

*Uniquely Quabbin* magazine serving

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THE SOUTH QUABBIN: Barre • Belchertown • Hardwick (Gilbertville) • Hubbardston • Leverett • New Braintree • Oakham • Pelham • Rutland • Shutesbury • Ware



Royalston's Spirit Falls cascades over mossy rocks.  
photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

**ON THE FRONT COVER**

*Hanging Laundry, 1950*

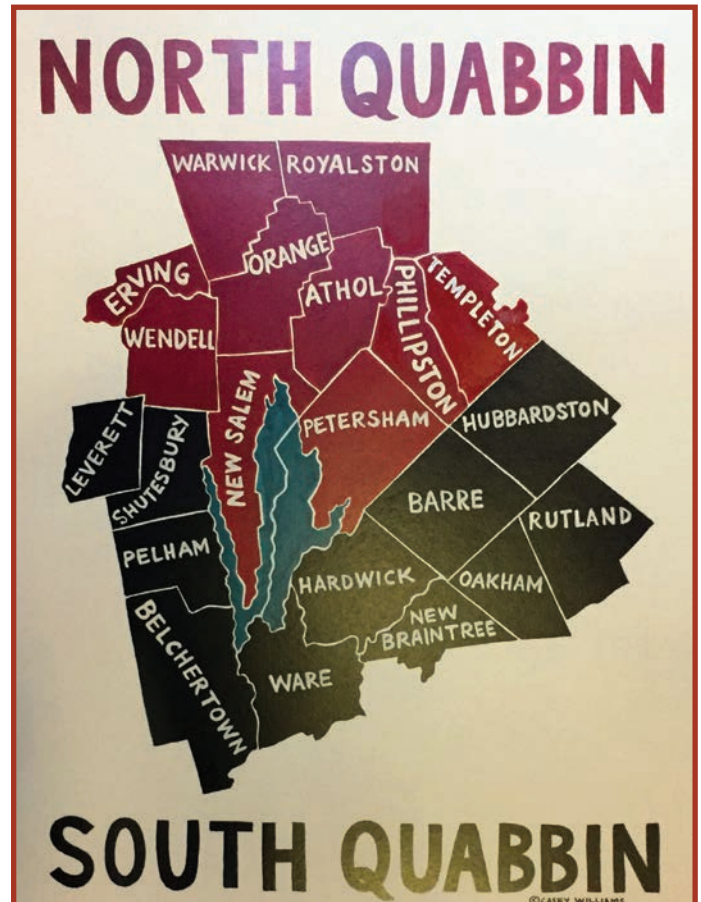
a watercolor by the late Barbara Ellis of Petersham

# CONTENTS

volume 3, number 1 • May-August 2018

*this issue features summer activities, history, up-to-date listings, and  
sights to see in the uniquely Quabbin heart of Massachusetts*

farmers markets . . . . .	4
farming hopefuls hone skills . . . . .	6
beginning farmers access land . . . . .	8
chickens, eggs come first on region's poultry farms . . . . .	10
building soil . . . . .	12
florists, nurseries, co-ops offer gardening supplies . . . . .	14
Barbara Ellis's evolution of technique and style . . . . .	16
historical society schedules . . . . .	18
Prescott Peninsula bus tours . . . . .	22
continued on page 2	



maps, bottom, show Quabbin towns past and present • maps © Casey Williams

# CONTENTS

Quiet Places/Quiet Thoughts.....	24
Quabbin Currents .....	28
veterinary alternative care .....	30
Worcester Revolution .....	34
Nature's Nuances .....	38
visual haiku .....	41
restaurant reviews .....	42
wedding WOWs.....	46
New Salem Academy legacy.....	48
calendar listings.....	51

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## a note of thanks from Athol Historical Society

As always, thank you . . .

On behalf of the Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the cultural councils of Athol, Belchertown, New Salem, Oakham, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, and Wendell for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with local cultural council grants for 2018. Their support is vital to the life of our magazine.

I am thankful to participate in the creation of this magazine. The people I work with always delight me with their knowledge and ideas, and readers make me smile every time they praise the beauty of our region. We all seem to find joy in the natural beauty that surrounds us when we take the time to look around and explore after we read an article or look at a photograph in *Uniquely Quabbin*. And there's the joy of interacting with people in our twenty-one-town area who contribute in so many ways by sharing stories and experiences as we share community.

Thank you to our advertisers, an ever-growing list of businesses and organizations that support *Uniquely Quabbin*. Please support them.

Joyfully and gratefully,  
Debra Ellis, treasurer  
Athol Historical Society

FIND LISTINGS FOR  
NORTH QUABBIN AND SOUTH QUABBIN EVENTS  
BEGINNING ON PAGE 51

## about *Uniquely Quabbin*

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

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## a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

After a protracted winter, how cheering to bring you our summer magazine filled with information about growing, gardening, farming, and much more. Our writers, photographers, artists, and advertisers bring you plenty of news and things to do from the *Uniquely Quabbin* region.

We hope you enjoy this issue. We certainly have enjoyed preparing it. We find out so many new things each time we put the magazine together. Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher  
Haley's

## Letter to the Editor

Editor, *Uniquely Quabbin*

I've been thinking about refugees a lot lately. Six and a half million worldwide seems to be the accepted number: people just like you and me.

My thoughts connect the suffering of immigrants from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Central and South America to our own Quabbin relocation scheme. The same old power structures work. People, just like us, forced to leave their homes by outside forces, international in scope and military in execution today if not during creation of Quabbin Reservoir.

In the 1930s, inhabitants of four central Massachusetts towns found themselves subjected to rich, powerful, urban government forces and forced to evacuate just as our international wars today force people to leave their homes. People, just like us, were legally denied local citizenship by the state legislature's proceedings of disincorporation in 1927. Citizens of Enfield, Greenwich, Dana, and Prescott became displaced persons like today's international immigrants.

Whether we experience or experienced dislocation, it is about us. We know the story of the death of four towns and the displacement of families who had lived in those towns for generations. And it's about now. How do we stop that same kind of suffering now? Today's refugees, even if they are thousands of miles away from us, have human rights, just like us. What can we do to make things right?

It's about how we will honor our past and resist current assaults to the human dignity of people just like us.

Patricia Morris  
Brookline, Massachusetts  
(where we drink water from Quabbin Reservoir)

# Uniquely Quabbin

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Free

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We invite contributions to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine.  
Contact Marcia Gagliardi at [haley.antique@verizon.net](mailto: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.

## 2018 Quabbin region farmers market schedule

Athol Farmers Market  
Uptown Common, Athol  
Saturdays • 9 am-noon  
May 19-mid-October

Barre Farmers Market  
Barre Common  
Saturdays • 9 am-noon  
May 12-October 20

Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market  
Belchertown Common  
Saturdays • 10 am-2 pm  
June 10-October 7

Hardwick Farmers Market  
Hardwick Common  
first and third Sundays • 11 am-2 pm  
June 17-October 28

Hubbardston Farmers Market  
Hubbardston Fair  
Curtis Recreational Field, Hubbardston  
11 am-2 pm • June 23 (rain date June 24)

Hubbardston Field Day  
Curtis Recreation Field, Hubbardston  
9 am-3 pm • September 9, 2018

Hubbardston Harvest Fair Market  
Williamsville Chapel  
Burnshirt Road, Hubbardston  
noon-3 pm  
November 18, 2018

New Braintree Farmers Market  
Stone Church, Gilbertville  
second and fourth Sundays 11 am -2 pm  
June 17-October 28

Orange Farmers Market  
Orange Armory Parking Lot  
Thursdays • 3-6 pm  
May 18-October 19

Petersham Farmers Market  
On the Common, Petersham  
Fridays • 3-6 pm  
June 8-October 19

Phillipston Farmers Market  
Town Common, Phillipston  
Saturdays • 8 am-1 pm  
May-October

Shutesbury Farmers Market  
Town Hall, 1 Cooleyville Road  
8:30 am-noon • Saturdays  
May 23-October 17

Ware Farmers Market  
104 West Street, next to CVS  
Saturdays • 9 am-1 pm  
June 6-October 10

Wendell Farmers Market  
Town Common, Wendell  
Saturdays • 10 am-1 pm  
June-October

farmers market listings  
compiled by  
Carla Charter



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## *farmers markets abound from Aix-en-Provence to the Quabbin region*

text and watercolor by Candace Anderson



*Market Day in Aix-en-Provence*  
watercolor © by Candace Anderson

*The market is an enchanted world where stall holder talent combines with customer desire to make products appear different from what they are. As I heard (a market patron) say “Pumpkins are rounder at the market.”*

—*Market Day in Provence* by Michèle de La Pradelle

Grab your market basket and prepare to treat your eyes, ears, and taste buds to the tantalizing delights at a farmers market! Since 1960, the market movement in the United States has experienced growth from a mere hundred markets to nearly nine thousand. In the Quabbin region, twelve markets operate regularly throughout the growing season (see the accompanying schedule).

Market culture often brings to mind southern France’s agricultural mecca in Provence. There, the sun-dappled town of Aix-en-Provence is renowned for its markets, set up in courtyards that date back to Roman times. Visitors to the colorful markets in Aix may sample Provençal olives, freshly harvested almonds, or truffles unearthed by specially trained truffle pigs. And they may walk in the footsteps of the painter Cezanne, who was born in Aix.

Our own country’s first major farmers market was Central Market in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Dating to 1730, the market served as the center for selling that region’s richly diverse agricultural products. It’s not necessary to travel to Provence or Lancaster to support farm-to-table initiatives at farmers markets. Find markets in the Quabbin region communities of Athol, Barre, Belchertown, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Shutesbury, Ware, and Wendell.

So dazzle your senses with a trip to one of the nearby farmers markets. Treat your ears to some local music while you contemplate the aesthetics of heirloom tomatoes. Be prepared for making tough decisions, such as whether Green Zebra or Brandywine tomatoes will look most resplendent garnished with basil and goat cheese. And later in the season, be on the lookout for pumpkins rounder than you’ve ever seen!

The watercolors and murals of Petersham resident Candace Anderson grace many public and private spaces.

# *farming hopefuls hone useful skills at*

by Clare Kirkwood

We are fortunate in the Quabbin region to have two good farm schools, one each in the north and south. In the past, most farmers learned their skills passed down through generations or perhaps through years of apprenticeship, and there have long been graduates of agricultural colleges.

Today, farming hopefuls often find a different route to skill building. Some choose a route as volunteer or apprentice or even bend their backs on a farm for a working “vacation.” It’s becoming increasingly common for farming devotees to pay to attend farm schools around the world. Programs vary from the professional to the hobbyist. Some farming programs take a culinary focus and can encompass almost any age of student. My own experience of growing up on a small family farm contributes to my appreciation of such valuable resources in our community.

## **The Farm School Athol and Orange**

A visit to the Farm School made for an inspiring experience. Manager Nora Weaver, a Farm School graduate, set up informal meetings with many of the key players who run the Farm School’s three-pronged program. Several of those I spoke with live on as well as work on one of the Farm School’s several properties. Many former graduates share palpable commitment and enthusiasm.

Founder Ben Holmes worked with local farmers to combine four old family farms that steward the three programs forming the basis of the school. Components overlap and complement each other. The Learn to Farm Program offers a full-time, intensive, residential year-long program for adults. Seventy percent go on to farming after graduating while others seek a culinary venue or farming as a hobby. More than 125 people have graduated during the past fourteen years.

The program teaches hands-on skills necessary for the small-scale, diversified farm. Students learn tractor maintenance, carpentry, animal husbandry, marketing, and methods for growing organic fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Farm School students provide vegetables for more than two hundred CSAs (community supported agriculture programs) on twelve acres of land with



Springtime is lamb time at the Farm School in North Orange.  
photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

a winter CSA comprised of beef, lamb, pork, and eggs. The day I visited, students were preparing large quantities of preserved or fermented vegetables into sauerkraut, salsa, and pickles. Another group took a hands-on carpentry lesson.

The Program for Visiting Schools provides a three-day residential stay for middle-school children. The day I visited, students attended from a Rutgers, New Jersey, prep school. Teachers and children alike dive into all aspects of the farm experience from gardening to forestry and animal care, food prep and more. Director Patrick O’Connor, called Patch, said that mentoring kids with kindness, laughter, meaningful work, fresh air, and exercise characterizes the program and equips them with important skills and confidence that can last a lifetime.

