



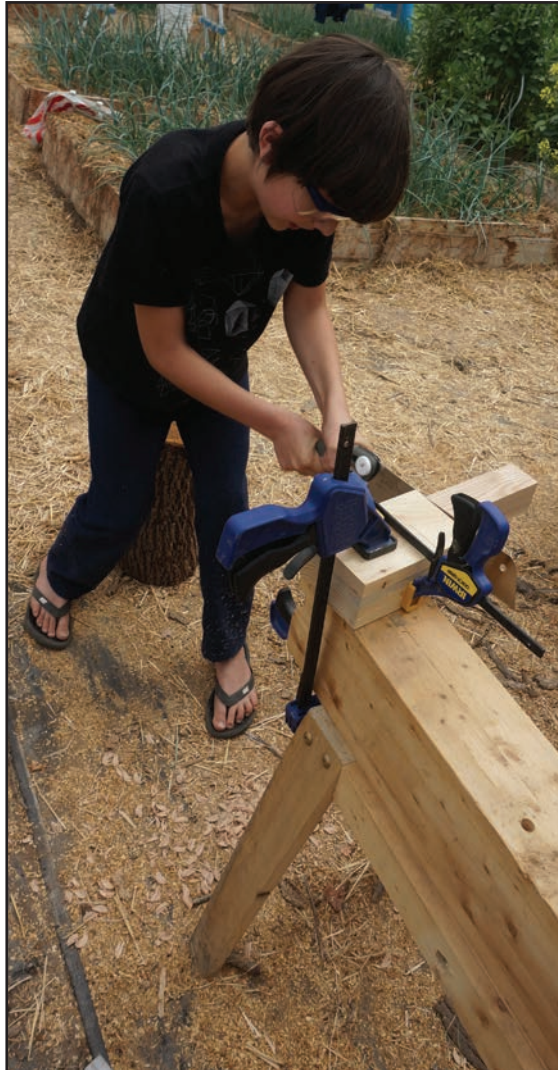
## Hands On

D.E. BENTLEY

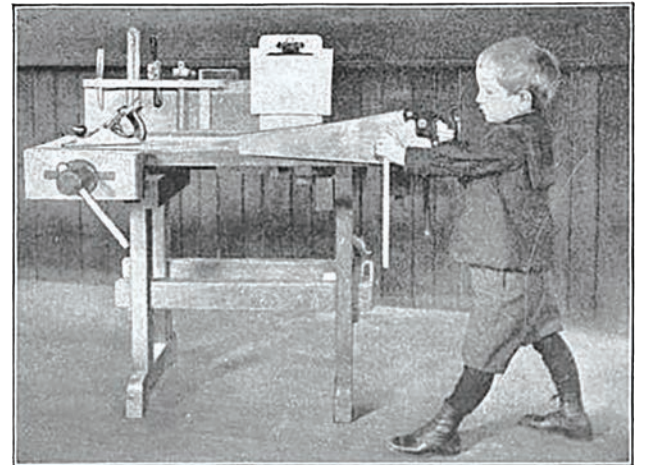
### Simple Tools and Steps = Woodworking Fun

Slöjd (also spelled sloid or sloyd)—a Swedish word meaning handiwork or crafts—is also the name of an educational system created by Uno Cygnaeus in 1865. It incorporates increasingly complex exercises that offer opportunities to develop skills and confidence using simple tools. The objective is a more general education that goes beyond skill acquisition and touches on the development of the whole individual. Although traditional Slöjd began with the making of a Slöjd knife, the core principles have evolved to incorporate a wider array of tools and crafts.

For Canadice woodworker Todd Touris, who enjoys working with hand tools—including Slöjd knives—an obvious extension to learning and growing in an art is sharing that passion with others. So, when an opportunity came up to do a woodworking project with a group of young people involved in a Richmond, NY 4-H group, in the spirit of Slöjd, he started enthusiastically planning. During two sessions in July and August 2021, Touris, eight young people, and a handful of parents, spent time together working with wood—turning trees into utilitarian objects.



William Gentry sawing the head for his mallet using a Japanese-style pull saw.



Top: a young student uses a saw at a workbench designed for use by children. Below: Maggie Brunk working with a wooden plane to shape her mallet handle. Hand tools and techniques have stood the test of time.



Continued on page 6

## Side Street Sounds

The Next Generation of Musicians

STEVE WEST



Steve West teaches Owen Deuel of Mt. Morris guitar.



For 20 years, Geoff Clough organized and ran a free keyboard camp for Livingston County youths. Eleven years ago, he asked me to join him and offer guitar lessons. The costs were covered by a grant from the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts, and the Good Neighbor Committee of the Genesee Rotary Club. Those who didn't have their own instruments are given the use of a loaner keyboard or guitar. Through the years, hundreds of children participated in the six weeks long camp, giving them opportunities to learn how to play keyboard or guitar.

Continued on Back

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## FROM THE NEWSROOM

All content for the October issue should be in by September 5th, as we will be making tracks on some terra firma while avoiding machines from the 11th-21st.

### Owl Light Literary: Turning Points—2021

Owl Light Literary: Turning Points is now available. See the order form on page 23 or order online at [owllightnews.com/turningpoints/](http://owllightnews.com/turningpoints/).

It will also be available at select independent retail locations.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and support. A special thank you to all who submitted work.

Turning Points is Canadice Press' first stand-alone literary journal. The journal will be published every other year (submissions for the 2023 journal will be accepted from May-August 2022 - theme TBD, with the journal out Summer 2023).

We will post submission calls here and on social media.

Owl Light News is now available as a digital subscription. The cost is \$15 a year (on its own) or \$25 a year for both print and digital. If you are a current print subscriber and want to read us online as well, simply email me at [editor@canadicepress.com](mailto:editor@canadicepress.com) and let me know, and I will add you to the online list as part of your current subscription.

Correction: In the caption below the image of the monarch caterpillar (on page 18 of the August issue), the last word should have been predators not pollinators. The correct caption is: Brightly striped monarch caterpillars are showing off their warning coloration. Bad taste doesn't always deter predators.

## The OWL LIGHT News

Where Inspiration & Inquiry Converge

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  @CanadicePress



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Thank you to ALL of the incredible contributors (and

## ON THE FRONT

Hands on Slöjd skills include sawing, demonstrated here by William Gentry (center), and planing, demonstrated by Maggie Brunk (lower right). Hand tools and techniques used today are very similar to those used in the earliest Slöjd schools and shop classes in U.S. schools (image top right, source unknown). The images for this story were taken during two hands-on sessions with eight 4-Hers in July and August 2021.

Photos D. E. Bentley

Canadice Press is a print alternative/arts press. We publish Owl Light News and Owl Light Literary—a literary/arts journal (inaugural issue out in 2021). Community news content and our community calendar are available online (with no paywall or intrusive popups) at [owllightnews.com](http://owllightnews.com).

Like us: [facebook@canadicepress.com](https://www.facebook.com/canadicepress.com) and follow us on Instagram.

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## Creative Flow and Terra Firma

Admittedly, I have recently settled into a sunup...sundown life pattern; coffee and a walk with the pups in the morning, an entertaining show in the evening—often mystery or crime shows as of late (and a decadent dive into *I Love Dick* for off-beat creative inspiration)—with a ton of busy packed in between (and a possible evening walk to shake things up a bit). We all live on, in, and within circles, and it is easy to slip into doldrums even when doing what we love. I like the excitement of doing new things but am, at heart, an introvert who values quiet alone time and the security of being (physically and literally) on solid ground. My son defines extrovert and introvert thus: an extrovert gets energy from just being around people; while an introvert uses (loses) energy in social interactions (I am paraphrasing here). So, as an introvert who loves exciting new adventures, I often find myself in unintentionally self-imposed quandaries as exciting new adventures often include greater people interactions.



The list of ways I fill my days (when the myriad responsibilities of Canadice Press briefly wane) are often independent pursuits: beekeeping, silverwork/rock grinding, permaculture/landscaping, wind instruments, and (last, but not least) writing/illustration. I suspect I have left something out (including that daily time with our canine kind: Winnie and Aesc – the Small Town Hound). I am also settling into a new volunteer role—with the Massasauga Search and Rescue Team (MSART); a role that meshes nicely with my past life of teaching and responding to crisis situations in juvenile lock-ups. As romantic as search and rescue (SAR) work sounds, the reality is that the excitement to be had in the mystery of searching for (and locating) a lost individual—the mystery that makes such work interesting—collides with the fact that many searches end as recoveries.

Given my many interests and commitments, I am an object in a constant state of motion. I enjoy everything I have on my proverbial plate but inevitably forgo some of the most delectable tidbits in favor of those that take up the most time and energy. One of the most time-consuming, albeit enjoyable, commitments is *Owl Light News*. I love the creative aspects of editing and providing a platform for writers (with the *Owl Light* as well as with *Owl Light Literary*, our long-planned and anxiously awaited first literary journal that has just been released) and page layout. There are also worthy intersections between Canadice Press and other aspects of my (our) lives. This issue's feature article is a prime example (a connection our *Owl* writers and regular readers will immediately grasp). The leader of the 4-H workshop gave me an opportunity a while back to spend some time using one of his Slöjd knives. I loved the feel of the handle in my hands and there was something about holding it that brought the small piece of wood I was whittling away at alive. I was, thus, gifted a Slöjd blade, absent the handle (with the understanding being that to make it my own I would need to create a handle that fit my hand). I have (months later) started building a handle but my metal worker spirit has already necessitated the creation, first, of a metal collar fitted to the blade end of the handle and a pommel. My limited experience working wood offers an additional mental stream to be forded.

The biggest challenge in any art is achieving a creative flow, and the more directions one is pulled (or allows oneself to be pulled in) the more challenging it is to set aside the time needed to find the place and space to create. Each of our creative pursuits become a part of us and add another layer of richness, and responsibility. Computer-related work inhibits flow (save when I am writing and am sucked into the story). Todd and I are looking forward to some much-needed no-machine time this month (see "From the Newsroom" note page left). We will be making tracks to some less-traversed terra firma to whittle away the time (if I can get that Slöjd handle done). This machine-free reboot will offer time to re-find and redefine the flow and explore exciting new directions for Canadice Press (while brewing a cup of espresso in the owlight—that magical time between day and night when one has to look closely to see beyond the myth and mystery of the mesmerizing shadows).

D.E. Bentley  
Editor Owl Light News



## From a DC Cousin

Editor,  
A Review from DC CousinTerry

He just sent me this:

[Owl Light] just arrived this afternoon. I have a good sense now of the range of topics this publication covers, and I enjoyed the cover story of the Historic Spence Home on the west side of Seneca Lake, the Editorial, and pretty much everything else, too. I'll be saving the issues to pass them on to my brother and his wife in Naples. I also think that Aunt Ruth and Aunt Beck would have liked this pub.

Shared by Beth Sleboda  
Livonia, NY  
August 7, 2021

### Owl Light Renewals

Owl Light News renewal notices are emailed

Watch for email invoices as your renewal date nears.  
Invoices are going out for many subscribers.  
Ex. email subject line "Invoice #0000 from Canadice Press"  
(Please also check spam for possible dropped messages.)

Please let us know if your contact information  
or subscription status has changed so we can update our lists  
in a timely manner and keep the Owls coming. Thanks!

### JOIN THE OWL LIGHT CONVERSATION

We welcome commentary from our readers.

Many of our regular contributors include direct contact information with their BIO information, and are happy to hear from other members of the *Owl Light* community. You can also send emails (with the title of the article in the subject line) to [editor@canadicepress.com](mailto:editor@canadicepress.com).

As our slogan states, *Owl Light News* is where "Inspiration & Inquiry Converge." As such, we welcome creative content and ideas along with active inquiry and commentary around the things that matter in the more rural places we live in—"where trees outnumber people."

Letters to the editor and longer opinion pieces can be emailed to [editor@canadicepress.com](mailto:editor@canadicepress.com). We ask that letters be topical, with sound arguments focused on ideas and information that inspires discussion and fosters positive community growth. Open exchange and change requires a willingness on the part of many to share divergent thoughts and listen carefully; to explore the validity as well as the weaknesses in dissenting views.

**Short, concise letters under 500 words are more likely to be published.**

**The general deadline for all content for upcoming issues is the 10th of each month. Owl Light News pages fill up FAST!**

### Seeking submissions for feature articles.

Articles should reflect on rural life in New York State. They should be timely, and the original work of the author(s). Submitted pieces should be around 2000 words and include original images (photos or illustrations). Authors/artists will receive full credit (in print and online). We are also looking for reviews of local arts (visual, performing, literary...) as well as original short stories and poetry for Pen & Prose—our monthly literary arts section. We accept submission on a rolling basis. Please specify the type of submission in the subject line of the email (i.e. news story, feature story, press release, poetry, editorial, opinion, fiction etc.). Include your name and phone number in the email, as well as a word doc attachment of the submission. Feel free to contact us in advance with queries, if desired. All submissions will be considered on a case by case basis for publication in future issues (in print and/or online).

# Pathways to Democracy

Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century

DOUG GARNAR



## PART 2

Part 1 can be found online at: [owllightnews.com/our-common-purpose-reinventing-american-democracy-for-the-21st-century/](http://owllightnews.com/our-common-purpose-reinventing-american-democracy-for-the-21st-century/)

The American Academy of Arts and Science issued in late 2020 a report laying out six strategies and 31 recommendations on how we might reinvent American Democracy. In the August issue of this publication, I summarized the first three strategies and nineteen recommendations. In this issue I will do the same for the remaining three strategies and twelve recommendations.

