



Uniquely Quabbin

Free • Volume Two • #1
May - August



A COLLABORATION OF
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Uniquely Quabbin magazine serving

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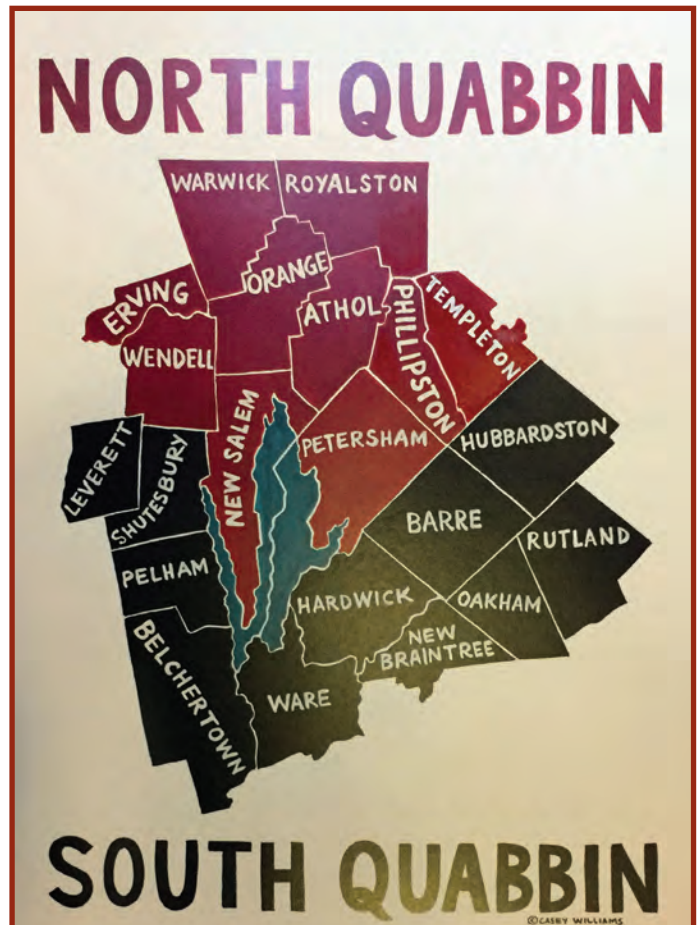
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volume 2, number 1 • May-August 2017

this issue features antique shops, consignment stores, history, events, and sights to see in the uniquely Quabbin heart of Massachusetts

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Like other Quabbin region shops, fairs, flea markets, and auctions, Steeple Antiques in Templeton, upper left, highlights yesteryear.

maps, bottom, show Quabbin towns past and present • photo © David Brothers / maps © Casey Williams

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a note of thanks from Athol Historical Society

Dear local cultural councils of the Quabbin region,

On behalf of Athol Historical Society, thank you for funding *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.

In addition to generous individual donors who supported our winter fundraisers, we want to thank Athol Cultural Council, Erving Cultural Council, Hubbardston Cultural Council, New Salem Cultural Council, Oakham Cultural Council, and Orange Cultural Council.

Also, Pelham Cultural Council, Petersham Cultural Council, Phillipston Cultural Council, Royalston Cultural Council, Ware Cultural Council, Warwick Cultural Council, and Wendell Cultural Council.

And of course, we are thankful for our advertisers, an ever growing list of businesses and organizations that support our magazine. Please bring your business to them.

Thanks as well to those who wish to remain anonymous and for the many cash donations we received.

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Gratefully,
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FIND LISTINGS FOR
NORTH QUABBIN AND
SOUTH QUABBIN EVENTS ON
PAGE 58.



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a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

As *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine launches its second volume of three annual magazines, we look forward to bringing you stories and photos to let you in on more of what makes the Quabbin region undeniably fascinating.

Debra Ellis and Casey Williams have again organized Uniquely Quabbin weekend with historical societies and museums from May 18 to May 21 at sites in towns around the reservoir. You'll find the schedule on Pages 52-54.

The reservoir itself makes its way into our headlines this month as we examine tributaries and water levels while considering effects on users in fifty-one Metropolitan Boston communities.

And as always, we invite your contributions to support the magazine, sent to

Athol Historical Society c/o Debra Ellis
1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue
Athol, MA 01331.

We wish you happy reading.

Sincerely,

Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

about *Uniquely Quabbin*

Quabbin region, Massachusetts—*Uniquely Quabbin* serves the twenty-one Quabbin region towns.

Athol Historical Society, Athol Press, Haley's Publishing, and North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau collaborate to produce *Uniquely Quabbin* in cooperation with writers, photographers, and artists from the greater Quabbin area.

The towns of Barre, Belchertown, Hardwick (Gilbertville), Hubbardston, Leverett, New Braintree, Oakham, Pelham, Rutland, Shutesbury, and Ware belong to the South Quabbin. Towns in the North Quabbin are Athol, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Templeton, Warwick, and Wendell.

Advertisers support *Uniquely Quabbin* along with earmarked donations made to the Athol Historical Society, which will send a letter acknowledging a tax deductible gift. The International Music and Art Foundation provided a seed grant to support the magazine and an evolving consortium of Quabbin region museums, historical societies, and arts centers.

Uniquely Quabbin is provided free of charge for single copies. Obtain multiple copies for \$3.00 each.

Find maps of the Quabbin area on Page 1. Find calendar listings on Page 58.

Uniquely Quabbin

May-August 2017 • Vol 2, #1 • ISSN 2472-081X
published at Athol, MA

Uniquely Quabbin magazine is published three times a year by Haley's in January-April, May-August, and September-December.

Free or \$3.00 each for multiple copies

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Cover photo by David Brothers at Village Green Antiques in Barre, Country Trail Antiques in Hubbardston. North Quabbin Antiques in Orange, and Steeple Antiques in Templeton. Art direction by Debra Ellis. Cover designed by Mark Wright.

UQ logo by Mark Wright. Uniquely Quabbin logo by Mary Pat Spaulding.

Copy proofed by Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri and William Emrich.

Uniquely Quabbin magazine is produced as a collaboration of Athol Historical Society, Athol Press, Haley's Publishing, and North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau with an initial grant from International Music and Arts Foundation.

We invite contributions to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. Contact Marcia Gagliardi at haley.antique@verizon.net or 488 South Main Street, Athol, MA 01331 with proposals to contribute to *UQ* or for letters to the editor.

Uniquely Quabbin magazine serves the twenty-one communities of the North Quabbin and South Quabbin.



Quabbin's shore sports a cairn built by Richard Chase, Orange stone mason more accustomed to building fieldstone walls.

photo courtesy of Richard Chase



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the importance of bees

text and engraving by Abigail Rorer

One third of all we eat comes from the work of bees. One of the most important bees is the honeybee. Honeybees pollinate a great many fruits and vegetables, such as squash and broccoli, blueberries and apples.

As the honeybee searches in the flower for sugary juice called nectar needed to make honey, it brushes up against pollen grains from the anther, or male part of the flower, and transfers pollen to the stigma, or female part of the flower. Pollination fertilizes egg cells that grow into seeds, many of them encased in food sources such as the seeds of pumpkins, peaches, pomegranates, and peas. The act of pollination is important not only for the vegetables we eat but also for crops used to feed livestock that provide us with meats we eat.

“Colony collapse disorder” is a current worrisome situation concerning the honeybee. Bee colonies are dying. The Chinese have lost so many of their bee populations that they must hire people to pollinate some crops by hand.

A number of situations causes a colony to collapse, including a parasitic mite that carries a deadly virus, use of pesticides and herbicides, temperature fluctuations and extremes due to climate change, and habitat destruction providing fewer food sources for the bees.

What one can do to help the bees:

1. Since beekeepers are vital in the effort to maintain healthy bee populations and assist in pollination, support them by buying honey from local beekeepers.

Petersham resident Abigail Rorer is proprietor of The Lone Oak Press: theloneoakpress.com



engraving © 2017 by Abigail Rorer

2. Eat organic as much as possible. Harmful pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers are not used on honey and other food sources, which is good for the bees and also for the consumer.

3. Grow flowers and have a vegetable garden. Gardens provide a food source for the bees plus beauty and food. Even in very small spaces, plants can grow. But grow flowers and vegetables wisely, and don't use harmful fertilizers or pesticides—there are plenty of natural products available.

“If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man.”

—Albert Einstein

Quabbin water levels affect people

by Pat Larson

Observers take different views of Quabbin Reservoir and its watershed seventy-five years after its creation. To some, the watershed remains the Lost Valley of Swift River. To others, it resulted in the accidental wilderness of central Massachusetts. Whatever else observers experience, Quabbin Reservoir serves as the drinking water supply for more than 2.5 million people in eastern Massachusetts.

No matter the perspective of people living in towns around it, Quabbin provides clean drinking water for many people in the state. The reservoir dominates an 81,000-acre landscape. It has a capacity of 412 billion gallons of water and measures 25,000 acres. The reservoir qualifies as the largest body of fresh water in Massachusetts and functions as the water supply for forty percent of Massachusetts residents living in fifty-one cities and towns mostly in the eastern part of state.

The water level in both the reservoir and surrounding watershed area affects not only people who live in the Quabbin region but also the people of Boston and its

neighboring communities. The Massachusetts drought of 2016 affected reservoir water levels. Lack of precipitation during 2016 meant that the Quabbin Reservoir was at seventy-nine percent capacity on December 1, 2016 and January 1, 2017. Anything below eighty percent capacity constitutes an official reckoning of “below normal,” although that capacity level does not constitute drought stage. Drought warning stage happens when the reservoir falls below fifty-five percent capacity.

Seasons, ground water levels, leaf cover in summer when trees use more water, run-off from different types of precipitation, and other natural factors impact water levels. “Fifty percent of the water that falls in the Quabbin watershed ends up in the Quabbin Reservoir,” said Clif Read, state Division of Conservation and Recreation Supervisor of Interpretive Services for Quabbin Reservoir.

Historically, the water level of Quabbin fell to its lowest level in 1966 when it was thirty-four feet below capacity or forty-five percent full. The phenomenon oc-



Quabbin Reservoir experienced its lowest level in October, 1966, according to official records.

photo courtesy of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

from central Massachusetts to Boston

curred during a long drought period in the 1960s. The reservoir did not regain one hundred percent capacity (412 billion gallons of water) until 1976 after a long, sustained period of low precipitation alternating with long dry spells. During a sixteen- to seventeen-year period, the reservoir never attained full capacity, according to Mr. Read, and people worried that it might not return to one-hundred-percent capacity. Following the drought of the 1960s, the state undertook major efforts to fix the leaks in the aqueducts and other pipes in the 1970s and 1980s.

Work fell to the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission (MDWSC) which not only oversaw construction of the reservoir but had overseen its management until 1946. Keeping clean water flowing through aqueducts to the Boston area was key to the success of the reservoir. After 1946, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) took over that role until 1985. After a court ruling, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) formed to collect water-use fees

and manage the distribution system from Quabbin to served communities, according to Mr. Read.

Concern about water levels in the Quabbin arose again in 1989 when the water level dropped to sixty-seven percent capacity. Both the MWRA and MDC feared that the Quabbin watershed would experience severe drought similar to the 1960s. Another effort followed to fix leaks and to figure out “over-all water conservation,” according to Mr. Read. After the 1989 low point in the reservoir, levels have remained at about eighty-five percent full each year.

Consumer usage also affects reservoir water levels. The safe level of use for the Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs, both of which service Metropolitan Boston residents, is 300 million gallons per day. According to the MWRA, from 1969 to 1988 customers used more water than what officials consider a safe yield. Between 1990 and 2015, usage dropped. The current five-year average registers at 200.7 million gallons per

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Flowing up left from Little Pond near Royalston Center, an unnamed stream spills into Spirit Falls and Long Pond on East Branch, Tully River.

photo © Mike Phillips

WHAT HAPPENS TO WATER WHEN IT FALLS FROM THE SKY?

by Allen Young

Where does water go when it drips down from a roof? Maybe into a rain barrel, a good way to get some extra water for plants. But for most people, the answer is simpler: water falls to the ground.

But then what?

Let's continue. Water may soak into the ground, eventually becoming what is called ground water. It could replenish your well if you have one. It amazes me to think about large rocky underground caverns filled with water that's been purified by filtering through a hundred or more feet of soil and gravel.

Also, water from your roof will hydrate grass and other plants near your house. If it forms a puddle, birds and other creatures may drink it. If a puddle lasts a long time, mosquitoes could hatch there or muddy water could splash on your car and dirty it—or if you have a toddler, he or she might want to play in it and make a mess!

However, a significant portion of that water from your roof will make its way to a stream, then flow into a small river, then into a bigger river, and finally into

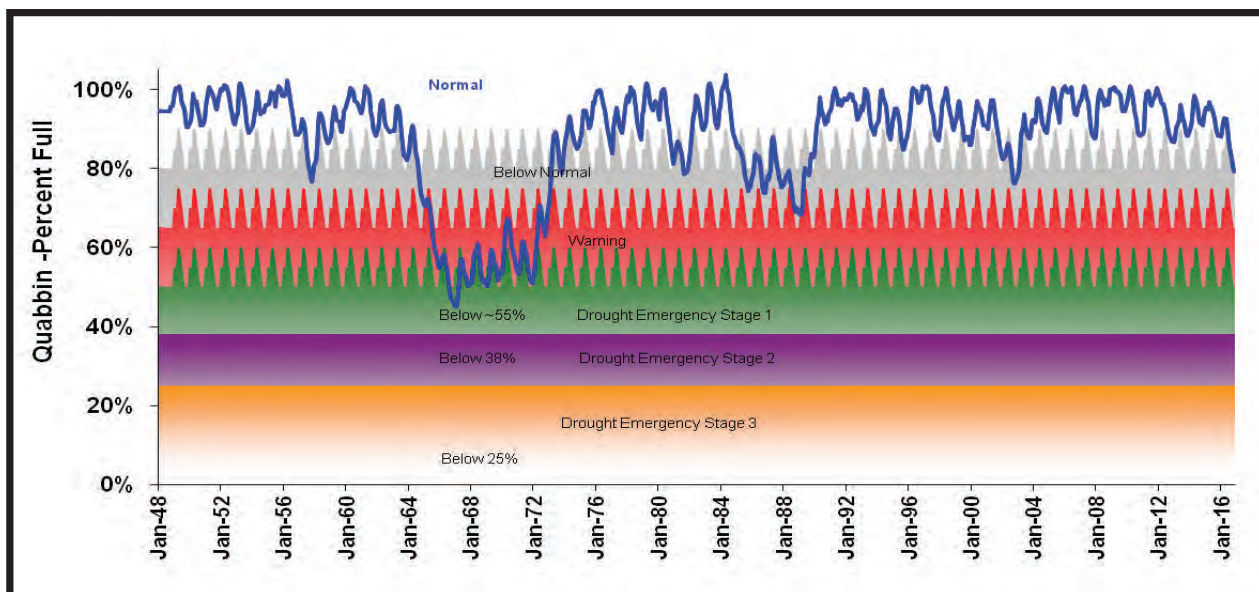
the ocean. However, if you live in some parts of the North Quabbin or South Quabbin, it may end up in the Quabbin Reservoir and eventually in the home of one of the nearly three million people, most in metropolitan Boston, who receive water from the Quabbin.

