The Valley Green Journal

Grassroots connections – agriculture, communities, nature

FRFE



December 2017 - January 2018 櫡 Volume 58 櫡 www.valleygreenjournal.com



New Hiking Trail in Unity NH- p. 3 Ban Toxic Weed Killer- p. 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUES

Vertical Gardens- p. 5

Black River Action Team on TV! p. 6



Help Save Beavers!



Photo by Owen Brown, www.BeaversWW.org Sharon Brown, a wildlife biologist in New York State who actively promotes the preservation of beavers and their habitats, takes a swim with "Bounce", a three-month-old orphaned beaver kit. "After Bounce and her three siblings outgrew our bathtub, where they learned to dive, I took them down to our farm pond each afternoon for an hour or more of exercise," says Sharon. "Then I lured them back with apples— until early winter when they moved into a man made lodge with an underground pipe exit into the pond." Later, says Sharon, "Bounce built a split level lodge on the pond, and dived inside to exclaim loudly when visitors came. Then she'd emerge in the water by her plunge hole and call again, as if to show how it worked."

Beavers: Wetlands & Wildlife (BWW) is an educational non profit that has been helping people enjoy the great benefits of coexistence with this keystone species for over thirty years. All species are important in an ecosystem, but keystone species like the beaver run the show by creating vital habitat for wildlife, and valuable natural services for people. Yet only a small fraction of North America's original Castor canadensis population that was present prior to European settlement, remains to-

While most benefits of beaver-works (dams and wetlands)

Continued on page 4

2017 Cooperator of the Year -Hillside Springs Farm, Westmoreland NH

By Amanda Littleton,

District Manager for Cheshire County (NH) Conservation District

Each year the Cheshire County Conservation District honors an individual, business or organization with the "Cooperator of the Year" award. This is done to celebrate the efforts the recipient has undertaken to steward the natural resources on their land in cooperation with the Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This year we are happy to announce Hillside Springs Farm of

Westmoreland, NH as our 2017 Cooperator of the Year.

Hillside Springs Farm includes three acres of gardens, over twenty acres of pastures and hayfields, as well as an orchard, 8,000 square feet of greenhouses, and a sustainably managed woodlot including a small sugar bush. Since Hunter, along with their daugh- greens.



2002 Kim Peavey and Frank Kim Peavey with a tray of late season

ter Gwen, have been the farmers, owners, and stewards of Hillside Springs. They have a strong commitment to both the land and the

Jan Lambert photo Frank Hunter stands next to his im- farming together, with draft pressive 1,200 ft. deer proof fence.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model. Their CSA supports 90 households in the region; providing over 100 varieties of vegetables, herbs, and flowers to these customers is their primary focus, but their produce is also available at the Farmers' Market of Keene.

Frank and Kim have been horses, for nearly 22 years, and

Continued on page 3

MISSION STATEMENT: Our mission is to foster grassroots connections, locally and globally, to help grow caring communities based on sustainable agriculture; we emphasize living in concert with nature and conserving lands, waters, and wildlife.

An Autumn Visit to Hillside Springs Farm



Heeding Frank's voice and gentle use of the reins, Molly and Ben expertly backed the logging cart to a waiting pile of logs. The field behind them is the result of hard work to convert forested land into pasture and hayfields, enough to feed the farm's three work horses.



By Jan Lambert

On a pleasant morning in November I traveled to the end of a dirt road in Westmoreland NH to meet Frank Hunter at Hillside Springs Farm. First, I wanted to see his horses in action. He uses horse power for many farm tasks, including lowing, harrowing, spreading compost, mowing, and even making raised beds. This day he showed me how his Belgian work horse, Molly, and her teammate Ben, a Percheron, used their strength to bring back a heavy log from the edge of a back field.



The third member of the horse team, Moon, was left behind in the barn to rest, but he was not happy about losing the company of his buddies!

Photos by Jan Lambert

Even in November there were still impressive amounts of kale and other produce in this large greenhouse at Hillside Springs Farm, award-winning operation in Westmoreland NH.





Bicycle and Walk Sponsored by Claremont Cycle Depot







New Hilking Trail in Unity

By Dawn Dextraze

The Sullivan County Natural Resources department opened a new four-mile hiking trail, built entirely on County lands in the Town of Unity NH in October. This effort was coordinated by Natural Resources Field Technician Sam Sprague, with assistance from Student Conservation Association trail crews, the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, the Unity Elementary School, and the Sullivan County Conservation District, with grant support from the NH Trails Bureau.

