

THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

\$1.50

JUNE 2006

Volume 18, Number 2

PAGE TWELVE

**Do You Remember
Karlene Exley?**

PAGE TWENTY SIX

**Threats to our
Eastern
Brook Trout**



PAGE TWENTY EIGHT

**Vanna Turns to Brine
to Tenderize,
Moisturize and
Enhance Flavors**

GOURMET MEALS AT THE DANVILLE MEAL SITE

HELEN MORRISON

I wonder how many senior meal sites in Vermont are treated to a gourmet meal? Probably not many. But there is one lucky enough to have just that, a gourmet meal prepared by a professional chef once a month. The idea is from the creative genius of Danville Senior Meal Site food preparer and coordinator, Karen Moran, a "chef" in her own right.

The Danville Meal Site has hosted such wonderful cooks as Kate Beattie, Steve Cobb, Irv Gelber and *The North Star* staff, and Paula Bystrzycki with food prepared by the St. Johnsbury Academy Culinary Arts students.

On Thursday, May 11, the meal extravaganza continued with a sumptuous repast prepared on site by Chef David (Hale) of the New England Culinary Institute and by two students from the Cabot School, Anna Bromley and Tyler Placey-Noyes. It was fun to watch the preparations because it was a learning experience for us all, especially for the Cabot students, both of whom intend to go into

(Please See Page 24)

Chris Bouchard Puts His Eye on the Sky

When Chris Bouchard thinks about what drew him to meteorology he almost apologizes that it wasn't some defining moment with clouds parting for a view of the firmament or a miraculous inspiration from changes in seasons. Instead he gives credit to the big screen thriller about tornadoes run amuck and devastation that might have been. The movie was called *Twister*, and Bouchard was in 9th grade in Brunswick, ME.

"I was taking Earth science at the time, and I was amazed by the power. I was stunned to see a semi take off like a missile, and, special effects aside, that was real. I figured if I couldn't chase tornadoes I'd chase thunderstorms, and I did. I took a photography class and did a job shadow at the National Weather Service in Gray, ME." Eventually Bouchard learned of the highly regarded meteorology program at Lyndon State, and he graduated from the program in May 2004.

In September, a year later, Bouchard joined the staff of the Eye on the Sky at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury with Mark Breen and Steve Maleski as the voices of the familiar program aired by Vermont Public Radio, WGMT in Lyndonville and WLFE in St. Albans.

Bouchard admits that his training was in weather reporting on television with all manner of computer generated charts and maps and simulated radar effects displayed as part of the forecast. "Radio," he says, "is more difficult than you think without the benefit of visual images. I want the listeners to have enough information to develop an image of the forecast and a deeper understanding of the science involved in order to picture in their minds what is happening. There is a basic understanding of how weather works, and I try to present that and elaborate on some particular aspect of the forecast."

Bouchard says, "Yesterday was a good example. It seemed like a fairly typical situation with an overcast day with conditions that we expected to turn damp and cool, but [the effects of the elevation and position of] Mt. Washington ate up our clouds, and St. Johnsbury was the warmest place in New England."

He says, "It's not a perfect science, but if you do it every day there are analogies and a creative process that make it interesting for us and, I hope, for the listeners, too. My approach is to start with the big picture and broad patterns and then narrow it down

(Please See Page 8)

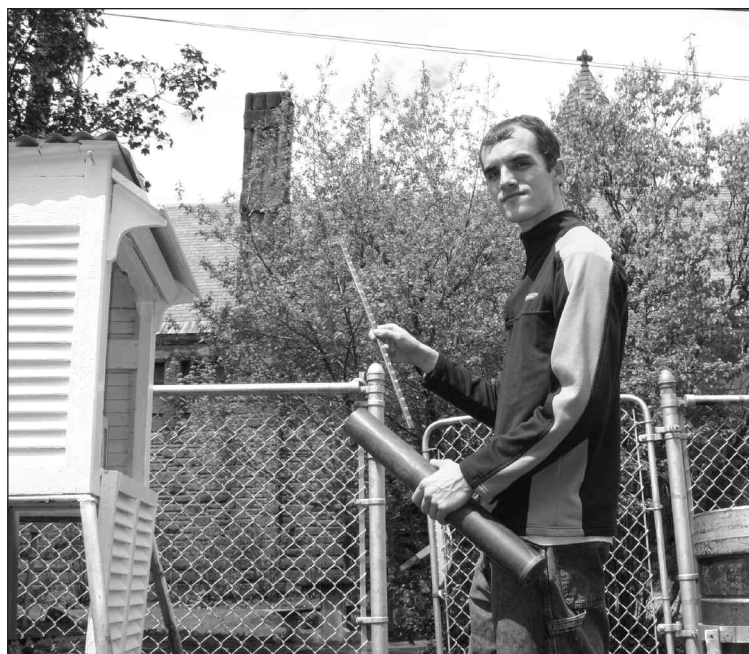


Photo By: North Star Monthly

Chris Bouchard is the latest addition to the Fairbanks Museum Eye on the Sky weather reporting staff. Bouchard is a graduate of the meteorology department at Lyndon State College.

Lights Going Out in the Granby School

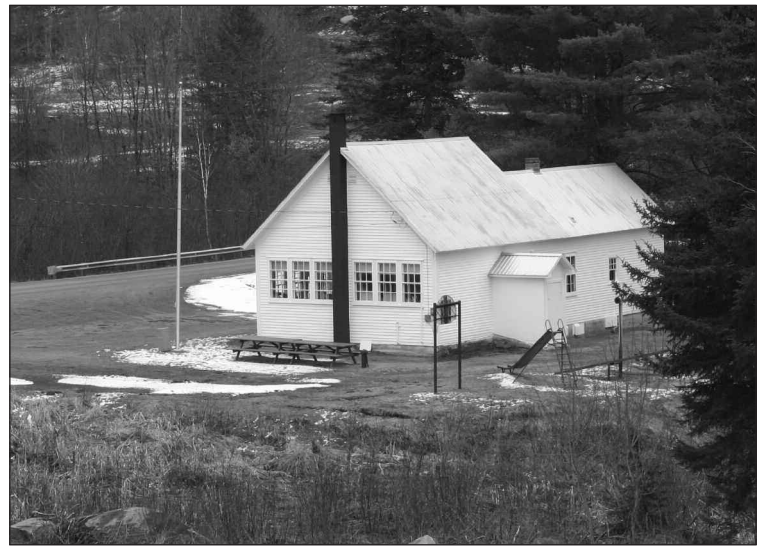


Photo By: North Star Monthly

The Granby Central School, a fixture in the heart of the Northeast Kingdom and the center of the Granby community since 1885 will close at the end of the school year. Next fall, according to projections there would be four students between the ages of 5 and 10, and so for the first time in 121 years the lights will be out and those students will be driven to Concord, Lyndon or Lancaster.

TERRY HOFFER

There have been a lot of lessons taught in front of the chalkboards at the Granby Central School. According to the history of the town published in 1990, the first mention of buying school books was in 1884, and in 1885 the Granby Central schoolhouse was constructed just east and downhill from the location of the Granby town offices.

At one point there were two separate school districts in the town, and by 1890 Granby's population had surged with a boom in the lumber industry. Data from the Census shows that in 1890, the town's population was 361, nearly twice that of ten years before and nearly twice that of ten years later.

Charles Stevens from St. Johnsbury established a lumber business in Granby in 1881, and the village known as Moccasin Mills (later Stevens Village) included 45 families, two churches, a general store, three sawmills, a blacksmith and a machine shop. A branch of the St. J. & L.C. Railroad snaked up along the Moose River from North Concord and delivered passengers and hauled away lumber to a regional market. In one month in 1885, 82 carloads left Stevens' mill with pulpwood packed into boxcars and long logs laid out on flatcars bound for the coast of Maine to be used as masts in the shipbuilding industry.

In 1890 the business was incorporated as Northern Lumber. Three steam mills with circular saws, edgers, trimmers and planers produced a higher grade of lumber than had been available before, and 10 million board feet were cut each year.

Stevens' business was prosperous, and it expanded with French Canadian labor. Houses and bunkhouses were constructed and used as homes and cookshacks for the working crews.

By 1895 the volume of business had decreased to five million feet, and the dressing mill and box shop were removed to St. Johnsbury. Granby's economic and population boom had passed, and in 1897 Stevens sold 11,000 acres of his timberland, the sawmill, 26 houses, nearly six miles of private railroad and his rolling stock to the Granby Lumber Company. The business was abandoned in the early 1900's,

(Please See *The Business* on Page 10)

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An Apple for Those Special Teachers

This is the time of year when families gather in school gymnasiums and on college quads all over the country, and they celebrate commencement. It's a wonderful moment for graduates and their families, but it's a fine time, too, for teachers and administrators.

This issue of *The North Star* has become a salute to the great American institution of education. I don't mean the puzzling federal programs known as "No Child Left Behind," and I don't mean our system of public education that seems to attempt to be all things to all people. Maybe I'll salute them another day, but in this issue you will find our mosaic of stories about teachers (and administrators) who are making (or who did make) a huge difference in the lives of their students.

I am certain that every one of us remembers highlights (and perhaps some low lights) of our own school experience. Somewhere there were teachers who cut through the fog and excited us. They believed in us, and we trusted them, and we learned from them - if not the truth then where to find it. I believe that their impression, their positive influence, can hold firm for a lifetime.

As part of the preparation for this special issue I sought out my 4th grade teacher, who I had not seen in 48 years. We ate lunch together in southern New Hampshire, and we quietly celebrated the spark that she passed to me in 1957. See Page 16.

Dick MacKenzie of Sioux Lookout, Ontario writes about the legendary teacher Miss Exley in Danville. To this day, MacKenzie credits much of his own personal success to her influence. See Page 12.

You'll read about the one-room schoolhouse in Granby. That school and its teachers have been teaching children continuously since 1885. There is tremendous devotion to that school and its sense of neighborhood and community, but none of that can hold back the decision to turn out the lights and close the school at the end of this year. See Page 1.

Robin Berenbaum writes about LEARN (that's the Lyndon Educational Alternative Resources Network), a private high school in Lyndonville, which uses a curriculum developed for homebound students and often used for homeschooled children as a means to steer youngsters with troubled backgrounds to their high school diplomas. See Page 18.

Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Superintendent John Bacon offers some theory about what exactly makes a great teacher, and you'll read his thoughts on teachers who extend not fancy complexities about education but caring, encouragement and support - in response to basic human needs. See Page 23.

Betty Hatch tells about a visiting teacher from China whose experience transcends the conventional curriculum in Barnet, Peacham, Danville and Walden. Li Yan Wong's visit allowed youngsters in those towns to see that human life on the other side of the planet is in many ways quite like their own. See Page 27.

I'll let you find your own conclusion from all this, and I hope you'll let us know what it is. Some of us are the product of our education, and then there are those who would say that they are what they are in spite of it. You know how your own shoe fits, and as long as you wear it well that's what counts. But as my own personal footnote, based upon my visit with my 4th grade teacher in April, don't be afraid to seek out that favorite old teacher and thank her. She may be waiting for your knock on the door.

Terry Hoffer

Don't Forget the Tissues

Running shoes, change of socks, tee shirt, blue jeans, black (*faux*) leather jacket, water bottle, flashlight, insect repellent, sense of humor and a fresh box of tissues - that ought to do. I'm ready for June 10. That Saturday evening begins the annual American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" for Caledonia County. This overnight event promotes cancer awareness, raises funds for the important activities of the American Cancer Society and remembers those lost to cancer, offers strength to those now coping with cancer and rejoices with cancer survivors. The Relay consists of fund raising teams committed to keeping at least one member on the St. Johnsbury Academy track throughout the night. Team members run, jog, walk... wobble around the track through the night. Theme laps spice the mix during the night, beginning with the inspirational Survivor-Caretakers Lap.

I suspect that each one of us, if not personally affected, has a friend or family member who has grappled with cancer. In 2003, 6% of adults in the United States were diagnosed with cancer. Cancer is the second major cause of death in our country (heart disease being the first). Cancer, in its myriad forms and severity, is an equal-opportunity illness, indifferent to age, gender and race, religion, political persuasion or economic position. Despite improvements in treatment, better rates of survival and complete cures, cancer remains one of the most soul chilling diseases. Even when there is an excellent prognosis and cure is assured, it prompts us, wanted or not, to acknowledge our mortality.

Fortunately, advances in early detection and treatment of cancers have increased the rate of cures and, for those cancers still incurable, substantially extended survival. Unfortunately, cancers still humble the basic science and medical communities. There remain enormous gaps in our knowledge of the causes of and treatments for cancer. Cancer reinforces the fact that the more we learn, the more we appreciate how very much more we still have to learn. There remains a need for continued research and consequent fund raising. Second only to the federal government in the support of cancer research, the American Cancer Society is well structured, effective and worthy of sustained financial backing.

I believe in being prepared, hence I include the box of tissues on my equipment list for my tour on the Academy track. I expect the track and infield will be watered with tears of loss and tears of happiness as we celebrate relationships lost and reaffirmed. Best if I am ready to share a tissue or two. If you are moved to share in the Relay for Life, you can learn more from the American Cancer Society by calling (800) 227-2345 or on-line at www.acevents.org/relay/vtcaledonia. For information about these events in other communities, contact the local chapter of the American Cancer Society or on-line at www.cancer.org.

Tim Tanner

Letters to the Editor:

Bernie Sanders

Dear North Star,

On May 12 men and women from around the state traveled to Winooski High School to attend a Congressional Town Meeting on Veteran issues hosted by Congressman Bernie Sanders. It was held in conjunction with the

American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

The small, but vocal group expressed dismay as to why the VA is not getting the funding it should and why if the VA does not have the staff or funding to take care of the veterans on its rolls now, what are they going to do when the ones from the Iraq war return? A backlog of 500,000 veterans now, will become almost one million when

the men and women overseas return. Tears, fear, anger and frustration was prevalent throughout the auditorium. Why can't the richest nation on the face of the earth provide for the very ones who laid it all on the line, again and again. Why can't those who served gallantly get the health care they were promised? Why does our own government only care when they are sending us over there?

For many of Vermont's veterans and their families, this was

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EDITORIAL OFFICES:
P.O. Box 319 ~ 29 Hill Street
Danville, VT 05828-0319
(802) 684-1056

EDITOR:
Terry Hoffer

ART DIRECTOR:
Suzanne Tanner

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:
Tim Tanner

CIRCULATION:
Kathy Hoffer

ADVERTISING:
Vicki Moore

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD:
John Haygood
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Contributors to this issue include: John Bacon, R.L. Berenbaum, Alfreda Black, Lynn A. Bonfield, Chris Bouchard, Betty Hatch, Lorna Quimby, Helen Morrison, Jeff Gold & Ellen Gold, John Downs, Flo Hartmann, Bruce Hoyt, Betsy Smith, Dick MacKenzie, Gale Lawrence, Isobel P. Swartz, Rachel Siegel, Paula LaRochelle, Van Parker, Bets Parker Albright, Reeve Lindbergh, Vanna Guldenschuh, Alice S. Kitchel & Burton Zahler, Bill Christiansen, Gerd Herschmann and Dee Palmer.

e-mail: northstar@kingcon.com
www.northstarmonthly.com

Write to Us

LETTERS: Write to *The North Star*, and let us know what's on your mind. Your point of view or observation is important to us. Letters must be signed.


ARTICLES: We don't have a big staff of writers. So we look forward to you sending your writing. If you have questions or ideas and want to ask us first, please call. We'll send our guidelines. No fiction, please.

PHOTOS: We'd like to see your photos and welcome them with a story or without. They can be black-and-white or color, but they must be clear.

PRESS RELEASES: We prefer press releases that are unique to *The North Star*.

DEADLINE: 15th of the month prior to publication.

All materials will be considered on a space available basis.



the only way to find out important information about budgets that impose new fees on vets, that underfund health care, and that there is no funding in the President's budget to lift his ban on enrolling Priority 8 veterans, (those who make \$26,000 or more per year), in the VA health


care system. In 2005 this policy prevented over 260,000 veterans from enrolling in VA healthcare.

As we all went into the high school for this meeting, two people stood outside handing out negative Bernie Sanders material. They were obviously from

(Please see Letters on Page 4)

Avenue House Sold to Hotel Men from New Hampshire Shad Stocking in Lake Champlain Proves Successful

The North Star
 "WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY"
 1807-1891
 Est. by Ebenezer Eaton
 Danville, Vermont



THE NORTH STAR

June 4, 1875

Widow Lincoln - When a life-long friend of Mrs. Lincoln went to her last week and told her plainly that she was insane and that her best friends felt it was best she should go to an asylum the unfortunate woman said, "It may be so; and if it is so what wonder is it. Haven't I had enough cause to derange any woman's brain? Did I not see my husband assassinated before my eyes? Have I not been homeless for years and have I not buried all of my children with the exception of Robert? Do you wonder that I am deranged?"

Mean Trick - Some scamp last week sent us a false marriage notice at North Danville, which was published in the STAR, namely that of Mr. Amos Edwards and Miss Jennie Church by Reverend J.M. Tredray. No such marriage has taken place. The notice sent us purported to be signed by Mr. Tredray, and we supposed it to be genuine. The whole thing is false, and the person who

thus imposed upon the alleged married couple, the publisher, minister and the public is deserving the contempt of the whole community. He may have thought it a "smart trick" but if he should be detected he had better "look out for breakers," for such offenses are punishable by law. We hope the offender will be discovered and brought to justice.

June 11, 1875

An Ancient Coin - Chas. D. Brainerd of this village, while engaged in digging in his door yard for the purpose of setting out a pear tree found a Spanish silver piece of the supposed value of 25 cents and bearing the date of 1721, making it at this time 154 years old. We desired to purchase the same, whereupon Brainerd said he would take for the coin what it would amount to at compound interest for 154 years allowing same to double every ten years. An investigation in this direction disclosed the startling fact that the piece would figure up to be worth the sum of \$10,342.45. We have decided not to purchase. Young man, let rum alone and put your spare quarters at interest.

Sale of the Avenue House - The Avenue House is finally sold to B.G. Howe and J.C. Morrison of Andover, NH. The price paid was \$25,000. Mr. Hale is taking the Kearsarge House hotel in Andover leaving the sum of \$7,000 in exchange. Mr. Hale purchased the property known as the old Passumpsic House in 1869. Mr. Hale made extensive repairs including the addition of 26 feet to the western end on Eastern Avenue and

the addition of two stories in height to the entire front on both Eastern Avenue and Railroad Street. During the repairs Mr. Hale was enjoined by the village trustees from extending his building nearer than 20 feet to Eastern Avenue. The trustees aroused Hale's ire and he forthwith commenced the erection of a durable, though not remarkably handsome post and board fence to enclose his real estate. This was hardly considered ornamental by the trustees and a compromise was effected which gave Hale the privilege of building where he originally intended while the trustees agreed to build and ever keep in repair a sidewalk around the entire premises. The hotel will be thoroughly renovated and inasmuch as the new men understand the secret of hotel keeping there is prospect of lively times ahead.

June 18, 1875

Tourists who have been to the Yosemite Valley this season complain about poor accommodations and petty annoyances. None of the hotels in the valley are said to be halfway decent. Beds are hard as planks, tables poor and a couple of waiters for every 150 guests. All the roads are toll roads; all the trails are toll trails; and about all the grazing ground in the valley has been leased by the commissioners and fenced in.

This week Thursday must have been a great day in Boston, it being the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill. It was the second important battle with the English troops, which resulted in

the final Declaration of American Independence from British rule, July 4, 1776. Although the American forces were defeated at Bunker Hill and obliged to give way from lack of ammunition, and owing to the largely superior force of the British, yet the engagement tended more than any other event to fire the American heart, to inspire in our people a spirit of patriotic devotion to the cause of Liberty, with a warlike resolve to achieve it, which a seven year contest at last crowned with success by the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

We have escaped frost in the high lands. In the low lands, however, last Monday morning, "Jack" left a few tracks.

A wedding lately took place at the Reform School, the parties being one of the boys aged about 18 and the cook, aged about 40, who has this lad for her third husband. Circumstances made the wedding desirable.

June 25, 1875

The city of New York has a civil service of about thirteen thousand persons, or one man drawing pay to every three paying taxes. It takes \$13,000,000 to run the city annually.

The Quahada tribe of Comanche Indians, numbering about four hundred with seven women and children, who have been raiding into Texas from the Indian territory for five years and whom it has been impossible to overtake, have surrendered to the military authorities, with two thou-

sand ponies and other property. About all the Indians that have been so troublesome on the Staked Plain are now in or have fled.

A shad four inches in length was caught in Lake Champlain a few days ago. It is said to be the first shad ever taken in the state and proves that Seth Green's attempt to stock the northern waters with fish is something more than a mere experiment.

"Boss Tweed" was to be brought down from the penitentiary last Tuesday. He has been again arrested on other suits, and his friends find it exceedingly difficult to raise the large amount of bail demanded for him before his release can be obtained. It seems now likely that he will not be able to procure the \$3,000,000 bail.

Runaway Speculator - Henry C. Boardman of East Alburgh, a well known operator in hay and other farm produce disappeared on Wednesday last, and it is believed he has run away. He is reported to have been seen the next day in Chateaugay and the next in St. Lawrence county, but he is probably in Ontario and westward bound. Last year he was rather unfortunate in his speculations, but still maintained a sufficiently good credit so that he had no difficulty in buying. During the last six months he has bought heavily and paid but little, and as a consequence he is now heavily indebted to the farmers of Alburgh, Swanton and vicinity. Their claims are so many that his total liabilities are estimated at not less than \$20,000.

THE North Star MONTHLY

New North Star Subscribers and Renewals



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 and on June 19
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 great guy he is.

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Letters to the Editor:

(Continued from Page 2)

Republican Rich Tarrant's campaign. I personally found this offensive, since this was a congressional town meeting not a political one, and it's against the law to turn a Congressional meeting into a political one. This was not the time, nor the place for this dirty campaign stuff. Bad form Mr. Tarrant, bad form.

For 16 years Bernie Sanders has fought to get us the benefits we were promised and entitled to. He is the only one who keeps opening it up on veteran issues. Even the VA outreach money has been cut, so that veterans are not being told what they are entitled to, and no one in the VA is in any big hurry to get the word out.

Thanks for all your hard work on behalf of veterans Bernie. You will make a great veteran's ally in the Senate.

Marvin Minkler
St. Johnsbury

Cindy Cady

Dear North Star,

Thanks so much for your wonderful article on Lyndon's "animal control officer" [May 2006]. Cindy Cady is indeed a wonderful asset to the communi-

ty. Her enthusiasm and genuine interest in her activities transcends the word "job." She consistently goes "above and beyond" and tries to ensure a better community for us all.

Marty Feltus
Lyndonville

Thanks

Dear North Star,

This is the best fifteen dollars I spend all year. I particularly enjoyed the last issue [May 2006] with the articles about the Peacham Church and doctors Choate, Mackay and Paulsen.

Beppy Brown
Peacham

Writer's Correction

Dear North Star,

My profile on Bill Cotte in the May [2006] issue had an error, which I did not discover while proofreading. The name of the church of which Bill is the pastor is the First Congregational Church of St. Johnsbury Center. It is not the largest church in the area but the oldest, having been built in 1804.

Virginia Downs
Lyndon Center

Winning the Powerball

A few weeks ago I made one of my infrequent investments of five dollars in a Powerball ticket. Needless to say I had no expectation that I would win anything. Eventually I made one of my regular trips to my favorite gas station, which also sells and redeems Powerball tickets.

After filling up, I went into the store to pay for the gas and while there I presented the receipt for the Powerball ticket for possible redemption; I was well known in the store. In my occasionally brash manner, I handed the receipt to the accommodating girl behind the counter, and I said, "I would like my one hundred million dollars now, please."

