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## News From the South Village Stewardship Board



*The South Village Stewardship Board works to protect, support, and enhance the South Village Common Lands, including the Open Space and the Farm.*

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### Evolving the South Village Preserve for Climate Resilience

As part of the original permitting for South Village, in 2008 a Land Management Plan was formulated for the Preserved Open Space. The South Village development is the only Act 250 application in Vermont which required the removal of invasive species, with the assumption that native plants would naturally regenerate.

South Village was built on a former farm, and in this case, the land experienced overuse without nutrients being put back into the soil. As a result, that regrowth has not happened naturally. Faced with



an "original state" that was less than ideal, the Stewardship Board has invested in replanting selective areas with the best chance to thrive. This has involved the careful selection of sedges, shrubs, and trees, protecting them from deer and gnawing rodents.

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climate. As the plan unfolds, Bob continues to seed the Preserve in an "assisted migration" effort with plants that contemplate changes in our climate.

Rather than simply moving back in time, the Preserve is transitioning to an environment with plants that have evolved over the millennia to best support the land, while establishing an ecosystem that will endure into the future.

*Photo: Nicholas Andrews*

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## South Village Gardens Produce Prize Winners

It was a bountiful summer and harvest season. Home gardens and Community Garden raised beds thrived, producing beautiful vegetables, flowers, and herbs at the hands of talented gardeners. Among them were two prize winners, Sue Stanne and Anson Tebbetts, who took home ribbons at the Champlain Valley Fair for flowers and vegetables that were grown right here in South Village.

Master Gardener Sue Stanne entered many flower arrangements, garnering ten blue ribbons and two red (second place) ribbons, as well as two blue rosette "Judges' Favorite" ribbons. Sue says that the Judges' Favorites, which she dubbed Harvest Time and Ikebana (Japanese art of flower arranging), were fun to build because the entries must follow a certain theme. She also won ribbons for vegetables harvested from her raised bed, and a jar of home-canned pickles. Sue says she planned ahead for stunning arrangements; planting flowers for their color combinations, height, and variegated leaves. And, Sue notes, she had plenty of room in her raised bed for cucumbers, onions, and sweet peppers to produce her blue ribbon pickles.



And in a slightly less esthetic category, Anson Tebbetts also won a blue ribbon at the Champlain Valley Fair, for his Gilfeather Turnip.

Anson devoted most of his raised bed to cultivating



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turnips, the Gilfeather is sweet and creamy white, with a mild flavor—or as Anson says, the Gilfeather Turnip is a tasty, versatile veggie. Anson's biggest turnip also competed at the [Gilfeather Turnip Festival in Wardsboro](#) (the 19<sup>th</sup> century home of farmer John Gilfeather) last weekend.

*Photos: Sue Stanne and Anson Tebbetts*



## Neighbor Lucie Lehmann "Goes Native" in South Village

*Working Pollinator Garden Replaces the Lawn and Brings in the Birds*

Perhaps you've noticed the yard at the Lehmann's house at 40 Chipman Street, where what was formerly a lawn now overflows with plants of all shapes and sizes, flourishing amid soaring sculptures of birds.

Neighbor Lucie Lehmann challenged herself to convert her yard to native plant communities. She asks, as residents of South Village, an eco-community, why wouldn't we be among the leaders in planting native pollinator gardens?

Going native has myriad benefits, critical among them creating habitat and food sources for insects and birds, both migrating and resident species.

Birds rely overwhelmingly on caterpillars, which are packed with fat and protein, to sustain them on migration stopovers and to provide food for their growing young. Introduced tree species don't attract native species of caterpillars and other insects the same way that native species do.

Lucie notes that it's the same with shrubs and perennials, especially in our small yards here in South Village. Introduced species create food deserts for birds and native insects—especially bees—which pollinate nearly 90% of all plants and rely on native host plants for their food and egg laying needs.



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Lucie's gardening principles: 1. Eliminate your lawn. 2. Educate yourself about native species. 3.

Remove introduced species 4. Plant keystone genera 5. Plant for specialist pollinators.

Lucie has many suggestions as to optimal types and varieties of plants that she is happy to share.

