



## Welcome back to Indian Rock School, "Pine Cone Pete"



More than 100 youngsters from the Amenia Elementary School will help "Pine Cone Pete" plant three evergreen trees in the Indian Rock School's fifth annual observance of Arbor Day on April 24 and April 26.

Andy Durbridge, in his role as "Pine Cone Pete", explained that this year's young conifers have been chosen to provide future shelter for birds and

other wild life. The two previous Arbor Day plantings were flowering crab apple trees.

The school children's field trip to the historic one-room schoolhouse will include the class that planted last year's tree so they can see how it is growing. Mrs. Gamble's first graders will also be checking the bulbs they planted last October on a class visit. They will be joined by students from the classes of Miss Ambrose, Mrs. DesChamps Mrs. Killmer, Mrs. Buckley and Mrs. Reiter.

After their joining with the students putting in more plantings, all the youngsters will gather in the picnic pavilion for their al fresco lunch and cookies.

Elementary School Principal, Mike O'Neil, arranged this special Arbor Day for the children.

The schoolhouse program to revive interest in the historic springtime celebration was launched in 2003 with Pine Cone Pete visiting local nursery schools to help pre-schoolers pot seedlings and plant seeds.

Besides the tree planting, last year the young folks helped Rudy Eschbach sow the seeds of corn, pumpkins and squash for a "settlers' garden".

Future landscaping plans for the schoolyard include a wildlife hedgerow bordering Mygatt Road in front of Indian Rock. The bushes will provide berries for the birds and squirrels to enjoy.

Arbor Day, a day set apart for planting trees was traditionally one of the spring highlights in rural schools in the early 1900's.



From Smithsonian Baseball by Stephen Wong 2005

...a fundraiser for  
Indian Rock Schoolhouse  
celebrating the fact that...

**AMENIA  
HAS ALWAYS BEEN  
A BASEBALL TOWN**

**Advertise in the Souvenir  
booklet**

...to recognize Amenia's Baseball heroes  
over the years

To be published for and sold at  
the **Exhibition**  
**Doubleheader Baseball  
Game**

**Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**  
First game at 12 noon

featuring the **Roxbury Nine** – a  
living-history Baseball Team  
vs. the Hartford Senators .....  
playing by the rules of 1860 and  
1890, using vintage rules and  
equipment

**at Maplebrook Ball Field  
behind Indian Rock  
Schoolhouse**

Parking in the field behind the schoolhouse  
\$10/car non-members \$5/car for WCSA  
members

You loved the Amenia Cookbook,  
now help us write the Souvenir  
Booklet for this game...

**WE NEED YOUR OLD TEAM  
PHOTOS!**

email your photos to  
[maureen@rooneydesign.biz](mailto:maureen@rooneydesign.biz) with a list of  
names to identify the players or call 845-  
373-9233 for an appointment to have  
your photos scanned.

**DEADLINE MAY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007**

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Advertising Rates:

**Business card size AD only \$25**  
**Check and your card to WCSA**  
**PO Box 172 Amenia NY 12501**

**Display Ads:**

Back Cover (color) \$350(**SOLD**)  
Inside covers back & front(color) \$250  
Display AD black & white – page \$200  
½ page \$115  
¼ page \$60

**SUMMER SUNDAYS** - Family time on the weekends for free at Indian Rock.....



Last year many children and their parents came to Indian Rock School on Sunday afternoons for crafts, music or learning. From a concert to a "Farm Day" everyone had a chance to learn... to write with a quill pen, make a paper quilt, see a Boy Scout camp, make a birdhouse and learn about old-time farming.

This year activities at Indian Rock will be available on Sundays from July 8<sup>th</sup> through August 5, beginning on July 8 with our special friends Jeanne and June who will repeat their popular bird house/bird feeder workshop. Watch the Indian Rock blog for details.

E-mail [jeanneandjune@optonline.net](mailto:jeanneandjune@optonline.net) for info or to sign up to make a free wooden birdhouse

## Questions and Answers

**What is a BLOG?** Answer from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

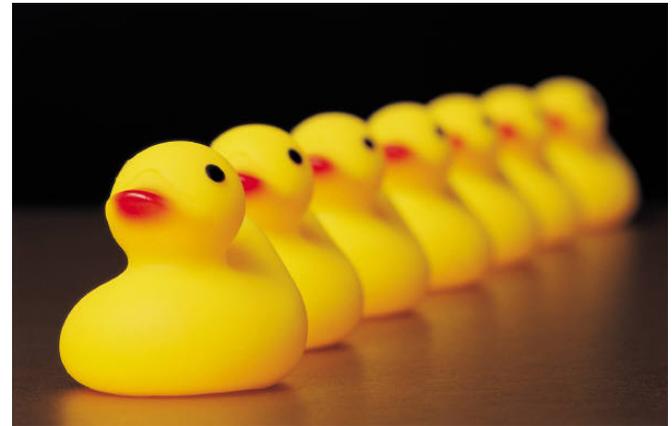
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The term "blog" is a portmanteau (another new word and yes, you will be tested), in other words, a blend of the words web and log (Web log).

