



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 16 : NUMBER 3 APRIL 2006



Cornwall for Sale

For the first time in years, there are a great many large tracts of Cornwall land up for public sale. Tennis star Ivan Lendl's estate on the Goshen line is listed with 680 acres, of which approximately 152 are in Cornwall. Heirs of the late N. Richard Nash are selling the Popple Swamp Road farmhouse (Cornwall's former Youth Hostel, which the playwright restored) and its 110 acres. Nearby, Furnace Brook Farm, containing 118 acres, is also on the market. Pinnacle Farm, off Great Hill Road in East Cornwall, with its fabled stable, is being offered with 140 acres.

Most recently, a large portion of the old Butler Farm surrounding the intersection of Music Mountain and River Roads has come on the market. The 308-acre property, a rough rectangle paralleling the east bank of the Housatonic, straddles the Cornwall-Falls Village line and includes 229 acres within our town and 79 in Canaan. It last sold in 1964 for \$129 per acre, but there has been a modest increase in Cornwall land value in the ensuing 40 years, and the owners are currently seeking a bit over \$25,000 (sic) per acre.

The broker's prospectus suggests that a prospective buyer could plan to construct a maximum of 88 units on the tract, which includes frontage on the Housatonic and the

western slope of Hough Mountain. Prices might range from \$700,000 to \$750,000 for homes in a "reproduction motif."

To put the current situation into perspective, the entire Town of Cornwall contains approximately 30,000 acres. —Matt Collins

Busy New Ambulance

Here's a hypothetical to help us get into a report about Cornwall's new ambulance. The time is 11 P.M. Someone places a 911 call to Litchfield County Dispatch (LCD), and they go on the radio: "Cornwall ambulance, signal 33. Respond to 43 Harley Road for a 53-year-old male, fall, conscious and breathing, 17 Delta 1." Skip Kosciusko, Cornwall 10, and Phill West, Cornwall 25, head to the scene. Dave Cadwell, Cornwall 14, and Hunt Williams, Cornwall 27, are on their way to "the barn" (the West Cornwall Firehouse) to get the ambulance and drive it to the scene.

Fifteen minutes after the original LCD dispatch, all four EMTs and the ambulance are "signal 30" at 43 Harley Road. Signal 30 means "on the scene," 17 is the coded accident type for a fall, and Delta is the priority type—in this case high, calling for the automatic dispatch of a paramedic. The patient is assessed, boarded, collared, and loaded into the ambulance for transport to Sharon Hospital. An IV is started in the ambulance. Phill

drives the icy roads to the hospital, stopping on the way to intercept the paramedic, who boards the ambulance for the rest of the ride. LCD is informed upon their arrival. The patient is unloaded at the emergency room, reports are written up, and the ambulance departs to return to the barn. The EMTs on this call are back home and in bed by 1 A.M.

Since the new \$128,000 ambulance went into service last July, EMTs have been "toned out" 136 times in some variation of the above scenario. Incidents (there were 28 in February alone) include vehicular accidents, falls, overdoses, cardiac and stroke events, snowboard/ski injuries, cuts, hypothermia, monitoring firemen and treating injuries at structure fires, etc.

Almost all Cornwall EMTs have an intermediate-level certification based on advanced training to start IVs and perform other special procedures. (It's not easy hitting a vein in a moving ambulance!) This higher level of training qualifies the ambulance service for an EMT-I rating, making it an ALS (Advanced Life Support) squad, unique among the area volunteer fire departments. Members who have recently joined the ranks of qualified EMT-Is are Marie Savan, Joyce Hart, Walter Malone, and Joe

(continued on page 2)

