# Preble Today

Volume 4, Number 1 | For the People of Preble | Spring, 2013


# Going Organic – A Personal Story

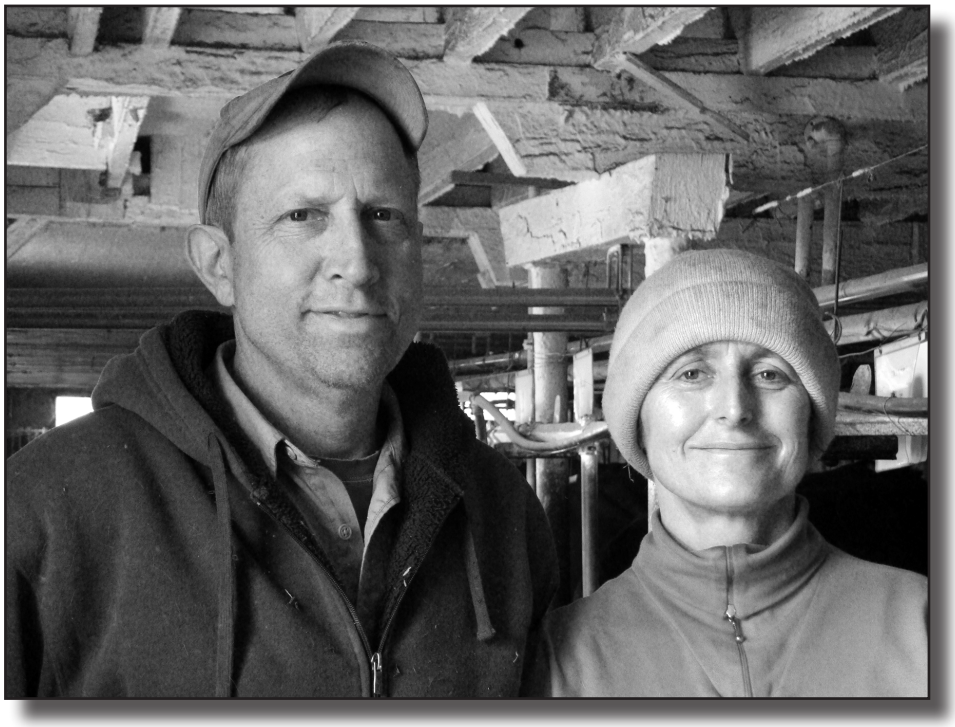
*by Martsje Vanderschaaf-Riehlman*

My husband and I run a small organic dairy farm on Route 11. The farm has been in the Riehlman family for four generations. Doug's great grandfather, Albert Riehlman, bought the property in 1900. He built a new barn in 1909 which we still use for our cows today.

In May 2010, after being away for several years, Doug returned to the area to run the dairy farm. I joined him, having immigrated here from The Netherlands, in September 2010. We were a conventional farm then. In our first year of milking cows we decided to become an organic dairy. We already used some of the practices required in organic farming for managing our cows. Even though organic feed is more expensive, the more stable milk prices made it very attractive to us. Plus, it would not be such a big change, we thought.

This is a personal story of our transition from conventional to organic farming in which I will discuss some of the choices we make in the crops we grow and also in how we take care of our cows. I'll explain how organic require-

*Continued - Page 3*



*Doug & Martsje are shown standing in their barn.*


**Town of Preble**
**P.O. Box 234**
**Preble, NY 13141**

## 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
Linda Riehlman - 607-749-379
Dave Morse- 607-749-2856

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

**Deputy Town Clerk:** Mary Ann McCloskey

**Town Justice:** Donna Doody - Phone 607-749-2377
**Justice Clerk:** Tina Goddard

**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:** Linda Wright - 315- 730-9248

**Town Attorney:** Donald Armstrong

**Bookkeeper:** Gina Nourse

**County Legislator:** Don Boyden
Phone: 607-749-8709

**Planning Board:** James Harris, Chairman
Barbara Albro
Tim Coyne
Maureen Knapp
Jim Seamon
Don Armstrong, Attorney
Mary Anne McCloskey, Secretary
Planning Board regular scheduled meeting:
4th Wednesday of each month at 7 pm

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** Daniel O'Shea, Chairman
Amy Bertini
Robert Lieber
Al Socha
Nancy Dalley
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:**
Mike Compton
William Underwood
Charles Dalley
Bob Allen

**Recreation Chairman:** Babe Carroll
Phone 607-299-4474

**Historian**: Anne Henderson, Phone 607-749-2044

**Population:** 1,393 (2010 Census)
**Registered Voters:** 910

**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:
Laura Doring
6785 Steger Rd.
Preble, New York 13141

Or email to: laura.doring@yahoo.com
Or jdoring@twcny.rr.com

# Message From the Supervisor.....

*Jim Doring*
*Town Supervisor*

Happy spring everyone! In this issue, we have many excellent contributions from residents all over the Town of Preble including; personal stories, history of our community and the impact of feral swine in the area. We always welcome contributory articles from the community.