The Chicken Coop middle school, a one-room schoolhouse serves kids who have been home-schooled or who want an alternative to conventional private



# Quabbin region's two farm schools

or public schooling. Reasonably priced, The Chicken Coop, a private school, has all the benefits of a conventional education along with pluses of exposure to farm life. Chicken Coop students have small-class nurturing in conventional subjects plus art and music. Often pressed into service during harvest, they help fill out the working contingent.

Chicken Coop kids contribute in many ways while gaining experience, knowledge, and confidence that will affect their future lives in positive ways. They also provide a treasury of future farmers and food workers in the area.

## Cold Springs Orchard Research and Education Center Belchertown

Cold Springs Orchard and Farm Stand serves as an outreach site for the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, CAFE. The orchard and farm stand, a teaching and research facility, offers college students

a place to learn about and experience all phases of fruit production. Since 1962, much research has been conducted there with new fruit varieties, efficient horticultural techniques, and environmentally friendly pest management approaches. Many commercial fruit growers have benefited from knowledge gleaned at the facility. Local wineries purchase stock there.

The orchard and farm stand also provide a great place for community residents to purchase fruits and fruit products while enjoying a stunning view of the Holyoke mountain range. The orchard and stand offer more than a hundred varieties of apples from antiques and standards to newer varieties that won't be found in a store because their fragile nature doesn't allow them to ship well.

Cold Springs also features peaches, nectarines, pears, berries, grapes, sunflowers, sour cherries, orchard honey, and pressed cider as well as jams and jellies. The seasonal farm stand has a pick-your-own program.

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

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# beginning farmers find creative ways to access land and

by Pat Larson

New farmers in their thirties explore creative ways to access land and start a farming venture. Front Yard Farm in Ware and True Calling Farm in North Orange employ creative ways to deal with the issue of accessible land for growing organic produce.

Kelly Wheeler in Ware began growing vegetables for her family in 2012 and sold extra produce from their home garden at local markets. To get started, Wheeler and her partner, Chris Allard, began by sheet mulching over the grass in their front yard to build soil. Wheeler said, "The goal is to show the community that food can be grown anywhere if you try hard enough! While we can grow food anywhere, having access to good farmland is key to the health of our local food economy."

In 2015, the Front Yard Farm expanded with Wheeler "farming full time" with help from Allard, who has a business. Farming full time meant continuing to grow food in their front yard and also growing in three

greenhouses and on organic land leased from Clover Springs Farm in West Brookfield, Wheeler said. Wheeler and Allard still hope to buy a larger piece of land in the future and continue their farming endeavors.

Another newer farming enterprise in North Orange is True Calling Farm. After graduating from the Farm School's Learn-to-Farm-Program for adults, Amber Bahn and Forest Wilber negotiated use of one acre of land on a large North Orange farm owned by Wilbur's uncle, Warren Rice.

Wilber explained that both his grandfather and great-grandfather farmed on the "ridge top in North Orange," so he had ties to the area before teaming up with Bahn as a business partner. They started True Calling Farm by growing vegetables on a small plot of land. Both Wilber and Bahn want to manage a small plot of land intensively and over time increase their yield by improving growing practices without having to scale up and use more land.

Both farmers offer creative approaches to gaining access to small plots and can serve as models for young adults new to farming. The next big question for such endeavors centers on finding markets for local organic produce. How and where can new farmers begin to find a niche in a complex and ever-changing food system?

Wheeler started by selling at farmers markets in West Brookfield and Northampton. She also had a farm stand and sold to local stores and restaurants. Then in 2015, she started selling shares in community supported

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## start new farming ventures

agriculture (CSA) by selling what grew at the Front Yard Farm. A CSA allows farmers and consumers to share some of the risk related to the growing season in New England. With traditional CSAs, consumers subscribe to pay up front for a weekly farm share and get a box of produce each week that they pick up at the farm or at some other central location. Wheeler said that she will not sponsor a subscription CSA but will team up with a store in Brookfield to offer weekly availability so customers can place orders and pick up at store.

Wheeler's idea seems similar to the plan Bahn and Wilber have for True Calling Farm. Bahn explained that True Calling Farm will use a debit-style CSA in the first year and focus on selling CSA shares to contacts in the community and at a church in Northfield. Such a CSA share moves away from the boxed share and allows CSA subscribers to have more choices from a small operation. Subscribers will receive a list of available items each week. They order from the list and have money deducted from their upfront subscription.

In the long run, people interested in local and regional food systems must figure out more ways to support local farmers as well as consumers to make fresh local food accessible and affordable. Young farmers in the Quabbin region pointed to the Healthy Incentive Program (HIP) as one mechanism to support both farmers and recipients of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and encourages more consumption of locally grown produce. Under review at press time by the state legislature for possible continuation after exceeding budgeted expectations, HIP in Massachusetts sold almost three million dollars more produce grown by local farmers.

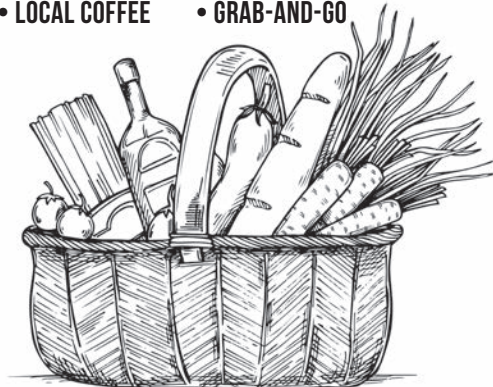
Operators of both Front Yard Farm and True Calling Farm agreed that CSAs are a way for new farms to get money upfront to allow for some income early in the season when there are many expenses. Also, farmers markets provide experience about selling products and becoming part of a local farm community.

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

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Baby chicks, left, mingle at Diemand Farm, Wendell, and hens roost at The Country Hen, Hubbardston.  
photo, left, © by Rick Flematti • photo, right, © by John Burk

## CHICKENS AND EGGS BOTH COME FIRST ON QUABBIN REGION POULTRY FARMS

by Allen Young

Having grown up on a chicken farm and with eggs and chicken a major part of my diet, it's only natural that I should want to write about poultry farms in the Quabbin region.

The region's largest poultry farms are The Country Hen on Williamsville Road in Hubbardston and the Diemand Farm on Mormon Hollow Road in Wendell. They vary substantially in size and operations.

In 1987, George Bass of Brookline, a pioneer in production of organic eggs, founded The Country Hen, which may well be the largest chicken farm in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He sold the business recently to Hidden Villa Ranch of Fullerton, California, a corporate owner that depends on the general manager, Bob Beauregard of Spencer, to maintain its meticulous high organic standards with certification of the United States Department of Agriculture. The farm has also earned a label of Certified Humane from Humane Farm Animal Care. Devoted exclusively to egg production, The Country Hen markets its eggs primarily in supermarkets in half-dozen containers, rather than the typical twelve-egg containers. Ron Lambert of the DeMoulas Corporation told me The Country Hen eggs are a big seller at \$3.69 a half dozen.

At the farm, seven buildings house about a hundred thousand cage-free birds that lay the favored New England brown eggs from Rhode-Island-Red-type

breeds such as Hyline Brown and Bovan Brown. Quality is enhanced via an original feed formulation—with grains milled right on the premises—and the addition of Omega-3, a fatty acid good for human health. The Country Hen has thirty-five employees. Four trucks distribute eggs in daily runs to several states. Hatcheries in Pennsylvania ship baby chicks.

Diemand Farm, by contrast, remains a family-owned farm, founded in the 1930s, with siblings Faith, Peter, and Annie as the actual owners and other family members part of the hard-working team. Diemand Farm has some three thousand laying Isa Brown hens, caged,



Characteristically brown, reflecting a New England preference, Diemand Farm crated eggs await distribution to retail outlets.  
photo © by Rick Flematti



but the farm will make changes over the next several years to comply with a new state mandate ending the use of cages, according to Faith Diemand. The Diemand Farm Store sells eggs for \$3.50 a dozen. Diemand's also has hormone-free White Hollander meat birds. The farm also raises turkeys, about 4,000-6,000 annually, mostly for Thanksgiving.

In a nice country setting, The Diemand Farm Store offers many tasty prepared food items, fresh or frozen, including chicken and turkey pot pies, soups, sandwiches, and home-made baked goods.

I found Hall Poultry Farm on Enfield Road in Pelham with the help of Google, but when I got the owner, Richard Hall, on the phone, I learned that he has not raised chickens for several decades. He said the eggs he distributes locally ship to him from Pennsylvania.

Just a few miles from my home in West Royalston is the 138 Main Street Farm at that address in North Orange. Started in 2013 by Manny and Kevin McMann, the small farm has rabbits, goats, and some sixty hens living healthy, free-range lives. The flock includes various breeds laying white and brown eggs, which the McManns package to sell in their small farm stand for three dollars a dozen. "This doesn't even cover our expenses," said Manny.

On Sheldon Road in Barre, Many Hands Organic Farm owned by Jack Kittredge and Julie

Rawson, has a hundred hens and sells chicken eggs for seven dollars a dozen.

Regional coops also offer locally produced eggs for sale, and random places in the region post "fresh-eggs-for-sale" signs.

Columnist Allen Young lives in Royalston. He received the University of Massachusetts Writing and Society Award in 2004. Find his autobiography, *Left, Gay, and Green*, at Amazon.

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# farmers really don't have to till soil:

by Ricky Baruc



Partly or fully decomposed manure (cow, chicken, horse, as above; or what have you) will add organic matter to help build soil.

photo © by Marcia Gagliardi

When we purchased our long-abandoned farm in Orange with a plan to grow vegetables on the rocky land, it was what we could afford.

On my previous farm, we used roll after roll of black plastic to keep weeds down for row crops. As I looked out at the overgrown fields on our land that first spring on Chestnut Hill Road, I wondered how cardboard would work compared to the plastic. It seemed like the right thing to do, to re-use a waste product and free resource from trees. I had no idea then that mulching with cardboard would turn into one of my great passions and a great way for gardeners and small farmers alike to build rich and vital soil.

I had previously farmed larger acreage with tractors. It was organic, but the pace and lifestyle were *not* sustainable. I wanted to farm in a way that let nature lead the way over machinery. Worms, microbes, and fungi would be my best allies, and I knew that tilling would not enhance those populations.

Many people think that farmers have to till soil, but in fact, only about two percent of the world's farmers use machinery; eighteen percent, animal power; the rest, their hands and simple tools. Worm-till proved to be essential in transforming our acidic land, marginal at best, into balanced, rich agricultural soil for growing vegetables. Worms do incredible work to aerate and add nutrient rich castings (worm poop).

The cardboard method represents the first of three techniques that comprise our no-till, soil-building toolbox at Seeds of Solidarity Farm, evolved over two decades, by necessity and with many lessons from nature.

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Find out more at [facebook.com/QuabbinQuills](https://facebook.com/QuabbinQuills).



# farmers really have to build soil

And, the methods are simple enough that home gardeners or small farmers can experiment and see which work best for them. Used for different and complementary reasons, the methods build organic matter in the soil, promote beneficial soil microbes and mycorrhizal fungi, reduce weeds, conserve water and labor, and respond to climate change by helping keep carbon in the earth while reducing emissions from machinery.

Lay plain corrugated cardboard gardens at the end of a growing season to keep soil from eroding and to invite worms and microbe activity through the winter or in the spring. Cover cardboard with mulch hay or partly or fully decomposed manure (cow, horse, chicken, or what have you) to hold cardboard in place and keep moisture in so the cardboard decomposes. Ultimately, mulch hay or manure will also add organic matter to help build soil.

At planting time, make holes through the cardboard for seedlings, leaving the rest in place as mulch. Cardboard provides weed control, moisture control, and nutrient rich castings—a perfect fertilizer. Cardboard provides the perfect worm food, and worm castings make perfect plant food—it's a beautiful symbiotic relationship. Supporting a diverse soil ecosystem is critical to plant growth as beneficial microbes in healthy soil are essential to making all nutrients available to plants.

Another way to prepare and build soil without tilling involves the use of large silage tarps, also called bunker covers or panda covers placed on gardens or fields at the end of a season to create darkness. Plant/weed biomass dies and feeds the soil with some green manure you can

also rake off if you use the method to create bare ground for planting. Available at farm suppliers that cater to dairy farmers, silage tarps are much thicker and more durable than regular black plastic and last many years. You can easily move them around a farm or garden as needed. Resourceful folks may find recycled billboard covers to use in the same way.

Cover crop annuals also provide an excellent way to improve land and pasture, suppress weeds, invite pollinators, fix nitrogen, and serve as green manure that decomposes to help enrich the soil. Many types of cover crops do the trick, but buckwheat, sorghum, rye, and oats are common—clovers and vetches, too, although such varieties are most often perennials. While some think you need to till cover crops in, previously mentioned no-till techniques work well to incorporate cover crops into the soil.

