



1980 • Our 41<sup>st</sup> Year! • 2021

3rd wettest July ever ▶ 2  
Goat yoga ▶ 8 • Events calendar ▶ 14

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## Lake George islands Big Burnt

**Editor's note:** Its the 25th anniversary of when the late Frank Leonbruno began writing — and *The Chronicle* began publishing — the series of articles that became his classic book *Lake George Reflections: Island History and Lore*. This summer we are reprinting weekly chapters with the permission of Frank's daughters Gail and Jane.

**By Frank Leonbruno**

Special to The Chronicle, 1996

Big Burnt Island, 30 acres in size, is the **largest of the state-owned islands in the Narrows**. Although the exact origin of the name is unknown, there is mention of a disastrous fire there in the late nineteenth century.

The island may have gotten its name, however, from even earlier fires. In the days before Europeans settled this area, the

**Largest of  
state-owned  
islands in  
the Narrows**



Big Burnt is a camping island with 27 sites. Semi-wild goats once roamed here, wrote Seneca Ray Stoddard. Chronicle photo/Mark Frost

Native Americans used to burn off old fields and forest edges for new crops. However, this slash-and-burn technique often resulted in forest fires which would burn out of control over huge areas. Perhaps the original inhabitants viewed Big Burnt Island as an ideal place to

employ this technique, as they could be certain that the fire would not spread beyond the bounds of the island.

In 1889, Seneca Ray Stoddard wrote that semi-wild goats inhabited the island. In the early 1900s, Evangeline Booth, daughter of the Rev. Charles

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## What a strange stressful time...

**By Mark Frost**

Chronicle Editor

Time was when we could laze in mid-August, bask in the lingering glow of summer, partake of the harvest, soak up the warmth, be refreshed by the cooler evenings hinting at autumn to come.

There's nothing mellow about August this year.

The region, the nation, the world?, are un-

**Cuomo yields;  
Covid surges;  
politics rages;  
business strains;  
schools unsure.**

*Please turn to page 6*



**Our intern  
tries goat  
yoga ▶ 8**



**You didn't realize  
it was autumn?  
It's nearly Halloween  
judging by store shelves**

## Events blitz!

**By Cathy DeDe**

Chronicle Managing Editor

Fests and events abound in the week ahead — from the **LARAC Arts Festival** in Glens Falls to the new **Lake George Barbecue and Blues Festival** in Lake George Village to the **Lake George Land Conservancy's Block Party** in Bolton Landing to **Nettle Meadows Cheese Jam** in Thurman to **SAW's Music on the Hill** in Salem. That's just a start. Check *The Chronicle* Calendar of Events for details on these and billions more.

• **50th LARAC Arts Festival**. Cancelled last year and

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