Shortly after this report was released an “insurrection” occurred on January 6th as Congress was in the process of certifying the electoral votes which had been cast. Shortly after a second impeachment trial of then President Trump took place with him being found not guilty. Much ink in the form of print publications and endless social media, radio and television shows have debated and argued about the present condition of our constitutional democracy. Most recently in the Sunday August 8th issue of the New York Times seven scholars argued the need to amend the Constitution offering the following amendments: the right to unionize; prohibition on penal/involuntary labor; extending to the fetus basic civil rights; a commitment to peace; the right of digital privacy; to rule a law unconstitutional the Supreme Court must do so by a two thirds majority; finally, the right of free movement. Note that the last Constitutional Amendment which went through Congress/state ratification was the lowering of the voting age to 18. 12,000 proposed amendments have been made with only 27 being passed and the latest nearly a half century ago.

Readers interested in seeing the full report by the Academy’s Commission on the practice of Democratic Citizenship can access it in its entirety by going to [www.amacad.org/ourcommonpurpose/report](http://www.amacad.org/ourcommonpurpose/report).

## THE WAY FORWARD

Strategy Four moves beyond the ballot box, the chambers of Congress and national citizen assemblies to the hyper-local world of libraries, public parks, community gardens, faith centers and cafes.

Common to all of these is practicing the art of association. This view suggests that government is not the prime/or only arena for action----rather it is to be found in the family, faith organizations and social groups. Two recommendations designed to foster civic association include:

- Establish a National Trust for Civic Infrastructure. The Trust should be funded through a campaign which bridges private enterprise and philanthropic seed funding. Over time this effort could be sus-



“Liberty lies in the hopes of men and women; no constitution, no law, no court can save it”

(Judge Learned Hand, often known as the 10th Supreme Court Justice)

tained by appropriations from Congress on the model of the National Endowment for Democracy. The main goal is to foster a sense of common purpose utilizing a civic infrastructure available to many citizens.

- Activate a range of funders to invest in the leadership capacity of the so-called civic one million: the catalytic leaders who drive civic renewal in communities around the country. Use this funding to encourage these leaders to support innovations in bridge-building and participatory democracy. Civic bridge-building should bring in those citizens who have been previously excluded. The civic one million are the catalysts for bottom up civic change/renewal.

Strategy Five calls for building a civic information architecture that supports the common purpose. Specific recommendations include:

- Form a high-level working group to articulate and measure social media’s civic obligations and incorporate those defined metrics in the Democratic Engagement Project.
- Through federal/or state legislation subsidize the reinvention of the media that have been displaced by social media (a tax on digital advertising could support a public media fund to support local and regional investigative journalism).
- Establish a public interest mandate for for-profit social media platforms to promote public-friendly digital platforms.
- Through federal legislation/regulation require digital platform companies: interoperability, and data openness sufficient to equip researchers to measure/evaluate democratic engagement in digital contexts.
- Establish a new data source and clearinghouse (Democratic Engagement Project) for research that supports civic/social structures.

Strategy 6 would inspire a Culture of Commitment to American Constitutional Democracy and One Another by fostering the following actions:

- Establish a universal expectation of a year of national service (i.e., military service; AmeriCorps; service

in local programs offered by municipal govts.; local news outlets and nonprofit organizations).

- To coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, create a Telling Our Nation’s Story initiative. Led by local civic groups this would allow citizens of all political stripes to explore both their feelings and hopes for this country.
- Launch a philanthropic initiative to support the growing ecosystem of civic gatherings (i.e., ceremonies/rituals focused on ethical/moral and spiritual dimensions of our civic values).
- Invest in civic educators/civic education for all ages and communities (K-12; life long civic-learning experiences with the full community).

The Commission concludes their two-year study by making the following observations:

- Can we find “accommodations with one another so that we can birth for ourselves a sense of a shared fate?”
- Can we “kindle a spirit of mutual responsibility in civic life, a humility that rehumanizes us?”
- Can we understand that our constitutional democracy is rooted in the need to believe in it? “For the love of freedom and equality; for the love of country; for love for one another and out of hope for a better future, we need to reclaim our bond” with each other. ☞

“The Constitution is ink on parchment. It is forty-four hundred words. And it is, too, the accredited set of meanings that have made those words, the amendments, the failed amendments, the debates—the course of events—over more than two centuries. It is not easy, but it is everyone’s.”

—Jill Lepore, Historian

Questions / reactions to this column should be directed to Doug Garnar at [garnardc@sunybroome.edu](mailto:garnardc@sunybroome.edu).

Doug Garnar works with the Kettering Foundation and NIFI (National Issues Forums Institute) to help citizens find “pathways to democracy.” He has taught since 1971 at SUNY Broome Community College. He lives in Binghamton, NY. [garnardc@sunybroome.edu](mailto:garnardc@sunybroome.edu)

# The Light Lens

## Sunrise, Sunset



### T. TOURIS

I have no shortage of photos available to choose from when I'm looking for a Light Lens topic. My Google Photos account has over 20,000 pictures in it. Family, animals, plants, buildings, food, dogs, shopping lists, etc. My search on "sunset" yielded 816 photos. However, some of them are clearly sunrises. The not quite omniscient Google brain needs to learn how to check photo timestamps. I guess I'll have to go through and sort them into separate albums.

I collect photos like Imelda Marcos collected shoes (you younger folks can look her up on *Wikipedia*). If I printed out all of my photos, there wouldn't be enough of Imelda's shoeboxes to hold them all. I'm not sure why I keep all these photos. I'm not a very good photographer. I don't look at them very often, except during the time when I'm being hounded to get the Light Lens done.

So, here's a photo that's now correctly in my sunrise album. Only 815 more to go.



## Don't Fauci My Florida

### OPINION from KURT STAUDTER

“For more than a year, our freedom has been under a constant assault by the radical left. Now, they're coming for your freedom again.” Florida Governor Ron DeSantis wrote this in a recent fundraising letter. The title quote comes from a beer cozy sold on the DeSantis website

I'm of two minds as I start here: as a grandfather of six, with half of them living in Florida, I'm terrified for their health and well-being; and I'm afraid of the insane antics of Governor DeSantis. Maybe they're both the same, I don't know. As you might expect, I really don't like to give this much thought, but late at night when random thoughts interrupt your sleep, one can't help but imagine the worse. And then there's the terrifying COVID news from the state.

Over the years I've been a huge fan of the tales of Florida by Dave Barry and Carl Hiaasen. Both have been professional observers of life in Florida. Hiaasen says, “The Florida in my novels is not as seedy as the real Florida. It's hard to stay ahead of the curve. Every time I write a scene that I think is the sickest thing I have ever dreamed up, it is surpassed by something that happens in real life.” Dave Barry adds, “Florida, because of its unique shape and warm climate, does have an unusually high percentage of low IQ people doing stupid things, frequently naked. But most of these people came here from other states, the very same states that are laughing at Florida. Those of us who live here have to contend with not just our native-born stupid but your stupid too.”

So when we watch the news from Florida and hear that the governor is making stupid decisions, it's easy to shrug it off and say, “It's Florida.” Dave Barry believes that Florida went from the “Sunshine State” to the stupid state after they botched the 2000 election. Now a whole new branch of journalism is dedicated to reporting the daily shenanigans of Floridians. Lately, even the national news outlets are following the insane goings on.

In a recent column for the *New York Times*, Economics Nobel laureate Paul Krugman points out, “We now have highly effective vaccines freely available to every American who is at least 12 years old. There has been a lot of hype about ‘breakthrough’ infections associated with the Delta variant, but they remain rare, and serious illness among the vaccinated is rarer still. There is no good reason we should still be suffering severely from this pandemic.” Then he goes on to add, “But Florida is in the grip of a Covid surge worse than it experienced before the vaccines.” Watching the news, Florida is being overwhelmed by the COVID. Over 10,000 Floridians are in the hospital with the virus, and on average around 58 per day are never going home.

When the epicenter of the pandemic was in New York City, healthcare profes-

sionals from all over the country helped the Big Apple avert a total meltdown of the healthcare system, but at every step leading up to now according to Krugman, “DeSantis has effectively acted as an ally of the coronavirus.” So how is the governor responding to their public health crisis? He's issued orders against businesses that want to require customers to show proof of vaccination, and is telling public schools they can't require mask use. Now I hear there are lots of schools that'll defy that order, and the response of DeSantis: parents can send their kids to private school tuition-free, the state will pay for it. Just so unvaccinated kids don't have to wear masks. Only in Florida!

You've got to love this: Is it the low vaccination rate in the state that's causing the surge? Or perhaps it's the fact that the governor won't enforce a mask mandate or social distancing for 25 to 34 year-olds. Nope, according to the governor, “The air conditioning is not going to be your friend when it comes to the virus,” he said. “The virus can do much better in an enclosed, air-conditioned space ... so outdoors is your friend, sunshine is your friend, the heat and humidity is your friend.” That's unless you die of heat exhaustion, dehydration, or alligators and pythons.

His justification for avoiding any of the common sense solutions to the pandemic: According to the piece by Krugman, DeSantis believes the federal government and the rabid radical left is coming for your freedom. He writes, “My answer is that when people on the right talk about ‘freedom’ what they actually mean is closer to ‘defense of privilege’ — specifically the right of certain people (mostly white males) to do whatever they want.”

If some Floridians want to endanger their lives, and the lives of family, friends and neighbors while playing politics, that's up to them. However, your precious freedom doesn't give you the right to infect my grandchildren with the virus, or indoctrinate them with your stupidity. Keep your distance! 🦉

Kurt Staudter, Springfield, VT. Over the course of thirty years Kurt's career working for National Grid and New England Power has given him a unique perspective on the Connecticut River: From operating the Bellows Falls Hydro Plant in the 1990s, to his job now in Substation Operations & Maintenance, every day his work takes him someplace along the river.

He is an elected Executive Board Member of IBEW Local 486. A longtime activist and political columnist for the Vermont Standard, Kurt along with his wife Patti also ran the Vermont Brewers Association representing the growing number of craft breweries in the state for almost seven years. He has a Bachelors of Arts degree from the National Labor College, and participated with a fellowship in the Harvard Trade Union Program.



## Hands On from front

Many woodworking classes begin with lumber dimensioned to standard sizes. The first step for the 4-Hers was to split a section of log into squares using a splitting wedge and hammer, and a froe. Although it took a moment for volunteers to step forward, all quickly got into the swing of things. Using split pieces of ash (for the heads) and cherry (for the handles), the youth then sawed, planed, cut mortise and tenon joints, and glued together their mallets.



From tree...to stool. No one wants the first hit but all join in. Left to right, Maggie Brunk, Carlee Woodruff, Eden McMillan, Chloe Brunk, Lucas Youngman



Above: Todd Touris demonstrates use of the sawhorse and drawknife to attendees. From left to right, Emily Pecora, Carlee Woodruff, Lindsay McMillan, Jill Woodruff, Eden McMillan, Derrick Gentry, Quinn McMillan, Tanya Youngman, Lucas Youngman, Logan Youngman, William Gentry.



Above: Eden McMillan gives the shavehorse and drawknife a try. Left: Logan Youngman tapers the tenon on a stool leg. The bit brace used to create the mortises and tenons was used by Touris' grandfather.

With mallets in hand, the group returned for session two and quickly settled into the tasks at hand. A spirit of cooperation was immediately evident as they helped each other through the steps of making wooden stools. Although many of the tools had been previously introduced, after a demonstration, everyone took a turn on the shaving horse to try out the drawknife, shaping split pieces and branches of ash into stool legs. They mortised three holes in cut slabs of Norway spruce and tenoned the legs. Then out came the mallets, as legs were pounded in and wedges were put in place.

Although many early Slöjd pieces were utilitarian, they were often decorated with carvings, punched designs and colorful finishes. Participants used punches, and mallets, to add individualized details to their work. This was a skill that had also been introduced during the first session, when the participants used letter stamps to add names to their mallets. The punched designs on the stools were then embellished with cocoa powder rubbed into the impressions.



The final step in the day's work was to wipe the assembled stools with a shellac finish. The heavy rain outside the greenhouse—where we had set up shop—was attracting the attention of the wood-weary youth. Nonetheless, everyone's interest was piqued with Touris' introduction to shellac, a naturally-derived furniture finish. Shellac, as many may not be aware, is the secretion of the lac bugs (native to India and Thailand). Its uses include

food-grade applications, including serving as the outer shell on M&Ms and other coated candies.

By this time, the mud-slicked hill outside had fully captured the attention of the woodworkers and spins in the rain quickly morphed into an experiment in friction (or lack thereof) and objects in motion. Soon everyone was standing in the rain (including the adults) as youth catapulted down the slick hill, the focused attentiveness to handiwork replaced with reckless abandon. 🌧️



From left to right, Eden McMillan, William Gentry, Lucas Youngman, Quinn McMillan taking turns on the mud-slicked hill.

# Dragonfly Tales

Creatures of the Night

STEVE MELCHER

**H**ave you been seeing many fireflies or lightning bugs or whatever you call them in your neighborhood? I thought I would enlighten my dear readers on the magic of these cool (literally) light producing flying phenomena.

## Summer nights!

I hope you have been enjoying the short cool nights of summer as a respite from the warmer months of the end of the season. Scientists call creatures that are active at night nocturnal. Nocturnal critters include badgers, bats, owls, moths, raccoons and others. Diurnal is a word used to describe animals that are active during the daytime. We have plenty of examples of those here at Odonata Sanctuary, from donkeys to geese to the occasional human. Crepuscular refers to those critters that are active in the in between hours of dusk and dawn. Rabbits, deer, bear, skunks, bobcat, and possums are examples of critters that are mostly active at dawn and dusk. Those animals that sleep well into the afternoon and are semi-active during the day and become more active into the evening are called Teenagers.

## Badgers, Bats and Bugs, Oh My!

We don't have any badgers in our neck of the woods but we have several species of Lightning Bugs. We all have wonderful childhood memories of these denizens of the dark flashing in the neighborhood or in the back field of a farm. I collected fireflies in a mason jar and let them flash away the night (and their lives) only to find a jar full of grass and deceased lightning bugs smelling of carrots the next day. If you decide to collect a few fireflies, soak a paper towel with water to add a water and moisture source for the critters and be sure to let them go the next day!

