



GREENSBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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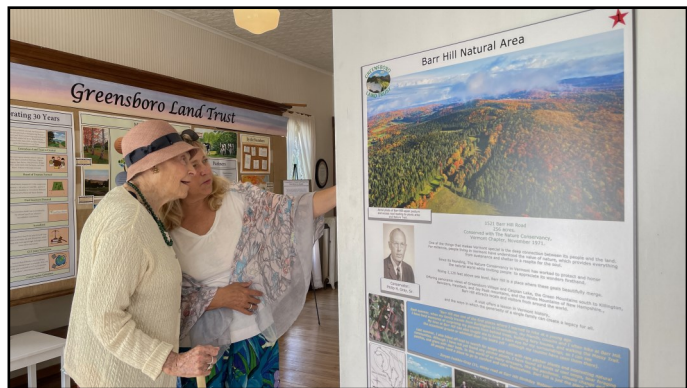
NEWSLETTER

A Half Century of Conserved Greensboro Land

The GHS exhibit for the 2022 summer season focused on the history and benefits of land conservation in Greensboro. Land conservation can occur in different ways. In this case, the 21 featured properties were conserved when an accredited organization created a contract with each of the landowners over the past 50 years to preserve the natural and agricultural properties of the land. This practice helps to keep agriculture more sustainable, to provide habitat for animals, to protect contiguous wildlife corridors, and to responsibly steward the land so that future generations can benefit from viewing the mountains and valleys, walking through publicly accessible nature trails, supporting locally-sourced food and wood products, and feeling connected to our natural world.

“50 Years of Land Conservation in Greensboro” gave an overview and detailed perspective on how the community has been actively conserving land around Caspian Lake, in Greensboro Village and over several farms in the area — Some of which are now the popular hiking and picnicking destinations (eg. Barr Hill, Long Pond, Porter Brook). Landowners and conservation groups have partnered to conserve over 5,000 acres in the broader Greensboro area.

Conservation “easements” (the contracts that define the scope of the conservation) in Greensboro have historically been formed with either the Greensboro Land Trust, Vermont Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy or Vermont Housing Conservation Board. Financial support for creating these easements has been made possible by grants, non-profit partners, and the many donations from individuals that live in or visit Greensboro.



Ethne Gray and Megan Patterson-Brown viewing the exhibit

Twenty-one informational panels characterized the featured properties with photos and quotes from the conserving landowners, maps of the locations and boundaries, valued features of the properties, and aerial photos that present the scale of the conserved parcels and imbue a sense of place.



Nathalie, Lillian, Edith Thompson (Hurst grandchildren) enjoy Kid's Corner

On one wall, a timeline celebrated GLT's 30th year of operation. It charted the creation of the land trust in 1992 by Mark McGrath, Wilhelmina Smith, Nancy Hill and John Newburn; and the growth of the organization as it continues to maintain Greensboro's rural character. It is this rural character that has inspired artists to create landscape paintings depicting the natural beauty of this area. One wall of the exhibit featured the paintings of several local artists while another featured paintings from students and anyone who picked-up a free canvas. The popular “Kid's Corner” included a ‘match the animal to the tracks’ light-up panel that tested visitors’ knowledge of our local animal kingdom.

This exhibit will be on display with extra features in the summer of 2023. See you soon!

If you'd like to receive your newsletter by email, send your email address to secretary@greensborohistoricalsociety.org

President's Corner



BJ Gray

Our history is shaped by the people of the community. The Greensboro Award, presented each year at town meeting, recognizes community members who have made special contributions to the life of our town. To help us remember these men and women, those who have been granted this award are listed on a plaque in the Town Hall. In 2016, Judy and Andy Dales were the recipients of the Greensboro Award. I would like to honor their many contributions.

First Judy. As a member of the Highland Lodge family, Judy grew up in Greensboro. When she returned, she became an active member of the Greensboro Historical Society, coordinator of Ladies Walking Society, organizer of Caspian Arts, volunteer for Meals on Wheels, and an active member of Greensboro United Church of Christ where she sang in the choir, chaired committees and proposed special events. Judy's professional reputation grew when she was awarded the Great American Quilts contest for her Statue of Liberty, having two quilts in 100 Best Quilts of the 20th century, having a quilt chosen for the White House Permanent Craft Collection in Washington, DC with exhibits of her work at The National Quilt Museum and Shelburne Museum. She held quilting classes at The Highland Lodge.

Andy. As a teenager Andy was a milkman (how he met Judy), trash collector and gas jockey at Lyles Gulf. In addition to his professional career as an engineer, Andy was commodore of the Greensboro Yacht Club, president and long-time advocate of the Lake Quality Committee, trustee and head of the properties committee of the Greensboro United Church of Christ, president of The Greensboro Nursing Home board of directors and active at The Mountain View Country Club.

