



Cavendish Community and Conservation Association

Our Vision: *CCCA is committed to a vibrant Cavendish/Proctorsville community that supports its human and natural resources, building a legacy of health, integrity and vitality for future generations.*

www.CavendishCCCA.org

Summer 2013 Volume No. 10, Issue No. 3



2013 was another great year for concerts on the Proctorsville Green. Again this summer the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association on behalf of the Town of Cavendish presented seven consecutive Wednesday evening concerts. Pictured above at the top are scenes from the Gypsy Reel concert on July third. Bottom left is Woodchuck's Revenge, a group new to Cavendish, and bottom right is Yankee Chank, a group well known to Cavendish. Yankee Chank plays at CCCA's annual Mardi Gras fundraiser. Cavendish resident Bob Naess is lead fiddle and the group is always well received. Notably this year we had seven consecutive Wednesday evenings with sunny skies and warm breezes, not a normal occurrence during July and August!



A Message from Robin

We hope that you have all enjoyed these beautiful summer days. It has been a glorious summer with an abundance of flowers, fruits, and now the bounty of garden harvests.

When I told a friend many years ago that I lived in Vermont, he said “ah, the land of insects!” I had never thought of Vermont in that way, but over the years I can see the truth in his words. Flies, butterflies, moths, bees, wasps and so many beetles and bugs, it is astounding.

Of concern in recent years has been the plight of bumblebees around the world. According to Leif Richardson, a PhD student at Dartmouth College, there are nearly 300 species of bees native to our region. Farmers do not maintain the bees, yet the bees provide the majority of pollination service to wild and cultivated plants and are thus critical to human and ecosystem health.

Like managed honey bees, some wild species – in particular bumblebees – are now in a worrying state of decline. Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD is used to describe the condition when a colony goes from healthy to dead in a matter of weeks after experiencing various stress factors. The primary stress factors associated with CCD are pesticides and mites.

According to beekeeper and Author Conrad, Summer 2013; Page 2

most years U.S. beekeepers lose 30 to 35% of their hives to CCD. In 1991 the pesticide containing imidacloprid was implicated in killing 70% of the pollinating bees in France! “Colony Collapse Disorder is all about chemicals” according to Todd Hardie, Vermont beekeeper. “Bees are the canary in the coal mine.” Hardie says the loss of pollinators is a sign that agriculture is out of balance.

Certain chemicals are highly toxic to bees, impacting their ability to navigate, forage and create memories. The state bee inspector Steve Parise says that to date, Vermont has never had a case of CCD. According to Parise, few Vermont beekeepers truck bees out of state, so foreign mites have not contaminated hives and Vermont is friendlier to honeybees in general. Though winters are hard, bees are healthier here because of the prevalence of small-scale organic agriculture, and small-scale organic beekeeping.

If you would like to find out how to support bee population and the various flowers that sustain them go to www.buzzaboutbees.net. To support a bill currently in the House of Representatives that would suspend the use of pesticides that are toxic to bees (in particular pesticides containing neonicotinoids) until full scientific reviews give evidence that they are safe for pollinators contact Vermont State Representative Peter Welch and ask him to co-sponsor HR 2692

The CCCA conservation committee is taking part in the upcoming Honey Festival in Cavendish on September 14th and we encourage everyone to come! And, our Walk and Talk series is sponsoring a bee and honey presentation on October 16th with Mike Benson, 3rd generation beekeeper from Cuttingsville, Vermont. Please see below for more information on each of these events and come join us.

Robin Timko

Winners of The Annual Photo Contest Are Announced



**Summer Girl by Emery Benoit
2014 Judges Award Winner**

The voting has ended and the results are in. We have winners and we have the calendar selections from our annual CCCA Calendar Photography Contest. You all submitted your photos this past spring and we displayed them at numerous venues around town. Cavendish residents cast their ballots for the best photos and here are the results.

Winner of the Best in Show award is Tim O'Donoghue for "Out For a Morning Cruise".

Winner of the Judge's Awards are Jim Fisher for "King of the Roost", Lydia Churchill for "Shelter" and Emery Benoit for "Summer Girl".

