

The Gardiner Gazette A call to community



Spring 2015 - Issue #26 Free! Please take one

Open Space In Gardiner: A Look To The Future

by Barbara Sides



The Town of Gardiner passed its Open Space law and formed the Open Space Commission (OSC) in 2006. The original committee had nine members and one alternate, and for the next eight years was instrumental in helping to preserve the Kiernan Farm (pictured above), in 2010, and Hess Farm, in 2013. The com-

mittee thus ensured that over 200 acres will continue to be used as farms, not housing developments.

The OSC has been inactive since the Hess Farm project was completed, but the Town Board would like to reinvigorate it so that the goals of the Open Space law can be pursued, including working with the Open Space Institute to acquire additional development rights. Some members are quite interested in continuing their work. The re-start effort is being coordinated by Warren Wiegand, the first Chair of the Commission, and Marc Moran, the last Chair.

They are now looking for people to join the Commission, which, going forward, will be responsible for creating new strategies to protect farms and open land; overseeing conservation easements; and educating Gardiner residents and their children on the importance of open space. For more information, call Warren Wiegand at 255-7915. □

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Some Folks Enjoyed The Winter

by Laurie Willow

Dani Pendino and Dora Yordanova have been trekking from New York City to Gardiner as climbers and hikers since early 2000. Two years ago, they moved to Gardiner. Like many people who settle in Gardiner, they fell in love with the Ridge.

They are active in several of the many modalities available to enjoy the Ridge. Dani and Dora ride mountain bikes, climb, hike and ice climb. This past winter was touted as one of the best ice

climbing in years. When many of us were complaining about the cold, Dani and Dora were ecstatic. The trick, they say, to finding great ice climbing is that you have to be close by; suitable climbing ice is a moving target, and conditions can change tremendously in a day.

On a possible climbing day, you have to check it out in the morning. If there was a flash freeze overnight, the ice might be

Ice Climbing, continued page 12

At left and inset: Dani Pendino ice climbing in the Gunks last winter. Photo: Dora Yordanova

Free Money For The Library, With Your Help

by Ray Smith

You already buy stuff from Amazon, and you probably use the Gardiner Library for books or other services. How about getting free money for the library just by using the Amazon link on any page of the Library's web site? Seriously.

If you access Amazon via the Amazon link on any page of the Library's web site, the Library gets a credit from Amazon of from 4 to 8.5% of the value of your purchases based on types and numbers of products you buy. Since the Library purchases most of the new items for its collections from Amazon, it made sense to participate in this program.

As Library Manager Nicole Lane explained, "Amazon is usually the least expensive source so we buy most of our acquisitions from them." In 2014, the Library received \$650 in credits from Amazon in this way, which amount equaled 10% of the Library's 2015 acquisitions budget of \$6,500.

You can further benefit the Library if you also use Amazon Smile with the Gardiner Library designated as your beneficiary. Click on the Amazon link on any page of the Library's web site.



Photo: Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain.

Your Amazon Smile page should come up. Place your order and the Library again receives a credit of the same 4 to 8.5% of the value of your purchases, plus 0.5% because you used Amazon Smile.

By the way, you cannot claim a tax deduction for these donations since they are made by Amazon and they should be in addition to—and not a substitute for—your own continued cash support for the Library. This is just a way to provide the Library with extra money to purchase new items, such as books, movies and audio books for its collections.

Here's another one: use cash or a check and buy a \$50 ShopRite or Stop & Shop gift card at the Library

. The Library gets to keep \$2.50 of that. Since starting the program in July, 2014, the library sold 130 of these cards (\$6,000 worth of groceries) and earned \$300. And these cards could be useful for grocery budgeting, too. Say you've budgeted \$200 a month for food. Buy four \$50 gift cards from the

Library at the beginning of the month. As you use them, you know exactly what's left. Unfortunately, Hannaford's in Modena does not have a similar gift card program.

We all eat; we all probably buy things from Amazon. If we all did it through these programs, the financial impact would be major. The Library's 2015 budget is \$318,000, so if it sells 4,000 \$50 ShopRite or Stop&Shop gift cards, it would cover \$10,000 of that, and if supporters bought \$130,000 from Amazon through the button on any of the Library's web pages, the Amazon credit to the Library could equal its \$6,500 book acquisitions budget figure.

