

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



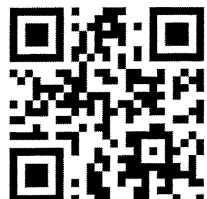
Summer 2017
Vol.30 No.2

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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Get the Lead Out of Quabbin's Loons

by Jillian Whitney, Wildlife Technician

One of the classic sounds of nature, often heard at the Quabbin Reservoir, is the call of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). They were virtually extirpated from the state of Massachusetts by the end of the 19th century as a result of hunting, habitat loss and pollution. The Common Loon returned in the early 1970s and in 1975 a pair nested and successfully hatched two chicks on the Quabbin Reservoir. Today, the majority of loons in the state call Quabbin Reservoir home and in 2016, thirteen out of twenty-two loon pairs nested and successfully fledged a total of eight chicks.

There are five species of Loons but only the Common Loon breeds this far south. The Common Loon winters along the coast and makes its way inland after ice melt to breed on freshwater lakes and ponds. They prefer large bodies of water but have been found nesting on water bodies as small as thirteen acres. Larger bodies of water, like the Quabbin Reservoir, provide enough space for multiple territories. Prime "real estate" usually includes clear waters for fishing, islands for nesting and coves with calm waters to rear chicks.

Though awkward and clumsy on land, Common Loons are skilled divers. To help stay submerged, their wings are small, placed close to the body and are used very little while diving. They primarily use their legs and feet with only slight wing movements for turning. Their webbed feet are placed far back on their bodies to give them speed and maneuverability underwater. An average dive lasts two to three minutes but dives up to fifteen minutes have been documented. They are visual and opportunistic hunters. Common

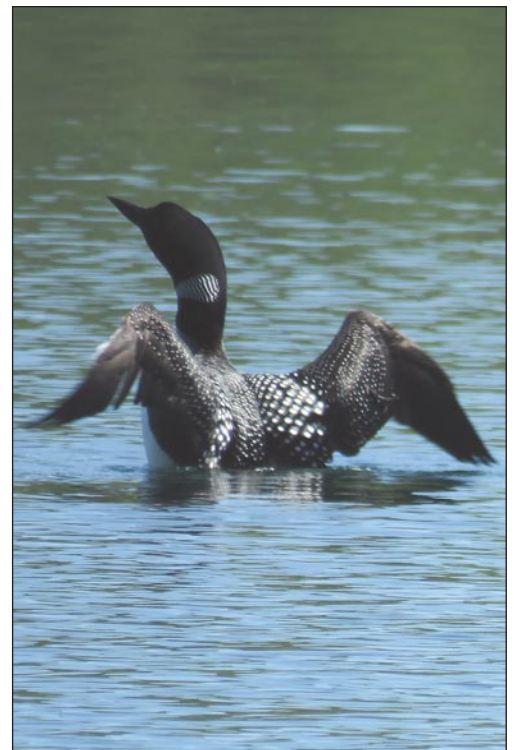


Photo: Paul Godfrey

Loons have a preference for Yellow Perch but will eat other fish species, crayfish, amphibians and aquatic insects.

They are often mistaken for being a monogamous species however; this is not often the case. Some may pair for life but bonds may be broken by another single loon seeking out a mate or seeking territory to nest, i.e. an interloper. A pair with an established territory nests around the end of May, usually laying one to two eggs. The incubation is approximately twenty-eight days and the chicks hatch about one to three days apart. Loon chicks are precocial, meaning the

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Gene Theroux

President's Message

Summer 2017

Annual Meeting

The Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at the Belchertown Senior

Center and was well attended. During the business meeting, Paul LaFlamme of Monson was elected to become a member of the Board of Directors. Paul has family connections to the former Swift River/Quabbin Valley. His Grand Aunt was Maria Bourdeau, the sister of Paul LaFlamme's grandfather, who married Bill Galvin, and together they managed the Swift River Hotel in Enfield for many years.



