

Roxbury Newsy

Your community newsletter

October-December 2019, Vol. 4 No. 3

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Do you have upcoming newsletter submissions, suggestions, or corrections to the mailing list?

Please contact the RNL at librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org or 802-485-8860.

Thanks to Ryan Zajac, Courtney Jenkins, Jane Pincus and Heidi Albright for compiling, editing and designing this issue of the Newsy! We hope you enjoy it.

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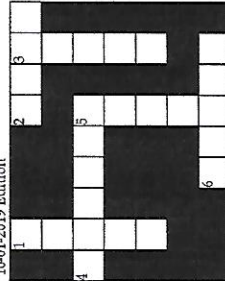
Field Naturalist's Corner

Monarch butterflies, *Danaus plexippus*, are about to begin their fall migration to overwinter in oyamel fir trees in the mountains of Mexico. Unlike most other insects in temperate climates, Monarch butterflies cannot survive a long cold winter and must migrate south and west. For individuals of the

Eastern US, this can be a journey over 3,000 miles long. Butterflies emerging from their pupae, or chrysalides, in Vermont at this time of year often have larger wings and greater fat stores to make the long journey. Somehow they know their way, even though the butterflies returning to Mexico each fall are the great-great-grandchildren of the butterflies that left the previous spring. Scientists have yet to discover exactly how their homing system works; it is another of the many unanswered questions in the natural world. 🦋



10-01-2019 Edition



Down

1. First name of Roxbury's newest Justice of the Peace
3. First name of Roxbury's newest Selectboard member
5. School program runs every day from 2:30 - 5:00 at RVS

Across

2. Last name of Roxbury's newest School Board member
4. First name of Roxbury's Justice of the Peace who has recently retired
6. From the "Our Businesses" tab on the Roxbury Website - Firefly Farm on West Hill is what kind of farm?

Stop by the library for the answers to our crossword puzzle, or visit www.roxburyfreelibrary.org



Dr. John Aberth and a female merlin he is rehabilitating after she was found starving and too weak to fly and hunt on her own. The merlin is expected to recover fully. Photo by Laura Hamilton.

Wildlife Rehab in Roxbury

An Interview with Dr. John Aberth
by The Roxbury Reporter

Dr. John Aberth, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in Roxbury, cares for wounded wild birds and small mammals. In this interview, he talks about one of his passions.

RR: How did you get interested in caring for birds?

JA: Once, my brother and his friend (my friend too) rescued a juvenile hawk lying on the ground. It was starving, and died. It was sad. They didn't know how to help it. Since then, I've learned about what to do, for instance, I've studied the emaciation protocol, and how to administer subcutaneous (under the skin) fluids to prevent or remedy dehydration.

RR: What animals and birds do you rescue?

JA: I rescue raptors such as hawks and owls, and also the other predators (coyotes, bobcats, weasels, minks, fisher cats) that prey on rodents such as mice and rats. Rodents carry fleas and ticks that are capable of starting epidemics such as the Plague, (also called the Black Death in the Middle Ages), an epidemic which I've studied and written about for years. These days, as the climate changes, we are seeing the increase in Lyme Disease, also from ticks found on these rodents.

continued on next page...

From the Town Clerk's Office

RR: How did you learn to care for animals?

JA: In 2010 I took a course at VINS (Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Woodstock) that covered all aspects of avian rehab, including wound care, stabilizing fractures, raising baby birds, appropriate drug dosage and how to administer drugs. We examined dead birds, and then I got a chance to examine live ones as an apprentice. I apprenticed for another four months with the head wildlife keeper at VINS, Alison Stark, who provided a rich background of knowledge, and I attended wild animal rehab conferences. I got my rehab license in 2011. Since then I've learned so much, both from my successes and mistakes.

RR: What else is involved?

JA: When you decide to do rehab work there are definite requirements. You must work with a vet. Most vets volunteer their time. You also need to invest time and money before you get your license, to build facilities, such as shelters, for birds and animals, appropriate for the species you have chosen to deal with.

RR: How many animals and birds do you care for during a year?

