**Inland Wetlands Agency Acts**

You may have noticed the large area of bare earth on Dean Hill at Furnace Brook Farm. It can be seen from Route 7 in Cornwall Bridge above the National Iron Bank.

Unfortunately every time there is a heavy rain the soil is washed down from the slopes and runs off the site onto neighboring property, into wetlands and watercourses and eventually into Furnace Brook causing “elevated levels of turbidity which threaten the integrity of the drinking water supply.” On October 3, 2003, the Cornwall Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency issued an order to the owner of Furnace Brook Farm to “cease and desist depositing such sediment in wetlands and watercourses” in the Town of Cornwall.

Even though no further excavation activity is taking place, remediation of the present situation is necessary. At a special meeting of the agency on December 15 the Cease and Desist Order was amended requiring the owner to have a consulting engineer design a stabilization plan to prevent further erosion and wetland degradation, and to present the plan and a timetable for its completion at the next Inland Wetlands meeting on January 6, 2004.

—Celia Senzer

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**Tom Torre Bevans**

Tom Bevans died December 16. He was the founder of the Chronicle, and we are all indebted to him for seeing the need for this publication and conceiving it so perfectly that it is almost exactly the same today as it was when Tom and his wife Margaret published the first issue in 1991.

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**The Good Old Days?**

In late November the 4th graders—all 26 of them—and their teachers, Mrs. Samson and Mrs. Nelson, hosted a tea party at the Library for the senior (and not-so-senior) citizens. They had chosen to interview as part of their Cornwall history project. Forming circles, the kids read their reports to their interviewees, after which everyone mingled and chatted and ate cake and cookies and drank soda.

“It was wonderful to get the children connected with the people who know the history of our town,” said Mrs. Samson. “You will have interviews,” said Mrs. Samson. They learned about rope tows and leather ski boots and homemade bats and balls, that girls wore skirts and horses ploughed the snow, and kids walked or rode horses to school, which sometimes had only one room, and that pizza was not to be had.

—Celia Senzer

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**Debriefing Gordon**

In a conversation with the First Selectman, the following news was conveyed:

Winter Road Care: We were lucky to receive less snow than predicted during our first storm in December, though the highway crew had to work long hours to keep the roads open. A few ways to help them: please make

(continued on page 2)

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**JANUARY 2004**

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<td>Howard Dean Information/Support 4 P.M. Library</td>
<td>CCS Reopens Park &amp; Rec. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse</td>
<td>Blue Mt. Satsang Every Tuesday 6:30–8 P.M. UCC Day Room</td>
<td>Play Group Every Wed. 10–11:30 A.M. UCC Parish House</td>
<td>Meditation for Mothers Every Thursday 1:15–2:15 P.M. UCC Day Room</td>
<td>New Year’s Day Pancake Breakfast 9 A.M.–1 P.M. UCC Parish House</td>
<td>American Girl’s Club 11:30 A.M. Library</td>
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<td>Blood Pressure Screening 3–4 P.M. UCC Parish House Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Corn. Dem. Party Caucus 7:30 P.M. Library</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observed</td>
<td>CCS Reopens Park &amp; Rec. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall</td>
<td>Art Auction and Reception 5 P.M. Library</td>
<td>Deadline: February Chronicle Copy Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. UCC Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall</td>
<td>American Girl’s Club 11:30 A.M. Library</td>
<td>Art Auction and Reception 5 P.M. Library</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observed</td>
<td>Patriot Act Talk &amp; Discussion 8 P.M. Library</td>
<td>Thomas the Tank Group 11:30 A.M. Library</td>
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<td>Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall</td>
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*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957 For additions and updating, visit www.cornwallct.org
Politics Isn’t Dead, It’s Only Sleeping

At a time when national politics has become increasingly rancorous and partisan, Cornwall’s has quietly slipped into a decade-long coma. More than half of the town’s voters stayed home in the recent election, and who could blame them for passing on this sleepy affair, a vote with few contests and almost no campaigning.

