

On The Point

Father Survives Daughter's Hike

John Leekley is recovering at home under the watchful eye of his family



Our aspiring 46'er Amanda Leekley stands proud atop, umm, some tall mountain.* Father & daughter left at the crack of dawn to get to the High Peaks region, climbed all day and then discovered you have to retrace your steps to get back to the car. After which, the exhausted dad drove back to Prospect. Chewing

his food at dinner was too exhausting to even consider so changes were made to the menu to accommodate his lethargy. (Think: liquids)


* Cascade Mtn. Porter Mtn was also conquered. Only 44 more to go, Amanda! Rock on. Only 44 more to go Dad. Hang in.

Fan Mail!

“Just a quick note on our stay at redview a couple of weeks ago. We all had a great time! This was my first time in the adirondacks and I can not wait to come back. Uncle Tom and aunt Jamie climbed blue mountain, I wanted to go but I don t walk yet, maybe next time. Mom, dad and grandpa & grandma took me to the museum, I liked the train the best. The next day we went to the wild center - Wow, I want to get a pet otter! Well it s getting late so I better say good night - hope to see you in the spring!

Ps. By spring I will be able to eat solid foods so I am looking forward to that great breakfast”

Love,
Tommy
Sent from my iPad



GO JUMP IN THE LAKE!

Have folks been cheerfully jumping off Rock Island since the glaciers melted? Seems so because we hear all kinds of stories of yore. This photo was taken decades ago and nothing's changed except for the bathing suits. Sensible leapers still wear life vests and sensible parents mostly demure -- siting their advanced wisdom. A new tradition has



arisen -- that of walking out to Rock Island on the ice in January or February. What a strange sensation to stand on frozen water, eyes level with the giant boulder!



MEMORABILIA

Many, many thanks to those of you who've loaned us photos, letters and what-not to scan. We're hoping to put together a documentary about the Point over the years. DVD's for everyone!

Of course each photo comes with a story -- of fun times, parents since passed on or the inevitable (and now hilarious) descriptions of cabins gone to pot.

If anyone would like to participate, we can scan your items while you are here and return them right away. Your tales of Prospect are always welcome!



SNIPPETS



Above: Summer at the Tea Deck



Center: Winter on the Lawn. Right: Winter Housekeeping



THE ONLY-EVER PENGUIN PARADE! (HOPEFULLY.)

Look for word of our Point-wide parade celebrating the Mighty Elusive Foam Penguin. The massive parade-o-campers will flaunt their Arctic Personages down the drive way, around the loop and back to the Library, led by The King of the Penguins (aka David O).

NEWS BRIEFS PART I



Above: Dylan & Owen at rest.
Below: Jill making nice with the weeds in the perennial garden.

Dateline 2011:

Summer time, summertime. Roses are red, lavender is blue, all white-tailed deer should be made into stew.

The kids were taller, the weeds were awesome and the season flew by in its usual hurry to bring us back to the dark days of winter.

Ice cream socials! A hit! Some of you guys are real artists with your gooey ingredients and toppings. (See photo Part II)

Talent Shows. (Don't get me started!)

Mischief. A handy supply of this necessary ingredient for summer mayhem. Word has it that Aunt Carol was pinned in her office by hose-wielding hooligans and, despite the presence of adults nearby, no help was forthcoming.

(Though many photos were taken.) A truce was negotiated and ice cream bars were distributed to the little terrors. A call to Aunt Carol was not returned in time for this article. David O regrets the apparent "gangster appeasement."

Goose droppings were at a 10 year low and great rejoicing was heard. Bare feet were once again in style.

Oh boy, oh boy did we have fun this summer! From the official Prospect Point (non) Marching Kazoo Band to the aforementioned delightful ice cream socials each Sunday afternoon...it was great. I don't know where all those 4 year olds came from, but we had a gaggle. They're very good customers at

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CLEANING OUT THE ICE CREAM FREEZER

Kathy

Cleaning rags

Shameless merchandising



Just in case

Handy resting rail

Alene not cleaning. She's ..cooking! Our new, improved kitchen made its debut last October.

Yay us!



SHAKESPEARE ON THE BEACH!