JA: Just about two dozen every year. I also respond to people's calls and questions. I don't accept waterfowl, squirrels or bats. Once a woman called me at two in the morning because she had run over a rat!

Beavers are interesting. Once I had a baby beaver; it needed to be in water to go to the bathroom. I've raised mink and weasels – each species is interesting in its own way. With three orphaned ravens, I had to wear an imprinting protocol: bird mask, socks on my hands. I fed them ground-up rats. The reason I had to hide my face was so that they did not associate a human face with receiving food. A tame raven has to be disassociated from humans by being 'wilded'; that is, learning to eat food placed in a kind of puzzle box. My specialty is raising orphaned birds and mammals, and bringing animals back from starvation. I have a pretty good success rate.

Owls are interesting too. Their facial disks channel sounds and they fly noiselessly. They differ from hawks and falcons, which have enormously great sight.

RR: How do people find you to report on what they find?

JA: Through the Vermont Department of Wildlife website, game wardens and state police. 🐾

TAXES

The due date for the second installment of property taxes is November 8th. The Town Office will stay open until 5PM on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday the week taxes are due.

OFFICE HOURS

Summer hours will end on September 27. Starting in October, the Town Office will be open Tuesday through Friday 9AM-12PM and 1-4PM.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Roxbury's longtime Justice of the Peace, Gloria Gerdes, has resigned her position. The Governor has appointed Sally Kim to the position.

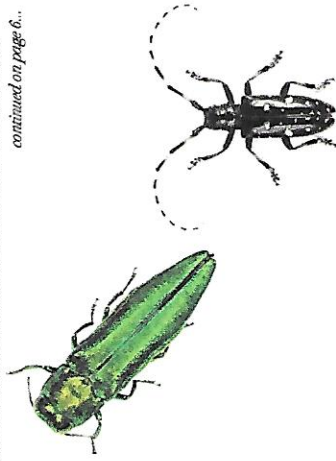
SELECTBOARD POSITION

Jeremy Reed resigned his position on the Selectboard. Clare St. John has been appointed to fill the position until Town Meeting Day.

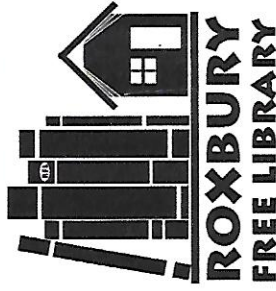
NOTICE FROM THE STATE

Don't bring firewood into Vermont - It's the law. Buy it where you burn it. Tree-killing pests can hitchhike on your firewood! Pests like the Emerald Ash Borer (*shown on left*) and Asian Long-horned Beetle (*on right*) threaten our trees, forests, and communities. New infestations can spread by the movement of firewood. Protect the places you love: Buy local or heat-treated firewood. Be aware of firewood laws, and tell your friends. For Vermont firewood information visit: firewood.vt.gov

continued on page 6.



The Newsy always welcomes new contributors. Please let us know if you have anything you'd like to share with the community and we can get it into the next issue. Send questions and content to librarian@roxburyfreelibrary.org.



Roxbury Free Library Notes

Happy fall Roxbury,

Shorter days and cooler mornings bring not just color to our leaves, but more hours at the RFL. Starting in September, the RFL is again open on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 - 11:00. Check out the community calendar for the fun stuff lined up for this fall at the RFL.

The 2nd annual Roxbury Rooted in VT Potluck will be at the Community Center on Oct. 4th. The theme for this year is "Exploring food in your Backyard! Grow it. Hunt it. Find it." Bring a dish to share at the Community Center starting at 5:30. No RSVP required.

The RFL board of trustees will be hosting a celebration on October 19th to thank and recognize all the RFL volunteers and supporters who help make the RFL great. A light meal will be served from 2:00 - 4:00, please RSVP to the RFL if you would like to join the celebration.

Halloween 2019 will mark the 6th year we've hosted Trunk or Treat at the RVS parking lot. Wow, six years in and the costumes and decorations are still great, who knows what this year will bring! Times for setup and judging will be announced when they are finalized, RSVP required to park.

