

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



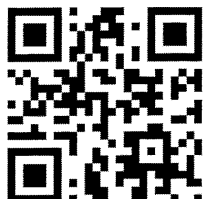
Summer 2018
Vol.31 No.2

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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Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery

by Paul Godfrey

Photos by: Paul Godfrey, Clif Read, and Susanne Martin

This year's Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery gathering of hundreds of participants was held on May 27th with cool temperatures and threatening skies, although there was no rain. This event continues the practice 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 veteran's groups, former residents and local historical societies. And also unlike any other Quabbin Park Cemetery Memorial Day



Participants began to assemble at 10 a.m. at the Quabbin Cemetery Building where they enjoyed 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 began 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 in the last two years, the parade marched the shorter clockwise route to the flags and the



gathering, this one commemorated the 100th anniversary of the "War to End All Wars," World War I. There were one hundred and five volunteers and draftees from the Swift River Valley.

monuments. Marchers included: Belchertown American Legion Post #239 & Auxiliary Belchertown VFW Post #8428 & DAV Chapter 75 Auxiliary, Belchertown Veterans Council, Ware American Legion Post *continued on page 4*



Gene Theroux

President's Message

Summer 2018

Annual Meeting

The Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at the United Church of Ware. I'd like to thank Friends of

Quabbin Vice President Cindy LaBombard for her efforts in securing the use of the hall and for working the logistics of refreshments and volunteers. The hospitality from Pastor Charles Taylor and the staff at the United Church of Ware was commendable. During the business meeting, I provided an update of the events from the last year including the Tuesday Teas and Tuesday Tea Explorers, the Photo Scanning and Photo Preservation Project, Oral History, Veterans of the Valley, the Friends of Quabbin Book Donation Program and a detailed report on the Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Longtime Quabbin Historian Jon Melick provided a detailed and very informative program, *Quabbin Time Travel Tour – Petersham & Monson Turnpike from Inside Gate 37 to the Present Route 9.*

I can only imagine the amount of time and effort that Jon has put into creating his Time Travel Tours. The following is Jon's introductory script that informs the travelers that they will be traveling along the **Petersham and Monson Turnpike.**



As you take your seats, we ask you to remember that the Acme Mark VI Time Traveler, unlike the Mark III machine and the short-range Mark V machine, is not equipped so that we can get out of the machine and hike; but the bubble top will give you an excellent look at the old Valley towns. For those of you who have asked, the Mark VII, which will be a helicopter/bus hybrid, is still in the development stages. Please DON'T ask about the Mark IV — it's a touchy subject with the ACME engineers, because the last test pilot wound up stuck beneath a glacier. Remember also that neither you nor the Mark VI will be able to be seen, heard or touched by anything or anyone we see, once the time travel circuits are activated in a minute or so. Finally, we would like to emphasize that if anyone tries to defeat the seals on the doors and attempts to exit the time machine, the time circuits will deactivate and the Mark VI will instantly flood, dooming all aboard if this happens below the flow line.

To elaborate on what we told you earlier about the turnpike system: in the early days of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, money was scarce; and most towns did not have the money to open decent roads and yet needed such

roads so that their citizens could get their farm produce to market, and do whatever traveling might be necessary without major inconvenience. The solution was the turnpike, under which a group of investors could seek a charter, for a turnpike, from the state legislature. Once the entrepreneurs were granted the license, the road would be built at private expense; and tolls were collected at stated intervals, subject to such limits that the law or the charter might impose. Then as now, there were people who were not happy about the need to pay tolls, and sometimes these people would travel out of their way, or make a short cut, to avoid the toll booths; and this gave rise to the term "shunpikes" and "shunpikers". Eventually, citizens decided that they would rather be taxed to maintain the roads (the tax could be paid by donating labor), and the turnpikes which still survived became public highways.

During his presentation, Jon provided images of the structures that once stood along the journey accompanied, in imaginative and engrossing detail, by what might have been the lives of the residents as the time travelers journeyed to their final destination near what is now the east gate of the Quabbin Park Reservation.

