



# Windham News & Notes

*Volume X, No. 4*

*January-February 2013*

## WIND UPDATE: GOVERNOR FORMS ENERGY SITING COMMISSION GRAFTON HOLDS WIND INFO MEETING

At press time the Vermont Public Service Board had not yet rendered a decision on the application by Iberdrola to place wind-measurement towers on the Stiles Brook tract in Windham and Grafton. All filings are complete however, and can be seen at our community website [windhamvt.info](http://windhamvt.info).

**Energy Siting Commission:** The statewide debate on the issue of wind-powered generation has broadened in the last two months. Several influential conservation organizations joined regional planning commissions and municipalities in urging the Governor to form a Commission on Energy Siting. The five-member Commission was named in early October and has met five times. The Commission's charter is to address certain complex aspects of siting renewable energy facilities; their report is due in April 2013. If you are interested in further information on the background of the Commission you may find the conservation groups' letter and the Governor's Executive Order at [windhamvt.info](http://windhamvt.info). The proceedings of the Commission thus far are available at [sitingcommission.vt.gov](http://sitingcommission.vt.gov)

In its meetings the Commission has asked to hear from various parties with experience in the Section 248 process. Renewable energy developers, utilities, conservation groups, regional planning commissions, attorneys, and other siting specialists, municipalities, and private individuals have given presentations. Two sessions were dedicated to reports from other states about their energy-siting policies.

A number of Windham residents have attended Commission sessions. On December 6 Windham offered testimony on behalf of all small towns faced with the prospect of significant changes to their social, economic, and natural environments as a result of the rapid multiplication of generation projects throughout the state. The heart of the presentation raised questions that must be considered if the state's energy policies are to serve the greatest good. The testimony may be viewed at [windhamvt.info](http://windhamvt.info), as can the comments of Montpelier attorney Gerald Tarrant, who has previously served as a member of the Public Service Board. (Note: although Mr. Tarrant has represented the Windham Selectboard and Planning Commission in the met-tower application process, he made no reference to Windham's case but spoke instead to state-wide issues.)

**Wind Info Meeting in Grafton:** In November, a group called Friends of Grafton's Heritage invited Dr. Ben Luce, a Lyndon State College professor of physics and sustainability studies, to speak to area residents about wind installations in Vermont. A former wind-energy advocate and developer in New Mexico, Dr. Luce has studied the ridgeline wind resource in New England and concluded that from the standpoint of cost and benefit, wind power is not appropriate for this area. An overflow crowd heard Dr. Luce describe his research. For more information, follow Friends of Grafton's Heritage on Facebook.

## Selectboard News *by Mary Boyer, Margaret Dwyer, and Frank Seawright*

Fall 2012 is over and winter is upon us. Little snow has fallen so far, helping to keep our plowing costs down. But we are hoping for some of the white stuff to give us a traditional Windham holiday season.

FEMA work to repair damage from last year's Tropical Storm Irene is complete. Gurney Brothers won the bid to replace the large culvert on Popple Dungeon and build a new bridge on Toad Road. Part of the expense will be covered by grants that help defray the portion not covered by FEMA.

Two pieces of town equipment are in need of replacement. The grader and wheeled loader are both showing signs of wear and tear from the heavy use they receive maintaining our roads. We are looking into the cost of purchase versus lease and will base our decision on what best fits into our budget.

The Selectboard will start the budget process early this year in order to apply some of the recommendations received in the recently completed professional audit. The final report, presented by Bonnie Batchelder and her staff to the Selectboard, town clerk and town auditors, provided guidance that will enable us to use standardized accounting practices for preparing our annual

budget and managing our finances throughout the year. Bonnie again praised the cooperation she received from the town clerk and staff, and we thank Carol, Ernie, and our auditors Sally Hoover, Imme Maurath, and Ginny Crittenden for the great deal of time and effort that went into this project. A copy of the report is available at the town office for your review.

Other town commissions are spending their time this winter on updating plans for 2013 and creating databases to be used when defending those plans. The Planning Commission is beginning the task of updating the Town Plan and will be looking for input from the public during the process. The Conservation Commission will inventory the town's wetlands and hopes to develop a townwide conservation inventory.

The Windham Regional Commission recently examined all our roads and prepared a culvert inventory listing every culvert and bridge along with its state of repair. We will soon receive a report and map.

That's all for now. Let's get ready for a great winter we can all get out and play in. Why else live in Vermont! Happy New Year to all.

## Get Ready for 2013 Town Meeting — Tuesday, March 5 *by News and Notes Staff*

Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday in March, is our opportunity to participate in governing ourselves and to maintain control of local issues. Those in attendance discuss and vote on Articles that present both the budget and issues raised by voters.

If you wish to have an Article included for discussion, then according to Vermont statute you must submit a properly worded petition 40 days prior to the meeting. The deadline for petitions is January 23, 2013. The petition must be presented to the Selectboard with at least 16 signatures (5% of the voter checklist) and must not be frivolous!

