends while playing games. I also made friends with the people in my cabin and we hung out a lot whether we were playing basketball or going to the beaver pond. I had a lot of fun at DEC camp and I’m thinking about going next year too!

SKYLER REDZIMSKI

Thank you so much for sending me to Camp DeBruce this summer. Once again, I had an experience that I soon won’t forget. Coincidentally, my fellow peers that I befriended from last year were on the same week as I was, so I got to see some familiar faces that I never thought I’d see again. Just like every year, the food and counselors were amazing, and the hard work the staff puts into this camp really pays off. My favorite experience from last year was the fun games you get to do with your friends and counselors, and I was quite surprised that the games were even more enjoyable this year, adding to the experience. I also made some new friends this year that were very unique and changed the format for me. Another great thing about my week was the overnight. I was put on the overnight with the longest hike, and, even though it was very tiring bringing all the supplies there and back, getting to the campsite that was up the mountain made everyone feel like they actually accomplished something in their life. Saying goodbye to all the great people I met there was kind of harsh, but I knew someday I’d see them again. Even though the most famous game there called Zap was cancelled because of faulty weather, we had a great time nonetheless. Camp DeBruce will always be in my memories as the good old days, and I thank you for making that happen in the first place.

ANNELIESE VITALE

( Editor’s Note: Anneliese earned a “Naturalist of the Week” certificate.) Thank you so much for choosing my essay and sponsoring me for a week at DEC camp. When I first got to camp, I was a bit nervous but by the end of the day, I had already met a bunch of really nice people. I loved all of the counselors, especially my cabin counselor Emily (mama goose). I learned so many things while having a blast. For example, when we played "oh deer" we learned about a disease that is spread through deer and kills them. We learned that salt blocks spread the disease so people shouldn’t put them out. I also really enjoyed fly fishing and even got to make my own flies. It was a lot of fun learning while in the woods because we got to experience and see what we were learning. Lastly, the food was great and all the games before meals were super fun. I really hope I get to go to camp again next year.
Where Are They Now?

Dylan Broder
A Year Abroad

(Editor’s Note: Dylan and her family are long-time BKAA volunteers.)

Ever since I can remember, traveling the world has been on my “to-do” list, but it always seemed like something I would have to check off in the future. However, when applying to Marist College, I discovered a program entitled “Freshman Florence Experience,” which allows a select number of incoming freshmen to spend their entire first year living and learning in Florence, Italy. While I thought this was unattainable, I checked the “yes” box on my application and wrote the required short essay explaining why I was interested. As a Fashion Design major, experiencing other cultures is a tremendous source of inspiration, and networking abroad is priceless.

When I received my acceptance letter to Marist and their fashion program, I was also offered the Freshman Florence Experience. While I heard this news early in the year, I did not commit to Marist and the abroad program until May 1st, 2018. I was fortunate to obtain enough scholarships and financial aid allowing me to attend my dream school and see the world. I never thought 18-year-old me would check this off my “to-do” list. Though I was extremely nervous to be far away from home for so long, I was excited to embark on my dream journey.

Upon arriving in Italy, in late August, I was eager to see Florence, but was also very apprehensive since it was my first time abroad. My initial week consisted of various activities that prepared me for my freshman year and living alone in a foreign country. I stayed my first night in a villa outside the city, meeting other students, as well as our RA’s, advisor and professors. Returning to Florence, we settled into our apartments. All freshmen in this program lived in a two-bedroom one. All were fully furnished with essentials, but we went to IKEA to get whatever else was needed.

While the program was managed by my home college, Marist, most courses were taken through the Lorenzo de’ Medici Institute, an international school based in Italy. The first semester, all took Italian Language, Writing for College, and an introductory freshman class called First Year Seminar. Additionally, I had an Italian cooking class, which satisfied my science credit as well as an introductory fashion course required for my major. The beauty of studying in such a historical city was that our courses focused on the culture surrounding us. First Year Seminar was entitled “Michelangelo’s Florence.” This, taught by a Marist professor, enabled us to learn about one of the most famous Renaissance artists in the city where he was from and where many of his works were displayed. Numerous classes occurred in various museums around the city where we viewed some of Michelangelo’s most famous works, as well as those of many other Renaissance artists, like Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, and Botticelli. We even spent a weekend in Rome and visited the Colosseum, Pantheon and Vatican City. I also learned about Florence’s history in my Writing for College class where we heard about the famous Medici family who ruled Florence for many years. Second semester I took classes related to my fashion design major, as well as fulfilled more general education requirements.

When not in classes, I explored Florence and traveled. These were the times I learned the most about Italian culture. The streets of Florence are filled with history, art, food, and interesting people. While I loved finding new places to eat and see, the beauty of living here for a year was that I established a routine and really made Florence my home. A favorite experience was visiting Mercato Centrale or Central Market every Saturday morning to buy my week’s groceries. Mercato Centrale is an indoor market filled with vendors selling meats, cheeses, fruits and vegetables, olive oil, spices, and everything a local Italian might need. What made this so special is, that when there, I felt most like a local. It was where I practiced my Italian and truly appreciated the culture that surrounded me. Vendors took pride in their products and I loved observing their passion for their culture. My friends and I visited Florence’s best restaurants in our free time and ate their signature dishes like bistecca alla fiorentina. We experienced aperitivo, an Italian version of cocktail hour where drinks and appetizers are served and enjoyed Florence night life.

On weekends outside Florence, I traveled to various cities around Italy as well as other countries. For fall break, I spent a week in Barcelona, Spain. Barcelona was by far my favorite city outside of Florence. It is full of history but also embraces the modern world. People there value their past, but also welcome the future and this was a refreshing change from Florence. Over the week I visited many of Barcelona’s famous attractions like La Sagrada Familia, but also immersed myself in the culture by walking through bustling streets and sampling exquisite cuisine such as paella and countless versions of tapas. In January I visited Paris, its Louvre, and ate fresh baked croissants while in March I traveled to Vienna.

In Italy I explored Siena, Pisa, Rome, Venice, Milan, Bologna, Sorrento, Naples and Pompeii among other cities, all uniquely special. Sorrento is one of my favorites, located on the coast with the bluest water I have ever seen. It is also filled with lemon trees, as Sorrento is known for

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Where Are They Now?

Truth Muller

Dispatches from the Gulf of Maine

(Editor’s Note: Truth has been a BKAA volunteer since age 11 and frequently contributes to the Guardian.)

It’s a beautiful summer day in the Catskill Mountains. Vast cumulus clouds with flat bottoms and rolling tops cast a blue haze over the pines, maples, oaks, and birches that clothe every peak and slope like green fur. As I sit in the passenger’s seat of my Dad’s car, descending into the valley and crossing through the Bash’Kill via route 17, the road is as familiar as the single hallway of my childhood house. I know every field and furrow, every major change in vegetation, every colorful splash of orange sandstone in the grey shale cliffs. This is home, plain and simple. I’m coming up on 20 years old now, a fact that remains hard to wrap my mind around. Almost two decades between the Catskills and the Shawangunk Ridge, living a life of exploration in the cool green folds of the Bash’. I haven’t been able to come here as often as once since I left for Maine to follow my dreams, dreams of becoming a marine scientist and naturalist, in the fall of 2017; but coming back restores my spirit like electricity recharges a battery.

I took a wide range of classes at College of the Atlantic (COA) Bar Harbor, Maine, this year, from Ecology to Cellular Biology and Animation to Statistics. But out of nine courses I completed my sophomore year, one stood out, towering well above the rest, and it has, as COA courses often do, changed forever the way I see and understand the world we live in. The class was titled Fisheries, Fishermen, and Fishing Communities, taught by my mentor, Dr. Chris Petersen. The course encompassed every aspect of fishing in the Gulf of Maine, a globally significant industry’s lengthy past, complex present, and uncertain future, and the mixture of beautiful and tragic culture that surrounds and in many ways defines the fishermen of Maine.

