

Letters to the editor

Five Mountain Challenge is a great event

To the editor,

At 5 a.m. last Saturday morning, wearing a headlamp, Maria Young, executive director of NorthWoods Stewardship Center, was setting up to welcome the close to 150 participants at the start of the Westmore Five Mountain Challenge.

The start line is at the base of Moose Mountain trailhead. Participants hike Moose Mountain, continue on through the woods to hike up one side of Mount Hor and down the other into Willoughby Gap then up Mount Pisgah, hike through the woods to Long Pond, continue on to hike Haystack Mountain, back down, then hike up Bald Mountain, and back down on the other side.

Hikers and runners have hiked five mountains and 20 miles at this point, an amazing accomplishment for sure. Participants can then continue to hike on roads from the base of Bald Mountain six miles, finishing at NorthWoods Stewardship Center making it a full marathon distance of 26.2 miles!

Many of these hikers are truly athletic and rip through the 26.2 miles, running it in less than six hours! It is inspiring just to see the athleticism of these runners as they come across the fish line.

There are as many just as amazing "normal" hikers that take this long challenge as a hike and achieve their personal goal of completing this journey all in one long day. Feelings of personal

accomplishment and very sore muscles will be with them all this week or longer. So many participants who never thought they would be able to complete the journey, actually do! The best way I heard someone describe how they felt after the challenge was "You think you can't, but you can!" one hiker said at the end.

The Westmore Five Mountain Challenge is a fundraising event for NorthWoods Stewardship Center in East Charleston. Participants are helping to support the work of NorthWoods ongoing trail maintenance and building, forestry, watershed conservation, and outdoor education.

Maria Young said she feels this is the perfect fundraiser for NorthWoods because the event is taking place on the hiking trails NorthWoods cares for and maintains. The participants are avid hikers that use those same trails. A perfect match!

Really amazing participants make this such a special event. An "all hands on deck" approach from the dedicated team at NorthWoods, as well as many volunteers and sponsors, make the Westmore Five Mountain Challenge a huge success each fall.

Hike on!,
Jesse Coe
Barton

Thoughts on the U.S. Constitution

(Continued from page four.)

The Bill of Rights was proposed on September 25, 1789, but was not ratified until December 15, 1791. Other amendments have been added to the Constitution over the years, and more are being considered, but the original Constitution has stood the test of time. What a job our Founding Fathers did for all of us here, today!

Jacob Kokaly
Newport

Comedian and author to present in Greensboro

Author Sandy Lee Manning will present her new spy thriller, *Nerve Attack*, at an outdoor program in the backyard tent of the Greensboro Free Library on Thursday, September 23 at 4 p.m.

Ms. Manning wrote short stories for many years during her career as a lawyer, and debuted her first spy thriller, *Trojan Horse*, in October 2020 at the age of 68. She took a class at the Vermont Comedy Club in 2019 and began another career writing and performing stand-up comedy.

"It's a little confusing at times," Ms. Manning admits. "Doing comedy takes a different mindset from writing thrillers. Every morning, I get up and have to decide whether to be funny or whether to torture people."

Ms. Manning's first novel, *Trojan Horse*, won awards for best new voice among action/thriller and political novel writers. *Nerve Attack* is the sequel, and again features Russian-Jewish immigrant and former intelligence operative Kolya Petrov. Kolya is drawn back into the spy game when Dmitri, his childhood best friend whom he'd put in prison, holds the key to stopping an attack by terrorists armed with a deadly nerve agent. Multiple scenes, including the climax of the novel, are set in Vermont.

She will visit Greensboro on September 23, to talk about her writing and her unique combination of interests in espionage and humor. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Ms. Manning will debut her new novel the day prior at an event called When Comedy Kills on September 22 in Burlington, featuring routines from a group of her stand-up comedy friends as well as a reading from the book.

The author talk is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the library at (802) 533-2531. — from Greensboro Free Library.

Alexander Twilight Day back at Old Stone House

The Old Stone House Museum and Historic Village will celebrate Alexander Lucius Twilight's two hundred and twenty-sixth birthday on Sunday, September 26, from 1 to 5 p.m. with local drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic), Vermont cheeses, apples and apple pressing, live music, games for children, and more.

All participants should RSVP to guarantee admission: <https://www.oldstonehousemuseum.org/alexander-twilight-day-2021/>

"We're dedicated to throwing a COVID-19 safe birthday bash for Mr. Twilight," Molly Veysey, executive director of the Old Stone House Museum and Historic Village, said. "We'll hold this event outdoors, ask that participants wear masks, and be taking RSVPs for a guaranteed time slot on Sunday, September 26, as space is limited to keep our numbers low. Walk-ins will only be allowed in as space is available, so please RSVP to guarantee your spot."

This year's celebration will kick off with speeches from Vermont State Representative Katherine Sims and Old Stone House Museum and Historic Village Board of Trustees President Carmen Jackson. Groups will be able to taste cheeses from Cabot Creamery Co-operative and Jasper Hill Farms, and sample drinks from Hill Farmstead Brewery, Eden Specialty Ciders and others.

The museum will be picking and selling fresh

apples from its Heritage Apple Orchard, with cider pressing also to be demonstrated. There will be fun for families with children, a museum open house from 2:30 to 5 p.m., live music with Bill Tobin, and food for purchase.

In 2020, Alexander Twilight Day was made official. The first annual Alexander Twilight Day last year included United States Representative Peter Welch reading a proclamation into the Congressional Record, recognizing Mr. Twilight. In addition, the Vermont State House passed a concurrent resolution recognizing Mr. Twilight's birthday, September 23, as Alexander Twilight Day. The museum always celebrates on the closest Sunday to Mr. Twilight's birth date. The Old Stone House Museum and Historic Village is committed to preserving the safety of the community and will be taking the utmost precaution regarding COVID-19. The event will be outdoors (with the exception of the museum open house), and capacity will be limited. Attendees are requested to wear masks as they walk about and only remove them when they are seated with their group. Masks are required indoors. Hand sanitizer will also be available.

Volunteers are needed to run the party as well and can bring their entire family for free. Interested volunteers should contact Gillian Dacierno at publicprograms@oldstonehousemuseum.org. — from Old Stone House.

Barton garden to host hunt for lost dragon egg

The hunt for the missing dragon egg will take place on Saturday, September 25 at 10 a.m. at the Barton Community Garden, located behind the Barton library parking lot at 100 Church Street in Barton.

Children and families can come for stories, snacks, hunt for eggs, and earn dragon prizes.

Rain date is Saturday, October 2, at 10 a.m.

For more information call the Barton Public Library at (802) 525-6524, or email it at bartonkidsread@gmail.com. — from the Barton Community Garden.

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