



April is poetry month and poetry will be the theme for the Bugle. We would like to publish one of your poems or your favorite poem and what makes it special. Maybe you will share with us what inspired you to write poetry. We eagerly await your submission.

- The "Buglers"

Lee A.  
Phil C.  
Max K.  
Cari B.

Linda C.  
Lois K.  
Paul S.

## EastView's Beloved Dogs

By Angelika

The untimely passing of Henry, née Henri, well-known EastView personality makes us remember all the four-legged family members EastView has lost, each one a special, beloved, integral part of the community: Colby, Prince, Sammie, Millie, Bailey I and II, Jillie, Boo-Boo, Lilly, Beau, Deacon, Aggie, Katey, and Westy. We mourn them and miss them desperately. Yet they all are playing happily together on that sunny meadow with beautiful trees at the end of the rainbow. They are watched over by an angel, substituting for Cari with handfuls of treats. We long for them and they think of us with love, but they are joyful and contented.



## Distinguishing Truth: Science versus Opinion

By Paul S.

In our society there are many differing beliefs about what is true. However, it seems to me that the important differences between most such beliefs lies not in what they say but in the way in which they are acquired. One way is simply to be told that something is true. The second is the Scientific Method.

Being told and then adopting a belief has the advantage of efficiency. We learn from one's family, church or school. This constitutes most of what we believe. Furthermore, most of the ideas that are acquired in this manner work well enough for practical purposes. But here is the important characteristic: unless such beliefs are challenged so strongly that the believer cannot retain them, they generally do not change.

Science is different. It does not simply receive information, it questions it. More importantly it does so in a meticulous and specific way called the Scientific Method. Here is how it works: a scientist takes a belief (by which I mean a possible truth) and then with as much precision as possible, turns it into an "hypothesis"—a statement of a possible truth. Using rigorously defined techniques, including statistical, mathematical, observational, experimental, etc., the scientist examines the consequences that would follow if the hypothesis were true. If the examination demonstrates a contradiction, such that the hypothesis cannot be true, it should be rejected as a belief.

On the other hand, even if all the tests indicate the truth of the hypothesis, science always recognizes that new information may lead to new conclusions. Therefore, it will still be considered a "Theory" just as Evolution and Particle Physics are still called "theories"—even though the possibility that they are not true is vanishingly small.

Here is the point. In the real-world most things change. Therefore, along with its discoveries, scientifically explored reality always includes new questions some of which may challenge previous conclusions. It is this variability that provides a good way to determine which statements are more likely to reflect actual reality rather than old bias.

Consider the current controversies about COVID, such as vaccination and masks. The scientific recommendations regarding how to manage our relationship to the virus change frequently – first because the virus is changing, and second because we continue to learn new things about the way we manage it. On the other hand, the argument of the anti-vaccination, anti-mask group changes very little – vaccination is bad for you, it will kill you, etc. without anything that counts as new information. Why? They propose a fraudulent reality which does not exist and therefore cannot withstand examination, so there is never any news to report.

What is the practical importance of this? I believe that the next time you see seven or eight people standing in white coats and representing themselves as experts, but who give you blanket pronouncements without reference to meticulously acquired data, you should ignore them. But if the speaker is giving you new information, facts you had not previously been told, and refers you to multiple precisely structured experiments that verify it, such information is far more likely to be true.



### March Birthdays

Bob A. 3/2  
Janet G. 3/15  
Pat T. 3/17  
Nancy C. 3/19  
Lee A. 3/20  
Bonnie A. 3/25  
Robin P. 3/28

### Did You Know:

Right here in the front lobby of the Inn (in the small alcove to the left as you enter) is a large binder created by Dick H. titled: EastView Bird Sightings and Natural History Notes Around EastView. Inside the binder are Dick's photos and descriptions of bird and animal sightings for the month. Also, there is a binder marked 2021 Bird Sightings and Natural History Notes on the small book shelf.

