Residents Dig for Drilling Data

By Sue Smith-Heavenrich

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Why Compulsory Integration?

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Compulsory integration arose from a desire to protect landowners. But, Slottje pointed out, some gas company landsmen use it as a threat to force people into leasing their land. Historically, gas and oil ownership was defined by the “rule of capture.” That means that whoever brought the gas to the surface owned it and could sell it. “So to protect your interest in the gas or oil beneath your land, you would have to drill your own well,” Slottje explained.

States developed the idea of “pooling resources” to reduce the number of wells drilled. To do this, everyone who lived over a gas or oil reservoir — even if they didn’t own it — would receive payment for the resources extracted.

In New York, when a gas company has leased 60 percent of an area over a gas reservoir, it may integrate the remaining 40 percent of the land into the drilling unit. This works well for oil or gas trapped in a reservoir. Slottje said that the gas in Marcellus shale is not held in such a reservoir; instead it is trapped in tiny pores of the rock.

“There is little opportunity for the gas trapped in the shale to migrate from one place to another,” Slottje said. “So there is a pool of resources, the concept of compulsory integration doesn’t seem to apply.”

Releasing natural gas from shale requires breaking the rocks. And, according to the gas companies, their drilling and fracturing technology is so advanced that they can

CU Kicks Off Sustainability Month

By Rebecca Reeves

An economic crisis is the opportune time to observe the domino effect of inter­natural networking. Problems are never isolated in one particular country; a drop in oil prices felt globally. A cure for a disease benefits worldwide. All cultures have survived in common, and at some point must consider sustainability both individually and in conjunction with the rest of the world.

Cornell’s second annual Sustainability Month celebration will address topics of concern that only affect our community and state, but stretch all the way from the Saigon River to Zambia.

When looking at sustain­ability, there are three major components that need to be considered: energy, environment, and economic development.

Any examination of sustain­ability is inaccurate unless you integrate all three aspects,” says Mark Lawrence of the Cornell Center for a Sustainable Future.

For this reason, events throughout Cornell’s Sustain­ability Month will cover a wide range of topics, from renewable energy sources to science policy. All are geared for this year’s theme: “Climate Action and U.”

An anticipated highlight event will be a lecture by one of the most famous climate­matologists in the world, the 2010 Iscol Lecturer Dr. James E. Hansen, director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York, and an adjunct professor at Columbia University’s Earth Institute.

Hansen is credited for bringing global warming awareness to the congressional level, and his research of Venus’ clouds contributed to identifying their makeup as sulphuric acid. He will speak on Monday, April 19, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Kennedy Hall.

A keynote lecture will be given by the president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Richard Trumka. He will speak as part of Cornell’s ILR Union Days, April 8 and 9, titled “Building a Green Collar Movement: Labor and the Environment.”

Cornell will host another noted speaker, General Motors Vice President Daniel Hancock. His energy­engineering seminar, “GM’s Advanced Propulsion Technology — Driving to a Sustainable Future,” will take place on Earth Day, April 22, in 255 Olin Hall from 12:15-1:15 p.m.

With the Sustainable Campus and the Center for a Sustainable Future, Cornell is the perfect setting to converge on and share information.

“As far as I know, we’re the only campus with a hydro­power plant,” Lawrence says. This barks back to a vision of a climate­neutral university by 2050, and Cornell’s 2011 project to “Go Beyond Coal.”

The founding principles of sustainability month can be traced all the way back to 1862, when Congress passed a bill to make available “at least one college in each state where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific or classical studies, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts...in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes.”

To do this, federal land was given to the states so colleges and universities could use the proceeds to build the college, known as a land grant. However, not everyone felt beneficial for the state, former Senators Ezra Cornell and Andrew White created New York State’s land grant university.

Today, Cornell’s land grant mission is to share the knowledge they obtain with the public.

“Under the land grant institution, whatever research is done here, our hope is that it’s pushed forward to better the world,” Lawrence says. “We’re trying to minimize our carbon footprint and become climate­neutral, and we hope we can serve as a model for other schools and small businesses.”

According to Lawrence, some sustainability Month events may require registration, but are generally free and open to the public.

For a full list of events and information on registration, visit www.cscf.cornell.edu/april2010.

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Kids Are Real Winners in Duck Race

By Patricia Brhel

Some 3,000 rubber ducks will be launched on Cascadilla Creek, from Cascadilla Gorge Park, at 2 p.m. on April 25, many of them coming from the Town of Caroline’s Hill and Dale 4-H club. It’s all part of the 10th annual 4-H Duck Race benefit.

The group, which meets at the Brooktondale Community Center when they aren’t out camping, biking, or studying nature, spent a recent Saturday at the East Hil Plaza P&C store selling chances on single and flocks of ducks.

“Through team effort they sold $830 in duck sponsorships. In addition to the help, we gave them a chance to practice their public speaking and organizing skills,” local 4-H leader Susan Barr says. “They formed three-person teams, with one person explaining what they were doing, another keeping track of the money and the other keeping track of who sponsored which ducks. We got the customers’ attention with a duck that plays ‘Old MacDonald Had a Farm.’ It was a lot of fun!”

In addition to the duck race, the event features a 5K run that welcomes contestants of all abilities, including wheelchair racers. The race starts at 10 a.m., but runners may enter at any time.

Both the 5K run and duck sales benefit 4-H’s many programs for children both in Ithaca and the rural areas of Tompkins County. By keeping 4-H Acres open, providing trophies for the members and winners, helping them get Mech, and keeping track of the ducks, the group raises money to help fundraise for the many local programs that benefit 4-H’s many programs for youth.