APRIL 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. Village Meeting House; Adult Basketball, 8 P.M. CCS Gym Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Play Group, 10 A.M. Playscape/UCC; Stretch Class, 5 P.M. Town Hall Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room; Tai Chi for Beginners, 7:30 P.M. CCS Gathering Room Sundays: Meditation Group, 1-2 P.M. Debra Tyler 672-0229 for location; Kids' Basketball, 1-3 P.M. CCS Gym						1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY Cornwall Association 9 A.M. Library Active Peacemaking Seminar 9 A.M.-3:30 P.M. UCC † Peter Pan 7 P.M. CCS †
2 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS Midsummer Night's Dream Auditions 2-5 P.M. Town Hall † Town Meeting 5 P.M. CCS Gym †	3 Midsummer Night's Dream Auditions 6-8 P.M. Town Hall † Park & Rec. 7 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	4 CCS Kindergarten Registration † Midsummer Night's Dream Auditions 6-8 P.M. Town Hall † Inland Wetlands* 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	5 CCS Kindergarten Registration †	6 CCS Kindergarten Registration †	7 CCS World Peace Day Story Hour 1:15 Library	8 Beekeeping Program 10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M. UCC Parish House † Manhattan String Quartet 7 P.M. UCC † Contra Dance 7-10 P.M. Town Hall †
9 PALM SUNDAY History of Slavery in CT, Charles Miles 11:30 A.M. UCC Library	10 CCS Spring Break Begins Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House	11 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	12	13 PASSOVER Toddler Time 10:30-11 A.M. Library	14 GOOD FRIDAY Legal Holiday	15 Deadline: May Chronicle Copy Stone Walls 3 P.M. Town Hall (see p.3—Letters)
16 EASTER SUNDAY	17	18 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. Parent-Teacher Conferences Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	19 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. Parent-Teacher Conferences	20 Toddler Time 10:30-11 A.M. Library Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	21 Story Hour 1:15 Library Map Exhibit Opening 5-7 P.M. Historical Society †	22 CCT Walks at Cherry Hill 7:30 & 10 A.M. † Art at the Dump 10 A.M.-4 P.M. † Health Forum 3-5 P.M. UCC † 4th-6th Graders' Readathon 7 P.M. Library †
23 Kinds of Islam, Alvorde Beardslee 11:30 A.M. UCC Library	24 ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	25	26	27	28 Story Hour 1:15 Library	29 Child Center Auction 5:30 P.M. Torrington CC † Ag Commission Potluck 6 P.M. UCC Parish House †

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

Pryor. New members working toward first-responder status are Fred Scoville, Brian Hutchins, and long-time member and assistant chief, Earle Tyler. All EMT members and firemen are listed in the Town Report.

—Joyce and Phil Hart

Monique, Sam, and CCN

It does not happen often that the Internet discussion group Cornwall Community Network (CCN) gets lively. But last September, when a woman from France got on board, things changed. Her name is Monique Bellier. She likes "Madame Lazlo's photos and pastels de Madame Sybil Perry" and has a serious interest in actor Sam Waterston ("I know he lives in Cornwall."). There were several linguists, mainly of the male persuasion, who graciously extended their welcome to the lady from the suburbs of Paris. They translated her French postings into English and otherwise showed off their *je ne sais quoi*. A few others quickly noticed the lady's E-mail address (waterston03@yahoo.fr), suspected a celebrity stalker, and issued a stalker alert. It didn't seem reassuring even though the 54-year-old banker had stated, "I am not deranged."

Many months and chats later, nobody in Cornwall really knows all that much about Monique Bellier. The E-mail exchanges got a little testier, though, after somebody suggested to her that in light of "more and more meaningless messages, obviously translated into English by mindless computer software somewhere in cyberspace: The joke has gone on long enough. It is time to cease and desist." Another network member called this suggestion "rude and even cruel." Still, after Mme. Bellier confessed that "It is difficult some time to understand everything," she sort of vanished for a while.

To understand one another seems to be a growing issue in the new global village, of which CCN is but a tiny outcropping. Take *Wikipedia*, the well-known online encyclopedia. It translates its tidbit about Monique's home town, Montreuil, this way: "Between mixture of the cultures and of the ethnic groups, artistic activity maintained since the years, one can go in summer to laying down sun in the streets and being taken of euphoria, or to look at the rain falling by the window one day gray from October." Maybe people in such a state of euphoria feel drawn to Cornwall. On a website where Sam Waterston's fans mingle, the lady announced in January: "Finally it get ready. I think of coming to New York in April or May to Novotel (they speak French)." Her plan is to stay for one week. "I hope that Sam will be on the shooting of Law and Order and can I meet him." Cornwall can expect a visit, too (so she told the *Chronicle* in an exclusive E-mail interview). If so, the Community Network, after more than 7,000 postings, should

get its first real scoop. Stay posted...or become a member (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cornwall_community_network), and read what happens.

