



**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](http://www.CavendishCCCA.org)

**Winter 2013 Volume No. 10, Issue No. 1**



We start 2013 with great expectations. The CCCA Energy Committee is championing PACE at the March Town Meeting, the Walk and Talk Series continues, we are improving our website, the Calendar Contest resumes, the Community Fund is taking applications, and we work towards protecting the Cavendish ecosystem with a State grant. All of this and more is detailed below. The CCCA annual Mardi Gras fundraiser provided a wonderful party in Proctorsville despite a nasty snowstorm and we will have plenty of other fun events in 2013 including a variety of Community Fund fundraisers, and a variety of entertainers as our summer music series resumes. Please join us! Pictured above are scenes from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science's presentation at CTES in January. *Clockwise from top left; a red-tailed hawk, a raptor's wing, a great horned owl and an American kestrel.*



## A Message from Robin

Greetings! Our committees have been busy with their work on behalf of the community during the winter months as you will see in this newsletter. Remember that we welcome anyone interested in helping us and we encourage you to contact us if you would like to become involved. Liz Bammarito recently joined our communication committee and has taken over managing our website. Please check out [www.cavendishccca.org](http://www.cavendishccca.org) and see for yourself the difference she is making. Thank you Liz! Also on the communications front we continue our financial support of the Cavendish Update. If you don't already receive, but would like to receive weekly e-mails about current events in Cavendish, please send an e-mail to [margoc@tds.net](mailto:margoc@tds.net) and ask to be added to the CU mailing list.

Our members have also been quite active on the conservation and preservation front this winter. Below is an update on the eco-system restoration and preservation grant that we have helped secure for Cavendish. Also, board member April Hensel has joined the team working with the Historical Society towards town ownership and preservation of the Cavendish Universalist Church which would be used as a museum dedicated to one of Cavendish's best known residents, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

We had a wonderful Walk and Talk presentation Winter 2013; Page 2

in January when the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences came to the elementary school on a blizzard of an evening with a hooting barred owl, a red tailed hawk, and an American kestrel. It was a wonderful event and those of us who dared the wintry weather had an informative evening with these truly amazing raptors.

Upcoming in our Walk and Talk series we will host talks with a member of the American Chestnut Foundation and with Forrest Hammond of Vermont Fish and Wildlife. The disappearance of the American chestnut tree from New England is considered one of the biggest ecological disasters of the 20th century. The Chestnut Foundation has done research breeding to create a hybrid that we can successfully replant in our woodlands. They are ready to move on to the restoration phase and create seed orchards. They are looking for interested landowners to help with this process. We will also host a discussion on the Black River and the effects of Irene on local fishing. Please watch the media and check our website for date, time, and place for these exciting presentations.

Also at this time there is a state deer management plan survey underway. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is evaluating the impact that current deer hunting regulations have on deer hunters, while making sure that future regulations continue to promote deer herd health. The information gathered throughout the process will help formulate a comprehensive deer management strategy for Vermont. Vermont Fish and Wildlife is encouraging hunters to join one of three working groups to discuss deer management and strategy policies. The working group from this area will meet in Springfield four times between March and September and will provide important feedback to the Department. Please apply to be on a working group at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). The application is

on their home page. There will be a meeting open to the public on the evening of March 25th in Springfield to get input from area hunters on the previous year deer season. The exact time and place will be posted at the Fish and Wildlife website.

We've been busy too in our Cavendish Energy Committee. Last issue we told you about the PACE weatherization and energy program that is coming to Cavendish and we have an update on that below.

Lastly, the CCCA Conservation Committee is providing a \$250 grant for a high school student from Cavendish to attend the Lake Kehoe Green Mountain Conservation Camp. Information about the camp can be found at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). If you are interested in applying for the grant please contact the principal at Green Mountain High School for more information.

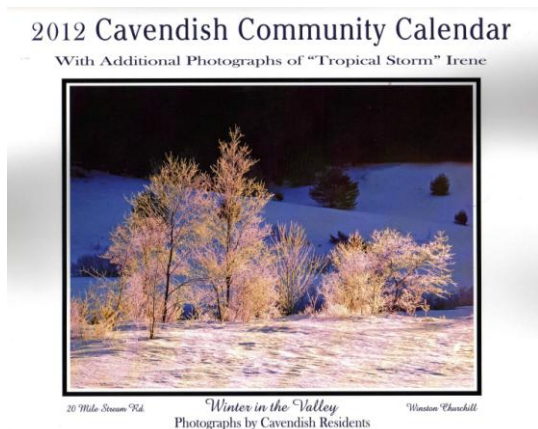
categories for submissions so that we include participants of all ages. Photographs show scenes and landscapes in Cavendish and Proctorsville that we value for their beauty, their historic significance and their overall value to our community. The calendar brings a greater appreciation of and sense of pride to our town, which is the foundation of conservation and good stewardship.

If you have ever felt the inclination to take a picture of a sight that you appreciate in our area, please consider submitting it for our 2014 Calendar competition. This will be our ninth annual contest and we look forward to seeing your entry.

