

OCTOBER 2019

HALIFAX NEWS

IT'S FALL, SO WE LONG FOR SUMMER

I'm lucky. I love winter. I treasure my memory of a tiny children's book we had by Lois Lenski (1950) that I recollect as saying (in part), "I like winter. I like snow. I like icy winds that blow. Winter, summer, spring, and fall, I like winter best of all." Oddly, even in winter I like winter. Now, most sane folks, you will agree, only like the season that is just past or too far in the future for comfort. When it's hot, we wish it were fall. When it's cold, we wish it were summer. When it's mud season, we wish it were dry as a winter's day. But now it's fall. Don't you miss summer's heat? Here to take you back to the July heat and mid-summer flowers is an article from 1998 about gardens in Halifax.

~ Laurel Copeland, Halifax, Vermont

July 11-12, 1998 – The Brattleboro Reformer

Halifax blooms on parade – by SUSAN JOHNSON, Reformer Staff – Photos by Steve Coddington

HALIFAX – They are a little bit off the beaten path, but not so far that it's a worry; they are the gardens of Halifax and will be opened to the public on Saturday, July 18.

This is the first time out for members of the Community Club and Historical Society who are co-sponsors of the event which features 10 of the town's gardens. The self-guided tour will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with Sunday, July 19, as the rain date.

The Halifax tour idea originated with Edie Fenton, who is renowned for her raspberry crop. She started recruiting Zone 5 gardeners and their gardens last summer, and the tour selection represents a wide variety of ideas of what makes the perfect garden.

"The gardens are in ordinary reach of the ordinary person," Fenton said of the selection.

The tour is self-guided along a well-marked route accented with blue flower signposts. The admission fee is \$5, and with that comes a brochure that gives the 10 locations with clear road names and mileage figures. The brochure also gives an explanation of each garden if one wishes to only visit a particular kind.



Magis Down Day Lilies in the garden of Linda Simon

Fenton said that the gardeners will be at home that day to serve as guides and answer questions about their gardens. Also on hand at the Community Hall in West Halifax will be flower experts Liz Hull and Melanie Boyd.

The 10 selected for the tour are not your garden-variety gardens and include an herb garden, an English country style cottage garden, rock gardens, vegetable gardens, perennial gardens set against terraces and stone walls on gentle slopes, and even the sunny hillside pastures of a llama farm.

Fenton said the 10 garden hosts have been working apace getting things in tip-top shape for the tour. The rain has made some of their work pretty slippery going. One host claims that the weeding regime that she has been on has loss, Fenton said.

In keeping with the spirit of the country basket will be available at the Community Hall price includes a basket holding cold strawberry



resulted in a five-pound weight

road garden tour, a lunch-in-a-from noon to 2 p.m. The \$5 soup, smoked turkey sandwich



Edie Fenton holds a handful of raspberries taken from her garden.

on fresh croissant with Halifax-grown lettuce, flower cookies and tea or lemonade. One can dine at tables at the hall or take it on the road.

The Historical Society building in West Halifax will also be open on tour day. The current exhibit is “Halifax Meets the Modern Age.”

Tickets for the tour and/or the lunch can be reserved by calling Fenton at 368-7185, or visit the Halifax Town Clerk’s office. Tickets may also be purchased for the garden tour on the day of the event, Fenton said. The luncheon will be limited to the first 100 diners.



TOWN NEWS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On September 13th, former Halifax resident, **Deven King**, was promoted to Chief Petty Officer, U.S.Navy. His parents, David and Susan King of Halifax, traveled to Norfolk, Virginia to participate in the pinning ceremony along with his Uncle Robert King of Middletown, Rhode Island. His sister, Jesse Ogg, of Cincinnati, Ohio also attended the event. Chief King is assigned to the USS Kearsarge (LHD3) and was one of 11 promoted from the ship. The Kearsarge recently returned from a nine-month deployment to the Persian Gulf.

LAWNMOWERS BUT NOT SNOWPLOWERS



The Halifax landscape can be challenging. For example, a steeply sloped field is hard to mow with today’s motorized cutting machines. Accordingly, my friend Gretchen Becker, who lives where Charlotte Miner grew up (see last month’s newsletter) has ambulatory lawnmowers, 6 sheep: 1 Katahdin-Dorper cross, 2 Scottish Blackface, and 3 Border Cheviots. When I commented on this arrangement, she explained how she had tried cows (so big! 2 cows are equivalent to 14 sheep) and goats (too pesky and too interested in being with you) before ending up with sheep. Sheep are content to eat, are not terribly big or pushy, and don’t want to be your friend. They make good lawnmowers. And what do they do in winter? Alas, no snowplowing.



WEST HALIFAX BIBLE CHURCH

On the weekend of **October 18, 19 & 20**, the WHBC will celebrate 25 years with Village Missions. Village Missions helps small rural churches pay their pastor. The church provides a parsonage & health insurance; Village Missions covers the salary until the church can pay it on their own. We will have in attendance past Pastors and their wives, Village Missions district representatives present and past, and the head director of Village Missions from Oregon. It will be a fun weekend, and we are very happy to honor these people for their support to our small rural church.