Memorial Day

The Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery (QPC) were held on Sunday, May 27, 2018 and were well attended. The weather that day was not that conducive for staying at the cemetery any longer than necessary. This Memorial Day had very special meaning to the Valley as it occurred on the one hundredth anniversary of World War I commemorating the 105 former residents who were volunteers or inducted to serve in the war to end all wars. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Massachusetts WWI Centennial Honor Guard



Samuel Adams of DCR, flags the cemetery

participated in the QPC Memorial Day Services. I was asked to raise both the Stars and Stripes and the WWI Centennial Flag that was donated by the South Hadley VFW Post 3104. The WWI Centennial Flag will continue to fly at QPC through

Memorial Day. I'd like to personally thank Brian Willette, Commander of VFW Post 3104, his two sons Josh and Zach, Jim Fitz of VFW Post 3104, Joe Delaney of VFW Post 3422 (Easthampton) and the Sergeant-at-Arms of American Legion Post 124, Westfield (I'm both a Past Commander and a life member). To me, it was very special honor to be able to raise the Centennial Flag. One hundred years ago today, both of my grandfathers, formerly of Enfield, were doughboys in the American Expeditionary Force serving in France. My paternal grandfather Walter H. Theroux served in the 805 Aero Squadron and my maternal grandfather, Francis Charles Parker served in the 55th Coastal Artillery.



Gene Theroux raising the WWI Centennial Flag.

Upon their return from France and discharge from military service, each grandfather became a charter member of an American Legion Post and they continued to serve their communities and country through their membership in the American Legion. Francis Charles Parker was a longtime

CEMETERY RECORD—BURIALS			
NAME OF DECEASED <u>Torrance, John</u>			
ORIGINAL INTERMENT		REINTERMENT	
Church <u>Enfield</u>	TOWN <u>Enfield</u>	Cemetery <u>Quabbin Park</u>	TOWN <u>Ware</u>
Block No. <u>7</u> Lot No. <u>142</u> Grave No. <u>535B</u>	Block No. <u>7</u> Lot No. <u>142</u> Grave No. <u>1</u>	REINTERRED <u>9-10-1937</u> BOX SIZE <u>12x2-8"</u>	
DIED <u>Feb 7, 1866</u> AGE <u>66</u>		UNDERTAKER <u>W.P.C.</u>	
CORD BOOK NO. <u>1</u> PAGE <u>36</u>		REMARKS	
OTHER BODIES IN COMMON INTEREST			
NAME	BLOCK NO.	LOT NO.	GRAVE NO.
<u>See Torrance, Mary</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>535B</u>
<u>Unknown</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>535A</u>
ETL. DIST. WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION FORM 88 128-9-25 NO.3237 A (Optional on Reverse Side.)			

An example of a card index card used by the Metropolitan Water Supply Commission to document burials.

member of the Post 21 Drum and Bugle Corp; Walter H. Theroux was a charter member of the Swift River American Legion Post in Enfield.

This year also marked the 80th anniversary of the elimination of the four towns on April 28, 1938. The administration and maintenance of vital records of the four towns became the responsibility of the Metropolitan Water Supply Commission (now DCR) on April 28, 1938. Quabbin Park Cemetery was dedicated in 1933.

The *Springfield Republican* reported on February 5, 1933 that the generations who lived since before the Revolution were to be mustered in Quabbin Park Cemetery. The article reported that communities rarely make a census of their dead such as has been forced upon the villages and hamlets of the Swift River Valley through the creation of a great reservoir by the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission — a census of gravestones and monuments left to mark the passage of generation after generation since the Revolutionary War. The *Springfield Republican* article also reported that the graves were surveyed and indexed, and that the Metropolitan Commission has surveyed all the cemeteries with meticulous care. It could destroy them all and set them up again, headstones and all, if there were any need of it. Every headstone has been photographed; every inscription has been recorded; and every burial lot has been surveyed and recorded. A card index has been carefully prepared from all the stones, showing the name of the person, where and when buried, and all the facts as shown on the stones. This card index would be a mine of information for the seeker after genealogical and historical data and curious legends on tombstones.

