

# Green Mountains, Blue Water

Earth Care News - August 2021



Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts

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**-Register for VT IPL's  
*Celebrating Sacred Waters*,  
Shelburne Bay, Sept. 11**

Join VT IPL and our partners for a morning to appreciate, explore, learn, and even create inspired by the waters and land of Shelburne Bay State Park, on Saturday, September 11, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Please pre-**

**register to hold your space.** Participants can choose among three activities: a geologist-guided walk through the forest with UVM Prof. Walter Poleman; a canoe excursion with guides from Lake Champlain Maritime Museum which is providing canoes and life vests; or a creative exploration with prompts for writing, photography, or other expressions, co-facilitated by VT IPL Coordinator Donna Roberts. (Bring your journals!)



The event opens and closes with sacred circles featuring interfaith blessings and land acknowledgements. Participants are invited to bring a small water sample from their favorite body of water to combine in a ritual as we honor the essential role of water in our lives.

Bring a lunch for a picnic after the closing. **We**

**especially welcome young people!** Suggested fee: \$8. per person, \$25. per group of 4. Kids 12 and under free. We are happy to waive the fee if needed. Partners include: All Souls Interfaith Gathering; Ascension Lutheran Church; Clean Water Network; ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain; Lake Champlain Committee; and Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. **Please pre-register on VT IPL's [website](#).**





*Learning about the Shelburne Bay area during a past Sacred Waters event.*

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### **-PFAS Disposal & Remediation Webinar, August 9**

A virtual presentation on Monday, August 9, at 7:30 p.m. will focus on PFAS Disposal and Remediation, issues also discussed during VT IPL's *Water is Life!* panel in June. PFAS chemicals comprise more than 5,000 man-made "forever" toxic chemicals found in consumer products, our air, water, and soil. The chemicals are even detected in breast milk and can cause myriad health problems. Vermont and other states are enacting PFAS legislation though measures are often considered insufficient. The webinar is organized by the Vermont Military Poisons/PFAS Coalition, WILPF Burlington, and the Earth Democracy Committee. Presenters include: Dr. Patricia Hynes of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice; Dr. David Bond of Bennington College; and Dr. Appala Raju Badireddy of the University of Vermont.

[Register here.](#)



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### **-Sacred Wisdom, Sacred Earth, Centering Indigenous Knowledge, Aug. 9-11**

The Loka Initiative and the International Mayan League, in coordination with diverse organizations

and leaders, are celebrating International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9 by hosting an online convening August 9-11. *Sacred Wisdom, Sacred Earth - Centering Indigenous Knowledge for Future Generations* brings together and centers Indigenous speakers from a variety of traditions and regions to share Indigenous ecological and spiritual knowledge as sustenance for all of humanity. This free convening covers five means of sustenance: Water, Food, Medicine, Sovereignty, and Spirit. Sessions will explore environmental and community threats, and solutions that typically receive little mainstream media attention, yet are powerful examples of Indigenous leadership, adaptation, and community resilience that we all need now. [Learn more & register.](#)

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**-Rooted for Healing  
Green Team  
Summit, Save-the-  
Date!**

VTIPL is delighted to partner with our friends at Faith in Place/ Illinois IPL and invites you to

participate in a Green Team Summit, on the evenings of September 12-14. The theme is Rooted for Healing with a focus on exploring ways we can heal the disconnect at the root of our social and environmental crises. You may recall the excellent presentations last year when many VTIPL friends participated. The Summit brings together communities from the U.S. and beyond through educational sessions, interactive healing practices, and more. "From meditative nature walks to a compassion workshop, it will be three nights of renewal and hope."

