

On The Point

The Contented Cottager

Whatever the season, there's a reason.



Our weeks are filled with all the good things life has to offer -- food, family, children, food. Holidays are especially festive here on The Point and the mood is always carefree and spontaneous. Name a holiday & we celebrate it! In fact we're gunna make some up,

just so we have another excuse to frolic. (And that's how Ice cream Social Sunday started during the summer. Ice cream! Fudge sauce! Butterscotch! Marshmallow fluff! Yum.) As the old saying goes, if you're lucky enough to be at Prospect, you're lucky enough.

Summer Time:

"That 10 week time between winter and bad sledding."

Summer 2009 was wet, wet, wet. But, hey, if you're swimming, you're already wet. Move on. Summer 2010 was blissfully hot. Storms went south. Weather is always interesting here. Folks who come to the mountains don't come with expectations. The mountains speak. We listen.

In between hiking, ice cream, hanging out and



carrying on, there's always something to do. Trust us.

THE WAY WE WERE, ARE, WILL BE.

Some of our guests have been here forever, some have just found us. Over the years things have changed -- mostly due to the advances of technology. For those who bemoan the cell towers, we remind them that on this very site was the world's most modern hotel ... lights in every room. Even though



Thanks to Tricia Prawel.

the sports came to enjoy the wilderness, they basked in the knowledge that Prospect House was catering to their every need. A pharmacy, hot & cold running chambermaids, an orchestra, an unbelievably complex Victorian menu served up thrice daily. We continue the tradition (in our own way). Lights, phones, basic cable. Same view.

SEASONAL MADNESS: CATALOGS FOUND, ORDERED & ON THE WAY



Above: A perfectly still Autumn day.
Below: The Pot of Gold is somewhere on the point.

“The nice part about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does”

Sitting here at my desk, in the cozy new office, watching the snow fall and the Blackcap chickadees feeding just outside the window, it's hard to imagine the other seasons in Blue Mountain Lake. Gardening catalogs have begun their assault on the post office box, luring me into a false sense of just how much bending and weeding my aging carcass can tolerate. But that's not the point in the dead of winter. I am invincible. The weather will be delightful and mellow. The ground will welcome the new arrivals with open mulch and perfect ph levels. No hesitation, no second thoughts

or self-doubt. In January the June garden is a veritable paradise. I am the mistress of all I imagine.

That is until June, when the tug of war between gardener and the gardened begins. As much as those who garden pretend to be up to here with the weeds and the dead-heading and all of that, we are just blowing hot air. The battle is engaged, though the war may never be won.

Winter is the season of dreams, one click ordering and UPS addresses. Customer codes. Buy 3, get one free! *Deer Resistant!* ...and so on.

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In New York it is illegal to throw a ball against someone's head for fun.

BREAKFAST DECODED

Spider plant which withstood countless attempts to kill it.

Red, white & blue topped cheesecake to celebrate Veteran's Day!

Brunch is everything you hoped it would be!



Table for 6? With a view? Leave your reservations at home!

Fresh fruit!

Cherry crepes!



IT'S AN OFFICE!

We're done. A long but worthwhile road. Gently perched on Route 28, a new garden curving around towards the main drive, we are installed in this beautiful cottage. Check in and check out here. Come on in! There's room for nearly everybody.

COME ON IN. THE FISHING IS FINE.

Really?

Really.

According to Cathy, our fishing diva, fishing and catching, is easy if you know a few things (some of which I assure you she isn't sharing).

Kathy uses "twister tails" generally and plastic smelt (for trout). From around 7am until 11am is the best time of day in 30'--40' of water. In the late afternoon you'll need to go deeper.

There you have it. Go get 'em.



The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad.
A.K. Best



Cathy & her lake trout "Zippy"

snippets...part I



In an on-going effort to replace the windbreak of trees that once shielded PPC from Route 28, Paul O and I took a road-trip to Inlet to purchase sturdy, fast-growing evergreens. That was the plan on a gorgeous

autumn morning. I drove, Paul riding shotgun with three cameras because it was, you see, a gorgeous autumn morning. Normally a trip to Zone 3 (extra fabulous garden center!) takes about 30 minutes. We created a new land speed record of an hour and a half. But, to his credit, Paul got loads of photos showcasing the best of fall foliage.

Once at Zone 3, we found our pine trees (and evidently a lot of other "Must Haves" because the car was jammed with plants to the point we could barely move). Did

I mention the trees (what we originally went for) were too huge for the car. Long suffering Donnie went back with his pickup to fetch them.

Paul got his hands dirty (and pretty much the rest of his person) while Donnie slammed those trees into the ground. You see, Donnie's been through the planting wars and knows it's better to get it over with and go busy yourself far away from me, lest I go get more.

Paul did great and I have photos to prove it!



SPECIAL OCCASION?

We offer you our services (off-season) to provide that little something extra to make your visit extra special. Wine & cheese? Champagne & strawberries for your anniversary? Call us and let us know what you have in mind. We *can* keep a secret!

The Greening of Blue



What do you do about a problem like.....*fertilizers?*

As physicians are commanded : “First, do ye no harm.” In the “modern” world sometimes the domino effect of bad decision making processes is not entirely clear. And as the Adirondack hamlets struggle with decreasing populations and aging infrastructure, it becomes more vital than ever for individual landowners to assess their commitment to building healthy relationships with the surrounding environment.

Okay. Enough preaching. But now you’ve got the Big Picture.

The soil we have is nothing to brag about. Each Soil & Water Conservation District publishes a rather scholarly treatise on the multitude of soil structures. From what I can decipher our soil is poor. Rocky. Sandy. Gravelly.