Maybe you would like to join the hefty segment of Windham's population in leadership roles. If you feel it's your turn to serve the town and its people, consider running for office. Positions to be determined at the next Town Meeting are listed in the table at right.

There are also appointed positions to be filled by the Selectboard on March 11, 2013, the first Monday after Town Meeting. These positions will be listed in the Town Report, which is mailed to everyone on the voter checklist in February.

Duties and responsibilities of all town officers are described in the Vermont State Statutes. Easily accessible information is also available from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns at [www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org). Click on "Local Government."

### Positions to be determined at 2013 Town Meeting *Positions, terms of office, and incumbents:*

<b>Town Clerk, 3 years, Carol Merritt</b>
<b>Town Treasurer, 3 years, Carol Merritt</b>
<b>Selectman, 3 years, Mary Boyer</b>
<b>Lister, 3 years, Michael Simonds</b>
<b>Auditor, 3 years, Sally Hoover</b>
<b>Tax Collector, 1 year, Ernest Friedli</b>
<b>Grand Juror, 1 year, James A. Scott</b>
<b>Town Agent, 1 year, Michael Pelton</b>
<b>Windham Ctr. Cemetery Commission, 5 years, Margaret Dwyer</b>
<b>W. Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 years, Diane Newton</b>
<b>N. Windham Cemetery Commission, 5 years, Paul Wyman</b>
<b>Library Trustee, 5 years, Cynthia Kehoe</b>
<b>Windham School Director, 3 years, Antje Ruppert</b>
<b>Energy Coordinator, 1 year, Peter McDonald</b>

## COUNTRY DIARY: WETLANDS *by Frank Seawright*

Lots of us in Windham like to take walks in our beautiful woods. Walking in sneakers won't do it: you pretty much always need boots. It seems nearly any walk will take you through muddy spots and little trickles of water that appear and disappear mysteriously. That's because Windham is networked with wetlands of various kinds. It got me to wondering how they might look on a map, so I did some looking around. I found the *State of Vermont Natural Resources Atlas* (VNRA) website<sup>1</sup> which recently came online. Some wetlands can easily be seen from aerial photography and those are shown on the VNRA maps. But there are other forms of wetlands, just as precious, that are not easily seen from aerial photos. You and I find them by hiking around. The wetlands we run across in hidden places might be the ones called "seeps" and "vernal pools." Various types of wetland are described in a Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department publication, *Wetland, Woodland, Wildland*.<sup>2</sup> Here's how seeps and vernal pools are defined there:

**Seep:** A common but small community occurring on slopes or at the bases of slopes in upland forests. Groundwater discharge is evident at the seep margin. Scattered trees may be present but canopy closure is usually from the adjacent forest. Herbs are characteristic, including rough-stemmed sedge, slender mannagrass, and spotted touch-me-not.

**Vernal Pool:** These are small depressions in forests that fill with water in the spring and fall. They provide breeding habitat for many salamanders and frogs and have characteristic populations of fairy shrimp, fingernail clams, snails, water fleas, and copepods. Vegetation is usually sparse or absent, although adjacent forest trees may shade the pool.

A lot of effort goes into defining and describing wetlands because they are important from so many angles. I didn't realize until recently that overall management of US wetlands falls to the US Army Corps of Engineers and they have published some wonderful information on the *National Wetland Plant List* website.<sup>3</sup> Besides being home to many beloved species, wetlands prevent flooding by holding water like a sponge. During droughts they slowly release water, helping keep river levels normal. They also filter and purify surface water. It is easy to see from all the literature and attention that there is wide agreement that wetlands are very important. In fact, they are so important that various state and Federal financial assistance programs are available to ensure protection of our wetlands.<sup>4</sup>

1. <http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra/>

2. <http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/books/Wetland,Woodland,Wildland/>

3. <http://rsgisias.crrel.usace.army.mil/NWPL/index.html>

4. For example, Meadowsend Timberlands, a company that owns a large acreage here in Windham, has received over \$2,000,000 in Federal Wetlands Reserve grant funds since 2009. See <http://tinyurl.com/bmh93yu>



### WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

is a publication of the Windham Community Organization, published six times a year. Please send donations to the address on the last page.

#### THE WN&N TEAM

Dawn Bower  
Mary Boyer  
Bev Carmichael  
Leila Erhardt  
Mary McCoy  
Imme Maurath  
Frank Seawright  
Edith Serke  
Nancy Tips

Thanks to all who provided articles. Their names are noted with their submissions. Send articles of around 300 words to the address on the last page or email to: **windhamnews@hotmail.com**

**Next deadline:** Feb. 15, 2013

### NOTICE OF CANDIDACY

My name is Peter Chamberlain and I am running for the positions of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. I have lived in this community for nine years. In this time my family and I have not only been welcomed but have also come to feel that we are very fortunate to call Windham our home. I am currently serving on the Conservation Commission and have been an active member of the Windham Community Organization.