# Backyard Friends

Reflections from WENDY SCHREINER

We have many backyard friends that frolic in our plush green grass and hop around our flowers. Some run up and down our trees and the telephone poles and others wait until it rains and big puddles are created to come out and say hello. Others sing us their pretty birdsong in the morning waiting for their seed to be put in the bird feeders all around.



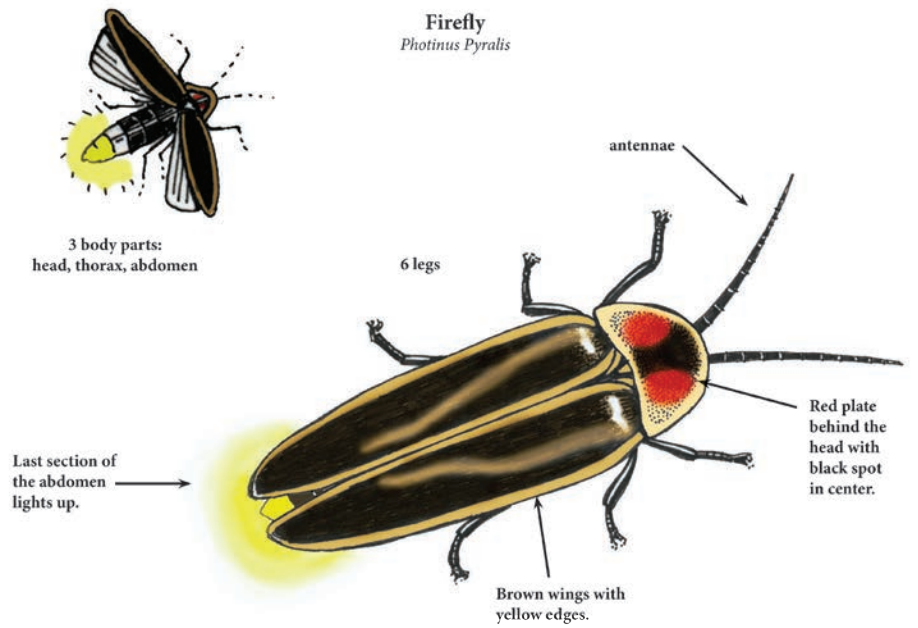
At 6:00 pm at night when I look out the window there I will find the two adorable bunnies with their fluffy white tails. I love these bunnies, as they are just so cute. What could be cuter? Recently, I saw a baby bunny appear, so precious. It was absolutely adorable. A squirrel appeared to join the bunny as it was eating some birdseed on the lawn. When the squirrel got too close the bunny would jump up and it was so silly to watch. Not far away a chipmunk was running through the floral garden, hopefully not doing much damage!? Something has been eating all of my green rose leaves, but I don't think it is my furry friends, but rather bugs or worms of some sort!?

At the birdfeeder, I spot a bluejay waiting for his peanuts to appear along the edge. Hold on, they're on



the way. On the lawn is the pair of morning doves. They are pretty. Then Mr. and Mrs. Cardinal arrive in their shades of red. At the suet is the woodpecker. In the puddle, ribbit ribbit, is the toad. My camera goes around and around the house snapping pictures all about. Here's an animal, there's an animal. Look up see the bird; on the lawn is the bunny. I try to walk so gingerly, but he hops away too quickly once again. "I love you baby bunny," I say. Someday I'll get a picture of you. The birds are the most timid and the most difficult to photograph.

Continued on page 14



©Sheri Amsel, Exploring Nature Educational Resource (exploringnature.org)

## A bit about the bug

Lightning Bugs are actually beetles. They are members of the 'Lampyridae' family of Coleoptera (beetles). Easy to remember, the name Lampyridae comes from the Greek "lampein" which means 'to shine'. Some fireflies are diurnal (remember - active during the day) and typically don't glow. Most fireflies have wings and can fly but some members of the Lampyridae family can't fly and are referred to as glowworms. Although over 2,000 species are called "firefly" not all fireflies glow or fly.

Continued on page 14

# DEC Announces Aquatic Invasive Plant ‘Hydrilla’ Found at City of North Tonawanda Marina

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced on August 20, 2021 that the plant hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), an aquatic invasive species (AIS), has been found at the City of North Tonawanda Marina. DEC and its partners, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), are working to prevent the infestation from spreading. There are no other known infestations of hydrilla along the river. The discovery was made by a concerned citizen who reported it to USACE. Hydrilla was first discovered in 2008 in a small pond in Orange County and has since been discovered in Broome, Cayuga, Erie, Kings, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Suffolk, Tioga, Tompkins, and Westchester counties.

Hydrilla negatively impacts recreation, tourism, and aquatic ecosystems, and is one of the most difficult aquatic invasive species to control. This invasive plant breaks apart easily, and new plants can develop from pieces of stem that are no more than an inch long. Boaters visiting the marina are advised to lift their motors and clean their props by reversing and then forwarding several times to dislodge any hydrilla fragments before entering the Niagara River. All boaters should clean, drain, and dry their boats and trailers before launching into any new water body to help protect New York’s waters from invasive species.

DEC will apply an aquatic herbicide (copper) to the site during the week of Aug. 23, to prevent hydrilla from reaching the Niagara River, where it would be impossible to control. DEC will be working with the city of North Tonawanda, USACE, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management to develop a long-term management plan that will include aquatic plant monitoring, additional herbicide treatments, and education and outreach efforts. A boat steward will be available at the marina several days a week for the next three weeks to answer questions about aquatic invasive species and hydrilla.

## Ways to Help

- Inspect and remove plant fragments and mud from boats, trailers, and equipment before and after each use.
- Dispose of all debris in trash cans or above the waterline on dry land. Note: tubers and turions can easily be transported in sediment.
- Clean and dry your equipment thoroughly before visiting other waterbodies.
- Do not dispose of unwanted aquarium plants in waterbodies, ditches, or canals.
- Monitor recently acquired aquatic plants because hydrilla tubers can be transported in the attached soil/growing material.
- Learn how to identify hydrilla and report infestations to DEC at [isinfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:isinfo@dec.ny.gov).



Visit DEC’s website for more information on hydrilla and a step by step guide for ridding boats and equipment of AIS.



Department of Environmental Conservation

## Farm Markets Offer Up Local Food & Artisan Goods

Canandaigua Farmers’ Market (Saturdays)  
 Corner of Mill and Beeman Street (covered pavilion),  
 June 5 - October 30, 9AM - 12PM  
 Contact: 585-406-4771 or [brhowell79@gmail.com](mailto:brhowell79@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.canandaiguafarmersmarket.com](http://www.canandaiguafarmersmarket.com)

Geneva Farmers’ Market (Saturdays Only)  
 Finger Lakes Welcome Center  
 35 Lakefront Dr, Geneva, NY 14456  
 Season: June 12 - October 9, 8AM - 1:30PM  
 Contact: Liz Toner at [ejt@geneva.ny.us](mailto:ejt@geneva.ny.us) [cityofgenevany.com](http://cityofgenevany.com) [facebook.com/people/Geneva-Farmers-Market/](https://www.facebook.com/people/Geneva-Farmers-Market/)

Farmington Farmers’ Market (Fridays)  
 Post Office Plaza, 1560 State Route 332, Farmington  
 June 4 - August 27, 3PM - 6PM  
 Contact: [farmingtonfarmmarket@gmail.com](mailto:farmingtonfarmmarket@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/farmingtonfarmmarket/](https://www.facebook.com/farmingtonfarmmarket/)

Naples Valley Farmers’ Market  
 Hanggi’s Tree Farm 7976 State Route 21, Naples  
 Fridays, June 18 - September 24, 2021, 4- 7 PM  
 Contact: [NaplesValleyFarmersMarket@gmail.com](mailto:NaplesValleyFarmersMarket@gmail.com) or  
 607-423-7239 [Facebook.com/NaplesValleyFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/NaplesValleyFarmersMarket)

Victor Farmers’ Market (Wednesdays)  
 60 East Main Street (village Hall Parking Lot), Victor  
 June 2 - October 27, 3 - 6PM  
 Contact: [amber@thewoodlandelf.com](mailto:amber@thewoodlandelf.com)

Little Lakes Farm Market,  
 4705 S. Main St., Hemlock NY 14466  
 Saturday's from 10AM – 1PM, June 5 - Oct. 16

Penn Yann Farmers’ Market Opening June 12  
 Saturday mornings from 8 AM until 12:30 PM.  
 To apply as a vendor, or with questions, contact market president, Rivka Davis,  
 607-243-5234 or [organic87@frontiernet.net](mailto:organic87@frontiernet.net).

If you would like your market listed, please email relevant information to: [editor@canadicepress.com](mailto:editor@canadicepress.com). Our last listing for 2021 will be in the October issue.



## Please Take it Slow on our Rural Roads



# The Monthly Read

## A World on Wheels

### A Review of *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder

*Nomadland: Surviving America in the  
Twenty-First Century*  
320 pages  
W.W. Norton & Co.



MARY DRAKE

Sometimes, a book comes along that opens your eyes to a startling change going on around you that you were unaware of. It might alter how you see the world and yourself in it.

*Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder is such a book.

Written in 2017, this non-fiction narrative is subtitled “Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century,” and that’s exactly what the thousands of nomads out there are trying to do—survive.

The word “nomad” may bring to mind ancient tribes in the desert who lived in tents and moved from place to place. Twenty-first century nomads also consider themselves a tribe, but they live in trailers, RVs, and vans which move around the country.

Who are these nomads? Mostly, they are senior citizens who earlier in life worked as software engineers, academic advisers, bus drivers, accountants, teachers, business executives—all manner of people who have lost their livelihood and/or savings for a variety of reasons: job downsizing or small business collapse, divorce, illness, or the housing crash. Much is blamed on the stock market collapse of 2008, often referred to as The Great Recession. A few nomads are younger people burdened by educational debt or unable to find jobs that pay a living wage. All have decided that housing costs are so high that they’re better off living out of a van.

This might remind you of John Steinbeck’s book *The Grapes of Wrath*. Set during The Great Depression, it tells the story of the Joad family who leaves their drought-ridden farm in Oklahoma to search for a better life in California. It’s how the term “Okie” was coined to refer to poor migrants. Nomads don’t think of themselves as Okies. They may migrate from place to place to find seasonal work; they may be living on the road. But unlike the Joads, they’re not traveling from point A to point B, with an endpoint in mind, seeking another version of the American dream somewhere else. Instead, they have embraced “vandwelling” in itself. They’ve joined vandwelling communities on Facebook, Yahoo and Reddit; they’ve started blogs describing their vandwelling adventures (see *RV Sue & Her Canine Crew*, *The Adven-*

*tures of Tioga and George*, and *Jimbo’s Journeys*). For most of them, the vandwelling lifestyle is not seen as temporary, but rather as an answer to unaffordable apartment rents and mortgages. Bob Wells, guru of vandwelling whose website *CheapRV-Living.com* helped explode the trend, has said, “I realized that everything that society had told me was a lie—that I had to get married and live in a house with a white picket fence and go to work, and then be happy at the very end of my life, but be miserable until then.” Nomads believe that vandwelling leads to a simpler lifestyle. Bob Wells posts this quote by Bertrand Russell on his website: “It is preoccupation with possessions more than anything else, that prevents us from living freely and nobly.” Nomads want to “slip the middle-class noose” that keeps many tied to houses they can’t afford and jobs they don’t like. But don’t call them “homeless;” they prefer “houseless.”

Some might say that nomads are living in vans as a result of their own personal failings and misfortunes, but is that true? Or is this a public issue brought about by problems within our society? By economic and political institutions that have failed to provide a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens—the poor, the aging, and, disproportionately, women. Nomadic vandwelling has become enough of a trend that Bruder felt compelled to write about it. A movie based on the book—directed by Chloé Zhao with Frances McDormand—premiered September 11, 2020. Amazon capitalized on it by creating CamperForce, their seasonal labor program. The trend represents a generally under-recognized shift in the lifestyle of many Americans who have become “downwardly mobile.”

Nomads might live in RVs or they might live out of a Ford Festiva, or anything in between. Even though they may be “retired,” they are anything but “happy-go-lucky pensioners.” Instead, they drive to out-of-the-way places like Coffeyville, Kansas; Fernley, Kentucky; or Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where they park their vans in order to do seasonal labor in Amazon warehouses, notably filling orders in the months leading up to Christmas. Amazon may tout the job as being one of Santa’s helper, but these aging

elves work ten-hour shifts for little pay. Temp agencies have also gotten involved to recruit nomads, also called workcampers, for jobs as campground hosts or beet harvesters. The campground job is gaily advertised as one where you get paid for camping, but in reality campground hosts are responsible for cleaning outhouses and dealing with drunk campers, all for minimum wage. Described as an “unbeatable” experience, workcampers are also sought to help harvest sugar beets in Minnesota and North Dakota for American Crystal Sugar. Author Jessica Bruder tried out the job herself and found the assembly-line work to be “loud, rushed, and messy as hell,” not to mention it’s done in twelve-hour shifts that run night and day, since all the beets must be harvested before the ground freezes. Nomads also do other seasonal work such as picking raspberries in Vermont, taking tickets at NASCAR races, flipping burgers at baseball games, selling fireworks or Christmas trees, running rides at Dollywood, or anything temporary. Jobs previously filled by high school students might now employ workcampers who are available and are considered to have a better work ethic.

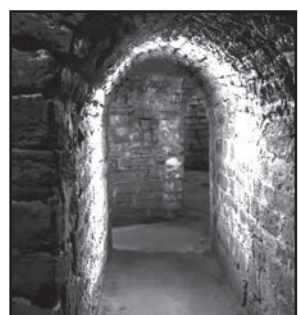
Nomads are the new migrant laborers of the twenty-first century, often doing jobs that are hard for aging bodies. But inadequate social security and dwindling savings mean that many seniors can’t survive without a paycheck. Economists have called it “the end of retirement.”

