



The Gardiner Gazette

A call to community



Fall 2015 - Issue #28
Free! Please take one

Election coverage ... see page 3!

A 1930s Poem Prepares Us For Firewood Season

by Fred Gerty

***Ashwood wet or ashwood dry
A King shall warm his slippers by.***

All plants with cellulose will provide heat when burned. For fuelwood, the more cellulose the more heat value. Gardiner is well populated with hardwood trees, which contain lots of densely packed cellulose and provide the best firewood. Any small, woodland patch of trees or fence row or roadside clumps of scraggly trees would benefit from some light thinning of poorly formed trees. Turn them into firewood.

Not sure which ones to cut? The excerpts included here, from "The Firewood Poem," by Lady Celia Congreve, circa



the 1930s (with additions and modification by the author), helps to figure it out. (The advice of a consultant forester is well worth the nominal fee, too!)

As the rhyme implies, ash is a species well worth the effort to obtain. Gardiner residents with a supply of white ash for their heating plans will be well provided for as the weather turns colder and ash is a tree with a number of serious

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insect problems, so any dying or dead ash should be cut and burned to help delay the spread of these pests.

Firewood, [continued page 14](#)



Too Close For Comfort? Bear Activity On The Increase In Gardiner

by Carol O'Biso

When they start peering in the windows like the family dog looking for dinner it makes you sit up and take notice (see the *back* page to further scare the pants off yourself). Bear populations here used to be concentrated in certain areas like the Catskills, Adirondacks and Alleghenies, but according to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), those populations are now moving and merging, and there's no shortage of evidence that they've found plenty of appealing real estate in Gardiner.

My own household, on the eastern end of McKinstry Road, has gone from one bear sighting in 13 years to six or seven in the past three. A family on Forest Glen Road had two encounters about a year ago—the first since they moved there in 1981, on Guilford Road, after 15 bear-free years a resident had now sees them regularly in the field behind the house, and there were two sightings near the Rail Trail off Sand Hill Road last summer.

Guess who's coming to dinner? A visitor on Campfire Road in Gardiner. Photo: Paul Muessig. Visit our Facebook page to see more and post your own bear pictures.

Bears, [continued page 12](#)

Dancing Meadow Farm: Loving Kindness Through Vegetables

by Barbara Sides

It's not unusual for yoga teacher, Anne Rogers to break into dance in the middle of a yoga class. It's also not unusual for any number of her students to follow suit. Anne's classes are gentle yet challenging and never lacking in an element of joy and camaraderie.

A certified yoga instructor, Anne and her husband, Dave, a retired chemical engineer, decided to embark on an entirely new adventure in what has become their beloved Hudson Valley home: Dancing Meadow Farm. The farm, aptly named, is a labor of love. After building most of their home with the help of their son, Matt, a woodworker and builder in his own right, the couple built a barn in 2008 and fenced in the property the next year.

Anne says, "What we wanted was a very large garden. We love eating local and have always been environmentally conscious." That large garden eventually grew into Dancing Meadow Farm, grown with organic seeds from the High Mowing Seed Company in Vermont. Though not certified, Dancing Meadow is an organic farm. No sprays are used and pests and fungus are handled without chemicals of any kind. "It's a learning process," Dave, who has taken many classes to improve the yield and quality of the veg-

etables the couple grows, explains. "Because vegetables pull minerals and nutrients from the soil, we put back composted materials and 14 minerals each time we plant. The taste and nutritional values are greatly increased."

Growing produce organically is difficult and risky however. Anne and Dave lose about two crops per year to bugs or fungus. Nevertheless, they love farming and have high praise for local farmers who have provided invaluable help. "The farmers in this area are fantastic. We were given so much help. They were amazing," Anne adds. And that help extended to sharing and trading farm implements as well as expertise.

Anne, a former physical education teacher, moved with Dave and two sons to the Hudson Valley in 2007. In their hometown of Allentown, Pennsylvania, Anne was director of a community exchange program founded to increase social networking. People traded services they needed for those they could provide. Anne began practicing yoga about 40 years ago and later, after extensive training, became certified in



Anne and Dave Rogers. Photo: Barbara Sides

Thai yoga massage. "Thai yoga massage is a very ancient system used in homes as well as hospitals in Thailand," Anne explains. "It is almost a way of life for the Thai people to use this bodywork for prevention of disease as well as healing. It uses compression massage, acupuncture and very gentle yoga stretching to move energy and remove blockages that could cause us to not feel well." Having experienced one of Anne's massages first hand, I can attest to the feeling of well-being and total relaxation that follows. In her yoga classes as well as in her massage therapy sessions there is an element of feeling "cared for" that remains long after the session is over.

Anne continues teaching yoga at the Gardiner Library and practicing Thai Yoga Massage, and the yoga, the massage and the farming all seem to have a central theme. They come out of what Anne describes as the "healing arts." As she explains, the first principle built into Thai Yoga Massage is loving kindness (Metta). "You find it in yourself and then you share it with others." Anne has al-

ways shared Metta through her yoga and massage, and now she and Dave have found a way to share it through Dancing Meadow Farm as well.

Since farmers' markets are difficult to staff and it is difficult to predict demand, Anne and Dave came up with a different marketing plan. Dave travels to four or five venues to sell the farm's produce. Among them is White Barn Farm on Albany Post Road and the Gardiner Library, following Anne's yoga classes, as well as a few restaurants. They use about 50% of what they grow for their own consumption, with Anne doing the processing and freezing. Dave takes 10% of what he and Anne grow to the soup kitchen in Newburgh where they are welcomed with open arms. Donated items include heads of lettuce, cucumbers, squash, collards and other greens.