Swift River Hotel in Enfield

His mother and grandmother went from Ware to Enfield to visit Maria by horse and wagon, and later by trolley from Ware to Bondsville, then by train from South Belchertown to Enfield. Paul's father was Albert LaFlamme (from Ware). He was an Army veteran from World War I, and a charter member of the Ware American Legion Post 123. During the 1930s, he had a bread and pastry business delivering goods to neighboring towns. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, he delivered his goods to homes and rooming houses where construction workers lived in Enfield, Smith's Village, Greenwich Plains and Greenwich, then up into Hardwick. He was a good friend of Bill Dearden, editor and publisher of *The Ware River News* (as well as a member of the American Legion Post in Ware). Paul's father had a key to Dearden's camp in Dana, on Hell Huddle Road. The camp was called Tamaracks. Paul's father often stopped there to make a fire in the fireplace, make coffee, and rest for an hour or so. That road had a number of small farms—their incomes were supplemented by making

moonshine and prostitution services. In the last fifty years, Paul has hiked and explored most of the Quabbin and had introduced his wife and children to it and its rich history. The Friends of Quabbin welcomes Paul LaFlamme to the Board of Directors. I fully appreciate his family connections to the former Swift River/Quabbin Valley and I'm confident that Paul will be an active and contributing member of the Board.

During the business meeting, I provided an update of the events from the last year including the Enfield Bicentennial Observance, the Tuesday Teas and Tuesday Tea Explorers as well as the Friends of Quabbin Book Donation Program. I also provided an update on the Photo Scanning and Photo Preservation Project by showing a video that combined photos from our scanning effort with our oral histories, in this case, using an oral history recorded by Lois Barnes of Ellis Barber (catalog #: 111_EBarbier_93). This four minute excerpt is available for viewing on the Friends of Quabbin YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/z5D3oVVyT64>. This



Walter Clark, Eleanor Schmidt, Lois Doubleday Barnes, and Mr. & Mrs. Jim Cargill

interview is one of many from the Friends of Quabbin Oral History Collection which is maintained by the DCR Interpretative Services at the Quabbin Visitor Center. The entire interview is about 45 minutes long and it gets very interesting, particularly near the end.

The Oral History indexing project has been an ongoing initiative for many years and the Friends are very eager for DCR to complete the project and to identify any restrictions of use placed on these by the participants, so the oral history collection can be made available to the public appropriately. The Friends of Quabbin will continue to encourage DCR's Interpretative Services to complete this project which we feel is critical in preserving the history of the former Swift River/Quabbin Valley. *(continued next page)*



Jon Melnick

Longtime Quabbin Historian Jon Melnick provided a detailed and very informative program, *Quabbin Time Travel Tour – Prescott*. Jon brought many binders of photographs and other Time Travel Tours and was available to share with those in attendance. Jon's program was originally scheduled to be presented at the Quabbin Visitor Center. The Friends would like to thank both Jon and Maria Beiter-Tucker of DCR for their cooperation in changing the venue and time

for Jon's presentation to the Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting. At the conclusion of Jon Melnick's presentation, Jon was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a complimentary one year membership to the Friends of Quabbin for his many contributions describing how life was in the valley.



Gene Theroux and J.R. Greene present books about the Quabbin to the Belchertown Senior Center's director Bill Korzenowski

The Friends of Quabbin Chairman J.R. Greene assisted Gene Theroux in presenting to Bill Korzenowski, the Director of the Belchertown Senior Center with a donation of books from the Friends of Quabbin for the Senior Center library in appreciation of the outstanding support from the Belchertown Senior Center for being the venue of the Annual Meeting for many years.

