

Larry Polansky
3 Brook Rd.
Hanover, NH
30755
603-643-8232
larry.polansky@dartmouth.edu

Dear Valley News;

I am writing to express my disappointment in the decision by the Valley News' to reduce the frequency of Mary Holland's wonderful columns on things natural from twice a month to once a month. I always look forward to Monday mornings, when Ms. Holland's columns and photographs appear. In some ways I learn more from her about where it is we live than anyone else in your paper. A superb writer and photographer, she chronicles the seasons by focusing our attention on what happens outside, in places we more and more need to notice and care for. Regardless of her skilled prose and rich descriptive detail, I believe that we need more of her kind of writing, not less, just as we share our yards, trails, fields and often even homes with creatures about whom we need to know more, not less. See more of, not less of. Be on better terms with. Knowing a bird's song or mating habits, being able to identify a particular wild flower, or recognizing a snowshoe hare's track in the winter (all things we learn from Ms. Holland's writing) might make us less enthusiastic about destroying habitats to enhance our views, turning wetlands into shopping malls, or wreak various forms of havoc upon our planet. Much as I love the sports page, I'd gladly trade a page a week currently devoted to my beloved Yankees or Knicks for the far more important doings of cedar waxwings, monarchs, and beavers.

Larry Polansky
Hanover, New Hampshire