



# The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Summer 2018 - Issue #39

Free! Please take one

## Tillson Lake Under Threat for the Third Time

by Annie O'Neill and Doris Chorny

The Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC), which oversees Minnewaska Park Preserve, recently informed those living near and around Tillson Lake that the dam is in need of repair and that, since there is no money to fix it, the commission intends to remove the dam and drain the lake.

For those unfamiliar with the lake and its history; in 1922 Hasbrouck (Hassie) A. Tillson, a farm real estate agent and cattle dealer in Walden, amassed considerable acreage below the Shawangunk Ridge. In 1929, Hassie decided to create a lake by damming his very



Tillson Lake. The lake has always been a mecca for photographers. Photo: Andy Hague.

wet property, which was bisected by the Palmaghatt Kill. He created the beautiful Tillson Lake area, with a golf course, a roller skating rink,

a pavilion, boats for hire, fishing, docks, diving platforms and wonderful grassy banks for picnicking, relaxing and watching swimming

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Jewell Turner, Trudi Sims, Joan Braidt and Carol Ann Lohrman this June. Photo: Jennifer Bruntl.

## One Town, Four Friends, 65 Years

by Jennifer Bruntl

There are all kinds of friends. There are the friends you hang out with in high school, or college. There are friends you make when you start your first job. Some friends you meet when you become part of a couple, or when you become a parent and your kids hang out with their kids and you make memories as families. All friendships are important, but there is nothing quite like an old friend, someone who watched you become the person you are.

As people move around more and more, it is a rare thing to find friends that have as long a history as the four Gardiner ladies I interviewed for this story. These women found their friendship early and have continued to nourish it

and support each other over the past 65 years. I sat down with Joan Braidt (née Markle), Carol Ann Lohrman (née Majestic), Jewell Turner (née Gardner) and Trudi Sims (née Watts) to find out a little bit more about what has made their friendship so enduring.

As I took my seat it struck me what an easy feel the group had to it. It was like the ladies had known each other forever, which made sense because, basically, they have. As Trudi explained, "Jewell and I have been friends since kindergarten. We graduated from 6th grade in a one-room school in Tuthilltown. Joan joined our little group in 7th grade and Carol completed the group

Friends, continued page 15

## Groceries in Gardiner, Without a Supermarket

by Alan Rothman

We all know there is no supermarket in Gardiner. You must drive to Modena, New Paltz or other nearby areas for that. The good news is that there are great options for grocery shopping at wonderful family-owned businesses right here, which is especially appealing if you don't have time for crowded supermarket aisles and lines at the checkout.



At the **Mountain Harbor Deli**, at the intersection of Routes 44/55

and 299, you are greeted by a cheerful young lady named Maggie, who prepares sandwiches and breakfast foods, for "a mix of locals, tourists and, specifically, climbers." They have a tremendous variety of hot and cold beverages including coffee, cold sodas and domestic, imported and craft beers.

They also sell peanut butter, jelly, pasta and pasta sauces, milk, eggs, butter, orange juice, and some fresh veggies. Gardiner native and manager, Ken Formisano, says they will slice cheeses and meats to take home. (Call first; 845-633-8705) Open 6:30am to 6:00pm daily.

A bit further along Route 299, near the intersection of Yankee Folly Road, **Jenkins-Lueken Orchards** has what appears to be a typical farm stand. But enter the rather plain white building, and you step into a meticulously decorated country store brimming with mostly local groceries.



This includes Oscar's Smoke House brand ham, bacon, and sausages, to name just a few, as well as dips, spreads, cheeses, eggs, milk, jams, maple syrup, pickled products, and Jenkins-Leukin's own baked goods.

They also offer a large selection of quality local meats to throw on the barbecue or into the oven. Lisa Dishek, who has worked at Jenkins-Leukin for 11 years, said that many of their customers are locals, although in the fall, tourists stop by in increasing numbers. It's open from 9:00am to 6:00pm daily, with extended hours during the harvest season.




Right in the middle of the Hamlet, at 125 Main Street, is the **Village Market and Eatery**. It has a limited supply of customer-favorite groceries, including chai tea, almond milk, dairy milk, half and half, eggs, butter, cream cheese, and a wide selection of beer, soda and bottled water. They also have an extensive eat-in/take-out menu and are open from 7:00am to 4:00pm.




Nothing says more about living in farm country than a general store with a group of locals on the porch discussing the day's events. **Ireland Corners General Store**, on Route 208 just


Groceries, continued page 13




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## A Sawmill At Your Doorstep

by Fred Gerty

The soft purr of the motor complemented the higher pitched whine of the saw as it sliced through the oak log. Brent Feldweg, the sawyer, operated the bandsaw set up at the end of my driveway next to the pile of logs. Brent operates Forest All, a consultant and saw milling firm in Hopewell Junction.

As winter drew to a close, I'd assembled 18 logs from dead pin and white oaks, white ash, and red pines, together with a few maples and oaks from blowdowns in the woods. Those few logs would hardly have interested a commercial logger, but they provided a good day's work for Brent. Always in need of fence boards on the horse farm, I asked him to bring his sawmill—on wheels and easily moved—and to cut the trees into useful lumber.