Memorial Day

The Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery were held on Sunday, May 29, 2017 and were well attended. In a later part of this newsletter, the Services are described in detail. A usual part of the Services is the laying of a wreath at the Memorial stone for each of the vanished towns: Dana, Enfield, Prescott and Greenwich. This year several direct descendants of Jeduthan & Eunice (Gibbs) Torrance placed the wreath for the former town of Greenwich. Jeduthan and Eunice Torrance were married in Greenwich on October 26, 1796. Not known to most is the fact that Jeduthan and Eunice Torrance's son John and his wife Mary (Brown) Torrance were interred at Church Cemetery in Enfield and reinterred in Quabbin Park Cemetery

on September 10, 1937. John and Mary Torrance are the fourth great grandparents of Gene Theroux. The headstone of John and Mary Torrance was broken into four pieces by a fallen limb during a winter storm and documented by MDC with a photograph on April 14, 1947. The headstone of John and Mary Torrance was thrown away by the Quabbin Park Cemetery maintenance personnel and there is no record of action taken other than the documented photo taken by the Metropolitan District Commission on 4/15/1947. To me, this is unacceptable.



Quabbin Park Cemetery Photo showing stone of John and Mary Torrance damaged during winter. East Half Lot #1758 4/15/47 Photo Albertine #108



The Torrance gravesite

I reviewed the Interpretative Services Report by Mr. Cliff Read in prior issues of the *Quabbin Voices* for statements of policy and action by DCR regarding headstone maintenance. In the summer 2012 edition, Mr. Read writes "This past spring, a stone conservator was hired to provide special training to

DCR personnel on the protection, repair, and restoration of headstones and monuments in the Quabbin Park Cemetery. In addition to hands-on workshop sessions which repaired a number of stones damaged in storms over the past couple of years, the consultant provided training to DCR staff that will enable them to continue this work in the future with the proper skills and knowledge. The contract continues the recent efforts to address issues in the cemetery, including active vegetative management work and the development of a long term cemetery management plan. A grant of \$12,000 has been awarded to the DCR for plantings in the cemetery to replace trees damaged by storms and to use vegetation to recreate the original landscape design created by renowned architect Arthur Shurcliff. These plans were recently discovered as part of the research work on the Cemetery Management Plan being developed as a component of the larger Quabbin Park Management Plan." Unfortunately, the DCR has no Cemetery Management Plan on its website and mention of Quabbin Park Cemetery in the Quabbin Management Plan, 2007–2017 is barely cursory. Perhaps, in the new plan?

In the Quabbin Voices summer edition of 2013, Mr. Read states “*Quabbin Park Cemetery is managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation as part of the agency’s commitment to provide perpetual care for the former residents of the valley and their descendants.*”

In exploring other gravesites, I walked a cemetery perimeter road and found three broken headstones in the woods. One of these headstones was for the brothers Frederick T. Stone (1830-1848) and Henry K. Stone (1826-1849, both formerly of Dana (GPS coordinates: Lat: 42.27893; Long: -72.304682); the text on the second and third stones was unrecognizable. The person who provided the headstone conservation training to DCR described above, Ta Mara Conde, told FOQ President Theroux “*it is sad to see that the stone was just discarded in the woods and I am surprised it was not used to set the new monument. Protocol says it should be completely destroyed or buried at the location of the grave. It can also be re-erected at the burial site. The stone is lovely and I am sure the mother intended the*



Three broken headstones

little verse at the bottom of the original stone to remain over her babie’s [sic] heads. It can easily be reset but would require an underground base and the break repaired

to preserve it properly.” An appropriate location would have been in proximity to the family memorial stone.



The photo on the right is the broken headstone leaning against another headstone in section 5 of the cemetery. It is for Josiah Oldes (1814-1870) born in Prescott and a long-time resident of Greenwich. There are dozens of such broken and leaning headstones throughout Quabbin Park Cemetery. And if one peeks in the window of the Quabbin Park Cemetery Building, many more can be seen. Such treatment cannot be called “perpetual care;” at best, it is gross negligence, at worst, it must be called grave desecration! For the last few years, the Friends of Quabbin insisted that the bronze markers at the Cemetery Building and on several significant monuments should be cleaned and restored and after

considerable delay, they were within the past year. In light of the evidence discovered to date on the DCR interpretation of perpetual care for residents and their descendants of Quabbin Valley, despite what they say, it is clear that the Friends must now bring pressure on DCR to provide proper maintenance of the Quabbin Park Cemetery and appropriate respect for those interred there. I encourage our members to tell us of other headstones that need repair or replacement or are missing and to document neglect with photographs. If you feel as strongly as I do about this treatment, call or write DCR (address on the letterhead of this newsletter) and tell them. FOQ will continue this effort and report additional information in the Fall 2017 newsletter.

