

Quabbin Voices

The Friends of Quabbin Newsletter



Summer 2023
Vol.36 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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Dedication of the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center

June 4, 2023

by Paul Godfrey, Annie Tiberio, Anne Ely, and Mark Lindhult

Those of us who attended the June 4th, 2023 ceremony to dedicate the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitors Center will never either forget the cold and rainy weather or the incredibly warm and comforting feeling shared by all there for the Campbells and their legacy. There were so many different stories, all with the same theme of Les and Terry's generosity. While there were the official proceedings, there was also the one-on-one sharing throughout the event.

About the weather, the weatherman promised partly cloudy, possible rain and wind. We got it all and then some. The morning held promise of not raining, but the wind was very blustery. Volunteers came early to set up the chairs under the tent, although all paused briefly as a doe deer with fawns in tow walked by, followed by the buck. Of course, none of us had cameras handy. Plans to set up a poster on an easel and run a video on a portable screen were abandoned; serious consideration was given to moving the affair into the Visitor Center, but capacity was too limiting. So, we hoped for the best.

When the time arrived, the weather looked better, mostly sunny but still blustery. And, it was pretty chilly. We moved a refreshment table to the side of the tent so that hot coffee would be readily available. People got seated. Despite the uncertainty of the weather, the tent was nearly full to capacity. Paul Godfrey readied

to start speaking. Then we discovered that the microphone didn't work and no effort to fix it quickly worked either. Event speakers were going to have to yell over the wind; two videographers were only hoping they could catch the



voices from their positions in the back. Soft-spoken Paul, projecting his voice at maximum, asked if he could be heard in the back and got a thumbs-up.

Paul introduced various dignitaries, such as the renaming committee (Paul, Annie, Anne and Mark), representatives from the Department of Conservation and Recreation and key state legislators who (continued p.4)



Steve Brewer and Anne Gobi





Gene Theroux

President's Message

Summer 2023

Preservation Efforts at Quabbin Park Cemetery

Significant progress has been made by the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), Quabbin and the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) in removing hazardous trees and making capital improvements such as the installation of a new well, distribution of water fixtures in the cemetery, and repairs to the Quabbin Park Cemetery (QPC) Administration Building, QPC maintenance garage, and the old receiving vault. The DCR engineering staff has accomplished some remarkable work in making available a web-based application where descendants can find their ancestors and relatives interred at QPC. There are two QPC applications. The first is the Quabbin Park Cemetery Lots and Graves viewer. It provides the ability to search graves by name, search gravesite ownership and to create a map and tables of information and to share information using social media.

The second QPC application that DCR has made available is the Quabbin Park Cemetery Expanded Deed and Lot Viewer which provides the ability to search for ownership of deeds and lots, search for burials by name and to display the original burial card and map of the grave location, search for burials transferred from amongst the thirty-seven former cemeteries in locations other than QPC, and to apply for a permit to clean cemetery stonework. These two utilities are available on the Mass.gov website Quabbin Park Cemetery. These tools make it very easy for descendants or heirs to find the gravesite and to complete the request for the permit to clean stonework and acquire the approval for the preservation of the gravestone or monument. In my view, these applications (QPC Lots and Graves Viewer & Expanded deed and Lot Viewer) might be intimidating to some; I would recommend a short video demonstrating how to use these resources. By providing in the video, a demonstration of the benefits derived from these two utilities created by DCR would overcome the intimidation factor. I further recommend that this video be placed on the web and advertised via social media. In addition, DCR has placed a resource on the website that explains how to properly clean a gravestone or monument that provides one-stop shopping.

A third significant resource is the Digital Commonwealth of the Massachusetts Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission, Quabbin Reservoir, Photographs of Cemeteries, 1928-1945.

From the Digital Commonwealth resource, you can retrieve the cemetery maps of the thirty-seven former cemeteries and of photographs of gravestones that were located in them. What would be helpful is if the corresponding inventory sheet and the cemetery map also are added to Digital Commonwealth. The inventory sheet identifies the plot, what is inscribed on the monument, type of stone, condition of stone, and dimensions; an example can be found at www.mass.gov/info-details/quabbin-park-cemetery#quabbin-park-cemetery-lots-and-graves-viewer.P.

A fourth significant resource for finding ancestors at Quabbin Park Cemetery is Find a Grave. If you were to go to the Find a Grave website and do a search on the "Town" family, you will find that there are a total of 105 Town and Towne family memorials in QPC. If you are a "Towne" family descendant or heir, these forementioned resources would provide you all the information for completing the intent to clean stonework form to acquire the permit to have the gravestone properly cleaned or preserved.