Blog can also be used as a verb, meaning to maintain or add content to a blog -in journal style and displayed in a reverse chronological order. Blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject, such as food, politics or local news; some function as more *personal online diaries*.

*The Indian Rock School blog contains bits of information about our schoolhouse and about local history that are not covered in the Inkwell, uLabel1 or newsletter*

*Go to: [www.indianrockschool.blogspot.com](http://www.indianrockschool.blogspot.com)*



Schoolhouse Membership Form (checks to WCSA PO Box 172 Amenia, NY 12501)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Individual: yr./ \$15      Family: yr./ \$25

Teacher's Pet yr./ \$100

Lifetime: \$500

## The first Trunk Exhibit

The Schoolhouse Association's initial trunk exhibit program, "Visit to a One-room Schoolhouse", was enthusiastically received on April 5.

Two social studies classes at Maplebrook School were the first to unpack all the old-time school treasures. They had a fine time looking at, discussing and reading the enclosed materials. In fact, the students liked the trunk so much that their teacher, Jessica Coviello, asked us to loan it to them for another week. The students have promised to give the committee ideas about the most interesting items in the portable collection and to make suggestions for improvement. The Trunk Show committee was delighted with the students' response.

The WCSA Programs committee prepared the first trunk which contained lesson suggestions, bibliography and website lists, books about schoolhouses, as well as costumes, quill pens, slates chalk, games and many other items.

The trunk shows fill the seasonal void in programs at the 1858 schoolhouse during the winter months.

When WCSA and our educational community lost one-room schoolhouse teacher Kay Kane last year, many donations to Indian Rock School were made in her memory. Those funds were set aside in a special fund. All future trunks will be purchased and outfitted using monies from that source plus other donations.

To contact the Schoolhouse Association about borrowing a trunk for your students or members of your adult organization e-mail:

[IndianRockschool@aol.com](mailto:IndianRockschool@aol.com)

And what will the second trunk contain?



## Indian Rock Schoolyard becomes a Wildlife Habitat

In years gone by, when one-room schoolhouses like Indian Rock planned a science program, studies were based on the natural environment around the school. Children from Leedsville to Mt. Riga took "nature walks" with their teachers finding specimens of plants, insects, rocks and flowers. They made collections which they used to study natural science.

This year Indian Rock begins a re-creation of those times through a program for encouraging wildlife to come to the area around the school and subsequently, to have the schoolyard become a certified wildlife habitat.

It all begins by planting evergreens in the schoolyard this spring, and then, this fall, creating a wildlife hedgerow of native plants along the front fence. The National Wildlife Federation requires five elements for becoming a certified habitat :

1. **Food** - Grow native shrubs, trees and other plants that produce acorns, berries and other seeds — to supply food for wildlife. For birds, feeders can supplement natural food sources
2. **Water** - Provide a constant, reliable source of water with a birdbath, pond or shallow dish. Most wildlife need water for drinking and bathing.
3. **Cover** - Create cover for wildlife with densely branched shrubs, hollow logs, rock piles, brush piles, stone walls, evergreens, meadow grasses and deep water. This will protect wildlife against the elements and predators.
4. **Places to Raise Young** - Offer wildlife safe places for courtship

and nurturing young. Mature trees can provide den sites for squirrels and nesting places for birds. Host plants for caterpillars will ensure the presence of butterflies in your habitat. Salamanders, frogs and toads will thrive in a pond or water garden.

5. **Sustainable Gardening Practices** - garden or Planting native plants, reducing chemicals and building healthy soil are just some of the things you can do to help wildlife and conserve natural resources.

At Indian Rock this Arbor Day a bird and animal survey will be started. There will be a chart where visitors can note the kinds of wild animals, insects, birds as well as amphibians and reptiles that they see.



The Webutuck  
Country Schoolhouse  
Association

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P.O. Box 172, Amenia, NY 12501



**APRIL 24** 11am to 1 pm



Sunday July 8 - Aug. 5

August 11 - 12 Noon

Join the first and second graders from Amenia Elementary School to plant trees for this old fashioned holiday.

Meet the Pine Cone Princess (photo left), visit an 1858 schoolhouse and meet the school ma'am Miss Joan, help kids plant trees and seeds, eat a picnic lunch, sing some songs, assist Pine Cone Pete and our friend Rudy planting the garden, talk to friends, take cute kid pictures, look for wildlife for the Indian Rock wildlife list, sign up for a committee, hand out cookies to the children (thanks Joe McEnroe and Bank of Millbrook), bring a lawnchair and just sit and watch the fun!

Summer Sundays at 1pm

Vintage Baseball Game