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Uniquely Quabbin magazine serving
 THE NORTH QUABBIN: Athol • Erving • New Salem • Orange • Petersham • Phillipston • Royalston • Warwick • Wendell
 THE SOUTH QUABBIN: Barre • Belchertown • Hardwick (Gilbertville) • Hubbardston • Leverett • New Braintree • Oakham • Pelham • Rutland • Shutesbury • Ware

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volume 1, number 1 • May-August, 2016
 this issue features museums, arts centers, historical societies, and more in the
 uniquely Quabbin heart of Massachusetts



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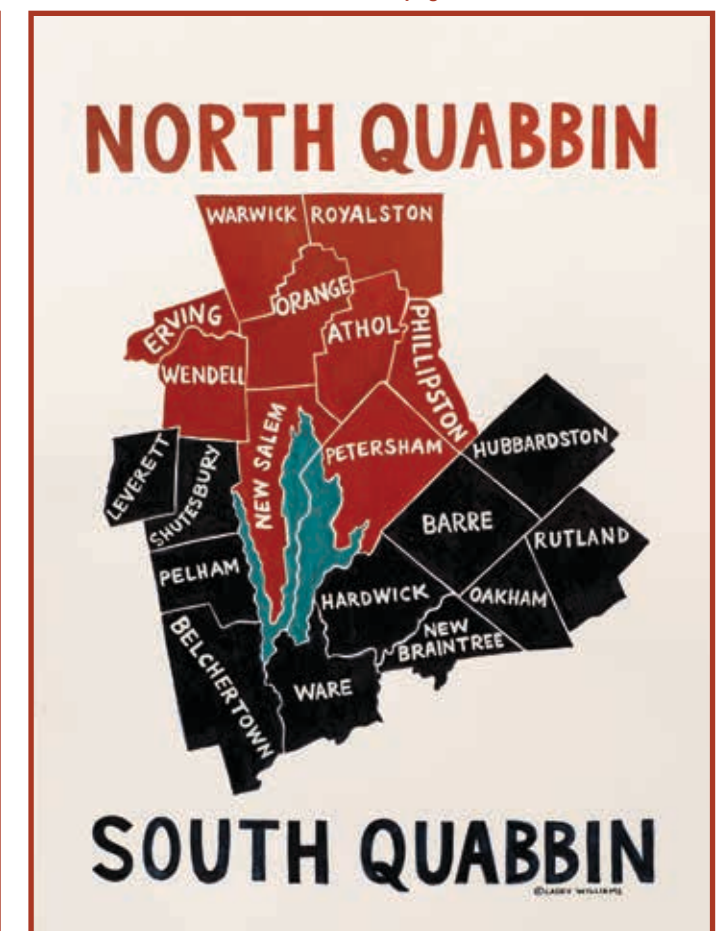
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Informative dioramas at Harvard Forest's Fisher Museum in Petersham, top left, display techniques of Quabbin area land usage.
 Maps, bottom, show Quabbin towns past and present. Photos © David Brothers / maps © Casey Williams

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Residents of lost towns gave artifacts to Swift River Valley Historical Society in New Salem. Photo © Paula J. Botch

FIND LISTINGS FOR
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SEASONAL IMAGES

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Introducing *Uniquely Quabbin*

QUABBIN REGION, Massachusetts—*Uniquely Quabbin* serves the twenty Quabbin region towns, according to Mark Wright, executive director of the North Quabbin Chamber and Visitors Bureau.

“Athol Historical Society, Athol Press, and Haley’s Publishing have collaborated with the Chamber to produce *Uniquely Quabbin* in cooperation with writers, photographers, and artists from the greater Quabbin area,” Wright said.

“With *Uniquely Quabbin*, we serve a Quabbin-wide area, including both the North Quabbin and what I’d call the South Quabbin,” Wright said. “The magazine features distinctive and sometimes new people, places, and things sure to interest readers from the area and beyond.”

Planners identified the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Hardwick (Gilbertville), Hubbardston, Leverett, New Braintree, Oakham, Pelham, Rutland, Shutesbury, and Ware as belonging to the South Quabbin. Towns long identified as part of the North Quabbin are Athol, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Warwick, and Wendell.

Columnists for *Uniquely Quabbin* include J. R. Greene, frequent author about the Quabbin Reservoir, and Allen Young, author of *North of Quabbin* and *North of Quabbin Revisited* guidebooks. More than twenty writers from the North Quabbin and South Quabbin areas participated, according to Marcia Gagliardi of Haley’s, editor and publisher.

Wright said *Uniquely Quabbin* will be inserted in a mid May issue of the *Athol Daily News* and available in Quabbin-area stores and information sites throughout Massachusetts and New England.

Artist Casey Williams designed signs, postcards, maps, and other materials to complement the open houses and magazine, which will also be made available online.

Wright said that the Chamber received a seed grant from the International Music and Art Foundation designated to support the magazine and launch weekend open houses.

Find maps of the Quabbin area on Page 1 and of Quabbin Area towns on Pages 28-29. Find calendar listings beginning on Page 51.

Uniquely Quabbin

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Free/\$3.00

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Cover photo by Mia Haringstad in the Ware Historical Society Museum. Back cover photo by Dale Monette at Quabbin Overlook, New Salem.

On the cover, from left, Jordan Fournier, 14, and Gracie Fournier, 12, with their dad Curtis Fournier examining lighting devices in the Ware Historical Society Museum.

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

Uniquely Quabbin magazine is produced as a collaboration of Athol Historical Society, Athol Press, Haley’s Publishing, and North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and funded in part with a grant from International Music and Arts Foundation.

We invite your contributions to *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine. Contact Marcia Gagliardi at haley.antique@verizon.net with proposals for articles, photos, cartoons, advertising, or letters to the editor. Website development pending with dedicated email addresses by department.

welcome to *Uniquely Quabbin*

a note from the publisher

Like so many good things, our new magazine *Uniquely Quabbin* emerged serendipitously on the wings of long-cherished belief. We who bring you *Uniquely Quabbin* believe there's plenty to crow about out here in the middle of Massachusetts. We thought it would be fun and affirming to sing a love song to this quintessentially rural environment bursting at the seams with accomplished artists, musicians, writers, athletes, scholars, farmers, organizers, machinists, housewives, entrepreneurs, and so many, many more.

At some great expense to many who then lived in our region, legislators and engineers created Quabbin Reservoir

the vision became reality . . .

in the mid twentieth century to provide life-giving water to residents of Metropolitan Boston. The creators imagined peaceful coexistence between the necessities of the city and the resources of the country, and reluctantly (with homage to those who can not forgive the 1930s loss of their family farms), I admit that somehow the vision became reality.

Inhabitants of the twenty towns surrounding Quabbin today

share a distinct landscape rich with cultural expression and an abundance of Quabbin natural resources.

My colleagues at *Uniquely Quabbin* may cringe as I tell the following story from experience almost three decades ago during a stint at one of Boston's august arts institutions. "Do people out there really look at art?" not one, not two, but many people asked me.

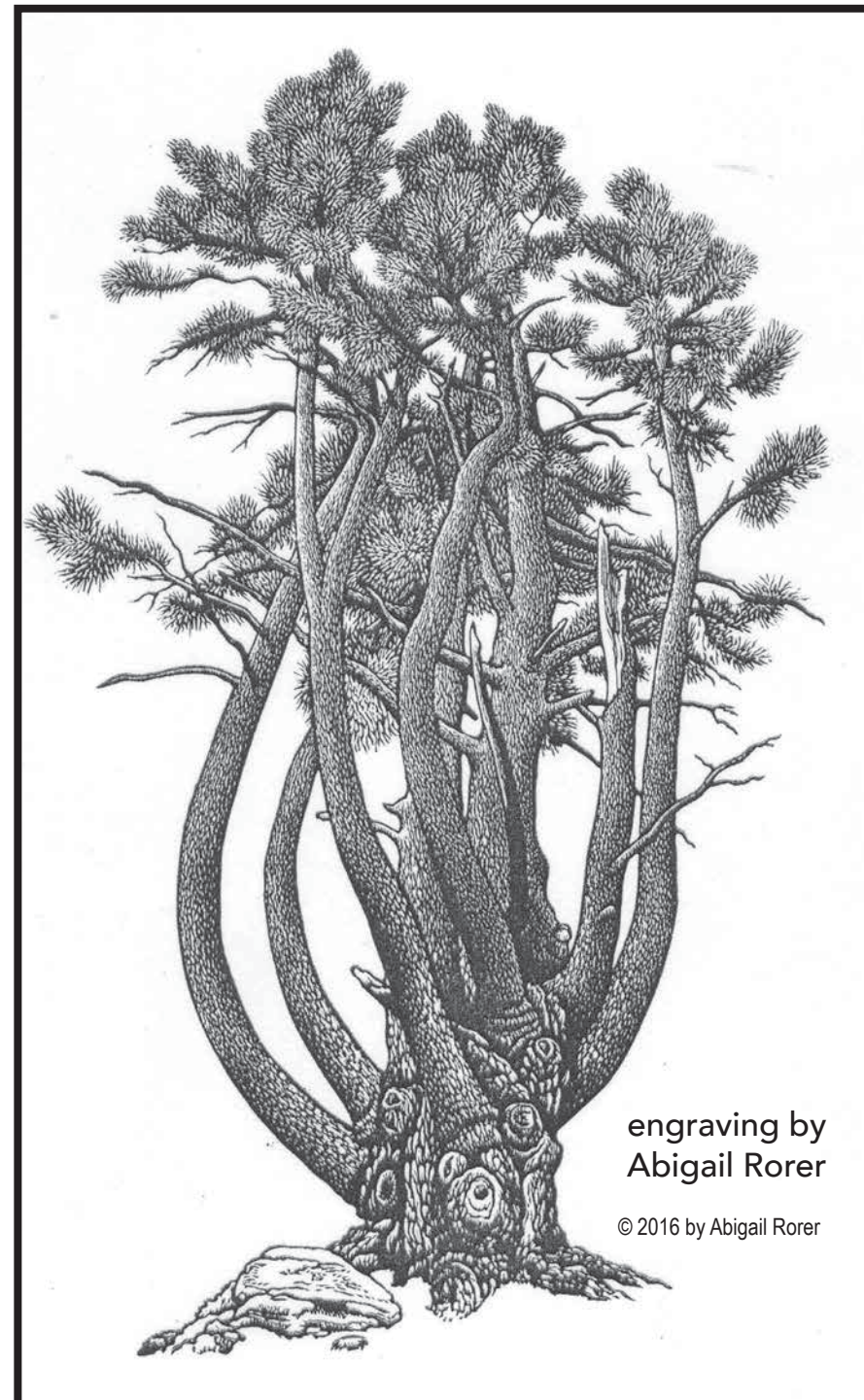
Yes. Yes, we do. And we do a lot more, too, that may qualify us as culturally aware—or not, if that's what any of us chooses. Something wonderful makes each of us tick in remarkable natural surroundings thus far much protected from glossy, transient culture. Not so many days ago, one of my friends remarked on her early morning early spring swims with three otters one day and two migrating swans the next.

For me, this magazine is a dream come true now facilitated by so many others who value the people and activities that characterize this place. I am profoundly grateful to everyone who has made this magazine a reality. I hope you will enjoy reading it and that we will encourage you to appreciate this heart of Massachusetts just a little bit more.

Sincerely,
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's

matriarch of the Petersham woods

text by Candace Anderson and Abigail Rorer



Nobody knows how many years The Matriarch of the Forest, sometimes called the Cabbage Pine, has presided over land now known as Brooks Woodland Preserve in Petersham. The girth of this grand tree indicates the time must be measured in centuries rather than decades. Encircling the trunk requires the arm spans of six or seven humans who must hike to the tree's home on a knoll adjacent to winding trails in protected lands now owned by The Trustees of Reservations and Harvard Forest.

Petersham's John Fiske first encountered the tree as he made his way through the pathway of destruction left by the legendary hurricane of 1938. He approached what appeared to be a stand of white pines that had been miraculously spared by the devastating winds. Instead of a stand of trees, he found a single majestic white pine with multiple trunks bursting forth from a massive base. He named the tree "The Cabbage Pine."

The Cabbage Pine or The Matriarch is a destination for many visitors to the woods, and she has even hosted weddings, memorial services, and woodland rituals.

The illustration is a wood engraving by Petersham artist Abigail Rorer, who published a small fine press book honoring the tree. The image

for the engraving was created from photos taken about thirty-five years ago. Today The Matriarch shows signs of aging and decay.

Visitors to the tree are witnesses to life's inevitable cycles.

Watercolorist Candace Anderson lives and works in Petersham.

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

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A King's Tour cyclist pauses at Winsor Dam in Belchertown with the Quabbin Reservoir as backdrop. Photo courtesy of the Seven Hills Wheelmen.

spinning around the Quabbin on two wheels

by Jane Loeser Clukay

Do you sit in a cubicle all day? Do you yearn for the smell of fresh air? Are you sparked by a sense of adventure? Then you might be a candidate for biking around the Quabbin Reservoir area.

You can go literally around the Quabbin Reservoir on Sunday, June 12 by undertaking the King's Tour of the Quabbin sponsored by the Quabbin area's Seven Hills Wheelmen. Yes, it is a one-hundred-mile ride traversing the towns surrounding the Quabbin. The ride began in 1988 on a dare by a fellow nicknamed Pole King - a moniker he earned working for the telephone company. Shortened to King, it is the derivation of the name of the ride.

Most bike clubs have a signature century ride. The Seven Hills Wheelmen bill their ride as "a scenic, challenging, social event." On the same day, they offer a shorter option of a metric century (62.5 miles) and a longer double-metric century (125 miles) as well. Cue sheets distributed at registration carefully detail each route, arrows mark the routes, and road crews provide assistance and snacks.

Suit up with other enthusiastic bikers and rendezvous in the town of Rutland to the east of the reservoir. You will head out with the pack and bike west towards the reservoir to begin a clockwise circuit through quiet, old, mill towns alongside rolling farmland and up and

down hills through deciduous forests to the finish.

