

# Mountain View



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

## The Randolph Forest Commission Seeks Individuals and Groups to Observe Transects

*by Gail Scott*



**Barbara Wysession** listens intently while transects on the Randolph Community Forest are being explained. Photo by Dede Aube.

The Randolph Forest Commission has established a number of permanent transects on the Randolph Community Forest with the goal of monitoring water quality and trends in the populations of plants, plant communities, birds and wildlife.

The transects are marked routes through the forest in various areas.

Now the Commission hopes to find students, private organizations, local clubs or groups who would like to traverse one of the fixed routes at periodic intervals, studying and making note of these populations and/or water quality.

The thought is that these transects would be perfect for a consistent research project or setting for educational projects for students.

As the Commission's brochure on the subject points out, the value of the permanently set transects will increase with time if traversed regularly because the information gathered will indicate any changes providing early warning signs of a species decline or growth and indication how habitat management on the forest, weather and other environmental influences

affect the populations and the forest environment.

The types of habitats represented include "wetlands, beaver ponds, vernal pools; montane forest (over 2,500 ft.); permanent openings; early successional habitat; dense softwood stands; mature hardwood stands (mast producing); zones along perennial streams; ledge outcrops; slopes of all aspects exposure; and many edge habitat types," according to the brochure.



**Wildflowers** in the Randolph Community Forest. Photo Dede Aube, July, 2011

For more information about the transects on the Randolph Community Forest and how they might be incorporated in the study, contact The Randolph Forest Commission, 130 Du-rand Road, Randolph 03593 (phone: 466-5771) or Watershed to Wildlife, Inc., 544 Jef-ferson Road, Whitefield 03598 (phone: 837-2367 or 444-0000) or [www.watershedtowildlife.com](http://www.watershedtowildlife.com).

*(originally published in the Berlin Daily Sun, Aug. 17, 2011)*



**Louis and Susan Kearn** gaze at Pond of Cherry during the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Randolph Community Forest outing. Photo by Dede Aube.

Meeting notices, inquiries, comments, and ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Please send materials for the *Mountain View* to Diana Aube, Nekal 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; Barbara.arnold51@gmail.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.

**Mountain View Publications**

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PO Box 283  
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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** Suzanne Santos, Steve Hartman, & Karen Eitel
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION** (Chair, Bruce Kirmmse ) 466-5777
- 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** 466-5408  
Trustees meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon. of each month, Jean Malick, Chair; Librarian: Yvonne Jenkins, Mon 10 a.m. - Noon; Wed & Thurs 3 - 8 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. - 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.
- 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 466-5771
- TOWN CLERK** (Anne Kenison) 466-2606  
Town Hall hours: Mondays 9 - 11 a.m. ; Wednesdays 7 - 9 p.m.
- TOWN HALL** (Administrative Assistant, Rodney Hayes) Mon. - Fri.; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- 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, Michael Sewick, M. Lark Andreas

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

**Real Estate Transactions**

none

**Building Permits**

- 4/11/11 William and Lucie Demers will build a new garage
- 5/23/11 Nathan Peters will build a new barn and deck
- 6/13/11 Robert and Carolyn Dube will build a new garage
- 6/13/11 Todd and Ellen Ross will build a wood fired pizza oven and building
- 7/11/11 Mark and Sherry Waterman renewed permit to build a cabin
- 7/15/11 Marie Beringer will add a caretaker apartment to the barn

**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.



Maia Rauschenberg volunteer firefighter for Randolph Fire Department serves the pancakes at the Fireman's breakfast. Photo by Dede Aube.

## Annual Board Meeting of the Randolph Foundation

The annual board meeting of the Randolph Foundation was held at the Cross Meeting Room of the Randolph Town Hall on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Presiding president Cathy McDowell recognized and thanked out-going board members Lynn Hunt, Sandy Weir and Raina Scarinza with a token of the foundation's appreciation. New board members, Trisha Ouellette, Carol Gagnon, and Heather Wiley were introduced, as were the officers for 2012; President, Cathy McDowell; Vice President, Keith Dempster; Secretary, Heather Wiley and, Treasurer, Carol Gagnon.

Keith Dempster indicated finances were doing reasonably well. Financial advisors are in the process of redistributing stocks and bonds for a better balance.

Jean Malick reported that the old library will be used for storage of documents by various groups and clubs within the town. She also let the group know that Lifeline is being used by several summer as well as year round residents.

Sandy Weir stated that the Foundation was able to continue giving scholarships to high school and college students. The Foundation gave a grant of \$3,000 to the RMC for work on the new trailhead this past year and the RMC has repaid a loan of \$5,000 from the Foundation for the publishing of Judy Hudson's book.

Dede Aube thanked those present for continued support of periodicals and encouraged the audience to fill out the survey adding suggestions for the Mountain View, Blizzard and Weekly publications.

Laurie Archambault made an appeal to the membership to continue donating funds to the Foundation to allow greater long-range planning.

Dave Tomlinson expressed grave concern regarding the upkeep of the tennis court. The court takes a significant amount of work to maintain and the interest in tennis seems to be dwindling in Randolph. It is important for those using the court, including children learning the game, to treat the court with respect.

