

‘Get out there and explore’

The Sharon Academy dedicates woods to Jenepher Lingelbach

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SHARON — Last
Wednesday, Oct. 16,
was a beautiful
Vermont autumn day
for The Sharon
Academy’s (TSA)
dedication ceremony of
the Linglebach Woods.

About 35 people
attended, all of whom
had been touched by
the enthusiasm for the
environment and for
learning embodied by
the late Jenepher R.
Linglebach, educator,
environmentalist, poet,
and member of the
Board of Trustees of
TSA.

Linglebach resided in
the tiny enclave of East
Barnard, which her

and Sky — fact-filled
essays introduce each
subject, followed by
field-tested,
experiential activities
that engage students in
learning about the
natural world.

One of her poems, We
Hope, is engraved on a
bench by the river at
VINS Nature Center. A
memorial service was
held at VINS following
her death in June 2017.

David Eastman, TSA
director of
development and
communications,
remarked that he had
attended an ELF
program and that it had
meant a tremendous
amount to him as a
youth.

He also beamed when
he recalled how he

**Jenepher Lingelbach,
left, passed away on
June 6, 2017. At right
is the plaque for
Linglebach Woods,
which is dedicated to
Linglebach by The
Sharon Academy.**

Photos Provided



**Hikers head down the
trail into the
Linglebach Woods
lead by The Sharon
Academy students
and staff.**

Photo Provided

friend and neighbor, renowned printmaker Sabra Field once described as “forgotten.”

Field was on hand during the ceremony, and recounted the first time she invited Linglebach to her house, to welcome her as a newcomer to East Barnard in 1972.

Field was in her studio, she recalled, “and the first words out of Jenepher’s mouth were ‘I don’t have time for frivolous things.’ ” Kindred spirits, they became fast friends. They collaborated on a book, *Before Life Hurries On*, with Field providing the artwork accompanying poems by Linglebach.

Linglebach published two books of poetry during her lifetime.

In *Words Like Leaves*, a thin, beautifully

never once saw Linglebach without a pair of binoculars around her neck in all the years he knew her.

At the ceremony, Eastman recited one of Linglebach’s poems, *Autumn Dawn*, with fiddle accompaniment by Randy Leavitt.

Two TSA students, senior Jackson Bradford and junior Ben Weatherhill, explained how the trails in the Linglebach Woods were created by TSA students over the last two years during the high school trails elective.

The trails cover the 80 acres of the woods behind the academy, and are open to the public. The trail head is at the end of the high school parking lot. A plaque dedicating the woods to Linglebach is located on a stone, placed just to the left



Jackson Bradford, The Sharon Academy (TSA) class of 2020, tells about the Trails Elective held by TSA that created trails in the Linglebach Woods over the last three years.

Photo Provided



Sabra Field speaks about her friend and neighbor Jenepher Linglebach. Photo Provided

letterpressprinted volume published in 2009 — a reverie of natural observations during the four-seasons — she wrote that “poems fall out... from a strong urge to put words around what I see and the feelings that arise.”

Michael Livingston, Head of School at TSA, welcomed guests and shared moving stories of his personal connections with Lingelbach.

One of her four children, her son, Bruce Lingelbach, said “a few words about Mom,” who was a powerful, positive force to contend with and was universally loved.

Bill Badger, with whom she shared her life since 1997, read Lingelbach’s poems.

of the trail entrance. There is a kiosk opposite with a trail map. The curvature of the trail as it unfolds ahead seems to invite one in to explore.

“Jenepher would have wanted you to get out there and explore,” said Eastman, as he and the students led guests on a walk through the woods on a beautiful autumn day.



Among the guests were Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (VINS) Executive Director Charlie Rattigan and Assistant Executive Director Mary Graham, who expressed their gratitude and esteem for Lingelbach.

She co-founded the VINS Environmental Learning for the Future (ELF) program and maintained a lifelong commitment to the organization, having served as interim director and chair of the Board of Trustees.

She was the primary author of Hands on Nature, a popular up-to-date handbook that provides information and activities to assist educators and parents in exploring the local environment with children. Grouped around five themes — Adaptations, Habitats,

Cycles, Designs of Nature, and Earth

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