

May 2024

## HALIFAX NEWS

### FOREST BEES

– Laurel Copeland, Halifax, Vermont

In November as part of my duties on the Board of Directors of the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association, I walked up a trail on the north side of Route 9 with Diana Todd and Katie Turo. Katie is a research scientist at Rutgers. She describes herself as “a pollinator ecologist who combines molecular and quantitative tools to examine the mechanisms driving insect biodiversity, fitness, and plant-pollinator interactions in the Anthropocene.” The Anthropocene is the current geological age, named for the strong influence of humans (anthropos=human in Greek).



Katie is studying forest bees, bees I had never heard of before this. She was searching for a patch of forest that was relatively unmanaged to compare to two other forest patches in Marlboro. She wrote a description of her project, “Spring Fruit Crop Pollinators and Northeastern Forests: High-value Bees in Overlooked Habitat,” to submit to the Marlboro Select Board to get approval to do the research. The project, funded by a grant awarded by the USDA, involves setting out pan traps (plastic cups held up on pipes; pictured at left) to catch bees and other insects. To put equipment out in the Conservation Area, you need town permission.

The forest bees Katie is studying are spring pollinators, adapted to the quixotic Vermont spring weather. They are typically not social bees—they don’t live in a hive with others but live solitary lives. The way we manage forests may affect these little-known bees, and knowing how they fare under different forest management plans can help foresters do a better job. Here in the northeast, we mostly manage forests for timber production. And managed forests frequently abut spring fruit crops. The project will study bees in unharvested, shelterwood, and clearcut areas of the forest. Because these spring bees depend on blooming trees for pollen, the unharvested forest likely contains the most robust population of forest bees.

Katie’s team will be studying these bees in April, May, and June this year and next. And at the end of the project, Katie will provide us with a list of wild bee species collected in Hogback Mountain Conservation Area. More information about forest bees can be found at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation website, <https://www.xerces.org/blog/bees-of-eastern-forests>. For interesting illustrations of forest bee nests, visit the Woodland Fish & Wildlife site, <https://woodlandfishandwildlife.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Forest-Bee-Pollinators.pdf>.

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### SUMMER NATURE CAMP 2024

Join Wildlife Biologist & founder of Trust for Wildlife, Marshal T Case, Joanne Case, Naturalist, and Merritt Youmell, Teacher and Naturalist, for FIVE HALF-DAYS of Nature Adventure at the Halifax Sanctuary.

**When:** July 8-12 Monday through Friday / 9:00AM-NOON

**Where:** Halifax Nature Preserve, 704 Woodard Hill Road, Halifax, VT

**Who:** Ages 6-15. Limit: 15 campers.

**What:** We will explore nature on the 115-acre sanctuary. Nature adventure will focus on exploring woods, fields, and waterways, and examining native plants and animals.

**All children of the Deerfield Valley are invited to attend Summer Nature Camp.** The camp is sponsored by Trust For Wildlife, Inc., <https://trustforwildlife.org>, and is offered **free of charge**. To enroll your child and for directions please contact **JOANNE CASE** at [tfwVermont@gmail.com](mailto:tfwVermont@gmail.com) or call 802-442-2999.

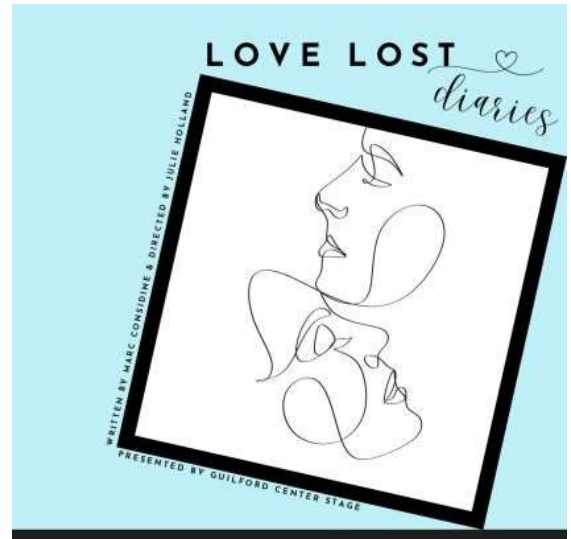
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**PLAY TIME!**

