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SUMMER 2021

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From the editor:

It's all too easy to fall down the rabbit hole of internet surfing. Even while warm sunshine and breezes beckon, I often find myself slouched in front of my computer. I find it especially difficult to rouse my kids away from the hypnotic lure of their screens

But the summers around here are fleeting, and it won't be long until those green leaves bronze up and are followed by a cold, stormy season. Why not combine the best of both worlds? In this issue of Upper Delaware, we present ways to use today's tech to enhance your outdoor experience.

Since the kids seem to like having their nose in a screen, make them trip leaders on a geocache hunt. Cleverly hidden caches lie along a lot of our trails, and most of the fun can be found on the search itself.

Am I the only one who's grateful for a smartphone camera? I've often captured images that would have faded into memory, had I not had my phone with me. Snap a few pics with the help of our 'Gram the Delaware feature, and you'll be thankful later on.

Most of those Instagram photos will be taken in or near a historic area—the Upper Delaware area is steeped in history. Don't

miss reading The Kate Project, and think about the hard life those children led as you walk in the footprints of those little canal workers and their mules.

Our gorgeous summer climate has long attracted vacationers to boarding houses and, later, hotels. When you're done exploring, take a cue from those who came (and cooked) before us and try your hand at some of the food that was served back then (although I think I'd steer you away from the beet gelatin salad). While you eat, revel in a story about a memory of those old hotels that was sparked by matchbooks.

Throughout the issue, you'll find phenomenal poems penned by Gary Holmes, former co-owner of the beautiful Cantowne Emporium in Wurtsboro, who is also flexing his writing muscles in playwriting. I can assure you that his writing will stir your emotions as much as it did mine.

And most importantly, stay safe and wear your lifejacket while on the water.

So get out there, soak up the summer, and take the time to document your memories. You won't regret it.

Jane Anderson, Section Editor

Cover photo by Amanda Reed

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Homage to a hoggee



Painting by E.L. Henry

E.L. Henry's 1891 painting, "On the Towpath," inspired historian Debra Conway's idea to install a sculpture of a girl "hoggee" on a former towpath for the D&H Canal.

The Kate Project honors child labor on the D&H Canal

By JANE ANDERSON

MINISINK FORD, NY — If you traveled along Route 97 through Barryville and Minisink Ford about 150 years ago, you would be floating, not driving—and your conveyance would not be a car, but a canal boat.

As visitors buzz up and down the riverside road, it's difficult to imagine those coal- and bluestone-laden barges towed by a mule. It's even more difficult to conceive that it was children who led those mules on their journeys.

The Kate Project, the brainchild of local historian Debra Conway, hopes to change all of that.

"The D&H Canal is what put us on the map," Conway said during a recent visit to a half-mile swath of riverbank just south of the Roebling Aqueduct Bridge. "It literally fueled the Industrial Revolution with the coal it carried. It's our unique story and it's forgotten, and the children who worked on

It's our unique story and it's forgotten, and the children who worked on the canal are the 'forgotten-forgotten.'

the canal are the 'forgotten-forgotten.'"

The verdant patch between the Delaware River and Route 97 used to be the towpath for the D&H. Scrub brush has been mowed into a wide path that will become a hiking trail from the Barbara Yeaman Eagle Observation Blind north to an existing D&H Canal trail that leads under the Roebling Aqueduct Bridge, in the first phase of the project. The second phase is edging and paving the trail (with asphalt, stones, cinders or other material), and installing bluestone benches and educational signage, which Conway hopes to complete by the end of this summer.

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Photo by John Conway

Historian Debra Conway holds a print of E.L. Henry's 1891 painting, "On the Towpath," which inspired her to propose a hiking trail on a former D&H Canal towpath, which is in the background.

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KATE PROJECT - Page 5

But why call it “The Kate Project”? E.L. Henry’s 1891 painting “On the Towpath,” depicting a little girl leading two mules along a canal towpath, hangs in Conway’s home. Familiar with the history of children (called “hoggees”) toiling on the canal, Conway was struck by the idea of a statue of a child on the towpath itself. The Delaware Company, a nonprofit for which she is executive director, is raising money for that statue, which is the project’s third phase. The statue’s name was born during friendly discussions of the project.

The history of child labor on the canal is sad: Often, they were adopted out of orphanages specifically to work on the canal, and their lives were valued only as much as those of the mules they led—or even less so. Conway said those children deserve their place in history, and she feels The Kate Project will help educate people.

“There already is activity here; people are already doing the hike,” she noted. “People want a different kind of outdoor experience.”

Conway and her husband, Sullivan County Historian John Conway, have touted heritage tourism, and The Kate Project ties in perfectly with that, she enthused.

“The idea of tourism is to create a unique experience for people that’s educational and something they wouldn’t get from an indoor waterpark,” she pointed out.

To donate to The Kate Project, you can send checks to The Delaware Company, P.O. Box 88, Barryville, NY 12719.

To visit the Kate Project trail, you can park either at the National Park Service pull-off at the Roebling Bridge (Route 97, Minisink Ford) or at the Barbara Yeaman Eagle Observation Blind (Route 97, Barryville).

Conway was particularly inspired by Ed McMahon, a senior fellow with the Urban Land Institute who spoke at a meeting of the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway in July 2018.

“He asked, ‘What is the soul of this area? What tells the story?’ It’s this,” Conway said, spreading her arms as trees waved in the breeze on the towpath and eagles dipped down into the river.

“With all of this, the towpath, the eagle blind, the Roebling Bridge, the Zane Grey Museum... It is its own little synergistic history spot,” Conway concluded. “And it makes sense for us. We’ve just always been banging the history drum.”

Hoggee

Hello, friend! Care to walk for a spell?
Never seen you before, and I know this stretch well
We don’t move too fast and there’s no incline
The mules will not harm you, just watch out for the line

That’s my father in back idly steering the boat
And my silly brother—swimmin’ nekkid in the moat!
That barge is our home ‘til it gets too cold
Then to the farm, which we own on leasehold

Yes, my mÍom made this dress, also my sun hood
I prefer to go shoeless, tho, which feels very good
I do this stitching between a ‘ho’ and a ‘gee’
Mules don’t listen to much, but they listen to me.

It’s a long and hard trek, the Hudson to Honesdale
But I’ve met so many friends, like you, along this trail.
The man who makes hoops, the lady baking pies
Around one bend, hellos; around the next, goodbyes.

And in the quiet times I can enjoy the view
Though I’ve seen it before, there’s always something new.
Time to think, time to dream, time to make up a song
And sing it up to the mountain and the echo sings along.