The Roxbury adult book club met in September and planned out their reading list for the fall. The group will be meeting at the RFL and discussing the following books on these dates - Oct. 7th: *Draw Your Weapons*, Sentilles; Nov. 11th: *Forelandia*, Gandin; Dec. 9th: *How to Be Good*, Hornby.

Did you know the RFL collection grew by 308 items since our last issue of the Newsy was mailed? Our collection has more than 7,000 great items for you to access—come take advantage of them!

Finally, with mixed emotions, we will share that after five years of dedicated service, Lise Ewald has moved on from the RFL's assistant director seat. Thank you Lise for all your help over the years, and we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. With Lise leaving we have a vacancy on the RFL staff. If you are interested in applying or know someone who is, please contact the RFL to inquire about the forthcoming job posting. When the vacancy announcement is finalized it will be posted online, in town, and in other local newspapers. 🐾

The Roxbury Free Library is open three to four days a week and has WiFi access 24/7!

RFL is more than a place to find a great book—you can use computers for many purposes such as writing a resume or surfing the Internet.

You can also use RFL passes to several museums and events in the area. Come in and visit!

Hours: **Tues.** 10-6, **Wed.** 8-11, **Thurs.** 2-7, **Sat.** 10-1

Roxbury Village School News

RVS has a new phone number: 262-1506

The annual Thanksgiving lunch will be on Friday, November 22nd at 11:30, families are invited and are asked to call the school to reserve a lunch by November 15th. Cost of lunch for adults is \$4.50.

The annual December Holiday Luncheon has been set for Friday, December 20th at 11:30 a.m. Family members are invited to join and are asked to call the school at 262-1506 to make a reservation by December 13th. 🐾



An early photo of the Columbian House (a house) which was set next to the Watch Tool Factory owned by Jonas Hall. See page 6 for more Roxbury History!

"From the Town Clerk's Office" continued from page 2..

VACANCIES

There is a vacancy on the Board of Listers. Katelyn Jackson resigned as Planning Commissioner, so there is now a vacancy on that Board as well. If anyone is interested, please contact the Town Clerk's Office.

2019 DOG LICENSES

If you haven't licensed your dog(s) this year, please do so to avoid legal action. It is the law of the State of Vermont to license dogs annually. Owners of unlicensed dogs can be fined up to \$500 and/or the dog(s) could be impounded and destroyed. It is the law of the State of Vermont that all dogs are vaccinated every three years. The first vaccination is only good for one year. The Selectboard will discuss the issue of unlicensed dogs at their October 7th meeting.

GREEN MOUNTAIN PASSPORT PROGRAM

In case you do not know about this wonderful program, I thought I would put it in the newsletter again. Green Mountain Passport is a program for Seniors and Veterans. To be eligible for a Green Mountain Passport, a person must be a legal resident of Vermont, 62 years of age or older or a veteran of the uniformed services. A passport will allow you free admission to Vermont State Parks, Vermont State Historic Sites, and events which are fully State sponsored. Overnight camping and other park fees are excluded.

To received a Green Mountain Passport, just fill out an application at your local Town Clerk's Office and pay a \$2.00 fee. If you'd like more information about services and benefits for Seniors, contact your local area agency on aging by calling the Senior Help Line at 1-800-642-5119.

HIGHWAY NEWS

The road crew has been busy changing culverts and working on grant projects. The new grader arrived this summer.

TOWN OFFICE NEWS

The Town Office was painted this summer. It looks wonderful. A big thank you to Josh Oringer. The Roxbury Cemetery Association has decided over the large cemetery and assets to the Town. A big thank you to Gloria Gerdes and Mark Gerdes for the work they have done over the years.

There are new laws on Vital Records and for Notaries. It will take a little longer to get a copy of a vital record or to get things notarized. Identification is a MUST to have something notarized and to get a copy of a death or birth certificate. ☹️

Roxbury seniors host weekly lunches each Monday at 12:00 in the Community Center. Please RSVP to Jane Pincus (485-8427) the night before if you plan to attend.