The Friends of Quabbin is both eagerly and patiently waiting for DCR's Management Plan for Quabbin Park Cemetery (Operations and Policy Manual). The DCR working group has also been working on: 1. Stonework cleaning policy; 2. Stonework cleaning guidelines; 3. Cleaning Notice of Intent form; 4. Planting policy; 5. Memorial Tree Policy; 6. Irrigation System Repairs; 7. Development of App for digitized cemetery records; 8. Digitization of Cemetery Master Book; 9. Cemetery Access and Security Plan; 10. Vegetative Management Plan; 11. Funding for removal of hazard trees; 12. Fee structure; 13. Procedure for Veterans Flags.



Example of curious legends: Elizabeth (Fiske) Cutler, daughter of Lieutenant Ebenezer and Bethia (Muzzy) Fiske of Lexington, Massachusetts (left); her husband, the Rev Robert Cutler, a Harvard University graduate, the second minister of Greenwich (right). He was installed on February 13, 1760 after serving in Epping, New Hampshire.

Dan Clark, the Director of DCR/Quabbin, had expected the DCR Management Plan for Quabbin Park Cemetery to be completed by late spring 2018 and that the Friends of Quabbin would play an active role in the review of the draft with implementation soon thereafter. At the June 14th FOQ director's meeting, he reported that the final sections were being completed for incorporation into the final draft that will



Adam Johnson headstone knocked over by a QPC lawnmower, you can see the tire ruts.

be circulated to the DCR DWSP Director. FOQ has not seen a draft at this time. The management plan for QPC is supposed to answer the policy questions that the Friends of Quabbin had asked in a letter on November 20,



The headstone of Judith Johnson fell over on its own. Judith was the mother of Adam Johnson.

2017. The Friends of Quabbin has been persistent about the restoration and preservation of Quabbin Park Cemetery. On a recent visit to Quabbin Park Cemetery just before the Memorial Day commemoration, it was quite disheartening to find two headstones knocked over, one by a lawnmower and the other by forces of nature. The first headstone was of Adam Johnson (1802-1869), a farmer formerly of Prescott; the second of Judith Johnson (1783-1860) wife of Andrew Johnson and parents of Adam. Both of these cases were reported to DCR on May 14, 2018 with the name of the headstone, the location of the headstone and the photographs.

It's been a full month and no action has been taken. We fully accept that accidents do and will occur, but we would expect that the Management Plan for Quabbin Park Cemetery would include a process for fully documenting such incidents and to include notifying the heirs, with the ultimate result being DCR

fixing the situation they created from the accident with the lawnmower or from neglect (e.g. leaning headstones).

Oral Histories

The Oral History indexing project has been an ongoing initiative for many years and the Friends is very eager for DCR to complete the project and to include identifying any restrictions of use placed on these by the participants. The goal is to make the oral history collection available to the public as appropriate. 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. We learned at the June 2018 Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors meeting that an additional 28 oral history interviews have been indexed and the index files were made available to us the following day. This is significant progress and we'd like to thank Nancy Huntington for both her diligence and vigilance in this effort. It was discussed at the June 2018 FOQ directors meeting that excerpts from these interviews could be made available and played to the attendees of the Tuesday Teas. Two attendees of the Tuesday Teas are looking to create a structured program for the attendees to learn more of how life was in the Valley. There are a number of resources at the Quabbin Visitor Center to help them in developing programs for the Tuesday Teas. At the Director's meeting, DCR was asked if they had a catalog of their movies about Quabbin on DVD that the Tuesday Tea moderators could review and use to build a schedule. ∞

Memorial Day Services

continued from page 1

#123 & Auxiliary, Ware VFW Post #2577 & DAV Chapter 59 & Auxiliaries Petersham American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary Post #415, L. A. Tift Camp 15 and 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,



Keith Poulin, Past Commander of American Legion Post #239

ending in two buglers and a drummer who set the pace.