The kids will hold meetings to plan the trip, decide what they need to bring, how to arrange transportation and car shuttles. “Even the younger kids, who won’t bike the whole way, get to participate. Each day they’ll bike as far as one of the three ice cream shops and then be driven to the next camp site,” says Barr.

All of these programs, and many more, are made possible thanks to the annual duck race and the 5K race. There is still plenty of time to adopt a duck at $5 each or $20 for a flock of five ducks, and/or race registration of $10 in advance or $20 before 9:30 a.m. on race day, April 25.

It’s an easy way to make a lot of kids happy. In addition to that satisfaction, you just might win a “nest egg” of cash or one of many other prizes.

For more information call 4-H at 272-2292, stop by 615 Willow Ave. in Ithaca or check out http://cce-tompkins.org to purchase a duck or sign up for the 5K race. Entry forms are also available in brochures at sites throughout Tompkins County.

The annual Duck Race is a primary fundraiser for the many local programs offered by 4-H. Their various activities and contests, providing training for 4-H leaders and equipment and some funding for activities, the program touches the lives of hundreds of county youngsters.

From Urban 4-H to Primitive Pursuits, there are clubs with a wide range of interests. The focus of these groups ranges from animals to ecology, and from engineering to public speaking.

Hill and Dale members recently won a number of prizes at the county wide 2010 public speaking meet and several are heading to the state championships. Last year three out of four of the top finishers were Hill and Dale members.

This year teen Daniel Stauffer did a demonstration on bicycle repair, Emma Lantz offered a presentation on baklava, Kathryn Barden did a recitation. “Stories of Liars,” Isabelle Miller did a dramatic interpretation “The Importance of Being ‘Ernest’” and Mark Susmann’s recitation was “James Harriot.”

Among the 4-H elementary and middle school students. Rebekah Stauffer did an illustrated talk titled “Caroline,” Daniel Barden did a demonstration on aquariaums, Emily Fisher did a demonstration on quilling, Arthur Linnik’s illustrated talk was on hamsters, Nathan Fisher’s was on snowboarding, Hannah Barden did one on “My Heritage.” Makenna Ramsay did one on rescued dogs, Hannah Collinsworth’s was canoeing. Ben Caveney’s was “Little Round Top,” Phillip Linnik’s was on skateboarding and Jeffrey Lant did a demonstration on fried egg bread.

Among the younger group, the Coverbuds, Sydney Exantus did a talk on “Dance”. Jesse Larson did “In the Kitchen with Mrs. Lincoln” and “I See of My Thumbs,” Daniel Stauffer, and Emi Lant did excellence and Rebekah Stauffer, Emily Fisher, Arthur Linnik and Nathan Fisher won medals for Junior Excellence.

Barr is most impressed with what 4H offers youngsters throughout their lives. “My daughter is in grad school, working on a master’s in engineering and hoping to specialize in wind turbines. Her current project is helping develop mechanized apple picking methods for orchards. Her experience building machines in 4-H is coming in handy, as is her ability to talk to the farmers and understand their needs,” she says.

Barr explains, “One of our next projects is building marble-throwing machines, which will involve working with wood, planning, measuring and using tools. Our next big project, though, is spending three days hiking the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania.”

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Countly Planner Outline Ag Strategy

By Tina Wright

Tompkins County has a wide range of farmland and farming operations. We have small community Supported Agriculture farms that grow vegetables and fruit, large dairy farms and small organic dairy farms and small organic farms. "A Strategic Approach to Agricultural Resource Stewardship.

This draft report looks at issues facing local agriculture and suggests strategies for saving critical farmland and supporting farmers. Six particular agricultural regions in the county were identified as Agricultural Resource Focus Areas (ARFAs), regions with high quality agricultural soils and contiguous, actively-farmed land. Not all Tompkins County farms fit into these maps, but each area does have its own "flavor" or particular characteristics that define it.

Leslie Schill, senior planner, provided a sense of the Northeast ARFA, which covers the central and eastern parts of the Town of Groton and drops south into the Town of Dryden. "The Northeast has the largest number of dairies of the ARFAs, almost 30. Many of these are located in the upper northern area of Groton, in the corner near Cayuga and Cortland counties. We’re looking at a real powerhouse dairy area."

Schill continued, “Some of the critical issues were identified here are farmland protection and development pressure. This is quite an opportunity area for farmland protection. It has the largest contiguous blocks of farmland of any of the ARFA areas. We find high owner-occupancy, farmers own a lot of this land, even support lands are often adjacent. Here’s a lot of potential for creating big areas that could be covered for protection.”

In contrast, the much smaller Sixmile Valley ARFA has the highest rate of rented land of all the Agricultural Resource Focus Areas. This region, roughly following Route 79 near Slaterville Springs, also lost the biggest percentage of farmland, 25 percent, from 1969-2007. This “checkerboard effect” with many farm parcels all spread out, creates vulnerability for farming in the area.

County planners met with farmers in all of the ARFAs to hear their concerns. The profile summaries contain a wealth of information breaking down farm acreage into average farm size, percent of farmland actively farmed, prime soils and more. They recognize the impact of leasing in agriculture today — 29 percent of county farmland is leased.

Leased farmland is often transitional and unpredictable. Farmers can lose rented farmland with little advance notice and farmers renting land are also less likely to invest in it long-term. On the other hand, renting land has allowed young people with low cash reserves to get into farming on a shoestring. As the proportion of leased land increases, it means more farmers are traveling further distances to get to their fields, creating traffic challenges and conflict with residential areas.