In early March, Brent set up the portable mill, leveled it, and be-

gan to work. First, he'd pull a log up onto the carriage of the mill with a winch salvaged from an ATV. After positioning it, he clamped the log down to keep it steady and began slicing into it. Off came the rounded outer bark. It required one or two passes of the saw and produced numerous slabs, easily worked up into firewood later.

Once square, he could turn the log over and repeat the process, resulting in a square-sided log. Repeated passes then produced 1 x 6 boards, sixteen feet long—so useful on the farm. The boards looked great, clear and neat and remarkably smooth as a result of the use of a thin blade. His assistant, daughter Kaitlin, moved the fresh boards to a pile, neatly stacked to air dry until they could be added to the fences of our horse pastures. Air drying lumber can take a year or more outdoors, but since I planned to use most of the boards for fencing, just a month



Sawyer Brent Feldweg at work. Photo: Fred Gerty

or two would help keep them from warping, shrinking, or twisting.

Brent provides many tree services to property owners, and I was very pleased. His very long day's work cost about \$800; well worth it to me, considering it produced a large number of boards. I also realized a small quantity of sawdust for the blueberries and fruit trees, a few

very nice shorter slices that may make some rustic tables ("project wood," Brent called them), and lots of firewood logs.

In spite of the high concentration of farms in Gardiner, on-site sawmill services are a great resource that few people know about. A number of them can be found in the Hudson Valley. □

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## Climate Smart Gardiner

by Meaghan McElroy

Climate Smart Gardiner (CSG) has been aiming to make sustainable, environmentally-friendly changes to the area since its inception early in 2018, but the core members aren't climate scientists or ecologists. They are Gardiner residents who want to make the community stronger.

Jason Mayer is the group coordinator and is a psychologist by trade. He was one of the founding members. In the summer of 2017, Mayer read an article about climate change and its possible future impacts, and it struck a chord. "I was worried about how this would affect my kids, and their kids," Mayer said, "And I thought to myself, well, I should be doing something." After some preliminary research, Mayer was directed to the New York Department of Conservation's (DEC) Climate Smart Communities program,

which provides support and assistance for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and climate adaptation at the local level.

Though CSG has only been active since January, its 10-person taskforce, along with members of the larger community, is already responsible for the recycling bins that can now be found in Majestic Park, various community education events about renewable energy sources, a potential project to replace Gardiner's streetlights with LEDs, and even a natural resources inventory project that will catalogue a variety of different natural resources within Gardiner. Rick Irizarry, a sales manager for New York State Solar Farm, serves as a liaison between CSG and Gardiner's Environmental Conservation Committee and

is helping lead the natural resources inventory project. The inventory will identify "the information that's needed to make decisions for the town that would affect or protect the wildlife and ecology in the area," Irizarry said.

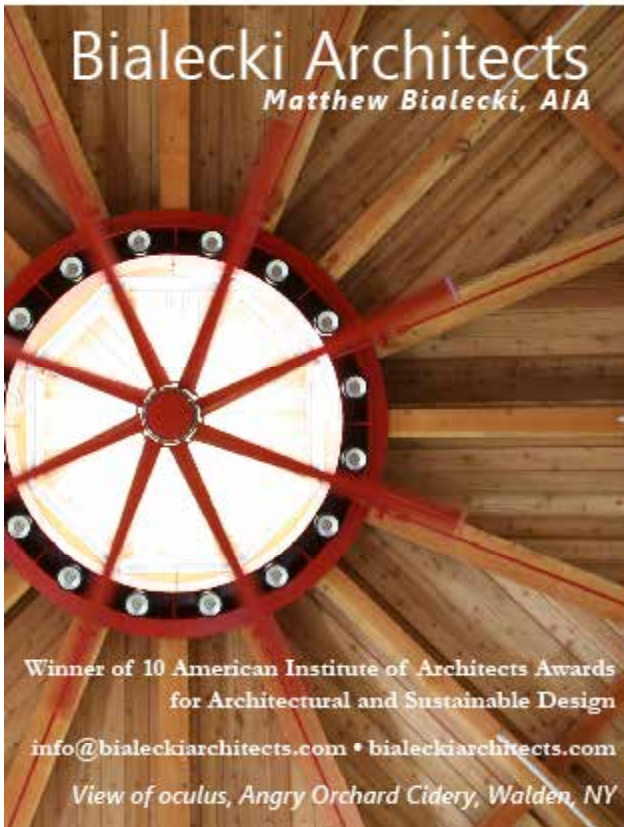
Other initiatives from CSG aim to help local businesses, too. Holly Shader, a science teacher in Pine Bush and a Gardiner resident, has worked with the group to draft a grant proposal for an electric vehicle charging station. The proposal was recently approved. Shader said she hopes the EV charging stations—hopefully up and running by the end of the summer—will attract visitors with electric vehicles and "really start making Gardiner a destination to spend time in." Shader, like many other members of CSG, got involved because she wants to see her community come together and grow stronger. "This is my community, and I

guess I want to work toward the world I want to live in," Shader said. "I want to live in a sustainable world, and I want to live in a sustainable community."

As Mayer said, a big part of what has made Climate Smart Gardiner successful so far has been plugging people into the things that they're interested in, through coordination with the Gardiner town board, local businesses and local residents.

"We're trying to help people feel like they're a meaningful part of their community," Mayer said. "Are we going to stop climate change here? Maybe not ... but at last you can feel like you're doing something."