The author of the prize-winning book *Nomadland* is Jessica Bruder, a journalist fascinated with subcultures and social issues. To research the book, she lived the part, vandwelling, traveling and working as a nomad for three years. She paints a picture that is sobering but tempered with occasional rays of hope. There are many people out there who have so much less, who are barely hanging on, but who have found companionship and family amidst the struggle it takes to survive.

Mary Drake is a novelist and freelance writer living in western New York. Visit her online at [marydrake.online](http://marydrake.online) to learn more about her books.

## Where the Path Leads — YA FANTASY by MARY DRAKE ([marydrake.online](http://marydrake.online))

### Chapter 18: Taking the Plunge



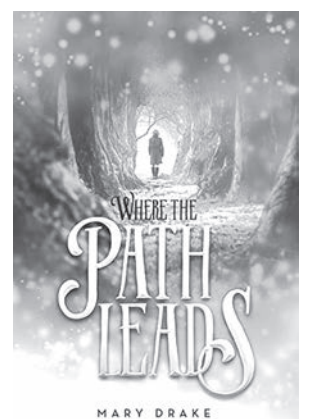
**F**orced on a quest to obtain a rare magical item deep within the immense Blackwood Forest, Emily is unsure where to begin. Unfortunately, her first experience of the magical inhabitants of the forest is with the deceitful bergfolk who live along the riverbanks.

**T**he next morning as Emily set out for Blackwood forest; she took the Mill road that followed alongside Castle stream. Even though the happily gurgling stream glistened with sunshine, it couldn’t tease her out of her dark mood. The Seneschal had sent her away and, despite her pleas, wouldn’t allow her to see Sophia before leaving. Nor could she find out anything concerning Will.

She had no idea even how to begin. Where was this abyss? As far as she knew, no one had ever seen it.

Annamund had, of course. The forest was her home, familiar as an old pair of slippers. Certainly, she could point her in the right direction, maybe even take her there. With that thought, her steps lightened a bit, though she still had a sense of foreboding, and a nagging worry about Will.

Continued online...[owllightnews.com/where-the-path-leads-chapter](http://owllightnews.com/where-the-path-leads-chapter)\_\_\_\_\_.



Available as an ebook on Amazon and soon to be released in print.

# Billionaires in Space

KURT STAUDTER

Sometime in the not too distant future, in a galaxy pretty close to home...

## **Aboard the Virgin Galactic Star Cruiser**

**Virgin Galactic Officer:** "Captain Branson, sir, we've detected another ship in low-earth orbit."

*Branson swivels around in his captain's chair*

**Captain Branson:** "Identity?"

**Virgin Galactic Officer:** "It's the Blue Horizon, sir."

**Captain Branson:** "Red alert, shields up, and Hail them."

"This is Captain Branson of the Star Cruiser Virgin Galactic. Look Bezos, space isn't big enough for the both of us, so turn around and go back. Don't you have some workers to exploit earth side..."

## **Aboard the Blue Horizon Luxury Space Ride**

**Captain Branson:** *(Heard on the speaker)* "...you come up here and I'll be forced to fire on your pathetic flying gazebo."  
*(nervous shuffling among the crew.)*

**Captain Bezos:** "Hail them."

"This is Captain Bezos, and I'm not taking orders from some washed up Brit has been. We're Americans! We own space, and don't you forget it."

**Blue Horizon Officer:** *(Urgently)* "Captain, they've fired on us and we're taking evasive maneuvers." *(An explosion detonates rocking the small ship and knocking out minor systems.)* "Weapons are offline, but we still have maneuvering thrusters."

**Captain Bezos:** "Let me know when we have weapons again, meanwhile, let's hide in the shadow of the moon until they pass."

## **...back at the Virgin Galactic Star Cruiser**

**Virgin Galactic Officer:** "Captain, we've lost them. They're not on our scanners."

**Captain Bezos:** "Keep looking and stay vigilant. We don't need any surprises."

**Captain Musk:** *(Crackling over the speaker)* "Hailing Virgin Galactic. This is the Space X Marauder, Captain Musk commanding. Cease firing on the Blue Horizon or we'll be forced to intervene."

*With a brief hand gesture, the radio is activated.*

**Captain Branson:** "This is Captain Branson, come on Elon you're no match. Leave the area or help us find Bezos."

## **Aboard the Space X Marauder**

**Space X Officer:** "Captain, I need to warn you that our batteries are at dangerous levels, and that any prolonged altercations will use them up, leaving us dead in space."

*Silence on the bridge except the light beeping of the low battery alarm.*

**Captain Musk:** "OK, deploy the solar panels and begin charging the batteries."

We accept submission for PEN & PROSE ongoing  
(fiction creative nonfiction, poetry, and hybrid genres).

Submissions to: [editor@canadicepress.com](mailto:editor@canadicepress.com)

"Open hailing frequencies."

"Hello Sir Dickey Boy, our batteries have given up the ghost, but we'll continue to look for the Blue Horizon. We'll catch up with you in an orbit or two."

## **Aboard the Blue Horizon**

**Tactical Officer:** "Weapons have been restored captain. We're ready to take on the Virgin Galactic."

**Captain Bezos:** "Splendid! Maneuver into an intercept position, and fire."

*The ship shudders back to life, and moves towards a glowing dot on the horizon, weapons fully armed.*

## **Aboard the Virgin Galactic**

**Virgin Galactic Officer:** "Captain, we've detected the Blue Horizon, and they are moving into an intercept position..."

*Sliding into the area in stealth mode is another ship.*

**Booming over all their speakers...**

"This is the USS David Duke, commanded by Captain Donald of the United States Space Force. To all ships, power down your weapons, stand down, and stand by. You are facing the best, super incredible, awesome, most powerful ship ever. Resistance is futile."

**Captain Branson:** "This is Branson, and sorry to say mate, but this is a billionaire's only space adventure."

**Captain Musk:** "Last I checked, you and your fortune are under indictment in New York. You can't come play with us."

**Captain Bezos:** Look Donald, why don't you just go back to Florida? The rest of your foursome is waiting to tee off."

*Over the speakers of all four spaceships, and in a commanding god-like voice; maybe Morgan Freeman's:*

"To all ships involved in the Battle of the Space billionaires. While you've been gone the people of earth have held a vote, and we've overwhelmingly decided that we'd be better off without you. This is to inform you that you've been voted off the planet. We're sending a ship up with supplies, and to return your innocent crew members back to mother earth. However, you've been banished! Don't come back – you're not welcome. Goodbye!"

*Silence ... Fade to darkness ...*

Kurt Staudter, Springfield, VT. Over the course of thirty years Kurt's career working for National Grid and New England Power has given him a unique perspective on the Connecticut River: From operating the Bellows Falls Hydro Plant in the 1990s, to his job now in Substation Operations & Maintenance, every day his work takes him someplace along the river. He is an elected Executive Board Member of IBEW Local 486. A longtime activist and political columnist for the Vermont Standard, Kurt along with his wife Patti also ran the Vermont Brewers Association representing the growing number of craft breweries in the state for almost seven years. He has a Bachelors of Arts degree from the National Labor College, and participated with a fellowship in the Harvard Trade Union Program.



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## Exciting Upcoming Concerts at LLCC!


Save the Dates 


- October 16 – Brothers Blue
- November 6 – Mr. Mustard
- December 11 – John Dady & Friends

All concerts are on Saturday evenings, starting at 7:00 pm. Door open at 6:30. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in advance at [www.littlelakesny.org](http://www.littlelakesny.org). Refreshments are available.

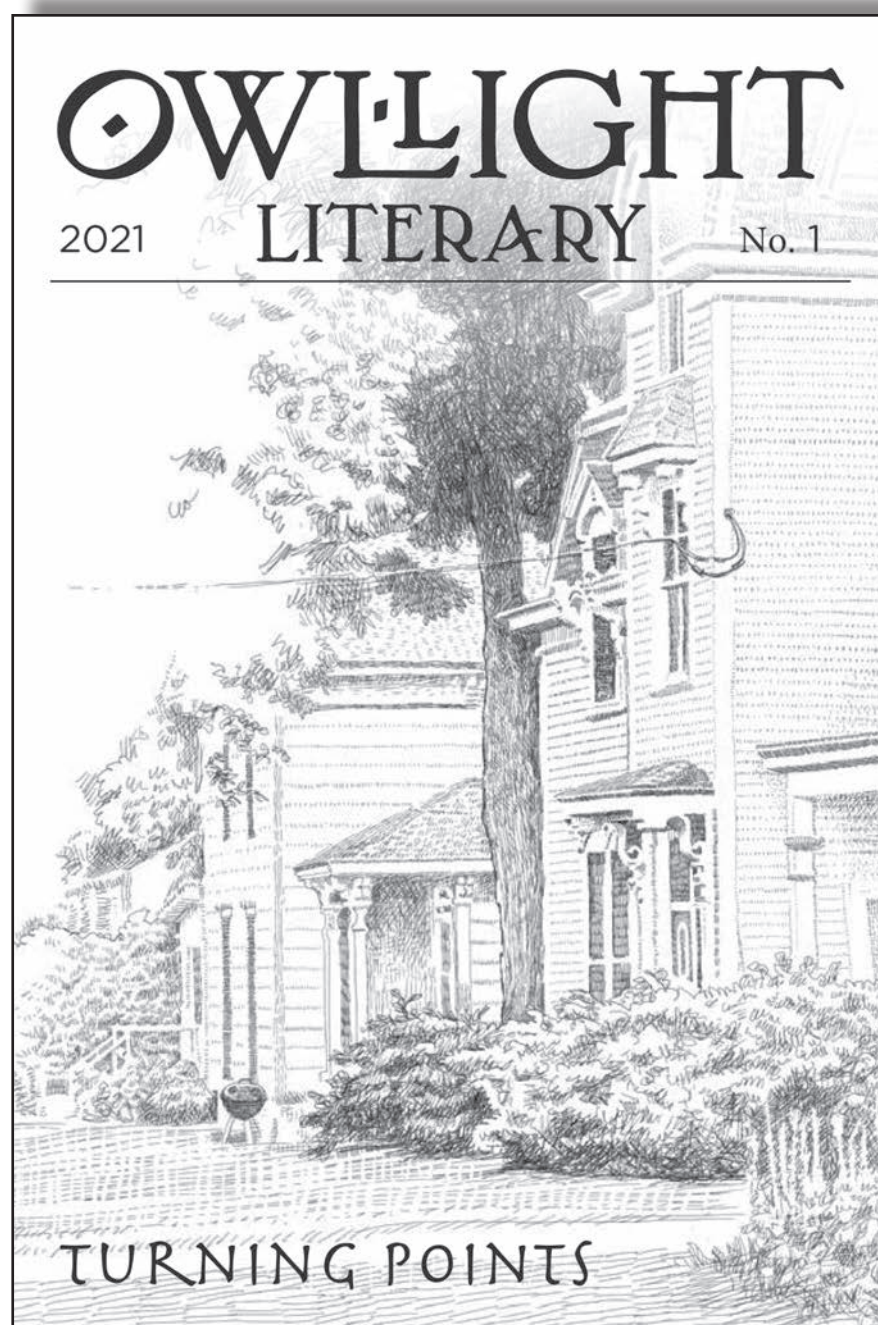
Mask requirements will coincide with CDC COVID-19 guidelines.

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## Writers

Time to turn the page  
 and share what has  
 emerged after months



... and months of writing in isolation!

Canadice Lake Writers' Group will resume on  
 September 29th, 6-8 PM, in Canadice, NY  
 (with subsequent schedule TBD at meeting #1).

**All genres welcome!**

**Group size will be limited to 8 to facilitate  
 active support for all participants.**

**If Interested:**

**EMAIL** [editor@canadicepress.com](mailto:editor@canadicepress.com) or

**CALL** 585-358-1065 (voice msg. please)

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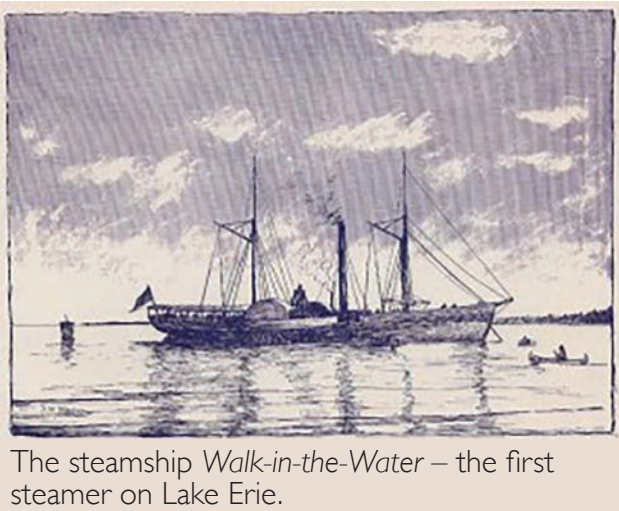
# Richmond History

## Traveling to Michigan

JOY LEWIS

Early on a Tuesday morning this summer my husband and I climbed into the car for a drive. Ten hours later we were in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Other than a bit of traffic as we skirted past Cleveland, we encountered no problems. Gas was pricey, but available. We were variously required to don a mask at some places, but we were used to that and didn't find it bothersome. All in all, it was a trip easily and quickly accomplished.

For those intrepid families of two centuries ago who set out from western New York headed for Michigan, it was quite a different experience. On the 1810 Honeoye Census (we were not called Richmond until 1815) there were enumerated 227 families. Of these, 41% would send at least one family member to settle in Michigan over the next two decades. The trek was arduous and protracted.



The steamship *Walk-in-the-Water* – the first steamer on Lake Erie.

Alanson Welton (1788-1822) was the first full-time minister at the Episcopal church in Allen's Hill, coming to Richmond in 1815. He married Eleanor Tuttle and had three children: Samuel, John, and Mary. A missionary preacher, Rev. Welton felt a call to go west, so the family headed to Detroit in the fall of 1821. They made the trip on the steamship *Walk-in-the-Water* – the first steamer on Lake Erie. It was a harrowing experience, as Mrs. Welton recorded in a letter back home, written October 31, 1821.