Sunday's opening keynote features Veronica Kyle, co-founder of the EcoWomanist Institute. "This kitchen-table style panel will dive into healing from the perspective of EcoWomanism based in ecospirituality, ecojustice, and ethics from perspectives of women of African descent." Tuesday's *Healing with Food* session features a demonstration of vegan soul food cooking! [Schedule.](#) [Register.](#)

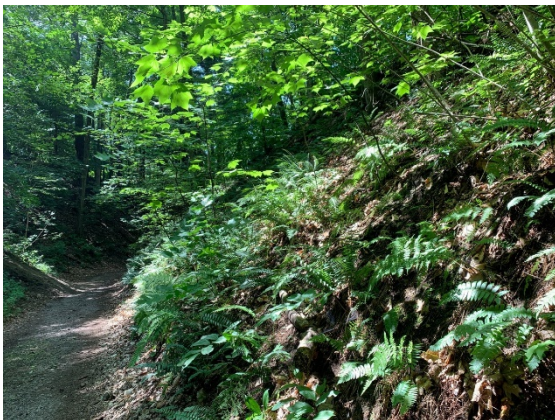
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### **-Bristol Community Solar Project Successfully Wraps Up**

The Bristol Community Solar Project is very close to reaching its subscription goals. Last week, the Town of Middlebury Selectboard voted to approve the purchase of the remaining available Bristol Community Solar units pending a town bond vote in late

August. Given that the project is already 80% subscribed, new requests to purchase units will be held in abeyance pending the bond vote and availability of remaining units. Construction is to start this fall with the Project fully operational by year's end. Support by VT IPL and Addison County Interfaith Climate Action Network (ICAN), enabled a tithe component to benefit Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte, VT. Those participating in the tithe agreed to donate 10% over the cost of their units to buy solar for the Farm which is "dedicated to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the African-American and African- Diasporic history, arts, and culture". Community solar projects like this offer residents the opportunity to invest in clean electricity made in their own region while contributing to Vermont's goal of becoming energy neutral by 2050.



*Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts*

### **-Nonprofit Conserves Forests & Builds Climate Resilience**

(from VT Digger, July 8, 2021)

"A Montgomery-based organization wants to conserve more than 20,000 acres of forest in northwest Vermont by 2030, helping local communities protect and leverage the region's natural resources - and ultimately fight the effects of climate change.

Cold Hollow to Canada recently released its 2021-2025 strategic plan, which outlines goals for forest stewardship, the protection of wildlife movement and sustainable land use planning across seven towns in Franklin and Lamoille counties. Together these municipalities contain the Cold Hollow Mountains. This region also is a critical linkage within the roughly 80 million acres of the



greater Northern Forest...said to be the largest intact temperate forest in the world." Nancy Patch, Co-founder of the organization, said, "We want to keep the forest whole....And we are facing a time period in our lives where climate change and population growth is threatening that integrity." Read [full article](#). Organization [website](#).

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### **-Richmond Congregational Church Energy Projects**

VTIPL is happy to share about Richmond Congregational Church's multi-year plan to reduce energy use while improving comfort in its building. Major projects including air sealing and added insulation were supported by grants from VTIPL's Katy Gerke Memorial Program and Vermont Gas leading to a 40% reduction in air infiltration. Read more about Richmond Congregational Church's improvements and future plans on our [website](#). We'd love to know what your congregation is doing to create a greener, more just world for all!

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### **-Invite VTIPL to Your Meeting - Speakers & Films Available to Inspire!**

If your congregation or organization would like someone from VTIPL to be a guest speaker during a gathering, virtual or in-person, please let us know! Before the pandemic, we enjoyed sharing conversations and films from our library

with affiliated groups. We're eager to resume visiting your meetings and co-creating special presentations with you. We just need a bit of advance time to plan. To express your interest, please [contact VTIPL](#).

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### **Reminder: VT Alliance for Half-Earth, VNRC Host Doug Tallamy, Aug. 26**

Vermont Natural Resources Council and the Vermont Alliance for Half-Earth are hosting conservation scientist Doug Tallamy to Vermont who will advise what people can do to transform their yards, forests, and farms into havens for wildlife and biodiversity. Vermont Alliance for Half-Earth; [see Events](#).



And finally....

**-Cool Concrete Climate Ideas from the Girl Scouts**

A Girl Scout group in Wisconsin is making climate a priority, raising awareness about some little-known impacts in this cool video that delves into concrete solutions. (Pardon the pun.) [Girl Scout Video](#)



*Art courtesy of someone having fun at Leddy Park Beach!*

[Donate Now](#)

Thank you so much for your interest in and support of our work!

We really couldn't do it without you!



*Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts*