Highlights are riding across Good-nough Dike and Winsor Dam and taking in the breathtaking view of the Quabbin at Summit Tower as well as the savoring rest stops at Hardwick Vineyard and Winery, Rose 32 Bakery, and Petersham's charming Country Store. At the finish enjoy the simple, pure, delicious, sweet taste of watermelon. Along the way, riders



David M tries on the King's Tour winner's crown. Photo courtesy of the Seven Hills Wheelmen.

can even stop at Green Light Bicycles in Belchertown (a short hop off the route) for emergency needs and free filtered water! The club has sponsored the ride for more than twenty-five years, hosting 266 riders in 2015. Find details at sevenhillswheelmen.org

Not up for long distance riding? You can choose a ride of desired length by going to mapmyride.com and searching for the town(s) where you want to bike. You will be able to view maps and read descriptions of bike rides from other cyclists

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For over 65 years, Orange Oil Company has continued to provide reliable, personal service. Their dedicated employees have braved the elements to bring warmth to over 5,000 customers from Warwick to the north, Barre to the south, Templeton to the east and Greenfield to the west.

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Quabbin Currents

THE BICENTENNIAL OF A PLACE THAT NO LONGER EXISTS

by J. R. Greene

Many towns across Massachusetts celebrate anniversaries of their settlement or incorporation every twenty-five or fifty years. Balls, parades, and other events often highlight such celebrations. In 2010, Orange celebrated its bicentennial, and Shutesbury celebrated its 250th in 2011; Athol, Oakham, and Templeton held celebrations in 2012, Warwick in 2013, and Royalston in 2015.

When the Quabbin Reservoir was built in the 1930s to supply metropolitan Boston with drinking water, four towns—Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott—were disincorporated to make way for it. All were settled by the white man by the mid-1700s, with Greenwich the first to be incorporated in 1754.

The four towns had celebrated their anniversaries with elaborate ceremonies, speeches, and sports contests in appropriate years. Dana had events in 1901 and 1926, Enfield in 1916, Greenwich in 1904 and 1928, and Prescott in 1922.

In the late 1920s and 1930s, the four doomed towns saw their residents sell their property and move away as the reservoir project progressed. The Massachusetts Senate and House passed (and the Governor signed) legislation in 1938 to end the four towns' corporate existence and turn their territory over to adjoining towns. A farewell ball was held at the Enfield town hall on April 27, 1938; the music stopped at midnight to note the official end of the four towns. I discuss this event in my 1983 book, *The Day Four Quabbin Towns Died*.

Swift River Valley Historical Society in North New Salem has been official keeper of memories of the four lost towns (and New Salem) since its founding in the 1930s. Friends of Quabbin has supported the Quabbin Visitor's Center in Belchertown since both began in 1984.

Friends of Quabbin sponsors the annual day-before-Memorial-Day ceremony at the Quabbin Park Cemetery in Ware. It also sponsored official remembrance events for the lost valley in 1988 and 2013 and will sponsor one to note the bicentennial of Enfield on Saturday, August 13, 2016 at the Hanks Picnic Area at the Quabbin Park.

While few people are left who lived in Enfield, the more important reason to note its anniversary is to honor the sacrifices made by those who had to give up their homes and livelihoods in order for the massive reservoir to be built. As Santayana said, those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

J. R. Greene of Athol is compiler of thirty-one annual Quabbin History Calendars and author of twenty books, including sixteen relating to Quabbin history.

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classics
rev up 'round the
reservoir
photo by Deborah Porter

cruisin' the classics

by Kathryn Chaisson

Rides appeal to people from all walks of life. From pharmacists to computer technicians, police officers to retirees, classic car enthusiasts rev up for hot rods, go crazy for coupes, and are mad for their muscle cars. While for some the hobby involves collecting classics, others enjoy the hands-on challenge of restoring or restyling their vehicles or starting from scratch.

Outdoor car shows nationwide reveal a popular and ever-growing classic car culture. Vehicles of varying colors, designs, conditions, and time periods park on grass, gravel, or pavement on display for countless admiring spectators walking along the auto aisles to oldies background music. It's a chance to relive a memory of another era, dream of ownership, get ideas, take pictures, and ask questions.

Craig Twohey, owner of King Phillip Restaurant and Dairy Bar in Phillipston, starts the season in mid-May. He has hosted Thursday Cruise Night for six years, starting after an antique car owner approached him with the idea. "Cars go along great with the dairy bar concept," Twohey said, recalling the days of A&W Root Beer drive-ins.

New Salem business owners Bob and Pam Harris of Orange Oil Company and members of the North Quabbin Cruisers plan their vacations around car shows. Bob is the club's longtime president and co-founder, and Pam, a board member. Bob observes that since the club started in the late 1990s, not only has the price of classic cars increased but now there's a push of supply and demand. "The more people get involved, the higher the price of the car goes," Harris said.

The local car show circuit embraces community and camaraderie. Clubs and collectors support each other by attending shows and spreading the word. "You meet a lot of different people and make a lot of new friends," says Bob Harris. "They're all there for the love of cars."

Pam Harris agrees. "It's the social atmosphere. People enjoy getting together, meeting friends, and talking cars."

For some venues, the focus is not only about fun but about fundraising by way of raffles, auctions, or food sales.

The Barre Lions Club Car Show, started in 2012, is a community fundraiser. The 2016 show is scheduled for September 10 (rain date September 11) at Carter Stevens Farm with proceeds going to the Barre Food Bank. "It's for all ages," says Barre Lion Tim Mara. Barre Lions also awards a "Best Car" plaque each year.

The Belchertown Cruisers have hosted two or three shows a year in the last several years. It takes place in Belchertown Center with proceeds benefiting the

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to camp or not to camp:



Thomas McGrail of Shrewsbury brings the Red Sox Nation to the great outdoors at a Quabbin area campground, above. Photo © Sharon Harmon

by Sharon A. Harmon

The Quabbin region often gets referred to as God's country. The area overflows with beauty and a quaint charm all its own. A fun, adventurous, and inexpensive way to enjoy the gorgeous land is to utilize one or more of the area's many fine campgrounds.

Ranging from primitive camping in Petersham at the Federated Woman's Club State Forest to resort camping at Pine Acres Family Camping resort in Oakham, North Quabbin and South Quabbin campgrounds take full advantage of the area's natural resources.

Fresh air, starlit nights, hiking, fishing, and boating abound, and family bonds and memories wait to be made.

Peaceful Pines in Templeton provides an affordable getaway both comfortable and familiar, with more than a hundred treed sites and a swimming pool. A Labor Day horseshoe tournament highlights the year.

Tully Reservation in Royalston stands as a true jewel embracing a lake with islands and hiking trails. Kayaks, canoes, and even fishing poles are available for rental and the place makes winter camping available for the true nature lover.

never in Quabbin, but manywheres else

Lamb City in Phillipston produces an annual talent show put on each year by seasonal campers and Otter River State Forest has seasonal skiing, yurts, and very clean restrooms as well as a sandy beach and small pond.

Wagon Wheel in Warwick offers a store, volleyball, basketball, and stalls on site with trails for horse lovers.

*seasonal skiing, yurts, . . . a
store, volleyball, . . .
horse stalls, on site trails*

Peaceful Acres in Hubbardston has seventy-five sites on three hundred woodland acres with tent, trailer, and cabin sites also available with a heated indoor pool. It also hosts steamship roasts and diner nights.

The Federated Women's Club in Petersham offers a first-come, first-served primitive campground with notable forest scenery and a stopover for migrating birds. It also offers hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, and restricted hunting.

At the other end of the spectrum is Pine Acres Family Camping Resort in Oakham with everything from tents to rustic cabins, premium cabins, and full-service cabins. A bike park, dog park, and pet wash comprise other amenities along with a family video arcade and rec hall.

Whatever your sense of adventure and family needs, there is bound to be a campground in the North Quabbin or South Quabbin that will suit your needs and broaden your life experiences. Camping is lots easier on the wallet, too. Hopefully, you'll be a Happy Camper.

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



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Belchertown's famous carriages

by Randi Shenkman

Belchertown was world renowned in the nineteenth century for carriages built there. Many carriages in the Stone House Museum collection at 20 Maple Street were built in Belchertown.

Henry Ford donated the building that houses them. He visited Belchertown to christen the first Ford dealership and see local carriages. Ford himself had been a carriage maker. When he saw that the carriages stood unprotected around the Stone House lawn, he gave money to build a barn in the style of the Stone House.

No Belchertown stagecoach has survived. Stone House displays a carriage built in Concord, New Hampshire, in the style of the Belchertown-made stagecoaches. Barre, Massachusetts was its run. The carriage does not have its third class seat nor its trunk attached. The Barre Historical Society owns a similar stagecoach.

Randi Shenkman, a former educator, is vice-president of Stone House Museum in Belchertown and a professional photographer. Visit her website at belchertownphotos.com.



Belchertown's Concord, New Hampshire-built stagecoach, fashioned in the style of Stone House Museum's stagecoach, rolls along during a recent parade. Photo © Randi Shenkman.

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BOSTON PUBLIC MARKET

stone walls matter like country roads, stately old trees, and 1800s houses

by Allen Young

Larry Siegel of Royalston called me recently to ask if I would spend some time in the woods with him as he pursues his current labor of love—meticulously charting the many miles of stone walls that grace the town we both adopted in the 1970s.

He's been working on this for several years and is determined to continue even though he's one of the busiest farmers around. It was a gloriously sunny mid-winter morning when Larry met me on Butterworth Road, the unpaved country lane that I've treasured since moving to the northwest corner of Worcester County in 1973. As I told him what I knew about the walls we were following, he took notes and informed me, too. We trudged over uneven turf, along stone walls built to define the right-of-way of a discontinued Worcester County road plus others that are property boundaries and even more that once defined fields but have no current purpose at all. Many of the walls are kind of messy and show signs of age not only because lichens are growing on them but also because they are falling apart or mysteriously truncated.

Like gravel country roads, stately old trees, and houses that date back a century or more, stone walls are among the treasures that matter to people like Larry Siegel and me. Our love of and appreciation of stone walls is shared by many hereabouts though others take them for granted. We like the way they look, and we like the story they tell about hard work of humans and animals, about agriculture (growing crops and raising livestock), and even about boundaries in a society that places great importance on property lines and town lines.

Stone walls are usually made of local materials varying from limestone and flint to granite and sandstone. However, the quality of building stone varies greatly, both in its endurance to weathering, resistance to water penetration and in its ability to be worked into regular shapes before construction.

—Wikipedia

They matter to Robert Thorson, whose outstanding books *Stone by Stone: The Magnificent History in New England's Stone Walls* and *Exploring Stone Walls: A Field Guide to New England's Stone Walls* are a "must read" on this topic. They also matter, sadly, to some landowners who choose to cash in by having them removed from their land and sold to be rebuilt in a distant high-end housing development.

In a recent *Antiques Journal* article entitled "Stories in Stone: Preserving New England's Historic Stone Walls," Brian Roche wrote:


Historic preservation in America usually focuses on saving buildings and the built environment. Stone walls aren't exactly a building, so they can get overlooked. Our once ubiquitous stonewalls in New England are geological, archaeological, environmental, and artistic treasures that are in danger of being lost; now is the time for preservation efforts and education to help stave off their disappearance.

Some people continue to build stone walls, desired nowadays mostly for their aesthetic appeal. The monarch of stone wall construction in the Quabbin area is Jim Dowd of Petersham. I met him decades ago when he was creating a beautiful wall for a Hardwick landowner. That town seems to have more flat field stones (rather than round ones) and thus some of the classiest stone walls, too. Dowd advised my friend Buddy Dyer and me on building a stone foundation for my house. He showed me tools he was using, given to him by his grandfather, Gustave Cloutier. Dowd named his son Gustave and mentored him to follow in the same line of work.

Allen Young is author of *North of Quabbin Revisited* (Haley's, 2003) and thirteen other books. He received the University of Massachusetts Writing and Society Award in 2004.



Stone walls define landscapes and run along roadsides in Phillipston and Rutland, at top, and on Townsend Road in Athol, above.
Top photos © Marcia Gagliardi / above photo © David Brothers.



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by Susie Feldman

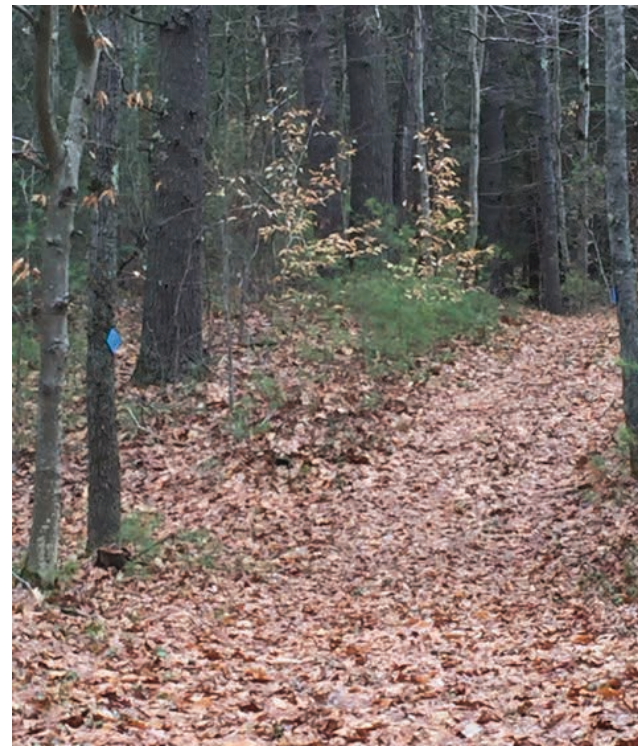
Quabbin, that dominant reservoir in the midst of Massachusetts, both connects and divides the region bearing its name. Many towns border its 181 miles of shoreline, and others nearby are integral parts of the Quabbin Region. Surrounded by better than 54,000 acres of forestland owned and managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the reservoir is the heart of the territory and deeply affects decisions about the land we inhabit. Abundant neighboring forest and agricultural land surround Quabbin, the largest contiguous block of conserved woodland in Massachusetts. Many individuals and groups actively participate in protecting land near our cherished Quabbin, safeguarding it for generations to come.

