

Uniquely Quabbin magazine serving

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A Quabbin region sunflower bursts with autumn light.
photo © by David Brothers

ON THE FRONT COVER

Herb Garden, 2018

a watercolor by Candace Anderson of Petersham

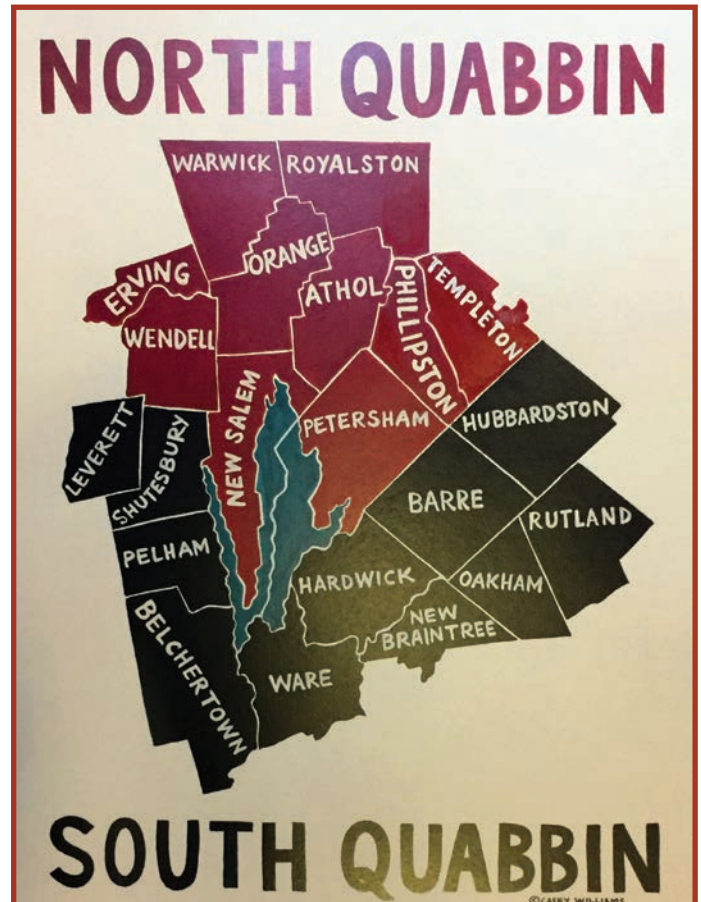
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volume 3, number 2 • September-December 2018

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

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

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a note of thanks from Athol Historical Society

Here we are . . . the fall season: Thanksgiving just around the corner and a time to give thanks.

On behalf of Athol Historical Society, I want to thank Attorney Pamela Oddy and Workers Credit Union for their generous donations in support of our magazine. These donations are so important to the continuation of this beautiful magazine.

I also want to say thank you to our photographers, an incredible group of people whose photographs grace our pages issue after issue. We asked them to provide us with photos of fall scenes, and they went the extra mile. As you flip through the pages of this issue, take the time to really look at the beautiful pictures they have shared with us of the Quabbin region. They provide us with the opportunity to give thanks for the extraordinary beauty found in the area where we live. And, these pictures just might encourage you to spread your wings and explore a part of the twenty-one-town region that you haven't visited before.

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Debra Ellis, treasurer
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**FIND LISTINGS FOR
 NORTH QUABBIN AND SOUTH QUABBIN
 EVENTS
 BEGINNING ON PAGE 58**

Time's Reservoir
A Quabbin Quills Anthology

A collection of short stories and poems by local authors is now available on amazon.com! Produced by Quabbin Quills, a Massachusetts non-profit group of authors helping authors.

Find out more at facebook.com/QuabbinQuills.

a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

We probably shouldn't admit that we have fun putting together *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine, but we do enjoy everything about it from beginning to end.

About two and a half months before press time, we begin soliciting advertising. Advertisers welcome us and collaborate with us about words and images for their ads.

Writers, artists, and photographers start creating their contributions around the same time. The variety and quality of their work verifies what we've all known for a long time: there's a lot of talent in these hills and valleys. We feel fortunate that so many talented writers, artists, and photographers enthusiastically share their work with *Uniquely Quabbin* readers.

We begin putting ads, photos, art, and stories into place about a month before sending the magazine to press. Writers review their stories, and artists and photographers consider the sizing and placement of their work to be sure we've displayed it to the best advantage for our ten thousand or more readers.

Then, barely able to wait for the presses to roll, we send the magazine to the printer. Finally, we have the new edition in our hands, ready to distribute to our readers.

And now, you have the magazine in your hands! We hope you like it.

Sincerely,

Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

***Uniquely Quabbin* magazine
gratefully acknowledges the support of**

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Orange Cultural Council • Pelham Cultural Council

Petersham Cultural Council • Phillipston Cultural Council

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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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Free



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

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



Comet Pond State Park in Hubbardston reflects the sunset's afterglow.
photo © by John Burk



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uncommon occurrence: a blue frog beneath the harvest moon

text and watercolor by Candace Anderson



Blue Frog near Quabbin Reservoir at Harvest Moon
watercolor © by Candace Anderson

Northern Brazil is renowned for its Blue Poison Dart frogs, but in our Quabbin region, we do not commonly find blue frogs at garden pools. Fortunately the occasional blue frogs in our region are not poisonous. Instead, they appear as mutations of common bullfrogs and green frogs.

Think back to the simple primary color lessons taught by grade-school art teachers.

Blue and yellow make green. When genetically unequipped to make yellow, a green frog mutates as in the photo at the top of the page.

Such a mutant—called an axanthic frog—resided at a local garden pool for four summers when paintings and local lore featured the resident amphibian.

Each fall as the days grew shorter and colder, the axanthic frog joined its mates in the hibernation practice of hunkering deep into pond muck and relying on its internal antifreeze to stay alive. Preparing for its winter sleep, perhaps the frog enjoyed the light of the Harvest Moon shining above.

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



A black bear ambles out of the Quabbin woods.
photo © by Rick Flematti

Black Bears and Moose

by Rick Taupier

With creation of Quabbin and protection of its surrounding watershed, many once regionally extinct wildlife species have returned to restored habitat. Species whose increased presence have led to frequent sightings include bald eagles, wild turkeys, loons, fishers, coyotes, and bobcats that enhance the Quabbin region's growing reputation as a prime area for viewing such beautiful creatures.

Black bears and moose constitute apex species that attract a great deal of attention. Often reported to police and wildlife officials, black bears and moose occasionally pose threats to safety, and drivers in the region should be alert to their presence on local roadways.

The black bear population in Massachusetts has climbed steadily since the early 1970s and now numbers more than 4500, with the vast majority in western portions of the Commonwealth. Heavily wooded areas provide habitat for the magnificent creatures, but the growing population of bears has resulted in the species pushing east beyond Route 495 and once as far as Cape Cod.



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Bears have learned to co-exist with humans in rural areas, but when they enter suburban regions, conflicts occur more often. Quabbin region residents have learned to bring bird feeders in at the first hint of spring, and many no longer feed birds for fear of attracting bears. The past spring, my wife and I had an impressive male, estimated at some four hundred pounds, visit our deck looking for food on several occasions. And, yes. We found it a bit unnerving.

Black bears travel as loners and roam extensively in search of food. While their home ranges overlap, males may roam over 120 square miles while females can exist on as few as 11 square miles. A healthy mix of males and females of various ages likely occupy prime bear habitat.

For up to eighteen months, sows and their cubs stick together. The range of bears expands as young animals leave their mothers to establish new territories that minimize conflicts with other bears. Most active at dusk and dawn, bears tend to remain in certain areas during the year with plentiful foods. Omnivores, they are equally content to eat garbage, berries, small mammals, bird seed, carrion, spring vegetation, and other foods. They become especially active in the fall and spring when trying to pack on fat or recovering from winter's scarcity. Like moose, they often roam in and around swamps in the spring to take advantage of succulent new growth.

Moose can be even more spectacular than black bears. Average shoulder height is six feet, and—the largest wild animals in North America—males can weigh more than a thousand pounds.

continued on page 54



A moose takes a little dip in Quabbin region waters.
photo © by Dale Monette

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NATIVE AMERICAN TRADERS, HUNTERS, AND WAYFARERS

by Carla Charter

In the Quabbin Valley, we often find ourselves driving on major thoroughfares to get from one place to another. Centuries before Europeans, Africans, South Americans, and Asians arrived, people also considered the area a thoroughfare.

"People who had lived here since time immemorial" traveled on foot across the area, according to John Brown, historic officer of the Narragansett Tribe.

"The Quabbin Valley was a major thoroughfare to the Connecticut River Valley area," Mr. Brown said. "A sixty- to eighty-mile trip for these travelers was not uncommon. Fifty, sixty, one hundred miles was nothing for them," he said.

Members of the Wampanoag, Narragansett, and Nipmuc tribes lived in or passed through what became the Quabbin region. "It could have been one of several tribes depending on the year. Abenaki, Massachusetts, Nipmuc, Narragansett, or Wampanoag: it could have been one of many tribes," Mr. Brown said.

People of the region spoke a general language, Mr. Brown added,



East Quabbin Land Trust and Hardwick Historical Society hosted a 2017 event featuring native American artifacts found in Quabbin region fields and woods. Mark Bombard, Charlie Lemaître, Jennifer Mott, and William "Boo" Pearson shared their collections. Ms. Mott's family assembled the artifacts, above, including the smily face button found in their back yard. Mott's father, a geologist, numbered arrowheads, tools, and other implements. She said her dad said, "You have to think like a native American to find native American artifacts." photo courtesy of East Quabbin Land Trust

and each tribe had its own dialect. "The tribes moving through were fishing, hunting, trading, and living," he said.

Tribes often lived close to the water or ocean in warmer weather and traveled back to valleys in colder weather. "The whole village, from hundreds to thousands, would move," he said.

Where people moved also depended on the availability of food, according to Mr. Brown. Food sources included bear, elk, moose, and woodland bison, a smaller relative of the plains bison, which also lived in the area before becoming extinct. People fished in rivers. They smoked and dried food to preserve it during the winter.

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TRAVELED QUABBIN REGION ROUTES AND BYWAYS

During warmer months, people lived in wetus, dome-shaped shelters with wooden frames. In colder months, they lived in longhouses heated by fire, according to Mr. Brown, who said the inside reached between seventy and seventy-five degrees Fahrenheit. When traveling to other places, native Americans left their home frames set up in anticipation of their return.

Like most people today, when tribes moved, they moved much of their lives with them. Despite distances of their walks, items including clothing, food, and tools traveled with them.

Trading occurred along the same throughfares utilized to move around. Along the route, people traded items such as copper, coal, beans, stones, tools, food stuff, clothing, and other handmades.

When Europeans arrived, Mr. Brown said, societal ways began changing substantially. He said that native Americans lived to get along with nature while Europeans lived to control nature. "They had very little respect for the natural environment," he said.

"How would you feel if people came along and said

they liked your house so they were going to take it?" Mr. Brown asked as a reminder that native peoples owned land in the region for thousands of years before Europeans arrived.

Where we travel now, generations of people have traveled before. Their heritage and legacy remains and endures.

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

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Swift River Valley Historical Society holds archives

by Megan O'Loughlin

Long before creation of Quabbin Reservoir, towns of the Swift River Valley flourished. Businesses and industries supported the area economically while social clubs and activities brought people together and created the sense of community characteristic of small towns. The towns' success depended on the hard work and dedication of residents who committed time and effort to ensuring the valley reached its potential. Among them: Captain William Bird Kimball, a blue-eyed, dark-haired Oakham native who settled in Enfield after serving in the Civil War and quickly became prominent in the town's public affairs.