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 Sean McCarthy. 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 are accompanied by a military escort as they come 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 – Cooke and Crowther



Jane & Peter Peirce accompanied by Steve Kutt

families; Greenwich – Hall family; Prescott – Peirce family; the Schmidt Bench – Jenny Kirley and Sandy Dise. 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 colors, first the flag of the United States and MIA flag, then the flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and World War I Centennial flag. The WWI Centennial Flag was provided by South Hadley VFW Post 3104VFW. The WWI Centennial flag was raised by Dept of Massachusetts WWI Centennial Honor Guard and Gene Theroux, President of the Friends and Past Commander, American Legion Post 124. The flag raising was followed by a selection of patriotic music and a reading of “In Flanders Field” by Don Slessler.



WWI Centennial Flag

Comments were made by elected officials: Senator Ann Gobi, Representative Susannah Whipps and Representative Todd



WWI Centennial Honor Guard



Paul Hamel, Sen. Ann Gobi, Rep. Todd Smola, & Rep. Susannah Whipps

Smola. Followed by comments from Dan Clark of DCR Quabbin. A Benediction closed the ceremony. In the afternoon, Maria Beiter-Tucker from the Visitor Center staff gave a presentation “World War I and the Quabbin Valley” at the Visitor Center.

Tolerable weather, solemn remembrances, thanks and appreciation for service and sacrifice, and friendship and community were enjoyed by all on this special day.



Belchertown Community Band, Mike Bauer, Director

In Memoriam

Swift River Valley World War I Deaths

Killed in Action:

- PFC Frederick Conrad Lincoln of Prescott, killed 9-10-1918 in Vauxcere, France
- Private John E. Hunter of Dana, killed 10-14-1918
- Private Arthur L. Plant of Enfield, killed 9-15-1918 at the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, Thiaucourt, France

Died in the War:

- Lt. William N. Hewitt formerly of Enfield, 5-18-1918
- Joseph N. Plant of Enfield

Died of Influenza at Camp Devens:

- Stephen H. Walker of Greenwich; George W. Ryan of Dana; John M. Currier of Prescott; Harold W. Peirce of Prescott; Willis F. Shaw of Prescott



Interpretive Services Report

Summer 2018

by Clif Read

On the evening of April 5th the DCR's Forestry Office on Elm Street in New Salem caught fire and burned to the ground destroying the building, five vehicles, a significant amount of equipment and irreplaceable records dating back to the 1940s. The only silver lining was that no one was hurt in the conflagration. At 9:15 p.m. a passerby noticed a fire in the building and reported the blaze. By the time fire crews arrived on the scene the structure was fully involved, so their job was to contain the fire and try to keep the underground fuel tank and pumps immediately next to the building from combusting. Fire crews from 14 towns responded to the event and provided assistance to the small New Salem Department. It is believed that the fire was accidental and was possibly started either in the electrical system or near the wood stove.

The original structure was built in 1962, replacing the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC – the predecessor to the DCR) field office located at Gate 22 in New Salem. It was constructed on the property formerly owned by the James Burrage family, purchased in the 1930s for the reservoir project. In the mid-1980s the MDC expanded the building with an



James Burrage home August 19, 1933

addition built off the back of the original structure, adding a garage and office space. The site was home to the watershed maintenance crew, foresters and biologists over the years and was ideally situated for access to the northern end of the watershed. Temporary office space will be provided for staff in trailers while a full plan for replacement/relocation is being developed. In the meantime staff members have been reassigned to other work sites in Belchertown and Oakham.