Right here on the Point it would be hard to say what the original soil was because of the hundreds of years of building (and demolishing) that has come and gone. (In our Library we have some artifacts from the foundation holes dug 12 years ago.) We have construction grade soil brought in to level the building sites. We have more gravel trucked

in to improve drainage. Translation: we have a mish-mash.

When I became involved in the planning of our first gardens, much attention was paid to working with our climate, rather than trying to thwart it. (Right. Good luck with that!) I have noticed that I can reliably grow more Zone 5 plants where, in years past, Zone 4 varieties were the norm. The nursery we buy from (Zone 3 in Inlet) has seen the trend as well. Worth noting, however:

“In Hamilton County the Adirondack Mountains are a major influence on climate. The growing season is short because of high elevations. Frost has occurred in every month of the year, and many gardens planted on a hot day in June have been nipped, if not ruined, in July. Within a calendar year, temperatures may range nearly 130 degrees; winter is the longest season. “

So, we chose plants that had a decent chance of surviving weather & deer . The garden, a sum of its parts, has to be encouraged to improve its soil health year by year. The first year there were generous additions of peat moss, horse manure and lime. We mulched heavily with shredded cedar bark. Each year we add another layer of mulch, letting the earthworms dig it in for us. (Better them than me!)

Up till last Fall, I admit to using Miracle Gro as a fertilizer. I sprayed weekly and used their potting soil. And then I had an “aha!” moment. I was feeding the gardens the fertilizer equivalent of crack. Sure the plants look terrific but you cannot halt the application of that stimulant.

weekly calendar for summer

- Saturday, 2pm:** arrive with fully laden vehicle
- Sunday 2pm:** Ice cream social on the Library lawn
- Sunday late afternoon:** Kids swim, parents sunbathe
- Wednesday afternoon:** pretend it's Sunday & the week's not half over
- Thursday evening:**Talent Show!
- Friday:** run around like crazy while Mom packs
- Saturday, 9am:** exchange email addresses, phone numbers & hug your friends. Until next year...

Snippets Part 2

LEARNED TO FLY FISH!



Last spring we held a two day fly fishing seminar led by local guide & expert Jim Zullo.

GOT MARRIED!



The first wedding on my watch was June 2, 2007. Beautiful!

BROUGHT THE BAMBINO!



Two years later the handsome groom & his lovely bride returned with a bouncing baby boy.

GREENING (CONT)

They crash and burn. They go into withdrawal. Really.

On the other hand, a healthy organic garden with its micro-organisms and balanced chemistry will survive the occasional drought or rainy summer. Like humans who have a healthy immune system -- we all need reserves to draw on.

With that in mind we have begun a diligent program for both the lawns and the gardens. Anything that would harm birds, bees, babies, or bass is replaced with 100% organic ingredients. (My understanding is that switching practices like this takes a year or two to reorient the soil.) Now, we never used much of anything but there's no conclusive proof (in my mind) of how much is too much. We want to encourage the dragonflies, the bees, the hummingbirds, the seed eaters and all their kin to go forth & multiply.

Another important aspect to remember is that the chemicals normally used on lawns are as much a danger to health as agribusiness'. (Golf courses are reputed to be some of the most toxic places in the country and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that about 80 million U.S. households dump nearly 90 million pounds of herbicides and pesticides on lawns in a year. Think about that for a minute.)



HOW-TO....

PACK FOR YOUR TRIP:

Bring everything you have for cold weather., two bathing suits, sunscreen and hat. Leave the cold-weather gear in the car, unpack the small bag with the bathing suits, sunscreen and hat. That's all you're going to wear all week anyway. (Well, hopefully.)

TAKE A HIKE:

Gather the following items and arrange carefully in your backpack:

- Water
- Energy bars & dehydrated stuff
- Bug spray
- matches
- compass or GPS
- cell phone (it won't work but you'll feel weird not having it.)
- Space blanket
- Flashlight
- Whistle
- Trail map
- Dry socks

Have someone hoist the pack on your back and attach the baby to the front. Oh...don't forget diapers.



Days of Glory -- relaxing on the Piazza



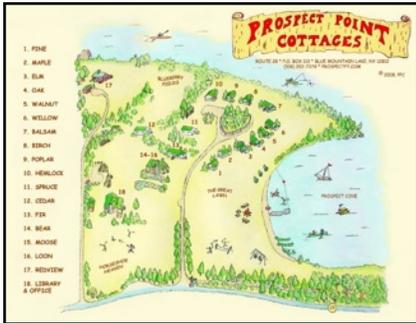
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In New York: New Yorkers cannot dissolve a marriage for irreconcilable differences, unless they both agree to it.

Festive is as Festive does!



Ask Aunt Carol



Q: Why must we sign a statement that we won't hold PPC responsible for injuries or nervous prostration?

A: I might sing.

Q: Why do you charge extra for kids over 19?

A: They should be out on their own, by golly! Why, when I was that age I was working 5 jobs and had quintuplets to support. Did I move home and live off my parents? Heck no. We lived in a Porta-John in Long Lake while I finished my neurosurgery degree. (Oh, wait, that was somebody else.)

Q: How long is your waitlist?

A: That depends on whether you're on the top or the bottom of it.



Q: What will the temperature be when I get there?

A: You're kidding, right?

Calendar

May 21st

Photography & Painting on Castle Rock (an ALCA event)

June 11th

Blackfly Challenge Bike Race

July 2nd

Summer Auction & Block Party (ALCA)

July 4th

Parade & Fireworks, Byron Park 7pm

Aug. 18th

Antiques Show ADK Museum

Sept. 4th

BML Chicken BBQ (firehouse 12n-?)