Born in Oakham on June 2, 1833 to James and Emily (Parker) Kimball, Captain Kimball spent his childhood in Oakham and later attended Amherst College, graduating with the class of 1856. He then moved to Westboro,



William B. Kimball sits for a daguerreotype image in his Civil War uniform, circa 1862.
photo courtesy of
Swift River Valley Historical Society
photograph collection

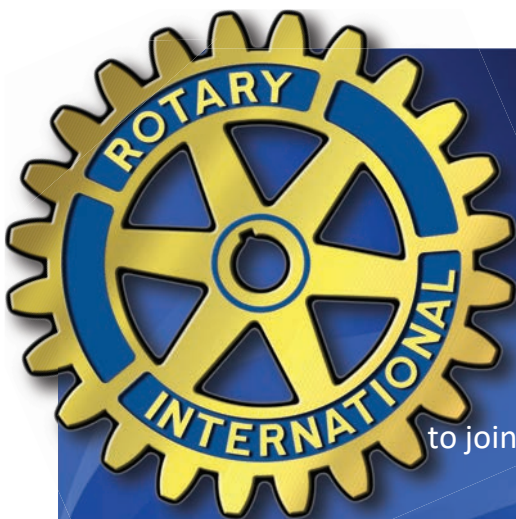
Massachusetts, where he conducted a large dairy farm until the onset of the Civil War. On February 17, 1858, Kimball married Frances "Fanny" C. Woods, an event that joined him with one of Enfield's

earliest families. Fanny was a daughter of Josiah B. Woods and Frances C. (Belcher) Woods. Josiah was a prominent Enfield native associated with early industrial development in his hometown.

Kimball mustered into service on July 16, 1861, after enlisting in Company K of the Thirteenth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. Attached to the Army of Potomac, Kimball's regiment participated in all of its critical battles. While Kimball saw much hard service as his term of enlistment extended over the most crucial period of the war, he escaped without injury. After several promotions, he became captain of his regiment in 1863 and, at thirty-one, earned his honorable discharge on August 1, 1864.

Captain Kimball then relocated to Enfield, where he continued his life as a farmer. He and his wife resided in the home built by his father-in-law, one of the largest and finest estates in Enfield. Years after Kimball occupied the residence, the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission reportedly used it for offices during the disincorporation of towns before creation of Quabbin Reservoir.

Shortly after Captain Kimball's arrival in Enfield, he became prominent in public affairs. Over the years, he held office as town clerk, selectman, treasurer, assessor, and overseer of the poor. He served on the school board for more than twenty-five years and spent several years as a justice of the peace for Hampshire County.



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of Civil War Captain William Bird Kimball and others



In keeping with the customs of the 1880s, members of the Kimball family gathered on the lawn of their spacious Enfield home for a photograph.

photo courtesy of Swift River Valley Historical Society photograph collection

In 1877, his constituents elected him to represent his district in the Commonwealth's legislature.

Captain Kimball participated in the Bethel Lodge of Masons, and he and his wife belonged to the Enfield Congregational Church. Captain Kimball reportedly split his time between Boston and Enfield in the late 1890s while he served in the legislature, prior to his death in Enfield in 1908. He and his wife are buried in Ware's Aspen Grove Cemetery.

The archives at the Swift River Valley Historical Society hosts a collection of Captain Kimball's papers comprised largely of

materials pertaining to his Civil War service. The collection also includes muster-in and muster-out certificates, documents announcing his appointment to military ranks, and his honorable discharge. Also in the collection are a handwritten history of the Thirteenth Massachusetts Regiment, a Memorial Day address, and a brief handwritten history of the Battle of Gettysburg. Captain Kimball appears frequently in Enfield town records and Enfield Congregational Church records, both also housed in the Swift River Valley Historical Society archives.

As years progress and the existence of the Quabbin towns

moves deeper into the past, fewer people remain to offer firsthand accounts of life in the area before construction of Quabbin Reservoir. Swift River Valley Historical Society houses many original materials from pre-Quabbin life. Visitors can view them at the society from 1:00 to 4:00 pm Wednesdays and Sundays until September 23, when the building will close until June, 2019. To make appointments for archival research, email megansrvhs@gmail.com.

Megan O'Loughlin lives in New Salem and, as archivist, facilitates research at Swift River Valley Historical Society.

state highway system changed with

by J. R. Greene

Few people alive in the second decade of the twenty-first century remember the state highway network as it existed in the Quabbin area before construction of the reservoir. The area had relatively few numbered paved state roads, since several railroads provided most transportation for local residents who needed to leave their hometowns.

Massachusetts Route 2—since the 1950s named Route 2A from Greenfield to Commonwealth Avenue in Boston—constituted the main east-west paved road through the Erving-Templeton area. Originally named Route 7, the route underwent the name change with the advent of the US highway system in 1926. US Route 7 runs north to south along the western border of Massachusetts. Route 109 was the main east-west road at the southern end of the old Swift River Valley

later flooded to create Quabbin Reservoir. Route 109 ran from Northampton east to West Brookfield through Belchertown, Enfield, and Ware.

No major roads existed west of Swift River Valley, as no one saw a need to serve small rural towns, including those east of Amherst. East of Swift River Valley, Massachusetts Route 32 ran from Winchendon south to the western part of Templeton, where it joined Route 2. At the site of the former Athol's fairgrounds—now Athol High School—Route 32 turned south to proceed through Barre, Hardwick center, and Gilbertville to Route 109 in Ware. Later, the northern part of Route 32 switched to its current course running north from Athol through West Royalston to Keene, New Hampshire.



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creation of Quabbin

Signs for Route 21 designated the only state highway running north-south through the Swift River Valley. It began at Route 2 in downtown Athol, then followed South Athol Road to the eastern part of New Salem. From there, it continued south through North Dana, Greenwich Village, and Enfield before running concurrently with Route 109 to Belchertown. On the west side of that town, it went southwest to Ludlow from where other roads took the traveler into Springfield.

When the Quabbin Reservoir project began in 1926, engineers presumed that the railroad running through the valley would at best relocate to the east, but that never happened. Engineers also presumed construction of new two-lane highways around parts of the reservoir to accommodate traffic. The Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission, which built the reservoir, also built the roads and then turned them over to the state to operate and maintain.

The largest project involved construction of Daniel Shays Highway along a twenty-mile route on the west side of the reservoir connecting Belchertown with Orange and later extending to Athol. The state named the road after the famous leader of the rebellion of western Massachusetts farmers against state authorities in 1786-1787. Completed in 1936, federal officials designated it as US Route 202 connecting Winchendon with Southwick, Massachusetts, along a route that extended from Bangor, Maine, south to Washington, DC.

On the north side of the reservoir, the state built a road connecting with Route 202 near North New Salem east a few miles to a junction with Route 32 just south of Petersham center and designated Massachusetts Route 122 running from downtown Orange to Providence, Rhode Island. On the east side of the reservoir, the state built Massachusetts Route 32A to go from just west of Petersham center off Route 122 south through Hardwick center to Gilbertville, where it meets Route 32. A relocation of Route 32 below Old Furnace now bypasses parts of the former route.

On the south side of the reservoir, the state constructed a new highway west from Ware to just north

continued on page 44

*Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,
the wretched refuse of
your teeming shore:
send these, the homeless,
tempest-tost to me.
I lift my lamp beside
the golden door!"*

—Emma Lazarus



ad signed by
Hattie Nestel

four freight-carrying railroad lines

by Allen Young

Four active railroad lines pass through several towns in the North Quabbin and South Quabbin. All offer only freight service.

Several decades have gone by since the last passenger train came through any part of the region.

Only Pan Am Railways, the largest of the four active lines, has tracks in the North Quabbin. Pan Am, formerly known as Guilford Rail, extends from eastern Massachusetts to Mechanicsville,



New York, near Albany. Its tracks go through Royalston, Athol, Orange, Wendell, and Erving before continuing west via the Hoosac Tunnel under the Berkshires through the subterranean regions of the Massachusetts towns of Florida and North Adams.

Cynthia Scarano, Pan Am's executive vice president, informed me of steady business. She said nine trains a day run each way. The company hauls less coal than previously, she said, although it hauls more freight cars containing other items than in the past.

Residents know grade crossings, flashing lights, and barriers that block road traffic in South Royalston, Orange, Wendell Depot, and the Erving side section of Millers Falls while trains

go through Athol over trestles or under roadways, so drivers and pedestrians encounter no grade crossings there.

In decades past, before the Boston & Maine Railroad became Pan Am, the line provided vital freight service to several businesses, most notably Erving Paper Mills until highway transportation became more economical. As far as I could determine, rail serves no North Quabbin businesses.

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serve Quabbin region communities

purchased it in 1981, he named the eventual Pan Am major east-west line Guilford Rail after his family home in Guilford, Connecticut. Mellon later acquired the name and logo of Pan American World Airways, and in 2006, the railroad dropped the Guilford name in favor of Pan Am. More recently, Pan Am came to a cooperative agreement with Norfolk Southern (NS), so many locomotives bear the NS logo.

In the South Quabbin area, three smaller railroad companies known as short lines have active track.

They include Providence and Worcester (PW)



a Genesee & Wyoming Company Railroad, New England Central Railroad (NECR),



and Massachusetts Central Railroad.



Genesee & Wyoming (GW), a large railroad holding company, maintains PW and NECR as subsidiaries. The NECR passes through Belchertown on its way from New London, Connecticut, to East Alburgh, Vermont. PW track runs from Gardner to Worcester and passes through Hubbardston.

Items transported include aggregates, agricultural products, automobiles, chemicals, construction debris, forest products, minerals, pulp

and paper, petroleum products, scrap, and metal



products, according to the companies' websites. Aggregates encompass construction materials such as sand, gravel, crushed stone, slag, recycled concrete, and geosynthetic products.

"I don't disclose names of the railroads' customers, as I don't consider it my place to do

continued on page 49



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PROPONENTS OF GREEN BURIAL ENDORSE PRACTICE AS

by Ellen Woodbury



Friends of Deb Katz of Rowe, crouching center right, hand-dig a grave for the body of her late husband, Fred Katz, during a green burial on private land conserved with state approval as a cemetery.
photo courtesy of Deb Katz

“We used to take care of our own,” said Judith Lorei. The director of Green Burial Massachusetts, a non-profit organization dedicated to advocacy and education, Ms. Lorei referred to how people took care of the bodies of deceased loved ones.

In contrast, modern death care traditions date to the American Civil War when the military employed embalming to preserve the bodies of fallen soldiers in order to ship them home for burial. Over time, more practices have taken place to “protect” and “remove” bodies from their natural breaking down, according to Ms. Lorei.

Each year 22,500 cemeteries in the US bury 827,060 gallons of embalming fluid, 90,272 tons of steel, 30-plus million board feet of hard wood, and 1,636,000 tons of reinforced concrete in vaults, according to information found on the website of South Carolina’s Greenhaven Preserve. Some people instead follow a dust-to-dust credo as a growing number of people choose green burial.

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Environmentally friendly green burial protects the earth when bodies return, Ms. Lorei asserted. A green burial requires no embalming and employs biodegradable caskets of soft wood, wicker, or cardboard or a shroud, she explained. It necessitates no vault or grave liner, she said. A flat stone or marker maintains the natural view of the land, she added.

Massachusetts has no exclusively green cemeteries, Ms. Lorei said, although some cemeteries allow green burial.

"We are working with the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to develop a conservation cemetery in Massachusetts," Ms. Lorei explained. "It's a long process that we are following step by step" said Ms. Lorei. Mount Grace serves a twenty-three-town north central Massachusetts area that includes the Quabbin region communities of Athol, Barre, Erving, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Templeton, Warwick, and Wendell.

Leigh Youngblood, executive director of Mount Grace, endorses the idea of conserving land while sometimes providing green burial spaces. The sale of such plots will help conserve and protect the space as a place to connect with loved ones and nature. "We just haven't found the right land yet," Ms. Youngblood said.

Kestrel Land Trust, headquartered in Amherst, serves the Pioneer Valley, including the Quabbin region communities of Belchertown, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury, and Ware. Ms. Lorei said Kestrel also has a program for developing green burial space.



The shrouded body of Fred Katz reposes in the grave dug by friends during a green burial ceremony.
photo courtesy of Deb Katz

Massachusetts law does not require embalming bodies nor the installation of vaults or grave liners, Ms. Lorei said, although individual cemeteries have their own regulations.