The 2014 calendar selections are as follows:

January – "Red Barn" by Hans Schrag

February – "Winter Morning" by Julia Ravlim

March – "Out For A Morning Cruise" by Tim O'Donoghue

April – "Shelter" by Lydia Churchill

May – "Sexy Sadie" by Gail Verheyen

June – "Kiss of Spring" by Kam McIntyre

July – "Ready For My Walk" by Sandra Russo

August – "King of The Roost" by Jim Fisher

Sept. – "Monarch at Mums" by Martha Mott

Oct. – "View From Stevens Road" by Jillian Palmer

Nov. – "Looking For Love" by Peter LaBelle

Dec. – "Jewel in The Snow" by Winston Churchill

Each year CCCA accepts submission of photos for the contest in late spring. Voting takes place in early summer and selections are made about July 4th. Details are set out in a press release and on the web site.

But no one should wait for the announced dates to start taking pictures. All four seasons qualify and you can get started right now. Get out your camera and snap away, the next contest will be here before you know it.

The 2014 calendars will go on sale starting in November. Watch the papers for the sale date. For additional information on the contest, please call Sandra Russo at (802) 226-7398.

CCCA's Summer Concerts Are a Success



Gypsy Reel – Everyone's Favorite Band, Plays in Proctorsville

It was a beautiful night for a concert – for seven successive Wednesday nights in July and August the sun shone, the breeze was warm and

music filled the air over Proctorsville. The 2013 concerts were an unqualified success!

CCCA coordinated the entire series on behalf of the town including securing the bands and the sponsors, publicity and cleanup. This event could not occur without the wonderful sponsors who helped each week and we would like to recognize their generosity. Thanks go to Okemo Mountain Resort, The Inn at Glimmerstone Mansion, Black River Produce, Tim Calabrese and Good Earth Landscaping, the Cavendish Snow Fleas and the Proctorsville Little League. And special thanks to Sharon Huntley without whom these events would not happen.

The music series has become a summer tradition in Proctorsville and we continue to welcome back some of the best musicians in central Vermont. If you haven't attended in the past please make plans to join us next summer.

The Next Walk and Talk Series Presentation

CCCA's Conservation Committee will present the next Walk and Talk series event on October 16th at 6:30 p.m. when they host a presentation about Bees in Vermont, with Mike Benson a third generation Vermont beekeeper from Cuttingsville. Mike is a member of the Vermont Beekeepers Association and gives educational presentations in schools and community venues around the state.

The Vermont Beekeepers Association represents over 400 beekeepers that raise bees for love and honey. They are as diverse as the 246 towns in Vermont, but are unified in their fascination with and affection for bees. Most beekeepers are hobbyists, but there are some "side liners" who try to make a bit of extra income from their 25-200 hives as well as a handful of full-time

professionals. The lecture and presentation will be held at the Gethsemane Episcopal Church hall on Depot Street (next to Crow's Bakery) in Proctorsville. Come and see what is involved in making honey, and maybe enjoy some honey flavored treats.

Related to the talk described above, and less formal while being just as informative is the Golden Honey Festival. There will be lots of information about Vermont Bees and beekeeping. It will be held on Saturday September 14th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Golden Stage Inn on Depot Street at Route 103 in Proctorsville. The festival will include candle makers, bakers, beekeepers, artists and informational material, as well as music and kids crafts. CCCA and the Cavendish Community Fund will be there as well. We have many beekeepers in our community including Julie-Lynn Wood at the Golden Stage Inn, the Goodmans, Tyrells and Eromenoks!

P.A.C.E. is Almost Here And Solar is on The Way

(Keep Reading to Learn How to Win a Free Home Energy Audit!)

The Cavendish Energy Committee, a part of CCCA's Sustainable Cavendish effort, has been very busy this year. In March we presented the P.A.C.E. (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Program at town meeting and the voters overwhelmingly passed a resolution creating a P.A.C.E. District. With the District in place individual homeowners (houses, mobile homes and condos) can take advantage of low interest loans that are meant to finance energy saving improvements. The energy saved will translate into dollars saved and that will provide the funds

to repay the loan.

Efficiency Vermont will administer the program on behalf of the town. EV has finally secured the funding needed to run the program and will begin accepting applications in September. First though, the Cavendish Select Board has to complete the paperwork to enable EV to act on the town's behalf. EV only recently made that paperwork available, so the lawyers still have to review it and give it an OK.