The Friends of Quabbin sponsored an Eagle Scout project during the April school vacation week for the cleaning of thirty-four veteran gravestones who served in eras from the Revolutionary War through WW I. The Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors voted to make a donation for the purchase of a D/2 Biological Solution Cleaning Set – Event (6-12 Person) which provides all that is necessary to properly clean a gravestone. The scout's report follows.

Quabbin Park Cemetery Headstone Cleaning Project

RJ Tucker, Troop 144, Oakham, Massachusetts

I've been involved in Boy Scouts since I was eleven and was a Cub Scout from age six until that point. I'm currently working to earn the Eagle Scout Rank. There are many requirements in attaining this rank; the major one is that the scout complete a service project to benefit his or her community. The project described below is my community service project.

As a member of the Quabbin Regional HS Naval JROTC program and a student of military history, I have always been interested in the experiences of people that served in our armed forces. I was aware that in the Quabbin Park Cemetery there are a number of headstones belonging to veterans who lived in the former Swift River Valley Towns. Many of them are older headstones that belong to families no longer living in the area and are in need of cleaning. In the fall of 2022, I decided that I would clean 25-30 of these headstones that were most in need of care and could be cleaned without damaging the stone. I presented my proposal to the Board of the Friends of Quabbin and received \$500 to sponsor my project as well as an offer of technical assistance from FOQ President Gene Theroux.

I was fortunate to be able to use the database of veterans' graves compiled by Mr. William Cote of Ware, MA. This helped

me narrow down which headstones would be most appropriate for my project. I decided to focus on the headstones belonging to those who served in the wars between the American Revolution



RJ Tucker and Gene Theroux at Quabbin Park Cemetery



Scouts and Cadets from Quabbin High School NJROTC cleaning team.

and the First World War, especially those who died in the service. Although the majority of the

owners of the headstones are officially listed as unknown, I did ask and receive permission from the families of Harold Peirce, Charles and Benjamin Bacon, Frank Bowen, and James Currier to clean their ancestor's headstones.



I recruited fellow scouts and cadets from the Quabbin HS NJROTC to join me for a headstone cleaning event on April 18, 2023. Altogether, two scouts and six cadets were able to join me, along with my parents and younger sister. On that day we



James White headstone before and after

After receiving permission from Dan Clark, the regional director of the DCR Quabbin/Ware Region to go ahead with the project, I visited the cemetery in January and March of 2023. I identified the location of the headstones I planned to clean and took photos of the headstones and their condition. Mr. Theroux generously met me at the cemetery one Saturday in April and went over the process for cleaning headstones safely.



were able to clean 27 of the headstones on the list I had compiled. Several weeks later I returned with just my father to complete the last three stones and to touch up two of the larger monuments.

I appreciated the support of the Friends of Quabbin and the DCR Quabbin staff with this project. I also

appreciated the opportunity to honor the veterans of the four valley towns buried at Quabbin Park Cemetery.



Dedication

Continued from page 1

helped in the process of the passage of the renaming bill. He also announced that the dedication was combined with a Friends of Quabbin Annual Meeting, but before people could even groan, much less run off, he explained that the Annual Meeting would take no more than one minute. Three parts were required:

1) a Treasurer's report. Paul pointed to a pile of Treasurer's Reports on the table, 2) a vote for Board of Directors renewals or replacements. Paul announced the results of the mail-in ballot (see page 9), and 3) the conduct of a presentation of general interest. Paul then said, "Let the dedication begin!"

Paul then spoke about the long history of the Campbells' involvement in Quabbin starting with Les' first job as bottle-washer in the Quabbin laboratory while in high school and ending with lab manager of the Quabbin laboratory and, in between, the creation and encouragement of numerous camera clubs, creation of the Visitor Center and Friends of Quabbin and notable contributions to the civic organizations of Belchertown. He spoke about the key role Terry played in the early stages of the Visitor Center, not only managing the volunteers that manned the Center but creating Tuesday Teas and the Oral History Project, co-authoring the newsletter, starting the bookstore, and maintaining the membership directory; then, when DCR decided to staff the Visitor Center, into the position of first Director.