"Research and planning are important," Ms. Lorei said. She explained that local boards of health and

continued on page 42

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Stonecutter Richard Verock



Richard Verock, the only certified stonecutter in the Quabbin region, sands a stone skateboard memorial.

photo © by Dale Monette

The Oakham Historical Museum

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The Oakham Historical Museum is maintained by the Oakham Historical Association

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by Marcia Gagliardi and Debra Ellis

"I love stone carving," enthused Richard Verock of Athol Granite Works. "That's why, at seventy, I still do it."

Working in granite, marble, or bronze, Athol Granite Works supplies families, educational institutions, and businesses with custom-carved or custom-produced sculptures, benches, memorials, monuments, and more. The operation includes its Athol location on South Main Street and Dorsey Memorials in Amherst, Massachusetts, acquired by Athol Granite in 1989.

With his son Adam and Peter D. King of Athol, Mr. Verock produces original sculptures and other original large stone or bronze tributes in a workshop reminiscent of earlier American or European ateliers. Raised in Athol's Lithuanian-American community, Mr. Verock said Lithuanians, like Italians and Germans, have a long history of stone-carving.

"The durability and strength appeal," Mr. Verock said.

Called Rocky by 1960s Athol High School football friends who remember him as a tough center, Mr. Verock said his high school interests leaned more toward drafting and architectural drawing than art.

"I enjoyed art," he said, "but I never spent time excelling." Nevertheless, he says, Athol High's David Pandiscio encouraged his drafting talents.

He remembers working with the late Greg Stone, Northampton artist born and raised in Athol, on the bronze statue of Anne Frank at the Boise, Idaho, Human Rights Memorial. "I was honored to create the wax cast for the bronze diary at the bottom of the memorial," Mr. Verock said. He and Mr. Stone played football together for the Athol High team.

After studying engineering at Boston's Wentworth Institute and the Andover Institute of Business in Brockton, Mr. Verock knew he wanted to go into business. "I returned to Athol around 1970 and sold insurance for Metropolitan Life. One of my clients was James Hodge, who then ran Athol Granite Works on Exchange Street."

One day, Mr. Hodge told Mr. Verock that a stonecutter had quit. Would Mr. Verock like to try the work? Mr. Hodge asked.

"I said yes," Mr. Verock explained. "I spent five years as an apprentice stonecutter and earned my journeyman's certificate." The state-sponsored certificate qualified Mr. Verock as an official stonecutter.

He bought Athol Granite in 1978. His tools include hammers, chisels, and pneumatic chisels. "I've gravitated toward splitting tasks," he said, "and I do a little bit of everything, including splitting, drilling, polishing, and carving. We sometimes buy cut, polished slabs and sometimes sandblast stone ourselves. I use hammers and carbide chisels in different sizes."

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In the early twentieth century, Athol Granite advertised with a thermometer.



Using all the tools of his trade, Mr. Verock created the memorial bench, left, and the Excalibur remembrance photos courtesy of Athol Granite Works

Harvest Calendar

September

September 15

Fall Festival • 9 am-4 pm
Main Street, Athol
vendors, crafters, street food, farmers
markets, music and
dance performances

Celebrate Shutesbury • 10 am-2 pm
Town Common
music, food, book sale,
fall fun, games

Ware Center Meetinghouse Fair and
Flea • 9 am-3 pm
Sweet treats, flea market, crafts, silent
auction, historical exhibits and an
apple pie contest. Proceeds benefit
the restoration and upkeep of the
Historic Meetinghouse.

September 21-23

Belchertown Fair
Town Common
animals, horse pulls, oxen draw,
exhibit hall with crafts, vegetables,
photography

September 22

Leverett Historical Society
Harvest Supper • 6:30 pm
Memorial Pie Auction
Pelham Historic Town Hall
New England boiled dinner
homemade pie auction

September 29-30

North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival
10 am-5 pm
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www.garlicandarts.com

October

October 6

Dismas Family Farm Harvest Festival
12 pm-3 pm
687 Lincoln Road • Oakham
music, hayrides, children's activities,
children's barn slide

Old 78 Farm Fall Festival
11 am-11 pm
823 Orange Road
Warwick
crafters, music, face painting, balloon
art, Pixiebelle the Clown, foods
including squash soup, homemade
pies.

October 6-7
Giant Pumpkin Festival
Red Apple Farm
455 Highland Avenue
Phillipston

harvest calendar
compiled by
Carla Charter

October 8

Celebrate the Harvest
Orange Airport
80 Airport Street,
Orange
parade, craft market, car show

October 7, 8, and 9th
Carter and Stevens Farm Harvest Fest
10 am-7:30 pm
500 West Street (Route 122), Barre
hay rides, pumpkin catapulting for
charity

November

November 18

Thanksgiving Farmers Market
Hubbardston Historical Society
Chapel
4 Burnshirt Road, Hubbardston
12 pm -3 pm
Local Baked goods, pies, bread,
meats, cheeses, jams, jellies and
vegetables. Organic Turkey raffle.

November 18 and 19

Thanksgiving Harvest Fest
10 am-4 pm
Red Apple Farm
455 Rutland Avenue, Phillipston
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Pumpkin launch, Hay bale tossing
championship, Hay rides, farm
animals, Civil War Reenactment



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Pumpkins and cornstalks abound at Carter & Stevens Farm, Barre.
photo © John Burk

Hardwick residents impersonate past inhabitants in Ghost Walk

Hardwick residents will impersonate nineteenth-century residents of the community in their annual Ghost Walk scheduled from 5:30 and 7:30 pm October 20.

Thirty-four participants in the Ghost Walk include residents from children to elders in their eighties. Profiles of impersonated past residents appear in *The History of Hardwick* by Lucius Paige. Lynne Pledger founded the Ghost Walk in 1999.

Ghostly impersonators will wear costumes to emulate their historical forebears and undertake actions based on knowledge of personalities in their nineteenth century lifetimes. The walk begins at the Hardwick Town House.

Liz Reilly, Kathy Hessel, Anne Barnes, and Emily Bancroft of Hardwick Historical Society planned this year's Ghost Walk, supported with a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council.

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East Quabbin Land Trust creates trail for bikers, hikers, skiers,

by John Burk



Workers rehabilitate an old railroad trestle to accommodate recreational users in a new rail trail sponsored by East Quabbin Land Trust along the Ware River.
photo © by Cynthia Henshaw

Nearly half a century after the last trains rolled across the southern Quabbin Valley, the legacy of the former Central Massachusetts Railroad, known as the Central Mass, lives on in the form of a new rail trail along Ware River in Hardwick and New Braintree. Thanks to efforts of East Quabbin Land Trust, visitors enjoy a unique combination of scenic views and history.

Although the Central Mass suffered numerous financial difficulties and failed to live up to the expectations of its founders, it experienced a few successes during its long history. Conceived in the 1860s by local businessmen, the railroad was acquired by the

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and more at abandoned Massachusetts Central Railroad tracks

Boston and Maine Company in 1887. The route, once stretching for 105 miles from Boston to Northampton, provided freight and passenger service to rural communities, served as a link in the first direct through passenger rail line between Boston and Washington, DC, and hauled ammunition for the military during World War II.

After construction began on a rather steep and circuitous route over hills and ridges in Hardwick, workers ultimately built the line along much gentler grades of Ware River. Portions of the never-completed railroad bed remain on the east side of Quabbin Reservoir. Boston and Maine discontinued the section east of Wheelwright, a village in Hardwick, after the 1938 hurricane, thus ending the Boston to Northampton connection. However, the Wheelwright to Northampton Branch operated until 1973, when the Wheelwright paper mill closed. The tracks went out of service in the early 1980s shortly before the bankrupt Boston and Maine Railroad was purchased by Guilford Rail Systems.

In 2007, East Quabbin Land Trust acquired the three-mile segment of the old railroad bed between Wheelwright and Creamery Road in Hardwick. The land trust established a trailhead at the site of the former New Braintree depot, where farmers once exported milk and other products to Boston. Volunteers have rehabilitated two historic railroad bridges with new wood decking to ensure safe crossings for trail users.

“Getting people onto the trail is critical to keeping our community engaged in the landscape, and work on the bridges was a great opportunity for our volunteers to make a difference,” said Cynthia Henshaw, executive director of East Quabbin Land Trust.

Unpaved but well-maintained and level, the trail welcomes hikers, bikers, horseback riders, skiers, and snowmobilers. The southwest section, approximately two miles long, leads past farm fields and mixed forests to a historic lattice truss bridge and picnic table at 0.75 miles. The Massachusetts Central Railroad (unaffiliated

continued on page 50

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varied doors accent Shutesbury historic buildings



Old doors accenting historic buildings include those, from left, at Shutesbury's Old Town Hall, dating to 1829, repository for the town's archives; the Hearse House, dating to 1840, at the entrance to West Cemetery on Leverett Road; and Shutesbury Town Hall, site of Shutesbury Center School from 1950-1953 and now home to town offices and the recently renovated senior center. Photos will appear as "The Doors of Shutesbury," a poster conceived by

Mary Lou Conca, whose fascination with the doors of historic buildings led to the photo project.

photos © by Mary Lou Conca



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A bull surveys its late summer surroundings in a painting in acrylics by Fabio Deponte of Petersham..
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Quiet Places • Quiet Thoughts

Rutland Brook Sanctuary and a drive to Ware

by Dorothy Johnson

I had a nuclear stress test that necessitated lying on my back, arms overhead, for fifteen minutes. While thus occupied, I relived a walk I had taken the day before.

On Route 32 going from Petersham to Barre almost across the road from the Women's Federated Forest, you can see Connor Pond. Take a left at Pat Connor Road and drive up about half a mile to the Rutland Brook Sanctuary, a Mass Audubon property open daily from dawn to dusk. There is a small parking lot near a large sign holding trail maps.

It was a brilliant day with the sky an ideal blue, ferns already turned gold and maples turning red and gold. During the stress test, I could almost smell the clear air, and I could feel myself relaxing as I relived following the John Woolsey Trail skirting Connor Pond to reach



Dorothy Johnson

Rutland Brook. It felt quiet and peaceful, but something about the change of the seasons brings excitement to the heart. Something glorious happens.

On a dark day, I might muse about summer and all summers past, but on such an autumn day with such clear air, I could only take a deep breath, say thank you, and think forward.

Each trail noted in the Rutland Brook Sanctuary map includes its measured length. While no trail extends very far, some have steeper terrain than others. I felt grateful for my walking stick to help me over rough places. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on how you feel, we met no wildlife on the trail. A few birds overhead seemed not to notice us as we passed.

As in most places in New England, an abundance of rocks and boulders lay scattered about. I have always thought, when I see such a scattering of rocks, that the glacier carrying them got a fit of laughing and just dropped everything right there.

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You can go as far as time and energy permit and then turn back to retrace your steps to the parking lot. I didn't take that walk for quiet meditation, but it turned out to that end at Heywood Hospital in Gardner the next day flat on my back when I could truly appreciate that particular quiet place.

On a different note and a different day. I found a quiet place in the act of driving my car on a road often noticed but never taken. Just off Route 32 in Gilbertville, I found just such a quiet drive.

Bridge Street leads to a covered bridge. It's a new/old bridge originally built in 1886 but obviously rebuilt more recently with new wood and solid foundation. Still, it amounts to a satisfying bridge to drive across.

Even the new wood seems to resound with history.

Of course, in a car you must constantly pay attention to driving, but, still, the act lends itself to old/new thoughts. As I drove on the Old Gilbertville Road, my thoughts turned to New England history in a very general way.

First, we passed old farms along hills, their fields marked with stone walls. What labor created those walls! And still the fields lay studded with stones. I thought of the people who built those walls.

Next, I passed newer houses with their wide lawns and then up and over a hill and down to the end of that road to join Church Street in Ware with Victorian houses neatly side by side. The end of Church Street leads to Ware's Main Street where businesses remain with the big mills that housed manufacturing forever changed.