The rural beauty of our hilly landscape is indisputably precious. Forested land contains many treasures that must be defended in order to survive. In addition to abounding wildlife both animal and vegetable flourishing in the forest, woodlands provide much needed timber and other pulp products, fuel, tourism and recreation, research, and educational opportunities.

Agricultural property also endures in towns surrounding Quabbin Reservoir. Individual, family, and organizational land stewards make crucial decisions daily about its destiny.

Many forest landowners have inherited their acreage through several generations, and they display powerful emotional commitment to keeping the land pristine. However, such an eventuality is not always an economic or practical possibility. Protecting land is a complex matter and often requires collaboration. Land conservation organizations connect individuals with government agencies, land trusts, and conservation partnerships to dramatically increase conserved forests in the entire Quabbin region.

Once protected, however, forest is not always allowed to just sit there and be itself. Although that's sometimes an option, foresters often recommend timber harvesting under proper supervision as beneficial to the ecology. Sometimes, conservators recommend opening forests for certain public uses, limited agriculture, and other purposes. As in a giant garden, stewards must plant, weed, and harvest. It can be difficult to maintain precar-



Quabbin communities feature private and public woodland trails. Photo © Susie Feldman.

ious balance in the forest. Land trusts help immensely in assisting landowners with conundrums.

If we look at the map of Quabbin surrounded by well over a dozen towns and consider it as a misshapen clock with high noon at the north, we begin with the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Located in Athol, Mount Grace Land Trust states its aim to protect natural, agricultural, and scenic areas to benefit the economy, the environment, and future generations. By setting up conservation restrictions (agreements whereby landowners sell or donate development rights to the agency or government, to be held in trust, thereby safeguarding the land in perpetuity) or stewardship assists, MGLCT has protected some thirty thousand acres of land since 1986. It also provides programs that teach interested citizens about nature, conservation, and ecology, thus increasing the knowledgeable, committed community of environmentally aware people.

Moving clockwise around the Quabbin clock, at about two o'clock we come to Harvard Forest. This Harvard University campus in Petersham maintains a large research forest of more than thirty-seven hundred

acres. Studies in biodiversity, conservation, and ecology all occur in Harvard Forest as well as research about invasive species and forest-atmosphere connections. Harvard Forest presents symposia and programs, as it reaches out to educational and other groups.

Continuing in the clockwise direction and approaching four o'clock in the town of Hardwick, we come upon the East Quabbin Land Trust. Some of its important preservation has taken place in Hardwick, Ware, and the Brookfields. East Quabbin has been in existence since 1994 and has thus far conserved more than forty-six hundred acres, some on land preserves, some with private landowners. EQLT focuses on saving diverse land and historic features for the future. Besides forestland, East Quabbin has protected and maintains farmland, a gristmill site, a rail trail, and a country store. East Quabbin Land Trust assists families and organizations often fiercely protective of their land and heritage while finding viable conservation options despite the threat of development.


As we curve around the bottom of our imaginary clock, we come to the Opacum Land Trust, which derives its name from a salamander. In Sturbridge, Opacum Land Trust protects the southernmost portions of the Quabbin area. It preserves greenways and wildlife

corridors in the region along with watery environments such as vernal pools and watersheds with a focus on scenic vistas. It succeeds in making forest environments readily accessible for public enjoyment.

We approach evening on our imaginary clock now. Going around the western side of Quabbin up to Leverett, we come to lands protected by the Kestrel Land Trust of Amherst. Kestrel was originally formed to protect areas contiguous to Quabbin but has expanded into the Holyoke Range and Mount Tom as well as approaching the Connecticut River. A true feather in Kestrel's cap is Massachusetts's largest conservation restriction, the 5.4-square-mile area known as Brushy Mountain in Shutesbury and Leverett.

Continuing, we find ourselves returning to the Mount Grace area. We have circumnavigated Quabbin Reservoir. Continued efforts of landowners, conservationists, land trusts, and many others combine to create a unique environment where the land will remain safe in perpetuity. Quabbin's already large conserved watershed area continues to expand, its protected tendrils reaching into nearby communities, allowing farmland, forest, and history to survive for generations to come. Even forever.

Ben, Susie, and Joshua Feldman own, love, and care for some four hundred acres of forest in the North Quabbin region.



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telling a complex story in a manageable way

food and farming in the Quabbin Region:

by Cathy Stanton

There's a commonly told story about farming in this part of Massachusetts: that the soils were rocky and poor to begin with, that most farmers either gave up or moved west to larger, more productive farms as the frontier opened, and that industry had pretty much taken agriculture's place in the regional economy by the middle of the nineteenth century.

The broad outlines of that story are not exactly wrong. But the devil is in the details, and a recent Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust project aims to complicate the too-simple story that most of us are familiar with. "Farm Values: Civic Agriculture at the Crossroads," funded by Mass Humanities, works to contribute to thoughtful conversations about what the future of local agriculture might look like in the Quabbin region, drawing on a deeper knowledge of what it has looked like in various periods of the past and how and why it has changed over time.

The project was built around a six-town mini-region—Warwick, Orange, Athol, Petersham, Barre, and Hardwick—at the center of Mount Grace's twenty-three-town service area. The land trust had been thinking about farmland resources, gaps, and opportunities within that mini-region and working toward a food systems assessment of those towns. The finished report, "Food and Farming in the Quabbin Region," has just been released and can be found on Mount Grace's website mountgrace.org. As the humanities scholar for the "Farm Values" project, I worked with land trust staff to identify a set of six farms, one in each of the six towns, that would help us tell a more complex story in a manageable way. For each of the farms we selected—Chase Hill Farm in Warwick, Moore's Maple Grove Farm in Orange, Adams Farm in Athol, the former King Farm in Petersham, Many Hands Organic Farm in Barre, and Stillman Quality Meats in Hardwick—I conducted detailed historical research, wrote short and longer pieces about each farm, and filmed footage for short videos. I was trying to create materials that would shed light on the stories of individual farms and families while connecting with big questions about how farmers in our area have struggled for two centuries within the challenges

a report from Mount Grace Land Trust



Both the Farm Values Project and Quabbin Harvest's portraits of area farmers featured Mark Fellows of Chase Hill Farm in Warwick. Photo © Oliver Scott Photography.

of an economy that favors large- rather than small-scale food production and marketing.

We took these materials on the road in the summer and fall of 2015, setting up at farmers markets and food festivals and talking with people about their sense of farming's past, present, and future in our area as well as the values that animated their own food choices. (That's part of our display in the photo of Mark Fellows, above, designed to capture the interest of passersby who may not immediately gravitate to a booth that focused on local history.)

The project culminated in a public conversation event in Athol in December, 2015 in partnership with Quabbin Harvest coop in Orange, a local food hub housed

in a former bank that Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust now owns and rents to the coop. The coop had commissioned portraits by Northampton photographer Oliver Scott Snure of area farmers whose food is sold in the coop. The stunning photos plus the panel discussion about local farming issues attracted a standing-room-only audience and showed how much these subjects resonate with many people. That's the idea behind "civic agriculture," in fact—the notion that food is a subject of such fundamental importance to all of us that our deliberations and decisions about it have an inescapably public character. Especially as we absorb the realities of our changing climate and the consequences of two

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Springtime mini gardens in Athol's Farm School greenhouse beds promise fields to harvest in late summer. Nadine Proctor, Nate Bryant-Ridpath, Alexander Vaughn, Charles "Chip" Pinder, Molly Jameson, and Lesley Williamson plant seeds, above left. Photo © Mitchell R. Grosky.

Quabbin Region Farmers Foster Crops and Land Conservation

by Pat Larson

The majestic old barn stands out against the bright sky overlooking pastures that once provided feed for dairy herds. Now with the cold winds of late winter still blowing, beef herds graze in pastures high on hills overlooking the town below.

Even though the number of family farms diminished in the past seventy-five years in the Quabbin region, a new awakening has occurred to save those that survived. This can be seen through the words of young farmers along with the work of land trusts.

One such example is the work of the Farm School, straddling the northern borders of Athol and Orange. The Farm School provides a year-long training program for adults wanting to learn farming skills. Over the past twenty-five years the Farm School brought together four old family farms totaling over four hundred acres with pastures for raising animals, woodlands, wetlands, and acreage for growing vegetables. Joint efforts of the Farm School, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and farm owners addressed the prospect of saving land from development and ensuring that the tradition of farming continues into the future.

Another example includes work of East Quabbin Land Trust to help transition the Gaudreau Farm in New Braintree to a young farm family. Ray Waugh, who grew up in New Braintree and has a farm background, is the new steward of this old farm. The farmland meets soil requirements for the state Agricultural Preservation Restriction

(APR) program. Having an APR on part of the land reduces the cost for the Waugh family and also keeps the land in farming forever. "It's a real win-win for Ray, the community, and East Quabbin Land Trust to see a young family continue the agricultural heritage of New Braintree and our region," said Cynthia Henshaw, executive director of the East Quabbin Land Trust.

In another abiding effort to respect the region's farmland, Tyson Neukirch—teacher, farmer, and whole farm planner—has worked at the Farm School for the past five years. Currently he facilitates a land-use plan for the several large Farm School land parcels. As well as teaching in the adult Learn-to-Farm program, Neukirch will farm the conserved Petersham site where he lives with his wife and children.

"I want to see if we can do a better job of fulfilling our conservation responsibilities while also increasing our educational capacity, increasing our ecological resilience, and our productivity for what we sell in the marketplace," explained Neukirch. Neukirch also oversees land planning on the 106-acre farm in Petersham that he and his wife, Emily Anderson, purchased in 2014.

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Mellow beef cattle line up at mealtime in The Farm School's Sentinel Elm barn on Moore Hill Road in Athol.
Photo © Mitchell R. Grosky.

"We went through a conservation restriction process with four parties including previous owners Gil and Linda King, the Petersham Conservation Commission, East Quabbin Land Trust, and ourselves," Neukirch said. "It took a year and a half to put things in place with the town of Petersham holding the conservation restriction."

"It is a very rugged piece of land and representative of where we live," Neukirch continued, "with four acres of cleared prime topsoil with the rest in woodlands." A lot of my work has the same focus now at both the Farm School and the farm in Petersham. It means working to navigate various conservation restrictions.

"Other work includes figuring out how to maximize the goals of those conservation relationships while also increasing biodiversity, economic productivity of the land, and figuring out ways to maximize both carbon sequestration and water retention on the landscape," Neukirch added. "Buying a piece of land has forced me to rethink how I go about interacting with the landscape while being both economically productive and not just sustainable but regenerative for the soil. For now the focus is on cover cropping and rotation with animals—chickens and ruminants like goats."

Neukirch relates his work at his home to his work at the Farm School because "the Farm School has a unique opportunity to use its landscape as a place where we can experiment and teach. We have to look at different ways of doing things to be good soil stewards. We have to ask the important agricultural questions of our times."

Regional land trusts such as Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and East Quabbin Land Trust can help farmers and landowners navigate the process of meeting their goals for conserving their land. Placing conservation restrictions on farmland can help make that land more affordable for the next farm buyer. This is what happened at both the Farm School and the King Farm in Petersham.

Jamie Pottern, Farm Conservation Program Manager at Mount Grace, believes that "Land is the least understood part of the food system because it is complex. People can take for granted that the farm will always be there when in fact it is quite threatened. It is important to support land trusts that are working to protect farms...because without that farm being protected, access to that food is not secure for anybody. At the heart of the whole food system is the land."

With less than forty-percent of the region's farmland protected in Athol, Orange, Warwick, Petersham, Hardwick, and Barre, much work remains to protect current farmland and reclaim other land in order to build up regional food production.

Pat Larson is a retired educator living in North Orange.

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Quabbin municipalities center on historic town commons

by Kathy Chencharik

What do many towns of the North Quabbin and South Quabbin have in common? Why, town commons, of course.

Town commons, originally set aside as common land for animals to graze or as pounds for stray animals, provided sites for military training and often the first public buildings in a municipality. Residents today gather on commons as they have since the founding of towns for meetings, church services, or celebrations of special events and milestones such as the anniversary of incorporation with visitors from near and far.

Barre, originally called Hutchinson, features a grand common in the South Quabbin. Surrounded by nineteenth-century buildings, the Barre Town



Surrounded by nineteenth century buildings, Barre Common bristles with springtime colors.

Photo © John Burk / maps © Casey Williams.

Common in the community's historic district, includes a horse trough and hay scale as reminders of previous uses of the common. Barre's common also provides a venue for summertime concerts.

Hubbardston's common, also in the South Quabbin, has remnants of the foundation of the town's first schoolhouse. Nearby stands a Greek Revival church, rebuilt in 1842 using a 1773 meetinghouse frame.

When they repose in their towns' historical districts, town commons in both the North Quabbin and South Quabbin provide a sense of serenity and reminder of how things used to be in a world subject to constant change.

The North Quabbin town of Royalston, incorporated in 1765, features a historic



continued on page 50



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Buildings of the Pelham Historical Society, top, Swift River Valley Historical Society's Whittaker-Clary House, center, and Belchertown Historical Society's Stone House Museum, above, house an eclectic mix of memorabilia from the community's past as do historical societies and museums throughout the Quabbin region. Photos © Paula A. Botch.

historical societies honor objects Quabbin's vibrant past & present

by Paula A. Botch

We must hear and listen to all of Quabbin's many Voices. Voices of the Past, as well as Voices of the Present and of the Future. Voices of the Trees, the Sky, the Rain that falls, and all the Wild Things; Voices of the People who depend on this valuable resource for their daily needs of clean water, and Voices of those who draw upon it for deeper needs of the Soul.

—Les Campbell, Friends of Quabbin

Like gifts wrapping Quabbin Reservoir, treasures wait to be discovered in and among Quabbin region towns in both the North Quabbin and the South Quabbin. With sheer scenic beauty and rich and heartbreaking history, much allure focuses on the reservoir itself, a sparkling gem that like a magnet draws us to its heart.


Many people have lived in the Quabbin region all their lives while others, like me, settled more recently. Whoever we are, we respect the reservoir not only to ensure that it remains pristine to provide drinking water for Greater Boston but also to preserve the memories from the towns sacrificed to create the reservoir.

