

JUNE 2019

HALIFAX NEWS

A FINE IRISH SUPPER IT WAS

On Saturday, May 18th, about 50 Halifax residents gathered in the Halifax Community Hall in the village of West Halifax to enjoy Irish tunes played by Bekka Eowind and Kurt Schellenberg and to dine on potluck offerings. The party lasted from 5 until 7 pm. It was the brainchild of Dorie Mirucki, pulled together by Penfield Chester and Laurel Copeland with a lot of help from the neighborhood, and the lovely playing of Bekka and Kurt. Everyone had a wonderful time, and Dorie was delighted to dance a jig with Frank Maltese (pictured with violinist Bekka).



At the end of the evening, Edie Fenton demonstrated her virtuosity on the gut bucket! See photo.

If you missed this party, catch the next one. Announcements appear on the Town of Halifax website, <https://halifaxvermont.com>, Front Porch Forum (<https://frontporchforum.com/>), flyer postings here and there, and in this newsletter.

VERNAL POOL MONITORING – ENGAGING CITIZEN SCIENTISTS. In the December 2018 Newsletter I wrote about the Vernal Pool Monitoring Project being conducted by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. With my partners, Grace from Brattleboro and Sue Kelly from Halifax, I've learned that these

transient pools have water in them about 5 months of the year, thus supporting a unique set of animals adapted to the little pools' temporary nature and lack of predatory fish. The species that define a vernal pool are wood frogs, spotted salamanders, Jefferson salamanders, blue spotted salamanders, and fairy shrimp.

As Citizen Scientists, we set up water temperature monitoring equipment last fall and then acoustic monitors this spring. We recorded the night sounds of late March, April, and early May, seeking the rainy night when the wood frogs croak (and mate). We measured ice coverage, water depth, air temperature, relative humidity, pool size, shade cover, aquatic plants, and – most important – egg masses. The egg masses can be identified. Frog? Spotted salamander? Rarer blue or Jefferson salamander? One pool we were monitoring dried up before any egg masses appeared. That was sad! The other, on Shearer Hill, produced wood frogs and spotted salamanders. Hurrah!

In the picture, Grace is holding a mass of spotted salamander eggs. Thank you, Grace!



- Laurel Copeland, Halifax, Vermont

TOWN NEWS

HALIFAX CELEBRATION DAY, SEPT. 28TH 2019

SAVE THE DATE!!! Halifax Town Celebration preparations are well underway. **Saturday, September 28, 2019 is the date !!!!** This is a celebration of small-town life which gets kicked off with a delicious early morning **pancake breakfast** and ends in the evening with **dancing in the street at the Firehouse to Groove Prophet**. Celebration Day is a fun time for the entire family. Watch here every month for more details. And we will see you there!

Want to help? Got ideas? Contact Patty Dow: 802.368.7390

THE ANNUAL FIREMEN'S AUCTION IS JULY 6 AT THE FIRE STATION starting at 10AM

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

On May 6, three men responded to an alarm sounding at Deer Park house; nothing found.

On May 17, one fireman responded to a medical call on Rte. 112. A man fell and struck his head. Deerfield Valley ambulance transported to Brattleboro hospital.

On May 18, seven men and two trucks responded to a tree burning on Pennell Hill Road.

On May 18, five men and one truck responded to a call on Jacksonville Stage road regarding a dislocated hip, which was actually a broken hip. Deerfield Valley ambulance transported to Brattleboro hospital.

Your Fire Department Needs Your Support! The Halifax Fire Department has monthly 50-50 raffle tickets available. Ten dollars a month. Call Wayne at 802-368-7733 if you are interested. A great way to support your fire department. Every little bit helps. Donations always accepted! This is an all-volunteer department that raises their own money for trucks and all other equipment. Put these two big annual events on your calendar: **Auction at the Fire Department** on the 1st Saturday in July (July 6 at 10AM) and **Clam Bake at the Old Cody Farm** on Old County Road on the 1st Saturday in August (Aug 3, serving 1-3PM; buy tickets in advance).



Photo: The May Senior Meal attendees with the children from Ms Youmell's Grade 1/2.

SENIOR MEAL (CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN HALIFAX)

June 21 ~ Homemade Sloppy Joe beef on a bun, Baked potato, veggie, rolls & dessert: serving at noon. Held at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax VT. All seniors are welcome. \$3 requested. Did you know? The Moover can pick you up. Call well ahead of the date 1-888-869-6287 Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm; <http://www.moover.com/elderly-disabled-services> to arrange pickup.

If you are coming to Senior Meal, a call to Joan the day before is greatly appreciated 802.368.7733.



Red eft...male rose-breasted grosbeak...red trillium...northern (Baltimore) oriole...black bear (photos L Copeland and E Smith)

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS

Lots and lots of beautiful birds....Bill Dame has had different birds at his feeder: hummingbirds, Indigo Buntings, plus a bear that keeps visiting. I also was happy to see an Indigo Bunting; seems that bird and its family visited several places in Halifax. What a wonderful sighting! I love seeing the **Rose Breasted Grosbeaks** at the window feeder while we're eating supper. All of a sudden there are so many, many Blue Jays at the feeders. I counted 14 one morning. The Orioles are still visiting daily. Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Sparrows, a Catbird that seems to like the grape jelly, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Cardinals, White-breasted Nuthatch, and lots more. Sure do enjoy my birds!!!

Liz saw a **bear** on May 14th (pictured) and a **Northern Oriole** a week later (very curious and quite yellow!).

