

August 2022

## HALIFAX NEWS

TRUST FOR WILDLIFE AND HALIFAX NATURE CAMP 2022

*Joanne & Marshal Case, Vermont*

A life in Halifax is a life filled with discovery.

This month's discovery is a wonderful one-week nature camp offered annually at the 115-acre *Trust For Wildlife (TFW)* sanctuary, on land donated by Norris and Patricia Johnson in 1981. The camp's founding president, Marshal T. Case (pictured at left), runs the program with assistance from his wife, Joanne Case, and from Halifax School teacher Merritt Youmell.

The camp is offered at no cost to campers, who have the opportunity to explore varied habitats and an abundance of wildlife species in this remarkable space. Almost half the acreage is filled with old-growth forest, a treasure-trove of discoveries for youngsters investigating the miracles of Nature.

The TFW property sports a modest lodge (see photo below) that houses a nature library and several educational exhibits. Camp curriculum focuses on exploring woods, fields, and waterways, and on learning about native plants and animals, with a concentration on food chains and natural habitats.



Campers can study collections of birds' nests and animal skeletons, and can, under supervision, collect various live critters to be placed in aquaria. At the end of camp, critters are released back to ponds, fields, and woodland habitats. Campers do not need to bring any equipment. Everything they need is provided, including binoculars, nets, and materials for arts and crafts.



Summer 2022 marked Marshal Case's forty-second year running the Nature Camp. Marshal's career as a wildlife biologist has spanned many decades, and his accomplishments have included setting up the National Audubon Society's Adventures Program, establishing the International Crane Foundation's education curriculum, and running The American Chestnut Foundation. Case has traveled internationally, setting up programs in the former Soviet Union, in South America, and, here in the US, with Native American tribes.

Thanks to generous neighbors who gave access to parking and a pond, 2022's campers, ranging in age from four to ten, were able to explore fields, woods, and wetlands.

Even in this dry summer, sharp-eyed children found all kinds of critters, including red-backed salamanders, green frogs, American toads, and many butterflies and other insects.

The pond is always a center of excitement. This year children collected frogs, toads, salamanders, leeches, and dragonfly larva for closer study, releasing their finds at the end of camp.

This summer's campers also had the opportunity to draw, create with clay, and make nature masks.

TWF has a lasting impact. Some past campers have become professional naturalists. And, of course, all campers have had their eyes and ears tuned in to the natural world.

If you would like to learn more about Trust for Wildlife, Inc., please visit <https://www.trustforwildlife.org/>.





<https://thehill.com/changing-america/sustainability/energy/3564585-why-put-solar-panels-on-the-surface-of-water/>. 7/19/2022)

Solar panels convert sunshine to electricity. In New England, we see them in large arrays in a field or up on the rooftops. But in America's West, where water is a scarce resource, and evaporation is constant, floatovoltaics have been proposed to conserve water while generating clean electricity. Floating solar panels on California's irrigation canals could provide renewable energy while reducing evaporation by putting a lid on the canals. Fields could continue to grow crops, and water would be conserved. That's a win-win for California. <https://newatlas.com/environment/project-nexus-california-canals-photovoltaic-panels/>

## TOWN NEWS

### **FIREMEN'S CLAM BAKE— SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 SERVING 1-3 P.M.**

Get your tickets now! Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Seafood dinner: lobster, clams, half a BBQ chicken, corn on the cob, cole slaw, potato salad, watermelon (\$50).

Chicken dinner: half a BBQ chicken, corn on the cob, cole slaw, potato salad, watermelon (\$20).

Kids 6-12 years old (\$10).

Call Wayne Courser at 802-363-7733 or Lewis Sumner at 802-368-2824 for clam bake tickets.

### **HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY OTIS HOMESTEAD HIKE— SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 AT 9:30 AM**

The Halifax Historical Society will be sponsoring a hike to the Otis homestead on Perry Road.

We—hikers, history enthusiasts, and anyone else who is interested—will meet at the Historical Society Museum next to the firehouse in West Halifax at 9:30 on Saturday, September 3rd. Because of the lack of parking at Perry Road, it will be necessary to carpool from West Halifax to the abandoned site.

Dress appropriately! Bug spray, sun protection, waterproof shoes if you don't want wet feet. If you have difficulty walking, we ask that you refrain from hiking.

If you want to help clear the trail, call Andrea Rand at 802-368-7157. Trail clearing will occur at the end of August (date and time yet to be determined). There will be a brief on-site discussion of the Otis family, Perry Road, and old abandoned homes and the cellar holes that are left behind. You will meet Carol Otis, the last living descendent of her family line. She is a descendant of Stephen Sr. and Lucy Chandler Otis, who came from Connecticut to live with their son, Stephen, Jr. in the house on Perry Road where their grandson, Elisha Otis, inventor of the elevator safety brake, was born. The braking system for elevators made it possible to construct multi-storied buildings that were accessible without having to climb many flights of stairs.

