

Mountain View



A newsletter by and for the Randolph Community, published by the Randolph Foundation

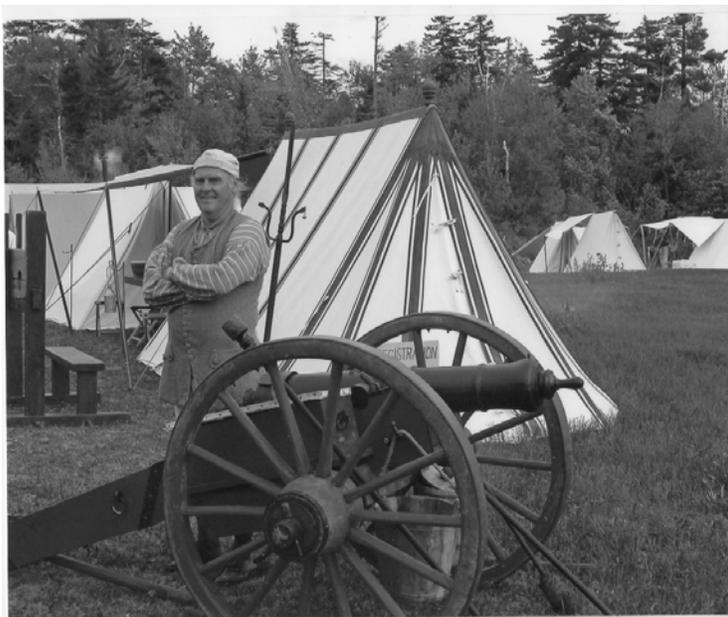
The Autumn Muster reenacts French and Indian War, American Revolution and Mountain Man times from 1755 to 1840

By Bob Ross

The Autumn Muster in The Mountains is a thirty three year old tradition organized by Bob Ross. It has taken place at Sugar Plum Farm on Randolph Hill for the past three years. Marie Beringer has been a most gracious hostess and will be allowing this event to take place in her back field again this year on September 24-26.

The Muster is a gathering of reenactors who portray life as it was in the French and Indian War, the American Revolution and Mountain Man times from 1755-1840. The reenactors attend to extensive research on the time period they portray and equip themselves at their own expense.

The public is invited to come and learn about this interesting hobby. The camp will be open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm Friday and Saturday. Sunday the activities will be over by 2 pm, as many of the participants have a long drive to get home.



Bob Ross at Muster in the Mountains. Courtesy photo

A Cross Journey Around the World

Prepared for publication by Laurie Archambault

During the spring of 1989, William F. Buckley hosted a trip around the world on the Concorde. For \$39,000 the trip would include wonderful food, the thrill of the speed of the Concorde and interesting conversation. Hersh and Daphne Cross decided to board this trip. On May 25, 1989, Daphne wrote a letter about the trip to her grandson Chris who was residing in France. Excerpts of the letter provide an inside account of the trip.

First the Facts:

From 04/01/89 to 04/23/89 (London to London, England)

Miles Flown: 38,215 miles

Flying Time: 35 Hours 33 Minutes 59 Seconds

Plane Type: British Airways Concorde

Plane Name: G.BOAF

Pilot Names: David Leney and RJL Boas

Comments: This RTW charter flight was hosted by William F. Buckley Jr.

Part 1 of 3

Randolph, N.H. May 25, 1989

Dear Chris,

..... Now - our circumnavigation. Travelling by Concorde quite spoils one for more mundane vehicles. And we saw her come in for a landing in Oakland and that is a truly magnificent sight. With the landing gear down, the plane looks much like the TV shots we've seen of an eagle about to land on its Cliffside nest. As you are aware, the plane is very narrow. The seats are two and two, comfortable, with adequate legroom, but not big, fat, cushioned, deluxe lunges. Since we were only twice in the plane for more than three hours – and usually less – I never had time to get restless. Also we were constantly plied with elaborate and delicious meals. (At the moment I do not even yearn for my particular treat of smoked salmon!)