The major event that will take place this summer and fall will definitely be the I-81 bridge replacement over Preble Road. NYSDOT was originally considering using Route 281 as a detour. However, after further consideration they decided to build a median crossover instead. The details are inside.

We are progressing with the next phase of our Town Hall renovation. This summer we will be emptying our office room in order to restore the original high ceilings of the school room, sheet rock the walls and refinish the wood flooring. The belfry will also undergo repair and restoration.

Grievance Day will be on Wednesday, May 29 from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. If you believe that that your property is over assessed and you have comparison proofs, please come to the Town Hall to present your case.

The Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will take place on Monday, May 27th at 11 am. Our keynote speaker will be Veteran, Beth Greenwood, Mayor of the Village of Tully. The Tully High School Band will be performing. We hope to see as many residents as possible come out for this event. This is the one event all year that truly brings the people of Preble together.

Should you have any questions or comments, please call or email me. I always enjoy hearing from you.

At your service,
Jim Doring
Supervisor

# Fire Department

*New EMS Response Vehicle*

In Mid March, the Preble Fire Department put into service a 2013 Chevrolet Suburban EMS Medical Response vehicle. The department purchased this vehicle after lengthy discussions as to what type of vehicle would best service both the community and the fire department. With over fifty (50%) percent of the department calls being purely medical response calls, it was determined that this vehicle was the best option. The new vehicle is gasoline powered, which gets 15 miles per gallon as compared to a diesel, which gets well below 10 miles per gallon. This vehicle is smaller than a conventional type rescue truck making maneuvering in and out of residential driveways much easier and safer. This vehicle also fits into the 12 to 15 year use window before replacement. Some may ask how that is beneficial. It is beneficial because the cost of a more conventional style rescue truck is nearly four times the cost of this vehicle. In addition, the department would only get 10 more years of use from a conventional rescue vehicle before it would begin to fail and need replacement. We feel we made a good choice and are very proud of the result.

The Preble Fire Department would also like to thank the community for their continued support at our Pancake Breakfasts, Chicken BBQ, Calendar Drive, and throughout the year. This support helps the dedicated volunteers of our department in providing an outstanding service to the people of our community.

As always, the Preble Fire Department is looking for new members. If interested call 607-749-4237, e-mail Preblefiredepartment@yahoo.com or stop by the station any Monday night at 7 PM for information.

## *Organic Farming (Cont'd)*

ments and guidelines in addition to conditions specific to our situation led us to make those choices.

When we transitioned from conventional to organic farming, we had to treat our cows exactly as an organic farm would before we could sell our milk on the organic market. For the animals, it meant we could not use any antibiotics or other prohibited substances. We also had to ensure the cows got a certain amount of their yearly feed by grazing, that they went out outside every day of the year (except in extreme weather) and that all their feed and bedding was organic. Our herd transition was complete on December 1, 2012 and as of 2013, we can now use all of our fields for organic crops.

Transitioning our fields took a total of three years. For the fields it meant we could not use artificial fertilizer or pesticides and our seeds could not be genetically modified. If we wanted to improve our fields, we would need to put on lime (to get the ph up), manure, or grow a nutrient rich crop on it and then plow it under.

Most of our fields are for grazing and for making hay which means we have mostly grass on our fields. When I came here, not having a farm background, I thought grass was grass. Let me tell you, I have learned a lot since then! The grass mix we chose for our fields dries fast when it is mowed so it is easy to make hay or haylage.

This year, we need to plow and reseed one of our fields. Currently, we have alfalfa on this field. It's not possible to replant the field with alfalfa because alfalfa is toxic to itself. It produces a chemical that for one year kills off new alfalfa seeds. I still wonder what positive effect Mother Nature has in mind with that. Whatever that reason, we were forced to think about what to put on that field. Should we make another grass hay field? Perhaps grow corn? Or plant turnips, the greens of which cows love and will even root up the turnip itself if the ground is not too hard?

In the past year we had some difficulty with feeding our cows enough energy producing food. Our hay had a lot of protein which is important for making milk, however, our feed was low on energy. Feeding grain adds energy to the cows diet but organic grain is very expensive. We prefer to keep those costs as low as possible so we looked into the possibility of growing something that would provide our cows with more energy. The most common choice is corn. For organic farmers however, that means we would have to cultivate the corn. If we didn't, the weeds would provide too much competition for the corn and would hinder its growth. Since we don't own a cultivator, we let go the idea of growing corn for practical reasons. We were advised instead to grow the Brown Midrib (BMR) version of sorghum sudan grass or sudan grass. The BMR version is a fairly recent variety of sorghum sudan grass (SSG) with lots of sugars in it. Unlike corn, SSG is not a row crop. It is sowed like grass in a hayfield, with no empty space between the rows, so no cultivating is needed. One advantage of the SSG is that it needs to be planted fairly late in the season, late May or June, which means we can still take the first cutting of alfalfa off our field and store it as haylage in our silo. A farmer can hardly have too much feed in storage for the wintertime!