To truly feed our communities and ourselves, we cannot depend solely on existing farmland but must create gardens and small farms in as many settings as possible. Building soil and growing on land not considered agricultural is critical to our food supply. Growing practices that build a living soil rich with worms, microbes, and mycorrhizal fungi offer the key to better gardens and farms, land reclamation, and a much-needed, sacred relationship with the soil that feeds us.

Ricky Baruc and his wife, Deb Habib, founded Seeds of Solidarity Farm and Education Center in Orange. They offer a seasonal calendar of public programs including tours and workshops. Plus, they have a farm stand. Visit [www.seedsofsolidarity.org](http://www.seedsofsolidarity.org) to learn more.



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# THROUGHOUT THE QUABBIN REGION, FIND GARDENING

text and photos by Sharon Harmon

**Poring over seed catalogs, I fill a need.**

—“Earthbound” in *Swimming with Cats*  
Sharon Harmon, 2008

After the long, wretched winter we endured, nothing feels more welcome and magical than the tiny green shoots of flowers poking through the soil bringing the eternal promise of spring.

Gardening—whether for flowers, food, or both—has long attracted New Englanders who have a passion for growing things. Avid gardeners raise annuals, perennials, fruits, veggies, shrubs, and trees. Spinoffs of gardens include fire pits, patios, walkways, fish ponds, gazebos, outdoor kitchens, walkways, stone walls, fountains, and Zen gardens.

Where to find garden and garden-related supplies?

**Brooks MacMannis Florist and Greenhouses,**

2108 Main Street, Athol, sponsors a thriving florist business with a very large greenhouse in the back that many people don't know about. Robin Brooks is the proprietor. “It has been open since 1964,” Robin said.



Athol's Brooks MacMannis Florist and Greenhouses feature the largest greenhouses in the Quabbin region.



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Closed Sunday.

Joe Ressler of **Green Garden Nursery**, 5 East Hill Road, Rutland, a state-certified nursery, said his family has owned and operated the business for forty years.

The nursery offers a large selection of trees, more than twenty thousand of which grow on the premises. "We have twenty-foot trees that started off at six inches," Ressler said. Their wide collection of unusual trees, ornamental shrubs and grasses, and many specimens won't be found in a big box store. Plants grown on site result in hardiness to the New England area, Ressler said.



Rutland's Green Garden Nursery harbors twenty-thousand trees for sale on premises.

Green Garden sells plant and landscape material. The nursery also does planting and installations.

Call (508) 886-6691.

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Open 9 -4 pm Saturday and Sunday. By appointment during the week.

*continued on page 26*



ad signed by Hattie Nestel

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# Barbara Ellis watercolors demonstrate

by Margaret Ellis Feldman

Laundry flapping on the line constitutes a true sign of spring here in New England. In these two paintings by artist Barbara Ellis, her lifelong fascination with laundry and linens catching light makes itself apparent.

The first painting, created about 1950, represents the artist hanging laundry in her Athol back yard. Then a young mother, she painted her pictures whenever possible. This image tells a story about her, trees, wind, and washing. It matters that there are pants, shirts, nighties, and so forth on the line and that each piece possesses its own color and pattern. See if you can detect the difference between the reproduction of the painting here and the one on the cover of this magazine.

By the time Barbara made the second painting, it was 1989. Almost eighty, she had taken numerous advanced art courses to develop her abundant skills. Her artistic circle had widened greatly, and she had traveled far to diverse painting venues. Art dominated in her life. Narrative had given way to design as a primary focus in her work. Technically, the second painting doesn't warrant categorizing as a "laundry" painting according




The late Barbara Ellis of Petersham made a live-action self portrait with her 1950s watercolor, *Hanging Laundry*, above. courtesy of Margaret Ellis Feldman

to her title, *Yard Sale in Yugoslavia*. The yard sale manifests in the multitude of shadowy feet behind the cloths, probably in reality embroidered table covers.

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# evolution of techniques and style



By 1989, Barbara Ellis's watercolors took particular advantage of white space, as in *Yard Sale at Yugoslavia*, above.  
courtesy of Margaret Ellis Feldman

Barbara's style changed immensely during her many years of painting. She created the laundry in her earlier work by brushing colors directly onto the paper to form

the shapes she desired. As she developed her art, Barbara became intrigued by white portions of her compositions and portrayed them using negative space: leaving the untouched paper its original white where the laundry or linens hang and defining shapes by swoops of pale gray shadowing. In her second painting, individual articles of linen don't really matter, but the entire mass becomes the main horizontal element of design.

Watercolor by its very nature is difficult to control. In her more mature style, Barbara becomes much more adept with the use of line and edges. At the same time, the flowing looseness of watercolor gives the painting its particular fluidity. She harnesses that energy beautifully in both scenes.

These two artworks are rather like siblings: they have the same parentage and many of the same genes, but each stands alone as a unique individual.

Artist Margaret Ellis Feldman is the daughter of the late watercolorist, Barbara Ellis.



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# Quabbin region historical societies



**ATHOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
1307 Main Street, Athol  
atholhistoricalsociety.weebly.com

*May 17, 2018, 7 pm*

Tom Ricardi, Birds of Prey

June 2, 2018, 11 am – 1 pm  
museum open

*June 10, 2018*

museum open, 1 – 4 pm

Music by Legacy, 1:30 – 3 pm

Al Benjamin, Tom Deam,  
Marc Erwin, Marty Picard, and  
Linda Piragis

Athol (continued)  
*June 14, 2018, 7 pm*  
Tempo-airy Jazz Ensemble,  
Ian Brienkle, Jamie Merrifield,  
Russell Watts, and  
Weldon Hendricks

*June 24, 2018, 1 – 3 pm*

Photos on Display

Come look through pictures  
of times past—find a long  
lost relative, homestead, or  
business: military photo albums  
and pictures of the floods

*September 12, 2018, 6:30 pm*  
annual meeting

*September 20, 2018, 7 pm*

J.R. Greene presents a  
program about  
Calvin Coolidge

*October 11, 2018, 7 pm*  
Chris Daley presents a  
program on Lizzie Borden

*October 13, 2018, 7 pm*  
The Definite Maybes

*All programs are free.*  
*Refreshments.*



**BARRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
18 Common Street, Barre, MA  
barremahistoricalsociety.org

*June 16, 2018, 10 am – 6 pm*

Barre Family Fun Day society  
open for tours,  
special exhibits, road race,  
games, food, music, activities,  
vendors,

local business booths, and  
more courtesy of

Barre Business Association  
*October 4, 2018, 7 pm* at Barre  
Town Hall

Fire Service in Barre  
stories from fire fighters about  
fires, rescues, alarms, and  
more from six stations and  
three villages



**BELCHERTOWN  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM**  
20 Maple Street, Belchertown  
stonehousemuseum.org



**ERVING  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
Pearl B. Care Building, Erving,  
erving-ma.org



**HARDWICK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
40 Common Street, Hardwick  
townofhardwick.com

*May 20, 2018, 2 – 4 pm*

museum open  
mini tours

*June 2, 2018, 11 am – 2 pm*

museum open  
mini tours



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**HUBBARDSTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
4 Burnshirt Road, Hubbardston  
hubbardstonhistorical.org

**May 17, 2018, 6:30 pm** at  
Williamsville Chapel  
Rick Barrett will provide  
insight into the life and  
accomplishments of  
Hubbardston's  
William Bennett Hale.  
slide show and discussion

**June 2, 2018, 10 am – 1 pm** at  
Williamsville Chapel  
Summer Social and Pie Sale  
Purchase homemade pies,  
whole or by the slice.  
live music and  
weather displays.

**June 23, 2018, 10 am**  
Hubbardston Fair at  
Curtis Recreation Field  
old-fashioned activities  
sponsored by  
Hubbardston  
Historical Society.

**August 5, 2018, 10 am** at  
Sawyer's Farm  
Root Road, Hubbardston  
Hubbardston Blueberry Day  
short presentation on the  
importance of the blueberry in  
Hubbardston's history.  
muff ns and coffee  
for reservations, call  
(978) 928-4073

Hubbardston (continued)  
**September 22,, 2018, 6 – 9 pm** at  
Williamsville Chapel  
Band of Voices and  
The Green Sisters  
Double Header Concert

**October 19, 2018, 6 pm** at  
Williamsville Chapel  
annual meeting and potluck  
followed by a

historic book show-and-tell  
RSVP (978) 928-4073 by October 17  
**November 18, 2018, 12 – 3 pm** at  
Williamsville Chapel  
Thanksgiving Farmers' Market

**December 7, 2018**  
Holiday Gathering at home of  
Cathy and Jim Hansgate  
potluck, caroling,  
pool, and foosball.

RSVP (978) 928-3731 by December 6

*Visit Quabbin region  
historical societies  
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and array of programs and  
performances*



**LEVERETT  
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Leverett, MA  
leveretthistorical.org



**NARRAGANSETT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
1 Boynton Road, Templeton  
narragansetthistoricalsociety.org

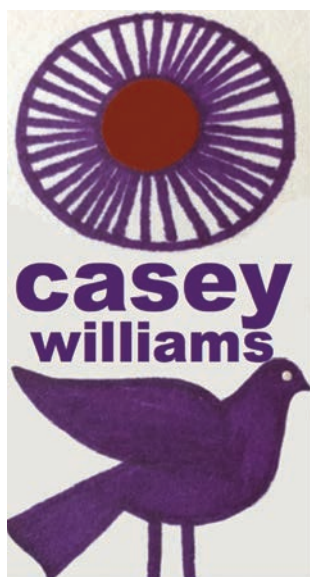
**April 3, 2018, 6 – 8 pm** open  
Tuesday evenings through  
first week of December

**beginning May 5, 2018, 1 – 5 pm**  
open museum Saturdays

**June 23, 2018, 2 – 4:30 pm**  
Tea in the Garden  
tea and snacks  
menu will vary  
requested donation \$5.00

**August 5, 2018, 12 – 5 pm** Go  
Fly a Kite Day on Baldwinville  
Road, Templeton bring kite •  
lunch on sale  
(continued on next page)

*historical society listings compiled  
by Debra Ellis*



## Come visit my booth at the following shows:

**May 12 / 10-5pm**

Jamaica Plain Community Craft & Yard Sale / 555 Amory St.

**May 19 / 9-3pm**

Handmade Makers Market / 8 Church St., Greenfield MA

**May 26 / 11-5pm**

ART FARM at Captain Jack's Roadside Shack / Easthampton MA

**June 9 / 12-6pm**

Pints in the Park / Energy Park, Greenfield MA

**June 16 / 9-5pm**

Sunderland 300th Celebration Market / 12 School St., Sunderland

**June 23 / 9-4pm**

Amherst Crafts on the Common / Amherst Common

\*prints and postcards of local town maps

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**[www.caseyWilliamsART.com](http://www.caseyWilliamsART.com) / [justjoanDJ@gmail.com](mailto:justjoanDJ@gmail.com)**



# regional historical societies offer tours, programs, performances

(continued from previous page)

Narragansett (continued)  
**September 22, 2018**  
**Motorpalooza 2018!**  
 Classic cars, engines, machines, and all things with a motor on display. Discussion. Boothill Express in the gazebo. Snacks and lunch on sale. Follow signs for parking.  
*Dates to be finalized.*  
**Halloween Haunted Walk**  
 Check Facebook.  
**December 2, 2018, 2 – 4:30 pm**  
**Jack Frost Festival**  
 Tree Lighting  
 open museum  
 Templeton Common's tree all decked out.  
 cookie sale  
 parade with the  
 Narragansett Marching Band and tree lighting.



**NEW BRAINTREE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 10 Utley Road, New Braintree  
[newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org](http://newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org)  
**October 26, 2018, 6:30 pm**  
**Historic New England Apples**  
 Christie Higginbottom  
 talks about historic apples.  
 Hundreds of varieties.  
 tasting of 10-12 heirloom apple varieties  
 Refreshments.



**OAKHAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**  
 1221 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham  
[oakhamhistory.com](http://oakhamhistory.com)

Oakham (continued)  
**May 27, 2018, 1 – 4 pm**  
**fourth Sunday, May-October**  
 museum open  
**June 10, 2018, 2 pm**  
 tribute: included National Register of Historic Places  
**August 25, 2018, 8 am – 3 pm**  
 town yard sale rain or shine  
 maps at Oakham Town Hall  
 2 Coldbrook Road



**ORANGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 31 North Main Street  
[orangehistoricalsocietyma.org](http://orangehistoricalsocietyma.org)




Orange (continued)  
**June through September**  
**Sundays & Wednesdays, 2-4 pm**  
 museum open  
**June 9 • July 14 • August 11**  
**September 8, 8 – 10 am**  
 Breakfast on the Porch  
**July 22, 2018, 2 pm**  
 musical program  
 John Root  
**December 7, 2018, 9 am – 2 pm**  
 Christmas Bazaar



**PELHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 376 Amherst Road, Pelham,  
[pelhamhistory.org](http://pelhamhistory.org)

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**Open fourth Sunday of the month, 1-4 PM, May through October**  
**Work Mornings first Thursday of the month, 10 am to 12 pm**  
**Business Meeting, third Wednesday of the month, 7 pm**

**1221 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham**  
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petershamcommon.com



**PHILLIPSTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
State Road, Phillipston  
historicalsocietyofphillipston.org



**ROYALSTON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
2 Athol Road, Royalston  
royalstonhistorical.org



**RUTLAND  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
232 Main Street, Rutland, MA  
rutlandmahistoricalociety.org



**SHUTESBURY  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
Shutesbury  
historical@shutesbury.org



**SWIFT RIVER VALLEY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
40 Elm Street, New Salem  
swiftrivermuseum.org  
*June 17 – September 23*  
Sundays & Wednesdays, 1–4 pm  
museum open

*May 27, 2018, 10 am–4 pm*  
Memorial Day Observance at  
Quabbin Park Cemetery  
10 am, refreshments  
11 am, parade and program 2  
pm, interpretive program with  
Nancy Huntington

*June 24, 11 am*  
Prescott Bus Trip  
meet at Swift River Valley  
Historical Society

*July 1, 1 pm*  
in Prescott Church on society  
grounds  
Reptiles and Amphibians with  
Michael Jones,  
state herpetologist,  
optional field trip

*July 9–13*  
water program for children.  
call Emma Ayres (413) 992-7936  
*July 15, 2018, 10 am*  
Dana Reunion, Dana Common

*July 21, 2018, 9 am – 4 pm*  
Old Home Day  
New Salem Academy  
Reunion Day  
New Salem Common

*July 22, 2018, 4 pm*  
in Prescott Church on society  
grounds  
Dana Vespers  
cake and lemonade after the  
concert to celebrate  
180<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mrs. Clary,  
who lived in the society house



Swift River Valley (continued)

*August 11, 2018, 3 pm*  
Tom Ricardi, Birds of Prey

*September 9, 2018, 2 pm*  
annual meeting

*September 16, 2018, 11 am*  
fall hike to North Prescott and  
south to

Pettingill's Four Corners area  
meet at Gate 20

*October 14, 2018, 11 am*  
Prescott/Enfield  
pilgrimage bus trip  
meet at Swift River Valley  
Historical Society

*October 21, 2018, 11 am*  
fall hike to remote  
Pelham area  
meet at Gate 12

*Programs and hikes are free  
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**WARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Route 9, Ware  
warehistoricalsociety.wikifoundry.com



**WARWICK  
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6 Athol Road, Warwick  
whs.steamkite.com

**WENDELL  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY/  
LIBRARY**

7 Wendell Depot Road, Wendell



Photography by John Burk

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The Town Poor House crumbling foundation, left, and remains of the cemetery vault in the once Town House Cemetery behind Prescott Town Hall represent a few on-site reminders of the Town of Prescott, disincorporated to create Quabbin Reservoir.

## Prescott Peninsula Bus Tours Satisfy Curious History Hunters

by Dorothy A. Frye

Have you ever wanted to go deep into the Quabbin watershed? Are you curious about the closed-off Prescott Peninsula, where eagles were first reintroduced into the area and wildlife rambles through the woods?

You can satisfy your curiosity by taking a bus tour with the Swift River Valley Historical Society. Twice a

year, SRVHS sponsors guided bus tours into otherwise inaccessible areas of the Swift River Valley—four towns that ceased to exist at 12:01 on April 28, 1938 when they became the bed of the great Quabbin Reservoir, water supply for the City of Boston. Volunteers Marty Howe and Jon Melick bring the past to life with stories of homesteads, residents, geography, and folklore from the area once vibrant with life. This year, they will accompany visitors on two separate bus trips into Prescott, where they will point out areas of interest along the way.

If there is a site with a story, Jon or Marty will tell it. Some favorites include buildings moved outside the valley. Atkinson's Tavern, once located in Atkinson's Hollow and named after a Revolutionary War soldier,

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was moved and became Storowton Tavern situated at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. Prescott Congregational Church repurposed as Skinner Museum in South Hadley. And North Prescott Methodist-Episcopal Church moved to Orange in 1949 and subsequently relocated in 1985 to SRVHS grounds.

Marty enjoys showing the home site of Lois Doubleday Barnes, born in 1920 and died in 2012. Barnes lived there in her home on one of the highest points in Prescott until 1930. She told Marty of her father's apple orchard behind the house and of watching the Rabbit Run Train from the property. She also showed him the rock steps behind the house location that once led to her mother's garden.

Jon says he feels happiest when exploring overgrown sites and seeing evidence of what once was there. He thinks of the circular elevated earthen platform, just north of old Prescott Town Hall, where an American Chestnut tree once grew and of Prescott Four Corners where stone walls to the east and west speak of a later rerouted turnpike.

When standing on the spot where a photographer took a picture of a well-kept house and lovingly maintained yard or where the picture shows a neglected

and abandoned house and yard, Jon gets a visceral understanding of what happened to the Swift River Valley when it became the Quabbin Reservoir. A similar sensation occurs when he discovers a pile of bricks or the top of an old foundation and remembers that people were born, lived, loved, and died there and can no longer do so because seventy-five miles away from this place other citizens needed a reliable supply of pure drinking water. Such feelings rush in when he stands on a granite slab and thinks about children crossing it to enter or leave the once-upon-a-time schoolhouse. He feels sad when he remembers Etta Berry speaking about the tears she shed as remnants of the Currier/Wheeler store in North Prescott burned to the ground.

Marty explains that one can look at photos and read books on Quabbin Valley history, but nothing touches the senses, emotions, and impresses upon the visitor with the full impact of loss experienced by the residents—forced to give up everything they had ever known—except to encounter the region firsthand. He points out remnants of a home and puts it in perspective with a photo or map from days gone by. To him, such field experiences have a somewhat spiritual nature because

*continued on page 32*

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## Quiet Places • Quiet Thoughts

# Overlook, New Salem and Quabbin Park Cemetery

by Dorothy Johnson

Is it possible to talk about the need to seek out quiet places without revealing much of oneself? I doubt it. In my younger days, when the times I felt the world's busyness too much with me, I sought out a spot where I could hunker down and rest myself. Some place quiet without distractions of conversation or company. When I was afraid or disheartened or angry for any reason, I needed to stop, to gather my thoughts about me, and then go on past whatever held me back.

Now that I am an old woman, I still need to seek out a quiet place. Others may find their peace in a quiet room or garden. I prefer to be away from the everyday distractions of television, telephone, and all electronics or the need to sweep out a new cobweb in a corner.



Dorothy Johnson

### The Overlook

Since I live in New Salem, it makes sense for me to start with my favorite place in New Salem, a ten-minute walk from my house. There's a dirt road next to the fire station that will take you past the tennis court and the fire pond where spring peepers call out with urgent shrieks, "Pick me! Pick me!" Also in spring, there's a stand of lady slippers blooming by the side of the road.

In short order, you'll come to a parking lot by a yellow iron gate. If you proceed past that gate, you'll get to The Overlook for a spectacular view of Quabbin Reservoir. Because of ticks, I no longer veer off the road into the woods, but the road itself offers the silence I seek.

The town also placed two picnic tables where you can sit and contemplate the great reservoir. If you stand in one particular place, you can see Mount Monadnock in the New Hampshire distance, and if you look across the

*continued on page 56*



The Overlook just off Daniel Shays Highway north of New Salem center affords a magnificent view of Quabbin Reservoir.  
photo © by Dale Monette





Spring geese float in the Quabbin region in a painting by Gail Oswald of Royalston.  
painting © by Gail Oswald



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continued from page 15

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**T.S. Mann Lumber Company**, 199 Petersham Road, Route 32, Athol, in business since 1931, offers vintage architectural materials for unique landscaping projects. Last year, my husband and I purchased a huge chestnut fir beam to place on two trees for an entrance with prayer flags to our secret garden.

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Sharon Harmon is a poet and freelance writer from Royalston.



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## GREAT AND GENERAL COURT GOVERNS QUABBIN RECREATION

by J. R. Greene

The first legislation to clarify recreation issues at the Quabbin was the Kelly-Wetmore Act of 1972, promoted by two Central Massachusetts legislators. The legislation set up guidelines for forest management and

In the January, 2018, issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*, we made an editorial error by implying that dogs are allowed in the Quabbin Reservation. Dogs are expressly forbidden in the Quabbin Reservation. *UQ* regrets the error.

maintaining “the natural ecology” of the reservation. The law confirmed public access to the Quabbin, including by foot and “manually operated bicycles for such recreational uses as are permitted by, and are consistent with the provisions of this act” in areas “designated by the commission.”

The Quabbin Watershed Advisory Council (QWAC) was created in 1997 to oversee management of Quabbin and Ware River watershed lands. QWAC consists of representatives of designated sportsmen’s groups, nature organizations, and other stakeholders. The body meets

several times a year to review policies and proposals for new activities. A separate council for the Ware River watershed was established in 2002. A visitor’s center opened at the administration building at Quabbin in 1984, with the Friends of Quabbin created to support it.

The first comprehensive public-access plan for Quabbin was issued in 1989 after public input sought to clarify regulations at Quabbin. The new plan forbade walking dogs and cross-country skiing in watershed lands. Access plans are revisited every five years. One major policy change established a deer hunting program in 1991 to prevent over-population of the species because deer had prevented forest regeneration in many areas of the watershed. Some opposed hunting in the Quabbin, mainly animal rights groups, but the annual hunts continue to this day.

After the terrorist

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Boats wait for repair on the Quabbin shore at the end of the recreational boating season.  
photo © by Dale Monette

attacks on September 11, 2001, public access to the Quabbin, including fishing, closed for a short time, with National Guardsmen stationed at Winsor Dam. The ban soon lifted, but permanent effects of September 11 include prohibition of public motor vehicles from driving over or around the bases of Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike and fencing off the area around the aqueduct intake at Shaft 12 in West Hardwick.

In 2004, the legislature abolished the Metropolitan District Commission, which had managed the Quabbin lands since 1947. Water management had been taken over by the Metropolitan Water Resources Authority (MWRA) in 1985. Land

continued on page 33



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# Quabbin region veterinarians offer alternative

by Ellen Woodbury

## Dr. Anne Rylestone

A giant white cat sits atop the entrance to Canterbury Tails Veterinary Clinic in Ware. A bright, clean, and warm atmosphere greets me as Dr. Anne Rylestone shakes my hand.

We sit on stools at a counter where Rhoda, the resident cat, sleeps on a pile of the doctor's papers. Dr. Rylestone, once a professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and author of a book on William Wordsworth, went back to school to graduate from Tufts Veterinary School.

"It almost killed me. I once slept in a horse stall so I could make clinic the next morning," Dr. Rylestone quips with a twinkle in her eye.

In her Ware practice since 2001, she sometimes uses one or more holistic therapies in addition to conventional treatments for cats and dogs. She may choose homeopathy, western herbal medicine, supplements, or probiotics depending on the need of the animal.

At the base of all good health, she said, is good nutrition. For cats, good nutrition means a high quality, no-grain wet food. She said a little dry food



In her Ware office, Dr. Anne Rylestone soothes her cat Rhoda.  
photo © by Ellen Woodbury

is okay, although a diet of dry food alone will promote dehydration and can lead to obesity, diabetes, urinary infections, and inflammation.

Dogs can handle some grain but still require high quality food, Dr. Rylestone said. A saliva test can detect food sensitivities and intolerances in horses, cats, and dogs, thus helping owners to feed their pets more healthful food.

Most dogs and some cats test positive for Lyme Disease and anaplasmosis, another tick-borne disease. Dr. Rylestone treats tick-borne diseases with antibiotics, probiotics, and immune support often producing negative results on a follow-up blood test. Lyme and anaplasmosis can present as nosebleeds, skin symptoms, liver disease, lethargy, and "aging rapidly," Dr. Rylestone said.

