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# The Black River JOURNAL

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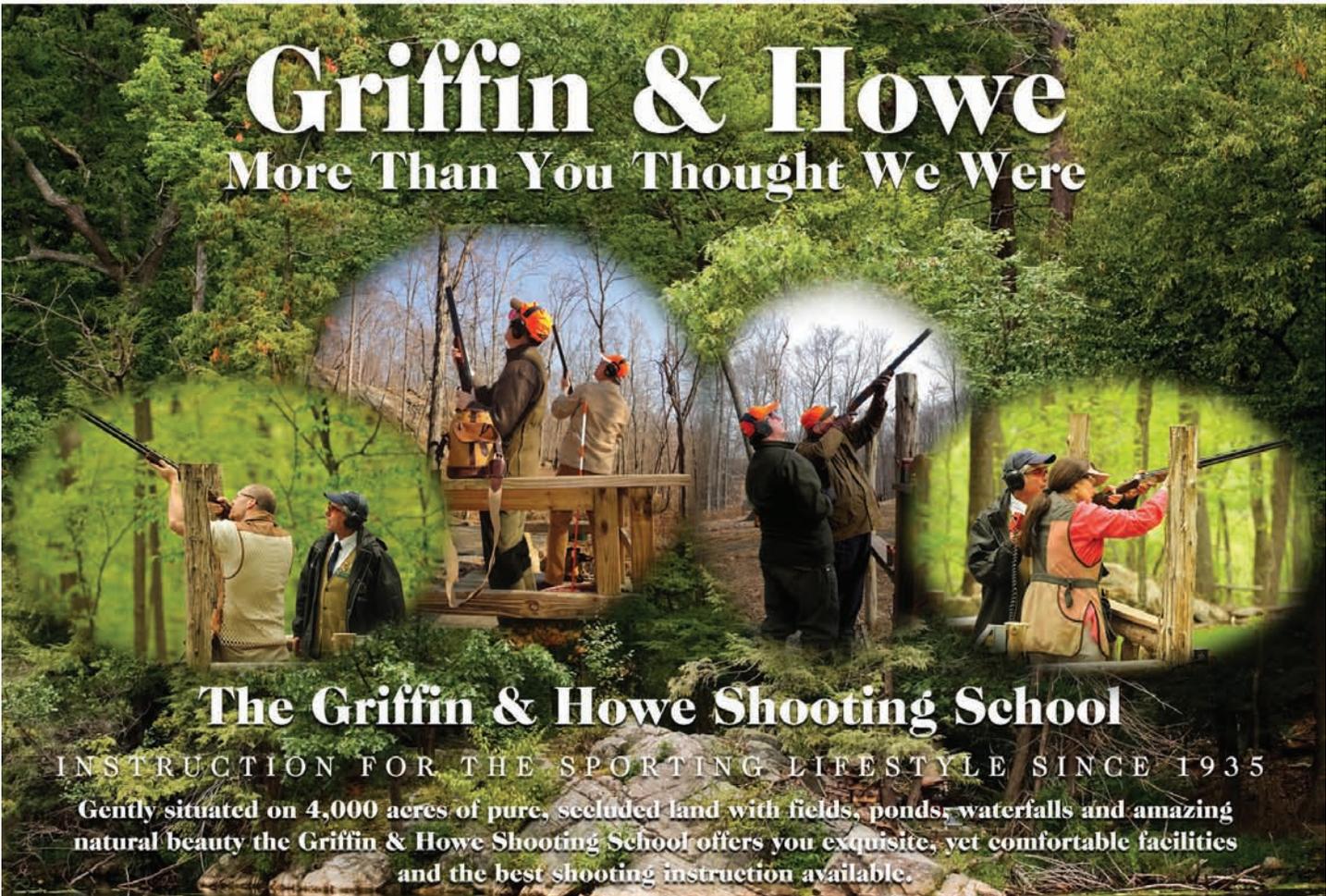


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**Winter** - you either love it or you hate it. It seems that there are no dispassionate fence-sitters when it comes to the coldest season of the calendar. Many folks, like my wife (and other kids) love the winter, especially when it brings a good snow for sledding. It's the only time my yard, which is essentially a muddy slope most of the year, is suitable for recreation. And of course, there are the skiers and snowboarders, the snow-shoers and hikers, hockey and basketball fans, and the artists and poets who deign to remind us of the "beauty" of the season or ask us to examine its harsh contrasts and metaphors of death (that one always helps). Personally, I like the cold. Perhaps it's because I am built like a polar bear or that my ancestors hailed from cold regions and often settled in even colder ones, and it has somehow left an icy imprint on my DNA. I can however, sympathize with those who shoot me that angry, bewildered look when I express cheeriness about the biting cold or an approaching blizzard. So for those who have tired of old man winter and yearn for the coming of warmer weather, I have gathered a few quotes from like-minded luminaries that I hope bring a chuckle and a little spring thaw. C.G.W.

"People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring."  
*Rogers Hornsby*

"I like these cold, gray winter days. Days like these let you savor a bad mood."  
*Bill Watterson*

"To shorten winter, borrow some money due in spring."  
*W. J. Vogel*

"Winter is nature's way of saying, 'Up yours'."  
*Robert Byrne*

"Winter is the season in which people try to keep the house as warm as it was in the summer, when they complained about the heat."  
*Unknown*

"Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow."  
*Jeff Valdez*

"Every mile is two in winter."  
*George Herbert*

"A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water."  
*- Carl Reiner*

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# The Black River JOURNAL

It's Not About Lifestyle - It's About A Way of Life

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## The Black River Journal

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"Daniel Paul Turner Thomas will unveil a special showing of watercolors, titled "A Journey through Britain in Watercolors" during St. John on the Mountain's "Celtic Fortnight," a festive celebration of Celtic culture taking place from February 16 - March 3.

**Long Valley Green Market, Winter Markets:** By popular demand the Long Valley Green Market is coming out of hibernation for 3 special Saturday markets this winter: January 26, February 23, and March 23 from 10 a.m. - Noon. Vendors will be inside and outside; be sure to come by and stock up! Visit the art show, listen to some great live music, visit your neighbors and support local business at its best. 20 Schooleys' Mountain Rd., Long Valley, NJ. [www.longvalleygreenmarket.com](http://www.longvalleygreenmarket.com).

**Maple Sugaring, February 2 - March 10:** Learn the history of maple sugaring and get hands-on experience of this centuries-old process. Saturdays: 10a.m., Noon, and 2p.m.; Sundays: Noon and 2p.m. at the Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ. [www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org).

**West Morris Junior Woman's Club 3rd Annual Wine Tasting, February 8:** An evening featuring over 30 wines to sample, tasty appetizers, live music, and a

50/50 raffle. A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Seeing Eye and its mission of breeding, raising and training dogs to guide people who are blind and visually impaired. 7 p.m. at the Brookside Community Club, 1 East Main Street, Brookside, NJ. To purchase tickets or to learn more, visit [www.wmjwc.org](http://www.wmjwc.org).

**Chocolate Festival, February 9:** A day at the Morris Museum never tasted better! You and your family will enjoy a delicious, fun-filled day of chocolate and yummy snack-themed activities. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown NJ. [www.morrimuseum.org](http://www.morrimuseum.org).

**Lord of the Dance created by Michael Flatley, February 9:** This mesmerizing blend of traditional and modern Celtic music and dance based on mythical Irish folklore captures the hearts of all who experience it. 3 p.m. at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St., Morristown, NJ. [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org).

**"I ♥ Horses" Valentine Introductory Trail Ride, February 10:** Fall in love with a four-footed friend. This one hour, walk-

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only trail ride is designed for riders with little or no experience and begins with a brief lesson. Participants must be at least 9 years of age and weigh less than 200 lbs. Registration is open from January 28 - February 7, 2013. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. at Lord Stirling Stable, B256 S. Maple Ave., Basking Ridge, NJ. [www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org).

**Pets Rock, February 8:** Don't miss this rockin' concert to benefit St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center. Featured artists include; Freak of the Day, The Holy Goats, Rapid Fire, Hamstrung, Dr. Brian and Friends, Red Reyne, Vic Negrón, and Special Guests... 7:30 p.m. at Roxy & Duke's Roadhouse, 745 Bound Brook Rd., Dunellen, NJ. [www.sthuberts.org](http://www.sthuberts.org).

**Best Pancake and Potluck Party, February 12:** An evening of fun for the entire family! Fellowship, festivities, and pancakes, pancakes, pancakes - including the famous pancake race for kids and adults! Don't flip over flapjacks? Then please bring another dish if you wish! 6 - 8 p.m. at the Church of the Messiah, 50 State Road West, Chester, NJ. [www.messiahchester.org](http://www.messiahchester.org).

**From New York With Love, a special Valentine's Day Concert, February 14:** Love songs, romantic favorites and music that touches the heart, as performed by Liz Callaway (Cats, Miss Saigon), Anthony and Will Nunziata, and stars from the New York City cabaret and Broadway scene. 8 p.m. at the Mayo Performing Arts Center, 100 South St., Morristown, NJ. [www.mayoarts.org](http://www.mayoarts.org).

**Hub Hollow with Dave Rimelis at The Minstrel, February 15:** The Minstrel presents Hub Hollow. This Somerset County-based quintet stands with the top national bluegrass bands featuring guitar, bass, mandolin, dobro and 4-part vocal harmonies, all done with class and musicality. Opener Dave Rimelis has shown his

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multi-instrumental talent on guitar, fiddle, and mandolin as The Minstrel's "designated lead player." 8 p.m. at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown, NJ.

**Fly Tyer's Rendezvous, February 24:** Shannon's Fly & Tackle hosts an open forum for tyers to come on out and meet and tie together. Admission is free and food will be available provided by the Califon Volunteer Fire Department. This event has grown every year and is a great opportunity to meet some of the most dedicated and well-known tyers of our region. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Califon Firehouse, Main Street, Califon, NJ. [www.shannonsflytackle.com](http://www.shannonsflytackle.com).

**George Post's Somerset Hills Architecture, February 24:** Our greatest local architect George Post designed many of the Great Estates built during our turn-of-the century gilded age. Author and local chronicler Barry Thomson covers Post's work with beautiful exterior/interior slides, design insight, and colorful anecdotes about Post and his illustrious, often eccentric clients. 2 p.m. at the Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Rd., Bedminster, NJ. Advanced registration requested, call (908) 234-2325.

**Lacemaking Demonstration, March, 3:** The Readington Museums will host the Lost Arts Lacers, an organization of lace-makers and lace enthusiasts based in Northwest NJ, will be on hand to demonstrate the craft of lacemaking. 1 - 4 p.m. at the Bouman - Stickney Farmstead, 114 Dreahook Rd. Lebanon, NJ. [www.readingtontwp.org](http://www.readingtontwp.org)

**Art and Photography Exhibit, February 25 - March 15:** Showcasing the four seasons at Leonard J. Buck Garden, this exhibit will feature photographs, paintings, and drawings of Buck Garden. See the garden's many faces through the



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works of talented artists and photographers. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Monday - Friday only) at Leonard J. Buck Garden, Layton Rd., Far Hills, NJ. (908) 234-2677 or [www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org).

