

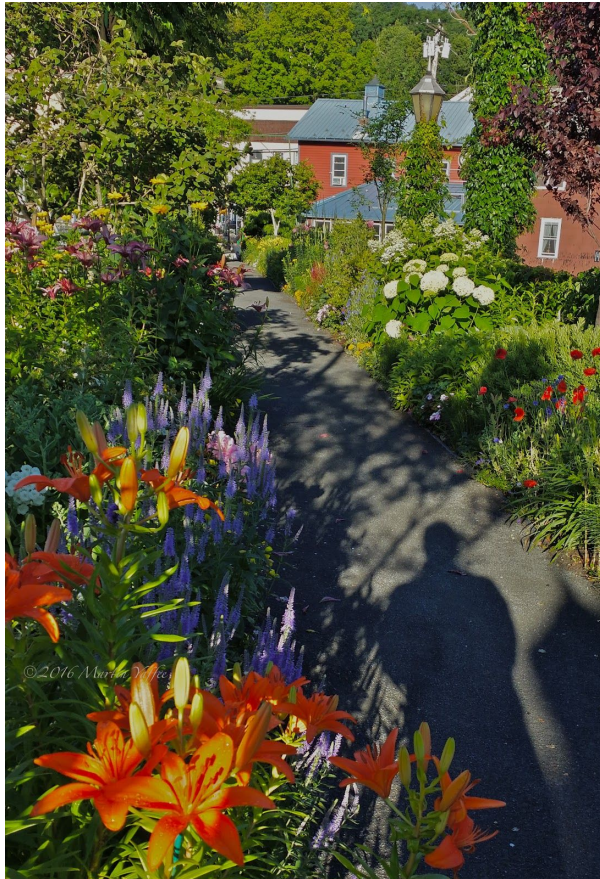
Martin Yaffee



Martin Yaffee's entry into the art of photography is a "sign of the the times," of a digital age that puts high quality cameras in the hands of millions of smart phone users. The Note 3 phone that Martin purchased two years ago came with a 13 megapixel camera, and that is the vehicle with which the Shelburne Falls resident captures his images of the local landscape. "It's got a really good camera, and I can use my Mac computer to adjust the image a little bit if I need to take down the too bright highlights or take out some of the shadows or saturate it a tiny bit more," Martin explained.

The artist has captured fleeting moments of sky and water in and around Shelburne and posted them on a Facebook page he started called "Life in Shelburne Falls." He only just started make prints of his photos, using archival papers and matte inks through the services of Pivot Media in Florence MA. He has experimented with metallic inks through an online service as well. Currently, he is figuring out options with matting and framing services, and is hoping to network with fellow

coop members about their experiences in these areas.



Martin presently teaches culinary arts at Greenfield High School, and says that “I just do the photography when I have time. I had more time in summer, and I started taking pictures of the bridge of flowers. I live only a block away from the town, so the birds wake me up in the morning. I would just walk before dawn on the Buckland side, just walk down and see what I can find. I like sunrises and sunsets and misty things, and I get a lot of reflective things.” He looks for special fleeting moments where sky and earth interact in magical ways, and likes to do a lot of panoramic shots—which also pose special framing and matting challenges due to the narrow format. He sees his photography as just another evolutionary step in the creative continuum of his life. He graduated from Newton High school, where “they had a great music program,” and went on to the University of Pennsylvania for a degree in music composition, which he finished up with a graduate degree from Harvard. During those years he was also working his way into becoming a pastry chef serving an apprenticeship and assistant chef position at the Ritz Carlton hotel in Boston. An ambitious young man, he also starting managing a bakery in Harvard Square with ten bakers working under him. Through one of those bakers, he formed a connection to a Shelburne Falls woman who was seeking a chef to open a bakery within the small town. This was back in the early 1980s, and the building she had chosen to renovate into a bakery was where the West End Pub is now, at the western end of the Bridge of Flowers.



The Yaffee's, who were interested in raising their daughter in a rural environment, took a chance on relocating and starting a new business partnership. When the partnership dissolved, Martin became the sole proprietor of Marty's Riverfront restaurant and bakery.

After running that business for a number of years, he took a position as an adjunct baking instructor at Holyoke Community College while simultaneously heading up the Green Fields Cooperative bakery. After twenty years as an adjunct, he leaped at the chance to have a full time position teaching culinary arts at the high school in Greenfield.

He still does some music and in the past has taught music lessons, done a bit of arranging, and played oboe with a quartet at Holyoke Community College. "But, I was kind of an experimental composer, and if you aren't in the mainstream it is hard to make a living doing it unless you teach at