I remember mills closing and manufacturers moving the work to



Rutland Brook Sanctuary, a Mass Audubon property, reposes near Connor Pond between the towns of Petersham and Barre.

photo © by John Burk

the south and overseas. Somehow towns have hung on. Ware certainly has, as have many towns in the Quabbin region. From early New England farms to the changing world of manufacturing, the area has seen some hard times, but like the old covered bridge, we can renew it.

I have faith that we will go on, and I hope that we will prosper.

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.



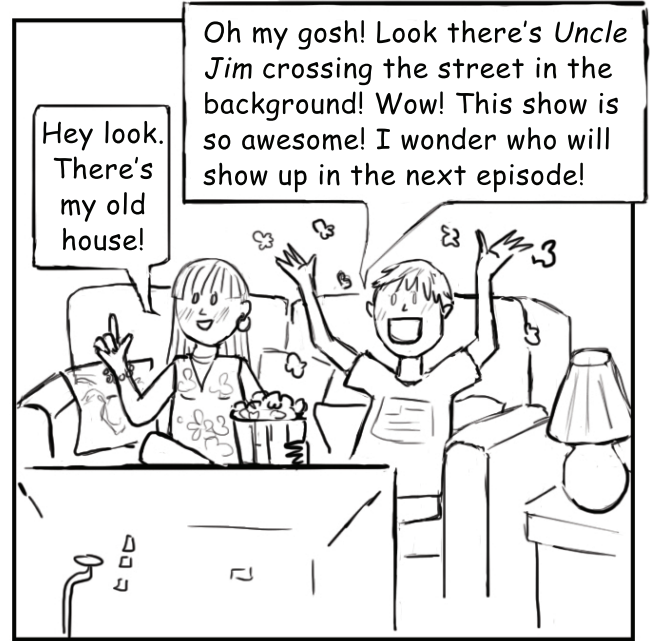
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cartoon © Emily Boughton

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Economic Migration
a visual haiku
by Ami Fagin

Each year in New England, our migrating bird population wings away to warmer climes as the oncoming winter months urge the exodus. One of the great sufferings of our age—great flocks of migrating humans desperately seeking safety—came to my mind one early autumn morning walk as overhead, in formation, our Canada Geese made their way south. I could not help but compare the birds' migration to the plight of so many people living in circumstances that have become unbearable and unlivable as they migrate to what they hope to experience as safer climes. Human refugees seem to replicate natural emigration patterns of our very own Canada Geese. Each year in the spring, we welcome back our weary migrant flocks—of birds, that is. Our human brothers and sisters on the same stretch? Well, sadly, not so much. Visual Haiku #45: "Economic Migration" unveils our animal kingdom's universal need for affable living conditions as it highlights relocation as a central behavioral strategy for survival.

Check out all of Ami's visual haiku on her website: www.visualhaiku.graphics for all your museum pieces at a road-stand price! Look for *One Hundred and One Visual Haiku • Volume Two* in November. 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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Chase Michaud, left, of Athol High School's field hockey team grapples for the ball with Korey Houle of Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, which serves Amherst, Leverett, Pelham, and Shutesbury.
photo © by Mike Phillips

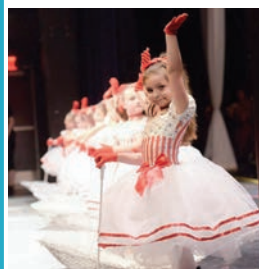


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Josh Cox, left, of Belchertown High School's soccer team races with Athol High School's Maysin Tarbell to control the ball.
photo © by Mike Phillips




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legalized marijuana in Massachusetts:

by Paula J. Botch

From bizarre visions in the 1936 film *Reefer Madness* to the in-your-face counterculture of the 1960s and on through to twenty-first century America, marijuana remains alluring and controversial. It presents a tightrope of possibilities, positive and beneficial or destructive and debilitating, depending on how an individual obtains it and uses it.

Much as with alcohol in the United States, marijuana has long been banned and criminalized. In recent years, several states legalized its use while federal laws remain that make marijuana illegal at that level, although change has begun even with that. With vocal support of President Donald Trump, representatives in congress introduced bipartisan legislation to amend the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, according to a June 5, 2018, article in the online blog *Where's Weed*. If the bill becomes law, it will remove cannabis (the Latin name of the hemp plant from which marijuana derives) from the federal list of illegal drugs in any state that chooses to legalize it.

Stigma surrounding marijuana has lessened not only socially but in the business world. Companies looking to hire have increasingly dropped marijuana from drug tests since the companies have



Marijuana plants flourish in some Quabbin region gardens.
marijuana photos courtesy of Quabbin region gardeners
maps © by Casey Williams

difficulties filling vacant jobs, states a May 2, 2018, Associated Press article. Courts sometimes side with medical marijuana users in lawsuits against companies that withdrew job offers because of positive drug tests. In recent congressional hearings, US Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta suggested that companies might “step back” on drug testing of job applicants.

In Massachusetts, we find ourselves at the cusp of a great change sweeping our country. Although no Quabbin region towns have a medical marijuana dispensary, several exist in nearby

communities. Most people feel accepting of medical marijuana, but even with a big thumbs up from voters during 2016 elections, recreational marijuana remains a sticking point.

Among Quabbin towns, only Rutland had a “no” vote in 2016—by a slim margin—while towns of



tightrope of possibilities for Quabbin towns

Pelham, Leverett, Wendell, and Shutesbury voted a resounding “yes” to recreational marijuana. Most towns continue addressing zoning and planning details with articles presented for vote at town meetings. Several towns have moratoriums



in place until the end of 2018 to allow further study regarding bylaws and consideration by zoning and planning boards.

Athol has asked surrounding communities such as Amherst for guidance in Athol’s planning for eventual marijuana businesses, according to Eric Smith of Athol’s Department of Planning and Development. Mr. Smith said three entities hope to do business in the town. Proposed sites for marijuana cultivation include the former Agway building at the end of Exchange Street and former



Union Twist Drill buildings along Old Main Street. Entrepreneurs have proposed the abandoned Mobil gas station across from the Athol post office on Main Street for retail recreational marijuana sales. All three proposed recreational cannabis businesses have received a community host agreement with the town of Athol.

Barre Town Administrator Andrew Golas said townspeople voted for an exemption to the moratorium on marijuana, scheduled through the end of December 2018. Ending the moratorium allows a medical marijuana cultivation business, with a community host agreement and already working with the town, to continue the process. In addition, the town voted in favor of retail establishments and delivery-only businesses but voted against establishments allowing social consumption.

Since June, the Town of Orange has issued three community host agreements. One is for Silver Therapeutics, a registered marijuana dispensary or RMD with a proposed location in the block with Trailhead and the courthouse. The other two are cultivation companies.

Although Rutland approved a medical marijuana bylaw, Rutland remains a “no” vote town on

recreational marijuana. Town Clerk Anita Carlson mentioned a recent survey asking voters to approve or disapprove recreational marijuana retail establishments in town. The survey indicated opposition, again by a slim margin. With a

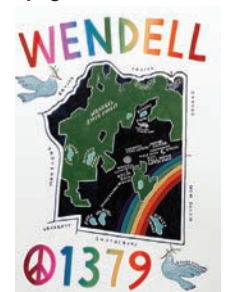
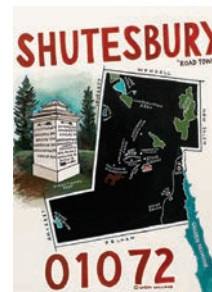


moratorium in place since March 2018, the Rutland zoning bylaw subcommittee continues planning work despite the possibility of an eventual ban on recreational marijuana in Rutland.

In December 2017, the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission voted to accept industry rules to guide adult use/recreational marijuana. Four changes to the rules:

- no social consumption in public locations such as cannabis cafes and no home delivery
- retail dispensaries must set aside thirty-five percent of their product for registered medical use patients
- cultivators are capped at one hundred thousand square feet for growing

continued on page 34



with state testing labs in place, licensing gets underway

continued from page 33

(rule changes continued)

- people convicted of trafficking hard drugs would be, with a few exceptions, essentially barred from the industry.

Because of delay in licensing state testing labs, the start date was also delayed for opening recreational marijuana businesses. At least eight in the Commonwealth have final licenses to operate and several have begun growing product.

The state Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) reviews licenses in the order of application. Several medical testing labs submitted paperwork to test recreational marijuana for contaminants and THC concentration, and the CCC voted to license two labs near the end of August. One testing lab is in Salem and the other, in Framingham.

A few years back, the process of gaining access to medical marijuana seemed cumbersome and expensive with few medical dispensary locations around Massachusetts. With more access, a world of difference has transpired for many who suffer from a variety of health problems. With recreational marijuana likely



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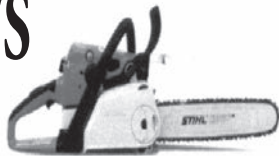
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for Quabbin region marijuana sales, growing businesses

to become available in the foreseeable future, some individuals may consider going to recreational marijuana retail stores instead of becoming medically qualified to use cannabis. Even given hoops to jump through for medical marijuana, potential users may want to consider important differences and advantages.

With a medical card, the holder receives a tax exemption, whereas recreational users will pay upwards of twenty percent in sales taxes. Medical users may possess more marijuana and at a younger age—eighteen years old versus twenty-one for recreational users.

The state has simplified the application process, and doctors can offer telemedicine services for follow-up visits. And dispensaries are offering home delivery to medical users only.

To register for a medical marijuana card, patients need certification from a qualified health care provider. Once certified, the patient can receive a PIN from the health care provider in order to register with the program by

mail or online. Patients registering must provide the PIN number, current acceptable form of ID, current acceptable photograph, and form of payment or verified financial hardship. Registration costs fifty dollars. Certified patients can find registered Massachusetts medical marijuana dispensaries online.

Paula J. Botch is a writer and photographer who lives in Orange, Massachusetts.



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Hannah Morton rides Brutus at
Stoney Hill Farm, Barre.
photo © by Carrie Collins

Quabbin area stables

by Laurie Smith

Quabbin region towns offer an abundance of opportunities for horse lovers to involve themselves with owning, riding, caring for, learning about, competing with, and simply enjoying the majestic and beautiful animals.

Betsy Johnson owns Stoney Hill Farm in Barre. Betsy started the farm in 2006 and takes pride in an equestrian center that “really focuses on keeping things light and happy while making sure people learn proper care of horses.” As she says, each one is really like one of her children.

She considers her facility a hunter/jumper barn, a term used for a type of horse competition. In the hunter discipline, horses maneuver through conservative and natural obstacles. She explained that consistency counts more than speed when evaluating performance. The horse should be calm and easily controlled. The rider wears clothing called a habit in black, white, and tan.

Jumping provides colorful competitions involving both obstacles and rider apparel. With jumpers, evaluation of competency rests with speed and ability to keep obstacles from falling down. The course may include technical features.

Stoney Hill provides some seventy riding lessons a week. Carrie Collins and her fifteen-year-old daughter, Hannah Morton, take active part in Stoney Hill instruction. Carrie brought Hannah to learn about horse care and take riding lessons and then ended up taking lessons herself.

Both Carrie and Hannah said that the best thing about Stoney Hills is how comfortable the owner makes everyone feel, with a particularly kid-friendly vibe. Jack



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Horrigan, a nine-year-old participant at Stoney Brook's horse camp said that he gives the program a "thirty out of thirty." Call Betsy at (978)621-6717.

Also widely known for children's programs, Crimson Acres in Orange hosts a Dare to Dream program. Owner Sandy Whitmore started the Dare to Dream Educational Farms Program, Incorporated, in 1996. After working in Kentucky with a blind, adult rider, Sandy started the nonprofit to help others with disabilities. She included low-income families.

Dare to Dream raises money for therapeutic lessons as well as for summer horse camp for children from low-income households. A therapeutic instructor, Sandy works with many children with special needs. Interested children write a letter to Dare to Dream describing need. The Dare to Dream board of directors decides if a child meets program requirements.