Time to say farewell? A word that I hate!
But we’ll meet again and again. By the way, I’m Kate.
— Gary Holmes

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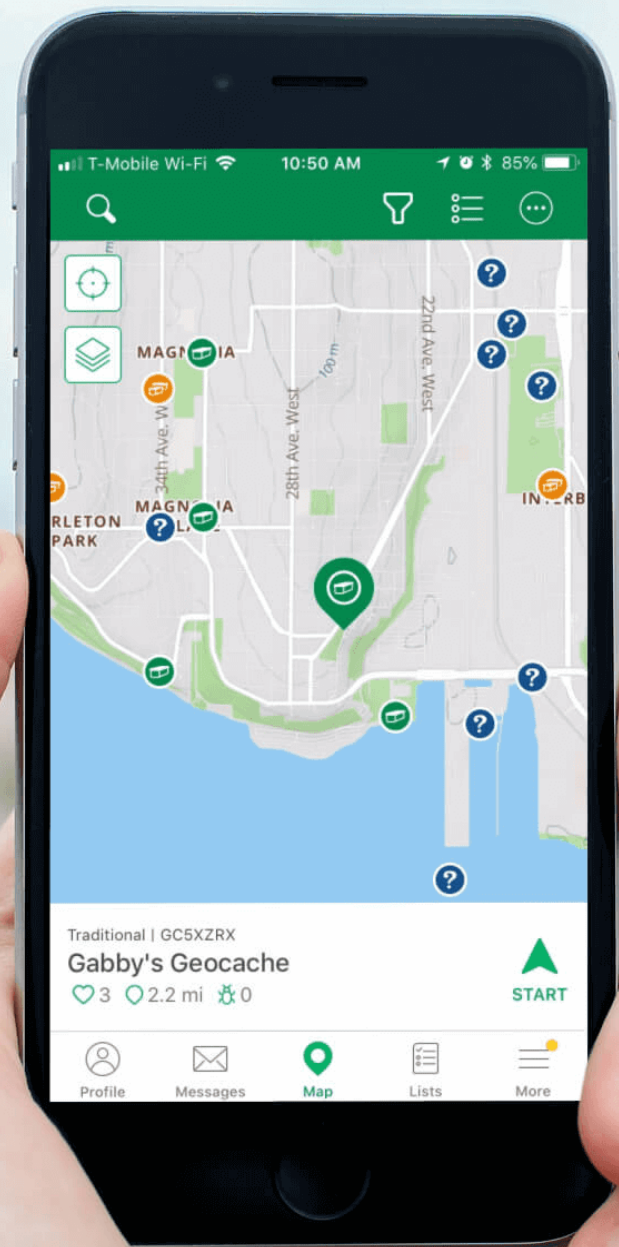


Photo contributed by Groundspeak Inc. (dba Geocaching)

The Geocaching app from www.geocaching.com is user-friendly and fairly accurate.

By JANE ANDERSON

REGION — In our area, it's fairly obvious that there are dozens of cool places to hike. If you want to add a little reason to your ramble, instead of a mindless amble, try geocaching—a fun experience that's probably not far from your own backyard.

Think of it as a really fun, leisurely treasure hunt (depending on how quickly you trek). Geocaching is following a map to find a specific little “cache,” often just folded notepaper tucked inside a waterproof container, that's purposely placed by geocachers. It has its origins partially in orienteering, where you have a set of coordinates (longitude, latitude, etc.) you need to follow to reach a predetermined finish line.

Geocaching was born on May 3, 2000. That's the day after “Blue Switch Day,” otherwise known as the day when the U.S. government made highly accurate GPS available to everyone, according to www.geocaching.com. Com-

puter consultant Dave Ulmer created the “Great American GPS Stash Hunt” by hiding a container in the woods and publicizing its coordinates to an online community on that fateful day in May. Within three days, two readers found the stash and shared their experiences online. A new hobby was born.

The process

How do you get started? If you have a smartphone, download the “Geocaching” app from www.geocaching.com (there's a free option), and search by location to find nearby geocaches, which will appear as colored icons on a map. Click an icon for information, including difficulty and terrain ratings. (Trust me: Choose a one or two if you're a novice.) Once you've chosen a geocache to find, click “Navigate” and a GPS will guide you to its location.

The geocache can be any kind of container: a film canister, a clean prescription bottle, an old ammo box, even Tupperware. If you're lucky, there will be a paper logbook

(even just notepaper) inside so you can add your name and the date of your find. Sometimes you'll find a trinket, which you can take if you leave something of equal value.

Bring a pen, pencil, charcoal stick—anything that will reliably write. Most geocaches won't have a writing instrument inside them.

Geocaching is not as simple as just following a GPS, because these little caches live up to their name (by definition: a collection of items stored in a hidden or inaccessible place). I've found them in magnetic boxes attached to the bottom of sign poles, inside a birdhouse high in a tree and other odd places. But that's the fun of it. The more you seek out geocaches, the more thrilling it becomes to sign that little logbook or tap “Found It!” on the app (the little icon will become a yellow smiley face).

Even if you have to tap “Did Not Find” (uh oh, a blue frowny-face icon), at least you've gotten outside and flexed your brain, right? And there's always next time.

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2940 sq. ft. log cabin (plus 1440 extra sq. ft.) on 3 acres waiting for your finishing touches. 3bed/3 bath with framed out basement (radiant heated floors) and large walk up loft. Mountain views, privacy. (Home needs a deck built). **\$399,000**



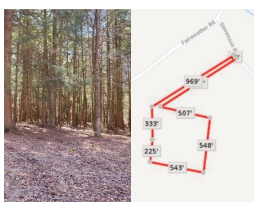
275 ACRES PLUS RANCH IN WOODBOURNE, NY

3 Bed/3 Bathroom Ranch on 275 acres with 3,300 ft. of road frontage on Route 42. This property would make a great family compound and is an outdoor enthusiast dream. Perfect for hunting, hiking, ATV's and more!. The Ranch style home is on 2 acres with an additional 2 parcels totaling 275 acres. 3 bedrooms (one Master) and 3 full bathrooms, a full, finished, walk-out basement and large back deck, great for entertaining. Enjoy views of wildlife from the enclosed porch/sunroom. **\$1,100,000**



ACREAGE IN BETHEL, NY

This lovely 8.1 acre lot in the desirable Town of Bethel is perfect to build your dream home. Create a A 900+ ft. driveway that opens up to a squared off, 8 acres of private, cleared and wooded property. There is a nice variety of Hemlock, Cherry, Maple and White Pine trees and a brook that meanders through the property. **\$65,000**



LAKE COMMUNITY CABIN IN BETHEL, NY

2 Bedroom/1.5 Bathroom Cabin located on a quiet road in the desirable lake community of Smallwood. Located on a corner and has lots of privacy and spacious rooms. Low Taxes. **\$129,000**



MILLION DOLLAR VIEW--COCHECTON, NY

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147+ ACRES IN PARKSVILLE, NY

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CLEARED LOT IN BETHEL, NY

1.05 acre cleared lot. Close to Lake Superior, White Lake, Bethel Woods (Original Woodstock Festival Site) Restaurants, Convenient stores, Gas, Catskill Resports Casino, Kartrite Water Park and Yo1 Spa. **\$23,000**



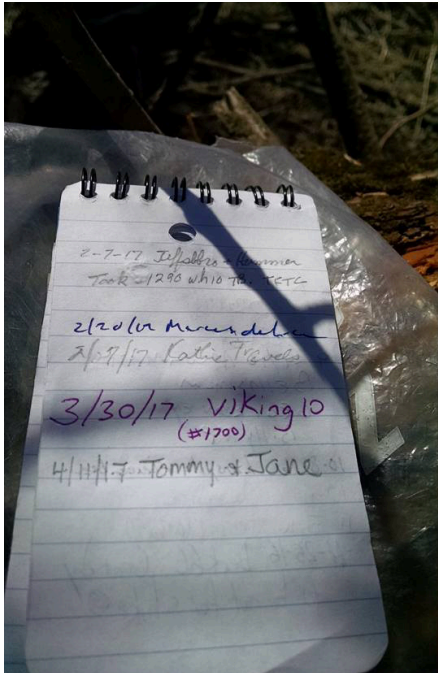
80+ ACRES HORSE FARM-WOODBOURNE, NY

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"ASK FOR JOY"



RR photos by Jane Anderson

Every geocache should have some kind of log in which to mark your name (or geotag) and the date you found it.

Geocache

Thru forest or lane, thru byway or dale
Led on by phone and a singular mind
I search for the cache and know I shan't fail.
The fun is the hunt, the glee is the find!

