

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Winter 2023
Vol.35 No.4

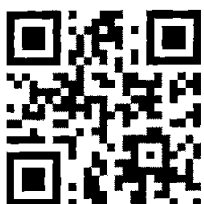
We must hear and listen to all of Quabbin's many Voices. Voices of the Past, as well as Voices of the Present and of the Future. Voices of the Trees, the Sky, the Rain that falls, and all the Wild Things; Voices of the People who depend on this valuable resource for their daily needs of clean water,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

—Les Campbell

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Any meeting or event may be cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Check the organization's web page or call beforehand.



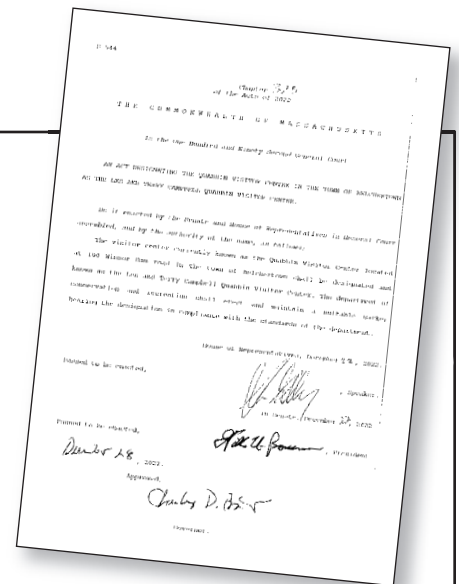
Breaking News!

by Paul Godfrey and Annie Tiberio

On December 19th in the late afternoon, the Massachusetts House passed S. 544, "An Act designating the Quabbin Visitor Center as the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center." The bill was signed by Governor Baker on December 28th. This culminates more than a two-year effort by the Friends of Quabbin, Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists and Quabbin Photo Group to memorialize the efforts of Les and Terry for the Quabbin, its former residents and its present and future visitors.

Recently, we asked many of you to call or email your representatives requesting their support for this bill. If you did that, you should know that it had an effect. Now is the time to follow up with a thank you. And to you, we say, Thank You!

We are now beginning to plan for a suitable ceremony to announce this to the world, for the various signs to show the new name, and for an informative display in the Les and Terry Campbell Visitor Center to tell visitors about the Campbells. We will keep you posted as to time and place as planning for these happenings proceeds.



Holiday Party 2022

by Paul Godfrey



We agonized! COVID wasn't over but masking and occupancy restrictions that blocked having our annual party at the Visitor Center were over. Most people, especially older folks were fully vaccinated. Further, COVID restrictions had blocked our usual annual meeting in April; could we somehow combine the two? We wanted to return to normalcy but we did not want to risk anyone's health. We decided to try it, but would anyone come? So, we asked people to RSVP if they planned to come. Forty-five people said yes; we were encouraged. (continued page 5)



Gene Theroux

President's Message

Winter 2023

The last few months could be called a time of connectivity. For example, I attended a meeting on November 9, 2022 to discuss America's 250th Birthday in 2026. The meeting was at the beautiful and historic Betty Allen Chapter House of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) and the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). NSDAR is preparing to honor the brave Patriots who achieved America's independence in 1776. In support of this celebration, the Betty Allen NSDAR Chapter is considering the dedication/rededication of the thirty-six Patriot graves in the Quabbin Park Cemetery (QPC). Denise Kindschi Gosselin, Betty Allen DAR Regent, Cher Nicholas, and the other meeting attendees met to discuss a collaborative potential service event at QPC. This event would consist of a dedication ceremony and a community meet and greet. It could involve multiple groups: e.g., SAR, Boy/Girl Scouts, Massachusetts 250th Group, Boston Tea Party Ships and Museums, Children of the American Revolution (CAR), plus local businesses, elected officials, local communities, descendants and Friends of the Quabbin patriots. The meeting group discussed possible celebration dates. The year 2024 was proposed to allow for the many other events across the Commonwealth that will take place in 2026, the actual year for America's 250th celebration. May 26th, the day of the usual Memorial Day celebration in 2024 (May 26th), was suggested. That would allow the two celebrations to be seamlessly blended into one enhancing the visibility of both.

The Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors met on Thursday, November 10th and the proposal for May 26, 2024 at QPC was presented to the Board and DCR; it was overwhelmingly endorsed. The Betty Allen DAR chapter met and voted on November 15, 2022 to approve the QPC event in collaboration with the Friends of the Quabbin, DCR, and the SAR Seth Pomeroy



The gravestone of American Revolutionary War veteran, Corporal Robert Field. Field was a justice of the peace, selectman for five years, State representative from 1801 to 1804, an innkeeper, a manufacturer, and for many years a leading man in the community.



Left to right: Philip Johnson, Registrar, Secretary, and Vice President of Seth Pomeroy chapter of the SAR and Assistant State Registrar for Massachusetts SAR; Denise Kindschi Gosselin, Regent of the Betty Allen Chapter of the NSDAR; Cher Nicholas, Betty Allen Chapter, American 250th Committee Chair & member of the Friends of Quabbin; Dave Robison, State Registrar-Genealogist for the Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and President Pomeroy Chapter & member of the Friends of Quabbin; and Gene Theroux, President of the Friends of Quabbin and member of the Seth Pomeroy chapter of the SAR

Chapter and other possible groups as the event is more fully developed.

Among the thirty-six veterans of 1776 to be celebrated is the name of Robert Field, an early settler for whom the town of Enfield was named. Robert Field served in Captain Joseph Hooker's company of Minutemen. He also served a brief period with Captain Isaac Powers Company. Field had opened the first clothing shop in Enfield, had built a blacksmith shop, and an oil mill. In addition, he operated an inn at the Field home.

Also at the November 10th Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors meeting, a proposal for an Eagle Scout project was presented and approved. The project would entail cleaning of veteran's gravestones. Most of the veteran's gravestones to be cleaned would be government-provided headstones and some privately owned veteran's gravestones. The government-provided gravestones would not require DCR's intent to clean stonework form. The Eagle Scout candidate had prepared a document identifying the scope of the project that included a materials list and costing estimate. The estimate of \$500 for the D/2 Biological Solution Cleaning Set supports a gravestone cleaning event for 6 to 12 people. The project would encompass identifying, inspecting, and flagging of gravestones safe to be cleaned prior to the training event. Documentation requirements would include identification, condition of

gravestone (before, during, and after photos), work completed and date, and to comply with DCR policy as identified in the QPC Rules and Regulations policy published January 2019. Friends of Quabbin President Gene Theroux volunteered to be a technical advisor to the Eagle Scout candidate. The Board moved to support the Eagle Scout project and to fully fund it at the \$500 level.



The Dana Honor Roll

Honor Roll mounted on the Quabbin Park Cemetery Administration Building. The project would require the conservator to use a light laser to remove the corrosive patina.

The Dana Honor Roll is typical of the condition of



Enlargement of part of Dana Honor Roll

the plaques to be treated. What one sees is extreme corrosion of the bronze that will significantly shorten the lifespan of the plaque. Traditional methods of rust removal and corrosion control involve blasting and lots of protective equipment and loss of some material of the plaque; laser cleaning offers a safe and much faster way to remove corrosion from any type of metal. It fully removes corrosion to the bare metal without altering the integrity of the metal. It also eliminates the hassle of disposing of hazardous waste.

HOW LASER RUST REMOVAL WORKS

Laser cleaning, also known as laser ablation, uses thousands of focused laser light pulses per second to remove contaminants from products like military vehicles, aircraft, and car manufacturing parts. Unlike other alternatives of cleaning and welding prep, laser ablation doesn't damage the substrate. It produces precision cleaning

Benefits of Laser Rust Removal

- Removes oxidation without harming underlying or surrounding surfaces
- Easy setup and teardown
- Handheld and automated options available
- Cost-effective
- Environmentally friendly
- Customized for your application

without requiring additional cleanup or producing added waste. While laser solutions aren't efficient for large surface areas, they work effectively on smaller, targeted areas — often cleaning 15 times faster than media blasting options like sandblasting.

I have used laser removal in my work at Westfield cemeteries. An example from there is shown. The statue exhibits the corrosive patina on the left and the laser cleaning result on the right.



Bronze head of the Westfield Civil War Soldier monument has been partially cleaned with the Light Laser. The left side is light green and the right side is gray in color printings.