Riders make a circuit with hoops at Crimson Acres Equestrian Center, Orange.
photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

The Whitmore family runs Crimson Acres. Sandy's son Peter Whitmore also trains horses and serves as president of New England Equestrian Center of Athol (NEECA) on New Sherborn Road, where local equestrians participate in trail riding, showing, or

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Flower Power painting keeps its place near electric meter and clematis vine

by Margaret Ellis Feldman

Watercolorist Barbara Ellis painted many flowers during her seven or more decades as an enthusiastic artist. Her *Flower Power* carries one of the more engaging tales about her work.

One summer day in 1990, Mary Pat Spaulding, formerly of Athol, observed a clematis vine blooming around her home's electric meter. Inspired by proximity of the two very unlike items, Mary Pat thought of the phrase "flower power" and called on her friend Barbara to paint the subject. It's not often that a painting has its name before the artist creates it.

The painting plays on unexpected contrast between realistic detail for rendering the meter, an unusual style for Barbara, and a loose approach to the leafy plant. The anomaly intrigues the viewer while the single flash of orange in the electric meter seal draws one's attention to the focal point.

It's very difficult to paint many of one similar thing, in this case, the same variety of flower, and not have it turn

out looking like a piece of wallpaper. Barbara managed to arrange blossoms by creating intriguing artistic designs. Although on a living clematis, petals as well as leaves would share uniform color, Barbara's use of light and dark gives the flowers vivacity and shape. Sun shines on some, others reside in the shade, and the same principal holds true in her portrayal of leaves. Against the bright white of the wall and deep blackness of shadowy areas, the vine seems to jump out of the background.

When Barbara had nearly completed the picture, Pat told Barbara that she might have to purchase it for herself.

"Why would you want to do that?" came the response. Then, Barbara presented *Flower Power* to Pat and Pat's mother, Mildred, as a gift. Together, they decided where to hang the painting, and Pat realized that fate destined the artwork to remain permanently in that location.

Therefore, since Ken Vaidulas and David Brothers recently bought Pat and Mildred's residence complete



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Flower Power by the late watercolorist Barbara Ellis

Barbara Ellis made an artistic rendering of Mary Pat Spaulding's late summer clematis twining around the electric meter outside her Athol home. Even before the watercolorist began work on the painting, the homeowner had the title: *Flower Power*.
photo © by Debra Ellis

with the electric meter and clematis, *Flower Power* brightens the exact spot on the same wall where Pat and her mother originally hung it.

And on the outside wall of the house, that same purple clematis vine clammers over the electric meter.

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

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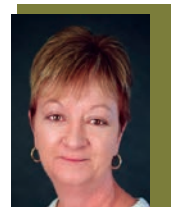


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Quabbin region beekeepers suit up to pursue

by Sharon Harmon



Joe Nunes of Royalston dons beekeeping gear en route to a session with his beehives.
photo © by Sharon Harmon

In Royalston, on a lovely bucolic piece of property, Deb and Joe Nunes reside and raise bees for honey. “Deborah means ‘bee’ in Hebrew,” Deb said with a twinkle in her eye. “So it just seems right that we would be involved with bees.”

The Quabbin region hosts any number of backyard beekeepers who, like the Nuneses, have a passion for their avocation.

The Nuneses explained how they became interested in beekeeping. Joe said that their neighbors down

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the road had a beehive that piqued his interest. "We have been raising bees for twenty-one years now," Joe said. "We started with two hives. Now we have fourteen." Solar panels power electric fences around the hives. The pristine property includes a view of a beautiful mountain, many chickens, turkeys, butterflies, and bee-worthy plants.

"When I first got into bees," Joe said, "I joined The Worcester County Bee Association with twenty to thirty members. Now about a hundred people belong."

Through the association, Joe mentors twelve aspiring beekeepers. He received the Bee Mentor Award for excellence in beekeeping in 2009. The award hangs on the wall of the shed he built for processing honey.

When I toured the land with the Nuneses, I was surprised to learn that linden and birch trees attract bees. Seven-sons trees, motherwort, honeysuckles, and milkweed nectar also appeal to bees. His plot of blue chicory flaxseed plants draws bees as well as yellow, sweet clover. "The bees love it," he said, "but it's a biannual."

"Bad winters makes for losing hives," he stated.

"In 2015 we had a bumper crop," Deb said. "We keep track of each year on a chart on the wall in the shed. That year we produced about a thousand pounds."

All the Nuneses' honey comes from wildflowers, and it tastes light and sweet for serving in tea, on toast, or to help a sore throat.



Charmed by chipmunks in residence on the grounds of her spacious home in the North Quabbin, Deborah McDevitt resolved to encourage the little creatures to eat peanuts out of her hand.

La Cippolina, above, quickly caught on and often stops by to enjoy a snack of peanuts or seeds.

photo © by Dedie King

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The North Quabbin and Beyond

A Photographic Tribute by Mitchell R. Grosky

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ashes to ashes: green burials do it differently

continued from page 17

cemetery commissioners regulate requirements in individual communities.



Deb Katz sits on the coffin hand-built for her husband, Fred Katz.
photo courtesy of Deb Katz

Quabbin region towns that allow green burials include Shutesbury, Warwick, and Wendell, according to information at greenburialma.org.

“Green burial is not for everyone,” said Ms. Lorei. “But more and more funeral directors work with people to facilitate burials that fit with green values of protecting land. People can pick and choose parts of green burials that fit best with them and their loved ones. Conversations ahead of time help tremendously with ensuring wishes are met.”

“After all,” as Leigh Youngblood said, “we are *all* living with a deadline, aren’t we?”

“My view has always been to help families with whatever option they choose,” said Jeffrey G. Cole, licensed funeral director at Witty’s Funeral Home in Orange.

“We’ve done a green burial in Warwick, said Kevin Mack of Fiske Murphy and Mack Funeral Home in Orange. “The Town of Warwick was very considerate in helping us meet the family’s wishes.”

Grave Matters, a book by Mark Harris, offers more information, as do the videos *A Will for the Woods* and *A Family Undertaking*.

Ellen Woodbury, a massage therapist, lives in Athol.



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An autumn freight train crosses the trestle at Wendell Depot in a painting by Gail Oswald of Royalston.
painting © by Gail Oswald

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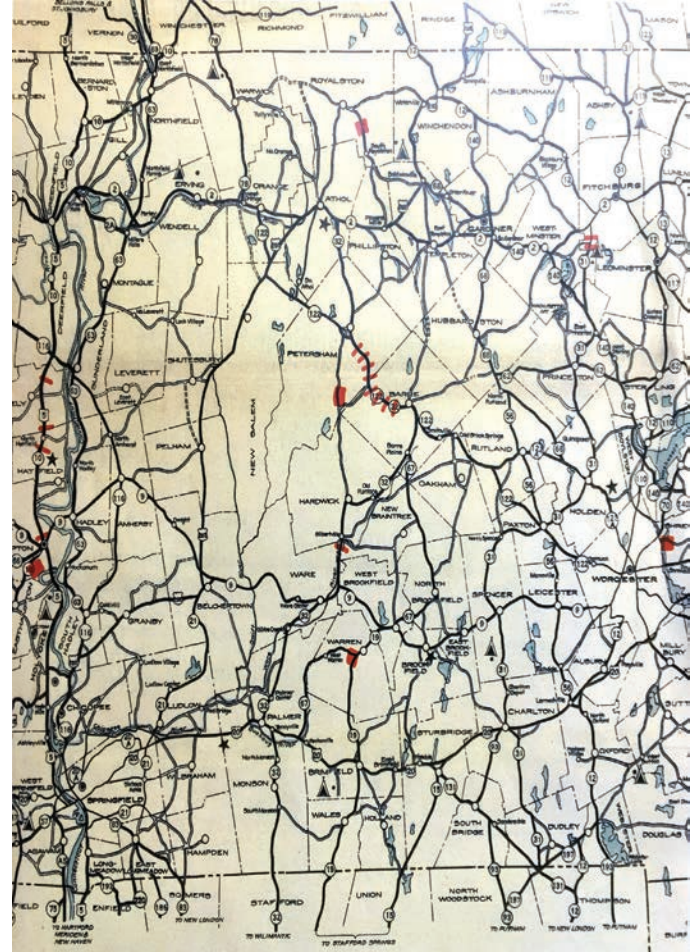
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development of Quabbin region roadways since early 1900s

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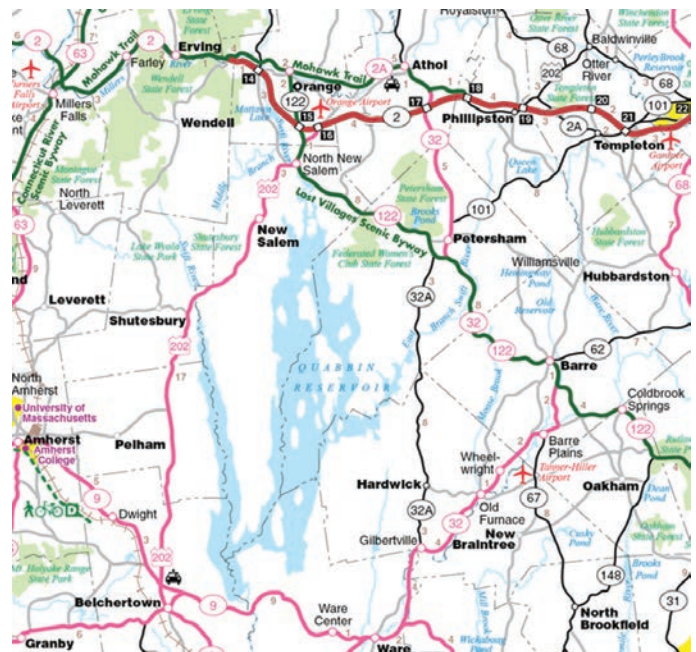


Official Massachusetts route maps of the Quabbin region from 1929 and 1939 show the area before the flooding of Swift River Valley to create Quabbin Reservoir. The official Massachusetts route map, below, shows the region today.

of Belchertown center, to replace part of old Route 109. It ran just southwest of Winsor Dam, the main dam for the reservoir. Along with other portions of Route 109 running as far west as Pittsfield and east to Boston, the route became renumbered as Massachusetts Route 9.

All old roads, including Routes 21 and 109, leading into the old valley no longer permit public vehicular access although, despite gates, many allow hikers and a few, bicycles. Some original pavement survives on the ghostly roads to remind visitors of the human past of the old Swift River Valley. Old state highway maps show area roads in 1929 and 1940 when the reservoir began to fill.

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 Council.





springtime elderberry
photo © by Clare Green

Nature's Nuances

by Clare Green

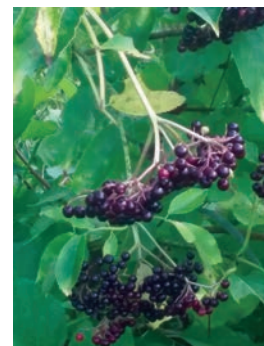
Common Elderberry • *Sambucus canadensis*

Wise elderberry.

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Radiant blue fruit.

—Clare Green



late summer elderberry
photo © by Clare Green

May I introduce you to the elderberry? As its name implies, the plant has earned respect as an elder, a wise one, a sage among the medicinal world of plants. You may have seen its white blossoms flourishing amidst bushes ranging in height from three to eight feet

along roadsides. Late summer elderberry flowers produce the plants. The flat-topped, five-petaled flowers display in an umbrel-cluster array. Mildly and delicately fragrant, elderberry has slightly tooth-edged leaves, oppositely spaced in a compound arrangement along the stem. The plant tends to grow along roadside ditches, on damp stream banks, and in thickets from Canada to Texas.

Collect elderberry flowers to make a cold drink, called *fladerblumen* in Sweden. Fladerblumen makes a delightfully sweet toast to the summer solstice and one that the Swedes relish. Or you may tempura the flowers into a fritter.