Let's take a peek and discover some of the surprises hiding here.

Quabbin Park and Reservoir

Quabbin Park and Reservoir in Belchertown appeal to those who love the outdoors as well as those who enjoy indoor museums and history. Outdoor activities available to visitors include walking, hiking, biking, fishing, picnics, and photography with unparalleled panoramic views across the reservoir waters to the hills beyond. Any history buff could spend hours, days, or even weeks reading to heart's desire about the people whose lives forever changed and

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the towns of Dana, Enfield, Prescott, and Greenwich that ceased to exist on April 28, 1938 to make way for the reservoir that would provide water for fifty-one Boston area communities.

Stone House Museum

Founded during March 1903, Belchertown Historical Association, BHA, promotes “the preservation and exhibition of articles of historic interest on account of age or association with the past history of the town.” Early on, BHA made use of space in Clapp Memorial Library for exhibition of its rapidly growing collection, and there is much interest in preserving early records and historical artifacts of Belchertown.

Originally built in 1827 by Jonathan Dwight as a wedding gift for his daughter, the Federal-style Stone House remained in branches of the Dwight family for nearly a century. The estate of Mrs. Harriette Dwight Longley, one of the BHA’s first trustees, provided for the permanent location of the historical association upon her death in 1908. The Stone House became BHA’s home in 1922.

The Stone House contains superb examples of furniture, china, and decorative accessories made in the 1700s

and 1800s. Its textile collection includes samplers, early crewel work, linens, quilts, and an extensive selection of period clothing. Archives hold a collection of early town and church documents, diaries, manuscripts, ledgers, genealogies, and records of military service, town organizations, and early business establishments. The museum houses a large collection of photographs.

On museum grounds is the Ford Annex, built through the generosity of Henry Ford and dedicated in 1924, to house carriages, stagecoaches, sleighs, a fire pumper, and a hearse. The museum also preserves the printing office and equipment of Lewis Blackmer, editor and publisher of the *Belchertown Sentinel* for fifty years.

Although the museum itself is open only part of the year, BHA sponsors a year-round lecture series. Witch trials and history of railroads have been among recent topics.

Quabbin Park Cemetery

Down the road from the Quabbin Park and Reservoir is Quabbin Park Cemetery, QPC, in Ware. Two stone columns that include stones from the foundations of every church in the valley mark the entrance on Route 9. Bronze plaques on the columns solemnly and silently list the name of every cemetery removed for the Quabbin Reservoir project.

Quabbin Park typifies the old New England cemetery with headstones and markers placed seemingly at random to designate graves. It’s strange to stand among them and realize the extraordinary place this is with its human remains of former residents of the drowned Quabbin towns.

Along with graves, war memorials and markers were moved from the former Swift River Valley towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott to the QPC. The monuments greet visitors as they enter the cemetery grounds. They come to memorialize the four towns themselves and are an integral part of annual services on the Sunday before Memorial Day: May 29 this year. The ceremony recognizes the sacrifices made by former residents of the Swift River Valley so that the Quabbin Reservoir could be built as well as honoring veterans and those who lost their lives in service to our country.

Swift River Valley Historical Society

The Swift River Valley Historical Society in New Salem incorporated in 1962 was to serve the four drowned towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott. Construction of the reservoir left stone walls and shade trees in some places but devastation

everywhere else with no buildings, graves, nor residents. A particularly wrenching fact: at their final town meeting, residents of Greenwich voted to give their library books, furniture, and library trust funds to the town of New Salem.

The museum complex rests on quiet and beautiful grounds. Memorabilia from the four towns fill the buildings and tell stories of life in the Swift River Valley before the Quabbin. Families or descendants of the nearby villages and four lost towns donated every object in the museum’s collection. Objects represent elegant, charming stories, including, for example, wedding gowns of three New Salem sisters who promised each other as young girls to marry at the same time. Other displays include ordinary objects like an old pair of shoes or a canning jar. The museum holds relics of everyday lives, celebrations, and heartaches of the twenty-five hundred displaced residents—and the seventy-five hundred before them reposing in relocated graves.

Athol Historical Society

Some years ago, a flyer advertised an upcoming event at Athol Historical Society. I was fairly new to the area at the time, and it seemed like a great adventure, espe-

cially since I had never before been to a historical society before. The free program, “An Evening with Walt Whitman” performed by actor Stephen Collins, impressed me, and the atmosphere of Athol’s historical building made the performance all the more vivid. The historical society has hosted book readings and signings with local authors, music performances, a presentation on haunted New England, a wedding, and a quilt show.

Athol Historical Society museum displays include military items, clothing, furniture, photographs, books, and other items of local interest. Built by E. & G.G. Hook Company of Boston in the 1840s, the pipe organ is a particular source of pride. Its age and outstanding condition make it an important historic instrument that has been recognized by the National Organ Historical Society.

L. S. Starrett Museum

What an unexpected find so close to home! An unassuming little red building I’ve barely noticed in my years living in this area houses a unique collection. Athol’s L. S. Starrett Company—the “world’s greatest toolmakers”—has origins stemming back some 135 years. The company’s founder, Laroy S. Starrett of China, Maine,





The L. S. Starrett Company museum in Athol preserves founder Laroy S. Starrett's office and offers displays of precision tools manufactured there. Photo © Paula A. Botch.

(1836-1922), was fascinated with tools even from his very early childhood. He loved making useful things, and with what he called "invention on the brain," he spent his time thinking up new ways to do things. As a young man, he worked in farming for several years. His ideas were not conventional nor popular with neighboring farmers, but he continued to seek better ways and how to make them happen, eventually winning the trust of others in the farming community before finally turning to manufacturing and business.

In the 1860s and 1870s, he went door-to-door selling his first invention, the hasher, a meat-chopping machine inspired by the walking beam of old Mississippi Side-Wheelers. With that, he accumulated capital sufficient to begin his tool company in Athol where precision instruments like the micrometer, calipers, and gauges constitute the basis of interchangeable parts around the world.

Large manufacturing machines fill the main room of the Starrett Museum along with many small tools such as calipers and squares on a long counter display. Glass

cabinets on the walls display unique antique tools. The smaller room of the museum is founder L. S. Starrett's office with his beautiful antique desk, books, and other personal items. Just outside the museum's door in a hallway that leads back to the main Starrett factory building are some historic photographs.

And I won't tell you about it, but you must learn about the Admiral Byrd connection!

Harvard Forest Fisher Museum

Seeking background information in the process of writing a poem about my great uncle who died in his teens while working in the logging industry in 1911, I found it fascinating to visit the Harvard Forest Fisher Museum. The museum, located in picturesque Petersham, houses an exhibit of twenty-three internationally acclaimed diorama models portraying the history, conservation, and management of central New England forests. Visiting is a relaxing experience and allows lots of browsing time to study detailed exhibits. Among a number of films, a short documentary, "Woodsmen and River Drivers," brings to life the times, difficulties, and the logging industry prior to the 1930s.

Other visitor opportunities include year-round outdoor nature trails on the beautiful grounds and a variety educational events for all ages.

Rutland Historical Society

Rutland, the geographical center of Massachusetts, established the Rutland Historical and Improvement Society to preserve, protect, and improve this "town upon a hill." During the world wars and an outbreak of tuberculosis, the society closed until a group of townspeople reactivated the Rutland Historical Society, now located in Wood House.

Wood House, named for its donor Hazel Hanff Morris Wood, provides a treasure trove of Rutland history. Built in 1915, it has been home to the Society for twenty-eight years and, until 2002, shared space with the Rutland Police Department.

Rutland's Historical Society sponsors a number of events and activities for all ages throughout the year. In addition, the museum houses collections that include Revolutionary and Civil War artifacts, furniture, old pictures, school memorabilia, eighteenth and nineteenth century correspondence, and an array of articles and artifacts of the town's hospitals and private sanatoria.

Here we are at the end of this whirlwind tour—up and down and around some of the North Quabbin and

South Quabbin towns. Our journey took us to four museums, some very close to my hometown in the North Quabbin, as well as to the Quabbin Park and Reservoir and Quabbin Park Cemetery—places I have visited and some to look forward to.

What fun to wander about! I invite you to join me on my next jaunt to discover more of these ever-interesting places in a future issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*.

Each Quabbin region town has a unique flavor, spirit, and ability to surprise. My hope is this small sampling, this bit of unwrapping, whets your appetite for a visit—or many—to a museum, historical society, or arts center in this place we see as uniquely Quabbin.

Paula A. Botch is a writer and photographer from Orange.

Information for Visitors

Quabbin Visitors Center
485 Ware Road (Route 9)
Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007
Website: mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/quabbin-reservoir.html
Tel: (413) 323-7221

The Quabbin Visitors Center is open and staffed seven days a week through most of the year from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, and 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM on weekends (early November through early March) and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM during Daylight Saving Time. The Center is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day, the weekend before and the weekend after Christmas. The Center may also close due to inclement weather.

The Stone House Museum
20 Maple Street (Route 202)
Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007
Website: <http://stonehousemuseum.org>
Tel: (413) 323-6573
The museum is open May through October, Saturday 2:00 to 5:00 PM and by appointment

Quabbin Park Cemetery
Route 9 (approximately 3 miles from the Quabbin Visitors Center)
Ware, Massachusetts 01082
Website: mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/water-res-protection/watershed-mgmt/quabbin-park-cemetery.html
Tel: (413) 323-7221
The cemetery is open daily sunrise to sunset.

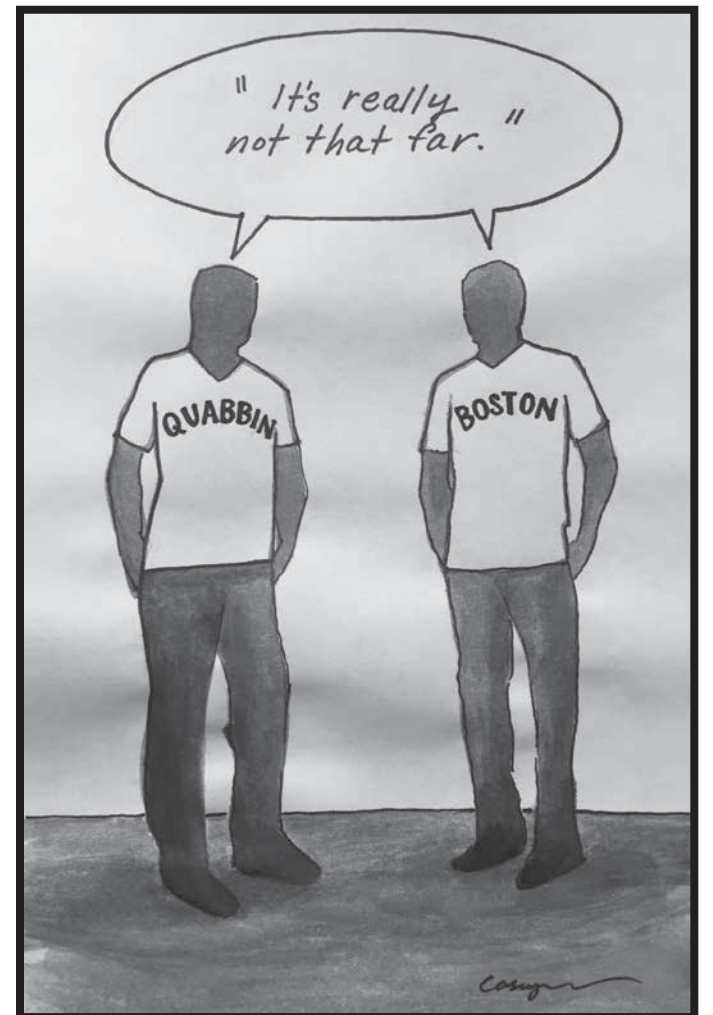
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem, Massachusetts 01355
Website: swiftrivermuseum.org
Tel: (978) 544-6882
The museum is open Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30 PM beginning Wednesday, June 22, through Sunday, September 18.

Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street (Route 2A)
Athol, Massachusetts 01331
Website: atholhistoricalsociety.com
Tel: (978) 709-1762
The museum open to the public every Sunday in June and July from 1:00-3:00 PM.

L.S. Starrett Museum
121 Crescent Street
Athol, Massachusetts 01331
Website: <http://starrett.com>
Tel: (978) 249-3551
The museum is open by appointment by calling the Starrett Office (number above and ask for Joel Shaughnessy). Visits are scheduled during normal business hours and a factory tour can also be arranged.

Harvard Forest - Fisher Museum
324 North Main Street
Petersham, Massachusetts 01366
Website: harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/fisher-museum
Tel: (978) 724-3302
The museum is open year-round Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. From May through October, weekend times are also available on Saturday and Sunday, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The museum is closed on Harvard University holidays.

Rutland Historical Society
232 Main Street
Rutland, Massachusetts 01543
Website: rutlandhistoricalsociety.org/
Tel: 508-886-4893
The museum is open Mondays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and monthly on third Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, or by appointment (contact information on the website).



See information about events and open houses
on the May 19-May 22 weekend at
Quabbin area museums, arts centers, and
historical societies on the inside front cover and
in listings beginning on Page 51.



Allie Stacey waits on customers at the Leverett Coop on Rattlesnake Gutter Road. Photo © Mitchell R. Grosky

Quabbin area country stores and coops abound

by Ashley Arseneau

The Quabbin area is home to a fair amount of country stores all offering a wide range of products to residents and those passing through the region. Some have been around for many years while others are just getting started.

New Salem General Store celebrated its twentieth anniversary in January. Located on Route 202 in New Salem, the store offers a little bit of everything to its patrons from high quality spirits, a brand of soda, and a deli counter offering made-to-order sandwiches, salads, and other food items. The store also doubles as the New Salem post office. Each September the New Salem General Store hosts the Hilltown Brew Fest to benefit the New Salem Firefighters Association. On Saturday, September 10, approximately a hundred brewers will set up shop and offer beer, wine, cider, and food to thousands of visitors at a farm right on Route 202.