The Unity Mountain trail showcases the varied cultural and natural histories of Sullivan County. From its western end at the Sullivan County Complex, the trail climbs steadily past a small pond before crossing the Second New Hampshire Turnpike. It then continues gradually upward, along the flanks of Unity Mountain, before dropping down and following the shore of Marshall Pond. The trail's eastern end is located at Mica Mine Road, opposite the historic Marshall family cemetery. A scenic overlook near the summit of Unity Mountain affords hikers a spectacular view. Numerous bird and other wildlife species are routinely spotted in diverse habitats along the trail. The trail is open for hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Dogs on leashes are welcome. There are kiosks at each trailhead with a large map and more information. For more information on trailhead locations and maps, visit http://sullivancountynh.gov/index.php?n=sullivan county trails.com.



Courtesy photo

More than fifty hikers participated in the grand opening of a new four-mile hiking trail, built entirely on Sullivan County lands in the Town of Unity NH in early October.

Hillside Farm

their operation is wholly horse-powered. Biodynamic and organic farming practices are followed and they are dedicated to improving the health and fertility of their soil to nurture their farm's future as well as produce the healthiest food possible for the community.

Frank has a strong interest in botany and has done plant inventory work for the Forest Service and worked at a native plant grafting heirloom tomatoes, driving horses, live music and travel. He is a volunteer manager for the Farmers' Market of Keene as well as a political activist who volunteers for the Monadnock Progressive Alliance. Kim Peavey is a freelance writer and over thirty of her essays and poems have appeared in various periodicals, and she also writes the monthly column Farm Talk on farming and sustainability.

Gwen knew the difference between a weed and a lettuce



WATER • WASTEWATER • STORMWATER

SOLUTIONS

Ground Stabilization . Drainage . Erosion Control West Chesterfield, NH (603) 256-6466 www.ejprescott.com

transplant before the age of two. She helps with the whole spectrum of the farm and enjoys horseback riding and being outdoors. This accomplished family of three live in the 1880's farm house on the property and run the farm with no staff. They have a no-debt farm, and focus on slowly and intentionally growing and improving their business each year. "We couldn't have done it without great neighbors; it's all about community," comments Frank. Both he and Kim appreciate the people of the Monadnock Region, who have provided a welcome environment from day one, offering helping hands and many learning experiences along the way.

Hillside Springs Farm has been working with our partner, the USDA NRCS, since 2012 on conservation planning and implementation. They have participated in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) which are all Farm Bill Programs. Practices they have worked on include conservation crop rotation, cover crops, mulching, nutrient management, seasonal high tunnel for crops, residue and tillage management, forage and biomass planting, heavy use area protection, irrigation and water management plan, irrigation pipeline including microirrigation, pumping plant, fencing, forest management plan, forest stand improvement, early successional habitat development and management, and brush management.

Beyond their environmental commitment, Frank and Kim are also dedicated to improving food access for all income levels. CSA farms often attract membership with high incomes and they are working to address this both through creating a CSA scholarship fund with contributions from members, and offering work/barter

Continued on page 6

Letter to the Editor:

Petition to ban Glyphosate

To the editor:

There is a petition currently circulating to ban glyphosate* in all 50 states. It was initiated by Moms Across America, who have discovered that their



children are being harmed by glyphosate residues in air, water, soil, breast milk (!) and of course, food products. Glyphosate causes leaky gut syndrome, which in turn causes auto-immune disease. It can also cross the blood-brain barrier and is a significant contributing cause of behavioral issues in children such as ADD, ADHD and autism. Here is the link to Moms Across America website and the 50-state petitions, http://www.momsacrossamerica.com/state_bans which are posted through change.org. There is lots more info on the website.

I am the contact person for the Vermont petition and will be traveling to Montpelier (all the way from Westminster) to deliver the petition to Gov. Scott. We need more signatures for Vermont! Please sign here, https://www.change.org/p/governor-phil-scott-banglyphosate-in-vermont and SHARE THIS AROUND! Here is the link for NH: https://www.change.org/p/the-honorable-chris-sununuglyphosate-ban-petition.

This is for all of us. Thank you! Caitlin Adair, Westminster, VT

* Editor's Note: Glyphosate, N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine, is one of the most widely used herbicides. Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide that targets broadleaf weeds, grasses, and woody plants.