Later in the summer, each cluster of small berries ripens into a deep purple-black color. Harvest them in late summer or early fall to make any number of rewarding and nourishing elderberry treats: tea, wine, jam, jelly, or syrup. Consider mixing elderberries with other fruits such as grapes or blueberries. Over the years, I have made

elderberry wine and elderberry-blueberry jams as lovely holiday gifts.

To collect elderberries, I use a paper bag. The berries may sit for a day if I can't get directly to process them. When I have harvested elderberry, I noticed that it takes time to strip berries from their stems to prepare them for cooking. I try to relax in the moment with music or meditation and appreciate the nature of their jeweled beauty.

Alas, if you do not have a nearby source of elderberries, which are rich in antioxidants, check with our local stores such as Quabbin Harvest on North Main Street, Orange, or Hardwick Farmer's Co-op Exchange, 444 Lower Road, Gilbertville, to enjoy an elderberry

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Riders at Crimson Acres put their rides through their paces.
Photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

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Natalya Aubrey guides a horse at
Craig Memorial Equestrian Center, Leverett.
photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

riders enjoy outings throughout the year at the region's stables

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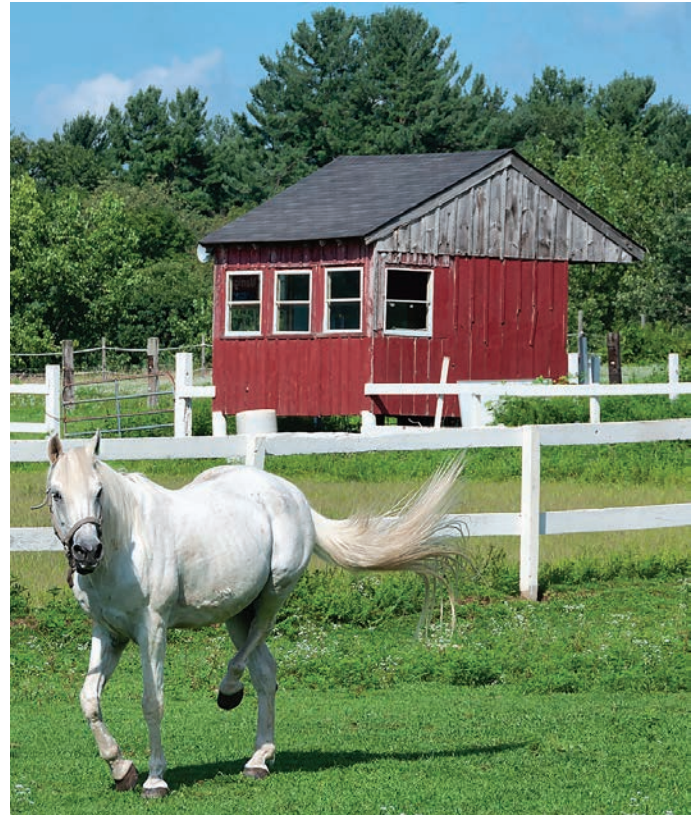
clinics. To reach Crimson Acres or Dare to Dream call Sandy at (978) 575-0341.

Offering lessons for more than forty years, Craig Memorial Equestrian Center of Leverett also has vacation and summer programs, boarding, leasing, and access to trails up Roaring Brook Mountain. Owner Roberta Bryant, a lifelong competitive trail rider and Morab breeder, also sponsors the Franklin County 4-H Horse Show and an annual Gymkhana series. Craig Memorial also hosts pleasure rides, clinics, and an annual twenty-five mile competitive trail ride sanctioned by the Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association. Call Roberta at (413) 336-1081.

Windswept Farms in Petersham has been around for more than thirty years. Owner Robin Hinton offers full boarding for clients with access to the facility. Features include indoor and outdoor riding rings, fenced jumping field, round pen, heated tack rooms, wash stalls with hot water, matted and bedded stalls, and matted aisle ways. While the boarding stable does not offer instruction, boarders sometimes bring their own instructors. Visiting instructors periodically offer clinics.

Windswept also hosts warmblood inspections, when a judge from a breed registry determines whether horses meet breed standards to qualify for the registry. Call Robin at (978) 724-3323.

Wendy Warner began Seven Springs Farm in Warwick in 1979. The Farm started out in Spencer, Massachusetts, then moved to Royalston, and in 2010, to Warwick. Wendy teaches mostly adults with their own horses at their own farms, but her farm has trails open to riders. Seven Springs also breeds horses and offers clinics. Call Wendy at (978) 544-5809.



A white horse trots free at
Craig Memorial Equestrian Center in Leverett.
photo © by Mitchell R. Grosky

Other Quabbin region equestrian centers include White Spruce Farms and Seraphim Farm in New Braintree, Independence Stable and Green Acres in Hubbardston, Robby Hill Stables and Burnshirt Hills in Belchertown, and Holiday Acres Equestrian Center as well as Loland Oaks Farm in Rutland.

Laurie Smith is an early childcare provider living in Athol.

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RELAX AND ENJOY!!!



Horses take a look around at Craig Memorial Equestrian Center, left, and Crimson Acres Equestrian Center.
photos © by Mitchell R. Grosky



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Rick & Lori Oliver

Owners

Nature's Nuances: elderberry

continued from page 45

tea or syrup. Purchase elderberry wine at Home Fruit Wine, 382 South Main Street, Orange.

Elderberries will strengthen your immune system, help prevent flu symptoms, and enhance your overall health, according to herbalists. John Root (www.johnroot.net/edible-plant) states if he feels a cold developing, he reaches for what he considers his favorite prevention: elderberry syrup or tea.

May you continue to become familiar with the wise plant, common elderberry.

Clare Green, naturalist and educator from Warwick, invites folk to visit her Woodland Labyrinth or stop in at the Fairy Cottage for a cup of herbal tea.

**Find Swift River Valley Historical Society at
40 Elm Street, New Salem.
For information about the museum
or the society's events, email
dotfryesrvhs@gmail.com,
call (978) 544.6882,
visit swiftrivermuseum.org, or
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Simplify The Process

freight railroads serve Quabbin region

continued from page 15

so,” Michael E. Williams, GW’s vice president for corporate communications, commented by email in response to my request for information. “I don’t know how many trains each railroad runs in a typical week, and it is ever-changing based on customer need. Both railroads operate in a highly competitive regional market.

“The main point, he added, “is that the regional railroads provide the vital link between the customers they serve and the North American railroad network—as we call it: the ‘first and last mile’ of rail service. As short-line railroads, their employees have entrepreneurial mindsets and can grow only by helping their customers grow. Both PW and NECR interchange with multiple Class I (national) railroads, providing shippers with multiple routing options, and they serve several ports, as you can see on maps posted on our websites.”

Unrelated to an earlier railroad of the same name, Massachusetts Central Railroad consists of twenty-nine miles of track between Palmer and Barre, passing through the Gilbertville section of Hardwick. It connects to CSX Transportation and NECR, “providing competitive access to the entire North American rail network,” according to its website. The Wildwood Reload at 850 South Barre Road in Barre handles “breakbulk and dry bulk products and can provide warehousing and storage.” Breakbulk denotes transporting cargo in several pieces rather than in containers.

The earlier Central Mass once stretched from downtown Boston to Northampton but suffered extensive damage in the hurricane of 1938. Much of Central Mass has been abandoned, and a rail trail for hikers and bicyclists, under development, has about forty miles open. A related article beginning on Page xxx of this issue of *UQ* reports on three miles of rail trail recently opened by East Quabbin Land Trust along the former Central Mass line.

Finally, the former Athol-Enfield line, often called the Rabbit Run, served Swift River Valley until creation of Quabbin Reservoir. Local historian J.R. Greene tells the story in his two-volume book, *Quabbin’s Railroad: The Rabbit*.

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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c/o The Treasurer
Orange Town Hall
6 Prospect St
Orange MA 01364

Checks should be made out to Town of Orange.
Write “Curtain” on memo line.

Donate online: go to townoforange.org
click on epayments, then Town Hall Restoration

If the Town Hall Restoration Committee raises more than \$7,500.00,
additional monies raised will go to the stage lighting fund.

Thank you for supporting Orange Town Hall Restoration.

Mass Central Rail Trail

continued from page 23

with the original Central Mass), which provides freight service from Barre to Palmer on a segment of the adjacent former Boston and Albany Railroad, runs parallel to the north side of the rail trail.

West of the bridge are fine views of the Ware River and its associated natural communities, including wet meadows, vernal pools, and flood-plain forest. These diverse habitats are home to a wide variety of wildlife, including river otters, mink, turtles, waterfowl, wading birds, hawks, owls, and songbirds. Near the trail's west end is another artifact of the lost railroad, a granite mileage marker that indicates thirty-six miles west to Northampton (N36) and sixty-eight miles east to Boston (B68). The trail ends at Creamery Road adjacent to the active Massachusetts Central crossing.

The segment to Wheelwright begins at a wetland on the east side of Hardwick Road and leads northeast for 0.4 miles to a restored pony truss bridge, which also spans the Ware River. The frame design was patented by William Howe from Spencer in the mid-nineteenth century. After roughly a mile, the trail ends near the junction of Pine and Maple Streets in Wheelwright.

Several other lost railroads in western Massachusetts have been converted into recreational trails, including portions of the Boston and Albany Railroad's Athol Branch (also known as the 'Rabbit Run'). This line, which passed through the Swift River Valley, was abandoned during the creation of Quabbin Reservoir in the 1930s. Portions of the old railroad bed are preserved and used as trails at the reservoir's northern tip in New Salem, and at the recently established South Athol Conservation Area.

The Mass Central Rail Trail parking area is located at the junction of Hardwick and West Roads in New Braintree, 0.3 miles east of the intersection of Hardwick Road and Route 32 in Old Furnace. For more information, visit the East Quabbin Land Trust website (eqlt.org).

Photographer and writer John Burk's special interests include recreational trails and local history.



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Hydrangeas and ancient farm implements set the autumn scene for the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival scheduled September 29 and 30 at Forster's Farm, Orange.

photo © by David Brothers



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infoatholdental@verizon.ne

978-249-8545

sweet honey and preserving bees motivates apiarists

continued from page 41



The bees produce an average of thirty to sixty pounds per hive. In the Nuneses' shed, about a dozen smoker outfits hang on the wall. To gather honey, Deb and Joe suit up and, to avoid being stung, use a smoker to disorient the bees. Once they gather frames of honey, they put them into a centrifuge for from ten to twenty minutes, depending on the weather.

"All worker bees are females," Joe said. "I call them women with an attitude, because they don't like it when you take their honey."

Deb said a lovely pound or two of their honey makes a great stocking stuffer or addition to a basket for the holidays.

To obtain the Nuneses' honey, contact Squier Farm, West Royalston, Massachusetts, at (978) 249-4000.

Beekeepers abound in the Quabbin region, among them at Autumn Morning Farm in Barre. The enterprise has sold award-winning honey for eighteen years. The farm also sells beekeeping equipment and distributes honey with the label *Aunt Chrissy's Honey*.

Sharon Harmon is a poet and freelance writer from Royalston.



Undertaking the rudiments of beekeeping at a young age, Benjamin Ellis, left, top, took his cues from his dad, Tom, at their North Quabbin apiary. A solar panel powers the electric fence surrounding Joe and Deb Nunes' beehives in the yard of their Royalston home, above.

top photo © by Debra Ellis / bottom photo © by Sharon Harmon
photo at right courtesy of dreamstime.com



Bears, Moose Make Themselves at Home in Quabbin Watershed Areas

continued from page 7

In 2006, observers spotted 105 individual moose in a two-week period within the Quabbin reservation. Moose had essentially disappeared from Massachusetts by the mid 1800s, and their reappearance signifies better ecological health, especially in the Quabbin region at the southern edge of their range.

Moose originated in Siberia and migrated to North America via the iced-over Bering Strait. Moose prefer summer temperatures under sixty degrees Fahrenheit, and when temperatures exceed that level, observers most often find them wading and swimming to cool off or foraging for the forty-to-sixty pounds of vegetation they eat daily. They gravitate toward deep, cool woods to avoid heat. In spring and autumn, moose spread out to surrounding hills and are more likely to be seen crossing roads. Give them plenty of room so both you and the animal remain safe.