**Celtic Fortnight, February 16 - March 3:**

St. John on the Mountain presents a two-week series of events focusing on the music, art, sports, food and spirituality of the Celtic nations. The fortnight kicks off on February 16 at 4 p.m., with an art reception and concert by the Guards Pipes and Drums and the unveiling of a special showing of watercolors from the artist Daniel Paul Turner Thomas, titled "A Journey through Britain in Watercolors." The reception and concert will be followed by a hearty Shepherds Pie Dinner. On February 19 the community is invited to Lenten evening prayer and to hear the spiritual story behind the Watercolor exhibit and share in a potluck supper. On Saturday February 23, a full traditional English breakfast will be served to coincide with the live viewing of the *Rugby Six Nations* from 9 a.m. - noon. In the evening, the Guard Pipes and Drums will host their annual fundraiser "The Guards Welcome," at St Elizabeth's School, Bernardsville, featuring a fish and chips dinner and entertainment by the Guards Pipes and Drums and Paddy and the Pale Boys. The last weekend culminates with a *Scotch Tasting* on March 1, at 6:30 p.m. and on March 3, the New Jersey Welsh Society will hold their annual St. David's Day Celebrations at 1:30 p.m. featuring a luncheon, celtic crafters, and live music. A full list of all event details, including ticket sales, is available on the church website at [www.sjotm.org](http://www.sjotm.org).

**The 19th Annual Chester Easter Egg Hunt, March 30:** This family-oriented holiday event sponsored by the Historic Chester Business Association (HCBA), will feature over 5,000 eggs filled with candy and prizes, and includes a competitive Jelly-Bean Counting Contest, confec-



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**St Patrick's Day Parade, March 9:** The largest St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Morris County is a great family event with fun for everyone. Noon, Downtown Morristown. (Rain date March 23)

**Love and Longing: An Evening of Irish Music, Dance, and Culture, March 15 & 16:** The Roxbury Arts Alliance presents the acclaimed Irish tenor Timothy Liam Smith for two evenings of Irish music, dance and culture. Students from the Endean Academy of Irish Dance will open the evening with a program of traditional Irish dance. 7:30 p.m. at The Investors Bank Theater, 72 Eyland Ave.,

Succasunna, NJ (at the Horseshoe Lake Park complex inside the Recreation Building). Tickets are available at the Recreation office and on-line at [www.roxburyartsalliance.org](http://www.roxburyartsalliance.org).

### SAVE THE DATES

**Willowwood: From The Manager's Perspective, April 13:** Join John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, for his personal tour of Willowwood Arboretum and find out why this magnificent site is one of the finest horticultural facilities in New Jersey and, dare we say, beyond. John shares his unique perspective in this Saturday afternoon tour. Meet at the Stone Barn, wear good walking shoes and prepare to be wowed by the beauty of the gardens, the grounds and the buildings of this very special place. 1 - 2:30 p.m. at Willowwood Arboretum, 300 Longview Rd. Far Hills,

NJ, (973) 326-7603. [www.willowwoodarboretum.org](http://www.willowwoodarboretum.org).

**23rd Annual Stream Clean Up, April 20:** Each spring, the Raritan Headwaters Association organizes clean-up programs to protect water quality and promote public stewardship of local streams and rivers. Last year, over 500 members of scout troops, churches, community clubs, environmental commissions and businesses joined individuals and families to pull almost four tons of trash from stream banks in Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset Counties. This year, they expect even more people will join in on this important, fun day of service. [www.raritanheadwaters.org](http://www.raritanheadwaters.org).

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## “It’s a Wonderful Life!”

A Celebration of Community Spirit in Pottersville

By C.G. Wolfe • Photo by Gordon T. Ward

On December 29, 2012, residents of Pottersville, NJ gathered at the Community Center for the first annual “It’s a Wonderful Life Celebration”. The event was organized by Pottersville resident and nationally recognized author and presenter, Gordon T. Ward, with the help of residents, Terri Tweedie, and Al and Wilma Fischer.

The celebration takes its name from Frank Capra’s 1946 film, *It’s a Wonderful Life*. In the film, the main character, George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart, is guided by an angel named Clarence and offered a vision of what life may have been like if he had never been born. As a result, he discovers how much he is loved and valued by his family and community and the positive impact he has had on so many.

George Bailey lives in the fictional town of “Bedford Falls” but during his epiphany he gets a glimpse of what the town may have been like if he wasn’t there to counter the film’s antago-

nist, the miserly Mr. Potter, and Bedford Falls had become “Pottersville.” As a nod to this plot twist, a sign, replicating one seen in the film, mysteriously appears each Christmas Eve at the entrance to Pottersville, NJ proclaiming “You are now in Bedford Falls.”

Many folks in Pottersville enjoy this connection to Capra’s holiday classic and in that spirit, Gordon T. Ward, who had been “thinking about it for a couple of years,” designed the “It’s a Wonderful Life Celebration” to bring the community together to honor “a Pottersville, NJ, resident individual, couple, or family who has made a significant and positive, voluntary impact on the people around them and in the communities in which they live and work. Inspired by the character George Bailey... the designated honoree displays high standards of ethics and has sought neither attention nor acclaim for the good works committed, having performed them simply because

they were the right things to do while endeavoring to make the world a better place.”

While the celebration was billed as a community event, the award was a well-guarded secret and a surprise to all but a handful of the attendees, including the Wonderful Life Award recipient, Pottersville Fire Chief, Tom Anderson, who was “completely shocked” and visibly moved by the recognition. Tom has lived in Pottersville for most of his 65 years and is considered by all who know him to be a good friend, neighbor, and mentor. He has touched the lives of many in the Pottersville area and has selflessly served the community for almost 50 years.

Tom was awarded the “It’s a Wonderful Life” sign, which was donated by Anne Brookes of Lamington General Store. Tom’s name and the date were inscribed on the back of the sign, which he will hold for one year and then pass along to 2013’s recipient. He was also given a silver bell, donated by Jude Connell of “In the Moon.” The bell, which Tom will keep, is a reference to the final scene in the movie (“...every time you hear a bell ring an angel gets its wings”), and was inscribed with the date and Tom’s initials. Giving another nod to one of the memorable scenes from the movie, Pottersville resident, Terri Tweedie presented Tom and his wife Susan, who was instrumental in keeping the award a secret from Tom, with a loaf of bread, “so that you may never know hunger”; salt, “that life may always have flavor,” and a bottle of wine, “so that joy and prosperity may reign forever”. Residents, fellow firemen, and friends including, Jeff Bravstein, Tim Taylor, Ted Winkler, Mark Scheer, and Greg Welsh, took to the podium to pay tribute to this year’s honoree and afterward, as in the movie, everyone joined in for a chorus of “Auld Lang Syne.”

Congratulations to Pottersville’s own George Bailey, Tom Anderson, “the richest man in town!”

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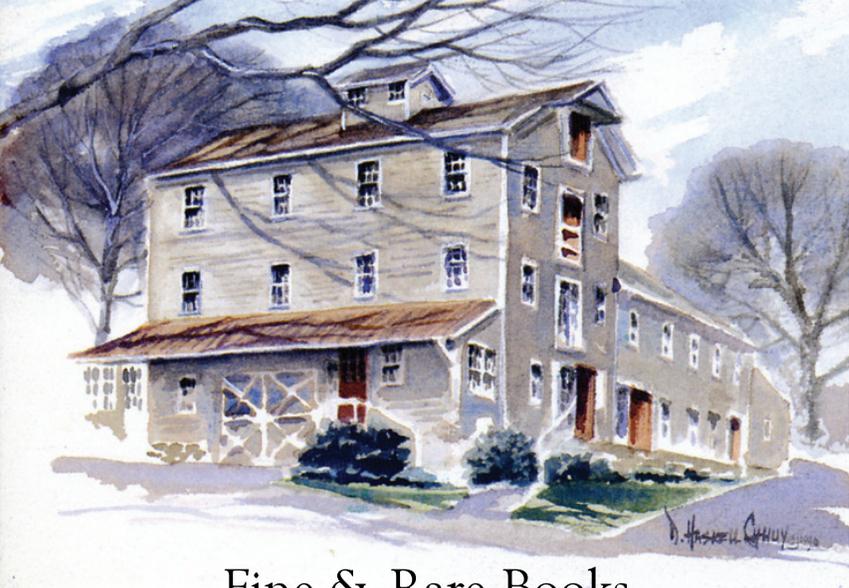
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## Photography of J.B. McCollum Featured at MONDO Summit



The much-anticipated opening of J.B. McCollum's gallery space at MONDO Summit has met with great initial success. McCollum, of *My Eye Photography*, has been a featured cover photographer in *The Black River Journal*, where his work is always met with acclaim. McCollum decided to open the space at MONDO Summit after an outpouring of requests from supporters and patrons, who were anxious to have a permanent retail space to view and buy his work. McCollum, who is known for his images of the natural world, has shot on three continents and throughout the U.S. Much of this work, ranging from local scenes to exotic locations, will be on display and available for sale at the gallery. "I'm excited for this opportunity," said McCollum. "It's great to have a base to display my art while I'm pursuing photo opportunities and continuing my travels and adventures." Gallery hours are Thursday - Sunday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Monday - Wednesday by appointment. McCollum will be at the gallery from 6 - 9 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month to "meet and greet" visitors and shoppers. J.B. McCollum's gallery space is located on the first floor of MONDO Summit, 426 Springfield Ave., in Summit, NJ. For more information, visit [www.jbmcollum.com](http://www.jbmcollum.com).

## Full Circle 2012: Unexpected Art Dedicated to Robert Schonhorn

When Robert Schonhorn was president of the Matheny School and Hospital (now the Matheny Medical and Educational Center) in 1993, he posed the question: "Can people with disabilities create fine art?" Schonhorn, who died earlier this year, recognized the creative possibilities that were trapped inside the bodies of people with disabilities. Now, nineteen years after he posed that question, it is clear that the answer is an unqualified "Yes!"

*Full Circle 2012: Unexpected Art*, the annual celebration of Matheny's Arts Access Program, was held on Saturday, December 1, in the Robert Schonhorn Arts Center at Matheny and was dedicated to the man, who along with then medical director Gabor Barabas MD, conceived of and created this unique program, which enables people with disabilities to create fine art, assisted by professional artist-facilitators. Matheny is a special hospital and educational facility in Peapack for children and adults with medically complex developmental disabilities.

"My father would have been so proud," said Erica Schonhorn Gorman, Schonhorn's daughter, as she and his grandson Max Gorman, accepted a special plaque from Steve Proctor, Matheny president and CEO. Guests at Full Circle attended a visual arts exhibit, curated by Madison-based artist Dan Felon, and a reception in the gallery before viewing a stage presentation that included a video tribute to Schonhorn as well as several examples of prose, poetry, drama and dance created by Arts Access artists. A dessert reception followed. *Corporate sponsors were: The Provident Bank Foundation, Day Pitney, LLP, Affinity Federal Credit Union and The Angeletti Group. Food and beverage donors were: Café Azzurro and cocoLuxe fine pastries, Peapack; Gladstone Tavern, Gladstone; 3West, Basking Ridge; and Village Office Supply, Somerset.*



Matheny president Steve Proctor presents a special plaque to Erica Schonhorn Gorman and Max Gorman.