The Climate Smart Gardiner Task Force meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Town Hall. Climate Smart Gardiner is active on Facebook; connect with them at [facebook.com/climatesmartgardiner](https://www.facebook.com/climatesmartgardiner). □



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## Climb It Smart, Gardiner

by L.A. McMahon

The Gunks were discovered for climbers in the late 1930's by world renowned mountaineer, Fritz Wiessner. He, Hans Kraus, Bonnie Prudden and others then pioneered many of the finest routes here, and the three are considered heroes to this day.

Since those early days, free climbing—a form of rock climbing in which climbers use ropes and other equipment to protect against injury during falls, but not to assist progress—has become a mainstream sport.

Like many other sports, climbing takes place in an inherently dangerous environment. However, climbing is neither an art nor a science, but a combination of both. So how does a person learn to “climb it smart”?

There are few hard and fast rules, but every climb starts with a chain of interlocking safety procedures that are drilled into the psyche of most who climb regularly. For example, before even walking out the door,

climbers check that the gear they are taking is functioning properly, and actually in the pack. They make sure they have enough water and food and a cell phone. At the base of the climb, both the lead climber and the 2nd climber unpack everything. They unfurl the rope, making sure it is free of knots. They inspect it, looking for damage. They check to see that safety harnesses are buckled correctly, that a climbing rope is attached correctly, and that it is tied securely to the harness of the leader. The checklist goes on. Seems like a lot, doesn't it? However, regardless of one's technical aptitude, climbing safety is the “smart” part of climbing.

But gaining the relevant experience presents the greatest risk, particularly when starting out. Reading about techniques can speed up the process, but practice, controlled progress and an enquiring attitude are the best

ways to learn, and then with enough “data,” over time, critical thinking starts to kick in. One develops the ability to assess a situation and work out a solution based on knowledge and skill.

Improved technique also increases problem-solving ability, thereby increasing safety. Now that's “smart” at its best. The risks generally lessen with experience, but climbing can never be totally safe. For many, though, part of the attraction is a sense of danger; to remove this risk

would alter the activity itself.

Evidence that “Climb it Smart” is a do-able concept lives among us in Gardiner—aging athletes who have climbed for decades, are relatively in one piece, and have many interesting stories to tell. Most have passed on what they've learned to countless climbers who have come after them, and some still climb today well into their senior years. How is that possible, you might ask? Simply put, they love climbing and climb it smart. □



## Climate Smart, Climb It Smart?

by Carol O'Biso

How did we come to have two articles with such similar titles? First we heard about the “Climate Smart Gardiner” group and decided to do an article on them. Then we were contacted, via text message, about another group, seemingly called “Climb It Smart Gardiner.” The thought of such wonderful word play was exciting, and with the Shawangunk Ridge looming over us, a group called Climb it Smart seemed perfectly logical.

Eventually we discovered that cell phone auto-correct had

duped us; the second group was, in fact, Climate Smart. It was the cell phone that “corrected” it to read “Climb it Smart.” The “two” groups are one and the same! We couldn't let the opportunity go, though, and decided to solicit an article on climbing it smart, so we could share our editorial joke with all of you.

Meanwhile, there's a perfectly good name going begging. Some climbing school or teacher should feel free to grab it, with our blessings. □

## On The Agenda

by Patty Gardin

To inform the people of Gardiner about what is happening with our boards and committees, I reached out to each for a brief summary of the issues before them. The boards and committees—largely volunteer—are a necessary part of the fabric that makes Gardiner the great community it is. *The Gardiner Gazette* thanks members for their service.

**TOWN BOARD** (from Supervisor Marybeth Majestic )

**Laws:** We are working on finalizing revisions to the new Ethics Law, amending the Noise Law and establishing a Planning Board law. Public hearings for all will be scheduled for late summer or early fall.

**Majestic Park:** We are working diligently to replace the pavilion

at the Park and complete improvements at the Pole Barn.

**Tillson Lake:** We are looking to work with the Palisades Instate Parks Commission and members of Save Tillson Lake to find funding to remedy the problem.

**Regional Partnership:** We are working with other townships to rejuvenate the Shawangunk Mountain Regional Partnership.

**Bridge Grant Application:** We are anxiously waiting to hear back from NYS DOT regarding our Bridge NY Round two grant application to replace the Clove Road bridge. Awards will be announced late summer, early fall.

**Sewer District:** We au-

thorized Morris Associates to update the sewer district map to add sewer lots created from recent subdivisions. This will help us consider how the existing system can handle the new lots, what options are available for future septic system expansion and/or how to deal with potential problems if the existing system should fail.

**PLANNING BOARD** (from Paul Colucci, Chair). Currently in front of the Planning Board are:

**Heartwood:** project proposal for a glamorous camping (glamping) and restaurant/lodging facility. The Planning Board issued a negative declaration, i.e., a determination that the project will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact. No Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. We are in the process of reviewing the site plan.