Espying fresh sights as I take a tour
To the treasure awaiting my visit
Noticing what was unnoticed before
A mad voyage uplifting my spirit!

And then there it is! the joyous reveal:
A poem, some art, a being's own being
Shared with me! Ah, to explain how I feel:
It's so peaceful and filling and freeing!

But from all this has given soul to see
The true discovery is within me!
— Gary Holmes

Cache in, trash out

Leaving a box of paper and trinkets kind of goes against the "Take Only Pictures, Leave Only Footprints" environmental mantra. But Geocaching.com helps with "Cache In, Trash Out," twice-yearly events where geocachers can earn virtual souvenirs by hosting or attending events to pick up litter, plant trees, remove invasives and more. You can find an event, or create one to host yourself, at www.geocaching.com/cito.

Caches in our area

A quick search on www.geocaching.com listed more than 50 geocaches in a 10-mile radius of Narrowsburg. They include areas like Fort Delaware, the Tusten "Steel Angel" and quite a few cemetery caches. Just double-check, before you set out, that you won't be trespassing on the terrain you'll be traveling.



Geocaches can be difficult to decipher, even after you find them. This one near Fort Delaware in Narrowsburg needed a little TLC.



Geocaches vary in size, from micro (a Chapstick case!) to ones as big as this one in Saugerties.

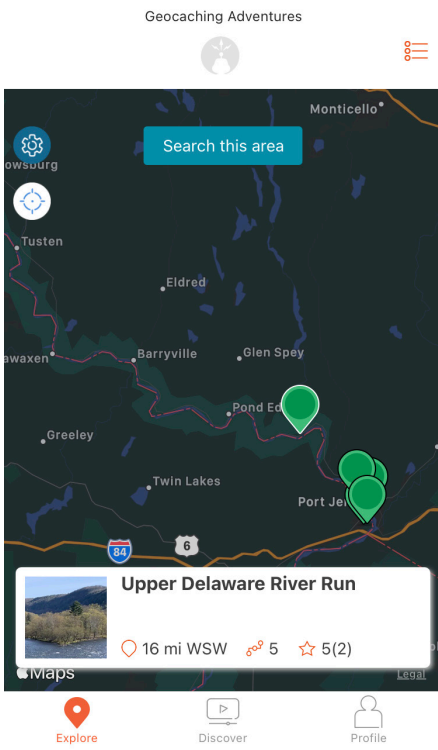
Other technology-assisted fun

Adventure Lab

Feel like you've mastered basic geocaching and want more of a challenge? Try Adventure Lab, an app affiliated with www.geocaching.com that combines a history lesson with a pop quiz, plus multiple caches. Launch the app, pick an adventure lab (there is a good cluster of them in the Port Jervis area, and an Upper Delaware River Run that's accomplished while paddling) and follow the directions to each of five sites. At each location, you'll be asked to answer a question and/or find a cache. At the end, you'll get credit for finding five caches.

TravelStories App

Here's another way to combine tech and travel, without the responsibility of finding a cache: TravelStories is an up-and-coming app offering mini-podcast audio tours, supplemented by an "exhibit hall" of images, videos and web links, in 36 states and three countries. Around here, there's a "Gateway to the Catskills" TravelStory that circles from Livingston Manor to Roscoe and back. Just open the tour on the app when you arrive, and the audio will launch automatically as you approach sites of interest—even without good cell service or WiFi. Other Hudson Valley-based TravelStories cover the Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway, the Walkway Over the Hudson and more. Mamakating Trails are coming.



Screenshot from AdventureLab

The AdventureLab app, an affiliate of www.geocaching.com, takes you on a little tour of an area.



Photo contributed by Groundspeak Inc. Geocaches can be marked with an official sticker.

‘Gram the Delaware *Where and how to capture Insta-worthy pictures*

By JANE ANDERSON

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — The Upper Delaware region is chock-full of breathtaking scenery, and it’s only natural that you want to capture it for posterity. Smartphones make it easy to follow the mantra of “Take only pictures; leave only footprints.” Here are a handful of special places that’ll make your Instagram sparkle.



RR photo by Jane Anderson

Livingston Manor covered bridge

The 103-foot-long span (also named the Van Tran Bridge) was called the Mott Flats Bridge when John Davidson built it in 1860.

There’s fishing, parking and picnicking at the site.

Directions: Route 17 west, Exit 96, turn right onto DeBruce Road. Turn right onto Old Route 17; a mile ahead, make a sharp left onto Covered Bridge Road.



RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

Roebling Aqueduct Bridge

The oldest existing wire suspension bridge in the country originally carried water and canal boats across the Delaware River from Minisink Ford, NY to Lackawaxen, PA. You’ll

walk where hoggies used to lead mules, while cars buzz by on the canal boats’ former route below. Look for the Plexiglass-covered part on the New York side, displaying the bridge’s inner workings.

Directions: Minisink Road, off Route 97 in Minisink Ford, NY. Park in lots on either side of the bridge. For interesting facts, tune your radio to 1610 AM while you’re there. To stretch your legs, follow the D&H Canal tow-path underneath the bridge.



RR photo by Jane Anderson

Sullivan County Dove Trail

A neat way to explore the Sullivan County Catskills is by following the Dove Trail. Artists handpainted 50 large dove-shaped sculptures, each capturing the essence of its location. Download the Dove Trail map

and prepare to wing your way around the county.

Directions: The trail encompasses nearly the entire county. Download the map at www.sullivancatskills.com/interactive-dove-map.



RR photo by Jane Anderson

Woodstock Monument at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

This iconic monument to the Woodstock Music and Arts Festival is set among gorgeous fields. Try shooting from different angles to find your favorite, then take the time to explore the museum at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

Directions: Intersection of Hurd and West Shore roads, Swan Lake, NY. Park in the small parking lot on West Shore Road, then walk through a small grove of trees to the monument.



RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park

This three-arched stone masterpiece makes for drool-worthy photos. It dates back to 1880, and there’s a fascinating story behind it

that includes bewitchery and murder (a marker at the site explains it all). If you have time after photographing every angle of the stonework, which is bewitching in itself, you can fish, hike two trails, or enjoy the playground

or picnic area.

Directions: Located at the intersection of Routes 52 & 52A, Kenoza Lake, Town of Delaware, NY.



RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

Yasgur's Farm

History was made when dairy farmer Max Yasgur allowed a certain music and arts festival on his property in 1969. Although private-

ly owned, the farm once owned by the legendary Yasgur is visible enough from the road for sightseers to grab a decent shot or two.

Directions: Route 17B in Bethel, NY, just west of Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.