The total estimated cost of the restoration and conservation project for the Enfield Soldier monument with the four bronze plaques on the base, the Dana Honor Roll, the Hosea Ballou plaque, James Madison Stone plaque, and the Honor Roll on the QPC Administration Building is \$31,000, a significant sum. While we plan to ask DCR and MWRA for help with this funding need, it is likely that we will need to seek outside funding. Our Massachusetts legislative friends will be contacted to enlist their help. We will point out the condition of the Quabbin Park monuments is in stark contrast to those around the Massachusetts State House grounds where each and every bronze sculpture or bronze plaque has been meticulously cleaned and preserved. The examples in the accompanying photos (*see next page*) show just how stark the difference is.

We will need the help of all Friends of Quabbin members in this effort. We need to communicate to our representatives in the Massachusetts legislature how important these historical artifacts at Quabbin Park Cemetery are. We need to plead with our representatives for their help in acquiring funding so that these historical artifacts can be restored to their former luster and beauty. And we need to remind them of the promise made when the state took the land of the residents and moved those interred in the various cemeteries in the valley to the Quabbin Park Cemetery to make that cemetery a beautiful example of a sensitive memorial to those residents and partial compensation for many decades of pristine drinking water for Metropolitan Boston. A detailed document describing the proposed work is available on the Friends of Quabbin website resources page. Resources page: www.foquabbin.org/resources.

To strengthen our case even more, I've ramped up our efforts to have the Quabbin Park Cemetery nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Because the cemetery is in the town of Ware, they must initiate the process. We have talked to them in the past about this, but we needed to move more aggressively. I attended the Ware Historical Commission meeting held on November 22, 2021 and formally asked that they consider nominating Quabbin Park Cemetery for the National Register of Historic Places. Ware Historical Commission member

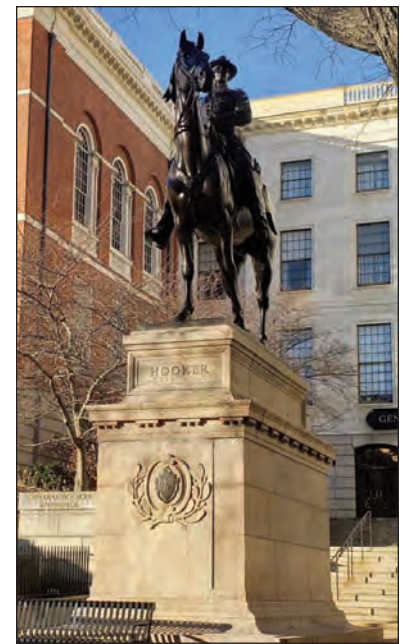


Boston Founding—1630, Beacon Street Boston Common

and Friends of Quabbin Board member Elena Palladino is getting started on this effort now. The first step is to update the *Mass Historical Commission Form E: Burial Ground* to determine whether the cemetery is eligible for the Register. Elena has quite a bit of material for the historical narrative section of the form, but she is looking for help on the visual/design assessment, i.e. to describe landscape features, gravestone materials, and unique designs, motifs, and symbols that are by known carvers. The Friends of Quabbin will be assisting Elena and the Ware Historical Commission in the nomination process and



Enfield Soldier Monument at Quabbin Park Cemetery



Major General Joseph Hooker at the Beacon Street entrance to the Massachusetts State House

will be reaching out to others as appropriate to acquire the necessary information for a successful nomination package to the Massachusetts Historic Commission.

Friends of Quabbin Elections

by Paul Godfrey,
Membership Director

Last year, COVID forced us to try something for the first time. Massachusetts had lifted its restrictions on public meeting but too late for us to hold our annual meeting at the regular time in April. But our bylaws require us to hold one at about that time, primarily to elect a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors. For the previous two years, the Massachusetts Governor and Legislature had allowed us to simply extend the terms of existing directors. Now, we needed to hold that election. As a result, we used a mail-in ballot. Every member was sent a slate of candidates put forward by the Board of Directors. A letter explaining the procedure was emailed to those with email addresses on file with us (about 60% of membership) and mailed to the rest. While those receiving the email could have easily returned their response by email, more often than not, they responded by regular mail. But the membership responded in a wonderful fashion that far exceeded any response ever gotten at our past annual meetings. And responses came from everywhere not just those members who happen to live close by