In my 35-year teaching career I worked effectively with a wide range of students, parents and co-workers; as a self-employed painter over the last 40 years, I have developed business-management skills. It would be my pleasure to serve and give back to the town of Windham as your Town Clerk and Treasurer.

I would greatly appreciate your vote.



## Profile *by Mary McCoy*

### Mark Emmons does it all

My husband says Mark Emmons is an artist. He's worked with Mark and watched him skillfully and creatively excavate parts of our property. I witnessed Mark's artistry the day he moved two large trees from one end of our land to another. There were no wasted motions in the digging up, moving, and replanting, just precision and attention to detail. Mark uses the front-end loader of his backhoe like a painter uses brushes.

Excavation is only part of Mark's artistry. We've all seen his large, tidy wood pile and his beautiful garden by his home on Windham Hill Road across from the school. Perhaps you've purchased vegetables from the roadside stand he provides there with his son Joel, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at LGUHS. Perhaps you've also watched his home evolve since he began construction on it in 2005, doing almost all the work himself. Recently he protected the sheathing with brightly colored wood stain (those were the least



expensive) while he finishes making the siding. In addition, Mark makes and repairs furniture and operates and repairs a wide variety of machines. His typical day focuses first, however, on being a single parent for Joel – cooking, cleaning, sharing sports, helping with homework, etc.

Mark grew up in Rhode Island, the son of a truck-driver dad and stay-at-home mom. His father built two homes

they lived in, and although Mark was a young boy then, he observed the process and learned that one can do things for oneself. His father also built Early American furniture, and as a teenager Mark began this work as well. In high school, he took wood shop, metal shop, and agriculture classes. Perhaps most importantly, he took a business course where he learned about interest and mortgages. He says, "That made me want to do things on my own and out-of-pocket."

The first house Mark built was a timber frame. His self-confidence and a couple of books on post and beam construction were enough to get him started. About half way into the process, the enormity of his solo undertaking hit him. He had a wife, a daughter, and a full-time job as a machinist. "I had a little pity party," he says, "then got back to it, taking one day at a time, one beam at a time." When it was finally completed, Mark thought he'd never get back all he'd put into it, but he sold it to city of Providence, which wanted to protect the watershed his home and others sat on, getting ten times the amount of money he'd spent on the construction.

Still it was not smooth sailing from there, as Mark's wife filed for divorce and took half the money. But Mark bought new property and began to build another home. That one he sold for three times his expenses. "How can you go wrong with that?" he says. "I didn't plan any of it. I went back and forth, rags to riches, more than once." He laughs, "Life's never boring."

After his job as a machinist, Mark ran a business with his dad making Early American furniture, followed by a solo business remodeling homes. Then he went to work doing maintenance for a private school, eventually becoming the department supervisor, overseeing 13 buildings and a crew of staff.

Homesteading had been a lifelong dream of Mark's. His new home in Rhode Island was too rocky for farming, so he began looking elsewhere. In 2005, he attended a Christian concert in Barre and liked the looks of Vermont. He began a search that ended with his property here in Windham. He says, "I had apprehensions about moving here where I knew no one and had no work. It was risky. I only knew I had a good flat piece of land with a school right across the road for Joel. But moving here was like dying and going to heaven. I was out of the rat race, free from my stressful job, and able to spend more time with Joel." Mark was also "tickled pink" to find the Valley Bible Church just 2 ½ miles from his home.

Soon after moving here, Mark and his second wife divorced. But Mark looked at this as a lesson. He is not one who regrets the past and grows bitter, explaining,

*(Continued on page 7)*

## School Notes

**Annual Leland&Gray District Meeting, Tues. Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. L&G Auditorium**

**Leland and Gray Australian Ballot Budget Vote, Wednesday, February 6, 2013, from 10a.m. —7p.m. at the Windham Town Office.**

*For more info, go to [lelandandgray.org](http://lelandandgray.org) and click on Budget Rationale for 2013-14 budget.*

### **WINDHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD REPORT** *by Carolyn Partridge, Beth McDonald, and Antje Ruppert*

At the Dec. 3 meeting, the School Board took its first look at the proposed FY 2014 budget. The initial draft indicates that we are looking at a significant increase of 9.8%. This increase is due primarily to several elements:

- statewide, we are looking at an almost 30% increase in health insurance costs and Windham is no exception;
- we are required to have a professional audit done every three years and next year we are due, amounting to an \$8500 increase in our budget. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to put away a third of this amount yearly, which would eliminate the huge increase in one year; that sort of planning is only allowed for capital expenses;
- we anticipate a significant increase in special education, required by state and federal law; the increase is partially offset by the state. It also represents a sound investment — if we help children with their challenges when they are young, we save money in the long run.

The Windham School Board will work hard to bring the bottom line down as much as possible while ensuring that we meet our legal requirements and the best interests of the students.