The more residents participate in these two programs over the longer term, the later the need for the Library to request an increase in tax money. Free money is always better than raising taxes. \square \Longrightarrow \Longrightarrow \Longrightarrow \Longrightarrow \Longrightarrow \Longrightarrow

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The New Old McKinstry's Store

by Carol O'Biso

The renovation of the building that began its life as McKinstry's store brought to mind the old adage about the farmer who'd had the same ax for 40 years; he changed the head twice and the handle three times.

It's a story that circulates in the world of ethnographic artifacts. How do you determine age and authenticity for that African stool? That ceremonial mask from New Guinea? Beautiful they may be, but until we snatch them up and put them in museums, they are used, repaired and modified with no more or less nostalgia than we now afford a car, a couch, an ax—or a 150 year old candy store.

The building at 123 Main Street, most recently the home of Hi Ho Antiques, was old and in bad condition, with an interior rabbit warren of eccentric spaces suited to very little in a modern world. The sensible and possibly most economical thing to do was knock it down and start over, but new owner, Pasquale Iovieno of Pasquale's Pizzeria, says he understood the strong feelings people have for this historic building. And submitting a plan for new construction to the Town of Gardiner would have left the building sitting empty, possibly for years, while the project moved through a lengthy review and approval process. Renovation of an existing building, on the other hand, basically requires only a building permit.



Above: The front and rear of the newly renovated building. Photos: Carol O'Biso. To see floor plans visit our facebook page.

Pasquale, along with his architect, Jennifer Lucas of Lucas Architecture in Kingston, and engineer Jonathan Cella, met only once with the Gardiner building inspector Hank Vance before Lucas was given her brief: re-design the building with plenty of space for stores and apartments, and maintain the "feel" of the Hamlet. In a very short time builder AnthonyBasselini had a set of plans in his hands and was up and running.

Those of us who drove through the Hamlet daily watched with elation. The building had been saved from the wrecking ball! Weeks went by and elation

turned into mild concern. Day after day we saw parts of the old landmark stripped away and replaced. Concern soon turned to full-blown alarm. Would there be anything left to recognize?

The building lost the setback over the front porch. The roof lines changed. The windows and doors moved around and changed shape and size. Finally, the front facade disappeared. The whole thing turned yellow instead of red. Oddly, when that happened alarm turned back into delight; we could finally let go of the old and see McKinstry's store reborn as something new and fresh.

Some of the original structural timbers remain, but the building now has new plumbing, new wiring, new insulation, new siding, new flooring, a new roof and new windows and doors. Even some of the foundation had to be rebuilt.

There are now two retail (or office) spaces on the ground floor, each with a handicapped accessible bathroom, a large closet and a back door —though a single business might rent the entire space.

And, the apartments upstairs will apparently be very nice places to live. They are each two bedrooms, with granite countertops, washers and driers, central AC, a deck—and a view! (Prices are negotiable, but currently listed at \$1,400/mo for the apartments and \$1,550/mo for each of the retail spaces.) As of this writing, Pasquale did not yet have any confirmed tenants, but with luck, that will change soon.

So, thanks to Pasquale Iovieno, McKinstry's Store is new, and old, and she's still with us. And let's remember this: Michael Jackson had a lot of cosmetic surgery, too, but he was still Michael Jackson. When he exploded onto the stage and started to sing, were we any less thrilled?

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Gardiner Day Turns (Almost) 30

by Ray Smith

Back in 1985, Carol Anne Majestic and Mike Moran, Supervisor at the time, thought a community-wide gathering with live shows, music and events that cost nothing to attend might be, well, fun.

From those early discussions, the Gardiner Day Committee emerged, and on September 12th what is now called Gardiner Day will celebrate its 27th year of community fun. Not the 30th year because, as Jewell Turner explained, "We had to cancel Gardiner Day a few times due to flooding and hurricanes."

Jewell was also involved from the beginning and says, "To keep Gardiner Day fun and affordable, we need to have fundraisers throughout the year." Gardiner Day is a bargain. It's free to attend, but it's not free to put on. Each year, it costs about \$5,000, which the Commit-

tee must raise, and each fundraiser requires its own planning, set up and management. The Committee actually runs three or four major events during the year, culminating in the big event, Gardiner Day.

But Jewell and other veterans of the committee fear that community participation and volunteerism may be on the wane. "At first we thought it was the weather, but then we had to cancel the Spaghetti Dinner due to lack of attendance—after 20+ years. We've produced a fabulous murder mystery and wine tastings and dances; we even had parades. But," she added, "we need community support . . . we need people to come to our fundraisers and we need people to volunteer on Gardiner Day and stay to



Sharon DeMatteo, Carol O'Byrne, Jewell Turner, Susan Hansen, Carol Lohrman, Jackie Wild, Jaynie Aristeo & Patrick Murphy at a recent Gardiner Day Committee meeting. Photo: Ray Smith

clean up afterwards. Without that, we can't keep this tradition of community going."