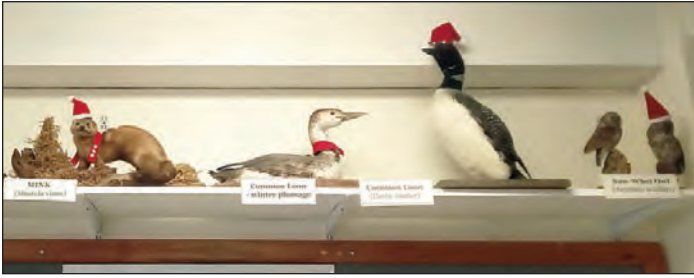
the annual meeting venue and were free on that day. In other words, we got a much more democratic vote than we had ever had, a true quorum of members (54%).

Despite the unexpected success of mail-in voting for us, one aspect that existed at the annual meeting was missing: the opportunity for members to suggest names for the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors. In my memory, I can't remember any names being suggested, but it is the principle that counts. Consequently, **I am calling for you to suggest any names, including your own, for the Board of Directors.** There are minimum qualifications. The candidate must: 1) have an abiding interest in the Quabbin, its history, its environment and its use as a high-quality water supply; 2) be willing and able to attend Board meetings at the Quabbin Visitor Center approximately every 2 months (meetings are generally on Thursday evening from 7 to about 9 pm); and 3) be willing to take on projects that the Board has approved such as organizing the Holiday Party, the Annual Meeting, or working on special projects. Computer skills and good writing skills are a plus.

We have at least one vacancy on the Board at present. Please send any nominee's names, addresses (mailing, email and phone), and a brief description of qualifications to me (Paul Godfrey, 47 Harkness Road, Pelham, MA 01002 or godfrey@umass.edu) by February 15, 2023.

Holiday Party

Continued from page 1



On December 4th, party day, we were prepared and waiting with bated breath. The catered food was on its way. Visitor Center staff had made sure all the animals were appropriately dressed with red holiday stocking caps. Would everyone come? Then, you started streaming in, Friends of Quabbin, Tuesday Tea members and guests, about three times as many as our previous holiday party in 2019 and nearly all who preregistered. We were able to relax and enjoy our glorious party. It was back in grand style!



Gene Theroux, President of the Friends, formally introduced some new people to the party, notably Denise Kindschi Gosselin and Cher Nichols, from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and Jane Peirce and Dot Frye from the Swift River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS). Gene briefly described the program of the imbedded annual meeting: 1) historical videos that would be showing for guests

to watch if they wanted, 2) a mention that our annual election of Board members had been conducted by mail last June and 3) pointed out the location of the Treasurer's report. He asked for one moment of silence for those that we had lost since the last Holiday Party. He then concluded the annual meeting to let the holiday partying begin.



Guests lined up for food, ample amounts provided for all, and sat down to eat and talk with those they had not seen for a couple of years.

After people had time to eat the main course, all eagerly awaited the last course — the famous Holiday Party cake. a delicious fruit filled cake, to which every year, the first cuts are made by any former residents of the four "Quabbin towns" in attendance. Gene Theroux gathered the last born from the Quabbin valley before it was flooded, Deanna Krusiewicz, and also asked a new guest, Jane Peirce from SRVHS, whose roots go back to those days before the flood, to cut the festively decorated Holiday Party cake. And thus, our first Holiday Party in three years ended on a sweet note.

A New “Wild”erness

Text and photos by Anne Ely

Quabbin, the “accidental wilderness” I’ve sometimes heard it called. Often that word, “wilderness,” brings a feeling of sadness, hopelessness. Nothing before one but a vast uninhabitable nothingness — a wasteland. A couple of definitions I found on the Internet of the word tend to support those feelings: “An uncultivated, uninhabited and inhospitable region.” “A neglected or abandoned area of a garden or town.”

I’m sure many of those who were forced to leave their homes because of the building of the Quabbin Reservoir looked back to where their homes and towns once were and had those very feelings. Everything was covered by water; their favorite hills and mountains, now islands, no longer available for a

Sunday afternoon outing... and it was not accidental, either. It was intentional because Boston needed the Valley’s water.