An old favorite of the North Quabbin region is the Petersham Country Store located on North Main Street in Petersham just across from the town common and the town hall, an easy-to-find location. Stopping in to the store, a local resident or a visitor can find a hot or iced coffee depending on the season with Dean's Beans and usually another local New England roaster's coffee being offered. Breakfast and lunch are also served during the day, and homemade meals to take home and bake are available along with many hot and cold drinks and other snacks as well as handmade and local items.

Further down Route 32 is the Rose 32 Bread Bakery/Cafe in Hardwick. It operates on the principal that the best bread is made in small batches from local ingredients. Which is exactly what they do. They supply Quabbin Harvest co-op in Orange and Soup on the Fly restaurant in uptown Athol, which features their bread in many dishes including weekly French toast specials. Rose 32 is owned by a family that formerly operated a large chain of bakeries nationwide.

Leverett Village Co-op at 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Road is open to all, including nonmembers as a one-stop shop in the South Quabbin. The Leverett co-op boasts an in-store bakery with freshly items, pizza, and soups every day. Standouts are the maple and chocolate bars.

Relatively new to the store scene is the Quabbin Harvest food co-operative, a North Quabbin counterpart to the Leverett co-op. Located in Orange on North Main Street in the former Workers Credit Union Building across from the town hall, Quabbin Harvest works to make healthy food available at low prices while simultaneously supporting local agriculture. Quabbin Harvest partnered with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, which purchased the building and rents it to the co-op.

Shoppers at the co-op will find not just local fruits and vegetables but all sorts of products such as coffee, bread, frozen items, cleaning supplies, and even eco-friendly ice melt for colder months. You do not have to be a member to shop at the store. Pre-ordered vegetables and meat are available to members in full and half shares to help households stock up.

For those traveling through the area or just looking for somewhere new to stop the Quabbin's selection of country stores, co-ops, and bakeries are waiting.

Ashley Arseneau writes for the *Athol Daily News* and resides in the North Quabbin region.



New Salem General Store features a wide selection of fine wines, spirits, and beers along with its many other offerings for passersby on Route 202 in New Salem. Photo © David Brothers.

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complementary practitioners enhance Quabbin area medicine

by Ellen Woodbury

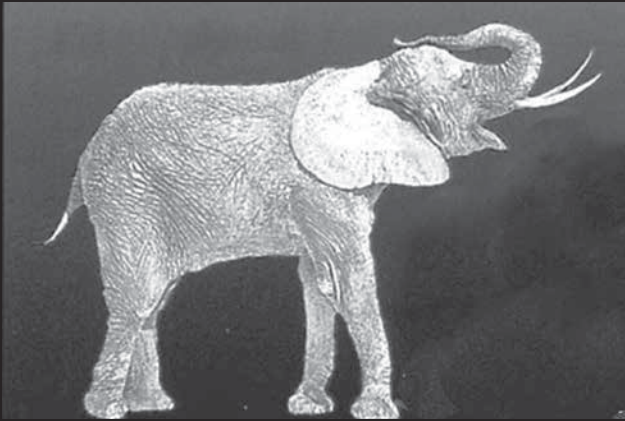
“What happens when you get sick out there?”

Some of my city-dwelling friends imagine we in the North and South Quabbin towns have no access to health care. In truth, all the towns have a doctor and maybe a hospital as well as many experienced and diverse complementary health practitioners.

I use the term “complementary” to mean a therapy that can be used with our Western medicine of pharmaceuticals and specialties. Our towns hold homeopaths, massage therapists, acupuncturists, herbalists, sound healers, Reiki masters, yoga teachers, chiropractors, cranio-sacral practitioners, osteopathic manipulators: each and all of these practices can be combined safely with Western medicine.

I walk into the home office of Leslie Maitilainen, a sound healing therapist in Miller’s Falls. Immediately I feel at ease listening to the river flowing by the house. Explaining that sound waves can pass through the body to bring healing, she tells me what I might experience in the hour-long treatment. She leaves time for me to ask questions.

We go into a small treatment room where I lie fully clothed on a treatment table. She makes me comfortable with pillows and blankets and starts playing a series of bowls placed around the room. Each bowl sings a different tone when she plays it using a pestle with a stirring circular motion. I hear and sense waves pass through my body and feel deeply relaxed.



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Wednesday: Ayuryoga 9:00-10:15 am
Thursday: Life Energy Yoga 7:30-8:30 am
Intro to Iyengar Yoga 6:00-7:30 pm
Friday: Backinbalance Yoga 9:00-10:30 am
Pre-Natal Yoga 6:30-7:45 pm
Saturday: Embodyoga 9:00-10:30 am

cpike@holtshirehall.com • www.yogaatthewhiteelephant.blogspot.com



Leslie Maitilainen practices sound therapy in her Millers Falls studio near Erving. Photo © Marcia Gagliardi

When she taps the large gong at my feet, I imagine foggy seas at the base of gray cliffs and think Wales or Ireland. Have I been there before? More deep gong music and then some rest before I open my eyes. Given the chance to talk about what I’m feeling, I prefer to let the experience sit for a while. I have a glass of water and leave. I feel very much aware, and my mind is clear. For the next few nights, I sleep more deeply than I have in a long time.

Moving more into the mainstream of medicine, acupuncture has used special needles for thousands of years to treat diverse conditions ranging from infertility to pain to the effects of chemotherapy, to name a few. The Listening Center in Barre has an acupuncturist, Didi King, on staff. Lorinda Morimoto of Petersham is an acupuncturist in private practice. Each acupuncturist may use an infrared lamp or tui na massage or different numbers of needles, but all use the diagnostic practice of looking at the tongue and feeling the pulses in the wrist. All acupuncturists use disposable hair thin needles that they place in designated places according to the condition being treated.

I lie fully clothed and covered with a blanket on a treatment table. After looking at my tongue and feeling my pulses, the acupuncturist Lorinda taps needles into my arms, feet, ears, head, and legs. Not feeling pain, I sometimes feel a small jolt when a needle goes in. The needles can unblock congested or stuck energy, thus allowing energy to reach organs and body sites cut off from their energy source. The body can then operate more efficiently in healing itself.

The infrared lamp sends heat deep into my body and I lie relaxed. The practitioner takes the needles out, and I leave feeling refreshed. Four more treatments, and I am hot flash free for a year. Another treatment, and I have no more night sweats or hot flashes.

In future issues, I’ll explore and report on more complementary health practices in the North Quabbin and South Quabbin. We are so lucky to have such a variety from which we can chose! Be well!

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

Quabbin area early childhood options include Head Start programs

by Laurie Smith

When you think of preschool, what comes to mind? What is Head Start? Is it the same as preschool? Let's see which Head Start early childhood education programs are available to the residents of the North Quabbin and South Quabbin.

In Massachusetts, we have several types of licensed early childhood education programs. Terms that many people use are daycare and/or preschool. The state Department of Education refers to childcare as an Early Learning and Development Program, and that means any:

- state-licensed or state-regulated program or provider, regardless of setting or funding source, who provides early care and education for children from birth to kindergarten entry, including, but not limited to, programs operated by child care centers and in family child care homes
- preschool programs funded by the federal government or state or local educational agencies, including programs funded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Early Head Start and Head Start programs
- non-relative child care providers not otherwise regulated by the state who regularly care for two or more unrelated children for a fee in a provider setting.

Early childhood is a time widely considered the most vulnerable and crucial stage of a person's life. High quality early childhood education will prepare a child for a strong start when entering kindergarten at age 5. In addition to academics, early childhood education helps children develop strong social and emotional skills critical for school success.

Originating in 1965, Head Start is a federally funded government program that targets low-income or at-risk families to provide free access to quality early childhood education. Regular Head Start classrooms serve ages 2.9 to 5 years old. Some areas also have Early Head Start programing that covers ages 0 to 3. There is also a Head Start home visiting program for families who cannot access a classroom.

While Head Start provides some full-day classrooms, many are limited to a half day. There are also limited



Pre-school children burst with curiosity.
Photo © Kirsten Spencer.

Head Start homes where the program operates within a family childcare home setting. Head Start usually provides transportation to and from the program; however, due to federal budget cuts some areas are not able to provide transportation any longer. Healthy meals are provided as well as an important family engagement component that strongly encourages family involvement within the program as well as plenty of family support in a variety of areas. Head Start curriculum aligns with the public schools.

The Parent Child Development Center (PCDC) covers the Quabbin towns of Orange, Erving, New

Salem, Warwick, Wendell, Belchertown, Leverett, Ware, Shutesbury, and Pelham. A half-day classroom in North Orange enrolls children from Orange, Warwick, Wendell, and New Salem with transportation provided. A half-day classroom in Ware provides limited coverage for residents of Oakham.

Kara Peters of Community Action in Greenfield explained that the Parent Child Development Center also offers Early Head Start for ages zero to three, Head Start home visiting for children ages zero to five as well as for pregnant mothers, and bi-weekly socialization events to reach as many families as possible. There are also PCDC Head Start Family Childcare homes throughout Franklin County. For information on enrolling in Head Start for the named towns, call (413) 387-1250.

One half-day classroom in Athol can enroll children from Athol, Barre, Gilbertville, New Braintree, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Petersham, Phillipston, and

Royalston because these towns do not have an early Head Start program or access to transportation.

A Head Start home visiting program exists for the covered towns, according to Emily Verock of Athol's Montachusett Opportunity Council (MOC) office. The home visiting program sees usage primarily in the most rural areas farthest away from the Athol site. Two full-day Head Start classrooms serve the same towns at the Mount Wachusett Community College campus in Gardner.

Not having transportation is a major hardship for the Athol Head Start classroom, considering the large geographic area, the demographic of families served, and the lack of public transit.

For enrollment information on MOC Head Start for these areas, call (978) 249-6735.

Laurie Smith is an early childhood educator living in Athol.



farm values
(continued from Page 23)



Leigh Youngblood, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust director, and her husband, Michael Humphreys, promote farm values, above. Photo © Cathy Stanton.

centuries of that large-scale, fossil-fuel-powered economy, it matters deeply how we rethink our food systems and the other resources that sustain our life on the planet.

Farm Values was a one-time project, but many of the materials it generated are still available online (farm values.net). The short videos will be shown on AOTV, local-access cable television for Athol and Orange, as well as on the Farm Values and Mount Grace websites and Facebook pages. We invite you to have a look at them and join the ongoing conversation about rescaling and reinvigorating food production around the Quabbin.

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

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bicycle trails
(continued from Page 9)

mentioning highlights such as quaint country stores and shady pullovers for rest stops.

The only Quabbin Reservoir Watershed gates open for biking are Gates 28, 29, 30, and 40. Gate 30 crosses the lovely, stone-arched Keystone Bridge, built by hand in 1866. Along its approximately two-and-a-half-mile main trail are cellar holes, echoes of New Salem's lost section leading to the shore of the Quabbin. Arguably the most historical Quabbin gate—and certainly the most moving—Gate 40 leads to beautiful and eerily peaceful former Dana Common with cellar holes and cemetery fence posts recalling the vibrant, once thriving town.

Bicycling is also allowed within the Ware River Watershed and Quabbin Park at Quabbin Visitors Center. Maps depicting the bicycle-accessible trails in both these areas can be found by searching for PublicAccessMaps (no spaces!) at mass.gov/dcr.

The Ware River Rail-Trail is a favorite route of out-of-towners and families. More information can be found by searching for the trail name at the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy website: traillink.com

On the county level, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) developed the Franklin County Bikeway. The Eastern Franklin County Bikeway section covers routes on the western side of the Quabbin. A pocket-sized, colored map—clearly marking routes and offering informative legends with ability level, distance and elevation—is available upon request from the FRCOG, the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and local bike shops; digital versions of the maps can be downloaded at frcog.org/programs-services/transportation-planning.

The Massachusetts Scenic Byways website, byway-swestmass.com, highlights seven scenic byways, marked with way-finding signs, providing “breathtaking views, world-class art, locally grown foods, meandering trails, American history, and perfect spots for a family picnic.” On the local byways—the Route 122 Scenic Byway and the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway—bicyclists travel with the flow of vehicle traffic in a shoulder, a designated lane, or in the breakdown lane.

A diversity of opportunities awaits. Select the ride that fits your level and interests and get on out there!

Jane Loeser Clukay is a writer who lives in New Salem. She headed local publications in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

Quabbin Area Farmers' Markets

Athol
Saturdays, 9:00-noon • June to October
Uptown Common • 1551 Main Street

Barre
Saturdays, 9:00-12:30 pm • May to October
Town Common
barrefarmersmarket.org

Hardwick
Sundays, 11:00-2:00 pm • June to October
Hardwick Common • Route 32A

Orange
Thursdays, 3:00-6:00 pm • May to October
Orange Armory Parking Lot • 135 East Main Street

Petersham
Fridays, 3:00-6:30 pm • June to October
Town Common • Main Street
Music Concerts at Gazebo
petershamcommon.com/fridaymarket.htm

Phillipston
Saturdays • Morning
Town Center

Shutesbury
Saturdays, 8:30-noon • May to October
behind the Town Hall, 1 Cooleyville Road

Information from massfarmersmarkets.org

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preserving flowers as art

by Linda Ruel Flynn



A botanical collage preserves Quabbin region forest and meadow findings. Photo © Linda Ruel Flynn

For many years, my mother Lydia Ruel transformed pressed flowers into keepsakes and works of art. I devoted myself to any number of other art projects, but when my mother (the family always called her Ly) died a few years ago, I took up her practice and business, Lydia's Pressed Flowers, and made it my own by calling it Flora-Ly in honor of her.

Little could I have imagined what lovely things I would discover as a result.

Recently, thinking to develop a proposal to create botanical collages for particular audiences, I ran into Jamie Pottern at the Quabbin Harvest Coop in Orange. She suggested I work with the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to create a mutually beneficial project. Leigh Youngblood, the Mount Grace executive director, agreed. Soon the idea gelled.