Not to be intimidated, for I am sure she heard similar foolish remarks from many others, she took the receipt, put it into the machine, looked at the printout and reached into the cash register for some bills. I waited, excited about what would be her next words. Reaching towards me, hand outstretched, she said, "Here are your four dollars."

I was incredulous, for I knew that almost no one ever wins. I resisted buying another ticket, although I knew that I was expected to. The euphoria of the moment was satisfaction enough.

Back about 25 years ago, when Vermonters were debating the merits of lotteries, I was strongly opposed to starting one. I agreed with the argument that too many poor people, who could not afford to do so, would buy tickets with money that was needed for family support.

One day my secretary came into my office and said she was going to give me a brief lecture whether I wanted it or not. I perked up, for it was not her usual approach. Wasting no words, she said, "John, do you realize that you are trying to deny me the only chance I will ever have to make some real money? You know what secretaries earn, not much more than enough to help take care of the family. And imagine what it is like for those who don't make as much as I do. Think about it!" She turned and left, obviously pleased with herself.

I did think hard about it, finally asking myself why I thought I had the right to make such a serious decision that would affect the lives of others less fortunate than I. After that it was easy to rationalize the change in my thinking. The amount that the poorest person would spend would be little enough, and besides, if not spent on Powerball, it would probably go for beer, wine or cigarettes. Everyone needed some pleasure in life.

Before I could change my mind I told my secretary that I was on her side. She smiled, and said that was what she had expected me to say when I had thought it through. So I bought an occasional ticket - even though I know I could never win. Until I finally did!

For me the attraction of lotteries has always been in fantasizing about what to do with my winnings. With four dollars, even though it cost me five to win four, I drove out of the gas station with a broad smile on my face. I could imagine the excitement of the Willey's Store folks in Greensboro who are to share their combined jackpot of \$200,000.

As I drove home my fantasy took over. If I could win four dollars so easily, why not the 100 million I had always dreamed about? What would I do with it? First, I would provide lavishly for family, relatives and friends. College education for four grandchildren will be horrendously expensive in a few years.

I have lived in the St. Johnsbury-Lyndonville area for most of the past 59 years. After consulting with their leaders, what better use for some of the money than to provide generously for the good works of St. Johnsbury Academy, the Fairbanks Museum, the Athenaeum, Lyndon Institute, Lyndon State College and all the others?

Then I realized that there would still be many millions left over, and that I didn't really have a good idea about what to do with them. It finally occurred to me that I could set up a foundation to distribute my millions, like Bill and Melinda Gates have done with the millions earned from Microsoft. The distributions would only benefit people, institutions and places in the Northeast Kingdom. My trustees would have almost unlimited discretion to make awards as needed and appropriate as times change, for the trust would outlive me by many years.

When I arrived home, the fantasy turned itself off, and the real world took over. As I sat in the car, I was thankful for the fun I had been having and will continue to have whenever I buy a Powerball ticket. When lightning strikes, as some day it will, I want to be ready.

John Downs

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How Soon We Forget

I shall never forget one of the homework assignments my two older daughters had when they were in high school in 1983. It was to watch a then newly-released TV movie entitled *The Day After*. The movie presented a theoretical situation resulting in a nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union and the consequences felt by two communities in Kansas and Missouri. These towns were chosen because they were among the sites of ICBM silos. The movie was graphic and grim. One of my children didn't sleep well for weeks after seeing it. Have we forgotten that time, not so very long ago, when nuclear war was a real possibility?

I think we must have forgotten because in a chilling article entitled "The Iran Plans," in *The New Yorker* of April 17, 2006, Seymour Hersch reports about the Bush administration's developing plans for an attack on Iran. Such an attack would likely include the use of specialized nuclear weapons to bomb underground sites of Iran's nuclear research facilities.

We now know so much about the dangers of radiation and its effects on living tissue. The atoms of radioactive elements are unstable, changing over time into other unstable elements, until finally a stable non-radioactive element remains. This process is called a decay chain and can, for some radioactive elements, take thousands of years. As the decay chain proceeds, energy and charged particles, called ionizing radiation, are emitted. These emissions are what cause damage to delicate living tissues.

We know full well that ionizing radiation can cause damage to genetic material in living cells, in turn causing cancer. We know enough about radioactive decay to say that radiation can stay in the environment where a nuclear device has exploded for millennia, making the area uninhabitable. We know that wind currents cause plumes of radiation to be carried far from the actual site of detonation. We know that by preemptive use of these nuclear devices we would take our country away from the moral high ground to the level of a rogue nuclear state. We would break every nuclear treaty we ever signed. We would do this because we are not able or willing to take the time and effort to work through diplomacy. What, in heaven's name, are we doing to ourselves, our children and the world?

Some of the effects of the radiation released 20 years ago by the meltdown of the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine explain why we were so concerned about nuclear war. Remember that although this was the worst nuclear accident ever, it was not a deliberate act of war. This information comes from many studies that are being done in Ukraine; Belarus, the closest neighboring state; and Russia, Poland, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Italy and Czechoslovakia. They were all affected by a plume of radioactive fallout spreading far from the accident site.

Here are some of the major areas of concern to Ukraine and its nearest neighbors. Native foods such as berries, mushrooms, game and fish, as well as hay and animal feed, were severely contaminated. This contamination has had a great effect on the lives of small-scale farmers and rural residents who eat their own produce and therefore get much larger doses of radiation than city dwellers, whose food is closely monitored. Large areas of agricultural land were contaminated, and about 1/6 can no longer be farmed.

Forty percent of all forests in Ukraine were contaminated. The foliage collected radioactive contamination that then passed into the woody tissues. Dead foliage conveyed contamination to the soil. Seed germination rates have been reduced in some crops and the mutation rate, or change to the DNA, of these crop plants, such as wheat, growing near to the site of the accident is much greater than normal. Mutations may change how the plants grow, survive and resist disease, or affect other factors influencing harvest.

Domestic grazing animals such as cattle, goats and sheep concentrate radioactivity in milk and meat. Game animals that browse in the forests are very contaminated, but discouraging hunting is very difficult. Bottom feeding fish are also heavily contaminated.

Rivers transported radiation for the first 10 days after the explosion. Some of this river water was used for irrigation before the impact of the accident was fully known. Radiation is still leaching through contaminated soil into rivers and ground water, making them unsafe for drinking. Though air contamination is now minimal, it increases during plowing season, or from wind erosion and forest fires. In Belarus twenty one percent of the soil is contaminated and sixteen percent of this soil will continue to be contaminated in 2016.

Health effects on humans are many. One Swiss research institute has stated that 4,000 cancer deaths have occurred so far as a result of the accident. Other international organizations claim higher estimates. Some of the health effects include increased incidence of thyroid cancer in children and adolescents, leukemia, cancer in adults, auto immune diseases such as Lupus, heart arrhythmia in children, diseases of the endocrine and nervous systems, and a massive increase in juvenile-onset diabetes. There were sharp increases in miscarriages, stillbirths and premature births very soon after the accident. The incidence of stillbirth and birth defects also increased in parts of Germany and other exposed European countries. There have also been significant psychological effects on the people living nearest to the accident site.

All this misery was caused by an accident. The cost in human suffering and money to the affected countries is immense and long lasting. As the first nation to use the nuclear option in wartime, we have a responsibility to avoid doing so again, especially now that we know the drastic effects of radiation. We must use restraint, patience and diplomacy. There is no acceptable alternative.

Isobel P. Swartz

July Auction Will Benefit Fairbanks Museum

Breathtaking views from the beautiful grounds of Burklyn Manor on Darling Hill in Lyndonville are just part of the treasures waiting to be discovered at the Fairbanks Country Auction. On Sunday, July 2, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. auctioneer Chuck Eaton and his team will bring their blend of local knowledge and humor to the grounds of Burklyn, where a country auction to benefit the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium will take place.

Delsie Hoyt Eaton, the Auction Committee Chair, says, "There will be something for everyone."

The focus of this country auction is a connection with the history, culture or natural beauty of the Northeast Kingdom. Some of the items that will be up for bid

include prints, a cobbler's bench, a globe with cast iron support, yellowware bowls, art glass, vintage Stephen Hunek cat (1984) and several items of local interest such as St. Johnsbury bottles. Robin Rothman, the well-known artist whose work is featured in the Fairbanks Museum, has contributed an original painting.

The auction will be on the stunning grounds of Burklyn Manor, a 40-room mansion built by New York City Hotelier Elmer Darling in the 19th century.

This remarkable building has passed through several hands and is now privately owned as a vacation home. The owners have generously agreed to host the event and invite all to enjoy the gardens and unrivaled views.



Fairbanks Museum Photograph

The 19th Century Burklyn Manor will host the Fairbanks Museum auction on July 2. Call the museum for details at (802) 748-2372.



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Buddy Munding, a vendor at the Danville Farmers' Market and the St. Johnsbury Farmers' Market, chooses flowers from another vendor, Amanda Legare, for some saltbox planters he has built to sell. Besides wood products and plants, shoppers can find spring vegetables, baked goods, flowers, crafts and other food products at these markets, all made or produced locally.

The St. Johnsbury Market is held Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and the Danville Market begins Wednesday, June 7 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the Danville Green.

\$ Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

"Last Tango in Bankruptcy Court"

A company goes to bankruptcy court and claims it must shed all responsibilities for its labor contracts.

Compensation may be cash, and "benefits" may be a memory.

The labor union protests that the company shouldn't be allowed to waltz on the deal. The company says if it can't lose these onerous labor costs it will be out of business. The union says the company could stay in business without dumping labor. The company's biggest customer waits to see if its biggest supplier will be out of business, worrying that then it, too, will have to shut down, lay off and pay all

those workers.... and so goes the country?

Delphi, General Motors and the United Auto Workers are embraced in a dance of death in a courtroom in lower Manhattan. Far from the Flint, MI assembly lines that have so famously been a symbol of American economic awe, the courts will decide the immediate future of the country's largest auto parts supplier (Delphi), the country's largest auto labor supplier (the UAW) and the country's iconic auto maker (GM).

General Motors has been in trouble for decades. The 1970's saw its grip on the auto market fatally loosened by increasing competition and rising gas prices (déjà vu all over again), and in the three decades since, although it has had good years as well as bad, GM has never recovered that dominance of the market or the industry.

Delphi, an auto parts maker, was a division of GM until 1999, when it spun off as an independent company. GM is still its

largest customer, and Delphi is GM's largest supplier. If Delphi and the UAW can't settle their dispute, the UAW may strike and shut down Delphi, which would in turn shut down GM. Because of their tangled past relationship, GM would then be responsible for some of Delphi's labor costs. Between losses from shut downs, additional labor costs and poor sales - another rise in gas prices has decimated GM sales - GM could be down for the count.

The UAW, with 640,000 active (and 500,000 retired) members, is the largest supplier of auto industry labor in this country, and GM/Delphi is its largest customer. The UAW can't let its largest customer void its contracts, because if collectively bargained contracts can be set aside, then they aren't worth the paper they are written on, and the union is no longer a serious player.

Labor unions have mattered in the labor market of the auto industry since the 1930's, when New Deal legislation made them feasible representatives of labor. The UAW has often led in raising the bar for compensation issues,

being the first to negotiate employer paid health insurance, for example. In no small part due to union initiatives, we all - union or not - have come to expect employers to provide not just a job for pay, but also life, health and retirement insurance and assistance in case of layoff or termination.

It is those benefit costs, as well as actual pay levels, that companies like GM and Delphi say now make them uncompetitive in world markets. As competitive pressures increase, employers have been looking to shed these paternalistic roles and to change the nature of the labor contract.

Since the creation of the defined contribution pension plan (the 401K and 403B), employers have gotten out of the business of managing retirements and, with the newer health savings accounts, are looking to get out of the health care business. Pretty soon, employers may go back to providing a paycheck, and employees will have to manage their own retirements and health care needs. Compensation may be cash, and "benefits" may

be a memory. Other companies, most notably airlines, have successfully restructured in bankruptcy courts to unload many of their union labor obligations; now Delphi is trying the same tactic. If it is successful, it is quite likely that GM will follow suit, and then Ford and Daimler-Chrysler will have to do so.

So far, unions have fought this trend toward cash compensation and away from benefits, but it's been a losing battle. The drama that is being played out in court has implications far beyond GM, Delphi or the UAW (although that would be pretty far). What may be at stake are our very ideas of employer responsibility and of work and pay in a globally competitive economy.

Rachel S. Siegel, CFA, consults on investment portfolio performance and strategy, and on accounting and tax dilemmas. She has an MBA from Yale; she is a professor in the business administration department at Lyndon State College. ★

AARP Driver Safety Course Will Be Taught in Danville

AARP Driver Safety Course is scheduled for June 14 & 16 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Pope Library in Danville. The volunteer instructor will be Richard Diefenbach. The course is sponsored by the Library.

This highly effective defensive driving course, which may enable you to receive an auto insurance discount, reduces the probability of having an automobile accident. It is designed for drivers age 50 and older.

The course covers important issues that affect older drivers

such as physical changes and limitations, normal driving situations and distractions, safe driving and vehicle information and the impact of medication on the motorist. Taught in two four-hour sessions the course provides older drivers an opportunity to fine tune their driving skills and become safer, better drivers. The course is available to members of AARP as well as nonmembers.

The cost is \$10. Pre-registration is required. For information and registration contact: Richard Diefenbach, 1148 Jamieson Road, Danville, VT 05828. (802)-748-5044).

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Frederic S. Hoffer Jr. 1908 - 2006



Frederic Staples Hoffer Jr. died on May 20, 2006 in West Hartford, CT. He was born in Hartford on May 3, 1908, the son of Frederic S. and Maud (Yergason) Hoffer and lived in West Hartford much of his long life.

Fred was a graduate of Kingswood School and included among his most treasured possessions the Primus Medal awarded by the school at the time of his graduation in 1927. He graduated from Princeton in 1931 and attended Yale Law School. He graduated from the Hartford College of Law in 1941 and was admitted to the Connecticut Bar the same year.

During World War II Fred served as senior personal aide to the superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He was released from active duty in 1946 in the grade of lieutenant colonel.

In 1947 he was appointed corporations attorney and director of the Corporations Division in the Office of the Secretary of State of Connecticut. He retired in February 1975 and was honored at the time with the president's award from the Connecticut Bar Association.

He was a member of the Asylum Hill Congregational Church, the Old Guard of West Hartford and former deputy governor general of the Society of Colonial Wars. He was a member of the Limestone Trout Club and

the Twentieth Century Club.

Fred was predeceased by his parents; by his sister, Janet Alcorn; and by his wife of 58-years, Mary Graves Hammitt Hoffer, who died in November 2005. He is survived by his son, Terry, and his wife, Katherine Williams Hoffer, of Danville, VT and by his stepdaughter, Joan Hammitt Butler, and her husband, John Newell Butler, of Mystic, CT.

He is also survived by grandchildren Emily Alden Hoffer and Helon Terry Hoffer of Danville, Katharine Goldthwait Butler and her husband, Thomas W. Wideman, of Milton, MA, and Robert Hammitt Butler and his wife, Lisa S. Butler, of Noank, CT. Fred has four great-grandchildren, Nate and Tom Wideman of Milton and John and Ashley Butler of Noank.

Fred will be remembered as a complete gentleman of the old school with military bearing, a clever sense of humor and a knack for telling the most entertaining stories.

Fred and his wife were travelers and, as such, had seen much of the globe, but often as he stepped out of his car in northern New England he inhaled deeply and exclaimed as to how great it smelled and how wonderful it was. He admired Mount Washington, and he loved Katahdin, but he always maintained that the most beautiful place on Earth was watching the sun set over Lake Champlain from the top of Mt. Mansfield.

Terry Hoffer



Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,
Library Director

As summer approaches make sure to take time to stop in to the Pope for some great summer reads. In addition to our regular collection we have a diverse selection of new books from the Northeast Regional Library that we change on a monthly basis. We also have a wonderful selection of books for all ages on tape or CD for your listening pleasure while traveling or commuting. We also have an extensive assortment of videos and DVD's. Our two public access computers are used frequently throughout the summer months by our summer population and tourists. We have a wireless connection, so bring your laptop in!

Check out our extensive gardening section and our display of gardening books. If we don't have what you are looking for we will gladly request it from another library. Due to the recent increase in postage fees we ask that patrons requesting inter-library loans pay a suggested donation of \$1 per book. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Our Sunday Summer Concerts on the Green kick off June 25 at 7 p.m. featuring the Danville Town Band. Mark your calendars for July 2 and come and listen to the Vermont 40th Army Band. Bring your blankets and chairs and sit back and enjoy the music!

Our beautiful log cabin quilt will be on display and raffle tickets are available throughout the summer. The drawing for the quilt will take place at the Danville Fair in August. Tickets are \$1 each or 6/\$5. Support the Pope Library and buy some tickets!

Some of our new summer book acquisitions are: *Twelve*

Sharp by Evanovich, *Digging into America* by Tyler, *The Old Wine Shades* by Grimes, *The Man of My Dreams* by Sittenfeld, *At Risk* by Cornwall, *Two Little Girls in Blue* by Higgins Clark, *A Death in Belmont* by Junger, *Everyman* by Roth and *What to Eat* by Nestle. Come in and check them out.

From the Children's Room and YA Center

The 2006 Vermont Summer Reading Program theme is Realms of Reading. Over 160 libraries across the state are participating in this year's fantasy theme program. The summer reading program begins on Wednesday July 5 and meets every Wednesday through August 16. On Friday, July 7 at 11:30 a.m., the Boston Museum of Science returns to the Pope Library with its "Fogs, Flowers and Fireworks" program. The program is free and open to all. We have the new 2006-2007 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award

books for summer reading – get a head start!

The Young Adult after school program ended on May 26 with an ice cream party and will resume at the beginning of the school year. The YA library is open and we will have a collection of the Green Mountain Book Award books as well as many new additions to the YA library. We hope to see all our regulars during the summer!



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Meteorologist Chris Bouchard Is at Home When the Weather Turns Sour

(Continued from Page 1)

to Vermont.”
The Fairbanks Museum has been collecting weather records, the ordinary and the extraordinary, since 1894. Mark Breen says, “That’s not a unique distinction, but most weather reporting places have shifted locations or relocated to facilities that result in differences in data. The Museum has the longest history as a continuous reporting site at the exact same location in Vermont, and that means if the data changes, the weather has changed.”

Fred Mold was director of the Museum in the late 1940’s, and his three minute reports on the

early St. Johnsbury radio station introduced local weather broadcasts as well as his insights to the patterns of wildlife and birds. Breen says, “There was a junior curator at the Museum, Ray Cilley, who went on to become the president of Vermont Public Radio, and he wanted a local voice, an alternative to the National Weather Service, for VPR.” Steve Maleski, a 1981 graduate of Lyndon State College, was hired by the Museum, and the Eye in the Sky debuted on VPR in December 1981.

Breen joined the team the following February as a college sen-

ior. He graduated from Lyndon in 1982.

Today, according to VPR, the Eye in the Sky forecast is heard by more than 160,000 listeners in Vermont and beyond. And Maleski, Breen and Bouchard are preparing for the next broadcast.

Breen calls himself the morning guy for a typical day. He gets to the Museum at about 5:30 a.m.

having already looked at some three dozen Internet websites through the National Weather Service, and he takes readings of the Museum weather instruments (including current, high and low temperatures, barometric pressure, wind speed and direction, humidity, rainfall or snow accumulation and sky coverage) at 7:00. The first radio forecasts are

recorded for WGMT at 5:40 and for VPR to cycle off and on between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m.

The current schedule brings Bouchard on duty at 9:00 a.m. He checks the Museum instruments at noon and prepares a forecast for live broadcast with VPR at 12:10, WGMT at 12:20 and WLFE at 12:30. There are VPR and VPR Classical forecasts called or emailed to their studios and detailed forecasts including extended and more locally specific forecasts for the *Caledonian Record*, *Times Argus*, *Rutland Herald* and the *Burlington Free Press*. There is another instrument check at 4:00 p.m. and final live broadcast through WGMT at 4:45 with 20-second spots recorded for overnight play.



Photo's By: Chris Bouchard

Chris Bouchard was first inspired to understand the weather by the film *Twister*. His interest in storms continues as is seen in his own photography. These pictures were taken during his trip across the country following graduation from college.

Top: Western New Mexico: This photograph was taken from Bouchard’s truck window as lightning struck a tree about 1/8th of a mile away during heavy rain.

Bottom: Scottsdale, Arizona: Lightning in a summer monsoon thunderstorm at about 10:00 p.m.

The Fairbanks Museum has been collecting weather records, the ordinary and the extraordinary, since 1894.

Bouchard says he usually calls it a day at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. He is quick to agree that his style has grown in confidence both in his preparation of the forecast and in making the presentation for broadcast. “Sometimes” he says, “there are really clear patterns developing with obvious significance for what’s going to happen in the region, but local variations or deviations from the normal cause our predictions to appear incorrect.”

But that’s the way it goes, and it won’t stop the Eye on the Sky from trying again to forecast whether it’s going to be rainy or nice.

Mark Breen says, “It’s always interesting, but when weather events are breaking (when people are really startled by what they see out their windows or what they see on their televisions) this is where they call.” And that’s what has kept the Museum’s eye on the sky since 1894.

Need the latest forecast? Tune your radio dial to Vermont Public Radio, WGMT or WLFE or call the Museum’s weather phone at (802) 748-2372, extension 131. ★

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String Worth Saving

Bill Christiansen

Gardening season is in full swing. The joy of getting out into the warm sunshine is hard to describe after a long winter inside. One of the great things about gardening is the amount of advice that is passed around among gardeners. The information consists of some facts, some wishful thinking and a lot of folklore. The intent of all of the discussion is to make everyone a better gardener. Gardeners are dealing with thousands of years of tradition and experience.

I was thinking about this,

One of the great things about gardening is the amount of advice that is passed around among gardeners.

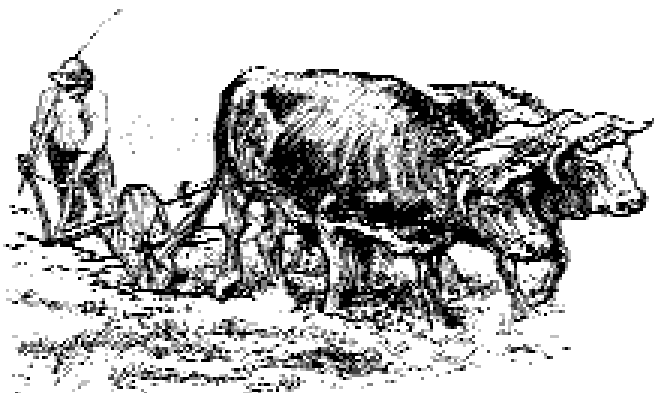
while tilling my garden. It occurred to me that agriculture was invented by humans many times, in many places by lots of different groups of people. Different groups in different parts of the world developed agriculture practices to suit their environmental conditions, both physical and cultural.

Most of our gardening traditions are from Northern Europe. These are the same agricultural systems that were developed in the Middle East. This tradition grew grain crops in tilled soil. The grain required large amounts of water, so the development of irrigation for the crops proved necessary. As farming moved from the dry Middle East to the much wetter Northern Europe, irrigation became less important.

Another Middle East development was the tilling of the soil in preparation for planting. This could be done using large domesticated animals as beasts of burden. Oxen or water buffalo were the early farmers' John Deere. At first the animals just trampled the ground, but later pulled a plow through the soil. The domestic animals provided

the fertilizer needed to grow crops year after year on the same plot of land.

In the recent book, *1491* by Charles C. Mann, some interesting observations are made about the development of agriculture in North and South America prior to the arrival of the Europeans. American farming practices were much different from those brought by the settlers. The grain crops of the Middle East were completely unknown in the Americas. Here the people



domesticated a whole different range of crops. There were no large domesticated animals, so tilling the soil was not practiced. Fertilizer came from a source other than animal waste.

