

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Winter 2015
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We must hear and listen to all of Quabbin's many Voices. Voices of the Past, as well as Voices of the Present and of the Future. Voices of the Trees, the Sky, the Rain that falls, and all the Wild Things; Voices of the People who depend on this valuable resource for their daily needs of clean water, and Voices of those who draw upon it for deeper needs of the Soul.

—Les Campbell

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The Annual Holiday Party

This year's holiday party was bittersweet. A substantial crowd showed up (~ 40) to chat and eat. Many old friends returned and a few new ones as well. Our Vice-President and Chair of Volunteers, Cynthia LaBombard, assembled a tasty and impressive assemblage of noshing items from crackers and cheese to sweets of various



Party goers watching Gene's videos in memory of Bob Creed and Robert Wilder



kinds. Despite the best efforts of many, we needed more help to finish off these goodies. After we had mingled and noshed, there was a more somber portion where we remembered two dedicated Friends who had passed away in the past month: Robert Wilder and Robert Creed.



Bob Creed at the 2012 Holiday Party

Their pictures were placed on a table at the Visitor Center for everyone to recall them. Also during the interlude after mingling, Gene showed a video that he had prepared celebrating Bob Creed's life. Robert Creed, 90 years old, was a Board member since 2008 and a general

member for quite some time before that. He was an accomplished academic, emeritus professor of the UMASS English department specializing in Old English stories and poems. *Beowulf* was his particular favorite. He gave performances of *Beowulf* in many venues in the U.S. and abroad. He won awards for a one-hour radio production of *Beowulf* including for best local drama and best radio drama from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In addition to being on our Board of Directors, he was on the Advisory Board of the Arcadia Players Baroque Orchestra, Hampshire Shakespeare Co., and Western Massachusetts Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, who specialize in Renaissance music. Bob died on November 21st leaving his wife Catherine, daughter Lisa and son Robert P., Jr. Bob was an inspired teacher and is remembered by another FOQ Board member, John Zebb, who was in his class years ago—"I was a student of Bob's in the early seventies at UMASS. I was pleasantly surprised when he showed up one evening with FOQ mainstay Bill Elliot. Bob and I had many pleasant conversations

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Gene Theroux

President's Message

Winter 2015

The Friends of Quabbin was saddened to learn of the passing of Robert W. Wilder on Sunday, November 29, 2015 at home, just two days before the December 1st Tuesday Tea meeting.

Bob was both anxious and eager to attend because he had missed the two prior ones. He had never missed more than two consecutive Tuesday Teas.



Prescott travelers: Alberta Martin, Francis Martin, Paul Godfrey, John Zebb, Nancy Huntington, Julie Bullock, Ann Hurlburt, Anne Ely, Gene Theroux, Eugene Carney, and Deanna Krusiewicz

The Friends of Quabbin is so grateful to Bob who had been the ambassador and the *Voice of the Valley* for well over 20 years. Bob Wilder was instrumental in resurrecting the Tuesday Tea gathering on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at Quabbin Visitor Center. It averages 20 or more attendees each month. Bob had planned to take the Tuesday Tea group on a pilgrimage to his childhood home on Prescott Ridge that was scheduled for October 20th, but an illness had overtaken Bob and he was unable to attend. The Tuesday Tea did make the pilgrimage to Prescott with DCR's Nancy Huntington as our escort and guide. Nancy acquitted herself very well through her preparation. She provided interpretative services along the journey but was always aware that she was no replacement for Bob.

The group captured some wonderful images on the tour. Some were used to make a 'Tribute to Bob Wilder' video containing historical photos from the valley, photos from Tuesday Tea events, Memorial Day Services and other Friends of Quabbin events over the years. We were able to show the video to Bob during one of our visits with him and left the video with his family. The video was a small token of appreciation to thank Bob for all he's done for the Tuesday Tea group and the Friends of Quabbin. Friends of Quabbin Treasurer Paul Godfrey printed a 13 x 19 inch photo collage and placed it in one of his hand-



The Bob Wilder Collage

crafted pictured frames. He gave it to Bob during one of our visits. There were so many other Friends who visited Bob at his home during those last several weeks. Bob looked forward to these visits and appreciated each and every visitor. Bob had maintained his wit, his keen sense of humor and thanked each visitor who had come to visit him. During my final visit with Bob, I shared with him how much I learned from him and let him know that I will always cherish each and every moment that we've spent together. I recounted how special was the moment

at this past Memorial Day services at Quabbin Park Cemetery as U.S.M.C. SSgt Robert W. Wilder, my cousin Victor Berard and I placed the Enfield memorial wreath at the Civil War Soldier Memorial. I assured Bob that being a direct descendant with long lineage into the Valley, I will do my best to carry on the story of what our families sacrificed in giving up their homes, their community, and their way



Gene Theroux and Robert Wilder at Memorial Day Services 2015



Memorial Day Services 2015, USMC SSgt Robert W. Wilder escorted Gene Theroux and his cousin Victor Berard to place the Enfield memorial wreath at the Civil War Soldier. A memorable and cherished moment.

of life so that many others would benefit from a clean and sustainable water supply.