Beavers

Continued from page 1

are hidden, they are nonetheless very real. Beavers can be an important ally in solving the earth's major environmental problems, especially by infiltrating and retaining rainfall. When conflicts with beavers arise, Beavers: Wetlands & Wildlife (BWW) suggests first identifying the specific problem, and then using environmentally sound, cost-effective methods for lasting solutions. More and more, individuals, communities, and agencies are opting to save money, the environment and wildlife, with win-win solutions.



To learn more about beavers, including video clips and a store with DVD's and books, International Beaver Day (April 7) and lasting solutions for human-beaver conflicts, visit www.Beaver-sWW.org.

Owen Brown photo

BRUSH & INVASIVE VEGETATION CONTROL

without herbicides
Efficient uprooting, cutting, shredding
and flame treatment



Reclaiming backyards, trails, fields and forests

www.Forest-Savers.com 866-63-TREES (866-638-7337)

info@Forest-Savers.com



The Valley Green Journal

Published on the first Friday of every other month

Lone Leaf Graphic DesignPutney, VT

Publisher/Graphic Design/Sales

Carmen Bywater carmen@valleygreenjournal.com

Writer/Editor

Jan Lambert

jan@valleygreenjournal.com 603-477-9947

Would you like to advertise in the Valley Green Journal?

Send inquiries to: carmen@valleygreenjournal.com

Check out our website:

www.valleygreenjournal.com

Facebook: Valley Green Journal

Look for the next issue on Feb. 2

How does your garden grow?

Vertical Gardens

By Carmen Bywater

Vertical gardening is the practice of producing food, greenery and or flowers in vertically stacked containers, as opposed to a horizontal plot of ground. Vertical gardens are



Carmen Bywater photo Good example of a keystone garden (left) and a vertical garden growing lettuce, herbs and flowers at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

great for urban or indoor spaces as well as small spaces like patios and roof top gardens or if you just want to try something different, or cover a wall.

There are different types of vertical

gardens. There is a container-style garden, in which planters are stacked one on top of another in rows going up a wall or vertical trellis. Another type of vertical garden is a "pocket" garden, which features plants tucked into pockets and attached to a wall. Many herb gardens are grown in this fashion. Vertical herb gardens can be grown right in the kitchen! Vertical gardens can also be grown in large plastic or wooden wall planters or recycled wooden shipping pallets.

You can use any number of materials for creating a vertical garden. You can buy different types of prefabricated planters, or you can recycle or repurpose any number of materials including old coat racks, picture frames and coffee cans. Or you can build your own frame. A basic vertical garden frame is composed of 3 layers, a frame, plastic sheeting, and fabric. You have to build it all before you hang it. You can attach the frame to the wall which will make it easier to take it down.

The idea has been introduced that commercial vertical gardens in an urban areas can help produce a higher percentage of local year round food and enable the community to become less dependent on out-



Photo by Will Heap (c) Dorling Kindersley/Getty Images Vertical garden on an interior wall.

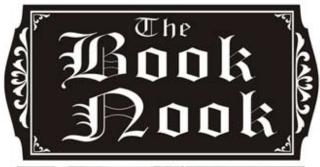
side sources for supplies. Vertical gardens as green spaces have also met with success in airports and other urban areas.

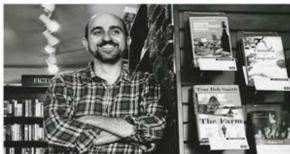
For lighting a vertical garden, you may want to choose plants with the same light requirements. However there are some vertical garden frames that tilt to allow maximum benefit from the sun. If you grow inside you may want to supplement sunlight with a grow light.

Continued on page 6

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING





We Welcome You To Come In and Browse!

And join us for our regular non-fiction book discussions

136 Main Street Ludlow, VT • 802-228-3238

www.thebooknookvt.com







Claremont, NH 03743

603-542-7667

Black River Action Team creates TV series

By Kelly Stettner, BRAT Director

A wastewater treatment plant discharged some partially-treated effluent to the Black River back in April of 2017, and heavy rains contributed to the discharge, which was very brief. The event was reported to the State of Vermont, as is required, but the report was picked up by a state-wide media outlet and publicized without any actual information about the why or how, let alone the perspective of what the bacteria numbers meant. Misinformation and scant information caused many a layperson to show concern, fear, and even anger. It was time for the Black River Action Team to hit the air-waves!