**Lazy River Campground:** Site plan modification to a lazy river water feature to the campground.

**A proposal for a 2 megawatt solar farm.**

**Green 208:** Site plan review for a multi-family dwelling on route 208 called Green 208.

**Majestic Woods Drive:** A two lot minor subdivision for the Majestic family on Majestic Woods Drive.

**Shaft Road:** Recently approved is an 8-lot sub-division.

**ZONING BOARD** (from David Gandin, Chair)

**Solar Farm:** Currently pending before the ZBA is a variance application submitted by Cypress Creek Renewables in connection with its



application to install a solar farm on a 50.76 acre lot on Burnt Meadow Road. It seeks: (1) an area variance from sections of zoning code requiring a maximum lot size of 20 acres for the installation of a solar farm, a setback of 150 feet from property boundaries and the maximum impervious surface coverage not exceed 10% of the lot size. The project as presently proposed is, at its closest point, 87 feet from the Site's boundary line and has impervious surface coverage of 20%.

A joint planning/zoning board meeting was held last month in connection with the project but the applicant has since indicated it may reconfigure its proposal and withdraw the variance applications.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION** (from Roberta Clements, Chair)

**Aquifer:** We recently presented the draft law of the previously developed Aquifer Overlay Protection District—describing simple yet effective ways to preserve the quality and quantity of our drinking water—to the Town Board for review and passage.

**Wetlands:** We are finalizing a draft "Wetlands" law—seeking to ensure that surface water and

Agenda, continued page 12

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## Gardiner's Own Desperado

by Gardiner Town Historian, A.J. Schenkman

Newspapers during the early 20th century fed their readers' fascination with notorious characters, following every move of individuals with curious names like, "The Kid," "Gyp the Blood," and "Scarface" Al Capone. Many Gardinerites do not realize that we had our own local bad man, "Big Bad" Bill Monroe, sometimes known in the newspapers as The Gardiner Desperado.

Before the summer of 1908, William (Bill) Monroe was well known locally for his explosive temper, especially when he consumed alcohol. Monroe stood 5'6" and weighed 155 pounds. In his mid-twenties, newspapers described him as having light hair, a stout build, a fair complexion, a tattoo of a star on his wrist, and a small mole on his left cheek. He lived in the small settlement of Jenkinstown, with his wife, Katie Davis.

Always on the lookout for work, on August 21, 1908, he walked to the Abram Deyo farm at Ireland Corners. He had worked for Abram Deyo before and even recognized his brother Jonathan (a prominent lawyer) visiting at the time with his family. The Deyo brothers turned Monroe down, for which Monroe promised vengeance. Later that day, he returned, inebriated, to the Deyo home (today, Ulster Savings Bank) and assaulted both Deyo families, including children, wives, and farm hands. After cutting the phone lines, he burned the Deyo barn to the ground and fled; the legend of Big Bad Bill

was born.

Four days later, Sheriff Decker of Orange County arrested the fugitive in NJ. Monroe escaped, even though shot twice by Decker, and made his way back to Orange County, where he published a letter in a local paper faking his death. Authorities saw through the ruse.

Shortly after, Monroe let Decker and Ulster County Sheriff Boice know that he planned to go to the Orange County Fair, and that if they found him, he would go quietly to jail. Big Bad Bill showed up dressed as an old lady, mocking law enforcement by asking the officers for directions. The public laughed along with Monroe as newspapers reported sightings all over the country, and a frustrated Gardiner Town Board offered a \$100 reward for his arrest.

In 1908 officers finally cornered Monroe in a home in NJ, but the Gardiner Desperado smashed through a back door. Deputy Sheriff William Leonard caught up with him in a corn field and alerted others that he was emerging with Big Bad Bill, only to have Monroe escape again in a hail of gunfire.

Then, in June 1909, word came that an officer in California had shot Monroe, but he escaped by swimming across a river. Finally, he was captured on November 22, 1909, and jailed in El

Centro, California for a crime he committed there. Decker and Boice headed out west to take custody in early December. Monroe was elated to see them, upset that he was being housed with hardened criminals when he did not consider himself as such. He also commented that Boice's jail in Kingston was kept nicer.

The three men boarded a train and, once they were close to Kingston, Monroe said he wished to clean himself up for the reporters and gawkers who would inevitably come to see him. He arrived at the Ulster County Jail on December 16, 1909. Just about everything he did was fodder for the news: when he was allowed to go to the dentist for a toothache, it was reported in the papers, including that he cried about



Big Bad Bill Monroe August 3, 1923, from the Middletown Press

going there. Eventually, though, Big Bad Bill went on trial and subsequently was sent to Dannemora prison on March 29, 1910, after his highly publicized trial. He was sentenced to four years and eight months for assault. □

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## Meadowscent - Just Some Pretty Flowers - NOT!

by Sandra Cranswick

Can there be any other Gardiner residents who have yet to explore the stores in the Gardiner Gables Plaza? If so, you have a treat waiting for you at Meadowscent Gifts and Flowers. I was surprised and delighted to discover a space overflowing with not only beautiful flowers, but also lovely and unusual gifts, ranging from specialty chocolates to beautifully handcrafted floral jewelry to delicate shell wind chimes. You can top it all off with a lovely card as well.

As owner Theresa Colucci explained her business, now in its 20th year at this location, it became clear that the florist business is complex and demanding. Theresa began by saying that she has "always, ALWAYS loved flowers." She intended to major in floriculture in college but life led elsewhere, until an eventual job in a florist shop brought her back to her first love. She opened her own shop, in Wallkill, in 1987.

Until then, Theresa's floral training was mostly on the job, but once in her own shop, she wondered how to advance her knowledge. Research led her to the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD), an organization that strives to advance the

field of floral design through educational symposia held annually throughout the U.S.