Bob Wilder's legacy will not be forgotten due to the vast number of videos, articles written about him, his 55 geological and historical maps, his meticulous documentation of his research recorded in his journals, numerous albums which have been donated and archived in a number of places such as the UMass DuBois Library (Special Collections), the Friends of Quabbin website, the Robert Wilder Maps website (www.RobertWilderMaps.com) and the Merrick Public Library in Brookfield. Bob's good friend, Dan Hamilton of Brookfield, did an exceptional job creating the Robert Wilder Maps website and placing content on the site. The Robert Wilder maps site contains videos such as Bob's presentation on "Exodus from Enfield", Wheeler's Surprise, Destruction of Brookfield 1675, Voice of the Valley, and many others. Dan also provided a heartfelt message at Bob's funeral to Bob's family and to all attending by challenging them to pass on Bob's legacy and to give of ourselves, as he did, to help others. The Friends of Quabbin will soon be establishing a "Tribute to the Voice of the Valley" as a Special Feature on the Friends of Quabbin website to fulfill Dan Hamilton's challenge to pass on Bob Wilder's legacy. In the spring 2013 Quabbin Voices Newsletter, Bob Wilder's life journey was highlighted in an article on the Focus on Former Residents of the Swift River Valley which is available on the Friends of Quabbin website.



Bob Wilder with Brenda Metterville, Director of the Merrick Public Library, and Gene Theroux. The Friends of Quabbin had donated Quabbin books to the Merrick Public Library in Brookfield in memory of Nancy Wilder.

Bob donated his papers to the Merrick Public Library in Brookfield. The Friends wanted to assist the library in protecting those documents that Bob donated. The Board of Directors planning committee voted and approved purchasing 10 document storage boxes that are acid and lignin free to protect Bob's historical records long into the future.

The Enfield bicentennial observation planning is well underway. The first organizational meeting was held on October 29th at the Quabbin Visitor Center. The tentative date for Enfield's bicentennial observation is August 13th, 2016—the secondary date is August 20th. The date is contingent upon the availability

of groups that will be invited to participate. The goal is to replicate many of the events that occurred during the July 2–4, 1916 centennial celebration. One of the events that occurred during the Enfield centennial was a parade led by the Commander of the General William S. Lincoln Grand Army of the Republic Post 211 of Enfield followed by the Enfield Coronet Band and members of the GAR Post 211 (Civil War veterans). Other events included the dedication of the Civil War soldier on the Enfield town green, baseball game, a doll carriage parade, various contests for the youngsters and many more activities. The events that can be recreated will be conducted at Hanks Meadow in the Quabbin Reservation; the parade will originate on Webster Road in front of the former Gillett residence with a short march/walk to the meadow. Retired State Senator Stephen Brewer has agreed to give the 1916 dedication speech of the Civil War Soldier. There will be exhibits and other static displays as well. No food vendors or food will be available. Therefore, people should bring a picnic lunch, non-alcoholic beverages to remain hydrated, bug repellent and sun blocks as appropriate.

The Friends of Quabbin now has a Facebook page, and it will be one resource used to announce events and publish other material such as photos to supplement the Friends of Quabbin website. In that context, there were a significant number of patriots from the Swift River Valley that participated in the American Revolutionary War or served their country in the War of 1812, the U.S. Mexican War (1846-1848), the American Civil War, the Spanish American War, the Great War (WW I), World War II, and Korean War. The Friends of Quabbin is seeking photographs of former residents of the Swift River Valley who served in the Civil War onward (preferably of the former residents in their military uniform). If we're provided photographs at the Tuesday Tea, they will be scanned, and returned on the spot; photos provided at other times or by mail will be scanned and returned promptly. Digital images can be e-mailed or shared by a photo sharing web application, as appropriate. The Friends of Quabbin will restore and improve all photos and provide the owner a copy of the restored photograph(s) digitally. There will be a photo display of veterans from Enfield and Smiths Village during the bicentennial observation. We're hoping for participation of groups such as Reenactors, the Belchertown Community Band, L.A. Tiffit Camp Number 15, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, representatives from the legislature and other dignitaries.