Part of the class was conducted, as is traditional at COA, through writing assignments, research papers, and classroom discussions. But most importantly, we learned directly from the people of Downeast Maine themselves, through a series of amazing field trips, lectures, and student-conducted interviews. We munched on seaweed pulled straight from the ocean aboard COA’s boat, the Osprey, as seaweed farmer Sarah Redmond explained how she had grown it. Her face was worn by salt, worry, and life, her yellow fisherman’s overalls spattered with half a dozen types of seaweed, and her eyes watching with concern as the weather changed for the worse, and grey waves bucked her flat-bottom harvesting boat against the Osprey. As she hopped effortlessly from one to the other, Dr. Petersen called out “do you have enough gas to get home?” “I might.” “Does you radio work?” “Nope. Dropped it in salt water. I’ll be fine.” and she motored away into the storm, with work still to be done.

Shep Erheart, a tiny man with a broad, toothy smile whose hair had been thinned, his back bent, and his mind sharpened to a razor-edge by time, led us on a tour of his seaweed processing plant, Maine Seacoast Vegetables. The acrid tang of dried irish moss, a type of seaweed used to make dietary supplements, cosmetics, soaps, and toothpaste, was strong in our noses as we stood in the towering seaweed warehouse, while Erheart sung the praises of the company he and his wife built up from little more than a dream starting in 1971, now one of the United State’s primary producers of sustainably harvested, organic edible seaweeds.

Another day found us in the now-silent packing room of McCurdy’s Smokehouse in Lubec, Maine, the last alewife smokehouse still standing on the entire east coast, rising on time-worn pilings from the murky waters of Lubec Narrows, which separate Maine from Canada. Annie, the wizened museum tour guide and a living encyclopedia of Maine’s sardine-packing industry, leaned heavily on her cane to support a frame weakened by forty years of chronic Lyme, and told us that long before Maine Lobster was a household word, it was smoked Maine sardines, packed in wooden boxes and later tins, that dominated Maine’s entire economy and supplied the global demand for sardines and herring until the late 1960’s. According to Annie, “once these last few buildings are gone, and rising sea levels may soon take them, there will be nothing left of this part of history at all.”

With each place we visited and each person we talked to, I slowly began to piece together an understanding of how Maine’s fishing industry works, and affects the entire world, without most of the world realizing it. To complete the course, I undertook an extensive oral history project in which I interviewed five downeast fishermen: My

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DISPATCHES continued from page 25

ornithology professor, mentor, and friend Scott Swann, who paid his way through college, marriage, and raising his two sons with money made from scallop diving during its heyday in the mid 1980’s; His former classmate, Edward E. Monat III, better known as Diver Ed, his eccentric persona onboard his “Dive-in-theater” only one of many lives he has led, including life-long lobsterman, salvage diver, and one of the ecologists who helped design Biosphere 2; Former Maine state senator Dennis Damon, now a professional storyteller with a child-like twinkle of cleverness in his eyes, and long ago a herring fisherman from age 12 to 26; “Junior” Bracy, a deceptively frail-looking lobsterman, who, at 81 years old, is still hauling up lobster traps and halibut lines from the depths with the largest pair of hands I’ve ever seen — arthritic, scarred, and two fingertips short of a full set— just as he has been every year since 1951; and Junior’s son, Scott Bracy, the youngest of the five, never before interviewed for anything, nervously tapping his cigarette ash into an empty diet pepsi can, talking of his father’s golden years, of hubcap-sized scallops, of the trial, error, and triumph of farming shellfish, and childhood memories of sea horses brought home by dad, straight from the sea outside.

I’ve learned now, from my conversations with the fisherfolk of Downeast Maine, what it takes to “do” marine conservation. It requires working alongside the people who have worked these waters for generations, people who have a deeper, more complex understanding of the animals they depend on for a living than almost any scientist or conservationist ever could. They respect the sea and its creatures, and understand where seafood comes from. I’ve seen the wrong way to do things, too, in the form of engineered salmon penned up in a fish farm run by a massive international corporation that has no regard for or understanding of Maine, its people, or its fish, only profit. What I understand now is that conservation of fisheries is key to feeding and sustaining life on our planet, and advocating for these fisheries alongside the people who know them best is an integral part of what I want to do with my future.

It is here again, in the Basha Kill, after a long and in some ways very difficult year, that I find hope when I fear that, despite these lessons I have learned, that all may still be lost. The power of what conservation and motivated individuals banding together can do is as clear in this wetland as the song of a red-winged blackbird at dawn. There is hope in the buzzing of bees dancing upon a flower I have never before seen, hope on the wingtips of a young bald eagle as it soars overhead, king or queen of the sky itself. There is hope in the clear, cool waters flowing between the fresh steel framework of a new Haven Bridge, hope in the clouds that hurl rain and lightning and roar thunder like ancient, forgotten gods. And in my heart, where the flame has grown weak and low, is rekindled a raging, white-hot inferno which tells me that I, like so many other individuals to whom the sea really, truly matters, can, and will, change the world. My mind is again clear, the lessons of Maine fisherfolk bright before my eyes, and in a few days time, I will return to Maine, to the college I love and the education I crave, to make that tale a reality.

Updates:  
Paula Medley

PARADISE II — Property use here has changed from resort to camp. A camp for adolescent boys pursuing religious studies opened this summer. Besides the boys, camp residents included instructors and their families.

BEAUTIFUL EARTH, HOPPER HILL, SEVEN PEAKS — No further activity.

YEAR ABROAD continued from page 24

Limocello and a lemon cake called delize al limone. Sorrento residents were among the nicest Italians I met, welcoming my friend and me into their city. Sorrento is also known for their fresh seafood, caught daily by local fisherman.

I could go on for days about the amazing experiences in each place. Having the opportunity to study abroad is truly priceless and I am forever grateful for the memories it created. Florence became my home and it was heartbreaking to say goodbye when my year ended. The little things I miss most, like stopping for a panino after class and walking past the duomo on my way home, even seeing locals on the street walking their dogs. I would not trade this past year for the world as I learned more than I could have imagined about the world, but also about myself.

While I miss Italy every day, I am excited for what is to come. In August I will be at Marist’s Poughkeepsie campus and will continue pursuing my degree in Fashion Design. I am eager to immerse myself in campus life and find my niche in New York. I plan on seeking internships in my field and studying abroad again. The latter will help me navigate whatever the future holds. I highly recommend study abroad, as it has made me more independent, boosted my confidence, and opened my eyes to the incredible people, places and opportunities that lie beyond our borders.
Arctic Polar Bear photo by Nancy Masterson
Dylan Broder in front of Cattedrale Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence’s cathedral, also known as “Il Duomo”
Truth Muller
Notes from the Arctic

Nancy S. Masterson

(Editor’s Note: Nancy and husband John are long-time BKAA members)

Maybe you’ve heard of Svalbard, the Norwegian territory in the Arctic Circle, home to the famed Global Seed Vault. It’s in all the travel magazines now. In June, my friend and I took an expedition cruise there, flying 500 miles north of Norway to land in Longyearbyen. Only since an airport opened in 1975, has tourism exploded in this wild and barren land and, coupled with the glaciers’ retreat, impacts of so many visitors is frightening.