Dr. Rylestone also tests for the bacteria Bartonella, which she said often goes undetected otherwise.

A member of the American Holistic Veterinary Association, Dr. Rylestone refers to specialists like those in the Tufts oncology department.

She said she makes education of an animal's owner a priority. Dr. Rylestone likes to allow adequate time for questions and maximum understanding.

"People want to do their best," she said. "It's important that clients know they have the right to understand a treatment plan."

In addition to her veterinary practice, Dr. Rylestone is a wildlife rehabilitator "specializing in squirrels, red and gray," she said.

"I've taken care of as many as sixteen babies at once," she added. "I'd just finish the every-two-hour feedings, and I'd have to start all over again."

Rehabilitators specialize in particular animals with Tufts holding a permit for birds such as the eagle.



# care approaches for dogs, cats, and other animals

When I asked to take a photo of Dr. Rylestone, she called her cat to join her. "Come on, Rhoda," she beckoned. "You're going to be a star!"

Dr. Rylestone accepts phone consults as well as appointments. Call 413.967.4545 or visit [www.canterburytailsvetclinic.com](http://www.canterburytailsvetclinic.com) or email [canterburytails@verizon.net](mailto:canterburytails@verizon.net).

## Dr. Kevin Landau

Dr. Kevin Landau of Landau Veterinary Services in Belchertown serves as the only veterinarian in Pioneer Valley to use solely alternative therapies to treat horses, cats, and dogs. He became interested in holistic therapies during attendance at veterinary school when he saw a horse significantly improve after receiving chiropractic care.

His curiosity led him to learn chiropractic therapy for animals, which led to learning other integrative therapies: acupuncture and Chinese herbs, kinesiology, nutrition, and low-level laser therapy in his practice.

"All these methods really shine in the treatment of chronic inflammatory conditions," Dr. Landau said. Having begun his practice treating horses in Vermont, he said he "took a leap of faith and moved to a place where no one knew me and offered services that no one really needed."

His busy practice includes spending two days a week treating horses and three days treating cats and dogs.

Dr. Landau has had success treating many types of diseases and illnesses. From Inflammatory Bowel Disease, chronic kidney failure, and even cancer, Dr. Landau's approach

can often help the body survive and thrive, he said.

Dr. Landau also offers education on good nutrition. "Imagine if all we ate was bagged or canned food," he said. "How do you think we'd feel?"

Processed food can produce inflammation of all body systems, thus resulting in "all things ending in 'itis' like arthritis, dermatitis," said Dr. Landau.

Dr. Landau offers practical suggestions like placing rugs for traction to eliminate strains and stress on an animal's joints.



Dr. Kevin Landau and his dog Blue schmooze in the vet's Belchertown office. selfie © by Kevin Landau

"If I approach an animal with an agenda of what I must do, I'm set up to fail," Dr. Landau said. "I work within the animals' comfort zone and meet them where they are. Animals in dire condition, often getting worse, very often respond to holistic treatments. Disease progression can slow, quality of life can improve, and peace of mind for the owner can happen. It's remarkable to see. It happens a lot more than I thought it would!"

Dr. Landau is at Landau Veterinary Services, 40 Daniel Shays Highway, Belchertown. Call 413.323.6055. Email [landauvet@gmail.com](mailto:landauvet@gmail.com).

Ellen Woodbury, a massage therapist, lives in Athol.



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*I had a dog and his name was Blue.  
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—Peter, Paul, and Mary*

## nostalgic ruins await travelers to Quabbin's Prescott Peninsula

continued from page 23



Etta Wheeler Berry, above, resented a high fence eventually erected behind her by Quabbin overseers, thus allowing no entrance to the site of her former home.

photo courtesy of Swift River Valley Historical Society

they speak volumes as to the vagaries and brevity of human existence and how quickly things change and time passes. His heart and mind assure him that he indeed stands on hallowed ground.

SRVHS formed in 1936 to preserve historical and genealogical material and artifacts of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, the four lost towns of Swift River Valley. SRVHS makes the collection available to educational groups, historians, and interested individuals. The society

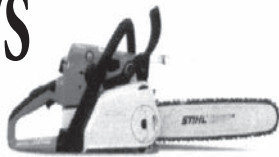
acquaints its outdoor visitors with the valley through interpretive and educational hikes and bus trips into the Quabbin reservation throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons. SRVHS, as well as Marty and Jon, encourages anyone who has yet to take a bus trip or hike to do so. Fifty years from now, when we are no longer here and children who left the Valley are gone as well, the history of Swift River Valley will be kept alive by new generations.

Dorothy Frye is administrative assistant for Swift River Valley Historical Society,

**Find SRVHS at  
40 Elm Street, New Salem.  
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the society's events, see page 21 or  
email [dotfryesrvhs@gmail.com](mailto:dotfryesrvhs@gmail.com),  
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## QUABBIN RECREATION LAWS

continued from page 29

management at Quabbin became the responsibility of a new division of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Watershed Management Division, funded by MWRA. The MDC police unit became part of the Massachusetts State Police, maintaining their barracks at the Quabbin administration building.

DCR somewhat expanded roads authorized for bicycling in the Quabbin by 2012, allowing bicyclers to make loop trips in a few places instead of riding in and back over the same route. However, off-road mountain biking and illegal trails made for such use became a recent management problem. A new recreation and access plan for Quabbin will soon mean new provisions. Besides attempting to prohibit off-road mountain biking, the main feature of the new plan involves prohibition of private drone air vehicles from the watershed lands without a permit.

J.R. Greene is author of sixteen books concerning the history of Quabbin Reservoir and towns destroyed to create it. He chairs the board of directors of Friends of Quabbin and represents them on the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Council.



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# Worcester revolution pre-dates

by Carla Charter



Reenactors sponsored by Worcester Revolution Inc., a 501(c)3 organization, impersonate rebels who shut down British courts in Worcester in September, 1774.

photo by Steven King courtesy of *Worcester Magazine*

Most Americans have learned that the American Revolution began on April 19, 1775 with the “shot heard round the world” during the Battle of Concord and Lexington.

More than six months earlier, however, a rebellion against British rule occurred on September 6, 1774, in Worcester. No shots resounded there when colonists closed down Worcester’s courthouses. However, the message from Worcester County, including militia from the Quabbin area, reverberated loud and clear: central Massachusetts colonists would no longer tolerate British rule.

The 4,622 militiamen who went to Worcester on that day included 51 from Athol, 220 from Hardwick, 55 from Hubbardston, 140 from New Braintree, 50 from Oakham, 70 from Petersham, 39 from Royalston, 150 from Rutland, and 120 from Templeton.

“There is no evidence of muster rolls for the Worcester rebellion, but they could possibly be the same militias who were at Lexington and Concord. There is a

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# Concord and Lexington by six months

pretty extensive record of April 1775. I'm not sure these were the same people. I assume they probably were," said Jim Moran, vice-president of programs and outreach at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester. He said the militia reorganized in 1774 and 1775, mostly an effort to get rid of British Loyalists in the militia.

The Worcester event began in spring, 1774, when the British passed what they called the Coercive Acts and what colonists in New England referred to as the Intolerable Acts. Parliament passed four of these such acts in response to the Boston Tea Party which occurred on December 16, 1773.

Specifically, the September 6, 1774, rebels protested the Massachusetts Government Act that abolished the charter the colony had used since 1691. The act replaced the previous charter with a governmental dictatorship, according to Mr. Moran. Among other things, it took away local elections of jurors and sheriffs, eliminated all town meetings except the annual town meeting, and required that cities and towns submit town meeting agendas for the governor's approval before the meetings.

"These people had been governing themselves since 1620. They called a town meeting whenever they wanted and discussed whatever they wanted on a town-by-town basis. The Massachusetts Government Act stopped all that familiar activity," Mr. Moran said. Under the new law, the royal governor appointed Worcester Court officials without elections by the people—who objected.

Committees of correspondence among colonists met to provide information from place to place, including

*continued on page 36*

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# Worcester Revolution of 1774 shut down British courts

continued from page 35

Boston, about actions of the royal government and protests. “The committees of correspondence became de facto governing bodies for many towns, especially after September 1774,” Mr. Moran said.

Colonists conducted a county convention in Worcester on August 31, 1774, and decided to close the courts. Colonists had shut down Berkshire County and Springfield courts during protests earlier that year.

On the morning of September 6, 1774, two dozen Tory-appointed court officials appeared as usual in Worcester, to open the county courts. “The court officials expected to be met by the colonial militia,” said Mr. Moran. “There was a sense that Gage would send troops to enforce the courts opening.

“Prominent Loyalists, including Timothy Paine of Worcester, had convinced Royal Governor Gage not to send troops or there would be a bloodbath, so Gage did not send troops.

“When court officials arrived, the courthouse they expected to open was already occupied with patriots who had barricaded themselves in the building. The Loyalists

instead huddled inside Daniel Heywood’s Tavern, halfway between the courthouse and meetinghouse and waited for the militiamen to stipulate their terms.”

The militiamen, meanwhile, gathered on the town green. When that area grew too small as more arrived, they moved to a larger field near the courthouse. They elected representatives to present terms to the court officials, insisting that officials close the courts and refuse to exercise their offices.

The officials agreed.

The militia companies then lined each side of the Main Street for more than a quarter of a mile between the tavern and the courthouse. Then, one by one, they forced each official to walk through the gauntlet, hat in hand, reciting some thirty times each the promise to refrain from enforcing parliament’s dictates. Thus, British political and military authority left Worcester County never to return.

Among those previously appointed to the royal governor’s Mandamus Council was Timothy Ruggles,

continued on page 50

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Worcester Revolution reenactors sponsored by Worcester Revolution Inc.,  
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photo by Steven King courtesy of Worcester Magazine

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## Nature's Nuances

by Clare Green

*The sky is the daily bread of the soul.*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Have you looked up lately? Have you noticed the sky?”

Jack Borden, Boston's WBZ radio and television anchorman through the 1980s, once asked folk passing by him while he was on assignment.

It amazed Jack that few could accurately describe current sky happenings without taking an upward glance. Somewhat appalled with his findings, he soon launched his program, “For Spacious Skies,” now with its website, [forspaciousskies.net](http://forspaciousskies.net), to inspire thousands of individuals from prisons to classrooms to just about anywhere to “Look up.” Research showed that subsequent student test scores improved along with inmates' mental health.

Familiarize yourself with three major cloud formations that foretell the weather: stratus, cumulus, and cirrus.

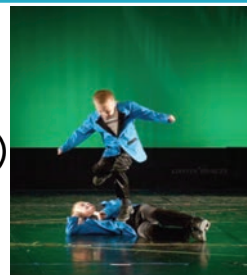
Clouds consist of water droplets or ice particles. Low stratus clouds below six thousand feet may bring precipitation. Medium-ranged cumulus clouds in the atmosphere appear from six thousand to twenty thousand feet and may present as a heaped mass upon a low-lying base, like thunderheads. High cirrus clouds, wispy like a mare's tail, soar at between twenty and forty thousand feet up. Cirrocumulus clouds also form at high



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altitudes as small white rounded masses that look like fish scales. Mackerel sky, a display of cirrocumulus clouds, forecasts change in weather.

A beautiful formation occurs when ice crystals appear as a halo round the sun and portend a change of weather within the following twenty-four hours. American Apaches would often stop as they rode across the plains and take in a Big-Sky view of the upper expanses from horizon to horizon. Consider taking a daily Big-Sky view as you travel.

Remember to observe the mystery and beauty of the night sky with its eighty-eight constellations visible in the northern hemisphere. Consider purchasing a star chart or finding one online.

As Stephen Hawking said, "Remember to look up at the stars." Especially in mid-August, the Perseids show magnificent with their lustrous array of shooting stars in a meteor shower.

This year, the night sky will be dark as the new moon occurs August 11. Hope for cloudless nights that week.

The sky's the limit! Imagine. As you gaze upward, you scan the infinitude of space. Enjoy its many wonders as canopy for landscaped hills, trees, flowers, birds, sunrises, and sunsets.

"Know the signs of the sky, and the far happier you'll be," observed no less a pundit than Benjamin Franklin.

Clare Green, educator and naturalist of Warwick, invites people to walk her woodland labyrinth and stop for tea at the fairy cottage.



storm cloud, above,  
photo © by John Burk;  
clouds, previous page,  
cirrus, top, photo © by Rick Flematti;  
cumulus, photo © by Dale Monette;  
cirrocumulus mackerel sky,  
photo © by Mike Phillips.