Tuesday Tea Picnic



Former residents Bob Wilder and Sidney St. Peter on the Tuesday Tea Picnic boat ride, August 2001. Both Bob and Sidney have interviews that are part of the Friends of Quabbin Oral History collection.

The Tuesday Tea picnic will be held on August 29, 2017 at Hank’s Meadow beginning at 11:00 a.m. (see Meetings and Events). At the Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors Meeting, convened on June 8, 2017, Mr. Clif Read disclosed to the Directors that DCR has decided to discontinue the Tuesday Tea Boat Rides for former residents and their descendants. The explanation provided was that due to the retirement of Bill Pula, the former Regional Director of the Quabbin Section of the DCR, who often narrated the tours, but retired on December 31, 2016 and due to the dwindling numbers of former residents, DCR has decided to discontinue the traditional boat ride. I was out of town and not at the June meeting. You can rest assured that I would have challenged this decision. In my view, I believe DCR is losing sight of their commitment to the former residents and to their descendants. My hope is that DCR reconsiders this decision and that they continue this tradition of the Tuesday Tea Picnic boat ride long into the future. I promise to be vigilant and I will ensure that the Friends of Quabbin holds true to its mission statement and values as well as holding DCR accountable for its commitment to the former residents and to their descendants.



Interpretive Services Report

Summer 2017

by Clif Read

Last summer's hot and dry conditions now seem like a distant memory. With the nearly constant forecast of rain in the immediate or near future this spring, the outlook for water supplies throughout the entire state appears to be dramatically improved since early this winter. Precipitation levels for the year are now running above average and the reservoir level for Quabbin has risen steadily since the beginning of January. The drought warnings issued for the entire state last December except for the Cape and Islands, have been eased and the entire area has returned to a normal status.

Entomologists have been warning of even greater impacts from Gypsy Moth caterpillars this summer based on the proliferation of their numbers last year during the hot and dry conditions. However, the recent rainy conditions that have been welcomed by water suppliers also have been positive news for foresters, landscapers, homeowners and many other groups potentially impacted by high caterpillar populations. Cool, wet conditions are necessary conditions for promoting *Entomophaga maimaiga*, a fungus that is lethal to gypsy moth caterpillars. While it remains to be seen how effective the fungus will be this year, this spring's conditions should aid to the development and spread of the fungus among high densities of caterpillars, thus limiting the damage from this year's hatch. Gypsy moths were first brought to Massachusetts from France

in the late 1860s by amateur lepidopterist Leopold Trouvelot, a resident of Medford. His interest in crossing gypsy moths with silk moths led to experiments raising and cross breeding the species to create a hybrid capable of more prolific silk production. The failed experiment went totally awry when some of the adult gypsy moths escaped from captivity and began to reproduce in the wild. Today, we feel the impacts of this invasive alien species as it munches its way across the countryside. Although the Gypsy Moths are cyclical in their population eruptions, their episodic outbreaks add stress to forests under stress from other sources. Quabbin is particularly vulnerable to the effects of this voracious insect due to its high percentage of oak forests, the preferred species of the caterpillar.

Terrestrial invasive species management is one of the many topics covered in the updated Quabbin Land Management Plan. This document is updated every decade and provides a plan for managing Quabbin's forest and land to ensure the continued protection of the reservoir's water quality and health of the watershed ecosystem. Over the past couple of years the DCR has been carefully reviewing and updating its land management programs on everything from invasive species control, to forestry practices, problematic wildlife species issues, rare and endangered species management, and cultural resource protection.

The second management plan update in the pipeline is the Quabbin Public Access Plan which is also going through the staff and peer review at the moment. It will be presented for public review in advance of a public meeting on the plan to be held next fall.