*Christina is shown with a calf on the farm.*

To keep the weeds out after we harvest the SSG, we had to make a choice of what to sow in the fall, for empty fields are prone to be filled with weeds the next season. We need something that will start growing fast next Spring, so weeds do not have a chance. As we feel now, we will seed triticale, a winter grain, in the fall which we can either harvest in its entirety (stalk and all) before it is ripe, chop it and put in the silo, or we can have it mature, use the grain for cow feed and the straw for bedding. That choice will partly depend upon what we will grow on that field in 2014. Farmers need to look ahead, as you can see.

Now it's time for some cow care-taking information. As I mentioned earlier, being an organic farm, we have to feed our calves whole milk. We cannot use powdered milk replacer. We generally feed our calves milk until they are three months old. This entails many bottles or bunk feeders to fill and clean, milk to heat up or keep warm, and lots of walking to the calf paddocks with the milk at least twice a day. If possible, we feed the milk as soon as we have milked it out of the cow into a pre-heated pail so the temperature stays right. If the milk is too cold, calves can get sick.

The quality of a cow's milk is partially determined by the somatic cell count (SCC). Milk with a high SCC does not keep as long as milk with a low SCC. If a cow has an infection in one of the quarters of her udder, the SCC will go up. Conventional farms can treat such an infection with antibiotics. We clearly cannot do that. We would have to sell that cow once cured. So we have to depend on the cow's immune system to fight the infection and to have the SCC go down again. Until that time, we use the milk of such a quarter to feed the calves. Since calves drink the milk the same day, the SCC is not an issue.

Last year we had a cow, Christina, with a high SCC. We milked her, fed her milk to calves, cleaned the bottles etc. every day, twice a day. When it became clear that her high SCC had not gone down after a few weeks, we wanted a change in tactics, a less time consuming way to feed her milk. After all, we do not get paid for hauling milk to calves! So, we decided to make Christina a nurse cow. We put her in a paddock with three calves who can drink off her any time of the day. After two days of re-teaching the calves that milk comes from an udder, there's hardly any work for us in getting the calves fed. The only thing we have to do is to ensure the cow has a clean dry spot to lie down, and to get feed and water to her.

Christina has raised 10 of our calves in the past six months. When a calf reaches the age of three months we take her out, and put a new young one with the her. We knew Christina loves calves before we made her a nurse cow. Several times when another cow gave birth to her calf in the pasture, Christina would "take over" the calf and we would have to get her out of the pasture away from the fresh mother and calf. This nurse cow experience has proven to us that Christina was meant to be a nurse cow. She accepts any new calf without any hesitation. And she loves them all the same. No calf has been rejected by her. So it worked out very nice for us and for Christina! In a month we will dry Christina off and then she will have her two month dry period, her vacation from producing milk, until she has her next calf. We hope that during being dry the infection in her udder will cure. That is not uncommon. If it doesn't cure, we will have her take care of some new young calves besides her own.

Maybe this summer when you drive by our farm you will see a nurse cow with calves in our front yard. Or perhaps your eyes will go over a crop that looks different and you will now have some insight as to what the crop is and how we chose that crop.

# Historian Notes

*by Anne Henderson*

## Old Home Day

In the late 1930s, the Preble Fire Department sponsored Old Home Day as a way of raising funds for the formation of the department. It was a great day for the townspeople and very well attended. The festivities were held in a big field on the George McEvoy farm which was adjacent to the Highway Department garage. George's brother, John McEvoy, who operated a farm for many years on Route 281, was in charge of the hot dog tent. Let's take a look at what transpired on the fourth Old Home Day held on July 29th 1940.

The event was kicked offed with a parade which began at the railroad tracks. The Pleasant Valley 4-H Club, lead by Gerald Masters, participated in the parade with a live cow, held in a stanchion, on the back of a truck. A few ladies from a town organization also participated in the parade. A funny thing happened as they waited in their mule-drawn cart for the parade to begin. A train came along blowing its whistle and spooked the mules. Fortunately for the cartload of ladies, the mules were quickly calmed down before the parade got underway. Leading the parade was the VFW Junior Drum and Bugle Corp from Cortland.

A Girls 4-H Club was awarded the first place prize for the best float and J K Henderson was given the second place prize for his merchandise exhibit. There was even a prize given for the best decorated bicycle in the parade which was awarded to Pauline Van Patten.