.....Communicating with WFB – not easy! He writes beautifully. He reads well. He has a most engaging smile which makes me think of the 8 year old caught raiding the cookie jar. He responds when directly addressed but almost makes one look down to see whether he is digging his toe in the rug. In other words he is shy, very shy. He can be gracious

See "Journey", page 3

Meeting notices, inquiries, comments, and ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Please send materials for the *Mountain View* to Diana Aube, Nekel Lane, Randolph, NH 03593 or daube@ne.rr.com by the 15th of the month preceding publication (publication is quarterly: September, December, April & June). The *Randolph Weekly* is published weekly in July & August. Send notices by Tuesday of each week to Gail Scott at 603-466-5498 (call or FAX); or mscott1@ne.rr.com; or PO Box 160, Gorham, NH 03581. The *Blizzard* is published the first of each month except July and August. Please send all notices for the *Blizzard* to Barbara Arnold, 466-2438; barnold@ne.rr.com or 403 Randolph Hill Road, Randolph, NH 03593. *Blizzard* materials by the 24th of the preceding month. If you are not receiving the *Blizzard* and wish to, please let Barbara know. A grant from the Randolph Foundation makes all these publications possible.

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 Randolph Foundation
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*Laurie Archambault , Publisher
 Diana (Dede) Aube , Editor
 Barbara Arnold, Design / Production*

Town Directory

- AMBULANCE 911**
- BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** (Chair, Paul Cormier) 466-3970
 meets at 7 PM the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- BOARD OF SELECTMEN** (Chair, Ted Wier) 466-3970
 Secretary, Rodney Hayes; Treasurer Connie Chaffee
 Meets at 7 p.m. at Town Hall 2nd & 4th Monday 466-5771
- BUILDING PERMITS.** See Board of Selectmen
- CEMETERY TRUSTEES** Jim Baldwin, Suzanne Santos & Steve Hartman
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION** (Chair, Bruce Kirmmse) 466-3818
- DOG LICENSES** See Town Clerk. Obtain or renew by the end of April.
- FIRE DEPARTMENT - ALL ALARMS - CALL 911;** Randolph Chief, Dana Horne
- FOREST FIRE WARDEN** (Rebecca Boothman) Call for Burning Permits 466-2332
- GRS COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD** Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month; location alternates between the 3 towns. Contact the SAU Office 466-3632
- LIBRARY** trustees meet the 3rd Mon. of each month; Librarian, Yvonne Jenkins 466-5408
 Open Mon. 10 – noon; Wed. 3 -8 p.m., Thur. 3-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 –noon;
- LIFELINE** (Jean Malick) 466-2547
- PLANNING BOARD** (Chair, John Scarinza) 466-5775
 Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the first Thursday of the month.
- PLATFORM TENNIS ASSOC.**
- POLICE** (Randolph Chief, Alan Lowe) 466-3950
- RANDOLPH CHURCH** (Moderator Edgar Adams)
 Sunday morning services July & August (10:30 a.m.).
- RANDOLPH COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION** (chair, John Scarinza) 466-5775
 Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the 1st Wednesday
- RANDOLPH FOUNDATION** (President, Cathy McDowell) 466-5105
- RANDOLPH LIFE SQUAD — Call 911 in an emergency**
 Co-Directors Bill & Barbara Arnold 466-2438
- RANDOLPH MOUNTAIN CLUB** (President, John Scarinza) 466-5775
- ROAD AGENT** (Mike Gray) 586-7840
- SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST**
 Denise Demers, Michael Sewick & Angela Chakalis-Pfeffer
- TAX COLLECTOR** (Scott Robinson) by appointment; call the Town Hall 466-9856
- TOWN CLERK** (Anne Kenison) 466-2606
 Town Hall hours: Mondays 9 - 11 a.m. ; Wednesdays 7 - 9 p.m.
- TOWN HALL** (Secretary, Rodney Hayes) Mon. - Fri.; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 466-5771
- TRASH COLLECTION** Must be at roadside by 7 a.m.
 Trash - every Tuesday; Recycling, sorted & bagged - 1st Saturday of every month.
- TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUND** Judy Kenison, Michelle Cormier, Michael Sewick