Please mark your calendars for the Tuesday Tea Picnic which will be held this year on August 29th (rain date for September 5th) at the traditional location of Hanks Picnic Area. I hope to see you there!!



Bill Pula Receives a Plaque of Appreciation from the Friends of Quabbin

In the Spring newsletter, we reported that Bill Pula, Superintendent/Regional Director overseeing operations at the Quabbin/Ware Section had retired. The Friends wanted to give Bill a plaque of appreciation for his support of the Friends over 24 years but he was unable to come to our Annual Meeting. But we caught up with him at a Pelham Hollow tour on May 21st organized by the Pelham Historical Society. Assembled at the Pelham Town Hall, oldest in continuous operation in the United States, we presented Bill with our plaque of appreciation. Gene Theroux made the presentation to Bill while Howard Frost, former Pelham Hollow resident watched.

Loons...

continued from page 1

can swim and dive right away. Though, after leaving the nest they often spend their first days on the backs of their parents. This helps to maintain their body temperature and protect them from predators. A pair with two chicks will consume over a ton of food during the fifteen week breeding season!

The Natural Resource Section of the Division of Water Supply Protection has loon management efforts that include nesting raft repair and maintenance, raft deployment, nesting observations (i.e., success and failures), collecting leg band returns to identify banded individuals, and night time capture efforts to band loons. When captured at night, biological data are collected and a combination of colored bands are placed on the legs to help identify individual loons.

Even with these efforts, loons face many hazards that can be detrimental to their survival. The leading cause of death to Common Loons in Massachusetts is lead poisoning. Not long ago, lead tackle was standard for fishing. Lead is toxic to wildlife and only a small amount is deadly to a loon. Loons may ingest lead tackle by consuming a fish that has lead tackle attached, by pursuing tackle on a fishing line, or by mistaking it as a pebble that is used as grit in digesting. In 2016, two Quabbin Reservoir loons died of lead poisoning.

The Massachusetts lead tackle restriction went into effect on January 1, 2012 and prohibits the use of any lead fishing sinkers and lead jigs weighing less than one ounce in all inland



Photo: Dale Monette

waters (freshwater). In the spring of 2017 lead tackle recycling canisters were installed next to the fishing line recycling canisters at popular fishing spots throughout Quabbin Reservoir, Wachusett Reservoir, and the Ware River Watershed. Today there are many alternatives to lead fishing tackle and some types are preferred by anglers.

Loons are a Species of Special Concern in Massachusetts and are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty. They are an indicator of water quality making them an important presence on our reservoirs. Anglers are encouraged to clean out their tackle boxes and bring in their old lead tackle to one of the DCR recycling canisters to be recycled.



Tufts X-rays of two loons from Quabbin that died from lead poisoning with ingested lead tackle circled.



DCR recycling canisters for fishing line and lead tackle —Photo: Jillian Whitney

*Observer's Corner****Drive Slowly Through Quabbin***

by Anne Ely

There are many reasons to drive slowly when travelling through Quabbin Reservoir. First of all — there's the land itself. Quabbin is such a beautiful place. There is so much to see. Ever changing, there's always something new.

Early this morning a heavy mist rose up from the water shrouding the islands, and turning a large bird on a nearby tree into an unidentifiable black blob. An eagle perhaps? Now, close to noon, the blue water sparkles in the sun. A red-tail hawk circles overhead. How it can spy anything amid the ground cover is beyond me, but it's not in a hurry, patiently soaring lazily around.



It's early spring and things are green-ing up. Robins and cowbirds are shar-ing the grassy center of the rotary, pecking away as they search for worms and bugs.

I stop at one of my favorite pull-over spots; open the car window and listen and watch. Patience is rewarding. Before long I have seen and even

photographed a Flicker, a Yellow-bellied sapsucker and a Towhee. Even if nothing had shown itself it is so pleasant just to sit and listen to the various birds singing from within the woods. It won't be long before the warblers return and that will bring the birders out in droves.