They embarked from Black Rock, New York, she wrote, and “for the first few hours...we had fair weather, but about eight o'clock in the evening, and while we were at supper, a terrific gale commenced, which lasted throughout the night. The boat, being unable to make headway against the gale, Captain Rodgers gave orders to cast anchor. We were then a few miles above the old Buffalo lighthouse. Here we lay until nearly daylight.

“During all this time, the creaking of her timbers throughout her whole length warned us of the probable fate in store for us all. The joints in her timbers opened in a frightful manner. At daylight, her anchors dragging, the captain gave orders to cut her cables and let her drift ashore, and the passengers were advised of the possible fatal result. Tired out with anxious watching, I had taken my berth with my children, keeping my own and their clothes on. My husband was still on deck. When the captain's summons came to the passengers to turn out, as the boat was going ashore, the floor of the cabin was ankle deep with water...

“The boat struck the beach in a fortunate spot for the safety of the passengers and crew – near the lighthouse – and all were saved. The warm fireside we gathered around at the lighthouse was comfortable to our chilled limbs, and our hearts warmed with gratitude to God for deliverance from our peril.”

She wrote of their next attempt two days later to cross Lake Erie on the sailing ship *Michigan*. They were thirty-two days on the lake, delayed by storms and the necessity of putting in to port at Cleveland, then again at Put-in-Bay. It was early December before they reached Detroit, where Rev. Welton was installed as pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the first Protestant church in Michigan.



Map of Michigan, about 1820

Another of the early pioneers to leave Richmond for the wilds of Michigan was the family of Albert Finch (1775-1829). In March of 1823 Albert, accompanied by his eighteen-year-old son Sylvester and sixteen-year-old daughter Harriet, left his home on the shore of Honeoye Lake. They were equipped with a yoke of oxen and a sled stacked high with provisions.

The story of their trip is recorded in *Michigan Historical Collections, vol. 38, (1912)*: “[Crossing] Canada...fifteen days were occupied in reaching Detroit, following the nearest route to the River Thames. On reaching this river they traveled part of the way on the ice toward Lake St. Clair, then took the ice to Detroit.

“After starting, the weather warmed up and the ice softened so as to be dangerous and the traveling tedious and uncomfortable. The ice was covered with water and the road very muddy, so they plodded along in a slow and dreary way. An open sled, uncertain road, a slow team through a thinly settled country, out early and up late, riding when too tired to walk and walking when too cold to ride, it was in no sense a pleasure trip.”

In June Albert returned to Richmond to fetch his wife Chloe and the younger children: Alfred, Alpheus, Wesley, Addison, and Alanson. “The journey, made with horses and wagon over nearly the same route, had not been as tedious as that made in the spring,



Main Street clock in Richmond, Michigan.

but was still long and difficult. The horses had given out toward the end, and the family walked the last several miles, Chloe carrying little Alanson – not quite a year old – in her weary arms.” When young Alanson was six years old he was “stolen by Indians.” A note in the Finch family Bible records: “Alanson Finch was lost or taken off by some unknown person this 31st day of March 1829.” He was never seen again.

On June 7, 1831, the family of Jesse Bishop (1803-1892) pulled up stakes in Richmond and set out for Michigan. A family memoir written by a descendant provides details of that trip. This abridged account is a paraphrase of that document: Jesse, his wife Abigail, and their five young children traveled by ox-drawn wagon to Pittsford, where they boarded a canal boat for the trip to Buffalo via the Erie Canal, then crossed Lake Erie on the sailing ship *Henry Clay*. From Detroit, they covered the thirty miles to Troy by wagon, arriving a week later.

In 1835 Philip Cudworth, born in Richmond in 1810, journeyed to Michigan with his newly-wed wife Tamson Tubbs. They followed in the way of hundreds who had gone before: by way of the Erie Canal to Lake Erie, disembarking at Toledo, then proceeding on foot to their destination. The Cudworth farm was in the northeast corner of Macomb County in a town with no name. On March 6, 1838, the town was formally organized and christened “Richmond” at Cudworth's suggestion. On our recent visit to Michigan, we had a chance to visit Richmond Township. (There's also a good-sized city of the same name in the southeast corner of town, organized in 1876 when three smaller communities united.)

Joy Lewis has served as Town of Richmond Historian since 2013. She offers reflections on the history of Richmond, NY in every other issue of *Owl Light News*.

• 585-229-1128 • [historian@townofrichmond.org](mailto:historian@townofrichmond.org)

The Honeoye-Richmond Historical Society Museum will be open for the summer beginning Memorial Day.

Please follow current COVID-19 guidelines.

# Small Town Hound

## Time Travel

Æsc

I am the Small Town Hound. I love wide open spaces and smaller places. One small town I recently visited is Richford, NY. Although I also enjoy visiting with people, too many people get a bit overwhelming. My human says I am an extrovert and I guess that is true, but I like quiet time too. Luckily for me, Owego Creek winds behind Rawley Park,\* where many of the day's events took place, so I could escape from time-to-time.

The early part of the day we spent at the park. There were people everywhere and my human dragged me about a bit, as she wanted to check in at the welcome table, the history table and the table with the girl scouts. It was sunny and warm, and I took advantage of her stopping to talk by ducking underneath the table where it was quiet and shady. Later we got some lunch (I got most of it actually, as I pulled to chase a ball and it flipped out of her hands and fell to the ground.) I did leave behind the watermelon as that was of little interest, but the beans and potato salad were quite good).

42.3556°N 76.2008°W



Our journey to Richford, NY was a journey back in time—200 years back, to the founding of Richford Congregation Church. Given that I am only a one-year-old, two hundred seems like a very long time. Our glimpse back in time included a visit to the church and a walking tour of the churchyard cemetery. I am familiar with cemeteries, as we frequently walk in the one near our home, but this was my first time in a church. There were beautiful glass windows that radiated the mid-day light, and these gave the space a very special feel. The walk through the cemetery was perhaps the most enjoyable part of the day. There was time to relax and reflect as we moved from stone to stone.



The day's events included a performance by Valley Harmony, an a cappella group from Newark Valley, NY.

After lunch we listened to a group of men singing—I overheard someone telling my human that they were called Valley Harmony and were from Newark Valley. I loved the way some sang higher and some lower; their voices together were quite marvelous. There was also something called a sock hop which, I hear, was popular in the 1940s-1950s, before my human was born. Some of the people dancing looked old enough to have enjoyed early sock hops but there were many younger people too. There were all hopping around in fancy socks that I would have loved to get ahold of; alas, they were all occupied.



Aidan Klinge, 14, of Richford, NY uses shaving cream to make the stone etchings easier to read.

A woman and man talked about some of the stones. They also read the words and numbers etched on the stones. When someone was having a difficult time deciphering what was written, a young man named Aidan Klinge, who told my human that he was born in Richford, came to the rescue. He had a can of white foam that he would brush onto the stone and into the etchings. At first, I thought it was something tasty and took a lick; it was not. It was, I heard someone say, shaving cream (yuck!).

Continued on page 16

## Dragonfly from page 7

### How does the firefly produce that cool glowing light?


A firefly's light organ, called a 'lantern', is located beneath its abdomen. The organ is able to mix oxygen with a pigment called luciferin (lucifer - latin meaning 'light bringer') which creates a glow in the presence of the enzyme luciferase, magnesium ions, adenosine triphosphate (remember ATP from high school Bio?) and oxygen to produce light. Pretty neat chemical trick and with little heat produced. As a matter of fact, this method of producing light is the most efficient light source in the world. Early Egyptians and Aztecs used the bioluminescent light of fireflies in their homes and temples. Imagine the smell of all those squished lightning bugs the next day. Nearly 100% of the chemical reaction that occurs in the 'lantern' results in the production of light. Most of our home sources of incandescent light are only 5% efficient with 95% of the energy being lost to heat production. Modern LEDs can obtain up to 40% efficiency but still are far behind the tail light of a firefly. Depending on the species, fireflies produce green, yellow or orange light. Some fireflies actually observe each other and synchronize their flashes. *Photinus carolinus* is a synchronous species with a spectacular mating display. The synchronized flashes of this species take place in spurts of up to eight every few seconds.

### So, why flash your booty?

Fireflies flash in patterns that are species specific. Each unique flashing pattern is used to help find potential mates of the same species. Male fireflies fly around in search of a female sending out a special Morse Code love letter. Some species are shy and flash only once, while others can write long verbose letters up to 9 flashes long. The females sit on the ground or on the edges of the dance floor and wait patiently until they are turned on by a flasher. They then show their interest by writing back with a single flash in perfect timing to follow the males' flashes. There is of course in nature a less romantic scenario. The female fireflies of the genus *Photuris* mimic the flash of females in the genus *Photinus*. This attracts *Photinus* males luring them in for a Black Widow type meal. Not only do the deceitful females get a meal, but they also ingest chemicals from the *Photinus* male that makes them distasteful to many firefly predators.

Fireflies can also use their light to ward off predators. Their blood contains a defensive steroid called lucibufagins which makes the firefly unappetizing to potential predators. If a predator gets a bite of a firefly, they will associate the sour taste with the firefly light and check fireflies off their menu for future meals.

Interesting in the 'firefly eats firefly world', most firefly larvae are predaceous and beneficial. They feed on snails, slugs, and damaging types of worms. The adults feed on nectar, pollen or nothing at all. A few species remain carnivorous and eat other types of fireflies.

Is it a...	Bug	Beetle
Mouthparts	Mouthparts modified into piercing stylet (i.e. needle-like).	Chewing mouthparts
Wings 	Wings (if present) are membranous or partially thickened	Forewings modified to form hard, leathery coverings called elytra, hindwings membranous and fold under elytra when not flying
Diet	Liquid diet: mostly plant-feeders (nectar/sap), some feeders on animal fluids	Wide range of plant and animal materials eaten.
Lifecycle	Incomplete metamorphosis - juveniles resemble adults except smaller and lack wings.	Complete metamorphosis - larvae with hardened head, chewing mouthparts and usually have legs.
Scientific classification	Order Hemiptera	Order Coleoptera

### Are there fewer fireflies?

You may think there are plenty of fireflies out there, but their numbers are actually in decline, primarily due to human activity. Light pollution, loss of habitat and harvest timing are three major reasons for this decline. When their habitat is gone, fireflies don't readily relocate, they just disappear.

If there is a park or field near you that has been a haven for fireflies, try to get together with other like minded naturalists and try to preserve that special habitat. We all have fond childhood memories of observing and even catching fireflies that we want our children and grandchildren to experience as well. 🦋

Steve Melcher is the primary caretaker, hoof trimmer & poop scooper at Odonata Sanctuary, Mendon. His studies included using members of the Order "Odonata," as bio-indicators of freshwater ecosystems. He has written/coauthored in journals, magazines, and books re: environmental literacy and ecological issues. Steve now works with environmental and educational organizations whose goal is to have "no child left inside". Learn more: fb @ Odonata Sanctuary.

## Backyard Friends from page 7

My best subject is the toad. He or she happily sits in the puddle and I get so close up and snap its photo. Who knew a toad would be so photogenic. Mrs. Cardinal also posed happily once sitting on the porch railing. She must not have spotted me as the birds always usually fly the coop before my camera can click fast enough to capture them in the lens.



Wendy Schreiner

These backyard friends of mine bring so much joy, but not just to us. Our two shih-tzu's Daisy Mae and Paisley Rae love to chase the squirrels. I keep telling them they can't catch them, because they're too fast, but they want to keep trying. Daisy Mae will tiptoe to sneak up on these backyard friends and Paisley Rae will charge at them. Neither approach works. Our dogs look up and I say, "up the tree the squirrel went, you can't get them, they're too fast for you." The next day all of the animals will play outside again and I will have fun watching all of our backyard friends! 🦋



Wendy Schreiner

Wendy Schreiner resides in Warsaw, NY with her husband Dave and two adorable shih tzus Daisy Mae and Paisley Rae. She is a freelance writer for Warsaw's Country Courier and is a substitute teacher at Warsaw Central School District. She also facilitates Warsaw's Write Connection writing club at the Warsaw Public Library which is in its 10th year.

# The Night Sky

## A Plethora of Planets Visible in September's Night Sky

DEE SHARPLES



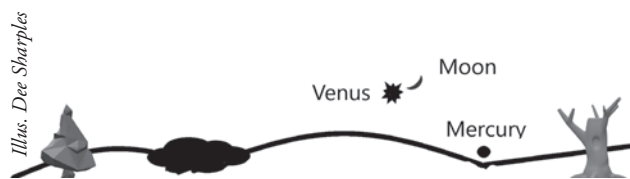
The planets in our solar system are often a major subject of this column. That's because the planets play a prominent role in the night sky.

In September, six of our eight planets can be seen in the sky, most before midnight, some naked eye, some with binoculars, and some that would definitely benefit with observing through a small telescope.

The brightest planet, Venus, will be the easiest to spot although it will lie very close to the horizon 30 minutes after sunset. Find a flat observing location looking west with an unobstructed horizon. At magnitude -4.1, it will be impossible to miss. You can locate Mercury in the same vicinity, much dimmer at magnitude 0.2. It's the smallest planet in our solar system, the one closest to the Sun, and it will be even lower on the horizon. With the help of a crescent Moon on September 9th, that will be the best evening to spot Mercury.