I think all people should know about the water they drink as well as about what happens to the water that falls from the sky. Each of us lives in a watershed. Most of us Quabbin-region humans dwell in watersheds of the Swift and Ware rivers, the primary Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoir sources, or of the Millers, Chicopee, and Connecticut Rivers.

Small streams and brooks comprise tributaries to rivers, and we should know the important small streams near us so that we can care for them and protect them from pollution and degradation. Knowing their names makes streams more precious and personal.

From the moment I purchased land in Royalston in 1973, I knew Collar Brook as the stream running

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Graphs demonstrate Quabbin Reservoir water levels from January, 1948 through January, 2016. Lowest levels occurred during the droughts of the 1960s. The reservoir operates routinely at eighty-five percent capacity and, with Wachusett Reservoir, supplies drinking water for fifty-one cities and towns, including Boston, in the metropolitan Boston area.

graph courtesy of Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

quabbin water levels affect many

continued from Page 7

day. Mr. Read pointed out that continuing decline in usage by 2.5 million people owes in large part to fixed pipes, changes in plumbing codes, and water-conservation and efficiency efforts.

Although precipitation measured about thirty-four inches in 2016, down from the seventy-five-year average of forty-six inches a year, the drought of 2016 did not affect people using Quabbin water as much as one might expect. Since 1985, water usage on the system has diminished by one-third even with small increases in population. MWRA continues to manage distribution of water traveling through aqueducts and pipes from the Quabbin to many communities. The Department of

Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages the reservoir since the merger of MDC with the DCR in 2004.

DCR not only manages the reservoir but also all publicly owned land in the Quabbin watershed. Watershed land includes parts of the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Hardwick, New Salem, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Shutesbury, Ware, and Wendell. In total, the watershed area covers 120,000 acres. Although the DCR manages both the Quabbin Reservoir and surrounding land, we should consider ourselves all protectors of the Quabbin Watershed.

Pat Larson is a retired educator who lives in North Orange.

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QUABBIN CURRENTS

Boy Scout and YMCA camps made their home in lost towns

by J. R. Greene

Summer camps operated by Boy Scouts of America, Holyoke Young Women's Christian Association, and Springfield Girls' Clubs, respectively, were located in the valley flooded to create Quabbin Reservoir.

The presence of the Athol Branch of the Boston & Albany Railroad, which connected Athol and Springfield through the valley until 1935, facilitated development of private and institutional summer camps. Many people from the Springfield area and points farther away were able to access summer camps in the old Swift River Valley using the railroad before the automobile came into common use after World War I.

A Boy Scout camp was located on Nesseponsett Pond in North Dana because of the influence of F. H. Sprague (1866–1937). Mr. Sprague moved from Dana to Orange as a young man. With others, he established a clothing factory there. The factory later relocated to Fitchburg, where Mr. Sprague became active in civic affairs. He became interested in supporting the Boy Scouts of America when that organization formed before World War I. Mr. Sprague was president of the Fitchburg Boy Scout Council and, therefore, instrumental in establishing their scout camp.

The council purchased some ninety acres of land on Lake Neeseponsett northwest of the village of North Dana in the 1920s. The council named the facility Camp Neeseponsett. According to town tax records, there was a main building, a shed, and a large hall on the property. Tepees and tents served to house the scouts during their summertime stays at the camp. In 1932, the town assessed the property at a value of a little over seven thousand dollars.

In 1933, the camp was leased to the Hampshire County Boy Scouts. They renamed it Camp Calvin Coolidge after the US president (1923-29) who had died at his home in the Hampshire County seat of Northampton in January of that year. Two different sub camps at the facility pictured on postcards used Native American names to identify themselves. One cluster of tents was called Camp Iniabe, the Pioneers. A group of tepees was named Camp Wa-sho-she, the Braves.

The Boy Scout camp was sold to the water commission that built the Quabbin Reservoir, as all of the

property would be flooded by that project. The Fitchburg scout council used proceeds from the camp sale to purchase land in Rindge, New Hampshire, for a new camp, now the site of Franklin Pierce University.

Another major institutional camp in the old valley was in Greenwich, run by Holyoke Young Women's Christian Association. This 112-acre property had been the old Gelling farm, on the west shore of Greenwich Lake. It was purchased by the YWCA in 1925 and ended up consisting of a house, a large barn (converted into a recreation hall), corn house, hen house, and five bungalows. The property was assessed by the town at a value of a little over \$5,000 in 1928.

The camp fronted a half mile of Greenwich Lake, allowing for swimming and boating for thirty to forty girls each summer. When not in use by the YWCA, it was rented to other groups. A postcard of the camp mailed by a camper in 1932 shows a group of girls taking a "gypsy hike" along the lake shore. The camp was also

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Photography by John Burk

*featuring New England and the
Quabbin region*

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www.zenfolio.com/johnburk

Quabbin region farmers markets provide fresh food,

by Cathy Stanton

Outdoor and covered markets have long been a part of food selling in urban centers around the world. The “eat local” movement of the past couple of decades has prompted a revitalization of direct-to-consumer food marketing in many US cities, and farmers in the Quabbin area have embraced the opportunity to reach new customers beyond our own small region.

Opened in July 2015 as a year-round locally-sourced market, Boston Public Market is becoming an important outlet for food produced in Massachusetts, including from a number of Quabbin farms like Red Apple Farm in Phillipston, Stillman Quality Meats and Chestnut Farms in Hardwick, and Stillman’s Farm in New Braintree.

*farmers markets revitalize
direct-to-consumer food marketing*

Closer to home, farmers markets have popped up in many Quabbin towns as well.

With the Quabbin region’s smaller customer base, the markets often offer less variety than those in larger towns and cities. Still, they provide a great opportunity to get to know some area food producers and keep food dollars circulating in the local economy.

The summertime abundance of fresh tomatoes and corn is still a few months away, but shoppers can start looking for greens and vegetable starts very soon, with new peas and June strawberries not far behind. Meat and cheese are usually on offer throughout the season—and maple syrup too.

Here’s a quick round-up of the 2017 season:



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Barre Farmers Market

Saturdays

9 am to noon

from May 13 through October 21

Hosted elsewhere during construction in the center of town during the past couple of years, the Barre market returns to its usual home on the town common.

www.barrefarmersmarket.org

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Petersham Friday Market

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Ware Farmers and Artisans Market

Saturdays

9 am to 1 pm

starting in May through at least October

104 West Main Street, next to CVS

Wendell may also hold a weekly farmers market again on Saturday mornings on the town common. If so, shoppers may find a bodywork practitioner offering quick sessions under the shelter of the bandstand, another example of how each small market reflects its town's special character and talents.

The Petersham Friday Market sometimes features local musicians on the historic bandstand during the market, while Hardwick has the advantage of nearby popular Rose32 bread in town to provide coffee and baked goods during its brunch-hour market.

For the second year, the Orange Farmers Market will include a weekly Kids Tent with special activities for younger visitors hosted by community groups throughout the season.

Like farms, farmers markets are always works in progress, adapting to new opportunities and challenges as they add an important ingredient to our local economic and social lives.

Cathy Stanton is a writer and scholar who lives in Wendell and teaches at Tufts University.

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pristine streams carry water through Quabbin forests and fields

continued from Page 8

through it. I wanted to know the origin of the name Collar, and before long I learned it was the name of a family who lived hereabouts in the early 1800s. From looking at the wonderful maps published by the United States Geodetic Survey, it was easy to discover that Collar Brook flows into the West Branch of Tully River, then to the Millers, and finally to the Connecticut. There's also a seasonal stream on my land that dries up in the summer and has no name, but I love it anyway.

When I've hiked or boated in the Quabbin reservation, I've taken note of streams flowing directly into the reservoir. Cadwell Creek flows into the Quabbin after draining land in Pelham and Belchertown. Petersham's Fever Brook has both an east and west branch feeding the Quabbin. Hop Brook of New Salem empties into the reservoir near the islands of Mount L and Russ Mountain—once when I was on a boat there with a friend, he said the spot is a favorite for anglers.

There's the mysterious Prescott Brook, a water artery never seen by me and seen by few people in the past seventy-five years. Prescott Brook is seldom seen on the Prescott Peninsula portion of New Salem, because that section of the Quabbin is closed to the public.

Canesto Brook is a moderate-sized, moderate-energy, stone-gravel brook that originates in Hubbardston and flows into the Ware River shortly after its merger with the Burnshirt River in Barre.

Deep, cool stands of eastern hemlock shade many Quabbin tributaries. The Ware River Diversion facility feeds Ware River water into the Quabbin Aqueduct, used to start a natural siphon so water can flow from the Quabbin to the Wachusett Reservoir or from the Wachusett Reservoir to the Quabbin, depending on where water is needed.

Closer to my home, Lawrence Brook is one of the largest tributaries of the Tully River. Much of the land around it is state owned like the Lawrence Brook Wildlife Management Area. Lawrence Brook is known by almost everyone in the North Quabbin region because its water flows over scenic and popular Doane's Falls and ends up in Tully Lake. The falls is property of the Trustees of Reservations. Tully Lake and Tully Dam are managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Cold-water streams offer anglers native trout, some stocked by the Commonwealth's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

But whether you fish or not, learn the names of the streams that take the water from your roof. Treasure those streams and protect them from pollution, as your local conservation commission protects them, under the provisions of the state Wetlands Act. Report harmful activities to your local conservation commission and/or the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

Columnist Allen Young lives in Royalston. He received the University of Massachusetts Writing and Society Award in 2004.

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PRE-RESERVOIR SUMMER CAMPS PROVIDED RECREATION FOR CITY KIDS

continued from Page 11

sold to the water commission in the 1930s and is totally under the waters of Quabbin Reservoir.

A third, little-known institutional summer camp in the old valley was not located on a large body of water. The Springfield Girls Club was allowed to use the mansion "The Spruces," once the home of piano manufacturer and spiritualist Henry W. Smith. It was located in the northeastern part of Enfield, near the East Branch of the Swift River. Smith's longtime companion Helen Lochlan lived on the twenty-acre estate after his death in 1914. She apparently gave the Girls Club permission to use it for a number of years.

According to Amy Spink and Mabel Jones in their 1938 "Letters from Quabbin" article series #23, "This spacious home and grounds made an ideal place for the city girls to rest and play. The large barn on the property

was converted into a dormitory and assembly hall." This property was sold to the water commission by Smith's estate in the late 1920s, so its use by the Girls Club would have ceased by that time.

J. R. Greene, a lifelong resident of Athol, is the author of twenty books, sixteen of which relate to the history of Quabbin Reservoir and the towns destroyed to build it.

The following numbers of the author's annual *Quabbin History Calendar* contain photos of two of the summer camps mentioned in this article: July, 2009 contains a photo of the Boy Scout camp in North Dana and July, 2003; July, 2007; August, 2013 and August, 2014 contain photos of the Holyoke YWCA Camp in Greenwich. The author's 1999 book, *Henry W. Smith: Quabbin's Controversial Spiritualist*, has a photo of the Smith mansion.

Submit letters to the editor of *Uniquely Quabbin* to
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Accompanied by Rhett Redford of Hang Glide New England, Chaynna Campbell of *Uniquely Quabbin* manages a selfie while soaring above the landscape south of Quabbin Reservoir.

photo © Chaynna Campbell

Uniquely Quabbin writer says, “Come fly with me.”

by Chaynna Campbell

Shake off your blues and strap on your wings. If you have ever wondered what it's like to hang glide, kick start the spring with some air time.

At Hang Glide New England, located at the Tanner-Hiller Airport in New Braintree, I took to the sky on an invigorating experience. I floated through the air. Ghasson Shannon, my tandem hang glide pilot also known as G-Man, asked if I could handle some tricks.

“Yes!” I screamed.

In an instant, whipping and whirling through the air, we performed stunt after stunt. I laughed so loud that crew members on the ground could hear me.

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“It's a great view,” says Rhett Radford, spokesman for Hang Glide New England. Rhett first solo hang glided on his sixteenth birthday.

Originally when I thought of hang gliding, I imagined people launching off mountains and cliffs. Rhett instead explained the safer practice of aero-towing. With

aero-towing, the pilot fastens the hang-gliding person and the apparatus to an ultralight plane. The pilot then tows both up to the sky where he releases them at approximately 2,500 feet.

From the time we took off to our smooth landing, I could not stop smiling. I felt as if I was flying. At times we floated and other times we swooped. Cool air rejuvenated my spirit. A typical tandem hang glide lasts between fifteen to twenty minutes.

Hang Glide New England's down-to-earth crew will make sure your mind is at ease before you fly. They welcome questions.

Spring, summer, and fall are the perfect seasons to have some air fun. Friends and family can watch as you take off on the airport runway. You can also video-record your trip to the sky for many future viewings.

After my feet rested on the ground, my exhilaration remained sky high. My euphoria carried on for days.

Chayna Campbell is a writer from the North Quabbin region.



Chayna and G-Man, tandem hang glide pilot, prepare to soar.

photo © Michael Arsenault



Depending on the time of year, the landscape surrounding New Braintree looks like a patchwork of green, blue, and gray.

photo © Chayna Campbell

Quabbin Reservation tracker Paul Rezendes

by Jonathan von Ranson

Quabbin Reservation, the uninhabited, protected watershed of Quabbin Reservoir, is a rare wilderness reclaimed from civilization. There, free from most human impacts, life happens in closer accordance with the principles that birthed us as a species and that continue for now, in an uphill battle, to sustain us and most of our fellow creatures.

That primal mode of existence within the boundaries of those thirty-seven square miles of land and water, so near and yet so different—what is it in essence? What does it look like?