But fast-forward a few years and one finds the beginnings of a change in outlook. New growth was taking place, both in the “wilderness” and in the minds of the former residents of the dismantled towns. Yes, understandably, there was still sadness and some bitterness about the things over which they had had no control. Their homes were still gone and

their favorite haunts still unattainable, but change was slowly beginning to take place. The main focus of the reservoir had been, and still is, pure



Bald Eagle pair

drinking water for Boston. In order for that to happen, in addition to constant water testing, the watershed — the land surrounding the water — needed to be carefully tended. With this care, as the years passed, the beauty of the land was beginning to show through. It had become less like just acres of emptiness and more like a special “wild”erness. The valley’s original inhabitants — deer, moose, bear, bobcats, beavers and more — began to settle back in. Birds filled the air with their songs; water sparkled against the backdrop of fields and forests. People began to appreciate and enjoy the area’s beauty. It became a favorite place for hikers, photographers and birders. An innovative program brought back the bald eagle which had disappeared, and to this day one gets a thrill to see one soaring overhead. It never gets old.

Just as it was intentional to do away with the towns of Dana, Prescott, Greenwich and Enfield and was hard work to accomplish the building of the Quabbin Reservoir, just as much intent and hard work since then to keep the water pure and safe has resulted in this precious place we now enjoy. So, an “accidental wilderness” originally, perhaps, but definitely no longer “accidental”. The “accidental wilderness” has become a most welcome “wild”erness.



A moose in Quabbin

Quabbin in the fall



Fall '22 Group Hike in Quabbin Park

by Justin Gonsor, Program Coordinator 1,
Department of Conservation and Recreation

Webster Road is a wide dirt road that remains relatively flat, making for a nice, leisurely walk. When hiking, the larger your group the more noise you tend to make; coming across wildlife can be rare. Surprisingly, we got close enough to see a small group of deer foraging off the trail before they sensed us and darted off in leaps and bounds.



Powers' Mansion pillars

This past October I continued to offer my 'Exploring Quabbin Park' series of group hikes where I highlight a different trail each time. My latest hike took place on Saturday, October 15th where we walked a combination of Webster Road and the Tower Trail. All-in-all, we covered about 4 miles.

Everyone met at the yellow gate across the street from Hank's Meadow to start the hike. We began the hike by walking down Webster Road. We stopped at the Powers' mansion foundation that is located just inside the gate and off Webster Road. Everyone was amazed at the remnants left behind from the land clearing that happened in the 1930s to make way for the reservoir. Still visible are the remains of the six pillar foundation as well as the large cellar hole.



When we picked up the red blazed Tower Trail the more strenuous portion of the hike began. The trail goes uphill at a steady rate, following a foot path and climbing 300 feet in elevation before reaching the Observation Tower at Quabbin Hill. Unfortunately, the tower was undergoing much needed repairs and as a result, was closed to visitors that day. However, clear blue skies gave us great views of the fall foliage in all directions from the base of the tower. To end our hike we were able to loop back down to Webster Road via the yellow connector trail and then backtrack to Hank's Meadow where we started.

My next hike is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, 2023 from 11AM-1:30 PM. We'll be meeting at the East Gate and taking the black blazed East Gate Trail up to the Goodnough Dike and back. Round trip will



Hiking group on Webster Road

be about 4.5 miles. That will be the last of my 'Exploring Quabbin Park' hikes for a while. After January, my plan is to begin offering group hikes outside of Quabbin Park as there's so much to explore throughout the watershed. My first set of group hikes planned for outside Quabbin Park are Saturday, February 18 and Saturday, March 18.

To register for the January 21st hike or to get details about future hikes please email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov or call 413-323-7221.

Hiking group at the Observation Tower

Restored by Fire

by Nancy Huntington, DCR

I introduced the idea of “Prescribed Burns” in the Winter 2020–21 issue of *Quabbin Voices* and described its general use for the Quabbin Watershed. When one looks at the Quabbin Reservation landscape, with its lush, well-maintained forests, it’s easy to forget that not too long ago this land looked very different. Before the Quabbin Project, most of the land we see here today was farmland. Prior to that, the land was regularly cleared by the indigenous people for their own hunting and agricultural purposes. “Prescribed Burns” (in one form or another) have been used for thousands of years as an effective tool for healthy ecosystem management. Evidence shows that the Native Americans burned regularly: “Besides leaving the forests passable for hunting and gathering, broadcast burning would have had other advantages. One objective of Indian fires was to produce fresh and sweet pasture, for the purpose of alluring the deer to the spots on which they had been kindled” (*Indian Fires in the Prehistory of New England*, Patterson & Sassaman, 1988). One can see what this might have looked like in the dioramas at Harvard Forest:

