



# The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Winter 2019 - Issue #41  
Free! Please take one

## The Gazette, at Ten

by The Gazette Editorial Committee

Ten years ago, in the winter of 2009, The Gardiner Gazette published its first issue (at right). It was shy on pictures. There were a handful of ads in it, all of them the same tiny size. We had no idea that it would last more than a few issues, but here we are. The old saying that the way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time is true here, too. We put our heads down and got out one issue at a time. If you try to think into the future too far, it just doesn't seem doable.

Our Editorial Committee was fairly stable for eight of the ten years, and now we have lots of new faces and lots of new energy. We have loyal advertisers, regular contributors, and generous donors.

Thank you, residents of Gardiner, for your enthusi-



astic support. Will we still be here ten years from now? Hmmm...time for a meeting about the next issue. Let's just focus on that!

## Also in this issue ...

- Special road signs, [p. 2](#)
- Wine Jelly, [p. 3](#)
- Artist Ron Schaefer, [p. 4](#)
- Just keep moving, [p. 5](#)
- STAR Exemption Reminder, [p. 5](#)
- On the Agenda (Town Hall), [p. 6](#)
- Wool Barn, [p. 7](#)
- Best of the Hudson Valley, [p. 8](#)
- Winning Wine, [p. 9](#)
- History/Dot Decker, [p. 10](#)
- Tick Tubes, [p. 15](#)
- Women Helping Women, [p. 16](#)

## How Much of My Land Should I Clear?

by Roberta Clements

How much of my property should I clear? The answer should be guided not only by appearance, but also by what best supports sustainability of the land, plant and animal life, water quality, and public health.

While property owners often wish to remove all rough shrubbery, view-blocking trees, dead limbs, logs, and wet moss and dirt, it is actually these types of substances that feed a healthy ecology and what makes Gardiner naturally beautiful. What we often perceive as purifying our landscape, may actually be harmful to that we really

cherish the most.

The grass lawn as a status symbol has its origins in the costumes of European aristocracy, and the very first lawns were grassy fields that surrounded English and French castles. Those castle grounds had to be kept clear of trees so that the soldiers protecting them had a clear view of their surroundings. We can probably let go of that now.

The complex web that is our ecosystem relies on microscopic forms of life, bugs, birds, moles, foxes, bears,



deer, turkey, water, puddles, swampy areas, leafy ground cover (called duff), sun, shade, and all other forms of existence.

Best practices for the environment suggest clearing only the yard that you need, and allowing the rest of your property to remain in its perfectly natural state. While we cherish our acres, we very often do not "use" them

other than for aesthetic views. That once-a-year party may be quite successful and cozy in a much smaller area. Maintaining a smaller "footprint" is also cheaper, easier and less time consuming.

You might consider landscaping practices that use only plants that are historically native to the Hudson Valley. Consider plantings that support critical and

Land, [continued page 9](#)

## Need Signs? Mission Improbable

by L.A. McMahon

My mission—if I chose to accept it—was to find out how a Gardiner resident gets a blind driveway, deaf child, school bus stop, or other caution sign placed on a local road. You'd think it would be a simple thing for a New York State taxpayer to apply for the installation of a "special" sign to prevent a tragedy concerning a special needs person. "Definitely not rocket science," I thought, so I accepted the mission.

After three hours of research on Ulster County and State of New York websites, I came up empty, with absolutely no clue as to how to reach an actual human being for assistance. However, not being a quitter (nor too bright), and being somewhat irate at how difficult government entities make things, I kept digging.

First, I felt the need to describe exactly what I was looking for, and in the Traffic Sign Handbook for Local Roads, 3rd Edition (Revised: March 2010) I

found examples of signs and their uses.

"W11-9" and "W16-7p" signs provide advance warning of crossing locations regularly used by handicapped persons. The signs assume deceleration to an advisory speed of 0 mph (that is, stopped) when a handicapped person is present, and should be placed at or immediately in advance of the crossing location.

The "NYW7-6" and "NYW7-7" signs are used to warn motorists to be especially alert for a child under the age of 18 who may be either unable to hear normal traffic sounds, or unable to see approaching traffic. These signs also assume deceleration to 0 mph, and should be located in advance of the locations for which warning is considered necessary.

Both signs require the consent of the child's parent or



legal guardian, and the authority having jurisdiction is supposed to stay informed about the residences, the areas of activity, and the ages of the children involved, so that signs can be promptly removed when they are no longer needed.

So, now I knew about the signs, but was still no closer to figuring out how to apply for them. Finally, on my 5th phone call to various agency phone numbers I thought had some relevance, I spoke with a nice guy at the Ulster County Highway Department who promised "to get back to me," and on the NYS

Department of Transportation website, I found Public Information Officer Heather Pillsworth, the person to call on matters related to "Media and General Inquiries."

I'm media, right? I write for *THE GARDINER GAZETTE*! So I called, and she was LOVELY, a real oasis in the desert. I briefly described my mission, and she decided to join the Mission Improbable team.

