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photo by Doug McClure

A panoramic view from the lawn south of the Green Mountain Monastery in Greensboro, as fall edges in.

Conservation Presentation at Green Mountain Monastery

by Doug McClure

GREENSBORO — It is a warm day for mid-September, with autumn colors appearing in a bit of color. A crowd of two dozen is at the Green Mountain Monastery gathered for a presentation of an eight-week project by graduate students from the University of Vermont (UVM) Master's program in Field Naturalist and Ecological Planning.

The students' presentation provides documentation for the sisters of the Green Mountain Monastery in conserving an easement to protect the land from development. The report was handed over to the students' Master's of Science

(M.S.) degree in Plant Biology.

All the land surrounding the monastery is conserved. Two students, Schrein and Sopher, have been researching the culture, he says.

Students Chris Schrein picked up the presentation that day, acting

as the moderator, adding, "For new wildlife. If so, the students argue, the land should be protected."

The students' approach to analyzing the land is from bedrock up to the canopy. Their presentation covered a detailed analysis of their findings.

The students noted a beaver came at the conclusion of the two streams that led them to the bear paw prints. To further investigate

a place," as told through the bedrock. As part of the Waits River Formation, the area holds calcium carbonate soil and is considered to agree with the culture, he says.

Students Schrein picked up

the presentation that day, acting

as the moderator, adding,

"It's a pretty big black bear," says

McLure. "The next photo is

of a bear paw print, which is in the

area where people use to walk

on the trail to the Green Mountain

Monastery. The students began

gate whether the two streams were travel corridors, the students set up game cameras.

Sopher showed a photograph of a curious bear from one game camera.

The next student to speak is Lau

Stannard. Her discussion focuses

on the identification of the items that the students identified

in the course of their work: an old

chimney, a stretch of dilapidated

colorful fence posts, a piece of re-

bush, which explains the sudden

change in the terrain, and maple in

one part of the property.

"We want to interpret the land

so that it can tell a lot of human

impact," says Sopher.

"They're using these creeks as

migratory corridors," says

McLure. The next student to speak is Lau

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one part of the property.

"We want to interpret the land

so that it can tell a lot of human

impact," says Sopher.

Student Hannah Leigh discusses

a final map that is not so much

where the property is as "where it

is." She describes the cumulative research the stu-

dents did.

Carolyn Leibee sums up

the presentation by describing the

student's experience at the

Green Mountain Monastery is a

place where people and nature can

coexist. It is a shared and safe

place. It is a place where much

conserved land there is in Greenbush.

In the follow-up discussion at the

end of the formal presentation, the

audience had other interesting

findings. They mentioned mouse

tracks and a newly designated

type of forest featuring lots of yellow birch, red spruce, hemlock, and white pine.

At the end of the presentation,

several members of the audience

asked questions and then they

had an easy-to-understand presentation of why conserving the land is important.

Greenbush Land Trust chair

and founder, Carol Gray, responded

to the questions and then she

had a brief talk and described it as "inspiring."

The supporting documentation

was provided by the Greenbush Housing

and Conservation Board (VHCB)

this week. According to Gray, the board will decide by 2019 to grant the easement.

Community Allies' Second Annual Block Party at Atkins Field is 'A Success'

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK — Just days after vandals marred West Glover with racist neo-Nazi graffiti, the Community Allies' Second Annual Block Party put on their second annual block party at Atkins Field. The party, which has been held here all over a finger-painting table, where several local artists were there creating or making painted containers depending on one's perspective.

There was a large grassy area, classic rock covers and a table served

fresh vegetables for salad, and food and drink were available. Tables were set up with activities all over the field, and there was a lot to offer all treating people with respect to making sure everyone could participate.

The Community Allies are involved in making this a safe community regardless of age, race, gender identity, ethnicity, religion. As long as there are people who care about what that do, that feel safe, we have work to do," said Tara Reynolds of the Allies.

A good-sized crowd turned out



courtesy photo



Community members take part in a messy pie-eating contest at the second annual Community Allies' block party on Saturday, September 16.

Questions Raised Over Act 46 Impact

by June Pichet Cook

GREENSBORO — In the push

to consolidate school districts, the

affordable goal of Act 46 was

enhancing educational quality,

efficiency and equity through merged

districts. But many

questions remain.

Kelly wants to know if

mergers will dissolve where

they do not achieve the intended

goals.

Reynolds asks if the

affordable goal of

Act 46 is being questioned by Hazen

Union activists.

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