The Friends of Quabbin board of directors has recently established a book donation policy for donation of Quabbin related books to nonprofit organizations such as libraries and schools. The purpose of the book donation program is to contribute to the education of new generations of citizens about the history of the Quabbin Valley. The book donation program is another way that the Friends of Quabbin can fulfill the challenge that the Voice of the Valley's, Bob Wilder, legacy will not be forgotten.

The latest benefactor of the book donation program was Westfield's Paper Mill Elementary School. I visited the Paper Mill Elementary School on Friday, December 11th and presented Mrs. Ellen McEwan's first grade students a slide show that highlighted the Hillside School and the Drinkwater sisters (Mary and Charlotte). The Drinkwaters had attended and graduated from Westfield Normal School (now Westfield State University).

I included numerous historic photos of the Quabbin Valley and recent foliage photos taken around the Quabbin watershed. I closed with a viewing of Enfield's 1915/1916 Centennial movie. At the conclusion of the video presentation, the gift of twenty-two copies of Jane Yolan's book, *Letting the Swift River Go* was presented to the students of Mrs. Ellen McEwan's 1st grade class with Principal Cynthia Kennedy and first grade teacher

Ellen McEwan attending. They were quite excited to receive this gift and eager to learn. I appreciated the hospitality extended by the students. In addition to the book donation, Mrs. McEwan was provided the teacher's resources link at the Friends of Quabbin website that other educators developed and benchmarked.

❧ The Friends of Quabbin Book Donation Program ❧

The Friends of Quabbin has always been guided by four principles set out in the original Bylaws of 1984. They are:

- To promote public awareness, understanding, appreciation, and concern for the Quabbin Reservation and Watershed.
- To develop a sense of stewardship of the Quabbin Reservation by providing a forum for public expression and involvement.
- To act as a support group for Quabbin consistent with the goals and purposes of Friends of Quabbin.
- To work in cooperation with other organizations which share mutual goals for the care, monitoring, protection, and wise use of the Quabbin Reservation.

The current challenge for the Friends is how to involve younger generations in our goals. Unlike many original members, they have not lived in the now submerged part of Quabbin valley. And unlike many other members, they are less closely related to either the people or the time when that happened. The present world has many more enticing lures than the history or environment of the valley. In part, we have been working to extend our ways to reach members of the younger generation. Past issues of *Voices* have described our work on creating historical videos combining old photos with the recorded voices of the people in many of the photos, of working toward placing markers at key sites that would allow a web site connection via smart phone so that visitors would connect with those times and people via the current technology.

At the most recent Board of Directors meeting, another approach was approved: getting information to the very young via their school libraries and teachers and to others via other non-profit institutions such as town libraries, historical societies and historical groups. That approach we call simply the Book Donation Program. The rules are pretty simple. Groups:

- Must have some connection to Quabbin—historically, environmentally or educationally.
- Must be a non-profit or public entity. If they do not have such a formal status, they must provide evidence that no individual will have monetary gain (example, re-selling the books).
- Must have as a written or implied goal the increased knowledge and understanding of some aspect of Quabbin.
- Must be resident or organized in Massachusetts.

A one to five page application suffices; brevity is appreciated. The limits on gifts are at least \$50 and no more than \$100 per applicant per year. Decisions will be made expeditiously by a small subcommittee of the Board. The books must be selected from those for sale at the Visitor Center. The book cost used will be the cost paid by FOQ, not the Visitor Center price (roughly

60% of the listed price). In the first year of this program (2016), we are limiting the total program to \$500. In our initial trial in the last month of 2015, we had two successful applications, one teacher with a second grade class and one library.

To accompany this program for teachers, we also have a number of teacher materials on the Friends web site (www.friendsofquabbin.org). Town libraries, historical societies and other groups are equally eligible. Mention this to those that you think might benefit. We look forward to hearing from them.

The full description of the program and its rules and restrictions is available at the Friends of Quabbin web site. If there are additional questions, call Paul Godfrey or Gene Theroux. Our contact information is on the back page of the newsletter.

To meet the costs of this program, the Friends uses some of the funds generated by the Visitor Center through book sales. Patronize the Visitor Center! The Friends will also gratefully accept any donations in support of the book donation program.

We've been giving this program a limited trial run this fall. A proposal was received and the Paper Mill Elementary School, Grade 1 in Westfield was awarded books: a copy of Jane Yolan's *Letting the Swift River Go* for each student.



At the Paper Mill Elementary School—Mrs. Cynthia Kennedy, Principal, Gene Theroux, Mrs. Ellen McEwan, 1st Grade Teacher, and Ms. Nicole Bouchard, student teacher with the first grade class.