Community Calendar

(NOTE: For recurring meeting schedules see "Town Directory" on the left)

September

14 State Primary Election Town Hall
 11am to 7pm

Real Estate Transactions

May 6, 2010

From: Estate of Rena Coulter
 To: Gary Newfield

May 7, 2010

From Estate of Andrew McMillan
 To: Sarah E. McMillan

June 7, 2010

From: Michael H. Bronnert
 To: Katherine M. Wolff

June 11, 2010

From: Katherine Wolff
 To: Katherine M. Wolff and Thomas R. W.I Blair

Building Permits

May 24, 2010 Frand and Sandy McCarron will build a new home

June 14, 2010 Gary Newfield will build an open air woodshed

June 28, 2010 David and Doreen Roy will remodel kitchen and deck

August 9, 2010 David and Jane Arsenault will enclose a deck for a sitting porch

August 9, 2010 Burns, Waterman, Katz will put a frost wall foundation under existing building.

REMINDER

Randolph property owners are responsible for ensuring that they or their builders receive any necessary permits before beginning any construction. Building permits must be approved by the Selectmen. The Selectmen need time to review all permits, so please remember to submit them early enough to allow that process.

"Journey" continued

introducing a speaker or responding on behalf of the group to a speech of welcome but he did not give a "talk" on any subject. Rather he read to us the first 3 of the 6 columns which have now appeared in NR (National Review). Obviously he prepares with care for his Firing Line.

.... Let me give you a few highlights of the trip. We spent our first night in Oakland and as we lined up to board the little plane in San Diego we spied a couple with Concorde carry-ons like ours. Ed & Frances live in Rancho Santa Fe (nearby) and we enjoyed their company greatly. We joined the tour the next morning at a Chinese lunch in the airport where we met the majority of our fellow travelers who had come from NYC via Acapulco and were already in the swing of Concorde eating. That night saw us in Hawaii – in fact on Hawaii. Our Concorde landed in Honolulu where we transferred to a local line and then 2 buses and finally arrival at the Mauna Kea Resort several leis later. Every disembarkation and/or departure occasioned another lei and usually dancing girls of some sort or other. We had a quiet dinner that night with three others in the Batik Room – elegant! – where conversation was possible. The next day, Tuesday, we took off on an all day tour of the "big island" including the volcano of Kilauea. That "all-day" aspect scared most people off so we had a companionable little group of 9 with an entertaining guide and a comfortable bus. This is the youngest of the islands and the lava which created it is everywhere apparent. Some, called A'a (ah-ah), looks just like a plate of dried up and cracked chocolate pudding. I'm told that it is largely silica. The addition of

ferrous oxide gives a red tint and a heavier, more solid rock. We were actually in the crater which is huge – at a guess, some 15 acres. We viewed the many steam vents and gingerly sampled the heat of one beside the road. We saw where the last "spill" had flowed across the road and I wondered how much warning I could expect if there was a need to flee. Awesome! On the homeward route we stopped at a macadamia nut packer where – more interesting to this gardener – we wandered through a demonstration planting of local flora including at least a dozen different gingers of psychedelic hues. The day ended with a luau with – you guessed it- drums and dancing girls. This all came to an abrupt end with the onset of a violent thunderstorm. We ran at first rumble so were spared a drenching.

Wednesday morning allowed us time for a pleasant walk around the grounds and along the white sand beach. (This is the only white beach on Hawaii. All others are black.) This needed though barely sufficient exercise was followed by a self-indulgent breakfast of pancakes, bacon and maple syrup. Yum! Then a bus to Kona, small plane to Honolulu and onto our beautiful bird for the flight to Papeetet, Tahiti. We covered 2081 miles in 2 hours, 30 min., 59 sec. Average speed was 1050 and max altitude 58,500. The speed was often in excess of 1200 ground MPH. It took 10 min. 17 sec. to reach mach 1 on this trip. I won't give you all these statistics for every flight I promise. Suffice it to say, records were routinely broken and this was a great moment to a few.

