

Have you sensed it?

Temperatures are dropping, the air is rich with ripening apples and dried leaves, and foliage season is most definitely on the way. Here's hoping for another spectacular autumn in Vermont!

Just like the critters at work getting ready for the winter, we're finding ourselves busier by the day. But we haven't forgotten how to have a good time and we're ready to prove it at our [51st Annual Meeting TOMORROW](#) (Thursday) at Farm and Wilderness Camps in Plymouth. Come and catch up on the latest VNRC news, hear from local author Ben Hewitt, and help us honor Bob Klein, who will receive the 2013 Arthur Gibb award. Please join us!

We hope to see you at this or another one of the events highlighted below. In the meantime, be sure to rake a huge pile of leaves somewhere - and then jump in it. Thank you for all that you do!



QUICK LINKS

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VNRC NEWS

Staff Profile: Stephanie Mueller, Development Director

As a VNRC staff member for over ten years, Stephanie brings a broad, diverse knowledge of VNRC's history, foundation contacts and donors to the table. Her previous positions include fundraising work for the Jackson Hole Land Trust, the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative. Stephanie completed a double major in environmental studies and creative writing from St. Lawrence University. She lives in Burlington with her husband, son Owen and daughter Sadie.



Contact Stephanie at smueller@vnrc.org, 802-223-2328 X113.

VNRC, Real Estate Professionals Work Together

Working in partnership with the Agency of Natural Resources, VNRC has created a training program to help real estate professionals and engineers understand how real estate can be developed with natural resources in mind.



VNRC recently delivered the half-day training session for the fourth time, this time in Chester. Previous sessions have taken place in Waitsfield, Stowe, and Jericho; and the next is scheduled to take place in White River Junction on October 23.

The training offers background information on the value of keeping forestland and habitat intact, strategies for shaping development patterns to benefit the landscape, ways to talk with clients about developing with natural resources in mind and includes a hands-on modeling exercise that utilizes the tools presented in the lecture.

Email Kate McCarthy at kmccarthy@vnrc.org or call (802) 223-2328 ext 114 for more information.

VERMONT NEWS

Don't Miss This Year's Wild & Scenic Film Festival!

Join VNRC and [Patagonia Burlington](#) for our [Sixth Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival](#). This fun and inspiring evening of films is not to be missed! The theme of this year's event is activism in all of its forms, from individual efforts to giant movements. Whatever your own causes are, we are sure you'll leave the festival feeling inspired to go out into your community or the world and make a difference.



In addition to a great program of award-winning films, this evening-long event will feature food and drinks catered by Skinny Pancake and a silent auction with many chances to win big - ski passes, outdoor gear, fine-art prints, and much more.

When: October 24, reception at 5:30 pm, films from 6:30 - 9 pm

Where: [The Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center](#) (host sponsor)

[Purchase tickets and learn more](#), or [join the event on Facebook](#).

AVCC Invites You to Annual Meeting and "Summit"

The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions will hold its annual meeting/conservation "summit" on October 5. The meeting will be held at the Bradford Academy in Bradford.



VNRC's Sustainable Communities Program Director Kate McCarthy will be setting the stage with the day's keynote presentation, highlighting the ways that Vermonters can support forests and wildlife in their communities. She will be highlighting soon-to-be-published VNRC guide on the subject.

Concurrent sessions will follow, on topics including the effects of climate change on wildlife, shorelands protections, creative funding for conservation, and the use of the new BioFinder digital conservation tool. There will also be sessions on effective public participation for conservation commissions. To register, email AVCC board member Jake Brown at jbrown@vnrc.org.

Last year, AVCC and VNRC created a strategic alliance that brought benefits to both organizations. AVCC will continue to offer the grant program to help support conservation commissions, maintain a listserv and publish a newsletter, among other things.