It's a bit late to see deer. They've gone farther back into the woods. They were probably out early this morning, but would have been mere gray ghosts in the thick fog. Deer are another reason for driving slowly and being aware as you drive, as it can be quite a shock to round a curve and find one of these beautiful creatures in the middle of the road in front of you. Even if the road ahead is clear sailing, one can come bounding out of the woods in the blink of an eye.

On a rise overlooking the part of the valley which once was the town of Enfield is a small parking area which should not be hurriedly passed by. On this lovely spring day, the bright green of new leaves and the red of the red maple blossoms contrast with the darker greens of the pines creating a beautiful wash of color over the islands. Like a mirror the calm water perfectly reflects this beauty. These islands, once the mountains among which the four valley towns nestled are still known by their former names — Mt. Ram, Mt. Liz, Mt. Zion, to name a few. Not rushing off has its rewards, as a bald eagle comes soaring over the water, its "eagle eye" searching for the smallest indication of a fish below the surface.

Approaching Goodnough Dike I decide to save taking a walk across it for another day. As I continue slowly on my way I come upon a piece of dead wood in the road — oops, it's moving! I put on my flash-ers and come to a stop behind a large snapping turtle slowly making its way across the road. Hopefully any cars coming along will proceed slowly around both me and the snapper. The turtle stops and looks at me, giving me time to get out and take a couple of pictures before it decides I'm no threat and continues on its way.



I love driving through Quabbin and stopping here and there. It always warms my heart to take in both its beauty and its creatures. It's even nicer to park the car and walk a ways. I feel sorry for those who drive speedily through and never see its wonders.



Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery

by Paul Godfrey



This year's Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery gathering of hundreds of participants were held on May 28th under high clouds and moderate temperatures that helped make the day enjoyable for all. This event continues the tradition from the Swift River Valley towns that observed the practice of decorating the graves of war veterans that began during the Civil War; the first services at Quabbin Park were held in 1947. Unlike any other Memorial Day Service, this one also remembers those who sacrificed their land and way of life in the Swift River for the creation of Quabbin Reservoir. Consequently, the group assembled at the Quabbin Park Cemetery consists of local veterans groups, former residents and local historical societies.

L.A. Tift Camp 15 & Auxiliary 10, Marine Corp League Detachment, and Ware Cub Scout Troop #239. Following the spirit of Eleanor Schmidt who established the Schmidt Trust to encourage Quabbin area historical societies to participate, historical societies from Belchertown, Pelham, Shutesbury, New Salem, Orange, Athol, Petersham, Hardwick, Ware (both the Historical Commission and the Historical Society) and Palmer, as well as the Swift River Valley Historical Society and the Friends of Quabbin were in the procession followed by former residents and descendants, ending in two buglers and a drummer who set the pace.



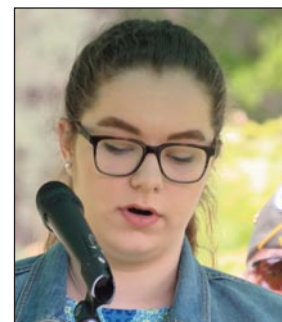
Participants begin to assemble at 10 a.m. at the Quabbin Cemetery Building where they may enjoy beverages and baked goods provided by generous sponsors, including: Country Bank, Big Y Supermarket, North Brookfield Savings Bank, and Bell & Hudson Insurance. At 11 a.m., the March begins to assemble in front of the building with the Color Guard followed by each branch of the Military, then Veteran

Organizations, Elected Officials, Scouts, Historical Organizations and finally former residents and members of the general public. As last year, the parade marched the shorter clockwise route to the flags and the monuments. Marchers included: Belchertown American Legion Post #239 & Auxiliary, Belchertown VFW Post #8428 & DAV Chapter 75 Auxiliary, Belchertown Veterans Council, Ware American Legion Post #123 & Auxiliary, Ware VFW Post #2577 & DAV Chapter 59 & Auxiliaries, Petersham American Legion & Auxiliary Post #415,



Keith Poulin, Past Commander of American Legion Post #239, presided as Master of Ceremonies for the event, introducing the Post#239 Chaplain for the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The