While the data are still being compiled on tree mortality across the Quabbin watershed from gypsy moth caterpillars over the past couple of years, it is safe to say that the impacts are significant. Repeated outbreaks from these insects and the resulting defoliation of trees, particularly their favored species of oaks, have weakened many trees beyond the point of recov-

ery. With oak being the dominant forest cover type at Quabbin, the watershed is particularly susceptible to the ravages of these voracious caterpillars which are eating machines if left unchecked. As mentioned in my article from two years ago, there are some natural predators which feed on the caterpillars including birds, rodents and other insects. A virus is also effective in keeping the population in check, but its virulence is dependent upon proper moisture condition. Drier conditions limit the effectiveness of the virus while adding a level of stress to the trees



Quabbin Oak December 22, 1939



Quabbin Oak August 9, 1945

under siege from the caterpillars. Added to the damage of the last two years is this year's crop of caterpillars that have been munching their way through the canopy. As if trees were not already stressed enough from the past two years, this year's defoliation will only add to the tree mortality.

Certainly the gypsy moth impacts are not uniform across the watershed but are of varying intensity. Some areas have been spared in recent years while other locations have been hit repeatedly. One of the most iconic trees in the watershed is the Quabbin Oak that greets visitors as they enter the West



Quabbin Oak June 18, 2018

(Main) Entrance off Route 9 to get to the Visitor Center. This huge tree was massive when the reservoir was constructed 80+ years ago and it has only grown larger in girth and stature since then. Photographs from 1939 and 1946 show the

distinctive individual alongside Winsor Dam Road towering above the surrounding vegetation. Sadly, this tree has been particularly hard hit by gypsy moth caterpillars and today only has a small percentage of the branches leafed out this spring.

Earlier this spring John Scannell was announced as the permanent Director of the DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection (DWSP). Since mid-January John had been serving as Acting Director while the search was initiated to fill the position. In his 25 years with the agency John has served as Environmental Engineer, Wachusett/Sudbury Reservoir Regional Director, Quabbin/Ware River Interim Regional Director and Acting DWSP Director. With such a breadth of experience and knowledge of the watersheds and watershed issues, John was the

logical choice to fill this important position. In addition to overseeing the Office of Watershed Management, John's responsibilities also cover the Office of Water Resources and its many water-related duties.

For the 16th year the Quabbin Section is hosting a crew from the Student Conservation Association Mass Parks Americorps Program based at Dubuque State Forest in Hawley. The crew is part of the program which works on trails projects on DCR properties throughout the state. After working on the Visitor Center Loop Trail the past few years this year's crew will be doing general trail maintenance on the Quabbin Park trail network. I hope that you will get out and enjoy some of the work as you walk the trails this summer!

Valley Eye Radio Visits Tuesday Tea

by Clif Read

On June 5th the DCR joined forces with Valley Eye Radio (VER) at the monthly gathering of the Tuesday Tea for a special recording session of the program entitled "I Remember When". Valley Eye Radio (<http://valleyeyeradio.org>) is a



Harold Anderson, Valley Eye Radio, describes the program to the Tuesday Tea group

non-profit broadcast service of readings from local newspapers, publications and recorded features for the blind, visually and reading impaired due to a disability. Based in Springfield, VER covers Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire Counties and is dedicated to maintaining the independence of their listeners and connection to their communities. As Programming Coordinator Harold Anderson described it, the program "I Remember When" grew out of a suggestion by a new listener from Westfield. The topic for the program on June 5th was "My Four Town Memories" and was an opportunity for former valley residents to tell their story about where they lived in the Swift River Valley and some of their recollections of living in those towns.

Programming Coordinator Harold Anderson interviewed former residents and some descendants of former residents, amassing more than two hours of material that will be edited

down into a series of programs for broadcast later this summer. As part of a future Tuesday Tea, the programs will be played for the assembled groups so that everyone can appreciate this rich collection of memories.



Interview with Stanley Boyko



Interview with Earl Cooley, Anne Ely, Alberta & Francis Martin, Suzanne Martin and Lois Cooley (l-r) await their turn.

Spring at Quabbin

Written with photos by Anne Ely
(except as noted)



Red Maple–*Acer rubrum*

Spring at Quabbin is like nowhere else. The snow is gone, and at last the calendar says Spring. It's been a long time coming.