In the next issue of *The Gazette*, look for the exciting resolution. (Although we now have a savvy ally, it's still gonna take a while—it's New York State, after all.) □ [↔ Back Comment ↔](#)

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## A Gardiner Business Puts Wine Jelly on the Map

by Jennifer Bruntl

Recently I sat down with Roberta Schwarz and Donna Petereit to discuss their recent business venture: wine jelly. You may be thinking, "Wine jelly? I wouldn't have put those two things together." I thought the same thing. Here's the story behind how it happened.

Roberta's husband, Eric Schwarz, had been making wine at their home for several years, and although the Schwarzes thought it was pretty good, Eric and Roberta were eager to have the wine officially judged. While there are many competitions around the country for commercially made wines, there didn't seem to be any place to have this done for a homemade wine.

Around this same time, Roberta had watched a biography on Em-

ily Dickinson and remembered that Emily submitted products to be judged at the local county fair. This turned out to be an "ah ha" moment for Roberta. It was mid-summer, and she knew that the Ulster County Fair was only a few weeks away. She promptly investigated how to go about entering wine into the fair.

Unfortunately, the Ulster County Fair does not judge wine. So Roberta started looking around at the other categories of products that the fair does judge. Her eyes rested on jelly! This could be her opportunity to have the wine judged through the jelly. Sure, it wasn't exactly what she had in mind, but she was keen on trying to get some kind of wine product into the fair. She called back to ask if she still had time to enter and the answer was yes, if she postmarked



Roberta Schwarz and Donna Petereit.  
Photo courtesy Roberta Schwarz

her application by that day. Now she just had to figure out how to make wine jelly!

A few days later, Roberta was at a party with her friend Donna Petereit and explained her current predicament. Donna had been making fruit jellies for years and had never worked with wine but she was game to try. Together in their kitchens over the next two weeks

Donna and Roberta, with the help of Roberta's less than enthusiastic teenage sons, embarked on a journey to make a wine jelly. It was an ambitious undertaking, but after many sticky stoves, mishaps and kitchen messes they finally produced a wine jelly that jelled and tasted good. "The whole thing was serendipitous!" says Roberta.

Wine Jelly, [continued page 11](#)

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## Artist Ron Schaefer: Much to Admire

by Carrie Abels

There is much to admire at Ron Schaefer's gallery in Tuthilltown. Finely-painted landscapes take viewers from the Shawangunk Ridge to Yosemite National Park to Ireland; fiery paintings depict industrial scenes in Pittsburgh; classic still lifes capture nature's bounty on pitch black backgrounds.

But look closer at the frames. You wouldn't realize it, but nearly all the frames were made by Ron, who was trained in frame-making many years ago by Robert Kulicke, a master craftsman and artist who constructed frames for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. As a result, Ron can craft frames from virtually any period in art history and tell you the difference between a Flemish 17th century frame, a Florentine Italian frame, and a Federal style frame from 1830s America. There are frames he has built in the style of the Louis XIII era and the Louis XVI era. "I could teach you the difference in a second!" he says, with his customary easy smile and light chuckle.

It's just one of many interesting discoveries about a man whose artistic career has taken him in many different directions. Now 74, Ron has been drawing since the 4th grade. He was born in New York City, but came to Gardiner "on and off" as a child because he had family who owned

a glass-cutting factory in New Paltz. He graduated from New Paltz High School, and after entering the engineering field, headed to Pittsburgh to work at Westinghouse.

He painted during his time at Westinghouse, and was given a one-man exhibition at the highly respected Westmoreland Museum of Art. Today, his paintings of Pittsburgh's iconic steel mills, on view at his gallery, bear witness to his love of that city and his time there.

Soon he began working as a conservator, or art restorer, for galleries and museums in and around Pittsburgh. His work was noticed by Helen Frick, of the renowned industrialist Frick family, which had built art museums in Pittsburgh and New York City, and Ron assisted in maintaining her private collection.

As a conservator, Ron came into contact with very old paintings that had become damaged. His task was to touch them up so they appeared new: "just like a dentist doing a filling," he says; not imposing his own style on the painting, but staying true to the intentions of the artist.



Ron Schaefer in his gallery. Photo: Carrie Abels

He came to Tuthilltown in 1984 and settled in the house he still occupies with his wife, Pat. The couple raised two children, and Ron continued to paint, selling his work at various galleries in the Hudson Valley and around the Northeast. His private studio is located in an 1837 one-room schoolhouse a mile up the road.

In 2014, he converted the old two-car garage on his prop-

erty into his gallery. Though health issues have been dogging Ron lately, his passion for art hasn't waned. He still tries to get out as often as possible to paint beloved landscapes. "I've gotten a lot slower, but I've gotten better," he says.

The Tuthilltown Gallery is right next to the Tuthilltown Spirits Distillery, at 8 Grist Mill Lane. Winter hours are Saturdays from 12 to 5, or call 845-943-0797 for an appointment. □

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## Just Keep Moving

by Liz Glover Wilson and Lori Beers

Let's talk about "intentional" movement and how important it is to our health. Wait! Just keep reading. I promise this is not an exercise article. Formal exercise is great, but what we're talking about here is how to incorporate more movement into your average day.