Please sign up and stay tuned to the [AVCC listserv](#) for more details on the annual meeting and other news.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Button Up Vermont! A Statewide Day of Action Oct. 5

The [Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network](#) (VECAN) is organizing a collective, statewide "Button Up Vermont" day of action on October 5 in partnership with Efficiency Vermont and regional leaders. The goal of "Button Up Vermont" is to bring more people-power to the 78 communities undertaking the [Vermont Home Energy Challenge](#) and to Vermont communities generally in their work to motivate more Vermonters to weatherize their homes and start reducing their energy costs, consumption, and with those things, their contribution to climate change.



This event is modeled after Vermont's successful 'Green Up Day,' which is premised upon asking Vermonters to give a few hours of their time or a full day to support an initiative that benefits both people and the planet.

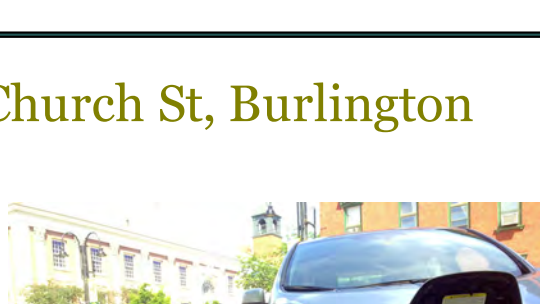
On October 5, anyone who wants to help "Button Up Vermont" will gather across the state and undertake an organized door-to-door canvassing effort or other kind of community outreach or public engagement strategy. Under the leadership of the local "Button Up Vermont" coordinator, participants would be dispatched into their community to share information and resources with their neighbors and, we hope, point them on a path to get started saving energy and money.

Please mark your calendars and save the date! With your help - and the help of your friends and neighbors - "Button Up Vermont" could be a resounding success.

Visit the [VECAN](#) website or contact Johanna Miller at jmiller@vnrc.org or (802) 223-2328 ext 112 for more information.

Get Plugged In, September 28, Church St, Burlington

Do you have questions about electric cars? Check out the latest models - and learn what it's like to drive electric from the Vermonters who own them.



[Drive Electric Vermont](#) is partnering with [National Plug In Day](#) to bring you Vermont's electric car event of the year. Visit the Church Street Marketplace for a look at some of the most innovative car models available. Local owners and partners will be on hand to answer all your electric car and charging questions.

When: Saturday, September 28, 11 am - 2 pm
 Where: Church Street Marketplace, Burlington, VT

NATIONAL NEWS

Persistent Drought in West Sees Cities Short of Water

What is turning out to be persistent drought in Texas, New Mexico and Colorado has at least nine cities in the region in water trouble.



Most of these urban areas have experienced prolonged periods of "extreme drought," characterized as likely to involve crop or pasture loss, water shortage, and some water restrictions. Most have even had prolonged periods of "exceptional drought," which involves widespread crop losses, low reservoir levels, and water shortage emergencies. Albuquerque, the largest city in New Mexico, has been in a state of exceptional drought since April, 2013. Exceptional drought persisted in at least three quarters of Pueblo, Colorado, since February.

Read the full article in [24/7 Wall Street](#), an investment information website.

Venture Capital Becoming Bullish on the Big City

Across the United States, venture capital is flowing increasingly into urban areas and less in to the suburbs, according to a recent analysis, suggesting that high tech start up entrepreneurs and their talented workforces, aren't as interested in being out in office-park-land as in the past.



The stronger flow of venture capital dollars into places like New York City, San Diego and Austin, as well as urban San Francisco and San Jose, represents a shift from the massive investment that occurred over the last several decades in outlying areas around Boston, Silicon Valley, and Redmond, Washington where big, traditional high tech companies were based.

"The long standing model is giving way to 'urban tech,'" writes Richard Florida, who did the research that's presented in [The Atlantic](#).

Florida analyzed metropolitan areas, telephone area codes, postal codes, and compared the prevalence of start-up activity in urban and suburban areas.

Am I a VNRC member? Good question. Receiving this email does not necessarily mean you are a supporting member, but now is a great time to become a member and join over 5,000 others dedicated to moving Vermont communities towards a healthy environmental and economic future. Your [donation](#) means a lot to us - and to Vermont!