## “Romantic Realism” at The Center for Contemporary Art

The Center for Contemporary Art announces its first exhibition of 2013. “Romantic Realism” is curated by renowned New Jersey painter Mel Leipzig and presents the work of three painters Daniel Finaldi, Linda Pochesci and Kyle Stevenson, all former students of Leipzig. In his curator’s statement Leipzig explains, “Realism in painting in its purest sense can be described as an objective record of the surface of reality. When realism is used as the vehicle to express an intense subjective feeling, it enters the realm of romanticism. The three artists in this exhibition use the structure of visual realism to express deeply felt, highly personal, emotional states. Therefore they can be called Romantic Realists.”

“Romantic Realism” will be on view from January 7 through February 16, 2013. An opening reception and curator’s talk will take place on Friday, January 11, 2013 from 6 - 8 p.m. Mel Leipzig will also give an artist talk and presentation of his own work at The Center on Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 6 p.m. There is a \$10 fee for this program, which is free to members.

The CCA is located at 2020 Burnt Mills Rd., in Bedminster, NJ. For further information, please call (908) 234-2345 or visit The Center for Contemporary Art online at [www.ccabedminster.org](http://www.ccabedminster.org).



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**Hub Hollow:**  
(From left to Right)  
**Seated:** Jill Turpin, Jason Frigerio, **Standing:** John Turpin, Tim Ryan, and Rick Chance

# HUB HOLLOW

## Doing It Just for Fun

Article by Chris & Lee Wolfe • Photos by Susan Pedersen



When you experience local band Hub Hollow in concert, whether it's in the intimate confines of an indoor venue or at an energy-infused outdoor festival, you feel like you're hanging out with old friends; a sentiment that runs to the very core of why this tight-knit group plays music together. "It's about doing something where people show up and have a good time," said mandolin player and vocalist, Jason Frigerio, "it's about being a catalyst for a gathering."

With a neo-traditional sound, which is self-described as "acoustic Americana," Hub Hollow is driven by the seamless strings of John Turpin on guitar, Jason Frigerio on mandolin, Tim Ryan on Dobro, and band leader, Rick Chance, keeping it all together on standing bass. And while each member adds to Hub Hollow's vocal harmony, the solo voices belong to the dulcet, longing expressions of lead singer and lyricist, Jill Turpin, the high lonesome intonations of Jason Frigerio, and the laid back, sentient style of John Turpin. The range provided by three distinct voices allows the band to cover, and uniquely interpret, an array of music, from bluegrass to Led Zeppelin.

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The group has been playing together in one form or another for 20 years but the “first modern day iteration of the band” occurred around five years ago, when Jason convinced his band mates to go public. Their first “official gig” occurred at the Greenfest, at Liberty Park in Peapack Gladstone. Since then they have become a local favorite, playing at private and public events throughout the area. “The people around here have been unbelievably supportive,” said Jill Turpin. “When you start a band and play a gig and a hundred of your friends show up to the gig enthusiastically, it’s kind of easy to be convinced to do it again,” added Jason Frigerio.

“There are many layers to the story” of Hub Hollow, John Turpin explained. But at its essence is a love and close friendship with ties that go as far back as grade school and a weave of family connections (Jason is Jill’s twin brother and John is married to Jill) that give the group cohesiveness - besides that, they just like to hang out together. “The band is just an extension of the relationship that we have in our day-to-day lives,” said Jason Frigerio. “It’s an excuse to hang out,” John Turpin quickly added.

Hub Hollow’s name is derived from their roots in the Somerset Hills and taken from a spot close to where the Turpins live, in an area once known as Hub Hollow, named for a wagon wheel hub factory that used to operate there in the 19th century (see related article on page 22). The location is also in the vicinity of Ravine Lake, where the band recorded its first CD, *Hub Hollow; Live at the Boathouse*. The CD offers an array of covers that include, an up-tempo, bluegrass version of Bob Dylan’s, “Don’t Think Twice It’s Alright;” a rollicking version of the traditional piece, “Let Me Fall,” and a mellow, cool-handed rendition of Lowell George’s, “Roll ‘Em Easy.” The most popular track on the CD (in my house anyway) is probably “Little Waltz,” the group’s first original song, which was writ-

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ten by Jill Turpin. Taking their cue from the acclaim garnered by “Little Waltz,” the group’s second album, which they are currently working on in the studio, will be comprised almost entirely of new, original material. According to Jill, the inspiration for many of their new songs was drawn from local scenes and life in our unique area of New Jersey. “My favorite original, and I think probably everyone’s too, is a song called Hills and Skies,” said Jill Turpin. “I wrote it going down Pottersville Road, driving past a beautiful field with freshly baled hay.”

We caught up with Hub Hollow at the RHA Old Fashioned Country Fair, at Fairview Farm, in Bedminster, where they were alternating sets with another local musician, Colin Rocker. True to the group’s aspiration, they were the “catalyst for a gathering” of friends, family, and neighbors. Little ones danced for their moms and dads, folks lip-synced to the lyrics while heads moved and toes tapped



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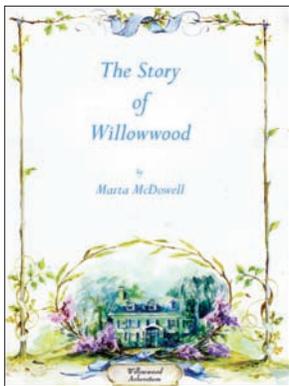
Source: Internal measurements based on Pingry’s iPad Program.





to the rhythm of the bass. In between numbers, Jason Frigerio's familiar, friendly banter with the audience elicited smiles and laughter, adding to the easy, down-home feeling that is synonymous with a Hub Hollow performance.

Whether live or recorded, one thing you definitely come away with after listening to Hub Hollow is that they are having a lot of fun. They perform with a freewheeling concision that can't be derived wholly from practice and technical ability. It springs from the love and the joy of making music with each other and for each other. "We're going to do what we do and hopefully people are going to like it," said Tim Ryan. "And that's the whole thing with this band," John Turpin added. "We're doing it just for fun and that's kind of the core of it all. It's turned into this thing that gains more and more momentum, which is wonderful, but the whole objective is just to enjoy ourselves." Visit [www.hubhollow.com](http://www.hubhollow.com).

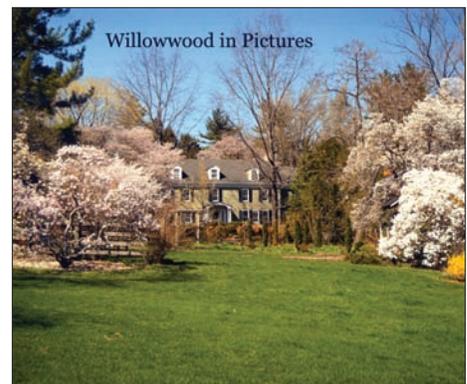


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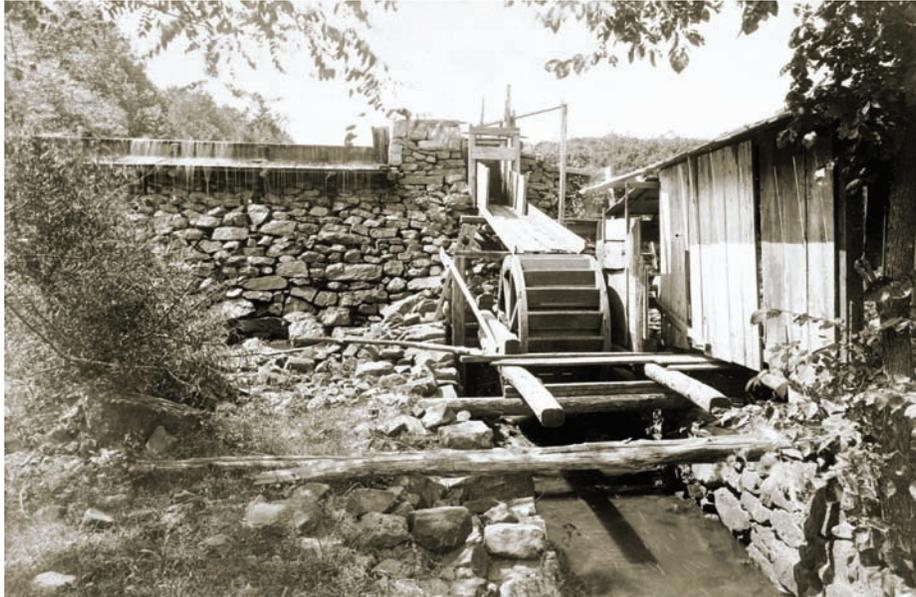
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# Hub Hollow

## and the Ludlow Brothers Wheel Hub Factory

By W. Barry Thomson • Photo Courtesy of John Turpin



The area near the foot of Ravine Lake has long been known as Hub Hollow, the name derived from the wagon and carriage wheel hub business established there in 1867 by two of Charles and Cornelia (Irving) Ludlow's sons, Josiah and James, and son-in-law, Enoch M. Bedell.

The business, initially called Ludlow Brothers, became widely known for its high-quality white oak, elm and patented "Warner" wheel hubs. Sales were made throughout the United States, across Europe, and as far away as South Africa.

In the mid-1890s, the Ludlow property at Hub Hollow was acquired by a group of wealthy area residents, Newark brewer John Holme Ballantine, New York architect George Browne Post, banker Edward T.H. Talmage, and member of the prominent Hoboken family of engineers and inventors, Robert Livingston Stevens. The property formed part of a 365 - acre tract along the North Branch of the Raritan River - purchased at an average price of \$80 per acre - that the men planned to develop into a country club.

The group soon organized the Ravine Association to raise funds that were used to build the present stone dam and a boat-house at the upper end of the lake to provide boating, swimming, fishing and skating activities. The land on the west side of the lake was sold to C. Ledyard Blair to form part of his

"Blairsdon" estate. On the hill to the east of the lake the Association built a rustic, Adirondack-style clubhouse and grass and platform tennis and squash courts, all surrounded by a nine-hole, 2,329-yard golf course and a network of bridle paths. This was the home of the Somerset Hills Country Club until 1918 when the club moved to its present location in Bernardsville on the former Frederic P. Olcott estate.

Overlooking the dam and Hub Hollow to the south of the club was "Crestline," the estate of Susan Bayard and Frank Stone Tainter. Tainter was the contracting engineer on the dam, which was designed by Morristown engineer George Washington Howell. Tainter was involved in the design and construction of many of the area's estate properties and at different times also served as the town engineer for virtually all of the municipalities in the Somerset Hills.

Tainter is perhaps best known today for several of his iconic maps, including the 1919 trail map for the newly formed Somerset Hills Bridle Path Association and the 1925 and 1935 maps of James Cox Brady's "Hamilton Farm." Today treasured by those fortunate enough to own an original, the "Hamilton Farm" maps not only outline the boundaries of Brady's 5,000-acre estate, but also show large portions of Somerset, Morris and Hunterdon counties and identify meeting places of the

Essex Fox Hounds, show names of property owners, bridle paths, and such lore as the grave of Lenape Indian Chief Paul.

