

VERMONT'S VOICE

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT

NATURAL BEAUTY

Clerk's Corner

By Karen Carlock

Annual Community Event

- Consider lending a hand to make this year's community event at Tyrol Basin the best one yet!
- New faces and new ideas are welcomed and encouraged
- Contact Karen Carlock at clerk@townofvermont.com or 608-767-2457 if you are interested in being a part of this year's planning committee.

Citizen Outreach

Looking for an update regarding broadband improvement efforts in Vermont? Want to share your opinion regarding the ATC Transmission line? Or maybe you haven't heard much about either of these topics. The new Citizen Outreach pages on the Town of Vermont website are the place to go for information regarding key debates or issues that are ongoing within the township. And the pages also provide a place for you to politely contribute your thoughts on the various topics. We look forward to hearing your thoughts as we strive to provide better updates on issues.

Check out www.townofvermont.com and click Community > Citizen Outreach

2016 Elections

- We have a local election on **August 9th**. You can start the voter registration process online at My Vote WI or you can register in-person at the Town Hall with the Town Clerk. You can also register on Election day at Town Hall.
- To request an absentee ballot, email the Town Clerk at Clerk@townofvermont.com or send a written request to: Town Clerk, Vermont Town Hall, 4017 County Road JJ, Black Earth, WI 53515. In your written or emailed request, you must include your name, the address you are registered to vote under, the address to which you would like the absentee ballot sent, and as of this year, you must also include a photo copy of a photo ID.

Vermont's Voice Moving Online

- Vermont's Voice typically is mailed out on a quarterly basis and it is such a delight to have such a wonderful newsletter available to residents. This year, the issue that you receive in September will be the final paper mailing of Vermont's Voice. Paper copies will be available at Town Hall for those who wish to pick up a paper copy to enjoy.
- You can sign up easily to receive the Vermont's Voice electronically by going to www.townofvermont.com, entering your email address, checking the box next to "Vermont's Voice Quarterly Newsletter" and then clicking the "Subscribe Now" button.
- Or read Vermont's Voice newsletters online at www.townofvermont.com and click "Vermont's Voice" under "Community" in the top menu bar.

A Lovely Lavender Beauty

by Karen Carlock

Take a stroll at dusk and you won't be able to miss it – the heavenly aroma of dame's rocket which becomes more prominent in the early evening. Catching its scent in the air allows many to delight in the arrival of spring. To the casual observer, it seems incredibly fortunate that this lovely, undemanding wildflower blankets our roadsides and wooded areas this time of year with loose clusters of white, purple and lavender blossoms.

Unfortunately, in the case of dame's rocket, which is also known by the alluring names of night-scented gillyflower and mother-of-the-evening, to rejoice in one's fortune would be folly. Dame's rocket is just as troublesome as its relative garlic

(continued on next page)

VERMONT'S VOICE

Lovely lavender beauty, cont'd from front page

mustard and finds itself on the invasive species list. Vermont resident Jim Elleson who is the proprietor of Quercus Land Stewardship Services, a local business dedicated to helping landowners improve the ecological health of their land, said “dame’s rocket looks nice but don’t be fooled. It aggressively invades woodlands and woodland edges and crowds out the native wildflowers.” If you take a moment to look closer at a thick patch of dame’s rocket, Elleson shared that one is unlikely to find Dutchman’s breeches, bloodroot, shooting star, bellwort, trillium or any of the other spring wildflowers that are native to Vermont woods.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Resources, dame’s rocket may be especially problematic because it is often found in wildflower seed mixes and then poses an ecological threat because it “quickly escapes cultivation [due to] its prolific seed set.” Hence in Wisconsin, the ‘lovely dame’ has earned a legal classification of restricted, meaning that possession is allowed but introduction, transport and transfer is not. Although one may feel some reluctance, plants should be pulled in the early spring or, larger infested areas could be burned when flowers are in the seedling stage. Sprays can also be used as a method to control the population in the late fall.

With all of the dame’s rocket beginning to appear in the township, it may come as a surprise that this is not our most problematic invader. Elleson said there are a number of much more problematic species which are troublesome for a variety of reasons. For instance, wild parsnip not only causes trouble to native plant species but to the human species as well by inflicting a photochemical “burn.” Then there is garlic mustard which is so prolific that as far as invasive species go, it may have earned the title of “public enemy number one.”



