



Chaseholm Family Farm Opens Store

March 29 was a bit blustery, but it didn't deter several hundred visitors from the grand opening of the Chaseholm Farm Store.

"We are especially excited to feature raw milk from our special herd of Jerseys and Holsteins," says entrepreneur Sarah Lyons Chase, shown below serving customers. "Our milk is very nutritious and the cows are just about to go on pasture which will make it even richer and tastier!"



Visitors enjoyed farm tours and cow milking lessons, live music, a cow salon/photo booth, calf cuddling, food, and a raffle for farm store treats.

Chaseholm is a third generation family dairy on Route 82, half in Ancram and half in Pine Plains.

Sarah uses sustainable farming techniques, rotationally grazing the cows on farm pasture.

Sarah offers a special 15% discount card called "Milk Money" to be used for:

- Raw milk
- Chaseholm Creamery Cheeses (a.k.a. Amazing Real Live Food Company) made by brother Rory
- Beef and veal

She plans to expand the store with local honey, free-range eggs, maple syrup, organic coffee, pork, lamb, salami, granola and jams.

Remedy Farm is also at Chaseholm. "I will be concentrating on fresh herbs and root vegetables to start," says Jordan Schmidt. Her

sauerkraut was on sale at the opening.

The Chaseholm Store is open Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm and by appointment.

Call or text Sarah, 518-339-2071 or email chaseholm-farm@gmail.com. Visit www.chaseholmfarm.com.



Chaseholm Farm Store is the fourth new agricultural business in Ancram in the last two years, including Jacüterie, Hillrock Distillery and Copper Star Alpacos. Ancram's Agriculture Advisory Council provides promotional support through the Ancram-Farming program.

"Things are happening in Ancram!"

Thanks to our entrepreneurs and our volunteers, we keep moving forward!"

*-Art Bassin
Ancram Supervisor*

Highlights May 2014

Chaseholm Family Farm	1
Community Development	1
Working to improve Lower Rhoda water quality	2
Historic Railroad Display	3
RoeJan Library Book Shop4	
Community Calendar	4

Moving Forward in Community Development:

Grants Coordinator Appointed. Gerry Fultz, member of the Financial Advisory Council and the Heritage Resources Committee, will assist the town's efforts to gain grants in areas of development interest. Contact Gerry with your ideas - gerry.fultz@att.net or talk to Art 329-0921.

Application for historic designation progressing with NYS historic preservation organization. As part of the Heritage Resources Plan, Ancram is seeking "Historic District" designation for the hamlets of Ancram and Ancramdale, and "Historic Corridor" designation for Boston Corner. These designations will open the door to income tax credits and grants without regulation for improvements to structures in these areas.

Natural Resources Conservation Plan available on line or in Town Hall. Comments welcome to Conservation Advisory Council. Contact JamiePurinton@taconic.net. <http://www.townofancram.org/images/uploads/CAC/2014/Ancram%20Natural%20Resource%20Conservation%20Plan%20Draft.pdf>

2 Newly formed Lower Rhoda Lake Association works to improve water quality

For the first time, owners of Lower Rhoda lakefront property in Ancram and Copake have gotten together to share ideas and work in a spirit of partnership to improve the health of the lake now and in the future!

Madeleine Israel filed the following progress report:

1. Last spring, owners with riparian rights (owners of lake-front property or those with deeded lake rights) to Lower Rhoda Pond were notified by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that Camp Pontiac and Lower Rhoda Pond Homeowners Association (LRPHOA), had applied for a DEC permit to use herbicides to kill the aquatic weeds at the north end of the lake and in the west cove.



Choral Eddie photo

2. The north and west ends of the lake are shallow and are the areas where the inlets of two streams are located. The weed problem at the north and west ends is very real, and the camp fears for the safety of the campers who swim and boat in the area. Their solution, to apply herbicides, resulted in DEC receiving many, many letters in opposition.

3. Rhoda Lake Community, Inc. (RLC) a 52-member homeowners association at the south end of the lake, hired Berkshire Environmental Research Center (BERC), to assess the situation and identify potential remedies other than the use of aquatic herbicides to stem the weed growth.

4. Allied Biological, the chemical company hired by Camp Pontiac, reported that there were environmentally dangerous invasive species such as milfoil in the lake. According to BERC, there is no evidence of any invasive species of aquatic weeds in the lake, but there is a serious indigenous weed problem. BERC also found the presence of certain plants

that are generally considered to be good for the ecosystem, and that prevent certain invasive species like milfoil from colonizing the lake.

5. The extensive weed growth in the lake, according to BERC, is due to extremely high levels of phosphates (found in detergents and fertilizers), and to a slightly lesser extent, nitrogen (fertilizers). BERC will

continue studying the lake and streams entering to try to learn the source of the elevated levels of nutrients.



Jamie Purinton photo

6. In March, LRLA decided to use benthic mats in areas of the lake where aquatic vegetation is most dense. The mats are expensive, but can be moved several times during the season and used year after year. After getting permits, the mats will be placed in limited sections of shoreline near Camp Pontiac, the west cove, and east and south ends of the lake by late spring.

7. Last June, concerned parties met at Ancram Town Hall. Included were Camp Pontiac; DEC department heads for Pesticides and Wetlands and Fisheries; Scott Kishbaugh; LRPHOA representative, Allison Dachelet (by phone); Rhoda Lake Community members, Bill Gillers, George Wiggers, Ed Wiggers, Erma Bressler, Julie Baraz, Madeleine Israel, Ellen Langton, David Jaye; BERC consultants, Drs. Tom Coote, Don Roeder; Allied Biological; Supervisor Art Bassin; a Columbia County Dept. of Health representative.