The Gardiner Day Committee also hosts other events unrelated to Gardiner Day, such as the annual Christmas caroling and the Women Helping Women Dance last April, all the proceeds of which go to the Ulster County Shelter for Battered Women.

Right now, the Gardiner Day Committee consists of: Jaynie Aristeo, Judy Bacon, Cindy Dates, Kathy DeLano, Sharon DeMatteo, Eileen and Stewart Glenn, Susan Hansen, Carol Anne Lohrman, Barbara Meszaros, Patrick Murphy, Carol O'Byrne, Jewell Turner, Carl Zatz, and Jackie Wild. Those fundraisers continue to take place, so anyone wishing to help the effort can call Jewell at 255-9675, Extension 103, to volunteer or send a check payable to Gardiner Day Committee, PO Box 1, Gardiner, NY 12525.

Jewell summed up, "Come give us a hand however you can, and hope for good weather on September 12th!" □

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David Loewen: A Life In Motion

by Marilyn Perry

If you've been a varsity ice hockey player at the University of Calgary, and then a professional jazz dancer on a cruise ship calling at Casablanca, Gibraltar, and ports in the Caribbean, and a devoted skier and tennis player your entire life, what's your future career path?

For Canadian David Loewen, who founded Pilates on Main in Gardiner in 2007, there was never any question—he would spend his life in motion. He was drawn to the world of performance, but also realized, early on, that he enjoyed the rewards of working with others on improving their balance, posture, and strength.

Enter Melissa Bierstock, an American/Canadian dancer from Rhinebeck, NY, also passionate about fitness training, who would become his wife. Together they opened a pilates studio in Toronto, where

they lived for fourteen years.

And from Toronto to Gardiner? Melissa's desire to return to her family and friends brought them and their daughter Emma (soon joined by their son Eli) to the Hudson Valley. In search of a perfect location with suitable space for a pilates studio, David chose Gardiner. 1 liked the size and spirit of the place,' he says. 'It's a community that values health and is mindful of the environment. I also enjoy the fact that my studio is in the heart of town.' (Located on the second floor at 127 Main Street, next to the Village Market).

Pilates on Main offers solo and group classes on mats and several types of machines, and those of us who attend his sessions benefit both from David's personal



David Loewen in his studio. Photo: Marilyn Perry. Visit our facebook page for more pictures.

attention and the open, lightfilled space. And, of course, you leave much better attuned to your own physical well-being.

David and Melissa are active in the Catskill Ballet Theater, as Melissa has been since her childhood. This year, both David and his daughter Emma danced in Tchiakovsky's 'Nutcracker Suite' at Christmas. Emma, age 11, performed the role of Clara, exactly as her mother had when she was the same age. Her father was The Rat King.

David and Melissa have recently opened a joint studio — Mainly Pilates—in Kingston, where they make their home. Contact www.pilatesonmain.com or pilatesonmain@gmail.com.

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Just A Sip ...

Whitecliff Vineyards Offers A Wide Range Of Wines

by Fred Mayo

On a recent weekend, the tasting room of Whitecliff Vineyards on McKinstry Road was full of people anxious to try new flavors and enjoy wine made with grapes from the Hudson Valley, Long Island and the Finger Lakes.

Currently, Whitecliff offers approximately twenty wines, ranging from dry to fruity to full flavored. Wine maker Brad Martz has also expanded the range to include three sparkling wines—Awosting White, Dry Rosé and Moscato—sold on tap or in Growlers, and meant to be enjoyed within a few days.

The sparkling Awosting White is a version of the still wine of the same name, and would go well with roasted almonds, sharp cheddar and a ripe Gouda. The Dry Rosé, a delightful sparkling wine, brings back memories of the old French rosé wine-tart and with plenty of color and flavor, perfect for a summer day, and was so good that I brought a growler home to serve my friends at a dinner party. (I served it with a soft, creamy, bloomy rind cheese called Margie, from Sprout Creek; Dulcinea, a hard sheep's milk cheese from Fulton, NY; Stilton from England,

and a fig and almond cake. The combinations were delicious.)