Bottom line is that P.A.C.E. will be available to every homeowner in Cavendish within a few weeks. If you are at all interested, you can get additional information at the Cavendish Town Office, at Crow's Bakery or at Singleton's Market. When you pick up your information packet, be sure to fill out the raffle ticket on the cover sheet. Bring it to the town office and you can enter to win a free Home Energy Audit (worth \$400). Will Reed of Vermont Foam Insulation, Inc. in Chester will perform the audit. The company is a certified Home Performance with Energy Star Contractor. The energy committee will continue to update everyone through the town website. More information on P.A.C.E. can be found on the Efficiency Vermont website at: http://www.encyvermont.com/for_my_home/financing_options/financing/general_info/overview.aspx

Meanwhile, the plan to power Cavendish with the sun is also well underway. In our last issue we said that the Energy Committee was interviewing companies. Well, we finished the process and the Select Board gave Soveren Solar of Putney (www.soverensolar.com) the go-ahead to establish a solar array behind the sewage treatment plant. First step is to secure a permit from the Vermont Public Service Board. That paperwork has been submitted. We have met with Green Mountain Power to establish their needs and duties and soon the town will create a path to the site from below.

Electricity is created when the sun strikes a photo-voltaic panel (PV). If you string enough panels together you can power quite a few buildings. We have tried to match the town buildings' needs with a suitably sized array of panels. What we have come up with will produce 150 kilowatts of power to cover the town office, garage, water filtration plant and hopefully also the sewer plant. The sewer plant is by far the biggest user of electricity.

There is very little cost to the town to do this project. Investors, who will use the tax benefits for the return on their investment, will finance the project. The town will pay the investors for the electricity used, but at a rate lower than what Green Mountain Power charges. The investors will also pay the town a land lease for what would otherwise be unused, vacant land.

In about seven years the town will be able to buy the solar array at a depreciated value and can then use the power almost free of charge. There will always be maintenance charges, but the town can minimize that by doing the work in-house.

For more information about the energy committee or any of its projects, please call Peter LaBelle at 226-7250 or Cheryl Leiner at 226-7820.

Community Fund Accepting Applications for Fall Grants

The Cavendish Community Fund has announced that applications are being accepted for fall 2013 grants. Since 2007 the Community Fund has consistently awarded grants to local organizations and individuals for projects programs and events of an artistic, cultural or educational nature that will benefit Cavendish

residents. Only Tropical Storm Irene interfered with the Fall 2011 grant round. Grants are typically between \$500 and \$1,000 and cover a wide variety of projects and events.

The Community Fund is sponsoring a raffle this fall with some terrific prizes. The drawing will be on November 16th at our next event, but tickets are available now. All proceeds from ticket sales will go directly to the Fund to help support our Community grants. Items to be raffled include a bottle of Dom Perignon Champagne donated by the Inn at Glimmerstone Mansion, a two night stay at the Inn at Glimmerstone Mansion, two hand-made stained glass leaves to match the fall season, a Gold Membership at the Castle Health Spa, a bag of Aveda hair and skin care products, and a gift basket from Singleton's Market in Proctorsville.

Tickets will be \$2 each, three for \$5 or eight for \$10. More prizes were being added as this article was written. A full list of prizes will be on display and tickets will be available at Crow's Bakery on Depot Street in Proctorsville beginning in early September. Get your tickets early!

Plans are now being finalized for the next Community Fund fundraiser. Scheduled for November 16th is our first annual Scotch Tasting Party! The exact location is to be determined, but the cost will be \$45 per person. There will be a dozen different single-malt scotches to taste and suitable fare to accompany the discriminating palate of the scotch drinker. Tickets will go on sale in October and space is limited, so get your tickets early. More details on where to get tickets will be announced in a press release during late September so please watch the papers.

If you need more information on the Cavendish Community Fund you can find it at our web site: www.CavendishCCCA.org Just click on the Cavendish Community Fund tab. You can also

call Barbara Dickey at 802-226-7187, or Peter LaBelle at 802-226-7250.

Join Us as a Member of CCCA!

Dues are a nominal \$35 per year for full membership. In order to join CCCA, please fill out the information below and send with a check payable to Cavendish Community and Conservation Association to:

CCCA
P.O. Box 605
Cavendish, VT 05142

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____