The closest to a first-hand answer might come from people who have entered the Quabbin as experienced trackers. Identifying footprints, checking scents, taking close note of scat, den holes, hair, nibbles, rubs and the like, a tracker reads all manner of signs left by living things as they're affected by geophysical forces and time: the overprinting, settling, melting, drying, crusting, browning, or littering of surface. In a given situation with benefit of accumulated knowledge, a tracker can

“see” in detail what happened and bring seemingly hidden reality to life.

Occasionally, using the ability to be still or move slowly enough to remain almost invisible (animals readily see movement) a tracker witnesses an unforgettable story or fragment of a story playing out live before him.

Tracker Paul Rezendes recently recounted such an experience. It took place in the Prescott Peninsula, a large area of the reservation off-limits to the public that reaches deep into South Quabbin, past Pelham nearly to Ware and Belchertown. One of the most accomplished trackers in our region, Rezendes is also a photographer, philosopher, and spiritual leader. And former motorcycle gang leader and trucker. He's the author of several excellent books, including *The Wild Within: Adventures in Nature* and *Animal Teachings*, a book he now self-publishes with his wife, Paulette Roy. The episode is one of many tracking experiences he vividly and enlighteningly describes in that book. Here's how the bearded, slow-talking outdoorsman recalled it recently:

“It was the rare opportunity to witness an interchange between a coyote and a deer. Actually, I'd done a lot of research with Paul Lyons (wildlife biologist with the MDC Metropolitan District Commission) and several trackers who were working with me to see what these interactions were.

“We'd already been able to see that coyotes wouldn't chase deer for long distances—maybe just a spurt. From tracks we'd seen instances where coyotes would walk right up to a deer. There might be a little back and forth, but nothing would happen.

“It seemed the coyotes were testing, checking the deer. A hoof-hit could be pretty lethal or could injure badly, and it's bad for a coyote to be injured, so they don't take chances.”

Rezendes, who lives in Athol, had prepared well for the outing. As the book says, he'd packed a compass, tape measure, note pad, thermos of hot cider, food, emergency kit, maps of the Quabbin, knife, plastic bags for collecting samples, field glasses, flashlight, and matches. It was a cold winter morning, and he'd dressed in layers, his outermost layer one of camouflage-colored fleece and wool pants.

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witnesses one of nature's unforgettable stories

His assignment for the day, he told me, was to follow and make notes about the browsing behavior of a single deer. The animal whose track he picked he could tell was a doe because “does make their urine mark behind their rear hooves.” He followed her for almost the entire day, resting only for lunch.

The doe’s “lunch” was “ongoing nibbles of hemlock boughs she would sometimes reach by standing on her hind legs, and fern nodes or knots, which she dug for through the snow.” Her walking prints also showed occasional “off-kilter” moves—unusual in that he couldn’t see anything she had leaned over to actually eat. He began to theorize that, in each case, she was sniffing lichens but rejecting them as food.

“Late in the afternoon,” he recalled, “it was getting cold and gusty, and I headed back toward where I’d parked my Jeep. Before I got there I saw fresh tracks and, even though there was only an hour of daylight left, I decided to follow them.

“About a mile on, I stopped on an old logging road and looked off to one side—not sure why. A coyote and a deer were there, standing and facing each other, just completely focused on each other. There was blood on the ground.

“I really wanted to watch them through the binoculars, but I couldn’t move or they’d see me. It took several minutes to bring the glasses up.”

What followed, Rezendes said, were two widely separate attacks

by the large silver-coated coyote, “and each time the deer whirled around with amazing agility.

“Between the first and second attack, it was strange. They became almost nonchalant—both of them! The coyote just walked away, not bothering to look back, and the deer, whose hind leg I could finally see was obviously broken, began browsing!”

But by the time the coyote was attacking the second time, Rezendes, said, “I realized I had to get moving. I could barely hold the binoculars. I was that close to hypothermia.”

He watched as the animals separated again, then headed back to his Jeep and home. He was back at the scene at daybreak the following morning. From a distance, he saw the deer lying dead, a hawk pecking at her body.

Here, as the book version makes clear, the tracker-philosopher came to the fore. Rezendes stopped, and tried to pay special attention: “It’s key when there’s a death, a crisis, something that startles us, to monitor your emotions, the chemical responses in your body.

“What’s responding is your past, your conditioning, and those responses are sometimes inappropriate.”

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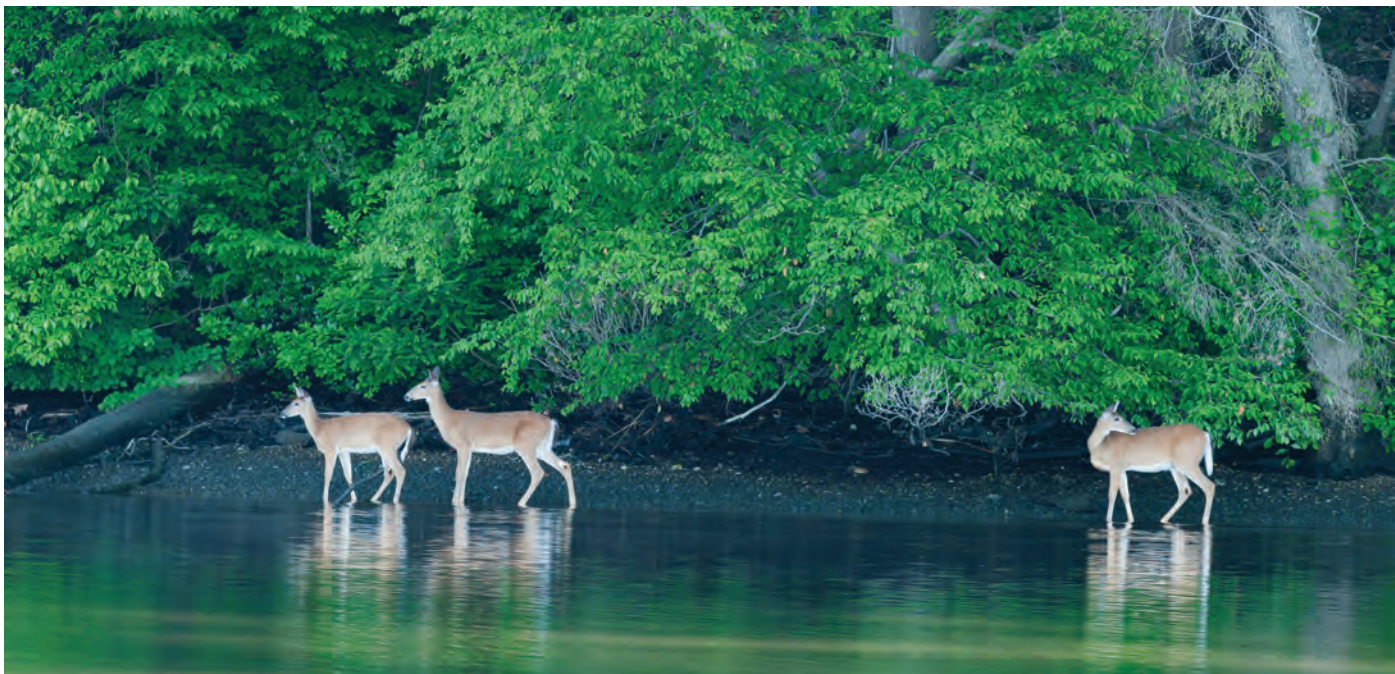
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Quabbin Reservation deer take an early summer stroll.

photo © Paul Rezendes

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So, after respectfully assessing himself as well as the situation on the ground, he approached and saw that the doe's hindquarters had been partially eaten by the coyote and her belly ripped open. A fetus, still attached by its

umbilical cord, lay alongside her body. It was at an early stage of development, not yet with its skin.

"The doe—the hide and bone of her leg were worn down," he said. "I could see it had been broken for some time. She could never have made it through the winter."

His conclusion: "That silver coyote was a blessing in disguise."

It may feel strange to offer this story as relevant to us who seem so much more comfortably established outside the wild Quabbin Reservation if Rezendes—and we—didn't consider the full picture, didn't view these beautiful creatures' lives and deaths in the context of the great life system's essential pattern.

In his book, as an example of the pattern, he asks us to recall that our bodies are living because—not in spite—of the fact that cells are constantly living and dying in us. This zero-sum principle applies to life at large: the deaths are in direct proportion to the lives. The vital ones who live their lives and meet their death become equally vital nourishment in the Quabbin. When exposed to their reality by spending time unobtrusively among them (or reading accounts from the wild), we may have a chance to better apply the truth of how our little lives fit into the whole, awesome life enterprise in this third ring of the solar system.

Jonathan von Ranson is a writer, former newspaper editor, and stonemason who lives in Wendell



Tracker Paul Rezendes

photo courtesy of Paul Rezendes




Quabbin water levels in late 2016 at Gate 44, above, and Gate 13, below left, appeared low. At the lowest during below-normal rainfall in 2016, water levels of seventy-nine percent fell just below the normal range of eighty-percent capacity.

photos © Jim Flynn




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HAT-MAKING, A COTTAGE INDUSTRY,

by Carla Charter

Like many people today, women and men in the 1800s worked from home. Among industries flourishing throughout the state at the time was the hat industry. Women walked around braiding hats while they tended the children and cooked meals. "They could braid while doing other things," according to Katherine Morris, wheat weaver and Royalston's Phinehas S. Newton Library director.

"They made men's and women's hats. Styles changed from year to year, and makers modified patterns to weave what was in fashion. There were instruction books for different types of hats to include big brims versus small brims versus hoods depending on the year."

The material first used, according to *History of Barre, Windows Into the Past* by Helen Coddington with Albert Clark and Mary Kelly, was straw that grew in this climate. Makers prepared straw in the spring and summer, while reserving the braiding itself for the winter when farms demanded less time.

Local stores across the state took part in the hat industry. In Barre, Benjamin Clark accepted completed hats and gave hat makers store credit that they could use toward needed items.

A mechanized process for pressing and varnishing hats soon developed. John Wheeler Weston of Barre seems to be one of the first to have a machine to accomplish the process.

Weston raised rye to use in the process and purchased additional rye from neighboring farmers.

Weston guarded the secrecy of his pressing machine so that competition could not acquire it. Among those interested in seeing the secret machine was Charles Lee, who tried unsuccessfully several times to get to the upstairs of the Weston establishment to view the machine. A few years later, Weston entrusted Chester Gorman, a boarder in his home, to take his machine to Boston to press hats in the city for fee. Chester became homesick and pleaded to be allowed to return. He was told to sell



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all the machines and under no condition to sell a machine to anyone in Barre. Nevertheless, somehow Lee acquired the machine.

A very irate Weston chastised Gorman with a horse whip when he returned to town. "A lawsuit followed, sides were taken in the matter and it was a leading topic in the town for many weeks," according to the *History of Barre*.

Another change came to the hat-making cottage industry when manufacturers began importing palm leaves. Braiders completed palm-leaf hats, and machines then pressed them. Soon, Harding P. Woods, another Barre merchant, came up with the idea of making Shaker hats with palm leaves. He devised two looms to create the hats and went into a successful partnership with Samuel A. Kinsman.

Another industry sprung from the palm leaves. Soon manufacturers used waste materials from palm leaves to stuff mattresses and cushions for churches, and the items became highly marketable.

The Civil War brought abrupt change to the southern trade and the subsequent depression caused a surplus stock of hats. Competing styles and materials for hats also contributed to decline of the Quabbin region industry.

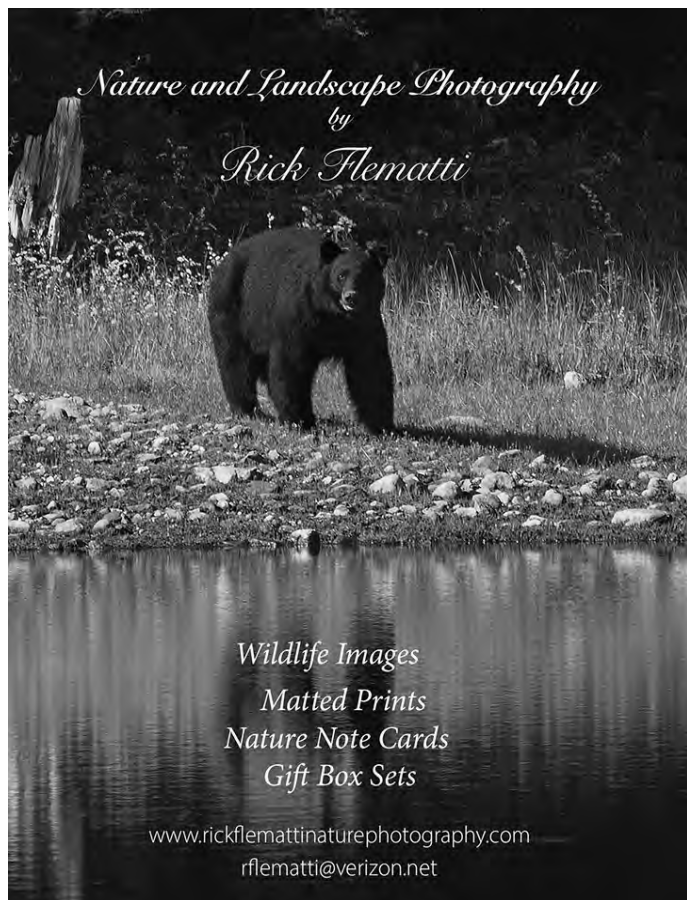
At the Barre Historical Society, several remnants of the hat industry survive, including straw strips and looms, several straw hats and bonnets, and forms for shaping hats. There are also examples of boxes, another local industry, and old store ledgers.

For fifteen years, Royalston librarian Morris has woven wheat she herself grows. She said she became interested in the craft after finding out about it in the library. She likes to learn new techniques and devise patterns.

"I am always learning something new. It's very relaxing I love doing it," she said.