*Paul Godfrey speaking
-photo by G. Theroux*



Annie Tiberio speaking; umbrella held by Annie's partner Paul Cameron. -photo by M. Lindhult

Annie Tiberio went next, briefly describing the two-year history of the effort to rename the Visitor Center and mentioning the various media partners that played a role in that process. She spoke of the times when action seemed to stall and needed the volunteers from all the groups to call and write to get things moving again. She also described the many camera groups that Les created and helped.

Paul called on Anne Gobi, in her last day as Senator

before moving into the position of First Director of Rural Affairs, to speak. Anne was the key sponsor of the renaming bill on the Senate side. She spoke about how the dedication

had special meaning for her because her first action as a new Senator was to support funds for the Visitor Center.

Susannah Whipps, key sponsor on the House side, was next and started by recalling that when she was a restaurant owner 25 years ago, the walls were adorned solely with Les Campbell pictures.



Legislative representatives: Mindy Domb, Aaron Saunders, Susannah Whipps, Anne Gobi and Todd Smola (l.-r.) Anne presenting Visitor Center citation. -photo by M. Lindhult

Anne and Susannah introduced other members of the legislature present at the dedication: Mindy Domb, Aaron Saunders, and Todd Smola. Then, they made a surprise presentation of an Official Citation to the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center in recognition of "The outstanding contributions that Les and Terry made to promote and protect the legacy of the Swift River Towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott for generations of visitors." That was followed by another surprise presentation of Official Citations for the four members of the

Renaming Committee: Paul, Annie, Anne and Mark for their "tireless efforts on the Renaming Committee and ceremony for the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center."



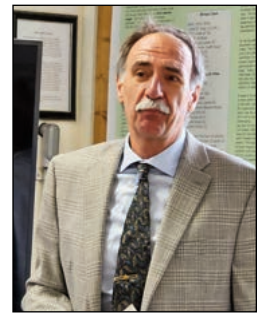
With everybody on the verge of frostbite, we moved inside the Visitor Center and continued the presentations from there while most everyone sipped on hot coffee to return feeling to their extremities. Paul called the group to order and introduced former Senator Steve Brewer.

Steve Brewer began by getting what he claimed was his speech on a well-worn card in his hat. He didn't look at it again. He recounted his first meeting with Les Campbell. It occurred in the water quality lab on the second floor of the Administration Building. Steve remarked that the view Les had from the lab window of the Quabbin was a better office view than the governor's at the Statehouse. Les countered with "I'm doing more important work." He described the importance of what Les did in remembering the sacrifice of the people in the four towns and the importance of carrying on that mission.

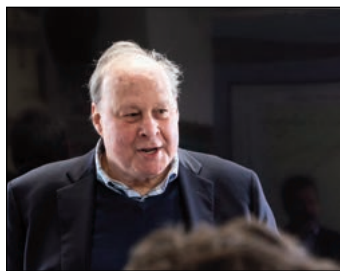


Senator Stephen Brewer with speech in hand. -photo by A. Ely

Trying to channel Les, David wore Les' shoes (same size) and watch. And because Les always wore a tie, he borrowed a tie to wear. David then showed us a picture of Les at 19 years old standing in the dry spillway channel wearing a tie. David, who was initially skeptical about whether we could "pull this off," was visibly moved by the events of the day and expressed his appreciation and that of his family for the renaming and for the inclusion of Terry's name.



David Campbell speaking about his father. -photo by A. Ely



Stan Rosenberg speaking to dedication attendees. -photo by A. Ely

Paul introduced former Senator Stan Rosenberg who first met Les at on one of Les' multi-projector shows put on by the Belchertown Arts Council when Stan was still a student at UMASS before he became a legislator. He described Les and Terry as two people who saw things that needed to be done and organized others to help.



Les Campbell, 19 years old, in spillway channel (cropped from a larger photo).

Next up was Peg Louraine, selectboard member from Belchertown. She and her husband, Lew, first met Les at the UMASS Fine Arts Center for a New England Camera Club Conference that Les had brought to UMASS. Lew, as Production Stage Manager for the Fine Arts Center, had to deal with all the 17 projectors used by Les. Later, when they had moved to Belchertown, Lew and Peg became involved when Lew did a number of shows about Les for Belchertown Community TV and, Peg, as a trustee of the town historical association, remembered the countless donations that Les made.



Peg Louraine speaking to the group about Les' involvement with many Belchertown events; Lew Louraine manning camera in the back. -photo by M. Lindhult



Dan Clark, DCR, and Gene Theroux, FOQ, cutting the ribbon on the new sign.

