

# Beacon Sloop Club Broadside



Volume 38, Issue 2

February 2011

## Serving Hudson River with Pride for 38 Years

### A Message from Our President:

Many thanks to those who have renewed their membership for 2011, and a gentle reminder to everyone else. Your membership is important.

Regarding our two year fundraising campaign for major work on the Woody – let's keep those ideas rolling in and thank you to everyone who has offered to help. We'll all need to work together to pull this off.

No need to stay home and fret about the snow. Mark your calendars for upcoming events- the Woody Block Party on Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, the Economics of Fracking winter talk on 2/18, and 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Woody Guthrie Benefit Dinner on 2/26. See inside for details. And watch for winter maintenance plans from Gigi.

Chris Ruhe will organize our April Earth Day Clean-up again this year. An exact date will be available soon.

Anyone interested in helping with Strawberry Festival planning please contact me or Phyllis directly. It will be time for all hands on deck again before you know it.

Last, but not least, a big thank you to those who hosted a January event, in particular Steve Vandermerwede and Sarah Elizabeth for the 1/21 Winter Lecture Series movie Food, Inc and Jacob Bernz for the 1/22 Something To Say Café. Jacob looked great on the front page of the Beacon Free Press.

Rosemary

### ***Inside this issue:***

**Winter maintenance begins**, a look at the economics of gas drilling, Ken takes on Star Wars, snow, snow, snow, and much, much, more.....



**NEXT EXEC. COM. MEETING IS Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 p.m.**

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS FRIDAY, March 4th, 7:30 p.m., Potluck at 6:30 p.m.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ How did you hear of us? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Members at this address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
(use back if needed)

Newsletter format(check one): Printed  E-mail  Please include your e-mail address if you want your newsletter e-mailed to you.

Membership suggested donation \$25.00. Minimum of \$10.00. Please give more if you can afford it!  
If you can't afford the minimum, the fee may be waived.

**Mail to: Beacon Sloop Club P.O. Box 527 Beacon, NY 12508**

The **Beacon Sloop Club Broadside** is the official monthly newsletter of the **Beacon Sloop Club, Inc.**

The **Beacon Sloop Club, Inc.** is a non-profit, volunteer environmental education/action and sailing organization dedicated to cleaning up the **Hudson River** and its environs. Our main focus is the **Beacon, Fishkill** and **Newburgh** area.

Members meet the first Friday of every month at the **Sloop Club Building** located just across from the Beacon train station. Look for the building with the Norway spruce tree growing out of the roof! A potluck dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.; bring a covered dish to share and your own place setting. The general meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and lasts about an hour or so. The meeting is followed by a sing-along.

The Beacon Sloop Club and newsletter are accessible from the web: [www.beaconsloopclub.org](http://www.beaconsloopclub.org).

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**BSC Officers 2011**

President: Rosemary Thomas 463-4660 [rmthomas99@yahoo.com](mailto:rmthomas99@yahoo.com)  
 Vice President: Claudine Craig 895-8758 [ccraig2222@yahoo.com](mailto:ccraig2222@yahoo.com)  
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 Nancy Cahill 831-5774  
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 Woody Maintenance:  
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 Woody Scheduling:  
 Susan Berliner 297-7697

**Please submit articles for the Beacon Sloop Club Broadside by the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday after the Friday general meeting each month (early submissions are much appreciated) to [acthoma@yahoo.com](mailto:acthoma@yahoo.com)**

**Input requiring scanning must be in 1 week in advance To: Alan Thomas PO Box 430, Hughsonville, NY 12537**

## Beacon Sloop Club General Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2011

**Opening.** Even under record snow depths and night temps well below freezing, there was a full house for the February meeting. After a warm fire and musical welcome led by **Michael Scolnich**, **Pete Seeger** introduced Club President, **Rosemary Thomas** who opened the business meeting.

**Treasurer, Sarah Elisabeth**, reported a closing balance of \$37,794.65. (see **Treasurer's Report** elsewhere in the newsletter). Rosemary reminded the Club that though this sounds like a fair total for the beginning of the year, now begins two years of very serious renovations to the Sloop Woody Guthrie, expected to cost as much as \$200,000.