After a lengthy discussion, Camp Pontiac and LRPHOA agreed to hold off herbicide application

for 2013. The group will continue discussions, using BERC as consultants.

8. At a follow-up meeting in late summer, the lakefront property owners formed the Lower Rhoda Lake Association (LRLA), to work together to find a solution to the weed problem that was environmentally acceptable to all.

Members of the LRLA are: Bill Gillers, Chair, Camp Pontiac; Lower Rhoda Pond Homeowners Association; Rhoda Lake Community Inc.; Camp Anne; Jamie Purinton, Tad Higgins; Lynne Van Voorhies; Marty and Louise Shapiro; and Brad Stein.

9. Jamie Purinton, chair of the Ancram Conservation Advisory Council, strongly recommends stream buffers to help solve problems in the long term. Stream buffers help to filter out contaminants so that the water running into the lake is cleaner. Lower Rhoda flows into Long Lake in Ancram.

Town Hall was packed for the opening of Rail Tales, the second historic display in the new vestibule, Sunday February 23.

Lynne Perrella, member of the Heritage Resources Committee and designer of the show, introduced the speakers.



Dick Hermans, Chairman of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, talked about the history of this wonderful recreational asset in our area.



Ancram has an entrance to the trail in Boston Corner, from

Undermountain Road to Copake Falls, which has been enjoyed by residents for years.

Dick talked about the economic benefit to the local towns of the section completed between Wassaic and Miller-ton. There are plans to extend the trail from Miller-ton through Boston Corner in the next few years. We will need to organize a committee to coordinate and fund raise. Jim Miller gave a wonderful slide show with pictures showing the railroad activity in each of Ancram's three hamlets.



Enjoy Photographs, Archives & Artifacts of Ancram's Historic Railroads

Making Stops in Ancram, Ancramdale, Cook's Siding, & Boston Corner

Show runs February to November 2014



Jim Miller, above left, was a featured speaker at the Rail Tales opening. Jim, Deputy Supervisor, has been a lifelong fan and historian of Ancram's railroads. Lynne Perrella applauds his engaging slide presentation. Lynne is the designer of the exhibition and of the vestibule display space. Exhibit written material by Jane Shannon. Sue Bassin photos.

Opening Day festivities included refreshments and a beautiful Rail Tales cake, below.



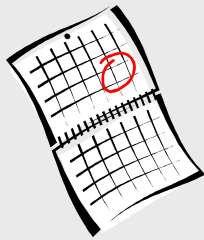
May 2014 TownNews

Got some news?
Contact Art Bassin
Town Supervisor
329-0921
abassin@aol.com

Getting your news by
email saves the town
money and keeps you
more up-to-date.
Contact Madeleine Israel
to make the change,
329-7483
airjazz@taconic.net

Community Calendar

May-July 2014



Calf cuddling was tons of fun at the Grand Opening of the Chaseholm Farm Store, March 29. Sarah Lyons Chase, dairy farmer, and brother Rory Chase, cheesemaker, are the third generation on this family farm straddling the Ancram-Pine Plains line. Sarah practices sustainable farming with a mixed herd of Jerseys and Holsteins. See page 1 for more. B. Docktor photo.

- May 23-25 F,S,S** **Tag Sale**, Simon's General Store, benefits APG preservation projects. Fri 6-8, wine/cheese/\$25, Sat 10-4 & Sun 10-2. Get your bargains!
- May 25 Sun** **Ancramdale Pig Roast – 8th Annual** Benefits Kids' Camp Scholarships and Animal kind. Rain date, Monday May 26. Ancramdale Hamlet Center, 12-3 pm
- May 26 Mon** **Memorial Day Parade**, 11 am start, Town Hall to Fire House
- May 27 Tues** **Grievance Day**, Town Hall, 10-2 and 6-8. Ken Leggett, Assessor.
- Jun 2 Mon** **Conservation Advisory Council**, Town Hall, 7 pm.
- Jun 6-8 F,S,S** **Roe-Jan Library Book Shop** open Fri, Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4, plants and garden books
- Jun 7,8 S, Sun** **Ancram Art Exhibit**. Sat 5-8, Sun 12-4, 2405 Rt. 82 Ancram. Call Jeannette 329-0405.
- Jun 7 Sat** **Round Ball Mountain**. Fun, family day at one of Ancram's two Public Conservation Areas. Tour of new trails, mid-day birds of prey demo and more! Carson Road, 10-3.
- Jun 7 Sat** **County Hazardous Waste Cleanup**, 8:30 to 12:30.
- Jun 19 Thu** **Town Board Meeting** at Town Hall, 7 pm.
- July 7 Mon** **Ancram Kids' Camp** starts. Contact Ruth Thomas. 329-0248 home, 369-1045 cell.
- Jul 12 Sat** **Ancram Fire Company, 75th Anniversary Parade & Celebration**
- Jul 17 Thu** **Town Board Meeting** at Town Hall, 7 pm.

Friends Book Shop, Roe Jan Library, open June 6-8, Friday & Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Thousands of books, videos and CDs donated by local residents are on sale at bargain prices, most \$2 or less, with children's material starting at 25 cents. Plants and garden books will be featured. The shop is located in the lower level of the library. More info 518-325-4101. Book donations may be left any time in the container outside the shop. To volunteer, or assist with sorting or selling, contact Sally Laing at 518-325-3384.