

Cornwall Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 1

Summer 2015

Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter

Daughters of the American Revolution

Cornwall, VT

Motto: God, Home, & Country

The DAR was founded on October 11, 1890 and incorporated in 1896 by an Act of Congress. During a time that was marked by a revival in patriotism and intense interest in the beginnings of the United States of America.

Women felt the desire to express their patriotic feelings and were frustrated by their exclusion from men's organizations found to perpetuate the memory of ancestors who fought to make this country free and independent. In 1915 a Chapter House was built and given to the Mary Baker Allen Chapter, by Mrs. Martha Samson Porter of New York City, in memory of her first ancestor in

Cornwall, Deacon William Samson, one of the earliest settlers. Provision was made that a room in this building be used as a library for the town of Cornwall. A large bronze tablet recorded the names of all the Revolutionary soldiers buried in Cornwall. It also has been a museum of sorts, containing many gifts, and articles to have a permanent place for posterity in Cornwall. Among these gifts in 1923 a photograph of Ethan Allen's granddaughter, Mrs. Jane Allen Rowley was given.

Dr John M. Thomas, when President of Middlebury College, gave the address at the dedication of the Samson Memorial, and

reviewed the lives of many great men born early in Cornwall's history.

Altogether, this chapter has been a progressive organization, leading in patriotic, educational and historical ventures or events of local, state and national scope.

The Mary Baker Allen Chapter in Cornwall merged with the Ethan Allen Chapter of Middlebury, several years ago.

Having this great building as part of our town is an honor and unusual for a Chapter to own. We should be very proud to open our doors to all of you! So.....you are cordially invited to our upcoming Open House.

In addition, the Chapter is looking for anyone who might like to become a member. If you are interested in researching your heritage, for future generations, the Chapter is offering to pay your dues for the first year, as our Welcome to you!

For more information on joining, please contact, Regent, Barbara Foote-Hennessy at 802-462-3781 or by e-mail at, bfoote-hennessy@hotmail.com

WE WANT YOU!

**Open House
Celebrating
the
100 Year Anniversary
of the
Samson Memorial
DAR Chapter House
August 15th
1:00 PM-5:00 PM**

**View our lovely building and enjoy refreshments
with our friends and neighbors.
See you all there!**

Cornwall Conservation Commission Report

After two years of research of natural resource databases and geographic information systems (GIS), field visits and community meetings, the Cornwall Natural Resources Inventory has been completed. The final report can be read on our town website at the following link:

<http://cornwallvt.com/cornwall-conservation-commission/cornwall-natural-resources-inventory/>

Included are descriptions, maps, and photographs of the 17 sites that were selected for field visits based on GIS landscape analysis. Consulting ecologist Brett Engstrom visited all or portions of each area to determine its ecological importance. Of the 17 sites, 13 were found to have state-significance: that is, they have at least one natural community or species of rec-

ognized conservation importance at the state level.

You are encouraged to delve into the report to learn more about our town's valuable plants and wildlife habitats. See how far you live from one of 13 sites identified in the report, or perhaps your land actually includes a state-significant feature. The Cornwall Conservation Commission looks forward to sharing the report's information with residents and exploring with landowners how these important natural areas might be protected.

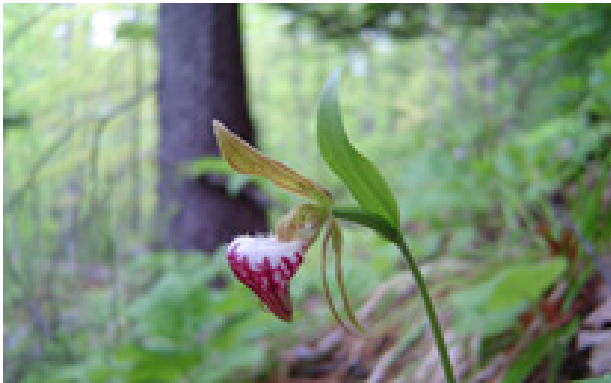
As a more immediate follow-up to the report publication, the CC is hoping to offer a guided walk in September, through at least one of the inventory sites. Town residents will have the opportunity to observe valuable ecological features accompanied by report author, Brett Eng-