After the sparkling wines I moved on to the still whites, which range from dry (2013 Reserve Chardonnay) to the more fruit forward (Awosting White and the 2013 Traminette). The fresh tasting Awosting White, an easy drinking blend of Seyval Blanc and Vignoles grapes, goes well with any summer foods from sandwiches and burgers on the grill to chicken with potato salad or cheeses. nuts, and bread or for a picnic in the Gunks. (Disclosure - I have liked this wine for vears and once carried two cases to Martha's Vineyard for a summer vacation.)

The Traminette, a Gold Medal winner for the past several years (2011, 2012, and 2013) in the San Francisco International Wine Competition, is a spicy wine that goes well with Indian and Asian foods. I liked the spicy taste (like a Gewürztraminer) so much that I bought some home and served it with wild caught Coho Salmon mari-

nated and baked in garlic, ginger, scallions and fermented soy sauce. Everyone loved it since the wine complimented the salmon perfectly. The more commonly known 2013 Reserve Chardonnay, fermented in oak barrels for five months, has a taste of oak but not too much, making it a delight to serve with roasted chicken and garlic roasted potatoes or with shrimp scampi.

On to the reds! I tasted several: the 2013 Gamay Noir, fermented in oak for ten months, would make a wonderful accompaniment to roasted pork loin with garlic and mustard, grilled fish, or steak. The 2012 Pinot Noir, lighter than Oregon pinot noirs and sister to the Gamay Noir which is also made from Finger Lakes fruit, would compliment grilled fish, pork tenderloin with a spice rub, roast chicken, and pasta with clam sauce (if you like red wine with fish).

Even better with steak, ribs, or butterflied leg of lamb would be the 2013 Cabernet Franc, with grapes grown in the Hudson Valley. It has a luscious smoky flavor and has been one of the wines that Whitecliff has been making since the beginning. I also tasted the 2013



Whitecliff owner Yancey Migliore and tasting room manager Matt Student. Photo: Fred Mayo. Visit our facebook page for more pictures.

Merlot-Malbec combination that reminded me of cherries and blackberries. I would serve it with grilled pork chops, pasta with a strong marinara sauce, or good bread and cheese, sitting on a patio. The Table Rock Red, a new wine for Whitecliff, was also a delight. Three different grapes from the Hudson Valley are used in making it. Its bouquet and flavor made me want to make a pasta puttanesca, or serve it with a grilled rib eye marinated with garlic and Worcestershire.

For a lovely afternoon, visit the tasting room, open at this time of year from Thursday through Sunday and open seven days a week from June through November. For more information, call 255-4613 or check out the website at www.whitecliffwine.com.

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Dr. Kathleen Gould, DVM Keeping Our Horses Healthy

by Laurie Willow

Down a long driveway bordered by a fenced paddock with a barn at the end, sits the home and office of Dr. Katie Gould, horse veterinarian. Katie and her partner, photographer Kit Defever, combine their home with offices for Katie's equine veterinarian business and Kit's photography studio and business.

Katie did her college work in neurobiology and biology, studying canaries in particular. She then worked for two years in a field research center in Millbrook, where she worked with Dr. John Jager who became her mentor. Katie clearly remembers much of what he shared with her twenty years ago. He helped shape her decision to go to graduate school at Cornell University for Veterinary Science. After graduating as a veterinarian specializing in equine

medicine, Katie served in a clinic for a year, then went to a position in Connecticut. In 2000, the move came that brought Dr. Katie Gould into Gardiner community; she was offered a position with Pine Bush Equine. Five years later, in 2005, Katie, with another veterinarian, opened her own practice here in Gardiner, called Mid-Hudson Equine. In 2010, having acquired her current house and home office, she opened her own practice in that location and called it Mid Hudson Equine of Gardiner.

Katie has plenty of animals herself: three horses, three dogs, two cats, three sheep, one pig and twelve chickens. That's 29 critters to care for, many of them rescues. In



Above: Katie Gould riding on her property. Photo: Kit DeFever

order to do her own chores, with Kit's help, Katie is up at six and often isn't done working until night.

Katie's equine practice serves a large area, which includes Orange County, Pine Island, Pine Bush, Gardiner, Shawangunk and New Paltz. This is an especially busy season for Katie as February through August is breeding and foaling season. Somehow, amidst all of this, Katie rides her own horses Western style, and is even now taking lessons in western equine events such as roping. Dr. Kathleen Gould at Mid Hudson Equine of Gardiner can be reached at 845 800-8427.