From a sturdy old ship, Russian-built and fitted for 170 passengers, we step into the Arctic Ocean from inflatable rafts. Svalbard is a land of fjords, snow-capped peaks, polar bears, walrus, seals, reindeer and immense colonies of cliff-nesting birds. Since 1600, whalers, trappers and miners extracted its natural resources, but that has halted because Norway enacted strict conservation protections. Science exploration has played a role there since the last century. Svalbard was the jumping-off point for early North Pole expeditions, airship attempts and tragedies. Today, the research community of Ny Alesund hosts observatories from ten nations, studying climate change and, due to polar clarity, the far reaches of space.

From every fjord, we see other ships in the distance. Our guides explain the intricate dance of reserving approved landing beaches for our hikes, how they educate tourists about tundra so fragile that a footstep can damage an inch-high plant taking 100 years to bloom. We step through vats of disinfectant upon every return to the ship. Some walks require us to stay near shore, others within a flagged zone. On all, armed guards on promontories protect us from polar bears.

The Arctic shimmers; blue sky, white ice, black shore, blue sea in 24 hour sunshine. I remember the polar bear hunting along a pebbled beach, another sleeping by a seal hole, sea in 24 hour sunshine. I remember the polar bear hunting from polar bears.

From every fjord, we see other ships in the distance. Our guides explain the intricate dance of reserving approved landing beaches for our hikes, how they educate tourists about tundra so fragile that a footstep can damage an inch-high plant taking 100 years to bloom. We step through vats of disinfectant upon every return to the ship. Some walks require us to stay near shore, others within a flagged zone. On all, armed guards on promontories protect us from polar bears.

The Arctic shimmers; blue sky, white ice, black shore, blue sea in 24 hour sunshine. I remember the polar bear hunting along a pebbled beach, another sleeping by a seal hole, still another eating on an ice floe, Puffins close enough to see their clownish smiles. A heaving walrus joining his pile of sleeping hulks. Beluga whales circling our ship. Reindeer grazing on a roadside. The ivory gull studying us from an eye-level perch. Bouncing on rubbery, melting permafrost. Piles of ancient whale bones as large as a bus. A hundred thousand kittiwake birds building their precarious cliff-edge nests. An Arctic fox pausing, sniffing, silhouetted on a ridge. The sapphire-blue of glacial ice, floating by in fantastical shapes.

So raw, so ends-of-the-earth is this precious and frozen land, that I must say please don’t go. Protect and preserve our own Bashakill. Take a hike in the snow on a sunny day. Stay home. Svalbard can’t take many more of us.

Bill Fiero Speaks at Ridgetop Lakes Conservancy

Cathy Dawkins

Ridgetop Lakes Conservancy, Inc. (RLC), neighbor and friend of the BKAA, held a free lecture on “Birds of New York State”, featuring BKAA member, Bill Fiero. The presentation was open to the public, and was well attended by residents of Masten, Wanaksink, Wolf, and Yankee Lakes as well as BKAA members from Sullivan and Orange Counties. Yankee Lake Preservation Association (YLPA) generously offered their Clubhouse for the event on August 17th.

Bill gave an introduction to birdwatching – with tips and hints about feeding, watching, and listening to birds common in our local environment. For novices, he identified resources such as birding books/ clubs, along with how to feed birds, and favored community birding sites. For seasoned birders (there were quite a few), he offered insights into changing patterns in migration and location, better understanding of genus designation based on DNA analysis, and his own photos taken in the nearby area.

Bill answered questions and made himself available for individual ones and comments following his formal presentation.

In 2018, RLC was formed with a mission “to protect and preserve the natural environment of the Shawangunk and Mount Prosper ridgetops and surrounding areas by land acquisition and promoting conservation through educational programs and seminars.” To further their mission, RLC supports, assists, and collaborates with existing community environmental advocacy groups and builds strength through unifying those advocating for protection and conservation of the many freshwater lakes in the Shawangunk and Mount Prosper region. RLC considers itself a partner organization to the BKAA – with a more specialized focus on the ridgetop, above the Basha Kill. Notably, ridgetop lakes are primary feeders to the Basha Kill, so we are connected not only by common values, goals and interests, but by the very waters that we all love.

RLC grew out of a long-held goal to acquire buffer property between the northern end of Yankee Lake and Harlan Swamp. While this land abuts Yankee Lake, it impacts, and is impacted by, the waters of Masten, Wolf, Wanaksink, and Louise Marie lakes…thus the broader mission includes all five of the major ridgetop lakes. RLC’s mission is a long-term goal. Today, it is essentially taking its first “baby steps”.

RLC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, run 100% by volunteers and pays no salaries or bonuses to staff.

For more information about RLC look at their website: www.ridgetoplakesconservancy.org.
Hallelujah! 2019 Mamakating Comprehensive Plan Adopted by Town Board on July 16.

The BKAA Supports its Vision

Paula Medley

Following a three year effort entailing significant public input, the board adopted Mamakating’s Comprehensive Plan (CP), which delineates the town’s Vision of protecting Mamakating’s valuable resources by reducing residential density and siting intensive development in areas with accommodating infrastructure (See accompanying background information). Consequently, the CP provides a template for evolving eco-tourism into Mamakating’s economic engine.

Importantly, #2 of the background document, “Changes to the draft Proposed Comprehensive Plan and Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) Based on Comments Received” reflects effective advocacy by the BKAA and Yankee Lake Preservation Association (YLPA).

2.1.1-YPLA success “The uses prescribed for the Lakes Neighborhoods were revised to exclude docks, boat sales, golf courses, and country clubs.”

2.1.6- BKAA success “It has been clarified that development in the interchange economic zone should require appropriate stormwater, wastewater, and erosion control measures to be implemented to ensure the water quality of effluent and runoff originating from any proposed development within an Interchange Economic Zone does not adversely impact receiving waters.”

While the town board’s final CP version still allows small resort construction on Shawanga Lodge’s property off Exit 114 of Route 86/17 (opposed by the BKAA), enough environmental constraints have been attached to impede unacceptable proposals at this site. If suggested development there is untenable, we will fight it, but nothing serious has been touted since 2003. We strongly maintain that this tract will eventually be purchased by a land trust and become publicly accessible.

Kudos to the town board and everyone involved for creating an “environmentally friendly” Vision.

Currently, work is underway to ensure that zoning regulations effectively enforce CP provisions. Without tough zoning, the CP is mere fluff with no substance!

No Decision Yet by Thompson’s Town Board on Proposed Local Law #6 of 2019 to Enact New and Revised Definitions of Camps, Bungalows, Schools, and Dormitories

Thompson Education Center Purchased Property on Wild Turnpike in 2018 As a Second Access to Their 568 Acre Development Site

Paula Medley

Initially, Thompson’s town board recommended a 6 month moratorium on camp, bungalow, school, and dorm construction, providing time to establish clearer parameters for these facilities throughout the town. However, due to camp/bungalow owners’, developers’ “pushback”, the board replaced their proposed moratorium with suggested local law #6 to strengthen these definitions (see attached local law).

At July 2nd’s local law public hearing, 6 attendees opposed the new definitions while one, BKAA member and Thompson resident Maura Muller, endorsed them. Supporting written testimony was likewise acknowledged.

Subsequently, the written comment period was extended to July 16. During this interval, the BKAA alerted members to the direct connection between Thompson Education Center (TEC) and the local law. After all, TEC is a proposed education center (school) with dorms and less stringent definitions might increase density, for instance, generating obstacles for project opponents like us. BKAA advocacy prompted more favorably disposed local law correspondence. Currently, the board awaits advice on possible revisions from its consulting attorney.

Meanwhile, in June 2018, for $250,000, TEC purchased from Sean Disert a 67 acre Thompson parcel, located on Wild Turnpike one lot over from their 50-foot wide entryway to the 568 acre tract (See accompanying map.)