The meeting was followed by a presentation of "WREN" by the executive director, Marilynne Cooper.

## Randolph "Kids" Purchase a Goat Through Heifer International's "Read to Feed" Program

*Submitted by Yvonne Jenkins, Librarian*

What is one way to encourage children to read during the summer months? Challenge them to buy a goat! *Read to Feed* is an exciting program that helps children learn about different cultures around the world and allows them to participate in helping find solutions to global problems like hunger and poverty, while at the same time encouraging them to read. This was a perfect opportunity to tie in with the Randolph Public Library's summer reading program "One World, Many Stories". One of the weekly programs focused on a children's book, entitled *Beatrice's Goat* by Page McBrier telling the story of a young girl in Uganda whose life is changed when her family receives a goat from Heifer International.

Seven children participated in the program and set individual reading goals for a period of six weeks. They then found family members and neighbors to sponsor their reading efforts. Some children logged in with the number of pages read, others with the number of chapters, and some just kept a tally of the total books. The combined goal was \$120, the cost of one goat. "Goats can thrive in extreme climates and on poor dry land by eating leaves, weeds and grass. Many of the world's people rely on them for milk. A dairy goat can supply a family with up to a gallon of nutritious milk a day-just about the right amount if you don't have a refrigerator. Goats often have two or three kids a year."

The Randolph "kids" were happy when the final tally came to \$121. They each were awarded a certificate of participation and the library will receive a certificate of thanks from Heifer International to display in the children's room.



**Goat Kids** Autumn Brown, Danielle Cotnoir, Blake Scarinza, Austin Scarinza, Kai Parlett, John Micucci and Isobel Micucci *Photo by Emma Jenkins, 2011*

## WANTED! Citizen Input

Please Join Us for a Series of Community Forums to Discuss the Future of Public Education in the Androscoggin Valley.

Open to Milan, Berlin, Dummer, Errol, Gorham, Randolph and Shelburne Residents

A series of community forums will be held on the following dates and locations:

### **BERLIN**

Wed., Sept. 14, 2011 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Berlin High School Library

### **RANDOLPH**

Wed., Sept. 21, 2011 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Randolph Town Hall

### **MILAN/DUMMER**

Thurs., Sept. 22, 2011 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Milan School Library

### **GORHAM**

Wed., Sept. 28, 2011 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Gorham High School Cafeteria

### **SHELBURNE**

Tues., Oct. 4, 2011 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Shelburne Town Hall

### **ERROL**

Wed., Oct. 5, 2011 7:00- 9:00 p.m. Errol School Cafeteria

A series of community forums will be held throughout the fall to gather citizen input as to the future of Education in the Androscoggin Valley. The forums will support a facilitated discussion to address future educational needs of our children. New ideas will be generated that may help lead us to maximize collaboration among local school districts and ensure the best opportunities for our students, both now and in the future. We hope to capture a shared vision of education in the Androscoggin Valley. How do we share resources in delivering programs and nurture a new culture of collaboration? What about regionalization of our schools? Early childhood education? How do we address the shrinking student populations and dwindling financial resources in order to give our children the best education possible?

In collaboration, SAU 20 and SAU 3 were awarded a grant from the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to conduct the community forums. Citizens are encouraged to attend any and all forums in order to speak, listen and shape the future of education in the Androscoggin Valley!

The School District of School Administrative Unit 20 is working to provide the best education possible for all students. Meeting the needs of the individual child academically, socially, emotionally and physically is our top priority. Our first thought when making any decision is what impact it will have on the children that we serve. If we make decisions based on the best interest of our children we will make few mistakes.

With the support of our parents and communities we will work with our children to help them appreciate education not only on this particular day, but, everyday of their lives.

Paul N. Bousquet [paul.bousquet@sau20.org](mailto:paul.bousquet@sau20.org) Superintendent of Schools SAU 20

### **Found at Church, mid August**

A portable CD player, can be picked up at the Randolph Town Hall.

**An Oticon Agil Pro hearing aid** was found on the lawn at 358 Randolph Hill Rd this summer. It will be held for retrieval at the Randolph Town Hall.

## Randolph

By Thomas Strayhorn

The most vivid thing I can remember is the burnt yellow window frames resting in contrast on the faded shingles. It's where I grew up. It was my summer. It was my memory as a child, and my fondest one at that. Every year, even in my mother's stomach, or so I'm told, have I gone to this same place to get away from it all. Time moves slower there, and thank God for that because it seems that we miss too much of life fulfilling all of the things society expects of us. As I grow older I realize that my time there will fade faster and faster, quickly becoming mere memories in the ever expanding place I call a brain. I don't know if I can relive it, though I'm sure I'll try my best, but it seems the happiest, simplest time is in the past, something that cannot be changed. And I know that my thanks cannot begin to represent the gratitude for all I have received from this one single place.