Future plans include extending the growing season from April to early January and concentrating on growing asparagus as one of the main crops. In the meantime, you can reach Anne and Dave at 255-0087. Or stop in at the Gardiner Library on Tuesday or Thursday morning at 11 for yoga and food from the farm. □

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⇐ [Back Comment](#) ⇐

Election day is Tuesday, November 3rd. We urge every resident to register and vote.

The 2015 Democratic Party Platform

IMPROVE THE TOWN

- ☐ Invest wisely in the town's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and buildings.
- ☐ Improve Gardiner's recreational opportunities for families, including facilities and programs.
- ☐ Preserve and protect drinking water and wetlands.
- ☐ Maintain support of the library as the town's social and cultural center.

MAINTAIN FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE

- ☐ Develop responsible budgets based on the needs of the community
- ☐ Limit the tax burden on Gardiner property owners.
- ☐ Use existing reserves to fund key infrastructure projects, without raising taxes.
- ☐ Secure grants and donations to help fund important programs.
- ☐ Encourage business development to increase the revenue base.

PRESERVE GARDINER'S CHARACTER AND OPEN SPACE

- ☐ Preserve the small town nature of Gardiner and support the goals of the 2004 Master Plan.
- ☐ Advance Gardiner's Open Space Plan.
- ☐ Support established policies that protect the Shawangunk Ridge as a natural and community resource.

CONTINUE TO ENHANCE EFFICIENT, GOOD GOVERNMENT

- ☐ Continue to ensure open, inclusive government by encouraging participation by all members of the Gardiner community in town meetings and activities.
- ☐ Encourage the community to serve on town organizations, including the town board, the Planning Board, the ZBA, the ECC, and the open space commission.
- ☐ Promote a greater balance on the Planning Board between development and conservation interests. ☐

The 2015 Unity Party Platform

After witnessing our national government struggling to do right while being restrained by party affiliation, we have decided to put aside party affiliations and support individuals based on their strengths and commitment to Gardiner. We need a local government to focus on the priorities of the entire town and to manage the town within its means. We plan to work with the townspeople to develop a list of priorities that best benefit the town and then responsibly manage the activities and funds available to accomplish these goals. We proudly support the following candidates from all parties, a team we feel will bring UNITY back to the Town of Gardiner.

Town Supervisor candidate Marybeth Majestic has a bachelor's degree from SUNY New Paltz with a major in Political Science and minors in Journalism and Speech Communication. Marybeth believes in open government, professionalism, and common sense. A Gardiner resident for 35 years, she is familiar with town government and has been attending town board meetings for over 20 years. Marybeth, along with members of her family and the Gardiner Historical Society, worked hard to save the Town Hall from being demolished in the early 2000s.

Town Council candidate Bruna Rondinelli is a fiscally responsible candidate with solid values who is also creative and progressive. She believes that every taxpayer dollar must be accounted for. She believes that problems can be addressed at the local level, saving tax dollars from leaving the community. One of her proudest moments was becoming an American citizen. Now she is looking to achieve another American dream by serving Gardiner. Bruna is a highly collaborative player who will be a valuable asset to Gardiner's governing body.

Incumbent Town Council candidate Michael Reynolds is a professional with over 30 years of business experience. Michael has been instrumental in multiple initiatives that have benefited

Unity Party, [continued page 7](#)

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Candidates were asked to respond to the following question in a maximum of 150 words each. Responses were not edited. What do you see as the most important issue facing Gardiner and what are your constructive ideas concerning this issue?

Party affiliations (as supplied by candidates): Rep (R); Dem (D); Working Families (WF); Good for Gardiner (GFG); Women's Equality (WE); Conservative (C); People for Gardiner (P4G); Independent (I); Reform (Ref)

Candidates for Town Supervisor



Marybeth Majestic

(C; R; Ref; I; P4G)

The most important issue facing Gardiner today is leadership. Citizens attending town board meetings are asked to hold comments until privilege of the floor, after the vote has been taken. A single board member made the decision not to accept

brush at the transfer station. People are spoken down to and intimidated. Accusations of marital infidelity are made. Once, a citizen's employer was contacted by certain board members who didn't agree with what he said. Should this happen at town board meetings?

I would use meetings as opportunities to share deliberations rather than hold executive sessions. I would treat people with respect, courtesy and welcome their input. Decisions would be made with the people. Gardiner's leadership should encourage dialogue between the board and the people which would help identify the real issues. I am a common person, and I would lead with common sense and common courtesy. □



Carl Zatz

(D; WF; GFG; WE; Incumbent)

The residents of Gardiner pay a lot in taxes, only a portion of which goes directly to making Gardiner the great town it is. The challenge for me, Warren, and Laura has been to maximize the return for those tax dollars: to enable kids to leverage internet technology, to keep our commuters safely on the road, to provide quality recreation and services for our families and to enable businesses to thrive -- all while keeping your money in your pocket. That takes experience, skill, and leadership.