Romeo & Juliet performed on our Great lawn on a warm summer Saturday afternoon last August was very well attended and loudly applauded. 2012's production will be on a **Sunday** -- allowing our newly-arrived guests the pleasure of the experience.

IN THE GARDENS



A perfect summer day

Would you believe that hidden in the gardens around Prospect Point are notes of history; knowledge now obscured by time? Here are but a few fascinating facts about some of my horticultural friends.

PLANTS OF NOTE

Lady's Mantle

Alchemilla mollis. Lady's Mantle has a unique property of forcing water to bead on its leaves. I was first introduced to a legend that, if on May Day, the beads of water were applied to one's face, beauty would follow all the year. What I didn't know until recently is that alchemists considered this the purest form of water and used it in their quest to turn base metal into gold. Cool.

The Amazing Ginkgo Tree

Ginkgo biloba. A truly incredible tree -- long-lived, disease resistant and sheathed in insect resistant wood. How long-lived? Some specimens are estimated to be over 2,500 years old. My favorite fact: 6 Ginkgo trees, situated near the epicenter of the Hiroshima atomic blast, survived and actually budded shortly afterwards. Hence the Ginkgo is often referred to as the "bearer of hope."

Cascade Hops

Humulus lupulus. There's enough to say about this humble vine to devote an entire newsletter to its virtues. Alas, I won't.

The first documented cultivation of hops was in 736 in what became Germany. By 1519 the Dutch condemned hops as a "wicked and pernicious weed."

Now that hops are in the clear, we grow Cascade hops here at Prospect. If you love a bitter beer, IPA's have the highest levels. Head on up to Saranac Lake to the brewery and try out their new White IPA, brewed with a new variety of hops -- Citra. A more fruity taste, or so I'm told.

Don't drink beer? Sleep on a pillow filled with hops for a restful night but don't let your doggie friend eat them. They're toxic to canines!

Nasturtiums

Tropaeolum. I like "nasturtium" better -- it translates to "nose-twister." A nice peppery plant whose flowers look great in salads. Pickle the unripe seed pods to use as a garnish!

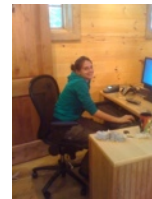
Flannel Mullein

Verbascum thapsus. Aka Beggar's Blanket, Candlewick Plant, Flannel Mullein, Hag's Taper, Velvet Dock....

This grand, alien-looking, biennial herb is often discriminated against by ambitious weed-hating gardeners. Mullein, however, is safe at PPC. We let it grow wherever it pleases. Lots & lots of medicinal uses but we grow it for the butterflies and bees.

In The Gardens - Resolved:

- I resolve to buy only those plants I have room for.
- Every day I will take 15 minutes and admire the gardens. I will get off the lawnmower to do this.
- One zucchini plant is enough for almost anyone.
- I resolve not to weed the window boxes at a restaurant.
- I resolve to use all the tools I bought last fall (if I can figure out where I put them).
- I will not lose faith in the Universe if it rains all summer (or doesn't).



Employee Spotlight

ASHLEY

Part Hostess, part Clerk, part Student. Total Package.

Having survived her first few years here we give a shout-out to Ashley for hanging in and for the remarkable event of turning 21. (I know, we're all looking back with a nostalgic sigh.)

We rely on this stellar young woman to help cook breakfast, clean cottages, answer the phone, sweep the porches, take reservations, do laundry, feed the raven, locate lost items, hit fences with a new car, take home a puppy (or kitten), make coffee, comfort crying babies & clean the fridge. Rock on, girlie!

HEIRLOOM GARDENING

*I like the dreams of the future,
better than the history of the past.*
Thomas Jefferson.

Time to plan the vegetable garden!!! As I contemplate the spring vegetables I'm staring out the office window at a drab sky and icy raised beds in the vegetable garden. Again and again I can visualize what it "should" look like come Summer. The only trick is manifesting that vision...