TEC’s original second access traversed their 4.93 acre Fallsburg property, but that approach was declared illegal by Fallsburg officials and closed, leaving TEC with only one legal way into the 568 acres. Importantly, Thompson’s planning board, lead agency for TEC’s environmental review, mandated a second entrance, hence the 67 acre procurement. This action underscores TEC’s commitment to their venture but, rest assured, we remain on the case!
Background Information Leading to Mamakating’s Adoption of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan

1 — BACKGROUND

The Comprehensive Master Plan for the Town of Mamakating was last adopted in February of 2001. Shortly after adoption of that plan, the Town adopted comprehensive amendments to its zoning in order to implement the Comprehensive Master Plan (hereafter referred to as the 2001 Master Plan).

In 2005 a Committee was assembled to review the 2001 Master Plan and a Discussion Paper was prepared addressing several issues that had evolved over the intervening years. This Discussion Paper, was never adopted as a supplement, revision or addendum to the 2001 Master Plan, yet provides insight into where the appointed Master Plan Committee perceived shortcomings in the Plan and/or Zoning just after its adoption.

In 2014, the Town retained Turner Miller Group (now Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC) to review the existing zoning of the Town and to recommend key changes to address concerns regarding potential mega-residential developments that could be proposed in the several “Economic Development Areas” under the auspices of resort development. There were further concerns about the scale of potential non-residential development that could occur in the Light industrial/Office (LIO) district and developments located in the Town’s most environmentally sensitive and physically challenging areas. After extensive research, investigation and deliberations, the Turner Miller Group determined that the root of many of the Town’s concerns was an apparent disconnect between the recommendations of the 2001 Master Plan text on one hand and the 2001 Land Use Plan Map and then current zoning on the other. This disconnect in many respects had already been noted in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan Update Discussion Paper.

In 2016, the Town of Mamakating adopted comprehensive amendments to its zoning regulations to bring the Town’s zoning local law into closer conformance with the adopted 2001 Plan text.

While these zoning amendments allayed concerns for drastically out-of-character development that could have occurred contrary to the 2001 Plan, several members of the Town Board, Planning Board and the public indicated a desire to comprehensively review and update the 2001 Plan. As noted in the 2005 Update, the plan makes several recommendations that are out of character with the environment and economics of the area, especially as regarded the several “Economic Development Areas” of the 2001 Plan. To this end, the Town Board appointed a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC) which consisted of members of the Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Planning Staff and citizens from a broad range of backgrounds including business, civic and environmental organizations to provide a range of perspectives on planning and development issues.

The CPSC convened over several months starting on March 23, 2016 to review a significant catalog of existing planning studies and to discuss issues confronting the Town. The planning consultant had prepared and compiled a number of planning studies including:

- Existing Land Use Maps;
- Environmental Constraints Maps;
- Public Facilities Maps;
- Review and Report on Past Planning Efforts;
- Consistency of Land Use and Zoning analysis;
- Demographic conditions analysis.

The CPSC then embarked on a multi-phased public outreach effort. This effort was comprised of:

- Identification of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats in a townwide Visioning workshop meeting on May 19, 2016;
- Gathering of public perception and feedback concerning the proposed development strategies in a Charette focused on the Town’s four Village/Hamlet centers;
- Online submission of suggestions through the Town website.
- A planning charette focusing on the Hamlet areas on September 15, 2016.

Also during this time, the Town Board commissioned a hydrogeologic study of the Town’s watersheds and aquifer resources. This report heavily influenced the development of recommendations by the planners and CPSC.

The CPSC conducted a public hearing on July 20th, 2017 at which the principal recommendations and land use plans were presented to the public. The Steering Committee continued the public hearing through July 31, 2017. The Board made several edits following the public hearing and delivered a recommended draft Comprehensive Plan to the Town Board shortly thereafter.

The Town Board reviewed the draft provided by the CPSC and promptly scheduled its own public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan on September 19, 2017. Workshops were conducted on January 16, 2018 and November 27,
2018. Based on feedback and on their review, they requested that the Planner incorporate several edits to the document. Edits initiated by the Town Board included:

- Having the Comprehensive Plan take a harder look at whether the Town provides an adequate range of housing opportunities to the region.
- Removing a recommendation by the CPSC to eliminate the current special density consideration given for the Shawanga Lodge Road site. The Town Board finds that it is appropriate that this area of the Town be afforded a minor increase in density. However, the Board also noted that any future development of this important site be fully vetted for potential impacts to the Basha Kill and Shawangunk Kill watersheds as well as visual impacts and night sky impacts.
- Increasing the range of housing types permitted in the Hamlet Centers to include tiny houses and planned mixed-use developments. Additionally it was clarified that base density for upper-story apartments should be three units per acre.
- Removing a recommendation by the CPSC to reduce densities in the Incentive Development Area from 5-6 units per acre to 4 units per acre. The Town Board found that the current density of 5-6 units per acre was appropriate given the purpose of the area to provide community water and sewer infrastructure to adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- Recommending uniform night-sky protection requirements.
- Adding a recommendation that where density is tied to the provision of community water or sewer infrastructure, that such infrastructure be endorsed by the Town as meeting higher standards for treatment quality, longevity, cost-efficiency and ongoing viability consistent with current Town code requirements.
- Identifying the Town as unsuitable to large scale wind power facilities due to the ecological importance of the Shawangunk Ridge and Bashakill to migratory birds and raptor. Smaller-scale windpower may be viable and could be explored.
- Adding a statement clarifying that a 2018 amendment to any new mines in the Town.
- Removing the recommendation for apartments over nonresidential in the areas adjacent to the Villages. The Town Board believes, that traditional mixed-use buildings are more appropriate within the Village as opposed to on the periphery.
- Promoting non-residential development that generates truck traffic, previously permitted at Wurtsboro Airport, in an area of large lots with good access to Town interchanges and in a manner that will avoid visual impacts and impacts from stormwater runoff.
- Promoting high-tech employment centers such as high-tech agricultures, laboratories and research in the area between Wurtsboro Airport and Wurtsboro.

On December 27, 2018, the Town Board as the lead and only involved agency pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617 (State Environmental Quality Review Act or “SEQR”) adopted a positive declaration of environmental significance determining that a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) would be prepared on the Comprehensive Plan and implementing Code Amendments. It was always the intent of the Town Board that the Comprehensive Plan incorporate environmental discussions of all policy recommendations so that the plan would advance those policy alternatives that were the most protective of the environment while balancing economic, social and other appropriate considerations. It was the Comprehensive Plan consultant’s recommendation that the Comprehensive Plan itself serve as its own DGEIS to accomplish this very purpose.

On January 1, 2019, amendments to SEQR became effective. Among the many changes was a requirement that all GEISs and EISs be subjected to a public scoping process. However, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”) exempted any action for which a positive declaration had already been issued from this requirement, and thusly the Mamakating Comprehensive Plan and incorporated DGEIS was not required to go through a public scoping process. However, the draft Comprehensive Plan had already received substantial public comment in public workshops conducted by the Comprehensive Plan Committee on June 9, 2016 and September 15, 2016, a public hearing having been held by the Committee on July 20, 2017 and a second public hearing by the Town Board on September 19, 2017.

The Town Board referred this plan to the Planning Board of the Town of Mamakating and to Sullivan County Planning. On April 9, 2019, the Planning Board was provided a presentation by the Planning Consultant detailing the significant recommendations of the plan. The Planning Board discussed the Plan recommendations and provided the Town Board with feedback and a recommendation to adopt the draft plan.

The Town Board conducted a second public hearing on the revised draft plan on April 16, 2019.