From learning to ride my bike to catching and playing with my first wild animal, this small town holds many of my most defining memories. I remember my first hike above tree line, swim in an icy river, and delicious bowl of soup made by the rugged hands of a hut worker on the RMC trail line. When I was younger I didn't realize how much of an effect spending my summers in Randolph, New Hampshire would have on me, but now I am grateful. While at the time wishing I could go to the beach with friends or spend time away from the parents that caused me so much embarrassment, I now realize that this one place has shaped the person I am today. It has given me a love for nature, an attribute which still dictates almost every decision in my life. It has given me a respect for elders, as I was "encouraged" to hold conversations with the older generation of Randolph dwellers. But most of all, it has given me the security of a place that I can truly call home.

*Editor's Note: Thomas is 17, a rising senior at Broughton High School in Raleigh, NC, and joined the 4,000 footer club at age 11.*



Randolph in Autumn by Dede Aube, 2009



Gazooks Photo provided by Marie Beringer

## Gazooks

By Marie Beringer

On July 17, many folks in Randolph tracked Geoff Beringer in his C&C 38 sailboat, Gazooks, as he raced the five-day, 640-mile journey at sea from Buzard's Bay off Marion Mass. to Bermuda. At the start Geoff chose to part from the rest of the fleet and take a different course. Although many began to catch up on Gazooks, his handicap helped keep the lead. Geoff won in the C class, ending in 7th place overall out of 50 (mostly larger boats) in four class sizes. A cake, given by the Eitels, was served at a champagne party held by his proud mother, Marie, at Sugar Plum Farm. CONGRATULATIONS GEOFF



Gazooks Cake Photo provided by Marie Beringer

## Randolph Remembers

### Carol Wenk Bellisio

*April 11th, 1945 - August 8th, 2011*

Carol Wenk Bellisio, 66, of Wall, NJ passed away on August 8, 2011 following a 10-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Born in New York City, Carol grew up in Mountain Lakes, NJ. Carol lived with her husband of 41 years, Jules, in Wall Township, NJ. Carol was a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and received a Masters degree from Monmouth University, where she also taught. She was awarded a PhD in the Education of Mathematics by Rutgers University.

In addition to teaching at the college level, Carol also taught nursery school, taught high school math, and was an expert advisor to the New Brunswick Board of Education, helping to improve the math skills of inner city children. Carol led a uniquely active life. She was a mother of three, Girl Scout leader, soccer coach and treasurer of her alumni group. Inspired by her own year in Holland as an AFS high school exchange student, she and her family hosted multiple foreign students through this same program.

For over 30 years, Carol was deeply involved in many facets of the First Presbyterian Church of Belmar, NJ. She led the bell choir, acted as treasurer, sang in the choir and was a member of many committees and church groups. Carol was also an avid traveler: visiting, camping and hiking through many countries around the world.

Carol had a life-long relationship with the White Mountains, where she hiked almost every summer from the time she was a child. Until recently, she was still climbing the highest peaks. She loved to read mysteries, bake, garden and knit, and leaves behind dozens of projects which her daughters have vowed to complete.

Carol is survived by her husband and three daughters, Nina, Angela, and Carla, and brothers David and Arthur Wenk. A memorial service was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Belmar, 600 9th Avenue at E Street in Belmar, NJ 07719 on August 20th.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Memorial Fund at the church.

*provided by Jules Bellisio*



**Carol Bellisio** Photo provided by Jules Bellisio

## The Growth of Benevolence Giving in the Randolph Church

*By Harriet Baldwin*

The early records of the Randolph Church tell us that the congregation was a caring one, and that it fed, clothed and housed its needy members and neighbors. For many years the church budget carried an item for benevolences. About \$2,000 was given annually to human service agencies in the early 1990's. At that time, there was concern within the congregation that the benevolence budget of the church was low in relation to local needs and the congregation's ability to give. Those who attended summer services were church-goers in other seasons and accustomed to benevolence giving. So in 1991, an ad hoc Committee on Benevolences was appointed to review benevolence giving. The following summer it was made a Standing Committee of the church.

In the years since the Benevolence Committee was formed it has led the congregation in increasing its giving for benevolences. Total benevolence giving reached \$10,500 in 2002, and \$14,500 in 2009, a generous amount for a summer congregation of 60 to 70 that holds only ten services. How did this growth come about?

Four policies, formulated by the Benevolence Committee in its early years, have remained in place: (a) fund go to agencies in the Randolph-Gorham-Berlin

*Continued next page .....*

area; (b) they are used for direct services but are otherwise unrestricted; (c) they go to agencies of such size and structure that they will make a difference; and (d) congregational gifts for benevolences are separated from gifts to support the operations of the church. They are usually given in "benevolence envelopes" placed in the pews and received with the offering during Sunday services. The practice of the committee - of identifying agencies each summer, developing a budget of expenditures, and reviewing expenditures the following summer - has also continued.

While the Benevolence Committee consists mostly of summer residents, its members have come to know an array of human service agencies led by knowledgeable and experienced experts deeply committed to their work. In visiting each agency, committee members inquire about its activities, its budget, the typical needs of its constituency and how it meets them, and how the agency would use a modest gift from the Randolph Church. Agency leaders are invited to speak to the congregation at meetings held at the church after Sunday services, and they sometimes conduct tours of their facilities for interested church members. Committee members speak briefly during Sunday services, describe their visits to agencies, and encourage generous giving.