Last, but not least, Paul introduced David Campbell, Les' son, who claimed not to be the charismatic speaker that Les was.

Finally, Paul then spoke about the full cooperation of DCR during the whole process of renaming. The ribbon cutting would reflect the joint nature of the Visitor Center, the result of the efforts of both DCR and Friends of Quabbin working cooperatively. All were invited out to the front of the Administration Building where a red ribbon girded the new sign. There, Dan Clark, DCR Quabbin/Ware Regional Director, and Gene Theroux, President of Friends of Quabbin cut the ribbon, finalizing the dedication of the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center.

Memorial Day Services at Quabbin Park Cemetery

by Paul Godfrey



The weather for the 2023 Memorial Day services was a very happy medium between 2021 (raw and rainy) and 2022 (hot and clear); it was just right – clear and warm. Everything was in very good shape with well-maintained grounds, recently renovated Administration Building, pretty flowers, good refreshments donated by Florence and Country Banks, and an ample crowd. People took advantage of the time before the official ceremony started to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.



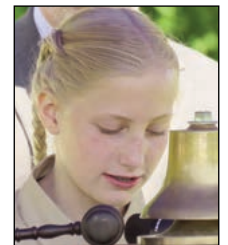
Dan Clark, DCR

Dan Clark, Regional Director of the Quabbin/Ware District, DCR introduced the formal session.



Keith Poulin, American Legion Post #239

Keith Poulin, Past Commander of American Legion Post #239, presided as Master of Ceremonies for the event, as he has for many years. The Invocation was read by Charly Oliva, Belchertown Veteran's Agent; Leah Harrison-Davis, Ware Cub Scout Pack 520 gave the Pledge of Allegiance and Cordelia Grandinetti, Senior Patrol Leader, Ware Scouts BSA Troop 7281 read the Gettysburg Address. The Belchertown Community Band, directed by Mike Bauer, played musical interludes at several points in the ceremony.



Cordelia Grandinetti, patrol leader, Ware Scout Troop 7281



As usual, the ceremony started with the short march of veterans and historical groups to the pace set by drummer Alannah Lavoie from the front of the Administration Building to the rotary area and behind the civil war monument and memorials to the towns. There were old and new participants; new organizations (DAR) and people of all ages from babies to old-timers (even a service dog).



To commemorate the sacrifices of the residents of Enfield, Greenwich, Prescott and Dana, a wreath was placed at each town's monument by former residents and/or their descendants. 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. The list of town representatives is: Dana – Cooley family represented by the Richard Cooley family; Enfield – the Boyko and Jasnocha family represented by James Boyko and Steven Boyko family; Greenwich – Thresher family represented by Wayne Thresher; Prescott – Currier and



The Steve Boyko family placing wreath

Bowen families represented by Kathleen and Patrick Callahan; and the Schmidt Bench – Eleanor Schmidt family represented by Jen Curley and Eleanor Wagner. The beautiful wreaths were made and donated by Charley Oliva.

After these solemn placements, Taps was played by Carter Masse and Braeden Meighan, one playing close-in and the other away for an especially somber effect. Following that, the Belchertown Community Band played a selection of patriotic music.

As is customary, “In Flanders Field” was recited by Gene Theroux, Friends of Quabbin President and Commander of the Sons of The American Legion



Mike Bauer leads the Belchertown Community Band.



Gene Theroux, Friends of Quabbin President, reciting “In Flanders Fields.”

Detachment of Massachusetts and a Past Commander of American Legion Post 124. “In Flanders Fields” is a war poem in the form of a rondeau, written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915,

after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres. It became the unofficial anthem of the soldiers in the trenches.

This was followed with brief comments by Senator Anne Gobi, Rep. Todd Smola, Rep. Aaron Saunders, and Sen. Jacob Oliveira. Sen. Gobi spoke of the important role played by women in the



Senator Anne Gobi

wars; the representatives all praised Senator Gobi for her service as Senator that was ending in a week as she would become the first Massachusetts Director of Rural Affairs. Charly Oliva gave the Benediction and Ken Poulin thanked everyone for attending.

