

Uniquely Quabbin magazine serving

THE NORTH QUABBIN: Athol • Erving • New Salem • Orange • Petersham • Phillipston • Royalston • Templeton • Warwick • Wendell

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

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volume 6, number 1 • May 2021-August 2021
this issue features virtual links, history, event listings, and
sights to see in the uniquely Quabbin heart of Massachusetts

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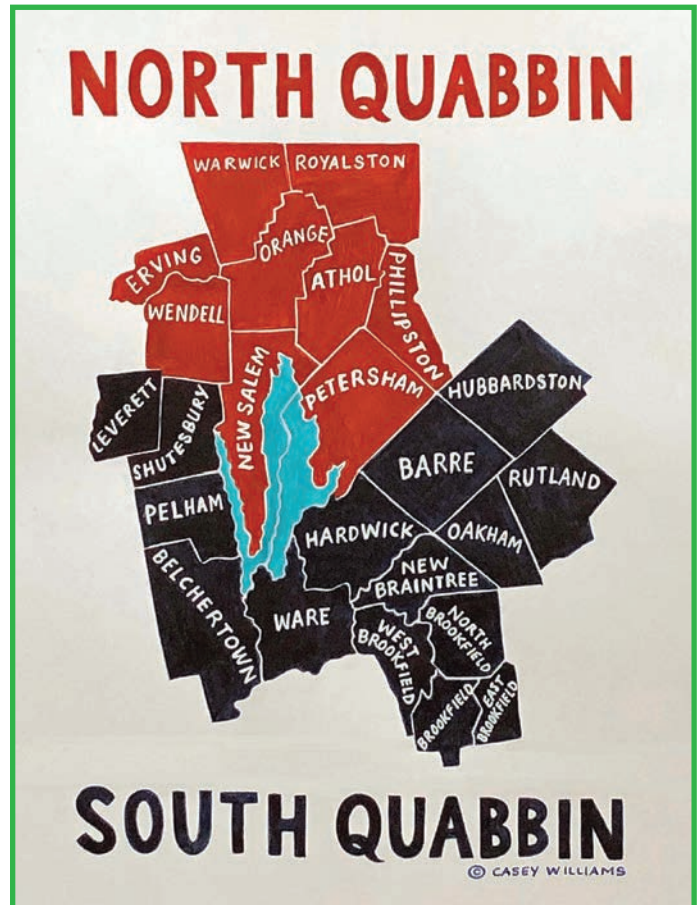


Sunset dazzles at Lake Arcadia, Belchertown.
photo © by Hope O'Shaughnessy

ON THE FRONT COVER

Reaching for the Sky

a painting in acrylics by Susan Marshall of Orange



Quabbin towns past and present • maps © Casey Williams

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about *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine

Quabbin region, Massachusetts—*Uniquely Quabbin* serves the twenty-five Quabbin region towns. Athol Historical Society, Haley's Publishing, and North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau collaborate to produce *Uniquely Quabbin* in cooperation with writers, photographers, and artists from the greater Quabbin area.

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

FIND LISTINGS FOR EVENTS IN
NORTH QUABBIN AND SOUTH QUABBIN
BEGINNING ON PAGE 63

a note from Athol Historical Society

Thank you, thank you . . .

On behalf of Athol Historical Society, I want to thank the local cultural councils of Athol, Barre, Brookfield, Erving, Hubbardston, New Salem, North Brookfield, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Royalston, Rutland, Shutesbury, Templeton, Ware, Warwick, and Wendell for supporting *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine with local cultural grants for 2021. The generous support from these councils is so important to the continued life of our magazine.

Thank you to our advertisers who play such a big role in the success of this magazine. An ever growing list of businesses and organizations continuously support *Uniquely Quabbin*. Please get out there, dear readers, and support them as they support us.

Thank you to all the readers of our magazine. We weren't sure how *Uniquely Quabbin* would be received when we started out six years ago, and you, the readers, have inspired us to keep on going. As I wrote this, I received a call from a dear friend in another state, and one of his first questions was, "When is the next issue of the magazine coming out?" I hear that so often, and it fills my heart with joy to know you are looking forward to receiving the next issue of *Uniquely Quabbin* as much as we enjoy putting it together for you.

I know you will enjoy this issue with its entertaining and informative articles, stunning pictures, and beautiful artwork. You will see the beauty we have right here in the *Uniquely Quabbin* area through each contribution to the magazine.

What are you waiting for? Turn the page and get started!

Thankfully,,
Debra Ellis, treasurer
Athol Historical Society

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Wendell Cultural Council

a note from the publisher of *Uniquely Quabbin*

Wait 'til you see what *Uniquely Quabbin* writers, poets, artists, photographers, and chroniclers have created for you in this issue of the magazine. Through their pens and eyes and keyboards, we experience sights, sounds, tastes, and even, I dare say, smells as our contributors bring us close to the variety, beauty, and unique charm of the *Uniquely Quabbin* region.

We hope you'll consider a bicycle ride through Quabbin lands, a tour of regional monuments, some time in the garden, or maybe a class in filmmaking. You may decide to support local young entrepreneurs, breathe deeply with Quabbin region yogis, walk with forest gnomes, cook up some maple treats, dream of the day when you can sing again in a chorus, or take a few photos.

Who knows? You may find something unexpectedly wonderful to do in the pages that follow. Clearly, our thoughtful contributors have given their best to this issue of *Uniquely Quabbin*. We hope you like it.

Sincerely,
Marcia Gagliardi, publisher
Haley's



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THANK YOU!

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

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

flags and statues represent, honor, and memorialize

by Dorothy Johnson



Dorothy Johnson

American flags are ubiquitous. The president wears a flag pin on his lapel when he is in public, and I expect every American town has one, at least, on a flagpole in front of a public building, at someone's home, or flying at the back of a pickup truck. There are decals of the flag on cars, too.

In other words, American flags are everywhere.

The Quabbin area is no different. The Stars and Stripes flies by Erving town hall along with the Massachusetts state flag and the black MIA-POW one at the top of clean white poles.

Sometimes, I think, flags are so common that we fail to notice them. Of course, other flags may be important to some people, but I have been driving around the towns looking to see how American flags are displayed along with some of the monuments some towns have erected in the Quabbin area.

On the common in Barre is a monument I have driven past at least

a hundred times. Once recently, I stopped, parked my car, and got out to study the monument. A well-designed cobblestone walkway and Victorian cast iron fence surround the stone. On one side, I found a plaque that says the stone honors Captain Elvira Gibson, 1821 to 1901, chaplain of the First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery from 1864 to 1865 during the Civil War, according to the plaque. It is said she was the only female officer on either side during the Civil War. Sometime after the war, she settled in Barre, according to records of the time.

Stones also proclaim that "Barre honors her patriotic dead," and in

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Eye of Rhino

text and relief engraving by Abigail Rorer

The rhinoceros is known to have poor eyesight. It is very near-sighted, and rhino eyes are tiny in relation to an animal so large—the white rhino is the third largest land mammal behind the African and Asian elephants. Rhinos are considered among the most poorly sighted animals on the planet. To make up for poor eyesight, the rhinoceros has a very strong sense of smell and excellent hearing.

Since the rhino's eyesight is so poor, if you are fifteen feet or more away from a rhino, it won't be able to tell you apart from a lion and may suddenly attack. Rhinos will usually charge if they are frightened, feel threatened, or are defending their young or their territory.

Since they are massive, weighing between thirty-five hundred and six thousand pounds, have huge spear-like horns, and can run at thirty-five miles per hour, it's certain that they can cause major damage and could kill you. So the next time you're wandering through the African bush, be extremely careful not to interrupt a feeding rhino and spook it—that could be a fatal mistake.

Despite everything, the rhino is a magnificent animal in extreme danger of extinction. Rhino horn—worn firmly between the eyes of any adult rhinoceros—is worth more than gold, and poachers are killing rhinos by the thousands each year in order to harvest horns.

My image of a rhinoceros eye here is a multiblock relief engraving done in the same manner as a wood engraving but not on wood. I engrave with engraving tools called scorpers, gravers, tint tools, and spitstickers that make very fine lines. When engraving, I have to use a magnifying glass. Cutting out the eye area, I printed a grey block first. When the grey ink dried, I printed a black block, called the key block, over the grey ink. Since the eye area is so small, I handcolored it with watercolors instead of using a third color engraving block.

The blocks are printed on my letterpress printing press called a Vandercook #4 proof press.

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



Eye of Rhino
relief engraving by Abigail Rorer

bicyclists find opportunity, natural phenomena,

by Eleanor McGinnis



Tommy Tarmasiewicz, left, and John Ambrozicz bicycle along a trail near Gate 29, Quabbin.
photo © by Rick Flematti

Roads near Quabbin Reservoir have long provided fine opportunities for bicycling although many years ago the state Department of Conservation and Recreation restricted biking to tarred roads only.

Gate 35 off Route 122 in New Salem offers ideal territory for those who like two-wheelers of the rider-propelled kind. DCR prohibits motorcycles and motorized

bicycles. Our property bordered the Quabbin area, and my family and I often rode our bikes there for pleasure and exercise.

Once with May in full bloom, I rode my bike down the Gate 35 road that follows the old Rabbit Run railroad trail near the location of a pre-reservoir railroad station. Nearing the water, I saw three loons close together, obviously a family unit. The adults sounded their enthusiastic spiritual call as they celebrated the young loons beside them. Expressing

chance encounters, and fun in Quabbin environs

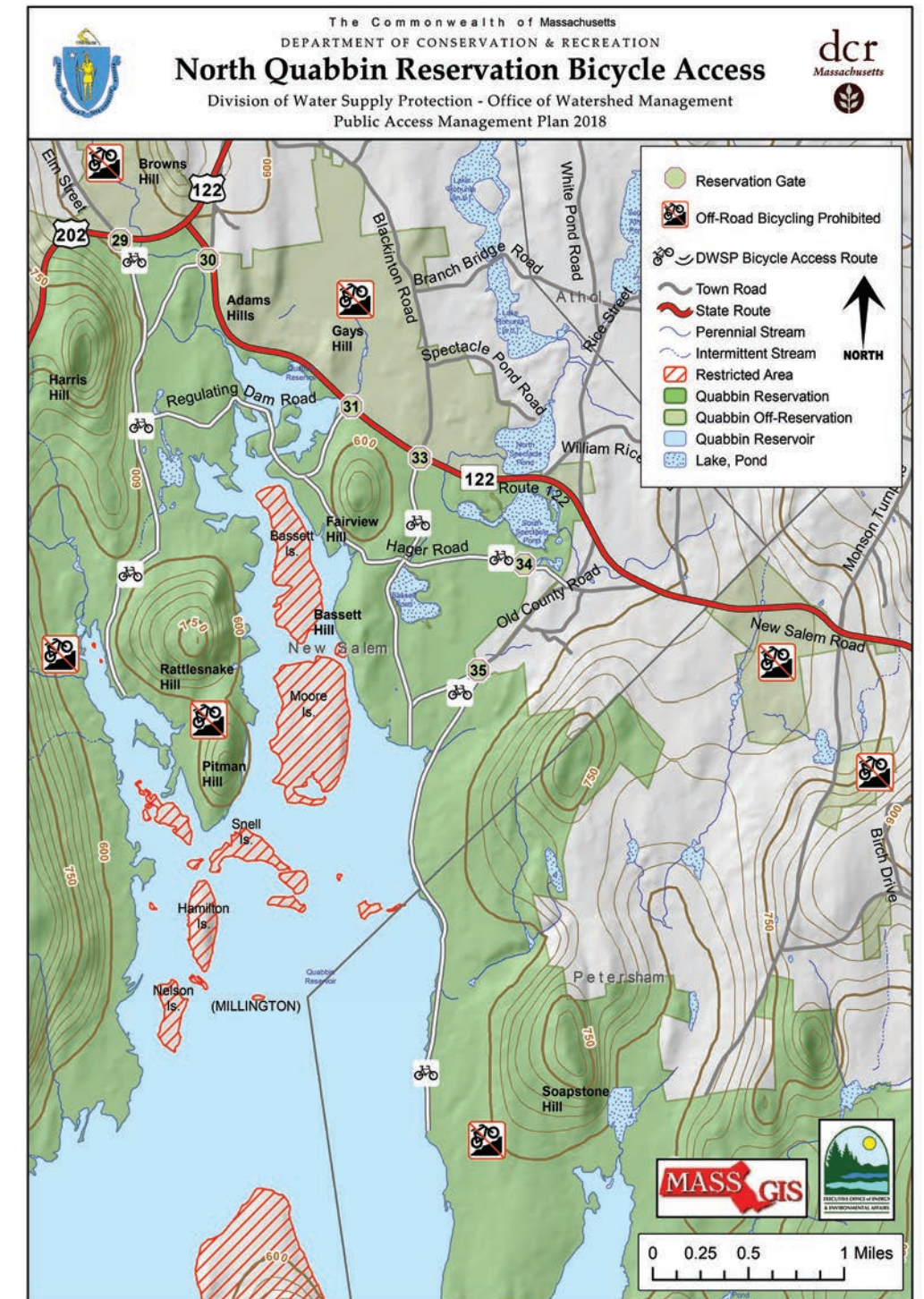
their joy at being alive, both adults lifted their bodies partially out of the water. Twice while riding for exercise on Quabbin roads, I had similar adventures. Near dark and in a hurry to get home, I rode close to a rock, or so I thought, when the rock sprang into life and became an angry porcupine. The tail flew at the front bike wheel and then sprung away as my ankle passed the animal. The very close call with no damage to bike, rider, or animal gave me much to be grateful for.

In a favorite jaunt, I'd put my bicycle in my husband's pickup and ride with him to the center of New Salem, take the bike off the truck, and begin the hour's journey to Gate 35 and home. One March evening, my daughter and I decided to take the trip. Into the truck went the bikes, and then we went by pickup to the town hall where Dad attended an assessors' meeting.

My daughter and I got our bikes off the truck and rode down the South Main Street hill toward home. We took a right onto East Millington Road and then a left onto the long hill that once went to east New Salem. After about a mile, the hill levels out and one of the tributaries of the Swift River goes under the road. That March evening, the bridge over the tributary had gone missing, undoubtedly washed out by recent winter storms. We could see no way across the deep water.

We pondered. Should we now build a temporary

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Bicycle paths crisscross off-reservation Quabbin Reservoir territory in Shutesbury and Wendell.
map courtesy of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
mass.gov/doc/north-quabbin-reservation-bicycle-access/download



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MassWildlife preserves diverse natural areas

by John Burk

From Tully Mountain's summit to cold-water streams and rare barrens on the Swift River, Quabbin region state wildlife lands preserve a wide variety of habitats and natural features. The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game and Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, or MassWildlife, administers roughly 82,000 acres in central Massachusetts and the Connecticut River Valley, among 224,000 acres statewide. Landholdings include Wildlife Management Areas, WMAs, conservation easements, and donated sanctuaries. MassWildlife also regulates hunting and fishing, conducts education and outreach programs, stocks nearly 350 state waterways with trout, and publishes an award-winning quarterly magazine.