The first few days of spring were glorious. Today brings forth a soft, gentle spring rain... which turns into three days of mud producing downpours!

Finally it clears, but the temperature has dropped. For a while it seems as if I've misread the calendar, especially when I wake up to find everything covered in white. (Ah, yes. New England!) Poor man's fertilizer is what farmers call these early spring dustings of snow. I know from past experience, however, that this will quickly

disappear; the sun will come out again, and new life will begin to stir.

Already the maple trees, with their tiny red blossoms, are bringing a soft red glow to the dismal bare tree branches.

As the days go by more and more signs appear announcing that, yes, spring is really here.

The water-filled depressions along the road are filled with the blooms of Skunk Cabbage, many of which appeared even before the last snow and ice had disappeared. The plant's process of cellular respiration can raise the temperature around it up to 63°F, melting the ice and giving the appearance of neatly cut round holes up through which the blooms emerge.



Skunk Cabbage –
Symplocarpum foetidus,
photo by Paul Godfrey

Skunk Cabbage leaves will soon follow and, nearby, the bright green leaves of False Hellebore are shooting up all around. False Hellebore, a toxic plant, grows in close proximity to Skunk Cabbage and is often mistaken for it. The leaves of Skunk Cabbage are a darker green.

Once spring is under way everything seems to spring forth at once. The view from the Enfield Overlook, is filled with myriad shades of green, interspersed with occasional reds, all contrasting beautifully with the blue water and the white trunks of birch trees.



Wild Columbine–*Aquilegia canadensis* & Plantain-leaved Pussytoes–*Antennaria plantaginifolia*

Wildflowers are beginning to poke their colorful heads up through mats of fallen leaves and twigs. Along the road by the Spillway one is greeted every year by the bright red Columbines, blending with the purple of wild Violets, and the soft gray-white of Ladies Tobacco, one of the common names for the Plantain-leaved Pussytoes.



A small stream trickles silently down alongside the roadside at Gate 53 where Cranesbill, often called Wild Geranium nod in the breeze.

A large rock on the side of the road approaching the Dike is topped with Pink-creeping Phlox, an escapee, perhaps, from someone's garden of many years ago. Bird's-foot Violets, Canada Mayflowers, False Solomon's Seal, and Bluets are just some of the flowers that add spots of color along one's walk down to the Dike.

Canada Mayflower –
Maianthemum canadense

But spring at Quabbin is more than green trees and wildflowers. Wildlife begins to stir also.

Chipmunks are scurrying around finding seeds and nuts, stuffing their cheek pouches until they look as if they had the mumps.

The exact opposite of the quick, darting Chipmunk is the Porcupine. Slow and lumbering on the ground it, too, climbs trees and can often be seen either stretched out on a limb napping, or feeding on the tender new leaves and twigs.

Although they have been around all winter, deer are beginning to be more visible as they shed their thicker, grey-brown winter camouflage coats for brighter, more reddish summer ones. Before long tiny white-spotted fawns will be seen trotting along behind their mothers.

Even from a car, it is not uncommon to site a Bobcat, but they will usually disappear as quickly as they appear.



Eastern Chipmunk –*Tamias striatus*

All this is enveloped in the joyous announcement of spring by the hundreds of birds, both native, and passing through. Some even put on new spring outfits, the beauty of which are breathtaking. Overhead, in bushes, on the ground, they put “spring” in spring; Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and warblers by the dozens. The ice is out, the eagles will be fishing and carrying their catch back up to their nests to feed their young.