strom, and CC's Marc Lapin. Details regarding this visit still need to be worked out, and the Cornwall community will be notified once access permission has been obtained from landowners. The dates will be posted on the town website as well as through Sue Johnson's email list. If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to send them to the Commission through the Cornwall email (Cornwallvt@shoreham.net) or contact Mary Dodge (mdodge@middlebury.edu) at 462-2899.

Rene Langis for the Conservation Commission



Grasshopper Sparrow



Ram's Head Lady Slipper



Cuckoo Flower



Cornwall Remembers!!!



Cornwall Has a Jewel and a 100th Anniversary

**Open House
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the
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Voting for the Hermit Thrush

by Gary Margolis

Our state bird is known for
singing invisibly. You'd have
to walk a far way into the
woods not to see his songs.

Vermonters like to say a bird
in the hand is more than the
sky can hold this morning.
Thoreau lived one state

away a few centuries ago, as if
it were only yesterday. And
we could see his singing ghost.
That thrush of a man living

in his hermitage, a stone's
throw away from here. Where
I would like to go to appear.
To throw my head back.

For the legislature to engrave him
on our state's dollar bill.
We like to believe we are our own

federal government. We vote our-
selves inside the woods. We pledge
allegiance to the sky and one bird
indivisibly.

Road Commissioner's Report

So this has been an odd spring, weather wise. Started off waiting for moisture to scrape roads, now we're waiting for it to dry out a bit. It's not always so persnickety, but I'm trying to stretch the chloride out until July 1. It takes a lot more chloride to stick the dust and pack down a road when it's dry. Chloride needs moisture to work effectively. On the other hand when you control the dust or fines (particles smaller than 1/200th of an inch) and you get too much moisture before it is compacted thoroughly, you can end up with some serious mud. I've had that happen several times this year. Once it's dried out and packed down you've got a hard road. It is the fines that hold the road together, so I don't like to see the dust any more than anyone else, but for a whole different reason.

First pass mowing is done. We'll start second pass as soon as the roadsides will support the tractor..

We have been and will continue to work with Bridport and Weybridge on Snake Mountain Road where the 3 towns come together. The ditching and stone lining should slow erosion and stabilize the road where we have had problems in the past. Depending on receiving a Better Backroads grant, we may do some similar work on Sperry Road.

With the new fiscal year here now we will be starting to replace the remaining culverts on Parkhill and South Bingham. This will also include some ditching and driveway culverts. We have in fact received a Class II Paving Grant, so that's pushing us a bit so as to get on their schedule in good season.

So most everybody by now has heard about this big water quality initiative. How exactly and when it will affect the town roads is uncertain. We do know it will cost the towns \$2000 for the

permit to do what we do and more for other permits tied to some of the grants. We have had a decent working relationship with most of the techs and followed their instruction, so unless some of the new techs change the game, I wouldn't expect to see the new law change what we do too much. There is a requirement that we have an inventory of the roads, drainage system, etc. It is unclear if this is something we can do in house or have to hire consultants, ka-ching!!

That was depressing, on to fun stuff....um huh! I'll get back to you on that!!!

Stu

News from Peter Conlon, Cornwall UD#3 Representative

As many of you may have read or heard, the school districts of the Addison Central Supervisory Union are pursuing an accelerated governance merger as defined by the new state education law, Act 46. This means we are running lots of analysis and putting together a vigorous public engagement campaign about the potential benefits of a merger among the seven town school boards.

A vote on this governance merger would take place on Town Meeting Day 2016 - hence the term "accelerated."