Judy and Andy both passed away in October. Our community is most grateful to them for their outstanding legacy.

Looking for Christmas Gifts?

Two of the historical society's award-winning publications, this year's *Hazen Road Dispatch* and *40 Years of the Hazen Road Dispatch 1975-2015* are available locally at Willey's and also through the mail.

If you are interested in receiving one or sending a copy as a gift please send a check for \$11 for the *HRD* and \$31 for *40 Years of the Hazen Road Dispatch* to the GHS, PO Box 151, Greensboro 05841.

Website & Facebook

Check out our growing website: www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org for videos of presentations, research tools, photos, events, past newsletters and much more.

And follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

You can find our Facebook page by typing @GHSVT into the search bar of your Facebook web browser.



In October at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center Nancy Hill, part of a team of 6 GHS volunteers, and a partner assembled window inserts to improve energy efficiency at the GHS Building. The materials were provided by Window Dressers, a community non-profit.

To send inquiries or contact us, email us at collections@greensborohistoricalsociety.org

The Story of Land Conservation in Vermont

The GHS annual meeting on August 8 tied closely with the summer exhibit theme of land conservation's 50th anniversary in Greensboro. Vermont's two leading figures in land conservation, Darby Bradley, serving 18 years as president of the Vermont Land Trust (VLT), and Bob Klein, 30-year director of The Nature Conservancy (TNC)'s Vermont chapter, traced the timeline of land conservation in the state.



Bob Klein and Darby Bradley at our Annual Meeting

They noted that the first conservation of private land in Vermont occurred with TNC's purchase of Mollie Bog in 1962. The VLT was founded in 1977, the VT Housing and Conservation Board in 1987, and the Freeman Foundation began funding VLT conservation easements in 1993.

Bradley and Klein stressed the importance of land conservation in facing climate change in Vermont. As conserved forests grow, they absorb ever greater amounts of carbon.

Apart from their leadership roles in the state, Bradley and Klein were heavily involved in land conservation in Greensboro during their careers. Bradley managed all of the VLT's conservation easements in Greensboro up to 2007, while Klein managed the Barr Hill Natural Area for all his 30 years as TNC director and oversaw TNC's acquisition of the twelve parcels comprising the Long Pond Natural Area.

Enroute to the meeting, Bradley and Klein viewed the GHS summer exhibit and expressed pleasure that the GHS was celebrating the participation of many Greensboro residents in land conservation.

Snow on and Snow Forth: Winter Recreation in Greensboro

Vermonters never fail to stay active and get outside during our long, cold winters. Whether it is snowshoeing or ice skating, exploring the VAST trails or our cross-country ski trails, or hunting, ice fishing, or sledding, we are spoiled for choice! Please join us at our 2023 Winter Meeting exploring the past and present of three popular winter pastimes in Greensboro: ice fishing, snowmobiling, and sledding.

Who were the first ice fishermen? What is it like inside a shanty? Would you have a better chance of catching a lunker with jigging or a tip-up? Where can the VAST trail take you--and how fast can you get there? When was the first snowmobile invented? (Hint: It involved a Ford Model T.) Would you more likely win the race down the hill on a Fleetwing or a Silver Streak?



Antique sled - a traverse in GHS collection

Don't know the frost thing about it? That's snow problem.

Come to the **GHS meeting on Sunday, March 5 at 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall** to learn more about these winter sports and share interesting stories from the recent and not-so-recent past.

Calling all ice fishing, snowmobiling, and sledding enthusiasts! Do you have any equipment (especially vintage) that you'd be willing to have on display at the meeting? Any vintage photographs, magazines, brochures, maps, or other ephemera? Would you share a story or two--on video, in writing, or during the meeting? Please contact Renée Circosta (reneecircosta@gmail.com), Nancy Hill (nancydhill@gmail.com), to discuss how we might use your artifacts and stories at our meet-

Tracking our History: The Greensboro Bend Railroad Station

When you visit Greensboro Bend today, there is no longer the sound of a train whistle, the sight of bustling townspeople unloading the train, or the smell of cattle being herded to the station. But, fewer than 60 years ago, Greensboro Bend was a center of activity because of the railroad that ran through the small town.

It all started right after the Civil War, when there was a widespread railroad building initiative in the United States. The St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County Railroad was one of many lines being built during this era. It would be a part of the long railroad connecting Portland, Maine to Ogdensburg, New York. When ground was broken in December of 1869 for the section of railroad between St. Johnsbury and Hardwick, Greensboro Bend did not exist as a town. However, by 1872, the Greensboro Bend Railroad Station was seeing quite a lot of traffic. Butter, milk, sheep, pigs, pulpwood,



Christmas trees, and potatoes were just a few of the items that were shipped out of the town. Items coming in included groceries, tin, brick, horseshoes, hardware, and bread. Trains picked up and dropped off goods, and they filled up with coal and water near the station as well. The Greensboro Bend Station also supplied ice cut from Caspian Lake for the milk cars.