In school we all heard the story of the Indians teaching the Pilgrims to place a fish under each hill of corn. As Charles Mann points out, this was a common practice in Europe but unknown in the Americas. It was probably the Pilgrims teaching this practice to the Indians. Fertilization was less important to Indian farmers because they did not plant the same ground year after year. Because there was so much land available and so few people, once a piece of land was planted and harvested, it might not get used again for years. This is very different from European practices where land was farmed intensively for generations.

In the Amazon Basin, there was an entirely different set of challenges. With large popula-

tions in cities, farming had to be very efficient and had to produce large surpluses to feed everyone. Land that could be farmed was at a premium since land was flat and prone to flooding. The soil was poor due to the leaching effect of tropical rains. With no domesticated beasts of burden, tilling was out of the question. Instead, raised beds on high ground were created. Since the soil was basically silt, drainage was poor, so an industry to make pottery emerged.

The pots were broken and the shards were incorporated into the soil for drainage. Fertilizer was in short supply, so charcoal was mixed into the soil for carbon. Mud from the river beds and

herds of animals to collect waste from, they turned to "night soil" or human waste collected from local towns and villages. To the Western mind, this is almost an unimaginable practice. "Night soil" was put into a pit near the garden and left to compost for about a year. When the pit was opened, the material was very liquid. It could be taken from the pit by dipper and poured onto plants in the garden. This is really similar to our making manure tea.

Move to Africa and a whole new set of practices arises with a Middle East set crops. While Egypt adopted the Middle East practices, sub-Saharan Africa developed differently, with no

beasts of burden and seasonal rainfall. Irrigation was not an option for most farmers. Few plants were domesticated in Africa. This was probably due to the harsh and varied environmental conditions.

The islands of the Pacific produced a whole different set of crops and a totally different way of growing them.

How we garden is the result of thousands of years of experience, primarily from the Middle East and Northern Europe. While we have adopted practices and plants from other cultures, we have worked hard to adapt them to our time and place.

Happy gardening.

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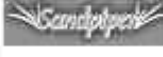
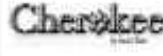


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The business was abandoned in the early 1900's, and the last train to Steven's Village ran in February 1902.

(Continued from Page 1)

and the last train to Steven's Village ran in February 1902.

Since then, the value of tim-

ber and land have fluctuated leading to intermittent and much smaller scale timber cutting and most of the town's residents

seeking their financial wherewithal outside of the woods.

But through all the changes the one-room Granby Central

School, which opened in 1885, has remained a keystone of the community and a source of its pride. Three Shores sisters; Beverly Shores, 79, Ruth (Shores) Noble, 87, and Leah (Shores) Austin, 90; recently described their enthusiasm for and their devotion to the School.

Austin graduated in 1929. "There were three of us," she says. "The teacher commanded great respect, and I learned enough history, English and reading to pass my GED in 1958 without any further schooling." Austin says, "You see those big trees by the school? Our class set them out on Arbor Day."

Noble graduated in 1933. She says, "I imagine the teacher was certified at the Montpelier Seminary. We all learned a work

ethic at home, but we had three subjects in the morning, an hour for dinner at noon and two classes in the afternoon. We went to school to learn, and that's just what we did."

Beverly Shores graduated from the Granby School in 1942 and four years later from the high school in Lancaster. "We were taught to help those having difficulty," she says. "We had spelling bees, and we memorized poetry. We learned the states and their capitals. We knew what the constitution was, and we had a globe. We knew where all the countries were and what crops grew where. We had a Bible reading every morning, and we saluted the flag. It's appalling today. It seems that the kids couldn't care less. No one teaches manners and common sense anymore. You wonder what the world is coming to."

For 23 years a fourth Shores sister, Sandra (Shores)



Photos By: North Star Monthly

There are six students in the last class at the Granby Central School. Front (L-R) Dakota Spicer and Michaela Peters. Rear: Teacher Jenny Lassen and Cody Hodgdon, Drew Duffy, Ashton Wojdylak, Miranda Wojdylak and Teaching Principal Debby Sanborn.



(l-r) Leah (Shores) Austin, Ruth (Shores) Noble and Beverly Shores all went to the Granby Central School. Understanding that the school is to be closed at the end of this school year they are concerned about the loss of a community institution and a way of life that has existed since 1885.

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Michelle Horton
Newport, VT



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At the same time Penny Johnson at the Derby office helped me with the construction loan for my new house. There were times when I couldn't get to the bank, I was so busy, so the bank came to me. Now they've added the new courier service. That's awesome! The only bad part is I don't get to see my bank friends as often, just when they come in for an appointment to have their hair done.

It has been an incredibly busy year - new business, new house, new bank... and a lot of customers, including my friends at LSB."



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Moorehouse was the teacher at the school. Beverly Shores says, "She graduated from Lyndon State College and she was a good teacher. She took the kids outside, and they learned everything. She loved teaching, and it showed."

"All those kids will be trying to find their way in some big factory school, and there will be no more 1 on 1. I just don't think bigger is better with anything."

Peggy Pearl is a teacher who visits schools with a traveling science program from the Fairbanks Museum in St.

Johnsbury. Pearl says, "Sandra WAS the school, and it was always like family there. The kids were attentive, and we loved going there on our Museum field trips." Moorehouse died in 1988.

Recently the school board in Granby announced the result of a difficult and likely agonizing decision to close the Granby Central School. This year there are six children who are students at the School ranging in age from 8 to 12. Next year, according to projections, there would be four ranging in age from 5 to 10. Debby Sanborn is the current teaching principal. Sanborn says, "I've worked at four different schools, and we really believe these kids have had the best education they could get. You couldn't ask for a better teacher-student ratio, and you couldn't ask for a better experience. The town has always supported the School, (even through the times that it turned its back on state aid to education) and we have fabulous

teachers (there are two primary teachers and visiting specialists for programs in music, physical education and computers). The school has remained cost effective, but with four students the balance would tip, and in the end these kids will get a higher level of socialization, especially the older ones, that comes with peer contact."

Cody Hodgdon is in 8th grade at the Granby School, and he looks forward to being at Lyndon Institute next year. Hodgdon says, "I look forward to more people like me."

Beverly Shores says, "The school is like family, and next year the children in Granby won't have that. Parents will be driving 16 miles to Concord, 15 miles to Lyndon or 17 miles to Lancaster - each way - twice a day."

Noble says, "The new people think their kids are missing something, but a lot of our kids went from this little schoolhouse to be class leaders in Concord or Lyndon."

Shores says, "All those kids will be trying to find their way in some big factory school, and there will be no more 1 on 1. I just don't think bigger is better with anything." ★

It is hard to imagine next fall coming and someone driving past the Granby Central School. For the first time in 121 years the flag won't be flying, there will be no smoke coming out of the chimney, and the lights will be off. [Kirby and Granby were the last towns in Vermont with neither telephones nor electricity. Dial telephone service arrived in 1957, and finally electricity was turned on in 1963.] There will be no squealing laughter on the playground, and someone will be asking about the 99-year lease on the athletic field across the gravel road from the school.

Granby voters have agreed to maintain the old school, and there is an understanding that if there is a surge in the population the school could be reopened.

Noble says, "It's always been the center of the community. It's where we all learned to play baseball and everyone played. It's where we made snow forts. Our father went to school there, and we all went there. [There were six Shores.] We'd go to plays and concerts there, and I just don't think that children who are born here or who move here in the future will have that. I won't be the same." ★

**Granby, Vermont
Population**

1790	0
1800	69
1810	120
1820	49
1830	97
1840	105
1850	127
1860	132
1870	174
1880	194
1890	361
1900	182
1910	95
1920	70
1930	69
1940	76
1950	74
1960	56
1970	52
1980	70
1990	85
2000	86

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Karlene Exley: Danville's Grand Lady of Education

DICK MACKENZIE

I remember the class. There were 30 or so of us, circling the room with our backs against the walls and arms stretched out in front.

Just knowing she was there meant all was right with the world.

Miss Exley took a small ball of string from her desk drawer, carried it gently and mysteriously to the inside of the formation and slowly made her way around the circle, unrolling and placing the string in the eager fingers of each student. "This is how big around a redwood tree is," she exclaimed after completing the circuit.

Miss Exley beamed as she told of the trip to California she had made with her mother and father when she was young. While her dad held one end of a string, Miss Exley made her way all the way around a giant red-

wood and eventually joined up with her father still holding the start of the string. She snipped it then, tied a small knot to keep it from unraveling and rolled up the measuring string to keep forever as a demonstration for those who had never seen a redwood.

There we stood, spellbound, the grades 5 and 6 students of Miss Exley's class at Danville School in 1954. No maple tree any of us had ever seen could compare with that monster from California. Our whole classroom could fit inside the trunk of that redwood. We reckoned if the tree were cut off, the trunk would make a dance floor nearly as big as the upstairs of the Danville town hall.

Miss Exley didn't teach children. She stirred students to create masterpieces as surely as a fine chef mixing ingredients for a world class omelet. Her classes were works of art.

When Miss Exley drove her 1949 Plymouth onto the school playground to her parking spot each morning the day seemed suddenly brighter and warmer. Like her car, Miss Exley was big, bold, clean, polished, dignified and reliable, and just know-

ing she was there meant all was right with the world.

We learned lots of hard facts - multiplication tables, state capitals, dates, measurements, spelling and history - but I realize that the values in Miss Exley's room have been the most memorable and most meaningful in my life. She worked wonders helping us comprehend the importance of integrity, hard work, kindness, sharing and setting goals.

Many of those values took years to develop, like a growing redwood tree reaching skyward, but the seeds were well planted and nurtured. To this day, a half century after being in Miss Exley's class, I still, from time to time, reflect on her lessons.

Miss Exley had a standing offer of 50 cents for anyone who did not miss a day of school for the entire year. Although not every kid was motivated to achieve perfect attendance, a handful of us took the challenge seriously. I think the first real moral dilemma of my life arose at the opening of deer hunting season, a school day in 1955. A couple of days ahead of time my dad asked if I'd like to skip school on the opening day and go hunting with him.

The decision whether to go hunting or go to school caused a monumental wrestling match in my mind. It was a tough day or two for a 12-year-old kid, but ultimately the responsibility of attending school won out. The deer hunt was just as sweet - maybe more so - on the weekend.

One day I was caught in class shooting wadded up paper projectiles with a rubber band. An immediate sentence of after-school detention was imposed. Although I would really have



Photo Courtesy of Flo Hartmann

Karlene Exley could make punishment seem like a good deed.

preferred being outside with my buddies, the detention started off like a dream when Miss Exley gave me a stack of scrap paper and my rubber band and told me to go ahead and start shooting all the paper wads I could make up. The idea was to see how many I could shoot. She told me to scatter them all over the room.

The fun, however, didn't last long. I began to realize that shooting the paper wasn't what mattered. It was the audience and the thrill of the forbidden. Now that nobody was there to see me show off, and the teacher was busy at her desk marking papers, I really wanted to be done and out the door. Even the rubber band became a chore to shoot, so I quit and just aimlessly tossed around a few pieces of paper.

"Richard, I don't hear your shooter," Miss Exley said without looking up.

"I got tired of using the rubber band, so I'm just throwing them," I answered a bit forlornly.

"Oh, no, no, Richard. Use your shooter like you did in class this afternoon. Be sure to shoot them all over the room."

As I twanged up my attack of the paper wads, wishing more than ever I could be free to go outside, Mr. Duclos the caretaker peeked into the room. He had a slight smile on his face, and I knew I had a kindred soul on my side. Miss Exley was at her desk, head down, marking papers, seemingly oblivious to all that was happening.

And then out of nowhere came the magic words, "Okay, Richard, you can stop now." I was ready to race outside and join my friends. "Now, I want you to pick up all the paper wads and put them in the wastebasket," she said, pointing to the can by her desk.

In a rush I started scooping the debris to get the job over with as quickly as possible, only to hear the voice with more instructions. "Oh, no, Richard, not by the handful. Just one at a time. Pick one up and take it to the wastebasket. Then go pick up another one and put it in the wastebasket."

I spent a long, long time picking up the mess I had created. Mr. Duclos looked in once in awhile, always smiling. After an almost unbearable amount of time I announced I had finished. Every last scrap was in the wastebasket. Now, I could hardly wait to join my friends outside.

"Good job, Richard. That looks fine. Now, we have one more matter to take care of. You know Mr. Duclos has a lot of work to do here every day. He was not able to do his work in this room this afternoon because you were here shooting your paper wads. Do you think it's fair to expect him to stay late to finish his work?"

Yes, I did get to go outside to join my friends eventually, but not until I had gone to get the green sawdust that janitors
(Concluded on Next Page)

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I could never call her Karlene

sprinkle on the floor before sweeping, and borrowed a broom from Mr. Duclos, so I could clean the room.

Miss Exley taught me more in that session about integrity and responsibility than any dozen other teachers could have done. And she was so kind, so gentle, so gracious when all was said and done that I left school that afternoon feeling like a man who had performed a good deed. Even Miss Exley's punishments were uplifting.

Every kid in the classroom was a winner. The weekly spelling tests were a showcase. Before morning recess each Friday we each received a half sheet of paper on which we wrote our names in the top right corner and put the numbers one to 20 down the left hand edge.

Each word was recited, alternating between the Grade 5 and the Grade 6 spelling list, papers were exchanged and marked, and then passed to the front of the row. Miss Exley collected them as if she were receiving a handful of precious gems.

Once recess was finished, the entire class was treated to the show of the week. In single file, we walked slowly past the table at the front of the room. Arranged there were all the test papers, with a winning batch of perfect spellings highlighted in one row, the finest penmanship in another grouping, the most improved penmanship in another spot and honorable mentions for one achievement or another laid out separate from all the rest.

We reveled in those moments, seeing our names and

our achievements shining alongside our friends'. It was probably the next best thing to having our names on a theater marquee downtown. Miss Exley could turn simple things into monumental events.

Probably her kindness is what I remember most about my favorite teacher. When we were finishing Grade 4, most of us looked forward to the coming school year with concern. The Grade 5 teacher was reputed to shout, pull hair, slam books on the desk and generally terrorize her students. And I guess she did all of those things on occasion, but Miss Exley chose her moments and used those techniques so sparingly that they stood out like fireworks on the 4th of July.

More representative of Miss Exley's caring is illustrated by her treatment of one of the boys in class. Barney came from a poor home. His clothes were tattered and patched and often ill-fitting. He was unkempt and had a strong body odor most of the time. One day I overheard a small piece of conversation as Miss Exley was talking privately with Barney. She was asking about his mother, soap in the home and washing facilities...

Later that day, for no apparent reason, Miss Exley spoke to the class about how lucky some of us were to have mothers who were so smart and who cared so much for their families that they used everything until it was totally worn out. One sign of a wonderful family was one in which the mother patched old clothes so they could be re-worn. By the time Miss Exley was done extolling the fine points of patched, but clean, clothes I wished I had patches on my own jeans. I think Barney was glowing with pride.

To my great sorrow my family moved away from Danville in 1956 when I was 12, and over the years I lost track of Miss

Exley and most of my friends in Vermont. I vowed to move back when I grew up, but I've had to settle for a couple of short visits in the mid 1960's and a few days in 2003.

Once in 1967 I ran into Miss Exley at the Danville General Store, and we exchanged pleasantries for a couple of minutes. Other than that I carried her memory and her teachings with me from Virginia to Alaska, from New Mexico to Nova Scotia, and a dozen places in between.

Of all the teachers I've had in my life Miss Exley stands out by a mile. She has to rank among the grandest of the grand ladies of education in North America, and I consider myself a lucky man to have had her influence.

In 1998, when the Internet was new to me I looked up Miss Exley just for interest, and to my huge excitement I found a phone listing for Exley in West Barnet. I dialed the long distance number, and she answered. What a thrill! More than 40 years after I had been a student in her class she remembered. "You used to live in the old Steele house," she said.

We talked, and we talked. Then we talked some more. The only time I've ever heard Miss Exley lose her composure was

when I told her I had become a school teacher myself. "A what?" her voice cracked and croaked like a rusty gate hinge. She recovered, apologizing for the dry throat, but I knew she was dumfounded by the image of the mischievous kid with a rubber band growing up to be a teacher, too.

After a marvelous, long visit on the phone we had to say goodbye, but we agreed to keep in touch and talk often. "Call me Karlene," she said.

I sent a couple of letters and mailed some small gifts, but I didn't hear back. A few years later I learned that she had died not long after we talked. Although sad, I am thankful that we touched base when we did, that I could tell her how much I appreciated her and we were able to add a chapter to a wonderful story.

I marvel that one person could have such powerful positive influence, and I imagine it radiating even now through the children she taught and their children and grandchildren.

I have been touched by a great teacher and remember Miss Exley fondly and with deep respect. I could never call her Karlene. ★

Dick MacKenzie writes from Sioux Lookout in the Canadian Province of Ontario.



Naturalist's Almanac Gale Lawrence

Around June 20 every year we reach the point in the solar year called the summer solstice. Astronomy books explain the exact positions of the Sun and Earth at that moment, but even with good graphics I find myself on overload. To understand what happens at the solstice I need to watch the sun itself.

I'm lucky enough to live near Camel's Hump, which gives me a clear point of reference on my local horizon. The mountain is to the east of me, so I can watch the sun rise behind it. On the days leading up to June 20-21, the sun rises farther and farther to the left of the mountain. But then, at the time of the solstice, it stops and starts moving back to the right.

Even if you don't have a mountain on your eastern horizon, you can simulate what I see with a TV table, a glass and a round pizza pan. Put the glass upside down on the far side of the TV table to be the "mountain."

Kneel down, reach under the TV table, and hold the pizza pan behind the glass like a backdrop. Lower it until you have just a small arc showing above the far edge of the table. Its intersections with the table are the points at which the sun rises and sets halfway around the year at the winter solstice.

Now raise the pizza pan slowly, watching what happens to the points of sunrise and sunset with respect to the mountain. When you've raised the pizza pan far enough to see the leftward movement of the sunrise and the rightward movement of the sunset, stop. You're ready to conceptualize the summer solstice.

The word solstice, which derives from Latin words for "sun" and "stands still," refers to the time when the sunrise and sunset seem to stop before changing directions. We experience this brief "standing still" as our longest day and shortest night. Now start lowering the pizza pan toward its original position to see what happens after the summer solstice.

Our primitive ancestors didn't have to use pizza pans to observe what the sun did with respect to their local horizon. Maybe they couldn't calculate the summer solstice to the exact minute as astronomers can today, but they could certainly respond to the expansion and contraction of daylight on either side of it.

Before calendars and clocks came along to distract us, the most attentive and observant of our wise elders probably knew exactly when the sun was going to stand still.

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Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

Lynn A Bonfield



Alfred S. Rix (1821-1904), a student at the University of Vermont in Burlington, wrote the Walbridge sisters, Sally and Clara, in Peacham. The envelope containing the letter bears the postmark: "June 17 Burlington Vt." and "Paid 10." Alfred spent several years at the Peacham Academy while boarding at the farm of Sarah Stevens, his maternal aunt.

He and Chastina, another Walbridge sister, were planning marriage, and the informal writing style of the letter is attributable to the fact that he will soon be family.

At the turn of the nineteenth century, women were beginning to seek employment out of the house, such as school teaching. Alfred raised no objection when Chastina began teaching, but he strongly opposed Sally's plans for going to Lowell to work in a factory because, as he proclaimed in an earlier letter, the money she earns will make her "in danger of being extravagant and folly."

Burlington, Sunday afternoon
June 15, 1845.

Dear Girls,

You remember, no doubt, how I used to walk up to your

house now and then and sometimes Sunday afternoons too. Well, just what set me agoing then sets me a-wanting to go now – namely a wish to see the folks. But I cant go, so let me spend the time in writing that I would spend in visiting. Sally, I'll warrant, by this time has made up her face for a long lecture on factory girls, for three reasons, 1st, because she knows my notions on the subject, 2d because I am always lecturing, and lastly, because she deserves it, but I'll disappoint her by holding my tongue about it.

... About this time I suppose the Peacham Girls are showing off their new bonnets to as good advantage as possible. I wonder if you still wear those pink trimmed bonnets – they become you well.

... I have waited a long while, girls, for you to write me, but I suppose you, like every body else, want the other to write first. You know very well that, pent up as I am here, and unacquainted as you are with any of my studies, I cannot write a letter interesting in news and nonsense about old friends and so on, for all these you have, not I. I might write a moral essay or two, perhaps, but these may be found by scores in print – or I might tell you long stories of our college

affairs – then I should be an egotist, so I'll fill these pages with apologies. You must write, both of you, and immediately too, & your mother must find room to do so too. Why, just think! Have I got to be here four years and not so much as hear from you? Come, girls, write me a long letter now, and so do, at times, till you shall have some other young man for a correspondent and then I will yield my claim. Practice will improve you in letter-writing and a girl who can write a good letter, boasts of a kind heart and an honest purpose, as I know you two sisters can, deserve, and may expect sooner or later to find, a good correspondent. In writing your letter be careful above all things to spell your words correctly. Oftentimes good spellers in school make bad ones at the letter desk. Your hand writing is of comparatively small moment – though a fair hand is desirable and neatness, that is no blots and blunders, it always pleasing.

... We are very contented here, work hard, and no favors. I like all our Professors and almost all our fellow students. To one who is willing to devote himself to it there is here the best means of improvement. My studies and my friends over the mountains are all the business that I give

myself for the present. I have finished Blackstone [text on law]. . . .

I should be glad, indeed to spend this pleasant evening with you—but instead I will hear a minister now here on his road to Danville. I want to see my good old Aunt – I want to see you all – nobody to see here only ourselves. Visiting is quite out of the question . . .

a few days since eight students with myself started from the port here in a sail boat in the forenoon with a light breeze, thinking to take a half hour's sail and go to our study. But the wind blew stronger as we got out of the bay – and before we thought we had got 4 miles from home, – we stoped a short time at an island and when we came to return we found the wind had risen – we started – the wind continued to rise till it was quite a hard case for us – we got into port by dint of a tough time, at dark – barely with our lives. – Now, girls, I am out of space – be kind to each other – and kind to all – feel such an interest for yourselves as I do for you and you will be loved by all your friends.

With sincere regards
your friend, Alfred Rix

[side of first page:] Ask your mother to write– Ask Little Isaac if he remembers Wix, hint to him that I may bring Tina [Chastina is teaching away from Peacham and when she has finished her term, Alfred will pick her up] home and he'll know what's what. Now, my little friends I hope you will write very soon

[side of second page:] One week yesterday, I took a hard run, like a fool, on the Lake shore and so heated my blood that it has been boiling over at my nose ever since – so I'm favoured with a nose bleed night and day – Will Turtle's oil cure it? If not, what will?

