



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

Spring 2013 Volume No. 10, Issue No. 2



We have been busy this spring and we want to bring you up to speed on what is going on. Here is a preview of the articles in this issue. June is the time for our annual Calendar Photo contest to play out. All of the entries are in and town residents will be voting on those that will appear in the 2014 calendar. We hope that you will take the time to vote for your favorites this year. *(Top left above: "Lupine and Lillies" from our 2011 Calendar.)* Our Concert Committee has set the schedule for the summer concert series in Proctorsville. Grab a blanket or a lawn chair and head for the Green on Wednesday evenings to join the crowd. *(Top right above: Gypsy Reel entertains on the Green.)* The Energy Committee is making strides to make Cavendish a true "Green Town". Current targets call for the town to buy most of its power from solar sources by the end of this year, and to reduce usage through highly efficient streetlights. *(Bottom Left above: a solar array similar to that projected for Cavendish.)* Once again the Cavendish Community Fund has awarded grants for educational and artistic pursuits in Cavendish. The Fund enters its seventh year in 2013 helping a steady stream of projects come to fruition. *(Bottom Right above: Cavendish Town Elementary School, which received a grant for a play production by the third grade class this year.)*



A Message from Robin

Spring has been a month of variable climate, with days in the 90's followed by late frosts and even a touch of snow, but now gardens are planted and the lupine and lilies on our hillside are in bloom.

At our annual board retreat in May we invited Jennifer Pontius, Research Assistant Professor at the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at UVM to join us and talk about her field of work regarding climate change and the potential impacts to Vermont's forests. Jennifer's particular focus has been on the detection and mapping of pre-visual forest decline symptoms resulting from invasive species, global climate change and acid deposition/nutrient depletion by scaling plot-based forest health relationships to a landscape-scale using remote sensing and GIS modeling.

She spoke about Vermont's climate and the changes we have experienced in the past fifty years with annual average temperature increasing by 2 degrees Fahrenheit and winter temperatures rising twice as much or more. Some of the results of the warming trend will be: more frequent days with temperatures above 90; longer growing seasons; increased heavy precipitation; less snow and more rain; earlier breakup of winter ice on lakes and rivers; earlier spring snowmelt resulting in earlier peak river flows; and an increase in evapotranspiration, soil drying and short term droughts.

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According to her mapping, the result of these changes on our forests will include an impact on spruce and fir as Northern hardwood trees are now able to survive at higher elevations. Spruce and fir forests, as well as hardwood forests with trees such as maple, yellow birch and beech will also be impacted by pests such as the woolly adelgid, the emerald ash borer and the Asian long horned beetle. These forests are expected to be nearly eliminated in Vermont and replaced by species that prefer warmer drier conditions, such as oak and pine.

Jennifer told us that we can also expect more overwintering of pests; reduced productivity of sugar maples with an earlier end to sugaring season; more frequent floods and associated damage; greater frequency of 1-2 month droughts; increase of warm weather pests like ticks, mosquitoes and algae; and increased threats to cold water fish and wildlife species such as the moose.

The Vermont Forestry Division's forest resource plan has identified activities that maintain forest sustainability with adaptation as a goal. Please check out our website at www.cavendishccca.org for existing programs and other activities that private landowners and citizens can do to make a difference for our future habitat.

Towards the end of Jennifer's presentation she spoke of the importance of our forests and likened them to the lungs of our planet, second only to the great forests of Brazil and the Amazon jungle. The forests of Vermont annually remove 8.23 million metric tons of CO₂.

The presentation was filmed by LPC-TV with the help of Seth Matlovsky and can be viewed at <http://lpctv.org/programs/ccca-walk-talk-series-climate-change-vermont>.

Voting Begins on the Annual Photo Contest



**The Ham by Salvatore Campofranco
2010 Best in Show award**

The annual Cavendish Calendar photography competition has closed for this year and it is time for the photo judging to begin. As in past years, there are two contests now underway.

The first contest is judged by a panel of selected judges and the winners will each receive a prize. The second contest is judged by Cavendish residents and the winners will be published in the 2014 Cavendish Calendar.

CCCA will be exhibiting the photos at various locations around Cavendish and Proctorsville during the month of June for people to see and vote for their favorite photos. Winners will be announced after the July 4th holiday. We are very pleased to be able to present these pictures to the community.

For a listing of where to see the photo submissions and where to vote, please go to our website at www.cavendishccca.org. If you have any questions please contact Robin at 802-226-7736.

CCCA to Coordinate Summer Concerts on the Proctorsville Green



**The Voodoo Alien Blues Band –
an annual favorite, plays in Proctorsville**

Again this year the CCCA will coordinate the Summer Concert Series to be held Wednesday evenings on the Proctorsville Green. As in the past there will be individual sponsors for each concert and there will be weekly articles in the local press to remind everyone of the schedule.

Here is the list of shows as of now. Put this list on your calendar or on the front of your refrigerator:

- July 3 - Gypsy Reel
- July 10 - Voodoo Alien Blues Band
- July 17 - Woodchuck's Revenge
- July 24 - Chris Kleeman
- July 31 - Yankee Chank
- August 7 - Sensible Shoes
- August 14 - Rick Redington

Each concert will begin at 6:00 and everyone is invited to attend. It's a wonderful opportunity to bring a blanket and a picnic dinner and to unwind after a busy day. We look forward to seeing you there!

Walk & Talk Series: Revival of the American Chestnut



Forrest Hammond speaking to the crowd about the American Chestnut

At our last Walk and Talk series we had a wonderful presentation with Terry Gulick from Springfield who is a member of the American Chestnut Foundation. Terry gave an informative talk about the blighted history and hopeful future of the Chestnut tree, his own personal experience growing up in the forests of Vermont, and how the Chestnut tree, called the King of the Forest, inspired him as a child.