The last closely contested vote for first selectman was in 1991, when Gordon Ridgway defeated Dick Dakin for the first of his seven terms. Town Clerk Cheryl Evans attributes the low interest to her feeling that “far fewer residents are here full time and are willing to get involved in town government.”

In contrast, the ‘70s and ‘80s had lively and closely contested elections with turnout at 80 percent or more. Most of the first selectman races were between Patsy Van Doren, who energized Democratic politics for many years, and Bob Beers or Dick Dakin on the Republican ticket. Patsy’s last victory was in 1985 when she beat Bob 282 to 278.

Not only were elections contested, it was not unheard of for 50 or 100 people to turn out at a party caucus to contest the nominations! As for campaigning and fund raising, it was not quite New Hampshire in primary season, but there was plenty of action. In the ‘70s the Democrats threw huge bashes at Mohawk, with drinks, dinner and gambling (yes, gambling!) Al Waller recalls a legendary poker game. “At the table were Judy Gates, Marty Goldberg, Patsy Van Doren, E. J. Kahn* and me, and others who I can’t recall. Patsy raked out 10 percent of each pot for the Dems. I kept winning, somewhat to my embarrassment, as Kahn got angrier. In the last

A Gift of the Dodds

Ted Dodd grew up spending weekends and summers in Cornwall Hollow, and though he and his wife Elena eventually settled in Vermont, his feelings for land and people in Cornwall remained strong. In 1995 the Dodds put a conservation easement on 22 acres of their land along Cream Hill Lake, thus assuring that everyone’s grandchildren unto the umpteenth generation will be able to look at an undisturbed stretch of lakefront from shore to ridge line.

This year the Dodds subdivided the rest of their land on Lake Road and gave two lots beside the Town Beach to the Housing Corporation. This brings the number of lots in the parcel program to 12. The back lot has been awarded to Jonathan Beardsley, Danielle Giuliani and the adorable Odin, while Cindy Kirk and Charles Grivas will be building on the front lot. Another great example of how landowner generosity can provide homeowner happiness.

—Maggie Cooley

—and Maggie Cooley (continued from page 1)

sure cars are not parked on or near the roads; don’t put snow from driveways into the road; don’t put any markers on pavement edges within the town’s right-of-way.

Drama in Town Hall: The stage has been reopened for use, with the curtain on order.

Porking Progress: The selectmen have hired an engineer for the parking lot and new baseball field next to Foote Fields. At CCS the parking area has been paved.

Tick Czar Sought: If you are interested in being Cornwall’s representative to the Lyme Disease Prevention Program run by Torrington Area Health District, please call the Selectmen’s Office, 672-4959. —Maggie Cooley

* A New Yorker writer who lived in Cornwall at the time. He wrote about the game in his memoir, About The New Yorker and Me, and said this: “Things got so out of hand that I found myself involved in raises of fifty and a hundred dollars on a single card. There was over a thousand dollars in one pot.”

Congratulations
Kenneth Considine and Theresa Lee

Good-bye to Friends
Carol Nelson
Tom Torre Bevans
Marjorie MacKinnon

Land Transfers
Linda LaPorta to NWI LLC, 10 acres at Poughkeepsie Turnpike for $165,000.
Nancy Hardin to Sidney and Nancy Ganis, Tr., 12 acres at 144 Kent Road for $225,000.
Gunnar K. Holmes to Dana Gingras and Kelly Futener, house and land at 131 Kent Road, for $270,000.
David M. Blakey and Laura L. Frenzel to Chester K. Lichaj and Nicole Caron-Lichaj, house and 11.2 acres at 59 Ballyhack Road for $72,500.
Scott D. and Sylvana Simko to Douglas O. Landy and Carla E. Herman, house and lot at 77 Pritchard Road for $315,000.

Bear Gets Goat Girl’s Goat
Thursday night before Halloween, a little after 9 P.M., my goat Gaia had a fight with a bear that ended her life.