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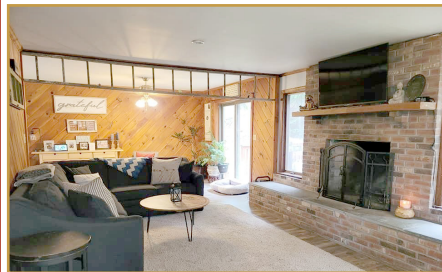


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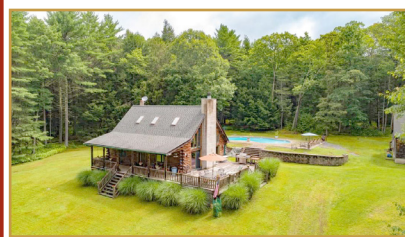
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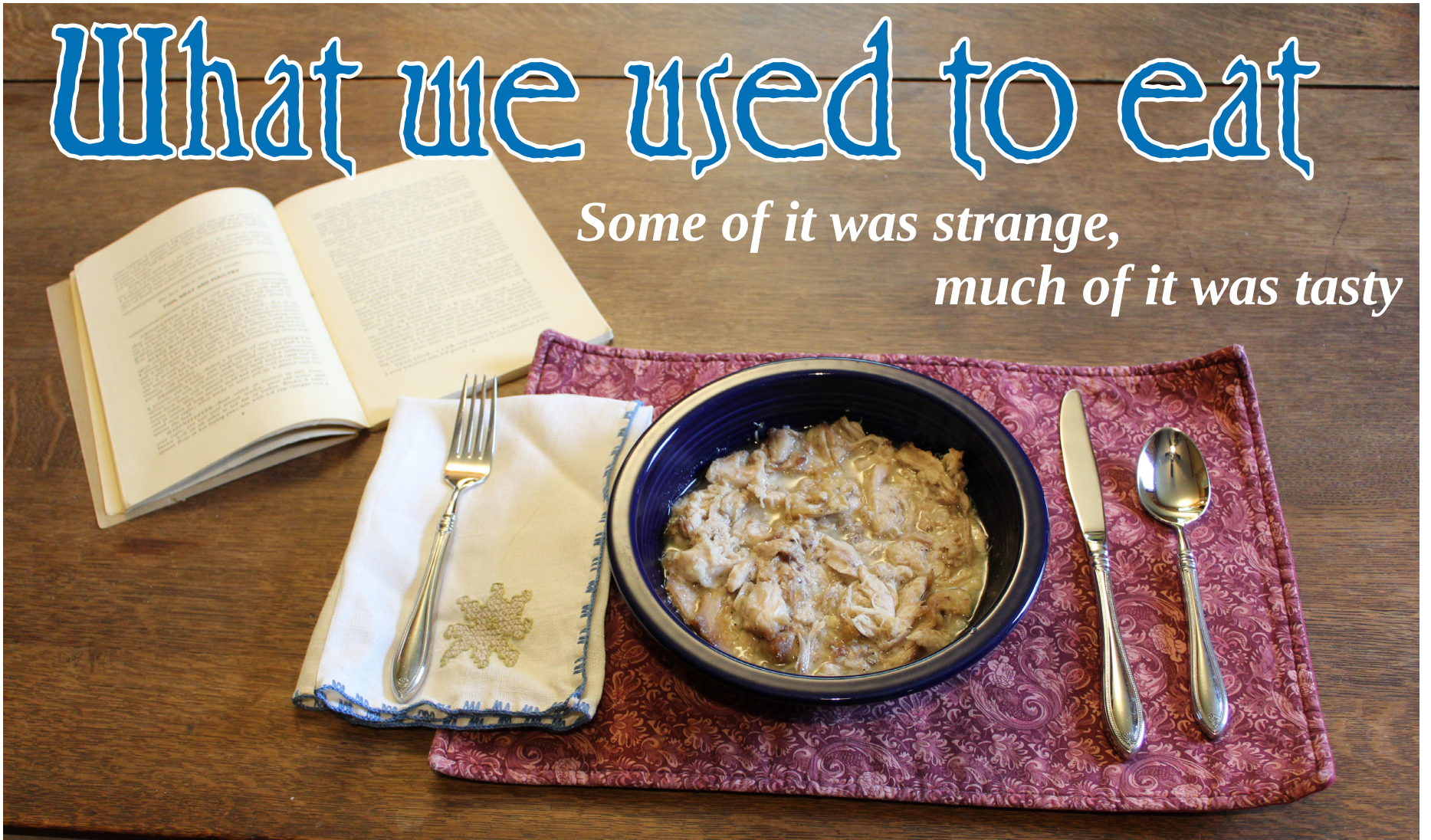


Got Horses? This spacious Barryville ranch home offers LR w/ fireplace, huge country kitchen w/ ss appliances & dining area, family room, 3 bedrooms & 2.5 baths. Enclosed porch, deck, small corral & paddock & possible 2nd home site offers well & septic.

Offered at \$399,900

What we used to eat

*Some of it was strange,
much of it was tasty*



RR photos by Joe Cooke

Smothered chicken. How to make this look attractive? No idea. It tasted great though. Thank you, Ladies' Aid and the St. Tammany Chapter of the O.E.S.

By ANNEMARIE SCHUETZ

Are you hungry?

Our ancestors were, too. And it was the women's job, back then, to fill those growling stomachs. (And do the laundry. Scrub soot off everything. Garden for food, not for fun. And sometimes hold down a paid job, too. They were busy.)

So what did these busy women put on the table for their families?

I turned to my great-grandmother, who spent much of her life in Callicoon, for answers.

OK, she's been dead for decades. But I inherited both her handwritten cookbook (dated 1966) and her typed cookbook (undated, but older). Plus, I have a community cookbook, maybe from the 1920s, compiled by the St. Tammany Chapter of the O.E.S. and printed by the Methodist Ladies' Aid in Callicoon.

The typewritten book is nicely categorized but doesn't have as many recipes, plus my mom and I both added our own favorites, thus destroying its historic purity. The handwritten book is a bit random: One page has a recipe for cleaning the toilet bowl (vinegar + bleach, hmm), cleaning woodwork ("All" dissolved in a pail of water) and a recipe for ascorbic acid for canning fruit (nevermind).



OK, so it's got a slightly drunken lean. So it's spackled with cream cheese on one side to fill in some holes. So what? This is Royal Loaf, it's in both of Anna's cookbooks, making it a family hit. (Or something.) You take a loaf of unsliced bread, slice it lengthwise

to make five pieces, and cover each slice with a different type of filling: red layer (ham, pimientos), yellow (hard-cooked egg yolks, mustard), white (cream cheese, cucumbers) and green (small pickles and cress or parsley). I had neither, so sliced up some baby spinach. I guess you could use food coloring too to get the message across. Then you put it all together and slather the outside with more cream cheese. Chill.

Well, if you go by the cookbooks, people ate little meat, vegetables were in gelatin salads and there were lots of desserts. Truth?

Well, if you go by the cookbooks, people ate little meat, vegetables were in gelatin salads and there were lots of desserts. Truth?

Probably not. Great-grandmother Anna cooked meat, potatoes and vegetables for two meals a day. She mostly didn't note the recipes for the obvious things.

Hearty fare

Linda English of Long Eddy, whose grandmother, Minnie Doyle, ran a boardinghouse in the early 20th century, recalls hearing about roast chicken "and a good, hearty meal with all the trimmings." Mrs. Doyle didn't have to work alone; Suzy Kaulitz was her assistant. An issue of *The Echo*, from the Basket Historical Society, notes that they also served up the "bounty of their gardens, homemade bread and rolls, and many times up to five desserts."

Quarrymen, loggers and raftsmen lived there, as well as men who worked at the acid factory. (Wood acid, aka tannic, acetic and formic acid, had a number of uses, like drinking and disinfecting wounds, but was considered "feeble" compared to sulfuric and other acids. So says the Forest Products Laboratory, anyway.)

Charles Armstrong's Maple Grove House, also in Long Eddy, dates from the 1860s, according to an article in *The Echo* by his granddaughter, Cornelia Avery Hones. A sign in front specifically mentions the delights available in its hotel days: "Choice meats and tender chickens, vegetables fresh from our garden, are cooked to the taste of an epicure and served in a manner worthy of Fifth Avenue."

Salad, or "salad"?