**Annual Membership renewal is due NOW.** Get a form from the newsletter or <http://beaconsloopclub.org>. Online renewal is coming soon. Don't forget to sign up for money-saving electronic delivery of this newsletter, **Broadside** while you're at it.

**Woody Guthrie, Tom LaBarr.** (See the full Woody Report elsewhere in the **Broadside**) Much of the structural timber, ribs, joints and planking in the Woody require work. That means inventive and persistent fund-raising. The Woody does not qualify for Medicare yet, so it depends on the kindness of friends and strangers! The **Woody Block Party** will take place at 10am, Sunday, February 13, once again hosted by **Jim Finnegan** at his home, a yellow church building near White's Marina in New Hamburg. Attendees take apart, lubricate and maintain the "blocks" used in the rigging of the Woody. Stories, nautical tales, music, food and drink are welcome along with your sure hands and small tools. The party goes till it finishes. The **Annual Woody Dinner** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 26, 7pm** at River Terrace Restaurant in Beacon. \$50 per person is the required donation. Tom LaBarr continues to round up raffle prizes from local artists and businesses. Once again the Mark McNutt & Co. provides the music and it's always extraordinary. We're expecting a full house, so reserve early.

**Environmental Committee, Sarah Elisabeth & Steve Van Der Mer Wede.** The BSC Environmental Series kicked off in January with 35 people viewing "Food, Inc.". Coming up at the Club, Friday, February 18 at 7 PM is a lecture on the economics of Hydraulic Fracking call Steve at (914) 879-1082, or email [vandermerwede@yahoo.com](mailto:vandermerwede@yahoo.com) for details. **Alan Thomas** announced that the NY DEC is conducting its annual herring count in the tributaries of the Hudson, including Fishkill and Wappingers Creeks in Dutchess County. The Club is participating again this year. The DEC needs volunteers. They will make a presentation at the March meeting.

**Reminder: 2011 Festival Dates.** The snow will be gone by June 12, and The Strawberry Festival scheduled for that date needs your help! Call the Festival coordinator to volunteer. The Corn Festival is on August 14 and the Pumpkin Festival will be on October 16. (6-12, 8-14, 10-16).

**Building Committee, Claudine Craig.** Snow on the roof, a fireplace crack that is not significant and is being addressed and wood for the fireplace are immediate concerns, but all are being addressed. If you would like to help with any of these, contact Claudine.

**Photo and Video Guidelines, Rosemary Thomas.** The Club is a public forum, but respect for other members and strictly non-commercial use of photos and videos taken at the Club are the watchwords.

### Announcements.

**Sue Altin** passed the hat for funds to support the wild wolf project ([www.rockywolf.org](http://www.rockywolf.org)). **Russ Cusick** donated a Hudson panorama as a prize for the largest donation. \*\* Sue also announced the start of Circle of Song, 7pm, 2/25 (4<sup>th</sup> Fridays) at the Club. \*\* **Lindsey Harrison** noted the new Circle of Song (initiated by **Phil Sauers**) at St. John's Church on Christopher Street, NYC, Second Thursdays at 7pm \*\* distributed newsletters (available on the literature rack). \*\* **Jacob Bernz** announced the next **Something to Say Cafe**, 7:30-9:00pm, Saturday, March 5. Jacob is hosting his first CD release party on March 26, 3-5pm \*\* **New Jersey Friends of Clearwater** has a meeting and circle of song every third Thursday in the Methodist Church (close to the Stone Pony) in Asbury Park. \*\* **Eugene Hammond** announced a program, "Real News from Mexico" in Newburgh. **Barry Fish** of Danbury, CT announced Children First, 12-4:30, March 5 at the Broadview Middle School there. The Hudson River Playback Theatre is putting on the program.

Respectfully submitted,

**Vane Lashua, Secretary.**

### Spring is almost here! The NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River Fisheries Unit are starting to recruit volunteers for their volunteer-based river herring monitoring program!