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Lights At Night, Both Beautiful And Hazardous

by Bill Harvey

Many people are lucky to live fulltime in Gardiner, while others come up for weekends from their lives in New York City. When asked why they come, these weekenders are likely to talk about the peace and quiet which repairs their frazzled nerves after the relentless beat of the city. In fact, the healing nature of this place, and others like it around the world, is a whole complex of different types of experiences. Step outside late at night and if the lights are off in the house, the sky is a tumult of stars, some sticking out so sharp, others dusted in an arc, and the mind, if open, is gripped in awe and wonder.

Not so much in a city. City lights are pretty when seen from a plane, but from the ground, they put out the stars. Our eyes adjust to keep out the city's glare and this blinds us to the stars to a degree. Artist Thierry Cohen has created amalgam photographs, superimposing the way the sky looks from a desert over the silhouettes of famous cities. Visit www.thierrycohen.com /pages/work/starlights.html see what we are missing when we're in a city-in fact, even Gardiner is not far enough away from populated centers to really see the night sky as it would be with no light pollution.

Fortunately, there is new awareness of the negative effects of light pollution and legislation is now attempting to roll back unnecessary luminal obliteration of the starry night sky. Artificial light at night has been proven harmful to many species, including us. For humans, nighttime light pollution is linked to reduced production of melatonin, increasing cancer risk. It also disrupts our circadian rhythm, and increases risk of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

For the leatherback turtles of Tobago, night lighting of the beaches causes hatchlings to follow human lights instead of the moon and stars. often to their death from various causes, and this is dwindling the population of that species. And scientists estimate that between 100 million and a billion birds a year are killed by collisions with manmade structures, largely due to the glare of manmade lighting. Bats, moths ... the list of species being endangered by nighttime artificial lighting continues to grow as this subject draws more scientific attention.

Still, there are no easy answers; other factors compli-



This image is a composite assembled from NASA data acquired by the Suomi NPP satellite in April and October 2012. Image: wikimedia commons. Public Domain.

cate the search for appropriate solutions. Crime has been one cause of increased lighting of gas stations and other types of businesses operating at night. In England, Kate Painter has done a series of studies showing that improved lighting did result in reduced crime, so that the solutions to be found must balance multiple factors.

In 2013, France passed legislation which mandates that from 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m, shop lights must be turned off; building lights cannot be turned on until sunset; and lights inside office buildings must be turned off within an hour of workers leaving the building. In addition to the health benefits, the main prize sought is a savings in energy cost estimated at \$266 million per year. While this will hopefully lead a trend among other enlightened nations, the opposite trendmore lights on at night-is, at present, a much stronger one due to booming growth in affluence and urbanization in China, India, Brazil, and other rising nations.

The development of new, energy-saving lighting technologies has, to some extent, worsened the problem because the new energy-efficient lights shift emissions more to the blue end of the spectrum which, as writer/professor Paul Bogard points out, is what the brain has evolved to associate with the sign of dawn, sending mixed signals to the brain as it attempts to regulate all of the systems in the body.

A 2011 study by some of the leading scientists investigating light pollution found that the two best types of lighting from the standpoint of minimizing harmful effects to living things are low pressure sodium (best) and high pressure sodium (second best). The worst offenders, producing the bluest light, are Metal Halide and white LEDs. (We can certainly take this advice for the lights we ourselves purchase and leave on at night, protecting our own bodies and those of our furry and feathery friends).

The common wisdom is that the stars make us feel small, and the *un*common wisdom is that they also trigger our deepest curiosities. Freud talked about the sense of being connected to something unimaginably large. The sky can do this if we are open. We're grateful to Gardiner for still providing the awe and the wonder.

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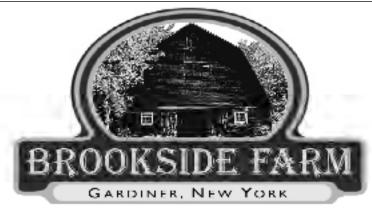
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What is it?



Hint 1: The photo was taken in December. **Hint 2:** Those are apple trees in the background. For the answer, see our <u>Facebook page!</u> Photo: Anne Allbright Smith



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How To Lose A Parachute And Still Be Around To Tell The Story

by Ray Smith

"Lost Parachute Canopy, near Wallkill. If found please phone..."

A while back, that one jumped out at me from the notice board at the Gardiner Post Office. How do you lose the canopy, but not the skydiver as well? I wrote the number down, planning to follow up.



When I phoned, the call was answered by the parachutist himself, at his home in Gardiner. He explained that a skydiver carries two chutes. "If the first one does not open properly, you cut it away and deploy the second chute. You hope you can roughly pinpoint where the first one might land, and later retrieve it," he explained.