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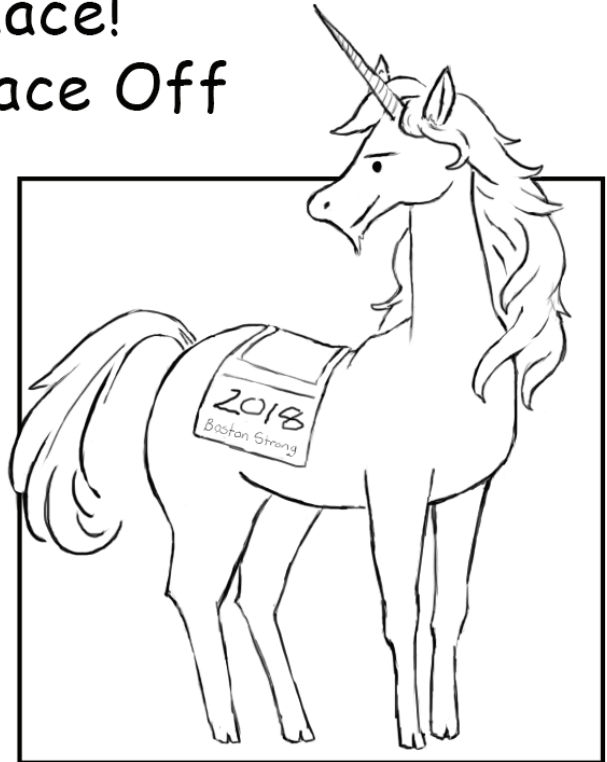
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## Nicola's Fried Dough

a visual haiku

by Ami Fagin

Every April when the River Rat Race arrives in the region, Millers River goes afloat with paddlers of every persuasion as they pull downriver to go for the big cheese! At the scenic parking lot in front of the former Victory Market, a portable “best show in town” puts down a big top of amusement to delight any local looking for a bit o’ cheer. Visual Haiku #159, *Nicola's Fried Dough* pays homage to the street fairground genre where cotton candy, hot dogs, fried dough, and wriggly rides promise to bring on giddy, fizzy, sticky, summer’s-in-the-air outdoor fun that only a parking-lot street fair can deliver.

Nicola's Fried Dough furnishes fresh fried flour finger food sure to bring back memories of times gone by.

Check out all of Ami's now 202 visual haiku on her website: [www.visualhaiku.graphics](http://www.visualhaiku.graphics) for all your museum pieces at a road-stand price! Look for *One Hundred and One Visual Haiku • Volume Two* in June. Find *Volume One* at Amazon or any location where she might have a booth at your local street fair!



© Ami Fagin

Amy Fagin (who works sometimes as Ami 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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# WHISTLE STOP, GILBERTVILLE, AND JOHNSON'S FARM, ORANGE:

by Diane Kane

## The Whistle Stop Restaurant

The train hasn't stopped at the Gilbertville station in more than sixty years, but I imagined I heard its whistle when we pulled into the parking lot of The Whistle Stop Restaurant. Nostalgia abounded in the historically refurbished train station along with delicious homemade food at reasonable prices.

Benny and Pearl Nurek purchased the abandoned red-brick station in 1965, with dreams of making it a local dining destination. The building needed a lot of work, but the Nureks didn't give up, and more than half a century later, you can see their success. These days, the Nureks' son John presides over the grill. His wife, Sandi, assists, and they continue traditions that have made The Whistle Stop a hot spot for locals and travelers alike.

We opened the restaurant door to a friendly atmosphere of homey kitchen aromas. Our smiling waitress, Liz, apparently working the floor alone, told us to grab a seat anywhere. A shiny serving counter with several padded chrome stools, as well as many

tables of various sizes, provided ample seating. The clinking of silverware and happy chatter of diners made for a relaxing atmosphere. I couldn't resist ordering a tall glass of chocolate milk like the ones I noticed on several tables.

The menu offered a variety of tempting options. My friend considered the liver-and-onion meal, which she said was hard to find in restaurants, or the meatball sandwich, but she settled on the meatloaf dinner, priced at \$6.50. It was Fish Friday at the Whistle Stop, and the seafood options tempted me with clams, fish, and shrimp. I chose the fish sandwich with French fries for \$6.75.

Liz brought my tall, cold glass of old-fashioned chocolate milk with a long spoon for stirring in the generous dark syrup that clung to the inside of the glass. While waiting for our meals, we enjoyed looking at pictures of old trains and local news articles posted on the walls. John, the owner and cook, worked efficiently at the grill. Liz moved around the diner like a whirlwind,





## YUMMY HOME COOKING IN FAMILY-OWNED RESTAURANTS



Old-fashioned chocolate milk and plenty of reasonably priced home-cooked offerings highlight The Whistle Stop menu.  
photo © by Diane Kane

taking orders and cleaning and setting tables, all the while making friendly conversation.

She soon arrived with our plates, filled to overflowing. My sandwich contained a generous portion of flaky white fish delicately breaded and fried, topped with lettuce and tomato, with crispy fries on the side. My friend enjoyed her heaping plate of fluffy mashed potatoes, two extra-thick slices of meatloaf covered in rich gravy, and side of creamy coleslaw. We tried our best, but both ended up with to-go containers and no room for the tempting assortment of pies on the rack—a good reason to make another visit to The Whistle Stop.

As closing time approached, the crowd thinned out, but not before Liz gave out hugs to a few special customers. John took a minute to talk to us while he cleaned up. I could see the pride on his face as he told me how hard his parents had worked to refurbish the abandoned railroad station. During his school years,

John worked summers in the restaurant. As an adult, he left a successful non-restaurant career to return to the family business when his parents' health began to fail.

When I asked John if he still used any of his parents' recipes, he said, "That's my dad's meatloaf!" John told me that the meatloaf was among his customers' favorites, along with the roast beef dinner and fish and chips.

I asked John if he served a lot of regulars. He laughed fondly. "Oh, yeah, the locals come in every morning and solve the problems of the world over a cup of coffee."

But The Whistle Stop's success is also built on drivers meandering through the picturesque South Quabbin area. A billboard placed about a mile before the restaurant tempts travelers looking for a good place to stop for a bite to eat. John said, "I try to give my customers good food and generous portions for a fair price." I think that John succeeds in every way!

If you venture out through Hardwick on Route 32 to the quaint village of Gilbertville, be sure to drop in at The Whistle Stop Restaurant at 248 Main Street. The Whistle Stop serves breakfast and lunch Monday through Saturday from 6:30 am to 2:00 pm with extended hours on Friday until 7:00. You can call ahead for take-out at (413) 477-8888 if you are in a hurry, but I suggest dining in. It's worth the stop.

### Johnson's Farm

Johnson's Farm, one of the hidden jewels of the North Quabbin area, awaits you just off the beaten path, on Wheeler Avenue off Route 2A in Orange. The winding road passes rolling fields, stone walls, and ancient oaks on the way to a natural wood building with a charming front porch lined with benches that tempt visitors to

*continued on page 44*

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## THE WHISTLE STOP, JOHNSON'S FARM FEATURE SPECIALTIES

continued from page 43

stay awhile and enjoy the view. The Johnson family has owned this little piece of paradise for more than a hundred years and six generations.

On the Tuesday morning when my friend and I pulled into Johnson's busy parking lot, sweet vapors rose from the roof of the sugar house across the road. We entered the restaurant to a bustle of activity. In the dining room to our right, tables were pushed together to accommodate a large group just filing in. The hostess seated us on the other side of the dining room and promptly returned with two cups of steaming coffee.

We looked over the extensive breakfast menu (that includes homemade quiche) but found ourselves enticed by specials on the board. My friend ordered the omelet special with fried potatoes and wheat toast for \$8.99. I decided to splurge and have Texas-style French toast topped with maple cream cheese and including a side of bacon, also priced at \$8.99.

Jennifer, our waitress, kept our coffee mugs full while we admired the variety of pictures and crafts that fill the walls. Our breakfast arrived shortly. My friend's meal consisted of a rich cheese-and-vegetable-filled omelet

and fried potatoes lightly seasoned along with a stack of toasted wheat bread.

Three thick pieces of French toast topped with a tantalizing mixture of maple-flavored cream cheese next to three strips of crisp bacon filled my plate. I topped it all with an ample amount of Johnson's own homemade syrup.

We savored our meals, and Jennifer frequently filled our coffee cups. When we finally took our reluctant leave, I couldn't resist purchasing a bag of Johnson's Farm's fresh-baked cinnamon donuts to take home.

Later, when I spoke with DeDe Johnson, the owner, she told me the family had started gathering sap earlier than usual this year. Johnson's homemade syrup is not only an essential on every dining table, but the Johnsons also incorporate the sweet liquid into many of their original dishes, such as maple BBQ ribs, maple scallops, and maple glazed chicken. DeDe informed me that the pot roast special served on Thursday and Saturday evenings is her parents' original recipe. The late June and Lewis Webster served their famous pot roast countless times over the years at club events in the Orange area.



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Johnson's Farm features maple syrup produced on site and affordable home cooking.  
photo © by Diane Kane

DeDe achieved her own cooking fame recently with an award-winning chocolate chip coffee cake that won the Betty Crocker baking contest and earned her a trip to the General Mills kitchen in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Visitors can enjoy the celebrated coffee cake at Johnson's Farm or can purchase some to take home.

Johnson's Farm offers additional dining space upstairs that can accommodate private parties up to thirty-two people but is not handicapped accessible. Diners may browse crafts displayed on the second floor, including many children's items. Johnson's Farm offers a children's menu as well. Young guests will enjoy meeting Gizmo the Syrian donkey and peering into the hollowed-out stump that serves as an enchanting fairy house, as well as touring the sugar house.

Johnson's is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Lunch and dinner menus include a variety of soups, sandwiches, meats, and fish. Weekly dinner specials are offered Wednesday through Saturday. The restaurant website, [Johnsonsfarm.net](http://Johnsonsfarm.net), provides the complete menu and hours.

Surrounded by picturesque New England scenery and with so many things to see and do, you don't have to be hungry to enjoy Johnson's Farm, but you will be pleased if you are!

Diane Kane, a former chef and writer, is co-producer of *Time's Reservoir*, a Quabbin Quills anthology. She lives in Phillipston.

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## Get that wedding “WOW” with unique approaches to favorite elements

by Linda Ruel Flynn

If you are planning a wedding, you know you want to do something to make the experience truly unique for both you and your guests.

I see a lot of weddings in my work helping couples create dreamy elements for their celebrations. A great

place to start thinking about a unique element is to focus on the one area of the celebration that is most important to you. Choose, for example, invitations, flowers, or a color. Take that element, and then let your imagination go. One area with a thoughtful, imaginative element makes a huge impact.

Here are a few suggestions . . .

One of the most unique invitations I have ever helped create consisted of a clear acrylic sandwich with pressed ferns between the pieces of acrylic. We arranged for laser-cut text for the invitations. The “sandwich” of acrylic and ferns stayed together with small screws in each of the four corners. Receiving this in the mail sets off a truly WOW! reaction.

Hand-painted invitations achieve no less Wow but are not as far out. We had invitations laser printed onto watercolor paper and then embellished each invitation with vines, leaves, and flowers all painted by hand. Each invitation was unique. The painted element then carried over into the wedding reception. Each table featured place cards and numbers hand painted in the same style, so everything complemented each other nicely.

If flowers and gardens are your passion, then consider the following ideas to bring an unusual spin. Paper flowers, perhaps. The artistry of paper flowers has grown tremendously in the past couple of years. Many paper flower artists on Etsy create beautiful, realistic looking flowers for bouquets.

Handmade elements definitely take time to create so don't wait until the last minute to add these to your wedding.



Unique invitations say “Wow” for a wedding.  
photo © by Linda Ruel Flynn



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Imaginative natural elements create "WOW!!"  
photo, left, © by brittanieelizabethphotography  
photo, right, © by samsimonimagining

Faux flowers not your idea of pretty? Then perhaps add elements of pressed flowers to your table designs at an unexpected site. Creating small succulent gardens as wedding favors for your guests makes such an unexpected treat. Guests will have a living element from you as a sweet memento of the day—especially lovely if you dream of a woodland-themed wedding.

Finally, color! Even if you imagine a pure white wedding, adding just a pop of color can do so much to make your white wedding stand out more. Maybe color the bottom of your shoes an unexpected purple or red. Too dramatic? Then, consider the best way I can think to bring in some color: hand-dyed silk ribbon. It is unusual, not very expensive, and flows from a bouquet like nobody's business. Silk caught in the wind means dreamy and romantic. A perfect combination for your wedding day, dreamy and romantic.

