

April 2023
HALIFAX NEWS
SPRING NOW

– Laurel A Copeland, Halifax, Vermont



March brought Town Meeting and the return of our in-person gathering, with presentations, discussion, voting, and lunch. Attendees asked questions and commented on the issues on the agenda.

Lunch was organized by the Halifax Historical Society. It was excellent. Donations went to support the mission of that Society.

Rep. Tristan Roberts presented two special recognition awards from the State of Vermont. Wayne Courser (right) was recognized for 70 years of service to the Town of Halifax, notably the Halifax Fire Company.

Laura and Lewis Sumner (below) were recognized for their service to the town since the 1960's.



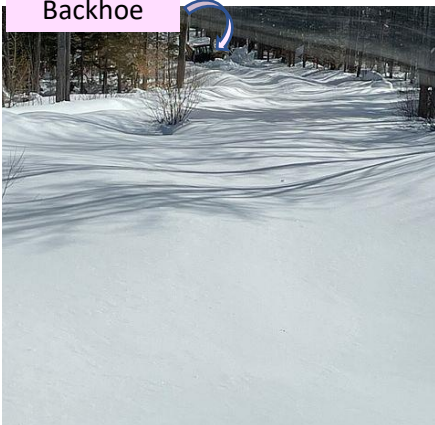


Sue Kelly (right), Halifax Tree Warden, described the hazards of emerald ash borer-infested ash trees before the townspeople voted on a related line item.

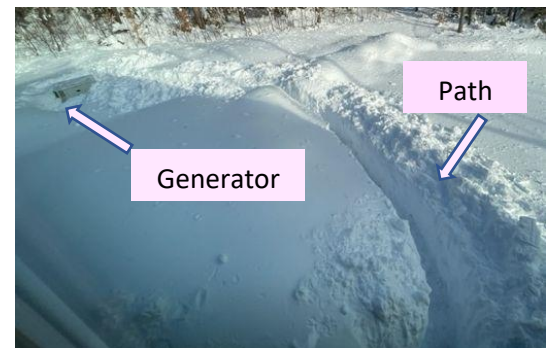


Not beginning in March this year but nonetheless a sign of spring is maple sugaring. Some lines began tapping back in January, given the quixotic temperatures ranging above and below freezing every day (and contributing to multiple mud seasons). Patti Pusey of Shearer Hill Farm B&B commented that they did their first boil March 25th and that the nor'easter buried the roadside buckets! She also invited visitors, saying, "anyone is welcome to stop into our sugarhouse if the steam is rising from the cupola <grin>." There are many tapping trees in Halifax including Jeff and Tim Putnam in the northwest corner and Taylors in the northeast. I've seen steam rising from the village, perhaps from Sumners' or Longes'. Are we ready for pancakes yet?

And then there was the nor'easter that blew (and blew and blew all day and all night) through on Tuesday, March 14, leaving 36 inches of snow here, 40" or 48" there...and a lot of work for the road crew and snowplows. Digging a path to the generator (right), I reflected on its beauty, because



the power was out, and the snow had sheared off the chimney to our wood stove. Well, okay, it isn't actually beautiful, but I'm very glad to have it. There was certainly no leaving our little hill until the earth mover made its way up our long driveway on Thursday.

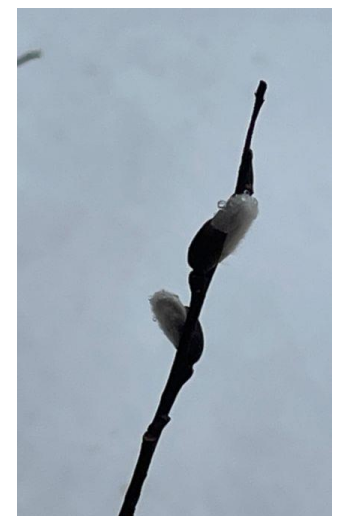


See the backhoe (above left)? See the driveway? No?



My husband is in this picture somewhere, shoveling (left).

Personally, I'm ready for flowers. My houseplants are a delight, but I wouldn't mind seeing a bit of green with touches of spring flowers. So far, I've got pussy willows (right). Right – not green!



INVASIVE PLANTS ON THE LAND

Vermont Land Trust (<https://VLT.org>) notes:



Photo: Ben Kimball/Vermont Land Trust

[March is good time to look for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid](#)

It's hard to believe an aphid-like insect can take down a magnificent hemlock. But the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid can kill a large tree in 4-10 years. In March, they lay eggs at the base of needles; the eggs are surrounded by what looks like tiny cotton balls. Our cold winters reduce their numbers, but as the climate warms, they are spreading north. Please report sightings to [VT Invasives](#) (use the "REPORT IT!" button at <https://www.vtinvasives.org/invasive/hemlock-woolly-adelgid>). Including photos and GPS locations is helpful. If you find them on VLT-conserved land, <https://vlt.org/contact/>.

TOWN NEWS



NILES CEMETERY EXPANSION

If you have noticed work commencing on the west side of Niles Cemetery, it is clearing a donated lot for expansion this fall. The cemetery commissioners hope to develop more space in several cemeteries in Halifax.

Questions? Contact your cemetery commissioners. Linda Swanson, Gary Rand, Laurel Copeland.



YOGA – TUESDAYS AT 10:00 AM IN WEST HALIFAX

Seth Geeslin is offering a free 10-week series of yoga sessions on Tuesdays beginning in May. Dress comfortably.

SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – FRIDAY, APRIL 21, AT 12:00 NOON

Friday April 21 is the next meal at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax, Vermont. We serve at noon. Menu: carrot salad, sweet sausage stroganoff, vegetable, rolls, and dessert. All seniors are welcome; over 60 years is \$3.00, under 60 is \$4. A call to Joan is appreciated 802-368-7733. – *Joan Courser*

JOAN’S SIGHTINGS.