The Comprehensive Plan and DGEIS were the subject of a public hearing on April 16, 2019. SEQR requires the comment period remain open for 10 days following a public hearing. The Town Board decided to extend the time period for comment until May 7, 2019, allowing substantially more time than is required for the submission of comments.
BACKGROUND continued from page 31
Through the course of preparation, first the Steering Committee and then the Town Board considered multiple alternatives to the policies eventually advanced. Examples of alternatives considered included:

- Continuing to allow Lake Neighborhood Densities to be increased with provision of community water and/or sewer. Ultimately the Board decided that 2-acre zoning is appropriate regardless of utility availability due to the remoteness of the lakes.
- Eliminating provisions of the RVP and Mountain Greenbelt that currently allow increases in density based on soil type and slopes. Ultimately the Town Board decided this is an appropriate mechanism for allowing modest density increases on land that can support it.
- Decreasing the threshold of steep slopes for the purpose of calculating density. Ultimately the Town Board decided that it was adequate to control construction on slopes over 20%, but that 25% slopes were the threshold appropriate for calculating density.
- Eliminating existing provisions that allow a minor increase in density over RVP standards at the Shawanga Lodge Road site. Ultimately the Town Board believed such a density increase is appropriate given the location and historic use of this site.
- Decreasing density at the Incentive Development Area. Ultimately, it was believed that the current density is appropriate given the purpose of the incentive development area of introducing utilities to the neighboring residential areas.
- Not promoting commercial development in the Town’s proposed Interchange economic area and Route 209 Economic Area. Ultimately the Town Board felt it was necessary to reserve appropriate areas of the Town for more traditional economic development.
- Continuing to promote mixed uses in the Village adjacent areas. Ultimately the Town Board found mixed uses are more appropriate for the core areas of the Villages, not their periphery.
- Requiring TDR for even the most modest increases in Hamlet density. Ultimately, the Town Board found that modest increases for second story apartments were appropriate.

2.1.1 The uses prescribed for the Lakes Neighborhoods were revised to exclude boat docks, boat sales, golf courses and country clubs.
2.1.2 An objective has been added suggesting regulation of short-term rental residential uses (eg. those marketed through AirBnB, VRBO) throughout the Town.
2.1.3 The Vision Statement has been revised to be more succinct, and to incorporate additional statements in support of agriculture and agritourism.
2.1.4 A statement in the Comprehensive Plan that indicated that effluent from the Shawanga Lodge site would have flowed to the Basha Kill has been revised to indicate that it may flow to the Shawangunk Kill or Basha Kill.
2.1.5 Agribusiness has been added as a suggested use in the interchange economic zones;
2.1.6 It has been clarified that development in the interchange economic zone should require, “appropriate stormwater, wastewater and erosion control engineering measures must be implemented to ensure the water quality of effluent and runoff originating from any proposed development within an Interchange Economic Zone does not adversely impact receiving waters.”
2.1.7 Several statements of the Comprehensive Plan have been reworded for clarity in response to comments received by Sullivan County Planning and Cornell Cooperate Extension of Sullivan County with regard to agricultural use.
2.1.8 Where the Comprehensive Plan and DGEIS discusses the potential for expansion of existing mines, it has been revised to consistently qualify that such expansion is permissible where, “an existing mine demonstrates that it has a right to expand the existing and operating mining use pursuant and subject to the terms of its DEC permit and applicable law.”

BKAA Awaits Dragon Springs’ Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Paula Medley
When Dragon Springs’ (DS) Supplemental EIS is released, BKAA consulting engineer Andy Willingham will review it and provide written and oral testimony, doing likewise with the site plan for Galley Hill Mall (7 buildings, 21 apartments over shops, and 120 parking spaces) when available. Andy determined that the mall’s proposal lies within the Basha Kill’s watershed, necessitating BKAA intervention (See Grace Woodard’s accompanying article for details. Also peruse Delaware Riverkeeper Network’s Comments Part II on the original DEIS on DS planned expansion).
Town of Thompson Proposed Local Law No. 6 of the Year 2019

A local law to amend Chapter 250 of the Town of Thompson Code relating to zoning and planned unit development

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Thompson

1. Chapter 250, Article II entitled “Definitions” of the Code of the Town of Thompson is hereby amended as follows:

The current definitions of Camp and Day Camp shall be removed and replaced with:

**Camp, Day** - One or more buildings and structures that may include a cafeteria and recreational facilities together with the lot or tract of land appertaining thereto, established or maintained for temporary, summer seasonal occupancy during the period or part of the period from May 15 to September 30 in any year for the daytime supervision of children. The principal use shall be for the daily occupancy of children between the ages of 4 to 18. Day camps do not provide overnight accommodations. A Day Camp shall not include temporary or permanent shelters, buildings, or structures designed for use or occupancy by family members of the children who are attending the summer camp, or employees who work there. No building or structure within the Day Camp shall have a kitchen facility, with the exception of the communal kitchen/dining room, the owner’s dwelling, and the caretaker’s dwelling.

**Camp, Sleep-Away** - A site for recreation or instruction on a seasonal basis within the approximate time period of May 15 to September 30 offering access to recreational or educational facilities, which includes any or all of the following features: buildings or structures that are designed for warm weather, seasonal use, including cabins, bunkhouses, cafeterias, gymnasiums, community centers, administration buildings, and similar structures designed for use by camp attendees; ballfields, basketball courts, tennis courts, running tracks, swimming pools, horseback riding facilities, hiking or riding trails and similar recreational and/or educational facilities. The seasonal occupants of a summer camp shall be limited to the owner and his/her immediate family, the caretaker and his/her immediate family, and staff. A Sleep-Away Camp shall not include temporary or permanent shelters, buildings, or structures designed for use or occupancy by family members of the children who are attending the summer camp, or employees who work there. No building or structure within the Sleep-Away camp shall have a kitchen facility, with the exception of the communal kitchen/dining room, the owner’s dwelling, and the caretaker’s dwelling.

2. The current definition of Bungalow shall be removed and replaced with:

**Bungalow** - A type of seasonal resort complex consisting of a group of one or two units, predominantly one-story structures where indoor plumbing and kitchen facilities may be provided in each unit. Said complex may also have communal dining and recreational facilities.

3. The following definition will be added:

**Cabin/Bunkhouse Summer Camp** -

A sleeping quarter which:

(a) has a sleeping capacity of no more than twenty-five occupants, with a total combined sleeping room floor area of 1200 square feet or less for all sleeping rooms;
(b) is one story;
(c) is used and occupied only between May 15 and September 30;
(d) has no cooking facilities, no heating systems, and no solid fuel heating or burning systems;
(e) has only sleeping rooms (including the necessary area for storing occupant belongings) and bathrooms;
(f) has no interior corridors or separate common area rooms;
(g) has at least two exits per sleeping room which are remote from each other and which discharge directly to the building’s exterior;
(h) has exit doors that open in the direction of, and are non-locking against egress; and
(i) has smoke alarms in each sleeping room that are interconnected such that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the cabin.

In sleeping quarters housing more than four persons, 40 square feet of floor area per occupant shall be provided, when single beds are provided. When double-deck bunk beds are provided, 30 square feet of floor area shall be provided for each occupant. Floor area includes space within the occupied structure to accommodate: the bed, storage for personal belongings, aisles and exit ways, and associated assembly space. Space for toilets, lavatories and showers shall not be used to calculate a sleeping quarter’s floor space.