I received a little more education on the intricacies of this process. A skydiver's chute pack is surprisingly small, even though it holds both the main chute and a reserve chute. The skydiver, when ready to deploy his or her chute, pulls a small plastic ball at the bottom of his pack. This deploys the pilot chute, a mini version of a parachute. Its drag pulls the main chute from the pack, where ithopefully-picks up air and billows.

In the case of a malfunction like the one that led to the notice in our Post Office, the skydiver pulls the cut-away handle, detaching that failed main chute and its lines from his back. When the canopy floats away and clears, the reserve chute handle is pulled and the reserve chute opens.

It all sounds so easy from down here, doesn't it? And, yes, our friend did recover his lost canopy.

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A Fledgling Business Expands

by Barbara Sides



Own Your Own Yoga is new in Gardiner and its owner, Laura Faye Walls, credits the Gardiner Library with helping her to launch her business. Laura Faye is a certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher who received her training at the Kripalu Center for Health and Wellness in Stockbridge, MA.

"The training I received was broad and deep, yet I found teaching to be a humbling experience and I needed to get into it slowly," ex-

plained Walls, "so the library's community room was the perfect resource to spread my wings by offering yoga workshops in the space. The library served as

a business incubator for me."

Once she felt ready for regularly scheduled classes, Laura Faye arranged to share space with John Chiarolanzio, of *Aikido of* New Paltz who runs the dojo at 19 Osprey Lane in Gardiner. She feels it evokes a sense of harmony.

Laura strives to "creating accessibility" to yoga. "Yoga is calming and restorative, a natural sedation. It's an opportunity to scan the body and get in touch with how you're feeling. Movement with breath helps to bring our attention inside and in tune with the body, creating awareness."

Laura Faye makes the point that once people understand that yoga is not about how you look while practicing, it's about how you feel, they begin to see yoga as accessible to them. "There are exquisite yoga postures often used as icons of yoga practice and, as

beautiful as they appear, those iconic pictures too often leave people feeling as if they are too inflexible or too this or too that to do yoga. That makes

me sad, because if you can breathe, you can do yoga."

Own Your Own Yoga is presented as technology for your use, particularly helpful in



Laura Faye Walls practising yoga. Photo courtesy Laura Faye Walls.

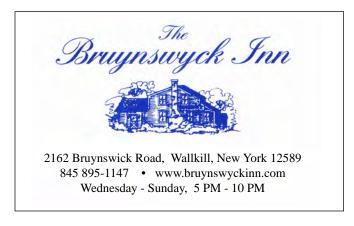
calming the incessant brain chatter many of us experience known as "monkey mind." The practice of yoga can be calming—an antidote to the stressful, frenetic and distracting aspects of everyday life. Laura explains that the tools, methods and systems of yoga enable you to do yoga in your own way whether on or off a yoga mat, in a class, at home, or while you are out-and-about. Laura helps her students to apply the technology

of yoga to their lives and reap the benefits of aligning body, mind and spirit.

Each class offers a collection and sequence of yogic techniques from breath work, postures, and movement to meditation and relaxation. Private and small group classes are also available. Find out more at www.FaceBook.com/Own-YourOwnYoga or Laura-FayeWalls@gmail.com or 914 466-5180.

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"The exquisite postures

used as icons of yoga

leave people feeling

they are 'too inflexible.'

That makes me sad, be-

cause if you can breathe

you can do yoga."



Ice Climbing, from page 1

good for a few hours. If it's sunny, sheets of ice can separate from the rock. Cloudy weather is good because the ice lasts longer. "You have to time it," they insist. One day it will be great, then, with a little afternoon sun, the opportunity has passed. This year in early January in the Near Trapps, ice formed at night a few times then fell apart.

In a good year there are only about 10 routes available to climb. Each climb demands different gear depending on what sort of ice forms.

Clothing and gear are expensive and specific. A helmet and ice screws are just two of the many necessities. If the ice is forming, it may be good for four or five days or you may not be able to go out the next day. How long it stays is an unknown, but Dani and Dora say you just climb what forms, and work with what nature offers that minute. It demands skill and commitment.

Dani and Dora both admit this winter was one of the crazier ones. On the coldest day this year they climbed "Broken Hammer" in the Trapps. They started up when it was 12 degrees below zero and watched it go up to zero in two hours. They wore a lot of protection that day, including the ever important ice gloves, and climbed both ice and rock that day, lasting until dark.