Remember, you don't need a lot to make an impact. Pick what's important to you, and make it your own.

Happy planning and happy wedding day!

Linda Ruel Flynn is the owner/designer of Flora-Ly Studios, specializing in custom botanical collages, hand painted invitations and other wedding delights. [www.flora-ly.com](http://www.flora-ly.com).



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# New Salem Academy grads carry on the legacy in 2018

by Judith Northup-Bennett



New Salem Academy hosted baseball games on New Salem Common in the early 1900s.

One of the first private academies incorporated in the Commonwealth in 1795, New Salem Academy reinvented itself many times to provide education for Quabbin area youth for almost 180 years from its inception to 1968. The academy's legacy continues today in the Quabbin area because of the resourcefulness of its alumni who started businesses, some now on their third generation, and the grant program of the academy's trustees.

New Salem's annual Old Home Day, scheduled from 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, July 21, will celebrate New Salem Academy and its alumni with the theme "Our Academy: The Legacy Continues." In addition to the usual small-town summer festival fun, this year's Old Home Day will include tours, presentations, and special activities relating to the academy.

The academy began as an area secondary school and continued through the 1800s as a boarding school bringing students from as far away as Ohio and New York to study in New Salem. As early as 1915, the New Salem Academy saw the need for vocational education and began a popular agricultural school that continued through the 1960s. Over the next four decades, forward-thinking academy directors expanded vocational programs, thus taking advantage of vocational tuition funding offered by the state, as well as funds for equipment.

In the early 1930s, people worried about the loss of students from the four towns taken by the Quabbin Reservoir project, but the success and popularity of the academy's vocational and academic programs saw the

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school year open in 1936 with an increase to a hundred students. Routes 202 and 122, roads constructed as part of the Quabbin project, meant that students from Belchertown, Pelham, Athol, Petersham, Hardwick, and other towns could make the daily trip to New Salem.

The Conkey family of Belchertown was one of many families who wanted to build businesses in the area and raise their families in the traditional trades of the Quabbin region. John Conkey, who now operates John Conkey & Sons Logging with his sons and grandsons in Belchertown, jumped at the chance to join the first graduating class—sixteen students in 1962—of the Academy's new automotive repair program.

"It was a great place to go to school," Conkey said. He went from being a lackadaisical, C-level student in public school to flourishing as an A/B-level student in the hands-on approach of the Academy. "I wanted to be an auto mechanic in the worst way. I was lucky I knew what I wanted to do when I graduated."

The automotive program proved so successful that Conkey and Bob Simmington received a free trip to Detroit to compete in a Plymouth National Trouble-shooting Contest, where they ended up national finalists. Conkey praised the way the program covered academics but also emphasized starting a business and managing inventory and equipment along with marketing and mechanical skills. Conkey held his dream job as a mechanic at the Amherst Chrysler dealership for twenty-seven years before leaving to use his business skills to start his logging business with his sons.

Two of Conkey's brothers, Jim and Edward, graduated from the academy's agricultural program and went on to found local sawmill businesses and run the family farm in Belchertown. The town paid families a dollar per day per student to transport students to New Salem—an incentive for families to recruit other students and fill the car.

Chet Lubelczyk of Hardwick also sings the praises of his Academy education in the agricultural program. Without the chance of the one-week of academics and one-week hands-on program, Lubelczyk says he would have dropped out of high school. "I always wanted to be a dairy farmer and continue the family business," he said. His mother took action to find the New Salem vocational program when she saw that her two older sons "came out dumber than they went in" from their public high school education.

Lubelczyk jumped at the chance even though it meant a daily fifty-mile round trip commute with five other Hardwick students. He loved the school, especially

shop courses that taught him skills he needed to be a successful farmer: electricity, welding, carpentry, engine repair, and machine shop.

As much as Lubelczyk wanted to be a farmer, New Salem Academy recognized his abilities and encouraged him to go to the University of Massachusetts two-year Stockbridge Animal Husbandry school, even though he didn't want to go to college. With a 3.0 academic average, he was encouraged to go on to a bachelor of science in the four-year program. In another surprise of life, the would-be Hardwick dairy farmer joined Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and ended up with a twenty-one-year career in the military. He retired with the rank of major.

Lubelczyk returned to Hardwick with a family (a son and two teen-aged daughters) to live his farming dream. Then, dairy farming wasn't successful, so he turned to the forests and has operated Chet Lubelczyk Logging ever since. His daughters continued the farming legacy by raising animals and gardens.

New Salem Academy graduates like Conkey and Lubelczyk live all around the Quabbin. They have stayed to found successful family businesses based on the skills they learned at the New Salem Academy.

Although the academy closed almost fifty years ago, the trustees continue to support educational and cultural programs in the Quabbin area with grants from the academy's endowment. Recent grants have provided funding for the Petersham Center School's science fair, the New Salem Teen Program, and healthy lifestyle programming in Wendell.

It's only fitting that the trustees' grant to the New Salem Summer Arts Intensive has once again brought education back to the Old Academy Building. New Salem Academy's long legacy in the area continues.

A freelance writer, Judith Northup-Bennett lives in New Salem and operates Slovakia Heritage Tours.



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## Worcester Revolution of 1774

continued from Page 36

a Hardwick resident whom townspeople ran out of town before the Worcester courthouse rebellion, said Lee Dougan, a member of the board of directors of the Oakham Historical Museum. Ruggles left to join the Loyalist Mandamus Council in Boston in August of 1774. A multitude met Ruggles at the bridge to prevent his crossing as he attempted to head off to Boston, according to Lucius Robinson Paige's nineteenth-century *History of Hardwick*.

Timothy Ruggles's brother Captain Benjamin Ruggles, a leader and chief speaker of the colonial militia, assured him that, if he insisted on going to Boston, townspeople would never permit him to return. "The Brigadier's warlike spirit was roused. Brother Benjamin said 'I shall come back at the head of five hundred soldiers if necessary,'" according to the *History of Hardwick*.

"Brother Timothy," said the captain, "if you cross that bridge this morning, you will certainly never cross it again-alive." Timothy Ruggles waved his hand and proceeded at a deliberate pace. The crowd gave way, and he crossed the bridge—and crossed it for the last time. He never returned, and the two brothers saw each other no more in this world."

On September 7, the day after the militias closed the Worcester court, another convention replaced royal appointees with patriot appointees, according to Mr. Moran. It also formed Minutemen as a part of the militia. Minutemen constituted the best and the strongest of militia soldiers who could respond quickly to a threat, Mr. Moran continued.

Over the next several months the Patriots stockpiled armament including weapons and gun powder, with the largest stockpile in Worcester and another in Concord. Gage considered raiding Worcester in the spring of 1775, Mr. Moran said. "He sent two spies to Worcester who came back and told the royal governor it would be difficult to raid, as it was too far to march in a day, there were too many people against the government, it would be a bloodbath, and they would not get back safely. Therefore, Gage looked for alternatives and found one in Concord."

In addition to the Massachusetts Government Act, the Coercive Acts or Intolerable Acts included the Boston Port Act, which closed the Port of Boston to all

## Gardening's Special Rewards

by Mark Wright

There's something especially rewarding about having a home garden. Aside from the obvious pleasure of having fresh vegetables and fruits just a few steps from your door and knowing what is—and more importantly—what isn't in them, the act of working with the earth can remind us of where we've come from. The notion that working soil, preparing rows or beds, and tending, weeding, and harvesting are therapeutic isn't new. Still, caught up in our daily routine, therapy can get set aside, especially when there are bad weather or pests.

Really, though, I think such adversities may be the best part of it all. It's certainly a happy day when the first ripe tomato gets picked and the basil plants have enough leaves to sneak a few to slice over said tomato.

Your hands in the soil, putting in your starts, chasing away the neighbor's cat, getting advice at the local farmer's supply—such activities build your life.

Working in your garden and sharing literal fruits of labor provide the kind of therapy mere money can't buy. Just keep the three-foot zucchinis for yourself.

Mark Wright is executive director of North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau. He designs *UQ's* covers and consults with *UQ* staff about graphic design.

commercial traffic, thus economically devastating the city. It did not, however, economically devastate the colony, Mr. Moran said. "There was a very large port in Salem where supplies could be shipped, although it was an inconvenience."

The Act of Impartial Administrative Justice allowed the royal governor to transfer all trials of English citizens to England as a way of getting rebels out of the colony to a jury trial by residents of the British Isles. The Quartering Act allowed English troops to commandeer houses and barns for royal troops without permission of the owner.

In 2014, a celebration of the Worcester Revolution included a walk to Worcester shared by Mr. Dougan and a play produced about the event written by Mr. Moran. Mr. Moran is interested in any information other towns may have about the 1774 event and asked anyone with information to contact him at [jmoran@mwa.org](mailto:jmoran@mwa.org).

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



# Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

**May 16, Wednesday**

80s Cinema @ The Center  
7:00 pm  
The Center at Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
Showing of the 1985 classic *The Goonies*. Snacks, beer, and wine will be available for purchase.  
[thecenterateaglehill.org](http://thecenterateaglehill.org)

**May 18, Friday**

Teen Movie Showing  
3:30-5:30 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Enjoy a movie chosen by teens.  
Snacks will be served. Grades 5-12.  
[athollibrary.org](http://athollibrary.org)

**May 18, Friday (continued)**

Open Mic!  
Doors open at 6:30 pm  
Workshop 13  
13 Church Street  
Ware  
Refreshments to purchase.  
Artists from near and far.  
[workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org)

**May 18 – 20, Friday-Sunday**

Massachusetts Military History Expo  
10:00 am  
645 S Main Street  
Orange  
Military History Expo is a military timeline event that takes place in Orange Massachusetts during Armed Forces Day Weekend.  
[history-expo.com](http://history-expo.com)

**May 19, Saturday**

New Salem Rabbit Run  
10:00 -1:00 pm  
Town Common  
New Salem  
Run, walk, volunteer, celebrate!  
[runreg.com/rabbit-run](http://runreg.com/rabbit-run)

Carrie Ferguson  
7:30 pm  
Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse  
Wendell Town Hall  
Benefiting Deer Paths schools.  
[Wendellfullmoon.org](http://Wendellfullmoon.org)

continued on next page

for additional *Uniquely Quabbin* calendar listings, please go online to [uniquelyquabbin.com](http://uniquelyquabbin.com) or [northquabbin.com](http://northquabbin.com)

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## Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from page 51

### May 19, Saturday (continued)

Black and White Ball to support  
Boston Children's Hospital  
6:00 -12:00 am  
Ellinwood Country Club  
1928 Pleasant Street  
Athol  
All proceeds benefit Boston Children's  
Hospital. Tickets \$18 in advance, \$20  
at the door.

### May 20, Sunday

Youth Day at  
Otter River Sportsman's Club  
7:30-5:30 pm  
Otter River Sportsman's Club  
250 Lord Road  
Baldwinville  
Introduction to hunting, fishing, and  
sportsman's safety for youths ages  
8-16. Must be accompanied by an  
adult. Thomas Ricardi's  
"Mass Birds of Prey" demonstration at  
1:00 pm. Registration requested.  
otterriversportsmansclub.org

Dick Phillips Dust Off  
9:00 am  
Silver Lake Park  
Athol  
10th Annual Dick Phillips Dust Off Car  
Show. Live Music by  
"The Enfield Machine Works Band."

### May 22, Tuesday

North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce  
and Visitors Bureau Annual Dinner  
and Awards  
5:00 pm  
The Quabbin Retreat  
211 North Main Street  
Petersham  
Awards presentation and annual  
meeting following dinner presented by  
Chef Rob Sacco of Soup on the Fly.  
northquabbinchamber.com

### May 26, Saturday

Bubble Trouble  
2:30 pm  
The Center at Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
A bubble volcano. A bubble roller  
coaster. A kid in a bubble? Jeff Boyer  
takes bubbles to the max in this  
one-man bubble extravaganza.  
thecenterateaglehill.org

### May 27, Sunday

Herp Big Day with Bill and Joe  
9:00-4:00 pm  
Meeting Place TBD  
Bill Benner and Joe Wicinski lead a  
day of looking for "Herps," reptiles  
and amphibians in the North Quabbin  
area. Bill and Joe hope to find a  
good variety of snakes, turtles, and  
salamanders. Email Dave@dhsmaill.  
net to reserve a spot.  
atholbirdclub.org

calendar listings compiled by Emily Boughton

submit calendar listings to [calendar@northquabbinchamber.com](mailto:calendar@northquabbinchamber.com)



290 Main Street Athol, MA 01331

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Monday-Friday: 9am-7pm

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Sunday: 9am-1pm

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*May 27, Sunday (continued\_*

Memorial Day Observance

10:00 am

Quabbin Memorial Cemetery

Ware

Honoring individuals removed from their original resting places for the building of Quabbin Reservoir  
pelhamhistory.org

*May 29, Tuesday*

Hemlock Hospice

6:00-7:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Learn about the Hemlock Hospice installation/exhibition on view at Harvard Forest, Petersham.  
athollibrary.org

*June 2, Saturday*

The Role of Pelham Residents in

Daniel Shay's Rebellion

2:00 pm

Pelham Historical Complex

376 Amherst Road

Pelham

Following Leonard Richards's presentation, a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the museum next door will inaugurate the new interactive Conkey Tavern area where visitors can role-play historic tavern discussions and eighteenth century Pelham life.  
pelhamhistory.org

Fairy House Making

3:00 pm

Tintagels Gate

505 Main Street

Athol

Create a lovely home for the wee guardians of your hearth and home!