In addition the committee has sponsored meetings about the North Country for the Randolph community. Soon after the publication of her book about Appalachian poverty that included an analysis of Berlin, Cynthia Duncan of the University of New Hampshire lectured on "Poverty and Civic Culture in Northern New England." When a state prison opened in Berlin, the committee arranged a lecture by John Kirkpatrick, a specialist in criminal justice at UNH. The NH Commissioner of Corrections and the warden of the prison were guests at the meeting, which was followed by a tour of the prison. And in 2007, Christopher Collucacis, a researcher at UNH's Carsey Center, discussed his statistical survey of social and economic conditions in the North Country.



#### Japanese Primroses

Marie Beringer found these rare pink and white beauties growing wild on a path behind Sugar Plum Farm early this summer. Japanese primrose bloom in moist, shady conditions in late spring and early summer, producing whorls of flowers. They appear to like the northern weather in the mountains.

Photo by Judy Owen, 2011



Four agencies have received funds from the Randolph Church each year since 1992. *Coös County Family Health Services* provides a wide range of health and social services to residents of Coös County. *The Gorham Community Learning Center* provides a rich pre-school education and after-school care. *The Family Resource Center at Gorham* houses the Gorham Community Learning Center and several agencies that strengthen families, operates programs that serve children, youth, and adults, and provides leadership in community building. *The Mental Health Center* (affiliated with Northern Human Services) has clinics in Berlin and Colebrook, where it provides a wide range of mental health services for persons with chronic mental illness and support services for children and adults.

The church has also supported agencies of smaller scope: food distribution programs, a fund to help families with medical emergencies, hospice programs in Berlin and Gorham, recreational after-school and summer programs for teens in Berlin and Gorham, mentoring programs for teens and an Alzheimer's Day Program in Berlin.

The growing benevolence program of the Randolph Church deepens the pleasure the congregation feels in being a part of Randolph. We are glad that our funds are particularly helpful because they are unrestricted. And we are glad that the agencies are better able to leverage funds from other funding sources because our funds demonstrate community support. We are proud, as William E. May, one of the moderators of the church, once said, to be "more than a gathering place of people who like to hike, read, and talk." "We respond to the needs of the communities on which we depend as part of our worship of God." And, we are always amused to recall the comment of Moderator Bruce Weatherly the first year the church's benevolence expenses exceed its operating expenses. He led us in laughter as he said, "Never before in the two thousand years of the Christian church has a congregation spent more on services to others than it has spent on services to itself."

## A Black Madonna from the Randolph Foundation?

*by Gail Scott*

The Randolph Foundation has been looking for service suggestions.

How about sending the St. Francis Indians a replica of the Black Madonna, stolen in October 1759 by Rogers Rangers?

Back in 1968, Randolph Foundation co-founder Douglas Horton looked into having the Foundation replace that very object.

According to letters in the Foundation archive, Horton had opened negotiations with Fr. J. Remi Dolan, of the "missionaries des Abenakis," to see if such a gift would be welcome.

"Randolph, the small town in which I live, retired from active life," wrote Horton to Fr. Dolan, "is the site where Rogers' Rangers are said to have lost the image of the Virgin which they had stolen from the church at Odanak in the raid of 1759. . . . It has occurred to some of us in Randolph, 209 years after the event, that it is high time to return the silver image to Odanak, and though we have not found it in our forests, we see no reason why we could not have another one made, the precise copy of the one which was lost, which itself, of course, was a copy of the original at Chartres."

He warned Fr. Dolan that he would first have to have the approval of Randolph residents.

Perhaps the project died when presented to the Foundation board, which then included Gordon A. Lowe, James S. Alexander, Katherine Wood, and Miriam E. Underhill, with Hershner Cross as auditor. The Advisory Committee included Morris F. Arnold, Marguerite M. Bean, John H. Boothman, Almon Farrar, Elizabeth M. Hilles, Patricia E. Malcolm and Bernie Reed.

Farrar may have been Horton's source for the tale of the silver Madonna. Farrar was quoted as recently as 2004 in the Los Angeles Times, telling tales of missing treasure in the White Mountains.

Unfortunately, all we have in the archives of the Randolph Foundation is the research Horton provided about the image and his correspondence in 1968 with Fr. Dolan, to inquire whether such a gift to the Reserve Indienne des Abenakis of Odanak, Quebec, would be welcome. Also included in the file is correspondence with Stephen Laurent, of Intervale, who appears to have been helpful in

Horton's researches and to have been a contact with Fr. Dolan.

If the project were approved, Horton noted, he would expect the presentation of the gift to be a major Canadian event, "enlisting the attendance of the governors of the Province of Quebec and the State of New Hampshire, the bishops of the two dioceses involved (I am sure that Bishop Primeau would be interested), and others like yourself."

Horton also noted that it might take some time since the Randolph Foundation would want to replicate the original.