Did you know that we have a serious problem of inactivity in our culture and it is literally killing us? The World Health Organization has identified physical inactivity as an independent risk factor for chronic disease development and it is now the fourth leading risk factor for death worldwide.

So what holds us back? Maybe it's that we are not in the best shape anymore, because we've accumulated more years, more responsibilities, less time, and maybe more restrictions or physical injuries. Or maybe we just always preferred to come home and get straight to the couch. But now we know how damaging inactivity can be, so just keep moving!

We can move our bodies regardless of where we are. This might be as simple as standing at our

computers. Maybe instead of sitting still at our desks, we find ways to stretch and move and wriggle, or put an alert on our phones to stand up every 15 minutes and do a few squats. Maybe we take the stairs instead of the elevator, or take a brisk walk instead of going to the lunch room. Just don't stop moving.

Think about your last 24 hours. How much time did you commit to intentional movement? Did you know that even if you exercise 30 minutes a day, but sit for the rest, you are not keeping a healthy energy flow throughout your body? Evaluate your physical activity and consider making a plan to incorporate intentional movement to improve your physical fitness. Whatever you do, just keep moving.

The beauty of this life is that we are always moving forward; there is no other direction for us to go. So don't call it quits or give up on healthy habits or physical activities. Just keep moving. You have an abundance of opportunities to continue to move your



Stock internet photo

body regardless of what physical ailments you may face or what lack of exercise experience you may have. Try not to compare yourself to other people, or to your younger self.

Scheduling short periods of intentional movement throughout the day can clear your head and improve your circulation and emotional

well-being. It can help you get in better tune with your own body.

Awareness can be the difference between a healthful life and disease. When we have self awareness, we are more able to recognize trouble in our bodies and to take the steps necessary to heal. So whatever you do, please just keep moving. □

[Back Comment](#)

## Star Exemption Reminder!

from the Office of the Assessor

Many Gardiner homeowners are eligible for exemptions on a portion of their real property taxes on their primary residence if they meet certain requirements and file for exemptions by the deadline. All exemption applications, whether new or renewals, must be submitted to the As-

essor on or before March 1st, 2019.

If you have any questions about recent changes to the STAR program, please contact the Assessor to see if these changes apply to your property. 845 255-9675 x105. □

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## On The Agenda

by Patty Gandin

This quarter, The Gazette received updates from the following Boards and Committees:

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

**General:** A new Ethics Board will be seated and ethics training for municipal officers will now occur annually. A law has also been enacted governing the Planning Board and we are working on the requirements of the 2004 law on Minimum Attendance and Training, which needs revision so that our volunteers can reasonably comply.

**Zoning Revisions:** We also conducted an audit of the zoning code on tourist-related definitions and dimensional requirements and enacted a 6-month moratorium. We will be revising several definitions, dimensional requirements and ambiguities in the code with a committee made up of the entire Town Board, with representatives from the Zoning Board and the Planning Board. Revisions will also address "Travel Trailer Parks" and "Tourist Camps." In addition, we intend to adopt a law to regulate Short Term Rentals (e.g., "Air BnB", "VRBO", "Tentrr", etc.).

**Comprehensive Plan:** We will review the Plan to determine which goals and objectives have been met, are in process, or have

not been addressed to lay groundwork for the time when the Comprehensive Master Plan will need to be redone.

**Grants:** Our success securing grants in 2018 will result in a significant administrative effort for the Clove Road Bridge replacement (UCTIPS); Forest Glen Road Bridge re-decking on the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, and the completion of the Pole Barn at Majestic Park.

**Sewer:** The sewer treatment plant serving the hamlet is at capacity. We have engaged an engineering firm to help examine it and report on how to proceed. Issues include how to sustain the system to serve current users and how to meet future demands projected in the Comprehensive Plan.

**Software:** It is essential that in 2019 we secure new financial management software and enact financial management policies and practices. Long overdue, and not nearly as exciting as much of the work that lies ahead, this need is high on our "to do" list.

**Miscellaneous:** We enter 2019 with: (1) a re-established Open Space Committee, and we see much

opportunity given the skills, abilities and enthusiasm of its members, (2) an updated web site, and (3) a Gardiner Day Committee of tireless volunteers which re-invented Gardiner Day in 2018 and spread the joy of Gardiner throughout the hamlet. Also, we look forward to discussions with the ECC on a draft aquifer protection law and with Gardiner's Senior Citizens on how to build on their study as to how to make Gardiner a senior-friendly place. 2019 will be very busy, and we plan a few ribbon cuttings as well: the pavilion at Majestic Park and the EV Charging Station at the entrance to the Gardiner Library (thanks to Climate Smart Gardiner!).

**OPEN SPACE COMMISSION** (from Chair Jean McGrane)

The OSC is conducting outreach to towns in the region to understand how they address the evaluation, acceptance and long-term monitoring of conservation easements. Our intent is to submit a summary of our findings with recommendations for establishing a comprehensive strategy for conservation easements to the Town in the next couple of months. We are also finalizing a database of all conservation easements in town.

