



**Cavendish Community and Conservation Association**

***Our Vision:** CCCA is committed to a vibrant Cavendish/Proctorsville community that supports its human and natural resources, building a legacy of health, integrity and vitality for future generations.*

[www.CavendishCCCA.org](http://www.CavendishCCCA.org)

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Last year the Town of Cavendish, through the efforts of the CCCA Energy Committee, the Town Manager and the Town Selectboard built a 148 KW solar array to produce sufficient electricity to offset amounts used at the town office, the transfer station, the water filtration plant and the wastewater treatment plant. That system, on the slope behind the wastewater treatment plant, went live on December 28, 2014 and now we have a year's worth of data to review and report on. As of January 15, 2016 the town-owned and operated solar panels had produced 237MWH of electricity. Putting it a little differently, that's 142 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> not put into the atmosphere, or 20,895 gallons of gasoline not consumed. By producing this much electricity and using it for town purposes the town has avoided paying Green Mountain Power for electricity. The Town of Cavendish can be proud of itself for taking the lead in erecting and operating this solar array. Many towns in Vermont now buy solar power from a third party owned solar array, but they only save a small amount. Few can say that they produce that power themselves.



## A Message from Robin

Dear friends and neighbors –

It has been a remarkably mild winter, although one never knows, snow could always be around the corner. A friend told me she saw robins pecking at the patches of grass in front of her house the other day, a bit early for the migrations and I do wonder if some birds will have difficulty when/if a sharp cold spell returns.

I am happy to report that our work on the Ecological Restoration Grant is complete. It has been a few years since the Town of Cavendish received the ERG from the state of Vermont to insure that the flood plain along the Black River in Cavendish might be preserved in the interest of protecting land and structures both up and down stream.

The Conservation Committee of the CCCA has worked extensively with the Town in many ways, such as preparing the application for the grant, creating the liaison with the Vermont River Conservancy which is the agent for structuring and the holder of the Conservation Easements, working with landowners, and planting a buffer zone along the river.

The grant allowed the Town to purchase a

flood lot along the river and place it under an easement with the Vermont River Conservancy. We were also able to assist in negotiations and able to pay for another flood lot easement on a stretch of land along the river between Cavendish and Proctorsville.

Richard Svec who put so much work into this project emphasizes that it is important to note that the easements do not take any land out of use that could be developed.

It is exciting to note that there is a pre-existing easement for a nature trail on the land that has been acquired through this grant by the Town. The plans for the trail, envisioned and developed by Pieter Van Schaik, will include handicap accessibility and allow the public to enjoy a path along the river.

*Robin Timko*

## Cavendish Community Fund Helps Two Local Projects

During this past fall the Cavendish Community Fund awarded grants to two local projects. The first grant continued our partnership with Stepping Stones Preschool to advance early childhood education. We have been pleased in the past to assist with several initiatives in which the school joined with Vermont organizations to bring programs to Cavendish that would not otherwise have been available for the children.

This year Stepping Stones received funding for their students to attend an interactive performance of *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Live!* at the Paramount theater in Rutland, and then to bring the Puppet People to Cavendish with puppets, nursery rhymes, music and more. The Fund believes that education should begin

at a very early age and Stepping Stones is helping Cavendish do just that. The Fund is particularly happy to partner with Stepping Stones in their effort to provide high quality early childhood education.

The second project that received funding is the Cavendish Tapestry Project. Fiber Arts in Vermont, also known as Six Loose Ladies, is sponsoring a hands on project in which Cavendish residents create a tapestry specifically for Cavendish. To start, the Community Fund paid for the purchase of equipment, specifically a lightweight, easy to use Mirrex Loom that has been warped twice and is ready for the community tapestry. Along with the loom, adult students who have been learning how to weave tapestry on Thursday afternoons at Six Loose Ladies are now using one dozen locally made tapestry bobbins. The people who are now participating have agreed to share their new skills with the community, helping others with weaving at different venues. One such venue is CTES where the kindergarten, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades will learn to weave and the other grades will be spinning yarns to weave.

The design of the tapestry will be presented to the community at Town Meeting. The most often stated attribute about what people enjoy most about Cavendish was how individuals seem to extend a helping hand to those in need. The tapestry will reflect this sentiment.