### Venus, Mercury and the Moon

Looking west after sunset  
September 9



Magnitude
Magnitude measures the apparent brightness of a celestial object and is expressed by a decimal. An object with a negative number like our Sun is brighter.
Sun: -26.7
Full Moon: -12.6
Venus: -4.1
Jupiter: -2.8
Vega: 0.0
Mercury: 0.2
Saturn: 0.3
Altair: 0.77
Deneb: 1.25
Uranus: 5.7
Dimmest star visible with unaided eye: 6.0 to 6.5
Neptune: 7.7
<b>How to measure degrees in the sky</b>
A simple "ruler" is to hold your arm straight out, close one eye, and make a fist. The area of the sky covered by your fist measures about 10°. Start at the horizon and by moving your fist up and counting how many "fist-widths" it takes to reach an object in the sky, you'll have an approximation of its height. Hold three fingers up to the sky – the width of your three fingers measures 5°. The width of your little finger held at arm's length will measure 1°. You can also use this method to measure how far apart two objects are from each other in the sky.

On the opposite side of the sky, two additional planets rise in the southeast. Saturn rises first and you can find it 14 degrees above the horizon (about 1½ fist-widths) after the Sun sets. Saturn is fairly bright shining at magnitude 0.3. If you have a small telescope, or know someone who does, this is the time to turn it toward Saturn to view its magnificent ring system now tilted towards Earth. Naked-eye Saturn shines with a definite yellowish hue compared to nearby stars. The planet will have moved to the southwestern sky by midnight.

Jupiter rises a little later but will be obvious, shining at a bright magnitude -2.8. Jupiter is also a beautiful sight through a telescope, displaying its multiple bands of clouds and four Galilean moons as they orbit around the planet with periods from two to fourteen days in an ever-changing dance. The moons were first discovered by Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei in 1610 when he observed Jupiter through his newly invented telescope. This was the first evidence that not everything in the universe revolved around Earth and that we were probably not the center of the universe as was believed at that time. These four moons - Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Calisto - each have their own unique topography and characteristics. Jupiter will be 35 degrees above the horizon, due south at midnight, easily seen through a south-facing window from inside your house.

The two farthest planets from the Sun are Uranus and Neptune. The Moon will help you find Neptune as it begins to set in the western sky in the early morning hours. At 5:00 AM on September 20th, the Moon will pass just 4 degrees south of Neptune, which will look like a faint magnitude 7.7 star through binoculars. Astronomy can be a cerebral experience so as you look at it, envision you're gazing at a giant ice planet approximately 2.7 billion miles from Earth where wind speeds average 700 mph near its equator.

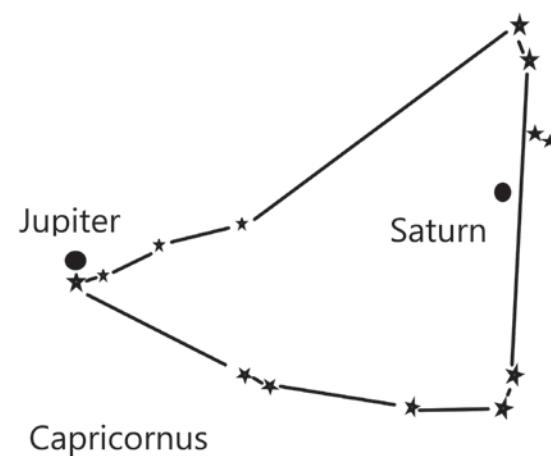
Uranus will be brighter in the early morning hours at magnitude 5.7 but harder to locate. On September 24th when it rises in the east around midnight, Uranus will be 5.5 degrees northeast of the Moon.

Look for the Summer Triangle making its appearance high in the sky this month. It's comprised of the dazzling bright star Vega, situated almost directly overhead along with dimmer Deneb, and Altair the third star completing the triangle angling down toward the south. It is a beautiful sight resembling a giant slice of pizza which will be in the night sky for the next couple months after sunset as the sky becomes dark.

This year the autumn equinox occurs on September 22nd at 3:21 P.M. On this date, the number of daylight hours and hours of darkness are almost equal. With the Sun rising at 6:58 A.M. and setting at 7:07 P.M., we'll have 12 hours 9 minutes of daylight and 11 hours 51 minutes of darkness. ☾

### Jupiter and Saturn

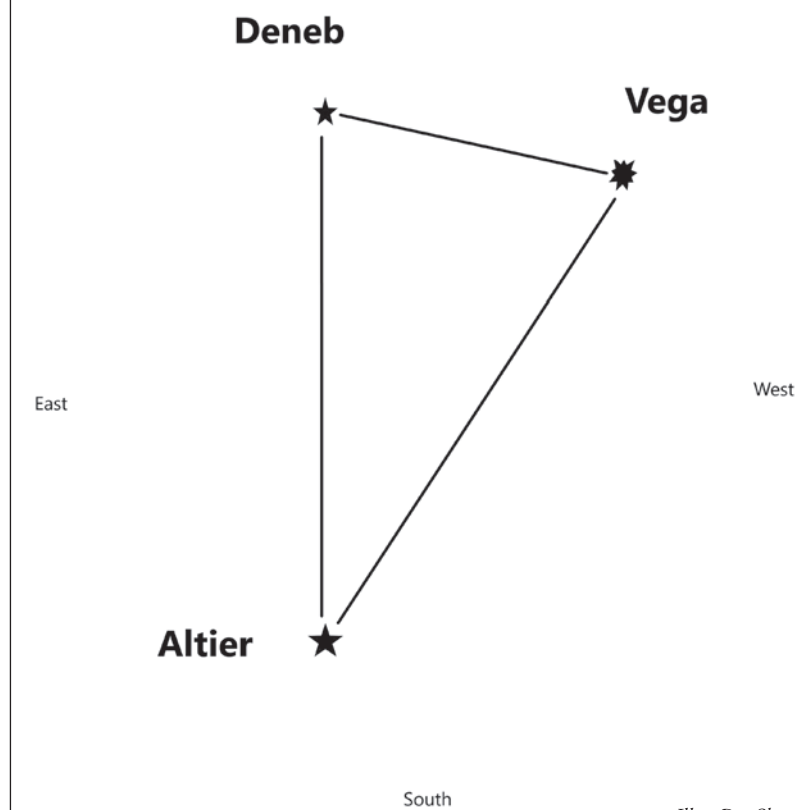
Looking south at midnight



Illus. Dee Sharples

### Summer Triangle

Looking almost straight up and toward the south all month.



Illus. Dee Sharples

Dee Sharples is an amateur astronomer who enjoys observing planets, star clusters and the Moon through her telescope. She is a member of ASRAS (Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science) and records "Dee's Sky This Month" — describing what can be seen in the sky — on the ASRAS website, rochesterastronomy.org.



Above: The cemetery tour was interesting and the space was quiet and shady.

Below: the gravestone of Laura Donley, who died in March 31, 1847 at the age of two.



Some of the stones were so fancy (and some a bit sad) and there was a beautiful metal fence. As might be expected, the stones were very old, some going back to the earliest days of the church. There is one new stone that will soon be placed soon, commemorating one of the town's earliest residents. The man was Augustus VanBuren. Van Buren settled in Richford in 1818, after buying his freedom (a former slave—humans have some messed up history, if you ask me—of Martin Van Buren, our country's 8th presidents). He lived to 102 and is buried in the churchyard cemetery with his second wife, Sebyl, and two of his children.

After the cemetery, we went to another place that was rich with the history of this small town. It had been a schoolhouse but was now filled with remnants of the past that told a story of the times gone by. One piece of that history had to do with potato farming. Starting in the 1940s (when sock hops were coming into vogue) Clark's Seed Potatoes bought up farms in Richford and surrounding townships. At the Graded Schoolhouse turned museum there was a machine that had been used to sort potatoes by size. I knew this because they had used a little round ball (a golf ball) to demonstrate how the machine worked. The ball was in a basket. Being a dog that loves to pick up balls, I could not resist, and my human had to remind me that that particular toy was not for me (I guess I will have to go back to the park, to see if I can find any spare socks).

There is another cemetery in town that we had been to before and as we headed home, we circled in and stopped for a bit. I get the feeling that some of my human's humans are here, as she always stops at certain stones. Cemeteries are vestiges of the past, and there is so much new and exciting happening all the time. Being a dog, I often dwell in the moment.\* Still, there was something exciting

about traveling back in time to explore the people who came before. If you would like to come out and explore the times that came before—while enjoying what this small town is all about today—visit Richford when they hold their annual Potato Festival on September 18, 2021. Most of the events will be at the Graded Schoolhouse. There will be vendors in Rawley Park and food at the church.

*To learn more about Rawley Park, visit [owllightnews.com/many-hands/](http://owllightnews.com/many-hands/)*

*\*For those who enjoy traveling back in time, that journey is usually taken on these Owl Light pages through the eyes of Joy Lewis (on page 12 in this issue) and David Pierce (back in October).*

Æsc is the "Small Town Hound—Finding Creative Venues and Adventures in NYS." He lives with his two humans and his canine companion Winnie in Canadice, NY. When not writing, his favorite pastime is finding people. He loves hearing from his fans: [smalltownhound@canadicepress.com](mailto:smalltownhound@canadicepress.com). [facebook.com/SmallTownHoundNY](https://facebook.com/SmallTownHoundNY)



Inside the Graded Schoolhouse, which now functions as a museum of times gone by. The plank floors were cool and some of the original desks remain.

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# The Conscious Crow

## Metamorphosis



### The Conscious Crow—Reminding you to Grow

Everything we taste, touch, see, feel, and hear is energy. It is what our entire existence and reality is made of. Our realities are determined by the physics and laws of energy, that declare nothing can ever be created or destroyed, only transformed from one phase to another. Therefore, there is no finite end to any single thing. The illusion of a permanent ending is really just a camouflaged series of freshly formed beginnings making their way to the surface. A series of transformations. Moving phases, alternating waves and oscillating frequencies, reproducing over and over again in a cyclical rhythm existing within us and within everything that surrounds us; to and from infinity and beyond.

Though death seems finite, begging the idea of a definitive closure- beginnings and endings are synonymous. They both spark a distinct chapter upon their arrival and elicit a portal of incredible change. Joseph Campbell in "The Power of Myth," reminds us how we must "... balance between death and life- [since] they are two aspects of the same thing, which is being, becoming."

Continuously, we redefine our Being and die to the known while exchanging a welcome with the unknown, becoming new. We think we know where we are headed and what is to come when we

in fact do not. In all of its entirety- life is unknown. Death, birth, and everything in between are charismatic movements of mystery and fascinating waves of elusiveness. All around us is the consistency of an ever-growing beginning; a cycle and circle that intertwines itself into an infinite ring of motion. As often as we breathe, we are redefining and re-associating ourselves in every moment and starting something over again. As the underlying impermanent forms surrounding us shift, as the earth makes its daily rotations in space, as all things pass and move onward; so, too, do we. We learn to let go in order to grow in this flux and flow. Mustering ourselves, and stepping into the next wave that presents itself, continuing to die to the old.

Campbell reiterates the cyclical notion of our endless transformation, as "Loss, death, birth, loss, death- and so on," stating that "unless there is death, there cannot be birth." We cannot have one without the other. It is the law that governs us. In order to greet the arrival of anything- we must first bid farewell. There has to be an exchange and an adjustment for new to take place of the old, and letting go is an essential part of this process. Something we visit often especially within the framework of our mental expectations when a moment occurs that is nothing

like what we foresaw. It teaches us to let go of how we thought it would look, what we want to happen and instead learn to focus on what is factually happening. To gather a new opinion and re-associate ourselves with plan b, plan c, and the unforeseeable plan d, ultimately undergoing a metamorphosis.

As we make our continuous and mostly invisible transitions shifting along every passing moment; we let go to grow. We exhale in order to inhale. We say goodbye to something old in order to say hello to something new. Bid farewell to the sun, to greet the moon. Depart from winter to welcome a spring. Dying to one form in order to be born into another. And so this goes, on and on. In Times like These, Jack Johnson sings to this never-ending movement, as we shape-shift and re-create, "...laughing, crying, birth and dying...And heal and grow and... raise and nurture... stop and go, fast and slow...action reaction... knowing "Somehow ... it'll never be the same." And it will all always change. A continual transformation that greets us around every bend, carrying a ceaseless supply of hellos and goodbyes, reminding us: that this moment ripe upon the cusp of mysterious change, is yet just another beginning waiting to be born out of the depth of death. ✨

**"Meet Me at the Cemetery"**  
is being held by the Town of Richmond  
and the Richmond Town Historian, Joy Lewis.

The last chance to "meet" some of the early settlers of Richmond Township is September 16th with a discussion of the Pitts and Baker Cemeteries.

The event will be held at the Honeoye Public Library.  
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**We all love what we do — and we love sharing it with you — but the time we spend in the Owl Light is so much more rewarding if we know that it is a shared journey.**

- Do you use our monthly crossword puzzle, listen to the Conscious Crow, follow The Night Sky to guide your celestial explorations, or look forward to hearing from a favorite contributor?
- Would you like to learn more or join a conversation about something found in the Owl Light?
- Is there something you would like to see more of?

If so, you can respond directly to many contributors, email message us at [editor@canadicepress.com](mailto:editor@canadicepress.com) or follow Canadice Press on Facebook or Instagram.