—Jürgen Kalwa

CCS Science Fair

This was my first science fair at Cornwall Consolidated and, just like my first *Art at the Dump* several years ago, I came away in awe of the ingenuity, cleverness, and humor of the participants. Fifteen fifth-graders and 23 sixth-graders, under the supervision of teachers Kristi Pramuka and Kathy West, began work on their projects upon returning from Christmas break, and the results went on exhibit at the biennial science fair in mid-March.

First place in the fifth grade went to Mary Kate Kosciusko, who matched the detergent Tide against several other means of removing stains from t-shirts: plain boiling water, lemon juice, Tecnu, and Pert shampoo. Surprisingly, the water and the Pert were the most successful. Second place went to Jonah Whiteside, who made three miniature bridges and then tested them to see which style of support was the strongest. Isaac Dwyer took third with a project that tested how the shape of objects affects the speed of their movement. (On to the sixth grade!)

James Underwood won first place among his classmates with a study of how smell affects taste. Participants were blindfolded and then given various essences to smell while sucking on lemon drops. He found that almost all were unable to identify the lemon taste while smelling vanilla, mint, and orange extracts. Second place went to Lizzie Morehouse, who wanted to find out how weight affects speed. So Lizzie took several trips down the beginners' slope at Mohawk and found that the heavier the weight she carried, the faster she went. Dan Tomaino tested the chemical reaction of several liquids when mixed with baking soda. Which ones bubbled the most?, he wanted to know. Dan found out and won third place.

There were three honorable mentions: to R. J. Thompson for testing for drag and stability on wing shapes of paper airplanes, Chloe Laigle on how color affects memory, and Forest Classey for testing how certain chemicals affect freezing. Two world-class panels of judges were assembled to pick the winners: for the fifth grade, Doc Simont, Mary Kay Elwell, and Tom Brown; and for the sixth grade, Hunt Williams, Jack Burcroff, Bob Potter, and Lisa Simont.

—John Miller

The Truffle of Lucky Pierre

His Cornwall friends call him Lucky Pierre, but Pierre Rabassier says, in his accented English, "Not lucky, crazy. Crazy Pierre." Pierre was probably crazy to try to grow truffles in Cornwall, but he was lucky, too. On November 8 he collected the first truffle ever grown in our town.

The black truffle, an ugly, underground

member of the mushroom family, is prized by food lovers worldwide. The half-ounce truffle that Pierre found would have been worth \$50 on the retail market. But he ate it.

Truffles flourish around the roots of oaks. In France they plant orchards of oaks and inoculate the roots with truffle spores. Sometimes they get truffles, sometimes they don't. Pierre got his oaks in 1993 from Garland Truffles, a North Carolina company that sells inoculated oak trees here in the United States (www.garlandtruffles.com).

Pierre is vague about the exact location of his orchard ("Your mushroom poachers in Cornwall is famous"), but he let me meet him there. I wondered why he chose Cornwall. It turns out that three or four generations back, one of the Scoville women from Cornwall married a Frenchman, and the family always kept a few acres "somewhere back from Great Hollow Road." I asked him if he used sows to find the truffles. This was the traditional way. But no, he said. Pigs are too hard to train. He uses a rather frightened-looking little terrier.

As I looked at his 30 or 40 still-young oaks, I said, "You must be very excited at what you're doing." "Yes, excited, but I hope it works. If I get a lot of truffles, fine: I'm a rich man. But if the one truffle I found last year turns out to be flash in a pan, then it was a truffle that cost me at the rate of more than \$20,000 an ounce."

—Hendon Chubb

Note: Several local chefs are excited by the possibility of locally grown truffles. In fact, Russ Sawicki said he would add a truffle dish to the Moose menu if Pierre turns out to be lucky.

—The April Editors

Welcome

Bradford Bevans McClane to
Loren Bevans and William McClane

Land Transfers

Lawrence and Nancy Cassidy to Anthony and Catherine Basile, 11.165 acres on River Road for \$217,000.