When my running mates and I campaign, we point to solid successes and a clear vision. Leaders talk about solutions. Followers blame others and talk about problems. I'll build on what's great about Gardiner and find solutions to our challenges. I love my job, and I love my community. So it's not about taking sides, it's about getting the job done. □

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Candidates For Town Board



Warren Wiegand

(D; WF; GFG; WE; Incumbent)

Biggest Challenge: Keep Gardiner Strong Without Raising Taxes. We need to compensate our dedicated employees fairly. We need to maintain our buildings, snow plows, and parks. We need to continue our summer camp for kids and our support for seniors. But, we need to keep taxes low. It can be done. This year taxes increased by 1.5% (inflation was 2%), while we maintained essential services. It's not magic. Taxes were kept at the second lowest level in Ulster County by seeking funding sources beyond the obvious. Over the last several years, we've used many, non-traditional types of funding.

- ☐ Federal and State Matching Grants for the Sidewalks
- ☐ Volunteer Labor for the Town Hall
- ☐ Private Donations for Majestic Park
- ☐ Grants from Foundations for Open Space
- ☐ Loans for the Transfer Station
- ☐ Town Reserves for Snow Plows

In the future we must use these and new sources of funding to keep taxes low. ☐



Mike Reynolds

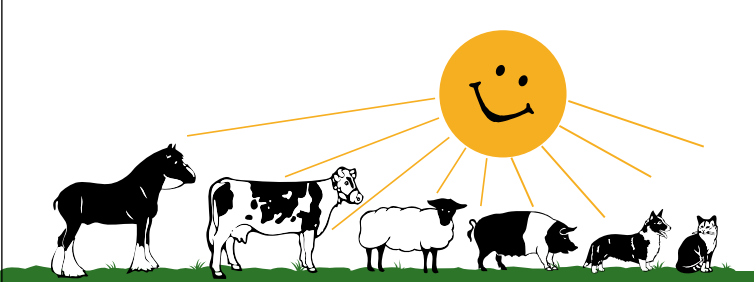
(R; C; P4G; I; Ref; Incumbent)

After serving 4 years as a Gardiner town board member, I think the most important issue we face today is getting all individuals to work toward a common goal that represents all stakeholders fairly. I believe that a more collaborative culture can be achieved by greater transparency and accountability. Current technology allows for this now more than ever. The majority of the current board does not act with this intent and only hampers and taints enhancements for our town.

My idea is to elect a group of individuals who understand the key element for success is to have an open mind and listen to all stakeholders. These individuals need to assimilate all information and make good decisions that benefit the whole community not the self-interest of one individual or subset group.

Quoting Martin Luther King; "It's amazing what can be accomplished when nobody needs to take credit." ☐


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Candidates For Town Board



Bruna Rondinelli

(R; Ref; C; I; P4G)

I believe that one of the issues facing Gardiner is the current town board made up of 5 men. This Board is not diverse and does not represent me, as a woman or as a minority. In addition, I don't see many grant applications to improve and foster our

Community. My constructive ideas are to enable a diverse cross section of the population to become more familiar with local planning, inviting younger people to join in with their creative ideas, allow seniors with their experience to coach us. We need grants to create activities to enhance the lifestyle of our Seniors, help repair their homes, keep taxes low and affordable. We need to create an atmosphere of respect regardless of our personalities or party affiliation. As an elected Board Member I will work with passion, respect and integrity while keeping the Rural Character of our beautiful town intact. □



Laura Faye Walls (D; WF; GFG; WE)

Long-term Financial Planning : Town board leaders are right to protect the town's assets by documenting current and future needs for maintaining our infrastructure such as buildings, roads, bridges, and technology. This is asset management. Building on that good work, now is the time to use financial planning techniques to anticipate future impacts on budgets and taxes. Multi-year budgeting is a process of forecasting budgets for future years while developing a budget for the coming year; it can reveal cyclical and structural budget problems as well as shed sunshine on the assumptions behind budget line items. Such data supports meaningful discussion about local policies and practices as well as on unfunded mandates and other legislative gimmicks. Financial planning is a cool tool for avoiding budgetary surprises and for improving the public dialog on the role and purpose of taxes in society and in our community. □

Candidates For Town Justice

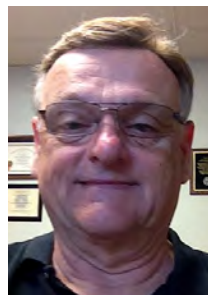


Bruce Blatchly

(D; WF; GFG; WE; Incumbent)

Probably the most important issue facing us in Gardiner Court is complying with new state-mandated rules to ensure access to counsel for all defendants at arraignment. A pilot program is being instituted in Ulster County to provide access to the Public Defender's Office on a 24

hour basis so that all defendants will have access to counsel. This will put additional burdens on Town Judges, who are required to be at the courthouse for middle-of-the-night arraignments. Judge Rich and I are working with the Public Defender's Office to get this new program established, and hopefully will be able to meet our legal mandates without having to bring sleeping bags to the courthouse. Our jobs as Judges are ever increasingly complex, and much more demanding than when I first took office twenty years ago. I hope to keep our court efficiently providing service to our entire community in an impartial, unbiased and fair way for the next four years. □



Frank Petrone (R; C; I; Ref)

My name is Frank Petrone. I have lived in Gardiner 55 years. I have served in the Criminal Justice Community for 43 years. I am running for Town Justice in the Town of Gardiner. When answering the question "What is the most significant challenge facing The Town Court"; it is and always will be the management of the Court Calendar.