David Kotker of Mount Grace and I met to discuss individual trails and their unique attributes. I had hiked any number of wooded trails in the South Quabbin, especially in Shutesbury, Hardwick, and Ware, where it is plain to see the

abundant beauty that flowers contribute to the North Quabbin landscape. I walked some trails that are part of Mount Grace's entrusted lands in the North Quabbin. I picked flora, preserved them, and created botanical collages for Mount Grace to use in another fundraiser to coincide with Mount Grace's thirtieth anniversary.

Originally, I thought I would walk each trail, get what I needed, and move on. I did not expect to be so drawn into these places. The trails are geographically not that far from each other, and they certainly had some of the same plant life, yet each is so different. I started pick-walking in June and did my last in early October.

The dark, cool, meandering path at Hidden Valley led to the gift of waterfall. I found myself walking there over and over again. When the asters came into bloom, it was a sea of white leading into the wooded path. It was pretty magical that morning. I understood Arthur Cronquist's sentiment, "time here refreshes my soul."

The Arthur Iverson Conservation Area is rich with ferns. These are some of my favorite to press. I walked the second trail on the eastern side of Warwick's Gale Road many times. It isn't a long walk but I enjoyed the wetlands as a place to sit and watch the critters and bugs.

Over and over, I went to Skyfields. The fields were rich with color and texture. It was a stark contrast to the wooded walking of Hidden Valley and Iverson. There was so much to choose. I felt like one of the summer butterflies.

Each of the botanical collages is an acknowledgment of the work Mount Grace does in preserving the land. I know I have a deeper appreciation for Mount Grace and the land from working on this project. It is my hope you see my appreciation come to life. The botanical collages are available from Mount Grace Land Trust.

Linda Ruel Flynn is the owner and designer of Flora-Ly artisan flower preservation studio.



Perennial plantain grows in Quabbin area forests. public domain photo from herbalacademyofne.com

Nature's Nuances

by Clare Green

Might I invite you to meet plantain, an herb that grows freely underfoot as you walk the paths, meadows, fields, and roadsides of this North Quabbin and South Quabbin Region. There are three types of plantain: *Plantago major*, *Plantago media*, and *Plantago lanceolata*. The whole plant of each plantain is used as a healing herb. Be sure to collect plants free from pesticides or pollution.

The perennial plant, *Plantago major* otherwise commonly known as broad-leaf plantain, common plantain, way bread, or Englishman's footprints, will be this article's main focus. It has four or more large oval and heavily ribbed green leaves at the base of the plant. A flowering spike shoots upward from its center and grows from six to eighteen inches tall. Its small whitish flowers bloom on the stalk from May to October. Leaves are tender in the spring and may be cooked like spinach or added fresh to salads. You can make a strengthening tea for the respiratory system from the leaves, stems, and roots. You may dry leaves for later use. You may collect *Plantago major* to freeze in order to add to soups during the winter months.

Medicinal history of *Plantago major* dates to Roman times when soldiers used external poultices of this green plant to heal open sores and wounds. To this day, it heals open sores, insect bites and stings, or inflamed areas on the body. Chew on the root stock or gargle with it to bring temporary relief to a toothache. To relieve an insect bite, chew on the leaves and apply that mash topically to the bite. No wonder its nickname is first-aid plant.

Hail to plantain! Aches and bites may give strife, but true healing footprints abound in the Quabbin Region. Do not overstep green plantain.

Naturalist Clare Green of Warwick welcomes folks to walk the woodland labyrinth or visit the fairy cottage.

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vibrant arts centers invigorate

by Jane Loeser Clukay

A source of inspiration and a draw for generations of artists, the Quabbin area has seen arts centers, each with its own characteristic identity, sprout up.

Tucked away just off the Petersham Common in the North Quabbin, Petersham Art Center provides a place to marvel at samples of local artisans' work since 1912. This season started out with Four Fine Artists, Four Fine Teas, an out-of-the-box concept combining fine teas and delightful sweets and savories with local artists sharing thoughts on their craft and inspirations, even offering a "Tea Book" containing tea tidbits, a recipe for scones and artists' bios. It harkens back to Center's original incarnation as the Women's Exchange and Tea Room. Three local women had hatched the concept of a place where Petersham housewives could trade their handiwork for pin money and summer folk could come for tea on the maid's day off.

The craft center morphed into a place where everyone can learn crafts, such as rug-braiding and wreath making, where more than 170 talented consigners from the North Quabbin area display their craft, and where every

six weeks in season, artwork of noted local artists such as the late Barbara Ellis hang with opening receptions.

A Leverett Crafts and Arts Center brochure shows a photograph of a beekeeper removing bees from the former box-making factory that houses the center on the western side of the Quabbin. The beekeeper relocated those "non-rent-paying residents." However a hive of twenty highly-productive residents, still remain. Walking through the center, you hear a potter's wheel whirr, observe artists emerging to refill their coffee, and hear paintings speaking from the walls. Sculptures stand witness on the lawn. Monthly, the volunteer-staffed center hosts exhibits by residents, visiting artisans, and craftspeople in the intimate Barnes Gallery, an exposed-wood space that also serves as a venue for occasional concerts and dance events.

This center exists in part due to the drive of Joe Barnes, a Leverett metal artist who visualized a working craft center where apprentices would be trained by masters with their work for sale and on display at the premises. In 1966, the current nonprofit was founded and the building refurbished. Ongoing fundraising efforts have

the Quabbin area

stabilized the building, built in 1903, and put it on the National Registry of Historic Buildings. The building rents out studio space for long term and emerging artists at an affordable cost.

Workshop13, a non-profit arts center in the South Quabbin town of Ware, housed in a turn-of-the-century, eleven-thousand-square-foot building, bills itself as "an energizing community of those interested in art." Driving by the location during the day, you may not see much activity, but one or two classes are held almost every weeknight, taught by professional and creative folks from throughout the New England area. open studio hours are available weekly. An enterprising couple transformed the former church while keeping many original features, particularly the stained glass windows that bestow an amazingly radiant light on the space.

Also in the South Quabbin, The Bower Studio in Pelham opened last July along Route 202. The name was inspired by the Australian bower bird known for its beautiful nest decorated with colorful found objects. Inside you will find wonderful items and curiosities handmade by a collection of over thirty-one artisans and craftspeople otherwise hidden in the hills and valleys of the area. Many of the artisans also sell work on Etsy's online handmade marketplace and at regional shows.

The Bower Studio owners also market their own unique collaboratively-created botanical and nature-themed prints and artwork and have space at the location where they create them. They can sit outside enjoying the flowers and listening to birds while bringing their artwork into being. To them, "one perk of living and working in the countryside is having so much nature right at our back door."

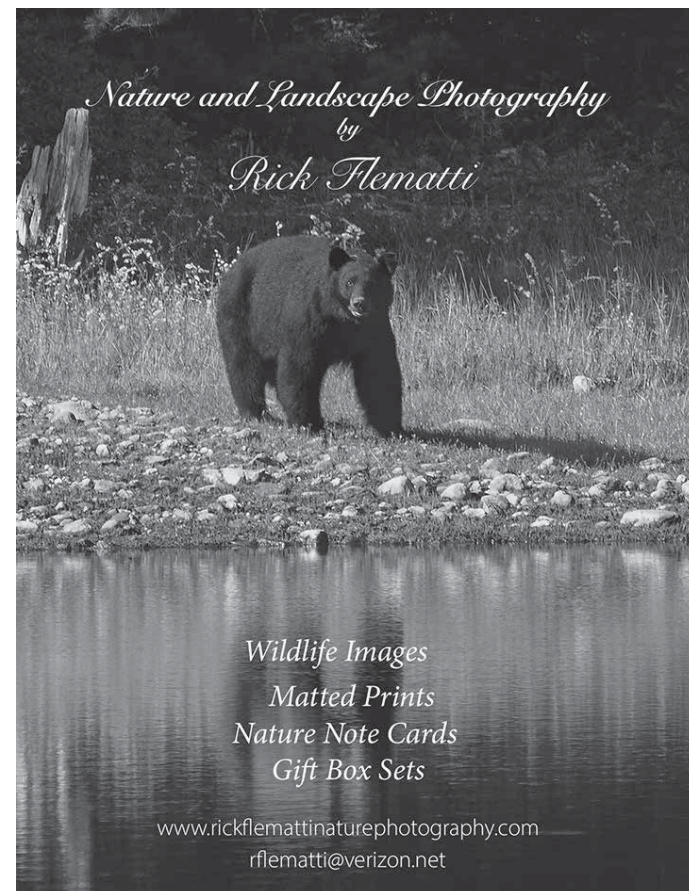
That privilege is one that all Quabbin artists enjoy and share. Many have independent studios covering a range of media and artistic processes.

Exhibits and openings mentioned in this article can be found in our Calendar Listings.

Jane Loeser Clukay is a writer who lives in New Salem. She headed local publications in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

Submit letters to the editor of
Uniquely Quabbin to haley.antique@verizon.net

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1794 Meetinghouse Summer Performance Schedule 2016

☆ June ☆

Tracy Grammer & Jim Henry — Sat 6/11
Florence Camerata Piano Trio — Sun 6/12
Grace & Catastrophe — Thu 6/16
Mark Fisher Trio — Sat 6/18
Jay Mankita — Sun 6/19
Mile Twelve — Thu 6/23
The Pangeans — Sat 6/25
Quabbin Valley Pro Musica — Sun 6/26
The Twangbusters — Thu 6/30

☆ July ☆

The Definite Maybes — Thu 7/7
Samantha Farrell — Sat 7/9
Black Isle — Thu 7/14
Gathering Time — Sun 7/17
Patrick Coman — Thu 7/21
Mist Covered Mountains — Sat 7/23
Ethan Bremner — Sun 7/24
Lonesome Brothers — Thu 7/28
Mitch Chakour — Sat 7/30



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What is there to do around here?

by Jennifer Gray

There's no doubt that people of the Quabbin region of Massachusetts are an artistic bunch.

Of course, every form of art is special and essential to human expression, but I enthusiastically believe the most important art in our community is music. As Plato said,

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything."

Well said, Plato, well said!

How do I know that music is the most important form of artistic expression in our community? Well, see for yourself as you discover the answer to "What is there to do around here?" The answer, friend, is right under your nose.


New Salem provides a vibrant performing arts venue with the 1794 Meetinghouse. Along with a summer concert series, the Meetinghouse sponsors its resident chorus, the Quabbin Valley Pro Musica conducted by Charles Heffernan, University of Massachusetts professor emeritus of music. QVPM performs in January and June.

Down in Ware is the Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center. Along with a concert series, Workshop13 offers open mic nights on May 20 and June 17.

Athol High School, Quabbin Regional School in Barre, and Mahar Regional in Orange offer students concert bands, choruses, and jazz bands. Athol and Mahar students also participate in annual musicals.

65th ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR
Athol Congregational Church
Chestnut St. (Uptown Common)
Saturday, June 4th
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Country Store • Emporium • Books
Theme Baskets • Plants • Fudge & Pies
Jewelry Table • Cake Walk 1:50
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Musical answers are under your nose.

Orange with WJDF radio, Belchertown with WAIY radio, and Ware with WARE radio and more bring a variety of music into our area and beyond. The Orange Community Band plays on the town commons in Orange and Petersham every summer. Royalston puts on a music festival every July. Warwick also celebrates music at the annual Old 78 Farm Festival.

If you find yourself in Pelham and love to sing, head over to Pelham Library where the RUSH group led by Roger Conant meets one Saturday a month in the community room. Find information at sconant.net/rush/. Or check out the North Leverett Baptist Church's free annual Christmas Pageant if you love Christmas.

For live music and dining on weekends, head over to King Phillip Restaurant in Phillipston, Tavern on the Common in Rutland, or Déjà Brew Café and Pub in Wendell.

Now, at last I shall tell you of this month's specially featured venue. I had the pleasure of visiting the Hardwick Winery in—you guessed it—Hardwick! I had a great time talking with the winery's event coordinator

April Adams. She enthusiastically informed me of their upcoming events and plans.

A music festival in July will showcase food, vendors, and hopefully a double zip line! April hires only local talent and is always looking for new acts. Contact her by email, april@hardwickwinery.com.

Live music at the winery happens every Saturday afternoon from 2-4 pm. The most popular performers at the winery include jazz artist Charlie Apicella of The Iron City Jazz band. Hardwick Winery visitors who prefer a broader range of musical genres will like cover artists Brianna Lamb of Ware and Noah Lis of Palmer. You may recognize Noah's name as he competed on NBC's *The Voice* in 2014. Noah's the one who is sure to get everyone up and dancing. Concerts at the winery are free so if wine is not your thing, go enjoy the music anyway. Or, plan a visit to any of the other venues and festivals mentioned.

Happy listening, everyone!

Music lover and writer Jennifer Gray lives in New Salem. She sings with Quabbin Valley Pro Musica.

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Let’s Hear It for Tourism

by Mark Wright

Mention the word tourism in most circles, and you’re likely to experience a mixed reaction. Among a few head nods and gracious smiles you’ll probably see a couple of eye rolls and hear some quiet chuckles. To some, tourism is often regarded as a fluffy subject, entertaining but lacking the kind of substance of topics such as manufacturing or technology. In addition, while nearly everyone likes a vacation from daily routine, whether a few weeks on a sunny, southern beach in the winter or a day-trip adventure just a few towns over, most travelers don’t consider themselves tourists. But they should. And residents of tourism destinations shouldn’t fear outsiders invading their communities but instead, embrace those visitors for some very good reasons.

Tourism is perhaps the best marriage of commerce, social education, and enrichment. Tourists get to fulfill their own needs and wants for relaxation and entertainment while learning and simultaneously helping bolster the economy where they travel. Tourists enrich the lives of people where they travel.

Never underestimate the benefits that come from tourism. The industry touches nearly every sector of local economies including much more than just lodging, restaurants, and entertainment venues. Transportation, retail, services, and even medical facilities are all impacted by the tourist economy. According to the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, in the North Quabbin region alone, tourism accounted for \$3.2 million of revenue and \$250 thousand of state and local taxes last year. The conservative figures don’t include “marginally defined” businesses such as most restaurants and indirect services. If those numbers are added in, the total impact of tourism to local economies rises dramatically.

