

The evolution and history of East End Park

By Michael J. Caduto
For Sustainable Woodstock

The new East End Park affords Woodstock’s primary public access to the Ottauquechee River. Park visitors looking north are treated to beautiful views of Billings Farm and Museum, of Marsh-Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park and the distant hills — bucolic landscapes that evoke the conservation stewardship and agricultural legacies of George Perkins Marsh and Frederick Billings.

The park is also a link to our mass transportation history, providing a window into a bustling era from 1875 until 1933 when it and the adjacent land served as the terminus and turnabout for the train that ran the 14-mile line from White River Junction to Woodstock.

Since 2009, dozens of Sustainable Woodstock’s East End Action Group (EEAG)

volunteers have moved the old snow dump to an environmentally friendly site (working the Town and State), cleaned up and planted native flowers and edible plants and designed a bold new community park. By force of sheer dedication, tireless efforts, creativity, resourcefulness and fortitude,

EEAG volunteers have taken a disused brownfield site and overgrown “jungle” and transformed it into a shining new recreation area for all to enjoy. Other partners in this incredible journey who



The June dedication of the Joby Thompson Labyrinth at the East End Park in Woodstock.

Sustainable Woodstock Photo

Wildlife Service, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Boy Scout Troop 220 of Woodstock, and many more organizations and individuals.

Over time, the East End project has increased water quality in the Ottauquechee River, rehabilitated a badly deteriorated parcel of prime riverside land and restored a riparian buffer seriously damaged by Tropical Storm Irene. Sustainable Woodstock has offered post-Irene educational programs and created a valuable recreational facility for town

residents and visitors alike. The project has restored a floodplain and riparian area by using native vegetation to correct and prevent erosion by filtering runoff, enhancing soil stability with diverse root structure and reducing the volume and velocity of the river during flooding events in order to protect downstream properties.

The recent completion of the adjoining three-mile Ottauquechee River Trail affords another exciting opportunity for park visitors to become immersed in the natural beauty of this riparian environment. A joint effort of community volunteers working with the Town of Woodstock and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, this loop trail runs from the eastern end of the park, along the river, through expansive fields and at times traverses the old railroad bed.

The East End Action Group’s vision — coupled with the inspiring generosity

of private donors and foundations during a successful capital campaign — are why the park exists today. We cannot say enough about how grateful and moved we

are by the way in which supporters have shared their ideas, passion and resources to transform a vision into a vibrant space for nature and humankind to co-mingle.



The site of the current East End Park in 2009 before the cleanup started.

VT ANR Photo

have made it all possible by their collaboration and support include the Town and Village of Woodstock, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Connecticut River Conservancy, U.S. Fish &

Wildlife Service, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Boy Scout Troop 220 of Woodstock, and many more organizations and individuals.

Are brighter monarch butterflies better flyers?

By Rachel Mirus
For The Outside Story

The September before my daughter was born, my husband and I went for our last pre-baby hike around Camel’s Hump. We stopped for a snack on the ridgeline, and as we sat munching granola bars we were surprised to see a monarch butterfly flap past, battling the turbulence at this higher elevation. We watched it disappear southwards, then turned to see a second monarch, then another, fly after the first. It felt like we had stumbled on an aerial herd path as we watched half a dozen orange butterflies flutter southwards along the mountain at treetop height.

The monarchs’ daunting annual migration to winter roosts in the oyamel fir forests of Mexico is well-documented. Now, researchers have found a curious connection between monarchs’ wing color — which can range from brick red to pale yellowish-orange — and their long-distance flying success.

Andy Davis, a Research Scientist at the University of Georgia studying monarch migration, started his career as an ornithologist. In the world of bird research, it’s well known that an individual with brighter colors is healthier and more attractive to mates. Davis wondered if color variation could reveal anything about individual butterflies.

To quantify wing color variation, Davis chills the butterflies he’s collected to make them docile and puts them upside down on a flat-bed scanner. After a butterfly is scanned and released, Davis can use a computer to precisely determine the color saturation of its wings on a spectrum from yellow-orange to red-orange. Digital quantification of wing color has allowed him to look more closely at connections between color and flight performance. For monarchs, what he has found can be summed up as “redder is better.”

While individual monarchs in every generation show a range of orange hues, the average color of each season’s generation also varies. Davis’ early research indicated that fall monarchs, who have a long flight south ahead of them, are likely to be very red. Summer monarchs, a generation that does not migrate, but spends its adult life breeding in northern regions, tend towards yellow. Based on these observations, Davis

put monarchs on a sort of aerial treadmill, a flap mill if you will, and found that redder individuals of any season were better flyers.

He doesn’t think the redder color is connected to aerodynamics, but rather that it’s an indicator of health. Redder butterflies, in addition to being stronger flyers, live longer, have more fat reserves, and attract more mates. Exactly how and why some butterflies are redder and stronger isn’t understood. The brick-red shades could indicate that some butterflies ate more as caterpillars, or that they are more metabolically efficient and can therefore make more pigment for their wings.



OTTAUQUECHEE PLUMBING & HEATING INC.

Since 1970

LOCALLY OWNED FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

- Pumps • Boilers • Radiant Heat •
- Plumbing • Heating • Free Estimates •



702 W. WOODSTOCK ROAD, SUITE 1
WOODSTOCK, VT 05091
802-457-1795 FAX: 802-457-9127
WWW.OPANDH.COM

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

TUESDAY, September 22

1:30 – 5:30

Hartford Transfer Station

2590 N. Hartland Rd.

Open to Greater UV Solid Waste District
& Hartford residents

ALL BUSINESSES MUST PRE-REGISTER!

Please wear a mask and remain in your vehicle.

Call 674-4474 for more info.

OVER 2000
BROKEN-IN TIRES

MANY
SETS OF 4

SNOW
TIRES
TOO!!

Ascutney,
Vermont

802-674-5600



ALL YOUR
PETROLEUM
NEEDS

www.cvoil.com

Lubricants • Heating Oils • L.P. Gas
Gasoline • Diesel Fuel • Burner Service
Home • Farm • Commercial

746-8018 or 1-800-281-8018 Route 100, Pittsfield, VT 05762



Woodstock’s East End Train Station ca. 1900.

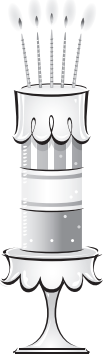
Photo Provided

JOHN DOTEN IS TURNING 90!

Due to Covid we can’t celebrate with a party but he would enjoy a card shower.

Please mail cards before Sept. 30th.

397 Barberry Hill
Woodstock, VT 05091



Shear Images

Redken Salon

457-1065

on the Pomfret Road

1.5 miles from Woodstock

Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9-7

Perms • Color • Highlighting
Keratin Treatment
Mens, Womens and Childrens
Hair Cutting

What matters to you?

Schools? Transportation? Hospitals?

Make sure you’re counted so Vermont continues to receive the federal funding needed for these important community resources.

Complete your questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail.

For more information, visit:
2020census.gov

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
**Census
2020**