Send your animal sightings to Joan at: jwcinv@gmail.com - Joan Courser



Indigo bunting...northern oriole...porcupine...frog...heron...[below] Jack in the pulpit...young moose (photos L Copeland and D Conway)



Laurel writes... I forgot to include a wonderful sighting reported by Diana Conway last month. She sent a picture of their tall visitor, a stately **heron**. May brings many creatures and blooms. We've seen the little **red eft** salamanders, spotted salamanders, otters in both Jacksonville and Gates Ponds,



beavers, porcupines, red foxes, red trillium, jack in the pulpit, swamp pinks, Northern Orioles, Indigo buntings, and frogs. The rose-breasted **grosbeak** males tap insistently on the window. What? Not enough seed? And I've got 2 eastern phoebes nesting on my porch. And I just saw a **moose** on Collins Hill!

A beaver works in its pond on Shearer Hill Road



HALIFAX COMMUNITY CLUB will meet Monday, June 3, 2019 at Lynda Copeland's house at 1581 Hanson Road, 6:45-7:45 pm. The Halifax Community Club is a 501(c)3 charitable organization charged with service to Halifax community and care of the Hall. Gifts are welcome and tax-deductible. Contact:

LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or 368-7097. HCC documents are posted online: <https://czresearch.com/halifax/>

HALIFAX COMMUNITY HALL ACTIVITIES

To rent our beautiful, newly painted, rewired, & insulated Halifax Community Hall (pictured below set up for the Irish Supper), contact Joan Courser at (802) 368-7733 or JWCinVT@gmail.com. Resident-\$65.00; Non-resident-\$80.00; additional \$35.00 charge if heat is used. <https://halifaxvermont.com/halifax-community-hall/> - Joan Courser



DON'T BE A WISH-CYCLER!

Yes, we all want to recycle as much as possible, but placing things in your bin you *wish* were recyclable hurts the whole effort. Putting materials in our recycling containers that can't be recycled reduces the value of the items that can be, wasting time and money. Workers at the Materials Reclamation Facility spend hours sorting out non-recyclables and disposing of them. The final sorted bales are worth less if they contain contaminants. Further, non-recyclables can clog sorting machines. Real people sort your recycling. When you put the wrong things in the bins, it makes their job gross — or downright dangerous.

Below is the Windham Solid Waste Management list of items that can be safely recycled and those that cannot. → Remember: when in doubt, throw it out.

PAPER: magazines, newspaper, mail, catalogs, phone books and mixed paper BUT NOT used Kleenex, used paper napkins or paper towels. Nothing with food waste on it!

ALUMINUM: clean cans, foil, pie tins and trays BUT NOT aluminum siding, scrap metal, pots or pans.

CARDBOARD: dry and clean cardboard, cereal and cracker boxes are good BUT NOT juice cartons, frozen food containers, greasy pizza boxes.

STEEL: clean cans, lids, empty aerosol cans BUT NOT appliances, scrap metal, pesticide spray, or paint cans.

GLASS: rinsed-out bottles, mason jars BUT NOT window glass, light bulbs, or broken ceramic dishes.

HARD PLASTICS: water bottles, rinsed clean soda bottles and milk jugs (**remove caps please**), rinsed-out shampoo bottles BUT NOT plastic bags, plastic film, bubble wrap, Styrofoam, large plastic toys.

Got something “too toxic to trash”? Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) accepts household batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury-containing items, and paint for free year-round. In addition, WSWMD is hosting two household hazardous waste events for toxic waste (brake fluid, driveway sealer, pool chemicals, solvents, etc.) on Saturday, June 1, from 8 am until noon (\$5 fee). One event is being

held at the **Vernon Town Office Building at 567 Governor Hunt Road in Vernon**. The other event is at the **Townshend Highway Garage, 1102 Grafton Road in Townshend**. Questions? Call WSWMD, (802) 257-0272, or email office@windhamsolidwaste.org. Website: <http://windhamsolidwaste.org/>

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation adds:

- **DON'T** place styrofoam or black plastic in the recycling. There is no current market for these materials.
- **DON'T** put anything smaller than two inches on two sides in your recycling bin.
- **DON'T** place plastic bags in the recycling bin. Bags clog up the sorting machines.
- **DON'T** put anything with leftover food in or on it in the recycling. That's gross! And it reduces the value of the recyclables.

<https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/materials-mgmt/recycling>

<https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/VT-Waste-Not-Guide.pdf>

BELL CEMETERY CORPORATION TO MEET ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9

June 9, 2019, 1:00 PM, the Annual Meeting of the *Bell Cemetery Corporation (est. 1921)* will be held at the old Fish burial ground located on the property of Penfield Chester, Amidon Road, in Grove. The graveyard was deeded in 1826 by Samuel Fish and Samuel Fish, Jr. owners of the property, who extended burying privileges to their neighbors, the Green, Wheeler, Bell and Holmes families. Other family burials here include Everett, Worden, and Sumner, to name a few. The non-profit cemetery association coordinates and supports upkeep of the cemetery and makes decisions regarding new interments. The meeting is open to all. (Please bring a chair). For additional information contact Bonnie Lee Nugent bonnieleenugent@gmail.com

~ C. Lancaster, *Halifax Historical Society*



Thomas Hill Cemetery (above) and Pennel Hill Cemetery (below) in Halifax, VT



Moonrise on Hanson Road, May 17, 2019



Newsletter

P O Box 27

West Halifax VT 05358



Bad hair day at the feeder



Snow!?! May 14, 2019

Halifax News

JUNE 2019

NEWSLETTER - Got a great Halifax story? Write it up and send it over! Send your story to Joan at JWCinVt@gmail.com (802.368.7733; PO Box 27 05358) and / or Laurel at LaurelACopeland@gmail.com.

Editor LaurelACopeland@gmail.com. Color e-mail version available.