However, Elleson urges concerned Vermonters not to despair. “It is possible to control these invaders and restore the rich native vegetation that on many sites is just waiting for a chance to be released.” Many Vermont residents have invested time and energy into restoring their land. For those who may be interested in pursuing similar restoration efforts, the Blue Mounds Area Project <http://bluemounds.org/> is a great resource for landowners to learn from each other and from guest experts how to better enjoy, protect and restore native biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Victory Amidst Tragedy in 1884 Vermont

Scott Moe & Karen Carlock

The “victorious” was Mrs. Antelman who survived and thrived after being shot multiple times at close range on July 11, 1884 by her husband. This tragic event received significant coverage in the press at the time. The Black Earth Advertiser speculated that “The causes leading to this terrible deed have been developing eight years, ever since Mrs. Antelman, then Mrs. Schlick, widow of a prosperous Cross Plains Farmer, married Charles Antelman of Vermont, thereby becoming his second wife.” Upon believing that he had been successful in his venture, Mr. Charles Antelman committed suicide but Mrs. Antelman miraculously survived the shooting. The act committed by Charles was suspected of being “the outgrowth of a fierce feud” due to Mrs. Antelman continuing to hold property from her first husband in her name. The Black Earth Advertiser writes that Charles, “foiled in efforts to secure this property, for which it appears he married her, commenced a series of devilish persecutions” which apparently culminated in an attempt on her life.

The details of the scene, based on the testimony of Mrs. Antelman, were described in great detail in a Wisconsin State Journal article with the opinions of the reporter made quite plain: “...her husband, after believing that he had killed her...sent a leaden missile, with immediately fatal results, into his own worthless brain.” One might think that such a tragedy must have been quite rare during this time period; however, the Mazomanie Sickle concluded an article on the event with the following: “The frequency of such appalling proceedings are quite commonplace in southern Wisconsin.”

Summarizing the feelings of the area community regarding Mr. Antelman and the tragic events, the Black Earth Advertiser article published the following regarding his death: “[Charles Antelman] was a resident of the town of Vermont for over thirty years and no one regrets his departure, as his quarrelsome and revengeful ways rendered him universally disliked.” A jury convened to look into his death and returned a verdict of “self destruction.” Following the rendering of their verdict, that same jury took his body to an isolated part of the farm to be “unceremoniously planted.” Local lore is that this unceremonious planting occurred by a rock on what is now the property of Town Board Supervisor Scott Moe on HWY F.

VERMONT'S VOICE

Student Spotlight – Hailey Schulenberg

By Karen Carlock

She has a love for all things outdoors and even at the age of 15, recognizes the uniqueness and limited availability of rural spaces like the Town of Vermont. Hailey Schulenberg's favorite thing about growing up in Vermont is the many options for outdoor fun. Whether four-wheeling, fishing, hunting or exploring nature, she is in her element living in Vermont. Hailey has particularly fond memories of summers spent fishing with her sister and cousins at Stewart Lake. She and her sister would also weed their grandmother's garden and pick raspberries for her activities which Hailey credits for her love of gardening.



This incredibly hard worker helps on her uncle's farm with daily chores, raises her own steers and swine to show at the Dane County Fair, mows grass, picks rock out of the plowed fields and regularly stacks wood. Hailey does all of this with appreciation for agriculture and time outdoors, even persevering with joy through the inevitable bumps, bruises and animal kicks.

Hailey will be a junior at Mt. Horeb High School and is active in the FFA and 4-H organizations. As the current president of her 4-H chapter and the Secretary of her FFA, she is dedicated to developing as a leader and passionate about bettering her community. Through 4-H, she makes lap blankets for individuals living in nursing homes, and she also really enjoys visiting with the residents.

Living in Vermont near family, Hailey values them as significant role models in her life. She appreciates all of the skills that her father and uncle have taught her and wants to continue her education with a focus in agriculture and science. During her junior and senior years of high school, she plans to get more involved in FFA leadership in order to continue improvements in her chapter and grow in confidence as a leader. Hailey is currently planning a summer camping trip to Canada for her FFA chapter and is looking forward to the outdoor adventure.