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

The Commission continues to work on the Wetlands and Watercourse law for re-



view and passage by the Town Board. Also, members completed training on State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and Habitat Identification; we are still looking for two new members and invite applicants to contact town hall; and we are in the process of setting priority issues and welcome input about what residents would like the ECC to address. Contact robertaaclements@gmail.com.

**CLIMATE SMART GARDINER** (from Jason Mayer)

We continue to explore converting Gardiner's streetlights to LEDs, are working to construct our EV charging station at the library (using a grant from the NYSDEC) and supported the Town of Shawangunk in becoming a Climate Smart Community, which they did in December. We're also working on a municipal fleet inventory to assess GHG emissions and continue to be part of the Climate Action Plan Institute, working toward creating an inventory for Gardiner's GHG emissions, setting targets to reduce emissions, and

Agenda, [continued page 12](#)



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## Local Wool at its Best

by José Moreno-Lacalle

Paula Kucera and her husband David own the former Shaefer farm, where they built a house on a hill. They moved to their current home on the property 13 years ago, and about five years later, Paula opened her wool shop in the large white barn that had once been used for cows. She called it White Barn Sheep and Wool.

Paula had been a decorative artist for 25 years, but she was looking for something new, sustainable and connected to the land, that would let her express her artistic side. She had always been a knitter, so given that she now had a barn and pasture, it occurred to her to raise sheep for wool.

Paula focused on sheep that would produce the quality of wool she wanted and chose a breed called Cormo, which was developed in Tasmania in the 1960s by crossing a Corriedale ram with a Saxon Merino ewe. The breed is fast-growing, highly fertile, and provides very fine wool (18 to 23 microns), has terrific "crimp" (waviness), and is very soft.

Paula keeps a flock of about 60 sheep, which she feels is sustainable for the land on which they pasture. At lambing season, there may be 20 to 30 more, but she keeps the number at 60, selling the rest. There are three rams,

one of which is a chocolate Merino. The breeding season is controlled so that the ewes only bear in the spring. If ewes birth in the barn during winter, new mothers may walk away, leaving Paula to look after the lambs and try to get them to bond with the mothers.

Carl Borucki, Paula's friend, helps when needed with inoculations, cleaning of hooves, and birthing, and Noreen, who works at the farm across the road, brings her shepherd dogs to help with herding the flock.

Shearing, Paula explained, is a highly specialized procedure. While there are many shearers in Australia and New Zealand, there are very few in the United States.

She was fortunate to find Aaron Loux, from Massachusetts, who is very adept. It's critical that the shearing remove all the wool in a single pass, lest there be clumps of wool, which are useless. The coat is then laid out on the ground and the perimeter fibers, which come from the belly, are separated; they've collected mud and other detritus and are unusable for yarn.

The coats are then bagged and taken to a mill in Greenwich, NY, where the wool is carded and spun. Very fine yarn is the result, which she takes back to the barn, where it will be dyed and packaged for sale. Paula also carries the yarns of other producers in order to offer as wide a selection as she can.

The knitting world is very large and (ahem) close-knit. Beside the wool shop is a knitting room for patrons, who converse as they work; past that is a large room (the "kitchen") where she separates the various lots and dyes the wool. She prefers natural dyes and muted colors—nothing too loud. The shop itself is filled with yarns as well as knitting paraphernalia, and there is a coffee bar. Knitting classes are also



Paula Kucera.  
Photo: José Moreno-Lacalle

offered. It is, in sum, a cozy little world of its own, unique in Gardiner and a very special place to visit, but only Thursday through Sunday. For Paula, it's about the passion! Visit 815 Albany Post Road: Friday 1–6PM; Saturday 10AM–6PM; Sunday 12–5PM. (914) 456-6040 □

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## Gardiner's "Best" Businesses

by L.A. McMahon

Most everyone has seen the Best of Hudson Valley® (BOHV) logo proudly displayed by local businesses, for everything from "Best Jam Selection" at Wright's Farm, to the billboard-sized "Best Contractor" logo displayed on McMahon's Contracting trailers.

Does it not give Gardiner residents a sense of pride to see its local businesses recognized for excellence? Yes indeed, and every Spring, Hudson Valley Magazine's annual "Best of Hudson Valley®" (BOHV) starts up again with a new season of excitement. Nominations are taken on their website, and generally, each category has two winners. Readers' Choice winners are picked democratically; whichever takes the most votes on their online ballot wins. The Editors' Pick winners are selected after months of research.

During this research process, Hudson Valley Magazine pays for all meals and services, and the editors do their research anonymously. Some might ask, "Don't the magazines advertisers automatically win?" Hudson Valley Magazine strongly asserts on their website that "there is no connection between advertisers and winners. Period."

The 2018 Best of Hudson Valley® season ended with a huge party, on October 11th, 2018, at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. Hundreds of BOHV winners from around the region displayed their wares and received their awards, and over 1,500 party-goers celebrated along with them.