MassWildlife recently completed the first phase of a five-hundred-acre habitat restoration at Muddy Brook WMA and adjacent New England Forestry Foundation land abutting Quabbin Reservoir in Hardwick. Field crews reestablished a rare barren natural community by thinning tree canopies and conducting prescribed burns, or carefully planned fires. Uncommon in Massachusetts because of development and fire suppression, barrens support animals, insects, and plants, including seventy-five state-listed endangered species.

Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Senior Restoration Ecologist Chris Buelow, who designed the project after identifying the Muddy Brook valley site, reports: "Ecological



MassWildlife personnel undertake prescribed burns to restore and enhance rare habitats, such as pine barrens.

photo by John Burk

response to the restoration has been remarkable. We've already recorded whippoorwills after a thirty-year absence and an impressive increase of other vulnerable species such as prairie warblers, field sparrows, eastern towhees, and American woodcock. Surveys show bees increased from thirty-five species to an astounding 140 within three years. More than a thousand native moth species have also been documented, including several globally rare varieties undetected before the restoration."

Another large-scale project is in progress at Herman Covey WMA on the Swift River in Belchertown and Ware downstream from Quabbin Reservoir's outlet. A mosaic of grasslands, barrens, thickets, and open forest habitats benefits upland game birds, pollinating insects, and many other

species, thus enhancing wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities. Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton uses harvested timber for power generation, an arrangement supporting the local wood products economy and reducing the hospital's carbon footprint. The Swift River offers prime trout fishing and paddling.

New Braintree's Winnimsett WMA showcases excellent examples of varied habitats such as active and reclaimed agricultural fields along the Ware River, cold-water streams, and mixed hardwood-pine woodlands. Grasslands provide essential breeding habitat for uncommon Savannah sparrows, meadowlarks, bobolinks, and bluebirds. Spring birding trips often reveal flocks of northbound warblers, hawks, waterfowl, and wading birds.

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native orchids flourish on woodland

by Sue Cloutier

When you visit the woodland paths and back roads of the Quabbin region, you may not expect to see orchids, but you may see quite a few if you know where and when to look for them. Believe it or not, more than forty species of native orchids—and one nonnative species—grow in the central and western regions of Massachusetts. Some catch your eye while others are easy to overlook.



Native orchids include, from left, lady's-slipper, rattlesnake plantain, rose pogonia, and nodding ladies'-tresses.

photos of lady's-slipper, rattlesnake plantain, and rose pogonia © by Sue Cloutier
photo of ladies'-tresses © by Pan Wilson

Next time you head out to explore the Quabbin region, you can easily find five orchid species: pink lady's-slipper, two species of rattlesnake plantain orchid, nodding ladies'-tresses, and rose pogonia.

The pink lady's-slipper is the showiest and most common of the bunch. It does well in pine woodlands. Its pink or, rarely, white flowers appear in May through June. When not in bloom, it has two large ribbed and downy leaves at the base of the flower stem. You will often find large groups of this orchid, with the center of the group denser and then trailing off into the woods where the wind blew their seeds.



Common pink lady's-slipper puts on the best show.

photo © by Sue Cloutier

To set seed, a lady's-slipper needs a strong bumblebee to enter its blossom and transfer pollen. If fertilized, by fall there are as many as a thousand tiny seeds inside the full green seedpods. As the pod dries to brown, it cracks and releases tiny seeds into the wind. If a seed falls on soil with the right fungi, humidity, minerals, and microbes, it will sprout. Remember the complex set of needs of this orchid. Where you see pink lady's-slippers, you have bumblebees, fair soil, pines, and sun to thank.

Most orchid flowers depend on insects for pollination. The plants have evolved to create and hold the insect's reward of sweet nectar in such a way that, as it savors nectar, the insect touches and takes away pollen to fertilize the next plant it visits. The shape of the flower evolved with the insects and matches the insect's mouth parts. Long spurs on some flowers are only pollinated by long-tongued moths, bumblebees, and leaf-cutting bees. Short-tongued sweat bees and moths pollinate more open blooms. Fragrance also evolved to attract pollinators. The green-fringed bog orchid evolved a strong fragrance to attract large moths at night. You can discover many things when learning about the lives of our native orchids.

paths, byways, and back roads

The two species of rattlesnake plantain have soil and sunlight requirements similar to the pink lady's-slipper, so look for them in pine woodlands in summer and fall. Their ring of basal leaves is common to many native orchids. The stem holding multiple small flowers is also a common blooming strategy and sets rattlesnake plantain apart from pink lady's-slipper. To determine the species of rattlesnake plantain, look at the basal leaves. Downy rattlesnake plantain has bright white netting and a white line down the middle of each leaf, while checkered rattlesnake plantain has a network of pale markings on its leaves. Both have spires of multiple small white flowers.



Downy rattlesnake plantain has soil and sunlight requirements similar to pink lady's-slipper.

photo © by Sue Cloutier

Nodding ladies'-tresses have their flowers on a spire like rattlesnake plantains, but their more slender unmarked leaves are either at a node at the base or at nodes on their flower stalk. Unmowed wet meadows are the best place to find them, but I have found them right by the sidewalk across from New Salem Town Hall. They bloom in summer.

Rose pogonia plants really like their feet wet, so you may need to

wear boots or sneakers you don't mind getting wet when searching for the pink beauty. I have seen them in summer along causeways across ponds, so when driving back roads past sunny ponds, keep your eyes peeled for that orchid. Companion plants may be sphagnum moss and wild cranberry.

Once the search starts, you may be interested in finding rare orchids. The Native Plant Trust's Go Botany site (gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/family/orchidaceae) will help you know their appearance, bloom seasons, and preferred habitats.

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Grandma's example offers tips, techniques, and text and photos by David Brothers

Look around in the Quabbin region during summer and find flourishing gardens large and small, backyard and decorative, floral and vegetable.

My passion for gardening sparked at an early age. I followed my grandmother to learn her tricks of the trade. She mentored me visually, but rarely with words, as I watched her till the garden, as she added lime, ash from the wood stove, kitchen scraps, and, of course, composted manure. She buried fish heads deep enough that local wildlife couldn't dig them up.

Necessity birthed my grandmother's love of gardening. She grew fruits and vegetables to eat fresh or to can and freeze for winter consumption. Grandma also grew herbs for medicinal use. If you claimed to be ill, she boiled up a concoction to drink and sure to cure whatever ailed you. Easily grown in containers in limited space given enough sunlight, herbs provide a great way to spice up food.

SPRINGTIME GARDEN

Crocuses planted close to a south facing wall mark the first sign of



Crocuses mark the first sign of spring.

spring in my garden. Their pure purple petals and bright orange stamen poke through an early spring snowfall. Tulips and daffodils soon follow. By planting different varieties of spring flowers, you can extend their season from early spring to early summer. Spring is the time to add and enrich the soil.

It also brings the time to trim and prune branches damaged by winter. A fresh edge and mulching of the garden offers visual appeal and a good way to control weeds and conserve moisture. Last spring, I rummaged through a friend's toolshed and came across an old edging tool. She asked what it was, so I showed her how to use it. I went back a week later, and she had edged

every inch of her many gardens and spread 130 bags of mulch! I thought she would be upset with me for showing her how to use the tool, but instead she was very pleased with all she had accomplished.

SUMMERTIME GARDEN

Summer brings an explosion of color. Planting shrubs as a backdrop will enhance high color. Lilacs,



Summer-blooming perennials like bleeding hearts and day lilies bring color to the garden.

timeless tactics to encourage your garden to grow

roses of Sharon, and hydrangeas make good choices. Tried and true perennials include old-fashioned bleeding hearts, day lilies, and Shasta daisies. Bulbs such as dahlias and gladiolas add height and give structure, but you must dig them up and store them over the winter. Annuals contribute a much-needed pop of color that will last from spring until fall.

Watering, weeding, and fertilizing are key to any productive garden. Rain barrels help conserve water, and you can also mix large quantities of fertilizer in them at one time. Deadheading and weeding can seem like a chore, but it's a good opportunity to think and clear one's mind of daily stress.

Place benches randomly about the yard to rest and view the gardens. Add a birdbath to provide much needed water for the birds and other small creatures. Building a trellis will add height that will support perennial vines like honeysuckles or annual vines such as morning glories. A trellis will also add a focal point to the entrance of any garden.

Most of all enjoy your garden and all the hard work you have done!



Summertime morning glories show off.

AUTUMN EVALUATION

When autumn appears just around the corner, it's time to take note of what you liked and what you didn't about the garden. Which plants did well, and which did not survive? As color fades from the garden, brilliance bursts from maple, birch, ash, and oak leaves.



Late-blooming petunias face killing frost.

Days grow shorter and colder. A late blooming petunia struggles to survive the first killing frost. It is time to put the gardens to bed. Cutting back foliage and stems will help your plants and shrubs flourish the next spring and also remove fungus and insects that could winter over.

Rinse soil from tools and store properly. Add a layer of ground-up leaves to top beds off for winter, but do not mulch until the ground freezes completely.

WINTERTIME PREPARATION

Winter is a time to reflect on the garden as well as plan for fast-approaching spring. Keeping a journal always produces a good reference guide, and photos record what worked and what did not. And with the digital age, there's no need to develop all those rolls of film!

The winter garden is more structural than colorful. Drifts of white snow highlight stone walls. Benches, statues, and empty birdhouses become landmarks. Evergreen leaves and pointed buds of rhododendrons, red berries of holly, red and yellow twigs of dogwood,

continued on page 46

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remembering Les Campbell, Quabbin photographer sublime

by Candace R. Curran



Quabbin skies shimmer in a photo by the late Les Campbell.
photo © by the estate of Les Campbell

The first words that come to mind when I think of Les Campbell are, of course, *acclaimed, award-winning, Quabbin photographer*, and, on the heels of those, words that bring the nature of the man shining through—*generous, kind, humble, impassioned*—all apparent to anyone who spent ten minutes with Les.

My first introduction to Les came with an invitation to his and his wife, Terry’s, home, Sky Meadow in Belchertown very near the Quabbin Visitor’s Center which the two of them envisioned and helped bring to completion. On a cold, bright January day in 1994, I walked into a warm, cozy living room to coffee and the kind of goodies one desires with a cuppa. Outside the huge, picture window, we watched a variety of bird life and a flock of turkeys scouring the grounds under the feeders.

Later, Les invited me into his studio filled with cameras, photographs, and file cabinets overflowing with his work. Overwhelmed with possibility, I settled on a few photographs to take home to dream words into. Our collaboration resulted in a presentation at Haley’s gallery in Athol with a show of his Quabbin photographs and a multiprojector presentation, color slide show while I read my poem, “Reservations.”

continued on page 49

Reservations
a poem by Candace R. Curran

Drop me off in the Quabbin—
the old part of town,
Dana or
Enfield maybe
to go back to those slow moving
gentle waters
far and deep away from trouble here.

I need to rest in a friendly town,
Greenwich perhaps,
share the crystal drink, let burden
sink like stone to sleep on satin beds,
to dream a sleep too deep for worry.

Traveling in an eagle eye
slumbering, drifting entwined in
tree shadows, waving on wet canvas,

I will emerge a white cloud, grass hair pointing
to trails worn with memory so old
they echo ancient names.
Despair will fall to fieldstone
too heavy to let secrets out.

Need and human trappings may someday
bring you to sanctuary,
Dana or Prescott.
Join me on a nearby shore.

The reservoir is made of tears, it holds four towns
and more than all could cry.
We will leave together,
a good hold on contentment’s soft hand,
a tumbled stone worn smooth, baptized like
remembrance, washed new again.

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from the pens of *Uniquely* compiled by Carol Mays,

Uncertainty and the surreal nature of the past year have surely traumatized many of us, and some have also been faced with grief and loss. Now we begin to grope for new beginnings as we are able. Intentionally or not, the following poems reflect the situation we find ourselves in.

—Carol Mays, Poetry Editor

If you are a Quabbin area poet who would like to submit poems for possible publication in *Uniquely Quabbin*, contact Carol Mays at irisspring@hughes.net.

Carol Mays has been writing and compiling poetry for forty years. She has published eight books on various subjects. At her studio in Ware, she converts some of her paperbacks into ornamental hardcover versions. She has uploaded multimedia presentations of twenty poems to her YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/IdyllicProductions.

Spirits of Yester

by Mary Lou Ferro Conca

O' Sleepless Night,
cradle me in your arms once more
that I may walk in your dream
to a land where it all seems calm,
where I meet my friend
on a walk to the pond
and we sing for the catfish awaiting
on the murky bottom of a warm pool—
where no one swims anymore
save the spirits of yester
who dance below the surface of tomorrow
in the sacred grounds
of a quieter world
where we can only long to be
in our awakening dream.

Mary Lou Ferro Conca lives in Shutesbury with her husband and granddaughter. A Sicilian-American, educator, activist, photographer, and poet, she writes of the beauty and injustice of life. "Spirits of Yester" originally appeared in the 2014 issue of *Word Smiths*.

Winter Gust

by Carol Mays

I braked for a leaf
bobbing, frog-like, in the road--
Memories of May

2020

by Carol Mays

Gorgeous mystic moon
inviting flights of fancy,
itself held in place.

Spring Equinox

by Sharon A. Harmon

An eastern phoebe flew
into an old barn today.
A yawning hole gaped at the sky
like a mouth howling to heaven.

Inside, she circled while dappled
sunlight sifted through dust-filled cracks,
and the musty smell of old farmers' dreams
hung suspended from the rafters.

Wind hollered earth-splitting creaks
as decrepit boards held sway,
then stabilized. She burrowed nest deep
into chill-washed corners.

Over rows of rusted farm
implements, she swooped in
her drab attire, melding into secret
shadows, tending to her young.

If I could be born again into newness
of earth and air, wing-expanded
solitude, and the sweet scent
of hay lingering long until the dusk of day,

I would welcome it just like spring
awakening jubilant announcing its
coming over and over in the phoebe's
squeak-toy cry that only its young could love.

Sharon A. Harmon is a poet and freelance writer. She lives deep in the woods of Royalston, her home since 1973. She was published in *Green Living* and *Silkworm 12* and has two chapbooks of poetry: *Swimming with Cats*, 2008, and *Wishbone in A Lightning Jar*, 2017.

Quabbin poets poetry editor

Perigee

April 7, 2020

by Janine Roberts

Body speaks: build strength against
airborne Covid-19—long deep sleep.
Awake 9 a.m., surprise in clay pot
wintering inside—wild red columbines
bloom, their green frothy stamens
tipped with hundreds of yellow tufts.

Stare at my phone—shudder,
teeth clamp hard onto my lower lip:
scroll for today's count of the dead
in my county, state, country, world.
Numbers like tasers stun.
How to record each name?

Raise eyes to the great pond.
Fishermen cast long arcs.
Church bells at water's edge
begin their noon toll for
the dead and the grieving.
People cannot gather and mourn.

Tonight, this year's largest moon.
We need its caress.
Launch my boat: caterwauls
of mating barred owls echo. Orb rises
ringed by moss pink, violet, blue.
Place palms in namaste on my chest.

Eyes close. Neck curves down.
Tears spatter my hands.
Thousands of peepers call,
each trill an ethereal stylus
'scribing names of the dead
into the dark heavens.

Janine Roberts, professor emerita, UMass, Amherst, lives on Leverett Pond in Franklin County. Among her writings are several books of poetry, including *The Body Alters Tales* and *Transformations: Stories in Families and Family Therapy*, two books on rituals, many personal essays, and some seventy articles.



