



Preble Today

Volume 1, Number 2

For the People of Preble

November, 2010

Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan

Farms and farmland are an important component of the landscape and culture of the Towns of Homer, Preble and Scott. The three Towns are developing an Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan to support farming and the continued viability of agriculture within the town. The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan (AFPP) will include the following:

- **A report on the State of Agriculture in the Town**
- **An inventory of farm operations in the Town**
- **An inventory and evaluation of the agricultural lands in the Town**
- **A history of the Town's agriculture and current trends**
- **An evaluation of opportunities and threats to the viability of agriculture**
- **A section will present the Vision, Goals and Objectives for agriculture:**
- **Document how the public values farming and agriculture in the Town**
- **Develop a shared vision for the future of agriculture in the Town**
- **Identify farmland the Town wants to protect**
- **Develop agricultural goals and objectives such as economic growth, community development, environmental awareness, open space and habitat conservation**



*Photo courtesy of Annie Biermann
Looking East from Macumber Road.*

There will be strategies and recommendations of farmland protection tools specific for the three towns which might include the formation of an Agriculture Commission, adoption of a Local Right to Farm Law, use of agricultural zoning, examination of current zoning and subdivision laws, agricultural economic development strategies and purchase of development rights/ transfer of development rights.

An implementation matrix will be developed to identify involved parties, set a time-

frame to complete tasks and secure resources that are needed to allow for the plan to be adopted.

For Further Information:

American Farmland Trust
Judy Wright (315) 730-4505
Town of Preble Representatives:
Peter Knapp (607) 749-2336
Deb Brock (315) 696-5549

Preble Today

Offices at Town Hall
Preble Road, Preble, New York 13141
Town Hall (607) 749-3199

Town Supervisor: - James Doring
Email jdoring@twcny.rr.com

Deputy Supervisor: Peter Knapp - 607-749-2336
Town Council: Debra Brock - 315-696-5549
Thomas Fox - 607-749-2464
Dave Morse - 607-749-2856

Town Clerk and Tax Collector:
Jane Davenport - Phone 607-749-3199
Email prebletownclerk@centralny.twebe.com

Deputy Town Clerk: Mary Ann McCloskey

Town Justice: Lynn Webb - Phone 607-749-2377

Justice Clerk: Phyllis Adams

Highway Supt.: Jeff Griswold - Phone 607-749-2710

Deputy Highway: Dale Mosher

Building Inspector and Code enforcement Officer:
W. Rick Fritz - Phone: 607-591-9898

Dog Control: Paul Burhans, Phone: 607-749-2734
Lindsay Anderson

Assessor: Nedra Griswold - Phone: 607-753-5322

Town Attorney: Donald Armstrong

Bookkeeper: Gina Nourse

County Legislator: John Steger,
Phone: 315-696-8483

Planning Board: James Harris, Chairman
Barbara Albro
Nate Curry
Dawn Lewis
Matt Swayze
Don Armstrong, Attorney
Mary Anne McCloskey, Secretary
Planning Board regular scheduled meeting:
4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals: Daniel O'Shea, Chairman
Rudy Kobelia
Robert Lieber
Linda Riehlman
Kay Vossler
Don Armstrong, Attorney
Mary Anne McCloskey, Secretary
Zoning Board of Appeals regular scheduled meeting:
1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

Board of Assessment & Review:
Ann McLyman
William Underwood

Recreation Chairman: Babe Carroll
Phone 607-299-4474

Historian: Anne Henderson, Phone 607-749-2044

Population: 1,582 (2000 Census)
Registered Voters: 946

Town of Preble website: www.preble-ny.org
Cortland County website: www.cortland-co.org

Preble Today is a publication of the Preble Town Board.
Preble community members, friends and families are invited
to submit materials and ideas for future newsletters to:

Debra Brock
7375 Song Lake Road
Tully, New York 13159

Or email to: dbrock1@twcny.rr.com
Or jdoring@twcny.rr.com

Message From the Supervisor....

It was encouraging to receive very favorable reviews from our first newsletter last Spring. As of now, we plan to publish two newsletters per year. We are very pleased to send you the second edition of *Preble Today*.