4. The following definition will be added:

**Dormitory** - A building or part of a building containing private or semi-private units which open to a common hallway, which units are sleeping quarters for administrative staff, faculty, or students, along with bathroom, dining, cooking, laundry, lounge and recreation facilities, as required. Dormitory units shall not contain separate cooking, dining or housekeeping facilities, except that one dwelling unit with complete housekeeping facilities may be provided for use of a superintendent or supervising staff for every 50 dormitory units, or major part thereof. Single-
Deerpark Rural Alliance (DRA), Dragon Springs (DS) and Deerpark Updates

Grace Woodard

Since April 10th’s public hearing on Dragon Springs’ Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) at Port Jervis High School, with a robust turnout of over 450 people, two results have occurred. First, in May, based on Deerpark town engineer Al Fusco, Jr.’s hearing notes, the planning board unanimously required DS to conduct a Supplemental EIS on major issues: stormwater runoff, wastewater treatment plans, construction, water sources, and traffic study. This “redo” covered most matters DRA, its consultants, and the public presented. Second, DEC reviewed the DEIS and declared the application incomplete, releasing its report in May. DEC had multiple concerns: the dam, mitigating stream disturbance, threatened and endangered species, historic preservation, also referencing remaining incomplete parts of DS’s 2016 application. Notably, many DEIS applications involving extensive project expansions and modifications contain several hundred pages. DS’ DEIS was 47 pages. DS new response is not expected until autumn at the earliest. There will likely be a public hearing on the Supplemental EIS.

Meanwhile, DRA monitored and photographed additional plumes into the Basher Kill from DS’ unnamed stream adjacent to Galley Hill Road (GHR) bridge. We followed the usual drill, taking photos, reporting to DEC to get on record, and noting DEC inspections. The GHR entrance is still closed. The permeable stone/bricks replacing illegal wide wings on the driveway have not been installed. There may be further issues with DEC over height of the I beam on the DS bridge over the stream. The road was raised, at DS’ expense, in winter to satisfy one variance granted in 2016.

DRA continues monitoring town and planning board meetings. A pre application from 517 Neversink Dr. - New Century recently surfaced. The project: Convert a former VIP space in the arena building into a Chinese restaurant seating 50 people. Town Attorney, Glenn Plotsky, interpreted this as a rolling type venture, first a restaurant, then something else added, on and on, with no master plan, yielding segmentation. Though the latter was not voiced, it reinforced the specter of Dragon Springs’ playbook and its history of segmentation. Plotsky firmly informed the applicant that a full State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) would be triggered on every single proposal after the restaurant. New Century people consider a restaurant compatible with a film studio and a revenue source when the studio becomes operational. Water usage, water source, health department requirements, permits, and a separation wall from the arena were briefly mentioned. The Neversink River flows at the back of the property in a flood plain. Water concerns scotched the ambitious hotel and housing plans in an earlier iteration of this application. Currently, New Century’s plans have not been realized.

Galley Hill Road: Mall. Water issues. This commercial enterprise is modified from an earlier plan, a mall and apartments at the eastern end of GHR, 1/3 mile from Rte. 211: 7 buildings, 21 apartments over shops and 120 parking spaces on flat, sloping and steeply sloping wet terrain. However, the same problems exist: well source, impact on nearby houses, water treatment location, runoff,

DRA continued on page 36

LOCAL LAW NO. 6 continued from page 33

5. The current definition of School will be removed and replaced with:

School - Any public or private school under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Education of the State of New York; any parochial school operated and maintained by any religious corporation authorized to perform its corporate functions in the State of New York; or any school chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York.

7. Except as herein specifically amended, the remainder of Chapter 250 of such code shall remain in full force and effect.

8. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment, decree or order shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment, decree or order shall have been rendered and the remainder of this local law shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

9. Except as herein otherwise provided penalties for the violation of this local law, any person committing an offense against any provision of the chapter of the Code of the Town of Thompson shall, upon conviction thereof, be punishable as provided in Chapter 1, General Provisions, Article 11, of such Code.

10. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.
Thompson Education Center Property Now Includes SBL 26-1-3 (67 Acres on Wild Turnpike)
Continuation of Delaware Riverkeeper Network Comments on Dragon Springs’ Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Site Plan

Significant and Unaddressed Environmental Impacts from New Dam Construction

Despite claims by Dragon Springs that the second dam on the unnamed perennial tributary has already been permitted, with the implication that the environmental impacts from this dam need not be addressed in this DEIS, the facts clearly indicate that this second dam is an absolutely vital component in the stormwater management plan, it has not yet been constructed, and significant environmental impacts arise through the many activities associated with this dam. As a result, these environmental impacts must be completely and accurately described to comply with SEQR regulations and the Scoping Document agreed upon by Dragon Springs, and these environmental impacts must be addressed through avoidance, minimization, and mitigation.

The DEIS and the SWPPP, and all associated calculations and submissions, continually reference the stormwater management functions of the new impoundment along with the proposed excavation of over 100,000 cubic yards of land within the proposed impoundment. Indeed, the proposed impoundment is the most important feature in the overall SWPPP and provides the applicant the ability to claim that post-development runoff volumes and rates will match or even improve upon those with the current impoundment.

DRA continued from page 34

DRA Outreach and Growth

DRA, in its commitment to the community, to encourage diverse support, made its public debut, conducting a Shindig at the D & H Canal, Cuddebackville, in late June: Croatian style BBQ, homemade, delicious food, terrific live music with Datura Road, a funny MC, good conversation, and a silent auction. We raised over two thousand dollars and managed a green/recycling operation to boot. Stay tuned for next year’s event.

Other DRA ACTIVITY: We are establishing a serious monitoring system in the Basher Kill and Neversink (down to the KOA), which will take time, funds and committed volunteers. Two DRA members attended the 4th Annual NYS Redevelopment Conference in Albany in late June to learn a rural community’s needs, gaining the means and insight to be proactive rather than functioning in catch up mode, obtaining overviews, educating ourselves and the town about new ways of viewing land use, like prohibiting massive urban facilities on the Shawangunk Ridge or quickie franchises. Additionally, we are mastering Smart Growth through webinars, with less emphasis on growth paradigms, and more on improving our rural community, beginning small but thinking big, acquiring possible grants for Huguenot if the superfund C&D battery factory and DEC proceed with clean up. In September, we will present new ideas to the town board. Critiquing, exploring and building are the name of the game.

Want more information? Email Grace Woodard at grace.woodard@earthlink.net or visit DRA’s website: nyenvironcom.org.

Want to contribute? Make checks out to Basha Kill Area Association and write DRA on memo line. Mail to BKAA, P.O. Box 1121, Wurtsboro, New York 12790.
The approved Scoping Document clearly states that the effects and impacts from the building of the new dam need to be discussed and addressed in the DEIS. However, although the applicant mentions in the DEIS that a new dam will be constructed they fail to accurately and completely describe either the effects from building the dam or the effects from the revised size and configuration for the dam. For instance, despite the applicant’s environmental consultant mapping 5.2 acres of wetland within the proposed impoundment, Table I-1 of the DEIS characterizes the Potential Impact of the proposed development as “The Proposed Project will result in 0.6 acres of Federal wetland disturbance for grading around the new lake and dam reconstruction. Disturbance within the lake will be temporary as this entire area will be water postconstruction.” The clear discrepancy between the applicant’s stated 0.6 acres of wetland disturbance and the reality that 5.2 acres of existing forested headwater wetland will permanently be eliminated is striking. Despite the clear requirement in the Scoping Document to fully characterize the effects from the new dam, the applicant vastly underestimates the impacts and misrepresents the environmental cost of the proposed building of a new dam on a perennial tributary.