December issue: Part II, Tahiti; Tale of the Tail

Sue Wemyss Wins Race & Relay

By Dede Aube

On June 26, 2010, Sue Wemyss took first place in the women's division of [There's a Black Fly in My Eye 10 mile Trail Race and Relay](#) at Great Glen Trails in Pinkham Notch. Sue, a Randolph resident, is the Great Glen Trails Ski School Director and a 1984 Olympian. The race consisted of three loops on the Great Glen Trails trail system. Runners were challenged with a variety of roots, rocks, steep hills and climbs as well as single tracks, carriage roads and river crossings. Sue ran the first two loops at an unruffled pace and went on to win it on the third loop charging across the river and forging an arduous 50 yard hill with a 55% grade.



Sue Wemyss on an RMC hike. L. Goetze photo

Randolph Remembers

Dorothy Joan Horton

By family

HANOVER, N.H. – Dorothy Joan (Ryder) Horton, always known as Joan, died of cancer on 23 June 2010. She was 88. Aware for several months that death was coming soon, she was known for her continuing cheerfulness and for her kindness and concern for others. Toward the end her three children gathered at Kendal at Hanover, the retirement home where she spent her last years.

Born to a distinguished English family, the daughter of Major Henry Dudley Ryder M.C. and Dorothy (Streatfeild) Ryder, she was raised and educated in London and nearby Sussex. When World War II broke out, she joined the Home Guard and then the Wrens, serving in both England and Scotland. After the war, she left England for Geneva and found a job at the office of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), later transferring to Gaza to work for the AFSC in the administration of relief to Palestinian refugees. It was there she met her husband-to-be Alan Horton. In 1950, she and Alan left Gaza to work for UNRWA in Beirut, Lebanon, and were married there.



In the following years, under sometimes difficult circumstances, they lived in Cambridge (Mass.), Aleppo (Syria), Sussex (England), Hanover (NH), Cairo (Egypt), Rome (Italy), and Randolph (NH). Along the way they had a daughter and two sons.

For a decade they lived in Hanover where Joan supervised the building of a new home on the Lyme Road and saw her children through high school. Then they moved to Rome for some 15 years, where in semi-retirement Alan was director of a small academic center. In 1993 they returned to the family homestead in Randolph.

In all the places she lived, Joan played important roles in support of many good causes. She also had special attachments to the Anglican Cathedral in Cairo and the Episcopal churches in Rome (where she served as a warden) and Berlin, NH.

Joan had a great fondness for Randolph, where she established many lifelong friendships. People will remember her laugh and her regular pilgrimage in summer months to the Ravine House Pool and Lake Durand to swim, which became such a fixture in her life. She also loved to garden and to climb. In all these things, Joan cherished the spirit of Randolph, meeting and talking with friends, family, and newcomers alike.

Survivors include her husband of many years, Alan W. Horton; a daughter Carol Horton of Rome and Randolph; two sons, James McA. and wife Nancy of Hanover, and Edward (Ted) A. D. and wife Zoe of Surrey, England; four sisters-in-law, Margaret Grant of Chicago, Alice Tibbetts of Madison WI, Elizabeth Breunig of Hanover, and Valerie Ryder of London, England; four grandchildren, Jenna, Oliver, Lily, and Eliza; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. An informal gathering to celebrate Joan's life was held in the Randolph Town Hall on Sunday, August 15. She is buried in the family plot in Randolph.



As the Mountain View went to press, we learned of the sudden passing of Craig Malick. He was a much loved husband, father, friend and teacher. A full obituary to follow in the next edition. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to the Randolph Foundation.

Library News

By Yvonne Jenkins

The summer program at the library kicked off with a fun-filled theater workshop and performance of *Alice in Wonderland* by the Hampstead Players. The children's program continued throughout the summer using the theme "Make a Splash – Read".

Almost 400 items were added to the library collection, including books, DVDs, and a donation of 300 music CD's.