UMass Amherst does research on moose and has radio-tracked Quabbin moose since 1991 as researchers try to determine their health and impacts on Quabbin forest regeneration. In related studies, the UMass group estimated moose density at two per square mile in New Salem and up to ten per square mile on Quabbin's Prescott Peninsula. Statewide numbers of moose have increased dramatically from seventy-five moose in 1998 to more than a thousand in 2006.

The large animals can be elusive. While males can exhibit aggressive behavior in the fall, most moose will shy away or crash off into the brush when they hear humans.

Quabbin fisherman make many moose sightings. The wildlife viewing area near Gate 29 in New Salem makes a good spot for moose sightings. Many viewers also enjoy the area around Tully Lake in Royalston.

Rick Taupier, former professor and administrator at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, owns Swift River Fly Fishing in New Salem.

Stonecarver Verock

continued from page 19



A classic geometric monument honors C. Gregory Winters.
photo courtesy of Athol Granite Works

Athol Granite works in affiliation with the Rock of Ages Quarry in Barre, Vermont, and Concord, New Hampshire, an association dating back to earlier days of the business. Stone supplies come from around the world, Mr. Verock said, including blue granites that ship from Sweden, black from India and China, pinks from Canada, and browns from South Dakota.

Enoch Lewis of Brattleboro, Vermont, founded Athol Granite Works in 1853 on a site near the war memorial across from the Athol Area YMCA. More than 150 years after Mr. Lewis founded the business, Athol Granite created the war memorial, under Mr. Verock's supervision, in three phases: during the first year, the center war tablets; during the second year, the

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Athol Historical Society c/o Debra Ellis
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Thank you.

creates family memories for the ages

World War II honor rolls; during the third year, the honor rolls for the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War. The project also involved moving the central flagpole base from the middle of the park to the back wall.

Specializing in marble and granite cutting, the business moved in the later 1800s to a site on Island Street near the United Methodist Church. The business evolved through partnerships named Lewis and Wellman, Wellman and Blake, and Wellman and Carruth. Everett Sawyer partnered with Carruth to form Carruth and Sawyer and moved the business to 220 Exchange Street in the early 1900s. Mr. Hodge bought the business from Mr. Sawyer in the mid 1900s. Mr. Verock then served his 1970s apprenticeship with Mr. Hodge. The law offices of Pamela J Oddy occupy 220 Exchange Street today.

Although several artisan stonecutters live in the Quabbin region, only Mr. Verock and his associates commercially offer customized, original monuments. Mr. Verock works exclusively in stone while other Quabbin region sculptors and stone craftspersons work in a variety of compatible media.

James DiSilvestro of Athol sculpts in stone and metal. Tom Yatsuda of Leverett sculpts in stone, wood, and other materials.

Find further information about Mr. Verock's work at atholgraniteworks.com.

Marcia Gagliardi is editor and publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. Debra Ellis is business manager of *Uniquely Quabbin* and treasurer of Athol Historical Society.



Mr. Verock carves many shapes, including the obelisk
photo courtesy of
Athol Granite Works



Horseback riders find their way through a stand of autumn birch trees in a watercolor painting by Sara Deponite of Petersham.
watercolor © by Sara Deponite

bordering Barre and Petersham feature

by Diane Kane



Barre's Becki's Bistro attracts diners with varied homemade food offerings at affordable prices
photo © by Diane Kane

Becki's Bistro

Becki's Bistro in the heart of Barre at 25 Exchange Street is a diamond in the rough.

Bistro: A small restaurant serving simple meals in a modest setting is Becki's tagline, and it couldn't be a better fit. Don't let the unassuming exterior fool you. The place has a cute and clean interior with fast, friendly servers, and the food tastes out of this world at reasonable prices.

One Monday morning my friend and I set out in search of breakfast. With our usual haunts closed, we took a leisurely ride on Route 122 into picturesque Barre center. Across the common amongst a long line of plain white buildings, we spotted a bunch of cars parked in front of the corner door. We decided to take a look, and we were glad that we did.

On entering Becki's, we instantly felt the welcoming atmosphere. Delicious smells enticed us, and a friendly chatter filled the air. The coffee qualified as outstanding with choices of blonde or dark roast by Dean's Beans organic coffee of Orange.

I ordered Farmers Omelet for seven dollars. My friend ordered Eggs Florentine with creamy homemade hollandaise sauce for nine dollars. When our breakfasts arrived, we paused to admire the stunning presentations before digging in. I sampled a bite of the Eggs Florentine, and it melted in my mouth. The veggies in my omelet tasted as if picked that morning.

Later, I spoke with Becki and discovered the secret to her restaurant's success. A few years ago, as Becki and her husband Fred neared retirement, they began thinking of their next step. Becki had worked as an operating room nurse and Fred, as a teacher. Neither had restaurant experience. Nevertheless, when the old Exchange Street Kitchen (at 25 Exchange Street, of course) came up for sale, they bought it and never looked back.

Established in 2015, Becki's has proudly survived the so-called "big dig" of Barre that put uptown parking at a premium during the construction phase. Becki admits to tears a few times during the challenge, but she kept going through it all. Becki compares her experience with the restaurant's fast pace and people interaction to her busy days as a nurse in the operating room. Becki expresses appreciation to customers loyal to the location for forty



Photography by John Burk
featuring New England and the Quabbin Region

Scenery • Wildlife • Fall Foliage

Prints • Stock Images

Photo Restoration and Scanning

Historical Research

zenfolio.com/johnburk • jbphotos2002@yahoo.com

two small restaurants with big hearts

years who continued to eat at Becki's when she and her husband took over.

Good fortune and perfect timing brought Ema to Becki's when she and Fred needed her most. A culinary student at Fitchburg's Monty Tech, Ema sought an internship when Becki had her eye out for a cook. At Becki's, women rule the kitchen. Becki learned to work the grill with Ema. Gina completes the crew.

Becki retained many items from the previous menu and added some favorites. Lunches include burgers, sandwiches, and a variety of salads. Becki's delicious soups come from Kettle Cuisine, a small-batch company located in Lynn.

Becki's has something for everyone with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. The crew makes juicy, delicious veggie burgers in-house. The restaurant offers gluten-free waffles and pancakes. Becki also makes homemade corn beef hash.

Becki bakes blueberry muffins daily and chocolate chip and cranberry walnut muffins on occasion. She likes to say her "homemade coffee cake is to die for." She prioritizes using quality ingredients. The proprietors buy all produce locally and get sausage from a local farmer.

"Ice cream," you scream. For us hardy New Englanders, Becki's screams "ice cream" all year round. The place offers a variety of great flavors and unique local combos such as the Mount Wachusett and the Barre Bump, giving a heads up to local elevations. An outside window and seating area welcomes customers from early spring until late October.

Becki says the best thing about owning the bistro is the people she has met from all over, including regulars from as far away as Newton. She compares her restaurant to meeting places of old. A sign on the wall says "*May all who enter here as strangers leave as friends.*" Becki loves seeing that saying ring true in her dining room each day.

Becki's Bistro offers breakfast and lunch Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6 AM to 4 PM Saturday and Sunday 6 AM to 2 PM Closed Thursday.

Quabbin Woods Restaurant

Family-friendly for breakfast and lunch, Quabbin Woods Restaurant nestles among the trees at the junction of Routes 122 and 32 in Petersham, not far from the eastern gates of Quabbin Reservoir. The motto,

continued on page 63



Expect to make friends while eating good food at Quabbin Woods Restaurant on the Barre-Petersham line.
photo © by Diane Kane

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Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

September 7, Friday

First Friday Festivals

4:30-7:30 pm

Main Street

Athol

Local businesses and vendors take over Main Street in Athol to show off their stuff and welcome the community.

September 14, Friday

Tom Rush

7:30 pm

The Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Gifted performer Tom Rush offers musical celebration , , , a journey into the tradition and spectrum of what music has been, can be, and will become.

thecenterateaglehill.org

September 15, Saturday

North Quabbin Fall Festival

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Downtown Athol

Main Street

Athol

Classic New England street fair.

Vendors, crafts, music, dance, games, beer garden, contest, raffles.

northquabbinchamber.com

The Music of Jenny Lind

12:00-1:30 pm

Pelham Library

2 South Valley Road

Pelham

One of the most celebrated singers in history, Swedish-born soprano Jenny Lind toured the United States--including Springfield and Northampton—under the auspices of none other than P. T. Barnum

September 16, Sunday

Barre Horse Show

8:00 am-4:00 pm

Felton Field

120 Old Coldbrook Road

Barre

Open Museum

Hardwick Historical Society

12:00-2:00 pm

Hardwick Town House

32 Common Street

Hardwick

September 21, Friday

Full Moon Yoga

7:00 pm

Trillium Ayurveda & Yoga

131 Athol Road

Orange

Celebrate the full moon surrounded by woods, fire, and the evening sky.

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September 21-23, Friday-Sunday
Belchertown Fair
11:00 am-10:00 pm
Belchertown Common
Belchertown
The theme of 161st fair is
Wheels and Squeals.
belchertownfair.com

September 22, Saturday
Arts Festival
10:00 am -4:00pm
The Stone Church
283 Main Street
Gilbertville
Adult and youth art exhibit and sale.
Demonstrations, project booths,
music, food and local artisans.

Hardwick Historical Society
annual meeting and pot luck supper
5:30pm
Hardwick Town House
32 Common Street
Hardwick
members and future members invited

September 23, Sunday
Open museum
1:00 pm-4:00pm
Oakham Historical Museum
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
oakhamhistory.com

September 25, Tuesday
Learn Ukulele with Julie
6:00-7:30pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Space is limited. Please call
978-249-9515 to sign up.
athollibrary.org

September 23, Sunday (continued)
Where the Time Goes
Stress Reduction Workshop
7:00-8:30pm
Clapp Memorial Library
19 South Main Street
Belchertown
To register, please call
Clapp Memorial Library
at 413 323 0417.

September 29, Saturday
Outdoor Music Festival
1:30pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Featured the Green Sisters, Kala
Farnham & Co., Mark Mandeville
& Raianne Richards, and Catnip
Junkies.
thecenterateaglehill.org

September 29-30, Saturday-Sunday
20th Garlic and Arts Festival
10:00-5:00 pm
Forsters' Farm
60 Chestnut Hill Road
Orange
All things garlic! Plus more than
100 booths of arts, crafts, lots of
music, cooking demos, animals,
energy exhibits, and games.
Emphasis on recycling
sustainability emphasis.
garlicandarts.org

September 30, Sunday
Open Museum
Hardwick Historical Society
12:00-2:00 pm
Hardwick Town House
32 Common Street
Hardwick

October 5, Friday
First Friday Festival
4:30-7:30pm
Main Street
Athol
Local businesses and vendors
take over Main Street in Athol to show
off their stuff and welcome
the community.

October 6, Saturday
Old 78 Farm Festival
823 Orange Road
Warwick
Craft and food vendors, including
barbecue; balloon creations, face
painting, comedy, bands playing
all day on two stages
old78farm.com

October 7, Sunday
Celebrate the Harvest
9:00-3:00pm
Orange Airport
80 Airport Street
Orange
More than 60 vendors, food trucks,
crafts, car show, and parade.
Rain or shine.

Open Museum
Hardwick Historical Society
12:00-2:00 pm
Hardwick Town House
32 Common Street
Hardwick

October 5, 6, 7 and 12, 13, 14
Company
7:30pm Fridays and Saturdays
2 pm Sundays
Barre Players Theater
64 Common Street
Barre
In this musical comedy, habitually
single Robert is forced to question his
adamant retention of bachelorhood
during hilarious interactions.
barreplayerstheater.com

continued on next page

calendar listings compiled by Emily Boughton
submit calendar listings to calendar@northquabbinchamber.com

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from page 59

October 11, Thursday

WCV Radio For Your Eyes

6:30-7:30pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

A two-person, one-hour mock comedy radio show in the spirit of *Prairie Home Companion*, but with an AM twist (commercials, more urgent broadcasts).