Fawn with mother, Whitetail Deer – *Odocoileus virginianus*

Much of this beauty can be seen from right along

the road looping through Quabbin, which is where most visitors go, but Quabbin is more than the roadway. It is a quiet spot just out of sight and hearing of humans. where one can sit quietly and let spring’s beauty show itself in its many ways. It is miles of hiking trails, each with its own special gifts. Every spot is different, every day is different, and when spring is done, each season to follow will be different, and no less beautiful. But spring in Quabbin is a great time to begin.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak – *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

The Quabbin Student Fish Stocking Program

by Clif Read

For nearly 20 years, the DCR and MassWildlife have been teaming up on Quabbin fish stocking programs with area public schools prior to the opening of the Quabbin Fishing Season. It all started with a discussion with MassWildlife’s Chief of Hatcheries and Petersham resident Ken Simmons and staff at the Petersham Center School when Ken’s son was a kindergartener. They hatched the idea of combining the fish stocking work that MassWildlife does with an educational program for watershed community children where they could learn about the fish and actually stock some fish at Boat Launch Area #2 (Gate 31). It was a tremendous success and what was a one shot deal turned into an annual event!

Several years later the program expanded to include other schools who did fish stocking at the two other fishing areas. The program includes a background presentation by KenMassWildlife’s Angler Education Coordinator Jim Lagacy, and Clif Read from the Quabbin Interpretive staff. Students learn about watersheds, environmental stewardship, drinking water protection, fish biology, hatchery management, fishing and ecology. But the most interesting and exciting part of the program is stocking some of the 5,000 rainbow trout released in Quabbin each year. Students line up with large 5 gallon buckets and proceed to the stocking truck where they receive several of the trout raised at the McLaughlin Fish Hatchery in Belchertown, which weigh approximately one pound apiece. Walking the short distance to the shoreline, students launch the fish out into the reservoir. Sometimes the fish are stunned by the sudden transition to a whole new environment and take a minute to acclimate, but mostly the fish quickly swim off to explore their new home.

Students and teachers alike are appreciative of the opportunity to see the fish up close, to learn about the program that raises them and releases them at Quabbin, and are excited about the angling opportunities once the reservoir opens for fishing on the third Saturday in April.



Petersham Fish Stocking 2018

Meetings & Events

Tuesday Teas

Tuesday Teas Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. The next ones will be on August 7th, September 4th and October 2nd.

Photo Club Meetings

Quabbin Photo Group

(<http://www.quabbinphotogroup.org>) meetings are on the 4th Monday beginning at 7:30 p.m. Meetings will no longer be held at the Quabbin Visitor Center with their new focus on the requirement that DCR personnel must be present at all such meetings for security reasons. For the foreseeable future, meetings will be held at the **Hope Methodist Church at 31 Main St., Belchertown, Mass.** 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.

Monday Night, July 23rd – Members Night
(Please bring 10–15 images to share with fellow members.)

Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists

(<http://www.pvphotoartists.org>) meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the **Hope Methodist Church at 31 Main St., Belchertown, Mass.** The next meeting is July 26th with a theme of “Keep It Simple and Winter.” The theme of the August 30th meeting is “Leaves and Black and White;” the theme for September 27th is “Out of the Box and Plants” and the theme for October 25th is “Signs and Closeups.” Check their website for more information.



Last meeting of the QPG at the Quabbin Administration Building, June 25, 2018.

Swift River Valley Historical Society Programs

JULY

Sunday, July 1st, **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS** with Michael Jones, State Herpetologist in the Prescott Church on the grounds of SRVHS at 1:00 p.m. Optional field trip to follow the program.

July 9th–13th **WATER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN**
Please call Emma Ayres at 413-992-7936 for information.

Sunday, July 15th **DANA REUNION** on Dana Common.
Gates open at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 21st **OLD HOME DAY** on New Salem Common from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Vendors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
This will also be **NEW SALEM ACADEMY REUNION DAY.**

Sunday, July 22nd **DANA VESPERS** at Prescott Church on the grounds of SRVHS at 4:00 p.m. Cake and lemonade served after the concert to celebrate Mrs. Clary's 180th birthday. Mrs. Clary lived in the Whitaker-Clary house until she was 98 years old.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 11th **BIRDS OF PREY** with Tom Ricardi on the grounds of SRVHS at 3:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 9th **ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING** on the grounds of SRVHS at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 16th **FALL HIKE** to North Prescott and south to Pettengil's “4 Corners” area. Meet at Gate 20 at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 23rd **MUSEUM CLOSING DAY**

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 14th **PRESCOTT/ENFIELD PILGRIMAGE BUS TRIP.** Meet at SRVHS for 11:00 a.m. departure.