Guilford’s Broadbrook Community Center will present *Love Lost Diaries* on May 3, 4, and 5. *Love Lost Diaries* was written by Marc Considine of Hardwick, Vermont, in the Northeast Kingdom. The play is directed by Julie Holland, and the stage manager is **Halifax’s Nina Bond!** Nina is also in the play. Catch a free dress rehearsal on Thursday, May 2, at 7:30pm, or a ticketed performance on May 3, 4, or 5 (Sunday matinee). *Love Lost Diaries* is a bittersweet story of a lifelong marriage that could have been so much more than it was, if only the couple had communicated their feelings to each other. The love story overlaps with the lives of three high school students. It is presented in 14 short scenes with music from the 1940’s through the 2000’s. Tickets are \$14/person cash or PayPal at the door (in advance \$16.33 from <https://brownpapertickets.com/event/6247266>). Performances are at **Broadbrook Community Center**, 3940 Guilford Center Road, Guilford, VT:

- Thursday May 2** at 7:30 pm: Free dress rehearsal
- Friday May 3** at 7:30 pm (\$14/person)
- Saturday May 4** at 7:30 pm (\$14/person)
- Sunday May 5** at 2:00 pm (\$14/person)

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**MAY 3 - 5, 2024**

FRIDAY, MAY 3 AT 7:30 PM // SATURDAY, MAY 4 AT 7:30 PM // SUNDAY, MAY 5 AT 2:00 PM



**TICKETS \$14/PERSON**  
 AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OR ONLINE AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM/EVENT/6247266](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6247266)  
**BROAD BROOK COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 3940 GUILFORD CENTER ROAD, GUILFORD, VT

**SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX** – The next Senior Meal is May 17, serving at noon in the Halifax Community Hall located at 20 Brook Road in West Halifax. The menu is **turkey in gravy with a topping of homemade biscuits**, mashed potato, vegetable, a roll, and dessert. A free-will donation of \$3.00 is asked (\$4.00 for those under 60 years of age). All seniors are welcome. A call to Joan is appreciated (802-368-7733).

The seniors are enjoying some of the school kids coming each month and joining them for lunch. They bring their lunches with them and then entertain us with songs. At the last meal they recited poems for all of us!

– Joan Courser

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**SORROW**

I am sorry to report that a good friend passed away in our neighboring town of Marlboro on February 9, 2024. **Hugh Whitney** was born in Whitneyville in central Halifax on October 4, 1937. He was a fine fellow and still loved Halifax. He will be missed by many.

Burial services were conducted on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Hugh’s name may be made to Marlboro Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 69, Marlboro, VT 05344 or Marlboro Historical Society, P.O. Box 242, Marlboro, VT 05344.



We have also lost **Molly Stone**. Marion "Molly" Frieda Stone, passed away on October 21, 2023, at the age of 85 in Palm Bay, Florida. Molly was born July 15, 1938, to William and Rachel White Eddy in West Halifax, Vermont.



Molly taught school for 24 years in Arlington, Vermont, then became a consultant for the Vermont Department of Education. She served as a fourth-generation newspaper correspondent for the Brattleboro Reformer. Molly's dedication to preserving her family history led her to become the custodian of a vast collection of Niles and Wheeler family papers and diaries as well as co-authoring with Bernice Barnett, Constance Lancaster, Carrie Perna, Susan Rusten, Mariette Sanders, and Stephen Sanders the 2-volume *History of Halifax*, Volume 1 "Born in Controversy" (Halifax Historical Society, 2008) and Volume 2, "Hills and Hollows" (Halifax Historical Society, 2013).