With the sale of their land at Hub Hollow, the Ludlows moved themselves and their hub business to Peapack, where they built a wood-frame factory building on a four-acre lot across the tracks from the present Peapack railroad station.

The extant house at 88 Main Street in Peapack was built by James Ludlow sometime after he purchased the lot from the local physician, Dr. Edward Perry, and his daughter, Rachel Craig Perry.

In 1910, Josiah Ludlow sold his half-interest in the hub business and property to local merchant George S. Van Arsdale and the firm name was changed to the Ludlow Hub Company.

Hub sales eventually declined, due in large part to the loss during World War I of what had been a significant European export trade, as well as the growing transition from horse-drawn to motorized vehicles. In an apparent effort to make up lost revenue, beginning in 1915 James Ludlow and his son, William, began operating a coal business on the hub factory property.

Nevertheless, much like the proverbial buggy-whip industry, the wooden wheel hub business was doomed to fail and the Ludlow Hub Company ceased operations in about 1919.

The factory and about one acre of the Ludlows' four-acre tract were sold to Louis A. Zwiller, whose business, the Peapack

Paper Company, occupied the building as a manufacturing plant to print "fancy paper" for wrapping candy. Most of the balance of the property was leased, and later sold, to Somerset County, which used it for a county road maintenance facility (years later the county garage was relocated to its present site on the other side of Holland Avenue). In 1945, Zwiller sold the former hub factory property to the Cleaveland Laboratories and Manufacturing Company, which made fabricated plastic-coated paper and textiles.

The Ludlow factory building burned to the ground in the 1940s, and in 1950, a Cleaveland Laboratories affiliate, Arco Chemical Products Co., sold the property to the present owner, the Komline-Sanderson Engineering Corporation.

Other members of the Ludlow family were also active in the business life of the Somerset Hills. Charles Ludlow Jr., a brother of Josiah and James, established a butcher shop and meat market in the extant stucco building at 68 Main Street in Peapack. One of Charles' sons, Louis Vernon Ludlow, opened his own meat and grocery store in Far Hills, with a branch in Bernardsville, before entering the lumber, grain, coal and hardware business in Far Hills. L.V. Ludlow also served as the first mayor of the Borough of Far Hills when, in 1921, it broke away from Bernards Township.



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# MYSTY MOUNTAIN

## MAPLE SYRUP with “Terroir”

By Chris & Lee Wolfe

“When you’ve got lemons, you make lemonade,” was Charlie Garret’s response, when asked how he got into maple syrup farming. And while you won’t find many lemon trees on his wooded, 19-acre farm in the Mountainville section of Tewksbury Township, New Jersey, you will find a lot of old-growth maples.

You need a tree at least 10 inches in diameter for “tapping,” the process in which sap is drawn from the tree for maple syrup production. According to Charlie Garret, of Misty Mountain Farm, since maples are slow growing, this means a tree that is usually 40 to 45 years old. Fortunately for Garret, he has a mountainside teeming with select hard maples, which have all sprung up naturally. “There was one big tree somewhere that did its thing,” he smiled.

The Native Americans of northeastern North America were reportedly the first groups to begin processing maple sap into sugar, a commodity they introduced to early European colonists. In the 17th and 18th centuries, maple sugar, in liquid and crystallized forms, was used as a substitute for cane sugar, which had to be imported from the West Indies. It wasn’t until the mid to late 1800s, when cane sugar became the dominant sweetener in the U.S., that producers began to focus their production and marketing on maple syrup.

Processing sap into syrup is fairly straightforward. Starch is stored in the roots and trunk of the maple tree during the winter. The starch is converted into sugar, which rises with the sap during the warming days of the spring thaw. Charlie Garret and his assistant, Sheldon, usually begin collecting sap

around February 10 and the season can last anywhere from 6 to 8 weeks. But according to Garret, you may only get 10 or 15 days where you get “good runs,” as the specific weather conditions are crucial in determining the season’s length. As the weather warms up, a natural biological process begins to alter the taste of the sap. This unpalatable change is often known as “buddy sap” due to its occurrence during the tree’s budding stage.

The maple tree is “tapped” by boring a small hole into the trunk and collecting the exuded sap. Traditionally, tapping was done by inserting a wooden or metal spout or tap into the hole with a bucket hung from the protruding end for collection. Today, most modern producers, like Charlie Garret, use a system of plastic tubing strung from the taps which pump the sap to a holding tank. This web of tubing is not only more efficient, but also limits contamination. According to Garret, the tapping is done in a way that doesn’t harm the tree. The same tree, if tapped properly, can continue to be harvested for generations. “I always say the trees are woozy in the spring,” said Garret, “but by the summer they’re fine.”

From the holding tank, the sap is pumped to the “sugar house” where it passes through a UV light to remove bacteria, and then enters the “evaporator”, which boils off excess water, leaving behind the concentrated syrup. Garret evaporates his syrup over wood fires, which is an experience for the senses, as the air in and around the sugar house is laden with sugary steam and wood smoke. The syrup is then filtered further for impurities before being bottled and labeled.



It sounds simple enough, but the subtleties and nuances of boiling down 40 to 50 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of syrup is a labor-intensive craft that requires patience, know-how, and experience. And with the modern tools of the trade like refractometers and hydrometers, and the scientific laws applied to get the correct balance of sweetness, viscosities, and color in “fancy” syrup, it also helps to be a bit of a scientist, which fits neatly into Garret’s background as a chemist. “Syrup can be influenced by factors such as wood or oil-fired evaporators, use of reverse osmosis, length of time sap is retained before boiling, etc.,” explained Garret.

According to Garret, they have developed a flavor wheel for syrups much like they have for wines to assess the particular taste qualities of individual syrups. In fact, maple syrup farming has recently borrowed a term from their vineyard counterparts - “terroir,” a French word meaning “from the land” that describes the special characteristics that geography, geology, and climate impart on agricultural products such as wine. “I think the syrups are like wines,” said Garret, “each micro-climate has a different taste. I think ours is different from Vermont’s, for example.”

Garret, a native of Pennsylvania who moved to New Jersey after meeting his wife in Tewksbury, has been farming maple sap at Mysty Mountain Farm for almost 15 years. He places



Photo courtesy of Mysty Mountain Farm

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around 1,000 taps during a season and produces 100-150 gallons in a good year. His syrup is sold at the farm and in local stores and farm markets throughout the area, including Melick's Town Farm and the Black River General Store. One of his most voracious clients is a health food store in Flemington, a result of maple syrup's recent classification as a "super food." A 2011 study by the University of Rhode Island uncovered 54 compounds in maple syrup, many with antioxidants and potential health benefits including anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer and anti-diabetic properties. Move over broccoli!

And maple syrup isn't just for pancakes anymore. Many bakers are using this healthy sweetener as a sugar substitute in muffins and breads, and it is slowly becoming a secret ingredient in the kitchens of many chefs. It's great in barbeque sauces and glazes, and in hot cereal and yogurt, but Charlie Garret's favorite use for his syrup is ladled liberally over a big scoop of

vanilla ice cream. We tried this recently, topped with some crushed walnuts and it is now a favorite dessert at our house.

While maple syrup production is still a rare occurrence on most of New Jersey's farms, it is definitely a product that ranks right up there with its more famous, distant agricultural cousins such as Jersey corn and tomatoes and is a local flavor worth experiencing. So treat yourself to a bottle of this small-batch, locally produced, amber delight and taste the difference that "terroir" can make.

Mysty Mountain Farm is located at 2 Boulder Hill Road, in Tewksbury, New Jersey. The farm offers tours and demonstrations in season and is open to the general public from mid-February - March, on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, call (908) 832-6088. *Pictured below: The Garret family at the entrance to Mysty Mountain Farm. Photo by J.B. McCollum.*





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# ON THE HUNT

## The Photography of Susan Pedersen

By Chris & Lee Wolfe



Photographer Susan Pedersen is “on the hunt.” Camera in hand, braving what ever the weather throws at her. Accompanied by friend and fellow photographer, Sue Kenney, she is outdoors doing what a mentor once advised, “shoot, shoot, shoot.” It’s a method that has been her greatest teacher, and her classroom has been “anywhere and everywhere” she can tote a camera. “Observe” and photograph. “See what you do wrong, see what you do right and go from there,” she schooled.

The daughter of an artist, Susan’s creative drive has led her to watercolors, pen and ink drawings, and a unique form of “wearable art” called “wet felting,” but it’s photography that compels her to the field. “You either love it or you say ‘oh, it’s just a hobby,’ Susan noted, “I love it too much!”





Susan grew up in a historic home on the site of an old, one-room schoolhouse in Chester, New Jersey, where her parents still reside, and she loves to shoot locally. Many of her scenes are easily recognizable, the farm house at the Kay Environmental Center, the Black River, local farms and landmarks, but she is best known for her images of “the hunt.” Many folks may recognize some of these photos from the 2010 Peapack-Gladstone Bank Calendar, a much sought-after commission, which garnered Susan a Silver Award from the Art Directors Club of New Jersey.

Susan was introduced to the hunt by her aunt, Ethna Duff. Ethna was a “car follower,” someone who doesn’t ride but still enjoys the hunt and follows in vehicles. “She was very quiet,” Susan remembered. “She knew everybody but she didn’t get out (of the car). She just loved to go. She’d say to me, ‘come on Susan...!’ And we would go to the opening meet, and it all opened up to me then. It was



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the love of the horses, the love of the hunt, the protocol, the tradition, everything about it. It was just so beautiful.”

While Susan does ride horses, she is still a “car follower” but unlike Aunt Ethna, she also gets out of the car and becomes a “foot follower,” chasing the field to the music of the hounds, traversing covers and blinds in quest of her own quarry - a transfiguring light, an expression, an alignment of mood and moment shot through her lens.

But whether it’s the pageantry and colors of the field, a glimpse of “Charles” the fox himself, or other images caught in time, such as a duo of chilly crows high on a limb, or the weight of an early snow on leaf covered boughs, or a “Yellowstone” grizzly, Susan’s greatest satisfaction is just sharing her photos and having her art seen and appreciated. “I’m happy, thrilled and honored to have my work shown somewhere... just to share the work...that is what it’s all about.”



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Major Robert Rogers

# CAPTAIN AMOS OGDEN

## An Adventurer from Black River

By C.G. Wolfe

*In late October 1759, Amos Ogden, still recovering from gunshot wounds to his side and head, dragged his emaciated body onto a make-shift raft of dry pine trees. Accompanied by the famed ranger leader, Robert Rogers, a fellow ranger, and a captive Indian boy, they paddled off down the icy Connecticut River on a mission to save the remnants of Rogers' command, which was on the verge of starvation in the wilderness of New Hampshire. For Ogden, it was yet another harrowing chapter in a life of adventure that took him far from his home in Chester, New Jersey...*

Amos Ogden was the youngest of 12 children born to David and Elizabeth (nee Miller) Ogden, who had emigrated with their family from near Rye and White Plains, New York in 1740, and settled on the south side of the Black River, in the northwest edge of what is now Chester, New Jersey, in Morris County. At the outbreak of the Seven Years War, known to American history as the French and Indian War, Amos Ogden joined the "Jersey Blues," New Jersey's provincial regiment named for their handsome blue uniforms with red facing.