### **RED PROCESS CONTINUES** *by Nancy Dyke*

The Voluntary Regional Educational Study Committee continues to evolve. School districts involved in the study (Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, Townshend) met on November 28 to discuss changes to the Articles of Agreement to be submitted to the Vermont State Board of Education (VSBE). Windham could still be involved. Changes to the Articles in response to issues raised by Windham and others will be summarized here.

The main thrust of the Committee is to explore the possibility of forming one educational district for the five towns in the Leland and Gray Union Middle/High School District. As part of that discussion, a goal developed around the possibility of construction of a new elementary school building in West Townshend to serve students of Jamaica, Townshend and Windham. Although the Windham School Board withdrew from the Regional Educational District (RED) discussion, the building of a new school remains a real possibility for Jamaica and Townshend.

An important change in the revised Articles is that Windham could be a part of the K-12 School District and still maintain its school and student body. Additionally, in order to close an existing elementary school, the proposed new Windham Central Regional Education District (WC-RED) School Board would have to propose the closing to the voters of the town the school serves.

Another change relates to representation on the WC-RED School Board. The number of board members from each town would be determined according to population, just as it is for the Leland and Gray School Board. This means that Windham and Brookline would elect one

member each while other towns would have more members. This representation seems to work well for the Leland and Gray Board. However, to further ensure the local community's influence over the character and identity of each school, another item has been added to the proposal: a school advisory committee would be formed in each town, to include the town's elected school board member as well as the school's principal (ex officio) and members representing parents and community at large.

The draft RED Study Committee report is available at [www.windhamcentralboard.org](http://www.windhamcentralboard.org) (see left bar, click on R.E.D. Committee). Attachment A of the report has detailed information on student opportunities and the costs versus benefits of RED formation, and addresses these topics: •Improved opportunities for learning •Improved student outcomes •Technology •Teacher and non-teacher staffing •Student data collection and reporting •Financial accounting and budgeting •Centralized contracting •Transportation and food service •Improved utilization of buildings and sports facilities. If you would like a copy of the draft report, please contact Nancy Dyke.

The process continues as follows: 1. On January 16 the RED Study Committee will meet to discuss possible further revisions to the Articles. 2. The Articles will be sent to the State Board of Education for approval. 3. The approved Articles will be placed before the voters in each town as a ballot measure.

All community members are invited to the RED Committee meetings. The meeting on January 16 will be held at 7 p.m. in the Leland and Gray school library and the discussion should be an informative one.

## Windham Town Notes

**FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER:** *by Marcia Clinton and News and Notes staff*

**Who needs the WHOOPING COUGH shot?** All adults who have not had a combination tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis shot in the past few years, should get one now. It's also known as a t-dap shot.

**Why get the pertussis (whooping cough) shot?** Whooping cough is easily spread from person to person, and people who are vaccinated have less severe illness and are less likely to spread the disease. Currently there's a whooping cough epidemic in VT:

**Who needs the PNEUMONIA shot?** All adults 65 years of age and older. Anyone 2 through 64 years of age with chronic illness. Anyone 19 through 64 years of age who is a smoker or has asthma. Women who smoke or have asthma, have a chronic illness or compromised immune system should be immunized before becoming pregnant.

**Why get the pneumonia shot?** The vaccine will help prevent infection by the common Pneumococcus bacteria that can cause pneumonia, meningitis, and blood infections and spread through coughing or sneezing. Medicare and most private insurance companies pay for the vaccine for patients who need it.

**WINDHAM FIRE COMPANY NEWS** *by Marcia Clinton*

Early in December the Windham Volunteer Fire Co. had its Christmas party. A delicious fresh pasta dish made by Mike and Meredith Tips-McLaine was served, along with sides provided by other members of the Fire Co. For entertainment everyone stuffed envelopes for the annual request for donations from homeowners in town. So we implore you to retrieve your letter from the pile of other end-of-the-year requests you have received and consider a donation. This is your local Fire Company which depends on contributions to continue its programs of education, training and upkeep of the equipment.

The Fire Co. is always seeking new members. Training and equipment will be provided. Besides fighting fires, ancillary help such as traffic control or assistance with the auction and BBQ is also needed. Please contact Mike

McLaine at 875-1550 or attend a monthly meeting at the firehouse the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.

**EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE** *by Heath Boyer*

The WEPC sponsored a training session for the new Community Shelter Initiative of the American Red Cross (ARC). About 20 people attended including Windham residents and folks from Townshend and Winhall. ARC has developed a new system of training local residents to open and operate emergency shelters whenever needed. John Lingley is the designated shelter manager and is training a cadre of Windham residents to share duties at the town shelter. Presently the designated shelter is the school, but ARC has recommended that the town consider using the Meeting House because of its better kitchen and bathroom facilities. The Church Council and the Select-board have agreed in principle, and the WEPC will be studying what needs to be done to make the switch.

Windham has new 911 maps identifying all dwellings in town with indications of which buildings are full time residences and which are used seasonally. Future articles will discuss plans for using this information in an emergency.