Monitoring will take place from 4/1 to 5/31 during the annual migration of river herring from the ocean into freshwater tributaries to spawn. Volunteers are required to look for signs of herring, at least twice a week for 15 minutes at a site close to his or her town. No experience is necessary, and training is provided! Also, the program is a great way to connect with your local watershed and observe a historic, seasonal cycle in the Hudson River's tributaries! **If you are interested in participating or would like to attend a training session, please contact us at:** [r3hermon@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:r3hermon@gw.dec.state.ny.us) or (845) 256-3172.

#### 2011 Season's Local Sites:

(Dutchess County) Fallkill, Wappingers Creek, Crum Elbow Creek, Saw Kill, Fishkill Creek  
(Ulster County) Black Creek  
(Orange County) Quassaick Creek



*A school of river herring. (Byron Young)*

**Editor's note:** I did this with my son last year and it was a great experience. It's a great way to participate in science and even when there were no herring there was always something new to observe and discuss. If twice a week is too hard to manage we can always team you up.

**Please Renew for 2011**

## EPA Submits Draft Hydraulic Fracturing Study Plan to Independent Scientists for Review

### *The draft plan is open to public comment*

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) today submitted its draft study plan on hydraulic fracturing for review to the agency's [Science Advisory Board](#) (SAB), a group of independent scientists. [Natural gas](#) plays a key role in our nation's clean energy future and the process known as hydraulic fracturing is one way of accessing that vital resource. EPA scientists, under this administration and at the direction of Congress, are undertaking a study of this practice to better understand any potential impacts it may have, including on groundwater. EPA announced its intention to conduct the study in March 2010 and use the best available science, independent sources of information, a transparent, peer-reviewed process and with consultation from others. Since then, EPA has held a series of public meetings across the country with thousands attending and the agency has developed a sound draft plan for moving forward with the study.

The scope of the proposed research includes the full lifespan of water in hydraulic fracturing, from acquisition of the water, through the mixing of chemicals and actual fracturing, to the post-fracturing stage, including the management of flowback and produced or used water and its ultimate treatment and disposal.

The SAB plans to review the draft plan [March 7-8, 2011](#). Consistent with the operating procedures of the SAB, stakeholders and the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the SAB during their review. The agency will revise the study plan in response to the SAB's comments and promptly begin the study. Initial research results and study findings are expected to be made public by the end of 2012, with the goal of an additional report following further research in 2014.

Hydraulic fracturing is a process in which large volumes of water, sand and chemicals are injected at [high pressures](#) to extract oil and natural gas from [underground rock formations](#). The process creates fractures in formations such as shale rock, allowing natural gas or oil to escape into the well and be recovered. Over the past few years, the use of hydraulic fracturing for gas extraction has increased and has expanded over a wider diversity of geographic regions and [geologic formations](#).

For a copy of the draft study plan and additional information: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/02ad90b136fc21ef85256eba00436459/d3483ab445ae61418525775900603e79!OpenDocument&TableRow=2.1#2>

More information on hydraulic fracturing: [www.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing](http://www.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing)

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### Hot Cardboard

Up until now, I have been writing little articles about how not to lose energy from your home. Now I'd like to share with you a little experiment in "poor man's" Solar heating.

I don't have \$50,000 dollars or the wish to borrow it, (even if I am getting Energy Tax credits to offset some of that cost, for an array of solar collectors on my roof. Mainly I don't have time enough to spend waiting for the "break even point" of the cost, when the units start to really save me money.

Luckily the couple that built my house, (a log Home in West Nyack N.Y) faced it SOUTH, and put lots of glass (with insulated shades), on that side. When the sun shines, my shades are up!

A couple of months ago I noticed that the furniture that had the sun shining on it got warm to the touch. But more importantly, stayed warm hours later. I purchased an inexpensive (\$29) laser temperature reading gun. Great fun, unless you accidentally shine it into Tom Baldino's eye, at a conference. (yes, I did this!)