I sit on the ACSU Executive Committee, which is heading up this effort. Cornwall School Board Chairman John Eagan is also on the committee, so Cornwall is well represented. Those of us on the committee decided the ACSU is particularly well-suited to investigate the accelerated merger, which comes with significant financial incentives. The ACSU is already "unionized" in grades 7-12 with MUMS and MUHS. We have already held many public study groups about this issue

through a study done several years ago. We have strong leadership. And we have a supervisory union board that works well together and has a common vision for excellence in the area schools.

The accelerated merger is about governance, not school buildings. It is designed to promote single board governance of school districts with 900 students or more. Today, the ACSU has nine school boards, making leadership, equity and cost containment challenging.

The accelerated merger provisions include a drop in the state property tax rate of 10 cents the first year, and then 8 cents the second and so on for five years, when it ends. For Cornwall, it also means maintaining the state small schools grant, which is nearly \$80,000 per year. Both provisions go a long way to helping to maintain our small schools financially.

The benefits, in my view, are much more than financial. A single school district means doing away with locked-in town boundaries. We can think creatively about

how and where students are educated (think: more students able to attend our awesome elementary school). It means equity for all the students in the ACSU. It means attracting and retaining excellent leadership and educators with clear lines of supervision. And it means thinking about what is best for all students in the area, not just those who are within our boundaries. They will all be members of our greater community.

The consequences of doing nothing are also significant. Cornwall would lose its small schools grant and would ultimately leave its fate in the hands of the Secretary of Education, who, probably, would assign it into the district that surrounds it - the ACSU - but without all the benefits of an accelerated merger.

There will be much, much more information in the coming months. There will be many public forums, online information, and, ultimately, a vote of all citizens. Please stay tuned.

Cornwall Free Public Library News

Do you have books you are never going to read again? Books that you would like to donate so that they can be shared with others? Great! The Cornwall Library Book Sale will be held in October, and we are looking for book donations. SO clean off those bookshelves, end tables, night tables, or wherever else you keep the books that you've read and bring them over to Town Hall during regular business hours (Tues - Fri, 9 - 5). We welcome donations of books, audiobooks, and DVDs, new or used, and other materials. BUT PLEASE, NO magazines, textbooks or encyclopedias and NO musty, smelly, mildewy, or broken books. Thanks (in advance) for donating!

To encourage summer reading for readers of all ages, we have a good collection of fiction and nonfiction books for adults and children. Come check out our collection and find the book(s) that will take you or your child to another world, broaden your horizons or deepen your understanding of favorite topics. Hope to see you at the library this summer!

Can't find the book you're looking for at our library? Interlibrary loans make it possible for us to get a book for you from another library when we don't have it ourselves. Contact Sue Johnson at 462-2775, cornwallvt@shoreham.net, or stop by Town Hall with the title and author, and we'll let you know when it arrives.

Check Out What's New At The Library

New books, audio books, and DVDs have arrived! Come on over and see the new selection of materials OR look over the complete list at cornwallvt.com under the library menu item.

Here are some of the new materials.

FICTION

A God in Ruins - Kate Atkinson, **Memory Man** - David Baldacci, **The Truth According to Us** - Annie Barrows, **In the Unlikely Event** - Judy Bloom, **At the Water's Edge** - Sara Gruen, **Our Souls At Night** - Kent Haruf, **The Bone Tree** - Greg Iles, **Finders Keepers** - Stephen King, **Luckiest Girl Alive** - Jessica Knoll, **God Help the Child** - Toni Morrison, **14th Deadly Sin** - James Patterson, **The Liar** - Nora Roberts, **Every Fifteen Minutes** - Lisa Scottoline, **Early Warning** - Jane Smiley, **The Fateful Lightning** - Jeff Shaara

NON FICTION

A Lucky Life Interrupted - Tom Brokaw, **The Road to Character** - David Brooks, **The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up** - Marie Kondo, **Missoula** - John Kraukauer, **The Wright Brothers** - David McCullough, **Between You and Me** - Mary Norris

