

RABA Presents: An Evening of Networking

Tuesday - March 25, 2008 – 6:30 PM – Sleepy Hollow Inn, Ski & Bike Center

6:15 PM – 6:30 PM Early arrivals are welcome.

6:30 PM – 6:45 PM RABA President's Welcome

6:45 PM – 7:15 PM Thomas Hark – Who is VYCC? + What do we do? + How do we do it?

7:15 MP – 7:30 PM Break for food & beverage

7:30 PM – 8:00 PM Helen Labun Jordan – Buying Locally – Its importance to Our Communities & How to Promote

8:00 PM → Eat, socialize / network / enjoy live music

Guest Speakers:

Thomas Hark - Thomas will be enlightening us about the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps headquartered in the restored West Monitor Barn, their partnerships with local schools including MMUHS and may have some exciting news about future expansion plans.

Thomas has been with the VYCC since its inception and has led the organization from five Corps Members in 1986 to over two hundred in 2007. A former Crew Leader for the Youth Conservation Corps in Young Harris, Georgia and Camp Director for the Minnesota Conservation Corps, Tom is recognized nationally for his vision in making VYCC one of the nation's leading youth leadership, education, and training organizations.

Currently, Thomas serves on the boards for the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), the Vermont Environmental Consortium (VEC), and SerVermont. He also serves as treasure for the Richmond Area Business Association. In his home town of Williston he coaches Little League T-Ball and Soccer, and is a Boy Scout Leader for Tiger Den #1.

Thomas holds a Masters of Science Degree in Experiential Education from the University of Mankato. He is the former Vice President of the Board of the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps as well as a past Chair of the Catamount Trail Association, Recycle North Board, Mallets Bay Homeowners Board, and was a founding member of the Vermont Alliance of Non-Profit Organizations (VANPO). Thomas lives in Williston, Vermont, with his wife, Dana Hearn-Hark, and their three children, Eli (10), Zachary (7), and Rosie (5).

Helen Labun Jordan - Come hear the State of the State for local foods purchasing in Vermont. Helen Labun Jordan (Vermont Agency of Agriculture) will give an overview of both the current local foods market and what communities, consumer groups, and individuals are doing to promote local foods in their region.

Helen Labun Jordan is a marketing specialist at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture with a focus on the Buy Local campaign. She worked previously as Director of the Creative Communities Program at the Vermont Council on Rural Development and the Program Manager for the Tuberculosis Initiative in Princeton, NJ. She is also on the Board of the Vermont Foodbank and was one of the early Localvore organizers for Central Vermont.

Live Music by Alison & Patricia Fitzgerald - Alison Anand and Patricia Fitzgerald have been playing violins together for 35 years, first as teacher and student and now as colleagues. Alison is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester and holds two masters degrees from the University of Vermont. She has taught music at the University of Vermont, Trinity College, Charlotte Central School, Brewster Pierce Memorial School in Huntington, the Lake Champlain Waldorf School and Mt. Mansfield Union High School. She also owns and has operated the Lane Music Studio for over 40 years, Alison's Aquatic School, worked with her father in a private civil engineering business (A Lane Associates) and now helps her son, Sheel Gardner Anand, in his art business.

Patricia attended Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. She has been Concertmaster of the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra and Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra, teaches violin privately in her home studio, and teaches at the Flynn School in Burlington. Patricia and Alison play together in a string quartet, (Chittenden Chamber Players), are part of the regular orchestra for Burlington's Lyric Theater, and also free lance as violinists for weddings and other events such as this one.

Why attend our evening of networking? Here are two opinions.

Ken Nussbaum, Richmond CPA says *"My involvement in RABA has led to direct tangible benefits in terms of increased revenue as well as the intangible benefits of interacting with a group of caring people committed to their community. I encourage others, whether local business owners or individuals looking for business networking opportunities, to join and actively participate."*

Will Keyworth, professional Web developer and President of RABA says *"My connection with the RABA has allowed my business, which relies heavily upon word-of-mouth advertising, to grow and expand the scope of services it offers. Being located in a rural setting, that sort of advertising really has its benefits. It has also been a great source of good friends."*

Food catered by Karyl Kent, chef / owner of New Leaf Catering, Huntington & Richmond

- ◇ Smoked salmon on mini potato pancakes w/ creme fraiche
- ◇ Wild mushroom & herb phyllo pillows
- ◇ Prosciutto wrapped melon & mint skewers
- ◇ Medjool Dates filled with asiago cheese & wrapped in smoked bacon
- ◇ Tomato Bruschetta: ripe tomatoes diced and tossed with garlic, fresh basil and olive oil, served on costini
- ◇ Thai chicken satay cups: Thai style chicken, peanut sauce and scallions in a crispy lotus cup
- ◇ New York cheesecake served in martini glasses with choices of toppings