<https://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/dioramas>

There are many reasons that a prescribed burn would be useful in any number of habitats. Some examples are:

- Reduction in the amount of accumulated debris on the forest floor which can be fuel for “uncontrolled” wildfires, that cause extensive damage to the environment, wildlife and residential areas.
- Reclamation of habitat that has been taken over by invasive species, giving hardy native plants an opportunity to thrive.
- Regeneration of diverse native tree species that are stronger and more resilient.
- Demonstrable positive influence on water quality.
- Reduction of some tick populations by 75–80%, according to research.
- Increase in drought resistance because fire-adapted plant species often have deep root systems, making them more drought tolerant and able to recover quickly after disturbances.

For this issue, I want to focus specifically on the restoration of unique habitats: native grassland and Barrens Habitat.

When the glaciers receded from the New England region over 10,000 years ago, they left pockets of sandy deposits. These dry, nutrient poor soils evolved highly specialized plant and animal species that would thrive there. When European colonists arrived however, all they saw was poor soil in which they could not grow crops, hence the name “Barrens”. The reality is that these landscapes support hundreds of species, many of which are now endangered. Over 50% of the terrestrial species listed on the Massachusetts Endangered Species List require barrens habitat for survival. Additionally, the specific

suite of species that occur here occur nowhere else in the world, making these landscapes Globally Rare.

Some examples of barrens species are:



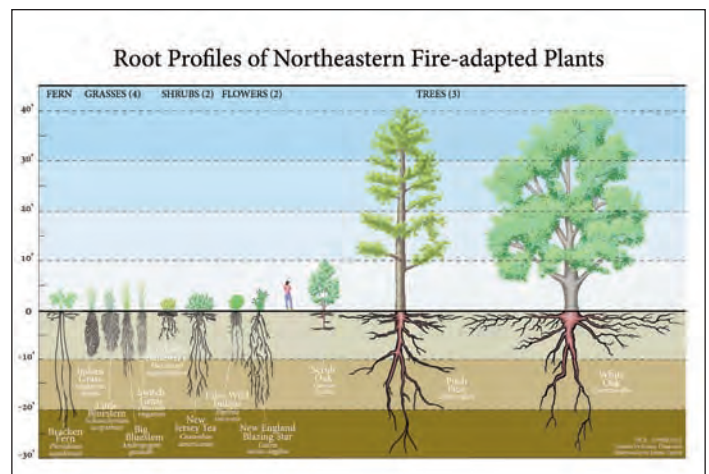
Barrens Buck Moth (left) and Snowberry Clearwing Moth (right), photos courtesy of Dave Small.



Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle, WCVB.com

Sundial Lupine (right), photo courtesy of Virginia Dautreuil, DCR

Barrens are fire-adapted communities that require periodic low-intensity fire to persist and thrive. Consequently, the plants have adapted to be minimally affected by low-intensity fires. One such adaptive strategy is to have very deep roots, surprisingly deep roots. For example, the Bracken Fern may have rhizomes and roots that extend up to 25'–30' down while the green part of the plant may be only 2'–4' tall. The Pitch Pine demonstrates another adaptation, epicormic sprouting, that allows the tree to send out new growth from undamaged tissue after a fire.



Due to fire suppression over the last century, non-fire adapted species like white pine and red maple have gradually encroached on this habitat, crowding out slower growing, shade intolerant species like pitch pine and scarlet oak in a process called “mesification.” This in turn has greatly reduced the availability of habitat for barrens species.

As part of its Conservation mission, and in conjunction with the Mass Wildlife Natural Heritage and Endangered Species division, DCR has been working to identify and restore some of this critical habitat. Barrens restorations are already underway in Barre (<https://mass-eoeea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=e16365af6d034cdb16e26f2793517>)

The most recent grassland restoration has begun on the Prescott peninsula. DCR Fire Crews along with crew members from four other towns worked together in an operation that can only be described as “military precision.” Every detail was covered; every contingency considered; and the crews worked together seamlessly. The goal was to clear away, using prescribed burns, ground level thatch and vegetation as well as undesirable species like white pine and Japanese knotweed in two sections that will be seeded with native warm season grasses, such as little bluestem. Over time and continued burns, native grasses will flourish, and a more diverse vegetation will grow from dormant seeds that have been laying in the soil waiting for the right conditions. A full accounting of the day, as well as more detailed information about prescribed



Prescribed burn on Prescott peninsula

fires will be given during a winter Zoom Program on March 26, 2023, titled “Fire for Diversity.” Those wishing to attend can call the Quabbin Visitor Center at (413) 323-7221, or find a link directly on the DCR Quabbin Events website: <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events>.