Holiday Party

Continued from page 1

on books and music in the moments leading up to board meetings. He was most gracious when I gave him a copy of American composer Howard Hanson's orchestral-choral work, Lament for Beowulf."

Robert Wilder, 82 years old, would be familiar to those who ever came to a Tuesday Tea. He was a regular and a fountain of knowledge. After his retirement as an aerospace engineer, he became a regional expert on the history of the area, its roads and its life. He was an instructor at Sturbridge Village for some time. Numerous videos about the valley used him and his knowledge as key parts. Bob died on November 29th.

Many Tuesday Tea members visited him in the weeks prior to his death. Gene prepared a video remembrance of his life that was shown at the Holiday Party. It was a comfort to be reminded of what these stalwarts had done in life and as Friends and to have that reminiscence among others equally appreciative. Cynthia LaBombard, FOQ Vice-President said, "The loss of our own



Robert Wilder in his characteristic cap describing life in Smith's Village to the students of the Chinese Immersion School at Tuesday Tea, June 2, 2015.

Bob Wilder whose air of keeping the memories of Swift River Valley times alive echo in my mind as I recall his permeating presence during Tuesday Teas, lectures at the Ware Historical Society, and student interactions with Eagle Hill School visits to the Quabbin Visitors Center. A most gracious teacher who never tired of spreading his knowledgeable memories he will remain visible each time we view Enfield from the lookout point and beyond. A single voice in an ever growing audience he remains a keeper—a treasure of the mind. One we will recall with fondness and appreciation. Thank you, Mr. Wilder. We know the 'Valley' because of you." Others in this issue have recalled their memories of him and I defer to them.

But to bring us back to the holidays, Gene also showed a video of Friends' holiday parties through time. To get us thinking about the future, Nancy Huntington updated people on plans for the Enfield Bicentennial. Then, we were snapped back to the present by the announcement that the famous Holiday Party cake would now be cut. We'd all been drooling at pictures of past cakes. Now was the time to see if the present



The cake cutting by Dorothy Bish, carefully observed by Stanley Boyko, Earl Cooley and Les Campbell (l-r).



Gene Theroux and Nancy Hutchinson detailing upcoming plans for the group.

one measured up. Did it ever! This gigantic cream cake (that's right, not icing but whipped cream), roughly 18" by 24" needed to be reduced to edible portions. For that, we called on four of our elder statespeople and original residents of Quabbin Valley: Dorothy Bish, Stanley Boyko, Earl Cooley, and Les Campbell. Their skill at this task, developed over years of our Holiday Parties, was admirable. For the observer, the event was much like a Presidential press conference with many cameras clicking away while Dorothy positioned the knife over the first piece and proceeded to divide this delight into pieces for us all. Everyone had a piece a little bigger than their conscience would allow but cited the holidays and comradery as sufficient good cause for this one exception.

—Paul Godfrey



Interpretive Services Report Winter 2015

By Clif Read

A Remembrance

A great deal has changed since I began working at Quabbin Reservoir nearly (gulp!) 28 years ago. The agency I originally worked for was called the Metropolitan District Commission; our operating budget was split between funding from the MA Water Resources Authority and the Commonwealth's General Fund (today it is funded wholly by the water uses through the MWRA); it was possible to drive across the top of Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike; and the Tuesday Tea gatherings were held on a weekly basis, sometimes attracting upwards of 30 people. There were those former residents who were the stalwarts of the gatherings—Eleanor Schmidt, Lois Barnes, Walter King, Jim and Doris Cargill, Ken Cross, Harry and Lucille Thresher, Marge Vincent, Elmer and Dottie Russell, Asa King, Norman and Loretta Thresher, the Hanks, Cynthia Shaw, Lois Emerson—showing up on a weekly basis to share stories, food and memories with one another and with visitors to the Center. And there was also the “kid,” a guy who looked downright youthful amidst this more senior group. In fact Bob Wilder was considerably younger than many of the others, being born in Enfield in 1933. Although Bob was only five when he moved out of the Valley, his keen mind absorbed an amazing amount of information about his home town, the valley and the impending relocation of residents from the Swift River towns. Bob also remained a student of the Swift River Valley long after his family relocated to the Brookfield area.