Roxbury Village School PTO

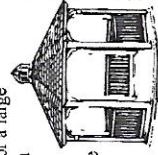
This fall, we welcome back the Roxbury Village School's "Honeybees" with a small but mighty PTO that we are always looking to grow! Being part of the PTO doesn't mean you have to make it to every meeting—you can be as involved as you'd like! We could use help with small things, such as regularly updating social media pages with our activities or school delays, or you could help set up/clean up any of the great events we have planned for our students. You can learn more by visiting our Facebook group "Roxbury Village School PTO" or our website: www.mnpspie.org/roxbury-parents-group.

This fall we are sponsoring a field trip to Liberty Orchard in Brookfield, for the K-4 classes to go apple picking. The PTO will also put on our annual Halloween party (the date for this is TBD, check our website/Facebook page for updates). We will be providing pumpkins for the kids to decorate for the centerpiece at the Thanksgiving dinner at the school on November 22nd.

Please be on the lookout in November for our Yankee Candle fundraiser (just in time for holiday parties and gifts), as well as the popular annual "holiday shopping," event where the kids pick and wrap gifts for their families and loved ones.

In the spring, we will again host STEM night at the school. We are looking for science/math/tech minded volunteers to help run the "labs," please let us know if you're interested (or know someone who would be). Spring events will also include a Little Caesar's pizza fundraiser. Finally, we plan to sponsor an end-of-year trip to the Montshire Museum of Science!

Our big project/news is beginning fundraising for a large outdoor pavilion for the school. It will provide a shady outdoor spot for sunny days, assemblies, graduation ceremonies, and other community gatherings. The idea is still in its infancy and we would love input! Ms. Doti Guiffre, our pre-school teacher is helping us with this effort.



If you would like to help support the projects or events listed above, please get in touch! You can also support us with the new "Box tops" app, by scanning your grocery receipt. This automatically credits the school of your choice (RVSI)—no more cutting the box tops unless you want to. Another way to help is to make a charitable, tax deductible donation at any time on our website: www.mnpspie.org/roxbury-parents-group, by clicking the "donate" button!

Thank you for your support and feel free to email us or connect via Facebook with question/concerns. ☹️

Montpelier-Roxbury Board of School Directors

Our next School Board meeting to be held in Roxbury will on October 2nd at 6:30 pm, at the Roxbury Village School. This is a great opportunity for Roxbury community members to engage with school board members.

Did you know that the budget cycle begins in October and the initial school budget will be presented the first week of December? By early 2020, the budget will already be in its final state, so if you want to better understand what is happening with the school budget and share your feedback with school board members, now is the time! ☹️

Roxbury Website News

Our town's 'new' website (<https://roxburyvt.org>) is a year old. How time flies! We've added a Nature & Conservation Resources page and made additions to other Resources pages as well. We hope you are making use of them.

The homepage sidebar has information sheets on recycling, hunting/fishing, calendars, and other useful links. With the hunting/trapping seasons underway, I've created a section on the main page called Hunt/Trap/Fish. It has the VT Fish and Wildlife regulations and various information sheets.

The main page is updated regularly, as are the lovely images you see every time you click on a page. There is a wealth of information available to everyone!

Tammy and Britney update all the Agendas and Minutes for the various Commissions and the Selectboard meetings- read the Minutes if you want to find out what is discussed.

Have you started a new business in Roxbury? We have an Our Businesses page and we'd love to add you to it. If updates are needed for those already listed, please contact the Webmaster.

Thanks again for supporting your town website! If you have any ideas or information to add, just email me at roxburyvtweb@gmail.com.

Have a safe and enjoyable autumn, and Merry Christmas/ Happy Chanukkah/New Year!

Tatiana (Nina) Govoni
Webmaster, Town of Roxbury VT ☹️

*Selected Memories of Tom
Chomentowski, Pilot Extraordinaire*

(As told to the Roving Reporter on an autumn day). Tom has lived in Roxbury since 2000. For many years he has been active in the church, the food shelf, the senior center, the historical society and the choir.

"As a kid I marveled at one particular picture of an airplane. It looked so groomed, so shaped for speed. A while later when I was not much older I decided to go all by myself to an air show in Philadelphia. It was wonderful.