HALIFAX ARTISTS



Halifax is home to many artists. One is Netta Kies who has created 24 oil paintings inspired by a set of 24 short pieces by composer Alexander Scriabin, the 24 Preludes, Opus 11, composed in 1888-1896. Netta and her two collaborators, pianists Gregory Millar and Lisa Riposa, will present the art & sound event, “Clavier à couleurs: An Exhibition of Piano Preludes,” in Toronto (Ontario) the Saturday before Thanksgiving. To learn more and see some of Netta’s work, visit this webpage: <https://www.nettakies.com/clavier-a-couleurs>. Hope to see you in Toronto! Event details: Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 6 PM – 9 PM, Heliconian Hall, 35 Hazelton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1M6.

Ms Kies’ painting #7 for Scriabin’s A Major Prelude is shown.

HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY is now on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/Halifax-Vermont-Historical-Society-113563599997907/> For information on joining the HHS, contact GretchenB@myfairpoint.net.

HALIFAX COMMUNITY CLUB meets Monday, October 14, 2019 at Lynda Copeland’s, 1581 Hanson Road, 6:45-7:45 pm. Contact: 368-7097 or LaurelACopeland@gmail.com.

SENIOR MEAL (CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN HALIFAX) will be Friday, October 18, 2019. Menu: fruit with cottage cheese, barbeque meatballs, baked potato, vegetables, rolls and dessert. Serving at noon at the Halifax Community Hall at 20 Brook Road in West Halifax. All seniors are welcome! If you are coming, a call to Joan is appreciated 802.368.7733.

Set up a ride to the Meal with Moovers (1-888-869-6287 Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm).

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

September 3: Four men and one truck responded to a fire alarm sounding on Collins Road & caused by smoking.

September 6: On Collins Road four men responded to a call of a mower tipped over onto a person. Deerfield Valley ambulance responded. The patient was transported by private vehicle to Wilmington Health Center with bruises and small wounds. He was very lucky. A neighbor heard his calls for help and responded to help him about the same time the fire department got the call. He said he laid there on the ground for an hour before anyone heard him.

September 7: Three men responded to Old County Road to assist the ambulance. A 61-year-old man with chest pain. He was transported to Brattleboro hospital.

September 15: Three men responded to Rte. 112 to a reported assault. They awaited the arrival of the State Police.

September 15: Three men responded to Karen Day Road for a call of a 92-year-old woman with difficulty breathing; she was transported to Bennington hospital.

September 20: Four men responded to the same residence for the same problem. She was transported to Bennington hospital again.

CRISIS HELPLINE: Call 1-800-273-8255. Or text “NAMI” to 741741

Veterans: Call 1-800-273-8255 ext 1, or text 838255

More resources: <https://www.speakingofsuicide.com>

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS – Check your label! If you receive your newsletter by mail, your subscription is due! Please send a check made out to “Newsletter” for \$7 to Joan Courser, P O Box 27, W. Halifax VT 05358.

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS

Still lots of turkeys are being seen including many young turkeys. Folks say because of the very wet spring many nests were not hatched, so they had babies later in the season. But they grow so rapidly they should be fine. We had a small family of wild turkey visit. The birds at my feeders are so few it concerns me. I know many are in transit to their winter homes, and actually some are traveling here to Vermont from the Arctic. I still have my pair of Cardinals; the White-Breasted Nuthatch comes every day; lots of Goldfinch male and female -- the males are changing to their drab winter color; still lots of mostly female Purple Finch. I await the arrival of the pretty red males. Now and then I see a Blue Jay or two and a few Evening Grosbeak, and lots and lots of Mourning Doves. I am fairly sure I saw a White-headed Sparrow....IF I did, it did not stay around long. I enjoyed seeing two catbirds one morning. Many birds are in migration, so it is nice to see some different ones even for a short time. I was some excited to see two warblers...I so very seldom have warblers here. They were both beautiful. I am not real sure what they were. I searched and searched my bird book, and the closest I can identify them is a Black-Poll Warbler, but its back was much blacker than the book shows. It was beautiful. One, I think, was a Black-Throated Warbler. I saw a few deer. Our bear that visited so often has not been seen since bear season started the first day of September. People tell me they just disappear and hide out when the season starts. I'd say that's pretty smart on their part, and I hope it will return to visit before they den up for the winter. I enjoyed seeing it and hope and pray it is not in someone's freezer. **Send your animal sightings to Joan at: jwcinvt@gmail.com**



- Joan Courser

Laurel reports deer, red fox, raccoon, short-tailed shrews, little garter snakes, a beautiful little grey tree frog, red-tailed hawk, Cooper's hawk, blue jays, chickadees, hairy and downy woodpeckers, phoebe, doves, crows, and flickers. Also, lots of turkeys, butterflies (Greater Fritillary photo), dragonflies, & spiders. Good news: turkeys eat ticks! The Monarchs are amazingly abundant this year! Hatch School Road neighbor Janis Bellow-Freedman and I photographed the Monarchs – seeking milkweed, attaching, in chrysalis showing the developing wings, and as a mature butterfly. ~Laurel Copeland



ANECDOTES – When I was little, we spent summers at the yellow farmhouse on Hanson Road where my mom still lives (I'm next door.). Back then, the slope of the front lawn was straighter without the sudden descent to the road it has now. Across the road from the house, the old barn foundation was still intact, with its characteristic upslope to the front of the (now absent) barn, creating a drop-off to the lower pasture level. This upslope is no more, so you must envision it. We had horses whose grain came in very large cardboard barrels. My sister Heidi & I liked to get in an empty barrel, roll down the lawn, across the road, and up the old barn foundation. Wheeeee! A car went by about every 3 days.