Up a tree one moment and all wet the next,
the resident great blue heron at Athol's Silver Lake
rests itself for awhile, top, before savoring a bass
caught down in the weeds. Observers say the same
bird has at least once made a meal of a doomed squirrel.

photos © by Nancy Lagimoniere



Academic graduates of Spelman Seminary, Atlanta, later Spelman College, include Addie K. Brown, Hattie F. Bryant, Lula B. Countee, Maria A. Dawson, Gertrude H. Murray, Martha A. Ragland, Fannie L. Showers, and Martha A. Williams. Other graduates concentrated in other areas.
photo courtesy of Spelman College Archive

New Salem pair

by Ellen Woodbury

The gravestone on the hill in Athol's Silver Lake Cemetery reads FOUNDERS OF SPELMAN COLLEGE. The other side of the stone reads Harriet E. Giles • Sophia B. Packard.

Who were those women? Why are they buried in Athol? What is their connection to a southern college in Atlanta, Georgia? Research led to a very interesting story, according to online links and Spelman archivist Holly A. Smith.

Born in New Salem within five miles of each other, Harriet in 1833 and Sophia in 1824, they met in the 1850s when nineteen-year-old Harriet was a student and Sophia was the preceptress or principal of New Salem Academy, where they began a forty-year friendship.

founded Spelman College for Black women

The mid nineteenth century when the two women grew up saw huge economic and social change. Slave and free, many men and women joined to abolish slavery and to demand civil rights for all. A number of cities in the Northeast, especially Boston, were hotbeds of reform for women and slaves, and Giles and Packard took much of that reform with them to Atlanta.

Before going to Atlanta, Packard became the co-principal at Oread Institute in Worcester while Giles taught music there from 1864 to 1867. Eli Thayer, a graduate of Brown University, began the Oread Institute as one of the first institutions of higher education for women in the US. As teachers and Baptist missionaries, Packard and

Giles traveled to Atlanta to found a school for free Black women.

In 1881, with a hundred dollars from the Medford First Baptist Church and a promise of financial support from the Women's American Baptist Home Missions Society, Giles and Packard began the school with ten women and one girl, some former slaves. The women called the basement of the Atlanta's Friendship Baptist Church the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary.

The first students were illiterate or had only basic skills. Courses were divided into normal and academic departments. The normal department taught the basics of reading, speaking, arithmetic, geography, writing grammar, and history. The academics department

included algebra, physiology, and a study of the US Constitution. Within a couple of years, the school added an industrial department teaching nursing, printing, sewing, dressmaking and other domestic skills. Since that department was considered secondary, a graduate received a certificate at completion of those studies and not a diploma.

Similar to Oread's purpose, the school aimed to "prepare students to join the Negro Female Talented Tenth." The term "Talented Tenth" was invented by Henry Morehouse. In his essay in the 1896 *Independent Magazine*, Morehouse explained, "Ordinary education is good for nine out of ten men, but the tenth with education can become great

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american indian
a visual haiku with verbal haiku by Ami Fagin



it was our first date
he, in his tanned leather jeans
and jacket to match

Amy/Ami Fagin specializes in traditional manuscript illumination at her 20th Century Illuminations print studio in New Salem. She is author of *Beyond Genocide*. Find more of Ami's visual haiku at visualhaiku.graphics.

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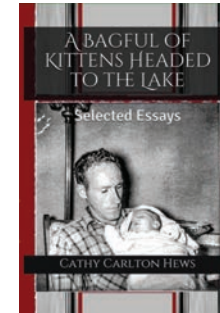


Cathy Carlton Hews of Belchertown and J. A. McIntosh of Orange

region's authors capture words and craft them

by Diane Kane

*Words travel on the breeze that flows across the rivers and rugged hills around the Quabbin Reservoir.
Many local residents capture those words and craft them into stories and books for publication.*



A Bagful of Kittens Headed to the Lake
book cover and author
Cathy Carlton Hews of Belchertown
photos courtesy of Cathy Carlton Hews

Author Cathy Carlton Hews grew up in Belchertown before seeking her fortune in acting in New York and California. She returned to care for her ailing father and chose to stay.

"I graduated high school in Belchertown and left, spending my time moving back and forth between New York and Los Angeles. I did a ton of theatre, always with a day job."

Hews's role as an author began after she moved back to Belchertown in 2013 to care for her father with Alzheimer's.

"I was very ill equipped to face a broken-down house, a very ill old man, and the horror of Alzheimer's," she said.

Hews started a blog about her honest struggles dealing with a new life where she felt like "a fish out of water."

"People were interested in my stories, the sacred and profanity of it all."

She published *A Bagful of Kittens Headed to the Lake: Selected Essays* in December of 2019. "My story was extreme. Extreme in poverty, extreme

in illness, extreme in love."

Hews was touched by the support she received from her community. "I love all the thoughtful questions folks ask. Many of us are going through similar journeys with aged parents. I have grown to know and love this community," Hews said.

"Though I could have moved back to my tribes in LA and NYC after my father passed," she said, "I chose to remain in Belchertown where I am happy to serve as executive assistant to the president of Hampshire College."

Hews said her life puts her in mind of television's Nanny McPhee's



Judge Hartwell, a Meredith, MA, novel
book cover and author
J. A. McIntosh of Orange
photos courtesy of J. A. McIntosh

observation: "When you need me but do not want me, then I must stay

continued on page 54



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region's filmmakers document dialogue,

by Carla Charter

The Quabbin area is home to several filmmakers. Among them are David Rabinovitz of DMR Productions, Pelham, and Robbie Leppzer of Turning Tide Productions, Wendell.



David Rabinovitz
Pelham filmmaker
photo © by Jordene Hale

Rabinowitz directed photography for a PBS documentary entitled *Zamir: Jewish Voices Return to Poland*. Zamir is a form of Jewish music largely eradicated during the Holocaust in World War II. When people emigrated to the United States, they brought the musical form with them. The documentary chronicles the tour made of Eastern Europe by Zamir Chorale of Boston.

"Because of the beautiful music, I found the documentary memorable, and I am Jewish myself. It was visually and emotionally compelling," Rabinowitz said. "Not only were the concerts in different cities, but we visited the concentration camps, including Auschwitz."

Among Rabinowitz's favorite documentary productions is *Hands Across Hills*, he said. The film documents conversations among residents of Leverett in the Quabbin region and of Lecher County, Kentucky. "We were trying to bridge the divide," he said. "We wanted to create a dialogue and build rapport between two parts of the country."

Rabinovitz's interest in video production began as he prepared his master's thesis in environmental science and environmental affairs at Clark University, Worcester. While working on a project with a group of sixth graders, he decided to do a video with them.

"While doing the video, I became excited about video production and couldn't let it go," he said.

Shortly after receiving his degree, he embarked on a career in video production. "I had no experience except for my thesis project," he said. "I put myself out there as a production assistant."

Eventually, he joined Boston Film and Video Production in Cambridge. "I received tons of hands-on education," he said. "I discovered I like being out and about, so I specialized in the lighting and camera part of the profession."

He suggests to aspiring filmmakers that the best education is being on a production itself.

"Do whatever you are asked to do," he said. "Always be proactive. Do more than the job requires, and you will get noticed. If you see something that needs to be done, do it." He said that local access cable gives aspiring filmmakers an opportunity to learn about technology and gear.

Find more about Rabinovitz and DMR Productions at Davidrabinovitz.com

Robbie Leppzer's interest in documentaries began when he started creating audio documentaries



Robbie Leppzer
Wendell filmmaker
photo © by Cate Woolner

music, nonviolent protest, and remembrance

as a student at Winchester, Massachusetts, High School.

"Winchester High School was one of the first schools in the country to have a small, five-mile-broadcast-radius, FM radio station," he explained. "While others were playing music and covering football games, I was doing a weekly three-hour radio news program focused on peace and social justice."

While attending Hampshire College in Amherst, he created his first feature film documentary, *Seabrook 1977*, documenting opposition to Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant when 1,414 protestors were arrested at a nonviolent sit-in intended to block the construction of the plant. "*Seabrook 1977* chronicles the birth of the antinuclear movement," he said.



In a scene from Robbie Leppzer's documentary *Power Struggle*, non-violent protestors march to encourage shutting down the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, which closed in 2014.
video still © by Robbie Leppzer, Turning Tide Productions

Power Struggle, documenting efforts to shut down Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, ranks as one of his favorite productions. One of the

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local interest groups turn attention to

by Diane Nassif



Encouraging conservation on Petersham Common are, from left, Jackie Bickley of Pennsylvania; June, dog of Warwick; Jinx Hastings of Northfield, and Janice Kurkoski of Warwick.
photo © by Steve Kurkoski



SEASONAL IMAGES

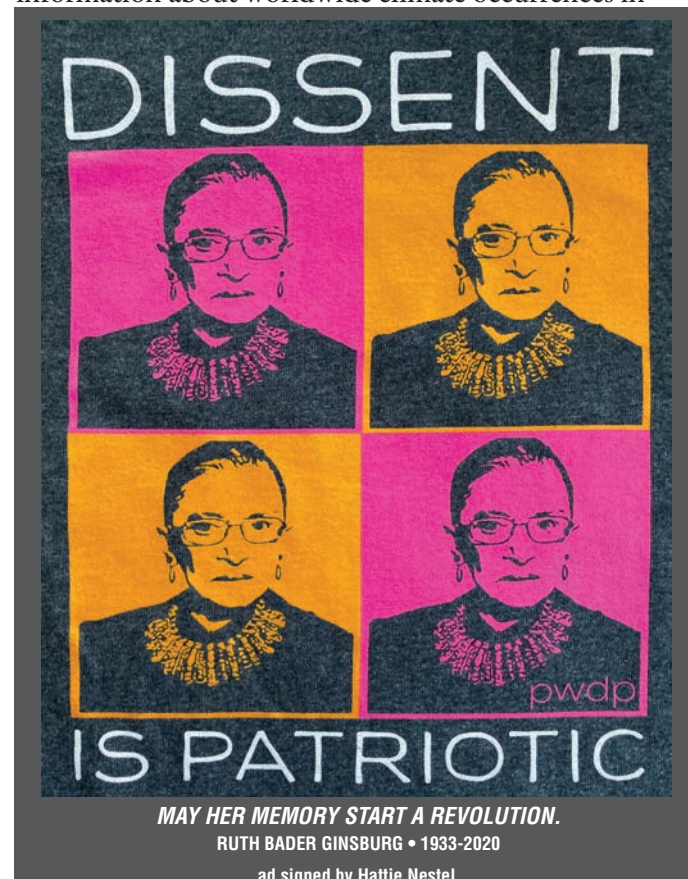
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Those of us who live in the Quabbin area understand what it is to completely immerse in the natural world—forests, fields, farms, and water. At the same time, much happens nationally and globally that on occasion can grab attention.

While drama about national and global events often takes place in urban areas where demonstrations about climate change and economic and racial justice are common, some folks nearby have taken national issues to heart and brought them with remarkable results into the local community.

Connor Stedman, an ecological designer and wilderness educator from Appleseed Permaculture, says that inland New England and upstate New York have had the least experience so far with climate change of anywhere in the world. People in the Quabbin area do not, according to Stedman, have firsthand experience with the impact of climate change on their daily lives—no forest fires or rising sea levels or droughts that prevent farming or massive species decimation. Quabbin region residents, therefore, must call on their imaginations and information about worldwide climate occurrences in



green concerns

order to grasp potential seriousness of climate change, according to Stedman's model.

Town energy committees have modeled climate change possibilities for many years and created Green Communities and advocated for increased use of solar energy. According to information at mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created Green Communities to provide grants, technical assistance, and support to help municipalities reduce energy use and costs by implementing clean energy projects in municipal buildings, facilities, and schools.

North Quabbin towns designated by the Commonwealth as green communities include Athol, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Royalston, Templeton, Warwick, and Wendell. South Quabbin towns designated as green communities include Barre, Belchertown, West Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Leverett, New Braintree, Pelham, Rutland, Shutesbury, and Ware.

In Warwick, Steve Kurkoski of the town's energy committee and his wife, Janice, have worried about climate change for a long time. They attended the Global Climate Strike in Boston in September 2019. Steve also heard a recording of a speech at the United Nations delivered by climate activist Greta Thunberg that got him thinking about how to get people to pay attention to potential negative impacts of climate change. Beginning on October 4, 2019, he spent an hour every Saturday walking around the Warwick common with a sign asserting that climate change is real.

Two friends joined him each Saturday. A local church announced the event, and more men turned up with signs and a dog. It looked as if it would be an all-male occasion. Then Janice attended in the spring of 2020 and began taking photos.

"If climate change really is *the* most important existential threat to all living things," Janice said, "then I should just get out there and wave and jump up and down and protest our collective inaction."

That summer, a group of knitters joined the Saturday walkers, and the witness became known as the Warwick Climate Walkers Vigil. Local musician Jim McRae joined and brought a pickup band, thus creating a steady gig for them. Town Librarian Ivan Ussach

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BLACK LIVES MATTER
WOMEN'S RIGHTS
ARE HUMAN RIGHTS
NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL
SCIENCE IS REAL
LOVE IS LOVE
KINDNESS
IS EVERYTHING
ONE PEOPLE



ONE EARTH

ad signed by
Hattie Nestel

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust bids adieu

by John Burk

After more than a quarter century of dedicated work protecting land in central Massachusetts, Leigh Youngblood recently stepped down as executive director of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, MGLCT. Under her leadership, MGLCT conserved nearly thirty thousand acres, developed many successful partnerships, and grew substantially as an organization.

Youngblood, who has worked with nearly three hundred landowners, says she feels “very fortunate to be in the Quabbin region, where there’s such a strong conservation ethic and many great partners.”

She has worked with nearly three hundred landowners and championed legislation such as Article 97 of the Massachusetts constitution, a key conservation tool enacted in 1972 by the late



Leigh Youngblood, left, longtime executive director of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, and Maura Healey, Massachusetts attorney general, remind citizens of Article 97 conservation land provisions.

photo © by Rudy Perkins

Senator Robert Wetmore of Barre and Gardner. Colleagues and collaborators frequently cite her innovative approaches to conservation, ability to build connections, and effectiveness facilitating complex projects.

East Quabbin Land Trust Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw, whom Youngblood hired at MGLCT when both were starting their careers, describes Youngblood as “instrumental in getting important land conservation initiatives done efficiently and helping to build central Massachusetts as an open space destination. She has transformed the organization into a thriving and impactful land trust, leaving a wonderful legacy of conservation for all who live in central Massachusetts.”

Youngblood grew up mostly in Springfield “at the south end of the Rabbit Run railroad,” as she puts it. She developed appreciation of open space from grandparents who gardened and farmed. She began her career as a conservation agent, planning board member, and paralegal before entering the University of Massachusetts University without Walls program. Many hours exploring Quabbin Park and daily commutes from Belchertown and Ware enhanced her connection to the region.

After joining MGLCT as a land protection assistant in 1994, Youngblood became director just six months later. The organization then had two part-time employees, a modest budget, and headquarters

to Leigh Youngblood, longtime executive director

at a small cottage in New Salem. She credits many people, including MGLCT founder Keith Ross and Deborah Becker, John O’Keefe, Bruce Spencer, John Woolsey Jr., and Barbara Corey, for influencing her during formative years. Early highlights include protection of iconic Tully Mountain and establishment of Hidden Valley Memorial Forest, former Wendell research camp of internationally renowned botanist Arthur Cronquist.

