



Cavendish Community and Conservation Association

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 2012 Volume No. 9, Issue No. 1



WE HAVE ALL BEEN THROUGH A GREAT DEAL DURING FALL 2011 and our Newsletter was never written due to the difficulties arising from the floods of Irene. We'd guess that everyone in Cavendish was pushed outside his envelope of security when the flooding scoured our landscape. The scheduled CCCA events did not happen as Robin cleaned mud from the bakery, and the CCF took no applications as Barbara dealt with a Church about to collapse. But we are on the road to recovery as much of life returns to normal. The scars along our roads and rivers remain and we will certainly all remember 2011 for a long time to come.

Join Us for CCCA's Annual MARDI GRAS Celebration!



It's time to shake off the winter blahs for at least one night. So make that night Friday, February 10th and join us in Proctorsville at Crow's Bakery and Opera House Café for an evening of fun, good food, dancing and merriment! Again this year we will dance to the Cajun tunes of *Yankee Chank* and enjoy great New Orleans food, including the New Orleans traditional King Cake.

Dinner is by reservation only and tickets are \$35 each. They are available at Crow's Bakery and will sell fast, so reserve now.

In addition to the Cajun music, there will also be a Mardi Gras Mask contest with a prize for the best decorated mask. Pick up a plain mask when you get your ticket, use your imagination, and wow your fellow partygoers. We've seen some pretty good entries each year, but there is always room for a new winner.

And again this year, we will have a raffle with some excellent prizes as well. Tickets are on sale at the bakery and you can get them from any board member. First prize is a weekend getaway to the Trapp Family Lodge at the Stowe Mountain Resort in Stowe Vermont. Second prize is a basket of Vermont fine wines, cheeses and other local goodies. Third prize is a chocolate, chocolate, chocolate Valentine's cake.

For more information, call Robin at 226-7736.



A Message from Robin

Here we are in the winter of 2012 and people in our community continue along the path of recovery from Irene. The winter has not given us much snow (at least at the time I am writing this) and with changes in the weather there is a sense of uncertainty about how this may be and ways we can manage. One day of heavy rain had the power to transform the roads, the forests, the riverbed and streams, making it clear that how we build upon and use our land and how we design our towns and byways are best done with respect for the natural world.

I am grateful in a new way for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources whose job is to gather new information and act for the common good. At a statewide conservation meeting that I attended in the spring of 2011, ANR Secretary Deb Markowitz shared the Hebrew phrase *Tikkun olam* from the Torah, which means "repairing the world." She said that this was at the heart of her work as she addresses the resource issues that arise. She also spoke of the new weather patterns that may be expected with climate change, including times of extended periods of rain followed by times of drought, and the forethought and effort needed to meet these future challenges.

Our ability to respond to the trials of the flood, in both large and small ways has given us as a community a felt sense of our resilience and strength and I believe that whatever the future may hold we will be able to act with awareness, reach out to one another and find new, creative ways to live, learn and develop.

The CCCA Energy Committee is Still Looking for Volunteers

Immediately before the floods of Irene in August, the CCCA Energy Committee met with local alternative energy source experts to discuss several ways that Cavendish could implement solar as a renewable energy source to supplement the power that we purchase from the grid.

Cavendish uses a substantial amount of electricity, as does any municipality, in the variety of functions that it performs. The sewer department uses prodigious amounts of power to run the wastewater treatment plant, the water department uses power to run the water filtration plant, the elementary school uses electricity not just during the school year, and the town office, the town garage and the solid waste transfer station all contribute to our budget expense.

Identifying where we can most benefit from alternative power generation is as important as identifying ways to save power. We anticipate that in 2012 we will be able to implement at least some of the plans that we are working on now. For more information, please call Peter at 802-226-7250.

2012 Walk and Talk Series Begins in March



On March 22nd at 6:00 P.M. the CCCA Conservation Committee will sponsor the next Walk and Talk Series lecture at the Cavendish Town Office.

Forrest Hammond, the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife District

Biologist, will present a talk on moose and black bear in Vermont. These two charismatic animals are the state's largest native wild animals. The talk will highlight their ecology, habitat, and behavior – and the best ways for humans to avoid conflicts with moose and bear, including auto accidents.

You will learn about where bear and moose spend their time in Cavendish and their home ranges, preferred travel routes and food sources. Both of the species have seen big changes in their populations over past twenty years. Forrest will discuss what the future may hold for these animals and the management challenges ahead. For more information please contact Robin at 226-7736.

Then, on Saturday, May 5th at 1 p.m. join CCCA for a real treat when we gather at the Cavendish Town Office for another event in the Walk and Talk Series. James Andrews, Vermont's foremost state herpetologist and Chair of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Scientific Advisory Group will come to Cavendish to share with us his knowledge about the various species of toads, frogs, snakes, salamanders and other creatures that live in our midst. This one hour presentation will be followed by a guided field trip in Cavendish expected to last three hours.

James has worked for many years on the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas which collects and disseminates data needed to make informed recommendations regarding the status, state rank, and conservation of Vermont's reptiles and amphibians. With the help of volunteers, he works to involve and inform Vermont individuals and organizations so that they can become more informed and effective stewards of wildlife habitat.

You can read more about his work and his organization on the internet. Just go to www.middlebury.edu and type in "The Vermont Reptile & Amphibian Atlas" in the space at the top, and it will lead you to the page.

For more information on this event, please contact Tim O'Donoghue at 226-7023.

CCF is Accepting Applications for Spring Grants

After a short hiatus, the Cavendish Community Fund is now accepting grant applications for a new round of grants. The deadline date for the spring 2012 grant round will be published in the near future, but the fund will accept applications starting immediately. If you have an idea for a Cavendish based educational, cultural or artistic venture that will involve Cavendish residents free of charge, please consider asking the CCF for a grant.

Past grants have funded the community summer plays, archeological digs, classes at local institutions in fiber arts, children's dance, photography, firefighting, and more. In fact, since inception of the Fund in 2007, it has distributed more than \$18,000 to community projects and events.

The process of asking for the grant is outlined on the CCF page of the CCCA website – www.CavendishCCCA.org and consists of a short, one page form and several pieces of additional information that can be placed in a letter. If you need information or any other assistance, please call Barbara Dickey at 802-226-7187. Applications should be sent to CCF, P.O. Box 605, Cavendish, VT 05142.

CCCA Says Goodbye

The Cavendish Community and Conservation Association, like all groups in service to their communities, could not prosper without the support of people in the community itself. Joyce Ringhel was just such a person. Joyce passed away three months ago. She was a joyous and kind woman who also baked phenomenal cookies. Joyce and her husband Charles had been tremendous supporters of our work and we are saddened for her passing. Patricia Nye is another

dear friend and supporter who passed away not long ago and who, in her fiery nature and humorous way never stopped encouraging us to continue our efforts on behalf of conservation and community building. This has been a series of difficult months for all of us in Vermont and so for the people of Cavendish, and it is with regret that we come so late to this expression of condolence to Charles Ringhel and to Richard, Will and Amber Nye. We know, that for all of us who knew Joyce and Pat and their bright giving spirits, they will live on in our memories and continue to bring us courage to dream and do what needs to be done.

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: _____