### **HALIFAX CELEBRATION DAY – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 ALL DAY LONG!**

The Town of Halifax will have its annual Celebration Day on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> in the Village of West Halifax. Activities all day! Back by popular demand: Ritchie Mitnik!

Boom Box for the evening band, Chili Cookoff, and much, much more.

See you there!

### **SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – AUGUST BREAK**

No Senior Meal in Halifax in August. The next one will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September.

### **SORROW**

We are very sad to report the death of Hermon W. Canedy, age 75, on July 21, 2022 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center where he was being treated for heart disease. Funeral services were held July 27<sup>th</sup> followed by interment at Hatch Cemetery beside his mother. Hermie grew up in Halifax with his older brother, Philip ("Jake"), his sister, Marion, and his parents, Verna and Clarence. He loved his cows and mended their fences



with skill and ingenuity. He kept busy one winter braiding a rag rug. Our deepest sympathies to the family.

I knew Hermie from when I was a little child spending summers in Halifax with my sisters and parents. My sister Heidi and I often played checkers with Hermie while Clarence told stories, Jake made butter in a 5-gallon jar, and Verna made blackberry cake with cream fresh from the cows in the barn. Recently, Hermie would come to Senior Meal with Marion and partake of Joan Courser's wonderful cooking. He really enjoyed those lunches! We will miss him.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS.**

On 7/6 seven men responded to a medical call on Route 112. A driver had a seizure with five persons in the car and two dogs. One person was taken to Greenfield by ambulance. No one else had a driver's license, so a firefighter drove them to Greenfield.

On 7/9 three men responded to a mutual aid call to Whitingham but were turned back.

On 7/11 two men responded to Hatch School Road to a man having trouble breathing

On 7/16 six men and one truck responded to a call on Green River Road for a carbon monoxide meter sounding.

On 7/19, six men responded to an automatic alarm sounding on Stowe Mountain Road.

On 7/21, two men responded to Hatch School Road for a man having trouble breathing.

On 7/24, the firemen were toned to assist at a residence on Hatch School Road.

On 7/24, eight men responded to Marlboro for a mutual aid call. Some men went to the fire, some stood by at the Marlboro station, and some stood by at Halifax station.

**Remember to call the Fire Department BEFORE you burn brush!**

**Find out if it's safe, and keep them informed.**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES—CALL 911**

**NEW SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE—CALL 988**

**VETERANS CRISIS LINE—CALL 988 THEN PRESS 1, OR YOU CAN TEXT 838255**

### **JOAN'S SIGHTINGS.**

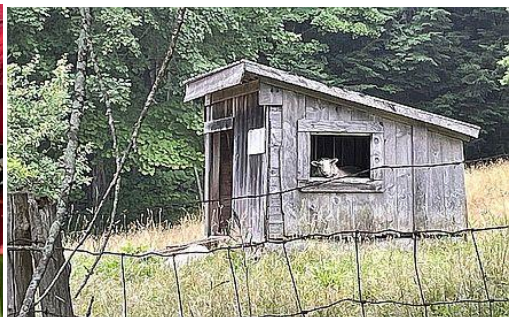
Here some bird sightings...I am still enjoying all my wonderful birds....the Baltimore Orioles are still coming for grape jelly and bugs and birdseed. They could leave most any time. I have had them leave in July some years, but I hope they stay awhile. I am still enjoying Evening Grosbeaks, Chickadees, Goldfinches, Sparrows, Cardinals, Robins, and a Catbird that eats the jelly and Hummer food! I notice that some of the male Goldfinches are turning their winter color!



A few Purple Finches come. A few Starlings. I have quite a mix of birds....and enjoy them all! - Joan Courser

**Elsewhere Around Town.** A sizeable black bear came calling on a Friday evening on Hatch School Road.

Janis snapped a picture of it (below). On Hanson we have been happy with our grey foxes, hare, racoon, whitetail deer, groundhogs, moles, shrews, chipmunks, red squirrels and grey squirrels—and a coyote left its scat by our wood chip pile. The birds are still singing—hermit thrushes, goldfinches, bluebirds, titmice, black-throated blue warblers, common yellowthroats (another warbler), phoebes, red-eyed vireos, and the lovely song sparrow with its varied piping. Early in July we had chestnut-sided warblers & Eastern wood pewees. We hear and see the indigo buntings and a broad-winged hawk. Juncos bathe in the fountain. And robins are everywhere! So many robins. There are also scads of butterflies. We have swallowtails, greater and lesser fritillaries (orange with dark speckles), big Monarchs, and those tiny blue ones whose name I don't know. - Laurel Copeland



A sheep looks out at the rain

Newsletter  
P O Box 27  
West Halifax VT 05358



A new sign graces Marlboro  
Campus – Potash Hill



The rising sun backlights a purple-  
flowered raspberry

# Halifax News

AUGUST 2022

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