Also probably common were salads. Plain vegetables or fruit on lettuce didn't get mentioned. The cookbooks



Mountaindale resident Allen Frishman has a museum of Catskills memorabilia. That includes this 1946 menu from the Flagler Hotel in Fallsburg.

feature salads either covered in mayo or bathing in gelatin. Jell-O salads still turn up at church picnics; chicken salad, Waldorf salad and carrot/raisin salad in mayonnaise are often-seen summer fare.

Sarah Grey on Serious Eats makes a solid case for the birth of Jell-O-based salads as a result of the industrialization of food, home economists pushing products, wars and changes in women's labor, making easy-to-prepare food a must.

They were also easy to eat if you didn't like vegetables or had tooth issues, and they were a way to use - Page 17



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WHAT WE EAT -Page 15

store- or home-canned produce. Plus, they made a little fruit or veg go a long way.

In the O.E.S./Ladies' Aid cookbook, every salad recipe includes mayo, sour cream, sweet cream, or Jell-O. Same with my great-grandmother's recipes, although she did suggest one minimalist salad: "sliced canned pineapple on lettuce leaf."

Sweets

The desserts are another story.

Pages and pages of desserts. Berry pies, lemon pies, chocolate pie. "Ice cream party dessert." Petit fours frosting, raspberry torte and, well, zwieback. (Yeah, I don't know). Tea cakes, Nabisco wafer pie, so many cookies, macaroon pudding and prune whip (which was not delicious and not attractive, either).

The O.E.S. book has a recipe for cream

puffs by Mrs. A. Brandt, whose family (or in-laws) ran a boardinghouse in the 19th century. Probably a nice surprise for the lodgers.

Obviously, people had sweet teeth (sweet teeth?) and the added calories probably didn't hurt either. You could create dessert out of whatever was lying around. The O.E.S./Ladies' Aid have a recipe for War Cake, an eggless, milkless, butterless cake (it uses water, sugar, molasses, a little shortening, soda, flour and "one box raisins.")

The point of War Cake, the point of food, was to bring a little joy into people's lives. Work was hard and long, life was hard and sometimes short, but there was usually dinner of some kind waiting for you. Even if it was just something simple. Maybe a bit of meat, some potatoes and canned pineapple on a single lettuce leaf. It probably tasted great.

The Maple Grove House

"Long famous as a stopping place for raftsmen going down the Delaware and as a general hotel... the hotel kitchen was supplied with fresh produce from a big garden, large quantities of which were canned and stored in the cellar, along with bins of potatoes and other vegetables, as well as apples from the Armstrong orchard near Perch Pond. Ice for the hotel's ice-boxes was stored in a large ice-house across from the hotel, which was filled each winter with cakes of ice from the Delaware River. A flock of poultry was kept to supply eggs and meat. Everything was well organized and the Armstrong family was pretty much self-sustaining."

— Cornelia Avery Hones, as printed in the Christmas 1986 issue of The Echo.



RR photo by Jane Anderson
This sign is erected at the site of the Maple Grove House, circa early 1860s.

Boarding House

Evening whispers its arrival, boarders gather
Competing aromas bathe the air
Enveloped in expectation they await, rivermen
And city folk alike, Smith's savory fare.

For hours on end, meats are prepared
Beans boiled, bread baked, cheese grated.
Victuals attended with knowing care
A cascade of tastes heaven-created.

Tomorrow comes, the faces change
But not the anticipation
A pure country meal, served in waves of plenty
The essence of true delectation,

Those Long Eddy summers brought many delights
Those times went "I-don't-know-where"
Not the least of which came from that kitchen
Ah, if only I could have been there!
— Gary Holmes

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Matchbooks

By GARY ALEXANDER AZERIER

It all started for me at age 13, staying in Roscoe, NY at a resort called Cooks Falls Lodge. My mother got ill during that mini, two-week vacation but, though cut short, our time spent there provided the foundation for my returning as a bus-boy four years later.

That subsequent summer was an uneventful one, although I well recall the twin fellow busboys Larry and George (and their recommendation of the best Chinese restaurant in New York, Lum's Gardens) as well as the sister waitresses, Rosemary (who contracted poison sumac on her first week) and Margaret, who became George's inamorata.

My 21-year-old waiter, Harvey, recommended a place called the Steak Joint on 7th Avenue and Broadway in New York's Greenwich Village, which I checked out that fall. The steak wasn't bad. I had sides of creamed spinach and French fries.

When I was 18, I worked at a resort in Fallsburg, NY called the Golden Hotel where I met the lovely Eunice, her idolized father, Lew, and her bookkeeper mother, Trudy. It was also the summer I almost broke my nose one frolicking evening trying to impress by leap-frogging over parking meters—fell face first on the gravel and took several late-night stitches between the eyes.

A few years passed before I was prompted to visit the Catskills at least once more to earn some money, which I had hoped to use to finance my post-graduation trip to Europe. I found an agency that assured me of employment at a better-class hotel known as the Normandy—my future was secured. Looking forward, I packed a neat leather bag with my best essentials weeks in advance, only to receive a call from the Normandy the night before leaving telling me I had no job. Waitresses had brought their own staff, and there were no other jobs at the Normandy. I didn't relay this information to my parents and left the following morning despite the disappointment.

It was a cloudy day, and it began to drizzle when I got off the bus at Loch Sheldrake. I had no idea where I was going but pointed my face in the promising direction of what might materialize into a strip of hotels. And I felt optimistic. No thoughts of Browns, Grossinger's, the Concord or the really big hotels, but after all, despite unexpected cancellations, drizzle and best-laid plans, it was the top of the summer—in the Catskills!

So, with images of the Nevelle, Kutchers, The Pines and the notorious Tamarack Lodge, I set off on my trek. Hotels that I was fairly sure graced that particular location included Swan Lake, the Fieldston and the Stevensville. My first two inquiries came up fully staffed but the maître d' at the Fieldston told me to stick around; one of his waiters had just broken a wrist playing volleyball. The following morning, in a short-sleeved white shirt and black bow tie, I found myself toting a bus box.

The work was exhausting but only seemed to serve as a stretch for one's youth and pride in one's indomitable endurance. That's what youth is for; and the memory, sole survivor of those lucid days, remains. Not very much else.

- Page 19



Photos by Gary Alexander Azerier

MATCHBOOKS — Page 18

But one distinct weekend, and four guests who colored it at the Fieldston, endure. Most guests came and went. Many families stayed only a week or two, some for the entire summer, and often, the workaday husbands arrived each weekend to enjoy a bucolic mini summer break. But I cannot think back to compare any of that summer's guests to the singular and extra-dimensional patrons who entered our dining room and headed for our table that one night.

It had to be late on a Friday, halfway through the evening meal when the four of them joined one of our tables, at which we had set aside four settings. The two men were large, in their early 40s and elegantly dressed in suits, crisp shirts and bright ties. The women were tall, in heels, dresses and smiles. From the easy flow of conversation and their jocular, it appeared none of the quartet was married. As they were seated, the group made themselves at ease in what seemed to be a happy bubble. The table's laughter initiated by each of them percolated unabated.

I can recall one of the men's hands resting comfortably on the white table cloth, his little finger wearing a tight-fitting gold ring sporting a large glittering stone. His watch was gold, apparent through his animation, although he made no move to consult his menu as did the others, while he used his time to finish his cigar, intermittently rolling the ash over the rim of the Fieldstone ashtray.

Having been well schooled and tutored in promptness by maitre d' Moise in the Fieldston dining room, my waiter, Gil, stood at the ready to receive the table's orders as I laid out the fresh rolls and filled the polished glasses.

The gay mood prevailed throughout the meal and, unlike so many of the familiar hotel guests, they issued no unusual requests, no fuss, no grumbles.

