



The Bridge

P.O. Box 18, Montgomery Center, VT 05471 * E-mail: CoveredBridgesGardenClub@hotmail.com
Covered Bridges Garden Club Newsletter ♦ August/Sept 2011

Marsha Phillips

President

Marijke Dollois

2nd Vice President
(Membership)

Kathy Ross

Treasurer

Jaye Secor

Corresponding
Secretary

Lauri Ellis

Ways and Means

Charlotte Rosshandler

Editor, The Bridge

Committees

Civic Beautification

- Barrels
- Library Garden
- School Garden
- Village Green

Hospitality

Programming

Publicity

Ways & Means

Yearbook

If you wish to participate on any of these committees or with the Newsletter, please email us or contact Marsha Phillips at 326-3111. We welcome your help!

Summer meetings



Next Meeting

*Harvest Fest
on the Village Green
Saturday, August 27
10-3 pm*

Letter from the President

Dear Members

What a wonderful summer we are having. Once we got through the monsoon season the heat has really kicked in and I for one am soaking it up. My gardens are happy and my berry crops are bountiful. I don't know about the rest of you but the one issue I have been having this summer is my battle with bugs of all sorts. At first I was picking and spraying and setting traps but I have come to the conclusion that no matter what I do there are more of them than I have time to deal with so I have resigned myself to letting them have their way. Hopefully they will run their cycles, not eat too much and leave some goodies for me. Maybe at one of our meetings the program could be a round table discussion on our own pest control issues and creative solutions that you have come up with.

It is hard for me to believe that we are already into August and the Fest is only about 3 weeks away. Hopefully all of you have marked your calendar for August 27th.. Remember we will be needing canned goods, baked goodies, produce, cut flowers and of course plants that you have potted up from your garden. Ideally these should be potted up now so they look strong and healthy by the 27th. Please include houseplants, too. It's always a fun day and I look forward to seeing all of you.

I am putting out a call for help to get the Village Green in order for the Fest. On **Saturday August 20th** we would like to organize a work day to get the gardens looking presentable. We will work from 10-12 and get done what we can. If this time is not convenient for you please feel free to go when you can. If everyone in the club just stopped by with a bucket and pulled weed for 15 minutes it would be done in no time.

One more thing...Don't forget the raffle! We have wonderful items this year and it is an important fund raiser for us. If you need more tickets just let me know.

Be well

Marsha



PRESS RELEASE

Contact Denise Smith, Event Coordinator at (802) 355-0694 or denisebsmith@comcast.net

EVENT **HISTORIC MARKET DAY ON THE DOCK AT THE BAY**

Tuesday, August 16th from 4-7pm

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum has confirmed that the Lois McClure will be docked at the St. Albans Bay on the evening of Monday, August 15th and open to the public on Tuesday, August 16th and Wednesday, August 17th with public viewing hours both days from 12pm to 7pm. The Maritime Museum "Farm and Forest" tour hopes to increase awareness about sustainable agriculture, forestry practices, local produce and the importance of a clean lake.

Regional Partners, local businesses and the Town of St. Albans are organizing a ***Historic Market Day on The Dock at the Bay*** on Tuesday, August 16th from 4-7pm to welcome the Lois McClure and promote our regional specialties with a Food and Natural Products Farmer's Market, Watershed Information, Local Cheeses, Meats & Maple Samples, Historic Interpretation of the Site, Music and Farm Animals.

The event is being sponsored by the: Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, St. Albans Co-Op, Bay Store, Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation, Town of St. Albans, Workforce Investment Board, Northwest Regional Planning commission, USDA Farm Service Agency, and the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. The event is free and open to the public. The rain date is on Wednesday, August 17th From 4pm – 7pm.

June 2011 Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held at the home of Marsha Phillips. The photos show how beautifully her home is landscaped. Also, having Trout River as part of your backyard is priceless. Everyone bought pot luck and, as usual, the food was fantastic. Ed Ellis won a \$50.00 certificate to Bates in Enosburg Falls. Well, actually, Marsha won but since she asked Bates for the certificate she requested another name be pulled. Lucky for Ed.

There were two other prizes given out at the gathering.



All board members gave a verbal report of the past year. We are still looking for a new president and for some members to become more active. Sue Peters, with the help of Patty Lambert are going to act as the "Welcome Wagon" for new people in the area.



Don't forget our biggest event of the year is coming up. *Harvest Fest* will be Saturday, August 27th. 10am to 3pm. Stacy Manosh is going to handle vendors. Kathleen Ross will be selling your baked goods, potted plants and produce. Marsha is selling raffle tickets. Please do what you can to make this a success. Mark your calendar and tell your friends. It should be a fun day for all.