I keep my goats behind page-wire and barbed-wire fencing at Wayde Wolfe’s, up the hill from my house on Popple Swamp Road. Though I vaguely realized a bear would have no trouble with that, it seemed unlikely one would bother with four horned beasts so near the road. The hibernation approaching, however, bears are bold. Unlike females protecting their cubs, a large male has little fear. One hundred years ago bears had little reason to enter human territory, but nowadays have little choice.

When I went to feed hay the next morning, I found Gaia, shivering amidst the wild roses and brambles with obvious fang bites on either side of her body, showing a gap of about three and one half inches between canines. Doctor Hayden gave her some B vitamins and penicillin, and we kept her warm and comfortable, moving her on a stretcher in the afternoon so she wouldn’t attract the bear. Bears apparently often return to wounded prey.

But Gaia turned out to have a large claw gash underneath her belly as well as the superficial bites on her back and leg. She died around three in the afternoon and we buried her in the pasture. The other goats had not a scratch, though their mud-splattered legs hinted at a good chase. Knowing my goat Gaia, I’m sure she reared up to protect her daughter and the other two young males.

At least four people saw a bear on Popple Swamp Road that night. Ursula Dinneen saw one right off her back porch, and a neighbor opened his garage door to a bear about eight feet tall. Bianca LaPorta
called the Bill Dinneens to come scare off the bear at her house with pots, pans and flash-lights so she could put her goats in, and later still Bill Gold saw a green-tagged bear lum-bering downhill from Gaia’s pen.

Regardless of whether this particular bear moves on, is caught, or scares people enough to get shot, it seems to me like bears are going to continue to be among us, along with other predators. Within the past year goats in Goshen and Harwinton were killed by bear attacks. Game Warden Tate Begley explained that killing a bear is justified when it cannot be scared away from humans and livestock. I’d like to see us try to keep our distance and scare off wildlife to avoid having to kill them. In Florida people with sense don’t feed the al-ligators, to keep them from associating people with food. Might be bird food is a bad idea.

The older country and farm folk offer me a shotgun upon hearing my tale, but I’m a novice with a 12-gauge and have no desire to practice on a bear. Fortunately, lights and noise scare many animals off. If you see a predator around exposed pets or farm ani-mals, or if you hear a struggle, please call the owner of the animal or Rick Stone (672-6313), or the DEP emergency number (860-424-3333).

With much effort we built a fence from which goats cannot escape, and I can’t help but see irony in having thus trapped them in with a bear. According to the Premier Fence catalog, bears can be fenced out with powerful electrical chargers and wire, which seems too expensive for my tiny herd. Which leaves me to consider giving up my dreams of creamy goat cheese or moving to New Zealand, where there are no bears, or any other mammals but those brought in by people. In the meantime, I’ve moved my goats, along with a new Sanaan named Maria, right behind my house where I can keep an eye on them.

—Rachel Gall

**Letters to the Chronicle**

**The Housatonic River Trail**

Some of you have walked the River Trail that runs from West Cornwall to Cornwall Bridge or may remember when Mrs. Bennett took her students there for nature study. Today the unspoiled trail is one of Cornwall’s treasures. But what of tomorrow? Mindful that the pressures of increasing use of river and watershed can change what we have to what we will be sorry to have lost, the Housatonic Valley Association and the Housatonic River Commission are exploring ways to guide change through their involvement in a joint project. What can be done? If possible, our trail pieces could be joined to form a complete “greenway.” This would need to be assembled by gift, purchase or through negotiated easement with landowners. The health and scenic values of the river would need to be protected and friendly use permitted. Much work must be done before any decision is made on opening the trail. The work of HVA and the HRC addresses the impact of human activity on the river and watershed. While some members of each organization are on the Trail Committee, they are there as volunteers along with other citizens interested in this project. If you are also interested in helping, call me at 672-6969.