Roger Jackson to Nancy Hamilton, 1.073 acres on Route 7 for \$90,000.

Hart Cherry Hill Farm, Inc., to Shaun Donovan and Steven Dauphin, Trustees of the Shaun Donovan 2006 Trust, two parcels totaling 10.73 acres, with buildings, on Cherry Hill Road for \$800,000.

The Old Machines Stay

Score one for the traditionalists in the Battle of the Voting Machines: Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz has declared that the old, mechanical clunkers will be used once again



this November. It turns out that the combination of specifications demanded by the Feds and the State of Connecticut for electronic, computerized versions were so stringent that no such technology exists, and when Bysiewicz put out a request for bids, she got zero response.

The sticking point will come as no surprise to anyone familiar with the limitations of reading from computer screens. Connecticut was demanding that the new computer models present ballots for all races legibly and in their entirety on one page (just as the entire ballot on the current mechanical machines can be taken in "at a glance"). Apparently vendors thought better of trying to mass-produce voting machines with wall-mount-size TV screens, and the secretary has decided to drop the requirement in her new request for bids, which is going out this summer.

Instead, the new machines will be required merely to present the entire ballot for a particular race in its entirety on one page. (The disadvantage: had such a machine been used in 2000, one might have forgotten, for example, while voting for Joe Lieberman for vice-president, that he would also soon appear on the screen as a candidate for U.S. senator.)

While the fate of the voting machines themselves remains unresolved, the era of computerized voting has already progressed further than many realize. The Help America Vote Act, authored by the state's own Senator Chris Dodd, required the statewide centralization of voting lists to prevent such frauds as voting in Cornwall, Goshen, and Torrington on the same day. (Of course, it did nothing to prevent the same scheme from working across state lines—say Salisbury, Millerton, and South Egremont.)

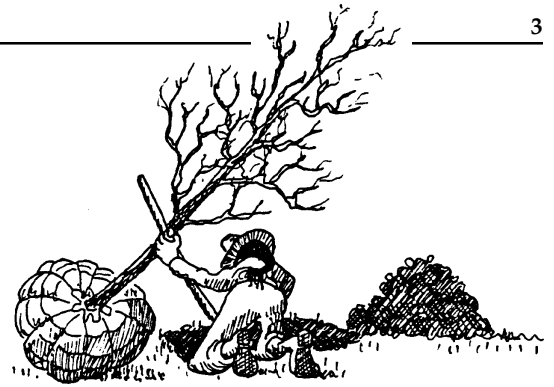
As a result of the legislation, Cornwall's registrars, Jayne Ridgway and Ginny Potter, are now required to use a computer and software supplied by the state that fit the needs of urban registrars more than those of small towns (where, for example, zip codes often cross voting districts). Worse, all Connecticut registrars are required to feed certain voter information to Hartford by a common deadline in preparation for elections. Since registrars all end up uploading this data to Hartford at more or less the same time, the central computer jams up, the local software freezes, and Cornwall's registrars have to reboot. A five- to fifteen-minute freeze now is no big headache; but what if the same thing happens on Election Day?

—Paul De Angelis

Events & Announcements

A Special Town Meeting has been called for Sunday, April 2, at 5 P.M. at the CCS gym to authorize the town to purchase 100 acres of the Lorch Farm on Route 7. The cost of the parcel is \$540,000 and would be purchased entirely with private donations. Call the Selectmen's Office for more details (672-4959).

Letters to the Chronicle



OPEN YOUR STUDIO

Wouldn't it be fun to have a general, all-Cornwall "open studio" afternoon? I'm thinking of June 17, from 1 to 5 P.M. The Cornwall website has offered to facilitate this. It would have a map and a listing of all participating artists, along with directions to the studios. If you would like to participate, contact Lazlo Gyorsok at lazlo1@optonline.net or David Colbert at ourmaridog@yahoo.com or 672-0064 for more details.