Elderly Services ESI College offers numerous and varied courses online: <https://elderlyservices.org/esi-college-mar-apr-2022/>. Or call 802-388-3983.

The Middlebury Chamber of Commerce website [middleburyinchamber.com](http://middleburyinchamber.com) has all kinds of info about events, news, happenings, etc.

## Familiar Faces

### GINNY M.

Tom and I moved to Cornwall in 1992 from the D.C. suburbs where we had spent our married life between overseas assignments in Africa and the Far East. I grew up in Andover, MA and went to Middlebury College, but Tom was new to New England. The move turned out to be an excellent one for us and our five children and the ten grandchildren who eventually came along. Though none of them have ever lived here, they all love Vermont (two married here). They have been wonderfully attentive to me since Tom's passing in 2018, two years after we had moved to EastView, another good decision.



In 1948 in the summer after my sophomore year at Middlebury College, I went to western Europe on an American Youth Hostel bicycle tour. At that time I was excited just to have a passport and to go through customs! As it turned out, that summer had much to do with the direction my life took. On my return home, I became determined to spend time beyond a summer vacation overseas. After graduation from Middlebury, I worked for the CIA for 7 years. During that time, I fulfilled my college dream of living in western Europe as I spent almost three years in Norway. I met Tom at a Georgetown party after my return from Norway and his from Indonesia where he had worked for USAID (the foreign aid program). He returned to Indonesia for a second tour. We married shortly after in Hong Kong and started our life together in Djakarta.

Subsequent tours were in Kenya, Malawi, Liberia, Vietnam (Tom), Taiwan (Ginny), Thailand, and The Gambia with time in between in Washington. I didn't have what you would call a career, but I did have occasional work during those years. There were times with some exciting adventures and wonderful experiences along with the routines of family life and raising children. Bored on a Sunday afternoon in Nairobi? Drive 30 minutes to the game park and be greeted by a giraffe. I learned a lot. It was a life I loved. How could I have known that in the summer of 1948!

Something of an addendum: questions often asked about my life are about raising and educating children and life with servants. If you are interested in details about those topics or about experiencing a coup d'état or the trauma of caring for children with snake bite, drop by my cottage for a cup of coffee!

### SHAWN C.

After being born in Vermont, I spent my first 17 years in the Bristol area. Before my eighteenth birthday I had joined the Army. In fact, I turned eighteen midway through basic training. Happy 18th to me! After a twenty-one-year career traveling the world with several overseas tours and deployments to Germany, Italy, Korea, Iraq, Africa, South America, the Balkans area, Egypt, and Jordan, I retired in 2009.



I returned to Vermont to raise my growing kids and to be close to family. My son is twenty-three and works here in the EastView kitchen. My twenty-one year old daughter is in her third year of college as a graphic designer and currently is studying for a semester in Dublin, Ireland.

Christine and I were married in August 2020. Due to COVID we had to keep our wedding small, meaning just the two of us and the JOP. Christine and I are very happy. Our favorite thing to do is fly around New England in our plane going on "adventures," seeing new places and meeting new people. COVID has slowed that down but we still try to get out when we can.

Although I wasn't a tech person in the military, I always could figure things out and had a fascination for technology. I decided to take my hobby and passion to the next level and make it into a career. I started working for a small tech firm in Middlebury. At this job I gave tech support to many small businesses, including the brand-new retirement community known as EastView at Middlebury. I received a lot of certificates through Microsoft, Cisco and CompTIA, elevating my career. After being in this job for 4 years, I joined Beau Ties as their web design person (webmaster) and became their technology director. I also managed to get my BS in Information Technology in 2020! Better late than never, they say. After 7 years at Beau Ties, I decided to make a change and try yet another new job. This was to become the "tech guru" and support the residents at EastView.

Working with all of you brings me great joy. I told Connie, "This is my last job. I will work here awhile, then move-in!" Be looking for my name on the wait list sometime soon!

## VERMONT: PIONEER IN WIND GENERATION

By Gordon C.