The original of this letter is in private hands; the editor has a photocopy. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Editor's additions are in brackets; words missing are indicated by ellipses.

the ARTS around

June

- 2 Stone Cold Roosters, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 2-8 *Tsotsi* (2005, South Africa) [R] Director: Gavin Hood. In a Johannesburg shantytown, 19-year-old Tsotsi steals a woman's car—unaware, in his panic, that her baby is in the back seat, and the next six days spin his life out of control and presents a defining opportunity for hope and love to stand against rage. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.
- 3 Josh Lederman Y Los Diablos, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 4 Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 9 Jeremiah McLane, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 9-15 *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*

- (2005,US) [R] Director: Tommy Lee Jones. The saga begins when an immigrant is shot and buried in the high desert of West Texas. The body is discovered and reinterred in a town cemetery, but two desperadoes set off to Mexico to return the body to its home and people. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 10 Nobby Reed, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 16-22 *L'Enfant* (2005, Belgium) [R] Directors: Jean-Pierre & Luc Dardenne. In a grim steel town in Belgium, Bruno and Steve are panhandlers. When Bruno seeks to sell his unborn child self preservation is at odds with the dilemma of moral chaos, desperation and courage. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 16 Classical Chamber Music Concert with Rachael Elliott, Sylvia Cannizzaro &

- Friends, North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury.
- 16 The Rocking Chairs, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 17 The Jabe Band, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 18 Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 23 Padgett Multi-media Exhibit, Catamount Arts Center, St. Johnsbury.
- 23 Conniption Fits, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 23-29 *The Beauty Academy of Kabul* (2004, US) [NR] Director: Liz Mermin. What happens when a group of American hairdressers travel to Kabul with the intention of showing Afghan women how to do hair and makeup? Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 30 The Amity Front, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

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Driving Home on Route 2 in Summer

I
 “There are two seasons in New England!”
 Yes, I know.
 “One’s Winter, one’s Construction.”
 Both are slow.

The eastbound cars stand in a line
 Ten deep.
 A young man holds a sign
 To keep us waiting:
 STOP
 We did.
 We do
 Until the westbound cars at last come through.
 A line of eight,
 They creep our way,
 Then finally pass our line
 And so
 The young man turns his sign.
 It swivels
 To say
 SLOW.
 Now we can go.

I smile and raise a hand,
 “Hello and thanks!” as I drive by,
 A salutation, a salute
 I mean, the guy
 Stands in the dust and dirt
 All day, for us
 And holds a sign
 So nobody gets hurt.

There’s no reply,
 No inclination of the head,
 No flicker in the eye.
 Instead
 He turns the sign again.
 Behind me, ten
 More cars obey him.
 STOP

What’s there to say?
 I’m sure he didn’t see my greeting. Hey,
 How many cars must pass him in a day?

Or could it be
 That those who give directions:
 STOP
 And
 SLOW
 Can’t make these connections:

“Thanks”

“Hello”

?

II

That’s what I was thinking, for a while.
 Thought
 Caught in traffic
 Has a certain style.

III

BUT
 Just west of Plainfield, to my surprise
 Was a hard-hatted Hippie with twinkling eyes,
 Drooping gray mustache, gray ponytail, too
 Out in the road with the rest of the crew.

I waved my small greeting,
 Hi, thanks, to the crowd.
 And this man
 Placed his hand
 On his heart,
 And he bowed.

Reeve Lindbergh

Fiber Friendship on Exhibit at Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild

Work by fiber artists Ellen Spring of Starksboro and Carol Crawford of Bakersfield is on display as a two person fiber show at St. Johnsbury’s Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild Backroom Gallery. The show features two and three-dimensional collaborative works in fiber and mixed media as well as examples of individual work by the artists.

Longtime friends, who first met selling their work at a craft show, both share a love of the natural world. But their collaboration extends beyond a mingling of ideas and materials. It is inspired by their shared fascination for their respective hillside environments. You might find evidence of the blue of Crawford’s bluebirds, the wool from Spring’s sheep, a fragment of one of Crawford’s stories, a peeled twig from Spring’s woods all woven together.

Spring’s work is primarily dyed, hand printed and vibrantly painted silk scarves, garments and wall hangings. Crawford weaves shawls, scarves and ponchos from many fabulous fibers. She says she came to weaving in 1971 when she moved into an old Vermont farmhouse with some Middlebury College friends. The house was empty except for a large 19th century barn loom stored in the attic. Intrigued she began the process of teaching herself to warp the loom and weave the web. She has been weaving durable, supple fabrics meant to be treasured and used ever since.

The show will run to July 6 in the Backroom Gallery at 430 Railroad Street with a reception

open to the general public on Saturday, June 3 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Gallery hours are 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Mondays and 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.



Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild Photograph Artists Ellen Spring (left) and Carol Crawford have combined their talents in a joint fiber exhibition on display at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild. The show will be on display through July 6.



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As a Teacher - She Was the Real Thing

TERRY HOFFER

When I think about teachers who made a lasting difference in my life I tend to measure them against Miss Dorgan. Miss Dorgan was my 4th grade teacher in a growing suburb of Hartford, CT. That elementary school with 600 students opened in 1952, and Miss Dorgan was among its first generation of teachers. I was in her sixth class. That was 1957.

If she had a hobby it was teaching, and I am sure that when she went home at night it was teaching that she was thinking about.

Leave it to Beaver premiered on television that year, and some of us had TV's to watch it. Most of us had mothers who stayed home, and we knew little about Viet Nam and nothing about the 60's. Art Linkletter was the #1 best selling author with *Kids Say the Darndest*

Things. Teachers were beginning to talk about binary math in the first breath of the computer age, and on October 4 the Soviets launched Sputnik. We had air raid drills in the hallways away from glass windows in the classroom.

I remember Miss Dorgan's soft-spoken manner and her patience. She wasn't tall or an imposing physical presence, but without raising her voice she held our attention, and she convinced us she cared. We worked hard for her, and we trusted her, and as the years passed I understood that she loved what she was doing. If she had a hobby it was teaching, and I am sure that when she went home at night it was teaching that she was thinking about.

Several years ago a *North Star* subscriber in Canada asked if I was familiar with a certain Miss Exley, who for many years taught the 5th and 6th grade in Danville. It seems that Teacher Exley was Subscriber MacKenzie's most favorite teacher, and he wanted to find out what he could about the late Miss Exley.

I listened, and it occurred to me that, except for the difference of some 200 miles, Exley and Dorgan were contemporaries. Both were popular and successful

teachers at the same time, and finally I said, "It makes me think of Miss Dorgan."

MacKenzie wouldn't let that casual comment drop, and because of his encouragement I tracked down my 4th grade teacher to her home in southern New Hampshire. On a clear day in April, after 48 years, I joined Miss Dorgan for lunch.

She was the real thing, and it appears she was recognized and honored for her ability in the classroom. I remembered that the year following my class she was a Fulbright Exchange Teacher, and she taught for a year outside of London. At the time to me, it was like being invited to another planet. Her stature soared.

I was off to a different school, but Miss Dorgan was back and sought out by parents and the school district. She tells of being requested by parents and once being asked to visit a school on behalf of a family considering its move to a new community. Those parents wouldn't relocate until Miss Dorgan checked out the teachers and recommended one.

She was often assigned disruptive students from within the school and from elsewhere in the district. She was known to have a



Photo By: Kathy Hoffer

Jane Dorgan was Editor Terry Hoffer's 4th grade teacher. Recently they met for the first time in 48 years.

steady hand and an unshakable manner in her classroom.

Miss Dorgan says, "I was a great believer in individualized teaching. I tried to individualize the instruction for each child with clusters of them working at the same pace. Repetition really turns them off, and asking students to do 10 pages of subtraction problems is counterproductive. I always thought of success as an individual thing, and good teachers will listen and let students discover it themselves. To me, there is not much more satisfying than seeing someone who hated to read give a great book report. Children are perceptive, and if they trust you, and they know that you care, they will do almost anything."

In 1968, after 20 years as a teacher, Miss Dorgan decided to hang up her erasers and become an administrator. "I thought I could help more children," she says, and she probably did, but from the central office - not from the front of the classroom. She had a certificate in administration and supervision and a doctorate in education, and for 10 years she was the principal of a school of 200 and then finally, for four more years, at the larger school where she so successfully taught 4th grade. "The hard part of being a principal," she says, "was seeing any teacher take the easy way out."

Miss Dorgan retired in 1982 but only after directing the development of a town-wide individualized math program; supervising student teaching at the University of Connecticut; participating in leadership seminars in London, Tokyo, Russia, Israel and Ireland; authoring a book on humanistic curriculum called *Henry David*

(Please see *Still on the Next Page*)

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We often take our health for granted. We lead busy lives, after all: working, running the kids to Little League, watching the grandkids in school plays, and weekends where we try to get away from it all. We don't have time to be sick. But wouldn't it have been nice if Bob could have enjoyed more of his life during his treatment, instead of constantly being on the road?

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While expectations for the center were high at its opening in September of 2005, no one could anticipate the number of patients that would walk through the doors. In fact, after six weeks, the center had the patient volume that was expected after two years. It seems clear that there were many cancer patients who were not seeking treatment due to the long drive to Lebanon, NH. We're saving lives.

The Norris Cotton Cancer Center-North is one of the six projects in NVRH's capital investment plan and the pride>progress>people campaign to achieve these goals. If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact Jim Flynn, NVRH's Director of Development at 748-7516 or j.flynn@nvrh.org.

Bob Taylor, cancer survivor.

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The Cork & Bottle

Gerd Hirschmann

Most wines are not alike. In fact, it is almost a science in itself to keep up with various vintages and differences in style even in wines made from the same type of grape in the same wine region.

Instead of looking at the types of grapes and their characteristics, this in an approach by the countries and regions of the world, where most wines come from, describing the different types of grapes (varietals) that usually go into those wines, without going into too many of the individual differences created by all those winemakers and

their personal styles to offer unique nuances in their wines. If you know about those, you don't need any wine recommendations. So this discussion is meant for people who don't know that much about wine.

So many different people and so many different tastes! In all the years I have spent serving wine, one thing became clear: very rarely is there an absolute perfect match in the many ways combining wine, food and people to create a memorable meal.

So suit your own taste. If you have a favorite wine, combine it

with your favorite food and company, and if your tastes are fairly similar – voila, enjoy your dinner! Wine is meant to be drunk with friends, so communicate with them about their preferences, and if you all like the same wine, order it. But if there are big differences, say you like Cabernet and she likes Chardonnay, look for a compromise, maybe a Pinot Noir, or be adventurous, maybe a Riesling or Grenache Rose.

Some wines are more food-friendly than others, and the many reasons for that could fill a whole book, so here is a look at the basics. Most important are the acidity and the sweetness of the wine; the balance between the two is critical for the flavor of the wine, and of course the alcohol adds another

dimension. Some of the more “balanced” wines are made from Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling or Chenin Blanc for whites, and Pinot Noir, Cabernet Franc or Barbera for reds.

The acidity of the wine (think of biting into an apple) will enhance most food flavors and lessen the feel of fat in your mouth, the sweetness (think of ripe peaches or berries) will complement the sweetness of the food and oppose its saltiness (a dry wine tastes sour with sweet foods), the alcohol makes the wine taste richer, amplifies most food flavors and adds a certain heat or burning sensation (so with spicy-hot food look for wine with less alcohol).

Traditionally in the old wine growing regions of Europe, wines were always blended from various grapes to create unique and consistent flavors typical for that particular region. It is only in the “new worlds” of wine growing that single varietal wines such as Cabernet, Merlot or Chardonnay have become the norm. But it is not only the grape type that determines the flavor of the wine, a lot has to do with the types of soil in which the vines grow, the climate that affects the growth (more sun brings out more sugar in the grape and

thus creates more alcohol, cooler climates preserve more of the acidity inherent in grapes) and of course how the winemaker makes the wine (how long is it exposed to oak in the barrels and other techniques of winemaking).

It is an old wisdom to pair wine with food, hence the suggestion to utilize old traditions and match foods and wines regionally, as cuisines along with the style of wines have evolved over centuries. Even in this modern age where boundaries seem to fade and blur, certain typicalities of ethnic cooking still match well with their wines.

For example Italian red sauces in all their varieties, high in acids from the tomatoes, will need the acid Italian wines bring to the table. French cuisine-style rich and buttery sauces are better off with the earthy, complex wines from France. German pork and sausage dishes are perfect matches with wines from Germany; the rich, oily and salty foods from Spain go best with Spanish wines; and there is no better match for a big juicy American steak than a big juicy wine from California.

Gerd Hirschmann is a wine distributor of the VT Wine Merchants Co.

Still the quiet master of teaching

Thoreau - An Exploration into His Life, Thoughts and Friends and developing curriculum materials for outdoor education and language arts.

Miss Dorgan is 79 now, and she says with only a hint of jest, “If I'd stayed in the classroom I might still be there.”

Our luncheon conversation turned more personal, and we laughed about some of the people and events we remembered from 1957 and '58. But Miss Dorgan is still the quiet master of teaching I remembered. I asked her to imagine speaking to a group of first-year teachers and what she might say as they started their careers in education.

She paused - she was thinking. I noticed, for so many teachers jump at the chance to speak before they've taken the time to listen. I pointed it out, and she smiled. She

said, “I'd urge them to remember that the children are the reason they are teaching. I'd say that if they individualize their instruction they will find the means to make students feel competent and successful - no matter what. Give them opportunities to be creative, and you will develop approaches that work, and they will grow.” She looked into the distance for a

moment, and then she said, “I don't think we'd have the problems that we have if people would listen more. It's amazing what can happen if you do.”

Finally Miss Dorgan said, “It's such an important responsibility, I would hope they wouldn't see it as a job.” ★

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All Schools Don't Fit the Conventional Model

R.L. BERENBAUM

In an unlikely spot, tucked into two adjoining apartments in a rambling building across from Bandstand Park and adjacent to the White Market parking lot in Lyndonville, 20 young people spend their days in the nurturing environment of the alternative independent high school, LEARN (Lyndon Educational Alternative Resources Network). Each has taken a different path to this location, but a common thread for many is a troubled background, be it family problems, brushes with the law or difficulties functioning in a standard school environment. Sometimes it is all three.

Much of the learning takes place outside of the building.

Upon entering the school through a door on the side of the building, one does not get the immediate impression of a school; it seems more like cramped office space. But the bright blue trim-work gives a cheerful appearance, and the lively young voices drift-

ing out from the interior rooms hint at what lies beyond. Linda Carr, administrative assistant, is on the phone in the outer office arranging a ride for one student who has been unable to get to school that morning, not an uncommon occurrence. Carr takes a few moments to express her thoughts on LEARN: "These are very dedicated teachers working with kids who otherwise wouldn't be in school. It's a free atmosphere. Kids aren't afraid to express their feelings."

Around the corner and down a hallway, four students sit at a table with teacher Kim Nolan, listening to an exceptionally good recording of Romeo and Juliet and following along in their copies of the play. Every few minutes the tape is stopped and the kids discuss the passage they've heard and read. They are relaxed: eating, drinking, tilting back in their chairs. There is laughter. Obviously these kids are enjoying themselves. All participate in the discussion; with such a small group there can be no dozing in class.

On a recent spring morning, students took time out from geography and English to talk about themselves and their feelings about their school. Its small population was judged by all to be an asset. Willa, 15, at LEARN since

the beginning of this school year, seemed to speak for all as she praised the one-on-one instruction. "And we get to discuss the rules, instead of having the rules laid out."

The other teens expressed appreciation for this aspect of LEARN. Vanessa, 17, said, "It's more laid back, we can wear hats, we can chew gum." Scott, 14, and wearing a baseball cap, nodded and agreed the non-restrictive and less stressful atmosphere enhance their learning.

This is not to say there are no rules and no structure. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior results in loss of "points" and takes away from students' break-time, a pretty severe consequence for these kids, who seem to value the breaks as much as the size and relaxed atmosphere of the school. They agreed that the breaks, which they did not have in "regular" school, make it easier to concentrate. Trevor, 16, and expecting to graduate next year, made the only negative comment about LEARN: "There are more girls at regular high school," he said. But when asked if there was really anything they liked better about their previous high schools, the answer was unanimous: No.

The students in attendance that day, ranging in age from 14 to 18, all agreed that having some say in how their school days are structured, and what behavior is allowed or disallowed, is one of the major benefits of the school.

Every Monday, LEARN has a meeting where students get to bring up concerns and offer input in decisions. Recently, after study-

ing how the teenage brain functions, the students voted to try a later starting time, 9 o'clock instead of 8 o'clock, and 70 percent voted to make it permanent, although some grumbled that they wake up early anyway and prefer the old way.

These kids are here by choice; no one forces them to attend. Mathias, 18, and a student since January, dropped out of Spaulding High School in Barre, as did a few of the others. When asked if he intended to graduate, he said, "I chose to come back. I'll definitely stick it out."

Hannah, 16, will be graduating this year and moving out of state. After taking time off, she plans to attend college and prepare for a career in nursing. She said it was the independent study and one-on-one for 12th grade English that is enabling her to graduate early. She described the atmosphere at the school as "Comedy Central, LEARN style."

The forces behind this cozy center for learning are Kate Campbell, education director, and Ed Ryan, program director, each bringing to the project many years of educational and youth experience, most in Vermont.

Campbell, after graduation from the College of St. Joseph, worked as a special education teacher for 15 years before taking a position as the training and program director for the Vermont Special Olympics, run by the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation. There, she provided training for mentally retarded children and adults, as well as training adult volunteers to work as directors or officials for the games. Later she became a special education administrator and a foster care provider. She has worked for the State as a consultant for independent schools.

A native of Philadelphia,

Campbell spent many summers at her family's house on Harvey Lake. When she moved to Vermont, it was to settle permanently in West Barnet.

Ed Ryan has been a musician most of his life, playing guitar, drums and piano. He is a singer and songwriter. Having grown up in the suburbs of Boston, he moved to Vermont in 1979, after attending Bellamy College in Louisville, KY. At first a full-time musician with time to spare during the day, he gravitated toward working with youth, as a guardian ad litem in the Caledonia County Courts in the mid-1980s, as a coach with Little League baseball and basketball. When he and his wife decided to have children, and realized their children would need to "be fed every week, as opposed to every other week," a more secure job became necessary, and Ryan took a position with Northeast Kingdom Youth Services. He worked there for nearly 20 years, as social worker in drug prevention programs and with runaways.

Before founding LEARN, Campbell and Ryan worked together on projects at the Barnet School and at the Clara Brock Teen Center in West Barnet. "Clara Brock willed her house on Harvey's Lake to the town," Campbell says. "It sat there empty, so I asked the town to let us use it as a teen center."

Ryan added, "People would drop their kids at the beach in the morning and go to work. The kids would wander around town and get into trouble." Setting up a teen center at the lake was a solution. Working with the Barnet School principal on the project, Campbell and Ryan obtained a three-year grant and managed to run the center for four years. When funds ran out, the teen center closed. Ryan and Campbell were ready to move on.

Oddly enough, it was a death that led to the birth of LEARN. It was at the funeral of Mary Jane Choate, a "matriarch" of Barnet, that Campbell first broached the idea to Ryan as they sat together at the reception. Each was feeling dissatisfied and ready to try something new. "I wanted to work with kids who had been kicked out of school," says Campbell. "Kids who weren't doing anything." What she had in mind was a tutorial service for these kids.


She mentioned the idea to Ryan, who said, "Why don't you hire me, I want to make a change."

Campbell's answer: "I don't want to hire you; I need a partner."

Ryan's response was, "I don't want to be involved in a school!" Famous last words.

The original idea was to have a drop-in center and tutoring. Ryan left his job in April, 2002, and went to work renovating the four-room, ground floor apartment across the street in Lyndonville from Campbell's office at Caledonia North Supervisory Union. During this frustrating period, worried that he was spending his days in the dingy apartment for no reason, he would call her to say, "You're sure you're going to quit your job?"

At the end of June, Campbell did quit her job and walked across the street. "It was the turning point



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Photo By: North Star Monthly

Kate Campbell and Ed Ryan are the educational director and program director of the alternative independent high school, LEARN (Lyndon Educational Alternative Resources Network). One of their students gratefully calls it Comedy Central.

in my life," she says.

They started their tutorial service in July of 2002. The Department of Education's Independent School approval team visited several times as a prelude to certification for a tutorial service and suggested they take the next step and start a school. Not the types to back away from a challenge, they thought, why not?

In February, 2003, LEARN was approved as an independent school. It has maintained its status as an approved school ever since. It was recently reapproved, a process that takes place every three to five years. The reapproval was unconditional.

The summer program started with four students, and in four years the school has grown to its present enrollment of 20, the maximum it can handle.

At the beginning, LEARN used the University of Nebraska High School curriculum, a program of study developed for homebound students, children of missionaries in areas lacking schools or for any students who experienced difficulties getting to an actual school. Today the curriculum is accredited by many states for home-schoolers. Using that curriculum as a base, LEARN developed its own program of study to suit the unique needs of its students. The curriculum, which includes functional life skills, is approved by the state for general and special education. LEARN has the same academic requirements for graduation as any high school.

Much of the learning takes place outside of the building. LEARN incorporates a service learning component: matching students with career opportunities in the community. Students get hands-on experience combined with academic work on a particular subject (for instance, writing about how to change tires). LEARN maintains a relationship with the St. Johnsbury Academy, where some receive vocational training at the technical education center.

Physical and health education also takes place in the community, with teachers taking kids on walk-

ing tours (which also serve as a course in Vermont history). A program for smoking cessation encourages students to engage in healthy activities and make healthy life choices.

The Cobligh Library nearby is another classroom. The school's first commitment came from the Library, a \$16,000 grant over a two-year period. The Library also offers its facilities to LEARN at any time, even when the Library is closed to the public. Access to the computer lab there has been a great benefit to the students.

The small number of students is one of the school's greatest assets, allowing educators to get to know each student, be familiar with their personal issues and know when they need help in an academic area or on a personal

level. But because of its size, LEARN is limited in the number of subjects it can offer in any given semester. With only two full-time teachers and students who may be at several different levels, each teacher must be prepared to teach at all those levels.

Kate Campbell could not praise the teachers enough. Kim Nolan, with a doctorate in education, has 10 years experience teaching and working in public and alternative schools. Licensed as a secondary science teacher, she has taught English at the college level; at LEARN she teaches English, science and "anything else that might come up," says Ryan.

This is the second year of teaching for Jessica Waldron, who did her student-teaching at Lyndon

Institute. Although her studies in secondary education emphasized social studies, she excels in math and teaches that subject at LEARN, with physical education, a natural for someone with emergency and sports training.

There are two paraeducators, one of whom is working towards a degree in psychology at Lyndon State College and works one-on-one with a student with special needs. The other has a degree in graphic arts and teaches digital photography.

As with other schools in the area, tuition (\$8,300, below the state average) is paid by the sending school district. LEARN has also been the recipient of several grants, including an unsolicited gift of \$25,000 for technology and textbooks from the Gladys Brooks Foundation, an organization interested in disenfranchised boys. A grant from Youth Links Vermont started a gardening project; a parent helped the kids build window boxes and they have started to grow vegetables with the help of a portable greenhouse.

Although some folks in Lyndonville were less than enthusiastic when the school opened, relations have been relatively smooth. LEARN students have cleaned the park and do other volunteer work around the community. They have created centerpieces for tables at the Darling Inn, made favors for the Rotary Club and shipped gifts to soldiers in Iraq.

After four years of operation, LEARN boasts five graduates, all of whom have gone on to produc-

tive jobs (for example: automotive and work in contracting). One former student plans on enrolling at Vermont Technical College to study computer engineering; another has an ambition to be a sports journalist. Before coming to LEARN, they were drop-outs or heading in that direction. One of the original students, who came to LEARN as an 8th grader, will graduate this year. Another went back to traditional school and is expected to graduate this year.

Meg, 18, is in her third year at LEARN and will graduate soon. She'll head to CCV to study human services, with hopes of working with mentally handicapped children or "just little kids." Grinning shyly, she said, "I recommend this school." She came for the small environment, to get more personal attention. Not all the kids have made future plans yet, but Angelo, 16, wants to attend trade school. Willa, with a talent for problem solving and math, is interested in "crime scene stuff."

Ryan and Campbell point out that not every student has been an unqualified success. Some, including their very first student, dropped out, continuing on a path set long ago despite everyone's best efforts. All these kids come to LEARN with heavy baggage from their personal lives, and against all odds some of them are going to graduate. Part of the reason they will is that the staff goes beyond what one would normally expect:

(Please See *Against* on Page 22)

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What's Happening at the Town Hall?