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**JOAN'S SIGHTINGS.** I was overjoyed to have two Bluebirds visit my feeders. They were at the suet feeders. I did throw out some 'mealy worms' for them. They did not stay long, but I sure enjoyed having them here. Still having the usual birds...Bluejays, Sparrows, Chickadees, Goldfinches, Blackbirds, Cardinals, Robins, Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Mourning Doves, and a few Woodpeckers.

– Joan Courser



**ANIMAL PARADE.** Moose, deer, bobcats, porcupines, raccoons, grey foxes, chipmunks, and little rodents in the field are busy now. Moose, yes—I heard of 3 moose sightings in Halifax in April. Early in the morning I hear the hermit thrushes and crazy-sounding winter wrens. I heard my first common yellowthroat down in a swampy cove mid-April; these little warblers migrate from the southern US, Mexico, and Central America. Migratory birds often develop colorful plumage for the breeding season up here in the north. At left is a picture I took of one netted and banded in Eric Slayton's bird-banding project on Hogback Mountain. The common yellowthroat sings, "witchety-witchety-witch!" I am also seeing chickadees, phoebes (nesting in the porch again), song sparrows, dark-eyed juncos, robins, blue jays, crows, geese, red-breasted



nuthatches, pileated woodpeckers, and yellow-bellied sapsuckers. I hear grouse drumming. I saw a bald eagle flying over Shearer Hill Road, and Frank Maltese spotted one from Route 112. He commented that it was 3000 feet away (see photos; the arrow indicates where the eagle was sitting). That's quite a shot Frank got with his long lens!

- Laurel Copeland



**FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

On April 5, nine men and two trucks responded to a motor vehicle accident on Rte. 112. The call came in from a cell phone. There was no car there when the fire department arrived.

On April 11, twelve men and three trucks responded to a call of smoke coming from a cellar, it turned out to be a dryer vent venting.

On April 20, ten men and three trucks responded to a single car accident with air bag deployment. The person came out of the vehicle, was evaluated and released by state police, then the car was towed away.

**Want to burn brush? Call for a Burn Permit before you burn.**

**Call: Dennis (802) 368-7809 or Malcolm (802) 368-2484**

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**My morning routine** – the kitty wakes me about 4 o'clock. Dress, clean up, feed the cats, make coffee to sip from my Pusheen mug, meditate, watch for a fox or other critter to hurry by, enjoy the stars and the snow. This is my winter morning routine. So why am I still doing this in April??? The storm of April 3-4, 2024, dumped wet white cement-like snow a foot deep on our yard. Two weeks later I was doing a spring task—removing the snow guards (metal sheets) that protect our screened porch from snow sliding off the long metal roof—and there was a mummy of snow...



The Halifax Café has a new reading nook with two comfy chairs. Donna Silverberg and Mark Halverson try out the new furniture

Also in April this team of workhorses gave neighbors Jen, Brad, and Jared a slide on the muddy roads

🌸 🌿 🌻 **PLANT SWAP! SANDWICH DAY!** 🌻 🌿 🌸

The **4th Annual Edie Fenton Memorial Plant Swap** will be held the **Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 25, 2024, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm** at the **Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax.**

The **Halifax Café** (at the same address) will be open offering **sandwiches, baked goods, snacks, coffee/tea.**

There will be free seeds, seedlings, garden plants, and house plants.

Please bring pest-free plants you want to give away. Stop in for a bite to eat.

**Join us and help support our community!**



Left: Edie Fenton from a newspaper story in 1998

[Other activities in the area...](#)

**2024 SPRING BIRD MIGRATION WALK AT HOGBACK MTN CONSERVATION AREA: An Annual Tribute to Bob Engel, Sunday, May 12, 7:30 am.** Join naturalist, Cherrie Corey, for a morning walk to meet the season's songbird wave and other harbingers of spring. We will walk in the spirit of Marlboro College biologist, Bob Engel, an inspirational teacher to so many, who shared his passion for native birds and plants and his captivating understanding of the environments that sustained them.