Tourism is the third largest industry in Massachusetts generating \$1.2 billion in state and local taxes and \$18.5 billion in travel related expenditures, supporting 129,400 in state jobs. And it’s not just about Boston, the beaches, and the Berkshires. Communities that surround Quabbin Reservoir are rich in tourism assets: outdoor recreation, fish

and game sports, arts and culture, festivals, music, agriculture, and much more. Never has the region been more alive with opportunities for visitors.

The focus now must be on getting those potential visitors informed and inviting them to experience what we Quabbineers already know: this is an incredible place to come to for a day, a week, or a lifetime. It’s easy to talk about tapping into the tourism market, but like most ideas, implementing it requires investments in time, financial resources, and coordination.

Everyone can play a role in helping to attract visitors to our beautiful region. Invite your friends to one of our dozens of festivals. Throw a party themed around your favorite local sporting event. Spread the word about an upcoming stage or musical performance. Share the news and posts on your social media page. If you’re one of the event organizers, reach out to local media and the North Quabbin Chamber and Visitors Bureau. Together, we can get the word out beyond our communities and encourage economic growth, cultural enrichment and help build a sustainable model for ourselves and future generations.

Mark Wright is executive director of North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce. He designed graphics for this magazine.

town commons (continued from page 29)

common as the center of town where the town hall, the Second Congregational Church with its tall steeple, and private historic wooden homes, all painted white, surround the green space. After Royalston’s 250th colorful anniversary on the common in 2015, the common reverted to its original peaceful setting—like a Norman Rockwell illustration.

Also in the North Quabbin, the town of Petersham (Peter’s hamlet), founded in 1754, has a historic common across the road from the stately Petersham Country Store. Each year, a parade passes through the common on the Fourth of July. The beautiful green space includes a bandstand for summer evening musical entertainment. Residents and visitors bring chairs and gather on the common to enjoy fresh air, camaraderie, and free concerts.

Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

May 19, Thursday

Quabbin Towns
7:00 pm
Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street
J.R. Greene, well-known author on local history, shares stories of the Quabbin towns. Showcasing maps of Quabbin towns by Casey Williams.
(978) 709-1782
atholhistoricalsociety.com

New Braintree Historical Society open House
6:30-8:30 pm
10 Utley Road
New Braintree
A taped program showcasing past residents of New Braintree who were originally from the Quabbin.
(508) 867-8608
newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org

May 19-22, Thurs-Sun

Ware Center Meeting House open House
Thurs-Fri: 1:00-5:00 pm
Sat: 10:00-5:00 pm
Sun: 1:00-5:00 pm
295 Belchertown Road
Ware
Tours of the Meeting House. Special Exhibits of early American lighting fixtures, Ware yearbooks, military items and a Victorian Ladies Parlour.
See website for summer hours.
warehistoricalsociety.wikifoundry.com

Petersham Art Center
open House
Thursday-Friday:12:00-4:00 pm
Saturday-Sunday: 11:00-5:00 pm
8 North Street
Petersham
(978) 724-3415
Showcasing works of Paul Rezendez, noted landscape photographer.
Facebook: Petersham Art Center

Quabbin Visitors Cnter
open House
9:00-5:00 pm
Quabbin Administration Building
485 Ware Road
Belchertown
Information on the construction of the Quabbin.
Access maps, books, oral history recordings, memorabilia, souvenirs, archival documents.
(413) 323-7221
mass.gov/dcr

LEGO Exhibit of Phillipston Common
1:00-4:00 pm
Gardner Museum
28 Pearl Street
Gardner
On Sunday, May 22, Representatives from Phillipston Historical Society will field questions.
historicalsocietyofphillipston.org

May 19-22, Thurs-Sun (continued)

Leverett Crafts and Arts open House
2:00-4:00 pm
13 Montague Road
Leverett
Current Exhibit: Susan Valentine
Explorations in still life, recent
Daisy Series in the Barnes Gallery. Exhibit runs thru May.
barnesgallery.org

May 20-22, Fri-Sun

Diorama Tours at Fisher Museum
12:00-4:00 pm
Harvard Forest
324 North Main Street
Petersham
Tours on the hour of 23 internationally-acclaimed dioramas of history, conservation and management of regional forests.
(888) 939-8277
harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu

Moon Over Buffalo
7:30 pm Friday & Saturday
2:00 pm Sunday
Barre Players Theater
64 Common Street
Barre
barreplayerstheater.com or
(978) 355-2096

May 20, Friday

Birds of Prey
7:00 pm
Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street
Tom Ricardi, well-known wild bird rehabilitator on raptors.
atholhistoricalsociety.com

Tours of the L.S. Starrett Museum
1:00-5:00 pm
121 Crescent Street
Athol
Rarely open museum of the company's precision machinery tools.
(888) 674-7443

New Salem Academy Museum
open House
5:00-7:00 pm
3 Academy Drive
New Salem
Upstairs in the authentically renovated stack-planked Old Academy Building housing school memorabilia from the New Salem Academy (established in 1795).

Dramatic Readings from the Swift River Anthology
7:00 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
Actors read from Dorothy Johnson’s Swift River Anthology.
1794meetinghouse.org

May 20, Friday (continued)

open Mic at Workshop13
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Workshop13
13 Church Street
Ware
workshop13.org

May 21-22, Sat-Sun

Athol Historical Society
open House
Noon-4:00 pm
1307 Main Street (Route 2A)
Athol
19th and 20th century historical artifacts from 1800s on, Hook Organ, Congressional Medal of Honor, period clothing. open every Sunday in June and July from 1:00-3:00 pm.
atholhistoricalsociety.com
(978) 709-1782

Display of Historical Maps and Artifacts
1:00-3:00 pm
Wendell Library
7 Wendell Depot Road
Wendell
Historical maps of Wendell, artifacts, the new town flag. Wendell, Massachusetts: Its Settlers and Citizenry: 1752-1900 by Pam Richardson available. Sponsored by the Wendell Historic Commission.
(978) 544-3559

World War II Weekend
10:00-4:00 pm
Orange Municipal Airport
645 South Main Street
Living history event. Interactive, educational and fun WWII experience. Vehicles, weapons, encampments, re-enactors.
visitnorthquabbin.com

May 21, Saturday

Swift River Valley Historical Society open House
1:30-4:30 pm
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Historical and genealogical material of the towns that lost land to the Quabbin: Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, Prescott and New Salem. Their Whitaker-Clary House houses a room chock-full of memorabilia for each of the towns. The Carriage Shed and the Prescott Church will not be open.
Museum open every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon 1:30-4:30 pm June 22-September 18.
swiftrivermuseum.org

Hardwick Historical Society
open House
11:00-4:00 pm
40 Common Street
Hardwick
(413) 477-6635
Housed in an 1840 brick school, collections include doll furniture, Indian artifacts, period furniture, utensils, documents and portraits. open from 2:00-4:00 on Sundays from June to August.
Facebook: Hardwick HistoricalSociety

May 21, Saturday (continued)
Stone House Museum open House
2:00-5:00 pm
20 Maple Street (Route 202)
Belchertown
Town historical collection, extensive period clothing collection. Examples of furniture, china, decorative accessories made in the 1700s and 1800s. The Ford Annex houses carriages and other horse-drawn vehicles. A printing office with equipment is also on the grounds.
stonehousemuseum.org

Tour of the Ware Cemetery
10:00-noon
Ware Center Meeting House
295 Belchertown Road
Ware
Tours of the nearby historic Ware Center Cemetery by Ware Cemetery commissioners. Meet at the Ware Center Meeting House.
(413) 967-6616
warehistoricalsociety.wikifoundry.com

Oakham Historical Society
open House
12:00-4:00
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
Exhibit on Coldbrook Springs, part of the town taken for the Quabbin. Collection includes antique musical instruments, Oakham hats and visors, printed materials dating back to the early 1800s. open from 1:00-4:00 monthly from May to October on every 4th Sunday. Also from 7:00-8:30 on every 2nd Wednesday from June to October.
oakhhamhistory.com

Barre Historical Society open House
10:00-2:00 pm
18 Common Street
Barre

13th Annual Rabbit Run
10K Foot Race &
3 Mile Walk in Scenic Quabbin
New Salem Common
Registration: 9:00 am
Race & Run: 10:00 am
Facebook: New Salem Rabbit Run

Seeds of Solidarity Farm Tour
10:00-11:30 am
165 Chestnut Hill Road
Orange
Free tour of no-till, low maintenance gardens, solar greenhouses, energy efficient buildings and solar electric and hot water systems.
and
White Goat Dairy/Heritage Fields Farm Tour
1:00-2:30 pm
309 Gidney Road
Orange
Free tour of the raw milk and fermented milk dairy. Talk on microbiome of the soil, animals, and humans.
An optional potluck lunch held between tours. Info on all at
solidarity@seedsofsolidarity.org

Warwick Historical Society open House
2:00-4:00 pm
12 Athol Road
Warwick

May 21, Saturday (continued)
Workshop13 open House/
Meet Our Instructors
10:00-4:00 pm
Workshop13
13 Church Street
Ware
Showcasing classes, instructors.
workshop13.org

Back to the 80s Prom
8:00 pm
Athol-Orange Elks Club
92 New Athol Road
Orange
80s-themed, 21-year old plus, masquerade and dance party. Costume prizes
Facebook: Athol-Orange Elks

Goodnight Moon
2:30
Abbey Theater
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Adapted from Margaret Wise Brown's classic children's book.
(413) 477-6746
centerateaglehill.org

May 22, Sunday
Dramatic Readings from the Swift River Anthology
2:00 pm
Quabbin Visitors Center
485 Ware Road
Belchertown
Actors read from Dorothy Johnson's Swift River Anthology. Donation jar to benefit Friends of Quabbin.
foquabbin.org

Slide Show on Erving History
11:00-1:00 pm
Pearl B. Care Engine Museum House 1
(413) 422-2800

Orange Historical Society open House
2:00-4:00 pm
41 North Main Street
Orange
18 rooms of furniture, memorabilia, featuring 13 Ralph Henley paintings, 3 Grout cars, Tully Pumper, New Home sewing machines, musical instruments, farm tools.
orangehistoricalsocietyma.org

Rutland Historical Society
open House
Noon-2:00
232 Main Street
Rutland
Collection features Revolutionary and Civil War artifacts, 18th & 19th century correspondence, school memorabilia, town hospital and private sanatoria artifacts.
(508) 886-4893
rutlandhistoricalsociety.org

Quabbin Roads
10:00 am
Shutesbury Town Hall
1 Cooleyville Road
Shutesbury
Presentation about Shutesbury's Quabbin roads. Followed by an easy walk. Maps, old photos provided.
Sponsored by the Shutesbury Historical Society.

May 22, Sunday (continued)
Athol Lions Clubs Richard C. Phillips Jr. Annual Dust-Off Car Show & Chicken BBQ
9:00–3:00 pm
Silver Lake Park
Raffles, trophies and awards
(978) 249-9038, days

May 26, Thursday
An Evening with Eleanor Roosevelt
6:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Author and historian, Carol Cohen, looks into the life of Eleanor Roosevelt, at her home and as a Human Rights activist. Part portrayal and part presentation. Registration required. Call (978) 249-9515.
athollibrary.org

May 29, Sunday
Annual Memorial Day Commemoration Services
10:00-12:00 am
Quabbin Park Cemetery
Ware
10:00: Refreshments will be served.
11:00: March Step-off commences followed by Services at the Town Monuments. The Belchertown Community Band will perform.
2:00: Special Quabbin Park Cemetery Tour led by Nancy Huntington. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Quabbin, Belchertown Veterans Council, and Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Great New England Hurricane of 1938: Presentation
7:00 pm
Petersham Town Hall
3 South Main Street
Free.

Ware Remembers with Bell Ringing Ceremony
6:00 pm
Ware Center Meeting House and Museum
295 Belchertown Road
Roll Call of loved ones living and lost.
(413) 967-3887
warehistoricalsociety.wikifoundry.com

June 4, Saturday
Athol Congregational Church Country Fair
9:00-2:00 pm
Uptown Common
Athol
Food, entertainment, games, plant sale, theme baskets, baked goods and more.
(978) 249-6208

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common
7:30-11:00 am
On the Common
Pancake breakfast, Spectacular Silent Auction, Plant Sale, Millers River Morris Men, live birds of prey program, a cake walk for children and more.
royalstonlibrary.org

June 7, Tuesday
Four Fine Artists, Four Fine Teas
3:30-5:00 pm
Petersham Art Center
8 North Street
Petersham
Enjoy teas, sweets, and savories as the artists share their creative inspiration.
Featured artist: Janet Palin.
Reservations needed. Call
(978) 724-3415

June 10, Friday
Weldon Hendricks
7:00 pm
Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street
Jazz performance.
atholhistoricalsociety.com

June 11, Saturday
Breakfast on the Porch
8:00-10:00 am
Orange Historical Society
41 North Main Street
Orange
Enjoy quiche, French toast, pancakes, waffles, donuts, beverages. orangehistoricalsocietyma.org

1794 opening Concert
Tracy Grammer & Jim Henry
7:30 pm
The Common
26 South Main Street
1794 Meetinghouse,
New Salem
Post-modern-mythic American folk
1794meetinghouse.org

Annual NEECA Equestrian Showcase
9:00 am
New England Equestrian Center of Athol
660 New Sherborn Road
Athol
Free. Features raffles, vendor artists, photographers, 4-H groups, children's barnyard, pony and wagon rides and more. Demonstrations/competitions by a variety of riders and equestrian drill teams. Extreme Mustang Makeover participants will be competing in special mustang-only events.
neeca.org.