There were many activities and contests for which you could win a prize. A popular event was the greased pig contest where one would attempt to grab hold of a greased pig. The one to snag a pig first, won a prize. The prize, which was the captured pig, went to William J. Van Patten. Another event involved a greased pole with a flag on top. If you were successful in climbing up the pole, getting the flag, and bringing it back down the pole, you won a prize. Calvin Currie won that contest. They also had a small pond with real ducks swimming in it. The one lucky enough to throw a ring around the duck's neck won the duck! When it came to the big horse pulling contest, Robert Vossler won third place in that event. The nail driving contest was won by Edna Nye and Helen Krewson.

Baseball was a big part of the celebration. Not only did the young boys play, but men of all ages played as well. There were foot races as too. A race for boys ages 12 and up was won by William Currie. The girls relay race was not without incident that year as Marcella McEvoy Lonergan fell during the race and broke her leg. She went to the hospital and was admitted for a couple of days.

After a full day of activities, Old Home Day concluded in the evening with a barn dance a Nye's barn.

## Odd Fellows Hall

The Odd Fellows Hall was a huge three story building which stood next to the Preble Hotel. On New Years day for many years, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) hosted a holiday gathering in their hall which was always well attended. It began with a hearty meal at noon followed by card games and a dance. At chore time, farmers would leave to go milk their cows but would aways return for more food, games and dancing.

*Odd Fellows Hall is shown burning in the mid-1940s.*

Band music for the dance was provided by local Preble talent. Leo Van Patten played the fiddle, while Eloise Van Patten played the piano and Pug Morse played the saxophone.

Each level of this three story building had a specific purpose. The first floor was the gathering floor and was used for serving the meals. The second floor was the entertainment floor. This is where the card games and the dances were held. The Odd Fellows also hosted community bingo games there. There was a even a stage on that floor. The third floor was reserved for Odd Fellow members only. No one else was allowed on that level.

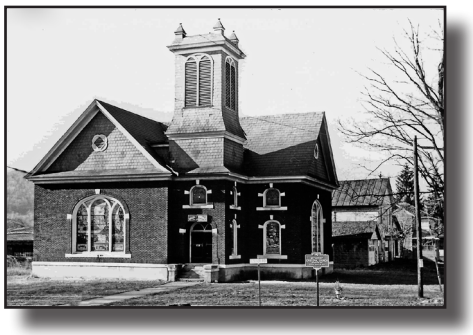
When the building burnt down in the mid-1940's, the farming community came together to help put out the fire. Farmers brought their milk cans, filled them with water at the milk plant down by the railroad, then dumped them into a pumper truck at the scene of the fire. School children from the local school came running up to see all the excitement. None of them wanted to leave when the teachers called them back for their afternoon classes.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows did not rebuild. The site is now the home of the Preble Fire Department.

## Variety Shows

In the 1950's, the Preble Fire Department and the Women's Auxiliary sponsored variety shows which were held at the Methodist Church. The church was a beautiful brick building located at the corner of Preble Road and Steger Road.

The shows offered a fun evening out and were a showcase for local talent. During one show, there was a fire in Tully. The Tully Fire Department called for help from Preble. Fire Chief Sam Saulsbury and his men left to assist their neighbor firemen. Preble firemen who were performing in the show, had no time to change out of their show clothes before heading out to help fight the fire. The next day, an article appeared in the local paper about the fire that read, "The Preble firemen arrived on the scene in costume!"



*Methodist Church*

The old Methodist church was raised in the early 1960s. Today, the Calvery Baptist church sits on the site where those fun filled programs took place more than sixty years ago.

Today, events like these might bore children and even some adults. Trips to theme parks and far away places, cell phones, TV, computers and texting are what interest today's youth. But in the early half of the 19th century, community events such as these provided great fun and entertainment for all ages.

# Highway Department

**Who do I call?**

Below is a list of all the roads within the Town of Preble. (The mileage is in parenthesis) Sometimes, we get calls from residents asking questions or with a complaint about their road. Many times, the caller has no idea that there is a difference in jurisdiction among the roads in Town. Please find your road on one of the 3 lists below. Any questions about your road should be directed to the corresponding number. As always, if you have a general question, feel free to call the Preble Highway Department. Have a safe summer!