Morris observed that the craft has a long historical tradition. "Weaving is done all around the world," she said. The National Association of Wheat Weavers has a

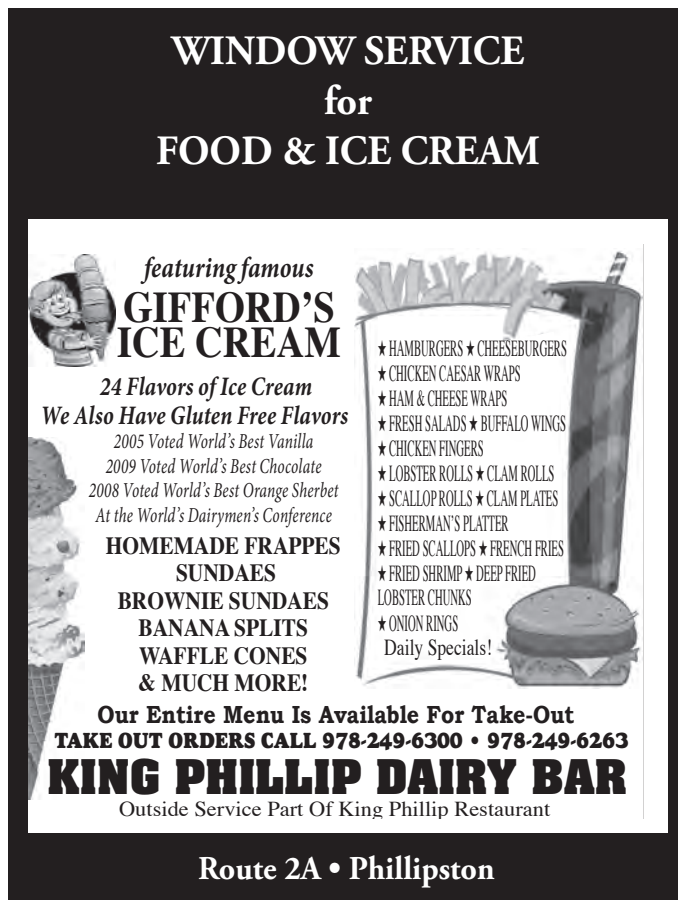
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Quabbin region hat industry known around the world

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The Barre Historical Society displays an antique hand-woven hat.

photo courtesy of Barre Historical Society

yearly conference that attracts people from around the US and the world, according to Morris.

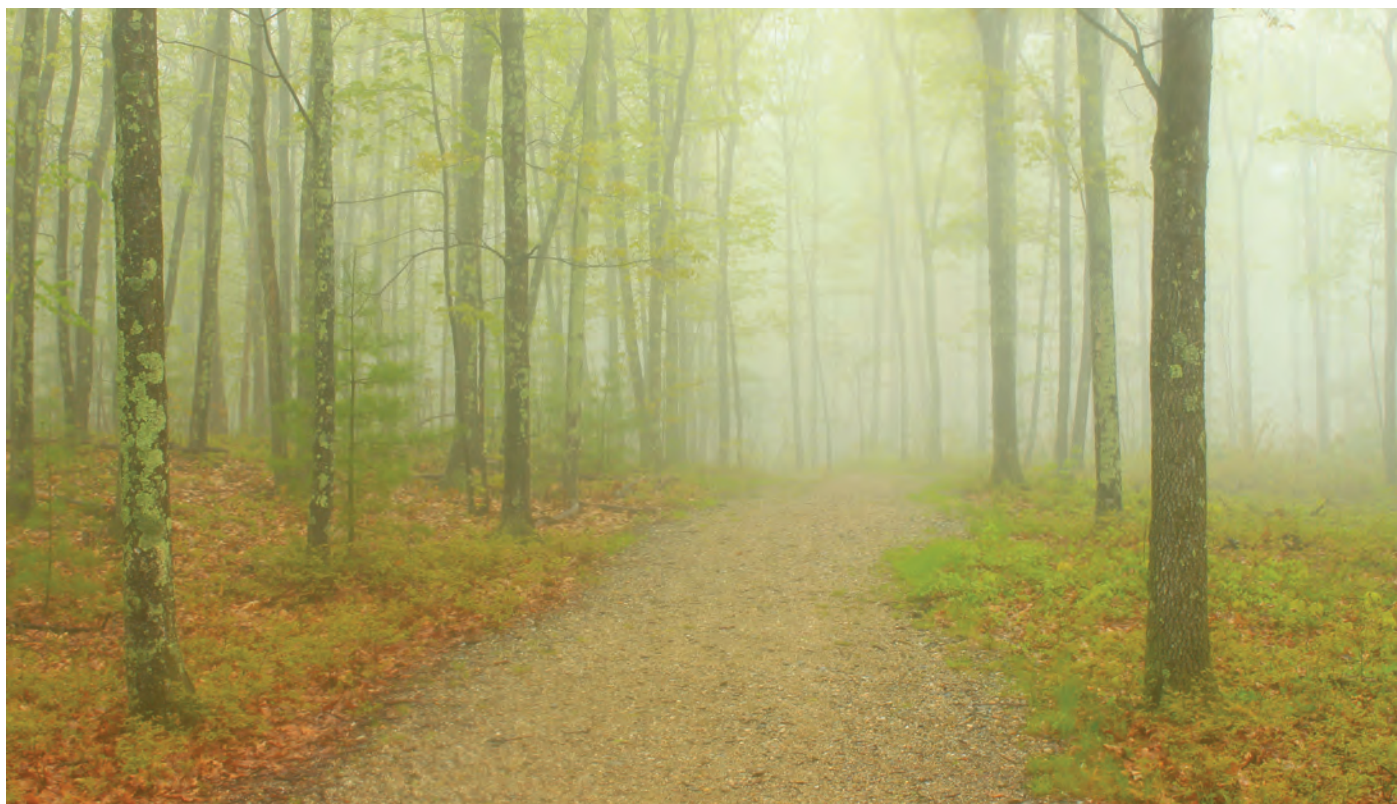
Hat-making is also a family tradition at a wholesale hat company in Wendell. Claudia Pommer of the wholesale company Hat Stuff has been in business since 1998. Pommer said her grandfather and father, who came from Germany, both participated in the hat industry. “My father was a hat designer and salesman in the United States,” she said. “My dad inspired me to get into the hat business. As a kid, I worked in his office. I was a hat kid.”

Pommer said the straw bodies of her hats come from overseas, mainly China, because certain straws are only produced overseas. Hat Stuff does the decorating locally. She said straw hats are good for dress-up or the beach.

Along with straw hats, the company also creates fleece hats for fall and winter, which she says is her busiest season. Pommer said she designs the hats while her employee decorates straw hats and creates the fleece hats.

Carla Charter is a freelance writer. She lives in Phillipston.

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Early morning fog envelops a Quabbin trail.

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Quabbin region eateries offer menus tailored to taste

by Clare Kirkwood

Pete and Henry's South Royalston

Established in 1946, Pete and Henry's has been a Quabbin region mainstay for generations. Diane Kane, Phillipston resident and longtime patron, remembered going with her father as a child and bringing her own children to the family-friendly restaurant. She and her family enjoyed many birthdays and special occasions at the restaurant. She recalled that the staff took pictures of kids for the outer hallway.

She laughed as she recounted several glasses broken by her active daughter, Danielle, and swore that's why the management installed carpets. "It was always known as a place to get a good meal at a reasonable price," Diane said.

Pete and Henry's maintains its reputation for fried seafood plates, steaks, and hearty American fare. After checking their website for directions, we saw the restaurant listed as number one on list of Top Ten Hole-in-the-Wall Restaurants in Massachusetts.

We found it to be friendly, comfortable, and not too busy on a Sunday afternoon. We enjoyed the candlelit atmosphere and local beer on tap from the full-service bar. All foods are prepared to order for eating in or taking out.

We tried a seafood platter with haddock and clam puffs. The fish was fresh, piping hot and satisfying. Clam puffs resemble a fritter with whole clams—most enjoyable, a little different, and one of the restaurant's specialties. Onion rings are hand cut and fried to order.

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The award-winning establishment has been baking artisan breads and European pastries since 2010. Rose 32 wholesales bread to estab-



Royalston's Pete and Henry's waitress, Amy St. Cyr, takes orders from customers, from left, Tina Stevens, Janet Mann, and Eugene Parmenter.

photo © Mitch Grosky

ishments and farmers markets. Also a restaurant with a world-class bakery, Rose 32 serves as a mini convenience store in the village. Warm weather expands seating to outdoors, and take-out is always available.

Menus change frequently and feature local products and produce whenever possible. Barrington Roasters of Lee provides coffee via a very good coffee system. The café mocha qualified as the best I'd ever had—beautifully presented with a foam leaf design in a wide bowl. Prices are fair, and quality is high.

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Gilbertville's award-winning Rose 32 offers splendid baked goods.

photo © Rick Flematti

Nature's Nuances

by Clare Green

Spring. Have you noticed golden dandelions filling lawns? Welcome them as jeweled sunlight and not as pesky weeds. They grow in nearly every country in the world. The name is inspired by their jagged green leaves that look like a lion's teeth: in French, *dents de lion*. Their golden blossoms look like a lion's mane.

The absolutely whole plant is considered medicinal. Each part has its value and nutrient-rich offerings.

Be sure to pick dandelions free from pesticides. Don't just mow them down. Take time to enjoy fragrant dandelions, and watch insects nectaring upon them. Dandelions provide a delightful early spring source of pollination.

Fresh young dandelion leaves harbor high calcium content as well as the nutrients boron, silicon, lecithin, and choline. They make a nice addition to a salad. Or steam them like spinach. Some eat dandelion greens to help alleviate gout, rheumatism, and stiff joints, according to *The Herb Book* by John Lust.

Dandelion greens offer a fresh addition to a vegetable drink made in the juicer. Tea made from fresh root and leaves makes a stimulating tonic and cleanser to refresh the liver and act as a diuretic, according to Lust. Greens contain iron, potassium, phosphorus, and Vitamins A, B, C, and D, according to Porter Shimer in his book, *Healing Secrets of the Native Americans*.

Collect dandelion flower heads to make a lovely pale wine or simple sun tea. Sun tea completes its magic within a couple of hours, while making wine takes more



Dandelions
Taraxacum Officinale

time. Wine may need to age for between six months and five years. My homemade wine took five years, since I didn't follow the recipe exactly, but eventually I savored a delicious, slightly sweet wine.

Sauté and add flowers to stir-fries or dip them in batter. Pull apart small petals from the whole blossom to brighten a salad.

Be sure to pick a seed head, make a wish, and blow. Watch seeded parachutes take flight and land.

Consider making a dandelion crown for boys or girls for playtime or birthdays. You need only your hands as tools: use your thumbnail to split the stem for an inch-long opening, insert the next stemmed dandelion, and keep creating a line until the curved chain fits the circumference of a head. Voila!

"Nothing is ever lost on a well-worn path," says Jack Kerouac in *The Dharma Bums*. May your path be filled with nutritious and bright dandelions.

Naturalist and educator Clare Green of Warwick welcomes folks to visit her woodland labyrinth and fairy cottage.

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vineyards and wineries create varietals,

by Clare Kirkwood



Hardwick Winery produces its Maple Harvest label among ten options.

photo © Rick Flematti

Hardwick Winery Hardwick

Located on historic land of the Giles E. Warner farm established in 1795, Hardwick boasts the largest and

oldest vineyard in the Quabbin region. The federal style mansion has been restored to its original glory. The 5,000-square-foot winery is built with oak sourced from the farm's 150 acres. Fieldstones cleared for planting hybrid vines comprise the winery foundation.

The winery received a *Yankee Magazine* Editors' Choice Award for best cranberry wine in 2014 with cranberries grown at nearby Clover Hill Farm. The winery also won gold and silver medals at the Eastern States Exposition, the Big E, during the 2016 season. Hardwick Winery offers about ten wines, some of them seasonal with three sizes of wine tastings at varying prices. My favorite is The Wine Flight with my selections presented on a curved barrel stave -lovely!

A picturesque country venue, the winery hosts tastings, weddings, corporate events, paint nights, and other activities throughout the year including Maple Barn in March, Father's Day Tractor Pull, and hay rides.

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Quabbin Sky Vineyard New Salem

When owners Phil and Joyce Wiley retired in 2004 to their hilltop home in New Salem, little did they know they would soon become vintners. Planted by their neighbor Fritz von Mehring from French and German hybrids, grapevines appeared on their property in spring. Fritz mentored the Wileys, and they began a whole new journey into winemaking.

Fun and informative tastings at Quabbin Sky, a family winery, are free and offer a chance to explore color, nose, and finish of rave-worthy wines. The Wileys grow and harvest all the white varietals on their property while they purchase reds from nearby Cold Spring Orchard in Belchertown. The completely natural local product relies on no preservatives. Red grapes include three popular varietals developed for cold climates.

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seasonals, and standards in local settings

While tasting their wines, I learned about hybrids from Joyce, who explained, "Hybrids, vines with two or more parents, are developed to optimize the flavor of the grape while enabling them to thrive in cold climates. About twenty-five years ago, New York's Cornell Uni-

versity spearheaded the Northern Wine Project to create such hybrids.

Of the ten or so varieties of wines, visitors may choose five for the free tasting. Joyce suggests finishing a tasting with the red Enfield-Chambourcin. While not a dessert

wine, it pairs beautifully with anything dark chocolate--a sample is provided. The chemical reaction creates a liquid chocolate-cherry mouth feel and taste not to be missed--a great finish for a wine tasting sure to entice the taster to bring home some bottles for gifts and cooking as well as dining pleasure.

Distinctive labels and wine names pay homage to the lost towns of the Quabbin as well as their European grape parents.

Quabbin Sky Vineyard
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New Salem
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Flexible hours, usually
from 11 to 6 every day
except major holidays
(978)544-6543
pwiley@yahoo.com.
also on Facebook

Home Fruit Wine Orange

It all started with a memorial "Pearl" peach tree planted in Dave Leclaire's yard to honor his late beloved rescued Greyhound. When the tree began producing more peaches than he knew what to do with, Dave began to experiment with making

continued on Page 38

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discovering consignment stores

by Sharon Harmon

One way to live better and save money: shop consignment stores. Many have popped up in the Quabbin region. With today's DIYs and all the great ideas on Pinterest, shoppers can repurpose used items to wonderful new items. Ideas are limitless.

Young people starting out or anyone on a fixed budget can buy furniture to transform into something unique.

Consignment clothing stores offer up-to-date outfits and accessories at affordable prices. Children's consignment stores offer adorable ensembles as well as toys and infants' equipment at half new retail prices. The way children grow, shopping consignment stores means win-win.



Déjà Vu Consignment • Athol

Déjà Vu Consignment Athol

Déjà Vu women's consignments store, a lovely boutique style shop, is in its eighth year of business. Engaging proprietor Ann Willhite has a real sense of fashion. Her window displays call to women shoppers and lure them in. Ann takes consignments by appointment only according to strict guidelines.

"About a hundred new items come in weekly," she said. "My customer base is mid-twenties to mid-eighties. I have a wide demographic of ages shopping here."