In 2005 the foundation harvested its first blight-resistant chestnuts. The Foundation is now in a phase of rigorous testing and trial, in both forest and orchard settings. Terry says they are confident that we will one day restore the chestnut to the eastern forests. This is a major restoration project that requires a multi-faceted effort involving 6,000 members and volunteers.

Contributing to the talk was Forrest Hammond of Vermont Fish and Wildlife. Forrest called the disappearance of the Chestnut tree the greatest ecological disaster of our century and his enthusiasm for the foundation's work was evident! The American Chestnut Foundation

has 16 chapters from Alabama to Vermont with regional breeding programs and independent research stations, local education programs and member recruitment.

You can learn more about the Foundation and its goals at www.acf.org, and if you are interested in getting involved with people in our area you can contact Grace Knight at gsknight@tds.net.

The CCA Energy Committee is Finding New Ways to Save the Town Money

Before describing Energy Committee programs, let's welcome two new members to the committee. Dan Sullivan and Mary Ormrod have joined Pete LaBelle, Cheryl Leiner, Karen Wilson and Rich Svec on the Energy Committee. They have lots to do!

We gave you a preview of the PACE program in the last issue and talked about how we were asking the citizens of Cavendish to create a "PACE District" in Cavendish. Well, the town responded and at the annual town meeting voted to create the district. Now we wait to hear more from Efficiency Vermont on how they propose to operate the program. Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, the Energy Committee has not been idle. Last month the committee discussed with Green Mountain Power the possibility of replacing all of the streetlights in Cavendish with LED lights. This has been done in a number of neighboring communities including Weathersfield, Reading, Springfield and others.

The advantage to this move is threefold. First and most important is that LED lights save money. Our light bill will drop considerably

because we will use less power. Second, the light pollution created by current lighting will drop as well. LED lights are focused in one direction. They are much brighter, but will shine straight down, putting less light into people's windows and more on the street where light is needed the most. And third, as we use less power we help the environment. We won't be consuming as much electricity so less fossil fuel is used to make electricity.

This won't happen overnight since we are trying to make the switch at the least cost to the town. Cavendish is now in line to receive financial assistance to make this move. That will be a win, win situation for everybody.

Green Mountain Power supplies the street lighting in Cavendish, but Ludlow Power Co. supplies the streetlights to Proctorsville. We will discuss the possible replacement of lights in Proctorsville at a later date.

Lastly, the Energy Committee has been interviewing developers who want to place photo voltaic solar panels on unused Cavendish land to produce electricity which would offset the power used by the town at its various buildings.

The developers have presented generally similar proposals. Investors who can use tax credits (the town cannot) will pay to install a solar array. The investors will take all of the tax credits and incentives, and then will lease the array to the town at an amount that is less than what the town currently pays for power. At the same time, since the array is located on town land, the developer will lease the property providing further revenue to offset the cost of electricity. The lease will run for somewhere between seven and twenty years after which the town can buy the array. Current projections say that the photo voltaic panels will last up to 40 years.

The power goes to Green Mountain Power through the net metering process. Net metering does not allow power sharing across power company lines, so this would only apply to Cavendish and not to Proctorsville. The Energy Committee is still working on finding a way to include Proctorsville – mainly the school – as well.

For more information, please refer to the website or call Peter LaBelle at 226-7250 or Cheryl Leiner at 226-7820.

Community Fund Announces the Awarding of Spring Grants

The Cavendish Community Fund undertook a campaign this spring to begin an endowment that would hold money in perpetuity and distribute only earnings to the community. Since its inception in 2007 the fund has raised money through a variety of events, and distributed the money twice each year to a wide variety of educational, cultural or artistic programs, projects and events. This has worked just fine, but there are few committee members and fundraising is difficult in the best of times. Thus the idea of growing an endowment is enticing. The campaign showed moderate success this year and it is expected to continue far into the future.

Also, this spring the Fund announced a fund raiser scheduled for Saturday July 20th to be held at the home of Robin Timko. There will be an afternoon of leisure and an afternoon of sport as guests can choose to sit around the ponds or play a rousing game of volley ball. It will be capped by a delicious lasagna dinner with wine and beer. Please join us. Capacity is limited so reserve a spot early. See Robin at Crow's

Bakery or call her at 226-7736 for further details.

Meanwhile, the Cavendish Community Fund has announced that it awarded grants to two Cavendish organizations for educational and cultural events that will benefit Cavendish residents.

First, the Cavendish Town Elementary School was awarded a grant to defray the cost of providing the third grade class with a hands-on theater production experience through writing, directing and acting in a play. The entire experience will be coordinated by Weston Playhouse teaching director and actress Susan Haefner. To culminate their experience the third graders will welcome the larger community to a theater presentation and luncheon to strengthen ties between the youth and community elders.

The second grant went to Gethsemane Church to underwrite the Raise the Roof Music Series and to enable the organizers to attract a wide variety of musical programs. The goal is to create vibrant musical events in a beautiful, intimate setting with a range of music to appeal to many tastes. The music series was initiated this year and will continue in the fall with several more concerts open to everyone.

The Cavendish Community Fund has awarded nearly \$24,000 in grants since 2007 to local groups and individuals for programs of an educational, artistic or cultural nature. The next round of grants will be awarded in the fall and the application deadline will be announced in late summer. For more information on the Fund, please visit www.CavendishCCCA.org and click on Cavendish Community Fund. 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: _____