Quabbin Interpretive Services Report Winter 2023

by Maria Beiter-Tucker



Quabbin Park Cemetery tour

The last few months have been very busy for the Quabbin Interpretive Services Staff. We took advantage of the lovely fall weather to offer several public hikes and programs. Our Soapstone Hill and Quabbin Hill hikes were both well attended and gave the public the opportunity to explore trails with our staff and learn more about recreation access at the Reservoir. Our Quabbin Park Cemetery tours continue to be a popular way for people to learn about the history of the Valley towns.

One program that was very well attended was a forestry walk that was coordinated with our Forestry and Natural Resource Colleagues. We had close to 50 people walk through a recently harvested plot to learn more about the DCR-DWSP forestry program and land management. The plan is for this to be the first of several programs focusing on the forestry program to help the public gain a better understanding of our management practices.

We were very busy at the end of September and October with school groups visiting Quabbin Park. To maximize the time students have outdoors during their field trips, our staff have begun to visit schools prior to the field trip to offer presentations instead of holding the presentations here in the Visitor Center. In some cases, we have been able to offer

remote programs as well. If interested, we offer the schools the opportunity for guided tours in Quabbin Park to further their understanding and appreciation for the history and management of the Reservoir. We also support teachers with designed self-guided visits to the park and by providing scavenger hunts and other material to supplement their visits. The goal is to move schools beyond a simple visit to the area and to gain a better appreciation of all its facets.



One exciting development has been working with the education staff at MWRA. Because of remote technology we are now able to reach districts in the Greater Boston area. Our program offerings were shared by the MWRA staff, and we have remote programs scheduled for the next several months. We are looking forward to working with teachers in water-using districts.

We offered a series of three programs for the Hadley Senior Center that were well received and as usual, interacted with many visitors who stopped into the Visitor Center while they visit Quabbin Park and Reservoir.

We are also continuing updates to the Visitor Center itself. We have added another movable display board and a viewing

table for the display books about the town and construction. Since our last meeting our sign shop installed an expanded elevation display that includes information about historic high and low elevations. Hopefully over the winter we will be installing more of these wall displays.

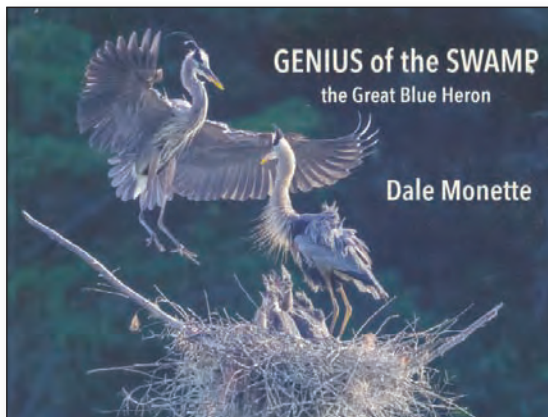
We are looking forward to the new year and have already scheduled our Sunday Series of programs, which are listed on page 11. We will also be offering outdoor programs (weather permitting) through the winter, including hikes on the 3rd Saturdays of January, February, and March. For up to date information email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov to be added to our email list or bookmark the DCR Watershed events page at https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1

Continuing a Tradition: For many years, the Memorial Day Ceremony at the DCR Quabbin Park Cemetery has included a special recognition of the residents forced to move from the towns of Enfield, Dana, Greenwich and Prescott when the Quabbin Reservoir was constructed. Former residents and their descendants have volunteered for many years to join us that day and lay wreaths at the memorials for each town. Each town would be represented by members of a family from that town. Unfortunately, in the past few years the number of families that we can call up on to ask has dwindled. We would like to rebuild our list of families willing to perform this task. Please email us at QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov if you are interested in being added to a list. The event takes place annually on the Sunday before Memorial Day. We will need to verify your connection to the Valley.