Jaye Secor
Corresponding Secretary

photos: Ken

PLEASE donate to the Harvest Fest Plant Sale

Calling all gardeners! Need to divide your perennials or move plants? PLEASE pot up some specimens now and set them aside to donate to the Harvest Fest Plant Sale. The sooner you do this the better as the plants will have time to adjust and look their best on Aug. 27th! After potting, simply water well and store plants in the shade for a few days so they can recover, then you can submerge the whole pot in the ground (back in sun if it needs sun) so that you don't have to water as often. Any potted houseplants will also be greatly appreciated.

We really need our garden club members to come through with donations this year, as we can no longer rely on Berry Hill Perennials and Hamlen's Garden Ctr. for donations as they are both out of business now. The Plant Sale is a backbone table at the Harvest Fest and we need YOU to make it a success!

Please call Annette Goyne at 933-2416 if you have any questions.

MONTHLY MEETING - July 20, 2011

Eighteen members of the Covered Bridges Garden Club were guests at Tiffany & Nate Osowiecki's home on Mountain Road in Montgomery Center. We toured her bountiful gardens while tasting basil along the way. Tiffany explained "permaculture gardening" and showed us her Walking Egyptian onions as an example. They happen to re-root themselves season after season expending less energy and time for the grower. She also showed us some of her "manual" tools that she uses frequently.



We all enjoyed an array of her fresh vegetables and herbs followed with a delicious home made cake which Tiffany is famous for. By the way, she does take orders for cakes and pies!

Her husband Nate was also very hospitable and answered any of our questions. They both gave us the impression that gardening, like life, is an on-going process of trial and error.

Even though they live on the top of a mountain, it was still close to 90 degrees and when the beautiful breeze stopped and the deer flies kicked in, a few members decided to jump in the pond with Tiffany. Charlotte's pictures tell the story.

We all came away with the image of Tiffany gathering us up with her arms as new and old friends. How refreshing. We all felt more connected to this beautiful area we call home, the home grown food that nourishes us and the people that choose to live here.



Jaye Secor
Corresponding
Secretary

photos: charlotte rosshandler, including cover photo of Nicky Ford jumping into the Osowiecki's deep clear pond. It was all a fabulous experience, as was the very special treatment that both Tiffany and Nate made for the members of the CBGC -it was the event of the year! Their home on Rt. 242 will always be a special spot for each of us. Tiffany also: *'extends to anyone who missed this event and also to those who attended, to stop at her home, anytime, to visit and to exchange gardening wisdom with her.'*

I intend to do a write up about Tiffany in the next Newsletter, when she is not so busy with garden duties. Her story is too good for anyone to miss.

charlotte

NOTABLE

We have a few members who have good reason to be sited in this edition of our newsletter, Annette Goyne, Christa Chevalier and Ave Leslie. And here's why.



Annette Goyne was awarded *Citizen of Year* by the Richford Lions Club this past Spring.. She is the School Librarian at Richford Jr/Sr High School and also Director of the Arvin Brown Public Library in Richford. Annette, as far as I know, was the driving force in recently creating the Richford Conservation Commission and has been vigorously active with the many programs created to bring awareness to all aspects of our environment in the Richford area. Her work in the libraries is tireless and very creative and we all are aware of the many ways in which she supports the CBGC. In addition to her caring and her creativity, I find that one of her most remarkable qualities is that she *shows up*. No wonder the Lion's Club noticed her!

Christa Chevalier, in addition to writing, art, cooking, gardening and taking care of Dave, also teaches children in the 5th grade at Berkshire Elementary. She has done this on a volunteer basis for many, many years and the kids adore her directness, honesty, challenging nature and good humor. She also gets even the most recalcitrant students to express themselves in writing. This Spring she took a bold step and responded to a request from *President Obama*, asking that children write to him and let him know what they would do to change the world.

With Christa's encouragement, the kids accepted this challenge and the results of their letters were so compelling that on April 26, President Obama wrote a letter back to them. You can imagine what a good effect this had on those 5th grade writing students. All of the letters were published in the St. Alban's Messenger in May.

What next, Christa!



Ave Leslie has been a most faithful participant of *all things* Montgomery. If it is happening, Ave's there. A 5th year Ph.D. candidate in Socio-Cultural Anthropology at the Univ. of Chicago, it has been

enriching to have his presence at the Garden Club meetings and events. His research in Montgomery concerns local democracy, civic participation and community life. His major theme is how people try to make their community into the kind of place they want to live in, both through formal governmental approaches -*Select Board* - and informal means - *neighbors gathering to work* -. Ave was even on the Common when the new maple tree was planted in June and arrived on his bicycle to plant the barrels this Spring and all events before and after. Taking everything and everyone into consideration, we have all been made to feel important and significant by his presence and constant observation.