Theresa continues attending these events, now including her employees in the valuable training. In 2006, she was inducted into AIFD after passing tests assessing her botanical and horticultural knowledge, along with her knowledge of, and creativity in the principles of floral design.

This membership changed her professional life—"It just opened up a world of doors for me" she said. Theresa has taught floral design at the New York Botanical Garden and at SUNY Cobleskill where she formed a student branch of the AIFD which she took to national competition level. Annually since 2010, she has designed a display at the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show, where Theresa has received top honors several times and served as chairperson one year. Her most exciting job was a gig at the Obama White House, where her team provided floral arrangements for three White House state dinners. Although she did not get to speak to the Obamas, she



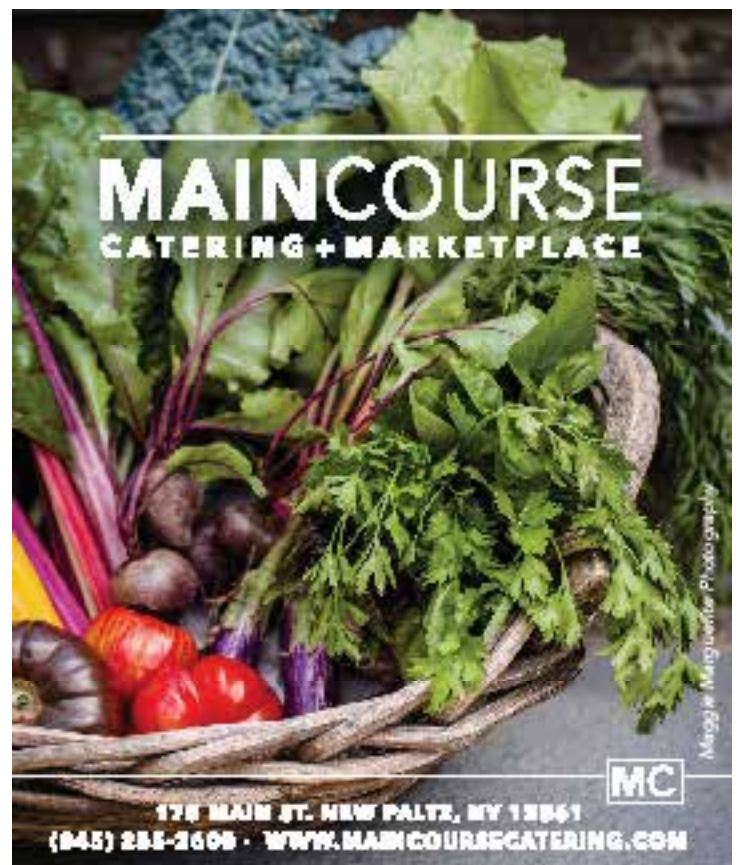
Theresa Colucci. Photo: Sandra Cranswick

noted that they both loved flowers; when asked what he would miss most about the White House, President Obama said he believed it would be "the fresh flowers"!

Theresa's summer business is largely focused on weddings, for both local and NYC couples. In addition, the shop specializes in arrangements for events like parties, showers and business meetings. She sources many of her gift items from local artisans,

and in the summer, gets many of her flowers from local growers. If all this makes your green thumb tingle, you will be happy to know that Theresa teaches locally. This summer she is offering monthly seminars at her daughter's new B&B on Phillips Bridge Road (watergrasshillny.com for details). Meadowscent is open M-F 9:30-5:30 and Sat til 3:30.)

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## Jim Adair: A Winemaker Turns to Art of a Different Kind

by José Moreno-Lacalle



Jim Adair is tall and lanky, and he stands erect. He gets out of a low chair without difficulty. He's 91. His current avocation is painting watercolors, which he has been doing for 15 years.

Before that, he owned Adair Vineyards, growing grapes and making wine—mostly Marechal Foch and Seyval Blanc. He bought the property in 1985, never before having grown grapes or made wine on a scale larger than about a full bathtub. Before that, he lived in a Brooklyn townhouse and worked in the city as a designer for an ad agency. It was while working for the agency that he took a drawing course at Parsons School of Design; he was trained as an industrial designer and had never done anything like that before.

The vineyard was sold when the work became too much for him and his wife, Gloria, and Jim became a watercolorist,

with some guidance from two watercolor instructors.

He created an art studio in an old stone barn on his property, named Red Pump Studio Art Gallery, and nearly all of his hundreds of watercolors are there, some framed under glass, but most stacked on the floor. He always works from photographs that he takes himself using an old-fashioned Nikon film camera and using regular watercolor paper. He recently experimented with a new support called Yupo, which is a type of plastic film. However, he doesn't much care for it because the paint sits on the surface rather than being absorbed, and the result is not the same.

Jim is a member of the North East Watercolor Society (originally the Orange County Watercolor Society) and exhibits yearly at the Annual International Exhibition for the North East Watercolor Show (NEWS) in Kent, Connecticut. He has sold a number of his works, which fetch between \$750 and \$1,400 each, depending on size. Among his subjects are a "clone series" of paintings in which he depicts a sitter multiple times. One depicts two

men in conversation before a fireplace, a portrait over the mantle. Between them is a bottle of wine labelled Adair Millot. Each has a glass of red wine from that bottle. Actually, both the conversing men and the portrait are of Jim Adair—hence a "clone" painting. He's done others, including one of a good friend and another of a nude model depicted multiple times in the same picture.


