

March 2022

HALIFAX NEWS

BETWEEN HANSON AND BROOK ROADS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILL OGLESBY

– Laurel Copeland and William Oglesby, Halifax, Vermont

My friend and neighbor, Bill Oglesby, has been walking the woods below Hanson Road for 45 years. This slope of land is part of the hill that descends from the Honora Winery on Collins Road, past Hanson Road, which cuts across the slope, on down the hill to Brook Road. On the other side of Brook Road, Ballou Mountain rises.



Old Hanson Road ford

Each face of the hills in Halifax has its own particular kinds of trees as well as rivulets of fresh water, marshy bits, maybe a little swampland, and some rocky precipices. The variety of habitats fosters a wide range of plants, animals, and fungi. No doubt there are also other kingdoms represented, including protozoa, bacteria, chromista, and for adherents to the 7-kingdom metric, archaea. Let's not get into the 8-kingdom scheme, which came and went in the 20th century.



♂ ♀





If you are wondering what the difference is between swamp and marsh, swamps have trees, while marshes do not. Think of the densely wooded bayous and other wetlands of Louisiana: those are swamps. A broad stretch of grasses, sedges, rushes and reeds, in water or wet ground, is a marsh.



Bill carries his camera with him on his wanderings, taking photographs of whatever catches his eye. One day it is a doe, another a Luna moth, a ruffed grouse, an owl, geese on the water, red eft, spotted salamander, and dragonfly, as well as the delicate jack-in-the-pulpit, columbine, and lady slipper on the forest floor. The woods are home to all these and more.

When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace. --- Jimi Hendrix



Next issue, look for some fabulous fungi photos



TOWN NEWS

SENIOR MEAL – FRIDAY, MARCH 18, at the Halifax Community Hall at 20 Brook Road in West Halifax, serving at noon. Menu: fruit, New England boiled dinner of corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potato, onion served with corned bread and Irish soda bread, dessert. All seniors welcome. A free-will fee of \$3.00 is asked. All seniors are welcome. A call to Joan is appreciated: 802-368-7733. Take-out is available.

March 2022 marks fifty years since the funding of Meals on Wheels, the nation’s premier nutrition program for seniors. For many among Vermont’s aging population, it has become a lifeline. Get involved: 802-368-7567, <https://www.seniorsolutionsvt.org>.

FIRE DEPARTMENT Monthly Raffle. Feeling lucky? Tickets are available! Call Wayne at 802-368-7733. Help support your firemen for \$10.00 a month.



* ~ *

A Phantom Frost

Grey times
On the hilltop
A ghost glaze
Frosting trunk and stone
Like a phantom visitor
Marking its terroir
Hoary whisperings
Of a distant time

The chimney stack
Brittle and bleached
Stands chill
Rock maple in a whipping wind
A remnant
Of other visitors
Of rejuvenation
Healing breezes
Letting loose
Distant mountains of green



Prolonging the season
From bitterer times to come

As for the fly
Trapped between window and storm
Unable to find a way in
Too cold to back out
Warm enough
During the day
In its see-through vertical
Vivarium
To see its kin
Crawling up the damask curtains
Seeking winter cluster
Another curled, legs-up on the sill—
Eventually, the cold will harden
The in-between
Hunger will set in
Or life
Short as Indian summer
Will simply move on

Moment of Passing

Sunlight streams in
Bright enough
To fade the sofa
Warm enough still
During the day
To remove a layer
Or strip down
Basking
Like a flower sheltered
From frost lacing the panes

The fly's ricochet
Persistent rattle
And whine
And the intoxicating glory
of the sun
Mesmerize me
Hibernate me
Till I am no longer conscious
Of me

- *Gregg Orifici*

* ~ *

Below, a grey fox trots through my back yard on the west side of Hanson Road



FOOD INSECURITY IS WIDESPREAD IN WINDHAM COUNTY

Monday through Thursday I work for the Veterans Health Administration in a wonderful job as research scientist. But Friday is my day off, and a day I have been using to explore post-retirement (coming soon) activities. For a while I was just putting in volunteer hours at the food co-op as a member, and getting into salamanders and frogs (not to eat). Then came the COVID-19 pandemic, and volunteering activities were put on hold. Folks at the co-op suggested I volunteer instead at Foodworks, a part of the Groundworks project.