June 12, Sunday
King's Tour Century Ride
100 mile ride around the beautiful Quabbin Reservoir.
Registration: 6:45-8:45 am
Naquag Elementary School
Main Street (Route 122A)
Rutland
Sponsored by the Seven Hills Wheelmen Bicycle Club.
sevenhillswheelmen.org

Pelham Historical Society Museum opening Day
1:30-4:30 pm
376 Amherst Road
Pelham
Recent renovation showcases historical items, including of Daniel Shays. open 1:30-4:30 pm every Sunday afterwards - September.
pelhamhs.org

NEECA Gymkhana
New England Equestrian Center
660 New Sherborn Road
Athol
Games planned for riders (and drivers!) of all abilities.
neeca.org

June 12, Sunday (continued)
Bella Halsted Reception
4:00-6:00 pm
Barnes Gallery
Leverett Crafts & Arts
13 Montague Road
Leverett
Journey with Horses: Oil paintings on paper and canvas.
Exhibit: June 1-26
barnesgallery.org

Florence Camerata Piano Trio
4:00 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
The Common
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Classical piano, cello and violin.
1794meetinghouse.org

June 16, Thursday
Grace & Catastrophe
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
The Common
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Voices and strings create powerful folk music.
1794meetinghouse.org

June 17, Friday
open Mic at Workshop13
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Workshop13
13 Church Street
Ware
workshop13.org

June 18, Saturday
3rd Annual Orange Solstice Riverfest
2:00-10:00 pm
Orange Riverfront Park
Food and craft vendors, climbing wall, parachute jump with huge American flag, games and activities for all ages, band, and performers. Mini-lessons on canoes, kayaks and paddleboats and special water games. At dark, floating fire pits, parade of illuminated kayaks, canoes, paddleboats. Hiking, biking and a river boat tour planned. Walnut Hill Challenge 5K race before the event.
(413) 648-7673
orangeriverfest.org

Mark Fisher Trio
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
The Common
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Heartfelt, witty, folk harmonies.
1794meetinghouse.org

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Visit our website's Business Community for more information about each company.

131 West Main Street
Orange, MA 01364
www.Orange-Innovation.com

June 19, Sunday

Jay Mankita
4:00 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
The Common
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Wonderful, upbeat, crazy treat for the whole family.
1794meetinghouse.org

June 23, Thursday

Mile Twelve
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
The Common
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Fresh innovative new voice in contemporary bluegrass.
1794meetinghouse.org

June 25-26, Saturday-Sunday

Yankee Engine-uity Steam Engine Show
Saturday: 8:00-5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00-1:00 pm
80 Airport Street
Orange Airport
Orange
Antique engines, tractors, cars and trucks; steam engines & machinery; live steam table; kiddie tractor pull, tractor pull, tractor parade, gas engine raffle, flea market, petting zoo, food concessions and more. Live music Saturday evening.
cmsgma.com

June 25, Saturday

6th Annual Moth Ball
9:00 pm
1542 Pleasant Street
Athol
Join Athol Bird & Nature Club president David Small and naturalist Lula Field to search for Lunas, underwings, silk moths and other night-flying insects.
(978) (413) 1772

The Pangeans
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
The Common
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Reggae, funk, world music.
1794meetinghouse.org

June 26, Sunday

Quabbin Valley Pro Musica
3:00 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
The Meetinghouse's resident chorus performs Mendelssohn's Elijah and other selections. Charles Heffernan conducting.
1794meetinghouse.org

Village Lyceum: Leominster's Abolitionist Movement
First Congregational Parish Unitarian Church
3 West Street
Petersham
Author Mark Bodanza presentation.
firstunitarianpetersham.org

June 26, Sunday (continued)

Prescott Peninsula Bus Trip
11:00 am
Bus trip to the former town of Prescott in the Quabbin.
Sponsored by the Swift River Valley Historical Society.
Reservations needed. Call (978) 544-6882.
swiftrivermuseum.org

June 30, Thursday

The Twangbusters
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Boogie, blues, bop and twang.
1794meetinghouse.org

July 7, Thursday

The Definite Maybes
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse,
New Salem
Original Folk with a touch of blues.
1794meetinghouse.org

July 9, Saturday

Breakfast on the Porch
8:00-10:00 am
Orange Historical Society
41 North Main Street
Orange
Enjoy quiche, French toast, pancakes, waffles, donuts, beverages.
orangehistoricalsocietyma.org

Samantha Farrell
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Jazz/pop with liquor-honey vocals.
& deft guitar
1794meetinghouse.org

July 10, Sunday

Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social
2:00 pm
Warwick Common
Local ice cream sundaes with homemade toppings.
Free musical entertainment.

NEECA Gymkhana
New England Equestrian Center
660 New Sherborn Road
Athol
Games planned for riders (and drivers!) of all abilities.
neeca.org

Summer Concert -
Heritage Pops Orchestra
6:30
Ware Center Meeting House
295 Belchertown Road
Free outdoor concert by Heritage Pops Orchestra.
Bring a chair.
warehistoricalsociety.wikifoundry.com

July 10, Sunday (continued)

Sara Lechner & Maren Vigeland Reception
4:00-6:00 pm
Barnes Gallery
Leverett Crafts & Arts
13 Montague Road
Leverett
Lechner: Photographs painted with Light and Brush.
Vigeland: Unique black & white landscape photographs.
Exhibit: June 29-July31
barnesgallery.org

July 14, Thursday

Black Isle
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Traditional Canadian and Irish folk.
1794meetinghouse.org

July 16, Saturday
New Salem Old Home Day
7:00-3:00 pm
New Salem Common
24 South Main Street
New Salem
All day, traditional contests, games, music, demonstrations, vendors, concert/dance with Trailer
Park rhythm and blues band.

Dana Vespers Concert
1:30 pm
Prescott Church
Swift River Valley Historical Society
40 Elm Street
New Salem
Annual concert remembering the former town of Dana.
swiftrivermuseum.org

Antique Tractors, Cars & Engines Show
9:00-4:00 pm
80 State Road (Route 2A)
Next to the Fire Station, Phillipston
A free family event presented by the Historical Society. Rain date, Sunday July 19.

July 17, Sunday

Barre Horse Show
Felton Field
Barre
neeca.org for info

Gathering Time
4:00 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Head-turning folk trio in classic folk-rock tradition.
1794meetinghouse.org

July 19, Tuesday

An Evening with Illustrator Gary Lippincott
6:30 pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Well-known fantasy art illustrator.
athollibrary.org

July 21, Thursday

Patrick Coman
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Roots, country and folk-rock.
1794meetinghouse.org

July 23, Saturday

Mist Covered Mountains
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Original and traditional Celtic music with stunning vocals.
1794meetinghouse.org

July 24, Sunday

Ethan Bremner
4:00 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Opera selections from Carmen.
1794meetinghouse.org

Summer Concert
6:30 pm
Ware Center Meeting House
295 Belchertown Road
Free outdoor concert. Bring a chair.
warehistoricalsociety.wikifoundry.com

July 28, Thursday

Lonesome Brothers
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Country, folk and rock.
1794meetinghouse.org

July 29-31, Fri-Sun

The Big Fish
7:30, Friday & Saturday
2:30, Sunday
Abbey Theater
The Center at Eagle Hill
242 Old Petersham Road
Based on the book and movie by Daniel Wallace.
(413) 477-6746
centerateaglehill.org

July 30, Saturday

Mitch Chakour
7:30 pm
1794 Meetinghouse
26 South Main Street
New Salem
Closing concert.
High-octane roots and rock & roll.
1794meetinghouse.org

August 4-7, Thurs-Mon

A Chorus Line
Thurs-Sat: 7:00 pm
Sun: 2:00 pm
Town Hall
Ware Community Theatre
Players
(413) 987-3887

August 5, Friday

Wanda Houston
7:00 pm
Athol Historical Society
1307 Main Street
Athol
Jazz/blues singer.
atholhistoricalsociety.com

August 6, Saturday

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

August 7, Sunday

Summer Ice Cream Social
1:00 pm
Ware Center Meeting House
295 Belchertown Road
Music and tours of the historic Meeting House. Call (413) 967-8304 for tickets.
warehistoricalsociety.wikifoundry.com

August 13, Saturday

Breakfast on the Porch
8:00-10:00 am
Orange Historical Society
41 North Main Street
Orange
Enjoy quiche, French toast, pancakes, waffles, donuts, beverages. orangehistoricalsocietyma.org

Enfield Bi-centennial Observance Day
Quabbin Park
485 Ware Road
Ware
200th Anniversary of the former town of Enfield.
Procession (11:00 am) re-enacting the 1916 Centennial parade, old-fashioned baseball game, Native American-related activities, Revolutionary and Civil War re-enactors. 1926 Dana firetruck.
(413) 967-3887
foquabbin.org

August 14, Sunday

Summer Concert –
Premiere Swing Jazz Ensemble
6:30 pm
Ware Center Meeting House
295 Belchertown Road
Free outdoor concert. Bring a chair.
warehistoricalsociety.wikifoundry.com

Guillermo Cuellar Reception
4:00-6:00 pm
Barnes Gallery
Leverett Crafts & Arts
13 Montague Road
Leverett
Paintings and works from the healing arts front.
Exhibit: August 4-28
barnesgallery.org

August 19-20, Fri-Sat

254th Hardwick County Fair
Common,Hardwick
The oldest fair in the United States! Traditional Colonial-style country fair with an agricultural theme. Frog Jumping Competition. Baked goods, flowers, and vegetables, all competing for the illusive Blue Ribbon. Art, photography, and crafts created by local folks. An auction of all perishable exhibits. 1st Annual Homebrew Contest!
hardwickfair.com

August 20, Saturday

Wendell Old Home Day
11:00-5:00 pm
Town Common
Kids parade, music, food, booths and vendors.

Village Fair UnFair 5K: 3.1 Mile of Heaven & Hill
7:30 am
The Community Church of North Orange & Tully
4 Creamery Hill Road
Orange
First annual 5K Walk-Run
Fun and challenging course.
villagefairunfair5k.weebly.com
Village Fair 10:00 am
Lunch 11:00-2:00 pm

August 21, Sunday

NEECA Gymkhana
New England Equestrian Center
660 New Sherborn Road
Athol
Games planned for riders (and drivers!) of all abilities.
neeca.org

August 27-28, Sat-Sun

Warwick Old Home Days
Saturday: Parade (10:00 am), tag sale, food, games, church supper, fireman's barbeque, evening entertainment.
Sunday: Corregatta Cardboard Boat Race, Satellite Dish Toss, historical society event and more.
(978) 544-0014.

August 27, Saturday

Royalston Fish & Game Club's Pig Roast
1:00 pm
Royalston Fish & Game Club
55 Baldwinville Road
Phillipston
Limited tickets.
(978) 249-3004 or
Facebook: Royalston Fish & Game Club

August 28, Sunday

Petersham Old Home
Day
Petersham Common
All day, traditional contests, games, music, historical exhibits, vendors.

“Bubble Mania”
2:00 pm
Phillipston Memorial School
20 The Common
Phillipston
A fun afternoon for all featuring bubble entertainer
Cassy Carl.



A summer sky shines over Barre's Carter Stevens Farm, site of the annual Barre Lions Club Car Show. Photo © John Burk

September 3-5, Sat-Mon

Appleseed Country Fair
Saturday: 10:00-6:00 pm
Sunday: 10:00-5:00 pm
Monday: 10:00-4:00 pm
Red Apple Farm
455 Highland Avenue
Phillipston
Live music, food, local brewers, artisans, lawn tractor pulls, the Giant Zucchini contest and the Fiddlers' Competition. The orchard will be open for picking. Sponsored by the Johnny Appleseed Trail Association
appleseed.org

September 10, Saturday

9th Annual Hilltown Brewfest
12:00-5:00 pm
857 Daniel Shays Highway
New Salem
Beer, wine, cider, 30 brands, 100 brews. Live music, vendors. Benefit for the local volunteer fire departments.
hilltownbrewfest.com

Hubbardston Field Day
Curtis Recreation Field, Rt. 68
Hubbardston

All day fun and games including bounce house, hay rides, splash tank, horseshoe tournament, magician, games, food, chicken BBQ, tractor parade, vendors and more. Rain date: Sept. 11

September 11, Sunday

Martha Braun Reception
4:00-6:00 pm
Barnes Gallery
Leverett Crafts & Arts
13 Montague Road
Leverett
Minimalist paintings on panel
Exhibit: Sept. 1-25
barnesgallery.org

September 14, Wednesday

Jaguars & Wildcat Conflicts in Panama
7:00 pm
Millers River Environmental Center
100 Main Street
Athol
Learn about projects designed to prevent wildcat and farmer conflicts in Panama

September 17, Saturday

17th Annual Fair & Flea Market
8:00-4:00 pm
Ware Center Meeting House & Museum
295 Belchertown Road
Flea market, silent auction, vendors, sweets and treats, tours of the Meeting House.
warehistoricalsociety.wikifoundry.com

North Quabbin Fall Festival
Main Street
Athol

A regional block party. Vendors, craft, music, dance, games, live auction, contest, raffles.
visitnorthquabbin.com

September 18, Sunday

North Dana/Gate 39 Hike
11:00 am
Hike to the former town of North Dana in the Quabbin.
Meet at Petersham Common.
Sponsored by the Swift River Valley Historical Society.
(978) 544-6882.
swiftrivermuseum.org

Calendar listings compiled by Jane Loeser Clukay.

cruisin' the classics (continued from Page 13)

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). (As of this writing, the mid-July event was still in the planning stage).

Every May, the weekend before Memorial Day weekend, the Athol Lions Club and North Quabbin Cruisers collaborate on the annual Dick Phillips "Dust Off" Car Show and chicken barbecue at Silver Lake Park to benefit several charitable endeavors. It is open to all classic vehicles, including motorcycles. A memorial award made of bits of pieces from the late Phillips's shop goes to the vehicle the judges feel he would have most appreciated.

North Quabbin Cruisers awards four five-hundred-dollar scholarships to students entering the automotive field. The Cruisers' big fundraiser is the annual Columbus Day weekend "Celebrate the Harvest" in Orange. They also host Sunday Cruise Nights at the Athol-Orange Elks Club from May through September with a barbecue, prizes, weekly sponsors, and crafts. Last year, the club helped with the first Wednesday night cruise show at Market Basket at Athol's North Quabbin Commons with attendance estimated at a hundred cars and hopes to expand further.

Dick Noel of Orange, owner of four Mustangs and a member of the North Quabbin Cruisers, observed an increase in the number of cars and participants at recent shows. "The draw is to get out and have fun and meet people," he said.

Kathryn Chaisson's wish list includes a '65 Mustang and a '68 Chevy pickup.

Athol Daily News



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