As a test, I took a white cardboard box and faced it on an angle so that winter sun would shine directly on it. It read 85 degrees. I then used flat black spray paint, and painted half of it. I was able to get it up to 135 degrees. Free heat! No moving parts, and cheap as can be. That was just one type of material. Paper loses heat faster.

I then took a large plastic magnifying lens, (Fresnel lens), from an old discarded projector TV and focused the beam on a 20 lb hollow anvil. I was able to leave it focused while the beam tracked across the steel for several hours. The temp of the entire anvil reached 115 degrees.

The beam of light was strong enough to instantly ignite paper. Food for thought! Next time WOOD HEAT!

Ken Miller

### Dredging Update

In December GE agreed to move forward with Phase 2 of the project in the spring of 2011. Phase 2 requires GE to remove 95 percent or more of PCBs from designated areas. While not perfect this agreement is a huge victory for all the concerned citizens and groups who have spent years advocating for remediation. Phase 2 is estimated to take up to seven years to complete.

#### **STATEMENT of Judith Enck, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on GE Hudson River Decision**

EPA commends GE on its decision to conduct the second and final phase of the Hudson River cleanup. The decision sets us on a clear path to a cleanup of PCB-contaminated sediment that is based on the best science and will remove huge quantities of this dangerous chemical from the river.

Over the next few months, we will work with GE on technical plans for the cleanup. We are scheduled to resume dredging this spring. This is an important milestone in the progress we have made over many years in cleaning up and restoring the Hudson River for future generations.

For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/hudson/>

## Woody Report

It's Super Bowl Sunday and I'm sitting in my sunny home office, trying to map out a plan for Maintenance this winter. By now, you all know that we have major renovations to do next year, and have begun our fundraising campaign to replace the frame on the Woody Guthrie. From the estimates gathered, the least amount we will be spending is about \$160,000 to complete this mammoth task; the higher end would be closer to \$200,000.

Many people feel alarmed when they read these numbers, but all wooden vessels have years when time and weather have made their mark and they need major overhauls. The Clearwater spent over \$300,000 last year on replacing 30-40 planks in its bow; next year they also have to replace their centerboard trunk and just 5 or six years ago they spent over \$300,000 on decks. So, in a proportional sense, I guess our task is less daunting.

By the time this newsletter gets out, we will have celebrated yet another Block Party at Jim Finnigan's in New Hamburg. This February's fete will have been slightly different in format, however, as one of the work tables will have had blocks as its focus, while the other table was busy sanding and oiling pin rails, pins, light boards, etc. As we have averaged 40 volunteers over the past three years, it is important that we engage as many attendees as possible in something other than nibbling at the prodigious buffet.

I am pleased so many Woody crews love socializing with one another over the winter months; yet once March hits, it is the responsibility of our captains to marshal their "peeps" together and take on a portion of the maintenance list on to insure the Woody is ready for the sailing season. Yes, this is my annual NAG, but it has merit. Although Sundays are open to all crews, I have seen outstanding efforts by captains and crews who take on specific tasks, such as Bruce, Jimmy and Kip's transformation of a new topmast from a donated catboat spar a year ago.

If you can afford it, please purchase a ticket to the annual Woody Fundraiser at River Terrace. Captain LaBarr does an amazing job of organizing this event, which is yet another opportunity to eat, drink, be merry, and support the Woody's mission. We have raised the amount of guests on our boat over 33% in the last three years, thanks to your dedication and good will. Also, it would be appreciated if all sailors made an effort to select one fundraiser to participate in this year.

Although it is easy to take our boat and program for granted, they are both rare gems. The Woody and the Clearwater are the only wooden Hudson River Sloops currently afloat. The Woody is ALL volunteer and FREE, which makes it unique and truly by the people and for the people. Sailing season is less than three months away, so despite the snow drifts, it is time to put on a brave face and start pampering our vessel and get ready for another great year on the river, far from the madding crowd.

See you at the fundraiser and at Whites!