Ave and Carol McG. chatting-break during the June tree planting on the Montgomery Commons.

Please return to visit before you become Dr. Leslie. We'll miss you, Ave.

Charlotte R.

CHRISTA'S CORNER

A GATHERING AT THE BACK DOOR

Whenever I come bustling out of my back door, my head crammed with things that need doing, *immediately if not sooner*, my feet (will) come to

an abrupt halt after I hop over the threshold. Sometimes, so quick, my upper body, still in fast-forward, almost pulls me off my feet. It feels as if somebody has tripped me to remind me to slow down. Normally it's David who tells me things like that, but since he is not around at the moment, it must have been one of my three green friends growing between the cracks of the large flat stones in front of the door. It is a Buttercup, a wild Strawberry and a Forget-Me-Not that I originally planted in front of the house.... 65 yards from the back door. Occasionally the reminder is taken seriously, ...I



slow down. I sit on the steps, put the *immediate if not sooner* stuff on the back burner, relax and maybe watch a dragonfly rest on my knee, listen to a Robin calling her young or study the cryptic meandering of an ant. For a little while I just focus on what the immediate if not sooner won't let you, the pocket-sized pleasures in my life I so often ignore, ..and sometimes even step on.

Until next time...stay well And think GREEN,

GARDEN TIP The Japanese Beetle is back in business... saw my first one a couple of days ago on the grape leaves. A mixture of 1 Tbs. Of Murphy Oil Soap in 1 gallon of water, sprayed on the plants (not vegetable plants) is very successful.

Christa Chevalier

August notes... do yourself a big favor:

Make lots of PESTO from fresh basil! Order a delicious cake from Tiffany Osowiecki. Fertilize soil, lawn and garden. Have Charlie Fichman build you a stone wall, floor or bar-b-que. Visit some farm stands (like Olga's on the Perly Road and Henry Osowiecki's on Rt/242).

Take a class in something new. Paint, WC, draw flowers, visit a waterfall. Volunteer. Go antique hunting, Go camping, Bring a pot of flowers to a friend, freeze berries, Make fresh tomato sauce. Have tea-time, swim,

REST.



HERBS AND RECIPES

Christa's Pasta Sauce

- 14 lbs. cut up *paste* tomatoes
- 2 large diced white onions
- 3 medium diced red onions
- 6 cloves garlic
- 4 diced cups of celery
- 2 diced large red peppers
- 2 diced large yellow peppers
- 5 chopped packed cups of basil leaves
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1 1/2 tbs. black pepper
- 2 tbs. paprika
- 3 (or more) heaping tablespoons of savory
- 4 (or more) heaping tablespoons of oregano
- 1 1/2 tbs of rosemary
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 cup of white wine

Put first 15 ingredients in large pot and mix well. Start on low heat until content softens and creates liquid, stir often, slowly increase heat, until content is beginning to bubble. Adjust heat to a gentle simmering. Cook for 1 1/2 hr., add white wine, stir and simmer 20 min. more or until sauce has thickened to preferred consistency. Freeze or can at 10 pounds of pressure for 20 minutes.



a *paste* tomato with her friends, the oreganos.

COMMUNITY GARDENS CROPPING UP



Don't you love driving by the River Walk Community Garden near Montgomery Village? We also took a look at the teaching gardens at Montgomery Elementary in the last newsletter (the CBGC was a big part of the creation of this program years ago). The CBGC was also a part of the creation of The Garden Sprouts garden at the Richford summer camp (me); there is a garden at Berkshire Elementary (which I have not visited) and now there is a teaching/community garden behind the Richford Elementary. I think

Annette G. is involved with that

garden. These gardens are so impressive and important in our communities. The garden is nestled next to the playground and next to that was a rather large area that was not mowed, and filled with Milkweed. I imagined that someone knew the importance of milkweed to the monarch butterfly and left that section un-mowed for that reason.
charlotte r.





Covered Bridges Garden Club
P.O. Box 18
Montgomery Center, VT 05471

address:

featured herbs for tea:

Chamomile: sleepy tea ; echinacea: immunity ; thyme: indigestion ; hops: sedative youth

up-coming meetings

URGENT !! Saturday, August 20, 10-12 pm a 'weeding -get together' on the Montgomery Green, in preparation for the Harvest Fest. We need every weeder possible. COME!

Saturday, August 27 **"Harvest Fest"**
on The Village Green 10-3pm!

Notes and Reminders for September:

Bring houseplants inside, but first check them for bugs! Plant spring bulbs. Divide day lilies. Dry flowers. Plant trees or shrubs. Make notes on this years harvest experience for next year (successes, failures, changes, new plans). Be grateful, no matter what!