Gettysburg Address was read by Casey Waskiewicz, an alumna of the 2016 American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program. The Belchertown Community Band played a selection of musical pieces associated with Memorial Day. To commemorate the sacrifices, a wreath was placed at each town's monument by former residents and/or their descendants. They were accompanied by a military escort as they





Cliff Fountain places the Eleanor Schmidt wreath.

came forward for the placement. Additionally, a wreath is placed at the Eleanor Griswold Schmidt Bench to remember her passion for Swift River Valley history and for keeping its history alive for future generations. Representing the towns were: Dana – Cooley family; Enfield – Laura Hall; Greenwich – Milton F Hadley III, Linda Hadley, Althea Mason and Karen Mercier; Prescott – Peirce family; the Schmidt Bench – Cliff Fountain. Following these solemn placements, there was a six-gun salute, “Taps” played by the Belchertown Community Band to salute the honored dead and the raising of the the colors followed by a selection of patriotic music and a reading of “In Flanders Field” by Don Slessler. Comments were made by elected officials: Senator Ann Gobi,



Placing the Greenwich wreath were: Gene Theroux, Milton F. Hadley III, Linda Hadley, Althea Mason and Karen Mercier.

Representative Susannah Whipps and Representative Todd Smola. Followed by comments from Lisa Gustafson of DCR. A Benediction closed the ceremony. In the afternoon, Nancy Huntington from the Visitor Center staff gave a presentation “Veterans from the Valley” at the Visitor Center. Wonderful weather, solemn remembrances, thanks and appreciation for service and sacrifice, and friendship and community was enjoyed by all on this special day.



Belchertown Community Band under the direction of Michael Bauer

Meetings & Events

Tuesday Teas

Tuesday Teas Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. The next one will be August 1. Then they will be on September 5, October 3, and November 7.

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.

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. The annual meeting is in January. Check their website for more information.

DCR Program

Sunday, July 30, 2–4 p.m.
FERNS OF SOUTH QUABBIN

Ferns are some of the most common plants in the landscape, and are also some of the most successful, with fossil records reaching back hundreds of millions of years. Join retired DCR forester Randy Stone from the Pioneer Valley Fern Society for an introduction to some of our most commonly encountered species. An indoor photo tour with tips for easy identification will be followed by a short fern walk in Quabbin Park.

Swift River Valley Historical Society

MUSEUM OPEN

Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 1–4 p.m. from June 11 to September 24. Admission is free. Donations gladly accepted!

JULY

July 22 – DANA VESPERS at Prescott Church 2 p.m.
Cake and lemonade will be served after the concert to commemorate Mrs. Clary's 179th birthday. Mrs. Clary lived in the Whitaker-Clary house until she was 98 years old (1814-1912)

July 24 – 28 WATER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

The Water Program will enlist youth, ages 8 to 15, to create and present a musical theater event based on Jane Yolen's book, *Letting Swift River Go*. This program is targeted for any young person who has ever wanted to help craft and/or perform in a play, who likes theater, science, nature or history, and who would enjoy an exciting interactive learning experience.

AUGUST

Sunday, August 13
BIRDS OF PREY with Tom Ricardi
Prescott Church building on the grounds of SRVHS at 4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 10
ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING at 2 p.m.

Sunday, September 24
MUSEUM CLOSING DAY

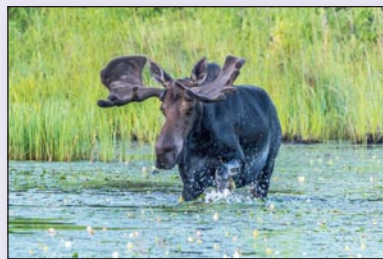
Sunday, September 24
FALL HIKE to Doubleday Village
Meet at the Petersham Common at 11 a.m.

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 1
BUS TRIP to Prescott and Enfield
Meet at SRVHS for 11a.m. departure.

Sunday, October 22
FALL HIKE into Gate 21 in New Salem
Meet at the New Salem Common at 11a.m.