I am amazed at the number of Red-Winged Blackbirds and Common Blackbirds that are coming to the feeders! There are also lots of Starlings, a few Robins, Sparrows, Evening Grosbeaks, Chickadees, Nuthatches—White-breasted and Red-Breasted, Titmice, Cardinals, Starlings, Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, and Crows. I am pretty sure I saw a Wren, a Brown-Headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch with quite a lot of yellow! Juncos, lots of wild turkeys (they are not coming as much since we have some bare ground), (but we still have lots of snow). Our last storm was nearly 3 feet of wet and heavy snow. I long for Spring...it is coming slowly.

– *Joan Courser*

Elsewhere Around Town. I see rodents. Lots of rodents! Also red foxes and grey foxes, turkeys including two who flew up from my driveway and landed in the tops of the trees! I hear woodpeckers. And I saw a river otter fishing through a hole in the ice on Gates Pond. I love to watch otters fishing! They gaze into the icy black water, quietly slip in, are gone for 20 seconds...30 seconds...40 seconds...how long are they down there? Then they slip back up onto the ice, often with a big fish in their mouth. Yum, yum.

Being mammals, they maintain their body temperature close to 100°F. Most mammals maintain a temperature close to 100°F as do birds. We are averaging 98.6°F, cats 100.5-102.5°F, dogs 101-102.5°F, shrews 98-99°F, cattle/sheep/llama/horse/pig 100.3-103.6°F with camels ranging from 94.1-105.8°F (higher when water is scarce), whales 97-100°F; you see what I mean: pretty close to 100°F. But the platypus is a cool customer maintaining a body temperature around 89.6°F while another egg-laying mammal, the echidna, averages 87.3°F.



That covers two of the three groups of mammals. The third group is the marsupials (think pouches). Opossums average 95°F, kangaroos 97°F, and koalas about 96.8°F. I have not seen any of those around Hanson Road.

But bears and bobcats have been spotted up in Halifax Center. Bobcats might be pleading for the return of the bird feeders that draw prey for the bobcat to eat. Bears just say, “thank you, ma’am!” Please don’t feed the bears. Bird feeders are for winter only.

Where’s My Fire?

– *Laurel Copeland*

Here's another odd fact about animals. For humans and many other creatures that have two sexes, the males have XY chromosomes (1 pair of 2 different kinds of chromosomes) while the females have XX chromosomes (1 pair of 2 of the same kind of chromosome). But for birds, spiders, and butterflies, it is the other way around—2 of the same for males, 2 different for females—although the chromosomes have been renamed “W” and “Z” to avoid confusion. You are not confused, correct? Stranger yet, the ever-fascinating platypus has five pairs of XY chromosomes. And one form of slime mold has 13 sexes while another has 720 sexes. Is there a dating app for that?

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS.



On March 1 two men responded to a medical call; Deerfield Valley Ambulance transported.
 On March 12 two men responded to a medical call; Deerfield Valley Ambulance transported to Greenfield.
 On March 13 seven men responded to a call for mutual aid, sending an engine to Jacksonville station and a tanker to the scene on Allard Road; the aid was cancelled en route.



Monthly Fire Department 50/50 raffle: Buy tickets (\$10 each) from any fireman

Emergency services — call 911 // New Suicide & Crisis Lifeline — call 988
 Veterans Crisis line — call 988 then press 1, or text 838255

CALENDAR

- May 2, 2023 @10:00AM: Free 10-week Tuesday yoga sessions begin at the Community Hall in West Halifax
- May 27, 2023: Plant Swap at Community Hall & Open House at Historical Society (9am-1pm)
- July 1, 2023: Firemen’s Auction (10am--)



July 15, 2023: Kyra Markham Talk at Halifax Historical Society (time TBD)
 August 5, 2023: Clam Bake! (1-3pm)

Bobbie Groves sent this picture of a large heap of snow outside their garage, noting, “my convertible is in there. Not that I’ll be needing it soon.”

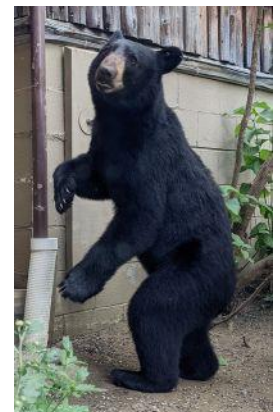
Maple syrup is a natural food. Tap the trees, boil the sap, you have maple syrup. 1 serving is 1/4 cup. This much maple syrup supplies 100% of recommended daily amount of manganese, 81% riboflavin, and 11% zinc. Zinc is an anti-inflammatory that reduces risk of prostate cancer. Maple syrup is full of antioxidants. Maple syrup has 2/3 the calories of corn syrup. Maple syrup is a great substitute for cane sugar.



WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

Have you seen any of these 5 animals crossing a road? As part of a wildlife connectivity project, I am interested in where five wide-ranging mammals cross the road. If you see one on or crossing a road, or if you see tracks that suggest one crossed the road, let me know

(LaurelACopeland@gmail.com, 802-368-2439). Include **date, time, & location**. The 5 animals are **Moose, River Otter, Fisher, Bobcat, and Black Bear**.
 (Photo at right by E J Hull)



Newsletter
P O Box 27
West Halifax VT 05358



Waning Moon Low in Southern Sky
Casting Moonshadows Before Dawn



Hello! Photo by E J Hull

Halifax News

APRIL 2023

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LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or
Joan JWCinVt@gmail.com
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