According to HV Magazine, the 2018 Gardiner winners were: Café Mio (Best Café); Fighting Spirit Karate (both Best Health & Fitness Classes and Best Mixed Martial Arts); McMahon's Contracting (Best Contractor); Mountain Brauhaus Restaurant (Best German Cuisine); Tuthilltown Spirits Distillery (Best Distillery); and Wright's Farm (Best Jam Selection.)

There were also a couple of repeat winners: Fighting Spirit has won four times in a row (2015-2018) and McMahon's Contracting has won twice (2017 & 2018).

I caught up with a few of these winners to get some insight into what they think differentiates them from other businesses: Tammy Boylan, of Wright's Farm, said, "I guess what sets us apart from other businesses

that make jams and canned goods is that we plant, grow, pick, clean, make, and label all jams ourselves. We started making jams over 25 years ago because we were throwing out so much fruit. So we started by making 10 jars of simple strawberry jam with berries we were going to toss out. Now we grow what we need to make jam.

We now make over 1,000 jars of each flavor every year and have over 20 flavors, made using raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, currants, blackber-

ries, peaches, nectarines, cherries, apples, and apricots. We combine different fruits, or add wine or bourbon to some jams. We also add hot peppers we grow to spice it up a bit, and we're always trying to come up with new flavors to keep up with the ever-changing customer taste buds."

Tom McMahon, of McMahon's Contracting, said, "Making customers happy is our business," and he pointed to the key factors he feels helps them to achieve

BOHV, [continued page 15](#)



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## Whitecliff Proves that Cabernet Franc is *the* Red Wine of the HV

by José Moreno-Lacalle

Whitecliff is an award-winning winery and vineyard owned by Michael Migliore and Yancey Stanforth-Migliore and has one of the largest vineyards in the Hudson Valley. Its 32 acres are primarily in Gardiner, with six additional acres now established across the Hudson River, in Hudson. Focused on Cabernet Franc, Gamay Noir, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Seyval Blanc, their vineyards serve as the foundation for a 6,500-case annual wine production. Among other things, Whitecliff is a member of the Hudson Valley Cabernet Franc Coalition, which is meant to showcase the variety as the Valley's signature grape.

In 2018, Whitecliff was award-

ed a coveted Double Gold Medal from the prestigious San Francisco International Wine Competition (SFIWC) for its 2016 Cabernet Franc. This makes 2018 a great year for Whitecliff. It marks the beginning of its twentieth year in business, and it began with yet another international Double Gold; for Whitecliff's Gamay Noir at the Finger Lakes International Wine Competition.

With two international awards for Hudson Valley reds this year, Whitecliff is chipping away at the outdated assumption that New York doesn't produce great red wines. Furthermore, it confirms the idea that Cab-

ernet Franc is indeed *the* red variety of the Hudson Valley. To really enjoy the wine, it should be decanted or poured into glasses for about an hour before drinking it, so that the exposure to air will soften the high acidity typical of such young wines. Already it offers aromas of dark red fruit, delicate herbal notes, and a hint of oak. It has good body and the flavors confirm what the nose tells you. While enjoyable now, I think that it would benefit from being laid down for a few years. Buy a case and open a bottle every few months. You'll find that it will evolve over time. It really is good, and will get even better. But then, a Double Gold-winning Cabernet Franc should do exactly that!

This high level of achievement for Whitecliff's Cabernet Franc, which was made from



The award-winning Cab Franc.  
Photo: José Moreno-Lacalle

estate-grown grapes at their home vineyard at 331 McKinstry Road in Gardiner, will no doubt contribute to recognition of the Valley as a significant producer of this variety. Call (845) 255-4613 for more information. □

## God, on Lawn Care

... an indulgence from the internet

GOD to ST. FRANCIS: Frank, what in the world is going on down on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of color by now, but all I see are these green rectangles.

St. FRANCIS: It's the Suburbanites that settled there, Lord. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It attracts only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green, fertilizing it each spring and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it; sometimes

## Land, from page 1

magnificent species, (such as milkweed, to support the dwindling monarch butterfly population) or use native ferns and grasses. Converting some of your mowed lawn to a wildflower meadow is a gratifying gardening experience (*Lawn To Meadow, Gardiner Gazette, Winter 2014*).

Clearcutting trees and sanitizing your yard may provide a level of satisfaction, but connected forest and wildlife corridors are essential to a healthy world and climate. What brought so many of us to Gardiner is the natural beauty and wildlife; it creates a sense of freedom and connection to what is genuine, both

within and outside of ourselves. When we try to mold this natural beauty to fit our view of perfection, we often destroy the things that we love most about Gardiner.

Screens have gone out of fashion, but some of my fondest memories are those summer nights, talking on the screened porch. In the new millennium we, too, can find ways to enjoy outdoor life without mowing every inch of our property or excessive use of pesticides (see *Tick Tubes*, p. 15).

Perhaps expanding our community use of Majestic Park would allow us to use less property individually, and keep in mind that "more and bigger" will result in less and less for future generations. □

God, continued page 14

↔ [Back Comment](#) ↔

## Dot Decker (2nd excerpt)

by Raymond D. Smith, Jr.