Jim's wit can be subtle, as in one painting depicting a sculpture that is in a rotunda of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; a female nude holding high a bow—perhaps the hunt goddess, Diana—but perched on the bow is a bird (a parrot?), placed there by Adair—an amusing touch of whimsy. Usually, however, he prefers landscapes. A particularly attractive image shows the



Jim Adair, photo at left, and one of his watercolors, above.

French Church and the Crispell Cemetery on Huguenot Street.

Jim's painting has slowed down a bit in recent years, as he is now taking care of Gloria, who is unwell. But he remains spry and is a pleasure to converse with. □



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## Richard P. Clark: Illustrator Extraordinaire

by L.A. McMahon

Everyone living in Gardiner knows that we have our share of artists and celebrities in residence. However, one local professional artist—meaning one who makes a living from their art—is both locally incognito and internationally known: Richard P. Clark, illustrator, comic book artist, painter, and general, all-around “fresh head.” By “fresh” I mean he has a unique perspective and way of interpreting the world, real and imaginary, in a graphic style that is amazingly cool.

Richard’s career began in 1993 while still an undergraduate at The Columbus College of Art and Design, where he received his Fine Arts degree. Since then, he has worked for a variety of clients in the editorial, book and advertising industries and, my personal favorite: the comic industry. I was so excited for the opportunity to interview Richard because I started my comic-reading career at five years of age, and still have a major soft spot for the art, as well as for the kind of stories that can best be told through that graphic art form.

Richard has worked for the *big* comic houses—DC and Marvel—but also for a lengthy list of diverse clients including Dark

Horse Comics, Moonstone Books, Wall Street Journal, Field & Stream, Vibe, HBO and Playboy. Richard has even created a slew of comic book characters in a series of health-related comic books intended to help those with HIV understand how the virus harms the body and how drugs work to combat it—no small feat.

I asked Richard how he wound up in Gardiner about 13 years ago. It turns out that he and his wife, Susan, then residents of Brooklyn, were invited to visit a friend of Susan’s who had a cabin here. They were immediately struck by the beauty of the area, but had no plans to launch out of Brooklyn until Susan got pregnant. Then both Richard and Susan switched into hyper-nesting mode, which required a safe and lovely place to raise their family. A local realtor showed them a home in the woods off South Mountain Road, and the rest is history—Gardiner got its very own illustrator extraordinaire.

I wondered what challenges a city boy like him had had living in a home set in the woods, and it turns out most of the challenges are the same as everyone



Top: Clarke’s only Gardiner work, on the side of a local contractor’s truck, and Bottom: Grendel Prime for Baltimore ComicCon 2013 Art Annual.

else’s: ticks, taxes, critters and insects. When asked what he likes best about living in Gardiner, he said, “The community, the pace of life, and the environment; yes, the very same environment where the ticks live...”

“So, what’s new and exciting in your work life?” I asked. Richard answered that over the past few years he’s been working on a comic project that he started with a question: What would our media personalities look like in the not-too-distant future given current trends in tech and media? Richard’s answer was “STAR”, a comic series

that “isn’t just some social-science thought experiment, no, it’s first and foremost an action-adventure story with loads of action with some really dark satire thrown in for good measure.”

In the Kickstarter campaign that funded the project, the main character is described as follows: “She’s fit. She’s fun. She’s a super-genius adventurer and the world’s most-watched media personality. She is STAR.” For more info on the project, go to [kickstarter.com](http://kickstarter.com) and search: STAR: 72-page Series Debut. For more info about Richard’s work: [zippystudio.com](http://zippystudio.com). □



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## Saving a Life With a Song

by Barbara Sides

Each year, more than 350,000 out-of-hospital Sudden Cardiac Arrests (SCAs) occur in the United States, 80% in the home. An SCA is different from a heart attack. This particular kind of cardiac arrest stops the heart due to an electrical problem. The person loses consciousness and has no pulse. This differs from a heart attack which is caused by a block in the blood supply to the heart muscle.

According to the American Heart Association, about 90% of people who suffer SCA's die – a pretty sobering statistic. But we each have the power to significantly improve this statistic. Especially if performed immediately, CPR can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival. That's an astounding statistic. And it means that any of us could be responsible for saving the life of a loved one.

But how? It's called HANDS-ONLY-CPR. Forget the old images of mouth to mouth resuscitation.

This latest lifesaving technique has two easy steps: (1) Call 9-1-1 and then (2) push hard and fast in the center



of the chest to the beat of a familiar song that has 100 to 120 beats per minute. Remember "Stayin' Alive

by the Bee Gees? Or "Walk the Line" by Johnny Cash? The beat of these and many other songs corresponds to the 100-120 chest compressions per minute that buy time, pushing oxygen-rich blood through the body to keep vital organs viable until the ambulance arrives.

Anyone can learn to do this. There is no risk for the person performing HANDS-ONLY-CPR. There is no "wrong" way to do it and the bystander or family member

is legally protected by the Good Samaritan Act. The upside is that you can't hurt the victim and you can, in fact, save a life.