Town Court, or The People's Court as it is at times called, interacts with a host of people; defendants, victims, police, defense attorneys, prosecuting attorneys, other courts and other judges to name a few. The court has the responsibility to provide the accused a speedy trial. The judges and court clerks must be diligent in all scheduling matters regarding appearances for motions, pleadings and trials. Competent and efficient management of court calendars can save substantial amounts of money for both the Town and the County. I will work to provide the highest level of Court Calendar management. □

[↔ Back Comment ↔](#)



The Ulster County Legislature

The candidates were asked the following question and given 150 words in which to reply. Their responses were not edited:

What are the most pressing issues currently facing Ulster County?



John Hinson (R; C; I; Ref)

Local politics is the worst part of Gardiner. It doesn't end after the election, and carries through to all aspects of the community. I have not seen anything worse for Gardiner than the obsessiveness of which political party you belong to. There is a political game in Gardiner played by the "Political Elites". It's called 'stump the chump'. The

unwitting public is the chumps, and it's the "ruling class" job to stump you. It works. You can take a Democrat of 25 years and accuse them of being a conservative Tea Party member. You post it on Facebook before a caucus and then delete it the day after. The public will believe it. The chumps get stumped. This isn't Good for Gardiner. I do not partake in this elitist game. This is why I am not, and will not be a member of any political party. I am for Gardiner. □



**Highway Superintendant
Candidate Brian Stiscia
(D; WF; GFG, Incumbent)**

Brian Stiscia, Democrat, a lifelong resident of Gardiner, employed with the Town for 23 years. This is my second term for office of Superintendent of Highways – running unopposed, endorsed by all political parties.

This year the Governor has set a tax cap of less than 1%, that tests one's ability to accomplish one's goals. With the past two extreme weather winters; state imposed tax caps; instead of reconstructing roads we just have to repair them. We have come up with creative solutions to replace equipment with no impact to the current or past budget.

My continued objective is to navigate the highway department through all seasons and stay within the Town's 2016 Budget. Continue to utilize Shared Services with Ulster County and assist Town Departments. I want to thank the Tax Payers of Gardiner for the continued support and my Highway Men and Secretary who maintain a team dynamic. □



Tracey Bartels (D; WF; WE, incumbent)

The most pressing issue facing Gardiner and its residents is the burden of property taxes coupled with the lack of well paying jobs. At the County level, I work hard to provide solutions. For the last two years, we reduced your County taxes. In addition to that, the County assumed several costly programs, putting money back into the town's budget.

While many of our neighbors struggle with bankrupt budgets, Ulster County is a model of fiscal accountability, responsible budgeting and reform – I am proud to be a part of that. But it doesn't end there; we continue to focus on bringing jobs to the county and supporting local businesses. Local jobs keep locals here, in the community that we all love. Gardiner is such an amazing place – a beautiful, protected landscape filled with passionate, committed people. I am so very honored to call it my home. □

Unity Party Platform, from page 3

the Gardiner community both financially and environmentally. He is an independent thinker whose focus for the next four years will be to bring greater transparency and innovation to the board. He is fiscally mindful and is dedicated to helping protect, preserve and enhance our community.

Town Justice candidate Frank Petrone, is 55-year resident of Gardiner, brings us 43 years of law enforcement experience and served for 18 years on the Ulster County Police Chief Association Executive Board (nine as President). He has an A.A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice. Frank is familiar with our community and will use his extensive knowledge and experience to ensure fair resolution of issues and treatment of the town's citizens. □

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Artist Andrea McFarland: Capturing The Ridge In Pastels

by Annie O'Neill

Andrea McFarland's intricate pastel paintings had me fooled on first glance. I thought a photographer had captured the essence of the dramatic Shawangunk landscape. But it was the subtleties of an accomplished pastelist that made her impressive renderings fool me!

Andrea's road to artistic competence took many turns, deviations and one major snowboarding bump before personal discovery was possible. Brought up by an impressionist landscape painter and a photographer, in California, her immersion in the wonders of the natural world made a deep impression on her.

She was a mom at 21, and all her creative efforts went into costumes, birthday cakes, quilts and

fabulous gardens. Andrea's earlier plans were to be a wild plant botanist, but then psychology beckoned and it wasn't until she was 40 that Sonoma State University gave her a bachelors degree.

For thirty years, Andrea played traditional Irish fiddle music (and still does, with her partner Jonathan Pazer, at places like New World Home Cooking in Saugerties and some more local venues).

If it hadn't been for a snowboarding accident that broke her wrist, she might not have tuned in to her other artistic side. While healing, and not able to fiddle, she took up drawing in different mediums and then finally discovered dry



Blue Pond by Andrea McFarland. Image courtesy of the artist.

pastels. Within two years, she was selling her work. She moved east to Gardiner after meeting Jonathan in

music camp. He met Andrea and gave up his law practice to follow his passion—creat-

McFarland, [continued page 11](#)



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Living In Harmony With Nature (The Right Way!)

by Karen Lalita and Bill Harvey

When we moved to Gardiner in 2005 our intention was to live in the woods, in harmony with the land and all the woodland creatures. We maximized the views with lots of triple paned windows (covered with bird deflecting decals) and used colors that blended the inside with the outside, blurring the difference between them to the human eye and, as it turned out, to some of our four-legged friends, too.

Since our intention was to live *harmoniously* with the creatures that lived on the land long before we did, we were horrified on one hot morning in June to discover three huge snapping turtles digging up our newly planted garden to lay their eggs. We had managed to build our house right on

top of the prime laying ground in the area. It took several years of re-education (mostly ours) to come up with a solution—we created a wonderful mound of soil behind the garden and the snappers now use it every year.

