

# Friends of Montpelier Parks News



## Birdhouse Builders



Many thanks are extended to Montpelier High Schools woodworking class, led by Jason Miles. Efforts of these students will help a variety of birds find a cozy home to nest in. The "early" birds will find new homes with vista's

accommodating the beauty of the North Branch River, open fields, and lush forests.

Throughout the end of February and during March students were given the project of creating various birdhouses for species that are commonly, and occasionally, found along the rivers and fields of VINS, the North Branch, and Hubbard Park. Students researched the species of choice and created boxes fitted for that species needs, taking into consideration the size of the bird, appropriate size of nest, type of food, and considerations for undermining predation on the bird family. On April 12th, 2006 students gathered at the VINS Nature Center parking lot to place 18 birdhouses in their appropriate habitat to accommodate several migratory bird species. Bird boxes were created for bluebirds, chickadees, tree swallows, house wrens, kestrel, wood duck, merganser, and barred owl and werer scattered throughout VINS Nature Center and the North Branch River Park. These boxes will be monitored and cleaned out annually in the spring by volunteers.

This project was created in reaction to an increased class size and doubling the time slots for Miles woodworking class while facing half the funding from prior semesters. Montpelier Parks jumped on board and offered the use of park wood and support from Americorps Vista member, Alethea Jones. Chip Darmstadt of VINS was contacted to see if they would like some new bird boxes in exchange for reference information and background information on common birds and their habitats in the region, they agreed.

Montpelier Parks and Americorps Vista member, Alethea, would like to thank Jason Miles, his energetic students, and Chip Darmstadt for their participation and collaboration in this project.

## May Flowers in Montpelier Parks

April showers have brought May flowers!

We thought you might enjoy a list of some common flowers you can expect to see in the Parks this month.

*What's blooming now* -- bloodroot, blue cohosh, trout lily, bluets, and red trillium.

*What's coming up soon* -- clintonia, twisted stalk, gold thread, white baneberry, foam flower, and many more.

Check along trails and at the tower. There's bound to be something in bloom!

Trillium:



## Upcoming Events

5/ 26 VINS Bird Walk: Hubbard Park 7am Winter St Gate  
6/3 National Trails Day 9am Trail work morning  
BYOL, after lunch, Wildflower and tree walk  
7/15 +7/22 International Volunteers/Mountain Bike Path +  
come work with the internationals on park projects...  
they have always been a fun group!



## Ways to help the Parks

*Have extra room?* We have an international intern who needs a place to stay for 3 weeks this summer!

Volunteers are being sought to help with the mountain bike path. Let us know if you are interested!

Help make the international volunteers feel welcome this summer, including entertaining, transporting or providing housing..... please contact us at 223-7335.

**Save paper and postage, have this emailed to you!**  
Get on our e-mail list for trail work opportunities!



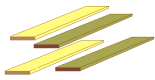
**Friends of Montpelier Parks**  
39 Main St  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
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View of tower from airplane

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## Deals



**Lumber Sale:** Still some rough cut hardwood lumber for sale. If interested contact Travis Pate or Geoff Beyer at Montpelier Parks at 802-223-7335.



Bear Pond Books **Field Guide and Nature Book Sale 15% off** (in stock books ) for the rest of May.



Americorps\*Vista member, Alethea Jones, in final stages of her service at Hubbard Park; is currently **seeking an affordable living situation** in the area beginning June 1 until October 1, 2006. Allergies are to cigarettes and long-haired pets. Please call the park office with any leads, 223-7335.



### **Dog Obedience Classes** in the Park

offered by the Humane Society- starting **June 14th**, on Wednesday and runs for 6 weeks. **Time: 5:30 to 7:00pm.** at the Portal **Ball field in Hubbard Park.....** in the woods across the road from the pond.

**FEE:** \$50 for dogs adopted from the shelter and \$70 for other dogs. **All proceeds go to animal care** at the shelter.

**Class size** is eight. Children must be at least 14 and with parent to attend.  
**More info** call: Tori at 476-3811

This could be a **win/win/win** for dog owners, the parks and park visitors. Please encourage participation in this and other related classes, as a way to keep the parks a great place for all to use!

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**Many Thanks** to numerous recent volunteers.... including.....

**Community based learning students: Vicky Walton and Justin Kelty**  
**Josh Kelly and Cole**  
**Josh Gabaree from Hazen Middle School**  
**Marcus Haas, Corrinna Jordan, Jonah Zablow, Rose Marribiff, Shawn Hansen**

**And the Middle school classes, and teachers, Don Taylor and Eli Rosenberg....**

**Jason Miles and the birdhouse crew**

**Kenny Saxe , Fletcher and the U-32 crew**