As the weather gets cooler and the days become shorter, can snow be far away? We work hard to ensure that our roads are kept clear and safe. In this issue of *Preble Today*, we honor our highway employees who wake up early in the morning to plow our roads. Sometimes they are plowing all night. They are the unsung heroes whose dedication and hard work keeps our roads well maintained. We also honor the dedicated men and women who maintain our volunteer Fire Department. They are always there to respond to an emergency call at any hour of the day or night. These people give their time and energy to make sure that we are safe. To the Fire Department and the highway men we say, a big "Thank you!"

We have some very good news for Preble this fall. The Town of Preble has been the recipient of a \$400,000 New York State Community Development Block Grant. This grant extends for two years in duration. Funds are sent from the Federal government to the State, who forwards the grant money to the Town of Preble for the purpose of renovating owner occupied housing. All owner occupied home owners who meet the income guidelines are eligible to apply for renovation funds. One of the requirements is that the homeowners must continue living in their homes for the next five years. Please watch for more information to come.

On the same note, our County Legislator, John Steger, informed us that Cortland County currently has CAPCO funds available for housing rehabilitation. For more information, please call CAPCO at 607-753-6781.

The Preble Congregational Church has definitely proved themselves in their ability to run a very successful food pantry during these difficult economic times. If you have food to donate please drop it off at the church. If you are in need, please show

up on the first and third Thursday of the month at 4 pm.

At this time we are working on our budget. I am pleased to report that there is little or no change in our budget for 2011. Even though the State keeps laying more responsibilities and regulations on the towns of New York State, we continue to operate within our means.

Should anyone have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me or send me an email.

At Your Service,
James Doring
Supervisor



*James Doring
Supervisor*

News from Preble Garden Club

In addition to maintaining the flower beds at the town hall and Elmwood Cemetery, programs and projects the club enjoyed this year have included a program on the 2010 Philadelphia Garden Show, making garden stakes, making sand cast bird baths, presentation by herbal enthusiast Pat Wilson, creating floral arrangements using dried hydrangeas, and the annual picnic and harvest dinner. The final project for the year will be making evergreen roping to decorate the town hall for the Christmas season.

In addition, the club will be working with the town board to make further improvements to the Memorial Boulder area.

Town of Preble Highway Department

The Town of Preble maintains 25.4 centerline miles of roads. Sixteen miles of the 25.4 are plowed, making up 34 plowing segments. We also plow school bus pull-offs, turnarounds, the Fire Station and the Town Hall. The average route time is 2 hrs. 45 minutes. The crew consists of: Highway Superintendent Jeffrey Griswold (10 years), equipment operators Dale Mosher Jr. (26 years) and Kevin Baldwin (12 years). The Town also hires one seasonal employee for the summer.

Summer duties include: culvert replacement/ installation, ditch cleaning, road material hauling and placement (gravel, pavement), oil and stone treatments, cutting brush, mowing roadsides along with maintaining 5 abandoned cemeteries. We also provide the resources for the annual "Town Clean-Up".

The Town is currently looking to build a new highway garage at the site of the salt building on State Route 281. This building would replace the current 55 year old building located on Otisco Valley Road. This move



Employees of the Highway Dept. include: (L to R): Dale Mosher, Jr., Superintendent Jeff Griswold, and Kevin Baldwin.

would consolidate highway operations to one location (first time in 17 years) and allow all machinery to be housed inside. The move will also save on utilities, increase efficiency and ultimately

allow the department to provide better service to the taxpayers.

Please feel free to call the highway garage at 607-749-2710 with any questions.

The Preble Fire Department Auxiliary

The Preble Fire Department Auxiliary was formed in 1954 to assist the Firemen by providing refreshments at time of a fire or any other time help was needed. When it was originally started there were over 40 members. Some of them are still very actively involved members at this time.

Our by-laws were changed a few years ago so a person does not have to be related to a Preble Fire Department member to belong to the Auxiliary.

Over the years, the group has held minstrel shows, auctions, and bake sales. We've assisted at Field Days and have continued to make and deliver Christmas baskets for Preble shut-ins.