First excerpt in the Gardiner Gazette, Fall 2018. Originally published on *The Hudson Valley History Project: Gardiner*

...[Dot's son] Gary continues the story of the farm. "When my father took it over, he got more cows and built the milking parlor. He'd get up and milk at 3:30 in the morning and he'd milk at 3:30 in the afternoon and he'd never switch with daylight savings so he always milked at the same time. In winter it would be 3:30 normally, but in the summer, it would be like 2:30."

Dot thinks back to the Gardiner of 1935, when she married and moved here. "There was John Moran's store, which is Majestic's up there now. I can remember when my mother and father would want to come see me in the middle of

the winter. We had *snow* in those days. They could drive their car from Walden, up Route 208, into Gardiner and park at John Moran's store. Then my husband would go with the horse and sleigh . . . pick them up, put 'em in the sleigh and bring them the rest of the way down here. My mother wasn't used to the country life. My father wasn't either, really. My mother, she put up with it, just to see me. I had no washing machine at that time. I had a roof over my head. We used to get our dirty clothes all together and she took them back to Walden with her.

Gary continues, "There used to be a creamery right here in Gardiner, where Mario Milano has got his apartments [Creamery



The Decker's aptly named Dutch Belt cows.

Village]. And then that closed, around 1950. The next creamery was in New Paltz at the Jewett Farm. We'd put the cans on the truck and take them. That creamery closed about 1962. My father anticipated changes, so he put in a milking parlor – the only milking parlor in Gardiner."

Dick Decker had it set up so he could move the cows into the milking parlor, milk them, and move them out again without help. The milking parlor had milking stalls in rows along the long sides and a pit between the stalls. The milk-

er would stand in the pit, in easy reach of the cows' udders, without stooping. Gary explains, "With a milking parlor, you didn't carry milk to the cans and dump it in the strainer anymore. It was all pipelines. When we got the bulk tank, the milk went up through a pipeline and right into the bulk tank, like a big hopper. That was refrigerated. And then the truck came, a big tank truck. They'd hook the hose on the bottom, pump it out into the truck and then it went away." □

Visit <http://www.hudsonvalleyhistoryproject.org/stories> to read more.

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## **Wine Jelly,** from page 3

Once the jelly was entered, it was time to sit back and wait. When the prizes were finally given out, Roberta and Donna were elated to find out that not only did their wine jelly win "First Prize-Best In Show," but that their other entered jelly won Second Prize. First and second place at the County Fair is not too shabby for first-time entries, and Roberta and Donna started to think they were really on to something!

The Fair successes inspired the ladies to begin to make more wine jelly. They brought their jellies to Gardiner Day and began attending local festivals and farmer's markets. Eventually, they needed a commercial kitchen to keep up with demand and started using the kitchen at St. Charles Church in Gardiner once a month to expand their growing business.

Now, I drink wine, and I occasionally eat jelly, but not together. I think I expected a slightly alcoholic taste. Surprisingly, the jelly was quite delicious. All of the alcohol burns off in the process and you are left with the subtle sweetness of the wine it was made from. Donna explained that the jelly can be used in a variety of ways. Whether you are spreading it on a croissant, serving it with cheese and crackers or spreading it over a roast when cooking, the jelly adds a gentle sweetness and sophisticated flavor to many dishes.

Roberta and Donna make a good team. They had worked together in the same classroom at Lenape Elementary School for a many years and had developed a cohesive relationship. This teamwork transferred to the kitchen. Donna says, "We know what

to do before the other person even says it!"

The wine jelly business continues to expand. They are working to increase their on-line presence and have recently leased a commercial kitchen with a retail space tasting room located at 658 Route 208 in Gardiner to continue to increase the quantity of wine jelly that they are able to produce. The wine jelly is all natural with no added sulfites or preservatives used in any part of the process and

comes in the following flavors: white zinfandel, rose, pinot grigio, riesling, malbec, and sangiovese.

If you are interested in adding wine jelly to your cabinet or fridge, check out their Facebook page—Doc Schwarz Wine Jelly. You can pick up a 4-ounce jar of wine jelly for \$5. You won't be disappointed! Contact docschwarz@hvc.rr.com, and watch for their retail space, coming soon, to 658 Route 208. □

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## Agenda, from page 6

making plans to achieve these targets. We plan to share our inventory results with the Town Board soon.

We are planning a "Go Green Expo" (Saturday, March 16th, from 1 - 2pm) at the Gardiner Firehouse, with speakers and vendors to educate the public on climate change and promote climate smart actions, like composting, solar panels, electric cars, heat pumps, and home energy audits. We are working on developing bylaws for our Taskforce.

We are exploring a kid-friendly, Gardiner chapter of the "New York State's Trees for Tribs Program, which works to re-forest New York's tributaries, or small creeks and streams by planting young trees and shrubs along stream corridors, also known as riparian areas, in order to prevent erosion, in-

crease flood water retention, improve wildlife and stream habitat, as well as protect water quality."