YOUNG ADULT

Saint Anything - Sarah Dessan, **A Court of Thrones and Roses** - Sarah J. Mass

CHILDREN

Circus Mirandus - Cassie Beasley, **The Penderwicks in Spring** - Jeanne Birdsall, **Pete the Cat's Groovy Guide to Life** - James Dean, **The Isle of the Lost** - Melissa de la Cruz, **Home** - Carson Ellis, **Chu's Day at the Beach** and **Chu's First Day at School** - Neil Gaiman, **The Island of Dr. Libris** - Chris Grabenstein, **Big Nate Lives It Up** - Lincoln Pierce, **I Wish You More** - Amy Krouse Rosenthal, **Splat the Cat: Back to School, Splat** and **Splat the Cat: I Scream for Ice Cream** - Rob Scotton, **Ice Cream Summer** - Peter Sis, **Ava and Taco Cat** - Carol Weston

DVDs

American Sniper, **Captain America: The First Avenger**, **Heaven is For Real**, **The Imitation Game**, **Mr. Selfridge - Season 3**, **Nightcrawler**, **Paddington**, **Penguins of Madagascar**, **Selma**, **Song of the Sea**, **Still Alice**, **The Spongebob Movie: Sponge Out of Water**, **Wild**

Lemon Fair Insect Control District News

The Lemon Fair Insect Control District ("LFICD") provides mosquito larval survey and treatment services in the Lemon Fair river valley for Bridport, Cornwall and Weybridge. Larvicide treatment is provided by hand or aerially following an analysis of conditions and in consultation with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture ("VAA"). Of note, we do not provide treatment for adult mosquitoes but instead attempt to destroy larvae before they become adults. Additional information is available on our website (<http://cornwallvt.com/lemon-fair-insect-control-district/>).

Recent Events

On April 10, 2015, we sold our 1973 Cessna to Mid-Continent Aircraft Corp. (<http://www.midcont.com>) for \$40,000. We will rely on a third party aerial larviciding service, most likely JBI Helicopter Services (<http://www.jbihelicopters.com/>). JBI has treated for both the LFICD and the Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen District in the past. The \$40,000 plane proceeds will be used to help defray our co-pay with the VAA on aerial treatment costs.

The LFICD Board has agreed to add the town of Weybridge as a full participating member of the LFICD. The Weybridge Select Board voted to join the LFICD on April 7, 2015, subject to a vote of the Weybridge citizens at the 2016 Town Meeting. The decision to become a member of the LFICD would also be subject to mutually agreeable financial arrangements.

Since 2009 the town of Weybridge has been relying on the LFICD for mosquito larval surveying, and when needed, aerial and hand larviciding treatment. While we had the plane, we were licensed to aerially apply larvicide in Weybridge by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture ("VAA"). Without the plane, Weybridge either must form its own district or join another licensed mosquito control district to continue larviciding. Since Weybridge would like to retain mosquito control services with the LFICD, the most efficient arrangement would be to join the LFICD.

Field Conditions

Early spring started out "high and dry" with low larval dipping counts. Seven inches of rain in June created flooding conditions in the Lemon Fair Valley which ordinarily would also create optimal mosquito hatches. However, when fresh hatches occur high up on the flood plain, the larvae become stranded as water levels recede and dry up in the grass before they finish their life cycle into adult hood. This is a pattern we experienced last year as well. Consequently, year to date, we have had low larvae counts...well below the state threshold for aerial treatment.

The LFICD is expanding surveillance by trapping adult mosquitoes using "Light Traps". This information gives us data on the concentration of adults mosquitoes present in given areas and the variety of species. We are currently determining whether the mosquitoes in the traps are coming from the Lemon Fair River flood plain or generated from, for example, wetlands on Snake Mountain. Correlating both larval and adult collections of mosquitoes should create better understanding of what's going on in the district.