—Cilla Mauro

**Winter Trails**

December’s snowstorm brought with it some excellent early cross-country skiing. One of my favorite trails (perfect for beginners) starts near the end of River Road on the Sharon side of the river, south of Cornwall Bridge. Park where the road begins to climb, and ski in on the dirt road to a series of fields and then on to the Appalachian Trail, beside the Housatonic. This can take you all the way to Kent! Then there is the skiing off Dawn Hill Road, Wickwaire Road (when the stream is frozen enough for crossing), and off North Goshen Road. By now, aren’t you hoping for a map? Which brings to mind a project Deirdre Fischer planted in me some time ago: the production of a map highlighting favorite trails to hike and/or ski in the area. Of course, there’s the Pine Knob loop trail, Kent Falls, the Blue trail up over Cutoff. But there also are many lesser known gems such as Pond Mountain, Topsmead (OK; that is a bit far afield), and Black Spruce Bog. If anyone wants to help with this, or has any favorite trails to suggest, please let me know.

—David Colbert (672-0064)

**Trails of Glory, a Clarification**

John Miller’s December story of the election results refers to me as someone “who invented affordable housing in the community.” Thanks, John, but I am innocent of that charge! Along with many concerned citizens, both Selectmen Patsy Van Doren and Gordon Ridgway were early supporters of such housing. The Planning and Zoning Commission amended its regulations to facilitate the creation of Kugeman Village as well as the “parcel program.” The first (1987) Housing Committee was chaired by Peter Hammond. When Peter stepped down, I was asked to replace him as chairman, and I served in that capacity for ten years. I, the “inventor”? Nope. The Cornwall Housing Corporation is alive and well, with interested members and strong leadership. It continues to provide affordable housing options by acquiring parcels of land on which families can build homes. Indeed, the Cornwall program continues to serve as a model for other towns in the state.

—Ken Keskenen

**One Summer**

When I read my books in the schools along our river, the sessions end with the kids sharing stories they have written in school. Sometimes they tell me they are writing a book at home. I marvel at their imaginations and wonder if they will ever transform their stories into finished books.

In 1934 Bobby Klaw, age 14, did that. She worked on a novel, finished it and it was published by Viking Press under the pen name Martin Gale. I had the good fortune of coming upon it when I was eight or nine and now that I have moved to Cornwall, have had the fun of reading it again.

In 1934 Bobby Klaw, age 14, did that—she wrote that between events the kids had a ball of cord. He tied one end to a series of fields and then on to the Appalachian Trail, beside the Housatonic. This can take you all the way to Kent! Then there is the skiing off Dawn Hill Road, Wickwaire Road (when the stream is frozen enough for crossing), and off North Goshen Road. By now, aren’t you hoping for a map? Which brings to mind a project Deirdre Fischer planted in me some time ago: the production of a map highlighting favorite trails to hike and/or ski in the area. Of course, there’s the Pine Knob loop trail, Kent Falls, the Blue trail up over Cutoff. But there also are many lesser known gems such as Pond Mountain, Topsmead (OK; that is a bit far afield), and Black Spruce Bog. If anyone wants to help with this, or has any favorite trails to suggest, please let me know.

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—Ken Keskenen

**Getting Bonded**

Both the Town of Cornwall and Region One have recently been in the throes of financing projects whose need was evident. Unsupervised, unhelmeted, the girls galloped their horses and flew over homemade jumps, training until they felt proficient enough to enter a horse show and then arranged to do so themselves.

Of course the lake was the same, except there were springy diving boards on the floats, and on Water Sports Day jackknives and swan dives were featured. One of the swimming events on that day particularly intrigued me—it was an underwater dis-
Art in Cornwall: At the Library, Jonathan Scoville’s painting Departing Storm III and Ruth Gannett’s drawing Christmas Angel will be on view until January 17, when they will be auctioned off (see below). Also on view through the 17th will be Scoville’s photographs of Cornwall farms and other scenes. These will be sold by silent auction. In the glass case, Diane Schapira’s exhibit of clay masks and furniture will be on display through the 17th. Beginning January 21, Wallace Harding will be showing her lush and lyrical paintings and drawings, while the glass case will house portrait busts of the Presidents made by CCS 8th graders.

At the National Iron Bank during January, Harold J. Brien, Jr. will be exhibiting mixed media paintings of landscapes, still lifes and flowers.