MGLCT’s involvement with collaborative regional-scale initiatives took shape in 1997 when Youngblood helped spearhead formation of the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, NQRLP, a voluntary association of conservation-oriented organizations and people, including land trusts, planning boards, agencies, and academics. The partnership provides outreach to landowners and municipalities, secures funding for forest conservation, and oversees complex projects such as the recently completed Quabbin-to-Wachusett initiative.

Tully Trail, one of NQRLP’s first projects, demonstrates successful collaboration between MGLCT and other organizations such as Trustees of Reservations, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Army Corps of Engineers, and National Park Service. In “Building the Tully Loop Trail,” a twenty-eight-page booklet available on MGLCT’s website, former NQRLP coordinator Anne Townsend describes how completion


of the twenty-two-mile circuit facilitated land conservation along the trail corridor.

Impressed with Youngblood’s ideas and ability to negotiate complex deals, then-Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs Bob Durand selected MGLCT as lead organization for the Tully Valley Private Forest Lands Initiative in 2000. Youngblood brokered transactions with ninety landowners during the ambitious two-year endeavor, protecting more than nine thousand acres and establishing the North Quabbin Bioserve. The initiative set the stage for future regional partnerships such as Quabbin Corridor Connections,

a federal Forest Legacy project protecting nearly 2000 acres on eighteen properties in Petersham and Phillipston.

MGLCT has also protected more than two dozen area farms during Youngblood’s tenure, thus preserving vital agricultural land and creating affordable options for conservation buyers. Seeds of Solidarity Farm in Orange, original site of the popular annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, was an early farm project. After a prolonged search for suitable land, Deb Habib and Ricky Baruc worked with Youngblood to draft a conservation restriction and acquire the thirty-acre property in 1996.

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state legislators seek to establish Massachusetts

by Sean Osborne and Sharon Tracy

Through implementation of legislation pending in the Massachusetts Senate and House, the Commonwealth may annually observe July 8 as Quock Walker Day, Massachusetts Emancipation Day. The observation would commemorate the 1783 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling of slavery as unconstitutional. The ruling affirmed that the Massachusetts Constitution, ratified in 1780, guaranteed equality and freedom for “all men.”

Quock Walker, a self-emancipated Black man from Barre, pursued his court case for freedom over several years to the state’s top court, which ruled in his favor on July 8, 1783.

“Massachusetts has much to be proud of in the ongoing fight for equality,” said State Senator Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, a bill co-sponsor. “The Quabbin

region has been at the center of that struggle for generations. Quock Walker and the court’s actions solidified our place in history. As State Senator I seriously and humbly take the responsibility to build on past successes.”

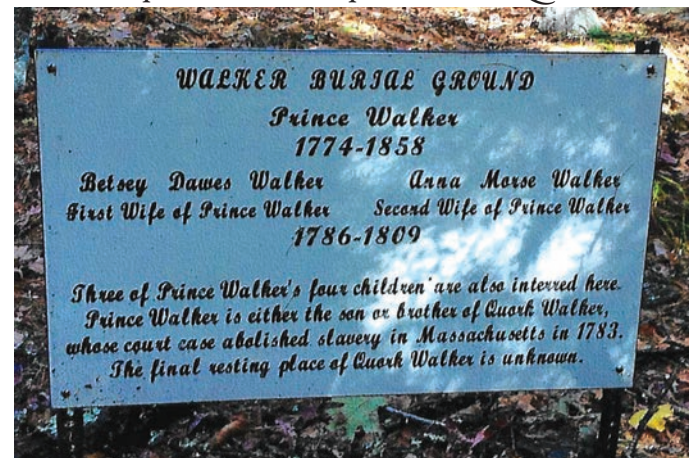
Gobi represents the Quabbin region towns of Athol, Barre, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Phillipston, Rutland, Templeton, Ware, and West Brookfield.

Quock Walker was key plaintiff in a series of cases in the early 1780s that led to his freedom and the abolition of slavery in the Commonwealth.

Walker was born in Massachusetts. James Caldwell, a resident of Barre, purchased Mingo and Dinah, Walker’s parents, and Walker when he was nine months old. Caldwell promised Walker to free him when he turned twenty-five.


When Caldwell died, Isabel Caldwell, his widow, promised Walker to emancipate him when he turned twenty-one. Isabel Caldwell Jennison died a few months before Walker turned twenty-one. Nathaniel Jennison, her widower, refused to keep the Caldwells’ promise of emancipation.

In April 1781, Walker, then twenty-eight, self-emancipated and declared himself free of obligation to Jennison. Jennison recaptured and beat him, and Walker filed a civil suit against Jennison for assault and battery. A jury awarded Walker his freedom and fifty British pounds in damages.



A sign at the Walker Burial Ground off Gilbert Road in Barre indicates that the burial place of Quock Walker remains unknown. photo © by Charlotte Westhead

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Emancipation Day on July 8, Quock Walker Day

Walker won his case in Worcester County Court on June 12, 1781, but Jennison appealed the case to Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which heard *Commonwealth v. Jennison* in April 1783. Jennison argued that no Massachusetts statute outlawed slavery. The state argued that Walker was a free man and, thus, Jennison’s attack upon him was unlawful. In his charge to the jury, the court’s chief justice, William Cushing, stated, “. . . slavery is inconsistent with our conduct and Constitution and there can be no such thing as the perpetual servitude of a rational creature.”

On July 8, 1783, the jury found Walker a free man and Jennison guilty of assault. The case established the basis for ending slavery in Massachusetts.

Walker and his younger brother Prince each married and became landowners in Barre. Their sister Minor Walker also married and was matriarch of a prominent middle-class black family that valued education, activism, and political involvement. As a conductor on the Underground Railroad, her son Kwaku Walker Lewis helped self-emancipating freedom seekers from slaveholding states gain their freedom.

“I brought this before the General Court to honor Quock Walker, the man who strove for freedom and won and to honor those who wrote and ratified the Massachusetts constitution,” said the state Senate sponsor of the Emancipation Day bill, State Senator Cindy F. Friedman, D-Arlington. “Without such authors, there would not have been legal basis to definitively outlaw slavery when Mr. Walker brought his case to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.”

“In Massachusetts, we take pride in being at the vanguard of civil rights in the United States, and the story of Quock Walker demonstrates that this trailblazing spirit is nothing new,” said State Representative Michelle Ciccolo, D-Lexington, who filed the House bill. “Quock Walker, born to enslaved Black parents, was the driving force behind the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling that the Constitution of the Commonwealth’s Declaration of Rights rendered slavery unconstitutional.”

continued on page 48

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Quock Walker



Enslaved from childhood in the 1700s, Barre’s Quock Walker declared himself emancipated in an action upheld by a 1783 decision of the state supreme judicial court.

art by Kamali Thornell courtesy of the Association of Black Citizens of Lexington art © by ABCL

Quabbin region historical societies

Several regional societies have scheduled hours or events. Please check contact info to confirm times.



ATHOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1307 Main Street, Athol
atholhistoricalsociety.org



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



HUBBARDSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
4 Burnshirt Road, Hubbardston
hubbardstonhistorical.org



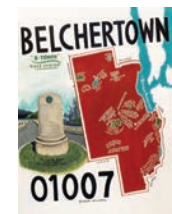
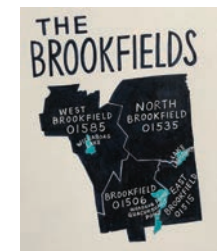
LEVERETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Leverett
leveretthistorical.org



HARDWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
40 Common Street, Hardwick,
hardwickhistoricalsociety.org



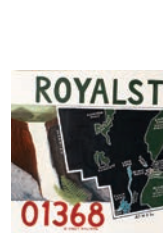
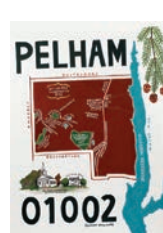
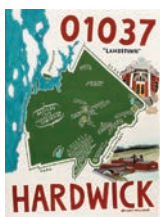
NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1 Boynton Road, Templeton
narragansetthistoricalsociety.org



BARRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
18 Common Street, Barre
barremahistoricalociety.org



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



mark time and await reopening

Several regional societies have scheduled hours or events. Please check contact info to confirm times.

NARRAGANSETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
continued
July 10, Saturday
Back Garden Tea Party
2 pm-4 pm
Rain or shine. Tea, light refreshments, and history.

August 8, Sunday
Cabin Fever Displays
time to be determined

August 15, Sunday
Annual Kite Festival
noon-4 pm
Brooks Farm
Baldwinville Road
Templeton
live music, tractor pulls, crafts, games, bubbles, and kites—your own or watch.

August 24, Tuesday
Professional Kite Flying
time and place to be determined

September 26, Sunday
Motorpalooza on the Common
noon-5 pm
display of all things motor
live music, BBQ lunch fare



NEW BRAINTREE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10 Utley Road, New Braintree
newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org



NORTH BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
197 Main Street
North Brookfield
northbrookfieldhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com



OAKHAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
1221 Old Turnpike Road,
Oakham
oakhamhistory.com
May 23, June 27, July 25, and August 22, Sundays
1 pm-4 pm
Pending Covid regulations
Oakham Historical Museum will welcome the public for an open house on the fourth Sunday of each month from May to October.



ORANGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
31 North Main Street, Orange
orangehistoricalsocietyma.org

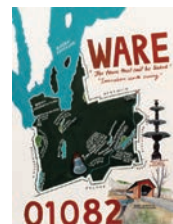
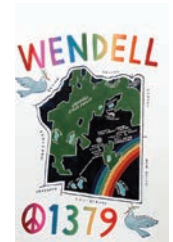


PELHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
376 Amherst Road, Pelham
pelhamhistory.org



PETERSHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10 North Main Street, Petersham
petershamcommon.com

historical society information
continued on next page



**MAPS BY
CASEY WILLIAMS**

Quabbin region historical societies

continued from previous page



PHILLIPSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State Road, Phillipston
historicalsocietyofphillipston.org



ROYALSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2 Athol Road, Royalston
royalstonhistorical.org



SHUTESBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Shutesbury,
historical@shutesbury.org



WARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Route 9, Ware
warehistoricalsociety.
wikifoundry.com



QUABOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Central and Main Streets
West Brookfield
quaboghistoricalsociety.net



RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 Main Street, Rutland
rutlandmahistoricalociety.org



SWIFT RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
40 Elm Street, New Salem,
swiftrivermuseum.org



WARWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
6 Athol Road, Warwick
whs.steamkite.com



WENDELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY/LIBRARY
7 Wendell Depot Road, Wendell



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Quabbin region farmers markets

Athol Farmers Market
May 15-August 28
9am to noon Saturdays
Millers River Environmental Center lawn
100 Main Street

Barre Farmers Market
beginning May 23
9am to noon Saturdays
Common Street

Belchertown Farmers Market
June 13-October 3
10 am to 2 pm Sundays
Belchertown Common

Hardwick Farmers Market
11 am to 2 pm Sundays
Hardwick Common

West Brookfield Farmers Market
June 2-October 13
3 pm-6 pm Wednesdays
Town Common

North Brookfield Farmers Market
June-October
10 am to 3 pm Saturdays
First Congregational Church lawn

Orange Farmers Market
3 pm to 6 pm Thursdays
Orange Armory Parking Lot
135 East Main Street

Petersham Friday Market
3 pm-6 pm Fridays
on the Common

Phillipston Farmers Market
consult Phillipston newsletter

Ware Farmers Market
to be determined

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Levi Flagg and the cycle car

by Don Flye

Quabbin region entrepreneur industrialists made their mark on early twentieth-century US lifestyles. Among those innovators was Levi Flagg, born in 1884 on West Road, New Salem. An imposing figure, he grew to stand more than six feet tall.

At an early age, Flagg developed a machine shop in his father's chicken house. He manufactured small gas engines advertised and sold by mail order.

After Flagg decided he needed more room, he added a concrete building, one-story high with a full basement. The building now serves as the New Salem Police Station.

While operating the machine shop, Flagg also managed Crescent Telephone Company serving Dana, Hardwick, New Salem, Orange, and Wendell. At the Edwin Stowell General Store, Crescent was connected to the Highland Telephone Company. Herman Hanson of North Dana, a lineman and Flagg's assistant, said Flagg was busy with the machine shop and kind of let

the phone company slide. At one time, Hanson said, a phone line broke in a remote area. The two ends were brought down and wrapped around a barbed wire fence below. It worked that way for a long time, according to Hanson, who later taught at New Salem Academy.

About 1924, Highland Telephone Company, owned by Mary Vaughn and Katherine Connor, bought Crescent Telephone Company. Highland operated on Cooleyville Road, New Salem.

When the Metz Automobile Company placed an order with Flagg's machine shop for a friction-drive transmission, Flagg hired William Taft, a mechanical engineer who had produced steam cars earlier.

With the Metz contract completed, Taft and Flagg decided to manufacture a one-person-wide cycle car intended to be electric-powered. They named the company Climax Electric. They found, though, that

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QUABBIN CURRENTS

Randolph Marcy: Civil War General from Greenwich

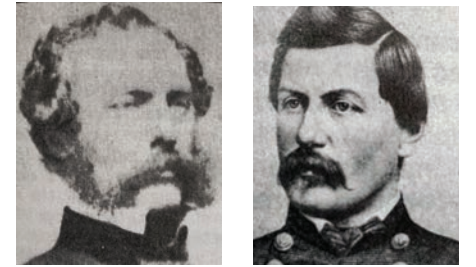
by J. R. Greene

Of four towns taken to create Quabbin Reservoir, Greenwich was first to be incorporated in 1754. It gave up territory to two of the other doomed towns, Dana and Enfield, in the early 1800s. Mainly a farming community, Greenwich had some industries in Greenwich Village. The town produced two men, Randolph Marcy and Amiel Whipple, who became Union generals during the Civil War.

The more well-known of the two, Randolph Marcy was born in Greenwich on April 9, 1812, the eldest son of a lawyer, Laban Marcy, and Fannie (Howe) Marcy. Randolph attended New

Salem Academy, then secured a Congressional appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated with the class of 1832. In 1833, Marcy married Mary Mann, daughter of a general from Syracuse, New York. They had two daughters who lived to adulthood.

Marcy spent most of his first thirteen years of army service on garrison duty in Michigan and Wisconsin. He was posted to Texas in 1845, served in the army of General Zachary Taylor, and saw action in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma during the Mexican War. Promoted to captain,



Randolph Marcy, left, Civil War general from Greenwich, found life connections with the more famous General George McClellan. images from the collection of J. R. Greene

he was sent home briefly in 1847 for recruiting duty then reposted to Texas later that year.

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industrious young entrepreneurs chase dreams with roadside businesses

by Diane Kane



Brayden and his sister Isabelle set up shop in Hubbardston.
photo © by Diane Kane

Many businessmen and businesswomen across the Quabbin region began their careers at young ages. With hopes of raising needed money and dreams of success, young entrepreneurs through the ages have sold everything from vegetables to Christmas trees on the sides of the roads. Industrious young people today are still chasing their dreams with roadside businesses.

Brayden Hurley, 8, of Hubbardston is CEO of Brayden's Boxes, located at the end of his driveway at 28 Healdville Road.