To watch a 90 second demo video to learn how to perform HANDS-ONLY-CPR, visit [heart.org/handsonlycpr](http://heart.org/handsonlycpr). You can find a CPR class near you at [www.heart.org/findacourse](http://www.heart.org/findacourse) or contact your local American Heart Association.

Bystanders and family members are vital links in the chain of survival of SCA victims. They truly have the power to give the gift of life. □

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## **Agenda,** from page 12

waterways such as creeks and rivers are not unduly stressed by land development—and plan to present this to the Town Board.

### **Natural Resources Inventory:**

We are currently looking at what areas of the Natural Resources Inventory need updating, for completion in conjunction with the Climate Smart Gardiner task force and in support of the work of the Open Space Committee.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

(from Michele Tomasicchio and Joshua Platt, Board Members)

We devised a 3-year plan for improving facilities and presented it to the Town Board. In addition to plans to create trails on 86 acres behind the Transfer Station, our vision is to rehabilitate and complete Majestic Park's infrastructure: the pavilion was razed and will be replaced; the

pole barn has finally been fitted with a state-of-the-art UV water filter system; and bathroom stalls are being installed. The long-term plan is to make the pole barn a year-round facility to be rented for programs, workshops and parties.

We are pursuing grants and collaborating with the New Paltz Community Foundation, a 501-3(c), to fundraise for the proposed projects. If you have grant writing experience we would greatly appreciate your assistance.

**OPEN SPACE COMMISSION** (from Jean-Ann McGrane, Chair)

The Open Space Commission is just getting restarted. We plan to meet monthly—usually the second Monday, but somewhat fluid over the summer—and details should

be posted on [www.townofgardiner.org](http://www.townofgardiner.org).

We will be spending the summer months familiarizing ourselves with the Town's existing Open Space Plan, reviewing previous Open Space Commission efforts, and learning about Open Space Conservation activities in the region, as well as looking to identify resources that might assist us moving forward.

Our goal is to develop a plan of action for the Commission which we will hopefully begin to implement in the Fall. The Town's Open Space Plan can be viewed at [www.townofgardiner.org](http://www.townofgardiner.org). A hard copy is also available at the Gardiner library.

**CLIMATE SMART GARDINER**  
(see feature article page 4.) □

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**Greg Dawes**



## Groceries, from page 2

north of Route 44/55, is just that. It's like a mini supermarket, its aisles stocked with a wide variety of canned foods, health related products, laundry and barbecue supplies, salad dressings and pasta, just to name a few. Additionally, they have one of the largest selections of soft drinks and beer in the town, and their deli counter makes all kinds of sandwiches. An employee proudly told me they are open 365 days a year from 6:00am to 9:00pm. 845-255-8883.

It's 3:00am, you need laundry detergent, corn flakes, a hat or allergy relief medicine. The Chestnut Mobil Mart gas station and grocery/deli, on the southwest corner of Routes 208 and 44/55 is where you need to go.

Feras, a member of the owner's family, proudly told me, "we are the only grocery open 24 hours

a day in Gardiner."

They stock much beyond food, including things like motor oil, work gloves, paper goods, laundry products, some fresh fruits to complement a sandwich, a pharmacy rack for just about every ailment, and an electronics gadget rack just in case you lost your phone charger cable.



All photos: Alan Rothman, Page 2, the Mountain Harbor Deli; frozen meats at Jenkins-Leuken; the Village Market and Eatery; Ireland Corners General Store. This page: Chestnut Mobil Mart.

Additionally, they make

sandwiches and have a tremendous variety of soft drinks and alcoholic beverages. 845-255-2256.

There are also many farm stands, egg suppliers, herb growers, organic produce

and meat producing farms. All are owned and operated by our hardworking neighbors who put in exceedingly long hours to provide us with a wide variety of groceries and fresh and preserved products. Why not make your next meal a locally sourced delight? □

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## Lake, from page 1

aces and regattas. The lake surrounds had gazebos, badminton courts, food for sale and ample parking. People came from near and far to enjoy the pleasures to be had there.

Many locals have intense memories of the glory days of Tillson Lake. (Go to [savetillsonlake/](https://www.facebook.com/savetillsonlake/) facebook to see historic scenes.) Hassie Tillson eventually sold the lake to Dominick Porco, who kept it as a treasured destination, but in the late 1970s, Tillson Lake was sold to a member of the Unanue family, the owners of Goya Foods, who proposed to surround the lake with trailers that would effectively cut it off to all its fans. His plan was rejected by the Town of Gardiner in 1982.

In retaliation, he drained the lake, creating a landscape of horror and, eventually, a field of invasive plants with a skinny stream running through it. It remained that way for 12 years until it was bought by John Bradley, owner of the 2,500-acre Awosting Reserve. Bradley proposed to build a gated community with 249 "starter castles," with the lake as part of the development. A grass-roots organization called Save the Ridge fought the project. Eventually, a judge decided to sell the property to Trust for Public Land and the Open Space

Institute, and in 2006, Tillson Lake became part of the state park when it was turned over to Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

So why preserve this lake? For almost 100 years it has been a beautiful part of Gardiner. People come to kayak, fish, picnic, bird watch and relax. The complex ecology that evolved during its long existence—ducks, turtles, frogs, herons, eagles, osprey, largemouth bass, spotted bass, catfish, crappie and brown trout—would be destroyed if the lake were to be destroyed. Furthermore, due to climate change and environmental degradation, the Palmaghatt Kill cannot be restored to what it possibly once was. There is barely any water in the summer or during droughts, so unless there is costly wetland restoration, we will be left with a field of invasive plants and a seasonal stream running through it.