As the size of the Tuesday Tea gatherings began to shrink throughout the 1990s the decision was made to switch to a twice a month gathering, but continue with the Tuesday Tea Picnic in August and the Tuesday Tea Holiday Party in December. Eventually as the group size contracted even further, the Teas were consolidated into a once a month affair on the first Tuesday of the month and the Holiday Party was merged with the Friends of Quabbin Party on the first Sunday of December. Through thick and thin, Bob was a constant through all of this transition and change. Bob and his wife Nancy would faithfully appear every Tuesday ready to share stories of the valley with anyone willing to sit down and chat. I always appreciated the conversations we had about a host of topics pertaining to the valley. As others passed on, Bob carried the torch as the voice of the Swift River towns. Listening to Bob was always a treat. Watching Bob present his story to school groups, it was apparent that here was a master at work.

He was good! Although I never had the opportunity to see him work as an interpreter at Old Sturbridge Village, I am sure that Bob was one of the most effective and popular staff members at this trade.

With Bob's passing this past month we are all left with a sense of sadness and loss of an articulate link to the past, but we are also enriched by having known him and benefiting from his knowledge, passion and decency. The twinkle in his eye, the mischievous pranks which he would play and his constant presence at Tuesday Tea gatherings over the past three decades will all be missed.



Bob and Nancy Wilder

We will also miss Robert P. Creed, member of the FOQ Board of Directors for the past decade who passed away in November. Bob was a professor by trade, serving on the faculty of Smith College, Brown University and SUNY-Stony Brook before taking a position with the English Department at UMASS in 1969. While his expertise was in Old English poetry, Bob carried a



Robert Creed

passion for music, the outdoors and the environment throughout his life. His keen intellect and careful, thoughtful assessment of topics which came before the Friends Board were always appreciated. He was truly a friend of the Quabbin, of his beloved Shutesbury and to those who had the opportunity to spend time with him.

Coming Events

Two important management plans are in different phases of development for the Quabbin watershed. As mandated by legislation, the DCR is required to write a comprehensive land management plan for lands owned by the agency within each of its four watersheds. Plans are in effect for ten years. Prior to the end of the decade, the agency is updating and rewriting the next management plan that will span the next ten year period. The timing for these updates is staggered for the different watersheds so the DCR is not involved in four updates all at once. Currently the Quabbin Reservoir Land Management Plan 2017–2027 is in its last stages of internal development and review. Once this stage is completed, the draft document will be circulated to advisory groups and partner agencies, followed by additional revisions before the Plan begins the public review process next year. Information will be provided on the process when a timetable becomes more definitive.

A separate but parallel Plan, the Quabbin Watershed Public Access Plan Update, is also under development and is similarly in the internal review/rewriting stage. As an unfiltered public drinking water supply, the Environmental Protection Agency requires managers to have a firm grasp on public access and a comprehensive management plan in place. Since 1988 when the first comprehensive Quabbin Access Plan was formalized and released, the MDC/DCR has updated and revised its plans on a ten year basis. The current effort to update the existing plan will not radically alter the existing access policies, but it will address new recreational activities that have emerged in the intervening years, clarify some of the sections of the existing plan that need elucidation and other relevant information. Similarly there will be an important public process component included in the Plan development. Updates will be available through the DCR website: www.mass.gov/dcr/watershed.

I wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a very happy and healthy 2016. It will be a important and busy 2016 as we prepare for the Bicentennial Observance of Enfield's incorporation and I hope to see you at some of the events or at the Visitor Center.

Up From the Ashes

He was a lad from the farm, it was his life
 And I think that sustained him through the coming strife.
 A farm can't survive if one goes his own way,
 He has to give of himself each and every day.
 Whether it's hay to cut, or a calf with scours,
 From sun up to sun down, there're never enough hours.
 Everyone did his part, but that's not to say
 That young boys like our Bob didn't have time to play.
 Racing 'round this way and that without a care;
 Their boisterous shouts of laughter filling the air,
 But then one day, his whole world came crashing down.
 They had to leave the farm; soon there would be no town.
 So they left, filled with sadness, anger, too.
 It was hard to pull up roots and start life anew,
 But anger holds you back, and destroys your soul,
 So Bob turned things around, he had a better goal.
 Thus up from the ashes the Phoenix arose,
 For Bob Wilder was not one to dwell on his woes.
 He served his country proudly as a Marine,
 And dedicated his life to his childhood scene.
 He remembered, he mapped, he lectured, he taught,
 And others, with his enthusiasm, were caught.
 The history he brought to life's too much to tally.
 God Bless you Bob Wilder, the Voice of the Valley.