With the guidance and help of Patrick Cody and the staff of Okemo Valley Television, I wrote and recorded the first episode of "Black River Connections," titled "BACTE- RIA." Thanks to a small grant from Claremont Savings Bank, the first episode is live and a second one is in the works; underwriters are needed for future shows. Topics will include an overview of the dynamics of an active river system, the creatures that make the river their home (both stream-side and in the water), how trees and other vegetation is vitally important to the health and flood resiliency of the river, recreational opportunities along the river (lakes included!), and much more. To learn more about how you can help make "Black River Connections" a successful series, contact me, the BRAT Director, at blackrivercleanup@gmail.com or leave a message at (802) 738-0456. Hop on to Okemo Valley Television to watch "BAC-TERIA" and learn more about the Black River: http://okemovallev.tv/black-river-connections-bacteria.

Editor's note: Your debut TV show looks very professional, and we hope it spreads to other TV stations. Congratulations Kelly!—Jan Lambert.



Armando Stettner demonstrates creativity in obtaining a good water sample without getting wet.

ertical Gardens

Continued from page 5

When watering a vertical garden gravity, is something to keep in mind. The plants at the bottom will get more water so place plants on the top layer that don't require as much water. You can make a simple irrigation system out of poly tubing with fittings that lock and an irrigation timer. There are also specially made irrigation systems for vertical gardens. Some include fertilizer/feeder which fertilizes the plants as they are getting watered. Choosing plants with the same rate of growth is something to think about too.

In the modern agricultural climate we can adapt vertical gardens for our specific

needs. Whether it's to pretty up an ugly wall, grow herbs and fresh produce right there in our own kitchens and patios, or simply enjoy flowers and greenery in the winter. There are plenty of vertical garden ideas out there and on the web as well as knowledgeable local individuals.

lside Farm

Continued from page 3

options. They have also formed a partnership with the CCCD to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and offer Granite State Market Match to double the food dollars for low income families that participate in their CSA farm. Kim and Frank also make vegetarian chili full of their own farm vegetables once a week for the Hundred Nights Shelter in Keene NH.

Offering education and service to the community are also a big part of the mission of Hillside Springs. They have worked with UNH Cooperative Extension, the Conservation District, and NOFA-NH on educational events, new vegetable varieties, offering pollinator habitat, and hosting open farm days. In addition, they offer

their farm as an outdoor classroom and host groups from schools and camps. Kim and Frank also initiated and organize the Annual Monadnock Region CSA Open House, which has been going strong since 2005 and is a fantastic educational opportunity for the general public, as well as a way for farmers to work together to grow their markets. To learn more about Hillside Springs Farm visit www.hillsidespringsfarm.com.

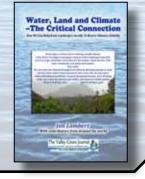
Amanda Littleton is the District Manager for Cheshire County Conservation District. She can be reached at 603.756.2988 x116 or Amanda@cheshireconservation.org, or find more information at www.cheshireconservation.org.

Read this book for astounding information on how water restoration is the way to climate restoration!

Order in person or by phone at The Book Nook, 136 Main St., Ludlow VT, 802-228-3238 or, email: thebooknookvt@hotmail.com. Inquire about discounts to educators.

 Online orders at Boston College Bookstore www.bcbookstore.com. Search for "Water, Land and Climate."

Jan Lambert, editor of The Valley Green Journal, has just published her first book, with the help of contributors from around the world. It is entitled, Water, Land and Climate - The Critical Connection: How We Can Rehydrate Landscapes Locally to Renew Climates Globally. Find out the latest thinking and action showing how important it for all of us, from homeowners to entire communities, to welcome rain back into our landscapes, and restore local water cycles to renew our climate, for humanity and for all life on Planet Earth. \$19.95



EKILDREN'S CORNER

Sponsored by Lone Leaf Graphic Design and Claremont Cycle Depot

A Mast Year For Acords

"Mast year" comes from the big word "masticate", which simply means "to

chew on food." Lots of animals love to eat acorns, including bears, turkeys and other birds, deer, squirrels and chipmunks. So they eat a lot of acorns every year.

A mast year means there are many more nuts than usual. This happens every 4 or 5 years. Trees somehow "know"

Acorn project that they need to put their en
Pinterest.com.

ergy into producing so many nuts that the animals cannot possibly eat them all—and plus animals such as squirrels and blue jays bury the

acorns which just what is needed for them to sprout and grow into more big beautiful oak trees.

There are also many different projects you can do with acorns. You Acorn project idea from Pinterest.com.