The smiles remained, the four, having had what seemed to have been a unique, apparently anticipated (at least for the ride from the city) and enjoyable dinner, out of town, in the country.

What I retain is this: The two couples stayed the night and left by late Saturday afternoon after a full breakfast, a light lunch and perhaps some sun at the pool. The cigar man, on that Saturday, wore a dazzling Hawaiian shirt to compliment his pinky ring and left a respectable gratuity for my waiter and me. We never saw them again. But what I couldn't help notice, and what I deposited in my memory bank, were the matchbook covers that he casually left on the table, adjacent to the coffee saucer, alongside the ashtray, near the water pitcher: Copa Cabana, Bill Miller's Riviera, Marny's—just so much flotsam.

More than a few decades later, and long after the devastation and complete ruin of nearly all the Catskill resorts, the vaporization of the old Borscht Belt—long after the Raleigh, Laurels, The Flagler, and Young's Gap were only memories—I discovered a place, a unique setting, in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. It more than reminded me of the likes of Brickmans, Livingston Manor, and the old Cooks Falls Lodge. It was a small establishment, a mod-

est vacation resort with cabins in place of a larger central building with a swimming pool, game rooms, ample grounds and, of course, a dining room.

Throughout the summer, diners from all over the Poconos were invited to reserve for dinner and favor Lukan's Farm Resort with their patronage. The menus were set for each day of the week. The foods were served family-style and, for the most part, no one seemed to have inflexible preferences. In time, a bar was installed much to our liking, which precluded us from bringing our own aperitif beverages—which was never frowned upon at Lukan's.

For me, there was a less-than-apparent but, nonetheless, profound similarity between Lukan's and the long-gone, and nearly forgotten by many, Catskill dining room days, where I would say I had spent more than 95 percent of those summers. I found myself so taken with the parallel, I took a friend in hopes of sharing the vestigial phenomenon. Unfortunately, this friend had his own ways of perceiving his world, the past, changing times and the vaporization of our yesterdays. Nonetheless, I took him despite what I understood to be great odds and foolishly thought I could, with the help of the Lukan's ambiance, convey my deepest, aged and nostalgic sentiments.

I tried to recapture the vanquished Catskill Mountain map—our long-lost toils and joys, certainly the hotels, the people. I tried to snare for him our visions of the couples snagging a Friday night and Saturday breakfast when they represented to us the unflinching carefree spirit they bannered. I hoped to reveal what I thought was the quintessential accomplishment and success I once envisioned and dreamed of. And finally, I tried to reveal the evaporation, the disappearance, the change, the regret and the loss—the irreplaceable loss.

"That's the way it goes," he said.

"But, the hopes—when we still waded, a little confused, in our youth."

"It is what it is," said my friend.

"It hurts to realize all that is over."

"Such is life."

"And yet," I said, "it is so much the same, here, in this place, I almost feel as if I am back there! Look at the young waiters in the white shirts, the black bow ties! They remind me of me 50 years ago!"

"What goes around comes around!" His expression was blank but for his usual mien. Then, the usual shrug.

"I don't know," I said, "this place reminds me of those old hotels."

"The more things change, the more they stay the same." His countenance was unchanged. He took a last sip of water.

I looked out the window across the field. "How could all those places vanish?"

"It was meant to be." He pushed his chair back.

"And yet," I said, despite myself, "our world today is very different."

"We are where we are." He said it with a note of sagacity.

I was ready to remain where I was and enjoy a final drink as I kept my gaze staring into yesterday. "All those hotels, all those days, gone."

He flicked his palms. "What's done is done."



Lukans Farm Resort in Hawley, PA is reminiscent of those summers, decades lost, spent in the Catskills.



The dining room at Lukans Farm Resort.



The author on the steps of Lukans Farm Resort.

Contributed photos

We were leaving. I left the tip and stared at the white linen table cloth. I remembered that Friday night. "They left their matchbooks on the table," I said.

My friend's features moved through his blank comprehension. "All that glitters," he said with a final shrug, "is not gold."

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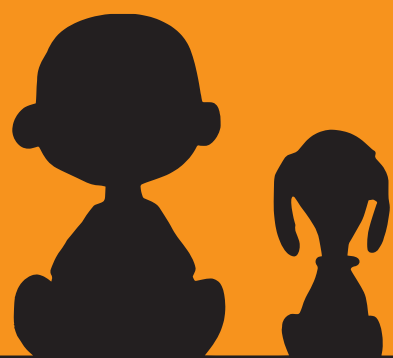
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Thursday, July 29

Summer Concert Series @ BLM

KAUNEONGA LAKE, NY — Bethel Lakeside Music presents free performances at the Kauneonga Lake Gazebo Park featuring Far Beyond Gone, 6:30-8pm at 3562 Rte. 55. More info and full schedule at www.facebook.com/2017BLM.

Summer in the Park @ WCCAC

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Creative Arts Council presents Summer in the Park Concerts, 7:30pm at Central Park. The season will end on a high note with The Old Time Fiddlers. The CDC guidelines will be followed with masks required & spacing of family groups. More info and full schedule at www.honesdaleparkevents.org.

The World Goes Round @ Forestburgh Playhouse

FORESTBURGH, NY — The Forestburgh Playhouse presents "The World Goes Round," July 27-Aug. 8 at 39 Forestburgh Rd. Filled with humor, romance, drama & nonstop melody. Showtimes: 8pm Tuesday-Saturday. Matinees: 2pm Wednesdays & 3pm Sundays. Get tickets at www.fbplayhouse.org/2021-summer-season/the-world-goes-round.

Friday, July 30

Damn Yankees @ The Ritz

HAWLEY, PA — The Ritz Playhouse presents its 2021 Summer Season. "Damn Yankees" will show 8pm at 512 Keystone St. Tickets cost \$15 for adults & \$10 seniors & students. Purchase tickets and see a full schedule at www.ritzplayhouse.com/events-calendar.

Moonlight Movie @ FHCB

MONTICELLO, NY — Funky Hippy Chic Boutique presents Moonlight Movie, every Friday through end of Aug., dusk at 679 Resorts World Drive's back lawn. Movie is free, bring a chair and snacks. Weather permitting. More info and full schedule at www.bit.ly/3ebcoKu.

Saturday, July 31

Movies in the Park @ HPAC

HURLEYVILLE, NY — The Town of Fallsburg & Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre present Movies in the Park, dusk at Morningside Park, 11 Morningside Rd. July 31 is "Jaws." Popcorn & refreshments will be available to purchase. Enjoy free outdoor yoga before the movie compliments of The Yoga Space. More info and full schedule at www.hurleyvilleartscentre.org/movies-in-the-park.

New York Weekend @ Harmony

HAWLEY, PA — Harmony in the Woods presents "New York Weekend," 6-8pm nestled amongst the trees, featuring the Nat Osborn Band. BYOB, chair/blanket & snacks. Tickets cost \$25-35, depending on seats. Doors open 5:30pm. Tickets, more info and full summer schedule at www.harmonyinthewoods.org.

Wildflower Music Festival @ DSWS

WHITE MILLS, PA — Dorflinger Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary presents 2021 Wildflower Music Festival, 6pm at 55 Suydam Drive. Listen to Tapestry, The Carole King Tribute, a show featuring Suzanne O Davis. \$24 General admission, \$12 students 6-18, under 6 free. More info and full summer schedule at www.dorflinger.org/wildflower-music-festival/season-schedule, music01@pdt.net or 570/253-5500.