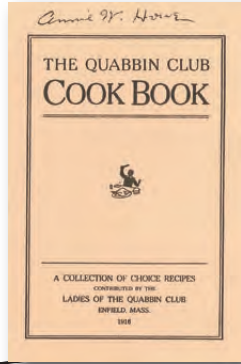
—Anne Ely



Centennial Quabbin Cookbook

by Laurie & Paul Godfrey and Nancy Huntington

In 1916, one hundred years ago, the ladies of the Quabbin Club created a cookbook of their favorite recipes. The Friends reprinted that cookbook a few years back for sale in the Visitor Center. If you've tried to cook any of the recipes, you may have run into some difficulty (a polite way of saying that the terminology and methods for cooking are so different today from then that you may not have a clue as to what to do). For example, here's a simple recipe:



CHOCOLATE CARAMELS
3/4 cup Karo corn syrup, 1 1/2 cups sugar, 1/2 cup grated chocolate, 1 cup milk, 1 cup nut meats, butter size of an egg, pinch of salt, vanilla.

What are you waiting for? You've all got Karo, and a butter size of an egg with a pinch of salt is perfectly understood. Not! And, what about how and how long to cook this mixture, because this is just a gooey mess so far. In other recipes, you are told to grab your spider. Personally, we didn't want to tell you about our pet spider behind the fridge because she doesn't cook. No, not that kind of spider! The frying pan with legs! Well, you get our point. There is a need for a new Quabbin cookbook for the modern cooks.

That's the plan, but we need you—the modern Quabbin cooks—to make this work. You've got to send us your favorite recipes. They don't have to be your grandmother's favorite (although that's acceptable, if updated); we want your favorite.

And another thing, the 100 year old cookbook had interesting quotes scattered throughout. That tradition might be useful to continue in the new cookbook as long as they are not of the type in the old cookbook, as in this example:

“The woman who maketh a good pudding in silence, is better than she who maketh a tart reply.”

Tart, spicy, international, vegetarian, vegan, it's all acceptable as recipes and quotes (please keep it civil, though).

And yet another thing, fellas, I hope you've been listening because we have every expectation that you will be contributing your favorites too.

Unlike the previous cookbook, we have some rigorous rules to follow. You must provide:

- Information on the necessary ingredients and their amounts,
- How many people your recipe serves so that the reader can divide or multiply to fit their occasion,
- How to prepare the ingredients for cooking,
- How to cook (bake, fry, roast, wok, microwave, steam, grill, boil, broil, etc.), for how long and at what temperature (if appropriate), and optionally
- Serving suggestions (piping hot, warm, cooled, on ice, on paper plates, at birthday parties, whatever),
- Anything you'd like to share about this recipe—“This was handed down to me from my mother who lived in Dana,” “This goes particularly well with cheddar cheese,” “Be careful not to overcook or it will explode,” etc...

Tell us about you: your name as you want it to appear in the cookbook, and your connection to the Quabbin: FOQ, Swift River Valley Historical

Society, other historical societies, descendent from valley resident, school project, friend of a friend who is one of the above, etc. Also, tell us how you heard about this effort.

Send those recipes to Laurie and Paul Godfrey at 47 Harkness Road, Pelham, MA 01002 or godfrey@tei.umass.edu or Nancy Huntington at Quabbin Reservation Administration Building, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007 or Nancy.Huntington@MassMail.State.MA.US. If you want to include pictures, they are welcome.

Your contributions will become part of the *Centennial Edition of the Quabbin Cookbook* to be published for the Enfield Bicentennial that will be celebrated in August, 2016. Time is short; get those recipes in!



Meetings & Events

Tuesday Teas

Visit with us on the first Tuesday of each month. The next dates are January 5th, February 2nd, March 1st and April 5th. All are invited; membership in the Friends of Quabbin is not required. Ask your friends, relatives and neighbors if they know about the Tuesday Teas. Some people may want to attend but can't because transportation to the meeting is unavailable. We want to help, if we can, anyone who wants to attend but can't for this reason by creating car pools where possible. If you need a ride to Tuesday Teas, contact



Enfield Congregational Church

Paul Godfrey at godfrey@tei.umass.edu; 413-253-5686 or 47 Harkness Road, Pelham, MA 01002 and he will see if there is a current attender near you that can offer you a



Tuesday Tea participants, December 1, 2015. Left to Right, Front row: Lois and Earl Cooley; second row: Paul Godfrey, Alberta Martin, Dorothy Bish, Anne Ely, Julie Bullock; back row: Michelle Ryan, Gene Theroux, Ann Hurlburt, Francis Martin.

ride. It's a fun time for all; strangers are welcome. Everyone goes home feeling a little happier and warmer. Occasionally, we get a special surprise. This last Tuesday Tea Dorothy Bish, one of our regulars, brought in a lovely little bell made from the bell of the Enfield Congregational Church (shown at left).