*June 3, Sunday*

Dragonflies at Royalston Eagle

Reserve and Priest Brook Valley

10:00 am-2:00 pm

69 Winchendon Road

Royalston

Join Dave Small and Lynn Harper for a search for early season dragonflies and damselflies. Also expect to note interesting birds, butterflies, and whatever else.

atholbirdclub.org

*June 8, Friday*

Greater Quabbin Food Alliance

Spring Gathering

8:30 am-1:00 pm

Orange Innovation Center

131 West Main Street

Orange

The Greater Quabbin Food Alliance meets twice a year to connect, network, and brainstorm solutions to local food challenges in Franklin and Worcester counties!

*June 9, Saturday*

Equestrian Showcase

New England Equestrian Center of

Athol (NEECA) Equestrian Park

802 New Sherborn Road

Athol

Neece.org

*June 10, Sunday*

2018 Treasure Valley Rally

8:00 am-4:00 pm

394 Pleasantdale Road

Rutland

bikereg.com/tvr

Quabbin Valley Pro Musica

4:00 pm

1794 Meetinghouse

26 South Main Street

New Salem

adults, \$15; ages 13-17, \$10;

under 12, free

1794meetinghouse.org

*June 13, Wednesday*

Family Game Night

6:00-7:30 pm

Wheeler Memorial Library

49 East Main Street

Orange

Play new and classic board games.

Rhubarb! with Tinky Weisblat, food writer

6:30-7:45pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Ms. Weisblat will read excerpts from her new book, *Love, Laughter, and Rhubarb*, and will whip up something delicious for everyone to try.

Registration required.

Call 978-249-9515

athollibrary.org

*June 16, Saturday*

King's Tour of the Quabbin

7:00-5:00 am

Naquag Elementary School

285 Main Street

Rutland

Bike around Quabbin Reservoir.

Not much traffic; plenty of hills.

This is not a race.

sevenhillswheelmen.org

Trailer Safety/Skills Clinic

New England Equestrian Center of

Athol (NEECA) Equestrian Park

802 New Sherborn Road

Athol

neeca.org

*June 17, Saturday*

Swift River Valley Historical Museum

Opening Day

1:00-4:00 pm

40 Elm Street

New Salem

Admission to the Museum is free.

Donations greatly appreciated.

swiftrivermuseum.org

continued on next page

## Uniquely Quabbin listings

*continued from page 53*

### June 19, Sunday

Christine Ohlman & Rebel Montez  
4:00 pm  
1794 Meetinghouse  
26 South Main Street  
New Salem  
adults, \$15; ages 13-17, \$10;  
under 12, free  
1794meetinghouse.org

### June 20, Wednesday

Family Concert with Matt Heaton  
1:00-2:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
athollibrary.org

### June 22-24, Friday-Sunday

42<sup>nd</sup> Yankee Engine-Uity Show  
June 22, 1:00–4:00 pm  
June 23, 8:00 am–6:00 pm  
June 24, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Orange Airport  
80 Airport Road  
Orange  
Antique engines, tractors, cars, and  
trucks; flea market, steam engines,  
live steam table, kiddie tractor pull,  
tractor parade, and more.  
cmsgma.com

### June 22, Friday

Open Mic!  
Doors open at 6:30 pm  
Workshop 13  
13 Church Street  
Ware  
Refreshments to purchase.  
Artists from near and far.  
June 23, Saturday

### June 23, Saturday

Hubbardston Town Celebration  
9:00 am--6:00 pm  
Hubbardston  
Rain date June 24

Country Fest  
1:00-7:00 pm  
Templeton Fish and Game Club  
200 Club Road  
Templeton  
Rattlesnake Alley, Maximum Recoil  
and Houston Bernard Band.  
Tickets \$20 in advance \$25 at the gate.

Orange Solstice Riverfest  
4:00-10:00 pm  
Orange Riverfront Park, Millers River.  
Food and craft vendors, climbing wall,  
parachute jump, games, live music.  
At dark, floating fire pits,  
parade of illuminated boats.  
orangeriverfest.org

### June 24, Sunday

Bus Trip to Prescott Peninsula  
11:00 am–5:00 pm  
Swift River Valley Historical Society  
40 Elm Street  
New Salem  
This trip covers sections of Prescott  
\$30.00 per person paid in advance.  
Reservations required.  
dotfryesrvhs@gmail.com or  
978-544-6882 for reservations

Barre Scholarship Horse Show  
8:00-4:00 pm  
Felton Field  
120 Old Coldbrook Road  
Barre

### June 25, Monday

Family Concert with Matt Heaton!  
2:00-3:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Family-friendly show.  
no registration necessary..  
athollibrary.org

### June 26, Tuesday

Creating a Writer's Anthology with  
Quabbin Quills  
6:00-7:00 pm  
Athol Public Library  
568 Main Street  
Athol  
Learn Quabbin Quills and  
how you can contribute your writing  
to upcoming projects.  
athollibrary.org

### July 1, Sunday

Reptiles and Amphibians with  
Michael Jones, state herpetologist  
1:00–2:00 pm  
Swift River Valley Historical Society  
Prescott Church Building  
40 Elm Street  
New Salem  
Optional field trip to follow.

### July 7, Wednesday

Corvettes Doo Wop Revue  
2:30 pm  
The Center at Eagle Hill  
242 Old Petersham Road  
Hardwick  
Outdoor concert with cars show.  
Food trucks and cash bar,  
thecenterateaglehill.org

Please consider a donation to  
*Uniquely Quabbin* magazine  
Athol Historical Society c/o Debra Ellis  
1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue  
Athol, MA 01331  
Thank you.



*July 9-13, Monday-Friday*

**Water Program for Children**

9:00 am–1:00 pm daily

Swift River Valley Historical Society

40 Elm Street

New Salem

Music Theater about the Lost Valley  
written and performed by participants.

swiftrivermuseum@gmail.com

*July 11, Wednesday*

**Acrobat Li Lui**

1:00-2:00 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Liu will demonstrate hand balancing,  
plate spinning, trick cycling, foot  
juggling, ribbon dancing, and more!

Athollibrary.org

*July 14, Saturday*

**Visit to Eseck Cook House**

2:00 pm

24 Cook Road

Pelham

Eighteenth-century house at  
24 Cook Road named for a Pelham  
Quaker leader. Sign up by July 7, 2018  
with Linda Campbell Hanscom,  
(413) 323-7377

pelhamhistory.org/events

*July 15, Sunday*

**Dana Reunion on Dana Common.**

Gates open at 10:00 am

Swift River Valley Historical Society  
will bring Dana fire truck.

*July 20-22, Friday-Sunday*

**The Bard is Back: Youth Theater**

July 20 7:30 pm

July 21, 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

July 22, 2:00 pm

Barre Players Theater

64 Common Street

Barre

Directed by Dakota Hinerth  
barreplayerstheater.com



Daisies probably won't tell, but you can't really be sure.

photo © by David Brothers

*July 21, Saturday*

**New Salem Old Home Day**

10:00am-4:00 pm

New Salem

Art/crafts market, book sale,  
live music, pony rides, cake walk,  
cross-cut saw contest, historic  
Quabbin hikes, children's activities.  
Special recognition of  
New Salem Academy

**2nd Annual Music Concert**

5:30-9:30 pm

Templeton Fish and Game Club

200 Club Road

East Templeton

Benefit for Estelle Ford Nursing  
Scholarship. With Michael McDermott,  
Jesse Terry, and Connor Gaverty.  
Suggested donation \$10.

*July 22, Sunday*

**Dana Vespers**

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Swift River Valley Historical Society

Prescott Church Building

40 Elm Street

New Salem

Free. Cake and lemonade after the  
concert to celebrate the 180th birthday  
of Mrs. Clary, who lived in the house.

*July 25, Wednesday*

**Athol Rocks!: One Billion Years of  
History: Local Rocks and Landscape**

5:00-6:30 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Register by calling (978) 249-9515.  
athollibrary.org

*August 11, Saturday*

**Rita Martin Memorial Versatility Comp**

New England Equestrian Center of

Athol (NEECA) Equestrian Park

802 New Sherborn Road

Athol

neeca.org

*August 11, Saturday*

**Birds of Prey with Tom Ricardi**

3:00–4:30 pm

Swift River Valley Historical Society

40 Elm Street

New Salem

Free. Donations gladly accepted.  
Please bring lawn chairs.

*September 9, Sunday*

**Annual Members Meeting**

2:00 -4:00 pm

Swift River Valley Historical Society

40 Elm Street

New Salem

Refreshments.

## Quiet Places Bring a Sense of Serenity and Peace

*continued from page 24*

water, you can see the top of Mount Wachusett down in Princeton, Massachusetts. Everything seems far away, because you are on a hill looking over the north end of the Swift River Valley. It's a natural basin, so you can see why the Commonwealth of Massachusetts saw in it a perfect place for a reservoir for the City of Boston.

On summer days you can watch tiny boats in the water. On occasion a deer may amble by, but mostly the wildlife consists of birds and squirrels.

It may sound busy at the Overlook because there is so much to see, but you can let silence take over. Watch the clouds and listen to the trees rustle in the breeze. Then you will find a sense of serenity and peace.

### Quabbin Park Cemetery

On the far end of the Quabbin off Route 9 nearly at the border between Belchertown and Ware lies Quabbin Park Cemetery. Now, cemeteries are, by their very nature, quiet places, but this one has special historical interest. It was created to hold the dead from Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott—towns destroyed by creation of Quabbin reservoir.

When the Commonwealth made plans to flood Swift River Valley to make the reservoir, the question of cemeteries came up. Corpses, markers, and monuments all moved to the site of the new resting place, Quabbin Park Cemetery. Records were kept, and nothing was left behind.

If you drive past stone pillars that mark the entrance to Quabbin Park, you go up a slight hill and turn to the right and stop by a fieldstone building dedicated to the men from Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott who served in World War I. If you have an urge to sit to write in a journal (or eat lunch), there is a picnic table in front of the memorial.

On the other side of the road, you'll see the figure of a Civil War rifleman near two cannons and a pyramid of cannonballs. The cannon to the left came from Dana, and the soldier and the cannon on the right came from Enfield. Throughout the cemetery, flags honoring veterans of our wars wave in the breeze next to gravestones.

Gravestones are old and new, granite and slate. Statues and obelisks take their place amid the pines and cedars. Hardwoods are tall with branches reaching out



Quabbin Park Cemetery on the border between Belchertown and Ware basks in solemn serenity.  
photo © by Kathryn Holmes

to shade the stones. It makes you think of all those who have gone before. Monuments to war with or without names stop with World War I because the towns ceased to exist before any later conflicts.

The place grows lively again on the Sunday before Memorial Day. At eleven in the morning, friends and relatives gather to honor the dead. Speeches and prayers designate the occasion with new flags set out for veterans.

I seem to be writing about places where much has happened, and yet, I find in both so much that is restful. The past is always with us and should be considered part of our present.

I can walk down roads that other people have walked and share an atmosphere that puts my heart at rest. I have never been the only one. Other people have come before and will come after me. That frees me from thinking I can solve the world's problems.

I have shared two of my favorite quiet places now and expect to find more in the future. If any of you are willing to share yours, please handwrite me in the old-fashioned way at 8 Old Main Street, New Salem, MA 01355. I would be happy to go down those other quiet roads with you.

Playwright and director Dorothy Johnson seeks out quiet places. With Doris Abramson, she operated The Common Reader Bookshop on New Salem Common for many years.