### ZONING BOARD (from Chair David Gandin)

Pending is an application for variances in connection with a proposed subdivision of a 24-acre lot at 143 Aumick Road in the SP district. We will hear the application at our February 28th meeting.

### GARDINER PARKS & RECREATION (from Michele Tomasicchio)

New Chair: Brian Houser was asked to step down as Chairman of Gardiner Parks & Recreation by the Town Board and the town supervisor and our committee is still perplexed as to the reason. Brian volunteered hundreds of hours in research into

UV Water Filter companies for the Paul M. Mele Community & Recreation Center (a.k.a. the pole barn). He and Ralph Varrano installed the stall dividers in the women's bathroom. Since 2013 only one woman at a time could use the bathroom. Now four people can use the bathroom at once.

**Other additions:** two tether ball games and new basketball nets.

**Majestic Park:** The committee has a plan to revitalize Majestic Park and presented it to the Town Board. Our main focus has been to complete the inside of the Paul M. Mele Community & Recreation Center, which was erected in 2013, so it can be used and generate rental income for the Town as a community and recreation center. Sadly, it has only been

used on Gardiner Day, and for the Gardiner Summer Recreation program in the event of rain. Women's stall dividers, a UV Water Filter and a kitchen design have been competed in the Center. Our goal is to have the kitchen complete by the end of 2019; three-season rentals of Center; a paved parking lot around the Center; and better outdoor lighting. Discussion at our last meeting was to give the responsibility to complete the Center back to the Town.

**Fundraising:** We are working with the New Paltz Community Foundation, Inc. (NPCF), a 501c3, on fundraising efforts since there isn't much money budgeted for Gardiner Parks and Rec. NPCF, Inc. is currently accepting funds for the revitalization of Majestic Park. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit [newpaltz-fund.org](http://newpaltz-fund.org).

Agenda, [continued page 13](#)



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## Agenda, from page 12

foundation.org/take-action and indicate the donation is for Gardiner Parks and Recreation.

**Winter Potty:** Committee member Roger Ennis went before the Town Board to seek approval of renting and installing a port-a-potty at Majestic Park for the winter months. It was approved, and as of this writing there is a port-a-potty at Majestic Park.

**Trail Bikes:** Committee member Michael Albright has a passion for riding trail bikes and is working with local riding organizations like Fats In The Cats to create low main-

tenance trails that can be used by the community to bike, hike, snow shoe and cross country ski. Gardiner could have trails similar to the new River to Ridge trails, built in New Paltz, which are already used often. Michael has walked and flagged the proposed trails with Fats In The Cats and with Town Board member Dave Dukler. He will present a proposal at the March Town Board meeting.

**Facebook:** We want to hear from you about what you would like to see happen at the park. Reach out to facebook.com/GardinerParksandRecreation. □

## A Passing of Note

The Gazette was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of long-time resident Bart Colucci last November. A full article on Bart and his family's long involvement in Gardiner will appear in the spring issue.

The proud grandfather is seen here, at his granddaughter Amanda's wedding in May, 2017, in a photo provided by his daughter, Teresa Colucci Shand. □



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Maggie Marguerite Photography



**God,** from page 9

twice a week, and then most of them rake it up and put it in bags and pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow, and when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away? These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord, but when the grass stops growing fast, they water it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, the leaves form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit

down, Lord. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No! What do they do to protect the tree roots in the winter, to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: They go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

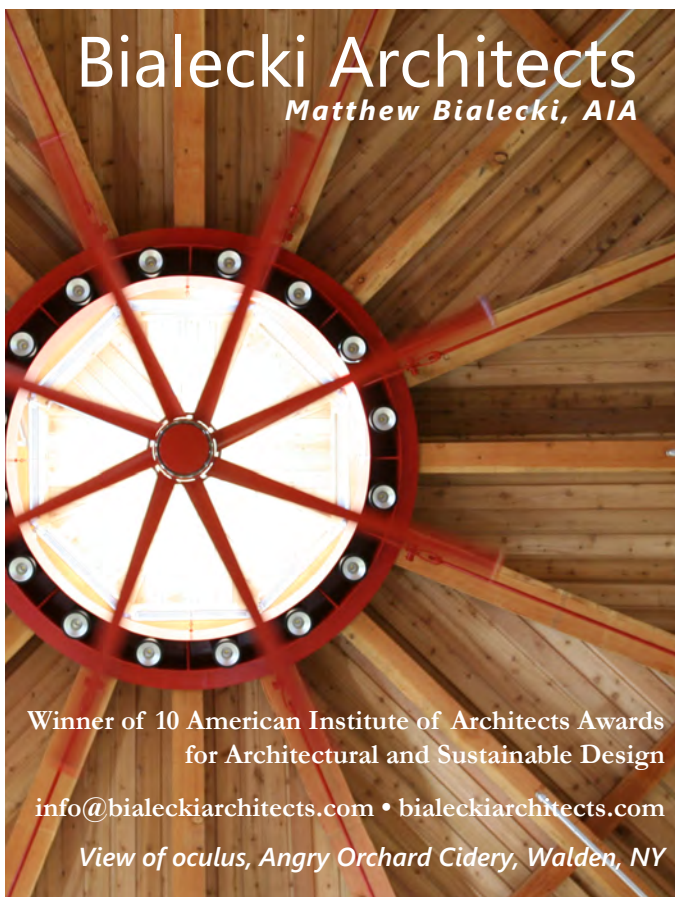
GOD: Enough! I don't want to talk about this anymore. St. Catherine, what movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: 'Dumb

and Dumber,' Lord. It's a story about....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis. □