Barnet

Town Clerk: William Hoar
Selectboard: Ted Faris, Stanley Robinson and Gary Bunnell

May 8, 2006

Summer Paving – Board met with Norman Patenaude, district coordinator for Pike Industries, to review changes in pricing for paving projects for 2006. In 2005, Pikes price per ton for hot mix paving was \$44.10. It has increased to \$53.70. Pike Industries will charge last year's price for the tonnage of paving as agreed last year including work on the Barnet Center Road. Any other paving will be billed at the 2006 price of \$53.70/ton. Board agreed to contract for paving in 2006 including Barnet Center Road estimated cost \$59,393 and West Barnet Road from Barnet Center Road to bridge over the Stevens River with an estimated cost of \$53,820.

Permission to Upgrade Town Road – In response to request by Calvin Willard for permission to upgrade about 2,000 feet of Chamberlain Road Board agreed that work on the road could be done, but Board would like to see the plans before he starts. Board would not agree to maintain the road.

East Barnet Bridge Repairs – Board reviewed bids and two applications for state aid funding for repairs and painting on bridge in East Barnet. Board agreed to have engineers notify low bidder, J.P. Sicard Inc. of Barton, that bid of \$174,455 will be accepted and as soon as papers are signed, he can proceed.

Utility Easement – Board approved request from Green Mountain Power for utility pole easement on Harvey Mountain Road.

Overweight Permits – Board approved overweight vehicle permits for Donald Moore Jr. and Austin Construction, Inc.

Brock Cottage – Board reviewed confirmation of authorization to demolish the town owned Brock Cottage located at the beach. Permission is necessary as property was originally purchased with federal and state funds. Method of removal has not yet been determined.

Town Ballfield – Board approved waiving zoning permit fee to 3 Rivers League for buildings at new ballfield.

Speeding on Town Road – Shirley Warden mentioned signatures of several residents along Blaine Drive asking for a change in speed limit signs. The lowest town can require in accordance with its ordinance is 25 mph. Town could put up lower speed signs, but they could not be enforced.

Missing Road Signs – Board agreed to have Shirley Warden look for missing road signs and oversee their replace-

ment. Board agreed to pay for her time and travel.

Contract Negotiation – After executive session to discuss a contract no action was taken.

May 23, 2006

Safety Concerns in Passumpsic – Residents of Meeting House Hill in Passumpsic Village (Patricia Trotter, Joyce Evans and Bruce Marston) appeared to ask Board to assist them in acquiring permission from VTTrans to place a mirror on US 5 so people driving onto US 5 can see traffic coming from the north. They also suggested lowering speed limit in Village to 25 mph. Bruce Marston will talk with agency of transportation employee Denzil Whitehill to see what can be done.

Beach Committee – Beach committee members Bob Zita and Andy Mosedale appeared with Cathy McLam to discuss beach maintenance needs. Committee has hired two lifeguards. Projects for the season include grading parking lot and securing vending machines to prevent them from being turned over.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Ron Morse appeared to discuss an invoice from Tristan Vaughan for \$750 to install guardrails at entrance to new fire station on Bimson Drive. Guardrails were a condition of fire department's permit when the new access was created before the construction of fire station. Town contracted with Vaughan to do the work. Board had agreed fire department should get the bill. Morse said fire department is not going to pay it. Morse will get a copy of the permits and hopefully the matter can be resolved.

East Barnet Bridge Repairs – Board read letter from J. P. Sicard, Inc., low bidder for bridge repairs to bridge #10 in East Barnet, notifying engineers of their desire to withdraw their bid. Upon reviewing cost breakdown for their bonding company, they discovered a significant error in bidding by not including funds for galvanized planks in the amount of \$25,000. Board discussed various options. No action taken.

Overweight Permits – Board approved overweight vehicle permits for KNM Transport Inc. and Rooster Cruiser LLC.

Fuel Bids – Board had requested bids for pre-buying fuel oil and diesel for year beginning June 1, 2006. Only bid received was for fuel oil only. Board declined to accept or reject bid and will ask other dealers to submit bids.

Sheriff Patrols – Board signed contract with Caledonia County Sheriffs Department for patrols for year beginning July 1, 2006. Hourly rate will increase from \$25 to \$28. Sheriff will patrol 6 hours a week from June through

October and 4 hours a week the rest of the year. Board asked to have town clerk inquire as to whether town receives any of fines levied on US 5.

Salt Shed – Board agreed to apply for funds to hire an engineer to find out if land on Bimson Drive or any other potential lot, is suitable for new salt shed. Existing shed is located in a flood plain in Barnet Village.

Road Maintenance – Board discussed general highway maintenance with Road Foreman Maurice Gingue. Board conveyed its about being more efficient with the use of town equipment as price of fuel is going to increase substantially. Board also asked to see some sort of planning for ditching and brush cutting around town. Board would like to see plan for summer work on paper.

Cabot

Town Clerk: Chris Kaldor
Selectboard: Larry Gochey, Caleb Pitkin and William Walters

May 3, 2006

Annual Town Highway Financial Plan – Town clerk submitted 2006 annual financial plan for town highways. After discussion Board voted to approve the plan.

Liquor License – Board approved liquor license for Lower Cabot General Store.

Special Town Meeting – Board discussed proposed mailing from town's Democracy Committee prior to scheduled special town meeting and voted to authorize copying and postage for the mailing subject to approval by director of elections of the Secretary of State's Office.

VLCT – Board discussed flyer on legislative policy development provided by Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Dog Complaint – Board discussed letter from Melissa Mason about a dog complaint and noted referral to Jo Guertin, animal control officer.

First Constable – Board discussed letter from Rosemary Ksepka in complaint about the first constable.

Town Garage – Board discussed letter from Richard Walbridge Spaulding about proposed site of new town garage.

Legal Matters – Board noted letter from Attorney Paul Gillies regarding a lawsuit.

May 17, 2006

Town Garage – Joanne Vecchiola and William Blakeney expressed concern as to town garage project after special town meeting on May 16. Board discussed options for garage relocation and agreed to appoint a committee to study options.

Property Valuation – Board voted to

approve request from board of listers to ask Vermont Property Valuation and Review for 30 day extension of the deadline date for preparing 2006 grand list.

Junkyard Renewal – Board voted to approve 2006 application for a junkyard license or renewal of a junkyard license.

Bond Anticipation Loan – Board approved resolution for \$300,000 bond anticipation loan.

Cabot Library – Town clerk noted his conversations with Ron Lay-Sleeper, of the Cabot Library Trustees, regarding the payment of the town's annual appropriation. After discussion Board agreed Town clerk will contact library about payment.

Danville

Town Clerk: Virginia Morse
Selectboard: Marion Sevigny, Larry Gadapee, Rick Sevigny, Marvin Withers and Michael Walsh

April 20, 2006

Road Report – Board reviewed road report. Roads are drying out and winter equipment as been stored for the season. Calkins Oil has offered to provide biodiesel fuel for a month in order to compare mileage efficiency. Work continues on old town garage.

Conflict of Interest – After discussion of the investigation of an allegation of conflict of interest at the April 6 meeting Board voted that there was no conflict of interest with Marvin Withers or with Merton Leonard.

Green Up Day – Jim Jung requested town to pay for mulch to be used on the Green during Green Up Day. Board decided to see where funds came from last year.

Administrative Assistant – Board noted that following his surgery Merton Leonard will soon run out of vacation, sick and personal time. Marion Sevigny will check on the situation and report back to Board.

Employee Compensation – Town clerk asked if overtime is computed on time after eight hours. After discussion Board agreed that Scott Palmer and Troy Cochran will receive overtime after eight hours.

Financial Plan – Board voted to sign VTTrans financial plan.

Overweight Permits – Board signed overweight permits for Kingdom Crane and Barrett Trucking with limits of 90,000 pounds.

Erosion Control – Mike Walsh noted that town has preliminary grant for erosion repairs on Water Andric River Bridge and Morrill Road.

Personnel – After executive session to discuss a personnel and legal matter, no action taken.

May 4, 2006

Cemeteries – Louise Lessard and Tom Simons met with Board and described trees that are around the cemetery close to Simons' home. Bedor's Tree Service has quoted \$7,500 to remove some trees and trim the others. Lessard offered \$3,000 from the cemetery fund and asked the town to pay the \$4,000 balance. The trees are near power lines.

Mert will see if CVPS can help. Board approved request to hold a barbecue on the Green to benefit the Danville Green Cemetery.

Road Work – Road foreman reported work on Lemay Road and other seasonal work on roads and equipment. Town received two \$7,000 grants from the Better Back Roads program which will fund repairs on the Water Andric Bridge and at a spot on Morrill Road. Two bids were received for repaving the Peacham Road: Pike, \$108,822 and Gorman Brothers: \$140,000. Board voted to accept proposal from Pike Industries.

Personnel – After executive session with town attorney to discuss a personnel matter with town attorney, no action was taken. After executive session with road crew members Jeremy Withers, Harold Hatch and Reg Guertin no action was taken.

Curbscut – Board approved curbscut for Justin Morgan on Cormier Road.

Liquor License – Board approved liquor license for Joe's Pond Country Store.

Danville Green – Board approved sign on the Green for the Old North Church.

Overload Permits – Board approved for Kerin Fagnant, Greg Knights, Edward Cadreault, Warren Hill Trucking and Gregory Knights.

Administrative Assistant – Following discussion Board agreed that while Merton Leonard recovers from his recent surgery and after his sick time, personal time and vacation time is used up he will be paid his regular salary until he returns to full time duty.

May 11, 2006

Personnel – After executive session to discuss a personnel matter, Board voted to prepare a memo to all employees, and that Michael Walsh be authorized to sign it, to be delivered to all employees on Monday morning May 15.

May 18, 2006

Wastewater Treatment – Stub Parker met with Board to discuss 20-year review of wastewater treatment plant and improvements. Board will decide on action at next meeting.

Mobile Methadone Clinic – Alan Aiken met with Board to discuss mobile methadone clinic in St Johnsbury. Board noted it had discussed hosting the clinic in Danville, but there was no location found at that time. Board asked Aiken to return if he finds a suitable location and indicated they would be willing to discuss it further at that time.

Town-wide Evaluation – Listers have completed town wide evaluation. They will send the data to printers to publish all properties listed with old and new values listed. There will be informational meetings and hearings for grievances.

Town Green – Board approved use of Green for Jane Kitchel's reelection campaign on June 26, and on request of Tim Ide approved use of Green for a birthday party on July 6.

Sugar Ridge – Barbara and Gary Fontaine requested a guardrail added to guard posts on the corner by their property on Sugar Ridge. Merton Leonard and Kevin Gadapee will visit the site and report to Board.

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Road Work – Road foreman reports bridge sweeping and washing and continuing road grading. Three trucks were repaired. Work continues on old garage roof and on wood splitter for wood furnace.

Town Hall – Merton reported he is still waiting for Mountain Valley Sprinkler Co. to finish town hall sprinkler installation they started five years ago. Board discussed bids for painting town hall and voted to accept that from Blake Jenkins for \$15,995. Board agreed to install a locked key box at town hall for use by fire department at a cost not to exceed \$400.

Act 250 Permit – Board noted Act 250 permit application from Dana Calkins to establish gas islands and a convenience store at his fuel station.

Sheriff Patrol – Board noted sheriff's patrol service has increased by \$3 per hour.

Curb Cut – Board noted that a curb cut on Red Barn Road did not include a proper culvert installation. Board agreed to install culvert and charge property owner for the service. Board approved curbcut for Chad Roy on Hill Street, for Everts on Fellows Road and for Hershel Marshall on Kittredge Road.

Personnel – Following executive session to discuss a personnel matter Board agreed to investigate request by Scott Palmer that he be reinstated 30.5 hours of vacation time as he was allowed last year.

Pope Library – Board tabled request for payment of appropriation for Pope Library after school program pending more information.

Communicable Disease Center – Board approved request from State Health Department to continue use of town hall as a center for National Strategic Stockpile for medicine and supplies for a large-scale communicable disease breakout requiring clinic operation and support.

Lyndon

Town Clerk - Lisa Barrett
 Selectmen: Martha Feltus, Bruce James and Rob Elmes

May 1, 2006

Highway Reports – Board discussed highway reports and paving projects on Back Center Road and Park & Ride, which are to begin in mid May. At 31% through the year, budget is 24% expended.

Skateboard Park – Rob Elmes updated Board on skateboard project including meeting with project planner, Sam Padderson.

Excess Weight Permits – Board approved excess weight permits for Austin's Construction, Kelly View Farm, Warren Hill trucking, McLure Moving & Storage.

Peacham

Town Clerk: Bruce Lafferty
 Selectmen: Richard Browne, Tim McKay and Gary Swenson.

April 19, 2006

Forest Fire Warden – Board discussed

status of fire department vehicle and equipment with forest fire warden. Board requested written interpretation of the insurance policy coverage with regard to vehicle storage and operator requirements from the insurance carrier.

Snow Machines – Ross Page inquired about the Peacham ordinance addressing snow machines. McKay explained that the new traffic ordinance no longer contains snowmobile permissions on town roads and that those permissions would be considered annually as Board policy. Board discussed various roads as to possible trail relocation. Page indicated that an established town policy would facilitate the changes the local snow machine organizations would need to make. Board indicated that state statutes, safety and liability insurance concerns would determine the outcome of their decision about road permissions. Board will not guarantee a decision at this time and agreed that landowner opinion is also an important factor.

Insurance – Phil Jejer presented report from insurance company on possible reorganization of town insurance coverage. All vehicles are currently insured. Jejer will investigate coverage for town buildings to make sure they are properly covered.

Storm Water Runoff Projects – Jejer reported that federal funds are available for storm water runoff projects.

Road Work – Seasonal grading of town roads is 95% complete. Work will continue as needed.

Town Hall – Town Hall parking lot project is proceeding well. Gravel and sta-mat will be put down until permanent paving can be done. Board asked Jejer to correct town hall sewer map as discrepancies were found during parking lot project.

Town Garage – Jejer reported that back wall of town garage may have developed foundation rot and that money budgeted for garage maintenance may have to be earmarked for this repair.

Old Town Office – Swenson reported that current draft of purchase and sale agreement for old town office with Peacham Community Housing has arrived from the town attorney and will be passed on to Peacham Community Housing. Mark Moore, Peacham Store owner, asked if the agreements will be available to the public. Board indicated that complete public access to final draft will be available when it is complete.

Memorial Day Chairperson – Town clerk noted that no one has volunteered to organize annual Memorial Day activity. Board agreed that without such a volunteer the traditional event will not take place.

Town Audit – Board discussed CPA audit of town and cemetery financial reports. Board reviewed town investments and policy guides. Board voted to approve annual financial plan for the town.

Road Reclassification – Board discussed town-wide road reclassification.

Town Manager: Michael Welch
 Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier
 Selectboard: Dale Urie, Bryon Quatrini, Dale Urie, Reg Wakeham, Gary Reis and Jerry Rowe.

April 20, 2006

Tax Stabilization Gilman Housing – On recommendation of tax stabilization committee and after considerable discussion, Board approved 5-year tax stabilization agreement with Gilman Housing for the O. Dean Hale building on Main Street. Taxes will be paid in year one on 10% of fair market value, 20% in year two, 30% in year three, 40% in year four, 50% in year 5 and 100% in year six and thereafter. Umbrella will take ½ of the commercial space and Gilman Housing is seeking other tenants for the property. Construction is to be complete by August 2006.

Liquor Licenses – Board approved liquor license for St. Johnsbury House of Pizza, Piccolo's, VFW and the Moose Lodge.

April 24, 2006

Union Bank Stock Shares – Board discussed its 3,226 shares of Union Bank Stock in the general and water funds with a 2005 dividend of \$4,451.88. Board agreed to review stock for use for capital projects, but decided return on this stock does not warrant sale at this time. Board voted to assign proxy for bank annual meeting ballot to town clerk.

Tax Sale – Town clerk reported that 2006 tax sale has been scheduled for June 13. There are 18 properties on the list. The only way to avoid sale at this time is to make full payment by treasurer's check.

Parking Meter Study – Mark Desrochers, chair of St. Johnsbury Works, reviewed parking study in progress by downtown design committee. He reported that parking meters are the cheapest way to monitor downtown parking but they probably are a disincentive to downtown shopping. The committee realizes that the system needs to operate without overall cost to the town and they are looking at alternatives.

Transportation Path and Bike Routes – Alan Boye reported on Bike Route plan on Portland Street. On his recommendation Board voted to authorize purchase of Bike Route Signs and line striping to designate Portland Street as a Bike Route.

Three Rivers Transportation Path – Alan Boye reported that town, state and railroad officials met recently on Bay Street to discuss crossing the active rail

line. The group and engineers agreed to prepare a conceptual alignment for using the crossing at Bay Street for the Three Rivers Transportation Path Crossing.

The Site at the Center – Program Operation – Following a presentation by Glenn Harter and Linda Carr from board of directors of the Site at the Center Board voted to continue to work with the Center to develop an operational or lease agreement for further consideration. The Site will remain closed until such an agreement is in place.

Police Department Taser Report – Police Chief Richard Leighton reported on the use of Tasers. There have been a total of 11 incidents involving use of Tasers by St. Johnsbury Police Officers, and Leighton believes the Taser is a good deterrent when properly used. Board asked about status of potential lawsuit related to the use of the Taser. If the issues are not resolved a date for trial has been set for February 1, 2007.

Housing Study Planning Grant – Following presentation by Joel Schwartz, Board voted to authorize town manager to sign a contract with Gilman Housing for the Housing Market Analysis.

VCDP Grant Agreement – Board voted to accept the VCDP grant agreement for the Housing Study.

Agreement for Housing Study Consultant Services – Board authorized town manager to sign agreements for consultant services for certain housing and energy study grants.

Street Sweeping – Town manager reported a complaint about noise of the street sweeper in the early morning. The sweeper starts at 4 a.m. when there is no traffic on the streets and no cars parked on streets or in parking lots. Board suggested the sweeper avoid the area near person making the complaint until later in the morning.

Wind Towers – After discussion about letter from Town of Lyndon regarding Wind Towers, Board decided not to intervene in wind tower proceeding at this time.

Walden

Town Clerk: Lina Smith
 Selectboard: David Brown, Perley Greaves and Douglas Luther

April 25, 2006

Road Crew – Perley Greaves reported road crew is getting prices for renting a chipper.

Grant Work – Doug Luther reported that requests for bids for summer grant work will be advertised in the Hardwick

Gazette. Contractors will meet at town garage on May 11 for specifications on work to be completed.

Town Clerk Office – Lina Smith reported water heater in town clerk's office is leaking. Board decided instead of replacing the heater to find the cost of tying in to the hot water system in the fire station.

Agenda – After town clerk reported a request that agenda be more specific Board discussed agenda format.

E-911 Road Name – Board discussed a new road name off VT 15 in South Walden. Town's 911 coordinator will be notified.

Dog Warrant – Board signed dog warrant.

May 9, 2006

Road Name – After discussion with Herb Thayer Board agreed to name a road in South Walden L. Thayer Drive.

Constable – Constable Bill Huntoon requested Board consideration of purchasing a video camera for him to document his calls. Board agreed to postpone a decision until they could research legalities and liability for the town. Huntoon asked Board to research whether Board and town clerk need to be Nims compliant to receive funds from FEMA.

Road Crew – Perley Greaves reported the road foreman received prices on a chipper of \$50/hr from Chuck Hill, which includes 2 men, and \$200/day from Hardwick Light Department. Board agreed to wait until brush is cut before deciding on whether a chipper will be needed and for how long.

Better Backroads – Board noted contractors will meet on May 15 to discuss Better Backroad projects and specifications.

Gravel – after discussion about purchasing gravel Board asked Dave Brown to contact Dennis Demers about availability and prices.

Tax Appeals – Lina Smith reported that five people from board of civil authority will attend a tax appeal workshop at Danville town clerk's office.

Town Clerk Equipment – Town clerk has applied for a grant for a new computer to meet requirements of the Help America Vote Act.

Water Test – Town clerk reminded Board that a water test is necessary for church and office of the town clerk.

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Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



I'm accused of sounding like a Vermonter. It's odd, for that is what I am. Unfortunately New England accents are out of fashion. Instead, on the TV set, we see a little gecko with an Australian speech pattern. Now, if only I sounded as cute as he does, I'd hear no derogatory remarks.

Is it all right for a New Yorker to be a Nuh Yuhkuh? Do Brooklinites still say "dese" and "dose"? And how about the Thoid Man Theme? I remember Allen's Alley and Mrs. Nussbaum's Ingroin Boigman. Where have all those different accents and pronunciations gone?

I grew up surrounded by people with individual voices. One of my first teachers, Mabel Watson, spoke in a high-pitched nasal New England voice. Her voice was so distinct that, years later, when I heard her talking to someone across the street in St. Johnsbury, I thought, "That can be no one but Mabel."

The Raleigh man was another person who spoke differently, as did Liz Aiken. George Percy, an Englishman, had a certain manner of speaking as did John Richter, the German immigrant who ran a store in the Corner. The locals had much fun with Richter's accent. I heard all kinds of imitations (not all the same) of how the man talked. Some reported the stereotypical German voice used by comedians. The locals did not realize that Germans have dialects. A Berliner will not sound the same as a Bavarian. I never heard Richter myself and did not know

which person to believe.

One day, Alice Douglas was visiting Susan Hooker. The two talked over old times. The old ladies were both deaf, and I served as a sort of human amplifier. I was interested when Alice said, "Have you watched Henry Kissinger on the TV? He sounds just like Richter used to." I gained a good idea of how the man sounded.

The visitors to the farm came from various localities. Some had loud, harsh voices. Some, like Aunt Flora, spoke softly in a cultured voice. Aunt Bertha and Maw thought "Flora was putting on airs." Harriet never lost her Vermont accent. And when one of her grand-nieces visited in Florida, Aunt Jenny exclaimed, "Oh! I hear someone from Vermont!"

I did not think that people spoke incorrectly. They sounded different from each other because they were different. Tony Corri, the Italian, sounded like some we heard in Barre. And I loved to hear the nuns, chattering to each other, as they walked, two by two, down

Eastern Avenue in St. Johnsbury. I just thought it wonderful they knew what they were saying and wishing I could understand. Their English was different from mine, but so, too, was Alvin's. And his was not the "hoot, mon" type of speech satirized by the comedians.

The summer people amused us, and we noted their ways of speaking—as well as many other ways. Mimi told us, with smothered giggles, about her experience with the impressive Miss Watts. Jennie Chamberlain Watts, a graduate from Radcliffe, spent years gathering material for a history of Peacham, where her ancestors, the Chamberlains, were prominent. She spent her summers at the Choate Inn. To earn money for school, Mimi worked a couple of summers for Miss Choate. It was an education to a young girl, fresh off the farm. And Miss Watts provided one lesson.

One day, at lunch, Watts requested a banana. Mimi was the waitress and went to the kitchen, pulled off one banana and took it back to the dining

room. At home we simply peeled the banana and ate it out of hand. Miss Watts took one look at it and said,

"Wheah is tha fruit knafe?"

Mimi sped back to the kitchen and asked Mrs. Bailey what on earth a fruit knife was and was duly instructed.

Elbert Orcutt, another summer resident, greatly amused the Quimby's. They'd taken him to a field above the house to see the view toward the White Mountains. For years they remembered his comment, "Egad! What a panarama!"

We did not expect people to talk the same. We enjoyed the different accents incomers brought. One day I commented that I particularly enjoyed a woman's English accent. I had heard several variations, George Percy's, an English war bride's and now hers.

"Oh," she replied (in all seriousness). "I do not have an accent. I speak correct English! Everyone else had an accent."

Yes, to "errr" is hickey, Vermontese. What's your speech pattern? ★

"I do not have an accent. I speak correct English! Everyone else had an accent."