Organic dairies are a bright opportunity spot, especially in the North Lansing-West Groton ARFA and the Northeast ARFA, according to the report, although perhaps all dairy growth will be slowed down for a time by the poor economy. New farms have started or converted from conventional farming to grow fruit, vegetables and small grains organically.

Other opportunities for growth are renewable energy crops and wind power. Farmers interested in value-added products may need help navigating rules and regulations in food processing and marketing.

Spicing up the report, featured farms are profiled in each of the six Agricultural Resource Focus Areas (available at www.tompkinsco.org). Beck Farms, the largest dairy in Tompkins County, represents the Northeast ARFA; Bensvue, an organic dairy, the North Lansing-West Groton ARFA; Indian Creek Farm, the Northwest ARFA; Cayuga Pure Organics, the Sixmile Valley ARFA. Mazurek Farms represents the Newfield area which has two very small ARFAs called Benjamin Hill and Pony Hollow.

While the maps do not name the farms, it is easy to find farms that one knows. All farms are color-coded. Some rented land was missing from farms on the maps. Please turn to page 14

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Thanks to early detection and treatment advances, men and women are surviving colorectal cancer and living longer, healthier lives.

That’s why routine screening is so important!

- All men and women 50 and older should have annual colorectal cancer screening.

If you are 50 or older and do not have health insurance call the Cancer Services Program of Cortland and Tompkins Counties today.

Call 758-5523 or 277-0960

Please turn to page 14
When fraternities at Cornell throw parties, says Kara S. Miller, Assistant Dean of Students in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, “they do it responsibly.” Miller says, makes sure that fraternities are familiar with Event Management Guidelines, rules passed by the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Panhellenic Council and the National Multicultural Greek Council, to help students be more responsible when holding events with alcohol available.

It was student leaders in the Greek community who established a rule that for every 25 people at a fraternity event there is one student sober monitor. And since the maximum number of people allowed per event from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. is 250 people, up to 10 sober monitors share the responsibility of making sure that drinking among their peers doesn’t get out of control. During the permitted after-hour parties, from 1 to 4 a.m., 150 people are allowed to remain in the house, but no alcohol may be served.

Sober monitors have been around for the past decade at fraternities on East Hill. Sororities at Cornell are not allowed to have parties on East Hill. Sororities at Cornell that are part of the National Panhellenic Conference Foundation, a foundation established in 1995 to promote values and ethics in women’s sororities and to encourage their members to be active and responsible leaders.

From 2006 to 2009, 42 of the IFC fraternities at Cornell registered a total of 459 events where alcohol was served. Noticeable in red T-shirts or red coats, these agents carry a checklist with them to note how, or how not, a fraternity is meeting IFC event guidelines. Ronald Falise, president and owner of Chestnut Street Security, has his staff meet with the chapter leaders of the IFC at the beginning of each semester. “And when we are inspecting a party,” he says, “we may stay there for five minutes or one hour; it all depends on what we see.” Falise says that there have been times when they have had to deal with situations where students weren’t following IFC event guidelines. “That’s when we re-educate and remind them how to have a safe and secure environment.”

Falise explains that his company’s role is to provide whatever help is necessary at an event, and that sometimes means telling a sober monitor that someone may have had too much to drink. “It’s much different when someone recognizes as authority tells students that they need to do the right thing,” he says, “and I would say that 95 percent of the time, that’s what the fraternities are doing.”

Any member of the Greek community serving as a sober monitor receives one hour of training through the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. They learn about risk and conflict management, medical emergency protocol, and alcohol poisoning. Their duties? Besides remaining sober during the event, sober monitors make sure guests have a relationship with peers as more effective than an adult confronting another over-indulgent partygoer. They have a relationship with their peers and their peers can confront binge behavior: We believe that they don’t see it in such a punitive light when the request to stop drinking comes from someone of their own age,” says Miller.
Belief in ghostly spirits and supernatural occurrences has become increasingly more acceptable these days, with paranormal investigation shows on TV and the Internet gaining a larger viewing audience.

Tompkins County has its very own ghost-hunting program, “Discovery: Paranormal,” on PEGASYS cable access channel 13. Producer Michael Angley and his partner Peter Kanellis recently allowed TW to tag along one night on an investigation at the Benn Conger Inn in Groton. In preparation for the show, Angley and Kanellis are busy bringing in an array of equipment for the shoot, including TV monitors, cameras, extension cables and tote bags loaded with sensitive devices such as EVPs, with which, according to Kanellis, one can record the evidence and voice the “other side.”

After a walk-through with the proprietors of the inn, Peter Zen and Doug Yurubi, the investigators strap infrared lights on their foreheads so they can see what happens in pitch dark.

While the cinematic effects of the movie “Ghostbusters” the experience is powerful nonetheless. Kanellis bought the dowsing rods in order to get the “yes” or “no” answers from the infinite, and as a skeptic, this reporter can relate when handy the rods, there was a feeling of something akin to an electric charge.

“Discovery: Paranormal” has been on cable and the Internet for nearly a year. “I wanted to take ghost hunting to the next level and actually have a conversation instead of just listening for ‘bumps in the night,’” Angley says.

“We use electronic equipment to record the evidence, but also the doweling rods. Whatever evidence we get is what we put out there. The show has a ‘point of view’ perspective which allows the viewer to become part of the investigation,” he adds.

“When I thought about putting together the show I had a loose format in mind and wanted to keep the investigative group as small as possible and be able to preserve the raw investigation,” Angley says. “Peter Kanellis has his own group of ghost hunters and I contacted him. We joined forces and first investigated the Hangar Theater. Pete had a lot of investigations under his belt and I knew that we would be a great combination.”