Often Dani and Dora climb with their buddy Kevin Delaney, who doesn't shrink from leading. Kevin's out here every winter too and lives his life around what is happening with the ice. He has an amazing depth of intimacy around nature, which is a prerequisite for ice climbing. Nature can be fickle; the ice can be there and then not. There are many ice conditions, and people need to know what to do in each situation. There are guides available if you are inclined to experience this exciting sport. \square





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Leonie Lacouette: Time Is In Her Hands

by Annie O'Neill

Esteemed clockmaker Leonie Lacouette's grandfather, a Frenchman who fought in World War I as cook on the front lines, came to America in the 1930s. By 1937 the family had discovered Tillson Lake in Gardiner and, shortly after, bought the perfect property on what is today Lacouette Lane-a location close enough to walk through the woods to the lake from. Imagine that?







Leonie's father was an artist and set designer; his wife, an actress. They came weekends to the property from Hell's Kitchen in Manhattan, where Leonie spent her teenage years attending the High School of Art and Design. The weekend home became permanent, and Leonie eventually attended SUNY New Paltz where she studied ceramics.

It was a time of artistic discovery and exploration and in 1981 she met her husband Bruce Pileggi, a builder, local actor and artist. He helped her set up her first studio. Her "ah-ha" moment came when she saw an ad for clock movements. She was hooked; her first clocks were ceramic, but at SUNY she had also pur-



Leonie Lacouette (left, on left) with Lesley Rokjer. Photo: Annie O'Neill. Above: a Leonie clock. Photo courtesy Leonie Lacouette. See our facebook page for more pictures.

sued metalsmithing, painting and sculpture, all of which she now incorporates in her contemporary, innovative clocks.

She is a master of invention. Her work has evolved from "kitschy" playful pieces to sleek, sophisticated design-oriented and timely wall sculptures. Patintated copper is her signature look, while employing highly stylized geometric shapes. Her current studio, meticulously designed by Pileggi, intrigues artists, machinists and technicians alike. Her clocks are all hand assembled of components such as metal, clockworks, pendulums and a wide variety of altered surface materials. Each clock requires cutting, drilling, polishing and patinated metal surfaces combined with faux-finshed wood, stainless, and copper, cherrv veneer and barnwood. She has become a master of surface decoration.

Leonie works with her longtime assistant, Gardinerite Lesley Rokjer. The creativity involved in any clock by Leonie is astonishing. She has tackled the age-old dilemma of time in a totally unique way. Locally, her work is at the Mark Gruber Gallery in New Paltz and Sweetheart Gallery in Woodstock. In the wider world she is represented at over 150 galleries and shops across the United States, Canada and the Virgin Islands.

Don't you think it is high time to visit her website, LeonieTime. com? You will clock up a most unique experience. \square

<u>Back Comment</u>
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Spring Is Here: Some Planting Tips That Might Help

by Angela Sisson

We're all heading out into the garden right about now, so it might be useful to pay attention to what not to do. The information on root correction in this article generally applies to all container-grown plants, trees, shrubs and perennials and might help your garden thrive.

The dreaded mulch volcano ...

A very common mistake people make after planting a landscape tree is over-mulching-specifically, mulch piled against a tree's base, as shown on the right. Just google "Mulch Volcano" and you'll see plenty of examples. Arborists warn against this all the time, but for some reason the practice persists. Perhaps the world doesn't get it because the damage doesn't show up immediately-in fact the damage usually takes years to set in and by then the mulch volcano may have already killed the tree.



Piling mulch up around a tree's trunk can damage a tree in two ways. First, the moisture beneath the mulch is conducive to rot. Once the bark begins to rot, it can no longer provide a natural barrier against invasion by insects and pathogens. Second, the shallow feeder roots will grow up to be near the surface of the ground and over time, as the tree trunk gets bigger and expands in girth, these roots will begin to girdle or strangle the tree.

It's ok to spread a thin layer of mulch under the base of a tree for moisture retention or weed suppression. Just keep the mulch off the trunk, and make sure the root flare is exposed.

Show me the roots please ...

What we see above the ground-plant form, structure, branching, trunk, bark, leaves-tells a great deal about the health of a tree. But we still need to know about the below-ground parts, the parts we can't see. Otherwise healthy-looking plants can be root-bound-a big problem if left uncorrected.





