

10 RABBIT TRAIL ROAD, POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12603
Phone:(845)473-0940; e-mail:mhtoo@alum.rpi.edu

February 19, 2007

Jon J. Wagner, Supervisor
Gary E. Beck, Councilperson
Dale Borchert, Councilperson
Stephen O'Hare, Councilperson
Joseph J. Luna, Councilperson

Attached are the 2006 accomplishments and 2007 plans for the Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council (CAC). We volunteered 195 man hours on monthly CAC meetings and approx. 500 man hours on a variety of Environmental and Conservation Related Activities in 2006.

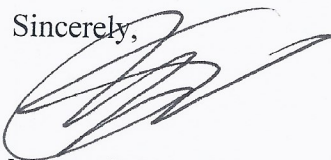
Our major accomplishment in 2006 was the completion of the second and final phase to restore approx. 80 feet of the eroded bank of the Wappinger Creek in August. It required approximately 32 months and more than 500 hours of volunteer effort under the direction of CAC member, Rolf Nijhuis. Volunteers from Dutchess County Environmental Management Council, Trout Unlimited, Boy Scout Troop 50 from La Grange and several CAC members were involved in this project. Town of LaGrange Supervisor, John Wagner, presented Certificate of Appreciation to Rolf Nijhuis for his leadership role in the project at the Town Board meeting on December 13.

We received a major award in 2006 from the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC). It was in recognition of the Wappinger Creek Bank Restoration Project and was one of only two awards presented by NYSACC.

Our participation at the LaGrange Community Day on June 10 and distribution of Storm Water Discharge Education brochures was one of the six measurable requirements (Public Education) in implementation of the Town of LaGrange Storm water Management Program.

I was elected to be a member of NYSACC board of directors at the 2006 Conference on the Environment in October.

Sincerely,



Maung S. Htoo, Ph.D., FAIC
Chairperson

Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council

cc: Town of LaGrange Conservation Advisory Council Members

Jaochim G. Ansorge, Director of Planning and Zoning

John S. Brewster, Planning Board Chairman

Peter D. Huff, Parks and Recreation Director

Michael Kelly, Highway Superintendent

Tracy Johnson, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman

Kathleen A. Williams, Town Clerk

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)
TOWN OF LAGRANGE**

2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I. CAC MEMBERSHIP

The town board appointed Gary Fisher in January, 2006 to fill the remaining term of Keith Christensen as recommended by CAC chairman.

II. MONTHLY REVIEWS OF PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

Completed review of all planning board applications submitted to us prior to our monthly meetings.

III. CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CAC MEMBERS ON SOFTWARE USE

Tutorial classes have been held by Rolf Nijhuis on Dutchess County GIS Connection software for CAC members.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION RELATED MEETINGS

CAC members attended many environmental and conservation related meeting during the year (see appendix B).

V. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUACTION ON STORM WATER DISCHARGE

Continued our active role in the dissemination of educational materials in an outreach effort to inform the community of the impacts of polluted storm water runoff discharges on water quality and storm water pollution solutions.

VI. PARTICIPATION AT LAGRANGE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Operated a CAC booth and handed out environmental information materials at the annual LaGrange Community Day on June 10, 2006. A magnetic fishing game which we introduced last year continued to be popular with the kids and their families (see appendix C). Mary Gomez and Linda McPhee planned and organized this event.

VII. WAPPINGER CREEK BANK RESTORATION

The second and final phase to restore approx. 80 feet of the eroded bank of the Wappinger Creek was completed in August. The total project duration was 32 months from 2004 to 2006 and required more than 500 hours of volunteer effort under the direction of CAC member, Rolf Nijhuis. Volunteers from Dutchess County Environmental Management Council, Trout Unlimited, Boy Scout Troop 50 from LaGrange and several CAC members were involved in the project.

VIII. WAPPINGER CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL TREE IDENTIFICATION

Professor Mark Schlessman, a biology professor at Vassar College, completed identification of 22 important tree species on the Wappinger Creek Greenway Trail as part of the tree identification class he teaches at Vassar during the Fall semester.

VIII. WAPPINGER CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL TREE IDENTIFICATION (CONTINUED)

He initially contacted Rolf Nijhuis to find out about our bank restoration project (item VII above) and worked with Rolf in the tree identification project. Rolf and Professor Schlessman flagged the trees that needed identification by the students.

IX. WAPPINGER CREEK WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL COUNCIL

CAC member, Ed Joba, represented LaGrange CAC in the Wappinger Creek Watershed Intermunicipal Council.

X. FISHKILL CREEK INTERMUNICIPAL COUNCIL

CAC member, Linda McPhee, represented LaGrange CAC in the Fishkill Creek Intermunicipal Council.