Finally, a tapestry workshop with a highly skilled, nationally known tapestry teacher, Rebecca Mezoff, will take place on June 14-15 at the parish hall of Gethsemane Church. Thanks to a grant from Fletcher Farm Foundation this two-day workshop will be offered to Vermonters at a reduced price. There are 16 registered participants, and the workshop is already full. If you have not already done so, please take the opportunity to weave on the loom throughout the spring and

summer. To participate, please call Wendy Regier at 226-7331.

The Cavendish Community fund has distributed close to \$30,000 since its inception in 2007. Grants are generally between \$500 and \$1,000 and go to individuals and organizations for projects, programs and events that are artistic, cultural or educational in nature and are primarily for Cavendish citizens and residents.

Please call Barbara Dickey at 226-7187 or Peter LaBelle at 226-7250 for more information or for assistance in submitting an application.

## Walk and Talk Series Resumes for 2016



*When will we see Cougars back in our landscape?  
Come to the Walk and Talk presentation to find out.*

The Cavendish Community and Conservation Association will sponsor a presentation about the return of the cougar to the east coast on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. by Susan C. Morse of Keeping Track®. The presentation will occur at the Cavendish Elementary School, 573 Main Street in Proctorsville.

There is no question about it. Cougars are not only being seen in eastern North America, some are attempting to recolonize their former habitats. Where once it was flatly dismissed as impossibility in the so-called “developed” east,

scientists have now documented cougar dispersals and even occupancy of a growing list of eastern states and provinces. Join us for a magnificently illustrated introduction to cougar biology and ecology in the broad diversity of habitats where Sue has studied them, from Alberta to the Arizona/Mexico border. We will also get the low-down regarding the latest confirmations of cougars in the east, including the recently documented suitability of a substantial amount of wild habitats from Manitoba to Louisiana and Maine to Georgia. It is only a matter of time!

Sue Morse, the founder of Keeping Track®, is highly regarded as an expert in natural history and one of the top wildlife trackers in North America. Since 1977 she has been monitoring wildlife with an emphasis on documenting the presence and habitat requirements of bobcat, black bear, Canada lynx and cougar. Keeping Track® is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 out of concern that development in all its forms often unwittingly harms, isolates and even eliminates habitat critical to local biodiversity and broad-scale ecological health.

Tickets are available at Crows Bakery on Depot Street in Proctorsville, at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, by mail or at the door. Donations suggested are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. For more information please call Claire Walker at (802) 226-7259 or Robin Timko at (802) 226-7736.



*A second event planned for May will focus on the Beavers in our backyards.*

Also on tap for this spring is a Walk and Talk presentation on Beavers and Beaver trapping in Vermont with Fish and Wildlife expert Chris Bernier, head of the fur-bearer project, and James Stewart, long time trapper in our area. The discussion will be held on May 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the Cavendish Town Office meeting room, 126 High Street in Cavendish.

The goal of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources in dealing with human-beaver interaction is two-pronged. First, it is interested in maintaining, whenever possible, the valuable wetlands in Vermont that support biodiversity and vital ecological processes. Secondly, it hopes to provide the public with the best information available for managing problem situations that result from beaver activity.

Today, many people in the United States and Canada trap as an annual pursuit; in addition many homeowners use trapping to deal with wildlife causing property damage. Throughout North America, government sociologists and university researchers have begun to document the importance of trapping in the lives of people who still look to the land, and use wildlife as part of their lifestyle. Sometimes this lifestyle is not understood by a larger segment of society who do not hunt, trap, fish, raise their own vegetables or cut their own firewood - people who do not consider looking to the land to provide for their households.

The speakers will address these topics and issues in the context of best management practices for dealing with human-beaver relationships in Vermont.

This is a free event and all are welcome to attend. Bring your questions and personal stories about the beavers in your backyard. For more information contact Robin Timko at (802) 226-7736.

If you have an idea for an Energy workshop

topic or for a Walk and Talk event, please contact Robin Timko at 226-7736. The Sustainability Committee of CCCA has been presenting these talks for over five years now and has many more ideas. But we need to hear from the community – that means you – about what you want to see and hear. Please call with your thoughts and with any suggestions, we welcome them all.