Feeding the creatures was also part of our idyllic (and naïve) plan. Our birdfeeders drew humongous crowds of all different kinds of birds, and when the hummingbird feeders run out, hummingbirds appeared at our windows and stared at us until we fed them. Seed remnants under the hanging feeders attracted squirrels, chipmunks, groundhogs, baby and grown raccoons, wild turkeys and mice;

we saw the most beautiful white skunk on our porch.

All the animals loved our decks and often sprawled comfortably, looking out across the verdant floodplain at the Wallkill river rolling by; two baby squirrels once entertained us for an hour, playing around the arm of a chair while grooming each other.

Our cats love watching the birds, and vice versa, and we fantasized about a love affair (through the glass) between one cat (Pippin) and a rabbit; we believe they met on one of Pippin's rare outings. After that, they would gaze at each other longingly through the porch door. Our other cat (Zohreh) and a baby groundhog once touched noses through the glass.

All seemed to go well, other than some squirrel damage to our screens and plants, until what we call "the visitation," one August morning. We thought if you brought the bird feeders in at night you'd be fine. Bears are night feeders after all, or so we thought.



Zohreh the cat and a baby groundhog
Photo: Bill Harvey.

Imagine our surprise to see a big bear circle the house, looking in doors and windows, standing on his hind legs and then leaning into the large window in our dining room, quite unconcerned with the humans inside. Luckily, he was as well balanced as a circus bear and didn't fall through.

After calling neighbors to warn them, we called the DEC, shouting into the phone, "We have a bear, we have a bear." Very calmly, a woman asked, "is the bear endangering people or property?" "Well, no, but he's

Harmony, [continued page 16](#)



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Just A Bite ...

Luscious Escargot at the Bruynswyck Inn

by Carol O'Biso



Escargots in potato caps. Photo: Carol O'Biso

We'd eaten escargots before but they weren't exactly on our top ten list. Not that we're squeamish about eating snails, but they just didn't make an impression. Then, one night at the bar at the Bruynswyck Inn, we noted that Chef Jean Boulidor had them

on the appetizer specials board served in "new potato caps." Well, that's unique. They're usually just on their own, in special little plates with round divots to hold the snails, or in mushroom caps. We tried them and were

shocked. They were fantastic. Butter; white wine; Pernod (an anise-flavored spirit); parsley; lots of good bread for sopping up all that goodness. The potato caps added just enough firm "bite" to the slight chewiness of the escargots and the potatoes were subtle enough in flavor to let other flavors shine.

That was it; we were on a mission to get more snails into our diet (they must be healthy somehow, right? They eat all the vegetables in our gardens). Soon after, on a short trip to Montreal, we ordered them at a fine French restaurant and were shocked. They did not measure up in any way to Jean's. Months after that we actually found ourselves eating escargots in Paris and, again; shocked. Could it be that The Bruynswyck Inn in Shawangunk had them all beat? Apparently so, because more than a year and a half later we tried another "classic" French restaurant in Montreal and, guess

what? Yes, shocked again.

When it comes to escargots, it's not the snails themselves that matter; few people are crawling around the garden collecting them. It's what you do after you open the can. The first Montreal restaurant used garlic, tomatoes and arugula to adorn them; the tomatoes and arugula both overpowered. The Paris bistro used nothing but a sea of butter, which came across as just greasy. The second Montreal place served them dry, with brie cheese and some sort of "jam." The flavors just did not work together.

When we got home from that trip we went to the Bruynswyck Inn and were not shocked at all. We were, instead, very pleased with our escargots. \$8 for an escargot appetizer. 2162 Bruynswick Rd., Wallkill (Bruynswick Road at the intersection of Hoagerburg Road. Wed. - Sun. 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Reservations recommended. (845) 895-1147. ☐

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McFarland, from page 8



Andrea McFarland. Photo: Annie O'Neill.

Open Studio Tour (GOST Artists) a flourishing Gardiner institution.

The natural world is Andrea's "passion and refuge." The rugged ecosystem she encountered here in Gardiner—so appealing to hikers and climbers—is where she tries to recreate a hiker's perspective of landscapes. "They are potential journeys that can draw us out of our usual tired circle of thoughts in to a more spacious place," she says. "I hope to simply convey the inherently generous, fluid and mysterious nature of the world I see."

After only a short time in Gardiner, she has come into her own by re-creating the Shawangunk Ridge and Valley landscape meticulously, and by giving back to the community with GOST Artists projects. All the while, her

work gets more and more impressive. She uses dry pastels on colored sandpaper, preferably black. The pastels are long lasting, almost pure pigment, that result in vivid colors and a velvety texture. Andrea's art is very hands-on as she often uses her fingers to blend colors. She has just begun to work in oil paints and the results are just as intense!

She is now represented by the Mark Gruber Gallery in New Paltz and often shows in Wired Gallery pop-up shows at Mohonk Mountain House.

To see more of her striking accomplished pastels, you can go to andreamcfarland.com, take a GOST Artists tour on the first weekend in May or Columbus Day Weekend, or get in touch via (971) 409-2125 or mcfarland.andrea@gmail.com.

