

Town News

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

Amy Lapointe, Library Director
14 Main St., Amherst NH
Phone 673-2288 Fax 672-6063
email: library@amherst.lib.nh.us
web http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us
Mon-Thu, 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fri & Sat, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sun, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

End of February

For the last two weeks of February, we are highlighting our collection of books that celebrate Black History Month. Come on down and take a look!

School Vacation Week: We have activities planned all week, for kids of all ages--see our schedule of events on this page, or check out our website: www.amherst.lib.nh.us

Spanish is Fun! Our wonderful Senora Rowley will be holding her ever-popular Spanish for Kids series every Tuesday in March from 3:30-4:00. Join Senora Rowley for language enrichment and fun! Ages 4-7. Call 673-2288 or visit our website to register.

Storytimes begin again in March: our next 6-wk. session runs from Mar.8 - April 14

Baby Listeners—(newborn to 24 mos. w/caregiver) 10:00 am Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5 and 12.

Terrific 2's and 3's—(2 and 3-yr-olds w/caregiver) 10:00am Mar. 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7 and 14

Book Bunch—(ages 4-6) 1:00pm Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5 and 12.

Junior Book Club

Our child-and-parent book club met on Wednesday, Feb 9 at 6:30pm to discuss The 100-yr.-old Secret, a first book in the mystery series The Sherlock Files by Tracey Barrett. We produced some secret messages with disappearing ink, tried to guess the British equivalents of



some American words, and had a good time discussing the book! We are a lively group of kids and adults who meet on the second Wednesday of each month to do a book-related activity, to talk about the book we've read, and to share some after-dinner snacks! Please talk to Miss Sarah if you're interested in joining us. Our book for March will be A Cricket in Times Square by George Selden. A children's classic, with illustrations by Garth Williams, this is the story of a cricket who finds his way to New York City and the friends and adventures he encounters there.

Great Stone Face Reviewers Book Club

Our book club for 5th and 6th graders continues to meet at 6:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Unlike many book clubs, we do not all read the same book together. Instead, each member chooses one (or more!) books to 'read and review' from a master list each month. When we get together, we share our opinions on all of the various titles we've read--sometimes we convince others to try a book; sometimes we warn them against it! It's fun! Join us for some great reading, spirited discussions, and snacks, of course! If you're interested, please talk to Miss Sarah.

Open Playtimes in February and March

Every other Friday morning, the Johnson Meeting Room is filled with toys, books, blocks, legos, etc.--just waiting for toddlers to come in and play. There's no structured activity, just a little "mood music", and a chance for caregivers to sit and chat while their little ones play together, or to get down on the floor and join in the fun! This month's open playtimes are: February 25th, March 11, and March 25 from 10:00 to 11:00.

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Discovery Of Remains Of The Submarine USS 0-9

David Switzer, Consulting Nautical Archaeologist for the State of New Hampshire, presents "The Discovery of the Remains of the Submarine USS 0-9" on Tuesday, February 22nd in the Johnson Meeting Room at the Amherst Town Library at 7 PM. This program is part of the February Marine Adventures series for adults at the Amherst Town Library. The USS 0-9 was an old submarine launched in 1918 to take part in the First World War. On the morning of June 20, 1941 off the Isle of Shoals, New Hampshire, the American submarine USS 0-9 sank, taking the lives of all 33 crewmen.

During the latter years of World War I the US Navy authorized a new class of submarine to augment the fleet of submarines already on duty in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Smaller than the previous class of submarines; 0 class boats were designed for patrol in waters around Ireland. The war ended before the new submarines reached Europe. In the aftermath of the war, the 0 class was dispatched to Panama as "training boats". After a few years the 0 class submarines were mothballed and nearly forgotten when the clouds of war once more gathered over Europe and Asia. Too old to serve on active duty, the World War I era submarines were designated for training seamen to

serve in the post war submarine fleet. The training was to take place at the New London Connecticut Sub Base.