—Dave Colbert

PITCHING YOUR TENT IN CORNWALL

Every town and city has its housing needs, and Cornwall—population 1,400+—is no different. In fact there's a survey by the Cornwall Housing Corporation making its way around the community dealing with housing needs for the creaky crowd and future creakies. How do I define creakies? I'm one. For starters, we're on Social Security, and many of us are going crazy trying to decipher the various options available through the Medicare drug program. We also pop ibuprofen regularly, just to ease the aches and pains of a normal day. So you should fill out that questionnaire, please! And you should probably plan on attending a panel put together by the Cornwall Association early next month

—John Miller

WONDERING ABOUT WALLS

Unencumbered by winter snow, summer foliage, or autumn-fallen leaves, early spring affords us a chance to really see the naked landscape in a degree of detail unavailable during the rest of the year. And in the viewing, Cornwall's hundreds of miles of stone walls become one of its most conspicuous features. Folks at the Cornwall Historical Society, who have been inventorying artifacts within the building, began to look about outside. They questioned just what exactly is the history of these walls? Who built them and when? Why were they built? We can only guess at the varied purposes of their construction.

To try to answer some of these questions, the Historical Society, the Cornwall Conservation Trust, and the Agricultural Commission have invited Dr. Robert M. Thorson, professor of geology at UConn and one of New England's leading authorities on the history of stone walls, to speak on Saturday, April 15, at 3 P.M. at the Town Hall.

—John La Porta



Kindergarten Registration for the 2006–2007 school year will be held at CCS on April 4, 5, and 6. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 2006, is eligible. Parents should call the school office at 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit the kindergarten room and meet Mrs. Wadhams, the kindergarten teacher. Parents need to bring their child's official immunization record and birth certificate.

Readathon Sleepover: The much-postponed Friends of the Library Readathon Sleepover is now rescheduled for Saturday, April 22, at 7 P.M. until the next morning at 7 A.M. Space is limited to 17 fourth- through sixth-graders. Call Bridget Lynch at 672-0176.

After-School Programs: The Cornwall Child Center's after-school program Expressions will be learning about sign language during the first week of April. When Region One is closed for spring break the week of April 10, the Child Center will be open and offering a program in Native American Culture. The Cornwall Extended Day Program from CCS will be invited to the Child Center for music programs this spring. Questions? Contact Pam Brehm at 672-6989.

Contra Dance: The third Contra Dance of 2006 will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. at the Town Hall. Music will be provided by Cornwall's Homegrown Band and caller Paul Rosenberg.

"Beginning with Bees" Workshop: Saturday, April 8, from 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. Cornwall's John Lorch will provide an insider's guide to the apiary, including tools, chores, and products, several of which will be made on-site. This class is the latest in the Old-Style Life Skills series sponsored by Motherhouse (672-0229).

Manhattan String Quartet Benefit Concert

for the Library takes place on Saturday, April 8, at 7 P.M. at UCC. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$20 for students up to age 18, and include reception after the concert. For tickets call Amy Cady at 672-6874.

Medicare Prescription Program: The Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging is offering Medicare Part D enrollment assistance with trained counselors on Wednesday, May 3, from 9 A.M. to noon at the Cornwall Library. A limited number of appointments are available by calling Jill Gibbons at 672-2603. Pick up a Personal Information Form at the Town Office or the Library, complete it, and submit it to WCAAA. They will return a printout listing the best plans for your circumstances. Bring the printout to the Library on enrollment day, and you will receive assistance signing up for a plan.

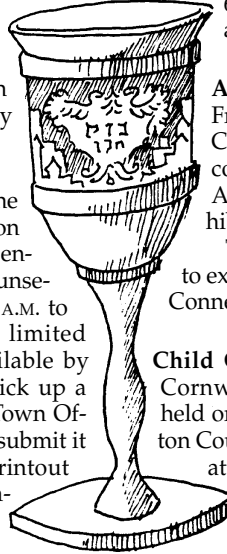
Cornwall on the Map: The Cornwall Historical Society will open an exhibit of maps on Friday, April 21, with a reception and refreshments from 5 to 7 P.M. Maps dating from 1758 to 2006 will be on display. They will include old atlases and maps from CCS children, maps showing the first proprietors' parcels and today's property lines, and maps that give perspective for the ongoing review of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

Potluck Dinner: The Cornwall Agricultural Commission would like to invite everyone to a community potluck dinner at the UCC Parish House on April 29 at 6 P.M. Bring your favorite dish to share, invite your friends, and just come to have a good time. The Ag Commission will provide refreshments. Questions? Call Bill Dinneen at 672-0035.