You will be astonished, as I was, at how a look at her work is almost as good as a hike in the Shawangunks! □

[← Back Comment →](#)



ing manipulated abstract photographs. Together with Jonathan, and partners Donna Weil and Ken Aspin, they founded the Gardiner

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Bears, from page 1

Even along the Ridge, where we'd expect to see some bears, things have clearly changed. The Muessig family, who took the picture on page 1, has lived on the southern flanks of the Ridge since 1988 and never saw bears until about five or six years ago. Now, Kathy Muessig says, "When they run out of food on the mountain, they regularly come down for garbage night, when everyone puts out their cans for collection the next day. This is the first time a bear has ventured onto the deck and looked in the window though." And a family off Route 299, whose property abuts Preserve land, reports that they have seen more bears this past summer than the six years before that. In one of the earliest of these sightings, they tried to reassure their ten year old niece that it was a deer she must have seen running away when she went out in the back yard to play. When they reviewed the video they had set up in the garden, there were, in fact, three bears.

So what's going on? According to DEC Wildlife Biologist Matt Merchant in the DEC's New Paltz Office, reports fluctuate significantly from year to year, but there has definitely been an increase in nuisance bear incidents, especially in the spring and early summer. At that time, they've come out of hibernation and are

looking for food. Breeding season-related movements and activities also come into play, and there's a dispersal of young bears looking for their own territory.

New Jersey's wildlife management policies are a contributing factor in that NJ had no bear hunt for many years and now has only a minimal one. And good nutrition, from natural foods and human-generated food sources, have also been shown to increase the reproductive rates of bears; females become sexually mature earlier (2-3 instead of 3-4 years old), have larger litters (3-4 more often than 2-3), and have increased survival rates, all of which add to the increase in population.

Gardiner residents are wise to cut down on that food supply; the Muessigs do not put their garbage out the night before anymore; the family off Route 299 has purchased a \$300 bear-proof garbage can, and resident Susan Lehrer, who ran into a bear while out for a run near Guilford Schoolhouse Road, has an even better idea. "I take mine to the dump directly from the kitchen. No outdoor trash can for me," she says.

Many of us have, sadly, also



Taken from the back deck of a house on Guilford Road. Photo: Richard Winninger.

stopped feeding the birds, either completely, or only feeding in the dead of winter when bears are in hibernation.

State Trooper Mike Gagliardi has heard of bear sightings through the rumor mill but has not yet seen any himself or had any bear-related call outs, so bears are not

exactly strolling into the Village Market for a coffee yet. And the DEC is on the case. In New York, they manage animal populations through hunting programs. Matt Merchant says, "In 2014, we added 16 days in September, in all the areas in DEC's Region 3 West of the Hudson River and in Region 4.

Bears, [continued page 13](#)

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Bears, from page 12

Hunters can use any legal implement for the unit they are hunting (crossbow, bow, muzzleloader, or firearm)." The new early season was put in place to try to bring the population size down and hopefully reduce the number of nuisance issues. The effect of the early season will be evaluated after five years. He adds that the new season has generated a lot of interest from hunters and the first year resulted in relatively good harvest numbers compared to the other big game seasons (Archery and Firearm seasons).

The DEC implemented the early season because the "the social carrying capacity" seemed to have been reaching its upper limit here, and if it doesn't bring the population down to an acceptable level, other methods of harvest may be looked at for consideration. (Any proposals would go out for public comment and input before being implemented.)

Not everyone is sorry the bears have arrived. Resident Jonathan Lozier, whose bee hives were raided twice says, "I'm glad they're here. It reminds us that we live in a natural ecosystem, and the bear didn't do anything wrong," Lozier said. "It was no different from me going to Hannaford to buy dinner." He adds that while he was upset about the damage to his hives and colony of bees, he was more annoyed with himself; "We have to educate ourselves, but also educate the bears." He did so with an electric fence around the hives. It only took one more visit for the bear to understand that this was not a safe place to get food.

For more information about learning to live with bears, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/livingwithbears.pdf and <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6960.html>. □

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Firewood, from page 1

*Elmwood burns like
churchyard mold,
Ev'n the very flames are cold.*

Not true, of course; this ditty probably relates more to the difficulty in splitting elm than to its heat value, which is medium. Gardiner is full of the bleached skeletons of dead elms, killed by the Dutch elm disease, spread by a tiny beetle. As with ash, burning dying elms will help delay the inevitable with others of this species.

*Birchwood flames are
cheery and bright,
Alas, they will not
last the night.*

Poems aside, no logs, unless very massive, will "last the night," but oaks, beech, birch, maple and especially hickory produce uniform flames and steady, glowing coals. For relative heat value, hickory is the standard by which all other wood is measured. That, with its pleasant aroma, makes it another very desirable wood for heating purposes. Maple and birch are in the group of desirable hardwoods, and

though neither will burn as hot nor last as long, relatively, as oaks and hickory, they still make very good firewood.

Red, or soft maple, is probably the most common species in Gardiner. It grows quickly on wet or dry sites, is easy to cut and split, dries well, and burns with good heat value, if not for long. Many of the former farm fields abandoned years ago are thick with this species.

*Hemlock's known for the
sparks it throws,
Wakes you up when
you would doze.*

Softwood species—hemlock, pine, spruce, fir, cedar—contain pitch and burn rapidly, producing few coals. They do best when a short, hot fire is desired. Mixing softwoods with hardwoods, especially when lighting a fire, is a good way to get a fine blaze going. Split softwood is excellent kindling.

*Fir logs burn too fast
Blaze up bright and do not last.*

If you don't have ready access to your own trees, purchasing firewood is the next alternative.