Thus far they’ve conducted 20 investigations. “There’s a lot involved in the process of doing investigations,” Angley says. “Reviewing recorded material and looking for evidence of [paranormal] activity then editing the show takes a lot of time, but it’s worth the effort and we can normally get it on-air within two weeks. The Benn Conger Inn was a great fit for us.”

Typically, Kanellis is on camera while Angley narrates. Angley is no stranger to local cable access TV as his show, “N.Y. Live!” has been on the air since 1996.

Kanellis tells how he comes by his abilities from his grandmother. “She understood the nature of people who’ve gone before us and was familiar with how the dowising rods could help us communicate with them, and I continue this tradition not only with my family now, but with Mike,” he says.

While Angley and Kanellis conduct their investigations in the central New York area, they have been contacted as far away as Europe who are interested in their work.

“We believe an investigation usually are people at the location that believe in paranormal activity because they are experiencing it themselves,” Angley says. “Some may still be skeptical or mentally reject it, sometimes out of fear.”

Angley says he and Kanellis “get results because we are approaching the investigations with respect. The only time we ‘provoke’ an entity is when it is a hostile atmosphere and the current occupants have negative feelings in their own home that’s interfering with their lives.”

Using scientific equipment in the investigations, like infrared cameras and electromagnetic field detectors, the two men attempt to capture radio signals emitted by spiritual entities, Kanellis explains.

“Digital voice recorders with electronic condenser microphones pick up EVPs, or electronic voice phenomena, which are sounds and voices that we may have heard or may not, but the recorders can pick them up,” Kanellis says.

Angley adds: “We also use things as simple as powder on the floor to reveal footprints, or taking temperature readings to establish a base condition for the area being investigated.”

“We both try to get evidence that something is going on in a home and try to answer questions or debunk what someone is seeing. We study the history of the place and what might make it haunted to begin with. That alone can tell us a lot,” says Kanellis.

Angley and Kanellis have had their share of paranormal experiences, and document them as they would any investigation, and they understand what the staff and some guests at the Benn Coner Inn have seen or felt, as the inn’s owners corroborate.

“We’ve had several ghosthunter groups here capturing interesting EVPs,” says Zen. “It’s confirmed by many locals that notorious gangster Dutch Schultz and his moll, Lulu Rosenzweig, stayed here in the early 1900s and this was a hideout location for them. I understand the house was actually raided and police only found a hot breakfast and no Dutch Schultz.”

According to the recording equipment used on “Discovery Paranormal,” however, the gangster made his presence known. It was the show Wednesdays at 9 p.m. and judge for yourself.

To contact Angleby about “Discovery, Paranormal” visit michaelangley.com or contact Kanellis at ghosthuntersofthefingerlakes.com.

Forum Focuses on State Government

In the spirit of grassroots organizing, the Issues Committee of the Tompkins County Democratic Committee presents “Rebooting the New York State Senate,” a forum that aims to bring citizens together to discuss reform, and restore state government.

The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, at the Town of Ithaca Hall in Ithaca.

The session will begin with remarks by Brian Keeler, the director of Reboot NY, an organization dedicated to rebuilding New York State government from the Senate on up.

For the Record

A photo caption last week listing the winners of the annual PEGASYS Awards for Cablecasting excellence, offered by “Discovery: Paranormal,” on PEGASYS cable access channel 13, was incorrect. The winners for 2010 are: Gary Stewart, Best Talk Show; Best Educational Access Program “East Hill Notes;” Alison Rawlins, Andrew Bruttavus, and Mike Bruttavus, Best Entertainment Program “No Idea;” Rachel Fallon, Best Diverse Perspectives Program “Get Foodie;” Bruce McKeen, Best Short Subject “History Center PSA;” Richard Raba and Laurie Raba, Best Arts Performance and Best Public Access Program “Dumou Sangare;” Tony Ingraham, Best Public Access Program “Nature Nearby;” Carisa Fallon, Peter Johnson, Dr. W. Hubberg, ICTV director and Station Manager, Best Magazine Format/Best Educational Access Program “Newswatch,” Best Documentary “Rev. Billy Runs for Mayor; and Best Entertainment “Almost College.”
From the proper authorities.) Lawmakers feel that they are at risk—just the Tea Partiers, who used ably even a super-majority. And it's of the Tea Partiers were racist, not p) by saying a "significant" number can be accessed at http://rightalan- my statement on the show (which all, with one brush and qualified the Tea Partiers. Finkelstein fairly chided me for the epithets I used against right-wing blarney merchants ("Bush Limpmaw," "Sean Insanity"—pretty puerile, I admit).

Also, on Mark's insistence, I refrained in October from painting the entire movement, or the GOP at all, with one brush and qualified my statements. (And my qualifications can be accessed at http://rightalan-ny.com.)

Defeat," he wrote after Obama's low taxes and the best aspects of the Union, fiscal responsibility, low taxes and the best aspects of the free market system. I not only call on Republicans to do it, I dare them. The way it seems now, it could be decades, if ever, before the GOP can refer to a leader as anything more than a forgotten and dis- honored father of Republican phil-
"I make sure not to work more than 40 hours a week, and I exercise when I get up in the morning."
- Beth Cohen, Ithaca

"You have to take advantage of every little gap in your schedule, get outside, do something you love to do."
- Daryl Rota, Ithaca

"I don’t. I do a lot more work than play. That’s part of the times — we have less and less time to hang out and relax."
- Eric Weeks, Stroudsburg, Pa.

"With two kids at home, it’s not easy. Play is for Saturday and Sunday, but my husband works Saturday."
- Judy Van Winkle, Homer

Paint-Off Benefits Ithaca Festival

While it seems that the first weekend in June is a long way off, Ithaca Festival organizers are almost ready to kick off the festival season with the unveiling of the 2010 Paint-Off at Center Ithaca on the Ithaca Commons on Friday, April 2, from 7:30-10 p.m.