Graduating from college, I received an official letter instructing me to go to a military recruiting center. I also had been looking for a job at the same time. In those days, the U.S. still had the obligatory military draft. I was one of many



required quota. I then payed for a Private was \$25 a month, and higher for an officer – up to \$1000. As a college graduate I could choose to join the Marines as a second lieutenant. (I'd just seen a Marine in full dress! Impressive!) Soon after, I received a letter proclaiming, "You are now a Marine!" It contained the order for me to go to Parris Island for training. And so I did. Still in love with airplanes, I decided to train as a pilot. I had been for a ride only once, in my cousin's small airplane.

At the training center, cubicles bordered each side of the hall, made up to resemble cockpits in every detail. I so much wanted to do well, and didn't feel sure of myself, so whenever those spaces were open, I'd practice hard in them, learning what each and every button and switch was meant to do.

To get our 'wings' we needed to pilot 12 flights. It's excellent how they move you along the line. Navy fighter pilots instructed us. Most of them were great. You can't imagine all the personalities you run into.

First, we flew over the field for an hour. I was so overjoyed at being in the air,

During my first training flight my stomach was rolling and rocking. Many people never get used to flying; the best guy in my class couldn't bear it.

Later on in my training, I got lost in the air! But I succeeded in finding my way back through instrumental and radioed instructions. Afterwards I had to confess what had happened (the 4 C's: Climb, Communicate, Cockpit, Confess) and the colonel called me in the next day, saying "You screw up again, you're out of here."

In training you must learn to do everything during the day or at night: take-offs, stalling, landing on land and on aircraft carriers, and of course, during further tests, avoiding the other planes already in the sky. Once, in the T28, a powerful plane, I had to use a lot of rudder to get a bit of action. At full throttle the rudder had so much power that it slapped my head against the cockpit.

When I graduated -- it was, I remember, at dusk -- I was so happy I opened the cockpit window and stuck my head out and started singing for joy. Having landed, I was reprimanded "You put your gear down kinda late, son."

For my career, I then had to choose between piloting helicopters or jet planes. I chose the powerful military jets.

Another rugged memory: One evening in Key West during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis we were playing cards and got this alert -- "Change your weapons: engage your weapons" -- at twilight. I flew high, my pal John Ditto (the best in the squad room) flew low. Sandwiched between us we saw 3 Russian MIGs .. but though some shots were fired towards a commercial passenger boat below (no one was hurt) it became too dark for either Russians or Americans to fly any more that night."

You can see that Tom, A.K.A. "The Polish Kid," and "Chum Chomentowski," spent years flying jets at "Twice the Speed of Light!"

TO BE CONTINUED...

Community Calendar October to December 2019

Wed	10/2/2019	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the RVS library
Fri	10/4/2019	Rooted in VT Community Potluck at 5:30 in the Community Center
Mon	10/7/2019	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Mon	10/7/2019	Roxbury Book Club meeting at 7:00 in the RFL
Thu	10/10/2019	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 5:45
Wed	10/16/2019	Montpelier/Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Sat	10/19/2019	Roxbury Free Library Celebration of Support from 2:00 - 4:00 at the RFL
Thu	10/31/2019	Trunk or Treat at RVS
Fri	11/1/2019	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
Mon	11/4/2019	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Wed	11/6/2019	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Mon	11/11/2019	Roxbury Book Club meeting at 7:00 in the RFL
Thu	11/14/2019	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 5:45
Mon	11/18/2019	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Wed	11/20/2019	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Fri	11/22/2019	RVS Thanksgiving lunch at 11:30
Mon	12/2/2019	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Wed	12/4/2019	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the RVS library
Fri	12/6/2019	Community Potluck at 6:00 in the Community Center
Mon	12/9/2019	Roxbury Book Club meeting at 7:00 in the RFL
Thu	12/12/2019	RVS PTO meeting in the RVS library at 5:45
Mon	12/16/2019	Roxbury Select Board meeting at 7:00 in the Town Office
Wed	12/18/2019	Montpelier Roxbury School District meeting at 6:30 in the MHS library
Fri	12/20/2019	RVS Holiday Luncheon at 11:30

Please note, board meeting schedules change so check the official posting places for each of these boards to verify the above meetings will occur as listed here before you travel to attend.