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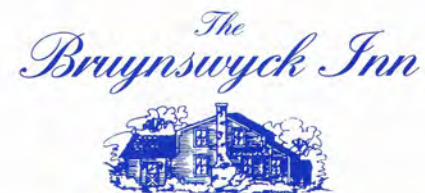
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## BOVH, from page 8

that goal: a high level of customer service, expert design services and craftsmanship, and interactive project communication.

They also have their own home improvement forum page on facebook, *McMahon's Home Improvement Forum*, which provides local, home-related, news, tips and access to interesting

home remodeling projects.

Sean Schenker, of Fighting Spirit, said, "many teachers approach martial arts using fear to grow discipline and respect. I believe in teaching with a gentle heart—being a teacher that knows how to ask for the best of what is inside every student, where safety, communication, guidance, and tolerance are all paramount.

Here at Fighting Spirit, it's really an ego-free, safe zone and a welcoming spiritual training space." He also mentioned that Fighting Spirit has fitness classes in addition to adult and children's martial arts classes.

We can show our support for Gardiner's hard working business owners by hiring and buying from local businesses whenever possible, and by keeping in

mind that supporting local businesses keeps our hard-earned dollars local; when our local businesses win, we all win.

*Editor's Note: Every year the Gazette manages to leave someone out. We only do it to make sure you're paying attention, but please get in touch if we did it again. We'll fix it in the next issue.* □

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## Want to Reduce the Tick Population? Try Tick Tubes

by Roberta Clements



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We all know that deer carry the ticks that spread Lyme Disease, but mice are carriers, too. Used properly, tick tubes are said to reduce the risk of exposure to an infected tick by up to 97 percent. Basically, your tick tubes are going to provide treated nest-building materials for mice so that the ticks they carry will be killed, while the mice and other animals on your property aren't harmed.

You can buy pre-made tick tubes, but that gets expensive, and many use highly toxic pesticides. Picaridin, produced synthetically in the lab, is a less harmful chemical derived from the plant that produces the pepper in the shaker on your table. According to the Environmental Working Group (EWG), Picaridin does not carry the same neurotoxicity concerns as DEET, and Permethrin (frequently recommended for DIY tick tubes) is toxic to cats and fish. Overall, EWG's assessment is that Picaridin is a good DEET alternative.

Take cotton balls or dryer lint, soak or spray them thoroughly with Picaridin, let them dry, and put them in the tubes. Place the filled tubes in areas that look like prime mouse habitat: near rocks and wood piles, in overgrown and wooded areas, around buildings, etc. Mice tend to be unseen, so focus on areas where you see chipmunks during the day. To have the desired effect, you will need to gather and re-fill your tubes, or distribute new ones, every few weeks from spring to late fall. Though the cardboard holds up surprisingly well, you may also use lengths of PVC pipe, but paint them orange and map their placement so they can be easily found and not left as litter on the landscape.

Some people recommend placing tubes every 10 feet; others every 10 yards. (It's a young science!) Experiment, and see what works best for you. When you make your own tick tubes, you can afford to use them liberally. □



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gardinergazette@earthlink.net  
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### **Editorial Committee:**

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Carol O'Biso, General Manager

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GardinerGazetteAds@gmail.com; (845) 527-6205  
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### **Contributing Writers:**

Lori Beers	Raymond D. Smith
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## **Gardiner Day Committee Hosts Annual Ladies Night Out**

*by Jennifer Bruntl*

The Gardiner Day Committee will be hosting its annual Women Helping Women Dance to benefit the Washbourne House, a local women's domestic violence shelter, on Friday, April 26 from 7-11pm at the VFW on Route 208 in New Paltz.

DJ Jay Smooth will be playing music and the party will include door prizes, raffles and a discounted cash bar. The price per ticket is \$20.

Those with a last name starting with A-M are asked to bring an appetizer while those with

names ending in N-Z are asked to bring a dessert. If you are interested in picking up a ticket, please contact Jewell Turner at 257-9675 ext.107 or Kathy DeLano at 255-4262 ext.4401.

If you are a local business who would like to donate a prize or gift certificate to the raffles or door prizes please contact Jaynie Marie Aristeo at 389-1849. The evening promises lots of fun, good food and drink and the opportunity to contribute to a great cause. ☐

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A group of skydiving friends who come out to support the Women Helping Women Dance each year. Left to right: Karen Harding, Nickie Fegan-Friedman, Leslie Wayne, Jen Marosy Scura, Jaynie Marie Aristeo, Ingrid Pessa, Judy Diamond. Photo courtesy Jaynie Marie Aristeo.

### **About This Publication**

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