In the meantime, we want to hear from you. The LFICD is setting up a phone line and web survey for residents to report their experience with nuisance mosquitoes. You can access the survey and phone line at our website. The survey will help us gather data about where and when the community feels the impact of adult mosquitoes and may help direct our field staff as conditions change from week to week. We will be posting flyers and notices in town halls, local stores and on Front Porch Forum to make residents aware of the phone line and web survey. We will also be evaluating the usefulness and efficacy of this outreach effort at the end of the season.

Be smart. Fight the bite. Dress to protect yourself from biting mosquitoes and use insect repellent wisely. Please be vigilant at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are especially aggressive.

The sign could save your life!!!

The Town of Cornwall and the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department are attempting to bring awareness to the need for all properties in town to be identified with a visible 9-1-1 sign. The sign needs to be visible in the daytime and at night. Please take a moment to read through this information and consider installing a 9-1-1 sign or having one installed.

A reduction of only a minute in the response time for fire, ambulance or rescue units substantially reduces the death rate in heart attack, injury accident and other life and death emergencies. It also reduces the chances of a total loss in a structure fire.



Town of Cornwall

Reflective 911 House Numbering Sign Order Form

There are many websites that can supply you with the required 4" reflective sign, or local hardware stores; however, residents may also choose to request signs through the Cornwall Fire Dept. To order through the fire department, Please fill out the information below, attach the fee and return to the Town Clerk's Office (night drop box, 2629 Route 30, Cornwall, VT 05753 or hand deliver). Members of the fire department will be in touch when they are ready to install the sign.

Name _____

Mailing Address

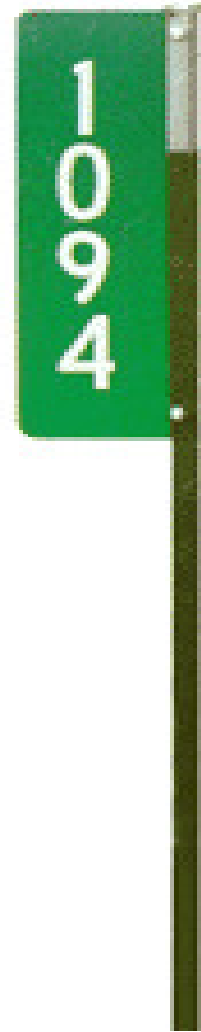
Phone _____

House # _____

One double sided reflective sign (green backing plate with white numbers)

THE FEE FOR THE SIGN AND INSTALLATION IS

\$40.00. (This is a donation to the Fire Department)



Sign Installation instructions: Both sides of the sign should be visible from either traffic lane and be installed near the intersection of your driveway and the road. The bottom of the sign should be at least 36" above the ground. Signs too

low are more easily blocked by vegetation and snow.

If you choose to install the sign on your own, please remember to call DIG-SAFE.



2629 Route 30
Cornwall, VT 05753

After the Service in Charleston by Gary Margolis

How would the doe in your driveway
know, inside, you're flipping through

your recipe box, a shelf of ingredients,
to see what things you have on hand,

which fruit and spices, what amount
of flour powders a can.

What roller adorns its drawer.
Which pies go with whose stories.

I was hoping those churchgoers
would have more than enough

pieces to go around, coffee and tea,
fruit punch
for children held-on-a-hip, their grand-
mothers

and grandfathers, who know how to fall
out,

to expend their grief. Who sweat for-
giveness

in a handkerchief. Who I can't be-
lieve had
a piece of pie sent to a jail cell. Not
his.

But an empty one, God-reserved. A
story
that will be told and turned into a
recipe.

Baked off. Left to counter-cool.
It's fragrance drifting through love's
screen

to the driveway. To that does just
standing
there, until she isn't here.

Treasurer News

2015-2016 Tax bills will be sent out early in September 2015. The first installment will be due on November 1, 2015. Second installment due May 1, 2016.