The coming of the train wasn't just a once-a-day event. Four passenger trains and two freight trains a day came through the town, allowing people such as Warner Davis (son of owner of a Greensboro Bend grocery store at the time) to take the 8:00 am train to Hardwick for piano lessons and return home on the 11:00 am train. Evidently, it was a means of local transportation, but it also brought in Greensboro's summer residents, who would send their trunks in springtime and arrive themselves shortly thereafter.

The 1950s brought more and more trucks carrying goods into town, which created tough competition for trains. Things were going downhill for the railroad company, so in 1965 it gave up and filed for abandonment of the line. In December of 1973, the railroad was finally sold to the State for \$1,265,000.

Today, the Greensboro Bend Railroad Station still stands, with its eye-catching, dark green stickwork frieze and stick-style brackets contrasting with the white siding. One can still occasionally find old bits of coal scattered in the woods. If not for these few remnants, it would be difficult to notice our town's history today. Thankfully, these important stories live on in the Greensboro Historical Society.

Make sure to keep your eye out for a revised Greensboro Bend Railroad Station booklet coming soon with much more information, many more stories, and some historical photos!



Kids on History Walk

Each year we invite school kids to GHS to enjoy and learn from our exhibit. Alison Gardiner and Nancy Hill showed Home Schoolers the exhibits and then led them on the History Walking tour of Greensboro village..

Historic Films of East Craftsbury

The John Woodruff Simpson Memorial Library in East Craftsbury received a donation of a large number of films taken by Ouida B. Grant, aka. Bunny, in and around East Craftsbury in the late 1920's through early 50's. After working with the Vermont Historical Society to review and assess the films, the library decided to have them put into a digital format, as it was determined that they were of good quality and valuable content, and digitizing would both preserve the films and allow for greater community access. Grants from the Vermont Community Foundation and the Vermont Humanities Council supported this work.

In October, the first Historic Movie Night was held at the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, featuring footage of harvesting oats, corn, and hay, cutting ice on Caspian Lake, as well as footage taken after the 1927 flood and the 1938 hurricane. There were over 90 people of all ages in attendance. The second movie night will be on Sunday, November 20th, at 6 pm, including footage of the Greensboro Craftsbury Girl Scout troop, and starting in January the plan is to hold movie nights monthly. They have received a grant from the Bissell Foundation to help with the purchase of equipment which will allow them to show films more widely, including outdoors in the warmer months. To check on the viewing schedule see www.jwsimpsonmemorial.org



From the Archives : Greensboro Grange



Willie Smith archiving grange material

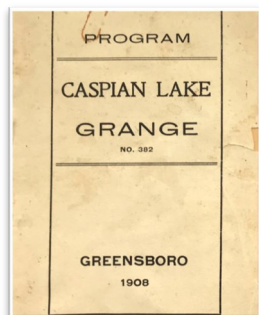
Last summer the Greensboro Historical Society received records of the Caspian Lake Grange #382 through the Town of Greensboro. This collection documents its over 100 years of activities, along with those of other local Grange groups, in the larger context of the state and national organizations, described by Lewis Hill in his article, "The Early Days of Greensboro's Grange," *Hazen Road Dispatch* Vol. 31, 2006. Activities provided important social events like dances and many educational programs, especially for farmers. They were the first fraternal organization to provide equal privilege for voting and leadership to women.

Of significance are minutes and reports, 1907-2007. Additional record books, programs, and membership directories for the Hazen Road Pomona #15, 1905-1987, document activities of nearby subordinate Grange chapters: Caledonia #9 (East Hardwick), Craftsbury #269, Hardwick #323, Danville #325, Bell #345 (South Walden), Cabot #392, Wolcott #397, Maple Valley #450 (Albany), and Greensboro Valley #454 (Greensboro Bend). Prize ribbons awarded to Greensboro members at Grange events

Thank You for Your Support

This is a wonderful time to become a new member or continue your support to help preserve Greensboro's unique heritage. This year your gift is especially needed because some of our necessary equipment needs replacing. An envelope is enclosed for your contribution.

Greensboro Historical Society
P. O. Box 151
Greensboro, VT 05841
www.greensborohistoricalsociety.org



One of our historic grange programs

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Cemetery Stone Cleaning History Revealed

When the local Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter organized a cemetery cleaning event, GHS supported the effort by supplying delicious picnic lunches to the 18 volunteers who worked. In the Village Cemetery 175 standing stones had darkened with age and were covered with lichen making them difficult to read. Using materials provided by a grant from the Greensboro Association they spent 4 hours to remove debris, apply D2 spray and then scrub the stones. Visit the Village Cemetery to see the history that has been revealed.



GHS Newsletter

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