Whatever we do, we have fun!

We are now planning a 50-50 raffle to be drawn at Christmas time. The ever popular Card Parties will start up again in early winter. It is a good way to meet the people of Preble!

The Auxiliary meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month at Preble Fire Station.

Meetings start at 7 P.M. We would like you to join us! The next meeting will be held on November 15.

Hope to see you there!

Firematically,
Pat Griswold, Vice President.

The Big Red School House

*By Anne Henderson
Preble Town Historian*

Education was very important to the early settlers in Preble. As the town grew, schools were established. Some were still operating well into the 1900s. The first school was built on East Hill. This area was more populated at the time. Miss Ruth Thorpe became the first teacher. Children came from as far north as the Tully line and others from East Homer region. When Preble became a town in 1808, schools began springing up in many areas. District #3 was the Baltimore school on Route 11. It was a log building replaced by one built of local brick, and then later rebuilt again. Today it is the home of the Scott Martin family north of Baltimore. District #4 was located in Slab City which is south of Baltimore by a mile. In 1823 there were 72 students enrolled. It was built on what is now East Clark Road by the bridge. District #9 was out in Bennett Hollow on the western edge of town. This area of the town was growing very fast. Estella Clark Currie first started teaching there as a young woman. District #5 was built near the Homer-Preble town line on East Hill. Preble resident, David Currie was a teacher. William Henry Currie attended this school as a child. Later he returned to teach in this school where he had been earlier educated. District #10 was established on the Otisco Valley Road. The janitor was paid \$20.00 a year. William J. VanPatten, a life resident of the valley road, attended this school which was located very near his home. Bill and Ann lived on the farm for many years. District #6 in the village was probably started during the teen years of the 1800s. The building was built on the present day Steger Road. In the 1840s, it was moved across the road and in 1846 a new school was built.

In 1906, the need for a larger building faced the townspeople. In March of that year, resident John Ackles sold land to the district for \$350.00. A new and much larger two room school was built in the center of town. Many smaller districts closed and children attended the big red schoolhouse. Some of the teachers who came to Preble were Lucretia Rofe, Beaula Kelly, Mary Booth, Olive Pierce, Helen Strong, Ade-

laide Kennedy Arnold, Mr. Clay, Wilma Redfield Granger, Dorothy Warner and Celinda White, Miss Wilkinson (Music), Connie Bell Steger (Art) and Mary Devlin (School Nurse) came up from Homer school.

There was "The Big Room" for classes five through eight and "The Little Room" had grades one through four. At recess, games of 'Pom Pom Pullaway' and 'Annie Annie Over' were played. At Christmas, the boys went up on the hill outside of town and got the perfect tree. A holiday program was held in the Methodist Church (at the corner of Steger Road) and everyone had a part.

During World War II, the students collected newspapers and milk weed pods as their small way of helping the war effort. The children all walked to school. Those children who attended have many happy thoughts of that time in their lives. In 1948, Preble centralized with Homer. Under a gentlemen's agreement, some went down to Homer and others up to Tully. The school closed about 1954. This was a very big change to children who had been in Preble since first grade. The nearness of home, family, friends and activities in a small rural school ended.

This historic structure overall is in good shape. The top part that houses the bell is in great need of repair. The blackboards are still in place and the original floors are very

visible. The school has retained much of the original likeness. New front doors and a handicap lift have been installed to comply with laws. A vault was added to the back of the building for storage several years ago. Some of the playground equipment is now only a few feet away in the town park where children can still enjoy them.

Since 1906 the school house has been a central fixture in the town. In 2006, it was a place of pride for the Preble community as the school celebrated its 100th anniversary. John Morgan painted the building and readied the school bell for the special observance. Many former students attended, some who had moved far from the small town school. One of the oldest former students, Alice Clark Reynolds, lives right next door. The former art teacher, Connie Steger, attended. On April 8, 2008, the bells rang throughout Cortland County in observance of the 200th year of Cortland County. The bell on top of the big red schoolhouse in Preble joined in and rang loudly in celebration of the historical county event.