Genius of the Swamp, the Great Blue Heron

by Dale Monette

Genius of the Swamp, by naturalist and photographer Dale Monette, explores the life, the habitat, and the wildlife neighbors of the great blue heron. Monette's stunning color photographs capture herons as they mate, preen in the sun, build nests, feed their young, get into occasional fights, and capture and consume their food.



Monette, who lives in New Salem, spends hours and hours at a time lurking near (but not too near!) the birds and animals he photographs, taking photograph after photograph in search of the perfect image.

In this book he has succeeded in that quest. He depicts graceful creatures that know their habitat and mate for life. When he moves on to show other swamp creatures, he is just as meticulous. The "neighbors" he photographs include other colorful birds, black bears, moose, voles, coyotes, bobcats and beavers.

Anyone with an interest in nature or a passion for photography will appreciate this book. To cap it off, Monette says, "I even took all the mosquito and black fly bites so you wouldn't have to."

Available at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center for **\$29.95**.

Meetings & Events

Tuesday Tea

Join us for the next Tuesday Tea on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Les and Terry Campbell Visitor Center, Quabbin Administration Building. The next meeting will be on February 7, 2023.

Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists

The Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main Street, Belchertown, MA.
January 23, 2023 – *Iridescent*

Quabbin Photo Group

The Quabbin Photo Group meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month beginning at 7:00 PM. All meetings are via ZOOM.

January 23, 2023: Members Night

February 27, 2023: Ed McGuirk –

Lost in a Fog — Photographing the Foggy Landscape

March 27, 2023: Members Night

April 24, 2023: Norman Vexler –

A Program on Underwater Photography

DCR Programs

Upcoming Remote and Hybrid Programs offered by the DCR Quabbin-Ware River Region Visitor Center

Sunday, January 29, 2–3 PM

Myths and Mysteries of Quabbin Reservoir and the Ware River Watershed

The history, construction and management of the Quabbin Reservoir and the Ware River watershed hold an endless fascination for both visitors and residents of the area. Join us as we explore the mysteries and clear up some persistent myths.

Sunday, February 19, 2–3 PM

Water Supply Protection Forestry

Have you ever wondered why trees are harvested on protected watershed land and why recently harvested areas look the way they do? Curious how active management of a forest can increase diversity and maintain forest health? Join a DCR-DWSP forester to learn about the benefits of a managed forest and the objectives and conditions that dictate when, where, and how trees are harvested.

Sunday, February 26, 2–3 PM

Bats of Massachusetts

Learn about the different bats that live in Massachusetts and

where they go during the winter. Join Elise Stanmyer, a wildlife biologist with the DCR-DWSP, to discover where and how bats hibernate or migrate and about current threats bats face in Massachusetts, including White-nose Syndrome.”

Sunday, March 5, 2–3 PM



Quabbin's Keystone Bridge

Built in 1866, the stone bridge across the Middle branch of the Swift River at Quabbin's Gate 30 is a well-loved local landmark. Join us to learn more about the history and construction of this beautiful structure as well possible plans for its future.

This presentation will be led

by Michael Weitzner, consultant and dry stone waller. Mr. Weitzner holds a Master Craftsman certificate issued by the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain.

Sunday, March 12, 2–3 PM (Hybrid)

“Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley”

Author presentation by Elena Palladino

Join local author and historian Elena Palladino for a discussion of her new book, *Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley*. Learn the history of the valley and the reservoir as she recounts the story of the communities lost to the construction of the reservoir through the personal stories of three residents, Marion Smith, Willard “Doc” Segur, and Edwin Henry Howe.

Sunday, March 19, 2–3 PM

A Day in the Life of a DCR Wildlife Biologist

Wildlife biologists are the rock stars of any land management agency!

Loons or gulls, spiders or snakes, bears

or moose, learn what DCR wildlife biologist Jillian Whitney expects to deal with every day when she heads to work.



Sunday, March 26, 2–3 PM

Fire for Diversity: Understanding Forest Fire Ecology in Massachusetts

For decades we have been urged to avoid forest fires by Smokey Bear but did you know fire can play a beneficial part in the health of a forest? In this presentation, explore how carefully controlled prescribed burns can restore habitat, support endangered flora and fauna and reduce the risk of wildfire.

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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@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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