This summer was filled with a combination of many activities and cultural events by so many different groups, that it's almost impossible to sort them out, but the end result was real a "Community" at work and play. Here at the library we are looking forward to a beautiful fall season, and we invite you to come check out a book, DVD, some relaxing music, download an audio book, or just enjoy one of the wonderful spaces, especially the new garden area. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers and donors who made the summer of 2010 such a memorable one.



Michelle Cormier, John Micucci and Kai Parlett join the Queen of Hearts and the Mad Hatter for a spot of tea. Photo by Angela Brown

Friends of the Randolph Library

By Angela Brown

Conversation, finger-licking good dinners, fading sunlight reflected on the water--nothing says summer in Randolph like the annual town picnic, with entertainment by the Berlin Jazz.

On Wednesday, August 11th, a crowd of locals and summer folk gathered to hear standards such as "In the Mood," "All of Me," and "Stardust." Arlene Eisenberg and her mother danced song after song to the delight of the audience. Such fond memories of a summer evening will surely keep us warm in the coming winter!

Several other Friends events also took place throughout the summer. On July 3rd Bill Minifie and Heywood Alexander performed their ever-popular return engagement concert, *Songs for a Summer Evening*, to a full house at the LDS Church. On July 26th, a slideshow of old Randolph was presented by Marcia Galesian and Wendy Watson, great-granddaughters of Laban Watson.



Angela Brown and her mother, Pam Hall delight in each other's company at the Town Jazz Picnic. Photo by Katie Kelley



Mother Daughter Dance Arlene Eisenberg and her mother Frieda Leon dance the night away. Photo by Angela Brown

Health Care Reform in Northern NH

By Kathleen Kelley



Katie Kelley and Harriet Baldwin discuss Health Care Reform at a panel discussion on the subject held at the Randolph Town Hall on August 11. This event was sponsored by the Randolph Church Benevolence Committee. Photo by Angela Brown.

Health reform will provide a significant and guaranteed investment in health centers to expand access in the Northern NH communities. However, health centers will require tools to preserve their successes under American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA), respond to new challenges under health reform, and reach thousands of people who remain without access to primary care, because health insurance coverage does not equal access.

Sustainable Funding for Growth: The enacted health reform package creates an \$11 billion trust fund over five years, \$9.5 billion of which will allow health centers to expand their operational capacity to serve new patients and expand to provide oral and behavioral health services.

Investment in Health Center Infrastructure Needs: Health centers will need \$10.5 billion to sustain or upgrade existing facilities over the next 5 years. Overall, health center access to capital funding through public and private sectors must improve to ensure that health centers have the space and capacity to reach patients

Investment in Workforce Needs: ARRA and health reform made substantial investments in the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). Randolph resident Dr. John McDowell, first came to this region under the NHSC in 1974. The national shortage of primary care providers will likely be exacerbated with the implementation of health reform, and health centers will need new support to recruit and retain needed providers.

Rural Physician Training Grants will help medical colleges develop special rural training programs and recruit students from rural communities. This "grow-your-own" approach is one of the best and most cost-effective ways to ensure a robust rural workforce into the future.

Fee Schedule Improvements – The physician fee schedule payment formula will be updated by adjusting for geographic variances and better account for rural disparities. This includes a hold-harmless provision, which prevents unintended consequences of under payment. Additional payments to hospitals in counties particularly with the lowest Medicare spending will provide additional payments to offset disproportionately low rates.

Small Business Tax Credit

This will create tax credit for small businesses who offer health insurance for their employees. The credit would be equal to 50 percent (35 percent for tax exempt employer) of an eligible employer's requirement set forth by the bill through the exchange or a suitable alternative.

Access to Low Cost Medicine

The 340B Drug Pricing Program, through which CCFHS provides over \$2,000,000 of free medicine in the Northern, NH region, will soon give AVH as a Critical Access Hospital access to low cost drugs to better serve their patients. The Medicare prescription drug donut hole will be filled in over time. In 2010, Medicare beneficiaries who go into the donut hole will receive a \$250 rebate. They will receive a pharmaceutical manufacturers' 50 percent discount on brand-name drugs in 2011 and 75 percent coverage for all brand name and generic drugs, phased in to fill the donut hole by 2020.