Today the big red school house is known as The Preble Town Hall. The building is used for the Town Clerk and Building Code Offices, Preble Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings, Town of Preble Court sessions and various community group meetings. It is also the site of the Preble US Post Office branch.



The "Old Red School House" now serves as the Preble Town Hall and Post Office.

Preble Fire Department – Serving the Community

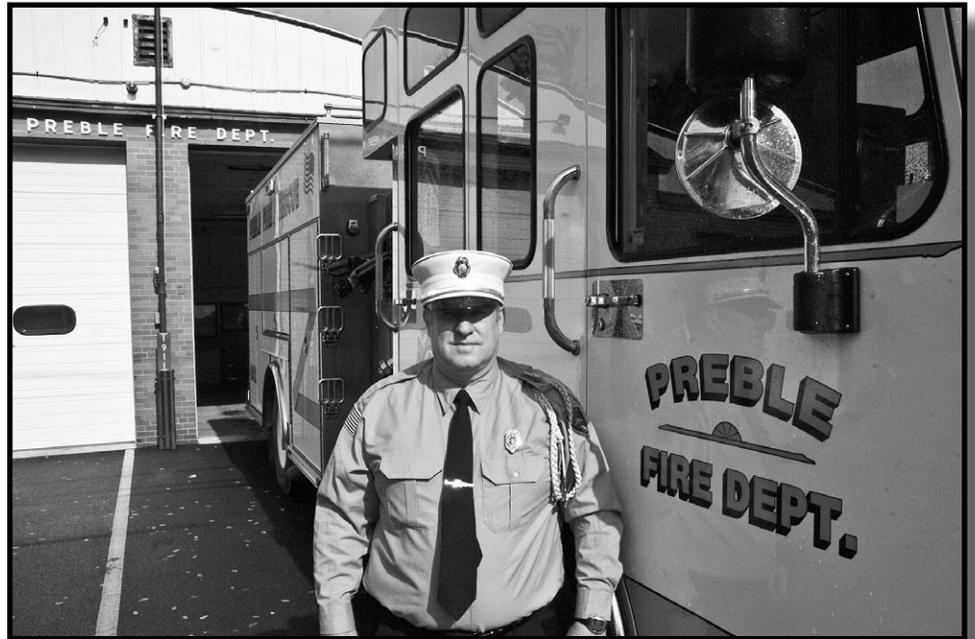
The Preble Fire Department has gone through some changes this year. In November of last year, Fire Chief Jeffrey Griswold informed the department members that he was stepping down as Fire Chief and was not going to seek re-election, this coming after 16 years as the Fire Chief, two more years as an assistant chief and twenty-five years as a member. The Department would like to thank Jeff for a job well done.

The Department election resulted in Michael Compton's swearing in as Fire Chief on January 01, 2010. The Assistant Fire Chiefs are Robert "Hoss" Allen, 1st assistant and Judah "Jay" Currie, 2nd assistant. Department Captains are Nicholas Casterline and Clinton Dalley. Dave Bregard is our EMS Captain and President, Renee Compton is the

Department Secretary and Elizabeth "Betty Ann" Pitman is the Treasurer.

The Preble Fire Department consists of 23 active members, as well as several social and/or lifetime members. The Preble Fire Department owns five trucks, two buildings and a boat for water rescue.

The Department handles approximately



Preble Fire Chief Michael Compton stands by one of the five fire trucks owned by the Town. About 80 percent of the calls the Department receives are for EMS services. The Fire Department is looking for additional members.

170 calls in a calendar year with 80 percent being EMS Medical calls. The rest are a mixture of calls ranging from fires, motor vehicle accidents, alarms, mutual aide, wires/trees down and more.

The Department is always looking for new members, as the need for volunteers is constant. The initial training takes several hours

and is very taxing to the body. The result is the ability to help your family, friends and neighbors in times of need. Anyone wishing to inquire about membership may contact any firefighter, speak to a department officer or come to the Fire station and introduce himself or herself any Monday night at 7pm.

The Department welcomes this opportunity to thank the community for their generous support during our annual calendar drive, chicken barbeques, pancake breakfasts and throughout the year.