Brayden has eleven ducks and four chickens. "I love my ducks," Brayden said. "We were getting so many duck eggs I didn't know what to do with them, so I asked my mom if I could sell them. I put them in a cooler at the end of our driveway for three dollars a half dozen and waited to see if someone would come. They did!"

That was the beginning of Brayden's business venture. "My dad helped me build the farm stand, and we made a sign with my mom. There is a cashbox for customers to deposit money."

continued on page 61

practice yoga at Green Karma Farm or on Hardwick Common

by Sharon Harmon

With spring fitness on people's minds, the Quabbin region offers many opportunities for yoga classes.

Donna Holden of Hardwick has taught yoga for two years at different locations. An office worker at Eagle Hill School for the past eighteen years, she enjoys leading weekend and evening yoga classes.

As in summer 2020, Holden plans to offer Sunday yoga classes on Hardwick Common. "People seemed to love it last year," she said, "and the weather held out week after week."

"After class, many people headed across the street to Mimi's Coffee House for mimosa, sangria, coffee, or tea, or in the morning, breakfast."

Holden trained for yoga teaching at Frog Pond Yoga Centre in Princeton, where she studied Hatha and other types of yoga. Donna sometimes taught classes at Green Karma Farm in Orange, with some students going to Athol after class for a drink at the Los Agaves Mexican Restaurant.

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Donna Holden of Hardwick plans to offer yoga classes on Hardwick Common.

photo courtesy of Donna Holden



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Wanna take great pix?

by Mitchell R. Grosky

You've just bought that new Nikon—or is it a Canon or Sony or some other brand? Maybe you just practically mortgaged your home to afford the latest iPhone or Galaxy or Pixel smart phone because it claimed to be the best camera phone ever.

You enjoy taking photos, but they all seem to look the same: nice but really nothing all that special. You realize that you consistently use the *auto* setting on your camera, but you're not really sure what all the other settings are for!

You wonder, "How can I make my photos pop off the page? What can I do so that people really *notice* my photos?"

READ YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL

I know. It's boring . . . and complicated . . . and not a lot of fun! Yet it is so very *important*. The owner's manual explains all the features of your new camera *and* how to use those features.

Sit down with your camera and the owner's manual. Go through it page by page—starting on page one—and try out all of the settings on your camera as you read about them.

If you can, go to your local bookstore or to the Amazon or Barnes and Noble website and purchase a colorful, easy-to-read book designed specifically for your camera. You will find such books to be extremely useful and much, *much* easier to understand than the very dry owner's manual. They have a lot of color photographs and specific examples to back up each of the points they make.

Check out any information on the scene modes your camera offers. Some frequently offered scene modes

include portrait, action, foliage, beach, snow, party, landscape, sunset, night, and night portrait.

And don't forget to take the owner's manual and/or the field guide with you when you go on a trip. You can be sure that there will be at least one or two times when you forget where a setting is on your camera or you forget how to do a certain operation.

TAKE YOUR TIME WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

Check your camera's settings before you start shooting. Be sure that, if you are shooting a family portrait, you have changed the settings from the night before when you shot those Fourth of July fireworks.

Make sure that the lens of your camera is free of dust and smudges, and use only a specially designed microfiber cloth to clean it carefully.

Check out the direction and color of the light and notice areas of shadow.

Make some decisions regarding composition. Are you going to utilize the rule of thirds or the rule of odds? Will you be employing strategies like leading lines or symmetry or patterns or textures or shapes or frame-within-a-frame? Will you strive to create depth by including subjects in the foreground, middle ground, and background?

HAVE A GOAL IN MIND WHEN YOU PRESS THE SHUTTER

Don't just shoot dozens of photos hoping that one will be a keeper. Decide what your purpose is in taking the photo. Are you trying to tell a story about the subject—for example, narrating through the use of images all the steps of someone's job or revealing all the

continued on page 59

Here are some pointers.



This photo of the Quabbin lookout tower in Ware illustrates several compositional techniques, including the rule of thirds texture, atmosphere, leading lines from the trees at left, and symmetry from the trees on each side of the image.



This photo of a cedar waxwing illustrates the rule of thirds.



This photo of a garlic at the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival emphasizes the subject while taking into account symmetry, the rule of thirds, pattern, and texture.

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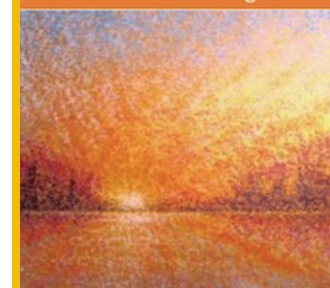
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Listening to Quabbin Valley Singing

by Laurie Smith



Quabbin Valley Pro Musica gathered after a 2019 concert, from left, front, Judy Johnson, Jennifer Gray, Nancy Davis, Cathy Tyng, Elaine Powers, Susan Marshall, Carolyn Brown Senior, Linda Overing, Lynn Boudreau, Charlene Deam, Lisa Finestone, Susan Ressler, Wendy Howe, Jo-Anne Chapin, Joyce Sawyer, and Geoff Hudson, conductor. Judy Bisinger, Rachel Gonzalez, Diana Kristof, Bill Oldach, Mike Ross, Harry Haldt, Chuck Berube, Al Hudson, Paul Maier, Paul Shaller, Phil Rabinowitz, Richard Chase, Ken Johnson, Becky Krause-Hardie, Lynn Dudley, Phyllis Stone, and Betsy Pelz, from left, back.

Photo courtesy of 1794 Meetinghouse Inc.

Within the walls of 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem, a chorus resides, if a bit dormant as they take a pandemic hiatus. Harry Haldt, chorus manager, offered history of Quabbin Valley Pro Musica, named for the region surrounding the Quabbin Reservoir and including amateur singers from the Quabbin and Pioneer valleys.

In 1988, Atholl Musicales formed as a classical soprano, alto, tenor, and bass chorus and became Quabbin Valley Pro Musica in the early 1990s when it moved to New Salem and 1794 Meetinghouse. During

renovations of the Meetinghouse, concerts in the 1990s took place in several venues. Gail Ares-Laraba served as first musical director. Other musical directors include Laurel Manning, Jim Willis, Adam Bergeron, Charles Heffernan, and Geoff Hudson, the present director.

Hudson is also music director of Pioneer Valley Cappella. His *A Passion for the Planet* was performed by Illuminati Vocal Arts Ensemble to a 2019 audience in Northampton.

Judy Johnson, collaborative pianist, has accompanied QVPM since 2011. She works also with

other music groups from around the world and was founding director of the Symphony New Hampshire Chorus. Judy serves Mission Covenant Church in Orange as music director.

Some thirty-five members sing with QVPM. They reside in Quabbin area towns including Athol, Belchertown, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, and Shutesbury, as well as Amherst. Haldt said singers enjoy the socialization that comes with being a part of QVPM and smaller groups

continued on page 60

Maple Walnut Cookie Pie Features Quabbin Area Products

text and photos by Christine Noyes

The Quabbin Region proclaims an abundant history: towns lost, solace found, and palates propitiated (I found that word in the dictionary).

Food provided comfort.

Think back to the last time you had a grilled cheese sandwich with tomato soup. Did it bring you right back to a cold winter day of your childhood? Did you dip your sandwich into the soup?

Or what about a fresh-baked apple pie with perfectly browned flaky crust and cinnamon delighting your senses? Maybe it brought back memories of your grandmother. For me, my grandfather's fried chicken does it—served in a basket on top of French fries so the grease of the chicken soaks into the fries.

Whatever your comfort food, I'll bet you have a childhood memory attached.

Imagine for a moment you grew up in Dana, Greenwich, Prescott, or Enfield, Massachusetts. Some of you may not have to imagine. Foods that graced your kitchen table back then, if eaten today, would sweep you right back to the lost towns. Smells, sounds, and feelings of certain foods bring back your hometown in a special, impactful way.

Nipmuck Indians named the area Quabbin after a Nipmuck chief. The name loosely translates to mean "the meeting place of many waters," and the Quabbin Valley therefore has ideal conditions for farming. Fertile soil awaits innumerable crops, and fields abound for livestock and poultry. Apple and maple trees prosper, and fruits and berries thrive. Seeds of comfort and comfort food have always graced the Quabbin Valley.

The region remains abundant in hardworking entrepreneurs with businesses from A to Z. Among many in our area, Austin Brothers Valley Farm in Belchertown transformed the family business from a fledgling dairy operation to raising hormone- and additive-free beef cattle. In Ware, Kelly Wheeler and Chris Allard replaced their front lawn with a bountiful garden to create the beginnings of Front Yard Farms.

Phillipston, where the Rose family's Red Apple Farm has distinction as home of the oldest commercially planted McIntosh apple tree, hosts one of the most successful apple orchards in the state. After more than a hundred years, that old tree still bears fruit. Which brings us to Zilinski Maple Products of Erving among others known for maple syrup and maple confections.

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MAPLE WALNUT COOKIE PIE

Ingredients: For the recipe below I used organic eggs and maple syrup from the Elwood family of Orange

1 cup butter, softened	2 tsp baking soda
1 cup packed brown sugar	½ tsp salt
1 egg	4 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup real maple syrup	1 cup chopped walnuts (may substitute pecans)
1 tsp maple extract (or substitute vanilla)	1 prepared pie crust (or make your own)



MAPLE GLAZE

1 ½ cups confectioner's sugar
2 tbsp melted butter
1/3 cup real maple syrup
½ tsp maple extract
1 ½ - 2 tbsp heavy cream (thick drizzling consistency)



Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

In a large bowl, cream the butter and brown sugar. Add the egg, maple syrup, and maple extract until well blended. Add baking soda, salt, flour, and walnuts. Mix thoroughly.

Place the pie crust in a large pie plate or deep round baking dish. Press dough into the crust. Bake for 40 – 50 minutes.

Allow to cool. Drizzle with some of the glaze and sprinkle with additional walnuts (optional)

TO SERVE: Best when heated in the microwave for 15 seconds. Streak the serving plate with maple glaze, and place the warmed cookie pie on top.

OPTIONS:

The dough makes great cookies • Drizzle with chocolate sauce. Serve with ice cream. • Add chocolate chips



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Pansies

text and painting in pastels by Elizabeth Callahan

It's finally spring, and I can't wait to get back to my garden. There's nothing more iconic of New England—and especially the Quabbin area—than our old barns and pansies. Barns provide a sense of history, home, and belonging for me. Pansies are so colorful and cheery, a welcome addition to otherwise sunless areas around my home. They seem to grace so many homes with their season-long color.

After the past long, solitary winter, I welcome the rich aroma of thawed soil and the opportunity to sow seeds and watch life begin. I enjoyed the unique beauties of winter, and they have inspired me also, but it is time. We all need the fresh air and sunshine and the change of season.

Inspiration for my art is varied, but inspiration from nature is a constant. Living in Rutland offers so much of what I love and need for living and creating: nature trails



Pansies

a painting in pastels by Elizabeth Callahan

galore, farms, lakes and ponds, gorgeous sunsets from my patio, and a wonderful community of people. Happy spring!

A pioneer Home Stage Realtor, Elizabeth Callahan creates art using oil paint, watercolor, pen and ink, and pastel. She lives in Rutland.

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Nature's Nuances

by Clare Green

Pure Magic to My Eyes

more fond memories of neighbor Brenda Putnam

continued from January 2021

Brenda's dark-shingled cabin with a very spacious art room nestled in the woods behind our family homestead in Wilton, Connecticut. We could hear classical tunes that often lulled us to sleep during summer months when Brenda played her grand piano. Our family was pleased to have Brenda for a neighbor for many years.

It was a sweet time to grow up—the 1950s. Neighbors along the road became gentle extensions of family life. Grownups encouraged the respectful art of visiting, conversing, and nibbling assorted offerings. They considered sharing time with a neighbor very special, and they told us never to stay too long.

“Don't overstay your welcome,” our parents said. “Be polite.”

Time stood still and enfolded us in its graciousness. Neighborly visits were like simple gifts which resonated in our hearts. Those assorted visits taught us to listen, practice manners, relax, and appreciate differences in people. Mother wanted us to understand, respect, and value our neighbors. As children, we experienced the broader world through such friendly, timeless encounters.

Johnny, a neighborhood boy, found a dead blue jay on the wooded path where we rode our bikes. What to do with it?

Mom told us kids, “Bring it to Brenda.”

As youngest of the clan of kids who congregated on summer's evenings to play games and cruise the neighborhood on our assorted wheels, I couldn't fathom what Brenda could do with a very dead bird. Nevertheless, we delivered it to Brenda's doorstep. She gently received the clothed specimen.

A few weeks later, we returned and knocked on her cabin door. In her hands stood an upright, white skeletal bird form securely fastened to a piece of wood. She presented it to us.

I stood in awe. It even had a written inscription of the date, place, and who found it: pure magic to my eyes. Brenda certainly knew how to encourage our young inquisitive minds.

As I grew, I realized that Brenda Putnam was a most humble and very talented and professional sculptress. Of course she knew how to assemble that bird's skeletal structure.

Years later, I visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to enjoy the exhibits and enlighten my soul. As I exited an elevator, I gazed upon assorted bronze sculptures before me. My eyes glanced to read the artist's name: Brenda Putnam.

Oh, my! But she was just our neighbor.

As a child I never knew how famous our neighbor was. To me, she was simply Brenda Putnam. But Google that name now and find the breadth and variety of her life as a sculptress and trained, touring concert pianist. She received many awards and recognitions as she lived fully from 1890 to 1975.

One day I hope to visit Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, which showcase her bronze sculptures.

Clare Green, author and retired educator, from Warwick, welcomes folks to safely walk her outdoor Woodland Labyrinth.



Neighbor Brenda Putnam
drawing © by
Edward Davies

Bugnold, Worritt, Farni, Beauregard, Garnulf, and Ronali

by Henry Wadsworth as channeled by Susie Feldman

Well, hello there! I'm Henry Wadsworth from Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm, and my gnome friends bustle about enjoying spring with the rest of us. I'd like to introduce you to a few more members of our Quabbin region gnome community.

A lot goes on in our little world during spring. In one of our earliest tasks of spring, we harvest maple sap and boil it into syrup. Farni, our sugaring expert, has been out filling his buckets with sap from the sugar maples he and his crew have tapped.

When they've carried the buckets home, every member of his family will help with boiling the sap in a gnome-made pot over an outdoor fire. Like our human cousins, we gnomes love our sweets. Maple syrup on our morning porridge makes a great start to any day.