WEPC usually meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. Meetings are open and those interested should check with the Town Clerk to learn if a meeting is scheduled, or call Imme Maurath (875 1709) or Heath Boyer (875 5242) for information or to volunteer.

**WINDHAM LIBRARY NEWS** *by Beverly Carmichael*

The 2013 photo contest has been judged and the winning entry this year was from Radina Welton for her winter snow scene called "Ice on Blue." Second prize went to Dawn Bower for "Hi Neighbor." Dawn captured a shot of a black bear coming up her walk (for a visit). Third prize went to Beverly Carmichael for "Beautiful Brown Eyes," a calf born this spring at a farm in Windham. A hearty thank you to all of you who entered our contest this year. This is our library's only fundraiser and we are once again proud of the calendar you helped create.

### John Lingley

Sales Associate  
Vermont Country Properties  
Sotheby's International Realty  
Route 30, P.O. Box 8  
Bondville, VT 05340  
t 802.297.1100 x 208 f 802.297.3299  
john.lingley@sothebysrealty.com  
vermontcountryproperties.com

Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated

### **GIVE YOURSELF A ONCE-A-WEEK TREAT!** *Unimaginably delicious home-cooked Indian food*

- Delivered in a tiffin to your home each week
- Made with local and organic ingredients
- Includes 2 portions of 5 different dishes
- With meat \$40, Vegetarian \$30
- Special offer: free delivery to Windham residents
- Small-event catering & Ayurvedic Nutritional Counseling also available.

**Call or email Lini Mazumdar to sign up.**  
802-824-4658 / linimazumdar@yahoo.com



**NOTES FROM WINDHAM'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE VT LEGISLATURE** *by Representative Carolyn Partridge*

The Legislative session will begin on Jan. 9, 2013 at 10 a.m.. Rep. Matt Trieber and I encourage you to contact us with any questions, thoughts, and concerns you might have. Our home contact info is:

- Carolyn Partridge, 1612 Old Cheney Rd, Windham, VT, 05359, 802-874-4182, [hoparwel@sover.net](mailto:hoparwel@sover.net), [cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us)
- Matt Trieber, 82 Atkinson St, Bellows Falls, VT, 05101, 802-463-1312, [matrieber@gmail.com](mailto:matrieber@gmail.com).

If you want to reach us at the State House in Montpelier, you may call toll free at 800-322-5616 and leave a message for us with the Sergeant at Arms. We will get back to you as soon as possible. The mailing address at the State House is 115 State St, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT, 05633-5201. I also have a website - [www.carolynpartridge.com](http://www.carolynpartridge.com), on which I post my weekly articles. We are looking forward to a productive, but not easy, session. Our greatest challenge, in my opinion, will be building a balanced budget that deals with the continuing stresses of Tropical Storm Irene, meets the needs of our most vulnerable citizens, and is mindful of taxpayers. It is an honor for both of us to represent you in Montpelier. Thank you for that privilege.

*(Profile, continued from page 4)*

"God is huge in my life and has given me perspective to get through hard times and to be grateful for them."

At age 17, Mark accepted the concepts of salvation, forgiveness, and grace. "As I've grown older," he says, "I've gotten closer to God and the spiritual aspects of life. I believe that loving God is the primary relationship in life. It teaches us how to relate to others, looking beyond ourselves, living for greater purposes, and giving to others." He says, "The Bible teaches us to be patient and kind to everyone."

Mark has a new relationship in his life with a woman he met online through a Christian match service. Cheryl, a home health aide from upstate New York, shares much with Mark, including the dream of homesteading with a mini-farm. The couple is engaged, but has not yet set a wedding date. The Internet has helped Mark in many ways. "I find it invaluable," he says. "It's great for people who want to do for themselves. I can easily find the information I need to combine with what I already know."

Mark has been able to build his home here single-handed except drilling the well and laying the foundation. He did it all without blueprints, just a sketch and the ability to work out the details on the fly. Although there are regulations about construction in Vermont, it is nothing like the requirements Mark dealt with in Rhode Island where there were costly inspections and expensive permits for every detail of the house. For that he is very glad.

Some might consider Mark to be more than an artist and say he's a Renaissance man. I'd simply call him powerful. Fueled by faith in himself and his Maker, he's one of those rare individuals who can do what few of us can without seeing himself as in anyway superior, relating to others with a kind and gentle nature. How does Mark describe himself? With humility. He says, "I'm just a good old country boy."

If you need help with carpentry, house repairs, furniture or antique restoration, backhoe work, welding, or machinist skills, call Mark at 874-7197. He enjoys getting to know his neighbors in Windham and says, "I really appreciate each one for who they are."