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



l.-r. Sen. Anne Gobi, Rep. Todd Smola, Charly Oliva, Belchertown Veteran's Agent, Rep. Aaron Saunders and Sen. Jacob Oliveira

2023 Massachusetts Envirothon

by Justin Gonsor
Program Coordinator 1
Department of Conservation and Recreation

Over the past decade or so I've come to realize that May has become one of my favorite months of the year. Why? Although I enjoy the flowers that grow from the April showers, May is also when the Massachusetts Envirothon takes place, an event I take a lot of pride in being a part of. I now chair the Mass. Envirothon Steering Committee, the group that does the hands-on work of organizing and running the program year to year.

senting communities from Boston to the Berkshires prepare throughout the school year, then come together in May at the annual Mass. Envirothon competition to demonstrate what they've learned about the environment and environmental issues. The winning team then goes on to compete at the National Conservation Foundation's (NCF) Envirothon, hosted by a different state each year.

The 2022 Mass. Envirothon was held at Quabbin Reservoir, with Lexington High School winning the competition and then going on to also win at the national NCF Envirothon as well, an amazing accomplishment. For 2023, we went to Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge. Approximately 120 students attended from 18 communities/schools. We were lucky to have Rebecca Tepper (Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs) and Brian Arrigo



2023 Envirothon at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge

The Envirothon is a leading natural resource education program for Massachusetts high-school students, emphasizing hands-on, team-oriented problem solving and community involvement that prepares young people for environmental careers and active citizenship. For over three decades, the Mass. Envirothon has engaged young people in the exploration of soil, water, wildlife, and forest resources, and investigation of the important environmental issues affecting themselves, their families, and their communities. Teams repre-



(Commissioner, Department of Conservation and Recreation) speak at our morning opening; Priscilla Geigis (Director of State Parks, Department of Conservation and Recreation) and Ashley



Randle (Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources) spoke at the closing ceremonies.

The competition itself is an outdoor field event where teams rotate through four 'ecostations' where they answer written questions and engage in hands-on activities such as soil analysis, wildlife

habitat assessment, tree identification, and water quality measures. There is also a fifth station, the current issue, where each team gives a 15-minute presentation to a panel of judges. This year's current issue

was 'Climate Change in Your Community.'

Teams were specifically asked to craft a proposal for the highest priority action their community should take to address climate change and identify what specific next steps will be required to make it happen. The annual



event in May marks the culmination of a year-long 'Enviro-Trek' that high-school students and their coaches have committed themselves to. Lexington High School repeated as Mass. Envirothon champions this year. I'm excited to see if they can pull off the rare back-to-back win at the national level.



The Envirothon is made possible through the contributions of partnering agencies and organizations. Fifteen federal and state agencies, conservation districts, non-profit organizations, higher educational institutions, and businesses provide expertise and help organize the event. The ways in which the Envirothon brings together those in the Massachusetts environmental community

with the next generation of environmental stewards is truly unique. Although the Envirothon is technically a competition, in the end, when it comes to protecting natural resources and our environment, we are all on the same team!

Interpretive Services Report Summer 2021

by Maria Beiter-Tucker

Spring has flown by here at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center. Along with our new name, we have a new staff member. We were very excited to add Brittany Guntor to the Interpretive Services staff. Brittany worked previously with DCR State Parks at Wells State Park and Mt. Wachusett State Park and brings several years of interpretive experience to the Visitor Center. Say hello next time you stop in!

Throughout the last few months, we have offered several explorations of gates at the Northern end of the Reservoir, habitat walks and cemetery tours. Our summer programs will be shared in the upcoming newsletter and on our website. If you are interested in getting regular updates, please email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov to be added to our email list.

Quabbin Interpretive staff have also been busy with some outside events. Justin attended the Sustainathon in March. This is annual event offered at Springfield Technical College highlighting sustainable actions that can be incorporated into everyday lives. Justin was there to showcase the many assets of Watershed Protection. Maria also participated in two school-wide Earth Day events with a table of animal artifacts and talking about the diversity of wildlife at Quabbin Reservoir. We also have continued to offer both remote and in-person programs to school groups.

The Quabbin Park Cemetery Memorial Day went off without a hitch with lovely weather and participation from many former valley families. The next Sunday was the Visitor Center renaming ceremony. Although the weather was chilly and rainy, the many people who attended shared memories of Les and Terry Campbell and the beginnings of the Visitor Center.

Friends of Quabbin Board of Directors Election

Mail-in Vote by Membership 2023
144 official votes cast

J.R. Greene	99%
Anne Ely	99%
Ann Hurlburt	95%
Kevin Kopchinski	99%
Paul LaFlamme	98%
Joe Prior	98%
Rob Lewis (new member)	98%

All elected or re-elected to the Board for a term ending in 2025.