Four Seasons of Quabbin



A new book to be released by Dale Monette and Haley Publishing in September of 2017.

Dale has spent three years with many thousands of hours

on the 82,000 acre Quabbin Reservoir watershed in central Massachusetts photographing wildlife and now 130 of his best photographs will be released in a beautiful book. Here are his stories and photographs of the animals of Quabbin as they go about their daily routines throughout the four seasons. See what Dale and his camera saw, from eagles and loons to otters, bears and more, along with scenic views of the 18-mile-long Reservoir. This vivid photographic book is a perfect complement to his PowerPoint presentation of the same name. Both are coupled with informative, engaging narrative. Monette is an expert in the nature and history of the Quabbin; he worked 25 years as an educator and a naturalist at the Quabbin Reservoir.

Dale's website: www.northquabbinphotography.com.

We'll have more information in the next Newsletter.

Book Donation Program

The Friends Book Donation Program has been very active. The R.H. Conwell Elementary School in Worthington, Mass. submitted a proposal to the Friends for books. Rachel Appell, 5th and 6th grade teacher initially requested more information about the Quabbin based on information resources that she found on the Friends website. As a result of that, we made her aware of the book donation program. In the space of about 24 hours, she developed a brief proposal and it was approved. Gene Theroux, President of the Friends, made the presentation to the 11 students in her class on March 19th.



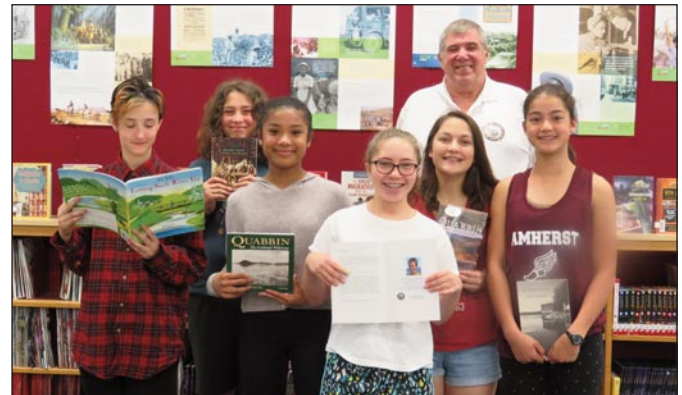
Worthington Elementary School

The Friends also donated books to the Belchertown Senior Center for their support in providing meeting space for our annual meeting.



Shutesbury Elementary School

In memory of Charlie Read (see story below), the Friends donated books to the Shutesbury Elementary School and the Amherst Middle School. Both were schools attended by Charlie.



Amherst Middle School

Friends Helping Friends

Tragically, Clif and Arleen Read lost their son, Charlie, to a sudden epileptic attack in his sleep last fall. As a token of our grief for the family, the Friends of Quabbin made modest monetary donations to the Charlie Read Memorial Scholarship Fund and Amherst Baseball (Charlie's sport) and recently made two donations of Quabbin Books to the Shutesbury Elementary and Amherst Middle School with bookplates in memory of Charlie. Finally, we donated to the Epilepsy Foundation's Athletes for Epilepsy Program.

Charlie and his family have been dedicated cyclists. Dad Clif, who you know as our Interpretive Services column writer, participates in the annual tour around Quabbin. Charlie did the tour, too. The Reads had been planning this trip for years and were going to raise money for a water-related cause. They expected Charlie to be part of the ride. With Charlie's death, they changed that goal to raise money for the Epilepsy Foundation. Clif, Arleen, and about 20 others began their cross-country bicycle ride from Anacortes, Washington to Boston on June 18th. If you would like to donate to The Epilepsy Foundation in Charlie's memory, send your checks made out to the Epilepsy Foundation to the Friends of Quabbin, 485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007. We'll see that your checks are given to the Reads for them to pass on to the Epilepsy Foundation. In that way, you may also make any personal comments that you wish directly to Clif and Arleen.



Clif, Charlie, and Arleen Read on May 27, 2013

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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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