The Taxman Cometh

April is upon us, and again we reward our loyal readers with some absolutely free tax advice: The words *tax-deductible* below mean exactly that. Now it's your turn to reward us, with proof that you've used our advice to cut your taxes. That's only fair. Thanks.

Peter Pan: Come see the CCS stage take off with the musical *Peter Pan* on Thursday, March 30, and Saturday, April 1. The curtain rises on both shows at 7 P.M. These school performances star over 30 talented Cornwall students in grades four through eight, including members of our championship girls' basketball team. If you are interested in taking a trip to Never-Never-Land, call the CCS office at 672-6617. Tickets will also be available at the door.



Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Free Library, the Housatonic Camera Club's show of photography will continue through April 22. Beginning April 25, Harvey Offenhartz will exhibit paintings and pastels.

The Outsiders Gallery will continue to exhibit work by a rotating selection of Connecticut artists until May.

Child Center Auction: The 15th Annual Cornwall Child Center Auction will be held on Saturday, April 29, at the Torrington Country Club. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a festive evening of bidding, dining, and supporting Cornwall's Child Center. The silent auction begins at 5:30 P.M. and the live auction at 7 P.M. Tickets are available at the Cornwall Package Store, or call Sandy Dolinsky at 672-0129 for tickets and information.

Auditions for the Town Hall Players' production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be held at the Town Hall on the following dates: Sunday, April 2, from 2 to 5 P.M.; Monday, April 3, from 6 to 8 P.M.; Tuesday, April 4, from 6 to 8 P.M. Call Bobbie Tyson (672-6762) for more information.

Rx for Health Care in Connecticut and the United States is the subject of a public forum to be held on Saturday, April 22, from 3 to 5 P.M. at UCC. No charge for admission. For more information, see the insert in this issue of the *Chronicle*, or call Paul Baren at 672-6637 or Stephen Senzer at 672-0500.

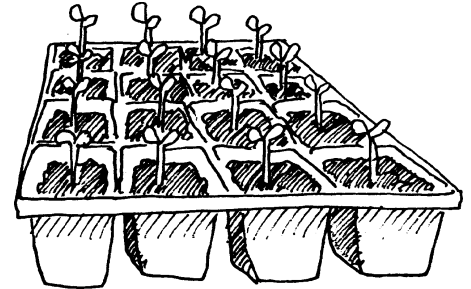
Donate Your Old Books: The Friends of the Cornwall Free Library are accepting donations of clean, gently used books (no textbooks) for their Memorial Day weekend sale and for the bookshelf in the Library's vestibule. Donations will be accepted any time the Library is open. Proceeds from the book sale are used to benefit the Library.

The Seventh Annual Art at the Dump will be held on Saturday, April 22, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., with 30 percent of the purchase prices going to the art department at CCS. See the insert in this issue of the *Chronicle*, or call Gail Jacobson at 672-6639 for more information.

Earth Day Strolls: The Cornwall Conservation Trust invites the community to walk its newly marked loop trail on Cherry Hill Road on Saturday, April 22. Earlybird walk at 7:30 A.M., then another at 10 A.M. Call Lib Terrall at 672-2407 for details.

Driving Demo: Pete Moss and Ace Begonia, two of the most successful racers over the last decade at Lime Rock Park, will give a demonstration on driving techniques along Coltsfoot Valley Road on Saturday, April 19, between 2 and 4 P.M.

Peace Seminar: A public seminar on *Active Peacemaking: Building a Culture of Nonviolence* will be held at UCC on Saturday, April 1, from 9 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. The keynote address will be given by Dr. David Adams, a designer of the Culture of Peace Program of the United Nations. Workshop leaders will be Joanne Sheehan, chair of War Resisters International; Allie Perry, teacher of nonviolence at Yale Divinity School; Jeremy Brecher, author and historian; and four others. The seminar will include lunch and a children's workshop. The cost is \$15; children 10 and under admitted free. Call the church office, 672-6840, for info and registration.



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