185 Grafton Road  
(Route 35)  
Townshend, VT  
[www.gracecottage.org](http://www.gracecottage.org)  
802-365-7357

**BIRDLAND** *by Lydia Pope France*

In addition to keeping a more expansive life list of birds, I recently decided to tally up all the birds we have seen right here on our property on Burbee Pond Road in the twelve years since we have had this house. It took quite a while for birds to establish a real pattern of using our "winter only" feeders. But in the end we have become a regular hangout. We were surprised to see *just how many* there have been:

Hummingbird **	Barred Owl	Woodcock
Blue Jay	Purple Finch	Cardinal
Chickadee **	Brown Creeper	Phoebe
Crow **	Pine Siskin	Tufted Titmouse
Dove	Flycatcher **	Cedar Waxwing
Sparrow -- 4+	Hermit Thrush **	Junco
Goldfinch	Robin **	Redpol
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	Northern Flicker	Red Winged Blackbird
Broadtail Hawk	Grouse **	Brown Headed Cowbird
Turkey **	Northern Shrike	Winter Wren
Wood Duck	Canada geese *	
Swallow **	Mallard *	
Grosbeak -- 2 ... Evening, Rose Breasted		
Nuthatch -- 2 ... White Breasted and Red Breasted		
Woodpecker -- 4 ... Hairy, Downey, Pileated **, Yellow Bellied Sapsucker		

\* Have seen flying over

\*\* Ones we know to have nested here - either by seeing nest or young

Our property has been quite the breeding ground as well in recent years. We've had as many as three successive broods of Robins a summer and young families of Crows and Turkeys taking their first walks on our lawn. A mother Hermit Thrush fed her baby for hours one morning, right on the tip of a branch, and we were both convinced that by the end of the session the baby was bigger than the mother! Once we saw three young Pileated Woodpeckers – their wispy red crowns gleaming in the sun – frolicking on the edge of our woods. We've seen Woodcock doing their strange dance just beyond the tree line, and Grouse come

courting each spring. One male found a hollowed out tree that reverberated no end, and made that his daily perch.

The Blue Bird boxes we put up many years ago have never housed blue birds, but we tend to get full occupancy each spring. Some years it's Chickadees, but most years it's Swallows.

First we see them flying overhead, checking out the space in April and May -- we notice that little triangle of wing shape, and soon they are low enough to see a flash of metallic blue. They are pretty friendly, at least until their young are born. We have gotten to watch them picking up bits of this and that to



Swallow at the Blue Bird Box.

Photo: Lydia Pope France

make their nests inside the boxes. Then we get to observe them as they sit on the eggs and eventually their brood, the head of the parent bird becoming higher and higher inside the box. We can tell when the young are born, as the parents make constant trips back and forth to feed the hungry chicks. One year we just happened to be about when they were fledging. That was absolutely magical. The parents would fly in lazy circles right outside the box, coaxing the young, one at a time, to fly out and off. There was great success with all but one, who waited till the following day to brave his first flight.

If I include all of Windham, that would extend to Bald Eagles which I have seen here twice — one sitting on the edge of the melting ice on Burbee Pond Road in April, and another that was being chased by a group of Crows, flying very low overhead—, Belted Kingfishers, Bluebirds, many Warblers, Red Winged Blackbirds and others. I suppose

(Continued on page 9)

## Londonderry Hardware



We're more than a hardware store...

Did you know we have—

- Pet Food & Supplies • Small Appliances
- Automotive • Window & Screen Repair
- PLUS — Paint • Plumbing • Tools
- Lawn & Garden • Electrical

**Mountain Marketplace 824-3926**

**Jonsered**

**PoulanPRO**

**OREGON**

**Maruyama**

**Country Living**

**ROY "Coby"**

**MECHANIC OWNED & OPERATED  
35 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

**POWER EQUIPMENT  
SALES & SERVICE**

**TRIMMER • CHAINSAW  
MOWER • TRACTOR • SNOWMOBILE**

**AUTHORIZED  
MSD • POULAN • JONSERED**

**424 ABBOTT ROAD  
WINDHAM VT 05359-9507**

**802-874-4298**



(Continued from page 8)

others have flown over or landed unobserved. We have a botanist friend from England who never fails to see birds that no one else is noticing, no matter where we are, surely he would eke out a few others here as well ...

I like to think that flocks of Snow Geese may have passed overhead here, too high to be seen but perhaps looking down at us. We first saw these beautiful birds back in the 1980s on a very cold January Day at the shore in New York City and have been enchanted with them ever since. These days we make a pilgrimage up to Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison.



Snow geese at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, VT. Photo: Lydia Pope France

Here state teams of scientists and preservationists manage a vast area that is home to many birds, and a way station to many migrating birds. From October through December, snow geese amass, fattening up for their trip further south. Some years you get a great view, but other times they have been deep inside the area boundaries and thus off limits to guests. It is 92 miles door-to-door, and a very pleasant drive up old Rt. 22A. When I last checked, they still had 4000 snow geese on the area. Unfortunately this year they have been well inside the preserve, so most viewing was only as they flew overhead or took off from where they were roosting. They do seem to be staying longer and longer each year, now well into December. But of course, being birds they can be flighty, the very definition I suppose, so it is best to call before going (802.749.2398).