Sunday, October 21st **FALL HIKE** to a remote Pelham area. Meet at Gate 12 at 11:00 a.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Programs and hikes are free with the exception of the Bus Trips and the Water Program for Children. Donations always gladly accepted. Bus trips are \$30.00 per reservation. Please call 978-544-6882 to reserve your spot!

Attention!

All hike and bus participants: no smoking or alcoholic beverages. Please prepare for bugs and ticks!

Meetings & Events

Petersham Historical Society

Sunday, July 15th **Lost History: Exploring Barns, Farms & Landscapes** 2:00–4:00 p.m. on Petersham Commons.

Saturday, August 25th **Petersham Annual Old Home Day** on Petersham Common

Saturday October 6th **Ghost Walk with Petersham's Past** at Center Cemetery

For more information, call: (978) 724-3380.

Other historical societies wishing to have their schedule appear in this newsletter should contact the Quabbin Voices editor, Paul Godfrey (see back page for addresses).

In Appreciation...Thank You!

Volunteers at the FOQ Annual Meeting April 8, 2018
Francis Martin, Alberta Martin, Anne Ely, Elaine Darr-Morton,
Ann Hurlburt, John Zebb, Deanna Krusiewicz
Your time—A gift well received. FOQ-Board of Directors

New Salem Old Home Day Celebrates the New Salem Academy: Then and Now



New Salem's Old Home Day on Saturday, July 21, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., will be a New Salem Academy Reunion Day celebrating the New Salem Academy's long history, its grant/scholarship program today, and the legacy left by so many

of its former students who settled and started businesses in the Quabbin area.

This year's Old Home Day will have all the fun of an old-fashion, small-town, summer festival as well as Academy events that will interest people wanting to learn more about the area and the Academy. There will be the traditional events: cross cut saw, pony rides, live music, giant book sale, art/crafts/local products vendors' market, lunch barbecue and café, parade, and more including Firemen's Pancake Breakfast from 7:00–10:00 a.m.

In addition, this year the popular historic walks will expand to three:

9:00–10:30 a.m. — An Historic Quabbin Drive/Walk to the former village of Millington for a guided tour with Academy graduates Phyllis Hamilton Frechette who grew up there, and Don Flye. Meet behind the Old Town Hall to car pool.

11:00–12:00 p.m. — An Historic Walk of the Former Academy Buildings with Sue Cloutier. Meet in front of the Old Academy Building.

2:00–3:00 p.m. — A Town Forest Tree Walk with Bruce Spencer. Meet in front of the Old Academy Building.

For those wanting to learn more about the history of the New Salem Academy, the Academy Museum with its wealth of historic photos and artifacts will be open from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. in the Old Academy Building. Former New Salem Academy students, and the public will gather at 1:30 p.m. in the 1794 Meetinghouse for a panel of students from several decades speaking about their experiences at the Academy. Chet Lubelczyk of Hardwick will moderate the panel. Festival goers are invited to stay into the evening for a special 1794 Meetinghouse concert with the Green Sisters of Hardwick at 7:30 p.m. The New Salem Arts Intensive offers picnic sandwich suppers for sale starting at 5 p.m. What better way to end a summer day in New Salem than a picnic at the overlook, looking out over the Quabbin reservoir.



John Conkey, Sr. of Belchertown will be on the panel of former New Salem Academy students at the New Salem Old Home Day, July 21. John is shown here with the three generations of Conkeys who run John Conkey & Sons Logging.

Former New Salem Academy students who have not received their invitation to the Reunion should contact Dan Hammock, imagine4@prodigy.net for more information. For general Old Home Day information email: nsoldhomeday@gmail.com or check out the New Salem town website.

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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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