Space is limited. Please call 978-249-9515 to sign up.

athollibrary.org

October 13, Saturday

Classic Country with Stan Matthews

2:00-5:00pm

Stone Cow Brewery

500 West Street

Barre

Stan brings his Classic Country Show to The Stone Cow Brewery for the first time. The Stone Cow Brewery is fun for the whole family: music, beer, food, farm, and a playground! stonecowbrewery.com



Le Cirque Esprit

7:30 pm

The Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Le Cirque Esprit's latest production, *Spirit of the Machine*, features an original score performed live by alt-classical pioneers, Cordis, in collaboration with the visual spectacle of ABCirque

thecenterateaglehill.org

October 14, Sunday

Chicken and Rib Benefit Dinner

12:00 pm

Barre Post 2, American Legion

450 South Barre Road

Barre

Chicken and Rib dinner to benefit Barre Food Bank and Camp Putnam

For reservations, call

Mark Borelli at (508) 612-2657. or

Joe Stymiest at (978) 257-7428

October 18, Thursday

Isaiah Thomas—Patriot Printer

7: 00 pm

Oakham Center School

1 Deacon Allen Road

Oakham

Portrayed by professional actor, Isaiah will describe his early life and how he smuggled his printing press out of Boston to Worcester just before the start of the American Revolution.

Free. Refreshments.

oakhamhistory.com

October 20, Saturday

2nd Annual Elwin Bacon

Memorial Fun Day

9:00 am-12:00pm

New England Equestrian Center of Athol

802 New Sherborn Road

Athol

Morning scavenger hunt and afternoon of fun and games.

Neeca.org

Historic Cemetery Ghost Walk

5:30 to 7:30 pm

Hardwick Common Cemetery

40 Common Street

Come meet the ghosts of Hardwick's early residents.

Donation \$5.00; under 12 free.

Refreshments. Rain date Oct.21.

Sponsored by the Hardwick-

New Braintree Cultural Council.

October 21, Sunday

Fall Hike to Pelham

11:00 am-4:00pm

Swift River Historical Society

40 Elm Street

New Salem

The late Rob Keyes of the Pelham Historical Society put together this wonderful hike that brings a remote/rural area of Pelham to life.

Meet at Gate 12 for

1:00 am departure.

swiftrivermuseum.org



Open Museum

Hardwick Historical Society

12:00-2:00 pm

Hardwick Town House

32 Common Street

Hardwick

October 23, Tuesday

Club Fair

6:00-7:45pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

Learn about local clubs and groups in the area that are looking for members. athollibrary.org

October 27, Saturday

Zombie 5K Run/Walk and

Children's Fun Run

9:00am

Grenville Park

73 Church Street

Ware

Enjoy Halloween fun and help replace the playground at Grenville Park by participating in first ever Zombie 5K! Costumes encouraged; prizes
Registration begins at 9 :00 am

October 27, Saturday (continued)

Solidarity Saturday Farm Tour
10:00 am
Seeds of Solidarity
165 Chestnut Hill
Orange
seedsofsolidarity.org
Experience the farm, home, and education center that integrate solar greenhouses, energy efficient buildings, abundant market gardens, and solar electric systems

October 28, Sunday

Open museum
1:00-4:00pm
Oakham Historical Museum
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
oakhamhistory.com

November 2, Friday

Sweetback Sisters
7:30 pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
thecenterateaglehill.org

November 3, Saturday

Fall Social
New England Equestrian
Center of Athol
802 New Sherborn Road
Athol
Neeca.org

November 6, Tuesday

Quabbin Reservoir and the Accidental Wilderness
6:30-7:30pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Maria Beiter-Tucker, DCR Quabbin Visitor Center manager, shares history of Swift River Valley as well as how the reservoir became known as the accidental wilderness.
Please register by calling (978) 249-9515.
athollibrary.org

November 11, Sunday

Open House
11:00-2:00pm
Oakham Historical Museum
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
In honor of the 100th anniversary of WWI and the museum's exhibit of WWI artifacts and servicemen's letters from overseas.
oakhamhistory.com



November 16, 17, 18 and 23, 24, 25

Shrek the Musical
7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays
2:30pm Sundays
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Family musical for all ages
thecenterateaglehill.org

November 17-18, Saturday and Sunday

Thanksgiving Harvest Festival
10:00 am-4:00pm
Red Apple Farm
455 Highland Avenue
Phillipston
Artisans, fresh produce, animals, live music, cider, games and more.
redapplefarm.com

November 24, Saturday

Winter Light Night 2018
4:00-7:00 pm
Lighting at 5:30pm.
Belchertown Common
Belchertown
Activities, craft fair, hot chocolate, music, carriage rides, s'mores.

November 30, December 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

A Christmas Carol
7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays
2:00 pm Sundays
Barre Players Theater
64 Common Street
Barre
A fresh stage adaptation by Patrick Barlow of the timeless Charles Dickens story.
Directed by Diana Canterbury
barreplayerstheater.com

December 1, Saturday

Petersham Holiday Fine Art and Craft Show and Sale
9:00 am -4:00 pm
Petersham Town Hall
3 South Main Street (Route 32)
Petersham
16th annual holiday fair in the town hall on Petersham's historic common. Featuring 20 juried artisans, live music, and photos with Santa.
Contact: Facebook event page

Michael Bolger's NUTCRACKER

7:30 pm
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Hardwick
Original adaptation of everyone's favorite ballet
thecenterateaglehill.org

December 4, Tuesday

Tales From the Home of the World's Worst Weather
6:00-7:30pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Bitter cold, dense fog, heavy snow, and record winds: Mount Washington is known worldwide for its unpredictable and dangerous weather. Why is Mount Washington called the "Home of the World's Worst Weather?"
Please call 978-249-9515 to sign up.
athollibrary.org

continued on next page

Uniquely Quabbin listings

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December 8, Saturday

Midnight Madness!

6:00 pm–midnight

Athol and Orange holiday shopping along Route 2A from North Quabbin Commons to the OIC. Multiple entertainment venues along the way with sales and raffles.
northquabbin.com

Free showing of *Bewtiched*

7:30 pm

Wendell Free Library

7 Wendell Depot Road

Wendell

Rated PG-13. Free.

December 15, Saturday

The Center's Got Talent

7:30 pm

The Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Open to all residents of Central Massachusetts. Watch website for audition information. Contestants have ranged from age four to sixty-four!
thecenterateaglehill.org

The Green Sisters

7:30 pm

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse

9 Morse Village Road

To benefits the

Community Network for Children.

wendellfullmoon.org

for additional *Uniquely Quabbin* calendar listings or events posted after our calendar deadline, please go online to uniquelyquabbin.com or northquabbin.com



On a clear day from Athol's Adams Farm, even when there's fog settled in the valley, you can see forever—or at least over Orange and Wendell to the Berkshires.

photo © by David Brothers

December 31, Monday

Starry Starry Night

6:00 pm – 10:30 pm

Orange Center

1 South Main Street

Orange

Celebrate the New Year with performances at seven venues by musicians, artists, dancers, puppeteers, and more. Grand parade and fireworks with time to get home for midnight.

starrystarrynight.org

January 12, Saturday

The Second City Touring Company *It's*

Not You It's Me

7:30 pm

The Center at Eagle Hill

242 Old Petersham Road

Hardwick

Social and political satire in two forty-five-minute acts of scripted scenes, music, and improvisation.
thecenterateaglehill.org

January 16, Wednesday

Create your personal Vision Board

6:00-8:00 pm

Athol Public Library

568 Main Street

Athol

A guided journey into 2019 as we help you embrace your future
Please register by calling
(978) 249-9515.

athollibrary.org

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MAGAZINE.

THANK YOU!

FOOD PREPARED IN FRIENDLY SURROUNDINGS ALMOST LIKE HOME

continued from page 57

Where Good Food and Good Friends Meet, amounts to more than a saying. John and Wendy Anderson have pleased locals and travelers for twenty-five years.

Owner John Anderson does prep work and keeps all paperwork in order while his wife, Wendy, cooks food and bakes luscious desserts. Son Billy and his girlfriend, Danielle, co-own the place. Billy works in the kitchen with Danielle, who also serves customers. Baker Laura Moore shows up regularly to bake delicious homemade breads, including her special loaves of herb and oatmeal.

If your appetite craves a traditional breakfast or something a little unusual, prepare to find satisfaction. Specialty omelets feature dozens of choices for customizing to taste. The chicken cordon bleu omelet makes a tasty special for the adventurous palate. Regular or short stack pancakes turn out fluffy and moist with options of apple, blueberry, and chocolate chip or with famous Boston cream. Favorite French toast tempts with cinnamon raisin or oatmeal bread or stuffed with cream cheese and pecans.

Lunch means an exceptional treat at Quabbin Woods. With many sandwich choices of hamburger and chicken options, everyone can find something. Laura's homemade breads give an extra unique touch. French fries and onion rings top off plates. Homemade coleslaw delights the palate. Wendy's delectable homemade soups include vegetable beef, corn chowder, cream of broccoli and more. Satisfying traditional specials such as meatloaf and braised beef fill out the menu.

We looked over the menu but couldn't resist the mouthwatering

specials posted elsewhere. My friend ordered turkey fricassee with mashed potatoes and vegetable for \$9.95, and I chose homemade split pea with ham soup and grilled cheese on homemade herb bread for \$8.95. The server promptly brought our meals, and we found everything delicious.

Save room for homemade desserts that change daily. Wendy's favorite creation, whoopie pie chocolate cake with ganache frosting—whipped chocolate and cream—offers just one of her claims to fame. She also makes seasonal pies and old fashioned bread pudding. As our server reminded us, the staff will pack desserts to go for later when diners find themselves too full to eat them on the spot. Before we left, our

waitress transferred our drinks into to-go cups and filled them up for our relaxing ride home along charming North Quabbin roads.

Everything has the homemade touch with reasonable prices. When traveling through Quabbin region between Petersham and Barre, stop at Quabbin Woods Restaurant to eat good food and to make good friends.

Quabbin Woods Restaurant, 8 Barre Road, Petersham. Open Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 8 AM to 1 PM and Thursday and Friday from 8 AM to 2 PM. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

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



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Left to right: Thomas Scalfarotto, DO, General Surgery; Nari Sabeti, MD, Bariatric and Non-invasive Surgery; George Krasowski, MD, General Surgery; and Jared Toman, MD, MBA, Orthopedic Surgery

Surgical Expertise, Local Convenience. A Winning Team for Your Health.

From bariatric to orthopedic and general to minimally-invasive surgery, the highly-skilled team at Athol Hospital provides quality surgical care just moments from home.

Thomas Scalfarotto, DO, of Heywood Surgical Associates, earned his medical degree from Touro University School of Osteopathic Medicine, CA and completed his residency at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, MI. He specializes in general surgery. For an appointment, call (978) 630-6130.

Nari Sabeti, MD, Chief of Bariatric Surgery at Heywood Healthcare, is Fellowship trained in Minimally-Invasive Surgery and Bariatrics. Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery, she is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons. For an appointment, call (978) 630-6130.

George Krasowski, MD, of Heywood Surgical Associates, has been a highly respected general surgeon in the Gardner area for more than 25 years. He is board-certified in General Surgery and earned his medical degree at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in General Surgery at Montefiore Medical Center in New York. For an appointment, call (978) 630-6130.

Jared Toman, MD, MBA, of Heywood Orthopedics, is a highly experienced Orthopedic Surgeon with a special interest in joint restoration and sports medicine. In addition to general orthopedics. He is the only orthopedic surgeon in our area performing Direct Anterior Hip Replacement Surgery, which can significantly reduce complications and downtime for patients. Dr. Toman earned his medical degree from Columbia University in New York and completed his orthopedic residency at Harvard-affiliated Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Boston Medical Center. Following his residency, Dr. Toman served for four years in the United States Air Force, where he received numerous commendations and awards for his work as an orthopedic surgeon. He is certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. For an appointment, call (978) 632-0800.

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