Wednesday, August 4

Dream on the Farm @ FAC

DAMASCUS, PA — Farm Arts Collective presents Dream on the Farm, 7-8:30pm at Willow Wisp Organic Farm, 38 Hickory Ln. The annual eco-drama is created & performed by Farm Arts Collective & incorporates live music, stilt walking & dynamic physical performance. Runs through August 9. Tickets cost \$15/\$25. Get tickets at www.myrivertickets.com/events/dream-on-the-farm-8-6-2021.

Captain Magic @ Rock Hill Summer Concert Series

ROCK HILL, NY — Rock Hill Summer Concert Series presents Captain Magic, 3:30-5:30pm at 223 Rock Hill Dr. New rock music with a classic feel. More info and full summer schedule at www.facebook.com/RockHillSummerConcertSeries.

Friday, August 6

Wayne County Fair @ Honesdale

HONESDALE, PA — 159th Wayne County Fair begins Aug. 6-14 at the Fairgrounds, Route 191. \$10 pay one price wrist band includes parking, rides, entertainment & most shows. The fair boasts a huge midway with over 20 big-time rides, a kiddie land section, games of chance & fair food. Fair grounds open at 9am. Midway & rides open noon-11pm. Exhibit buildings are open 10am-10pm. More info at www.waynecountyfair.com.

Zac Brown Band @ Bethel Woods

BETHEL, NY — Bethel Woods presents the Zac Brown Band at the Pavilion, 200 Hurd Rd. Zac Brown Band is a multi-platinum, Grammy Award-winning, Southern rock group. Also performing are Teddy Swims & Ashland Craft. Gates open 5:30pm & the show begins 7pm. Purchase tickets and find the summer schedule at www.bethelwoodscenter.org/events.

Saturday, August 7

Music Celebration @ Kindred Spirits

MILFORD, PA — Kindred Spirits' presents the annual classical music celebration, 2-7pm at the Milford Park Gazebo, W. Catharine & 5th streets & other Milford locations. Free performances by groups of aspiring and established musicians, singers & dancers. More info at www.kindredspiritsarts.org.

Sunday, August 8

Bagel Festival @ Monticello

MONTICELLO, NY — The bagel capital's annual festival returns, 9am-4pm on Broadway. Vendor registration is now open. More info at www.thebagelfestival.org or email info@thebagelfestival.org.

Tuesday, August 10

Charlie Brown @ Forestburgh Playhouse

FORESTBURGH, NY — The Forestburgh Playhouse presents "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," Aug. 10-15 at 39 Forestburgh Rd. Explore life through the eyes of Charlie Brown & the Peanuts gang. Showtimes: 8pm Tuesday-Saturday. Matinees: 2pm Wednesdays & 3pm Sundays. Get tickets at www.fbplayhouse.org/2021-summer-season/charlie-brown.

<<< SOME THINGS TO DO *More at riverreporter.com*

Tuesday, August 10

Sunset Concert Series @ SMF

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — The Shandeele Music Festival's Sunset Concert Series presents an evening of chamber music, 8pm at the Sunset Concert Pavilion, 442 J. Young Rd. This evening's show highlights Sergei Antonov on cello & Ilya Kazantsev on piano. Tickets cost \$35 regular, \$30 SMF members, \$10 students 17 & under, \$10.00 virtual. More info and full season schedule at www.shandeele.org.

Wednesday, August 11

Music Behind the Museum @ PCHS

MILFORD, PA — Pike County Historical Society's ongoing "Music Behind the Museum" series, Wednesdays 6-8pm at The Columns, 608 Broad St. Bring a chair. Food & drink for purchase. Proceeds benefit The Columns Museum maintenance fund. \$5 cover. More info and full season schedule at www.facebook.com/columnsmuseum.

Friday, August 13

Little World's Fair @ Grahamsville

GRAHAMSVILLE, NY — The Neversink Agricultural Society hosts the 141st annual Grahamsville Little World's Fair at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds, Fri. - Sun. 8230 Rte. 55. The fair features agricultural & livestock exhibits & contests, daily entertainment including live music & demonstrations, rides for all ages, great food, games, vendors & more. Admission includes parking, exhibits & contests & entertainment. Fri. 9am-10pm, Sat. 9am-11pm & Sun. 9am-6pm. For tickets & more info go to www.grahamsvillefair.com.

Summer Sounds @ Three Hammers Winery

HAWLEY, PA — Three Hammers Winery is hosting "Summer Sounds," 2-5pm at 877 Welcome Lake Rd., featuring Mike Dougherty for an acoustic performance. Relax outside on newly updated grounds, enjoy some finely crafted wines & listen to some great tunes. Get more info and full season schedule at 570/949-4688 or info@threehammerswinery.com.

Saturday, August 14

Americana Music at Backyard Park

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Jeffersonville JEMS is hosting Americana Music at The Backyard Park, 6pm at 21 Lovett Lane. Features Slam Allen, Amy Gallatin, & Justin Sutherland. Doors open 5pm, show starts 6pm. Tickets cost \$25 & can be purchased at myrivertickets.com/events/91580 or at The Secret Garden in Jeffersonville. For more info, call Lucette at 845/482-5031.

Tuesday, August 17

Buyer & Cellar @ Forestburgh Playhouse

FORESTBURGH, NY — The Forestburgh Playhouse presents "Buyer & Cellar," Aug. 17-22 at 39 Forestburgh Rd. An outrageous comedy about the price of fame, the cost of things & the oddest of odd jobs. Showtimes: 8pm Tuesday-Thursday & Saturday. Matinee: 3pm Sundays. Get tickets at www.fbplayhouse.org/2021-summer-season/buyer-cellar.

Saturday, August 21

Summerfest @ CFFCM

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum's "Summerfest," 9am-4pm at 1031 Old Route 17. Angler's flea market, casting demos, kids' arts & crafts, food by LMCS & a new art exhibit in the Wulff Gallery. More info at 845/439-4810 or office@cffcm.com.

Sunday, August 29

Harvest Festival @ Bethel Woods

BETHEL, NY — Bethel Woods presents the Harvest Festival, Sundays through Oct 10, 11am-4pm at 200 Hurd Rd. Harvest Festival celebrates the bounty of local farms, talent of local artisans, flavor of homemade specialty food items & also features live music, food trucks, crafts, special offerings & more. More info at www.bethelwoodscenter.org/events.

Sunday, September 12

Rhythm & Blues @ Kindred

MILFORD, PA — Kindred Spirits, Milford Hospitality Group & Milford Theater are sponsoring "Rhythm & Blues Reinvented," 4pm at Delmonico Cottage Green, 110 E. Catharine St. Al Chez, an American trumpeter, & his group Brothers of Funk Big Band. More info at www.kindredspiritsarts.org/schedule.

Thursday, September 23

Chris Stapleton @ Bethel Woods

BETHEL, NY — Bethel Woods presents Chris Stapleton with special guests Margo Price & Kendall Marvel at the Pavilion, 200 Hurd Rd. Stapleton's performances feature updated vocals. Gates open 5:30pm & the show begins 7pm. Purchase at www.bethelwoodscenter.org/events.

Stardust @ Villa Roma

CALLICOON, NY — Villa Roma Resort presents Stardust Dance Productions Weekend, Thur. - Sun. at 356 Villa Roma Rd. Night & day dancing. Over 50 dance workshops. Nightly entertainment. More info at www.villaroma.com.

Saturday, September 25

Black Crowes @ Bethel Woods

BETHEL, NY — Bethel Woods presents The Black Crowes' "Shake Your Money Maker" at the Pavilion, 200 Hurd Rd. The Black Crowes will be playing the quintuple platinum album in its entirety, plus all the hits. Gates open 7pm & the show begins 8pm. Purchase at www.bethelwoodscenter.org/events.