Gigi Fris  
Maintenance Coordinator

**Please Renew for 2011**

## Sound Bites by Gigi Fris

### The Amazing David Eberle, MD

David Eberle has come a long way since his childhood days as a poor, white, Appalachian kid from East Tennessee. By some miracle, he made it to Georgia Tech, graduating summa cum laude in Physics. One of his earliest professional jobs was training astronauts (you know, those wild guys featured in the flick *The Right Stuff*) to walk in low gravity and dock in space. In fact, their spacesuits were cooled by a system he designed, earning him the title, "The Calvin Klein of Outer Space."



After a tour of Viet Nam and its many horrors, David devoted his life to humanitarian causes, first by getting an MD from the University of Tennessee, teaching at UCLA, and establishing a holistic center for the study of functional disorders. David also returned to his roots in order to establish a scholarship for youth to escape the shackles of poverty. In addition, he helped found a domestic violence shelter, a center for the homeless, and a hospice. After much experience with terminally ill patients, David became a noted speaker on end-of-life care.

Finally returning to the East Coast, Dr. Eberle got another doctorate in public health, then spent years alternating between a teaching gig at Columbia University and resettling refugees in Africa. When the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center towers, David left his home in the West Village to provide medical care to the victims.



Since his retirement a few years back, David has done a wonderful renovation on an 1860's farmhouse in Fishkill. He has contributed reports on ozone and hydrofracking in *Green Times*, while becoming a member in the BSC. Clearwater, and the Fishkill Watershed Committee. A frequent participant in BSC activities, David has served as Secretary to the Executive Committee, Pumpkin Festival Coordinator, and is currently coordinating the fund-raising events for the Woody Guthrie's Save Our Ship initiative.

In his spare time, David is collating the materials for three non-fiction books. He lives with his wife, Lynn, and is the father of three children and two grandchildren. We thank him for bringing his extensive vision and energy to the BSC.



**February Environmental Lecture  
February 18<sup>th</sup> 7 P.M.**

**The Economics of Hydraulic Fracking - speaker Dr. Jannette M. Barth, Ph. D., president of J.M. Barth & Associates, Inc.,** former Chief Economist NY MTA, author of "Unanswered Questions About the Economic Impact of Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale: Don't Jump to Conclusions" will present a lecture on the economic aspects of gas drilling and the adoption of regulations. Dr. Barth brings a new perspective to the issue of gas drilling, challenging some of the assumptions used to promote the idea that gas drilling in the Marcellus shale will bring a certain economic boom to the region.



This is a vital issue to the environmental and the economic health of New York State and deserves serious consideration and study. Please join us at the sloop club for a most informative evening. **For more information: 845-542-0721**

**Coming Next Month: Before Beacon was Beacon -- an exploration of local place names before 1609.**  
with Evan Pritchard



Evan Pritchard, a descendant of the Acadian Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, is Professor of Native American History and Culture at Pace University and Marist College and has lectured at the Museum of Natural History in New York City. He is the author of several books including **Henry Hudson and the Algonquins of New York, Native New Yorkers, The Legacy of the Algonquin People of New York,** and the widely praised **No Word For Time, the Way of the Algonquin People.**

We'll explore what Beacon was called before it was called Matawan Landing, who were the Melzingah from Melzingah's dam, and the origin of many other place names hidden in plain sight.

**Friday March 18 2011 at 7:00 PM**

**WOODY SAILOR'S BLOCK PARTY**

**SUNDAY FEB. 13TH 10 A.M. 'TIL 3 P.M.**

**AT JIM FINNIGAN'S YELLOW CHURCH AT 9 DIVISION STREET IN NEW HAMBURG THREE BLOCKS NORTH OF WHITE'S MARINA**

**DIRECTIONS / QUESTIONS: 845-297-9347**



**Something to Say Café**

The Something to Say Café, youth coffeehouse kicked off its 2011 season on a frigid January 22<sup>nd</sup> evening with featured performer Cameron Stenger and an open mike. The warm fire and refreshments were greatly appreciated along with the excellent musical performances. This is a great opportunity for teens who are interested in music, want to try their hand at performing without pressure, or just want to socialize. So, please spread the word. This was started by teens, for teens and Jacob does a great job as host. The January café was featured on the front page of the Beacon Free Press!