Shave root ball here to remove all roots growing on periphery

Root-bound plants, like the

tell the nursery what you're

doing, and why, so they

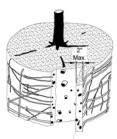
won't think you're some kind

of plant abuser.) If a tree, or

any plant, is root bound, you

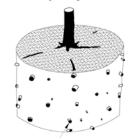
could opt not to buy it, but it's





Shave outer periphery of the root ball a maximum of 2" thick

Shaving Complete



Root tips exposed at periphery. All roots growing around periphery are removed.

one shown on the next page, bound condition at planting time. proliferate in even the best nurseries because growers After removing the container to often give plants a nutrient boost before sending them to market. Therefore, it is advisable to pull the plant out of the pot before buying it in order to inspect the roots. (Oh by the way, you should

expose the roots, one solution is to slice the root ball vertically in a few places with a pruning saw in order to cut through the excessive roots. The plant will grow new roots not confined by the container. Another solution is to tease apart all the roots, knocking off most of the planting medium. The idea is to free up and redi-

relatively easy to correct the root-

Planting, continued page 15

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Planting, from page 14



rect roots which were curving upwards. However, the best solution, according to the Urban Tree Foundation, among others, is to shave off the outer surface of the root ball—no more than two inches deep—cutting away the bound up roots.

The roots will suffer some damage in the short term, but they'll quickly recover and grow new root hairs, feeder roots and structural roots. The tree can then grow without the imminent threat of strangulation by roots.

Even though you can't see them, the roots are a very important half of the tree. So do inspect the roots before buying a tree. And after planting a tree, do not make a mulch volcano!

For further information on tree planting and care see Ed Gilman's site at the University of Florida, (www.hort. ifas.ufl.edu/woody), and the Urban Tree Foundation, (www.urbantree.org).

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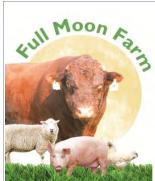


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Spring is finally here: These Painted Turtles, basking in early spring sun, were photographed by David Warg on South Ohioville Road. Painted Turtles are commonly seen in groups on logs in ponds. See our facebook page for more pictures.

Back Comment

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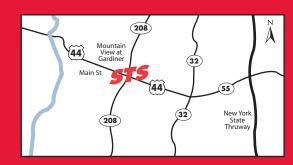


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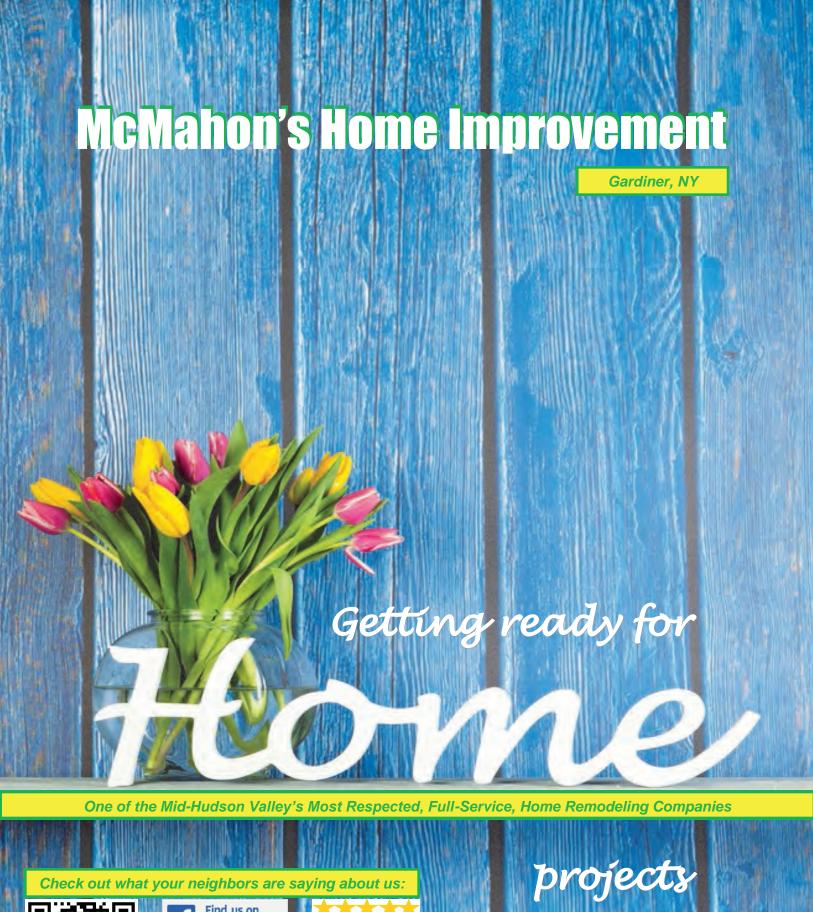














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