There are also many different projects you can do with acorns. You can use them in a 3-D collage, make



Jan Lambert photo
Do you have lots of acorns in your yard this
year? More than usual?

a picture frame, use them as a centerpiece on your Holiday table.

Claremont Cycle Depot, with everything your kids need for safe and enjoyable bicycling!

Call 603-542-BIKE or visit www.claremontcycle.com

OVER 400 IN STOCK!

क के के के के के के के के के के

Mon.-Fri. 10-5:30 🏶 Sat. 9-5, closed Sunday 🏶 12 Plains Rd., Claremont NH



Lone Leaf Graphic Design

802-387-4306

Carmen@ValleyGreenJournal.com

From concept to composition. From composition to completion.

Event Graphics

Signs * Banners * Photo Shoots

Newsletters **※** Publications **※** Catalogues

Brochures **♦ Business Cards ♦ Stationary**

Presentation Graphics

12th Annual Seed Celebration and Sustainable Community Fair

The Sustainability Project's 12th Annual Seed Celebration and Sustainable Community Fair takes place on Saturday, February 11th, at the Orchard School in Alstead, N.H. This year's theme "Building Resilience, Regenerating the Earth" focuses on environmental stewardship, gardening, tools for personal transformation and skills for living well in a changing world. There's something at the Celebration for everyone. This year, 17 workshops and presentations will focus on: mycological landscaping, permaculture, tiny houses, rain water retention, tea making and kimchi. Several workshops are designed to nurture the self into harmony and community consciousness. Outdoor programs include pruning, biochar, and managing your woodlot. There will be a lunchtime concert with The Solar Sisters.

Look for Jan Lambert's presentation. Come and say hello to the Journal staff, Jan and Carmen.

There will be children's activities throughout the day. Local non-profits and businesses will be on hand to share their missions and information. Seeds will be available for purchase and there will be an opportunity for seed savers to swap and share. The day ends with a raffle drawing for products and services donated by local businesses and artists. For directions and a full listing of presenters, tablers and sponsors, visit http://www.emersonbrookforest. org/index.php/ss2017.

The Seed Celebration is sponsored by WS Badger, The Orchard School, The Monadnock Food Co-op, Green Energy Options and Gem Graphics. Proceeds help support The Sustainability Project's programs and wheelchair accessible trails and perennial gardens at the Emerson Brook Forest Center. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person or \$20 for families. No one will be turned away for lack of funds and volunteer exchanges are welcomed. Please call 603-209-7272 for more information or to volunteer. This venue is new to us and has a degree of wheelchair accessibility. Please call for more information on this, we would like to make this event welcoming to everyone.



Save Our Songbirds ... and more

Give your kids the gift of knowledge!



What children will remember when thev are grown is the time their parents and other adults spent with them learning about important things, such as our natural world and the creatures who share Bill Wil- American Robin. humans. son of Birds&Beans



Photo by Chuck Slusarczyk Jr. the world with us Bill Wilson's first bird sighting- An

Coffee® gives his parents credit for nurturing his interest in wildlife, especially birds, from a young age. He details this interest in a blog post, "Boyhood Birds: Robins, Osprey, Loons, and Eagles.'

He starts with "The first bird I ever knowingly saw was an American Robin. It was the bird I was looking at when, to my mother's astonishment, the first words to ever come out of my mouth besides "Mama" were uttered: 'Look! See the bird!" Bill concludes by saying, "It never occurred to me as a boy that so many factors affect the viability of bird populations. I am really grateful that so many men and women through their careers and their volunteer work have helped the big birds of my boyhood survive and even thrive. I hope we will all keep up the tradition of bird conservation so boys and girls throughout the Americas will be able to tell their grandchildren tales of the birds that thrilled them when they were young."

Read Bill Wilson's blog at http://www.wcaudubon.org/ story-blog/boyhood-birds-robins-osprey-loons-and-eaglesby-bill-wilson.

...... Save migrating songbird habitat!

To save Neotropical migrant and local bird species. To preserve forest and forest-like habitat in Latin America by supporting coffee production methods that have the lowest environmental impact.

To protect farm workers and their children and neighbors from exposure to toxic chemicals.

To support entire rural communities with jobs and trade via an economically viable farming model.

To save healthy microclimates, a buffer against climate change with measurable carbon sinks.

Drink Birds&Beans® Bird Friendly® Coffee

Order online at: www.birdsandbeans.com For information on how to start your own Birds&Beans coffee club, go to http://www.birdsandbeans.com/coffeeclub.html