Horton had discovered that the Madonna Roger's Rangers had made off with was called "Our Lady of Chartres" and the original was known as "the Black Madonna"—a copy of a Madonna that stood in a niche in the Chartres cathedral. The Madonna at the St. Francis mission had been a gift from Chartres, France. "(In 1701) the canons (of Chartres), more and more edified by the piety of the Abnakis, sent them a little statue of the Holy Virgin, in silver." (see *Histoire des Abenakis depuis 1605 jusqu'a Nos Jours* par L'Abbe J.A. Maurault. Sorel, Que. 1866), says a note in the Foundation file.

Included in the file on the subject is the following description from the *Histoire des Abenakis* op.cit.

"Here is what one reads in the chronological history of Chartres by Pintard, relative to the statue in the crypt of the cathedral of that city. 'The true image which one sees set up in a niche above the altar is made of wood which appears to be from a pear-tree, which the smoke of the candles and lamps which are burned there daily may have given a swarthy color. The virgin is represented in a chair, holding her son seated on her knees, who with his right hand gives a blessing and with his left holds a globe of the world. He has his head uncovered and has short hair. The robe which covers his body is close-fitting and folded at the belt. His face, hands and feet (which are uncovered) have taken on the color of olive-brown. The Virgin is dressed, outside her robe, in an antique mantle in the form of a dalmatic which is tucked up under the arms and seems to be rounded in front over the knees over which it falls. The veil which covers her head rests on her two shoulders and falls over her

back. Her face is extremely well done and well proportioned in the oval, of the same color as that of her son. Her crown is decorated quite simply above with flowers of the shape of trefoil or oak leaves. . . . It is hollow behind, as if it were the outside of a tree, 3 inches thick, crudely sculptured except for the faces which are well done. . . ."

Horton's notes also include a calculation of the contemporary cost of the silver involved: "Robert Pike's "The Lost Treasure of St. Francis" (A Treasury of Vermont Life, Page 170-2) says that the statue weighed 8 pounds," reads Horton's note. "On July 6 the price of silver was \$2.47 per oz.  $\$2.47 \times 16 \times 8$  is \$316.16."

We are left with a mystery. What happened to this interesting initiative of Doug Horton's?

We don't know.

If nothing else, his research advances our knowledge of what we need to look for if we set out to search for one of the area's favorite legendary objects—the silver Madonna, vanished in our mountains.

As the story goes: After the raid, Roger's Rangers headed for home. "They had been on the trail for only a short time when the rear guard reported that a strong force of French and Indians were coming after them. . . .The group, carrying the silver statue of the Madonna . . . were pursued so closely they had no opportunity to stop and hunt for food. . . . One of the four, professing to know something of this wilderness country, led the little band through the Great Notch of the White Hills. Here they crawled into the meager shelter of some overhanging rocks on a precipice near Israel River. One of the rangers suddenly seized the silver Madonna and hurled it over the edge of the precipice. Years later, woodsmen of the region discovered remnants of the lost detachment (a cache of rifles) but all efforts to locate the silver Madonna were fruitless." (from Treasure in NH, [www.gwizit.com](http://www.gwizit.com))

**Bill Arnold and grandson Henry** --- poke their heads through the railing at the Pancake Breakfast on August 20. Photo by Dede Aube

## What's Randolph Reading?

The "Summer Reading Group" met at the Randolph Public Library twice this summer. Angle of Repose a book of contemporary American fiction by Wallace Stegner was the July selection. Although the book was long, it was very well received. The discussion was led by Klover Koopman who took an analytical approach to the book and followed with an exchange of ideas among approximately 20 folks. "It was wonderful to see Avery Post and have him with us once again," said Julie Barrows. Avery led the discussion in August on Pearl Buck in China: Journey to The Good Earth by Hilary Spurling. "This book was more than a biography," stated Julie who believes Pearl helped to "humanize the Chinese people in America's eyes."

The Back Porch Book Group read The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. A lively discussion regarding medicine, race and ethics ensued. This book of non-fiction, a popular read with Randolphians for several months, has been awarded more than 60 Critic's awards. The August selection was Mudbound, by Hillary Jordan. Hillary's first novel is set on a desolate farm in the Mississippi Delta at the end of World War II. It earned the Bellwether Prize for fiction, founded by Barbara Kingsolver to promote literature of social responsibility. Kingsolver says "Mudbound is a beautifully written novel that examines the roots of racism through the distinct voices of its characters." Contact person for the back porch Book Group is Barbara Arnold.

Mike Miccuci read The Children of Men by P.D.James. He said he loved this book full of suspense and powerful characters. Julie Barrows is currently reading Dreams from My Father by Barack Obama, she finds the book "truly fascinating." Both books may be found at the Randolph Library.

The Mildred Horton Book Group commences Monday, September 26 at 10 am in the Randolph Public Library. As usual, the year will begin with a round robin of "What I read over the summer". Hildy Danforth from Shelburne remains the contact person.