When we were working on an anthem for Palm Sunday, we were told to say "pahm," not "parm." We must not stress our r's — something we Vermonters do without thinking. I thought of a fill-in accompanist we had one time. We were working on that same difficulty. The director said we must say "longah," not "longerr." "You sound so hickey," the accompanist agreed. And we altos looked at each other and nodded. Oh, yes, indeed. We were hicks, so naturally...

Against All Odds Some Will Graduate

(Continued from Page 19)

kids call for rides to school when a parent can't drive them, a not uncommon occurrence, according to the directors, and staff members sometimes take kids home with them for a day or two

if something in the child's home life makes it necessary.

Teacher Nolan notes the school has a somewhat fluctuating population, but the core of kids is there for the long haul. "I couldn't come here every day if I thought

most wouldn't stick it out," she says. She puts a lot of time and energy into these kids and really connects with them. With her qualifications she could teach anywhere, but she chooses to stay at LEARN. Both teachers give the impression of being dedicated to the ultimate success of each student.

Before the kids headed out for their morning break, one minor complaint about the school did surface: because it's so small, it gets a little crowded when they're doing their chores.

Chores? Yes. At the end of each school day, they vacuum, clean the kitchen, tidy up, just like stuff they do at home.

"We have to come here, we want it clean," says Hannah.

None of them objected to the work, merely the fact that they all bump into one another as they perform their tasks. ★

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From left: Cindy White, Donna Percy, John Blackmore, Joan Field, George Coppentrath, Betsy McKay, Sam Kempton, Darlene Pilbin, Sue Coppentrath and Cindy Hastings.

Good Teachers Make a Huge Difference

JOHN BACON

Almost all of us fondly remember a special teacher who made a difference in our lives. Curiously many teachers report that they were inspired to become teachers by one or more of their own teachers. Kids may be dif-

It all comes down to basic human needs.

ferent now, but perhaps more than ever they need teachers for inspiration, support and encouragement or just someone to connect with.

One of my college professors was particularly influential in my life. I remember him telling our class what he required for the thesis as part of his senior seminar. The professor was a well known poet and one of the shining stars in the department, I felt lucky just to be admitted to the class but I was intimidated. However, he went on to say that he had confidence in us, that he knew we could do it and that he was going to help. This thesis was probably my hardest assignment and my best work in college. His encouragement and support were key to my success. Over the course of the semester I met with him several times to discuss my ideas and my progress. I worked hard because he challenged me but also because he believed in me.

Sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference. As a principal I observed students hanging out with certain teachers or coming back to visit after they

graduated. I often had a chance to ask kids how they were doing, and how they liked their teachers.

They would tell me things like: "Mr. D. is really cool. He brings in the Garfield cartoon every day."

"Mrs. P. always asks me how I'm doing, and she listens to me."

"Mr. M. makes us work hard, and he gets mad at us when we do something wrong, but now I know that he really cares and likes us."

"Mrs. H. lets me hang out in the library before class and helps me with my homework if I need it."

"Mr. S. shoots hoops with us at recess."

And, "Mrs. W. brings in extra snacks to share with us."

Sometimes teachers don't even know that they are important to students. I once had a student I used to worry about call me up from Massachusetts several years after I worked with him to say, "I just wanted you to know that I'm going to college, I'm in the National Guard and I'm doing OK." I guess driving him home after the detentions I'd given him made a difference.

Today kids spend more and more time by themselves watching TV and playing with computers and video games. Gone are the days when most kids come home after school, were served milk and cookies by their moms and later sat down with their parents to a family dinner. Many children today have less contact with their parents than previous generations because they are

being raised by single parents who have to work, because both parents are working or because their parents are working more than one job. Many children are growing up away from the support that an extended family of grandparents, aunts and uncles could and used to provide. And many children live in households where families don't eat dinner together or spend much quality time together. People live differently, families are on the run and children are often on their own at home.

When you think about it, most students spend six or more hours in the company of teachers but fewer waking hours during the week in the company of their parents no matter how their family is configured or when their parents work. It is only logical that children get connected to teachers.

The Minneapolis Search Institute has concluded that hav-

ing meaningful relationships with adults is one of the strongest predictors that a child will be successful in school, be happy and avoid risky behaviors.

Despite the common perception that kids drop out of high school because of academic problems, recent surveys have found that students drop out because they are bored, unchallenged or because they believe their teachers don't care about them. It all comes down to basic human needs. Students need and respond to the caring, encouragement and support that good teachers give. Not only do they feel good and learn a lot, but students are often influenced in ways that they remember for a lifetime.

John Bacon is superintendent of schools in the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union representing schools in Barnet, Peacham, Danville and Walden.



2006



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Saturday, May 27	9 a.m. - Noon	Bloomfield Bulky and HHW
Saturday, June 3	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Derby Recycling Center
Saturday, June 10	8 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Averill Bulky and HHW
Saturday, June 17	8 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Lyndon Recycling Center
Saturday, June 24	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Ryegate Recycling Center
Saturday, July 29	8 a.m. - Noon	Maidstone Bulky and HHW
Saturday, August 12	8 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Canaan Transfer Station
Saturday, August 26	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Morgan Transfer Station
Saturday, September 9	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Danville Bulky and HHW
Saturday, September 30	8 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Lyndon Recycling Center

Not going to be able to make any of these dates? NOT A PROBLEM! The NEKWMD will be accepting these materials by appointment at our Lyndonville facility from June 1, 2006 to September 30, 2006. Due to regulatory handling requirements, hazardous wastes will not be accepted without an appointment. Scheduling ahead ensures that a qualified individual will be on-site ready to accept your hazardous waste.

**** HHW Collections are free and open to residents of all DISTRICT TOWNS ****

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Reactive - creates fumes, heat, or explosion hazards if mixed with certain materials such as water

Explosive - can explode with exposure to heat or pressure

Flammable/Ignitable - can easily be set on fire

To determine if a product in your home is hazardous, check the label for the following words:

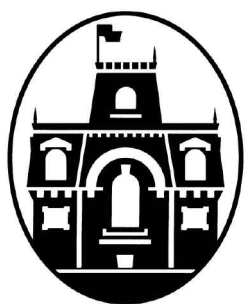
Danger indicates that the substance is extremely flammable, corrosive, or toxic.

Poison means that the substance is highly toxic.

Caution/Warning are put on all other hazardous substances that are a somewhat lesser hazard, but are still dangerous if the directions are not followed closely.

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For more information, contact the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District at (802) 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602, by email at progmgr@nekwmd.org or on the web at www.nekwmd.org



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**Saturday
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

They Know How to Eat at the Danville Meal Site

(Continued from Page 1)

the culinary arts after high school.

There were many "teaching moments," from preparing the rhubarb-strawberry crisp to stuffing the chicken breasts with portabello mushroom duxelle, to mincing roasted hazelnuts to add to the sherry vinaigrette for the mixed spring greens salad, to slicing and sautéing the asiago risotto cakes.

The only pre-prepared ingredients were the homemade cinnamon ice cream and the tarragon chicken essence. After a delightful time of savoring the salad and entree among the more than 45 folk who attended, Chef David and assistants, came out among the diners to be introduced and to talk about the menu and what went into it and to answer questions.

The diners seemed to love not only the meal but the interaction with Chef David and the students.

And those 25 homebound diners report delight as well with their meals at home.

The Guest Chef once-a-month program is one method the Danville Meal Site is using to help increase interest in the meal site, to get some new taste treats out and to raise funds. The typical requested donation for meals is \$3, but diners are becoming more and more generous, as they are able, with their donations for these monthly gourmet meals. Their generosity is helping defray the cost of meals as the menus do cost more to prepare than we typically take in.

So, thank you to all the chefs for donations of time (and perhaps, Thyme) and ingredients and talents to help make dining at the Danville Senior Meal Site an exceptional culinary experience.

Every meal, whether prepared by a Guest Chef or by Karen Moran is a taste sensation. ★



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Preparing the celebrity chef dinner at the Danville Senior Meal Site are (L-R) Chef David Hale from the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier and two students from Cabot School, Tyler Placey-Noyes and Anna Bromley. At the far end of the table is meal site assistant Helen Morrison, and at rear is meal site manager Karen Moran.

We Saw a Country with New Eyes

VAN PARKER

This spring our friends, Helene and Hans, invited us to go with them to Holland. We knew the Westenburs in Windsor, CT where they still live. But Holland is their native country, and they own a home in a small Dutch town called Loenen. They traveled with us and were amazing hosts during ten days we spent together.

It's different when you go to another country with people who claim it as their home. You see things you might otherwise miss. You get a feeling for a place. Gradually we found our-

selves seeing and appreciating the Netherlands, almost from the inside.

It seems as though everyone rides a bicycle, including men and women well into their 80's. Neighbors invited us for coffee. Our hosts took us to villages and cafes we would probably have missed had we been on our own.

One day we took the train to Amsterdam, went to museums there and to the Anne Frank House. It would be hard to guess how many have visited the Anne Frank House. It seemed almost like a shrine. The line of "pilgrims" goes out of the house and around the block. People are

quiet as they go through the place where the Frank family hid before they were reported. Visitors read excerpts from Anne's diary on the wall and see the videos of her father, taken after the war.

Helene was a young girl when the war ended in 1945. She was old enough to remember something about that strange and painful period. When we were in Amsterdam she showed us the neighborhood where she lived when she was a student and for which she still has great affection.

Hans was a young adult during the war and joined the Dutch underground. He pointed out

different buildings and barns where he hid during the Nazi occupation. These places are still standing, and they were very close to his family home.

We saw fields of tulips, daffodils and other flowers in gardens near Haarlem but also around the neat and tidy homes in villages like Loenen. There is not much obvious poverty in Holland. It seems as though the great majority of people fit into what we would call the middle class. The differences between the haves and the have nots appear to be less wide than in our country.

Holland is changing, as all of Europe is changing. Traveling

between most European countries is very easy, with a common currency, and passports aren't necessary if you're going to Paris or Rome, Berlin or Warsaw. This makes some Hollanders uneasy. They have always been a tolerant people, welcoming dissidents and refugees from other countries, including those who sailed to the New World in a boat called the Mayflower.

Now the Dutch wonder if their openheartedness is changing their country for the worse. I hope not. As we traveled there for a few days we fell in love with the place.

Holland has many ties to the United States. After all, before it was New York, our largest city was New Amsterdam.



The Board of Trustees of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum announces with great pleasure the appointment of Mr. Irwin Gelber to the position of executive director. This appointment concludes an almost year-long effort by the Board to restructure the management of the Athenaeum, to provide guidance to the institution and further the role of the Athenaeum as an important component of St. Johnsbury's creative economy.

Mr. Gelber's experience in leadership positions at comparable institutions will be an enormous asset to achieving these goals. Mr. Gelber is familiar with and devoted to the Athenaeum and its staff. Following a long career in music and the culinary arts, Mr. Gelber retired to Vermont a few years ago. His interest and experience in the arts continued, however, and he currently is the chairman of the Vermont Arts Council, a role that will end in June.

Please help us welcome Mr. Gelber to the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum.

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Walden Hill Journal

ELLEN GOLD

June 1, 2005 - The first of June started out cloudy, but by early afternoon the sun triumphed. Seventy degrees, bright sunshine and green, green, green. Potatoes are planted, our new Yankee Doodle lilac is in a freshly dug and composted bed. I even began a second mowing on our overgrown lawn. Yesterday I took a soggy evening stroll through the woods, accompanied by a chorus of peepers, drumming grouse and a melodious but elusive twilight bird. The forest floor is a sea of marsh marigolds. Violets, yellow, white and blue as well as blood trillium are in bloom. Jack-in-the-pulpit are unfurling, and stalks of moccasin flowers are up but still tightly curled. It's beginning to feel more like summer.

June 6, 2005 - It's a hazy summer morning with a brisk wind drifting through the house. Apple trees and lilac bushes are in bloom, scenting the air with their perfume. Our vegetable garden is planted with the exception of kale, which I'm planning to plant later for a fall harvest. Tomatoes and basil are about a week ahead of schedule, but the forecast looks promising, and the plants were straining at their pots. We gathered some woodchip mulch that was left in roadside piles when the town widened Kittredge Road last fall and mulched the new flower beds. Jeff did a thorough job of weeding the hostas bordering our stairs and added some of the leftover mulch there, too. Our second mowing was completed yesterday, and it's already time to go around again. Temperatures moved into the 80's here and reportedly hit 90° elsewhere in the state. After complaining about too much rain in May, we're looking for more rain to give the newly planted flowers and vegetables a soaking.

June 7, 2005 - I hung the laundry out to dry yesterday, and sure enough, by 3 o'clock thunderstorms rolled in. I guess air drying the clothes is an effective form of "rain dance." This morning brings a fresh washed summer day. Early fog is burning off, revealing a hazy valley. Two of the bird houses have resident swallows with parents taking turns brooding and bringing in food. A tiny, white-throated head peaks out of the rounded door,

guarding the nest. We continue "summerizing" the house. Screens are in, the bird bath is out, and the woodstove is set for summer. Our porch swing is hung, offering relaxing, fragrant respites by the blossom-loaded lilac hedge. A bug shirt or good insect repellent is advisable even in the brisk breeze that helps to keep black flies in motion. Swallowtail butterflies are back in time for the opening lilacs.

June 17, 2005 - It looks like the cold, damp weather has followed us home from Nova Scotia. Reports from neighbors say we missed the first heat wave with not only hot but very humid weather. From the profusion of weeds and tall grass, I see there was plenty of moisture while we were away. The thermometer is just barely touching 50° this wet and gloomy morning. Despite less than ideal weather, we managed a very enjoyable trip to Cape Breton. Wildlife sightings included 6 moose, 2 bald eagles, 2 foxes and a sunlit bay full of gracefully diving whales. The whales were so close to our rocky overlook that we could hear them blowing. Natural observations included thick alpine mini-gardens of reindeer moss interspersed with lush green bunchberry, rust-red cranberry leaves and numerous mosses and lichens. Massive granite banding on rugged coastal rocks washed fresh by the pounding surf created quite a view. A variety of lighthouses viewed in various weather and times of day, with lobster traps strewn nearby, made for the quintessential maritime scene. Of unexpected interest were three informative and scenically situated historic villages. The tiny Highland Celtic Village perched high above Brad'Or Lake at Iona, Sherbrooke Village with its mixture of historic houses among existing 19th century private homes and working craftsmen, and the magnifi-

cantly restored 18th century fort and town of Louisburg at the rugged southern tip of Cape Breton all offered informative living history experiences. Weather permitting we camped, but mostly we sampled a very comfortable variety of B & B's. My actual birthday weekend included a hike among moose on the skyline trail in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, setting up campsite on scenic Aspey Bay with a bald eagle soaring overhead and lobster dinner at Morrison's Restaurant with a sunset drive down the coast to Neil's Cove lighthouse and marina. It was quite a full 60th birthday celebration.

June 21, 2005 - Summer Solstice. Today marks the beginning of summer, and for a change, Vermont is in sync with the seasons. Fireflies are beginning to proclaim that the nights belong to summer, too. The vegetable garden is faring well with the exception of lettuce, which needs a replanting. Lilacs have finished blooming and are ready for deadheading. The weather is cooperating, leaving long dry days for outdoor chores.

June 22, 2005 - A glowing full moon hangs large at the horizon. It's a clear night with chance of frost in the high mountains. Hopefully that won't be us. Today was one of those Vermont summer days that you have to pinch yourself to believe you're really fortunate enough to live here. I took advantage of the lingering evening light to deadhead the lilacs and do some planting around the leaning tower of bird feeder, which Jeff has reset into the ground. A gentle pastel sunset kept me company along with all those omnipresent mosquitoes and black flies. There was lots of activity around the bird feeder today. Three kinds of goldfinches, male, female and juvenile were there along with purple finches



Photo By: Jeff Gold

The Atlantic Ocean gives Cape Breton Island a sense of high drama and isolation even when the sun is shining. It was beautiful there last June.

and a stunning rosebreasted grosbeak. Hummingbirds are frequent visitors to their feeders. Elegant cedar waxwings have returned to feast on wild strawberries.

June 24, 2005 - The firefly display is peaking to its maximum of glittering frenzy. A clear, moonless, black night emphasizes the variety in brightness as well as length of flashes. Bright shining stars contrast the constant movement of the fireflies below with stately motionless dignity above.

June 27, 2005 - We're in the midst of lingering hot, humid and hazy weather. Our trip to the Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge was cut short by the stifling heat. The St. Jay band played a well-attended and equally well-appreciated concert in the shady bandstand. Temperatures were in the high 90's in Tunbridge and low 90's on Walden Hill. Fortunately the evenings have reverted back to the coolness that summer nights in the mountains afford. A very comfortable 60° last night made for a great sleep. Open windows bring the sweet smell of yellow lilies and honey-

suckle.

June 30, 2005 - We're ending June where we started with a calm between storms. Whereas we began with a cold, clammy dampness, we're ending with heat intensified by high humidity. The thermometer has finally dropped from oppressive high 80's and 90's, but 90% humidity lingers on. Everything in the house has a sticky feel, and the air hangs on us like a wet sponge. June had a few glorious days in between heat waves and frost warnings. Maybe once July arrives, summer weather will settle into a more "user-friendly" pattern. Meanwhile, blackflies are still with us as are a hungry crop of mosquitoes and the very annoying, pesky, buzz-bombing deerflies. Heavy rain doesn't seem to "dampen" the fireflies' enthusiasm. Last night was aglitter with those luminous beetles and sonorously filled with the constant patter of falling rain. One firefly managed to find its way into the loft, and its flashing light was blinding in the otherwise darkened room.

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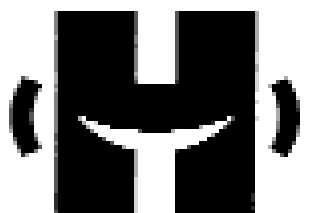
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Eastern Brook Trout: Status and Threats



Brook trout populations have been eliminated or substantially reduced throughout almost 40% of their historical Vermont habitat. The conditions reflect that of brook trout across their entire eastern range according to an assessment recently published by Trout Unlimited and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, a coalition of state and federal agencies joined by conservation organizations and academic institutions.

“Brook trout are the canary in the coal mine when it comes to water quality,” says Gary Berti, Eastern brook trout campaign coordinator for Trout Unlimited. “The presence of brook trout in a watershed indicates that water quality is excellent. Declining populations can provide an early warning that the health of an entire stream, lake or river is at risk.”

The report, “Eastern Brook Trout: Status and Threats,” is described as the first comprehensive assessment of the status of brook trout in the Eastern United States. These beautiful fish once thrived in the rivers and streams from Maine to Georgia, but the pressures of land use have driven the remaining isolated populations to headwaters of high elevation streams.

The data and assessment tell a somber story of the decline of

brook trout across their range. Intact stream populations (where wild brook trout occupy 90-100% of their historical habitat) exist in only 5% of the subwatersheds. Wild populations have vanished or are greatly reduced in nearly half of the watersheds. Brook trout have literally vanished from all streams and rivers in more than 20% of the subwatersheds in the historic Eastern range.

The assessment evaluated 11,400 subwatersheds, which typically contain 25 to 75 miles of streams. Approximately half (5,563) of those watersheds historically supported brook trout.

Eastern brook trout have continued to survive in heavily populated and industrial areas of the United States, but land use patterns over the last several hundred years have taken their toll, largely by removing streamside trees and vegetation and by increasing sedimentation and nutrient runoff. While some sections of the East have regained forest cover and are healing from widespread clearing, other areas are undergoing the influence of population growth and the expanding network of road and public water systems.

While land use practices cause direct damage to water quality they also contribute to higher water temperatures (brook trout cannot tolerate sustained temperatures above 77°, and they prefer those below 68°) and lead to higher levels of sediment and reduced areas of the clean gravel favored by spawning trout. Non-native species (such as smallmouth bass and rainbow and brown trout) are also identified among the top ten regional negative influences on brook trout, but the impacts of stream health and water quality are complex and interrelated. In most cases a combination of influences to the land and

streams, rather than a single disturbance, cause brook trout populations to decline or disappear.

The published data indicates that in Vermont brook trout have been reduced or greatly reduced in 63% of their historic habitat.

Nevertheless, Vermont is one of the northeastern states with the strongest brook trout population. Nearly 14% of the state still supports intact habitats. The study identifies the Batten Kill and White River headwaters, several tributaries of the Otter Creek within and near the Green Mountain National Forest and the East Branches of the Nulhegan and Passumpsic Rivers in the Northeast Kingdom where brookies still thrive.

While results of the study indicate that the status of wild brook trout populations in Vermont is among the best in the East, it doesn't mean our populations are without serious threats,” says Rich Kirn, fisheries biologist of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. “One of the most detrimental activities threatening wild brook trout populations is the removal of forested buffers along stream channels. These protective corridors promote cool water temperatures and stable stream banks - both important in maintaining water quality and instream habitat. Our collective challenge is to protect our remaining brook trout habitat and, wherever possible, restore populations.”

For many years the solution to declining brook trout populations was stocking. In recent decades, however, state and federal fisheries managers and natural resource planners have shifted their attention to habitat restoration. In 2004 a group of public and private entities formed the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture and agreed to seek the means to maintain and

(See For Many on Next Page)

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We Had an Exchange Teacher from China

BETTY HATCH

The Caledonia Central Supervisory Union (CCSU) has had an interesting year in its schools. Last fall, Li Yan Wong came as an exchange teacher from China. She has visited each of the four school districts in the union.

Li Yan is from Mudanjiang, in Heilongjiang Province of northeast China. Her husband is a surgeon. They have a 10-year old daughter. China has the one-child-per-family policy to help control its population numbers. When questioned about her education,

she said, "I started to learn English in Middle School and majored in English at Teachers College for another four years." So her command of our language is excellent.

There is a shortage of teachers in China, and children are taught in classes of 50 students with one teacher. Students are grouped by ability and interest in the classroom. The teacher rotates between groups in the room, much as the early classes were taught in our own rural schools.

Li Yan says, "In most schools in China, students stay in the same classroom most of the time, while

teachers of different subjects switch from room to room as they teach their subject."

Li Yan came to the United States through the American Field Service program, in which both teachers and students are exchanged. While here, she is observing teachers and classes. She is doing some studying. In every school she is presenting the Chinese culture, teaching art and language - calligraphy, paper folding, legend and cooking.

In each school district, she is staying with a different family, getting acquainted with the people and the way of life and traditions here.

In Barnet, she stayed with Laura Brody and her daughter, Bea. Barnet held a farewell party, and she showed what she did with every grade.

In Peacham, she lived with Peg and Paul Clemons. "We decorated the school with lanterns and poetry couplets and celebrated the spring festival, which is much like our Christmas here."

In Danville, she lived with Rita and Fred Kitchel. The Danville School had a Chinese Festival just before April vacation. Chinese lanterns, dragons and kites were some of the decorations found throughout the building.

During the April vacation, Li Yan went to Boston, New York City and Washington, DC to tour interesting sights in each city. She was very impressed with how friendly American people were and how they helped her in her traveling, especially in New York.

In Walden, her last stop, she is staying with the Louis Menard family, and they are having a great time getting acquainted, visiting and cooking. Later, the Middle School will be studying about Li Yan's homeland.

She is eager to get home and back to her family. She plans to use some of the methods of teaching she has seen here. Students are individual children world wide, and they need different approaches to learning. There is more learning by rote and lecture in China and not as much "hands on"

as she has seen in the schools here. In China, she works with high school students.

She uses the computer and e-mail. She has made many friends, and I expect we will hear from her when she gets back home.

Principal Martha Dubuque at Walden School says, "Li Yan is a real delight. This is a wonderful opportunity for students in rural northeastern Vermont to gain some understanding of a different culture."

Betty Hatch Photographs

Left: Li Yan Wong came as an exchange teacher from Mudanjiang, in Heilongjiang Province of northeast China. She visited each of the four school districts in the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union.