Windmills were used for millennia to grind grain and pump water. The Dutch pumped water from the polders to create farmland. Europeans brought windmill technology to the Americas.

In the 1880's, some folks started using wind to generate electricity and light their living rooms in the evenings. The idea was slow to catch on. Many people regarded electricity and electric lights as the "work of the devil." But, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century electric generation plants and distribution networks grew.

In 1938, engineer Palmer Putnam worked on an engineering concept of a wind generator large enough to provide power to a grid. Many cooperated to make it happen. S. Morgan Smith Co. financed the project. General Electric built the 1.25 megawatt generator. CVPS (now Green Mountain Power) saw the advantage of distributed generation. Several companies designed and manufactured the hub and blades, built the gravel road to the selected site, and constructed the tower and other facilities.

The selected site was Grandpa's Knob in Castleton, VT. It had a good wind profile. At 1823 foot elevation icing was not a problem. A new gravel road to the construction site would be only 2.2 miles long with a grade not exceeding 15%.

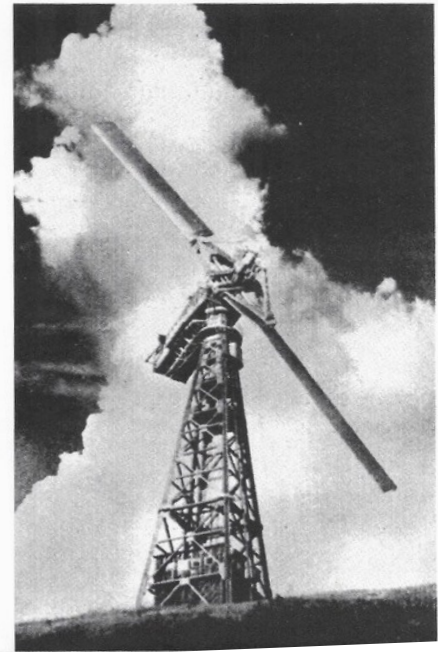
In 1941 construction began. With WWII looming, it was feared that wartime shortages would doom the project. The prototype gear went into service rather than proceed with a production design. Testing began in August 1941. The blades, 66 feet long, could be seen "flailing the air" by observers 30 miles away. The system worked well—better than expected. On October 1941, the generator was synchronized to the grid and started delivering power, the first time it had ever been done anywhere in the country and perhaps the world.

The generator did its noble work for 1000 hours until stopped by a failure of the main bearing. But we were at war. Industry was making jeeps, tanks and other vital war material. It was two years before a replacement bearing could be made and installed. Operation of the generator resumed on March 3, 1945 and continued until March 26. Suddenly . . . . .

**DISASTER!!!** One of the steel blades had weakened. It broke from the hub. Momentum hurled the blade skyward! The blade, 66 feet long and weighing 8 tons, returned to earth 750 feet downslope from the tower. The severe unbalance shook the generator platform violently, slamming the operator in the cage aloft against the wall. With great difficulty, he managed to stop the machine.

In spite of the failure, the experiment was deemed a success. Wind generation was forecast as the future in power distribution. The high spirits did not last. The war had ended. Production capacity had returned to making much needed consumer goods, gasoline, and fuel oil. It soon became apparent that wind generation at the Smith-Putnam state of development could not compete with traditional sources. The project was reluctantly abandoned. All that remains on Grandpa's Knob is the concrete footing of the tower.

In the 1970s, when the Arab oil embargos sent oil prices skittering and consumers faced shortages, wind generation revived as an electric power source. Today's wind towers are a sleek tubular design. Blades are of carbon fibre composite materials—stronger than steel and much lighter in weight. The operator's cage aloft has been replaced by remote controls. They function much more reliably and competitively and can be installed in a variety of settings—for instance, at sea. And the pressure to upgrade high voltage transmission systems is eased.



***Smith-Putnam Wind Turbine***

***Castleton, VT***

***1941-1945***

***Power Output 1.25 MW***

***Tower Height 120 ft.***

***Blade diameter 175 ft.***

***Customer CVPS***

## Vermont's Maple Industry

By Phil C.