Meetings & Events

Tuesday Tea

Join us for the next Tuesday Tea on the first Tuesday of each month at the Les and Terry Campbell Visitor Center, Quabbin Administration



June Tuesday Tea

Building. Contact Anne Ely at elyae@comcast.net if interested in attending.

Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists

www.pvphotoartists.org

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 St., Belchertown, MA. Online Meeting via ZOOM at 7:00 PM

July 27 – Moving Water

August 31 – Vintage

September 28 – Silhouette

October 26 – Changing Colors

November 30 – Very Barren

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.



DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center Programs

For more information or to be added to our mailing list please email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov

Sunday, July 9, 1 PM – 3 PM

Quabbin's Hidden History: Webster Road

2.5 miles round-trip – Easy

Quabbin's ghost towns are hiding in plain sight—if you know where to look. This two-hour guided interpretive walk will teach you how to read the natural landscape as you uncover clues that reveal the hidden history of Webster Road. Explore old cellar holes and historic stone walls, get to know some native and invasive plants, and learn more about the families who lived in the town of Enfield a hundred years ago.

Meet at the Hank's Meadow parking lot. Please bring water and dress appropriately for the weather. Relatively flat terrain, approximately. All ages welcome. Dogs are not allowed in Quabbin Park.

Meets at the Webster Road Trailhead

<https://goo.gl/maps/4RiEq17PCNEf6s9E7>

Register here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b1c013624c474a7086c6167d41c4cb3b>

Saturday, July 15, 9 AM–11 AM

Barrens Habitat Restoration on Barre Heathland

1 mile – Moderate

How can forest management and prescribed fire programs support rare plant and animal habitats? Since 2008, DCR-DWSP has worked with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to restore and maintain this heathland habitat. Take a walk with DCR-DWSP staff to learn how our management of this area is protecting an imperiled habitat and how we will continue to restore and maintain it for rare species and ecosystem diversity.

Meets at the Intersection of Rt. 62 and Barre Rd in

Hubbardston, MA <https://goo.gl/maps/XgcGPEuf5SP8QK8MA>

Register here: https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1

Saturday, July 22, 10 AM–1 PM

Exploring the Road to Dana Common

3.6 mile – Moderate

The old foundations, stone walls, and shade trees of Dana Common will transport you to the past as you explore Quabbin's unique history. This hike will introduce you to some of the notable residents of Dana as you discover what life was like in the Swift River Valley over a hundred years ago. Photos and letters illustrating Quabbin's past will bring Dana to life before your eyes.

Meet at Gate 40 on Rt 32A in Petersham. Please bring water and a snack; dress appropriately for the weather. All ages welcome. Dogs are not allowed. Call the Visitor Center for more information: (413) 323-7221.

Register here: <https://www.mass.gov/event/explore-the-road-to-dana-common-7222023-2023-07-22t100000-0400-2023-07-22t130000-0400>

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Late Summer Meadow Visit

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Exploring the North Side of the Quabbin Watershed via Gate 33

Saturday, October 14, 2023

Exploring the North Side of the Quabbin Watershed via Gate 35

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Exploring the Ware River Watershed

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Rutland Prison Camp Tour

Swift River Valley Historical Society

JULY

Wednesday, July 12

FINDING YOUR VOICE – A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE with Judith McIntosh and Elena Palladino. This first session will be held at the Athol Public Library from 6:30 PM. to 8:00 PM. (Continues on Saturday) Pre-registration required at athollibrary.org – No Fee

Saturday, July 15

A continuation of **FINDING YOUR VOICE – A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE** will be held in the Archives Room at the Prescott Church on the grounds of SRVHS from 10:30 AM to noon. Pre-registration required at athollibrary.org – No Fee

Sunday, July 16

DANA REUNION – Dana Common. Gate 40 opens at 11:00 AM Event concludes at 3:00 PM. Free Admission

Sunday, July 23

DANA VESPERS will be held in the Prescott Church on the grounds of SRVHS at 2:00 PM. Cake and lemonade served after the concert. Free Admission

Saturday, July 29

BIRDS OF PREY with Tom Ricardi on the grounds of SRVHS at 1:00 PM. Free Admission

AUGUST

Sunday, August 6

VISIT WITH LURA BERRY BARNES presented by historical interpreter Karen Traub. Program will be held in the Prescott Church on the grounds of SRVHS at 2:00 PM. Light refreshments will follow the presentation. Free Admission

