



Our Vision: *CCCA is committed to a vibrant Cavendish/Proctorsville community that supports its human and natural resources, building a legacy of health, integrity and vitality for future generations.*

www.CavendishCCCA.org

Winter 2011 Volume No. 7, Issue No. 5



OUR SECOND ANNUAL MARDI GRAS PARTY was a blast! The food was out of this world, thanks to our great chefs, Caroline Whittington, Seymour Leven and Robin Timko and Jennifer Stowell. The music was the best, of course, with Bob Naess and his Cajun band, Yankee Chunk, and the dancing never stopped. Raffle winners were grinning from ear to ear, and the CCCA was able to meet its goal of \$2000! The proceeds go to our grassroots efforts in sustainability, conservation and community events. The event would not have been possible without the outstanding help of Ilona Roberts, Irma Post and board members Jennifer Stowell and Cheryl Leiner. Donations for the event were generously given by Cavendish Game Birds, Singletons' Store, Crows Bakery and Peter Labelle.

What is the Cavendish Community Fund?

The history of the Cavendish Community Fund has its roots in division and discord resulting from the effort to deny a Cavendish land owner the opportunity to develop a quarry. After the legal settlement of the case, hard feelings remained. Cavendish residents never resorted to violence, hate speech or vitriolic name calling, but the divisions were real nevertheless. But a town divided cannot thrive. Old wounds are easily opened and new ideas become Rorschach tests for past grievances, as recent events on the national stage remind us. It is easy to say that we must move past these old divisions but changing the atmosphere of discord requires a plan, not just good intentions.

In that spirit, the Cavendish Community Fund was founded in 2007 to support local activities that bring people together as a mechanism for developing new relationships. Community activities provide the opportunity to make new connections with others and, with each new opportunity for connection, to deepen the understanding of how to initiate and maintain new relationships with others not known to us before. These interactions build social capital, the dense network of relationships that generates trust, which, in turn, provides the basis for collective problem-solving in everyday life. Faultlines once too deep to bridge might become avenues for honest disagreement about means to the same end: a strong, vibrant and thriving community.

Activities and events that we sponsor provide the venue for these opportunities to narrow the sometimes formidable divide between groups with different interests and backgrounds. Furthermore, we hope that growth within our community becomes the impetus to broaden the circle of opportunity for involvement and active participation in our larger social world.

The Fund supports this commitment through the administration of modest monetary grants for programs that provide significant opportunities for new connections between residents. The Board of Directors of the Cavendish Community

and Conservation Association are all Cavendish residents. By granting modest sums, the Cavendish Community Fund seeks to assist local organizations in building stronger community relationships and quality of life in Cavendish. If you have a project or event that might qualify for sponsorship, call Pete LaBelle (226-7250) or Barbara Dickey (226-7187).

CCF Accepting Applications for Spring 2011 Grants

The Cavendish Community Fund has announced that it is now accepting applications for grants that will be awarded this spring. The deadline for applying is April 15, 2011. Applications are available on line at our website and include instructions on how and where to apply. See www.CavendishCCCA.org.

The fund inaugurated its program in 2007 of giving cash grants to organizations for educational and cultural projects, programs and events. Last fall awards were given to four organizations: the Cavendish Elementary School for two music based activities; Stepping Stones Pre-school for help with a reading program; "Operation Cover-Up" for a quilt making project for returning veterans; and "Playing with Shakespeare," a cultural, educational, and community building workshop that allowed Cavendish residents to explore live performance under the tutelage of a professional actor.

Projects, programs or events must directly benefit the Cavendish community in some way. A panel of local citizens reviews all applications and recommends the ultimate grantees based on the quality and feasibility of each proposal. Grants are not expected to exceed \$1,000 each and will depend primarily on the number of applications and the amounts requested.

For further information on applying, on eligibility or on any other aspect of the grant program, or for help completing the application, please call Peter LaBelle at 226-7250 or Barbara Dickey at 226-7187.

A Message from Robin

Mud season is upon us! The snow can't last forever . . . can it? Spring always means the return of the birds and their songs. The forests of Vermont are an important resource for birds throughout our hemisphere.

According to the Audubon Society, the brightly colored birds of the tropics depend on our forests for their summer breeding ground. Our forests and the woodlands and wetlands of New England are home to the highest concentration of bird species breeding in the continental USA. The Black Throated Blue Warbler, the Canada Warbler, Wood Thrush and Bicknell's Thrush breed primarily in our region and are at present in decline. The North American Bird Conservation Initiative is currently involved in projects that educate us about the regeneration of our feathered friends and how important our choices are in protecting their future. Rather than wait for a species to be threatened, we can take measures now to preserve the habitat they need for healthy survival. Conservation is all about understanding our connection to the environment, and out of that understanding making educated decisions about how we live our lives.