Below: Li Yan (front row - third from left) has explained how schools in China compare with those she has seen in Barnet, Peacham, Danville and Walden.



For Many Years the Solution to Declining Population Was Stocking

(Continued from Page 26)

restore brook trout and the watersheds upon which they depend. The Venture's May report offers its assessment and a plan for conservation. The report favors principles of conservation biology and rational planning and offers five goals for conserving, protecting and restoring populations of Eastern brook trout and other coldwater gamefish in Vermont and beyond:

1. Do no additional harm with actions based upon the best scientific knowledge and the avoidance of introduction of non-native fish species.

2. Protect the best remaining habitats and populations first and especially those most susceptible to degradation.

3. Work to reconnect isolated and fragmented populations to help maintain the surviving pop-

ulation throughout the watersheds for long term viability of the population.

4. Focus restoration efforts on those areas that are not completely degraded but retain some of the natural ecological functions.

5. Focus monitoring efforts on best remaining populations with highest vulnerability and the highest risk of future change.

Dana Baker, brook trout coordinator for Trout Unlimited's Vermont Council, says, "Brookies are quick to respond to habitat improvement. We have already seen the results of our work on the Batten Kill. By scaling up these programs throughout the state and region, we will see wild brook trout returning to our streams. And that's great news for us all." ★

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No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

Brining, an age-old method for preserving foods before the advent of refrigeration is making a comeback. It tenderizes, moisturizes and flavors meats on the grill or roasted or broiled under high heat. Pork and poultry benefit greatly from brining as well as certain fish. You can mix and match brines or use a basic brine with a dry rub or other seasonings. When you start adding a lot of different fla-

voring to brine there is a fine line between whether you are marinating or brining. But if the result is a tasty product we won't quibble about it. Once you start using brines the combinations are limitless. There are some rules to follow but they certainly won't inhibit your creativity.

The Science of the Brine: When you submerge meat in a brine the salt and water flows

from higher concentration to the lesser concentration, in other words from the brine into the meat. If there are any other flavorings in the brine they are also passed along into the meat. The brine not only tenderizes the meat by breaking down the proteins but adds liquid to the meat allowing it to hold moisture at higher cooking temperatures.

HELPFUL HINTS:

Plan ahead – brining takes a while. Most cut meats can be brined in about 3 to 8 hours, but whole turkeys can take up to 24 hours. Decide how long your cut of meat will take, and plan accordingly.

Any cut of meat should be brined at least one hour and no longer than 10 hours depending on the size. Huge pieces of meat like whole fresh hams and turkeys are in a league of their own and require special calculations.

If you are using cut up pieces of meat, weigh the heaviest piece and brine for 6 hours per pound (using the weight of that piece.) For example if you are brining pork chops or chicken pieces that weigh 8 oz. each you will want to brine all of them for 3 hours.

Whole cuts will take at least one hour per pound - for example - a 6 lb. chicken or a 6 lb. pork loin will take at least 6 hours. I like to add a couple of hours on these cuts depending on the girth.

These times are only to use as a guide - you will ultimately come up with brining times that work for you.

While you want to make sure the product is fully brined, remember that this process can break down the tissue in meat and can reduce it to mush if brined too long. Better to take it out of the brine at a specified time and store in the refrigerator

until you are ready to cook it.

I use kosher salt in the brine recipes below. If you use table salt cut the amount in half. Always use a salt that is non-iodized. The iodine in many table salts can cause an off flavor.

Do not add extra salt after brining. If you are using a sauce or a rub to cook the meat after brining eliminate the salt from the recipe.

You can reduce the amount of salt and sugar you use in the brine by a small amount if you are worried about consuming too much salt. But the fact of the matter is that you throw most of it away with the brine solution.

Always use a non-metal, non-reactive vessel for brining. Ceramic, glass or plastic are the best. For a small amount of meat use Zip-loc bags.

Most lean meats that are to be cooked thoroughly – chicken, turkey, pork (chops, tenderloin and whole loins), shrimp and dense meat fish – benefit from the plumping a brine can impart. Fattier meats and meats that are usually served rare to medium rare (steaks of all kinds, lamb or duck) are less likely candidates for brining.

Make sure the brine is cold when you add the meat, and keep it cold during the brining process. While brining does kill a certain amount of bacteria, there is nothing like cool temperatures to insure the quality of any meat you are using.

Brining is great for meats that have been in the freezer and you can put frozen meat right into a brine. It will take a bit longer to brine a frozen product so keep that in mind when planning a schedule. Make sure the product stays cold throughout the thawing process.

If you are brining a large amount of product you can use a cooler as the container to hold the brine - use blue ice packs or bags of ice in the brine to keep it cool.

Submerge the meat totally. It should be completely covered with brine.

Do not reuse a brine. Throw it out after the meat has been brined.

If you are using skin-on poultry, whole chickens or Cornish hens, there is a downside to brining. The skin as well as the flesh will absorb moisture and tend not to crisp in cooking. To overcome this problem I dry the skin on the meat after brining and store it in the refrigerator uncovered for a couple of hours.



This allows the moisture in the skin to evaporate and allows the skin to crisp up when cooking.

BASIC BRINE:

I have found what works best is a simple combination of salt, sugar and water. This is an all-purpose brine for poultry, pork or fish. It is great to use when you will be adding other flavors to the meat at the time of cooking – rubs or brushed on sauces.

- 2 quarts water
- 1 cup kosher salt or
- ½ cup tablesalt (non-iodized)
- 1 cup sugar

Put the ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Take off the heat. Stir to dissolve the ingredients. Let cool completely before using.

There is a shortcut you can take at this stage in any brine. I use less water (2 cups less) in the original recipe and then throw two to three cups of ice in the brine to help cool it quickly. It also insures that the brine is nice and cold when you add the meat.

VARIATIONS ON A BRINE:

You can add many ingredients to basic brine for flavor. Some of the more popular are pickling spice, allspice, soy sauce, vinegar, brown sugar, fruits and fruit juices, herbs, hot peppers, garlic, molasses, honey and maple syrup.

For a sweeter product use more fruit and sugars, and for a more savory flavor go for more herbal and peppery ingredients.

Below are a couple of recipes for brines and for a rub to apply after you have used a basic brine recipe.

(See *Brining* on Next Page)

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Ask the Shrinks

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

I feel foolish in writing this letter. I'm no spring chicken. I'm a sensible, professional woman in my early 50's. For four years I have had a special friend, "Jack", who lives out of state, but visits four or five times a year. I love him dearly. We climb mountains and picnic in the woods. We talk all night and laugh and argue and decide how to fix the world. Because he was in the process of leaving his wife we decided to forego the sexual part of our relationship until his divorce came through.

Well, last weekend he let me know he has taken a younger lover ("She means nothing to me. Just a means of sexual

release.") So he still lives at home with his wife, he has a lover, and he wants me to wait for him.

I feel very hurt and betrayed by this, yet I have no real claim on this man. I guess my question boils down to this: what gets into a fine, intelligent, well-educated man that makes him act like this?

Broken-hearted in Vermont

Dear Broken-hearted,

We'll try to answer your question and more; we'll also try to answer the question we think you should have asked.

Every one of us has a pair of utterly incompatible needs: on the one hand we need to have closeness, intimacy, contact and

love, on the other hand we need to avoid the incredible pain of losing someone we love. Each of us struggles with this existential problem, and each finds our own solution. We would suggest that Jack has currently divided his needs for closeness into three parts. He is getting constancy from his wife, physical and sexual closeness from his lover, and, perhaps, emotional and spiritual closeness from you. If he loses one of you it will be painful, but he will still have the other two.

With most people this process is not conscious, but always there is a need to not have all the eggs in one basket. Of course, there are a multitude of strategies possible, for example; becoming a hermit or having many light relationships and no close ones.

Generally though, as a mature adult, one wants to make a full commitment to another and receive a full commitment in

return. There are ways to manage this dilemma and achieve this. First, it helps to acknowledge this dilemma of opposite needs that we all experience as humans. Then, with this consciousness, one common way of minimizing this problem is for each person in a couple to have different careers or jobs, as well as friends, hobbies and even vacations. This tends to dilute the focus and intensity of a love relationship and to offer other acceptable and meaningful pursuits. There is also a natural tendency for a us to balance a more intimate time or event with another person with a less intimate time or event. Think of spending a week's vacation with a loved one, and upon return, each tends to pull away for a while to spend some time alone.

Now to the question we

thought that you should have asked: what gets into a fine, intelligent professional woman that leads her into choosing a married man from another state for the man she loves? While there must be many factors involved in your choice, we would suggest that the choosing of a man who cannot/will not make a commitment is a strong indication that you are not (quite) ready for a commitment yourself. This event bothered you enough to write to us, so perhaps it is time for you to figure out your reasons for choosing to be in relationship limbo.

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler each a private practice in St. Johnsbury.

Brining Tenderizes, Moisturizes and Flavors

SEAFOOD BRINE:

This brine works well on tuna, swordfish and shrimp that are to be grilled over high heat. Don't overcook seafood – the fish cooks a little faster after brining, and there is a limit to how much a brine can do to keep moisture in a delicate piece of fish.

- 1 quart water
- ½ cup kosher salt
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup honey
- juice of one orange
- juice of one lime
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 ancho Chile pepper
- 1 chipotle pepper

Put all the ingredients in a sauce pan and bring to a boil. Stir to dissolve all the salt and sugar. Let this mix cool on its own. That will allow the dried peppers to soften. If you can't find these particular peppers use any dried peppers that are available. Just make sure they are not too hot. You can determine how spicy hot you want this brine by the number of seeds you use. If you just want a moderate amount of heat make sure you deseed the peppers before you put them in the saucepan. Add a few seeds for more heat. I wouldn't add them all as it will make the brine too hot.

After the brine has cooled add a few ice cubes to really chill it down. Submerge the fish in the brine in a non-metal/non-reactive

container and set in the refrigerator – four hours for fish and two hours for shrimp.

Brush with olive oil before grilling. I usually put the shrimp on a skewer to cook on the grill. It certainly makes them easier to handle.

POULTRY OR PORK BRINE:

- 2 quarts water
- ½ cup kosher salt
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup maple syrup
- ½ cup soy sauce
- ½ cup cider or balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon mustard
- 1 tablespoon black pepper

Put all the ingredients into a saucepan and bring to a boil. Take off the heat and stir until all the sugar and salt have been dissolved. Let cool.

Cornish hens or bone in half chickens should brine between six and eight hours.

Smaller pieces of bone in chicken (breasts, legs and thighs) about six hours.

Pork tenderloin about five hours and whole pork loins about eight to ten hours – cut whole loins into 10-inch roasts.

Grill outside or roast at high temperature.

RUBS:

I like to use a basic brine and add a rub to the meat before cooking. It makes a moist product with

a different flavor on the outside of the meat. Remember, you have already added plenty of salt to the meat, so make your own rub that contains no salt.

My brother uses Earl Grey tea in his rubs, and I will pass my version of this seasoning to you.

TEA RUB:

- ½ cup loose tea (crushed) – Earl Grey is a good choice.
 - ½ cup sugar
 - 1 tablespoon of salt
 - 3 tablespoons paprika
- Mix all the ingredients in a small bowl.

Take the meat out of the brine when it is done and pat dry. Add the rub to the outside of the meat and put in the refrigerator for about thirty minutes to an hour before grilling. This is a simple and versatile rub – substitute the paprika with mild chili powder, cumin or curry powder. You can use this rub on meat that has not been brined if you add ¼ cup of salt to the recipe. ★

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Summer in Vermont Wouldn't Be the Same Without the Barbecue

BRUCE HOYT

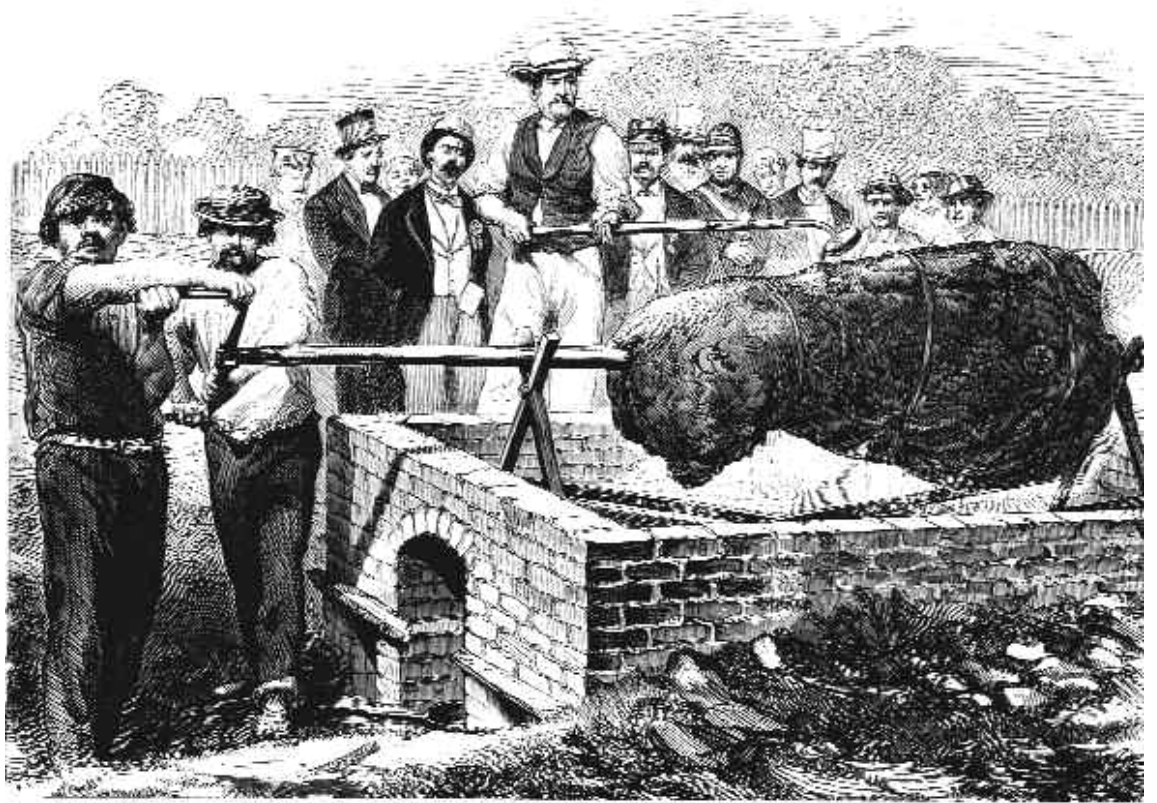
About 25-years ago, IBM Burlington commissioned Vermont artist Sabra Field to make a four-panel silkscreen depicting Vermont's four seasons. Copies were printed and given to all 8,000 employees of the Essex Junction chip-making plant. Most of these art works were taken home, but down in the windowless warren of the engineering department they were tacked up to remind the sequestered calculator punchers of the outside world.

One wise-apple engineer neatly cut and reformatted the pictures, slimming all but the winter panel, with summer diminished the most. Knowing, as all Vermonters do, that such an uneven depiction of the season is more correct than the calendar, no-one should be surprised that a Vermont industry would focus on the state's longer season.

For almost three decades,

Vermont Castings did exactly that, placing its emphasis on the manufacture of handsome and efficient, enameled woodstoves to fend off winter's brutal cold or to bring comfort to a chilly evening. However, about ten years ago Vermont Castings' designers and planners at the Bethel plant decided that, short as it is, summer presented an opportunity for new products with the same attractive appearance and reliable performance as the Defiant and their other woodstoves. The manufacture of gas grills seemed like a logical next step.

With skilled pattern makers, molders, foundry workers, enamellers and assemblers on hand, the company absorbed the new line while continuing to produce and improve the popular Vermont Casting stoves. With rigid quality control over molding material, scrap iron mix and pouring temperatures, the company achieved durable, thin castings that fit together precisely.



Ranked as the best foundry in America, the company geared up for the new product.

Finished in blue or black enamel, and with glazed grates that come sparkling clean in the dishwasher or the clean cycle of the kitchen oven, these gas grills give worthy competition to the line-up outside the hardware superstores. The Vermont Castings grills are successfully marketed across the United States and Canada. In Maryland, for example, both Home Depot

and Lowe's carry the Vermont Castings grill. For this displaced Vermonter, this sign of a thriving home-state economy is encouraging.

General Manager Dale Trombley, says grills in general and his product in particular have seen rapid growth in the last five years. Last year, Vermont Castings produced two of the best medium-sized grills, as rated by the June 2005 *Consumers Report*.

The simplest model took first

place while the more elaborate model took fourth place, edging out the popular Weber midrange model. This assessment was based on appearance, ease of cleaning, ease of operation and, most of all, the way the beef comes off the fire. The higher BTU rating and four-tube system assures a wide range of controlled cooking surfaces. The side burner can bring a kettle of water up to a corn cooking boil in minutes.

It seems like everyone has a grill. In the long summer evenings, barbecue smells arise from inexpensive one-season charcoal pans to thousand-dollar, stainless-steel "family and friends sized" outdoor kitchens. The increased interest in outdoor cooking is manifested in the great number of articles in magazines from *Yankee* to *Woman's Day*. Barnes and Noble bookstore offers 125 titles on grills and grilling. By September, the seasonal hype in the media will wane, but confirmed grillers will carry on through the longer season that the puckish IBM engineer sought to emphasize.

A gas grill fires up in seconds. Dashing onto the snowy deck at 7° below zero to throw on a steak for three or four minutes a side is no big deal to hardy Vermonters, and it makes dinner taste like July.

No article on grills would be complete without a nod to Henry Ford, who started it all back when his Model T's were taking folks out for recreational drives in the country. In 1921, at the suggestion of a relative named Kingsford, Ford built a charcoal factory at his River Rouge Plant in Dearborn, MI to make a salable product from scrap wood remaining from his assembly line. He even sold a fold-up camp grill to encourage consumption of this byproduct. The enterprise became so successful that he started putting unreasonable specifications on his incoming shipping crates so he might have more wood for his cars and his charcoal. Suppliers caught on and put an end to the practice. In 1935, when Kingsford died, the charcoal brand name was changed from "Ford" to "Kingsford."

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Like any avowed griller I have my favorites, and here they are:

- Ribs** - Rub with Chef Paul Prudhomme's BBQ Magic. Finish off with Jack Daniels BBQ sauce (non alcoholic and not as sugary).
- Bratwurst** - Cook, then soak in a pan of warm beer with sliced onions.
- Hot Dogs** - Get the squeaky kind and serve with a good mustard.
- Steaks** - Sprinkle with McCormick's Montreal Steak before cooking.
- Hamburg** - Cook to taste and smother with fried Vidalia onions. The burgers will taste like those at the Danville Fair Catholic Church booth. Yummy!
- Chicken Thighs** - Economical and tasty. Sprinkle with Mrs. Dash.
- London Broil** - Marinate for a few hours with McCormick's Southwest Grill Mates. Add some red wine to the marinade. Cook hot four minutes each side. Slice thin and serve.
- Veggies** - Thick slices of zucchini are good when grilled and buttered.

Bruce Hoyt

VPR Program Schedule

MONDAY - FRIDAY		SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6 A.M.	BBC World Update (5 to 6 a.m.)	Classical Music	
7 A.M.	Morning Edition with Mitch Wertlieb	Only a Game	Sunday Bach
8 A.M.			
9 A.M.	Classical Music with Walter Parker	Weekend Fillium	
10 A.M.		Car Talk	On the Media
11 A.M.	Military Report with Steve Delaney at noon	Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me!	Studio 360
NOON	Weekend Edition	Interlude	A Prairie Home Companion
1 P.M.	Performance Today with Fred Child	Saturday Afternoon at the Opera with Peter Fox Smith	All The Traditions with Robert Hesnik
2 P.M.	Fresh Air with Terry Gross		
3 P.M.	All Things Considered with Neal Chamoff		
4 P.M.		All Things Considered	
5 P.M.		A Prairie Home Companion	From the Top
6 P.M.	Musical/pezo		Classical Music
7 P.M.	Monday: Monday at 8:00 Tuesday: Tuesday at 8:00 Wednesday: Wednesday at 8:00 Thursday: Thursday at 8:00 Friday: Friday at 8:00		
8 P.M.	Living on Earth	Travis & Shaveruck	This American Life
9 P.M.	Specials with George Thomas	My Place	Sound and Spirit
10 P.M.		Hearts of Space	Classical Music
11 P.M.			
MIDNIGHT			

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New Orleans - Post-Katrina

BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

Spring is in full swing, even in northeastern Vermont, where we enjoy flowers and burgeoning greenery. It is a time of rebirth and renewal and for many a sense of spiritual quickening.

That's Vermont, but what about New Orleans in the spring of 2006?

We have heard a lot about the plight of that poor area in the past eight or nine months, and one's attention tends to wander onto other subjects after pro-

longed exposure to images of disaster in the Gulf states. But our family has reason to continue to focus on that area, because my niece, Pris Hagebusch, lives in New Orleans with her husband, Gerry. I recently asked Pris to tell me what the mood is now, months after the disaster, as they move into spring and summer.

To quote Pris: everyone you see looks older – many people you have known look a little fatter, probably from “comfort” eating or having to eat in restaurants because they do not have a func-

tioning kitchen. People smile less, and seem less relaxed and leisurely.

There is strong resentment towards the U. S. Postal Service, which apparently had no emergency plans. No magazines or catalogs have been delivered, and it takes up to three weeks to get a cheering birthday card to a neighbor. People wonder whether their bill payments will reach their destination. There is a pervading loss of faith among folks that the government can or will take care of their needs.

Pris and Gerry feel a bit guilty that they have survived better than so many others. They lost a lot of shingles from their roof and applied for a blue FEMA tarp to cover it. There was no tarp available, so they gathered up the odd shingles dumped on their lawn by the storm and tacked them to the roof. A very large tree fell across their front door. It was finally sawed up, and the firewood will last for years. They were not permitted to return to their home until the severe mildew problem, caused by the dampness, had been resolved.

Once they could move back in, they ran an ‘inn’ for friends, students and Tulane staff (both teach at the university) who needed temporary lodging. Pris says she lives in a self-imposed bubble. She drives to work through disaster areas, many of which remain as we see them on TV. Many students and staff have left the university and do not plan to return. Pris and Gerry teach an extra load of courses and have no chance of vacation until late summer, because lost time must be made up.

I asked if they plan to leave once vacation finally arrives. She said, no, they are committed to stay for the next five years – they will then move north to take their chances with snow. I am amazed they want to stay – but many in New Orleans feel that way. Of course, the sense of “belonging” to a place is strong, and while New Orleans may never be the same, it will survive. There has even been competition for the office of Mayor.

Their car is presumably

“toast” – soggy toast, somewhere in the sodden part of the city. Their pickup truck was safe in their garage, so they use it for transport and for helping friends transfer belongings to dry places. She says that they now have a family hurricane plan, because they are sure there will be more such storms. They will install stronger doors and better locks, and they will get a larger car or van. “Do you have guns in your home?” I asked.

“No,” she said, “We don’t want them.”

We are indeed fortunate here in the Northeast Kingdom. We may complain about the weather, but we survive its rigors by turning up the heat and putting on more clothes. Just imagining if our area were decimated a la New Orleans by some natural disaster – it really does stagger the imagination.

It is not encouraging that government is not better prepared to deal with disasters – and is it becoming more so? One wonders. Perhaps we need to become more self-reliant as individuals (that is really difficult for some) – or more eager to vote for leadership that can be relied upon for quicker response and more effective corrective measures. It just seems that money allocated for relief for desperate areas like the Gulf coast gets thoroughly stuck in the pipeline along the way.

In any case, we are pleased that people like Pris and Gerry have the backbone to stick it out in New Orleans for a few years to do what they can to help bring the area back. It is “home” for so many good folks.