This one is mostly for newcomers to EastView without a long history of living in Vermont. If you are a Vermonter or even a transplanted flatlander, you certainly know the basics of making Maple syrup: 40 gallons of sap to make a gallon of syrup; the sap flows best when there are freezing temperatures at night and above freezing temperatures the next day (pretty much the months of March and April).

There have been huge changes in the industry in recent years. Horse drawn sleighs hauling small tanks of sap to a steaming, smoking sugar shack have been replaced by seemingly endless miles of plastic tubing conveying the sap by gravity from the trees to the sugarhouse either directly or via an intermediate holding tank. Once inside the sugarhouse the old open boiling pans have been replaced by new concentration equipment and technologies, resulting in a shorter time to get from sap to syrup and with a more consistent quality.

Vermont accounts for about 50% of U.S. Maple production. For a more thorough explanation please go to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maple\\_syrup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maple_syrup)

***BUT WAIT – HOW ABOUT A VISIT TO A NEARBY SUGAR HOUSE SO YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF ?*** Bread Loaf View Farm in nearby Cornwall (address 564 Cider Mill Rd) has scheduled open houses for the weekends of March 19-20 and again March 26-27. Better yet, if we can round up a minimum of about ten interested EastViewers, we can organize transport for a semi-private tour with the farm's sugar maker, Ken Hastings. Best guess is that the tour will take about an hour and a half to two hours door to door (also allowing time to buy enough syrup to keep those waffles sweet or enough maple sugar candy to keep your dentist happy). Stand by for sign-up sheets at the front desk.



*Collecting sap the old way*



*Collecting sap the new way*

## ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE: “Mona’s Stone”

*By Lee A.*

The recent death of Mona Meyers Wheatley, a 1956 Middlebury College graduate, who served the college in many positions in development and alumni relations, brought to mind this story:

For 25 years we spent time at our Fern Lake “camp” just south of Lake Dunmore. On one occasion, we invited some of our college friends out for a swim. Mona brought along her charge for the day, Colin Yarbrough, the young son of religion professor Larry Yarbrough and his wife Amy Hastings.

As the afternoon wound down, all of a sudden there was a commotion down at the waterfront. Those of us relaxing on the deck sensed a serious situation. As she had climbed up the ladder onto the floating dock, Mona felt something slide down her arm into the water. Looking at her hand, Mona saw that the diamond from her family heirloom ring was missing.

We immediately cleared the area. Even though the depth of the water was only about 12 feet, we didn’t want to disturb anything. The question was: “Will we be able to find the diamond, much less retrieve it?”

Our younger daughter and beau Peter were coming to visit that very evening. Peter was a trained scuba diver. During our phone conversation, we described the situation and asked him to bring along his underwater flashlight.

It was getting late and Mona had to take Colin home. He was distraught about “Mona’s stone.” We tried to console him saying, “Don’t worry. Peter will be able to retrieve it.” What a leap of faith!

Once the sun set and darkness fell, there was no longer the sun’s reflection on the water. We were able to focus the beam of our flashlight down into the water and spotted the diamond glittering on a bed of dark leaves! Peter finally arrived close to midnight. His plan was to have one person shine the flashlight onto the lake floor. Then with his underwater flashlight Peter zeroed in on the diamond. With Mona’s stone firmly between his fingertips, he surfaced and with a wide grin presented the lost treasure to us. Eureka!

With wild enthusiasm but forgetting the late hour, we phoned Mona and woke her from a deep sleep. At first she thought we were pranksters. But after describing the way we had recovered her diamond, she realized the phone call was not a prank!

It was a sight to behold when we met Mona for dinner and returned the missing heirloom stone. For us, it was a magical moment.

## Photos by Max K.:



*Sugaring— Breakfast Bread Loaf View Farm*



*Sugaring wagon ride— Bread Loaf View Farm*