**Town of Preble Roads:** Highway Superintendent Jeff Griswold 607-749-2710.

Campbell Rd. (.85), Cemetery Rd. (.26), Corl Drive (.25), West Currie Rd. (.34), Currie Rd. Spur (13), East Currie Rd. (.57), Dawson Rd. (1.74), East Clark Rd. (.47), East Hill Rd. (2.58), Fietta Rd. (.53), Foley Rd. (.70), Friendly Lane (.15), Friendly Shores (.30), Fulmer Rd. (.22), Little York Park Rd, (.07), Maple Ridge Rd. (1.90), Marybelle Rd. (.24), Masters Rd. (.50), Maycumber Rd. (1.62), McBride Dr. (.15), Mount Toppin Rd. (.09), Palmer Rd. (.20), Parcells Rd. (.22), Patriot Drive (.18), Preble Rd. (From Otisco Valley Rd. to Cold Brook Rd.) (2.12), Reynolds Drive (.08), Saulsbury Rd. (1.16), Simon Rd. (.56), Song Mtn. Drive (.30), Vormwald Rd. (1.69), West Bennett Hollow Rd. (2.94), West Clark Spur (.08), West Clark Rd. (.31), Williams Rd. (.58), Wright Rd. (1.39). **Total 25.40**

**Cortland County Roads:** County Superintendent Don Chambers 607-753-9377

East Homer Baltimore Rd. (To the Town Line) (2.29), Little York Lake Rd. (.72), Otisco Valley Rd. (To the County Line) (3.41), Preble Rd. (Rt. 281 to Rt. 11)(1.16), Song Lake Crossing (1.48), Song Lake Rd. (2.58), Song Mtn. Rd. (1.23), Steger Rd. (1.40), Truxton-Tully Rd. (Preble Only) (.21), Tully Center Rd. (.63). **Total 15.11**

**State Roads in Preble:** Resident Engineer Stan Birchenough 607-756-7072.

Rt. 281 (5.0), US Rt. 11 (5.0), Interstate Rt. 81 (10.0) **Total 20.00**

# Town of Preble Building Permits Spring 2013 Report

| Date | Property Owner | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| 11/12/2012 | Jeffrey Hills (Hoy) | Demolition 7482 Song Lake Road |
| 11/26/2012 | Scott Kennedy | Shed roof 1939 Clark Rd |
| 12/03/2012 | Teresa Hoy | New Home 7482 Song Lake Road |
| 12/17/2012 | Joseph Oliver | 9 x16 Deck 7025 Song Lake Road |
| 02/25/2013 | Teresa Hoy | Replace Sea Wall 7482 Song Lake Rd. |
| 02/25/2013 | AT&T Mobility | Update AT&T Tower 2043 Preble Rd. |
| 02/25/2013 | Jeannine Thibault | Pellet Stove 2269 Song Lake 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.

# Interstate 81 Bridge Repair

The New York State Department of Transportation held an informational meeting for town supervisors and village mayors on Friday, April 5, 2013 at the Key Bank in Homer. The purpose of this meeting was to give an update on the Interstate 81 Preble Road bridge replacement project.

The Preble Road bridge was originally scheduled for replacement in 2015-2016. However, due to the collision of heavy equipment against one of the supporting structures of the bridge in the spring of 2012, the bridge repair became a high priority. Senior engineers at NYSDOT stated that work on the bridge would commence in August of this year. Here is the current work schedule they provided.

### *Northbound Bridge Replacement Scheduled for 2013*

- August - Work begins on I-81 northbound lane
  Preble Road closed at the overpass
- October - I-81 northbound bridge replaced
- November - Bridge completed; Preble Road reopened

### *Southbound Bridge Replacement Scheduled for 2014*

- April - Work begins on I-81 southbound lane
  Preble Road closed at the overpass
- May - I-81 southbound bridge replaced
- June - Bridge completed; Preble Road reopened

After considering other traffic flow options such as routing traffic onto Route 281 during the bridge construction, the DOT has decided to use a median crossover. This decision was "based on the comments received from all of the outreach sessions and taking Governor Cuomo's "Drivers First" program into account".

Should you have questions, please call NYSDOT Project Contact, Gene Cilento at (315) 428-4351.

# Wild Pigs, Feral Swine, Wild Boar, Wild Hogs, Feral Pigs... What Are They?

*by Tarki Heath*

These are not pink, domesticated pigs. Feral swine are, for the most part, Eurasian wild boar that have escaped, or were transported, from hunting preserves. Once in the wild again, these animals move rapidly. Feral swine in New York can have tremendous negative impacts on native plants, wildlife, livestock, agriculture, and humans.

Feral swine have been found in both Onondaga and Cortland Counties. Recently, Justin Gansowski, a Wildlife Disease Biologist, who works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, spoke to the Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations (C-OFOKLA). He explained that in Cortland and Onondaga counties the Wildlife Service captured a total of 40 feral swine in three months in 2012. The effort to remove feral swine in New York State began in 2008. Since then, 143 feral swine have been removed from New York. This doesn't sound like a lot, but feral swine breed young, have multiple litters a year, and produce large litters. If these swine had been allowed to survive, their current population in NY would probably have grown to 10,000!