Summertime and the Living's Exciting – At the Peacham Library

BETSY SMITH

Having taken a deep breath, we at the Peacham Library are now ready to dive into a summer of vibrant activity. And what a full summer it promises to be.

We'll begin summer with a bang at 10:15 on June 6 when “Rock and Read with Jane” comes to the Peacham Elementary School. With a mix of fairy stories, dragon tales, music and puppets, Jane Napier will kick off Peacham Library's participation in “Realms of Reading,” the 2006 Vermont statewide Summer Reading Program. We encourage all Peacham area children to join us for what promises to be a very fun time.

A Readers Potluck for older readers in the community will follow on June 10 at 6:30 p.m. Come discuss what you like to read and hear about what others are reading, while enjoying a tasty potluck supper. Only three things are necessary – a joy in reading, titles and names of the authors of two books you think others might like - and a dish to share.

Other “Realms of Reading” programs this summer will include stories, crafts,

“Dungeons and Dragons,” movies and more. The centerpiece of our grand finale will be “Science Magic,” a Boston Museum of Science program coming to Peacham on August 21 at 3:30 p.m. We urge all families with elementary school age children to put this on their calendars today.

Young people should come to the Peacham Library in mid-June to get a Dragon Reading Record, to use in keeping track of summer reading, and to pick up a full schedule of “Realms of Reading” events.

Our Senior Movies – movies for everyone scheduled to follow Senior Meals – will continue through the summer. On June 15 we'll show a great movie classic set in Casablanca during World War II. On July 20 will come the film portrayal of the 25-year friendship of an aging white southern woman and her black chauffeur. Judi Dench and Maggie Smith star in our August 20 film about two sisters who befriend a stranger washed ashore on the beach of their Cornish seaside village. (Note: Movie licensing laws prohibit our using movie titles in our publicity.) Please come join us in viewing these fine films!

“Astronomy” will be the focus of this year's Summer Lecture Series. The programs will be held on July 20 and 27, and August 3 and 10. We're delighted to begin this year, on July 20, with Mark Breen and the Fairbanks Museum/VPR program “Eye on the Night Sky,” with accompanying exhibit.

On the following Thursdays the Library will host Cosmology Professor Rob Caldwell and former NASA scientist Andrew Chaikin, as well as an evening of “Family Star Gazing Outdoors.” Look for more detailed information in the July issue of *The North Star*.

As you can see, it will be a full, entertaining and enlightening summer at the Peacham Library. We encourage all area residents and visitors to come join in the excitement. ★

Peacham Library Hours

Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sat.: 10 to Noon
Tues. and Thurs.: 1 to 7 pm
Coffee Hour: Fridays 10 to Noon

David Toll, M.D.

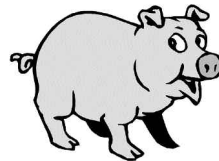
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2006

Home Game Schedule

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JUNE

- 23 - Tri-City Valleycats
- 24 - Tri-City Valleycats
- 25 - Tri-City Valleycats
- 26 - Oneonta Tigers
- 27 - Oneonta Tigers
- 28 - Oneonta Tigers

JULY

- 5 - Lowell Spinners
- 6 - Lowell Spinners
- 7 - Lowell Spinners
- 12 - Batavia Muckdogs
- 13 - Batavia Muckdogs
- 14 - Batavia Muckdogs
- 15 - Brooklyn Cyclones
- 16 - Brooklyn Cyclones
- 17 - Brooklyn Cyclones
- 25 - Auburn Doubledays
- 26 - Auburn Doubledays
- 27 - Auburn Doubledays
- 30 - Lowell Spinners
- 31 - Lowell Spinners

AUGUST

- 1 - Staten Island Yankees
- 2 - Staten Island Yankees
- 3 - Staten Island Yankees
- 9 - Aberdeen Ironbirds
- 10 - Aberdeen Ironbirds
- 11 - Aberdeen Ironbirds
- 17 - Williamsport Crosscutters
- 18 - Williamsport Crosscutters
- 19 - Williamsport Crosscutters
- 22 - Tri-City Valleycats
- 23 - Tri-City Valleycats
- 24 - Oneonta Tigers
- 25 - Oneonta Tigers
- 28 - Lowell Spinners
- 29 - Lowell Spinners
- 30 - Hudson Valley Renegades
- 31 - Hudson Valley Renegades

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Hudson Valley Renegades

Ticket Prices:
Reserved \$7

General Admission:
Adult \$6, Senior \$5, Child \$3

Starting Times: Monday-Saturday 7:05 p.m.; Sunday 5:05 p.m.; Except: Wednesday, July 27 Game at 1:05 p.m.



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SUPPLIES

Click & Clack Talk Cars

Halogen Headlights:

Dear Tom and Ray:

How should I respond to drivers whose cars are equipped with the new blue headlights? Unlike traditional headlights, these are often blinding and are clearly unsafe. When I remind them by blinking my own headlights, the driver flashes his already-bright lights, making things worse. Should I simply join them and leave my brights on full time? What should I do? And where are the regulators? - Richard

TOM: The regulators are in Washington, Richard, where they're busy with crucial matters of national importance.

RAY: So far, government regulators have declined to do anything about these HID (high-intensity discharge) headlights - even though many have complained.

TOM: There are several theories as to what can be done to reduce the glare from them. Some suggest that lights of that intensity

need to be mounted lower so they don't shine into the eyes of oncoming drivers. Others suggest the wavelength of blue light is simply more irritating to the human eye than whiter light.

RAY: Both theories might be true and suggest areas of potential regulation, but according to our sources at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, they haven't found any hard evidence yet that these headlights are actually causing accidents.

TOM: Now, you might say: "Of course they're causing accidents! They're blinding people ... like me!" But before NHTSA will issue a regulation, it needs to have hard evidence that ties these headlights directly with accidents. In other words, it has to have testimonials or reported documentation of incidents in which cars with these headlights blinded other drivers, causing those other drivers to crash into something. And apparently, the evidence is not there. Or not there yet.

RAY: And we all know that you can't make something illegal just because it's annoying. Otherwise, my brother would be locked up for life.

TOM: I would not encourage you to flash your bright lights at drivers with HID lights. You'll just blind them and increase the chances that they'll crash into you or the person behind you. And, as you've discovered, it usually just leads to "lumen retaliation" on the other drivers' part, when they flash their even-brighter lights at you. A better form of protest would be to write to NHTSA.

RAY: NHTSA is particularly interested in hearing from you if you've had an accident or near accident that you attribute to oncoming HID headlights, or if you know someone who has.

Wash Underneath:

Dear Tom and Ray:

I was recently told that I should not choose the option of an underbody wash at automatic car-washes since cars are designed to deflect water away from brakes and bearings, etc., and that car-washes actually spray directly into those components, doing more harm than good. Is that true? - Curt

RAY: No. The underside of your car is constantly bombarded with water when it rains. Water is splashed up from tires and from puddles on the road. And that's fine. It's designed to get wet.

TOM: Brakes get wet all the time and are designed to shed water and keep on working. Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to drive in the rain.

RAY: Anything close to the ground that's really not supposed to get wet - like ball joints and bearings - are sealed and packed in grease so that no water ever gets in not even under pressure from an undercarriage wash.

TOM: We do urge caution when it comes to power-washing the engine with a steam wand.

Because that kind of intense pressure could penetrate the less robust seals on some of the car's electronic components. But an undercarriage wash won't hurt anything, and it'll probably help if you live where roads are salted in the winter.

Replace All the Tires on All Wheel Drive:

Dear Tom and Ray:

I currently have four half-worn snow tires on my '04 Honda CR-V with all-wheel drive. Living in upstate New York, I drive in snow on back roads much of the time (as a rural letter carrier for the Postal Service). I had the bright idea to buy two new snow tires this year for the front wheels and use the worn tires for the rear and next season re-install the newer tires on the front. This would eliminate having to buy four new snow tires at one time. However, the local Honda service manager advised against my plan, saying the newer tires would have a slightly larger radius than the older tires on the rear (even though the actual tire sizes are identical), and this could cause problems with the all-wheel-drive system. Is he correct? - Bruce

RAY: Sadly for you, Bruce, yes. But think of all the tire dealers who are clicking their heels while reading this!

TOM: The evidence suggests that all-wheel-drive systems can be damaged by using different-size tires on different wheels. Even if the tires started out as exactly the same size, if one pair is worn down, that difference in circumference can cause problems.

RAY: Here's what happens. On all-wheel-drive cars - cars that are permanently in four-wheel drive or CAN BE left in four-wheel drive all the time - there's a part called a center differential. This is a clutch assembly or viscous coupling that's so complicated, we couldn't possibly explain

how it works without using our hands.

TOM: When the car is going straight down the road, the center differential doesn't have to do anything. It just sits there. But when the car turns, the front and rear axles need to turn at different speeds to keep the wheels from binding up and the car from flipping over. The job of the center differential is to allow the axles to turn at different speeds.

RAY: The problem is that if the front and rear tires are different sizes, then the front and rear axles are ALWAYS turning at different speeds. Even when the car is going straight ahead. That means the center differential is always working - and that wears it out.

TOM: And the center differential costs big money.

RAY: Maybe someday they'll make center differentials more robust, so they can take the constant use that different size tires require. But that's not how they're made at the moment.

TOM: So it's better to be safe than broke, Bruce. Take the service manager's advice and replace all four tires at once.

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June Meal Schedule

June 1 - Salmon and Trout with Hollandaise, Rice Pilaf, Cantaloupe, Broccoli & Carrots, Blueberry Muffins, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream.

June 6 - Liver, Bacon & Onions, Mashed Potatoes, Allen's Oatmeal Bread, Spinach Salad with Homemade Croutons, Orange Juice.

June 8 - Homemade Baked Beans, Bratwurst or Hot Dogs, Fruit Salad, Pasta Salad with Vegetables, Orange Juice. Library Day.

June 13 - Cream of Broccoli Soup with Saltines, Monte Cristo Sandwiches, Orange Slices, Chocolate Chip Swirl Bread, Tomato Juice.

June 15 - Roast Beef with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Biscuits, Carrots, Tomato Juice and Apple Crisp.

June 20 - Fish Chowder, Chicken Divan, Brown Rice, Allen's Oatmeal Bread, Tomato Juice, Cantaloupe.

June 22 - Turkey, Stuffing, California Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Strawberry Shortcake, Orange Juice. Library Day.

June 27 - Pepperoni or Vegetable Pizza, Pasta Salad with Red Peppers and Broccoli, Watermelon.

June 29 - Buffet

Sing-a-Long with Winona Gadapee on Tuesdays at 11:30

Meals at Danville Methodist Church. All meals served with a beverage, homemade breads and desserts. Reservations are appreciated by calling (802) 684-3903 before 9:30 a.m. on day of the meal. A donation of \$3.00 for guests 60+ (Others \$4.00) is appreciated.

It Was My First Love Affair

ALFREDA BLACK

How I loved that car. In 1939 not every single, young lady owned one. When I, and the Beneficial Loan Company, saw that glamorous two-year old blue, Chevrolet roadster, we had to have it. I had to have it for \$160. The Loan Company would make almost that much in the year as I paid fourteen dollars a month to say it was mine.

On my salary as a secondary-school teacher in a small town in Maine, at 23 years of age, I had not saved a mentionable fortune. Seven hundred dollars was my yearly pay, which meant \$20 a week for 36 school weeks. When I told my father I bought a car, he looked at me as though I had said I bought the whole Rock of Gibraltar. He said, "When I taught you to drive, Alfreda, I didn't think you'd do such a crazy thing." Soon he was giving me a dollar now and then for gas. A dollar would buy five gallons.

That first summer I felt like a queen driving my acquisition to the beach, to friends' homes, to my baby-sitting and waitress jobs, which was the work college girls and teachers did in the summer, much as they do now.

That car had leather upholstery, a canvas top, a stick shift and a rumble seat. The latter

caused a stir once when my friend and her escort were in said rumble seat, and my friend in front inveigled me to let him drive. He had recently learned to drive, too, but not too well, as we found out when he went over a bump and landed in a field. Upright and all, but my friends in back surely felt the ride.

When I was practicing driving my lovely roadster, I took my mother for a ride. She said I drove slowly enough for her to have opened the door and walked if she had wanted. On that ride I smelled something from a burning incinerator. We stopped and jumped out because I thought the car was on fire.

Finally I took my 8th Wonder of the World to school, which was 100 miles from home, and my parents followed behind me in their car, in case something

went wrong. My car made the trip and was soon nick-named "The Blue Goose" by my students, who were quite impressed that "Miss Tanner brought a real automobile back from the big city of Portland." That was 1939, and even though most families owned a car, a "classy" little roadster owned by a girl was somewhat of a novelty.

Sometimes I gave students rides to different events, and I put the car in storage for the winter. Many people used chains on their tires on snow, but I did not consider anything so daring.

In the summer my car and I were popular with the other workers where I waited on table. They thought I could spend my off time taking them places. If I was lucky and had an escort after work, I did not lend the Blue Goose to anyone else.

In 1940 I met my husband-to-be. I still had the car, and it was paid for. For a while we had two cars. Then, as it happened after we became engaged, his car broke down, and we continued using mine. That year I was

teaching nearer my parents' home and close to my fiancee's home. I could not teach the next year because at that time, before World War II (five months before we were in the War) teachers who were married had to discontinue. I could foresee that when men went into the Service, teachers, married or not, would be in demand. However, I stopped, stayed home and brought up a family until later, when I, as many others, went back to teaching.

That is getting away from the subject of my love affair with that car. After using it for our honeymoon and a few months longer, we decided to turn it in for a sedan, which would be more practical. The garage allowed us my car as the down payment for a used Pontiac, for the sum of \$250, which we accepted. The Pontiac lasted nearly 10 years before we felt we

could buy a new one. How I hated to see the last of my very own car. It held many memories and was still going when we traded it. They told me later at the garage where we sold it that the car really fell apart shortly afterwards. I think it missed my magical, feminine touch.

Peacham Library

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
10:00 a.m. - noon

Tuesday and Thursday
1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES



MLS #264780 This old house has surely been given a new life. Located in the heart of Danville, this 1880's home has been updated in so many ways. The original beams have been exposed, and much of the wood flooring has been refinished. The rooms are spacious, some with tile flooring, some with deep-set window casings. It has new roofing, siding, windows, wiring, plumbing and heating. The new kitchen, which includes a small sink and prep area, is any cook's dream. There are three full bathrooms and a first floor laundry. The two-car garage also has a loft room for a home office or studio. Make an appointment to see this property today!

\$325,000



MLS # 263859 Simply beautiful in Peacham! Open and welcoming best describes both the home and land. A modified post and beam home features a slate mudroom, stone fireplace in the living room, exposed beams, large family room, den, 4 bedrooms, 1 and 3/4 baths. A wrap porch, built-in BBQ, barn, open field.

\$390,000

Start your search here.



P.O. Box 68, Main St., Danville, VT 05828
(802) 684-1127

Wendy Fayen.....751-8216
Barb Machell.....748-5248
Robin Jacobs.....748-3815

309 Portland St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-2045

Ernie Begin.....748-4218
Connie Sleath.....748-0016
Rosemary Gingue.....748-8843
Linda Colby.....748-8451
Sharon Slayton.....748-8508
Tristan Barrett.....748-2240

INFORMATION ABOUT THESE HOMES AND OTHER LISTINGS CAN BE FOUND ON www.nneren.com
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www.beginrealty.com



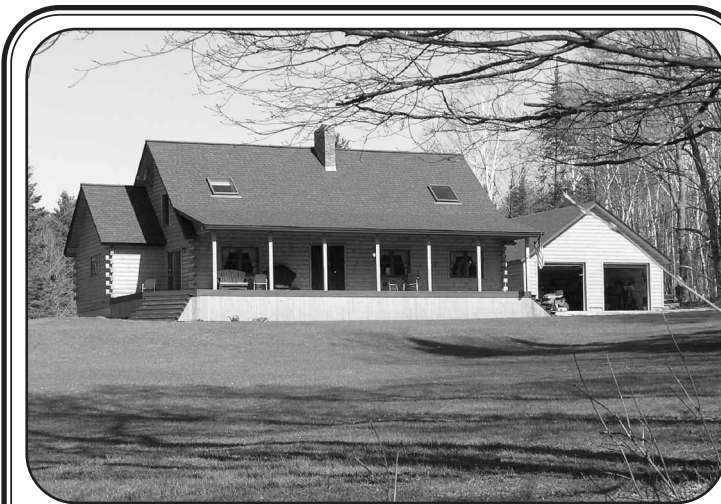
BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES



Sheffield: Superb cape with recent remodeling on 1.4 acres. Six rooms, nice landscaping, small pond and a barn. Woodshed for wood storage. New Bryant furnace installed last year. Woodstove with stone hearth. Exquisite mountain views. Remodeled kitchen. Many extras. **\$145,000**

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ML#265784 This custom log home is wonderfully sited on 26.9 +/- acres on a quiet Peacham road. The land is open and wooded and has a great trout pond. The inside is open and airy with a greatroom with fireplace and cathedral ceiling. First floor also offers master bedroom suite. Two bedrooms, loft and bath are up. Basement is walk-out. Several out-buildings and a two car garage complete the package. **\$465,000**



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West Barnet Senior Action Center

June Menu

June 2 - Buffet.

June 7 - Hot Hamburg Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Carrots, Grapenut Pudding.

June 9 - Baked Fish, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Dark Breads, Tropical Fruit Cup.

June 14 - Sloppy Joes, Cole Slaw, Carrot Salad, Pineapple Upside Down Cake.

June 16 - Chicken with Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Jelly, Mixed Vegetables, Vanilla Pudding with Oranges.

June 21 - Sausage Roll, Potato Salad, 4-Bean Salad, Fruited Jell-O.

June 23 - Spaghetti with Meatballs, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread, Peaches with Cream.

June 28 - Chicken Nuggets, Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Pickled Beets, Ginger Bread with Topping.

June 30 - Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Carrots, Assorted Breads, Ice Cream.

Meals served at West Barnet Church. All meals served with a beverage. Reservations not required. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per meal is appreciated. Phone (802) 633-4068.

AROUND THE TOWNS



June

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Daily - Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, Backroom Gallery Show, featuring new artwork from guild members and invited guest artists. (802) 748-0158.

Daily - A Dream Daisy, Giant flowers made by local artists using Palettes of Vermont as leaves, Tranquil Gardens, North Troy. (802) 334-7466.

Mondays - Story Time, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Youth Library, 10:30 a.m. (802) 748-8291.

Mondays - Story Time, Pope Library, Danville, 10 a.m. (802) 684-2256.

Mondays - Just Parents meet with concerns for drugs and kids, Parent Child Center, St. Johnsbury, 7 p.m. (802) 748-6040.

1st & 3rd Mondays "Six O'Clock Prompt," Writers' Support Group, 6 p.m. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 633-2617.

2nd Monday - Cancer Support Group, NVRH Conference Room A, 4 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

Last Monday - Alzheimer's Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 7 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

Tuesdays - Baby & Toddler Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

Tuesdays - Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 6:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Tuesdays - Cribbage Tournaments, 6 p.m., Lake View Grange Hall, West Barnet. (802) 684-3386.

2nd & 4th Tuesday - Bereavement Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 5:30 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

Wednesdays - Preschool Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

Wednesdays - Read 'n' Stuff, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Wednesdays - Ordinary Magic. Meditation for Life, St. Johnsbury Shambhala Center, 17 Eastern Avenue, 6-7 p.m.

3rd Wednesday - Cardiac Support Group, NVRH, 6:30 p.m. (802) 748-7401.

Thursdays - Introduction to Computers, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

Thursdays - Danville Town Band Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Danville School auditorium. (802) 684-1180.

2nd Thursday - Film discussion following 7 p.m. film at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8813.

3rd Thursday - Caregivers Support Group, Riverside Life Enrichment Center, 10 a.m. (802) 626-3900.

Fridays - Read and Weed Book Club, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Saturday & Sunday - Planetarium Show 1:30 p.m., Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2372.

Saturdays - Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 1 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

3rd Saturday - Breast Cancer Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury, 10 a.m. (802) 748-8116.

Weekends - Ben's Mill, West Barnet, open 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (802) 748-8180.

June

3 Men's Ecumenical Breakfast, Methodist Church, Danville, 7 a.m. (802) 684-3666.

3 Hardwick Trails bird trip with NEK Audubon, Meet at West Danville parking area at 6:30 a.m. or at trailhead at 7 a.m. (802) 472-8724 or (802) 748-8515.

3 St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Annual Pet Parade, 10 a.m. Any and all pets are welcome and pet-less marchers are welcome, too. (802) 748-0021.

3 Scrabble Club, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Noon - 4 p.m., (802) 748-8291.

3 Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, Backroom Gallery, "Branching Out - A Fiber Friendship" by Ellen Spring and Carol Crawford, Reception. 3 p.m. (802) 748-0158.

3 Storytelling Around a Katahdin Campfire with author John Neff, AMC Visitor's Center, Pinkham Notch, NH. 8 p.m. (603) 466-2727.

- 4** Cody Michaels, piano concert, St. Marks Church, Newport, 4 p.m. (802) 334-7365.
- 5** Palettes of Vermont on Display, Awards Night at North Country Union High School, Newport, 5:30 p.m. (802) 334-6511.
- 6** NEK Audubon planning meeting, 4:30 - 6 p.m., Fairbanks Museum Classroom. (802) 748-8515.
- 7** British Ballad Tradition with Burt Porter, Morgan Corner Church, 1 p.m. (802) 723-5907.
- 8** *Loose Change - Second Edition*, film suggesting the events of September 11 were anticipated ahead of time by the US government, North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury. 7 p.m. (802) 748-3663.
- 8** Understanding the Threat of Bird Flu with Eleanor Levy, 7 p.m. Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2372.
- 8** Book Discussion: Ernest Hemingway's *Moveable Feast*, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 7 p.m. (802) 626-5475.
- 9** Sacred Circle Dance, Danville Congregational Church, 7-9 p.m. (802) 684-3867.
- 10** Running the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu and Beyond with Jeanne Chrisite, AMC Visitor's Center, Pinkham Notch, NH. 8 p.m. (603) 466-2727.
- 10-11** Vermont Days, free fishing and free admission to all Vermont State Parks and Historic Sites. (802) 241-3655.
- 17** A Climb to the Top: Plant Zonation in the White Mountains with volunteer naturalist Warren Walker, AMC Visitor's Center, Pinkham Notch, NH. 8 p.m. (603) 466-2727.
- 17-18** Antique Gas & Steam Engine Show, Old Stone House, Brownington. Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (802) 754-2022.
- 17-18** Mystic Valley Railroad, overnight excursion from St. Johnsbury to Newport. 2 p.m. Saturday to 2:30 p.m. Sunday. (617) 361-4445.
- 21** Bearing Witness - Art as Social Commentary with Bob Manning, Emery Hebard State Office Building, Newport. 1 p.m. (802) 334-3225.
- 22** Members of BostonToPalestine present slides and describe current situation in Palestine and the West Bank, North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury. 7 p.m. (802) 748-3663.
- 23** Sacred Circle Dance, Danville Congregational Church, 7-9 p.m. (802) 684-3867.
- 24** Annual Yard Sale, West Burke Methodist Church, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (802) 467-3571.
- 24** Alpine Flowers with field guide author Allison Bell, AMC Visitor's Center, Pinkham Notch, NH. 8 p.m. (603) 466-2727.
- 28** Readings in the Gallery: Willem Lange, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. 7:30 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

See also the Arts Around the Towns Calendar Page 14.



Nick Tanner Photograph

Nick Tanner of Danville is a junior at Clarkson University studying this semester in New Zealand. Here on the South Island over some of the most beautiful sheep farms in the world he catches up on news from The North Star.

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