Groundworks strives to end homelessness and hunger in our region. Foodworks is a place on Canal Street where people who need food can come every two weeks for free groceries. Persons on foot may work with staff if they cannot carry two weeks' worth of food. I now volunteer on Fridays as a greeter, someone who liaises between the shoppers arriving on foot or in their cars, and the packers inside the building, packing up groceries. My job is to go out with our printed shopping list (changes every day), greet the person, offer them a shopping list, let them mark their choices, and take the list back in to the packers. I answer questions shoppers have. If someone inside, packing a list, has questions, I run out to the shopper to get that answer.

Over the past year, I have gotten to know a few of the clients. A is an elegant and friendly 40-something, a first-generation immigrant who has been here many years. A and I chat when we re-encounter each other on a Friday, talking about the weather and recipes for a bit. One day A commented on how much more expensive food is here than in their home country in Europe. A always expresses enormous gratitude for Foodworks; I say, you deserve it. ¶¶¶ B is a grouchy fellow well known to Foodworks. B prefers to discuss each item in detail to be sure he gets just the right thing. Each fortnight we talk a bit longer than is usual with client. I think B is losing his grouchiness, perhaps just glad to have a place to unload the mixed emotions that arise from having to accept free groceries. ¶¶¶ C comes on foot at long, irregular intervals. C never wants much, as disabilities prevent him from carrying a large load on the walk home, wherever that may be. C is charming, disheveled, enigmatic. A few weeks ago, Friday was bitterly cold and windy. I gave C my gloves, as he had none. "They should fit; they were my dad's," I said. C eagerly accepted them then struggled to pull the men's small gloves onto his large hands. ¶¶¶ D & E came once. They were apologetic, saying they had just been evicted from their apartment and were at loose ends. I assured them apologies were not necessary. They said they were camping so could not use anything that required cooking; they were afraid of a big fire being seen; they weren't sure they were safe "there." I glanced down at the icy river, thinking about camping in this weather. As the packers worked on D & E's grocery list, I brought out a few things—wipes, band-aids, snacks. ¶¶¶ F loves to cook. We greet each other by name and talk about fish and spices. As the packers work on her grocery list, I hunt in the freezer for fish and in the baking shelves for spices. F goes through the USDA commodity box and gives back the many things she and her husband don't eat. The commodity box is for older Americans with income below about \$17,700, or below \$23,800 for a couple. The box contains dry beans, rice, pasta, canned beef stew or chicken, tuna, 2 cans fruit, 4 cans vegetables, a box of milk, dried milk, half gallon of juice, 2 boxes of cereal, peanut butter, and a block of processed cheese. F doesn't like the cheese; she asks for real cheese.

FoodWorks <https://groundworksvt.org/programs/foodworks/>, 802-490-2412

141 Canal Street

Brattleboro VT 05301

Hours for curbside pickup at Foodworks:

Mondays 11am-4pm

Wednesdays 1pm-6pm

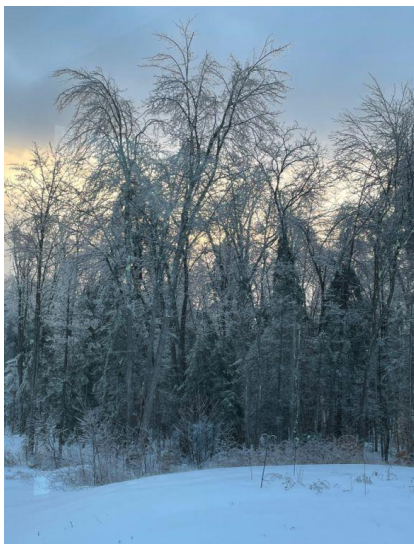
Fridays 12pm-4pm,

and the last Saturday of each month from 9am-noon.

Tuesdays are reserved for deliveries for anyone who cannot make it to

Foodworks during open hours.

Newsletter
P O Box 27
West Halifax VT 05358



Ice Morning in February



Grey Fox in the yard

Halifax News

MARCH 2022

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