Art Auction: Jonathan Scoville’s monumental work Departing Storm III will highlight a festive reception and auction at the Library on Saturday, January 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Ruth Gannett’s drawing Christmas Angel will also be on the block. The event will also mark the closing of the month-long silent auction of Scoville’s photographs of Cornwall farms and other landscapes now on exhibit at the Library. Wine and cheese will be served. All sales benefit the Library. For more information about bidding procedures call 672-6874.

Music and Movement Classes for children eight months to five years will be conducted by Music Together teachers Tom Hanford and Kath Bloom at the Library Wednesday afternoons in January from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. They will lead children (and parents) in singing, instrument play, and creative improvisation. Classes are $32 for the series of four, and $20 for each additional sibling. Kindergartners may take the bus directly from CCS to the Library with parents’ written permission. To register call 672-6874.

Cornwall Democratic Party Caucus will be held on Monday, January 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Library to elect members of the Democratic Town Committee for two-year terms. A regular meeting of the Committee will follow. All Cornwall registered Democrats are encouraged to attend.

Ice Skating for Cornwall Residents at the Hotchkiss Rink will again be sponsored by Park and Rec. on Saturdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Refreshments. Free. All skaters must wear hats!

Monkey Business

2004 is The Year of The Green Monkey, which we hope portends a more light-hearted year than the last few. We’ll try to keep you informed and have some fun in 2004 as long as you keep us going with your continued support. We wish all our readers a happy and healthy New Year.

Events & Announcements

Chamberlain on Vietnam: On Saturday, January 10, at 4 p.m. at the Library, Anne Chamberlain will talk about her experiences living in Hanoi for two months last summer and working as a volunteer editing magazine articles. She also met and worked with professional Vietnamese musicians. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library. Donations gratefully accepted.

The Patriot Act, its history, origins, and effect on civil liberties in this country will be the topic of a talk by American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Teresa Younger on Wednesday, January 21, at 6 p.m. at the Library. Discussion follows. Free. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library.

Interested in Supporting Howard Dean? A meeting will be held Sunday, January 4, at 4 p.m. at the Library with a local representative of the Dean campaign to let people know what can be done to help. Information only, not a fund raiser. Everyone welcome. For further information, call Paul Baren, 672-6637.

Library Story Hour and Crafts will start again in February. During January, informal “drop-in” story times will take place with parent volunteers Friday mornings at 9.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE January 2004

CORNWALL CHRONICLE January Issue

Cindy Kirk, Illustrations
Maggie Coule and George Kittle, Editors
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Becky Hurlbut and Scott Cady, Editors
Dec and Lisa Lansing Simont, Publishers
Calendar Editor Anne Baren
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FAX: 6069 672-2643

CORNWALL RESIDENT

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has been at issue for years.

In November, to finance the CCS expansion, the town sold $2.7 million in bonds at a very favorable rate of 4.08 percent. Earlier predictions had set the rate as high as 4.5 percent. The lower rate will save the town about $100,000 over the 20-year life of the bond.

Treasurer John Green and Finance Director Lisa Lansing Simont worked with Webster Bank to prepare the dense statistical report known as the Operating Statement, which tells all about Cornwall—probably more than anyone might want to know. Based on this document, Moody’s rating service gave the town an A1, which indicates to prospective buyers that Cornwall is doing a good job for a community of our size.

The sale was done over the internet at the bank’s offices in Hartford, with results flashing on the screen of a laptop computer.

In December, Region One asked voters to approve a referendum authorizing as much as $1,795,000 to repair nine separate problems in the 1939 section of the high school building. These range from replacing ancient bathrooms to reconstructing the running track oval.

Cornwall’s voters agreed 58 to 27 to go along with the plans drawn up by a volunteer regional building committee. The referendum passed in the region, 482 to 147.

The actual amount to be bonded, according to Region One Business Manager Sam Herrick, will be $1.5 million. The rest of the money is coming from other sources, including a state grant.

—Lisa Lansing Simont

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