**You are what you eat....**

Over thirty hearty people, many first-time visitors to the sloop club, braved yet another snowy evening to see **Food Inc.**, a disturbing documentary on the role of agribusiness in our food supply. Thank you to all who shoveled, hauled wood, set-up, and cleaned up. A special thanks to Gigi for providing a selection of local and organic goodies for our guests.



It was a thought provoking evening and many folks stayed to discuss the issues, ask about the club and the Woody, and sample the snacks.



*A contrast in Steve's; Captain Steve Schwartz in shorts and t-shirt, Environmental chairman Steve Van Der MerWede in full winter garb, discuss the issues*

**Please Renew for 2011**



## Current Calendar

**Executive Committee meeting**, Tues. February 22nd  
7:00 p.m., at the BSC clubhouse

**Beacon Sloop Club meeting** every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the  
month: next meeting March 4th— potluck 6:30 p.m.,  
general meeting 7:30 p.m.

**Farmers Market** every Sunday, 10-4 p.m.,  
At the Clubhouse , Beacon , NY

**PLANET BLUE WITH CHRIS RUHE** and Tonia  
Shou on radio station WVKR 91.3 FM, Every Mon., 5  
to 6 p.m.

**The Hudson River Estuary: Challenges and  
Opportunities: Paul Gallay, Riverkeeper Exec Dir.**  
Sat., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:00 pm, Nyack Public Library

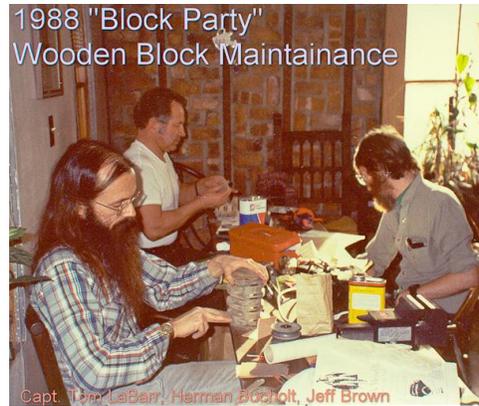
**Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse**, Sat., Feb.12th,  
7:30 pm, Tom Chapin, 250 Bryant Avenue in White  
Plains

**Woody Sailor's Block Party**, Sun., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.  
at Jim Finnigan's yellow church, 9 Division Street,  
New Hamburg, Three Blocks North of White's Marina

**Winter Lecture Series: The Economics of Gas  
Drilling in the Marcellus Shale w/ Dr. Jannette  
Barth**, Fri. Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse, Beacon,  
NY

**Woody Fundraiser Dinner**, Sat., Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm,  
River Terrace Restaurant, 2 Beekman Street, Beacon  
**Reservations required**

**Please Renew for 2011**



*Photo provided by Aimee LaBarr*

**Check the Woody group site or contact a  
captain or Gigi for maintenance schedules.**

**Something to Say Cafe.**, Sat. Mar. 5th 7:30 pm at the  
Clubhouse, Beacon, NY

**Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse**, Sat., Mar.12th,  
7:30 pm, Seamus Kennedy, 250 Bryant Avenue in  
White Plains

**Winter Lecture Series: Before Beacon was Beacon  
w/ Evan Pritchard** Fri., Mar. 18th, 7 PM Beacon  
Sloop Club

**Hudson River Reflections-Russell Cusick**,  
exhibit of Hudson River inspired art and photo  
acrylic panoramas, through March 6, 2011, BIRE  
Gallery, 199 Main St., Beacon

**2011 Festival Dates**  
Strawberry June 12<sup>th</sup>,  
Corn August 14<sup>th</sup>,  
Pumpkin October 16

**Vigil for Peace every Saturday from 12-2 p.m. at the intersection of Rts. 9 and 9D  
opposite Staples and at the corner of the South Hills Mall.**

Details of calendar events may be found elsewhere in the newsletter.  
For more info about the BSC: [www.beaconsloop.org](http://www.beaconsloop.org), or [www.beaconsloopclub.org](http://www.beaconsloopclub.org)