**We look forward to hearing from you...and you...and you too!**

# Fantastic Flora

## Head of the Class: The Confusing Coneflowers

Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*, Sunflower (or Aster) Family, Asteraceae



SALLY L. WHITE

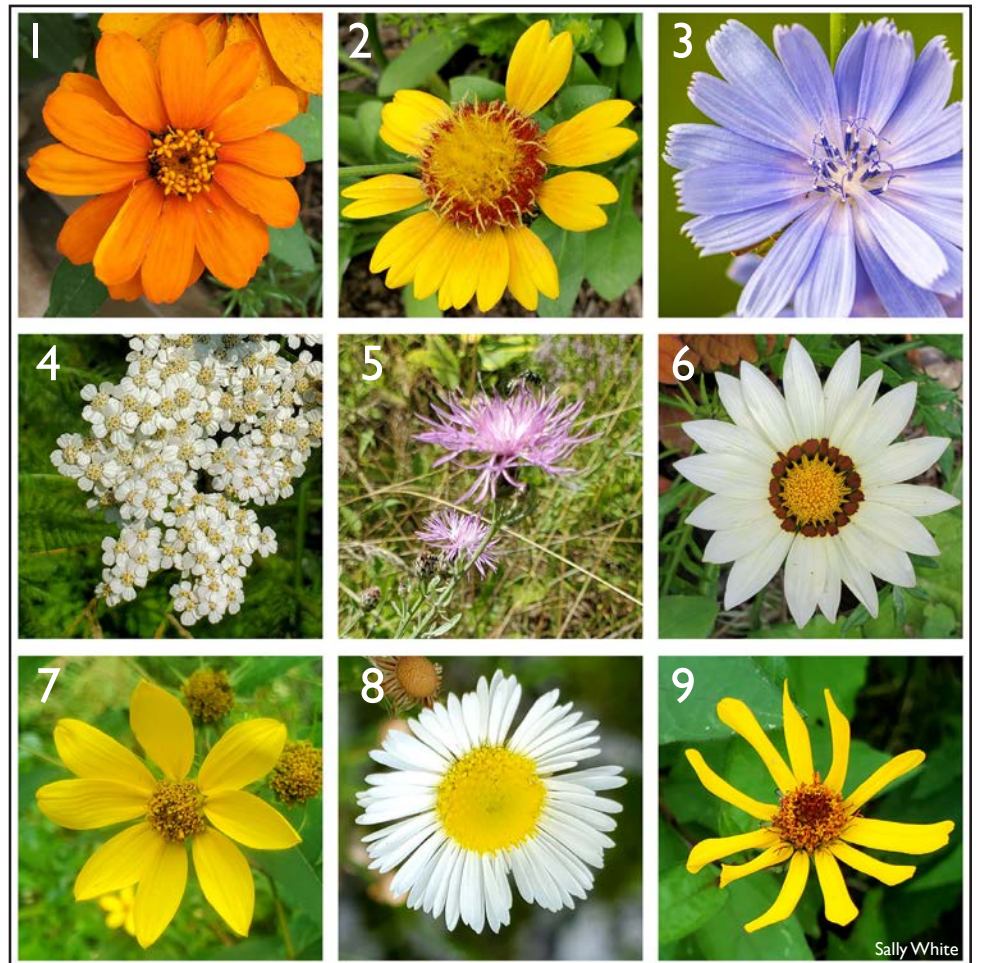
Everywhere you look these days, you'll see members of the extensive sunflower family — it's that time of year! As I write this in August, these species are in peak bloom, but I'm confident we'll still be seeing plenty, especially the family namesake asters, when you get this issue and on through September.

It's a challenge to grasp how many plants fall into this family! More than 400 make themselves at home in New York and about half of those are native. It's a cosmopolitan group with twenty-five THOUSAND species worldwide, more than any other plant family except the orchids. Asters exhibit an enormously successful family design that packs tens or hundreds of tiny flowers into "heads" that often, by themselves, look like a single flower. For this reason, they were traditionally called "composites."

'Aster' signifies 'star,' and many of these bright flowers do look like stars, with their radiating "petals," called ray flowers, each of which is a separate flower. Others may lack these outer petals, as we see in thistles. Others, like the blue chicory along roadsides, have only ray flowers.

Dandelions in your lawn, ragweed clogging your nose: this ubiquitous family makes its presence known and often incurs our wrath. From sunflowers to tiny fleabanes, the minute flowers complicate identification. So many composites are yellow that botanists-in-training know them as DYCs, for "damn yellow composites."

In the beginning, when Linnaeus first named the cone-flowers in 1753, they all belonged to the genus *Rudbeckia*. Over the centuries, taxonomists realized the situation was a little more complex. By 1794, the purple cone-flowers were split off as *Echinacea*, and in 1817, the cone-flowers got their distinct genus name, *Ratibida*. To add to the confusion, even some of the sunflowers, genus *Helianthus*, were once part of *Rudbeckia*. Today, although some *Rudbeckia* are known as cone-flowers, the ones we are most familiar with here are probably the black-eyed and brown-eyed Susans, *Rudbeckia hirta* and *R. triloba*.



### Sample variety of patterns in the Asteraceae

1. Calendula
2. Gaillardia, blanketflower
3. Chicory, all ray flowers
4. Yarrow, Achillea
5. Knapweed, all disk flowers
6. Gazania
7. Your guess?
8. Fleabane, more than 40 "petals"
9. Sunflower?



brown-eyed Susan

black-eyed Susan

Our primary subject today departs from the basic yellow theme cone-flowers display. The purple prairie cone-flower is one of the most recognizable of our composite flora this season. It's so widely recommended to native plant enthusiasts that I was surprised to discover that some sources do not consider it naturally occurring in New York State; it occurs mainly in gardens here but is truly native in Midwest states or those south of ours.

Continued on page 19



## Safe Clean Drinking Water Right at Home

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# Crafting Your Own Cuisine

EILEEN PERKINS

## RECIPE

One way to extend the value of seasonal produce is to make soup bases and freeze them. Bases can be quickly finished with canned or otherwise prepared products from the pantry. Presented, here, is a variation of the popular Italian soup, Minestrone. With some thought, you can craft your own favorites, utilizing your own recipes, and any surplus vegetables you have on hand. This approach can save valuable freezer space, since the liquid portion of the soup is added later, and many of the soup “finishing” ingredients are shelf stable. Note: you will save considerable time, if you carefully use the slicing blade of a food processor for prepping many of the vegetables in bases; simply process and then roughly chop. Choose to hand dice a couple of vegetables for visual interest. (In this recipe, green beans and zucchini were chosen.)



Minestrone Soup

Eileen Perkins is a native of Rochester N.Y., who cooked professionally, in a wide range of venues, for many years, before moving to the Finger Lakes. She and her husband owned and operated “Eileen’s Bakery an’ Soup Kitchen”, a business that emphasized vegetarian cuisine and the craft of artisan baking. Recipe adaptation for people with special dietary needs is a passion she enjoys sharing. Among Eileen’s current priorities is preservation of food from the garden, developing more comprehensive communication skills, her Falun Gong practice, and educating compassionate people about human rights in Communist-ruled China, and elsewhere.

**Check out Eileen's cookbook review on page 20!**

## Fantastic Flora from page 18

These plants make a spectacular display most of the summer, especially when



As an herb, echinacea is widely used to treat colds and boost the immune system.

in mass. Because they’re perennials, if you start with a few, the woody rhizomes enable them to spread into larger clumps. They are virtually pest-free and do not seem to invade areas where they haven’t been planted. Because we have an abundance of small flowers this season, the eye is drawn to these tall plants with large colorful flowers. So are the pollinators! Bees, butterflies, and others flock to them while blooming, and birds will seek out the seed in fall. Whether you’re focusing on natives or not, purple coneflowers are an excellent addition to your garden. If purple doesn’t fit your color scheme, you can also find *Echinacea* in yellow and white at some nurseries.

## Minestrone Soup (Vegan or not) utilizing homemade Soup Bases

### PART ONE—Three Soup Bases

#### Ingredients

- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 6 cups onion, chopped (apx. 1 ½ lb.)
- 2 ¼ cups cabbage, chopped
- 5 ¼ cups celery, chopped

- 3 cups carrot, chopped
- 3 Tbsp. garlic, chopped
- 2 cups string beans, cleaned and cut into ¼’s
- ¼ cup parsley leaves, chopped

#### Procedure

Sauté onions in oil until slightly brown. Add rest of ingredients and bring to a boil. Cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, for about 20 minutes, or until veggies are wilted. Take care not to burn. Cool and divide equally into 3 portions. Be sure to include any liquid. 🌿

### PART TWO—One Pot of Soup (8-10 servings)

#### Ingredients

- 1 prepared soup base
- 5 ½ -6 cups water, vegetable or chicken broth (if using a salted product, be conservative when first adding salt)
- 1 (28 oz.) canned diced tomatoes in juice or 3 ½ cups fresh peeled diced tomatoes with juice
- 2 (16 oz.) cans or 4 cups of drained, rinsed beans (choose your favorites—garbanzo, lima, black, kidney, cannellini)

- 2 cups zucchini with skin, quartered and diced
- 2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 tsp. ground fennel seed
- 2 tsp. smoked paprika
- ¼ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes, or to taste
- 1 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 tsp. rosemary
- Several grinds of black pepper
- 2 Tbsp. fresh basil leaves, chopped
- 2 tsp salt, or more to taste at the end. If utilizing water rather than broth you may need more.

#### Procedure

Combine ingredients in large pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 35-45 minutes. Taste and correct flavors.

Admittedly, this soup is easier to make if using a broth for liquid, rather than plain water, but sometimes broth is unavailable. Some of the herbs and spices might be omitted if using a broth, rather than plain water. Make what tastes good to you from what you have on hand. Traditionally, pasta is added to this soup, but I chose not to. (For best result, cook pasta separately, then add when heating soup for serving.)

For a finishing vegetarian touch, try topping with toasted herbed croutons and a grated hard cheese like Asiago, Romano or Parmesan. For meat eaters, diced cooked chicken breast is a good choice, added when heating for service.

Sally L White is a lifelong naturalist and writer. After 40 years in Colorado, she's getting reacquainted with New York's native flora, exploring one plant at a time and sharing special stories of each. Once a place of youthful memories, the Keuka Lake area is again her home.

# Making Lemonade

## Teachers Make a Difference!

BARB STAHL

Teachers make a difference! It's September and time to get back to school. As a retired teacher I can easily recall the different thoughts I had about going back after a summer. It always was with eagerness to get back into school days, mixed with regret for the end of carefree days.

This will be my "dedication to all teachers" article. I have had some major medical experiences these past months which has necessitated my being taken care of by very young doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, technicians, and clerical organizers. I can't help realizing that these medical folks are often even younger than my own children. How did that happen?

Suddenly it occurred to me that my retired teaching friends and I were now under the care of our former students. And, given my recent medical experiences, we did a very good job. Yes, I know we didn't teach them how to do surgery, or to understand complicated cancer data from x-rays and tests, nor to administer medical tests that contribute to those things. But...we tried very hard to instill the basics and the love to learn. We definitely succeeded when I observe the caring, intelligent, thoughtful medical professionals that I have trusted over the past few months. I began to think about, and appreciate, all my teachers who had done the same preparation work for me.

I can't help but realize how very difficult teaching had to have been in the past year, and likely will continue to be, during the Covid / delta variant pandemic. Teaching always had its challenges, but these are unprecedented times. Teachers are expected to do amazing things that they had never been prepared to do. How do they deal with some students in the room, others with them remotely, or any combination of the above? It probably has changed forever some of the teaching techniques, but what a rough way to learn! I commend them highly for what they managed to do and hope some normal returns to the school rooms this coming school year!

Now to introduce some of my favorite medical people. There was the young surgeon who answered every question I had, drew pictures for clarification, and never, ever, rushed me. The breast imaging staff professionals were very helpful while poking and prodding to get various "positions" x-rayed, studied, and/ or

I was in the Imaging Department so many times the clerical woman who kept checking me in asked me what I was doing with my hospital ID-wristband collection and suggested that I string them together for a charming Christmas tree ornament.

markers planted for the surgeon's guidance. During these sessions I asked them to keep talking to me to divert my attention. I could tell they used a "tag team" approach to keep me occupied with questions about my family, travels, pets, etc., so they could take turns to do their necessary parts of the procedures.

For my second medical issue pretty much every vascular system of mine has been recorded while I listen to ka-thump, ka-thump, gurgle, gurgle, swish, swish, repeatedly.

Again, the technicians would talk to me as much as possible so he/she could keep my mind occupied. I was in the Imaging Department so many times the clerical woman who kept checking me in asked me what I was doing with my hospital ID-wristband collection and suggested that I string them together for a charming Christmas tree ornament.

One of my favorite conversations was when I had commented on my age to a doctor, and, in the course of conversation, I said "jeepers creepers." He laughed wholeheartedly, said "jeepers creepers" followed by laughing and saying "jeepers creepers" again, three times. I knew I could really like that doctor!! To add to that, on his own he said just "jeepers" a few times later in his conversation. Have I started a revival of saying that?

As I thought of all these bright young people who are totally in charge of my body and health, I began to realize that this was the way life was supposed to be. We teach the young... they learn... and ultimately, they fulfill "our" goals by taking over and expanding on that knowledge to keep us well and safe.

The knowledge of the complexity of cancer today is totally amazing! I don't pretend to understand it, but what these specialists do is gather the evidence and precisely pinpoint what would work best for your personal situation. Here's to today's great school-year teachers – and to retirees, "thank you," from a grateful patient who knows that with that education excellence she is in good hands! ❀

Barb Stahl is a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, retired school library media specialist, and a western New York/Finger Lakes area lover who did a previous column for Canandaigua Daily Messenger. She loves her family, circle of friends, reading, writing, history, music, theater, and Tarzan the cat who critiques her articles. Contact: makinglemonadeOwl@gmail.com



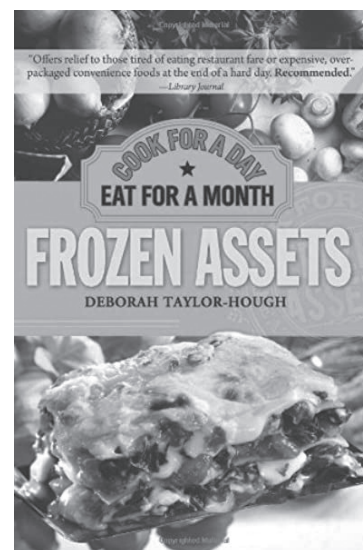
## COOKBOOK REVIEW

### *Frozen Assets – Cook For A Day Eat For A Month* by Deborah Taylor-Hough

Reviewed by EILEEN PERKINS

If you feel like daily dinner meal prep is a bottomless pit for your resources, you can put on the proverbial brakes with some assistance from Deborah Taylor-Hough. "Frozen Assets" revolves around the theme of simple, home-cooked meals, that are economical both in terms of time and money. The idea of a single bulk cooking session creating many meals is not new to 2021 cooks, but how many have had the wherewithal to try it? This book offers a straight-forward path for doing so, complete with grocery lists and timelines for bringing it all together with a minimum of fuss and creative effort. Sound good? If you are looking for meals brimming with epicurean delight, utilizing a host of exotic ingredients and time-consuming cooking methods, you will not find it here. What IS offered is a simplified approach to feeding yourself and loved ones, with what sound like tasty and nutritious "comfort food" meals, and this will potentially help you to get off the restaurant and convenience food treadmill.