## Is it Time for You to “Go Solar”?



*Boardman Hill, a Vermont Community-Owned Solar Array in West Rutland*

The year 2014 saw the installation of a 148 KW solar array in Cavendish to supply municipal buildings with solar generated electricity. Installation was complete at the beginning of 2015 and the town is now seeing substantial reductions in electric costs.

Once that project was complete, the Cavendish Energy Committee turned its attention to residential solar and in 2015 it set a goal to double the number of solar installations on homes in town. The program that the committee chose to reach that goal was called “Solarize Makes \$en\$e”, a program sponsored by Vital Communities, a nonprofit organization based in White River Junction.

Vital Communities brings together citizens, organizations, and municipalities in the Upper

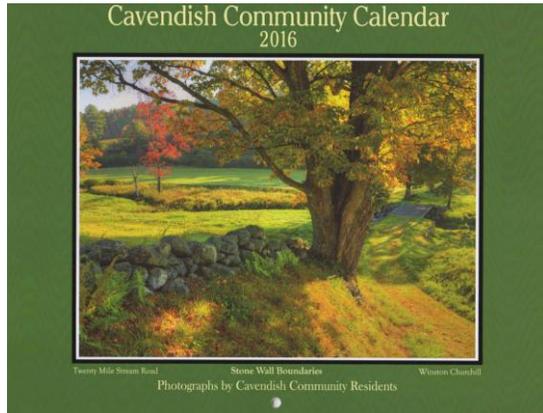
Valley of VT and NH to take on issues where an independent voice and regional approach are essential. The Solarize program is one such collaborative effort. Throughout last summer the committee approached many Cavendish homeowners who had expressed an interest in solar power and invited them to seek a cost estimate for installing solar panels at home. Ultimately seven families added solar panels to their properties, more than doubling the number of solar homes in Cavendish from seven to fifteen – reaching our goal!

However, many people in Cavendish were unable to participate in the Solarize program for a variety of reasons. Some cannot take advantage of solar panels on their roof or in their yard due to structural or shading issues, and condo owners and home renters cannot put panels on their homes. To meet the needs of these people there are several solar “farms” around Vermont.

Also called Community Solar Arrays, these installations offer shares to interested residents who can buy their power from the alternative energy sector instead of from the more traditional electric providers such as Green Mountain Power or Ludlow Electric. The Energy Committee stands ready to discuss solar power and possible sources with anyone who needs such information. For more information about Community Solar please call Peter LaBelle at (802) 226-7250 or call Mary Ormrod at (802) 226-7783.

The Energy Committee is always looking for project ideas and welcomes anyone with an interest in alternative energy issues. If you would like to learn more, the committee meets each second Tuesday of the month at noon in the Cavendish Town Office meeting room. Please stop by. You can also call the committee chair, Peter LaBelle at 226-7250.

# Keep Taking Photos! 2017 Calendar Contest



There are still a few 2016 Cavendish Community Calendars left for sale, but now it is time to start thinking about the 2017 Calendar Contest.

Each year CCCA sponsors a contest to find the twelve best photographs of Cavendish; its environment, and its peoples to grace the pages of the next year's calendar. In the spring contestants submit photos and the community has a chance to vote for the best pictures. Then a panel of judges awards prizes to the best overall pictures, and twelve are selected – one for each month in the calendar.

Will your photo be printed next year? It will be only if you first submit it to the contest. For rules and the entry form please go to the CCCA website and look for the Calendar Contest Application under the Community Calendar tab. Entry forms will also be available at Crows Bakery on Depot St. in Proctorsville.

Photos can be submitted beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> and will be accepted until May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The 2016 photo contest award winners included:

Best in Show: Belle McKnight for her photo "New Camper;"

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5 to 12 Age Group: Claire Palmer for her photo "Is it Spring Yet?"

13 to 18 Age Group: Emery Benoit for her photo "Bumblebee on a Lilac"

## Join us as a Member of CCCA!

Dues are a nominal \$35 per year for full membership. In order to join CCCA, please fill out the information below and send with a check payable to Cavendish Community and Conservation Association to:

**CCCA**

**P.O. Box 605**

**Cavendish, VT 05142**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_