Upcoming events:

Pancake Breakfast schedule, serving time 7:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
October 31, November 28, January 31, 2011,
February 27, April 24

Chicken BBQ, serving at 11 A.M.
March 27, 2011

Historian Notes

*By Anne Henderson
Preble Town Historian*

We received word that Bessie Swayze died on October 26, 2010 at age 103 years and five months. Bessie lived her life serving others and will remain a part of our Preble Community through our fondest memories.

Earlier this year, Dick and Jean Martin presented the historian with an original Cortland County 1876 atlas. This is going to be rebound shortly and available for people in the town to enjoy.

In May, the Charles Goodwin family gave me several books that related to early Preble history and families of the town.

I hope to have the historical marker in place at the corner of Currie Road and Route 11 before winter.

I will be planning a historical meeting in early November.

Recreation Committee

by Babe Carroll

Recreation Committee: Director Babe Carroll, secretary Connie Griswold, Treasurer Jane Davenport, Donna Wheelock, Teena Griswold, Barb Bregard, Bill and Jill Sears

This year the county recreation group did not have funds to support recreational programs in the towns, so the arts and craft and archery programs, field trips and the fitness program which includes dodge ball, kick ball and other games were not held at the Preble Park.

Jill and Bill Sears volunteered as soft ball coaches, but there were not enough players to field teams this year. They will recruit for next year. A few ball games were played at the park, including the Preble Hotel and Denny's Mountain View. Both churches practiced on the fields.

Jeremy Benedict performed at the Preble Park on July 31st. The Preble Fire Department held a picnic with grilled hotdogs and hamburgs, family games and a bonfire.

Donna Wheelock organized the very successful Community Garage Sales, as she does each year.

A picnic table designed for handicap accessibility was purchased and installed at the pavilion.

The Preble Family Park was used by 794 people this year for reunions, picnics, graduation parties, wedding receptions and wedding rehearsal festivities.

"We had to close before we froze – See you next year!"

Birds of Preble

by Debra Brock
photos by Annie Biermann

There are many opportunities in Preble to enjoy wildlife, including an amazing variety of bird species. One day, through the camera's eye, we were able to experience



Bald Eagle

the grace and patience of the Great Blue Heron and the quiet majesty of the eagle as he settled to rest in the trees. Other days on Preble lakes can bring us the silent glide of the loon, the strength of the osprey's rebound from water back to sky or the solitary stance of the lone Little Blue Heron, to name only a few of our possible encounters.

The birds mentioned here are not only Preble residents, but are also part of the focus of Audubon New York's conservation, advocacy, and education efforts, with a goal of protecting and/or restoring their populations to healthy and viable levels. For more information, please visit: <http://ny.audubon.org/PDFs/BirdsofConservationConcerninNY.pdf>



Blue Heron

Town of Preble Building Permits Fall 2010 Report

Date	Property Owner	Notes
5/19/2010	James Seamon	Deck, 6190 Little York Lake Road
5/19/2010	Joseph Plumadore	Carport, 6277 Route 281
5/26/2010	Peter McClure	Fence, 1981 Preble Road
5/26/2010	Linda Underwood	Cert. Occp., 7612 Route 281
6/02/2010	Shane Stone	Fence, 1874 Preble Road
6/23/2010	Al and Rose Socha	Addition, 7438 Song Lake Road
6/30/2010	Raymond Kutzy	Garage, 6762 E. Homer-Balt. Road
7/01/2010	Don and Robin Fisher	Cert. Occp. 6234 Little York Lk Rd.
7/14/2010	John Morgan	Remodeling, 1893 Preble Road
7/14/2010	David McKie	Cert. Occp., 7572 Song Lake Road
9/13/2010	Joe and Tarki Heath	Addition, 1900 Rittenhouse Square
9/13/2010	Kennedy Hardwood, Scott Kennedy	Pole Barn, 1945 Clark Road
9/20/2010	Wayne Drake	Pole barn, 1851 Fulmer Road
9/27/2010	Helen Smith	Fence, 5 Maybelle Road

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Fritz holds office hours in the Preble Town Hall each Monday afternoon from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., and can be reached other times at telephone number 607-591-9898.