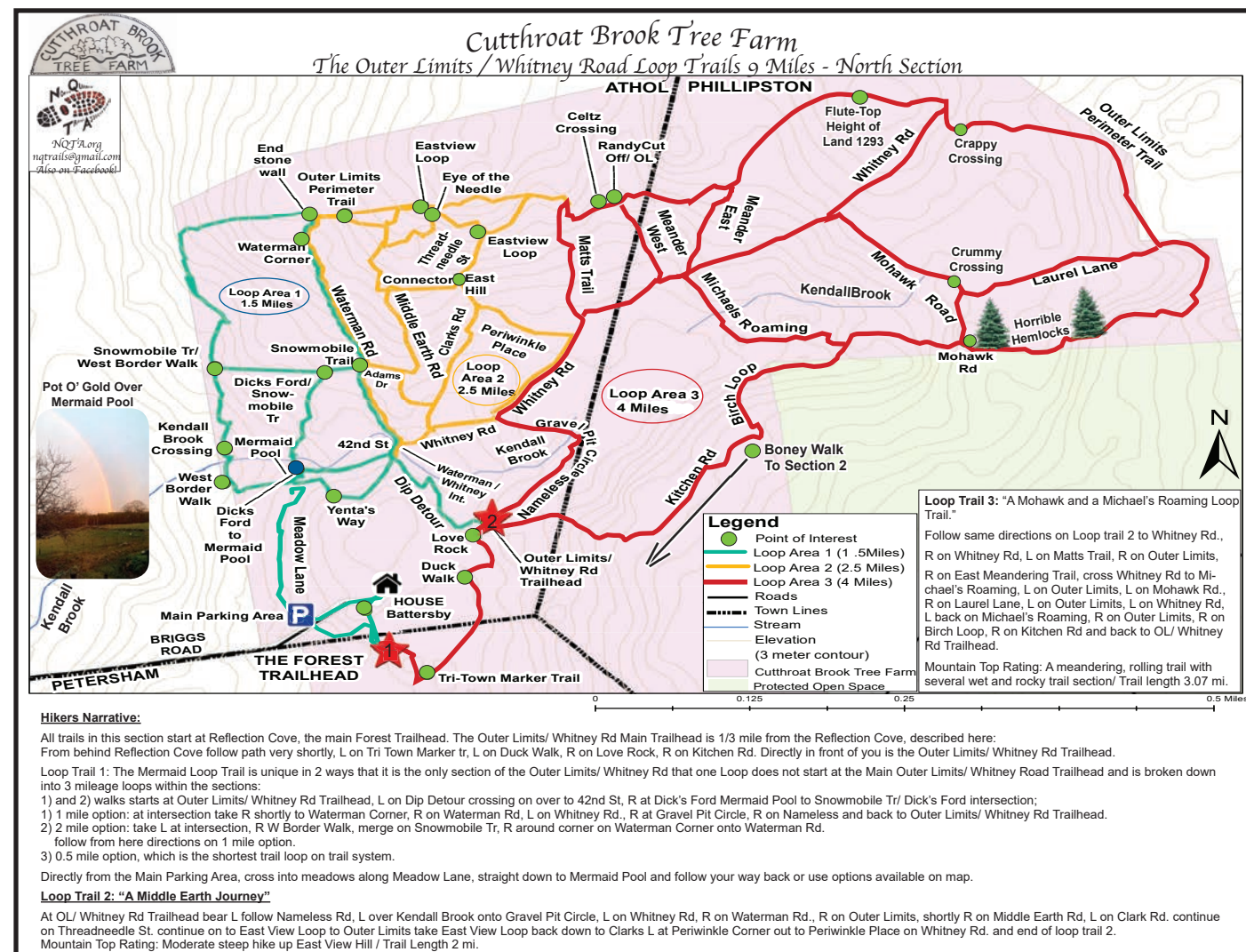
Green plants begin to sprout in the spring, and Bugnold, a master of edible woodland lore, is out foraging with his wheelbarrow. Skunk cabbage, which grows in the nearby brook, arrives earliest, but as it's very

bitter, he'll gather some to dry for use in the fall when its acrid taste has faded. Fiddleheads, ramps, watercress, and dandelion greens make wonderful

spring salads, and he knows exactly where to find them. He'll wander far afield to find the very best and bring them home. Bugnold finds himself



Farni enoys collecting sap



At Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm, Susie and Ben Feldman host trail walkers and any number of gnomes.

map by Bobby Curley courtesy of Susie Feldman

savor springtime at Cutthroat Brook and in Belchertown

particularly busy in June when strawberries ripen in the meadows. He's exceedingly busy then, dawn to dusk, and the youngsters help gather berries to make into jam.

Worrit Stumpdweller is a cousin to Thorvald, the wandering gnome from Belchertown. After their separation and a long search to locate each other with the help of observant birds, they connected and have communicated over the years via crowmail. Although Worrit lives in Pelham, his son Garnulf moved north with his family, near where Thorvald settled. A framed picture of Worrit hangs as a memory on the wall of their underground house. Like Thorvald, Garnulf's daughter Ronali is fond of frogs, salamanders, and other creatures that thrive in the damp conditions. She and her father particularly enjoy walking in April rain as they listen to the songs of spring peepers.



Garnulf treasures a framed photo of Worrit Stumpdweller.

Beauregard, who's quite short-sighted, tends to remain at home near his own garden where he specializes in raising flowers. His home sits close by a field for sunshine yet near fresh water and deeper woods. He treasures and protects spots where shy wild mayflowers, as well as trillium and lady's-slippers, all of which never should be picked, grow. Beauregard collects blossoms from small wildflowers and occasionally from his human neighbors' lilac bushes, for the gnomes to use in making fragrances for their soap and lotions. He also gathers clover from the meadows as



Beauregard tends to remain at home.

well as tender leaves and twigs from birch trees to brew into tea. He carries apple blossoms from the old former orchard that now grows wild.

Be aware as you walk in the woods that, like yourselves, we gnomes are out there gathering food, creating useful items for our homes, and simply basking in longer, sunnier days. We hope you treasure and protect the woodland as we do.

Artist Susie Feldman and her husband, Ben, welcome hikers during daylight hours to their learning and recreational trails on Briggs Road, Athol, where everyone respects the woods and woodland creatures on land conserved through the auspices of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.



Garnulf shields his daughter Ronali from the rain as she seeks the company of frogs, salamanders, and other creatures that thrive in damp conditions.

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Wintertime rhododendrons peek over a snowy wall.
gardeners plan all year long

continued from page 13

and dried grasses sway in the winter wind. Bird feeders are a frenzy of activity. Seed and bulb catalogs will arrive any day by mail.

Another year has passed. Time to relax and dream of the wonders of next year's garden.

Writer and photographer David Brothers tends his garden in the hills of Athol.

Leigh Youngblood retires from Mount Grace Land Trust

continued from page 27

Those and other projects enabled MGLCT's expansion to a staff of as many as twelve full-time employees and five Americorps volunteers, headquartered at Skyfields Arboretum in Athol. Margaret "Peggy" Biggs, wife of organist E. Power Biggs, bequeathed the property to MGLCT in 1999.

After staying with MGLCT through the fall of 2021 to facilitate transition with new executive director Emma Ellsworth, Youngblood looks forward to pursuing social justice initiatives and developing networks for diversity in land access and the outdoors.

Reflecting on her time with MGLCT, she says, "It has always been incredibly rewarding for me to be able to help landowners fulfill their personal wishes for their land, while at the same time helping to conserve a region with great ecological significance and exceptional connectivity of protected lands."

Photographer and writer John Burk documents the Quabbin wilds (and not so wilds) in image and words. He lives in Petersham.

entrepreneurial, inventive Levi Flagg made cars and bought planes

continued from page 34

batteries at that time would not store enough electricity to power the vehicle, nor would the gasoline engine the company produced. Therefore, they purchased an eleven-and-a-half horsepower water-cooled engine to work with their friction-drive transmission.

They marketed the T & F Cycle Car similar to the way kits sell today, with the customer buying a few parts at a time as Taft and Flagg produced them. When customers received all the parts, they would assemble the car themselves at a total cost of \$290.



Taft and Flagg marketed the cycle car according to the practices of the era.
ad courtesy of Don Flye

Records do not indicate how many cars Taft and Flagg produced nor whether the company made more than one prototype. Some say that people recognized the cars as Taft and Flagg's creation.

Workers at Taft and Flagg included, from Athol, Charles Bachelder, and, from New Salem, Roy Fisher and Carl Stowell, later owner of Stowell Brothers General Store.

Before completion of orders, Flagg ran out of capital. Records do not indicate if he declared bankruptcy.

Flagg became interested in airplanes in 1920 within two decades of the Wright Brothers' first flight in 1903. He purchased a surplus World War I Curtiss biplane and hired Rouse, a licensed pilot from Springfield, to fly it. He kept the plane in a North Dana field.



New Salem's Levi Flagg, center, purchased a surplus World War I biplane in 1920.

photo courtesy of Elizabeth Perice

Hanson remembered flying over North Dana with his father in Flagg's plane at a fare of five dollars for a flight lasting five or six minutes. The plane flew to local fairs to take up passengers. In two recorded minor crashes, pilot and passengers received slight bruises.

Flagg never had a pilot's license but tried flying the plane once, according to sources. He got about ten feet off the ground and bounced a couple of times on landing. He gave up the plane in 1924, the same year Highland Telephone bought Crescent Telephone.

From then on, Flagg did odd jobs. Since he had an electrician's license, he and Hanson wired houses.

In the meantime, his wife, Maude, a strong-minded person, could not get along with him. They got divorced, then often considered socially and morally unacceptable. Later, Flagg married Mabel, a teacher from Wendell. Mabel thought the world of him and lived with him the rest of his life.

At the end of his life, Flagg resumed raising chickens at the chicken house near the West Road, New Salem house where he passed away in 1939.

Don Flye of Petersham grew up in New Salem. He enjoys sharing information about local history. His background in mechanical engineering led him to the work of Levi Flagg.

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bicycling promises adventure on Quabbin region roads and trails

continued from page 7

bridge? Should we go through the water, get soaked, and then continue our ride? Should we turn around and walk back up the hill to the truck?

We had only an hour or so of daylight left that cold, windy, early March day. What to do? what to do?

We decided to take off our clothes, walk our bikes through the water, and dress again on the other side. It worked very well. The water was very cold, but we were only wet a few minutes and pushed the bikes quickly out of the chest-deep water.

How many four-legged creatures saw that little episode and are still laughing, we don't know, but the trees and animals evidently never talked about the adventure. We got home safely that evening with a story to tell our family after the ride on New Salem's Gate 33 road. Along the way, we had heard a whippoorwill's delightful, repeated call. As our bikes came within fifteen feet of the gate, we saw the rare bird just as it flew. What a delight, never to be forgotten.

We liked to walk along the Gate 33 road. Often we saw cars parked outside the gate while people walked in for a peaceful hike. Twice over the years as I biked, I came across two different twosomes of sightseers readjusting their clothes. The dirt beneath their feet was scuffed about for a story we will leave right there.

I always enjoyed biking along the tarred road accessible at New Salem Gates 28 and 29. Obviously, houses once populated the area as large maple trees still grow along the main road and the site of the long-gone Herrick's Tavern. Paths into the surrounding woods and fields yielded access for foot wanderers to get into woods on either side of the main road.

state legislators commend self-emancipation of Barre's Quock Walker

continued from page 29

"Quock Walker stood bravely for racial justice, liberty, and equality under the law," said State Senator Jo Comerford, D-Northampton, who represents the Quabbin region towns of Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Orange, Royalston, Shutesbury, Warwick, and Wendell.

"These issues remain pressing today," Comerford added. "We should tell Quock Walker's story, celebrate it, and learn from it. As we celebrate this history we must recommit ourselves to being active agents for change when we witness injustice."

Sean Osborne of Lexington is a civil engineer, a veteran, founding president of the Association of Black Citizens of Lexington, and a mediator with Quabbin Mediation. Sharon Tracy of New Salem is founding executive director of Quabbin Mediation in Orange which has created two unique programs: Training Active Bystanders and Veterans Mediation.

Sometimes, I rode to the path that leads to the Rattlesnake Mountain overlook. One such excursion led me to an abandoned tent nestled in the woods. Perhaps some wannabee hunter or shore fisherman intended to return for another stay.

One early evening as I rode my bike along Quabbin Gate 31 road in New Salem, I saw two beaver swimming in the reservoir just beside the road about a half mile in from the gate. The beavers flapped their tails as the bike disturbed their serenity. Both dove.

I got off my bike to watch them. One appeared after a very long swim under water, but the other never surfaced where I could see him. I know long swims are possible, but that particular long swim may be still going on. After a while, I gave up and, wondering where that beaver swam to escape the fearsome bicycle and its rider, I finished my ride home.

Over the years, I found my way into the Petersham Quabbin territory. Gradually, further and further from Gate 35, I turned left onto roads once used by Millington residents. I rode around trees denoting the past Goodnow apple orchard, up the hill to the Women's Federated Forest, past Moore's Grist Mill site, or to explore former Phillips Drive or Camels Hump and Dugway roads or, on to the former site of Dana center, out of the Quabbin territory by Gate 42 and to Petersham via Nichewaug Road and then home by Route 122.

How many miles all told did I ride? I don't know, but I thoroughly enjoyed them all.

A graduate of New Salem Academy and Franklin Medical School of Nursing, Eleanor McGinnis worked for twelve years at Athol Memorial Hospital and seven at Beacon Detox, Franklin Medical Center. She is a trustee of New Salem Library and curator of the New Salem Academy museum.

poet remembers collaborating with photographer Les Campbell

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We continued our work together with *Interface*, a collaboration of word and image, a series of installations and poetry readings I conceived to include twenty or more visual artists and poets from the Quabbin area, nearby communities, and faraway places. Robert Mayer, Linda Ruel Flynn, and Marcia Gagliardi organized and presented the event during several years in the antique shop Haley's house and barn in Athol.

Les and I worked together several times with collaborations, his photograph *Sugar Maple Blossoms* and my haiku "Spring Dance of the Sugar Maples" and with his photograph *Through the Darkness, A Light*, with a poem I titled "Morning Stokes the Stove."

When the exhibitions were over, Les gifted me with the beautifully framed pieces. He also worked with other artists in *Interface* projects . . . he could have taken on the whole passel of poets! 1794 Meetinghouse and the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust sponsored *Interface Quabbin* in 2006 and 2007.

Les Campbell died at ninety-five on September 24, 2020. He asked to be remembered at a

celebration in early May, 2021 at Sky Meadow in Belchertown. His son David and granddaughter Grace direct Sky Meadow Gallery.

Visit online at Les Campbell Photography or email David Campbell at lescampbell-photography@gmail.com with questions or for information.

Twice winner of and often a judge for the Poet's Seat Poetry Contest sponsored by Friends of Greenfield Public Library, Candace R. Curran organizes and contributes to poetry events. Her collected poems, *Playing in Wrecks*, is available from the publisher, Haley's.

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Bob often took the company truck to high school, so he could deliver heating oil and kerosene after school hours. His father wanted him to go to college, but Bob wanted to go to trade school. He obtained his license to be a burner technician, and then Orange Oil could offer service and installations as well as delivery.

Not one to sit idle, Bob obtained his trailer truck license and convinced his father to buy a tractor trailer truck so they could haul their own oil out of Sterling and Boston.

Bob worked long hours his entire life. In his younger years, he did service and deliveries by day and hauled oil at night. In his later years, he was still first to arrive in the morning and was always the last one to leave.

He really did love to work.



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Atlanta's Spelman College founders began at New Salem Academy

continued from page 19



Spelman College alumnae proclaim themselves as
Women Who Serve.

photo courtesy of Spelman College Archive

Rockefeller, a fellow Oread Institute graduate and John D. Rockefeller's wife. Students received the first high school diplomas in 1887. The school legally organized with a board of trustees in 1888 with Packard as president, an office she held until she died in 1891.