XI. CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Maung Htoo was an invited speaker at the "2006 Conference on the Environment" sponsored by the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions at Chautauqua, NY on October 13-15, 2006. He gave a presentation on the Wappinger Creek Bank Restoration project.

XII. AWARDS AND PUBLICITY

1. Received the 2006 Action Award from the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) for the Wappinger Creek Bank Restoration Project at the "2006 Conference on the Environment". It was only two awards presented by NYSACC in 2006.
2. Maung Htoo, on behalf of LaGrange CAC, presented this award to the town for permanent display at the town hall at the town board meeting on December 13, 2006.
3. At this meeting, Supervisor Wagner, presented CAC member, Rolf Nijhuis with the Town of LaGrange Appreciation Award for his leadership role in the Wappinger Creek Bank Restoration project.
4. The Voice Ledger published an article on these two events (2 and 3 above) in the December 21-27, 2006 week publication.

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)
TOWN OF LAGRANGE**

2007 PLANS

I. MONTHLY CAC REVIEWS OF PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

Continue to improve the efficiency of the CAC review process by acquiring up-to-date information and assuring that all members receive the necessary training .

II. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ON STORM WATER DISCHARGE

Continue an ongoing public education and outreach program on Storm Water Discharge.

III. PARTICIPATION AT LAGRANGE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Participate at the LaGrange Community Day on June 9, 2007.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION RELATED MEETINGS

Continue attendance at pertinent environmental and conservation related meetings.

V. WAPPINGER CREEK INTERMUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Continue CAC participation.

VI. FISHKILL CREEK INTERMUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Continue CAC participation

VII. WAPPINGER CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL TREE IDENTIFICATION

Procure tree signs and attach them to the 22 tree species in the trail which have been identified by the Vassar College tree identification class taught by Professor Mark Schlessman.

VIII. WAPPINGER CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL EXTENSION

Explore feasibility of extending the existing nature trail in another part of the Town of LaGrange owned property and beyond to Pleasant Valley

IX. CAC GIS DATA EXPANSION

Expand the CAC GIS data base to include blanding turtle Habitat (input from Husdonia) and environmental related data gathered by the Open Space Committee.

X. EARTH DAY STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL DISPLAY

Sponsor a pilot environmental display project by students in Overlook Elementary school on Earth Day in March, 2007

XI. RAIN GARDEN

Rain gardens are used to reduce storm water pollution and protect local streams and increase groundwater recharge. We plan to explore the feasibility of building a demonstration rain garden in 2007.

APPENDIX A

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS
TOWN OF LAGRANGE (2006)**

- 1. Maung Htoo (Chairperson)**
- 2. Gary Fisher**
- 3. Mary Gomez**
- 4. Edwin Joba**
- 5. Robert Kinkade**
- 6. Michael Maegerle**
- 7. Linda McPhee**
- 8. Rolf Nijhuis**
- 9. Nancy Swanson**

APPENDIX B

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION RELATED MEETINGS ATTENDED BY CAC MEMBERS IN 2006

***number of meetings attended shown in brackets**

- LaGrange Open Space Committee Meetings
 - Mary Gomez (2), Rolf Nijhuis (2), Nancy Swanson (2), Linda McPhee (1), Gary Fisher (1), Ed Joba (1), Bob Kinkade (1), Maung Htoo (1)
- LaGrange Planning Board Meetings
 - Nancy Swanson(3), Rolf Nijhuis (3)
- LaGrange Town Board Meetings
 - Maung Htoo (2), Linda McPhee (2), Nancy Swanson (2), Gary Fisher (1), Mary Gomez (1), Bob Kinkade (1)
- Wappinger Creek Watershed Intermunicipal Council
 - Ed Joba (3)
- Fishkill Creek Intermunicipal Council
 - Linda McPhee (1)
- Cornell University Cooperative Extension Environment Program (CUCEEP) Meetings at Farm & Home Center- Millbrook, NY
 - Nancy Swanson (6), Rolf Nijhuis (5), Bob Kinkade (1), Maung Htoo (1)
- CUCEEP GIS- Special Interest Group Committee Meetings at Farm & Home Center- Millbrook, NY
 - Rolf Nijhuis (5)
- Use of Dutchess County GIS Software taught by Rolf Nijhuis
 - Maung Htoo (1/30/06), Ed Joba (1/31/06)
- Northern Dutchess Alliance Annual Meeting-1/25/06
 - Nancy Swanson
- Dutchess Rail Trail meeting at Lagrange town hall-2/28/06
 - Nancy Swanson
- Endangered Plants and Animals in Lagrange by Karen Strong-NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Lagrange town hall- 3/22/06
 - Gary Fisher, Maung Htoo , Rolf Nijhuis, Nancy Swanson, Linda McPhee, Ed Joba
- Dutchess Land Conservancy Meeting- 4/10/06
 - Nancy Swanson
- Symposium on Catastrophic Climate Change - Albany Law School- 4/18/06
 - Nancy Swanson
- Workshop on Local Government Funding of Land Conservation-4/29/06
 - Nancy Swanson
- 20th Anniversary of Hudson River Ecosystem Study-IES, Millbrook-5/02/06
 - Ed Joba
- Meeting with Pleasant valley CAC on Extending Wappinger Creek Greenway Trail-May
 - Rolf Nijhuis
- Environmental Conservation Update Meeting at DEC Headquarters, Albany, NY- 6/19/06
 - Maung Htoo