This past spring we had a very brief and up-close encounter with a Bald Eagle on Rt. 91. As we headed north around Hartland, one swooped down right in front of us to check out some road kill. A few seconds difference and we would have had a very unfortunate encounter with the regal bird. We came to a quick stop, got to have a good look and then he was off again, a bit lumbering, but soon flying high. Despite having a camera in my lap, I didn't get a shot, it all happened so quickly! Ah, the one that got away ...

## WINDHAM RECOLLECTIONS

By Mary Aller

### AN OLD SPRING

There is a spring a short way up Turkey Mountain behind the house where Dave and Ginny Crittenden live. When our parents, Ben and Caroline Crittenden lived in the house, Ben built a wellhouse over the spring and dug a ditch down to the house in order to lay a pipe to carry water by gravity feed to a cistern in the cellar. Ben dug the ditch by hand, and as he was working, he came across an old wooden pipeline in the ground. It was made of thin, straight spruce logs and went from the spring down the hill to the house.

The way that the old timers made this wooden pipe was by cutting a series of four-foot lengths of spruce and drilling each one with a two-foot-long auger, going in from one end and then from the other, so the two channels would meet. That must have taken a steady hand and a lot of patience. Then the lengths, called pump logs, were jointed together and laid in a ditch and covered over with earth. The water from the spring could then flow through the pump log line down to the house and barns. It certainly beat carrying buckets. The pump logs that Ben found had lasted in the earth for probably well over 100 years.

The pipe that Ben put in 40 years ago is not made of wood, but it still carries water from the old spring down to the house.



### FRESH FOOD MARKET

**Fresh Produce, Deli, Bakery, Meat  
Beer, Wine, Natural and Gourmet Foods**

**MOUNTAIN MARKETPLACE**

**Jct. Route 100 and Route 11 in Londonderry**

Quality Workmanship for over 40 years

### PETER THE PAINTER

Interior and Exterior Painting  
Wallpapering

Peter Chamberlain  
Telephone: 802-874-4342  
544 Burbee Pond Road, Windham, VT 05359



**WINDHAM HAS TALENT** *by Imme Maurath*

Donn Welton is Professor Of Philosophy at Stony Brook University. His earlier work consisted of two books on the German philosopher Edmund Husserl. His current research is in the field of what is called philosophical psychology or the theory of the person, with a focus on the structure of embodiment, perception, affects, emotions, psychosomatic symptoms, as well as the question of whether there is a spiritual dimension to persons. At the present he is finishing one book on the relationship between the body and psychological life, with a second underway on the bodily roots of affects and actions.

Donn has another talent though. He enjoys making furniture and working with wood. He made one of the biggest work drawers for his tools I've ever seen. And if he finds some time between all that he hopes to carve owls. I'll look forward to that.

**CALLING ALL BIRD ENTHUSIASTS!!**

**Come hear Windham property-owner Chris Fisher discuss his adventures as a bird watcher. Chris will show his bird watching collection at the Windham Library, Wednesday evening, January 9, at 7p.m.**

**Start the New Year Right!**

Too much good food and too many naps on the couch this holiday season? Windham offers several opportunities to get back in shape in 2013.

For anyone desiring the relaxation, strengthening and stretching that yoga provides, there will be an hour long class Monday mornings at 8:30 taught by Bonnie Bokencamp, **and** one on Thursdays at 8:30 taught by Victoria Tompkinson.

If you prefer a structured program of bone building, muscle strengthening, stretching, and balancing, then Strong Living is for you. The hour and a half class meets twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00 immediately following the yoga class. All levels of experience are welcome at any of the classes.

For more information call Mary Boyer 875-5242 or Ginny Crittenden 874-4049.

**Beginning in January, once-a-week interfaith bible-study group forming in Windham**

Some of us in the Windham community would like to start a search group---entirely inclusive and non-churchy---that explores spirituality in the Judeo-Christian scriptures. We would meet once a month at the Weltons' (482 Hitchcock Hill Rd.) in two groups (after light refreshments): men in Donn's office building and women in the house. Our first organizing meeting will be on **Tues, January 8, at 3:30 p.m.** If you are interested in life's basic needs, such as healthy relationships, end to loneliness or anxiety, life's purpose, reconciliation, becoming a giver, hope and healing, this monthly get-together may be a source of fulfillment for you. All faiths or non-faith people are welcome without obligation to any religious organization. If you plan to come (or even if you can't make it this time but would be interested), please call Radina Welton at **802-875-1032**.

The Valley Bible Church invites you to check out their updated website at [www.valleybibleVT.com](http://www.valleybibleVT.com) for more information and a calendar of upcoming events.