Besides great clothes, she carries shoes, jewelry, and accessories for working women. "Many people come in to get something special to wear to a onetime event, like a special date, prom, or wedding and don't want to spend a lot of money," she stated. Her daughter Dana Mallet has helped her out since day one as her number one consultant and as a big part of the business.

Déjà vu hosts occasional fashion shows and books private shopping parties.

479 Main Street
Athol
(978) 249-6901
10-6 daily



Yours, His, and Ours Consignment • Athol

Yours, His, and Ours Consignment Athol

Open for five years, Yours, His, and Ours consignment store stocks furniture, collectibles, comic books, kitchen items, décor, DVDs, and baby items. The store is a great place for young couples just starting out to find furniture that, with a new coat of paint and some new hardware, can be made into one-of-a-kind items. Many retired people on fixed incomes also peruse this shop with its affordable prices.

460 Main Street
Athol
(978) 830-4835
also on Facebook

PHOTOS BY SHARON HARMON

Rannsaka Consignment Belchertown

Rannsaka Consignment Store operates as a non-profit organization to help local people. Brenda Aldrich manages the store, offers job training and classes designed to help the community. The large store includes a basement

to live large while spending less



Rannsaka Consignment • Belchertown

full of furniture for fun browsing. Rannsaka also stocks household items, glassware, crafts, and holiday items that change with each season.

115 North Main Street

Belchertown

(413) 323-0170

also on Facebook

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Small Fries Kids' Consignment • Orange

Small Fries Kids' Consignment Orange

Small Fries Kids' Consignment opened in December 2016 with two rooms featuring all things babies and kids up to Size 10-12. Almost new, up-to-date outfits abound. Young parents and grandparents as well are sure to find children's attire appropriate for the season while

continued on Page 57

Country Mischief

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stories abound at favorite haunts

by Paula J. Botch

"Our admiration of the antique is not admiration of the old, but of the natural."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Love old stuff? Love new-to-you stuff? Big "finds"? History buff? Stories? Learning what kind of techniques and tools used to make this, to make that? Recycle? Upcycle?

Antique shops around our beautiful Quabbin towns all have their stories.

North Quabbin Antiques • Orange

Leo and Brenda Piro, owners of North Quabbin Antiques, built a legacy with their longstanding

establishment housed in the circa 1872 Washburn Building in Orange. From different backgrounds—he with antiques and she with fabrics and jewelry, they came together to create the place gracing downtown Orange. Their daughter, Stephanie Smith, joined the family-owned business in recent years.

A true mom-and-pop business, the beginning occurred shortly after they acquired estate contents without specific plans for all the stuff. Brenda remembers the day—

Antique Shops, Auctions, and Flea Markets around the Quabbin (plus Brimfield)



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Barre, MA
(978) 355-0022

Village Green Antiques
699 West Street (Route 122)
Barre, MA 01005
(978) 355-4230



BELCHERTOWN

Biff-Way Auctions, Inc.
435 Amherst Road (Route 9)
Belchertown, MA
(413) 256-3500

BRIMFIELD

Brimfield Antique Flea Markets
35 Palmer Road
Brimfield, MA
(413) 347-9099



ERVING

Freight House Antiques & Café
11 East Main Street (Route 2)
Erving, MA
(413) 422-2828



HUBBARDSTON

The Country Trail
45 Gardner Road
Hubbardston, MA
(978) 928-4472

Maps © Casey Williams



HALEY'S
a mile west of
Athol center on Rte 2A
antiques & collectibles
appraisals

book publishing

Marcia Gagliardi
haley.antique@verizon.net

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Stephanie Zimmerman
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for antique hounds in Quabbin towns

September 14, 1994—sitting on the floor of their newly purchased space with only a counter near the back wall. As they went through old magazines among estate items, the front door opened and someone stepped inside asking if they were open for business. Ready or not, they were. Right then!

Reasons for items acquired have changed somewhat over time. It used to be the value of particular pieces, but now it's more driven by certain fads that tend to raise value on items at various times—a newly popular color or glassware rather than stoneware, for example. Brenda said it's interesting to learn about crafting of some pieces

and tools used to create markings and such, rarely considered by many of us.

Over the years, items in the store have changed, yet much appears the same. You'll see lots of big, beautiful old furniture that's sturdy and repairable unlike many of the mass-produced items around today. As a shopper walks through the doors, the place feels like a step into another era. How about an empty phone booth? Porcelain bathroom sink? Art Deco pieces? Musical instruments? Kitchen items? Vintage clothes? Pictures,

continued on Page 34

Antique Shops, Auctions, and Flea Markets around the Quabbin (plus Brimfield)

HUBBARDSTON (continued)

Rietta Flea Market
183 Hubbardston Road (Route 68)
Hubbardston, MA
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(978) 249-2751

ORANGE (continued)

Quabbin Valley Auction
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Orange, MA
(978) 573-8088



PHILLIPSTON

Country Antiques
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(978) 249-7517



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antique venues jostle thoughts of yesteryear

continued from Page 33

paintings, books? Fun and funny kitsch collectibles? Hardware and items for restoration and renovation are available, too. Part of the experience is the hunt”—dig around, through, and under. You're bound to unearth more than first meets the eye.

The Piro family feels strongly about the environment, and Brenda said that the antique business is the first truly green business because of recycling and upcycling. She refers to our obsolescent economy with items we purchase not quality made so that they often fall apart. Not worth keeping, they make it necessary to purchase a replacement. For the Piros, staying green includes donating medical equipment that comes into the store to programs for those in need. Some items go to thrift shops. Broken items upcycle to artists who use them in their creations.

Eventual plans to expand include green plants, blooming flowers year-round, and tea and tea blends to purchase or sample at a little in-store café. From the Earth Herbals skin products are already available.

North Quabbin Antiques has drawn visitors from all over the country and around the world with repeat customers over the years.

Village Green Antiques • Barre

Driving by Village Green Antiques and seeing signs and flags outside, I never in a million years dreamed what might be found inside. Village Green Antiques, housed in a repurposed bus barn, is an incredibly charming, cozy, and warm place.

High on the wall is a hilarious sign that says “Crime Patrols on Duty—Barre Thief & Rogue Detecting Society.” It made me laugh out loud. Store manager Patty Blaisdell must have heard my chuckling, as she introduced herself a few moments later. What a pleasure to meet her—she made me feel like a lifelong friend.

We enjoyed a grand tour of the shop as Patty spoke lovingly of the place and camaraderie with dealers in this consignment antique shop. The dealers are like family, she said—always willing to extend their hands to help whenever needed.

About twenty-five years ago, the business began in a location near Barre's town common—hence the store's name—with about eight dealers at the time. Growing out of that space, owner Bill Neylon and Patty moved the shop to its current location along Route 122. Fifteen dealers now display their wares along with Village Green's inventory.

Decorated booths around the shop are maintained beautifully with lots of variety. Walls are chock full of all

kinds of stuff, too. Barre memorabilia, furniture, a working Victrola, a mini-Victrola lamp, a Keith Urban acoustic-electric guitar, Victorian bed canopy, kitchenware, all kinds of collectibles, crafted items, and photography are a few among the large and small wonders in this magical place.

Steeple Antiques & Collectible Templeton

Steeple Antiques & Collectibles is another place you may notice on your way to here or there without ever suspecting the treasure trove it is. Owner Richard Smith and manager Kim Pirner opened the place in 2012 and successfully converted an historic 1843 Methodist church in Templeton into a place you'll love enough to return to again and again.

Once inside, you may experience the shock of realizing the place is *huge*—upstairs, downstairs, halls, and little rooms everywhere filled to the brim. It could take several visits to see it all. What immediately

caught my eye is how absolutely clean everything is, top to bottom. Interior details of the church have been retained with memorial stained glass windows and pipe organ.



Just one of many Quabbin region antique venues, Village Green Antiques in Barre features an eclectic mix of old stuff.

photo © David Brothers

During my visit, sales person/cashier Becky Grover and mascot cat Flop delightfully accompanied me. Aside from the shop's own inventory, many dealers' items are showcased in the consignment shop's booths made from church's pews filled with anything and everything you might dream of and more. Trekking through the store's maze reveals antiques of all kinds: furniture, vintage and retro items, collectibles, books, dishes and kitchen ware, crafted items, handmade candles, tools, toys, clothes, a Christmas room, and newest addition of fresh-baked items.

The Country Trail • Hubbardston

T-shirts read: "Where the hell is Hubbardston?" It's really not so hard to find and, if you watch for a great big colorful rooster along Route 68 in Hubbardston, you'll discover the charms of this store that resembles a small cabin with a front porch. Part of the building is circa 1960s with a newer addition of an old dairy bar moved to the location.

The Country Trail began as a weekend hobby for owners John and Jane Frederico back in 1997. Both worked full-time jobs but eventually found themselves running their store full time. John is the buyer and self-taught in learning the antiques business. He spent time going to auctions to observe and learn about buying and pricing. Jane helps in the store.

Many items acquired by John and Jane come from auctions and house clean-outs when people move or after a death in a family. John does house calls to consider items that may be of interest.

The shop welcomes walk-ins and telephone inquiries for those looking for a place to sell items. The store boasts an eclectic variety of antiques and collectibles including furniture, utility and wooden tools, something called a peevee, postcards, books, clothes, kitsch, iron works—the list goes on. An assortment of Quabbin regional School yearbooks from 1974 to 1990 wait for nostalgic graduates.

From a visit several years ago, I own a very affordably priced, cool vintage model Chevrolet 1950s/1960s station wagon whose engine hood and doors open. My husband loved it, and it's proudly displayed on a shelf at home.

It's worth stopping by often, as the store's inventory changes often.

In 2006, The Country Trail also became a farm stand that carries fresh organic eggs from Country Hen. Sea-

sonal produce is also available from local growers in the Connecticut River Valley. Flowers, herbs, mulch, landscaping materials, and firewood are among items and services at this surprising little place.

Quabbin Valley Auction • Orange

Growing up in family that farmed and raised poultry, Wayne Whitmore attended various types of auctions over many years. His interest piqued over time and circumstances. An entrepreneur, he jumped into auctioneering as a second business back in 2009. Wayne along with his wife/office manager Kellyanne and daughter/merchandise supervisor Mackenzie soon made the business a success with a dedicated following.

Every Friday evening at the former American Legion Home, regulars enjoy an entertaining night out, spending a few dollars to score some prized item or another. Serious dealers also attend to look for high-end antiques.

Quabbin Valley Auction also does farm sales with items from screwdrivers to bulldozers. The business also does estate and house clean-outs and is involved with area charitable fundraising auctions.

Rietta Flea Market • Hubbardston

Rietta Flea Market in Hubbardston, an extremely popular spot on Sundays from April through October, opened fifty years ago. People also call it Rietta Ranch. Launched as a small entertainment venue in 1966 by Rita Levesque, it became a flea market shortly after with only 10 vendors. Covering many acres of land, today's Rietta has space for 650 vendors with at least 400 on hand each week with all kinds of new, used, and antique items waiting to be discovered by crowds visiting every weekend. Rietta boasts a fun family experience whether you're looking for specific items, browsing, or just out for an extra interesting walk.

Brimfield Flea Market • Brimfield

Brimfield Antique Flea Markets in Brimfield is considered the premier of outdoor antiques events in the country. The flea markets, made up of approximately 20 individually-owned show fields, take place three times a year for six days each in May, July, and September. Thousands of dealers, including some from the Quabbin region, are on hand with rare and unusual antiques and collectibles. Shoppers can find themselves caught up in the thrill of the hunt and history of it all.

Paula J. Botch is a writer and photographer—and antique hound—living in Orange.

Everything Old Is New Again

by Mark Wright

" . . . think about where wonderful objects originated and made themselves useful . . . "

I can think of as many reasons to want to surround oneself with pieces of the past as with things all bright, shiny, and new. I imagine it's a personal thing. I grew up in a Depression-era house filled with antiques. A massive, curved-glass china cabinet stood sentinel in one corner of the dining room while the interior wall backed up a seemingly endless buffet with accompanying mirror overhead (over my head at least.) The room was finished with an oval table about seven feet long, its center column sweeping out at the bottom with four enormous legs ending in lions' paws.

We never used that room except to move from the kitchen to the living room. Dusted and polished weekly, the furniture spent its time alone covered with tablecloths and decorative glassware.

There were other things. We had the usual array of fancy plates, cups and saucers, and silver along with several occasional tables, unique chairs, and three telephone tables. The telephone tables, each about a foot square at the top and thirty inches tall with a drawer, had severe straight lines. Even the ones with turned legs and decoration looked like they arrived right out of a cartoon. They appeared so top heavy as to be in jeopardy of tipping over at any time, which proved too tempting for a toddler pawing at (then) cloth-wrapped telephone wire rising to meet the old phone sitting on top.



Antiques like this refinished 1930s telephone stand with its mid 20th century rotary telephone call up the past and its different ways of life.

photo courtesy of Marcia Gagliardi

Our three-foot-high Egyptian boat lamp, covered in amber glass teardrops, was one of my favorites. It took two people to carry it out of the house when my father sold most of the pieces to an antique dealer. A terrific person, my dad was of the type who preferred new things and not "dusty, old stuff he remembered seeing in his grandmother's house."

Even at seven years old, I felt sadness when the things left the "old house," as we called it, despite that we had lived in the "new house" (a large ranch house my dad built himself in the late 1960s) for over a year. The new house was complete with nice, locally made things, but I would've liked to keep at least some of the older things I grew up with during the first seven years of my life. I asked, but there just wasn't room alongside our new Heywood-Wakefield.

I have a few antique objects from my mother: some china, photographs and decorative needlework. I got to keep the telephone tables. I also have a couple of pieces from a great aunt, but by and large, most of my older things have been bought in small antique shops.

With few exceptions, I use my antiques. I think it's important to keep them working. For me, living with antiques brings important qualities of the past—even if it's someone else's past—into my present. The old things remind me of people who crafted them, owned them, and made them a part of their lives.

Everyone should give themselves the gift of spending a warm, drizzly, summer Sunday afternoon walking through rooms of an antique shop or barn, thinking about where wonderful objects originated and made themselves useful generations ago.

Mark Wright is executive director of North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce. He designs graphics for *Uniquely Quabbin*.



© Ami Fagin

French King Bridge a visual haiku

by Ami Fagin

Emotional mind states, observations of day to day reality, and the cheekier flashes of life's paradoxes are all fodder for visual haiku, according to artist Ami Fagin. Visual Haiku came as a sudden inspiration of daily watercolor meditative expressions.