## *Disease*

There are at least 30 diseases and 37 parasites carried by feral swine that may affect humans, pets, livestock and wildlife; one of these is pseudorabies. This is a highly infectious disease because it travels in the air as well as water, staying potent for about 7 hours, but it is also persist for days in soil, grass, and bedding. The virus can kill domestic and wild animals within 2 to 3 days after infection. This includes cats, dogs and domestic pigs. Leptospirosis is another disease to be concerned with as the bacteria can survive for long periods of times in surface waters and infect livestock and dogs.

Probably the disease best known for being linked to feral swine is E. coli bacteria. Some may recall the 2006 E. coli outbreak from spinach grown in California that killed three people and sickened another 200. This was caused by feral swine feces. While there are too many diseases to completely describe here, the short list of diseases that can be transferred from animals to humans that are carried by feral swine include: E. coli, giardia, cryptosporidium parvum, brucellosis, leptospirosis, salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, trichinosis, tuberculosis and tularemia.

## *Environmental Disturbance*

Feral swine eat just about anything. They compete for food with native wildlife, especially mast, which is the fruit of forest trees like acorns and other nuts. Each adult can consume up to 1,300 pounds of mast crops in a year. They also use their snout to turn over soil in search of roots and tubers. This seriously damages the soil and forest floor.

These pigs are omnivores, so they also eat a wide variety of mammals, reptiles, fish, amphibians, and other invertebrates. They eat the eggs of nesting birds such as quail and turkey, and in areas where swine are present; they have had a seriously negative impact on these birds' reproduction rates.

Farmers in Cortland and Onondaga counties have already been impacted by feral swine destruction in apple orchards, wheat, corn, oats, soybeans, pumpkins and hay fields.

All areas of the region can be negatively impacted by feral swine, including forests, farms, residential areas and our waterways. The EPA estimates that a single feral swine will destroy ten acres of wetland in its lifetime. Water degradation from bacteria and fecal coliform can harm aquatic life and may impact recreation in such a way that would prohibit swimming and wading.

Rooting and trampling can also threaten native plant communities and increase the spread of invasive plants.

## *Other Health and Safety Issues*

Feral swine are mainly nocturnal, so the damage they do generally occurs at night. Farmers can wake to crop damage, homeowners can wake to rooted lawns, sports fields and golf courses can be compromised at night, and because they travel at night, they can cause serious car accidents. Feral swine in our area have generally been less than 200 pounds, but they can grow to 400 pounds. They have a low center of gravity and their dark color makes them hard to see on the road, especially because their eyes do not reflect the lights from a headlight as other animals do. Feral swine may be aggressive if surprised by a human, however, such attacks are rare.

## *Control*

It may seem counterintuitive, but hunting has proven to be an unsuccessful method of control. In fact, around the country in areas where open hunting was encouraged, the results were that the herds increased their range area and their herd numbers.

According to the USDA, APHIS, the best management technique is "to capture the greatest number of individuals as quickly as possible." Because they are sociable, they tend to form family groups, or sounders. Careful corral trapping can capture these groups and effectively eliminate an entire sounder. If, during the trapping stage, the animals are disrupted by hunting or other disturbances, they will become more elusive, distribute themselves over an even greater area, and make it more difficult to capture.

The only way to stop the spread of feral swine in NY is to shut off the sources. If you wish to help, you can write your NYS senators and ask them to pass legislation prohibiting the possession, transportation, hunting and breeding of feral swine and Eurasian wild boar.

If you see damage that you suspect was done by feral swine, or if you actually observe one, please call the USDA: 1-866-487-3297.

Information taken from the **2012 Feral Swine Management Report**, US Department of Agriculture - Animal Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services (February, 2013) http://www.nyis.info/user_uploads/files/Feral%20Swine%20Management%20Report%202012%20USDA.pdf with assistance from Justin Gansowski, Wildlife Disease Biologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service

# Interview with Anne Henderson

*Interviewed by Debra Brock*

Anne was born in the Cortland Hospital like most others her age, lived in Homer for the first twelve years and celebrates her Diamond Jubilee this year. Childhood in Homer was a family circle of parents, siblings and extended family with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins all within close walking distance. The children spent summers filled with bike rides around the village, walks to the creek to swim, 12 cent movies and popsicles from Uncle Pat's store when the days were hot. Those are wonderful memories that Anne shares with her two sisters, Linda and Kathy.

In 1950, Anne's family moved to a place in Little York that had space on the first floor for a general store operated by her father and Post Office operated by her mother, with family living quarters on the second floor. The building still stands in good shape in Little York, next to the Crawl Space. At one point in time, Anne's father built additional space at the building's side to offer a new product, frozen custard, to his customers. Frozen custard was a big hit in Little York.