Submission instructions are on our entry form, and please do not hesitate to call us with any questions. We will need an 8" by 10" photo in a horizontal layout, along with your name, the photo name and the general location where you took the photo.

We will accept photos from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>. Submission application forms will be available at the Cavendish Town Office, Cavendish Elementary School and Crows Bakery before the end of April or on our website at [www.cavendishccca.org](http://www.cavendishccca.org). If you have any questions please contact Robin at 802-226-7736.

## Time to Think About Next Year's Calendar



Each year CCCA holds a photography competition and prints a community calendar with the winning photos. All of the calendar photographs are taken by part time and full time Cavendish residents. We have three age

## The CCCA Energy Committee Presents: "PACE"

We gave you a preview of the PACE program in our last issue and we are now presenting it to the town of Cavendish for all of our citizens' consideration. Step one is to create a PACE District for Cavendish. Once that is in place, the town will contract with Efficiency Vermont to



administer the program. If you or anyone you know needs to weatherize a residence in Cavendish, or if you need to upgrade your energy systems, then this is a program for you.

This program will cost the town absolutely nothing! There will not be a penny added to the tax rate. All costs are borne only by those homeowners who use the program. You only pay if you play.

The real key to the program is that the improvements will pay for themselves over the life of the loan. One of the first steps in the process will be an evaluation of how much money the weatherization or energy improvements will save. Homeowners will pay back the loan from the savings they get from the improvements.

To participate, first you need to determine what weatherization or energy improvements you need – and this includes installing alternative energy sources – and then fill out an application for a PACE review. There are limitations on who can get a loan and there are limitations on how much you can borrow. Also, depending on what you want to do you will have to use a contractor that is approved by Efficiency Vermont. If you get a loan and once the work is done, Efficiency Vermont will pay the contractor and you will start repayments over a period of up to twenty years. Payments are quarterly, and the energy savings will pay for the cost of the improvements. This is a winning program for homeowners and for the town.

There are lots of details surrounding the program, all of which can be found on the Efficiency Vermont website, [http://www.encyvermont.com/for\\_my\\_home/ways-to-save-and-rebates/energy\\_improvements\\_for\\_your\\_home/PACE/general\\_info/overview.aspx](http://www.encyvermont.com/for_my_home/ways-to-save-and-rebates/energy_improvements_for_your_home/PACE/general_info/overview.aspx)

For more information, please refer to the website

or contact Cheryl Leiner at 226-7820. There will be handouts at Town Meeting and then at the town offices on High Street in Cavendish.

## **Update on the Cavendish Ecosystem Restoration and Protection Grant**

As we reported to you in a previous newsletter, the State of Vermont has awarded the Town of Cavendish a \$94,590 grant to provide permanent protection for one of the most critical sections of the Black River floodplain located between the Villages of Cavendish and Proctorsville. Many of you know this area well; as you drive along Scenic Route 131 it is the last undeveloped meadow/river area between the two villages. In addition to its many practical values, the scenic beauty of this area is part of the reason why Vermont designated Route 131 as one of the very few Scenic Highways in the state. A distinction of which Cavendish is justly very proud! The grant will allow the town to conserve in perpetuity 64 acres of land along the river, which will in turn allow for public access to the river for fishing and recreation. The conserved lands will also provide flood protection by allowing an undeveloped path for floodwaters to slow their velocity and to better protect developed downstream areas. The conserved areas will also protect river water quality and will help recharge aquifers by filtering out sediments and allowing for floodwater infiltration to groundwater.

The Town of Cavendish, through the efforts of Grant Manager/Town Manager Richard Svec, with the assistance of CCCA, the Upper Valley Land Trust and the State's Project Manager Marie Caduto, has been coordinating visits to the properties, meeting with land owners and

reviewing conservation easements to provide protection of this critical resource in perpetuity.

CCCA is proud to be part of providing this lasting legacy to the citizens of Cavendish.

For further information on applying, on eligibility or on any other aspect of the grant program, or for help completing the application, please call Peter LaBelle at 226-7250 or Barbara Dickey at 226-7187.

## **Community Fund Announces Spring Grant Application Deadline**

The Cavendish Community Fund is now accepting applications for grants that will be awarded this spring. The deadline for applying is April 12, 2013. Applications and guidelines are available at the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association's website: [www.CavendishCCCA.org](http://www.CavendishCCCA.org) under the Community Fund tab. Hardcopies are also available at Crow's Bakery in Proctorsville and at the Cavendish town office.

The fund inaugurated its program in 2007 of giving cash grants to organizations for educational and cultural projects, programs and events. Last fall awards were given to three organizations; to the Proctorsville Fire Department for its Junior Firefighter training program, to Stepping Stones Preschool for a nature education program, and to the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library for a town-wide CPR learning program.

Projects, programs or events must directly benefit the Cavendish community in some way. A panel of local citizens reviews all applications and recommends the ultimate grantees based on the quality and feasibility of each proposal. Grants are not expected to exceed \$1,000 each and will depend primarily on the number of applications and the amounts requested.

## **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: \_\_\_\_\_