Twenty-five local artists will race the clock in a thrilling show of creating a masterpiece from scratch in just 60 minutes while hundreds of guests watch the action, nibble great catered appetizers and enjoy live music with Eric Aceto and friends.

After the clock stops, a panel of local celebrity judges will choose the winning creations and a raffle of the remaining work will be held to benefit the Ithaca Festival.

“It’s the same evening as Gallery Night in downtown,” said festival executive director Jes Seaver. “People can make a night of it, visit the galleries between 5 and 7:30 p.m. and hit CenterIthaca for the Paint-Off in time for the clock to start ticking and the artists to go at it.”

The 2010 Ithaca Festival artist Erica Pollock will be there as well as such well-known local artists Doug Baird, Ann Krajewski and Carl Whittaker, to name a few.

Tickets are $15 for adults, $8 for students and free for kids under 12 and the ticket prices include light dinner and drinks.

Submit your question to Street Beat. If we choose your question, you’ll receive a gift certificate to GreenStar Cooperative Market. Simply log onto www.tompkinsweekly.com and click on Street Beat to enter.
Housing FundProvides Grant, Loans

The Housing Fund Program Oversight Committee is pleased to announce that a recommendation has been made to fund the following proposals submitted for the Housing Fund December 2009 Funding Round.

The awards include a $200,000 grant to Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services/PathStone Development Corp. to support the development of the Magnolia House project in the City of Ithaca; and a $75,000 loan to Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services to support the development of the Holly Creek Townhome project in the Town of Ithaca; a $70,000 loan to Tompkins Community Action Services to support the development of the Holly Creek Townhome project in the Town of Ithaca; and a $75,000 loan to Tompkins Community Action Services to support the development of the Magnolia House project in the City of Ithaca.

For more information about the Community Housing Affordability Program and Community Housing Trust Program contact the Tompkins County Planning Department at 274-5560. The next NOFA Funding Round will be announced in April.

Beginners Offered Help with Farming

By Karen Scott

As spring approaches, the air is filled with the sounds of the season: robins singing, bees buzzing and tractors firing up. Those thinking about getting into agriculture can get a good head start with the Beginning Farmers Project of the Cornell Small Farms Program (www.smallfarms.cornell.edu).

The Beginning Farmer’s Project, subsidized in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was founded in 2007 as “support for beginning and diversifying farmers.” Included are classes, workshops and a range of online resources, as well as information about what other agencies within the Cornell agricultural community are offering.

The last presentation of the spring season will be “Productive Pastures,” to be held March 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Candor Fire Hall, 74 Oswego Road. Topics will include the importance of feeding the soil to grow healthy crops, physical property of pasture soils and measuring a pasture’s productivity. The cost is $10 for the first person from a farm and $5 for each additional person. For more information contact Fay Benson at 753-5213 or email afb3@cornell.edu. Registration is requested; contact Sharon VanDeusen at 753-5078 or sly7@cornell.edu.

The Beginning Farmer’s Project emphasizes online courses, which are proving popular among farmers outside of New York, as well. Most new farmers are employed full time and have family obligations,” says project spokesperson Erica Frenay. “So online courses make the most sense.”

Registration for this year’s spring courses may be closed, but there will be more starting in October, beginning with “Taking Stock: Assessing Your Resources and Choosing a Farm Enterprise.” Registration begins in September.

The Beginning Farmer’s Project was conceived in 2006, when Cornell Cooperative Extension and its partners realized that they were getting lots of calls from wannabe farmers that they as individuals couldn’t answer. A video summit conference of farmers and extension agents was called and they came up with the idea of a one-stop information shop for anyone thinking seriously about starting a farm business.

They submitted a proposal to the New York Farm Viability Institute (www.nyfvi.org) and earned a grant to get started. The NYFVI was established in 2003 as another Cornell project, but had become a private not-for-profit by 2005. Everyone on their board is a farmer; and they are basically a granting agency. They draw together panels of farmers to review proposals from just about anyone with an idea of how to support agriculture in New York. The state budget situation has new grants on hold, but spokeswoman Rebecca Staudach says they hope to be back to granting in the Spring or Summer. NYFVI also offers a few of its programs, mostly related to the ever more problematic economics of dairy farming.

One of the first projects under NYFVI was an “Introduction to Tractor Selection, Operation and Safety,” held at Dryden Lawn and Recreation. Monika Roth of Cornell Cooperative Extension has this popular seminar for farmers alike.

This idea has been implemented with great success by the Intervale Center in Vermont (www.intervale.org/programs/agricultural_development/intervale_farms.shtml), which sponsors 12 independent farms on leased lands. Roth is working on expanding their online video offerings, ranging from farmer interviews to how-tos.

The Beginning Farmer’s Project was updating and promoting Monica Roth’s “Guide to Farming in New York,” which is now available online in sections (http://www.smallfarms.cornell.edu/pages/resources/businessman.html). In its entirety as an online PDF or as a “hard copy” from CCE, “It’s expensive to produce,” says Frenay, “but it’s worth it.”

The Small Farms project is also reaching out to other agencies, such as the Northeast Organic Farm Association (www.noafa.org/chapters.php). One of their more ambitious projects involves looking for land to be used for incubator farms, places where newcomers can rent land and get guidance, learning how to farm without the risk of a large capital investments on their own properties.