- “Significant Habitats in the Fishkill and Sprout Creek Corridors, Town of LaGrange” presented by Gretchen Stevens-Hudsonia to the Town Board-8/9/06
 - Maung Htoo, Mary Gomez, Linda McPhee, Nancy Swanson
- Meeting with Dr. Mark Schlessman, Professor of Plant Biology, Vassar College on Tree Identification- Wappinger Creek Greenway Trail- 9/1/06
 - Rolf Nijhuis
- Swim the River Film at Institute of Ecosystem Studies- 10/11/06
 - Nancy Swanson
- 2006 Conference on the Environment- Chautauqua, NY- 10/13 to 10/15, 2006
 - Maung Htoo
- Meeting with Art Teacher at Overlook Elementary on Earth Day 2007 Exhibits- November, 2006
 - Mary Gomez
- Town Board Meeting - Recognition Certificate to Rolf Nijhuis from Town Supervisor-12/13/06
 - Maung Htoo, Rolf Nijhuis, Linda McPhee, Gary Fisher

APPENDIX C

CAC Participation at LaGrange Community Day- June 10, 2006



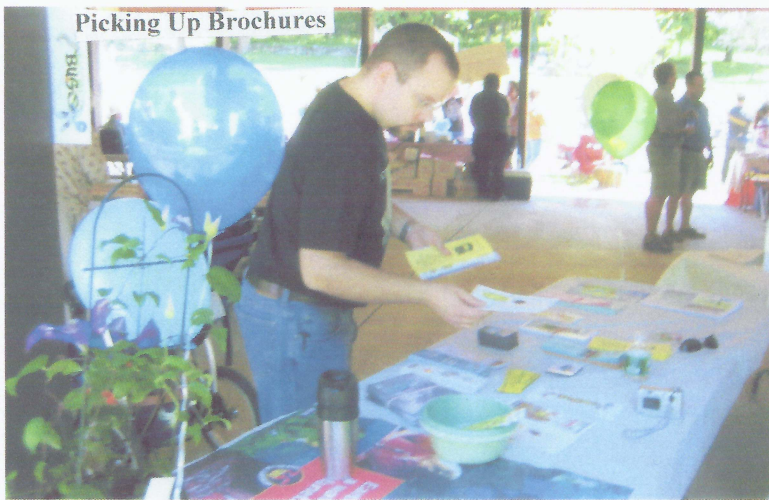
Linda McPhee

Mary Gomez

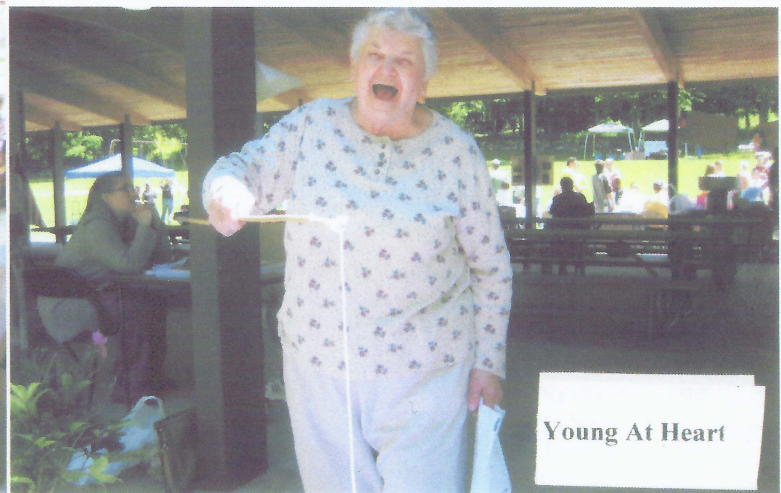
Maung Htoo



Environment Brochures
At the CAC Table



Picking Up Brochures



Young At Heart



Learning About Clean Water - Magnetic Fishing



Who Needs Fishing Poles?

Wappinger Creek Bank Restoration May 2004 - Oct 2006



INITIAL: Severe bank erosion



1) 1st attempt...Boy Scouts rake/seed the bank



2) Damaging 7 foot floods over top of bank



3) After flood...Disaster



4) 2nd attempt...using 2½ foot boulders



COMPLETE: Trail open w/boulders on left