NYSDEC has unambiguously indicated that the permits for dam construction, stream disturbance, and the water quality certification have all expired, and the process for approval of the dam (particularly with the major modifications proposed since earlier review) would require a new permit application. The dam that would flood over 5 acres of wetlands does not currently exist, and no valid permits cover the building of the dam in either its former or its current configuration. The forested wetland in the proposed impoundment, however, currently does exist and would be entirely eliminated by the building of this dam, particularly in the expanded configuration proposed in the current submission before the Town of Deerpark. Likewise, extensive existing mature forest surrounding this wetland and would be cleared and eliminated by the construction of the dam and the flooding of the impoundment. Served in its stormwater management function, this impoundment would then severely degrade the water quality and temperature regime for this headwater trout-spawning stream, leading to the impairment or elimination of the best uses of this stream contrary to New York state water quality standards.

Finally, inappropriate and inadequate mitigation is proposed for the underestimated impacts to wetland resources. Not only does the applicant propose to mitigate for only 0.6 acres of wetland impacts (far below the 5.2 acres of wetland eliminated from proposed development), but the wetland mitigation is mismatched in terms of locations and species. Instead of mitigating with additional forested headwater wetlands, the applicant has proposed to use a floodplain area adjacent to the much larger Neversink River as a mitigation location. Although valuable as wetland habitat, the species composition and ecosystem functions of this mis-matched mitigation location in no way compensate for the headwater wetland habitats and functions that will be lost on the project site. In addition, the total mitigation is far less than would be required with a total proposed impact to 5.2 acres of wetland within the proposed impoundment.

The proposed impoundment and the building of the dam in its current proposed design are absolutely vital components in the overall proposed development. Despite the lack of valid permits and despite the applicant’s agreement to evaluate the dam’s environmental impacts, the applicant has failed to accurately and completely characterize the size and scope of the environmental impacts from this key feature of the development within the DEIS and its supporting documents. The dam and the impoundment do not currently exist. This is clear. Significant and permanent losses from their construction will result to the protected resources on the site. This is also clear. Yet the DEIS fails to address these impacts. As a result, this proposed development cannot be considered for final approval with these glaring omissions, and the characterization of environmental impacts from the proposed development needs to be rectified prior to a meaningful evaluation of the proposal.

**Failure to Map, Survey, and Evaluate Surface Water Features**

Among the most egregious oversights or misrepresentations in the DEIS concerns surface water features on the project site. Multiple additional stream channels drain the property but have not been mapped in any of the site plans nor discussed, modeled, or documented in the DEIS, SWPPP, or environmental consultant’s report. These streams have a clearly defined bed-and-bank, and can be seen crossing the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (old railroad bed) at multiple locations adjacent to the project site. These stream channels are not ephemeral, instead maintaining persistent flows during dry weather periods and thus are connected to groundwater. As a result of the failure to adequately characterize and map these multiple additional streams, both the environmental impacts (e.g., wetland and stream disturbance) have been underestimated and the surface hydrology has been inaccurately characterized and modeled in the SWPPP and throughout the DEIS (e.g., sheets D-1 and D-2 from the Preliminary Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, Appendix D).

Similarly, the project applicant has failed to map or discuss the drainage features down-gradient from the proposed statue work shed, the incense work shop, and storage shed #1. In the SWPPP, the applicant contends that no modeling of stormwater runoff for this drainage area (labeled E-WS#6 in drainage map D-1, and labeled P-WS#9 in drainage map D-2) was performed nor was needed because the area drains to a natural depression and all water draining in this area naturally infiltrates into the ground. This statement is problematic from a number of perspectives. The description suggests a natural catchment basin with no outlet under low water levels, which typically describes either a wetland or a vernal pool habitat. The applicant provides no surveys, nor apparently has the applicant directed their environmental consultant to conduct surveys of this area to determine the soil composition, plant composition, hydroperiod, and possible jurisdictional status of this suspected wetland area. No evidence is provided that indeed all water simply infiltrates into this natural depression, with only an unsupported statement by the project applicant to this possibility. The possibility of a wetland or vernal pool habitat in this area indicates the need to fully model the stormwater runoff pre- and post-development in order to characterize the potential environmental impact of this heightened stormwater runoff on natural environmental features of the site.

The high likelihood of some surface water feature in this natural depression is further increased by the apparent mapping of a wetland feature further down-gradient in a similar depression within drainage area E-WS#6 (from sheet D-1) and P-WS#9 (sheet D-2). This apparent wetland feature is also shown on site plans C-1 and C-14. Yet the apparent wetland features included on these four maps receive no mention by the applicant’s environmental consultant, and no evidence exists that these areas were surveyed by a qualified professional. The Scoping Document unambiguously states: “Existing surface waters, including wetlands, streams and any other natural water features will be

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**DRN COMMENTS** continued on page 38
Incredible predictions for altered hydrology: the applicant is converting a nearly-pristine forested setting to a nearly-urban density of development and impervious cover (9.2%), and yet predicts between 33% and 61% reductions in peak flows for the 1-year, 10-year, and 100-year storms at the design points. As elsewhere, there is a bias in the details of the SWPPP by the project applicant to diminish the quality of the undisturbed forested site and exaggerate the ability of the proposed highly-modified landscape to capture, retain, and infiltrate precipitation.

Inaccurate, Incomplete, and Misleading Representations by Project Applicant

In addition to die specific problems and deficiencies described in our preceding comments, we also want to note that the DEIS and the supporting documents, maps, and appendices are replete with additional errors and inaccuracies that compromises the validity of the environmental impact evaluation. We provide here a number of the more significant errors and omissions that have not been described previously, but we also note that many more were found during our review of the DEIS and supporting documents:

- Incredible predictions for altered hydrology: the applicant is converting a nearly-pristine forested setting to a nearly-urban density of development and impervious cover (9.2%), and yet predicts between 33% and 61% reductions in peak flows for the 1-year, 10-year, and 100-year storms at the design points.
- Bias in discretionary selections for stormwater modeling: stormwater calculations bias the pre-development conditions by labeling forest cover as only “fair conditions” and thus inflating the curve number for the dominant pre-development land cover and minimizing the difference between the natural undisturbed condition prior to 2001 and the developed condition proposed in this submission; this bias is further highlighted in the post-development conditions, following compaction by heavy equipment and disturbance of the existing, where the disturbed and modified areas are then labeled “good” for areas with grass and mixed cover types thus allowing lower and less harmful curve numbers. As elsewhere, there is a bias in the details of the SWPPP by the applicant to diminish the quality of the undisturbed forested site and exaggerate the ability of the proposed highly-modified landscape to capture, retain, and infiltrate precipitation.