One of the first projects under NYFVI was an “Introduction to Tractor Selection, Operation and Safety,” held at Dryden Lawn and Recreation. Monika Roth of Cornell Cooperative Extension has

TCAT is Making Life Easier in 2010

TCAT knows you are busy. We want to make sure everyone in your family can get to where they need to go without always relying on Mom or Dad for a ride. TCAT is offering a new route system with more streamlined routes and over-all better service, such as more trips to the mall or for family outings.

TCAT has now switched over to a next-generation fare collections system featuring the all new Tcard, a plastic card similar to a credit card. The Tcard is now available for sale. Passengers will soon have the option to buy chip-embedded proximity sticker tags you can attach to your ID or your child’s ID. You can also buy chip-embbed key fobs that can be attached to lanyards. All are rechargeable and durable to survive the rough and tumble of everyday life.

Best of all, to introduce more young people to the benefits of public transit, TCAT is permanently discounting all youth fares to 50 percent off the regular adult fare. As always, children 5 and under ride free! Cash fares with exact change will still be accepted.

Rest assured, TCAT is safe and reliable so you can relax and enjoy not being a chauffeur.
Easter Egg Hunt
Set for Saturday at T-Burg Mini-Golf

T-Burg Mini Golf will host its annual free Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will also feature a variety of free family activities that include bounce houses, face painting, build a plane, balloons, arts and crafts, gymnastics, prize wheel, jelly bean guessing and rubber ducky games.

There will also be displays for radio controlled airplanes, animals for adoption and police and emergency vehicles and personnel.

Three separate Easter Egg Hunts are scheduled: 11 a.m. for children ages three and under, 11:30 a.m. for ages four to seven and noon for ages eight to 12. There will be over 6,000 colorful plastic age appropriate toy and candy filled eggs hidden for everyone to find. At each hunt, there will be one hidden golden egg that can be traded in for a larger prize.

Keeping this event free to attend would not be possible without the generosity of those individuals and businesses that donated goods, services and cash. Donations are still encouraged to help offset the costs of running the event.

T-Burg Mini Golf is located at 1966 Route 96, seven miles north of Ithaca and three miles south of Trumansburg.

For more information call 387-7888, visit www.tburgminigolf.com, or e-mail info@tburgminigolf.com.
Birth Announcements
Cayuga Medical Center

JACOBSEN – Andrew Earl (middle) and Lacey (Fits) Jacobson, Ithaca, a son, Ryan Anders, Feb. 10.

CLARK – Ronald and Lisa (Mitchell) Clark, Richmond, a son, Dylenn James Clark, Dryden, a son, Cason Vallance Clark, Dryden, a son, Cason

CLARK – Richard and Andrea LaRoche, Ithaca, a daughter, Jade LaRoche, Ithaca, a daughter, Jade

KING – Daniel King and Danielle LaRoche, Ithaca, a daughter, D’Ann Louise, Feb. 23.


WATERFALL – Joshua and Heidi Mascaretti, Newfield, a daughter, Lydia Rebecca, Feb. 24.

Mascaretti, Newfield, a daughter, Lydia Rebecca, Feb. 24.

FRISBIE – Bill Frisbie and Ashley Taylor Jane, Feb. 18.

STAGE – Stephen and Michelle Reed, Etna, a daughter, Sophia Elizabeth, Feb. 17.

Caiden Cahrles, Feb. 24.

GOFF – Daniel Goff and April (Woo) Goff, Van Cleef, Lodi, a son, Trevor David, Feb. 20.

JACQUET – Andre and Heather (Grimes) Jacquet, Ithaca, a son, Martin Bantu, Feb. 25.

JACQUET – Andre and Heather (Grimes) Jacquet, Ithaca, a son, Martin Bantu, Feb. 25.

SINCENO – Christopher and Jennifer (Brown) Sinceno, Freeville, a daughter, Delaney Gray, Febr. 27.

ZIMMER – Kay and Christina (Crandall) Zimmer, Newfield, a son, Tortoise Michael, March 1.

PAYNE – Christopher and Jessica (Piester) Payne, Berkshire, a daughter, Cadence Laurel, March 3.

BOAL – Andrew Wright Boal and Arabella (Bird) Boal, Ithaca, a daughter, D’Ann Louise, Feb. 23.

GORDON – Jason and Nicole Gordon, Lansing, a son, Trevor David, Feb. 20.

MOSLEY – Wade Mosley and Collette Bowman, Ithaca, a daughter, Skye Nevaeh Payetin, March 5.


HILL – Daryl and Laurie (Dykoschak) Hill, Ithaca, a son, Elias Loren, March 8.

ANGUS – Patincerely Anguish and Amanda Burles, Ithaca, a daughter, Shaine Abigail, March 9.

YOST – Joshua Orden (middle) and Kimberly (Holst) Yost, Ithaca, a son, Elijah Orden, March 9.

EDWARDS – Josh Edwards and Nina Hunt, Dryden, a daughter, Natalie Raelynn, March 11.

WALRAD – Heaven Lee Linderberry, Tompkins County, a daughter, Mercedes Lee, March 11.

SEAMAN – Christian and Abigail (Thompson) Seaman, Ithaca, a son, Nathaniel Hayden, March 12.

LOVEJOY – Donald Lovejoy and Jolinda (Aho) Dockstader, Ithaca, a son, Tyler James, March 14.

JAYNE – Mike Jayne and Jenara Towne, Ithaca, a daughter, Katelynn Grace, March 15.

NGUYEN – David and Tina Nguyen, Dryden, a daughter, Victoria Hen, March 15.

CAVENEY – Jessica Caveney, Ithaca, a son, Ryder Thomas, March 17.

LUPI – Stephen and Jennifer (Best) Lung, Freeville, a daughter, Madison Michelle, March 17.