As a hint of what would be Anne's lifetime work ethic, she was trained as a New York Telephone operator while still attending high school. The day after graduation, Anne went to work for the telephone company. It was a great job and she enjoyed the work and the coworkers very much. Once a month Anne tries to meet the NY Telephone retirees for lunch. She also worked at the Cortland County Clerk's Office with Judy Riehlman, an interesting job she enjoyed for ten years. In 2000, Anne followed her mother's footsteps and began working at the Little York Post Office, a job she still holds.

Marriage to Darrell Henderson in 1960 brought her into the Preble farming community. She and Darrell knew everyone and participated in all of the many community events. Their son John was born and then daughter Jean, followed by Jim and Julie. In 1967, they bought the family farm in Slab City, which she says is a suburb of Preble. The Hendersons went about living the life they hoped for, working on the farm and raising four good children. The kids worked hard on chores which included caring for the many animals on the farm; cows, chickens, rabbits, a donkey, a goat named Tulip, turkeys and pigs. Jean, at about the age of ten, had to pick a bushel of corn for the pigs every day as soon as she got off the school bus, just one example of how the kids learned to be responsible. All of the family worked on the cabbage crop. Anne recalls that the cabbage setter taught them to move their fingers away in short time after they dropped the cabbage plant into the ground. The setter had rollers to tamp the ground around the plant and the machine was just as able to tamp fingers and that really hurt for awhile. Many days were spent pulling the mustard out of the long cabbage rows and cabbage harvest was hand labor, too. Farm chores don't take particular notice of holidays, so there were times when holiday dinners were held off with a cow coming in or a vet call or a machine failure. Still, the calf born on Christmas was always a special one. There was always some cause for joy and satisfaction with the farm work. John worked closely with his dad handling the cows. Jim liked the machinery and working the fields. All the children were active in 4-H and showed cows at the Cortland County Fair and the NYS Fair. At times, kids from the neighborhood, friends and family joined Anne, Darrell and their family on the farm, sharing chores, jumping into the cold creek for a swim on hot summer days, setting down to supper or lunch or breakfast. The farm, placed conveniently on the dead end road, was the training ground for various young drivers in Preble. Sometimes, Henderson cars were put at risk acting as parked cars for practicing how to parallel park. Anne remembers a hard work life, but a good life where all were loved. In 1999, Darrel and Anne sold the dairy cows due to Darrell's health. They enjoyed the next ten years with time to take rides and visit a bit more without farm demands to get home to. Their farm on East Hill was Darrell's favorite ride. Anne and family still take that ride often.

*Anne and Darrell shown with the best crop they ever grew on the farm, children Jim, Jean, Julie and John*

*Anne Henderson is shown by her beloved river.*

Anne is rightfully proud of the public service commitment she and her family have made throughout the generations. Her great grandmother, Caroline L. Hill, who lived on West Hill, Preble, was the first woman to vote in the Town of Preble. Caroline received word that women had won the right to vote and rode into the hamlet on Election Day with her son, who was taking milk into town. She cast her vote and, having made history for the Town, caught a ride back home on the farm wagon. In 1980, Anne ran for the position of Preble Town Supervisor. There were some who wondered if a woman should lead a community. Anne believed that as her great grandmother was the first women to vote in Preble, it made sense that she could be the first woman to be Preble Town Supervisor. The majority of voters agreed and Anne spent the next seven years working for the Town, guiding the community, and encouraging all residents to be a part of the Town government. Anne discussed policies and Town planning with Preble women, inviting them to attend board meetings and asking for their participation as board members. In those years, women did join the Town Boards and the first woman Town Justice, Marilyn Stoker, took office. Anne stated that the local level of government should get the best people available to fill the positions, regardless of political party, gender or other differences that might keep people apart.

Her years as Town Supervisor took some time away from the farm and family. One day little daughter Julie told Anne that there were exciting things to share when she got off the bus, but she couldn't remember them long enough to share by the time Anne got home. From then on Anne was home when the bus came. Another day, Anne returned home after a meeting to find a small sign in the kitchen door window that read 'Maid Wanted'. Anne and Darrell got used to folks stopping by the fields or barn to discuss important issues, and there were many evening phone calls. In addition to the laughs she gets from some of the memories, the time spent as supervisor was a good experience and brought her fulfillment through service to the community.

When asked how Preble has changed in the years following her time as Town Supervisor,

*Continued - Next Page*

*Henderson Interview - Cont'd*

Anne points to the mobility of families as one of the biggest factors. In the past, Preble homes were owned by the families that lived in Preble and passed on to family members. People found work in the area near by. There were many small farms. Home Day celebrations and barn dances entertained the whole community. The Fire Department was made of all able bodied men in Preble, trained on hose and ladder by Sam Saulsbury. The people had to depend on one another for survival.