- Inconsistent statements on impervious cover: DEIS regularly cites 36 acres and 9.2% of total impervious, while sheet C-1 of site plans cites 8% impervious cover. The SWPPP cites an increase in impervious cover of 11 acres, while the DEIS cites an increase in 10 acres in multiple locations. No consistency is found in the DEIS and the supporting documents on this critical statistic for evaluating the full environmental impact of the proposed development.
- There is a failure to model stormwater runoff for all areas with development, particularly the drainage area P-WS#9 (sheet D-2 of SWPPP) that may drain to multiple wetland areas (partially discussed above).
- Inconsistent details on tree replacement and planting: the SWPPP indicates that 463 trees will be planted near impervious surfaces, while the Landscape & Tree Plan (C-14) indicates only 249 trees will be planted, with an additional 68 shrubs, for a total planting of 317 plants.
- Misrepresentations of environmental impacts to plants & animals: the applicant states “The Proposed Project will not displace any species or fragment any existing habitat” in the Wetland & Wildlife Section of the DEIS. With the project site’s only mapped forested wetland located in the proposed impoundment, this statement is patently false. Multiple plant and animal species that are known to occur nowhere else on the project site will be permanently inundated by proposed dam and impoundment, displacing this host of specialized species, and not just fragmenting but completely eliminating the only forested wetland area currently known for the project site.
- Irreconcilable statements: the applicant proposes to excavate up to 40 feet in the proposed new lake and up to 50 ft for the music hall, and yet claims that no chipping or blasting of rock will be required. Although these areas for excavation exist on Swartswood gravelly loam soils, which are relatively deep for this mountainous setting, it is difficult to imagine (particularly without soil borings to support such a statement) that no bedrock will be encountered at depths between 40 and 50 feet, and we fully expect hard-rock techniques will be needed by the applicant. The impacts from chipping, blasting, or other hard-rock excavation activities will likely have impacts to species such as Bald Eagle and both Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat, impacts which are currently underestimated and uncharacterized in the DEIS.
- Although Figure III-4 in the DEIS (Cut-Fill Analysis Map) provides a preliminary characterization for the range of possible excavations in the proposed impoundment and at the proposed music hall, the applicant has failed to reflect these excavations on all additional site plans except for a generic and undefined area for possible excavation on sheet C-8. The extent of cut, the proposed slopes, the resulting topography, and the effects on environmental resources are impossible to estimate with the vague and incomplete submissions by the project applicant.
- The massive 1000-stall proposed parking garage will be located at a substantial distance (1000 ft or more walking distance) from the proposed music hall, with no walkways or transportation access indicated between the two structures, and the applicant instead claiming that parking “will be conveniently located adjacent to the music hall to accommodate guests attending events.” This raises the distinct possibility that the applicant plans further “segmentation” of the project and will return at a later time for additional approvals for additional disturbance, impervious structures, and buildings to accommodate the challenging access between these two structures. As stated before, segmentation has been demonstrated in the past and designs such as this suggest the current review does not cover the full scope and impacts

Finally, a disturbing possibility is highlighted by the recent aerial photographs of the project site that show apparent filling of the mapped depression down-gradient from the incense work shop and proposed statue work shed over the last 10 years. It appears that an area near the very lowest point of this depression (see sheet D-2 in Appendix D, approximate latitude/longitude coordinates of 41.44322/-74.59430) has been cleared of trees and has been provided with road access off of Zhendao Rd, with an area greater than 4000 ft² apparently strewn at various times with debris, rubble, and/or fill. Should this area be mapped as a jurisdictional wetland by a qualified surveyor, the potential for filling of wetland areas without a permit needs to be thoroughly investigated.

The failure of the applicant to adhere to the requirements of the DEIS Scoping Document and to fully map all existing and candidate surface water and wetland features thus leads to myriad problems for adequately evaluating the proposed development. These omissions need to be rectified, and the full and accurate environmental impacts characterized, prior to any final consideration of the proposed development.

Inaccurate, Incomplete, and Misleading Representations by Project Applicant

In addition to die specific problems and deficiencies described in our preceding comments, we also want to note that the DEIS and the supporting documents, maps, and appendices are replete with additional errors and inaccuracies that compromises the validity of the environmental impact evaluation. We provide here a number of the more significant errors and omissions that have not been described previously, but we also note that many more were found during our review of the DEIS and supporting documents:

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Given the size and permanence of the structures and the development (including the continuous flow of antiquated wastewater treatment effluent), reversing the loss of trout and trout spawning in this unnamed tributary will be incredibly difficult if not impossible. This permanent removal of both Designated Uses and Existing Uses is a clear violation of state and federal law, and must not be allowed.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this important and extraordinary development proposal. We believe we have provided you the clear grounds that require the Town, the state and the DRBC to reject any and all approvals for this proposed project.

Sincerely,
Maya K. van Rossum - Delaware Riverkeeper
Erik L. Sildorff, Ph.D. - Restoration Director

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24 "Draft Scoping Document for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement" from Applicant, Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc.; adopted June 13, 2018, and included in Appendix A of DEIS
25 Table I-1 of DEIS; pages 15, 28, 29, 30 of DEIS text; also see Appendix D of DEIS, preliminary Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
26 Section III.B.2 of "Draft Scoping Document for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement" from Applicant, Dragon Springs Buddhist, Inc.; adopted June 13, 2018, and included in Appendix A of DEIS
27 DEIS, page 3: "A new dam is also proposed on the east side of the proposed lake."
28 NYSDEC letter to Town of Deerpark professional engineer (Alfred A. Fusco, Jr., PE); April 10, 2018; RE Dragon Springs Monastery, DEC Facility ID 3-3328-00150, Response on Lead Agency and DEC Jurisdiction (signed by Rebecca S. Christ, Deputy Regional Permit Administrator, NYSDEC Region 3)
29 Mapped by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, March 2019, along the public Shawangunk Ridge Trail and on the public NYS Forest Lands near the southeastern edge of the property
30 Appendix D of DEIS, SWPPP section III. Stormwater Quality Control, page 6
31 No mention of either surveys or site conditions being evaluated outside the proposed impoundment are included in Appendix E of the DEIS, Habitat Assessment, by environmental consultant Michael Nowicki from Ecological Solutions (e.g., bog turtle habitat evaluation states only "The wetland in the area of the proposed pond was evaluated..." with no reference to evaluating other depressions or possible wetland areas outside this proposed impoundment
32 Although no key for all mapped geographic features is provided for site plans C-1 or C-14, nor sheets D-1 or D-2 of Appendix D, two apparent wetland areas are mapped with a typical wetland symbol at a consistent elevation on these maps; although not conclusive that these areas are wetlands, four maps or sheets submitted as part of the DEIS suggest wetland areas that are mapped in a preliminary fashion based on unknown sources (e.g., state or national GIS layers, on-site surveys) should this proposed development be approved.
33 see Table I-1 of DEIS, and page 20 of DEIS, where a total of 18 acres of Federal jurisdiction wetlands are acknowledged, including the 12.7 acre existing pond / impoundment
35 see Table 2 and Table 3 of the SWPPP
36 SWPPP page 7
37 SWPPP page 8
38 DEIS page 36
39 DEIS page 19
40 DEIS page 3
41 Appendix A, Full Environmental Assessment Form, Part 1 - Project and Setting, page 3 of 12
42 Appendix A, Full Environmental Assessment Form, Part 1 - Project and Setting, page 6 of 12
43 see Table I-1 of DEIS
44 Appendix A, Full Environmental Assessment Form, Part 1 - Project and Setting, page 4 of 12
45 Appendix A, Full Environmental Assessment Form, Part 1 - Project and Setting, page 9 of 12
46 see documentation of prior violations in Appendix A of DRN submission; see Appendix A of DEIS, Full Environmental Assessment Form, Part 2 - Identification of Potential Project Impacts, page 1 of 10
47 see Appendix A
**SAVE THE DATE**

**47th BKAA Annual Meeting**

*Marcia Briggs Wallace – Great Blue Heron Awardee*

*Linda Lou Bartle and Nature Watch Team*

- 2019 Honorees

*Live Snake Show*

By Randy Stechert, Reptile and Amphibian Specialist

Celebrate this year’s notable achievements and hear latest updates at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 19, 2019, at Phillipsport Community Center, 657 Red Hill Road, Phillipsport, New York 12769, several miles north of Wurtsboro off Route 209. Registration commences at 9:30 a.m., when dues may be paid, with only solvent members receiving a ballot. Light refreshments will be available then also. Call to order occurs promptly at 10 a.m. Participants will be treated to a special presentation by reptile/amphibian expert Randy Stechert. Additionally, there will be an informative interactive discussion of 2018-2019 highlights, election of officers and board members, along with awards. There will also be a drawing for intriguing door prizes (all donated). BKAA merchandise, like Basha Kill Field Guides, John Haas birding publications, check lists, Basha Kill ID cards, and mugs will be on sale. See you there!

Questions? Contact Paula Medley directly at (845) 754-0743 or email info@thebashakill.org.

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