Above: Two face cords of wood. The top layer acts as a roof, to keep the rest fairly dry. Page 1: Cordwood stacked to air dry. Photos: Fred Gerty

In years past, a cord of firewood meant a stack of four foot long logs in a pile four feet high and eight feet long. Typically, it weighs about five thousand pounds. Even if available today, few people want to handle four foot long logs. You may find some wood for sale as a "Face Cord." Here, the "face" of the stack is the same—four by eight feet—while the logs are typically sixteen inches,

which fit in most wood burning stoves. Today, most firewood is sold and delivered by the truckload, or as long lengths from a logger, for the homeowner to cut up. Fine work, that, for those handy with a chain saw and log splitter. It's hard to gauge the pile dumped by the delivery truck, but just know that a full cord of wood, 4x4x8 contains 128 cubic feet

Firewood, [continued page 15](#)

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Firewood, from page 14

of wood, including gaps and air spaces.

*Beechwood fires are
bright and clear,
If the logs are kept a year.*

Much is made of “seasoned” firewood, but all wood, wet or dry, will burn. The difference is that some heat value is lost in driving out the moisture from freshly cut, or green, logs; heat is lost up the chimney as steam or vapor. Green wood may also coat the chimney with tar, which may catch on fire itself—a dreaded “chimney fire.”

Cutting, splitting, and stacking logs hastens the natural drying of the wood, and though the poem calls for a year, much moisture is lost in the first few months—even logs cut this fall will give good heat later in the winter. Covering the top of a stack with tarps may aid in drying it, but do not wrap it

up. That will only trap moisture inside. Better to let sun, wind and time dry the wood naturally. I've noticed that the first few layers of split wood on a stack act as a sort of roof, keeping all the rest below them dry.

*Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and
makes you choke.
Applewood will scent
your room
with an incense like perfume.*

Burning fruitwood may produce nice aromas, but only in an open fireplace or fire pit. Otherwise the smoke just dissipates up the chimney. Most fruitwood is dense, and contains good heat values.

Finally, advice from the old Forester: One log can't burn, two won't, three might, four will. Enjoy your firewood, and keep warm this winter. □

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Harmony, from page 9



A visitors at the Harvey residence.
Photos: Bill Harvey

looking in our windows! Can someone come get him? He doesn't belong here!" (Right!). Our education about living with wildlife really began that moment. She asked, "Do you live within a mile of the Ridge?" "We live in a neighborhood in Gardiner!" With a perceptible smile in her voice, she said, "Honey, you got bears." She then added, "And we don't relocate them unless they're a danger or a serious nuisance. They don't do well when relocated."

So, living in harmony with nature means feeding responsibly. If you don't, it can interfere with a natural healthy balance between wildlife populations and their habitat; we know of someone who has been feeding the birds in her yard continuously for 30 years, creating generations of birds fully dependent on human intervention for their survival. Feeding can also lead to wildlife overabundance (See *Too Close For Comfort*, page 1) and promote the spread of diseases. We have

subsequently discovered that feeding the bears, even inadvertently, is against the law in New York. So is feeding deer and moose.

We're smarter now: and except for humming bird feeders, which don't seem to be a problem, we use backyard bird feeders in the winter, from the end of October until mid-March, when bears are likely to be in hibernation. We don't leave the feeders hanging out all year, even if they're

empty, and we use only a moderate number of feeders, keeping them very clean. (Agway in New Paltz has a Birdseed Club. All poundage purchased is recorded at checkout and at 500 lbs, you get a \$10 credit.)

We still love the animals that share our property, but we now understand that they are wild creatures, and that their survival depends on them staying that way.

Enjoy living in harmony with nature! ☐

[↔ Back Comment ↔](#)

About This Publication

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2006

Kiernan Farm



2011

Rail Trail



2007

Hess Farm



2013

Library



2008

Sidewalks



2013

Transfer Station



2010

Snow Plows



2014

Gardiner has become an even better place to live & raise a family during the last 10 years. Our team has led in making all of these improvements while working with other elected officials & committed Gardiner residents:

- Rebuilt the Town Hall protecting its historic roots
- Bought & repaired the Rail Trail
- Built the new Library
- Built the new protective canopy at the Transfer Station
- Protected Kiernan Farm from development
- Protected Hess Farm from development
- Built new sidewalks and decorative lighting on Main Street
- Replaced three Highway Trucks/Snow Plows

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Gardiner is one of the strongest towns in the Hudson Valley. We've kept property taxes low. In fact, we have the 2nd lowest taxes among Ulster County's 19 towns. Gardiner has strong "rainy day" reserves, which exceed New York State's guidelines by a factor of two.

In 2015, our taxes increased by 1.5%, while inflation went up by 2.0%. Also in 2015, the town won a long running law suit concerning a resident's tax assessment, which resulted in Gardiner's being repaid \$129,000 to cover all legal expenses. Additionally, the town sold the old library for \$100,000, which increased our "rainy day" fund & put the property back on the tax rolls.

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- Invest in our roads & bridges to keep them clear & safe
- Keep property taxes low, so that Gardiner remains affordable for all
- Implement solar programs to save energy & money

Carl Zatz



Carl has served 4 terms as Town Supervisor. He was a leader in creating new zoning laws, building the Town Hall, supporting the highway & fire departments & revitalizing the Hamlet. His quality of life work for Gardiner touches the entire town.

Warren Wiegand



Warren has served on the Town Board for 8 years. He led the fundraising for the new library & Gardiner's effort to protect open space. He spearheaded the sale of the old library & recovered \$129,000 from the settled law suit.