Ami conceived #114, "French King Bridge," last summer while under way on the Connecticut River as she approached the regionally famous Erving bridge. She captures the wonder of form, color, and engineering of the bridge as it towers above and across the majestic Connecticut River.

Amy Fagin specializes in traditional manuscript illumination at her 20th Century Illuminations print studio in New Salem. Author of *Beyond Genocide*, she is an independent scholar in genocide studies.

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wineries

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wine. While the first try was not a hit, future tries achieved intriguing results, so Dave and his partner, Lori Perkins, began to do research on the business of making wine.

Although the small winery is the newest on the Quabbin wine-making scene, Home Fruit also has the largest menu that specializes in a wide array of local fruits and interesting blends. The engaging menu briefly describes each wine and what to pair it with, while also highlighting nutritional benefits.

The partners work together to create unique labels and names for their wines, like Cherry Blossom Crush. They hand craft each small batch from start to finish. Dave and Lori grow a surprising array and amount of fresh fruit on their modest homestead. Can you believe they grow a cold-hardy kiwi in their backyard pergola that has eight times more vitamin C than oranges? Look for a new blend of local strawberry kiwi coming soon.

Speaking of Orange, Dave and Lori created a wine called Entering Orange as a celebration of their first year in business. Although not made with local fruit, the wine sold out.

They also obtain fruit from nearby small farms where they personally pick a great deal of it. Dave insists on perfectly ripe, super juicy fruit that yields top flavor and nutrition. He picks a batch of pears, for instance, and waits for perfect ripeness, say a week or so. Then he starts a small batch of wine, and when more pears are ripe, he makes more until the season is over. Then he combines all those small, perfectly ripe batches for final processing to make an optimal, local fruit wine.

Dave has methodically planned the gradual expansion of the growing business and continually takes the steps to meet growing demand for the unique wines.

A tour of the expanding wine producing area reveals a variety of Italian stainless steel vats and tables, recycled pine paneling, and jewel-like, huge glass jars in various stages of fermentation. Dave proudly points to next year's stock, meticulously organized and labeled.

"It's all in the yeast," Dave explains as he talks about the experimentation it took to get things rolling. The winery features at least twenty fruit wines, including some old favorites like elderberry and dandelion often

continued on Page 50

A black and white photograph of a piano keyboard. The text "Fred Holmgren Piano Tuning & Repair" is in the top right corner. Below it, "Stay tuned!" is written in a large, bold font. At the bottom, the phone number "(978)544-5494" and email "fredholmgren@gmail.com" are listed.

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A stylized advertisement for Stan's Liquor Mart. It features a house-shaped logo with "Stan's" in a gothic font and "liquor mart Fine Wine & Spirits" in a box. Below the logo, it says "STOP BY AND CHECK US OUT" and "1586 SOUTH MAIN ST., ATHOL • 978-249-9550". It lists "HOME TO:" followed by "400 PLUS CRAFT BEERS" (with a photo of beer glasses), "600 PLUS WINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD" (with a photo of wine bottles), and "150 PLUS WHISKEYS" (with a photo of a whiskey barrel). At the bottom, it says "MAKE STAN'S YOUR ADULT BEVERAGE DESTINATION" and "Find Us On Facebook" with a Facebook icon.

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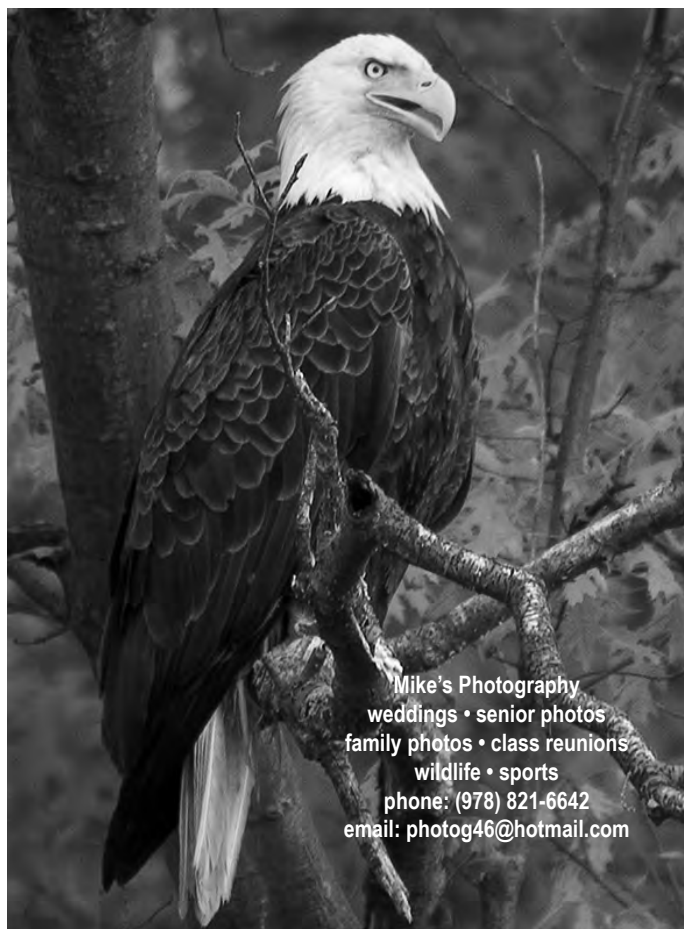
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Rutland Brook runs through the Massachusetts Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary in Petersham.

photo © John Burk

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Springtime water fills Bear's Den Gorge in New Salem, managed by the Trustees of Reservations, a member-supported nonprofit conservation organization that preserves land, nature, and historic places in Massachusetts

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PRESCHOOLS PROVIDE EARLY EDUCATION FOR DISABLED AND NON-DISABLED CHILDREN

by Laurie Smith

Public preschool settings and early intervention programs for children under the age of three provide educational opportunities for young children of the Quabbin region.

Preschool age children with disabilities are eligible to receive a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, according to the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. This constitutes what we refer to as public preschool. Public preschool is offered within the public elementary school setting.

Jeff Ferranti, special education director for the Athol-Royalston Regional School District, explained that all public schools must provide services for students with disabilities. That means that a district must include access to non-disabled peers. Often, non-disabled peers are referred to as role models. Mr. Ferranti hesitated to use the term because, he observed, some of the best role models are children with special needs who have good self-awareness and management skills.

Public preschool can be half day or full day and must be free for children with diagnosed special needs. Some districts offer public preschool for free to all students enrolled, and some have a fee. The Athol-Royalston district offers a free

half-day public preschool program as well as a free full-day program. The district provides free transportation to students with diagnosed special needs, but parents are responsible for transportation for non-disabled preschoolers.

The Quabbin school district, which services the towns of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, and Oakham, has a half-day public preschool program in the New Braintree grade school. The program requires tuition for children who do not have disabilities.

Parents and caregivers can request a referral if they have concerns about a child's development or a child has received early intervention services or may need services for speech and language, hearing, vision, physical mobility, or cognitive delays.

Further information is available at public school district offices or the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care at (617) 988-6600.

If a child is under three with potential developmental concerns, early intervention programs may help. Early intervention describes a system of services that helps infants and toddlers with developmental delays, disabilities, or identifiable adverse health conditions. Specialists work with children in a variety of environments

continued on Page 47



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yoga practitioners encourage human flourishing

by Ellen Woodbury

When I decided to interview Megan McDonough of Hardwick and Pat Roix of Athol, I thought I would be hearing about yoga classes, but their offerings turn out to be so much more.

CEO of Wellbeing Institute, Megan incorporates yoga practice into a wellbeing model for human flourishing. “We focus not on what’s wrong, but what works to promote human flourishing,” she said. Modern medicine is good at diagnosing what’s wrong, but not so good at supporting what is going right. Her educational organization focuses on research-based courses that help people live life to the fullest.

Megan enthusiastically explains the SPIRE model: a road to happiness and wellness developing five aspects of each person-- spiritual, physical, intellectual, relational, and emotional. Yoga, or “the ability to pay attention” according to Megan, certainly fits into each category. Using the mind-body connection, Megan says we can move in ways that bring changes to our thinking: yoga’s Warrior Pose can make us feel strong and capable. Our ability to open to new experiences and ideas can then grow. The more we grow, the more we can grow.

Megan points out that studies at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill by Barbara Fredrikson, president of the International Positive Psychology Association, show that when we are positive, we can see more. Our vision actually expands. When we are negative, we may escape an enemy, but over time, we develop tunnel vision and our world gets smaller.

Megan teaches all over the world and has students in forty-five countries. She and the Institute are currently developing a two-hundred-hour training leading to a certificate in Whole Being Health. Megan can be reached at (541) BE-WELL. “I like to think Whole-being Health is building rich soil to produce vigorous plants,” Megan says. “May you grow strong!”

Athol’s Pat Roix of Wellness Rising says, “I want to help people figure out who and how they want to be in this life.”

Having worked at the Athol YMCA in health and wellness, Pat began to see a bigger picture of the connections of mind, body, and spirit. She decided “to back off being the expert” and support people to see what’s best for themselves. Believing that people can find answers within themselves, Pat sees herself as a coach who can help uncover those answers.

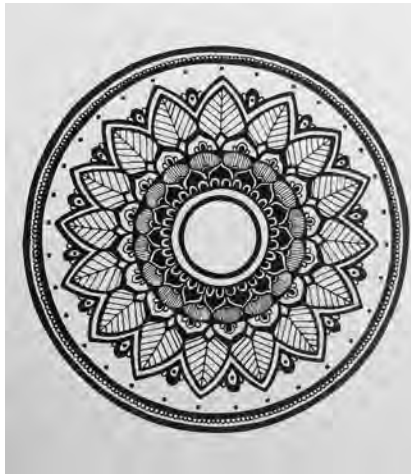
The coaching can happen in person or by phone in order to assist one in comfortable and familiar surroundings, Pat says. Busy lives, overwhelming amounts of information, or feelings of failure can get in the way of being able to see how to bring about changes or even what those changes might be. Coaching can help with clarifying where you are now, where you want to go, and how you can get there.

“Coaching gets into the nitty gritty,” according to Pat. Making lasting changes is not “a quick fix” in her way of thinking but a series of tiny steps that will endure. Citing a yearlong study of women with fibromyalgia, Pat explains that women who received phone coaching had fewer visits to their physicians and took fewer medications.

Pat says that sometimes a person’s plan can include a combination of yoga, personal training, and coaching. Some people may feel weak if they can’t “do it alone,” but Pat brings up the example of professional athletes. “Where would Tom Brady be without coaches?” she asks. “So who are we to think we have to do it alone?”

Pat says, “We all get stuck and need partners who can help us be our best selves. Our little lives are what we have, and we need to live them to the best of our ability.” Pat also teaches gentle yoga for all ages: yoga that includes chair and floor work. You can contact Pat for a free fifteen-minute consultation to see if coaching would be helpful to you at patroix@gmail.com or wellnessrising.com or (978) 249-6182.

Ellen Woodbury has been a massage therapist for twenty years. She practices in Petersham.



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Welcoming spring, three otters, left and above, spent almost a week on the west end of Lake Mattawa feeding on fish. Otters show up in the spring when ice starts to melt and big holes appear. They catch fish and haul them out onto the ice to eat the catch. Since the ban on trapping ten years ago, the northern river otter population has increased. The animals are called river otters, but they also habituate in swamps, brooks, rivers, wetlands, and large water bodies such as the Quabbin Reservoir.

photos © Dale Monette

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Athol's early April River Rat Spectacular inaugurates springtime in the Quabbin region.
The fast-start canoe race attracts paddlers from novice to expert.

photo © David Brothers



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PRESCHOOL PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES

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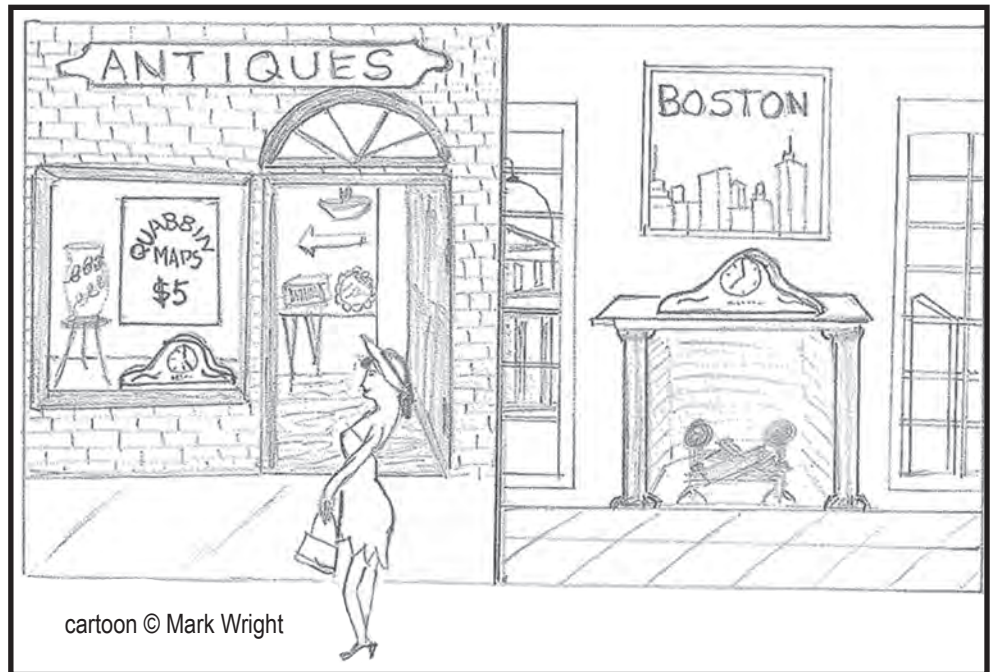
such as childcare programs, play groups, or a child's home.

Two agencies provide services in Quabbin region. The REACH program assists parents in understanding developmental needs of young children and in discovering ways to help their children grow. REACH includes Autism Specialty Services, an intensive treatment program for families with children demonstrating autism spectrum disorders.

Criterion, the region's second early intervention option, has programs designed to respond to needs and characteristics of the communities served. Criterion makes it a priority to recruit staff reflective of the area's cultural and linguistic groups. Staff develop an understanding of various cultures and incorporate cultural values and beliefs into service delivery.

Early intervention services sponsored by school districts and agencies include developmental assessments, service coordination, home and community visits, community play groups, resources and referrals, coordination with medical and community services, parent education and training, and parent counseling and supports.

Laurie Smith is an early childcare provider living in Athol.