Hailey is an impressive young person with determination, work ethic and a very kind and gentle spirit. In every aspect of her life, she seems to have a positive impact on the people and environment she is a part of, and it is a privilege to have her as a "Vermont-er."

****Please note:** If you know a wonderful student in Vermont Township who is comfortable being featured in an upcoming issue of Vermont's Voice, please email clerk@townofvermont.com to submit his or her name.*

A Peculiar Snippet

Adapted from Peculiar Stories by Dan Brunner

There was a hint of a story in the Vermont history book that talked about a guy named "Banker Hauge." The story was that he was an Old Norwegian who had money and would loan money to farmers in Vermont. An article in 1894 acknowledges his death and identifies Banker Hauge as Andrew Hauge. In the article, he was described as a miser and a hermit living in a hut near Black Earth. According to old plat books, he had land on JJ between the Urness place and Blue Mounds Trail. After he died, some of his relatives went to the hut and found money in cans, tobacco pouches and other receptacles throughout the hut. In total, there was \$2,000 in gold coins as well as \$25,000 in other currency. Makes one wonder whether or not there is still more treasure buried there...

Dan Brunner was born and raised at Peculiar Corners on the Ed Brunner farm but left the farm and joined the Navy as soon as he turned 18 and never returned. He hasn't forgotten about the farm, Vermont Township or his extended family. He is the self-appointed family historian and keeps tabs on everyone. He has photos and maps and documents and news clippings on all things Vermont or Brunner including some peculiar stories.

A Bike Event Poem for Summer 2016

By Karen Carlock

The hillsides in Vermont are filled with green
People come from near and far to enjoy the scene
And on June 18th hopefully it won't be chilly
As athletes participate in the Horribly Hilly

On the 4th of July, early in the morn
Triathletes start their day with the sound of a horn
A swim at Stewart Lake and then riding along
As part of the Boom Boom Triathlon

Blue Mounds State Park is such a treasure!
Whether camping, walking or watching for feathers
From 10-12:30 on the 9th of July
The Blue Mounds Classic participants will go cycling
by.

For more information on the events – want a
resource?
Like start time, duration and the map, of course
Go to the website for the Town of Vermont
Townofvermont.com is the one you want!

VERMONT'S VOICE

How to reach us:

Publisher: Lisa Orman, 767-4930, home; lisa@kidstuffpr.com
Managing Editor: Chris Coffin, 437-3213, ccoffin@mhtc.net

Mission Statement: It is the mission of Vermont's Voice to provide information about our town and articles of interest to the residents of our town in order to promote a sense of community, encourage participation in and understanding of town government, and improve communication among residents. Vermont's Voice is a volunteer, citizen-run publication that encourages and depends on citizen participation in providing information, articles, or suggestions for articles, photos, criticism, and help with mailings. The cost of printing and postage is included in the town budget. Vermont's Voice is not the official voice or viewpoint of the town government.



Lisa and Chris

Keep up to date on town ordinances, meetings and other business at <http://www.townofvermont.com>.

Town Officials

Chair, Barb Grenlie 437-5856
Supervisor #1 Scott Moe 767-4738
Supervisor #2 Don McKay 437-4071
Supervisor #3 Todd Culliton, 767-4145
Supervisor #4 Doug Meier 767-8860
Town Clerk Karen Carlock 767-2457
Or email: clerk@townofvermont.com

Town Treasurer Kathy Smith 767-0809
Town Patrolman Jack Schulenberg 437-5490
Building Inspector Johnson Inspections 608-444-0372

Plan Commission Members

Chair Todd Culliton 767-4145
Vice Chair Jim Elleson 767-3553
Secretary Karen Carlock 767-2457

Scott Moe 767-4738
Doug Meier, 767-8860
Dean Bossenbroeck 669-1728
Mary George, 576-0905
Katie MacDonald, 438-4253

Fire Warden

Shirley Brandt 767-3030

Summer 2016

VERMONT'S VOICE

AGRICULTURE GOVERNMENT NATURAL BEAUTY

PO Box 204
Black Earth, WI 53515

PRESORTED
STANDARD
Permit #5
Black Earth
WI 53515

Return Service
Requested

Designed and edited by

KidStuff
PUBLIC RELATIONS