*The rules for an NPR "3 minute fiction" contest last fall were that the piece was required to have a maximum of 600 words and be able to be read in three minutes. The first sentence had to say, "Some people swore that the house was haunted" and the last sentence had to say, "Nothing would ever be the same again." Klover Koopman entered the following selection and read the 3 minute story to a local book group, many of whom requested it be published in the Mountain View.*

## All Souls Eve

*By Klover Koopman*

Some people swore that the house was haunted. But I didn't believe in the paranormal. I passed it by on my daily walks, noting a curious sadness about it, when I noticed it at all.

Old and decrepit, the house had four columns holding up the veranda, and weathered gray walls showed under layers of peeling white paint. In an earlier era, the owners had been pillars of the town's prosperity, but their descendents had long since migrated to the economic centers in the south and west, and found the old mansion too expensive to keep up. Now it sat alone in the middle of its rocky acreage, a few stumps of gnarled apple trees remaining from before the ice storm, its back yard encroached by dense firs that darkened in the late October evening.

I don't like feeling afraid, but something other than my will was telling me what to do. Suddenly I felt the urge to trespass, to walk right up to the door and look inside. After all, this might be a good piece of real estate some day. But what a fire trap! Nice lines to it though.

The porch creaked as I stepped up to the front door. Old 1920's sidelights lined the door, their faceted glass dulled by years of dust. A bronze knocker appeared at eye level, and at the side of the door frame a small rectangular box, designed to hold calling cards, caught my eye. I lifted its hinged lid – someone had profaned it with burned wooden matchsticks.

The door opened easily as I pulled the handle – too easily, I thought. I wondered whether anyone was there, squatters perhaps. My hair stood on end and my neck stiffened, despite my earlier resolve.

As I crossed the threshold, the sound of a piano greeted me. In the gloom I saw a wind-up Victrola playing a record. The song was sweet and romantic, evoking lost gaiety, and my shoulders dropped a notch from up around my ears. I felt hypnotized by an echo from the past, by a tune so familiar yet just beyond recognition. As my eyes penetrated to the back of the room, I saw a young lady sitting on a velvet settee, her beaded skirt draped about her knees as she looked at a letter in her hand. Her short, dark hair fitted her head like a helmet. Her eyes were blotchy from tears.

She looked familiar to me – like a picture of some great aunt or relative I'd never met.

As I approached the woman and saw her face more clearly, my skin grew cold under my clothes. Who was this woman, and what had happened? A cold blue light came from the back of the room. The music stopped, and the figure melted away.

The letter had dropped to the floor and landed at my feet. I picked it up. It had two pages – a letter from a soldier she had loved, and a telegram announcing his death. Then I realized I had been looking at myself. That familiar face was mine, ninety years ago.

I don't know how I got home, because the pain of the memory washed over me until my own eyes blurred and I couldn't see the road.

When I read the paper the next morning, I found out the house had burned down overnight. The arson investigators suspected that some squatters had entered the premises and had set the place alight trying to keep warm. But I knew my thoughts on the paranormal had changed forever.

Nothing would ever be the same again.



Rain drop cob web photo by Leslie Morneweck, 6/09

### Brewing in New Hampshire:

An Informal History of Beer in the Granite State from Colonial Times to the Present

**Friday, October 21**

**Pot Luck Supper: 6:00**

**Presentation: 7:00 PM**

**Randolph Town Hall - Cross Memorial Meeting Room**

This program will explore the fascinating history of New Hampshire's beer and ale brewing industry from Colonial days, from when it was home and tavern based, to today's modern breweries and brew pubs. Unusual and rare photos and advertisements document this changing industry and the state's earliest brewers, including the renowned Frank Jones. A number of lesser-known brewers and breweries that operated in the state are also discussed, including the only brewery owned and operated by a woman before the modern era. Illustrations present evidence of society's changing attitudes towards beer and alcohol consumption over the years. Whether you're a beer connoisseur, a "tea-totaler" or a "teetotaler" as Ingrid Graff would spell it, this lecture will be enjoyed by adults of all ages.

Speaker Glenn A. Knoblock, noted author of over 10 books and 70 articles on projects relating to New Hampshire history and other subjects has a B.A. in History from Bowling Green State University. Knoblock has authored and researched projects relating to New Hampshire history and African American military history and served as the main military contributor to Harvard and Oxford University's landmark African American Biography Project. He is an advisory member of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Cemetery Committee in Portsmouth, NH a group devoted to racial diversity and promoting NH's African American history.

This program is made possible by a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council and sponsored by the Friends of the Randolph Public Library.

### Lots Soon to be Available in New Cemetery

*Submitted by Karen Eitel*

During the August meeting, the cemetery trustees voted to open all lots that have been surveyed in the upper most section from the flag pole to the western boundary for purchase in the new cemetery. A single cemetery lot, measuring 6 x 10 feet, will cost \$400, which will include perpetual care. There are some loose ends, however, in the procedural process, as well as rules and regulations regarding number of cremations per single lot, headstones, etc that must be finalized at the September Trustees meeting. In the meantime we encourage anyone who has questions or concerns regarding the new cemetery to contact one of the Trustees listed below. Although it will be the fall season before lots can be purchased, we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. All rules and regulations will be covered at the next Annual Town Meeting.