**Brattleboro Winter Farmers' Market**

Saturdays 10-2, November 3-March 30

At the River Garden, 153 Main St. downtown

Brattleboro

Warm indoor marketplace with 30+ vendors:

Orchards, farms, pottery, bakery, lunch, pies, preserves, wine, soap, gifts, and live music.



**FIRECO SPONSORS HALLOWEEN PARTY** *by Marcia Clinton*

On October 26th the firehouse in North Windham, all decorated in Halloween decor, welcomed the children in town to the annual party. Zombies, mermaids, firemen, princesses, bloody vampires, and even a dragonfly and Sponge Bob were some of the 30 kids who paraded before the judges to win prizes for their costumes. Awards were given for the cutest, ugliest, most original, scariest, and prettiest. Activities of the evening were: a hay ride, playing musical chairs, guessing the number of candies in a jar, eating donuts hanging on a string; besides feasting on hot dogs and treats prepared by the parents and members of the Fire Co. Just about everyone received a prize for something including a goodie bag when they departed. Once again it was difficult to know who had the most fun; the kids or members of the Fire Co.

**ANNUAL CAROL SING AND TREE LIGHTING** *by Jerry Dyke*

Each year more skills are required to participate in the annual Carol Sing at the Meeting House on the day after Thanksgiving. This year a quartet presented an impromptu carol and children added their part to "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer". The dance for "Deck The Halls" is becoming increasingly popular; but everyone, including director, Christine Dyke, looks forward to the "Twelve Days of Christmas" when kissing turtledoves, swaying French hens, milking maids and squatting geese fill the room. The singing was harmonious and exuberant and the actors rose to the challenge. Following the singing everyone enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate prepared by Beverly Carmichael and her family. Then the moment everyone was waiting for: the lighting of the huge tree in front of the Meeting House. The holiday season was now officially underway!

**WCO CHRISTMAS PARTY AND UPDATE** *by Dona Robinson, president WCO*

WCO has been busy of late starting with a successful Harvest Supper. The event was well attended and featured great food and fun. It was nice to see so many young people of all ages, families, neighbors and out-of-towners come together and make the evening special. As I'm writing this, I'm feeling the extra specialness of this event, in light of the CT tragedy. The Supper is an activity that represents the Windham community at its best. A special thanks to John Newton for calling the dance and to the Turkey Mountain Window Smashers for great music. A big thanks to Imme Maurath and Carolyn Partridge and their helpers for putting it all together. If you missed this year stay tuned - you do not want to miss next year.



On December 12th WCO had its annual Christmas meeting, "Yankee Swap," and cookie collection. Cookie plates were made and delivered to the Town Office and some members of our community. Ending with the "Yankee Swap" is always a lot of laughs.

Mark your calendars for "Citizens of the Year" reception honoring Bill and Donna Koutrakos, Saturday, Feb. 3, 2013 at 6:30 at the Meeting House. Please join us for a potluck thanking the Koutrakos's for their many years of contributions to the community and offering them a big Windham send off as they move to VA. We wish them the best in their new venture.

As the WCO enters a new year, we hope to have a renewed spirit and continue to grow participation and have a greater influence in the community. Our next regular meeting will be Jan. 30, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. sharp at the Meeting House. All are welcome.





Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Jamaica, VT 05343  
Permit #1

Windham News & Notes  
5976 Windham Hill Road  
Windham VT 05359

Windham News & Notes welcomes  
submissions. Send articles of up to  
300 words to the Editor at the  
above address or preferably by  
email to [windhamnews@  
hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com)

*Please keep us informed of any  
address changes*

### Regular Meetings and Schedules

**Town Office Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**Selectboard:** First and third Mondays of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Open meeting.  
**School Board:** First Monday of every month, 4 p.m. at the Elementary School. Open meeting.  
**Listers:** Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Town Office.  
**Planning Commission:** Second Thursday of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Open meeting.  
**Emergency Planning Committee:** Usually second Monday of every month. Check with Town Clerk for meeting dates.  
**Library:** Wednesdays, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Meeting House. Reading Group first Wednesday of the month. .  
**Windham Volunteer Fire Company:** First Thursday of every month, 6:00 p.m. at the Firehouse. Pizza served!  
**Windham Community Organization:** Last Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. at the Meeting House  
**Windham Congregational Church (UCC):** Sundays, Worship Services at 9:30 a.m. Everyone invited.  
**Valley Bible Church:** Sundays, Worship Services at 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays, Bible Study and Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

### Save the Dates!

**Chris Fisher's Adventures in Bird Watching:** Wednesday, January 9, 7 p.m. at the Windham Library  
**Regional Educational District Study Group Meeting:** Wednesday, January 16, 7 p.m. at Leland & Gray library  
**Annual Leland & Gray District Meeting:** Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m. at L&G Auditorium  
**Leland and Gray Australian Ballot Budget Vote:** Wednesday, February 6, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Windham Town Office.  
**Town Meeting:** Tuesday, March 5, 2013: 10 a.m. at the Meeting House. Potluck Lunch around noon.