Tillson Lake is the only handicapped-accessible lake in Minnewaska State Park Preserve. It is also the only lake in which one can fish, and only one of two where boating and kayaking are permitted.

When it became part of Minnewaska, the Gardiner Master Plan stated that repairs



Young girl at Tillson Lake. Photo: Sabina Kurz.

to Tillson Lake were a high priority. No repairs were ever made, and now there is supposedly no money to make them. Yet Governor Cuomo's 2019 budget allocated \$300 million to protect New York State's air, water and natural resources and to support the economic benefits that communities reap from such investment. The governor stated that "New York's environmental resources are among our greatest treasures, and it is critical that

we do everything we can ..."

Many lakes across the country, including some in the Adirondacks, exist because of dams. Losing Tillson Lake would mean the loss of a peaceful Shawangunk foothills lake used by visitors and residents. It attracts home owners and is a reason to move to Gardiner or Wallkill. As an 88-year-old resident of Pine Bush said, "First they took away the skating rink, then they took away swimming. Now they want to take away the lake?" □



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## Friends, from page 1

in 9th grade. We have been inseparable since—pajama parties, vacations every year, and always there for each other.”

When asked about their early days, Jewell and Trudi reminisced about the one-room Tuthilltown school with its wood stove, that housed grades one through six. They recalled walking or riding their bikes to school, the small class, the one teacher who taught all the grades. Carol recalled Girl Scouts at the old hotel where Pasquale's is now, and Jewell remembered the train station and the creamery, where Milk Street is today. (The name makes more sense to me now.) All four remembered going to McKinstry's Store to read the comic books and have an ice cream soda. It was a simpler time, and you can tell that these are rich and fond memories.

The stories from their many years of friendship came fast and furious with several interruptions, additions, and variations to each other's accounts. These ladies are not afraid to jump in to finish each other's sentences or to correct each other. There is a comfort in this friendship that can only be described as familial; they are more sisters than friends.

There was the time that they were all in Trudi's wedding

and ordered the bridesmaid gowns but, unbeknownst to the others, Jewell ordered a different color so she could be the known as the 'maid of honor.' There was the time they all piled into Jewell's car to take a trip to Trudi's house in Washingtonville and got lost on the way. The kicker is that Trudi was in the car. Apparently sense of direction is not her strong suit, according to the rest of the gals.

When pressed to give a favorite memory, it seemed an impossible task for every member. As Trudi put it, "It's just us. It's the four of us being together." All the ladies give most of the credit to Carol. Jewell said, "Carol was the one who kept us together. When we were all busy with our lives Carol would always draw us back together."

There have been too many sleep overs, shared laughs, and tears of happiness and sadness to count, but their friendship has remained strong for over six decades. They all agreed the secret is "honesty and laughter." This is not to say that they haven't had their share of fights and disagreements, but when it comes time to move on, that is exactly what they do. They let me in on one of their little secrets. After a fight, once the phrase, "You look particularly



May 26, 1996, the four friends at Trudi's wedding. Photo courtesy Trudi Sims.

lovely this evening," is said, the members of the group all know it is the cue that someone is sorry, or it's time to move on and, with that, the ladies can laugh again.

As I was leaving, I asked if they had any big plans for the night. They were bringing dinner to Trudi's, because her husband was recovering from an operation. Of course, I thought, because that's what

friends do. They're there for you when you need them.

Sometimes it seems as if we live in a divisive time; a time of disharmony. But after hearing the stories and laughter, seeing the kindness and empathy, and watching the support that these women clearly give and receive from each other, I was reminded that all you really need to make you smile is a little help from a friend. □

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## **Gardiner Day: Save the Date**

*by Cindy Dates*



**September 8** - Come join us for the 29th Annual Gardiner Day! A FREE event featuring family, fun and friends: farm fresh produce, children's crafts, amazing entertainment, delicious food and talented crafters. Meet your neighbors and make new

friends. Gardiner, a hamlet in the shadows of the Majestic Gunks, has heart, spunk and community pride.

**October 13** - Fall Dinner Dance fundraiser, Elks Lodge, New Paltz. Enjoy a delicious meal, country music and line dancing. Let's dust off our dancing shoes and boots and have a good old-fashioned hoot!

**October 25, 6pm** (rain date, Oct. 26) - Gardiner's Annual Pumpkin Walk. FREE! Bring your little ones in costume to the Library parking lot for a short and safe parade loop, ending with homemade re-



Left, Phillies Bridge Farm CSA in the Country Living Tent, and above, young students in the Fighting Spirit Karate Demo.

freshments. Candy treats will be given out courtesy of Friends of the Library.

**November 30, 7pm sharp**, Christmas Caroling and Tree Lighting. FREE! Santa will be joining us for caroling through town beginning at

Gardiner Gables and ending at the Town Hall for the Tree lighting and homemade refreshments. We will also be collecting new toys for Toys For Tots.

Watch for more info in the New Paltz Times and on our FB page ~ Gardiner Day New York. ☐

### **About This Publication**

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