A friend shared this memory of my dad, Art. "A long time ago, very shortly after you all bought the yellow house [in 1959], Art told my parents and me the following story: I was working by the side of the road the other day, and along came a car – a Cadillac, I think – driving towards me in a cloud of dust. Seeing me, it braked, and the driver lowered the window on my side of the road. 'Excuse me,' he said (with the tone of voice one

might use to address a peasant, if one were the lord), ‘can you tell me if this is the road to Jacksonville?’ I pushed back my hat, looked at her, and said, ‘Nope.’”

My dad also told me that Clarence Canedy worked on the I-91 when it was being built. He was a blaster, placing and detonating dynamite to carve out the passages through the granite where it was impractical to go over or around, so the planners chose to go through. Next time you drive up to White River Junction or Lake Memphremagog (!), you can admire how citizens of Halifax helped shape your scenic drive. - *Laurel Copeland*

TOOLBOXES FOR VETERANS – Know a wounded veteran who could use a set of tools? WWII Veteran Clarence “Bud” Shepherd runs a non-profit that ships toolboxes to combat-wounded veterans who want help transitioning into civilian life. “Bud is a U.S. Army Air Corps WWII Veteran and former POW....He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943, when he was 18 years old. He served in the 8th Air Force in England as a tail-gunner on a B-17. Enemy forces shot down his plane six months before the end of WWII. Shepherd was captured and sent to a prisoner of war camp near Berth, Germany. More details about the Toolbox program and about Bud are online at this link: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/65480/wwii-veteran-creates-program-post-911-purple-heart-recipients/>

WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS OF VERMONT

Have you ever come across a wounded wild animal and had the urge to save it? You may recall that we reported on an injured owl back in the February (2019) Newsletter. That owl was taken by a Triple T driver up to bird rehabilitator Dr. Svec, treated and cared for, and re-released into the wild. This rescue worked out well because Dr. Svec, an experienced veterinarian, knows how to work with wild animals. When you come across injured wildlife, or apparently abandoned young (you may be wrong about it being abandoned!), the best thing to do *before you capture the animal* is call an expert, a certified wildlife rehabilitator. There are 23 in Vermont. Each specializes in certain types of wildlife – amphibians, birds, small mammals, rabies vectors, and reptiles. Only some deal with rabies vectors – racoons, foxes, skunks, and woodchucks; these creatures require special handling. Note: It is very difficult to tell whether an animal is behaving oddly because it is hurt or because it is rabid. Play it safe – avoid contact.

In our neck of the woods, Patti Smith on the Marlboro part of Moss Hollow Road is a certified wildlife rehabilitator. She specializes in small mammals (non-rabies vectors), notably porcupines. She has rehabilitated porcupines, opossums, minks, squirrels, and many others. For advice on a found wild animal, call Patti Smith at (802) 254-2918. Vermont Rabies Hotline: 802-4-RABIES / 802-472-2437. Map & list of wildlife rehabilitators: https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Living%20with%20Wildlife/Rehabilitation/Wildlife_Rehabilitator_Locator_Map.pdf

EMERALD ASH BORER: MAPPING THE ASH TREES

Back in July, I attended a workshop put on by the Guilford Conservation Commission. A representative from the State of Vermont to taught us how to inventory ash trees. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has already arrived in Vermont. Efforts and time have shown that we cannot stop or contain the EAB. Instead we inventory ash trees in our area and then plan how to deal

with their death. EAB kills 99% of ash trees in any area it invades, so the deadfall can be considerable, damaging property and lines, and blocking roads. At the workshop, we got many handouts (ask me for them!), and learn to use the inventory software. The software works on iPads & iPhones. It works by connecting with a state server, downloading a map of your region (you specify the region – it can be a whole town or a tiny piece of a town), and then recording your ash trees. That is, you walk down the road, stop by an ash tree, record its characteristics and the software records the latitude & longitude, and then move on to the next tree. After the trees are recorded in each person’s equipment, their data are uploaded to the state server, and all the information is added to the state map. Then, the next time you download your map, those trees are on it.



7. EAB adult beetle.



8. D-shaped 1/8 inch exit holes are made through bark by EAB adults.

Newsletter

P O Box 27

West Halifax VT 05358



Monarch chrysalis in early September

Halifax News

OCTOBER 2019



Fall has arrived



NEWSLETTER - Send your Halifax story to Joan JWCinVt@gmail.com (802.368.7733; PO Box 27 05358) or Laurel LaurelACopeland@gmail.com.

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