Suzie Lowe Santos - 466-3950, Karen Eitel - 466-5074, or Steve Hartman, 466-2244



**Davis Tree Experts** cutting down the big pines on Randolph Hill Road on 7-6-2011  
Photos by Bob Leclerc

*Editors Note: Many Charade participants and spectators requested we publish Bill's exposition in the Mountain View. As is often the case, Bill obliged.*

## Sesquipedalian

William Minifie  
August 20, 2011

*In the Randolph Charades this summer, the 98th season, or so we are told, the word that The Hill chose, which we were absolutely convinced would never be guessed, was sesquipedalian, which literally means 'a foot and a half long,' and is, perhaps, a fancy way of saying 'long-winded.' The late William F. Buckley, Jr. was the inspiration for the following lecture by yours truly.*

*The set up was that John Brown, who was our emcee, asked me, the 'professor,' which of the three areas of Randolph was the best.*

The sesquipedalian answer was:

"In the trifurcated oncidium bereft Randolph there are three non-eponymous, and non discernibly onamonapedic dominions each of which superciliously chants almost hypomixolidianly that their preeminence is indubitable twixt the tripartition. Let us evince these claims.

The Valley, bituminously burdened and asphyxiated in the cacophonous and odiferous emanations of semi-articulated internal combustionated machinations on the arterial-like thoroughfares and whose view is only obtained by strident straining anaphylactic shock inducing neckular muscular contractual contortions is barely worth noting in this contestation.

The Midlands meanwhile, delusively prescient like most intermediaries, finds itself with an inchoate desire to overcome the shibboleths that assure its permanent inculcation as a tepid manifestation of neither ascendancy nor abasement. Their intendment is a frump-filled, quixotic but futile interrogative.

Finally to all who have cognition we must extol the apotheosis of this proprietorship---namely the locale with the succinct appellation: The Hill. Here we are not abased at the foot, nor surreptitiously naval gazing at Regal Ravines but rather find ourselves equanimously surveying our peaks as peers, yeah on a more than equal footing. Furthermore the abstruseness of this iteration will assure our *nulli secundus* because neither the Valley nor indeed the Midlands shall e'er descry our vowel and consonant confabulations.

I hope this elucidation is cogently assuasive.

*P.S. The word was guessed in under three seconds with absolutely no clues or help from anyone---as far as we know. Go figure!*



### Roberta Arbree

"Who cooks for you? Who cooks for me?" Plus a lot of "who boo" and moaning and groaning. "I was in prison for eating mice, says Roberta. "In prison they gave me some rotten food. I got real sick pretending to throw up. Hence "sick owl" for sicol as part of musicology" "It really was fun and I would do it again," said Midland's Roberta.  
Charades, August 2011 *Photo by Dede Aube*



**Aulivia Kenison & John Miccuci** dance for the crowds at the Jazz Picnic on July 13  
Photo by Anne Kenison.

## RMC Trail System Survived Irene

Note from Mike Micucci, RMC Trails Committee

While it is still fairly early in the assessment process, I and our fall crew have managed to inspect several of our trails and with all due sympathy to those less fortunate, I feel that it's safe to say that the RMC trail system has, by and large survived relatively intact.

On Tuesday after the storm I quickly ran out to inspect our bridges, Memorial and Sanders, over Coldbrook, and the Nepalese Bridge over Carlton Brook are all intact. Likewise, trails to the bridges: Link, Amphibrach, Cliffway, Randolph Path, Burnbrae, Glenside and Groveway show signs of water movement but no harm.

Running along Crescent Ridge Trail, I counted but 3 trees down, and while it's likely, I can't say with 100% certainty that Tropical Storm Irene was responsible. 2 down trees were cleared from Amphibrach while Spur to Crag Camp, Hincks to Gray Knob and Lowe's path showed no serious problems. The Bee Line bog bridges between Durand Road and Durand Lake were moved a good distance to the east, as we expect to happen after every high water event, and I believe I have devised a solution to that vexing problem. The bog bridges are back in place as of Wednesday afternoon. Peeko's Bridge on the Bee Line remains in good condition.

The bottom of Brookside at the Valley Way intersection shows considerable erosion from Snyder Brook jumping the bank at the site where the Caroline Cutter Stevens bridge was formerly located. If we had replaced that bridge as was encouraged by many of the membership when it washed out for the third time, we'd be picking up the pieces of our investment somewhere around Durand Road. The Inlook Trail, Kelton Trail from Dome Rock to the Brookside and Brookside from the Kelton Junction down to Valley Way are all fine, save for the aforementioned erosion on the Brookside.

The fall crew is currently on Howker Ridge and Watson Path and then Lower Bruin and upper sections of Brookside and I'll get the final report of post storm conditions later today, but I'm confident that we'll find those trails are relatively unaffected by Irene. Should anything serious turn up, such as on Israel Ridge Trail or Castle Ravine Trail, I'll let you all know but I anticipate moving the crew ahead with our planned projects on Lowe's and Spur for the remainder of the season.