Sunday, August 27

EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF THE QUABBIN VALLEY THROUGH GRAVESTONES presented by Maria Beiter-Tucker, Interpretive Services Supervisor, Mass. DCR Division of Water

Supply & Protection. Program will be held in the Prescott Church on the grounds of SRVHS at 1:00 PM. Free Admission

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 9

ANNUAL FRIENDS MEETING on the grounds of SRVHS at 2:00 PM

Saturday, September 9

LOST TOWNS OF THE SWIFT RIVER VALLEY presented by author Elena Palladino. Program will be held in the Prescott Church on the grounds of SRVHS at 2:00 PM

Wednesday, September 13

MUSEUM CLOSING DATE

Sunday, September 24

EARLY FALL HIKE Gate 37 area/North Dana. Meet at Petersham Town Common for 11:00 AM departure. Carpooling may be necessary.

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 15

PRESCOTT HIKE Gate 17. Exploration of Sherer Road/farm area and Hill Street in Enfield. Meet for 11:00 AM. departure at Cooleyville Crossing (field at intersection of Gate 17 road and Route 202). Carpooling will be necessary as only a limited number of vehicles are allowed in the restricted area. All hikers must enter and leave together due to DCR restrictions. This hike is limited to 25 guests. You must pre-register by email to dotfryesrvhs@gmail.com or telephone 978-544-6882.

Swift River Valley Historical Society

P.O. Box 22, 40 Elm Street, New Salem, MA 01355
978-544-6882

swiftrivermuseum@gmail.com

<https://swiftrivermuseum.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/swiftrivermuseum/>

Quabbin Park Cemetery

by Anne Ely



There's a small part of Quabbin with a beauty all its own,
But there're no hiking trails or great views, so it's not as well known.
There's a serenity here, but a touch of sadness, too
It's the resting place of 6000 souls, give or take a few.
Each once had their own peaceful spot back in their old home town,
Then the waters came and the whole Valley was turned upside down.
They were taken up, laid down again with friends from the past;
Though it may not be their chosen place they may have peace at last.
At night when all is quiet, do those old souls around me
Gather up and talk about the good times and what used to be?
There were some that had passed away before the waters came,
Then there were those whose lives were changed and they'd never be the same.
But they're all together now and more will be joining in
And old friends, neighbors and families will be together again.
I come here often and when here I like to walk along
And when I see my family name I have peace that I belong.
Here in this beautiful place for eternity I'll rest
Together alongside family and friends I feel truly blessed.

Friends of Quabbin 2023 Officers and Board of Directors

Gene H. Theroux
President and Clerk
20 Bugbee Road
Southwick, MA 01077
413-627-3475
gene.theroux@verizon.net

Mark Lindhult
Vice President
10 Allen Road
Belchertown, MA 01007
413-537-5860
mlindhult@gmail.com

Paul Godfrey
Treasurer
47 Harkness Road
Pelham, MA 01002
413-253-5686
godfrey@umass.edu

J.R. Greene
Chairman
26 Bearsden Road
Athol, MA 01331
978-249-0156
jrg01331@webtv.net

Anne Ely
356 Newton Street
South Hadley, MA 01075
413-532-6063
elyae@comcast.net
www.anneelyphotos.com

Ann Hurlburt
P.O. Box 154
Chicopee, MA 01021
annahurlburt52@gmail.com

Kevin Kopchynski
28 Main Street, Apt 2C
Monson, MA 01057
kkopchynski@verizon.net

Paul H. LaFlamme
49 Country Club Hts.
Monson, MA 01057
413-267-3133
paulhlaflamme@gmail.com

Rob Lewis
42 Pendleton Road
Belchertown, MA 01007
413-323-5086
rlewis5086@charter.net

Joseph Prior
Cedar Swamp Road
Monson, MA 01057
413-267-4019

John Zebb
261 The Meadows
Enfield, CT 06082
860-253-0357
johnzebb@hotmail.com

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.

Editor: Paul Godfrey

Regular Contributors:

Maria Beiter-Tucker, Visitor Center Manager

Gene Theroux, Friends of Quabbin President

Design and Production: Eileen Klockars

Illustrations: Southwoods, Inc. and Russ Buzzell

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Friends of Quabbin, Inc.
Quabbin Reservation Administration Building
485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007
413-523-7221
www.fouquabbin.org