One way food prep time is shortened in this book is by using common meat bases in multiple applications. For example, "Beef Mix" is utilized six times in the One Month Plan, twice for Meatloaf, once for Salisbury Steak, and three times for Meatballs (transformed into "Sweet and Sour Meatballs", "Chili Day Meatballs"



and "Meatball Sandwiches"). Entrees are assembled in groups, according to the dish's main protein ingredient.

Many recipes use readily available, low-cost convenience food ingredients such as canned cream soups, jarred spaghetti sauce, canned and frozen vegetables and fruits, and salsa. Meat varieties and cheeses are potentially lower cost ones. The recipes are not allergy friendly but might be made so with knowledgeable substitutions.

Are you imagining this project can't work for you, since your freezer space is limited? The author suggests giving the "Two-Week Meal Plan" a try and provides tips for maximizing what space you have. All that these main dish meals need is a side dish and salad to round them out. Easy.

Although there are chapters dedicated to getting started with a Thirty-Day Meal Plan, Two-Week Meal Plan, and Ten-Day Holiday Meal Plan, the author also offers ideas and additional recipes for how to approach making one's own personally tailored plan. This might be especially helpful for vegetarians wanting to try out this concept of bulk cooking. More people than ever are seeking ways to shrink living expenditures. And for those endeavoring to transition largely out of eating meat, studying an organized approach to meals, such as the one presented here, might help make the process easier. ❀

# GOURMET®

## Owl Light Puzzle 17 – By GEORGE URICH



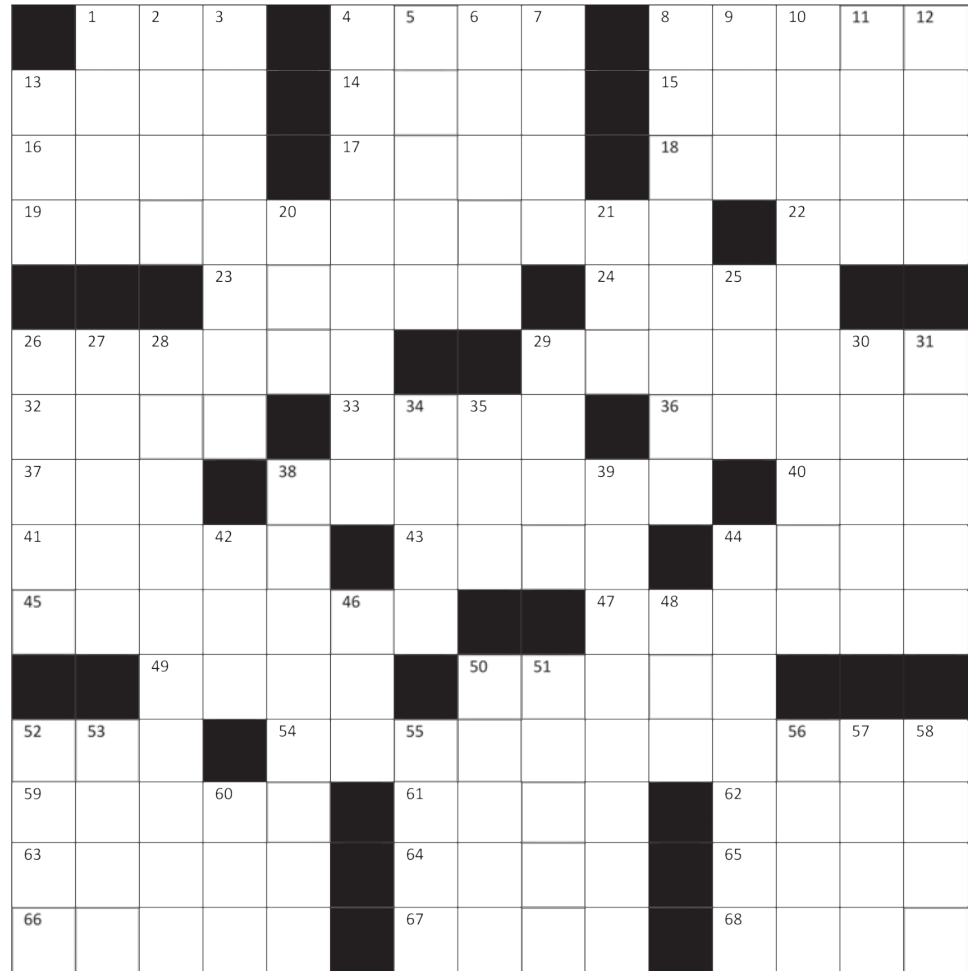
### ACROSS

- 1 Fall behind
- 4 Where coins are made
- 8 He led the Jews out of Egypt, Bible story
- 13 Symbol of holiness
- 14 Thing used on finger nails, \_\_\_\_y board
- 15 What a hotdog might say if it could
- 16 Baseball brothers
- 17 Supply to the fullest
- 18 Direction indicator
- 19 Food necessary for growth and health
- 22 It collects your taxes, Abbr
- 23 The ghost of Molly \_\_\_\_
- 24 FBI program to identify individuals involved in child abuse
- 26 Two sensors of senses
- 29 Letter opening
- 32 Farm animal, the middle letters reversed
- 33 What many young women wish for, \_\_\_\_e wedding
- 36 Van Bortel, auto dealer
- 37 African antelope
- 38 Highly valued mushroom
- 40 Permit to let immigrant noncitizens work, Abbr.
- 41 Italian composer who wrote the score of many movies \_\_\_\_ Morricone
- 43 Parks, civil rights activist
- 44 Large body of water
- 45 Father's method
- 47 Searcher
- 49 Music intended to be performed by voice

- 50 PBS staple, \_\_\_\_e Street
- 52 Feedbag morsel
- 54 Relating to practice of cooking or eating good food
- 59 Place where sports are played
- 61 Important artery, \_\_\_\_a
- 62 Queen \_\_\_\_, wife of King Hussein
- 63 Begin
- 64 French liver specialty, \_\_\_\_ gras
- 65 Yearly, \_\_\_\_al
- 66 Computer geek, alt spelling
- 67 Threatening word
- 68 No longer alive

### DOWN

- 1 French composer, Edouard \_\_\_\_
- 2 Same as 16 Across
- 3 Connoisseur of good food
- 4 What a GI would bring to the chow hall
- 5 Exclamation by a male
- 6 Denial
- 7 Genetic map
- 8 Special treat for dogs and cats
- 9 Dingy propellor
- 10 A cut of beef
- 11 Abrasive material, \_\_\_\_y
- 12 Hems
- 13 Star Wars character \_\_\_\_ Solo
- 20 What winter streets may be
- 21 Previous name
- 25 Jackie's second
- 26 Urged
- 27 One of actresses, Cathcart, Gh-lumsky, Faris
- 28 A cut of beef



- 29 Designations of people who dropped out of race, Abbr.
- 30 I give and
- 31 Truck rental company
- 34 Group who sit in judgement
- 35 What an ET might pilot
- 38 \_\_\_\_\_ Pembroke Pines, FL
- 39 Two words, Rope for catching cattle and golfers gadget
- 42 Prefix meaning equal
- 44 Summer cooler, \_\_\_\_e
- 46 Title held by Imam of Shias, \_\_\_\_ Khan
- 48 Bad person, m\_\_\_\_y
- 50 Chair
- 51 "To \_\_\_\_ human, forgive divine"
- 52 Kiln used for drying hops
- 53 Comedian \_\_\_\_ Johnson
- 55 Not in danger
- 56 Legal tender \_\_\_\_y
- 57 New Rochelle college
- 58 Substance that is disgusting or unpleasant
- 60 French artist He\_\_\_\_ Matisse



George Urich is a retired Xerox engineer living in Canandaigua, NY. He solves and creates crossword puzzles to keep his brain active. A new puzzle will be shared each month, for the puzzling enjoyment of Owl Light readers. Email George at [gurich@frontier.com](mailto:gurich@frontier.com)

Livonia Kevin W. Honeoye

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Poetry from **BETH SLEBODA**

Lines

I don't like plastic posies -  
flowers made by man.  
I prefer those Mother makes.  
I pick them, when I can.

They do not last forever.  
They wrinkle up and die.  
But they keep me together.  
And that is not a lie.

Tomorrow, I will take a walk.  
I'll cut some Queen Anne's lace.  
I'll think of all the lines and love  
that live on my friend's face.

I'd write another stanza that'd  
explain this poem to you.  
But that's not necessary, for  
you know these lines are true.



Poetry from **WENDY SCHREINER**

Autumn's Arrival

big yellow  
school buses  
back on the streets  
cooler evening  
breezes  
warm apple pies  
crisp crunch  
fall leaves  
under stylish  
fashion booted  
feet  
fall has returned



Beth Ely Sleboda is an artist who uses words, music, and fiber to express herself, comment on everyday occurrences, and create moments of interactive fun. She plays the mountain dulcimer, guitar, Lakota flute, udu, and a variety of percussion instruments. She is a life-long resident of Livonia (and Livonia's official Poet Laureate) who considers herself to be happily cursed.

Wendy Schreiner resides in Warsaw, NY with her husband Dave and two adorable shih tzus Daisy Mae and Paisley Rae. She is a freelance writer for Warsaw's Country Courier and is a substitute teacher at Warsaw Central School District. She also facilitates Warsaw's Write Connection writing club at the Warsaw Public Library which is in its tenth year.

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The museum is located at 8690 Main St., Honeoye (in the back section of Richmond Town Hall). Please follow current CDC guidelines when entering the building.



Jennifer Marshall Hubble,

May 5, 1980 - September 19, 2016

It's been five long years since we  
said goodbye, Jen.

We think of you daily, with happy  
memories and tears shed.

Miss & Love you.

With all our love,  
Grandma & Grandpa M.,  
and all of your family

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## Owl at Home

It won't be long before you are packing up picnic baskets and stowing away boats to head back to ... wherever fall and winter finds you. Perhaps, like us, you live in the Finger Lakes year-round. Maybe you head further south for the winter. Wherever you go, the *Owl* can go too! Read us in print or online this winter.

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Solution to Owl Light Puzzle 17 (found on page 21)

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12						
	L	A	G		M	I	N	T		M	O	S	E	S						
13	H	A	L	O		E	M	O	R		E	A	T	M	E					
16	A	L	O	U		S	A	T	E		A	R	R	O	W					
19	N	O	U	R		I	S	H	M	E		N	T		I	R	S			
					23	M	C	G	E	E		24	E	C	A	P				
26	E	A	R	E	Y	E				29	D	E	A	R	S		30	31	I	R
32	G	A	O	T			33	A	J	U	N		36	K	I	T	T	Y		
37	G	N	U			38	T	R	U	F	F		39	L	E		40	E	A	D
41	E	N	N	I	O			43	R	O	S	A		44	L	A	K	E		
45	D	A	D	S	W		46	A	Y				47	S	E	E	K	E	R	
			49	S	O	N	G		50	S	E	S	A	M						
52	O	A	T			54	G	A		55	S	T	R	O	N	O	M	I	C	
59	A	R	E		60	N	A		61	A	O	R	T		62	N	O	O	R	
63	S	T	A	R	T			64	F	O	I	E		65	A	N	N	U		
66	T	E	K	I	E			67	E	L	S	E		68	D	E	A	D		

We place online content ongoing and welcome community press releases for posting on our free content community site at [owllightnews.com](http://owllightnews.com).

Calendar items (for community arts-related and social events) may be entered for free online at: [owllightnews.com/events/community/add](http://owllightnews.com/events/community/add). If you have a cancellation or edit on a previously added event, please e-mail us at [editor@canadicepress.com](mailto:editor@canadicepress.com) or message us on [fb@canadicepress](https://www.facebook.com/canadicepress).

\* Posted events must be open to all individuals and must offer some direct community enrichment (we review before posting goes live).

## Side Street Sounds from front

Traditionally, at the end of the camp, a recital is held for family and friends, so the participants can show off what they've accomplished.

Last year at the end of camp, Geoff announced that it would be his last. He and his wife were moving out of the area to care for a sick relative. Geoff handled so much of the administrative duties associated with the camp, from writing the grant application to securing locations to hold the camp, to printing and distributing applications, to scheduling the campers, and organizing the recital, not to mention teaching keyboard. Although I've been teaching the guitar portion of camp, I frankly just didn't have the time to take over. It seemed as if keyboard camp had seen its final year.



Amy Sauter instructs three of the campers (seated left to right) Shayla White, Aubree Lippens, and Rylee Lippens



Steve West with Gwendolyn Metz at the recital held at St. Timothy Church.

scheduled two six-week sessions - one at the Firehouse Youth Center in Mt. Morris, and the other at the Goodwill Community Room in Geneseo. Amy Sauter, a longtime piano teacher from Hemlock, was brought onboard to run the keyboard side of camp, and I was happy to once again give guitar lessons. The camp was a great success, culminating in a recital at St. Timothy's Church in Geneseo on August 10.

One of my favorite sayings is, "music will always find a way to be heard." Starting the next generation of musicians on their journey of music appreciation is just too important to let it fall silent. Thanks to the hard work of everyone involved, that journey continues. 🦉

Steve West gigs (online performances and Live shows) and other info. can be found at: [stevewestmusic.com/](http://stevewestmusic.com/)

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