Meet at the Tower Trail trailhead kiosk, behind the Vermont Distillers building at 7755 VT Route 9. Plenty of parking across Rte. 9 in the HMCA parking lot. **Registration is required**; sign up by email to [hmca@hogbackvt.org](mailto:hmca@hogbackvt.org). The event is free and open to the public.

*Bob Engel served as Biology professor at Marlboro College from 1975-2011 and on the board of Southeastern VT Audubon for many years. He gave numerous presentations for local environmental groups, led local and far-flung field study trips, including many spring migration walks at Hogback Mountain Conservation Area. Over the years he inspired so many to look deeply and connect passionately and wisely with the wide, WILD world.*

*Cherrie Corey, a Marlboro resident, has been an active naturalist, photographer, and conservation steward for many decades. She served as director of the Harvard Museum of Cultural and Natural History, the Native Plant Trust | New England Wild Flower Society's first education director, and as principal naturalist for Great Meadows NWR in Concord, MA for many years. She currently advises and contributes to various organizations in southeastern Vermont and beyond.*

Photo: the colander trick to view the solar eclipse



**NEW TO THE AREA? New Residents Invited to Gallery Walk Mixers - Local Organizations Welcome Newcomers Each Month.**

New and returning Vermonters are invited to a monthly reception as part of Brattleboro's Gallery Walk. Each first Friday, from 5pm to 7pm, the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance and Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation's GROW SoVermont program and partners host a newcomers' mixer at 57 Elliot Street.



Come on by 57 Elliott Street on Friday, May 3, 5-7pm!

The hosting organizations encourage longtime locals to bring a new friend, coworker, or employee to the mixers to help them get connected to more people in their new community. Light appetizers from local caterers will be provided.

GROW SoVermont is part of a statewide network to welcome new and returning residents and is funded in part by Vermont's Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

Learn more at <https://sovermont.com/grow> or contact GROW SoVermont program manager Rachel Shields Ebersole ([rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com](mailto:rsebersole@brattleborodevelopment.com) or 802-257-7731 x 218). Sign up for the SoVermont Newsletter on the website.

*Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) is a private, nonprofit economic development organization with the mission of investing in the drivers of the regional economy so that people, businesses, and communities in Southern Vermont can thrive. BDCC serves as the State of Vermont's certified Regional Development Corporation (RDC) for the greater Windham County area (including Windham County and the towns of Readsboro, Searsburg, Winhall and Weston). BDCC is one of 12 RDCs throughout Vermont. BDCC activity is made possible in part by a grant from the State of Vermont through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. For more information visit: <https://brattleborodevelopment.com/>*

# Halifax News

MAY 2024



## CALENDAR

- May 2, 2024** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- May 4, 2024** (Saturday): Halifax Café **CLOSED** for private event
- May 9, 2024** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- May 11, 2024** (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- May 16, 2024** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- May 18, 2024** (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- May 23, 2024** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- May 25, 2024** (Saturday): **Sandwich Day** at the Café (10am-1pm) – and –  
**4th Annual Edie Fenton Memorial Plant Swap** 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- May 30, 2024** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Jun. 1, 2024** (Saturday): Halifax Café **CLOSED** for private event



Kicking back at the Café  
Andrea Underwood Jones, Laurel Copeland, Mark Halverson

Check your address label for your expiration date.  
Send \$7.00 for postage for your mailed paper copy.  
Send a check made out to “Newsletter” to:  
**Joan Courser, P O Box 27, West Halifax VT 05358.**

**NEWSLETTER STORIES** – Got a Halifax story?  
Send to Laurel [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com), 1513 Hanson Road,  
Brattleboro VT 05301-9227.

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