Drop a note to me should you have any questions, [mjmicucci@gmail.com](mailto:mjmicucci@gmail.com)



**Usha and Preetinder Vick** seem to be enjoying their meal at the Fireman's Breakfast. Photo by Dede Aube.



**Ingrid & Walter Graff** enjoy their evening at the Jazz Picnic on July 13. Photo by Dede Aube

## What's Cooking in Randolph?

"Almost imperceptibly, the glory of summer becomes the dignity of autumn." Jeff Crump, Earth to Table, 2009.

A popular dish in Randolph appears to be Chicken Marbella. So say Clare Folsom and Karen Eitel. "It really is a fantastic recipe, especially when a busy day and company happen to fall on the same day," says Karen who makes this recipe a day in advance. The chicken is first marinated in oil, vinegar, capers, olives, prunes and herbs and then baked with brown sugar and white wine. Both women told me they marinate the chicken for only 2-3 hours. They also use boneless chicken breasts instead of whole chickens. "It's good hot or cold," says Clare. "The chicken keeps and even tastes better the second day; it is easy to pack and is a great picnic food."

**Chicken Marbella** from the Silver Palate 10th Anniversary Cookbook by Julee Rosso and the late Sheila Lukins, who had a brilliant imagination for new flavors and food combinations

*Although the original recipe calls for 2 small chickens to be quartered, you could easily do this recipe with 5 pounds of chicken pieces, thighs and/or breasts.*

### Ingredients

2 chickens, 2 1/2 lbs. each, quartered, bone-in, skin-on  
 1/2 head of garlic, peeled and finely puréed  
 2 Tbsp. dried oregano  
 Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper to taste  
 1/4 cup red wine vinegar  
 1/4 cup olive oil  
 1/2 cup pitted prunes  
 8 large pitted Spanish green olives cut in half  
 1/4 cup capers with a bit of juice  
 3 bay leaves  
 1/4 cup brown sugar  
 1/2 cup white wine  
 2 Tbsp. fresh Italian parsley, finely chopped

### Method

1. In a large bowl combine garlic, oregano, salt and pepper to taste, vinegar, olive oil, prunes, olives, capers with caper juice, and bay leaves. Add the chicken pieces and coat completely with the marinade. Cover and let marinate, refrigerated, several hours.
  2. Preheat oven to 350°F. Arrange chicken in a single layer in one or two large, shallow baking pans and spoon marinade over it evenly. Sprinkle chicken pieces with brown sugar and pour white wine around them.
  3. Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour, basting frequently with the pan juices. Chicken is done when pieces, pricked with a fork at their thickest point, yield clear yellow juice (not pink).
  4. With a slotted spoon, transfer chicken, prunes, olives, and capers to a serving platter. Add some of the pan juices and sprinkle generously with parsley or cilantro. Serve remaining juice in a gravy boat.
- Serves 5 - 8

It was a decent summer for blueberries and perhaps you managed to save a few. Jean Malick's blueberry soup would be wonderfully refreshing on a warm September day. This recipe comes from the Silver Palate Cookbook by Julie Russo and Sheila Lukins.

**Blueberry Soup** Serve as a first course, dessert or by itself for lunch

### Ingredients

5 cups fresh blueberries, plus additional for garnish  
 4 cups water  
 4 whole cloves  
 2-inch piece of cinnamon stick  
 2/3 cup honey  
 juice of one lemon  
 3 Tablespoons of Creme de Cassis (black current liqueur)  
 1 Tablespoon blueberry vinegar  
 plain yogurt (garnish)

### Method

1. Rinse the blueberries and remove stems, leaves or green berries
2. Put the berries in a kettle and add the water, cloves and cinnamon stick. Set over moderate heat and bring to a boil. Stir in the honey, reduce the heat and simmer, partially covered, until berries are very tender, about 15 minutes.
3. Remove from heat and cool to room temperature. Force soup through a strainer or through the medium

blade of a food mill. Stir in lemon juice, Creme de Cassis and vinegar. Cover and refrigerate for at least 6 hours.  
4. Serve in chilled bowls, garnished with a few whole berries, a dollop of plain yogurt and a sprinkle of grated orange rind.  
Serves 6

*I do not always use the liqueur and I make my own blueberry vinegar and raspberry liqueur for this recipe. (both very easy)--Jean Malick*



**Blueberry Soup** Yvonne Jenkins, Anne Wells and Jeanne Malick enjoy "Blueberry Soup." Photo by Dede Aube



**Bill Parlett and Sarah Clemmitt** dance the night away at the Jazz Picnic on July 13. Photo by Dede Aube



**John McDowell** blows his horn at the Jazz Picnic on July 13, 2011. Photo by Dede Aube



**Carol & Dick Doyle** show off their dance moves at the Jazz Picnic on July 13. Photo by Dede Aube

*A busy summer on Randolph Hill!*



**Hide & Seek** Construction tractor peeks from the bushes on Randolph Hill. Photo by Anne Kenison



**Line Up** Construction trucks give due respect to the majestic mountains. Photo by Anne Kenison

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