The "Jersey Blues" were a tough, hard-luck regiment engaged in some of the bloodiest affairs during the war. In August 1756, Lt. Amos Ogden and a battalion of Jersey Blues, led by Col. Peter Schuyler, were taken prisoner after the surrender of Fort Oswego, which guarded Lake Ontario, in north central New York. Ogden was later paroled and when Col. Schuyler was ordered in 1759 to reconstitute the decimated Jersey provincials by

raising a regiment of 1,000 men, Amos Ogden was commissioned a captain and raised a company of 100 light infantrymen at his own expense.

Capt. Ogden arrived back in the theater of war in time to respond to a call for volunteers by Maj. Robert Rogers, who was planning a daring raid deep into enemy territory against the Abenaki Indian village of St. Francis, near the southern shore of the St. Lawrence River. Rogers was the commander of a regiment of frontier fighters known as Rogers Rangers. The rangers were created to counter the advantage the French and their Indian allies had in forest fighting and to provide intelligence through long range patrols and reconnaissance. Many of Rogers' ranging techniques are still studied today and his unit is considered the forerunner of today's U.S. Special Forces. Nine Jersey Blues, led by Ogden, joined the rangers for the planned expedition. Captain Ogden was placed in command of a contingent of provincials, most of which had

been drawn from five New England regiments.

On the night of September 17, 1759, Rogers and his men packed into 17 whaleboats and descended Lake Champlain. Navigating the lake at night to avoid detection, it took ten nights to reach their jumping off point at Missiquoi Bay. Rogers originally set out with 200 men but by the time they made the torturous trek to St. Francis, he was left with around 140 effectives.

Rogers and his mixed band of chosen men descended on St. Francis early on the morning of October 4. Tragically for the inhabitants of the slumbering village, most of their fighting men had been drawn away on other duties.

The Rangers attacked in three divisions, the left wing commanded by Capt. Ogden and his provincials. Urging his men forward, Ogden was shot "through the body" and another ball grazed his head, but he quickly bound up the wounds, declaring that it was just a scratch, as he continued

the attack. The one-sided battle was over by around 7 a.m. Rogers had lost only one man, a Stockbridge Indian Ranger, and only seven others were wounded, the most serious of which was Amos Ogden. Scores of Indians, mostly reported to be women and children lay dead or wounded and the once thriving Indian town was sacked, looted, and put to the torch.

Two days into the expedition, Rogers had gotten word that the boats he left hidden on the shores of Lake Champlain had been discovered by the French. Knowing he could no longer return to the British base at Crown Point using his original route, the decision was made to head for the nearest friendly post, Fort No. 4 on the New Hampshire frontier, which lay a grueling 200 miles from St. Francis. To accomplish his retreat, Rogers knew that he would have to be re-supplied en route and sent a messenger on a suicidal mission to Crown Point asking that supplies from Fort No. 4 be sent 60 miles north to a rendezvous point on the Connecticut River.

Now pursued by hundreds of vengeful French and Indians, Rogers and his men gathered what meager supplies they could at St. Francis, mostly ears of green corn, and began their retreat to Fort No. 4. The route took them through a trackless, rugged wilderness of mountains, steep ravines, snaking rivers, and muddy swamps. Across the deepest and swiftest moving streams, Rogers carried the injured Amos Ogden on his back.

Less than halfway to their re-supply point, provisions began to run out. Suffering from starvation, cold and exposure, Rogers made a fateful decision to split his command up into smaller units of ten to twenty men, in the belief that smaller parties would be less detectable and would be able to hunt and supply themselves more readily than a large force. As a result, many of the splinter groups were hunted down and massacred or taken prisoner by the pursuing French and Indians.



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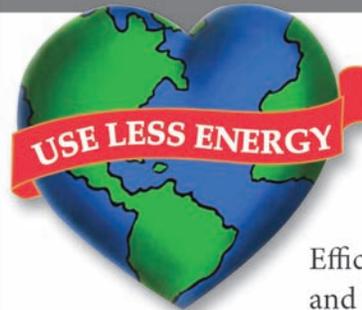
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With game surprisingly scarce, men ate what they could find, roots, acorns, mushrooms, even the bark from trees. When those were scarce, they ate their belts, and shoes, and according to some sources, they later resorted to cannibalism. Through it all they stumbled onward, prodded by the indefatigable Rogers, who compelled them to stay on their feet and keep moving with the promise of food and supplies.

Rogers and the skeletal remains of his command reached the rendezvous point on October 20 but to their crushing disappointment, no one was there. The messenger sent to Crown Point had succeeded in his mission and provisions were sent to the pre-arranged location but incredibly, the relief party had left just two hours before Rogers and his men reached them. With many of his men too feeble to go on, Rogers, Ogden, an unidentified ranger, and a captive Indian boy set out on a pine bough raft, promising his men he'd be back in ten days with provisions. After a harrowing journey down the Connecticut River, navigating the turbulent, icy waters and hauling their raft around tumbling falls, they staggered into Fort No. 4 and, true to Rogers' word, provisions reached his starved men on the tenth day after his departure.

For his courage and grit, Rogers recommended Ogden for his own command. He was ordered to form an independent company of rangers, and according to his own account, was at the vanguard of the British Army during its "victorious march" through Canada. But the end of fighting in North America didn't mean the end of fighting for Amos Ogden. In 1761, he was dispatched to the West Indies and saw action during the invasion of the Isle of Martinique. He returned to New York in 1767 and set out for the Pennsylvania frontier where he acted for a short time as an Indian agent and subsequently established a trading post in the Wyoming Valley.

In 1769, Ogden became a de-facto mili-

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tary leader in an obscure chapter in colonial history known as the Pennamite - Yankee War, which pitted Pennsylvania settlers, which now included Ogden, against a group of stubborn Connecticut Yankee colonists, who claimed land along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, which at different times had been granted by King Charles II to both Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Ogden, again, proved his courage under fire. He was shot in his left arm during one skirmish. During another battle, he and his outnumbered command found themselves surrounded in their fort. Ogden, seeing that reinforcements were needed, slipped out of the blockhouse and sneaked to the river, where he stripped naked, wrapping his clothes in a bundle with his hat tied on top. Using the clothes as a decoy, he tied a rope to the bundle and floated down river, while Connecticut sharpshooters fired round after round at his empty hat and clothes,

leaving Ogden unscathed. He came back with 200 reinforcements but the old ranger was ambushed himself along the way. The land dispute in Pennsylvania would rage on and off until it was finally settled after the Revolution, but Ogden had business that would take him much further south before that time.

In 1767, Ogden had petitioned King George for a land grant in West Florida. In reward for his military service (and according to some sources, for the action of one of his ancestors, who allegedly helped King Charles avoid capture by Cromwell's forces by hiding him in an oak tree), Ogden was granted 25,000 acres in what is now Natchez, Mississippi. The "Ogden Mandamus", as the grant was known, stipulated that Ogden had ten years to settle the grant with one settler for every 100 acres. To accomplish this, Ogden returned to Chester, New Jersey in 1772, and sold 19,000 acres to Rev. Samuel Swayze and his brother,

Richard Swayze. Ogden and the Swayzes sailed to Pensacola to file their grant in Florida and survey the lands.

On April 19, 1773, the minutes of the West Florida Council reported that the first wave of Ogden Mandamus settlers, known as "The Jersey Settlers," were en route to their new homes in the wilds of West Florida. The group included the Swayze brothers and 76 individuals, including 29 adults, 39 children, three apprentices and five slaves. Amos Ogden had set aside 6,000 acres for his own use but he never settled there. He died in 1774. The circumstances of his death remain obscure, but according to family tradition he was lost at sea returning from Florida.

*I've always been fascinated by the French and Indian War, particularly the exploits of Rogers and his Rangers, and was excited to learn more about Amos Ogden, a prime example of how exploring local history can lead to great adventures. CGW*

## Social Security Planning Tips You Must Know

**Tip 1: Restricted Application** – At full retirement age or "FRA" (assume age 66) you elect or **RESTRICT** your application for benefits to your spousal benefits only (50% of your spouse's) which will allow you to receive delayed retirement credits of 8% per year until you claim **your** benefits at age 70. This strategy is typically used by the higher bread winner.

**Tip 2: File and Suspend** – At "FRA" (assume age 66) you **FILE** for the opportunity for your spouse to receive early spousal benefits on your work record but **SUSPEND** your application for benefits because you intend to continue to work and therefore continue to receive delayed retirement credits (8% per year) until age 70.

### Did You Know?

**Widows:** You can claim your widow's benefit (deceased spouse entitlements) while allowing **your** benefit to grow with deferred credits until age 70 and **then** switch to your benefit, which may be higher at that time.

**Divorcees:** You can claim against your ex spouse's benefit entitlements, regardless of whether they are still living or not or even if they have remarried, as long as you haven't remarried. (May use Restricted Application.)



If you're filing for Social Security and you're married, widowed or divorced, understanding these strategies can help ensure you don't lose a *potentially significant benefit amount* over your lifetime.

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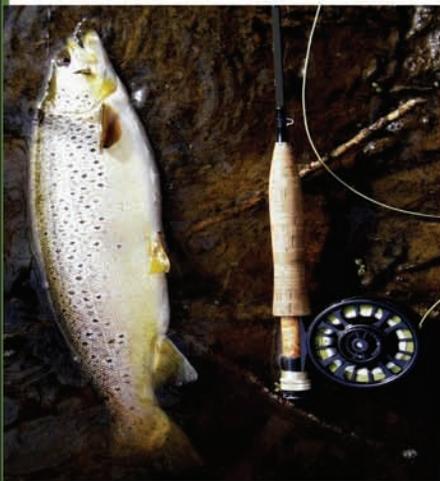
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## Fishing Amongst a Winter's Landscape

By Jim Holland • Photos By J.B. McCollum

*"No sport affords a greater field for observation and study than fly fishing, and it is the close attention paid to the minor happenings upon the stream that marks the finished angler." George M. L. LaBranche, The Dry Fly and Fast Water, 1914*

As we move into the wintry months, the bareness of the landscape fosters a mood of reflection. The present moment may be bleak and wanting of warmth, yet the nights are full of bright stars and iridescent sunsets. Friends and family beckon to celebrate a full table and a hearty fire, yet I find myself drawn to the song of the winter wind amidst the rustle of leaves and falling snow.

Over the years, as many of you know, I have celebrated the natural beauty of our wonderful Highlands region. Nature is our landscape, our backdrop against which we live out our lives. Recently we were forced to deal with Nature in the foreground as Hurricane Sandy devastated many parts of our region. While the coastal areas dealt with the storm's fury, especially a terrible storm surge, we further inland experienced a wind storm not seen in generations. The aftermath we all experienced and the sympathy we have towards those greatly impacted cannot be underestimated.