Quality, Affordable Health Care for All Americans

Bars insurance companies from discriminating based on pre-existing conditions, health status, and gender.

Provides Americans with better coverage and information they need to make informed decisions about their health insurance.

Creates health insurance exchanges – competitive marketplaces where individuals and small business can buy affordable health care coverage.

Offers premium tax credits and cost-sharing assistance to low and middle income Americans, providing families and small businesses with the largest tax cut for health care in history.

Ensures access to immediate relief for uninsured Americans with pre-existing conditions on the brink of medical bankruptcy.

Creates a reinsurance program in support of employers who offer retirees age 55-64 health coverage.

Invests substantially in Community Health Centers to expand access to health care where it is needed most.

Empowers state insurance commissioners and the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct annual reviews of new plans demanding unjustified, egregious premium increases.

The Role of Public Programs

Expands eligibility for Medicaid to include all non-elderly Americans with incomes at or below 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

The federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost of covering newly-eligible individuals for the first three years of the expansion, will decrease its contribution incrementally from 2017 to 2019, and then will pay 90 percent of costs in 2020 and beyond.

Maintains current funding levels for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through fiscal year 2015.

Increases payments to primary care doctors in Medicaid.

Improving Medicare

Provides new, free annual wellness visits, and eliminates out-of-pocket copayments for preventive benefits under Medicare.

Provides better chronic care, with doctors collaborating to provide patient-centered care for the 80 percent of older Americans who have at least one chronic medical condition.

Preventing Chronic Disease and Improving Public Health

Promotes preventive health care at all ages and improves public health activities that help Americans live healthy lives and restrain the growth of health care costs over time.

Eliminates cost-sharing for recommended preventive care, provides individuals with the information they need to make healthy decisions, improves education on disease prevention and public health, and invests in a national prevention and public health strategy.

Improving Access to Innovative Medical Therapies

Establishes a regulatory pathway for FDA approval of bio-similar versions of previously licensed biological products.

Community Living Assistance Services and Support (CLASS)

Makes long-term support and services more affordable for millions of Americans by providing a lifetime cash benefit that will help people with disabilities remain in their homes and communities. CLASS is a voluntary, self-funded, insurance program provided through the workplace. For those whose employers participate, affordable premiums will be paid through payroll deductions. Participation by workers is entirely voluntary. The Congressional Budget Office confirms that the program, which has been revised from earlier versions, is actuarially sound.



Bill and Barbara Arnold were honored for their outstanding volunteer efforts at the Randolph Mountain Club's 100th anniversary annual meeting. Randolph Mountain Club member Peter Bowers, left, and newly elected RMC President John Scarinza teamed up to make the presentation of a life time membership. Photo by Edith Tucker.



Autumn Brown and Danielle Cotnoir Square dance at Sugar Plum Farm on August 21.



Jacqueline and Dudley Laufman are joined by Paul Cormier to provide music for the RMC square dance at Sugar Plum Farm on August 21. Photo by Angela Brown.



Nineteen-year-old Hannah Minifie, an annual Randolph summer visitor and sophomore at Denison College in Granville, Ohio, sold this ceramic rabbit to an arts enthusiast at the annual Randolph Art Show on display in the Cross Meeting Room of the Randolph Town Hall this past summer. Photo by Edith Tucker

Elections

Applications for absentee ballots are at the following address:

<http://www.sos.nh.gov/Absentee%20Ballot%20Application%202010%20OFFICIAL%202010-07-16.pdf>

They can now be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to the town clerk. The State Primary Election is Sept. 14, 2010 and the General Election is Nov 2, 2010. Polls for both days are open from 11 to 7 pm.



The Adams family enjoy the Library's new outdoor garden and Wi-Fi access. Photo by Dede Aube



John Micucci marvels at the Randolph fire truck at the annual Fireman's Pancake Breakfast which was a great success, serving around 120 people. The sausage and eggs were donated by the Lancaster Jiffy Mart and the bacon donated by Lancaster Subway. Maple syrup was donated by local sugarers Parker, Arnold and Scarinza.