Giles succeeded Packard as president and grew enrollment to eight hundred students, employed thirty teachers, and accrued property valued at ninety thousand dollars. She held the office for eighteen years until 1909. The first college degrees were awarded in 1901. Spelman Seminary became Spelman College in 1924.

From Spelman Seminary to Spelman College, from 10 students to 2,100, from Atlanta to international renown, Spelman College states its mission:

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AMONG SPELLMAN COLLEGE GRADUATES

Spelman College has an enrollment of 2,100 students from 43 states and 10 countries and lists well-known women as graduates, among them:

Alice Walker, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award

Stacey Abrams, magna cum laude,
Georgia House of Representatives 2007-2017 and
politician, lawyer, voter rights activist, author

Alberta Williams King, Spelman high school graduate and
mother of Martin Luther King

Christine King Farris, tenured professor for forty-eight years and
sister
of Martin Luther King Jr.

Janet Bragg, first African American woman to hold a
commercial pilot's license

influencers and inspiration." That path sought not only to educate the masses but to focus on the top one-tenth who would be leaders of the future.

The Black community responded so positively to the school founded by Giles and Packard that after the first few months in the damp dark basement, enrollment grew to eighty. When Giles and Packard met oil magnate and financier John D. Rockefeller at a church conference in Cleveland, Ohio, he pledged to help with their school. Back in Atlanta, they relocated the school to a former Civil War Union Army barracks.

In 1884, the women renamed the school Spelman Seminary to honor the parents of Laura Spelman



A gravestone in Silver Lake Cemetery, Athol, honors
Harriet E. Giles and Sophia B. Packard, founders of
Atlanta's Spelman College.

photo © by Priscilla Gaignard

What would Sophia Packard and Harriet Giles, two women from the rural town of New Salem, Massachusetts, think of the vibrant educational institution Spelman has become?

"There is still a strong connection with the history of Spelman and Massachusetts through Harriet Giles and Sophia Packard," observed Holly Smith, the Spelman College archivist. "Spelman continues one of two existing historically Black colleges founded with the intent to educate women of the African diaspora. Giles and Packard worked with Black communities in Atlanta to create educational opportunities for Black women, and 140 years later, the college is a testament to that legacy.

Ellen Woodbury, a massage therapist, lives in Athol.

filmmakers document regional activism

continued from page 23

stars of the film, Leppzer continued, was Francis Crowe of Northampton, then in her nineties. She and the Shut It Down Affinity Group of some thirty-five women engaged many acts of civil disobedience to encourage closing Vermont Yankee.

Leppzer's *An Act of Conscience* profiles Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner who refused to pay federal taxes as a protest against war and military spending. The IRS seized their house. Martin Sheen narrated the movie that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

"Follow your vision and look for stories that need to be told," Leppzer tells aspiring filmmakers.

Like Rabinowitz, Leppzer advises using resources like Athol-Orange Community Television where filmmakers can learn how to use editing equipment and more professional cameras. "They are treasures in our community," Leppzer said. "They are instrumental in making media more democratic."

Find more about Leppzer and Turning Tide Productions at www.turningtide.com

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

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Hardwick Center basks in summer sunshine.
drone photo © by Rick Flematti

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authors Cathy Carlton Hews and J. A. McIntosh

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When you want me but no longer need me, then I have to go.” Hews is working on *Invisible Woman*, a follow-up to her first book.

Cathy Carlton Hews: <https://www.facebook.com/carltonhews> and <https://wordpress.com/view/betty-travel.com>

Author J. A. McIntosh, a lifelong resident of Orange, describes herself as “an author and recovering attorney” after retiring as a lawyer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. McIntosh has been telling and writing stories all her life.

“I have finally come to a place where I can write and publish regularly,” McIntosh explained. “I practiced law for way too many years, and now I’m using that experience to write about people caught up in the legal system. The people I write about are imperfect, but all are seeking justice.”

Her Meredith, Massachusetts, series includes *Niagara Fountaine* in 2018, *Judge Hartwell* in 2019, and due in autumn, 2021, *Grampa Leary*. She sets her stories in

the fictitious small town of Meredith, but McIntosh incorporates a lot of local color in each book.

The Quabbin area has played an essential role in McIntosh’s books from the beginning. “My sister lost her purse, and it was caught in the waterwheel of the local factory,” McIntosh said. “It fascinated me that the waterwheel could not be removed, as the factory was built around it. That water wheel appeared in my first book.”

McIntosh is grateful for the support of other local authors and readers. “I have a street team,” McIntosh said. “Pre-COVID, those people handed out flyers, put up posters, and attended my library, bookstore, and conference events.” McIntosh has several local people who volunteer to read her manuscripts and give essential feedback before publication of books. “Beta readers make my stories better,” she said.

“Keep at it,” McIntosh advises aspiring writers. “The world of writing and publishing is not easy to negotiate, but it is worth the effort. Sometimes the most difficult obstacle to overcome is your own doubt.”

When McIntosh isn’t writing novels, she conducts workshops and seminars about the craft and business side of writing. McIntosh said her supporters and readers make her heart happy.

J.A. McIntosh jamcintosh.com

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

Quabbin region writers:
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Quabbin region hosts acres of managed land

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Popple Camp WMA in Petersham and Phillipston is one of several MassWildlife properties in the watershed of the Swift River East Branch, Quabbin Reservoir’s largest source. The 1,052-acre preserve encompasses portions of Popple Camp Brook, Shattuck Brook, and Bigelow Brook, the river’s headwater tributaries. Hardwood-hemlock forests, wetlands, and old fields buffer the waterways, thus helping ensure high water quality. River access is available near the Route 101 entrance.

Adjacent Phillipston WMA protects 3,400 acres on the south side of Route 101, including mixed forests, swamp and beaver wetlands, Moccasin Brook, and a large field where hawks, owls, black bears, white-tailed deer, butterflies, and other wildlife may be observed. At the watershed’s southern end, Raccoon Hill WMA and Moose Brook WMA comprise more than a thousand acres of remote wooded hills and wetlands near the Barre-Petersham-Hardwick boundary. Raccoon Hill Brook, ideal brook trout habitat, cascades down a valley slope before draining into Pottapaug Pond, Quabbin Reservoir’s northeast arm.

Millers River, stocked with trout annually and a longtime popular fishing destination, is the centerpiece of another greenway. Along with Lake Dennison Recreation Area and Otter River State Forest, Birch Hill WMA forms a large wilderness expanse in Royalston, Templeton, and Winchendon with numerous benefits for wildlife, including travel

corridors for large mammals, rest areas for wildlife and habitats for species adapting to climate change. Priest Brook, one of Millers River’s major tributaries, meanders through floodplain wetlands and hills in the heart of the 2,500-acre property.

Downstream, tracts of Millers River WMA encompass 2,300 acres near the Athol-Royalston town line and Bearsden Conservation Area. Fishers, coyotes, bobcats, and white-tailed deer inhabit steep valley ridges, and waterfowl and moose frequent marshy wetlands. Several small parcels from downtown Athol to Wendell provide river access for anglers and paddlers.

A familiar North Quabbin landmark with outstanding views, Tully Mountain is a predominant feature and namesake of a 1,338-acre state wildlife area in Orange. Rocky wooded slopes provide habitats for black bears, coyotes, porcupines, and migratory songbirds. Tully Meadow, a plain with beaver wetlands at the confluence of Tully River West Branch and Collar Brook, provides additional diversity. The trail network includes a 1.75-mile loop trail at the Mountain Road entrance

and a portion of the long-distance Tully Trail, which passes by Tully Meadow and the summit.

Nearby Orange WMA and adjacent conservation easements protect a large beaver pond and surrounding forests off North Main Street. A boat launch and roadside parking area offer easily accessible opportunities to observe wood ducks, great blue herons, beavers, and other wetland wildlife.

In Shutesbury, Leverett, and Pelham, MassWildlife holds conservation restrictions on two large tracts owned by W.D. Cows, 3,500-acre Walter Cows Jones Working Forest, established in 2021, and 2,038-acre Paul Jones Working Forest. Managed as sustainable forests, these properties also provide prime wildlife habitats, water supply protection, and recreational opportunities.

Find maps and more information about MassWildlife properties at mass.gov/orgs/division-of-fisheries-and-wildlife.

Photographer and writer John Burk documents the Quabbin wilds (and not so wilds) in image and words. He lives in Petersham.

native orchids flourish in the wild, but don’t transplant them to your yard

continued from page 11

Don’t be tempted to move a wild orchid to your yard, as orchids need specific soil conditions, microbes, and fungi for their roots to survive.

More than half of native orchids in the US are rare or threatened. On your next hike in the Quabbin region, be on the lookout for and appreciate these special plants.

Experienced nature center director Sue Cloutier specializes in biodiversity and educational programs. She is inventorying living things on her New Salem property.

causes motivate witness of community groups

continued from page 25

and his wife, Kathy Litchfield, baked cookies for vigil participants. On a recent Saturday, the vigil had twenty-three participants and lots of signs, music, masks, flags, and cookies.

Relevant messages have appeared on roadsides during the week. Steve maintains a thirty-five-member email list and sends out a reminder each week with a question, “What have you done and are currently doing to reduce your carbon footprint?”

Collectively, towns in the Quabbin region have an approximately ninety percent white population. People of the rural Quabbin region do not experience mass incarceration and police brutality with the same impact as those living in urban areas.

A small group of women in Petersham came together to consider what they could do in response. “We wanted our work to be rooted in antiracism, to address our whiteness, not to be performative, and we wanted to share it all and engage with our community members,” said Katherine Parcell, one of the organizers.

The resulting group, Petersham AntiRacist Coalition, PARC, promotes antiracism and deconstruction of

white supremacy at personal, community, institutional, and structural levels, according to Parcell. “*We commit to do this work through discourse, dialogue, resource sharing, activism, community events, and cultivating a brave space for community members to be able collectively to experience self-reflection, growth, and change.*”

As part of the PARC effort, Candace Anderson of Petersham designed a colorful sign asserting that Black Lives Matter.



As part of PARC initiative, Candace Anderson of Petersham created a sign asserting that Black Lives Matter.

The main PARC action in the summer of 2020 addressed food insecurity through redistribution of farm fresh produce to communities of color in Holyoke and Springfield. PARC set up Petersham’s Friday Market and collected cash donations for produce or donated produce from local farms or individual gardeners. All told, PARC donated more than a ton of vegetables over the summer. At the market, PARC also had a weekly table with information including conversation starters and resources about anti-racism.

Parcell said that PARC provided a space for people to have conversations about racism and whiteness and to process all world events through a lens of antiracism. PARC also helped facilitate creation of a youth antiracist reading group and held a virtual screening and discussion group for the film *I am Not Your Negro*.

In Orange, Constance Pike and Mike Magee organized weekly Saturday vigils attended by as many as thirty individuals supportive of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Diane Nassif moved to the North Quabbin eleven years ago. Active people in the local communities inspire her and make her hopeful that more people will join those movements.

flags, markers, and monuments dignify Quabbin region towns

continued from page 4

another place, “Joy for the returned, tears for those that cannot come again.” An eagle with folded wings adorns the top of a tall monument.

Next I drove to Hardwick Common where a stone Civil War soldier stands in uniform. He holds his rifle at rest and looks into the distance. At the other end of the common is a domed structure made of what looked to me like marble. Four steps go up to a brick walkway surrounding a fountain erected in memory of Calvin Paige in 1911, though the works have rusted out and the fountain carries no water.

As I looked at the structure, a passing woman, Anne Barnes, piqued my interest. A member of the Hardwick Historical Commission, she gave me information on Calvin Paige. He was born in Hardwick and attended public school there and at New Salem Academy. He worked in Boston up to the Gold Rush in 1849 when he went out to California. No, he did not mine for gold. Instead, he sold needed goods to miners. Later, he owned stores in San Francisco. He often visited Hardwick, and when he died, he bequeathed the town a hundred thousand dollars for special projects. His niece saw to it that the fountain was erected in his honor.

Then I drove on to Gilbertville where I saw a large stone monument near a cannon on a lot facing an empty factory. The cannon, too, faces that factory. The lot is on Route 32 across the street from a pizza place. Atop the monument stands an eagle with wings outspread to honor soldiers in World War I with a plaque attached to the stone reading:

To the Dead a tribute
To the living a memory
To posterity a token of loyalty
to the flag of their country
erected by the citizens of Hardwick, 1925

Continuing on, I stopped by the Quabbin Park Cemetery and saw the Civil War statue from the lost town of Enfield. The stone includes locales of battles carved into the base while above are lists of names of men and their regiments. Two cannons stand near the soldier’s stone with a pyramid of cannonballs. Another stone has a plaque in memory of former residents of Greenwich incorporated April 29, 1754 and disincorporated April 27, 1938. Near other memorials is an obelisk dedicated to George Washington.

Finally I went to Orange where the 1934 bronze Massachusetts Peace Statue by Joseph Pollia depicts a

uniformed World War I soldier talking quietly to a boy. He carries no firearm and below him are the words, “It Shall Not Be Again.” The statue is in a public park well designed with shrubs, park benches, and brick walkways. On the other side of the park, a massive granite stone carries the names of veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Flags fly near all the monuments because they speak of our history and represent that our history is people: people who served in war, people who gave up their towns for what was deemed the greater good, and people who visit the monuments to remember.

We must remember that monuments are not the whole story. There is more to be learned. As for the flags, they are emblems. It’s up to all Americans to see our flag as a symbol of honor.

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

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yoga instructors present imaginative sessions

continued from page 37

Holden also taught yoga at Oakholm Estate Farm on Lake Road in Brookfield where she offers cold weather classes once a month in the brewery.

Contact Holden at Htownliving99@outlook.com

Green Karma Farm, Orange, proprietors Brandy Lefsyk of Athol and Emily Jillson of New Salem have repurposed the former Johnson's Farm Restaurant on Wheeler Avenue and hope it will become a destination for community events.

Lefsyk, a yoga instructor, said the two have plans for a bakery and a café barrista. "We hope to rent space upstairs for art classes, meditation, writers' workshops, and small baby or bridal showers," she added.

Jillson operates a consignment at the store at Green Karma. "We rotate the products with the seasons and holidays," Jillson said. Green Karma sells CBD products, jewelry, scarves, and children's books by local authors, all with an eye toward showcasing the area.

Lefsyk's daughter Bailey designed affordable farm-related stickers for the store. "We hope to have community dinners once or twice a month to get

families together to eat fresh local products," Lefsyk said. The store sells free-range eggs.

In the adjacent barn with local art on display, Lefsyk and others offer yoga classes, including kids' classes and yoga for men.

In summer, animal troughs in the fields feature fires at the outdoor yoga classes during good weather. Project Love in autumn 2020, sponsored by A. J. Griffith-Robinson of Templeton, featured vendors, bonfires, and live entertainment. Petting goats Tom and Brady live in another barn.

Lefsyk and Jillson plan an art fair, flea market, and also performance platform for outdoor entertainment. The two have set up book trails near the farm with a local author posting children's books along the trail where families can hike it for free and read the book. The shop offers autographed copies.

Green Karma Farm is open Thursdays from 4 to 8 pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 2 pm

Green Karma Farm is on Facebook and Instagram

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

taking good photos

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This photo near Athol Public Library illustrates the technique of leading lines.

troubles your subject has endured? Are you trying to capture the atmosphere or mood of a scene? Does the deep blue sky filled with puffy cumulous clouds convey peace or exhilaration? Does the fog permeating the scene convey a sense of mystery that you want to capture? Are you attempting to evoke an emotion—joy, excitement, sorrow, angst?