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It's always fun to browse
in Quabbin region
antique shops!
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LOCAL WINERIES PRODUCE A RANGE OF PRODUCTS

continued from Page 29



Lori Perkins of Home Fruit Wine, Orange, works with her partner, Dave Leclaire, in their new wine-producing business.

photo © Rick Flematti

continued from Page 38

used medicinally. Some unusual flavors include tomato, rhubarb, pumpkin ginger, and blue raspberry. “Dave likes to play,” Lori said. Lori admitted that she never liked wines until Dave started making them. Dave’s personal research revealed that most people would rather a semi-sweet wine, so he tailors his own product to reflect that preference.

Dave and Lori also offer a few dry wines as well as dessert wines. The biggest sellers are berry wines, although seasonal blends like Magnificent Maple, Cranberry Bold, and David’s Jack-o’-Lantern go quickly. I use a bottle of fruit wine to deglaze sauteed cutlets for a fresh sauce and serve the rest with dinner. Think wine spritzers, sangria in summer, and mulled wine in cold weather.

The tasting room welcomes visitors with recycled pine, high stools around vintage barrels, antique wine-making memorabilia, and walls of wine. Each week, the vintners offer a seasonal wine free for tasting.

Home Fruit Wines

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Orange

open Wednesday through Friday from 4 to 8 and

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lperkins@mass.rr.com

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The Clamber Hill Inn in Petersham offers monthly wine tastings on Wednesday and Thursday evenings for thirty dollars, including appetizers and desserts as well as wines. Each month features a different topic referencing the science of winemaking, geography, history, or customs around the world of wine.

The folks at Clamber Hill have information and brochures on local wines and vineyards of the area.

Clamber Hill

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Petersham

(978) 724-8800

clamberhill.com

also on Facebook

Clare Kirkwood is a freelance writer living in Athol. She is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York.



Phil and Joyce Wiley make the most of vines they discovered on their New Salem property at Quabbin Sky vineyards.

photo courtesy of Joyce Wiley



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2017 Schedule of Events

UNIQUELY QUABBIN WEEKEND

May 18 • 7 pm • Dale Monette
Quabbin Then and Now

May 19 • 7 pm • Tom Ricardi
Birds of Prey

May 20 • 7-10 pm • Definite Maybes local band
Melanie Mangum • Charlie Mallet
Scotty Monette • Doug Plavin
\$10 admission to benefit Uniquely Quabbin magazine

May 21 • 2 pm • Dorothy Johnson
reading from *A Swift River Anthology*

May 28 • 10 am • Memorial Day Observance
Quabbin Park Cemetery

June 1 • 7 pm • Jazz Vocalist and Band

June 18 • 10 am • First Church Unitarian
Worship Service

September 22 • 7 pm • Dale Monette
Four Seasons of Quabbin

September 30 • 11 am - 3 pm • Art Show
James Franklin Gilman
itinerant artist who painted/sketched many scenes from
our local area as well as Vermont and New Hampshire

October 5 • 7 pm • Chris Daley
The Roaring 20s

*Museum will be open from 1- 3 pm
the fourth Sunday of June • July • August*

Quabbin region museums Thursday, Friday,

In cooperation with Quabbin region museums and historical societies, Athol Historical Society has organized Uniquely Quabbin weekend from Thursday, May 18, through Sunday, May 21, when the emerging consortium of Quabbin region institutions has scheduled coordinated open houses and events. Debra Ellis and Casey Williams worked with museum and historical society representatives from throughout the region to provide the following calendar.

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street, Athol, MA
7:00 pm -Dale Monette, Quabbin Then and Now, a lecture and photos
about the Quabbin
Refreshments Served
Museum open 1:00-3:00 pm the fourth Sunday of June, July, and August

Quabbin Visitors Center
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA
Open 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Royalston Historical Society
Head of the Common, Royalston, MA
Museum open 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Museum open 9:00 am-1:00 pm every second and fourth Saturday
May through the fall.

Friday, May 19, 2017

Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street, Athol, MA
7:00 pm - Tom Ricardi
Birds of Prey
Tom brings birds from his rehabilitation center and
talks about his work with them
Refreshments

L. S. Starrett Company
121 Crescent Street, Athol, MA
1:00 pm-5:00 pm
Museum open for tours; go to main office

HUBBARDSTON 250th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Tuesday, May 16th

Win a ride in the Delorean Raffle
Email Katie at hubbardston250@gmail.com

Saturday, June 17th

10:00 a.m.
Hubbardston 250th parade. Line up at 9:30 a.m.
noon to 6:00 p.m.
250th Fair at Hubbardston Rec Field
FIREWORKS (place to be determined)

Forms to participate in the parade and/or the 250th fair
on the town's website

Follow us on Facebook @ Hubbardston 250th Celebration.

& historical societies Uniquely Quabbin weekend

Saturday, and Sunday, May 18 to May 21

Friday, May 19, 2017 (continued)

New Braintree Historical Society
10 Utley Road, New Braintree, MA
6:00 pm-8:00 pm-Ice Cream Social at the 1939 Grade School, turn the crank and enjoy the delicious taste of homemade ice cream while exploring the Historical Society.

Quabbin Visitors Center
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA
Open 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Royalston Historical Society
Head of the Common, Royalston, MA
Museum open 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Workshop 13
13 Church Street, Ware, MA
7:00 pm OPEN MIC NIGHT! in the Great Hall

Workshop13
Open Mic on the third Friday, September through May
Soft drinks, beer, and wine available. Musicians sign up in advance at <http://workshop13.org/upcoming-events/>
For more information call Workshop13 @ 413-277-6072

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street, Athol, MA
7:00 pm -Definite Maybes, a local band with
Melanie Mangum, Charlie Mallet, Scotty Monette, and Doug Plavin
\$10.00 admission, proceeds to benefit *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine
Refreshments

Barre Historical Society
18 Common Street, Barre, MA
Museum open 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Scavenger Hunt for Kids
Stage Coach on display in carriage house behind museum

The Stone House Museum
20 Maple Street, Belchertown, MA
2:00 pm-5:00 pm
World War I: 100 years ago
WWI posters, armaments, helmets, uniforms, clothing on the home front, a victory garden, and souvenirs from the front.
Also Washington District Schoolhouse, on grounds since September
\$5 adults • \$4 seniors • \$2 children
Refreshments

Fisher Museum of Harvard Forest
324 North Main Street, Petersham, MA
Museum open noon-4:00 pm

Saturday, May 20, 2017 (continued)

Hubbardston Historical Society
Williamsville Chapel, 4 Burnshirt Road, Hubbardston, MA
Museum open 10:00 am-1:00 pm
Summer Social and Pie Sale: pies are available whole or by the slice
Displays on 250 years of farming and industry in Hubbardston.
Live music by local musicians

Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road, Templeton, MA
Museum open 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

New Salem Academy Museum
Old Academy Building
On the Common, New Salem, MA
Museum open 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
A designated national treasure

Pelham Historical Society
Route 202 & Amherst Road, Pelham
10:00 am (rain date Sunday at 1:00 pm)
Gate 11: Quabbin Tour along Pelham Hollow Road
Call Cynthia Weigel at 413-256-4606.
Museum is open 1:30-4:30 pm Sundays from June 3-October 1.

Petersham Historical Society
10 North Main Street, Petersham, MA
Museum open noon-4:00 pm
exhibits about farming, historical textiles, and shoes
noon-3:00 pm newly restored Ledgeville School, 191 East Street

Quabbin Visitors Center
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA
Open 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Royalston Historical Society
Head of the Common, Royalston, MA
Museum open 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Shutesbury Historical Commission
Intersection of Leverett and West Pelham Road, Shutesbury, MA
Open house at one-room West Schoolhouse 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Refreshments

Swift River Valley Historical Society
Whitaker-Clary House
40 Elm Street, New Salem, MA
1:00 pm-4:00 pm Museum Open

Sunday, May 21, 2017

Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street, Athol, MA
Museum open noon-4:00 pm
2:00 pm-Reading from *Swift River Anthology* by Dorothy Johnson and actors
Refreshments

continued on Page 54

Sunday, May 21, 2017 (continued)

Fisher Museum of Harvard Forest
324 North Main Street, Petersham, MA
Museum open noon-4:00 pm

Hardwick Historical Society
40 Common Street, Hardwick, MA
Museum open noon-4:00 pm
2:00 pm at Hardwick Town House on the Common, 32 Common Street
Master blacksmith Rob Lyon's Program "Strike While the Iron is Hot-The
New England Village Blacksmith, His Work and Role in the Community"
Free. Refreshments
Also on Facebook or call 413-477-8756.

Orange Historical Society
41 North Main Street, Orange, MA
Museum open 2:00 pm -4:00 pm
Museum open 2:00 pm-4:00 pm Sunday and Wednesday
June through September and by appointment

Quabbin Visitors Center
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA
Open 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Royalston Historical Society
On the Common, Royalston, MA
Museum open 9:00 am-1:00 pm

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summer weddings: love,



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Business Meeting, third Wednesday of the month, 7 pm

1221 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham

For information on upcoming events visit oakhamhistory.com

The Oakham Historical Museum is maintained by the Oakham Historical Association

Ahhhhh! Summer weddings. Love, sunshine, flowers, the great outdoors, and cakes!

Planning a wedding is sure to involve looking for unusual details that reflect you and your partner: the perfect spot, a wedding cake to remember, and flowers

Did you know you can get married within the Quabbin Reservoir watershed? With approximately twenty-five thousand acres to work with, you are sure to find a lovely, easily accessible spot. Imagine a ceremony on the old Dana Common with its stately trees and granite horse-hitch posts.

sunshine, flowers, the great outdoors . . . and cakes

by Linda Ruel Flynn



Wedding cakes can be traditional . . .

Some guidelines to consider if you are thinking of having a Quabbin wedding: groups of twenty-five or more need a permit; groups of a hundred-plus require hiring a ranger; receptions must be held elsewhere. For complete information, including whether there are fees, visit www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/watersupply/watershed/quabassy.pdf.

photos courtesy of
Linda Ruel Flynn

Weddings and cakes go hand in hand. Amanda Russell owns and operates Custom Cakes by Amanda on the common in Barre. Amanda specializes in cakes baked from scratch and works closely with couples to design a cake that embodies each partner's personality. I remember an unusual peek-a-boo cake with a front that seemed like a traditional buttercream-frosted cake. On the back side, however, was a castle scene with

Spiderman, Zelda, Harry Potter, and an evil apple—truly one of a kind.

I asked Amanda what is new in wedding cakes. She said,

A fun new trend in wedding cakes that I see popping up a lot is not really a trend but more of a back-to-basics idea. For a while I was getting a lot of orders for very intricate piping, cakes that look like trees, or cakes with bright colors. A lot of my couples for the upcoming wedding season are going with more traditional designs and adding lots of fresh florals, gold leaf, and simple details.

I see a lot of wedding bouquets. Succulents have provided a popular element in recent years. But how about a crown of succulents for a bride? I made one for Kay M. Succulents using moss and other natural elements secured to a white satin ribbon. The crown had to be comfortable on the bride's head and secure through the ceremony and reception—not to mention unusual and gorgeous.



. . . or nontraditional.

The Quabbin region is rich in natural beauty and talented artisans who can enhance any wedding in the most unusual ways.

Cheers!

Linda Ruel Flynn is the owner and designer of Flora-Ly Studios located in Orange. Love is love! Flora-Ly welcomes all couples.

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VALUE AND QUALITY FOUND IN CONSIGNMENT SHOPS

continued from Page 31

saving money and keeping little ones styling. Small Fries boasts shoes, books, games, and toys, including those by the popular Melissa & Doug Products. Felicia Brosseau is proprietor.

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Barre Consignment & Gift Shop

Barre

Marie Oldakowski opened Barre Consignment & Gift Shop five years ago. Shoppers find women's, men's, and children's clothing. The inventory changes for the seasons, including an assortment of shoes, jewelry and some accessories. The shop accepts consignment by appointment only. The gift shop features balloons, greeting cards, candles, wind chimes, and more.

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Sharon A. Harmon is a poet and freelance writer from Royalston.



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Central Mass Grown

www.CentralMassGrown.org

Central Mass Grown is a new initiative, born out of the need to highlight the farms of Central Massachusetts. Our organization's mission is to promote the purchase of local agricultural products, and to foster the education about its benefits to health, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Please join us.

Together we can build a strong movement to promote local agriculture and Grow the Heart of the Commonwealth.

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

May 17, Wednesday

Cinema @ the Center
7:00 pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Enjoy the cult classic *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Snacks, beer, and wine available for purchase. thecenterateaglehill.org

May 18, Thursday

Cooking with Chocolate
6 pm-8 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Join Chef Liz Barbour as she uses chocolate as the main ingredient in recipes that are not just for dessert
Register by calling (978) 249-9515
athollibrary.org

May 19- 28, Friday-Sunday

Dancing at Lughnasa
May 19, 20, 26 and 27- 7:30 pm
May 21 and 28, 2017 - 2:00 pm
Barre Players Theater
64 Common Street
Barre
Directed by Diana Canterbury
Call (978) 355-2096 for tickets
barreplayerstheater.com

May 19, Friday

Open Mic at Workshop 13
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Workshop13
13 Church Street
Ware
Registration is required to perform.
Workshop13.org

May 20, Saturday

New Salem Rabbit Run
10:00-2:00 pm
New Salem Common
A beautiful 10k trail race and 3m walk through the Quabbin woods
runreg.com

Seeds of Solidarity Farm Tour
10:00-11:30am
165 Chestnut Hill Road
Orange
Local organic farm tour
Seedsofsolidarity.org

Gate 11: a Quabbin Tour
along Pelham Hollow Road
10:00am
Town Hall Complex
Pelham
Learn about the Quabbin and everyday life along Pelham Hollow Road prior to the Quabbin's creation. pelhamhistory.org

May 20, Saturday (continued)

NEECA Spring Trails Ride
10:30 am
Lake Dennison Recreation Area
219 Baldwinville State Road
Winchendon
neeca.org

May 20-21, Saturday-Sunday

Massachusetts Military History Expo
10:00-4:00 pm
Orange Municipal Airport
645 South Main Street
Vehicles, weapons, encampments, and reenactments
history-expo.com

May 21, Sunday

NEECA Gymkhana
802 New Sherborn Road
Athol
Games are planned for riders of all abilities at the equestrian park in Athol
Neeca.org

May 23, Tuesday

Great Brownie Bake-Off
5:00 pm-6:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Make a batch of brownies and have them judged based on taste, appearance, and presentation
Register by calling (978) 249-9515
athollibrary.org

May 28, Sunday

Oakham Historical Museum Open
1:00-4:00 pm
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
Late-1700s, two-story farmhouse showcases the town's rich history through exhibits, military memorabilia, photos, books, historical clothing and special collections.
Open house hours continue on fourth Sunday through October 22, 2017
www.oakhamhistory.com
(508) 882-3111

Dragonflies at South Athol Conservation Area
3800 South Athol Road
Athol
Join MA Natural Heritage's Lynn Harper and ABNC president Dave Small for a look at early dragonflies. atholbirdclub.org

66th ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR

Athol Congregational Church

Chestnut St. (Uptown Common)
Saturday, June 3rd
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Country Store • Emporium • Books
Theme Baskets • Plants • Fudge & Pies
Jewelry Table • Cake Walk 1:50
Live Entertainment • And Much More!