Change and transformation have been major themes on our area waters this year. Stream restoration projects were completed across our region on many area rivers including the Musconetcong, Paulinskill, Pequest as well as the North and

South Branch of the Raritan.

The primary method for these projects is known as streambed manipulation, which works to restore the natural functionality of a stream environment by restoring the fluctuating natural meander of the river and concentrating the main flow in the deepest section of the channel known as the "thalweg". The net result is a decrease in surface area and an increase in velocity, which aids in improving dissolved oxygen, reducing water temperatures and increasing the river's ability to transport sediment effectively.

Is this good for the river? The answer is a resounding yes. Macro-invertebrates like mayflies and other aquatic insects and life forms depend on a healthy stream bottom to live, hide and grow. So often, many areas of our rivers have become clogged with sediment and silt. Gravel and cobble normally lay irregularly on the river bottom creating many interstitial spaces between them. But over time, they become covered and provide only a fraction of the original habitat. Insect populations have significantly improved as a result of restoration on all sites. Although there is a temporary drop from the degree of disturbance, the resulting expansion of habitat quickly improves such populations. This is, of course, good for the trout and other species that feed upon them and require clean gravel beds for spawning.

Our project on the South Branch of the Raritan is located on the property of the Raritan Inn and encompassed about three quarters of a mile of the river. A special thanks to Bill and Marcia Asdal, the owners, for agreeing to this project and accepting the mantle of stewardship. To say that the river has been improved is an understatement. It has been transformed this past July into an absolutely gorgeous stretch of water.

As the date of the project grew closer, Bill and I began to check our list, sedi-



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ment barrier, boulders and permits; reviewing all of the small details. Local tree ordinances were a wild card and were complied with. The last thing we wanted was to have the project halted for any unforeseen circumstance. We took a ride to Panther Valley to pick out boulders from a construction project overlooking the ridge and valley country towards the Delaware Water Gap. As the boulders arrived, Bill began moving boulders into place and the hour drew closer for the work to begin. Joe Urbani, Lance Bigelow and “Cowboy Ron”, the machine operator of Urbani Fisheries, LLC, arrived.

The next day came and several years of planning began to take shape and become a reality. To be a part of this project was a realization of a lifetime ambition and every day brought new wonders to behold. People stopped by and many asked, “What happened to the fish?” Well, the answer to that question came as the 324 Caterpillar excavator was working in the river and just mere yards up and downstream of it the fish were feeding! The trout were fine and they seemed genuinely pleased to have a new home while visitors marveled at the transformation the river was undergoing. As evening approached, work would wrap for the day and we would often adjourn for dinner to Tony’s Bistro in Califon. Joe, Lance and Ron were excellent company; I think they enjoyed meeting the locals and certainly the food was excellent. The last night after the work was completed, we had a picnic just after a summer storm had cooled the air and a rainbow graced our table. A fitting end to a fantastic week and perhaps the best compliment we received from our neighbors was, “can we do this in other areas of the river?”

As stated in my last column, funding for many of these projects came from a grant provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, or NRCS, an

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agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. Mike Bobek and Evan Madlinger of NRCS were on hand to oversee the project and their knowledge is impressive. US Fish and Wildlife will supply plant materials for the next phase of the project as part of their Eastern Brook Trout Initiative. Permit approval and monitoring by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife were essential to the completion of these projects. Brian Cowden of Trout Unlimited and Bill Kibler of Raritan Headwaters Raritan Association (RHA) provided invaluable efforts as well. Urbani Fisheries, LLC of Bozeman, Montana was the approved contractor.

On November 10 2012, Shannon's and the Raritan Inn once again hosted the NJ Fly Fisherman of the Year One Fly Contest and Banquet with an auction to benefit the NJ State Council of Trout Unlimited. It was a great day with a breakfast prepared by Marcia Asdal and John Bovill, the Raritan Inn's capable innkeeper. A lively rules session was followed by an even more enjoyable morning round which saw nine out of twelve contestants land fish. After lunch, three finalists made it to the championship round and once again Angelo Conti, representing the Earnest Schwiebert Chapter of Trout Unlimited, was the winner. At the banquet catered by Redwoods of Chester, New Jersey, I presented Angelo with a Hardy reel donated by Hardy North America. Matt Grobert well-known author and tyer, provided a humorous keynote address. On behalf of Shannon's, I would once again like to thank Bill and Marcia Asdal, the judges, Kevin Lovely, Bob Krehley and Harvey Rude, as well as Rich Thomas, NJ TU State Council, for all of his support organizing the event less than two weeks after the devastation of Hurricane Sandy.

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In the winter season, fly tying once again takes center stage at Shannon's. This year, Shannon's co-owner Eric Hildebrant will lead a Beginner's Fly Tying Class on Saturdays through March. On the second through fourth Sundays of the month, we will be hosting our usual classes complete with well-known guest tyers through the same period. On February 24, 2013, Shannon's will once again hold our 3rd Annual Sparse Grey Matter Fly Tyer's Rendezvous at the Califon Firehouse from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is an open forum for tyers to come on out and meet and tie together. Admission is free and food will be available, provided by the Califon Volunteer Fire Department. This event has grown every year and is a great opportunity to meet some of the most dedicated and well-known tyers of our region.

This time of year fishing appears to slow down but there are many good

days to be had on the river. Fishing in the Gorge amidst a winter's landscape is simply stunning. Just watch your step; the rocks are a little slippery! Dry fly fishing becomes very sporadic. The most effective methods involve nymphing, although working a streamer like a Woolly Bugger size 10-12 or Golden Witch can be rewarding. Mostly the patterns should be small. Nymphs such as the Hare's Ear or Prince nymph or Bill Silvia's Hotspot Pheasant Tail should be fished in size 16-18. I enjoy fishing a Tan or Grey Scud size 14-18 trailing off one of the aforementioned nymphs. Midges are often successful and the Zebra Midge size 18-22 is probably the most popular pattern. Grey or Olive RS2 Emergers in size 18-20 are another option. JC's Electric Caddis Larva in sizes 14-16 is another great option as the caddis forms an important part of the trout's diet at all times of year. The Copper John size 16-18 in

either copper or black will imitate the Early Black Stoneflies which will begin to hatch in January. The reason for the small sizes is that the nymphs that will hatch later on in the season are small and immature. In February, the Early Black Caddis or Chimarra aterrima will become active and many trout will readily take this yellowish-amber larva as it drifts down river, having been displaced by the current.

The key to successful winter fishing is good planning and warm clothes. Fish in the middle of the day when the water has warmed up a bit and limit wading to those areas you know well. Keep a camera handy as the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife stocked some beautiful two to three year old Brookies, Browns and Rainbows in area rivers. We will also be holding our winter Bubba Contest. A large trout will be tagged and released along with about two hundred of his or her companions.

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This month we are featuring a fly designed by master tyer John Collins of Stewartsville, NJ. Notice how he places the wire inside the micro stretch tubing for added realism and translucence. John is a good friend and frequent companion on the stream. His flies are available at Shannon's and on [www.myflies.com](http://www.myflies.com).

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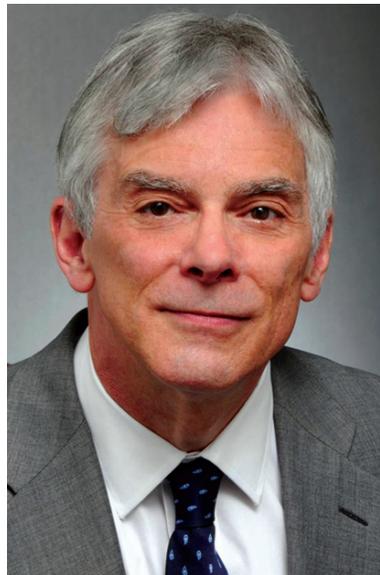
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# Kizzy, Whose Memoir is this Anyway?

A memorable family story told through the eyes of a black Labrador Retriever

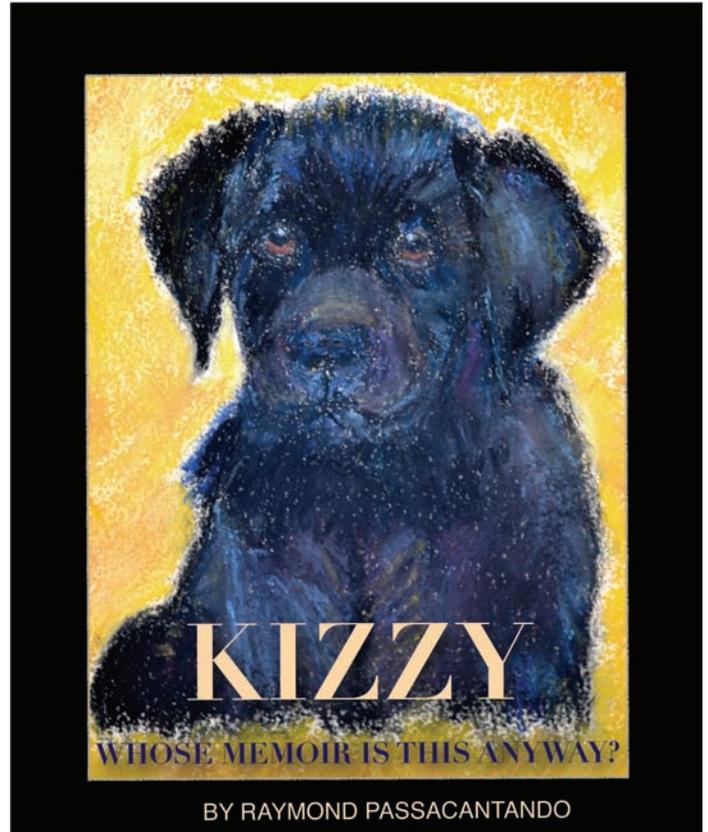
Article by Lisa Streger • Images courtesy of Raymond Passacantando

When my dad came to me for help in getting his book published, I knew I had to come through. It was during the holidays last year that I took a couple of hours in a quiet place in our living room to read his manuscript. I've always enjoyed my dad's writing, but never has it spoken to me with such humor and feeling.

Written as a memoir, *Kizzy* is told through the eyes of our black Labrador Retriever. Her name was Kizzy and she was, as all of us pet owners claim, "the Best!" *Kizzy, Whose Memoir is this Anyway?* is a story that, while personal to me and my siblings, is universal and written in a way that can be enjoyed on so many levels by readers of all ages and remind us of what is most important in life.

The pages turned with great ease as I poured through the story. Each and every word painted a picture and brought back wonderful memories as if they happened just yesterday and all from the voice of Kizzy - she's funny, she's sensitive, she's observant and even a bit sarcastic. She writes with such pleasure and appreciation for the life she had, and God knows we have her to thank for all the love that she gave, all the lessons she taught and all the memories.