USE A PHOTO-EDITING PROGRAM TO IMPROVE PHOTOS BEFORE SENDING THEM DIGITALLY OR OUT TO BE DEVELOPED

I cringe every time I see a set of photos that are too dark or too light, because in this day and age, there's usually no excuse to end up with a set of photos like that. Nearly every photo can stand a bit of editing—perhaps cropping, sharpening, brightening, increasing contrast a bit, or maybe increasing saturation just a smidge so that the colors are as intense as you remember them. One caution, however, subtlety is your goal in postprocessing. You do not want to overdo it so that people dismiss your photos by thinking or saying out loud, "Wow . . . is that Photoshopped?"

GET OUT THERE AND SHOOT! PRACTICE!

Take some notes as you shoot. Write down what effect you were trying to achieve and what setting you used. Start studying really good photographs.

Most of all, *ENJOY!*

COMING NEXT ISSUE: TIPS FOR LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

Educator and public official Mitchell R. Grosky is an award-winning landscape and travel photographer known for capturing beauty, character, and uniqueness in landscapes, cityscapes, and nature as he travels throughout the country and explores Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, China, and the Middle East.

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Greenwich General Marcy rubbed elbows with the famous

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Marcy spent the next dozen years on duty in the Southwest. In 1852, he was sent on an expedition to discover the headwaters of the Red River. The officer assigned to assist him was George B. McClellan, a fellow veteran of the Mexican War. Marcy named one of the sources of the Red River McClellan Creek after his subordinate. McClellan wrote that Marcy was “one of the finest men I ever met with.”

Marcy served in the so-called Mormon War of 1857-1858 in Utah. He was then reposted to the East, where he published a semi-official guide, “The Prairie Traveller,” for emigrants to the west which became a bestseller. Marcy was promoted to major in 1859. Meanwhile, George McClellan courted Marcy’s daughter Ellen. With her father’s permission to seek her hand, McClellan asked her to marry him, but she turned him down.

McClellan resigned his army commission to become chief engineer for the Illinois Central Railroad. When Marcy was posted to Minnesota, McClellan offered to put the family up at his home in Chicago. Ellen had other suitors, but none of them met with her parents’

Quabbin Valley Pro Musica waits to perform

continued from page 40

that meet more regularly. Several members have composed music performed by QVPM.

Haldt said QVPM rehearses and performs classical choral music from the fifteenth through twenty-first centuries. Until 2019, the group prepared two concerts a year in January at Central Congregational Church, Orange, and in June at 1794 Meetinghouse.

Like other musical groups, QVPM has paused during the pandemic while hoping to reunify in person in the fall of 2021. Members stay in touch via email or Zoom.

Cultural grants, fundraisers, concert tickets, and member dues fund the chorus as well as an auction at New Salem’s summer Old Home Day.

When the chorus performs, rehearsals take place once a week on Mondays. In colder months, the group rehearses in Central Congregational Church in New Salem and in warmer weather in the 1794 Meetinghouse. No auditions are required to join, and membership is open to the public.

Find Quabbin Valley Pro Musica at 1794meetinghouse.org and on Facebook. Contact Haldt, manager, at (978)249-4691.

Athol resident Laurie Smith is an early childhood practitioner.

approval as McClellan did. McClellan accompanied them on their way to St. Paul. On the second day of the journey, Ellen accepted his proposal of marriage, performed in New York in 1860.

The Civil War broke out in 1861, and McClellan became head of troops in Ohio. Later named major general of the US Army, he got his father-in-law, Randolph Marcy, transferred to his command to serve as chief of staff. In a campaign from May to July, 1861, McClellan’s forces drove Confederate forces out of what would later be the state of West Virginia. After the Union loss at the Battle of Bull Run, McClellan was named commander of the Army of the Potomac. He brought Marcy with him as his chief of staff.

McClellan spent months training his army for a campaign to conquer the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. Marcy was designated a brevet brigadier general. McClellan’s army set out on the campaign in May, 1862, with a huge force landing on the shoreline east of Richmond. The army’s progress was terribly slow, as McClellan thought his troops were heavily outnumbered although the opposite was true.

Robert E. Lee, also a graduate of West Point, became commander of Confederate forces opposing McClellan and inflicted sharp defeats. Marcy was sent to Washington many times to communicate McClellan’s desire for more reinforcements, but President Lincoln turned him down. After being bogged down for weeks, McClellan evacuated his army from Virginia that August and was relieved of his command. McClellan ran unsuccessfully for president against Abraham Lincoln in 1864. Eventually after the war, McClellan served as governor of New Jersey from 1878 to 1881.

Marcy’s career languished after his son-in-law lost his command, although the army eventually restored his rank. After the war, Marcy published two books of reminiscences focusing upon his prewar career. In 1881, he retired and moved to West Orange, New Jersey, near McClellan’s home. Marcy visited his native town of Greenwich in 1881 and 1887. He died in 1887 at the age of seventy-five.

J.R. Greene is the author of twenty-two books, mostly about the Quabbin Reservoir and the towns destroyed to create it. He is a lifelong resident of Athol and a collectibles dealer.

young entrepreneurs collect eggs, chop wood, and make things

continued from page 36

Brayden’s employees include his dad, mom, and younger sister Isabelle. “I collect the eggs every day, and my mom helps me wash and package them.” Brayden wants everyone to know, “Duck eggs are really yummy and good for you.”

Brayden added new products to his roadside boxes. “I collect and chop firewood with my dad and sell it for five dollars per box,” Brayden said. “My mom helps me bundle the kindling that sells for a dollar a bundle.” Isabelle, 4, lends a hand with restocking.

Handmade red decorative hearts for five dollars each are also a popular item. “I saw the hearts when we were visiting family and really wanted one for our house,” Brayden told me. “People started asking for them. So I made more and more. I really like seeing them around town on people’s front doors and trees.”

Brayden has learned a lot about money and savings. “I made enough money last spring to buy a used bike, and I rode it all summer. I put most of the money in my savings account.”

Brayden said that the best part of running his own business is the excitement of seeing if someone bought something and left money in the cashbox.

Brayden has plans to expand his business this year by offering starter perennials from his grandma’s garden. When Brayden grows up, he wants to be “a train driver. I might also want to work with pipes or plow snow.”

Eliza Boyko is an enterprising nine-year-old from Belchertown who started her roadside business to earn extra money. She has always loved wood. “I like having lots of woods around our house to play with and build forts.”

Eliza and her friend Ethan Himes, 9, like cutting wood and decided to start a wood company. “We love doing hard work,” Eliza said. “We split wood by hand and wrap it in bundles to sell.”

They painted a sign and have a little stand at the side of their road at 71 Goodell Street. Eliza’s dad helped by getting them a log splitter, and her mom helps by bundling kindling and posting on Facebook. Eliza also sells fresh eggs. “I like helping people, and kindling helps people to light their fires. Everyone likes eggs,” she said.

Eliza has plans to add to her business by making easy fire starters out of cedar wood that she chopped. “It is hard work, and a lot of times, no one buys our wood.



Eliza Boyko and Ethan Himes of Belchertown began their own woodcutting business.

photo by Andrea Boyko

It is not good to see all of the wood we split stacked outside in the morning, and no one bought any that day,” Eliza confided.

In addition to her wood business, Eliza looks for other ways to make money. “During the lockdown when we couldn’t go anywhere, my family and I collected trash on the sides of the road. We found so many cans and bottles that we started saving up for a quad. We don’t have enough for one yet, but our jar is getting full.”

Eliza has exciting plans for the future. “I think I might want to be a race car driver when I get older so that I can drive fast in a car.”

If you drive around the Quabbin and go by either of the two stands, perhaps support either or both of the young entrepreneurs. They could be the local businessowners of the future in towns around the Quabbin.

Writer Diane Kane lives in Phillipston.

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Friends of the Stone Church, Gilbertville, will present Sunday afternoon band concerts on the lawn by Weir River Jazz on Sunday, June 13, and Swing into Summer by the Weir River Concert Band, above, on Sunday, June 27. Both events are free, outdoors at the Stone Church, beginning at 2 pm. Organizers ask attendees to bring chairs or blankets and to observe public health rules. Massachusetts Cultural Council funded the concerts. John Sacco conducts the Weir River Concert Band.

photo courtesy of the Stone Church



Plant sale will feature variety of flowers and vegetables.

photo courtesy of Tri-Parish Community Church

Plant, Bake, Tag, Craft Sale on Hardwick Common

The Tri-Parish Community Church planning for Plant and Bake Sale and Tag and Craft Sale will take place rain or shine on Hardwick Common, Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6 from ten in the morning to three in the afternoon each day. Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm of New Braintree, Chicken Feather Farm of New Braintree, and private gardeners will provide plants. Organizers will require participants and attendees to maintain distance and wear masks.

Potential exhibitors will email triparishcc@gmail.com

recipe with Quabbin-sourced ingredients

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In this and future issues of *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine, as I write about our region's comfort food, I plan to share stories of Quabbin Valley entrepreneurs and incorporate their products into my own recipes or my version of others. Some recipes may be simple, and some may be involved, but all will be from the heart of the Quabbin.

At eleven, Christine Noyes began work in her grandfather's restaurant, inaugurating a thirty-years career in award-winning kitchens in the Worcester area. In 2009, she and her late husband, Al, opened Grrr Gear, a sporting goods store in Orange. Since retirement, she spends time happily cooking and writing.

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Uniquely Quabbin Calendar Listings

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK DETAILS FOR EVENTS.

May 1- 31

North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy
Virtual Walkathon throughout May
Support the friendships fostered
through North Quabbin Citizen
Advocacy at your own pace and on
your own schedule. Register online.
nqcitizenadvocacy.org.

May 8, Saturday

Opening Day
1 pm - 5 pm
Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road
Templeton
Open Saturdays with free admission
to the building and self-guided
tours to explore rooms and rotating
exhibits.
nh1924society@gmail.com

May 12, Wednesday

What the Camera Sees
7 pm
Athol Bird and Nature Club
Millers River Environmental Center
100 Main Street
Athol
Join Ernie LeBlanc and see what
images the camera captures—some
surprising, some artistic, and some
even in focus! Zoom Meeting
atholbirdclub.org/events-calendar

May 15, Saturday

Spring Trail Ride
NEECA
802 New Sherborn Road
Athol
neeca.org

May 18, Tuesday

Vital.Vibrant.Visible Virtual Opening
7:pm
Athol Public Library
568 Main Street
Athol
Vital.Vibrant.Visible: Local Indigenous
Identity through Portraiture is a
photography project highlighting
Indigenous people who live in the
area and conceived to counteract
perpetuation of stereotypes that
sustain marginalization of Indigenous
people. The project challenges
the dominant narrative to foster
Indigenous-led narrative change.
Zoom registration at athollibrary.org

May 23, Sunday

Open House
1 pm-4 pm
Oakham Historical Society
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
Pending Covid regulations, Oakham
Historical Museum will welcome the
public for an open house on the fourth
Sunday of each month from May to
October.

May 26-27, Wednesday and Thursday

Full Moon Paddling
8 pm-11 pm
Orange Community Boathouse
25 East Main Street
Orange
Prepaid reservations required.
billygoatboats.com

May 29, Saturday

Pinch Pot Workshop
2 pm
Green Karma Farm
210 Wheeler Avenue
Orange
Tickets at
green-karma-farm.square.site

June 5-6, Saturday and Sunday

Museum Open
10 am-2 pm
Hardwick Historical Society
40 Common Street
Hardwick
The museum will open during the
Tri-Parish Community Church annual
plant sale on Hardwick Common.
Hardwickmahistoricalsociety.org

June 12, Saturday

A Phine Connection
4 pm-7 pm
Red Apple Farm
455 Highland Avenue
Phillipston
Two sets of Grateful Dead,
JGB, and Phish!
redapplefarm.com

June 20, Sunday

The Green Sisters
2 pm-5 pm
Stone Cow Brewery
500 West Street
Barre
Bring your dad and (safely) celebrate
Father's day with a performance by
the Green Sisters.
www.stonecowbrewery

We encourage you to continue checking your favorite local venues for
virtual and in-person events that were posted
after our calendar deadline.

Please submit calendar listings for the next issue
before August 1, 2021
to UQCalendar@gmail.com.

Events compiled by

Emily Boughton

Uniquely Quabbin listings

continued from page 63

June 24- 25, Thursday and Friday

Full Moon Paddling
8 pm-11 pm
Orange Community Boathouse
25 East Main Street
Orange
Prepaid reservations required.
billygoatboats.com

June 26-27, Saturday and Sunday

Garden Tour to benefit
East Quabbin Land Trust
10 am 3 pm
Gardens throughout New Braintree
New Braintree Historical Society
for ticket purchase and restroom
10 Utley Road
New Braintree
Self-guided walk through private
gardens in New Braintree. Highlights
include variety of gardens, among
them American cottage, formal, rock,
and vegetable. Visit farm stands
during the tour to purchase locally
grown farm products.
EQLT.org

June 27, Sunday

Open House
1 pm-4 pm
Oakham Historical Society
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
Pending Covid regulations, Oakham
Historical Museum will welcome the
public for an open house on the fourth
Sunday of each month from May to
October.

July 10, Saturday

Back Garden Tea Party
2 pm - 4 pm
Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road
Templeton
Rain or shine. Tea, light refreshments
and history at your own pace.
Follow on Facebook or email
nh1924society@gmail.com

July 11, Sunday

Barre Horse Show
Felton Field
Barre
neeca.org

July 17, Saturday

North Prescott Historic Talk
9 am
New Salem Town Hall
New Salem
(978) 724-3318

July 23-24, Friday and Saturday

Full Moon Paddling
8 pm-11 pm
Orange Community Boathouse
25 East Main Street
Orange
Prepaid reservations required.
billygoatboats.com

July 25, Sunday

1 pm-4 pm
Oakham Historical Society
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
Pending Covid regulations the
Oakham Historical Museum will
welcome the public for an open house
on the fourth Sunday of each month
from May to October.

August 8, Sunday

Cabin Fever
Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road
Templeton
Past displays have included
Pez dispensers, cameras, golf
memorabilia, and watches. What will
be on display this year?
nh1924society@gmail.com

August 15, Sunday

Annual Kite Festival
noon-4 pm
Brooks Farm
Baldwinville Road
Templeton
Live music, tractor pulls, crafts,
games, bubbles, and kites of all
shapes and sizes. Bring your own kite,
or watch the fliers. Picnic blankets
and chairs encouraged. BBQ lunch
and snacks available. Free admission.
nh1924society@gmail.com.

August 22, Sunday

Open House
1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Oakham Historical Society
1221 Old Turnpike Road
Oakham
Pending Covid regulations the
Oakham Historical Museum will
welcome the public for an open house
on the fourth Sunday of each month
from May to October.

August 29, Sunday

Professional Kite Flying
Narragansett Historical Society
1 Boynton Road
Templeton
Unique and remarkable kites.
Family picnic day, vendors and BBQ
lunch Picnic blankets and chairs
encouraged.
nh1924society for more details.

**PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK
DETAILS FOR EVENTS.**