Art Show enthusiasts take time to enjoy the annual Art Show held at the Randolph Town Hall.

Scott Lang is a former Jefferson resident who now resides in PA. He writes essays based on hiking and life in northern New Hampshire. This essay placed in the top 10 at the Annual Waterman Fund Contest. Scott is a volunteer trail worker for the AMC. He returns to the area each summer spending his time hiking and working on trails. A series of his essays will be found in a soon to be published New England Peak Experiences compiled by Carole Stone White.

A Wild Pursuit

Part 1 of 3

By Scott Lang

Life teaches us that for any given word, thought, even action, each individual will have their own interpretation. For some, the concept of "wild" is defined as a three-year old running through the house, bouncing around like some unwieldy, supercharged bumper car. Others see "wild" as a white-knuckle flight on a frenzied amusement ride, the kind of wild where we get a taste that we want again and again and to achieve it we will go to incredible lengths of exertion.

My parents wanted me to grow up with the element of natural wildness. It's the reason why they built a log cabin in the middle of the woods of northern New Hampshire. There we were, north, but west of the Presidential Range. Shoot straight east, across reclusive terrain, and you would smack right into Jefferson Notch Road. In order to see the home one would have to fly over it. Here in the woods along with the creatures within, we were free, wild and free. It was not until many years later I realized that what was normal to me was considered wild to others. Encounters with wildlife, be it coincidental or planned, were common. I will never forget one in particular. It was a fall morning. I was walking down our gravel driveway en route to our bus stop. It was not just your typical misty New England fall morning; it was shipwreck-producing fog. I can still picture the slight bend in our driveway. As I approached, I felt a presence. I was not alone. I knew, *I just knew*, it had to be a moose. I stopped. I felt, as much as I heard, him take a step or two. With those meager strides I could now make out the silhouette, darker than the fog itself. It was a bull. It was also the rut season. We were both charged up at this point, albeit for different reasons. It was not the biggest bull I'd ever seen but all that prior exposure meant nothing right now as I'd never, ever been this close to one before. There was a rippled snort. I could picture his lips rattling up and down. It reminded me so much of the horses I cared for over so many summers. If this was a stand-off it was only so because I didn't know what else to do. To flee would only postpone the trampling. To fight, well, the outcome is a foregone conclusion, is it not? Another step or two on his behalf and he was gone. I could hear his massive bulk snapping and breaking vegetation. I guess there was no reason for him to stay. I imagine he left both satisfied and disinterested.



Broad Wing Hawk sightings were frequent throughout the fall and summer of 2010. Photo by John Lamoreux 4/26/10

After the adrenaline rush I thought to myself, well, that was not so bad, as I repeatedly looked over my shoulder. When I returned home that day his tracks were clearly visible and reminded me of my appreciation that this graceful beast had benevolently extended to me a lease on my young life. Often I get so caught up when relating this as my mind takes me back to the scene, I forget the thought of anyone listening. When I come back to reality, I have often noticed some mouths a bit ajar; yes, wild indeed. Others who visited our cabin found their own definition of wild. You see, we did not get a flush toilet until 1986. It was an anniversary present to my parents. But, that's another story for another time.

It is all too easy to associate wild with something uncharted, untamed, or unknown. Hence, the eye of our mind whisks us aloft over remote forests and valleys; it sweeps high above the mountains and dives down into shadow cloaked glades. It speaks a whisper of desolation, seclusion, of a sort of hinterland. Then it screams at us in a voice that is not acknowledged by the ear, but by the mind, and we hasten to follow. We want to see it, feel it, a baptism of reverie. We will go as far as we can to attain it without any regard of finding our way back, and when we arrive, how good it feels. However, we cannot create that which is wild. Let us say I decide not to mow my lawn. I am going to just allow it to grow in whatever way it wants. That is hardly a wilderness. The earth is just doing what is normal without a care of my intentions. It does so with forces well beyond my pitiful attempts to create something wild. When we separate ourselves from that which is cultivated, that which is truly wild requires as much our state of mind combined as the physical location we seek. As a young child, I went into the woods full of eager expecta-

tion, energy, adventure, and freedom. When those forces converged somewhere deep in the forest my own definition of wild began to form. Perhaps it is a bit like your own.