Kizzy recounts some of the most endearing moments of her time spent with our family growing up in Northern New Jersey;



A contributing author to the late Tim Russert's book, *Wisdom of Our Fathers, Lessons and Letters from Daughters and Sons*, Raymond Passacantando is an avid outdoorsman and accomplished writer of fiction, personal essays and plays, two of which were performed by the

Chatham Community Players. His writing has been featured in *Renaissance Magazine*, *NJ Outdoors*, *NJ Monthly*, *The Writer Magazine*, *Golf Journal*, and *The Star Ledger*. Married 51 years to the artist and cover illustrator, Marie, together the couple resides in Morris County, NJ.

she reflects on annual summer vacations to Maine, hiking the Appalachian trail, canoeing across treacherous waters, fly fishing in Vermont, and sillier incidences, like the time she was seen rolling back in the post office parking lot (car in neutral) as she sat patiently waiting in the driver's seat for her master to return.

With a balance of tenderness and humor, the story evolves from the first moment Kizzy meets our family and captures the essence of a lifetime of togetherness and friendship. With a heartfelt ending, the reader will be left with feelings of joy and sadness, love and loss, peace and gratitude all in one.

Signed copies of *Kizzy, Whose Memoir is this Anyway?* are available at **The Bookworm in Bernardsville** and on-line purchases are available at [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com) at Northshire Bookstore in Manchester, VT.



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## Bolognese and the Christmas Miracle

Article and Photo By Nick Cusano

I love Bolognese sauce. When cooked right, it is a perfect blend of earthy meatiness, savory vegetables, and a touch of silky sweet tomatoes. It goes beautifully with all fresh and dried pastas. But this sauce goes beyond culinary delight for me; it was the basis of a miracle.

A few years back I was preparing to have my whole family, 24 people, over for Christmas dinner. I decided to make Lasagna alla Bolognese. Bolognese sauce is wonderful because it can be prepared in advance and even gets better with a day or two in the fridge. Although it takes a while to cook properly, it is easy to double or triple the recipe to serve the masses. For the masses I had coming, I needed about 8 quarts of sauce.

I planned to make my sauce in advance, but didn't get it started until 6 p.m. the night before. After 5 hours of chopping, sautéing, deglazing, and simmering, the Bolognese was ready. It was a sight to behold, a huge red pot of Italian goodness. It was nearly midnight and the sauce was piping hot. I did not have time to let it cool before going to bed. So, as it was a cold December evening, I decided to use the great outdoors as my refrigerator and put the steaming pot on my back porch.

Wanting to take a shower before going to bed, I quietly got undressed as to not wake my wife. It was then that I heard it. It was a single sound, "CLINK", but one that I immediately recognized. It was the cover of the pot being opened. Buck-naked, I burst out of the bathroom sprinting down the stairs like a pear-

shaped Usain Bolt. I ran to the back door peering out into the darkness. I couldn't see a thing so I flicked on the porch light. There it was - a grotesque, gray possum with bug eyes and a hairless tail. I recoiled in disgust. There was no time to waste. I could see that the pot cover was ajar and he was getting ready to start his midnight meal. I began yelling and waving my hands like a neurotic monkey, but the door was closed and it could not see me. So I turned on the lights in the house. The possum looked up at my 45 year old, naked, not so hairless body and recoiled in disgust. It seemed dazed and disoriented by my pale visage and staggered back a few feet. I saw my opportunity and opened the door. We were equidistant from the pot. He seemed to be calculating the risk/reward equation of getting into a scrap with a clearly agitated, rotund, shorter tailed foe; as I was balancing the loss of all that Bolognese with the long term psychological effects my neighbor's children might endure if at just that moment they decided to look out their window in search of Santa's sleigh. Neighbors be damned, I made a break for the pot. The possum could see I meant trouble and instead of playing dead, decided on the far more reliable strategy of hauling ass. I grabbed the pot and dove back inside. The sauce was retrieved untouched. It was a Christmas miracle.

Christmas arrived and the Bolognese was wonderful. I received many compliments and requests for seconds. Of course, I did not relate the story of the opossum - until after dinner.

## Nick Cusano's "Miraculous" Bolognese Sauce

### Ingredients

Note: There are no magic proportions, some people like a more meaty sauce, some like more vegetables. Some like just a hint of tomato paste while others like a tomato-rich sauce. Play with the amounts and have fun.

1 tablespoon of olive oil  
3 thin slices of prosciutto, shredded or chopped  
1 lb-1 ½ lb of chop meat (I usually use a beef, veal, and pork blend)  
2 teaspoons of salt  
1 cup of milk  
¼ teaspoon fresh nutmeg  
1 cup of wine

4 tablespoons of butter  
2/3 cup chopped onion  
1 cup chopped carrot  
1 cup chopped celery  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 tablespoon of tomato paste  
1 14 ounce can of whole plum tomatoes, drained and chopped  
Chicken broth as needed

In a medium sauce pot over medium heat add prosciutto and oil. Fry prosciutto until firm. Raise heat to medium high and add chop meat; stir with a large fork to break up large clumps of chop meat as it cooks. Add salt. You do not want to brown the chop meat; just cook until it loses its pink color. Turn up and add milk and nutmeg; stir and cook until the milk is incorporated/reduced. Do not burn milk. Add wine and reduce again.

Meanwhile, in a larger sauce pot over medium heat, melt butter. Add onions, stir for a minute until they start to become translucent. Add carrots and celery. Season with salt and pepper. Slowly cook down vegetables till they just start to brown (some people prefer to only cook the vegetables for a short time which leads to a brighter flavor; I prefer the earthiness of cooking them longer). Once the vegetables are starting to brown, clear the center of the pot and toast the tomato paste for a minute or two before mixing it into the rest of the vegetables. Add plum tomatoes. Add meat from the other pot. Bring to a boil and then turn down until just the slightest simmer is achieved. Cook uncovered for a minimum of 2 hours, (4-6 hours is better). If the sauce starts to get too thick, add chicken broth.

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FAMILY FARE

## GLADSTONE TAVERN

### A Great Experience

By Will Krag

For this issue, my family and I dined at **Gladstone Tavern**, in Gladstone, NJ. The tavern has been around for a long time under different owners and changed a lot from its years as the Brass Penny in the 1980s to Chatfield's in the 1990s. The Gladstone Tavern went through a major renovation and expansion several years ago and now with a polished interior and slicker atmosphere, it is a great family-oriented restaurant that accommodates not just adults on the menu but kids as well. My parents think it is the best children's menu around because the choices are healthy and fresh.

Our meal choices that night consisted of the swordfish with a risotto cake and broccolini; the pork chop with sauteed kale and whipped mashed potatoes; a hot dog with broccolini; the filet with the mashed potatoes and asparagus; and the grilled chicken in a cream sauce. The swordfish was extremely good, the outside was grilled and the inside was tender and perfectly cooked. The risotto cake was soft and creamy with freshly grated parmesan on the outside. The broccolini was simply presented and perfectly cooked. The grilled pork chop was a double thick cut, even my father was impressed with the size of the cut. The kale went along really nicely with the pork and the creamy mashed potatoes topped it off. The hot dog was boiled with broccolini that was seasoned really well. The filet was grilled perfectly, so that when I cut into it, the juices came out of the tender piece of meat. It came with the best mashed potatoes in the area; they were creamy and had a consistency that kept me mixing the potatoes with the great cut of meat.

For dessert we had the cheesecake, homemade doughnuts with cider and apple sauce, and the s'mores cake. The cheesecake had a graham-cracker crust with a creamy rich filling. The homemade doughnuts were my favorite but be careful, they're filling. They were doughnuts rolled in sugar with a drizzle of apple sauce over them in and it came with a tall glass of cold apple cider. In conclusion, the dinner was a great experience that we look forward to having again. **Will Krag** is an 8th Grader at The Willow School. When not sampling local family fare for The BRJ, he enjoys soccer, writing, and cooking.

**Gladstone Tavern** is located at 273 Main Street, in Gladstone, NJ. For more information, call 908.234.9055 or visit [www.gladstonetavern.com](http://www.gladstonetavern.com).

Editor's Pick

## JERSEY FIELDS

### Tomato Sauce

Jarred tomato sauce is a sacrilege in my family but in a pinch I'll grab the occasional jar of marinara at the market. No matter what the ingredients, they all seem to have this certain, stale, jarred taste and I have always been disappointed - until someone recommended that I try *Jersey Fields Tomato Sauce*.

I simmered up a pot and served it over some ziti that was cooked "to the teeth" and it was fresh, bright, flavorful and aromatic. I could taste the layers of ingredients and see the pieces of garlic in the sauce.

*Jersey Fields* was created by a local chef and is made in micro-batches from ingredients that are all sourced from local farms - Jersey tomatoes, basil, garlic... It carries the "Jersey Fresh" seal and I could definitely taste the difference.

*Jersey Fields* is available locally at Melick's Town Farm, in Oldwick; Black River General Store, in Pottersville; Monterey Gourmet, in Basking Ridge; Bishop's Market, in Whitehouse, Whole Foods, in Madison, and other locations. [www.jerseyfields.com](http://www.jerseyfields.com).



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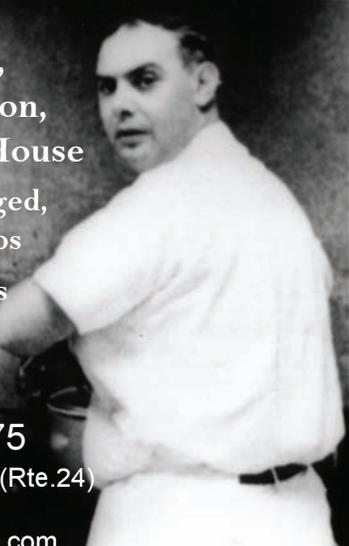
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Six Questions:

## Dr. Kurt E. Blaicher, DVM, DABVP of Bedminster Animal Hospital

**W**e recently dropped in on Dr. Kurt Blaicher, the newest addition to The BRJ's community of advertisers. Dr. Blaicher recently bought Bedminster Animal Hospital from soon-to-be-retired, friend and colleague, Dr. Van Zimmerman. Dr. Blaicher attended the University of Pennsylvania ('77), where he earned a degree in Biology, and was also starting left offensive tackle for the varsity football program. He graduated first in his class from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in 1982, and has worked in New Jersey since graduation. Dr. Blaicher is a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, with Board Certification in canine and feline practice. An admitted, "medicine/surgery geek," Dr. Blaicher's vocation is "an extension of a childhood dream." He is passionate about all aspects of private practice but especially enjoys soft tissue and orthopedic surgery, internal medicine, and canine reproduction. When not at the hospital, Dr. Blaicher enjoys windsurfing, skiing, cooking, playing guitar, traveling, target/defensive shooting, photography, singing in his church choir, and volunteering with Meals on Wheels in Warren County. Although his children are grown, he and his wife Susan still have a full house with 3 dogs, 2 cats, 2 cockatiels, and a Hanoverian horse. Article and Photo by Lee Wolfe

**What has your reception been like in your new location?** The Bedminster Animal Hospital clients seem excited by the changes and our clients from the past 25 years are showing up in force, so the whole experience has been extremely humbling, and gratifying.