You don't have to change everything in your yard to make a difference—just start somewhere in the garden and add some plants that are native to Vermont. Then sit back and watch birds eating seedheads and butterflies flitting from bloom to bloom.



Lucie believes that all of us can help not only to reduce lawns and eliminate invasive and other introduced species but provide the food and habitat for the insects and birds that our planet depends upon—while making our neighborhood even more beautiful. We know other neighbors are planning unique gardens for 2025. Let's see what you've got, South Village!

### South Village Stewardship Board Welcomes Barry Gruessner



**Barry Gruessner**  
Barry moved to South Village in 2013 with his wife Emily Miller, her sons Peter and Jonas, and the family cockapoo Tyler. Barry works as the Grants Director for the Burlington School District. He has also taught high school and worked as an environmental scientist and planner. He walking and running through the beauty of South Village, including the farm and the Preserve. He is excited to serve on the Stewardship Board to help further the good work that has been done by current and past board members.

### Longtime Board Member John Owen Moves On

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relocate to Wake Robin. After moving to South Village in 2014 John was one of the first Stewardship members, elected by residents in 2015. In the nine years that John served on the Board, most recently as Chair, he was generous of his time, effort, and financial resources, whether it was to paint buildings, mow the community



gardens, or to fund a well for a water system for the Farm. Having served on many municipal committees, John was an organized Board member who kept focused on priorities for both the Farm and Preserve and who donated generously to accomplish those goals. John is also an accomplished wood worker who built boats, furniture, and bowls, and donated proceeds from the sale of items at the Farm Stand. An accomplished musician who performed chamber works weekly, he also sang in the South Burlington Chorus and with the Noyana Singers for hospice patients. Our loss is Wake Robin's gain.

*Photo: Susan Darnell*

## Farmstand Winding Down, Farm-to-Fork Meals Available Year Round at Wheeler House

*Use Your Member Dollars and Sign Up for Next Year!*

It's been an amazing year on the South Village Farm, where Farmer Colin and his crew have grown a vast variety of organic produce, and Farmstand Manager Abby and her intrepid volunteers have created a beautiful space to shop, meet friends, or just relax in the sunshine. As the season winds down, the farmstand will be open:

- Daily through Sunday, November 4th, 10 AM - 6 PM
- Saturday November 9, 10 AM - 12 PM
- Saturday, November 16, 10 AM - 12 PM



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[Common Roots](#) wishes to thank all the people who joined as members this year. If you haven't yet used your 2024 membership dollars, stock up at the Farmstand or visit the Wheeler House on Tuesdays and Fridays before December to pick up Chef Anthony's farm-to-fork meals, to go. Flex memberships are now on sale for 2025, with bonus dollars and more. Visit the farmstand or the Wheeler House, located at 1100 Dorset Street, for more information or to sign up.

*Photo: Vicky Tebbetts*



## Did you know South Village has three Facebook pages?

[South Village Vermont](#) - An active resident-driven group featuring residents' news, photos and updates

[South Village Community \(Arrowhead Group\)](#) - Updates from our maintenance contractor, Arrowhead

[South Village Real Estate](#) - Posts about home closings within the community

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### **The South Village Stewardship Board**

The Stewardship Fund is governed by a Board composed of a maximum of nine individuals, elected by the residents of South Village. They are responsible for the strategic planning, budgeting, monitoring, and program development of the South Village Stewardship Board.

Current members of the Board include (in alphabetical order):

- John Bakewell, Member ([johnbakewell@comcast.net](mailto:johnbakewell@comcast.net))
- Paula Caron, Member ([nikolla1954@gmail.com](mailto:nikolla1954@gmail.com))
- Susan Darnell, Chair ([susandarnell@comcast.net](mailto:susandarnell@comcast.net))
- Barry Gruessner, Member ([bgruessner@gmail.com](mailto:bgruessner@gmail.com))
- Diana Haghighat, Member ([haghighatdiana22@gmail.com](mailto:haghighatdiana22@gmail.com))

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- Vicky Tebbetts, Member (vtebbetts@gmail.com)
  - George Zipf, Treasurer (georgezipf@gmail.com)

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