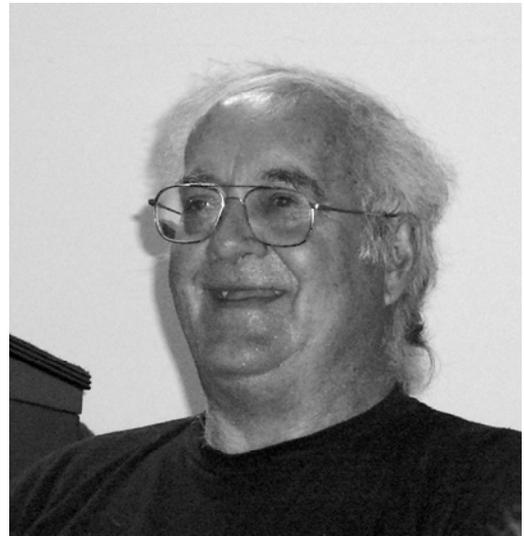
The question is what is it we seek in the wild? We are looking for an environment devoid of what is common. For many, our lives quietly slip into the repetitive, mundane, even dull. When our existence seems meager we want to put the everyday behind. We will cross a desert, paddle to a remote island, climb a peak just to be able to drop into the depths of the other side and disappear into a wooded secrecy. We strive to lose sight of anything man-made, each step taking us farther away from the droning hum of activity we are accustomed to. It fades to a hush, a final gasp, then it dies completely. We want to secure a place, where along with time and space, we too lose sense of perception. We seek peace, solitude, and meaning. For all we have seen and done on the daily scene we realize that true peace comes from the things over which we have no control. We stuff our packs and walk for hours, days, weeks, some for

months and years. For what? A wind driven rain in a speechless forest? A soft, yet penetrating sunrise that awakens us without effort? A mossy carpet of which every inch is new to us? Maybe it is the challenge. A test of our abilities. Do we still have them? Can we survive in a land stripped naked of comforts? Or maybe we lust for a time of focus? To make us complete? Yes, indeed, perhaps all of these. We forsake all we have worked and struggled for and let it go, without a care or regret. That is what we want. Like some ancient conjurer, we bleed ourselves free of every vestige of civilized life in an attempt to appease our melding with the wilderness. It is our personal rite, with only the sky, trees, and rocks as our witnesses. As hikers, we chase the natural, wild state as if it were our holy grail. It beseeches us with its calming influence and rugged approach, a pursuit of absorption. The justification being that the harder it is to get there, the less likely we will be disturbed or even found. We jealously guard its location, keeping it to ourselves or a few trusted friends. After all, it is our own personal Eden.

On Sunday, August 22, members of the Randolph Church, led by Jim Baldwin, honored caretaker Larry Martin with a plaque and gift. The plaque read:

THANK YOU, LARRY MARTIN

50 years ago, a seventeen year old Randolph boy named Larry Martin got a job on the maintenance staff of the Randolph Church. Today we mark the fiftieth year of Larry's unbroken service to this church, a record unlikely to ever be surpassed. Nor is there any end in sight, for Larry, still robust at age 68, does not talk of retirement. Thank you Mr. Martin for helping us keep this historic church and its grounds one of the loveliest places in Randolph and in all of Northern New Hampshire.



Larry Martin is honored for 50 years of service at the Randolph Church. Photo by Leslie Morneweck



The Ravine House historical marker is unveiled by Jim Baldwin and Jean Malick. Approximately fifty people joined Jim Baldwin and the Randolph Foundation for the unveiling of a state historic marker commemorating the site of the Ravine House. It took Jim approximately four years to get signatures on a petition, write a proposal and raise enough money to put the marker in place. He was able to do this with the help of donors and the Randolph Foundation. Photo by Leslie Morneweck

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