DING – Liang Ding and Xuling Zhu, Ithaca, a son, Benjamin Zhao, March 19.
IC Seminar Looks Inside Documentary Filmmaking

Award-winning filmmaker Ric Burns and three of his longtime colleagues will provide an inside look at the documentary process in a seminar at Ithaca College.

The documentary film seminar, “A Seminar in Collaboration” will be held on Wednesday, March 31, at 4 p.m. in Park Hall Auditorium. It is free and open to the public.

Joining Burns on the panel will be composer and 1974 Ithaca College alumnus Brian Keane, film editor Lishin Yu and sound editor Ira Spiegel. The seminar will focus on the interconnectedness of image, music and sound in the filmmaking process. Observers will see how the director designs the sound editor’s role, how the composer designs with the filmmaker in mind and how “the Joneses” are put together as naturally as Bergman work ethic. Whenever she’s on the screen, we feel we’re looking at

Dressed Down and Nowhere to Go

By Nicholas Nicastro


The background of Swedish novelist Stieg Larsson’s Millennium series of mystery books presents one of those tragic ironies of fame and fate. After writing the first three books in his spare time, journalist Larsson found a publisher for the first, entitled Men Who Hate Women, in 2004. It, along with the other two titles in the trilogy have gone on to sell a truly Harry Potterish number of copies — some 30 million to date. This figure can only go up with the appearance of the first movie adaptation, Niels Arden Oplev’s The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.

Unfortunately, Larsson never got to savor his success: after the first manuscript was accepted, but before it was published, he died of a massive heart attack. Fully in the spirit of his books, there was talk that his demise was not accidental, that Larsson’s Communist politics had made him dangerous enemies — a line of speculation whose plausibility rests on dubious notion that his Communist politics — a line of speculation whose plausibility rests on dubious notion that the only justifiable grounds for female violence is out-

A Hollywood version of The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo seems inevitable.

Movie Ratings

******** Classic

******** Excellent

★★★★ Good

★★★ Fair

★★ Poor

Three unlikely allies (is there any other kind of allies?) team up to solve the 30-year-old van-

Chili Luncheon - Wed April 14 2010

Chambers of Commerce

Cayuga Nature Center is hosting the chamber luncheon. This is a great chance to see all that is new at the Nature Center and to meet the many individuals and organizations that have contributed. Questions & RSVP to Cheryl Reynolds creynolds@tompkinstrust.com, 607-535-3271

Twitter Power Users

Designed for intermediate social media users who understand the basics and want to take the effectiveness of their Twitter efforts to the next level. Learn how to manage multiple accounts, schedule tweets, search profiles and conversations, analyze your following/access statistics, bulk follow/unfollow, and more. This hands-on workshop will meet for one three-hour session and emphasize internet marketing for business.

When: Friday, April 3 March 29 9:00 - 4:00 pm

Where: Alternatives Federal Credit Union

Cost: $30 Pre-Registration REQUIRED

Contact Alison, 217-3462 or aliison@alternatives.org

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Corner of Rte. 13 & Lower Creek Rd., Ithaca
### Tompkins County Community Calendar

#### 29 Monday

**Baby Storytime**, 10:30-11am, Tompkins Co. Public Library. Storytime is for children 3-5 years old accompanied by an adult. After the reading time, children are invited to join us on each Monday in the Thelma E. Howland Performing Arts Center for movement activities. For more, call 272-4514 x 2279.

**Children’s Read Aloud Storytime**, sponsored by the Children’s Room, Thursday, 3-4pm, 151 2nd Street, Ithaca. Stories for children, ages 3-6. For more, call 273-4166 x 1418.

**Community Gardens & Site Coordinators**, 6-7pm, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, 406 E. Genesee St., Ithaca. For more, call 273-8100.

**Local Food Growers Challenge: Grow Your Own Program**, April 1-April 30, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, 406 E. Genesee St., Ithaca. For more, call 273-8100.

**West End Women’s History Month Luncheon 2016**, noon, Hyatt Place, 100 Park Ave., Ithaca. The program will feature a performance of the popular Broadway show, “Our American Girl.” For more, call 277-8540.

**Tompkins County Human Rights Committee Meeting**, 7-9pm, Independence Center, 301 S. Geneva St., #103, corner of W 1st St. and S Geneva St., Ithaca. For more, call 273-0523.

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3 Saturday

Animal Feeding, Cayuga Nature Center, Noon. Final day of animal feeding for the season. Most young animals, then free one of our trails or visit the free set up in the parking lot.

Borders Kids Spring Break Happy Hour, 11am-3pm. Borders Kids Spring Break Happy Hour. Each day offers a new craft or game for kids of all ages. Free. Location: 1169 E. State St.

3 Sunday

4 Sunday


Cornell Dance, Studio A, 7pm. 310 N. Triphammer Rd, Lanyard, Dance and Sound, performance. Come and take part in a set of traditions and rituals that unite human bodies with the forces of the universe. For info, 898-4735 or info@jazzsugar.net.

Overeaters Anonymous, 7-8:30pm, Henry St. John’s Church, 1131 W. State St., speaking meetings. Free, confidential, no admission.

Parents Apart: Helping Children Cope With Divorce, 6-7:30 pm, St. Charles Borromeo, 248 W. State St. Drop in group that focuses on children who are facing the divorce of their parents. Call 607-272-9843 to help them adjust. Participants select either 2 or 3 weeks to attend. Registration is confidential and parents of the same child must attend together. For info, please call cindy.comer@cornell.edu or call 254-2777.

