



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 2017-2018 Volume No. 15, Issue No. 1



Beauty of Winter – by Winston Churchill – the 2018 Cover Photo

The annual Cavendish Community and Conservation Association calendars reflect the beauty and diversity of natural life within our community. There are many scenes about town that we cherish and that give us reason for living in this state and this community. Send us pictures of those places of Cavendish beauty that sing to you and we may include them in the next calendar. Meanwhile, even though it is a bit late to buy a calendar – we still have them available at Crow's Bakery in Proctorsville. Please stop in and bring one home. Winter 2017-2018; Page 1



A Message from Robin

Dear friends and neighbors –

We have had a number of deep freezes this winter and February has just begun. On days when I had to bundle up with extra layers I wondered if the cold might have an impact on the tick population.

As I read up on the subject I discovered that alternating periods of freeze and thaw pose the greatest threat to a tick's lifespan. The thaw lures them out and the subsequent freeze drains them of resources. Ticks and the threat of Lyme disease affect us all and is a growing issue in our state.

It occurred to me that it would be timely to bring an expert on the subject for a presentation as part of our Walk and Talk series this spring. (See below.) As always we appreciate all suggestions for areas to explore relating to wildlife, the outdoors and conservation. 2018 will bring us new possibilities and new challenges and the board members of the CCCA always welcome your input as our committees endeavor to serve the community.

Robin Timko

Walk and Talk Series Continues

The Cavendish Community and Conservation Association will sponsor a presentation on March 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Elementary School on **Raptors** with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) Nature Center. The talk will center on those raptors – eagles, hawks, and owls that are found across our region. We thrill to see a soaring eagle or hawk and we are in awe of a silent owl swooping through the woods. VINS has many animals at its facility and we will see live examples right here in Cavendish. The CCCA Walk and Talk series of workshops and events is a popular series and we are excited to keep it going.

Following the Raptors presentation, the next talk scheduled is on March 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office meeting room when Kelly Stettner of the Black River Action Team will talk about **Creating a Rain Garden**. How can you beautify your yard, increase your property value, and protect the local water quality at the same time? Consider planting a rain garden! By helping rain and snow-melt to slow down, spread out, and soak into the soil, you can keep your surrounding lawn greener, divert excess water to an attractive area designed to help it infiltrate rather than run off, and draw pollinators to the blooms of gorgeous native flowers.

As mentioned above, we will have a **Tick Talk** at the town office on April 24th at 6:30 pm. Bradley J. Tompkins, Epidemiologist & Program Chief of the Tickborne & Enteric Diseases division at the Vermont Department of Health will share information about the changing landscape of tick borne diseases in Vermont. Come learn about the who, what, when, and where of tick borne disease risk in Vermont, how you can best prevent tick bites and the best actions to take after a tick bite.



Watch for announcements this spring of our next talks. Our annual **Bird Walk** is being scheduled now. Join fellow bird lovers to spot local feathered friends. The CCCA Sustainability Committee would love to hear your ideas for Walk and Talk events, so if you have an event idea, please contact Robin Timko at 226-7736. Or talk to any member of the committee. Members include Tim O'Donoghue, Claire Walker and Sarah Stowell. The committee has been presenting these talks for over five years now and needs to hear from the community – that means you – about what you want to see and hear. Please call with your thoughts and with any suggestions, we welcome them all.

Conservation Committee Projects

The CCCA Conservation Committee has noticed what they consider a serious problem with road maintenance in many Vermont towns, including Cavendish. With newer machinery and related safety concerns there has been a subtle but pervasive alteration of our landscape. The Town of Cavendish is looking at partnering with the CCCA to write Town standards for back road maintenance regarding ditches and culverts with a focus on new State mandates, what works, upkeep, and aesthetics.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter and other reports with more to come on this issue.

Cavendish Energy Committee Upcoming Events

In 2017 the Cavendish Energy Committee ran a program to weatherize homes in Cavendish with the aim of reducing the town's carbon footprint, saving energy for individual homeowners and ultimately to save people money. That program ended several months ago, but the committee still seeks ways to help residents and the environment. That is why it held a workshop in January aimed at buttoning up homes in Cavendish. That workshop was one of many run by the committee, and represents an ongoing educational operation. That workshop was also recorded and can be accessed at <http://okemovalley.tv/cavendish-energy-cmte-weatherization>



Strawberries grown inside your home.

The next workshop will focus on **Hydroponics**, especially home hydroponics. Imagine being able to grow fresh produce in a home greenhouse, or even just on a tabletop in a spare room. Have fresh tomatoes, greens and fruit all year around. Hydroponics is the science of growing vegetative matter without soil, or with limited soil. It can be done in mega-greenhouses with acres under cultivation, or it can be done in your home.

If you are intrigued, come to the presentation at

the Cavendish Town Office on Tuesday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m. when Casey Hodge of Southern Vermont Hydroponics in Mount Holly will discuss suitability for southern Vermont climate, and practicality of growing our own fresh food year round. His presentation will include a general overview of the different types of hydroponics and the most used and useful growing methods for the home. Also, he will address the reasons why we should grow this way, including the economies and advantages over traditional agriculture. He will also include examples of plants and equipment.

An underlying reason for our concern with energy is the state of our natural environment and the need for people to live more sustainably. The Energy Committee is generally interested in reducing our carbon footprint in Cavendish, but that is only one part of an overall problem and we strive to address different aspects of that problem.

The problem includes overpopulation, destruction of the atmosphere, pollution of our oceans, and many other topics. While the practice of hydroponics has been around for hundreds of years, the issue of sustainability has taken on new meaning in our world today and hydroponics is one way of helping to feed us. NASA is studying hydroponics for future space missions, and countries such as Holland and Canada have many acres of hydroponic systems producing a variety of crops. Come and hear what Corey has to say and maybe find a way to help yourself and our ecosystem.

The committee is also planning other workshops, including more on home weatherization, but also would like to hear from you. What topics would you like to see discussed in Cavendish? Anything tied to the natural environment and how we can better our world will be considered.

The Energy Committee meets on the second Wednesday each month at noon in the Town Office. There's room for everyone on the committee, so please stop by. For more

information, please call Peter LaBelle at 802-226-7250.

Cavendish Community Fund Continues Work in 2018



The Cavendish Community Fund distributed two grants last fall. The first went to the Cavendish Baptist Church to underwrite the cost of showing a documentary film called "Look and See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry". The film revolves around several residents of Henry County Kentucky who each face difficult choices that dramatically reshape their relationships with the land and with their community. The second grant went to Stepping Stones Pre-School for a collaborative project with Endless Creation Art Studios who will present a five part series of natural art exploration and creation for preschoolers.

Please call Barbara Dickey at 226-7187 or Peter LaBelle at 226-7250 for more information on any aspect of the Fund, the Fund endowment, or for assistance in submitting an application. The Cavendish Community Fund qualifies as a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so gifts to the Community Fund are tax deductible.

Keep Taking Photos for the 2019 Calendar

As reported in the cover story above, the 2018 calendars are on sale. But that doesn't mean that you should stop taking photos! We will be

accepting photos for the 2019 calendar before you know it. Photos can be submitted for the next calendar beginning May 1st and will be accepted until at least May 31st. We've been publishing these calendars for well over ten years and expect to continue.



*October 2018 selection "Angel Hair"
Taken on Tierney Road by Svetlana Phillips.*

So take your best shot! And send it to us. We may well use it. For more information, please go to our website or call Robin at 226-7736, or Cheryl at 226-7820.

Become a CCCA Member!

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: _____