Laura Walls



Laura's service includes Gardiner Town Supervisor, New Paltz School Board Trustee, U.C. Deputy Comptroller, and as assistant to Mr. Maurice D. Hinchey. Her private sector work has focused on creating strong communities.

Brian Stiscia



Brian has been the Highway Superintendent since 2014. He has worked in the Highway Department for 20 years & helped start the department's union. He has been an officer & past Chief of the Gardiner Fire Department.

Bruce Blatchly



Bruce has been Gardiner's Town Judge for 20 years. He has been practicing in State & Federal Courts since 1977. Before becoming our town judge, he served two terms on the Gardiner Town Board.

Tracey Bartels



Tracey has served in the Ulster County Legislature for 8 years. She is known for environmental advocacy & fiscal responsibility. She recently led efforts to ban polystyrene takeout containers in Ulster County.

**Vote for Zatz, Wiegand, Walls, Stiscia, Blatchly & Bartels on Nov 3rd
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- ◆ Dead ends at Awosting Preserve
- ◆ Oversized Windows
- ◆ Custom cabinets & soap stone countertops
- ◆ Secluded country retreat
- ◆ Town of Gardiner



- ◆ Sprawling Ranch
- ◆ Sweeping Views of Shawangunk Ridge
- ◆ 4 BR, 3 Bath on 5+ acres
- ◆ Handicapped accessible living area/apartment/office
- ◆ Bluestone Breezeway
- ◆ Town of New Paltz



- ◆ Stylish 4 BR, 3 Bath 2-story situated on 7.4 Acres
- ◆ Grand Conservatory w/20' Beamed ceilings
- ◆ Gourmet kitchen w/GE Monogram appliances
- ◆ Skylights & walls of windows



- ◆ Well maintained 3 BR, 2 Bath Raised Ranch
- ◆ Light Drenched kitchen w/ built in Pantry
- ◆ Trek Deck & Perennial Gardens
- ◆ Many upgrades over the years



- ◆ 3150 sq ft Contemporary Colonial
- ◆ 4 BR., 3.5 Bath on 2.7 acres
- ◆ Open floor plan
- ◆ 2 Master Bedroom Suites
- ◆ Cooks Kitchen w/granite CT, SS appliances
- ◆ Walkup attic w/skylights



- ◆ Charming 2 BR, 1 Bath Cottage
- ◆ Near Wallkill Valley Rail Trail
- ◆ Seasonal Mountain Views
- ◆ High Ceilings
- ◆ Enclosed Glass/Screened Porch
- ◆ Situated on 3 level acres
- ◆ Detached 2-car Garage



- ◆ Immaculate Light Filled 3 BR, 2 Bath Raised Ranch
- ◆ Surrounded by Blue Chip Farms property
- ◆ Master Suite w/walk-in tub
- ◆ Efficient Solar System
- ◆ Wide open floor plan
- ◆ Majestic views & sunsets

LOTS/LAND FOR SALE

NEW PALTZ: 13.6 acres ready to build on..... \$ 125,000

MARBLETOWN: 7.88 wooded acres\$ 219,000

GARDINER: 6.83 acre wooded parcel.....\$ 85,000

GARDINER: 6.10 acres under the cliffs..... \$ 270,000

GARDINER: 7.40 acres-lakefront property.....\$ 595,000

MONTGOMERY: 4.49 acre wooded parcel\$ 50,000



- ◆ Private, wooded, landscaped lot w/pond
- ◆ 3004 sq ft contemporary home situated on 3.2 acres
- ◆ Expansive kitchen w/oak cabinets, granite countertops, slate tile floors & Viking gas stove
- ◆ Private master bedroom suite



POSTLETS



Colucci Shand Realty, Inc.

(845) 255-3455

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Homes with New Owners



SOLD-GARDINER \$682,000



SOLD-PLATTEKILL \$267,500



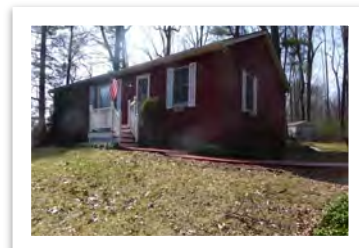
SOLD-ROSENDALE \$709,000



SOLD-HIGHLAND \$226,500



SOLD-NEW PALTZ \$455,000



SOLD-ROSENDALE \$197,000

ULSTER COUNTY 3RD QUARTER SINGLE FAMILY HOME COMPARISON (2014/2015) OBTAINED THROUGH UC -MLS

DATE	TOTAL LISTED	NUMBER SOLD	AVG SALE PRICE	AVG DOM
2014	2600	919	\$239,161	156
2015	2354	940	\$233,174	151

LOCAL MARKET ACTIVITY YEAR-TO-DATE (JAN-SEPT 2015)

	TOTAL LISTED	NUMBER SOLD	AVG SALE PRICE	AVG DOM
NEW PALTZ	167	76	\$321,576	144
GARDINER	69	34	\$359,916	132

THE COLUCCI SHAND TEAM

Teresa C. Shand, CRS, ASP, ABR, SRES, SFR-NYS Real Estate Broker/Owner
 Linda Majetich Hansen, CRS, ASP, ABR, SFR- NYS Real Estate Associate Broker
 Terry Jacobus, Robert M. Dorris, Victoria Beach, Monique McCutcheon
 NYS Real Estate Salespersons
Let us help make your Real Estate dreams come true!