Here are a few of the heirloom vegetables we'll be trying out this summer:

Tomatoes: Yellow Pear (from at least 1885)

Hungarian Heart (brought from Budapest around 1900)

Red Currant. About the size of a pea and born in long bunches (circa 1885)

Canada Crookneck Squash, an ancestor to our modern Butternut (1856)

Black Valentine pole bean (prior to 1850)

Chioggia Beet - a very early beet from 1856

Early Long Purple Eggplant (1885)



Perry, our mascot, greets all who enter

What a treat to have such a wonderful new building to house

both the reservations desk, gifts, and Carol's clutter.

While we started out slowly, we caught up on PPC gear, adding tee's, sweat shirts, hoodies and caps. Add in a few coffee mugs, some bug spray and the odd bottle of herb vinegars...voilà!

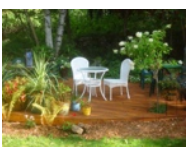
Coming soon:

- Sweat pants
- Zip-up Hoodies
- Honey
- Local Maple Syrup
- Etched Wine Glasses

And some really special surprises!



TEDDY BEARS & TEA PARTIES

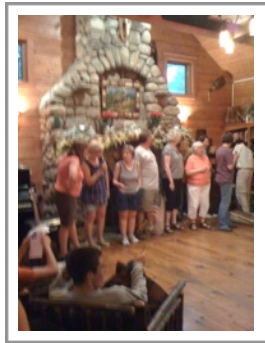


This coming summer Aunt Carol is planning a Tea Party for the little ladies. Be sure to pack a party frock and perhaps a favorite bear or doll to join us for Tea & Light Refreshments.

SUMMER 2011 PART II (CON'T FROM PAGE 3)

the Ice Cream Socials. Truly enthusiastic.

Anyhow, at risk of repeating the obvious, there were a lot of shenanigans. We're happy to report that each vehicle left on Saturday morning with the correct children inside. I'm proud of some of you for having space in your car to fit any child, let alone your own. (How do you guys manage to leave with more than you came with?)



"“But I don't want to go among mad people," said Alice. "Oh, you can't help that," said the cat. "We're all mad here.”"



Talent shows were amazing (for different reasons). Modern ballet, oboe, magic tricks, jokes and so much more.

And, hey guys, get busy on your family flag why don't you?

ASK AUNT CAROL



Q: What are your office hours?

A: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Or, if we're there. Whichever.

Q: Why is Maple's living room painted that eye-splitting green?

A: It looked better on the swatch.

Q: Where do you buy all those beautiful plants for the gardens?

A: Where ever they take Mastercard.

Q: How many people work at Prospect?

A: Do you mean "how many show up and actually work" or "how many people are on the payroll and I can't for the life of me remember what they look like?"

Q: What's your busiest time of year?

A: For the guests it's definitely summer. For us it's April when we re-open the lower cottages. Usually there's still snow but the crew rocks on. Top to bottom they scour the cottages, wash everything, clean the curtains, iron 'em. Find out why the water's frozen. Replace broken bits and so on. Yup, we're good 'an busy then.

Q: How far is it to Raquette?

A: 11 miles to Raquette. 14 miles to here from Raquette. Really.



WORDS OF WISDOM

Of all God's creatures there is only one that cannot be made the slave of the lash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with cat it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat.

Mark Twain, Mark Twain's Notebook, 1935

The Amazing Flip



“3 girls from Syracuse have an awesome time tubing and got hit by a rogue wave. One flew straight, one flew to the left and one flew 10 feet in the air. Katelyn Calkins, Grace Skapura and Mackensie Hayes had the awesomest time at Prospect Point. It was Mackensie’s first time and

she went straight. It was Grace’s 7th time. She went left. It was Katelyn’s 4th time and she went 10 feet high.”

By Katelyn Calkins, Grace Skapura and Mackensie Hayes.

Editor’s Note:
 Congratulations to the girls on their adventure and well-done to the adults on the beach who witnessed it and did not freak out. We’re proud of you all. Now...behave!



On The Point - Resolved:

- All visitors at the Prawl’s cottage must sign a waiver before joining them for cocktails.
- I will not be surprised when the “No Diving” letters on the dock are rearranged.
- I will not tell every child I meet how much they’ve grown. They probably already know this.
- Everyone will use their sparkling white bath towels only on their sparkling clean, freshly showered personages.
- I will take a poll amongst guests to gain support for a camp mascot. Namely: *Jolie The Pot-bellied Pig.*

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