When the Interstate 81 project dissected Preble Valley, it was a sign of changes to come, not only for Preble, but for many other small communities in the area. Young people could work farther away from Preble. Folks from out of the area could live in Preble and commute to work. Small farms became larger. Present day society is fast paced and global. It's difficult for organizations like the Ladies Auxiliary and the Volunteer Fire Department to keep member numbers high. People have to work outside of the home and community, and have less time to be involved.

Sense of community is an important part of Preble. Events like the Memorial Day Parade that draw current residents and past residents into the celebration are important to continue. More community events should be planned for all folks to enjoy. One thing that hasn't changed in Preble is that people in the town still look out for each other.

Anne is still actively working for the community. As Town Historian, she finds the threads of past days and brings them to the people of Preble to remember and to build on for the future. She writes grants that pay for road signs which mark important historic places in the Town. She creates luncheon dates for townspeople to gather and share memories and memorabilia of Preble's past organizations and events. Her most recent activity is to participate on a Town Records Management Project with the State of NY Archives to organize and protect important Town historic records. Anne is also Secretary and Treasurer of the Elmwood Cemetery Association and Financial Secretary for the Preble Congregational Church. Coming from generations of people who live long healthy lives, Anne is happy to spend time with her mother, who at 95 is still living independently. Anne believes Preble is a good place to raise children. The most important work Anne does is getting grandchildren on the school bus and being part of the next generation of her family who love the farm and the river.

In 1990 Anne took a dream trip to Hawaii and loved it. It was enough. Her foreseeable plan is to continue to enjoy the view from the two picture windows at home. The river brings focus to every beautiful season; baby geese and apple blossoms in spring, green summers, fall colors and quiet winter snow, all enjoyed by Anne, her children and grandchildren. Anne's happiness is having her children close by. She enjoys her many good friends too. To quote Anne, "There is no place on the face of the earth I'd rather be than the Preble Valley". That's good news for Preble and all of us who live here as Anne's neighbors.

# Preble-ny.org News

### *Photographers needed: Help showcase Preble's best.*

Use the photo upload feature on the Preble-ny.org homepage to submit Preble scenes for the website's Photo Gallery and Home Page Photo of the Month selection.

**New feature:** Maps of Preble are now available online, including Preble Aquifer, Preble Zoning and Preble Topography and Hydrography.

**Survey:** Please fill out a short survey online for the Cortland County Flow Control discussion. The issue has significant Cortland County Budget impact. Cortland County taxpayers and residents need to be informed and are encouraged to participate in the discussion of options to resolve the Landfill's future. Cortland County legislators want to know what you think.

# Genealogy Project

The Town of Preble is sponsoring a Genealogy Project for Preble residents. Information will be entered into a Preble genealogy database and will be available for public searches. Experienced and beginning levels of genealogy work are needed for the Town project. Meeting date and time will be Thursday, May 23, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Preble Town Hall. Please contact Debra Brock at 315-696-5549 or email dbrock1@twcny.rr.com if you are interested in participating in the initial meeting for this project.

# Preble Garden Club

The club received many favorable comments on the Christmas trees decorating the Town Hall this past holiday season and our thanks to Tom Gath for donating the trees. This year the club plans to continue public service activities by tending to the flower beds at the Town Hall, cemetery and memorial boulder area. Monthly meetings are also being planned with the meetings usually occurring on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The schedule is posted on the Preble website. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Pat Griswold at 749-3678 or Sue Wright at 749-4431.

# Recreation Department

Spring has sprung! Cleanup at Preble Park has begun with volunteers scrubbing down the kitchen. Hank Carroll has done his routine check of the facilities, hooking up the water pipes and making sure all the equipment, plumbing, picnic tables, and playground apparatuses are all in good working order. He will also take a water sample from the kitchen sink to be tested and will fix the planter at the entrance of the park so the Recreation Committee can plant flowers in it. Beck equipment once again donated a roller to role over the fields and John Morgan volunteered to paint the kitchen, pavilion, planter, and red barn.

In addition to community events, family events such as reunions, birthday parties, and summer picnics are also held at Preble Park. To reserve Preble Park for your event, contact Babe Carroll, 607-299-4474. Call early to ensure you get the date you want.

## Preble Town Events

**Memorial Day Parade**

May 27, 2013 at 11:00 AM

Commences at the Memorial Boulder

**Preble Town Garage Sale**

June 8, 2013 8 AM - 3 PM

Contact Donna Wheelock, (607)-749-4805, by June 3rd if you wish to place a free ad in the Cortland Standard.

**Old Fashion Community Day**

July 13, 2013 1-5 PM at Preble Park

Music by Jeremy Benedict

Hot dogs and drinks will be served by the Recreation Committee.

Or feel free to bring your own picnic lunch.

Town Historian, Ann Henderson, will have an historical display available for viewing.

**Co-ed Community Volleyball**

Adults and children welcome

Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 PM in July & August at Preble Park

For more information, contact the Redenback's at 607-423-4316