On February 3, CCCA sponsored a presentation on wildlife corridors in our areaby Forrest Hammond of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, who is project leader for wild turkeys and black bears. Wildlife corridors are the passages that connect the various habitat locations that animals use to travel to the areas they need for feeding, hibernating, migrating, etc. Forest's presentation included a slide show and maps that illustrated the range of different animals. He explained the new emphasis on corridors which often include road crossings. Sometimes a corridor might be a thick hedgerow between fields where an animal can move under cover before crossing a road to travel to its destination. There are areas in Southern Vermont that have, according to Hammond, become so fragmented that the larger animals are no longer able to inhabit the areas. The presentation was given in the town office, which was packed with community members, and many questions were



asked. One man said he was certain he had seen mountain lion prints in the snow, but doubted the State would believe him. Forrest said he should take a photo of

the print with a ruler beside it so that the size of the print was clear and send it to him at the Agency of Natural Resources office in Springfield.

The Conservation Committee is excited to be joining with folks from all over the state who are educating themselves regarding the needs for animal habitat and will be holding a series of Walk and Talk events for community members during the coming year.

Wishing everyone well and thanking all for your continued support, Robin.

Join Us as a Member of CCCA!

Dues are a nominal \$35 per year for full membership. In order to join CCCA, please fill out the information below and send with a check payable to Cavendish Community and Conservation Association to:

CCCA
P.O. Box 605
Cavendish, VT 05142

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____



First Walk And Talk Event April 7 Features Bobcats

The CCCA's first Walk and Talk event will be April 7 from 6 to 8 in the Town Office. The topic will be "Wildlife in Cavendish and Southern Vermont" with a special presentation on Bobcats.

We will begin the meeting with input from the community on the animals you have seen and where you have seen them. Various colored pins each indicating a specific species can be used to mark a large areal map of Cavendish as we begin to chart the kinds of animals living around us. Please bring your photos and comments as well.

The second half of the evening will be a presentation by Jane Lazorchak from Vermont Fish and Wildlife on bobcats.

Cavendish Community Calendar

It is time to sort through this year's photos and choose your favorite for submission in the 2012 Calendar Contest! Entry forms will be available at the Town office, Crows Bakery or you can download your form from our website, www.cavendishccca.org.

Photos need to show something beautiful about our landscape. This could be a scenic view, a tree you love, a stream, a field, or it could be an aspect of our village that you think is beautiful and of value. Historic images like old stone walls or some of our older stone buildings and barns are most welcome! And of course, wildlife. Just remember to include as much of the scenic beauty in your photo as you can.

Please read the instructions carefully for they will tell you the size and details of how the photo needs to be. The Community Calendar is supported by local businesses and we are grateful for their contributions!

Sustainability Committee Update and New Projects

Last spring the CCCA Sustainability Committee reported that the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund in cooperation with the State of Vermont awarded Cavendish an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant in the amount of \$50,000. The purpose of the grant is to upgrade the town office and town garage insulation, lighting and heating. The Committee played a major role in securing this grant. As you may have noted as you drove by the town buildings, nothing has yet been done. The reason for this inactivity lay in Montpelier, but now the town has finally been given the green light to go ahead with RFPs and construction. We are confident that 2011 will see a marked decrease in energy use by both buildings.

Meanwhile the Committee has embarked on a new quest. In the coming months it will be studying the feasibility of installing a micro-hydro generator and possibly photovoltaic panels at the town wastewater treatment plant. The plant uses more electricity than any other town operation and it treats and discharges a consistently high volume of water through a discharge pipe that the committee believes is adaptable to generation of electricity. The plant is situated with a south facing slope that could also support solar generation. Micro-hydro generators and photovoltaic panels have become decidedly more efficient in recent years so the committee is seeking funds to study these alternative energy sources for the plant.

Cheryl Leiner Joins CCCA Board

Our newest CCCA Board member is Cheryl Leiner of Davis Road, who writes:

"It is my pleasure to have been chosen to serve on the Board. My husband and I bought our home here in Cavendish in 2007 after a long and tedious search for just the right environment. We sold our home in Connecticut two years ago and have enjoyed living here and find the peace and quiet a blessing. We became involved in CCCA soon after we purchased our home because we were impressed with the organization and its goals regarding the future of Cavendish. While still traveling back and forth, we attended fund raisers and helped with a variety of activities. During the last two years, I have helped plan the Annual Mardi Gras fund raiser and have worked with the Energy Committee."