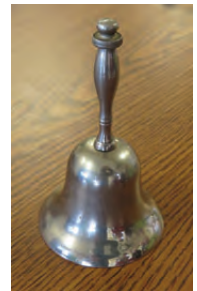


Photo Club Meetings

The Quabbin Photo Group (www.quabbinphotogroup.org) meetings are on the 4th Monday at the Quabbin Visitor Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. Meetings alternate between guest speakers and member's nights where members and guests can bring 10–15 images for sharing, either in digital or 35mm slide format.

Gail Platz: "Western Odyssey," a program showcasing numerous National Parks in the West and Southwest – January 25, 2016

Members Night snow date in case the January meeting needs to be cancelled. – February 22, 2016

Members Night – March 28, 2016

John Van de Graaff: "Fabulous Birds: the Americas, 2001-2014." John is a local bird photographer. – April 25, 2016

Members Night – May 23, 2016

Steve Gingold, a local nature and landscape photographer will give a presentation. (no title yet.) – June 27, 2016

The Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists (www.pvphotoartists.org/) meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center. Themes for upcoming meetings are: February 26th – Animals, Sunrises and Sunsets; March 26th – Art in Nature; April 30th – Flowers and That's Life. Check their website for more information.



Photo: Gail S. Platz

Meetings & Events continued...

Winter–Spring DCR Programs 2016

Quabbin Reservoir will offer several free presentations this season. All ages are welcome. All programs listed will be held at the Quabbin Visitor Center. Please call (413) 323-7221 for more information.

Sunday, January 31, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Are There Mountain Lions in Massachusetts?

When the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, mountain lions were the most widespread North American mammal. Mountain Lions became scarce in the East after deliberate persecution and a bounty system eradicated most predatory animals. Please join Dr. Tom French, Assistant Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Mass. Department of Fish and Game for a presentation on the current state of mountain lions in Massachusetts.

Sunday, February 14, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

The Hidden History of Quabbin Reservoir, the Army Air Corps and the Springfield Armory

At the onset of World War II, Quabbin Reservoir was used as an area for bombing practice, “war games” and research in technology to support the Allied war efforts. Join us as we look at the history of this era and what impacts, if any, it had on the reservoir land.

Sunday, February 28, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Eastern Coyotes

Due to misconceptions and fears about coyotes, many people don’t recognize the benefits that coyotes contribute to our ecosystem. Learn more about the life and habits of this animal and about how to coexist with them from Emily Stolarski, Communication Specialist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Sunday, March 13, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Quabbin Houses Relocated

A fun, fascinating and a very challenging topic, the relocation of Quabbin houses was the subject Jackie Tuthill chose for a Learning In Retirement course. Working with the Quabbin Visitor Center staff and talking to knowledgeable people helped in finding out about the history and relocation of a number of homes. A power point presentation will feature some background history on the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission, contractors who moved the homes, as well as human interest stories associated with several homes.

Sunday, March 20, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Quabbin Seasons and Wildlife

Since retiring from the DCR Quabbin Visitor Center in April of 2014, Dale Monette has spent hundreds of hours on the Quabbin watershed photographing scenic vistas and observing and photographing the wildlife of Quabbin. Here are his stories

and scenic photographs of the Quabbin watershed interspersed with the animals that populate the watershed. From hummingbirds and loons to bears and moose, see what Dale and his cameras saw as the animals go about their lives throughout the four seasons of a full year on the Quabbin watershed. For a preview of photographs please see Dale’s website at www.northquabbinphotography.com.

Sunday, April 3, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

The Founding of the Valley

In August, 2016 we will be observing what would have been the 200th anniversary of the founding of the former town of Enfield, Massachusetts, one of the four towns dis-incorporated to create the Quabbin Reservoir. While most people know the circumstances of these towns demise, few remember when and how they were began. Join DCR Staff Nancy Huntington to take a look back at the origins of the towns of Enfield, Dana, Prescott and Greenwich.