Cave and a rescue is attempted, Floyd and his community focus on how children react emotionally to their parents' separation and divorce. This is the first in a series of 3 programs. For info please call (607) 274-4408. For info, please call (607) 274-4408. For info, please call (607) 274-4408.

Performance Development, 7-8:30 pm, World Safari, 278-0417. Regular seminars on development of12 step programs. For info, please call (607) 272-9278. Ext 19 or email new@fordham.edu.

Apr 6, 2007 10:30am-12:30pm, St. John’s Church, 1131 N. Cayuga St. Ithaca. NY 14851. For info, call (607) 272-9843.

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Drilling

Continued from page 1
determine where the fractures trav- el, Slottje said. She questions the practice of forcing landowners into drilling units through compulsory integration for exploiting Marcellus and other shales. “It is a taking,” Slottje said, adding that landowners who don’t lease are, by law, forced to receive the lowest possible royalty. Even when the price of gas falls, as it has done over the past year, gas compa- nies benefit if they can demon- strate to stockholders and lenders that they have large holdings or land leases and active drilling sites.

Slottje noted that there have been compulsory integration hearings for landowners in Trenton-Black River drilling units. These are pools of gas, she noted, and because of the uneven distribution the gas companies delineate the locations and boundaries of drilling units. “But Marcellus shale is a blanket play,” she said. Because it is found everywhere, DEC could create a grid of drilling units prior to per- mitting wells.

“The final justification for com- pulsory integration is expedient resource extraction,” Slottje said. “The current philosophy seems to be that we need it and we need it now. There is an industry trend for drilling units so deeply in gas and oil law-making. Slottje said. Every time something is challenged, they draft new leases incorporating new court precedents. This is why landowners need to talk with each other. One landowner may feel embarrassed by bad lease language, but others can publicize the dishonest practices and alert others about what to avoid.

Regardless of what name they ultimately end up with, Podulka sees the group as a neighborhood-based organization. “We have a lot of projects to work on, and we’ll probably want to establish a steering committee,” he told Tompkins Weekly.

Podulka explained that the group grew out of the need some resi- dents felt to provide resources to their neighbors who are concerned about the health, environmental, economic and social impacts of industrial drilling. In addition, he sees the group’s role as one of sup- porting the community and protect- ing local assets.

The next meeting of the Tompkins Gas Drilling Task Force will be Tuesday, April 6, at 7 p.m. in the Brooktondale Community Center.

Planners

Continued from page 3

(government, however, presents some opportunities for change. “There are rules about fraud and misrepre- sentation regarding leases,” Slottje said. Typically there is recurrence, but the problem is that single landowners are challenging gas companies one at a time. While any single case could be easily dis- missed, an accumulation of cases becomes harder for the gas indus- try to defend.

Slottje suggested that landown- ers with gas leases work together to show a pattern of fraud. There also needs to be public support for landowners who have been cheated, she noted. For some, the constant feeling is that leasing is a good practice, and courts are reluctant to rule against it. Companies have had about 150 years to perfect the language in their leases, Slottje said. Every time something is challenged, they draft new leases incorporating new court precedents. This is why landowners need to talk with each other. One landowner may feel embarrassed by bad lease language, but others can publicize the dishonest practices and alert others about what to avoid.

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Earth Day

Continued from page 6

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And let us know what you’re up to so that we can add your story to those billion acts of green. If you’d like some help finding a service project, let us know, and we’ll con- nect you with someone in need.

That week you can also take in activities on the campuses and in the community. Ithaca College will host the executive director of Greenpeace in a showing of the film “11th Hour,” a talk on Native American environmentalism and more (ecocor- nell.edu).

In addition to an April 22 Earth Day evening lecture, the theme of the Earth is hosting a Saturday, April 24, day of Earth-centric activi- ties for all ages, including release of their new book on global climate change (museuinthearth.org).

The big party on Saturday, April 24, at the Southside Community Center will have something for everyone—a costume parade for the Earth, family bike ride, local foods feast, and sharing stories about what Earth day means in our daily lives.

Watch for details in the local press, or check ces-ithaca.org for updates. Your ideas for service proj- ects, or needs, are welcome at level- inginstitute@ithaca.edu.

Patricia Haines is a member of the board of directors of the Center for Environmental Sustainability.

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Enter your question for Street Beat

The word on the street from around Tompkins county.
By Kathy Morris

“If we use your question you’ll receive gift certificates to GreenStar Cooperative Market.

To enter, simply log onto www.weeklystreetbeat.com and click on Street Beat.

Sponsored by

Tompkins Weekly
March 29

Mark Your Calendar... Summer Camp & Program Expo Saturday, April 24th, 9am-4pm at The Shops at Ithaca Mall N. Triphammer Rd., off Route 13 in Ithaca.
Meet and talk with representatives of area youth camps and programs. Representatives will be on hand all day at locations throughout the mall.

Vendors looking for more info, call 607-327-1226
Brought to you by Ithaca Child, The Paper for Parents

34

Continued from page 3
Announcing Sharon Ziegler, MD

Appointments for Same Day Sick Visits, & Evening and Saturday Lab Appointments!

We take your family’s health to heart!

Nurse Practitioners: Tina Hilsdorf, RN, NP-C; Debra LaVigne, RN, NP-C; Judy Scherer, RN, FNP

Board Certified American Academy of Family Physicians  Accredited diagnostic laboratory

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Mon.-Thurs. 8 am - 9 pm; Fri. 8 am - 5 pm; Sat. 9 am - 2 pm

Call 277-4341 or visit www.fma-ithaca.com

Two Ithaca locations: Downtown: 209 W. State St., just off The Commons Northeast: 8 Brentwood Dr., just off Warren Rd.