Rain or Shine



May 28, Sunday (continued)

Memorial Day Observance

10:00am

Quabbin Park Cemetery

Ware

10am: refreshments followed by a parade

11am: service honoring individuals removed from their original resting places for the building of Quabbin Reservoir March behind the PHS banner with school children and Pelham residents.

pelhamhistory.org

June 1, Thursday

Jazz Vocalist and Band

7:00 pm

Athol Historical Society

1307 Main Street

Athol

atholhistoricalsociety@weebly.com

Susan Valentine Exhibit Opening

5:00 pm-8:00 pm

The Barnes Gallery

Leverett Crats and Arts

13 Montague Road

Leverett

Fine art oils paintings

susanvalentineart.com

June 3, Saturday

Athol Congregational Church Country Fair

9:00-2:00 pm

Uptown Common

Athol

Food, entertainment, games, plant sale, theme baskets, baked goods and more

(978) 249-6208

Pelham Town Hall Complex: An Updated Tour

10:00am

Pelham

Tour the Pelham Town Complex including the town hall, church/museum, cemetery, and former militia ground

pelhamhistory.org

June 4, Sunday

Party in the Hollow

10:00am 5k run

11:00-4:00 pm festival

Diemand Farm

126 Mormon Hollow Road

Millers Falls

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

presents a festival to save local farms with live music, local art vendors, family-friendly kids' activities, stories celebrating farmers and the land, local food, and more

Ticket prices TBA

mountgrace.org

June 10, Saturday

NEECA Equestrian Showcase

9:00am-10:00am

NEECA Equestrian Park

802 New Sherborn Road

Athol

neeca.org

Patty Larkin

7:30 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

Singer/songwriter performing folk and urban pop music.

1794meetinghouse.org

June 11, Sunday

King's Tour of the Quabbin

6:45-8:45am registration

Naquag Elementary School

Main Street (Route 122A)

Rutland

Bike around the Quabbin Reservoir. Not much traffic; plenty of hills. This is not a race.

sevenhillswheelmen.org

Quabbin Valley Pro Musica

3:00 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

Classical choral music

1794meetinghouse.org

NEECA Gymkhana

802 New Sherborn Road

Athol

Games are planned for riders of all abilities at the equestrian park in Athol.

neeca.org

June 14, Wednesday

New England Clock Making: From a Craft to an Industry

7:00 pm

Oakham Historical Museum

1221 Old Turnpike Road

Oakham

Robert C. Cheney of Skinner, Inc.

Talk tracing the trade of handcrafting mechanical clocks in the early eighteenth century to the birth of the Connecticut clock-making industry about 1825.

www.oakhamhistory.com

(508) 791-5823

June 15, Thursday

W. C. Fields and May West

6:00-8:00 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

The Delvena Theatre Company's two actors will bring their characters to life while you laugh as the audiences did way back when.

athollibrary.org

(978) 249-9515

June 16, Friday

Open Mic at Workshop 13

Doors open at 6:30 pm

Workshop13

13 Church Street

Ware

Registration is required to perform.

Workshop13.org

The Water Project Reunion

7:30 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

Three bands performing blues and singer/songwriter.

1794meetinghouse.org

June 17, Saturday

Orange Solstice Riverfest

4:00-10:00 pm

Orange Riverfront Park

Celebrate the Summer Solstice on the Millers River. Food and craft vendors, climbing wall, parachute jump with huge American flag, games and activities for all ages, live music and performers. At dark, floating fire pits, parade of illuminated kayaks, canoes, and paddleboats

orangeriverfest.org

Shokazoba

7:30 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

Afrobeat blend of jazz and funk music

1794meetinghouse.org

June 22, Thursday

The Gypsy Wranglers

7:30 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

A night of unique, acoustic swing music.

1794meetinghouse.org

continued on Page 62, the page after next spread

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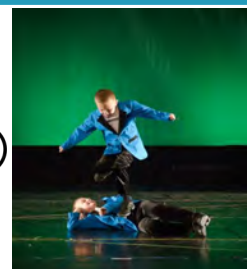
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A family practice treating all ages

Welcome to our practice!

Athol Dental Associates has been serving the North Quabbin region in central Massachusetts with excellent dental care for over 30 years. We provide comprehensive preventive dentistry, restorative dentistry, and cosmetic dentistry, as well as prompt emergency services.

Our conservative, knowledgeable, respectful and gentle approach helps you achieve optimal oral health and leads to a positive experience for patients of all ages.

New patients are most welcome to our practice. Evening and Saturday appointments are available for your convenience.

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Emergencies seen promptly

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- Evening & Saturday appointments available



Our services include:

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- Root canals
- Dentures
- Crowns & Bridges
- Cosmetic dentistry
- Periodontal treatment



Follow us on Facebook

38 Exchange Street, Athol, MA 01331

www.atholdental.com

infoatholdental@verizon.net

978-249-8545

food reviews

continued from Page 26

I found the pastries, cookies, and desserts completely to my taste with honest, wholesome, and satisfying flavors with nothing too sweet. The bakery definitely has a European flair with lots of almonds, lemon, coconut, and fruit flavorings and everything made from scratch with quality ingredients. Plates I saw served to others were tempting and hearty.

Rose 32 is a gem to be savored.

Rose 32

412 Main Street (Route 32)

Gilbertville, a village of Hardwick
open Thursday and Friday

7-4 and Saturday and Sunday 7-3

(413) 477-9930

also on Facebook

Clare Kirkwood is a freelance writer living in Athol. She is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York.



Early twentieth-century postcards feature Sentinel Elm, once on the site of the Farm School, North Orange.

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Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from Page 59

June 23-25, Friday-Sunday

Yankee Engine-uity Show

Friday 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Saturday 8:00-9:00 pm

Sunday 8:00-2:00 pm

Orange Airport

80 Airport Road

Orange

Antique engines, tractors, cars and trucks, flea market, steam engines and machinery, live steam table, kiddie tractor pull, tractor parade, gas engine raffle, food concessions, and more
Cmsgam.org

June 24, Saturday

Red Riding Hood film

7:30 pm

Wendell Free Library

7 Wendell Depot Road

Wendell

wendellmass.us

David Mallet

7:30 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

Singer/songwriter performing folk and country music.

1794meetinghouse.org

June 29, Thursday

The Art of Self Publishing with

Author Steve Michaels

6:30-7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Learn how to self-publish

athollibrary.org

The Wildcat O'Halloran Band

7:30 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

A night of contemporary blues music

1794meetinghouse.org

July 1, Saturday

The Twangtown Paramours

7:30 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

A night with a Nashville American Folk Duo

1794meetinghouse.org

July 6, Thursday

Fire Pond

7:30 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

A night of Old-Time, Swing, Roots and Celtic music

1794meetinghouse.org

July 8, Saturday

The O-Tones

4:00 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

Hot Swing and Motown music

1794meetinghouse.org

July 9, Sunday

NEECA Gymkhana

802 New Sherborn Road

Athol

Games are planned for riders of all abilities at the equestrian park in Athol.Neeca.org

Duo Déjà Vu

4:00 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

Hartka and Lysakowski – Cello and Piano

1794meetinghouse.org

July 15, Saturday

Farm and Garden Tour

10:00 – 4:00 pm

Oakham

Maps at gazebo on town common

A mix of home gardens, family farms, and a vineyard

www.oakhamhistory.

Old Home Day

Town Common

New Salem

10:00 am-4:00 pm

12 noon parade of flags

old-fashioned fun-filled day for all ages: arts/crafts market, old-fashioned games, live music, cake walk, pony rides, book and plant sales, cross-cut saw contest, Quabbin tree walks
An event celebrating ethnic diversity

July 15, Saturday (continued)

The Mad World of Adam Bergeron

7:30 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

Piano music ranging from classical to rock

1794meetinghouse.org

July 16, Sunday

Barre Horse Show

Felton Field

Barre

neeca.org

Erin Dubois with Andrew D'Antonio

4:00 pm

1794 Meeting House

The Common

26 South Main Street

New Salem

A night of classical flute and piano music

1794meetinghouse.org

July 18-22, Tuesday-Saturday

Summer Arts Intensive

New Salem Academy

A one-week multi session program for working age youth and older adults. Five local arts professionals will open their studios to provide training in the arts Students will exhibit or perform their work following the classes
Registration is required

20thci@gmail.cm

(978) 799-5332

July 18, Tuesday

Wild Greens:

Woodland and Field Plants of the 1830s

5:30 pm

Pelham Library

2 South Valley Road

Pelham

Discover nineteenth century applications of medicinal woodland plants through a presentation and walk
pelhamhistory.org

July 20, Thursday

Ted Reinstein's *Wicked Pissed*

6:30 pm-8:00 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Presentation and book signing of

Wicked Pissed: New England's Most Famous Feuds by Ted Reinstein
athollibrary.org

July 20, Thursday (continued)

Jon McAuliffe
7:30 pm
1794 Meeting House
The Common
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Electronic folk, folk-rock, jazz, and blues music
1794meetinghouse.org

July 21, Friday

Open Mic at Workshop 13
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Workshop13
13 Church Street
Ware
Registration is required to perform.
Workshop13.org

July 22, Saturday

The Last Day on Mars film
7:30 pm
Wendell Free Library
7 Wendell Depot Road
Wendell
This free film showing speculates about life on Mars. Rated R
wendellmass.us

July 27, Thursday

Danika Holmes and Jeb Hart
7:30 pm
1794 Meeting House
The Common
26 South Main Street
New Salem
A night filled with acoustic soul and pop music
1794meetinghouse.org

August 5, Saturday

Youth Fun Day
NEECA Equestrian Park
802 New Sherborn Road
Athol, MA 01331
neeca.org

August 12, Saturday

Tour of Meads Corner Farm
10am
730 Gulf Road
Belchertown
Come see this exquisite piece of history dating back to 1780. pelhamhistory.org

August 12, Saturday (continued)

Anthony Kaczynski Rock Tri-fecta
7:30 pm
1794 Meeting House
The Common
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Music from Kaczynski, Trusty Sidekick and Fireking
1794meetinghouse.org

August 18, Friday

Open Mic at Workshop 13
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Workshop13
13 Church Street
Ware
Registration is required to perform.
Workshop13.org

August 19, Saturday

The Howling film
7:30 pm
Wendell Free Library
7 Wendell Depot Road
Wendell
Explore the idea of werewolves living peacefully among us in this free film showing.
Rated R
wendellmass.us

August 20, Sunday

NEECA Gymkhana
802 New Sherborn Road
Athol
Games are planned for riders of all abilities at the equestrian park in Athol. Neeca.org

August 26, Saturday

Town-Wide Yard Sale
8:00 am- 3:00 pm - Rain or shine
Maps available at Senior Center
Oakham Town Hall
2 Coldbrook Road
Oakham
www.oakhamhistory.com
(508) 882-3358

September 2-4, Saturday-Monday

Appleseed County fair
Saturday 10:00- 6:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 - 5:00 pm
Monday 10:00-4:00 pm
Red Apple Farm
455 Highland Avenue
Phillipston
Live music, food, local brewers, artisans, lawn, tractor pulls and more. The orchard will be open for picking, Sponsored by the Johnny Appleseed Trail Association
Appleseed.org

September 9, Saturday

Hilltown Brewfest
12:00-5:00 pm
Cooleyville Junction
837 Daniel Shays Hwy (Rte. 202)
New Salem
Brewers and bands all getting together for a fun-filled afternoon of tastings to raise money for local fire departments
Hilltownbrewfest.com

September 15, Friday

Open Mic at Workshop 13
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Workshop13
13 Church Street
Ware
Registration is required to perform.
Workshop13.org

September 16, Saturday

North Quabbin Fall Festival
9:00am-4:00 pm
Live entertainment, raffles, farmers market, food, vendors, and more!
Main Street
Athol
northquabbinchamber.com

For events posted after our calendar deadline, go online to uniquelyquabbin.com and visitsnorthquabbin.com

calendar listings compiled by Emily Boughton
submit calendar listings to haley.antique@verizon.net



Springtime apple blossoms promise fall apples at Red Apple Farm, Phillipston.

photo © John Burk

Please consider a donation to
Uniquely Quabbin magazine.

Please mail to
Athol Historical Society c/o Debra Ellis
1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue
Athol, MA 01331

Thank you.



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Service Above Self

1794 Meetinghouse 2017 Concert Schedule

June

Patty Larkin
Sat 6/10

Quabbin Valley Pro Musica
Sun 6/11

The Water Project Reunion
Fri 6/16

Shokazoba
Sat 6/17

The Gypsy Wranglers
Thu 6/22

David Mallett
Sat 6/24

The Wildcat O'Halloran Band
Thu 6/29

July

The Twangtown Paramours
Sat 7/1

Fire Pond
Thu 7/6

The O-Tones
Sat 7/8

Duo Déjà Vu
Sun 7/9

Mad World of Adam Bergeron
Sat 7/15

Erin Dubois + Andrew D'Antonio
Sun 7/16

Jon McAuliffe
Thu 7/20

The Green Sisters
Sat 7/22

Danika Holmes & Jeb Hart
Thu 7/27

Jeff Snow
Sat 7/29

August

Lonesome Brothers
Sat 8/5

Anthony Kaczynski
Rock Tri-fecta
Sat 8/12

1794 Meetinghouse
26 Main Street
on the common in historic
New Salem

for ticket information and times
visit our website
1794meetinghouse.org

QUABBIN VALLEY AUCTION

30 WHITNEY STREET

ORANGE MA 01364

978-673-8088



GENERAL MERCHANDISE AUCTIONS EVERY FRIDAY AT 6PM