Lady Capulet @ FAC

DAMASCUS, PA — Farm Arts Collective presents "Lady Capulet by Melissa Bell," 4-5:30pm at Willow Wisp Farms, 38 Hickory Lane. A prequel to Romeo & Juliet. Tickets cost \$25 & are available at www.farmartscollective.org/event/lady-capulet-by-melissa-bell.

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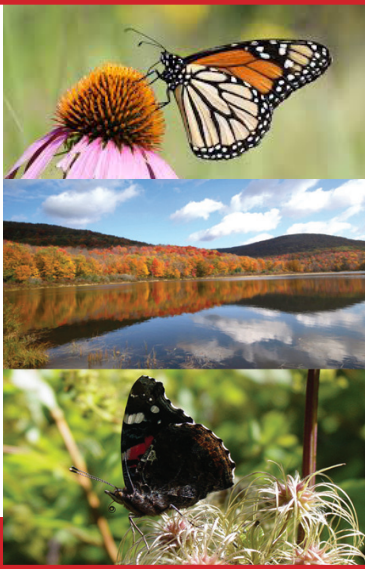
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www.kauneongalakefarmersmarket.org

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www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/mountainkeeper_markets

Narrowsburg: 7 Erie Ave., behind the Narrowsburg Union

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., through October 30

www.narrowsburgfarmersmarket.org

Mamakating: 2948 Rte. 209

Fridays, 4 to 7 p.m., through September 3

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River safety made simple: Wear your lifejacket



By LAURIE STUART

RIVERS EVERYWHERE — If there is only one thing that you do to keep yourself safe on the river, wear a lifejacket. If you want to add extra protection and made your jaunts in the river more comfortable, put on some river shoes. If you want to be more relaxed when you get off the river, wear a hat and sunscreen.

These are simple things. They make your river trip safe and enjoyable. And it makes it less likely that you will need assistance from the river emergency services team that will be called if you get into trouble.

One of those teams is the Sullivan County Dive and Rescue Team. Made up of members from area volunteer fire departments, the dive team comprises trained and certified divers, and a support staff that includes tenders and profilers.

Here's how it goes.

The dive team is called to a scene by the local emergency department, either a fire department, ambulance corps or the county sheriff's department. Generally, if it's a rescue, fire departments will respond first to the scene with a watercraft to help stranded boaters or swimmers. When the emergency call moves from a rescue to a recovery, the dive team is called.

Upon arrival, the incident commander will establish the point last seen by interviewing witnesses. This helps the commander and the dive team captain develop a plan of action to search either from the shore or from a boat positioned upstream of the point last seen.

Search patterns are established, prioritizing the point last seen and identifying obstacles on the river that might provide a catch point.

Three divers get ready: the primary diver, the backup and the 90-percent ready. The backup diver is available immediately should the primary diver get into trouble.

Each diver is tethered by a rope and a tender is positioned either on the boat or the shore. The tender, who is in constant communication with the diver, uses a series of signals to guide the diver on the methodical and established search pattern. A profiler tracks the divers' breathing rate by using a stopwatch and watching the bubbles that come to the surface. With that information, they can determine the amount of air left in their tanks.

The divers crawl along the bottom, reaching out in both directions, covering a five-foot swath. When they get to the edge of the search area, they are signaled, and keeping one hand on the river bottom, they turn and search back in the other direction, five feet farther downstream. Each diver works for 30 minutes before being replaced by a new diver.

When the body is found, extreme caution and respect are used to retrieve the body.

This summer there have been six drownings. Not one of those drowned people was wearing a properly fitted lifejacket. Five of the accidents were swimming-related.

The Upper Delaware is a beautiful river, made even more so by following safety precautions.

River safety is simple: Wear a lifejacket and foot coverings.

For more river information, visit www.nps.gov/upde.

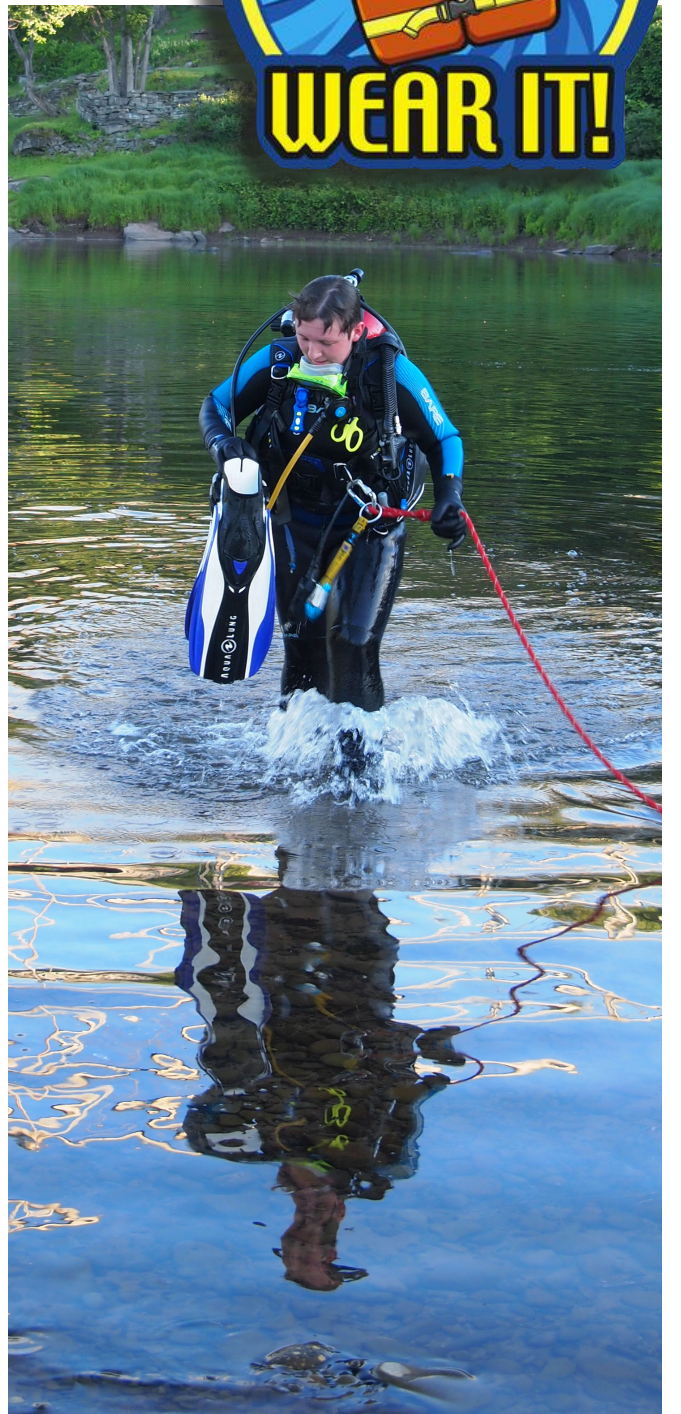


Photo contributed by Highland Lake Fire Department Stephen Stuart, a member of the Narrowsburg Fire Department, works as a tender assisting the diver with their air tanks and gear as they ready for a recovery search on the Upper Delaware River in June. The boat is positioned upriver from the point the person was last seen.



RR photo by Laurie Stuart

The tender uses a series of signals to guide the methodical search pattern.



RR photo by Laurie Stuart

April White, a member of the Cochetcon Ambulance Squad, backs into the river at the June 16 dive team drill at Skinner's Falls. She is tethered to a tender who directs her searching. A profiler will time and track her breathing and use of air supply.

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