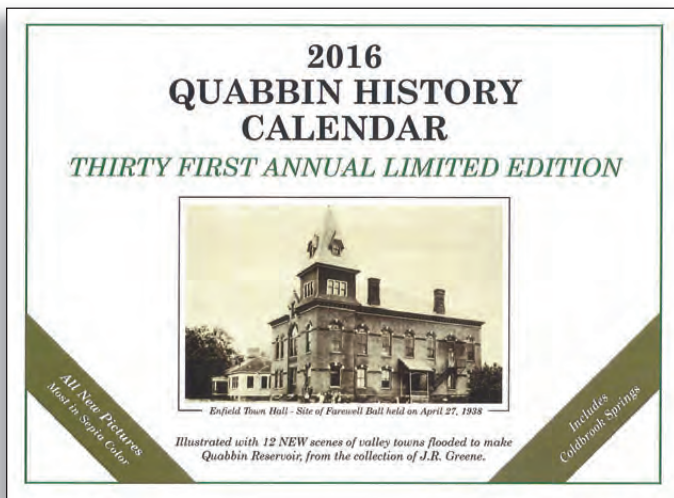
Photo Corner

Guest Photographer, Anne Ely



I really don't think I would like to come face to face with one of these in the woods. Even though this was a cow (female moose) and had no antlers, she was still pretty big. Fortunately her priority was eating and I was able to get a shot from a safe distance away. It was mid-October and the first time I had ever seen a moose along the road in Quabbin.

VISITOR CENTER STORE



2016 Calendar

A second reminder if you didn't pick up a calendar for 2016, J.R. Greene's 2016 calendar with its historic prints of the Quabbin Valley prior to flooding is available at the Visitor Center Store. (Cost – \$15.95 for non-members; \$14.36 for members) If part of the reason you like the J.R. Greene calendars is so that you can add to your collection of historic pictures, you might be interested in knowing that a limited number of pictures from long past calendars are available. (Cost – \$1.00 for non-members; \$0.90 for members).



Magical Mugs

In the upcoming wintry months, keeping warm is job one. To help, we have a neat mug. It's a classic design in white with the Quabbin logo on it. But this logo is a little different—it's heat sensitive so when it's empty or filled with a cold beverage,

Quabbin disappears. But fill it with hot coffee, tea or toddy and Quabbin appears as shown! I've had one of these for a couple years and enjoy the show each time. I'm kind of fussy about my mugs but this one is on my favorites list. Alas, the design is not quite as dishwasher proof as this lazy kitchen helper would like so it's begun to fade. If you don't mind washing it by hand, it should last forever. Based on my web-search, heat-sensitive mugs are not terribly tolerant of the harsh dishwasher chemicals and temperatures. Microwaves are also a problem. In that case, our mug is one of the best because it lasted several years in very frequent visits to the dishwasher and torture in the microwave chamber. Cost – \$10.15 for non-members; \$9.14 for members.

Winter's a good time to cuddle up with a book.

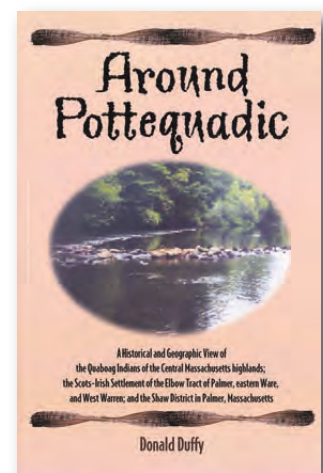


A Novel

In the novel category, we have one about the Quabbin Valley that is highly reviewed: *Cascade*. Cost – \$17.00 for non-members; \$15.30 for members.

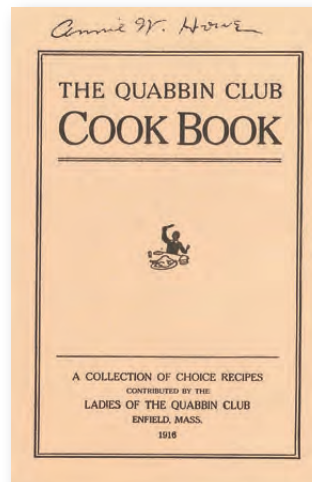
A History

For history, we suggest *Around Pottequadic* for a history of the Native American settlements prior to British settlement and after.



A Cookbook

Lastly, planning has begun on the bicentennial (yes, 200th anniversary) of the founding of Enfield. Part of the planning includes soliciting your recipes for a new cookbook incorporating favorite menus, not of the past, but of now. That is, we'll be looking for *your* favorites.



We're betting that this new cookbook will be a little different from the one we've had at the Visitor Center Store. The current one is a collection of the recipes of the 1930s. For those used to convection ovens and microwaves, this book is a revelation in what old-time cooking was like. Cooking temperatures and times are rarely mentioned. More often the instructions are to cook in the oven or over the fire until done. They just knew when that was.

If you think you'd like to see how times have changed, our Cookbook is available for \$5.35 (non-members) and \$4.82 (members).

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Call for Member Submissions

This is your newsletter. We invite members to submit stories, articles, or reminiscences about the human or natural history of the Swift River Valley and Quabbin Reservoir.

Please send e-mail to Paul Godfrey at godfrey@tei.umass.edu, or mail items to: The Friends of Quabbin
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007



Quabbin Voices

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Friends of Quabbin, Inc.

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