**What do you like most about the Bedminster area?** Having grown up in nearby Morris Plains, I've always been fascinated by the historical importance of this area. I find the contrast between the rural landscape and the awesome demographics of Bedminster and the immediate area to be most intriguing.

**What is the most important issue in pet health care today?** This is a great question, with a rather complex answer. Having witnessed firsthand the evolution of small animal practice over the last 31 years, among the most important issues we face are senior care (as our pets are living longer lives), aggressive pain control protocols for acute and chronic pain, comprehensive owner education, and the utilization of modern technology, instrumentation, and our ever-expanding knowledge base, and yet somehow trying to keep exemplary care affordable.

**What innovations can we look forward to in the future?** One of the most exciting, relatively recent advances is the manipulation of the host's immune system to combat serious disease; the melanoma vaccine is a prime example of such wizardry. Small animal health care closely mirrors human health care, and we enjoy a two-way evolution with our "human" counterparts. It is not uncommon to have general veterinary practitioners utilizing digital x-ray, ultrasound, endoscopy, laser surgery/therapy, and advanced orthopedic and soft-tissue surgi-

cal techniques and equipment many times each day. Specialty practice, with all of the major disciplines represented, is growing exponentially, and many pet owners avail their pet to care that wasn't possible a few short years ago.

**What should you consider before buying a pet?** When possible, adopting a dog or cat is preferable, on a variety of levels; if a family or individual is not averse to skipping puppyhood, adopting a young or middle-aged adult gives the new owner an idea of the inherent or acquired health and behavioral issues a particular pet may have. Breeders and other sources of dogs and cats should have a stellar reputation, with a genuine interest in providing healthy pets for life-long companionship. Obviously, potential pet owners must research the temperament and characteristics of their intended breed or mix, and make sure there's minimal conflict with their lifestyle. If a new pet owner is unsure of the overall health of their new charge, consulting the family veterinarian is the first and most important step in clarifying that concern.

**What should someone look for when choosing a veterinary doctor?** A truly good veterinarian deeply and genuinely cares about the beings on BOTH ends of the leash! A great reputation is bedrock, and it is earned through hard work, dedication, sacrifice, knowledge, skill, compassion, and innate talent. A mutual respect of the owner and pets is imperative, and a genuine love of people, animals, and the profession are keys to finding the right veterinarian to care for your pet, and your family. *Bedminster Animal Hospital is located at 30 Main Street, call 908-234-0650 or visit [www.blaicherveterinaryhealthcare.com](http://www.blaicherveterinaryhealthcare.com).*



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## The 16th Thing We Love About Peapack Gladstone

In our last Rambles section we listed the “15 things we love about Peapack Gladstone” but there was one glaring omission - the Peapack-Gladstone Library. An oversight on our part, which was picked up by my daughter, Maddie, as well as the library’s Adult Services Librarian, Jill D’Amico. Jill reminded us that while the PG Library “may be small... there’s a lot to love,” including, “a great collection of books, movies, music and plenty of digital material for your iPads and Kindles, a wide range of programming for all ages and stages, a wonderful Friends group that supports our mission, a warm and welcoming staff, and best of all, amazing, loyal patrons that make our work both possible and enjoyable”.

Thank you to Jill and all the staff at PGL for the great job that they do and the wonderful resource and services that are made available to the public!!



Pictured from left to right are: Diane Deutsch, Library Asst.; Karen Pifher, Branch Director; Melissa John Librarian; Jenna Galley, Youth Services Librarian; and Missy Nimitz, Library Clerk. (Missing is Jill D’Amico, Adult Services Librarian).  
Photo by Lee Wolfe

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## Honk: Its Not Rude - It's the Law!

Do you get filled with “road rage” when another car tries to pass yours and the driver is furiously honking their horn at you? Well, don’t. They’re just following the law. That’s right, according to *Section 39:4-85 of the New Jersey State Statutes*, “The driver of an overtaking motor vehicle not within a business or residence district shall give audible warning with his horn or other warning device before passing or attempting to pass a vehicle proceeding in the same direction.” (We leave the term “other warning device” for the reader to interpret, however I have been considering the use of a trumpet, cow bell, or coach’s whistle.)

So the next time someone honks while trying to pass you, don’t be tempted to respond with an unkind gesture or epithet. Instead, wave and thank them as they speed by. After all, they are just behaving like a good, law-abiding New Jersey driver.



# Memories of Herzog Farm:

## Winter

By Phyllis Herzog

There was something going on every day on the Herzog Farm. Winter months were busy getting farm machinery (hay balers, plow, combine) ready for spring. Fertilizer and seed corn had to be ordered for spring planting.

Sleigh riding was always on the list when we would get snow storms and we used to make a big snowman at the entrance of the farm. Ice skating in the meadow was also lots of fun. After all that, there would be hot chocolate and cookies.

I remember Uncle Harley putting black strap molasses on his pancakes and wanting me to taste them - no way. I preferred toasting bread over the wood stove and then putting butter and jam and eating it with a glass of milk. Gram Herzog made gingerbread and my sister and I would cut a big piece out of it while it was cooling. Gram would come back to ask, "who was in the gingerbread?"

I remember one Christmas morning, coming down the stairs with my sister, Marge, and finding two bicycles. Dad was peeking in the window, as he had to feed the animals before we could open our presents.

Look for more memories of Herzog Farm, in Pottersville, NJ, in upcoming issues of The BRJ. Thanks for the peach preserves, Phyllis!



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**Have a Heart Food Drive at Pottersville Preschool**

**G**ive some love this Valentine's Day season by donating a non-perishable food item during Pottersville Preschool's "Have a Heart" food drive taking place throughout the month of February. Food will be donated to area food banks. Pottersville Preschool is located at 2901 Black River Road, Bedminster Township (Pottersville). For more information, call 908.439.3913.

**Peapack-Gladstone Bank Provides Aid to St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center**

By Roseanne Schwab • Photo By Denise Pace-Sanders

**P**eapack-Gladstone Bank's Four Paws Pet Supply drive to benefit St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center in North Branch and Madison has now drawn to a close; and in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the culmination of this initiative could not have been timelier. By setting up collection bins at the bank's headquarters and 23 locations, Peapack-Gladstone Bank was able to support St. Hubert's efforts to provide assistance to hundreds of New Jersey's displaced pets and pet owners in need.



Peapack-Gladstone Bank employees load emergency donations for transport to St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center.

Peapack-Gladstone Bank donated countless items to St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center's facilities located in Madison and North Branch that were affected by the storm. Included were 250 pounds of dry dog food, 150 pounds of dry cat food and 23 cases of canned food as well as boxes of blankets, toys, cat litter and cleaning products. In addition to supporting the shelter's local efforts, St. Hubert's also packed and transported donations to New Jersey pet owners and animals in shelters and foster care most impacted by the storm.

Peapack-Gladstone Bank thanks you for your generosity and for joining others in our communities in supporting St. Hubert's efforts in assisting displaced pets and families in their time of need. The tremendous outpouring of community support has shown that pets are an integral part of our family structure and provide stability and solace, especially amid times of human disaster.

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# The Creation of Family Promise

Photos by Heidi Naylor

*"It's simply astounding to see what happens when compassionate volunteers work together to help their neighbors in need. Over and over again, I see how families become empowered, and communities are transformed."* Karen Olson, Founder & President, Family Promise

In 1981, Karen Olson was a marketing executive who developed promotional campaigns for consumer products. One morning, on her way to a meeting, she saw a homeless woman, someone she'd seen over and over again on her way to work. She decided to buy a sandwich for the woman. The stranger accepted the sandwich but asked for something else - a moment to be heard, to be comforted, and to be considered as more than a mere statistic on a cold street corner.

Soon, Karen and her two young sons began frequent trips to New York to hand out sandwiches to the homeless. As she came to know some of the city's homeless people, she began to understand the profound loss and disconnection that homelessness causes. That understanding turned into an enduring commitment and the creation of Family Promise.

To date, Family Promise has established 182 affiliates in 41 states, using the services of more than 150,000 volunteers. Family Promise provides shelter, meals, and housing and job placement support to more than 45,000 homeless family members annually, 65 percent of them children. The success rate of Family Promise is inspiring, on average families are re-established with 30-90 days. Throughout the expansion of Family Promise, it is Karen's mandate that remains in place...if you can strengthen one family you can strengthen a nation. *Learn more at [www.FamilyPromise.org](http://www.FamilyPromise.org).*



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Family Promise®  
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## WHITE

By John Charles Beiner  
Photo By Susan Pedersen

A white blanket covers the ground,  
White snow flakes float all around.  
A big white shadow lingers by the lake.  
A white snow fox looks like it's fake.  
All of the trees' branches are covered in snow.  
I look right up and see the bright glow.  
The light of the sun's rays seize the white glaze.  
It slowly melts into a stream  
the stream flows into the night  
all of the way, into the new light.  
Soon winter is over and spring takes control.  
The migrating birds are on their patrol.  
Now there's no white, no more bright white, to give off the light.

*John Charles "Jake" Beiner is a 4th grader. WHITE was written last year when he was a mere 8 years old. His other interests include, math, science, military history, skiing, swimming, sailing, baseball, and basketball.*

## *Lessons In Nature*



*Photo by Lauren Theis*

Year round, from dusk till dawn the Barred Owl's distinctive series of eight hoots can be heard in forests, often near swamps, streams and ponds across the Raritan Headwaters region. This large round-headed owl has no ear tufts and is known for its dark brown, soulful eyes. Typically nesting in tree cavities abandoned by hawks or created by Pileated Woodpeckers, pairs often mate for life, raising one brood of 2-4 young birds each year between March and August. February is the start of the courtship season. Spending a few moments along a woodland, just as winter daylight fades might reward you with the hoots and antics of the male Barred Owl wooing a nearby female.

RHA works with private and public partners to preserve and protect forest habitats so that remarkable creatures like the Barred Owl will continue to thrive in New Jersey. Along with providing habitat for wildlife, healthy mature forests bestow important benefits to our human communities — clean air and water, carbon sequestration, and beautiful places for exploration and inspiration.



**Raritan Headwaters Association: Your Watershed Watchdog**

Protecting, preserving and improving water quality and other natural resources of the Raritan River headwaters region through science, education, advocacy, land preservation and stewardship.

# *Distinctive Properties*



**HARDING TWP:** Historic “Red Gate” 6-bdr, 5.2 baths, 5 fireplaces, gourmet kitchen, heated pool, spring fed pond & 2-story, 4-car garage with guest house. 2-story barn for horses or cars. \$5,995,000



**TEWKSBURY TWP:** Colonial Farmhouse on 5.28± acres with bucolic views over rolling pastures. 3-bdr income cottage, pool/pool house with bath & stone fireplace. \$995,000



**BERNARDSVILLE:** Charming expanded c. 1910 Gardener’s Cottage on 6.37± mostly wooded acres. 4 bdrs, 3 baths, 3 fireplaces, deck, pool, 4-room rental cottage. \$1,345,000



**CHESTER TWP:** “Harmony Farm”, an exceptional property on 24± acres. 1840s farmhouse with updates & original charm. 18-stall barn, guest cottage & additional 2-story barn. \$2,995,000



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