Following the first training phase it was necessary that the 0 Class subs undertake deep submersion or "squeeze tests" in order to insure the strength of the hulls. The 0-8 and 0-9 arrived at the Kittery Navy Base in June, 1941 to undergo the deep dive. 08 was the first, and completed her test near the Isle of Shoals where the depth was 200', the limit for the 0 class. 0-9 left the Navy Yard the next day for her test. She never surfaced. An indication that the submarine had met with severe problems was evident when floating debris was seen. It was clear that 0-9 had exceeded the depth limit. Navy divers braving extreme depth found the hull at a depth of 400'! Following a memorial service at sea, with the Secretary of the Navy in attendance and articles in the Portsmouth Herald, the 0-9 tragedy was displaced by concerns about the depredations of Nazi Germany.

In 2005 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration took on the task of finding out, if possible, what had caused the sinking of the 0-9. Earlier the site of the wreck had been found. David Switzer's presentation will focus on the undersea forensic archaeology carried out over

the course of three days with equipment such as a remote operating vehicle (ROV) that photographed and recorded the hull remains.

Dave Switzer received his Ph.D. in History from the University of Connecticut. He is Professor of History Emeritus at Plymouth State University where he has been teaching for 39 years along with directing marine archaeology field schools. He has written a number of articles and has been a co-author and contributor of books dealing with nautical archaeology. He is the recipient of a Plymouth State University Outstanding Teacher Award and the recipient of the Chester Price Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Cause of Archaeology in New Hampshire from the New Hampshire Archaeological Society. Professor Switzer also has received awards and grants from National Geographic, Earthwatch, the Gordon Foundation of New York City, and the Butler Foundation.

This event is free and open to the public. Please register for this event and all the upcoming year's events by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherst.lib.nh.us or by visiting our website at www.amherst.lib.nh.us and selecting "Calendar of Events."

It's About Conservation

Native Habitats in Amherst

By BRUCE B. BECKLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Habitat - 1. The region where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives

The greater the number of habitat types in an area (say, a town), the more diverse and healthy will be the species seen and heard in the area. Some species, like coyotes, may inhabit or travel through several habitat types. Others, like the scarlet tanager are more selective, choosing unbroken forest tracts. Promoting species diversity is an Amherst Conservation Commission goal. With that goes the objective of providing a diversity of habitats for the natural residents.

How many habitat types are there in town? As a required document for federal funding, the NH Fish & Game Department prepared the NH "Wildlife Action Plan". This highly useful reference is available on-line at www.takingactionforwildlife.org. Researchers compiling the Plan identified 19 different habitat types in New Hampshire. These range from the Alpine region of the White Mountains to salt marshes, caves, and grasslands. Of the 19, it appears that eight types can be found in Amherst.

Several of the habitats can be enjoyed as one walks established ACC trails. The variety and features along each trail are elaborated on in the revised Amherst Walk Book. For list makers and those who enjoy "just being out", here are some suggested places to visit:

- **Appalachian oak-pine forests** - this habitat type is prominent on the higher, drier land in Amherst. The higher trails in Joe English Reservation such as the Highland Trail give a good flavor of this habitat as does the Patch Hill Trail off Lyndeborough Road.
- **Cliffs** - The cliffs on the south end of Joe English Hill are in this category. They provide natural space for some NH threatened species. The cliffs located within the New Boston Air Station are not accessible but may be viewed from locations in Joe English Reservation.
- **Grassland** - This category includes hayfields

and landfill covers. The Joppa Hill Farm Loop Trail crosses through this habitat type. Other similar locations the ACC manages include the Bragdon Farm and the Scott land along the Souhegan River.

- **Hemlock-hardwood-pine forests** - Portions of the Bicentennial Trail, particularly at its south end, will take the hiker through sections of this habitat.
- **Marsh and shrub wetlands** - We can see this habitat in areas where beaver are or were active. The observation deck on the Pond Parish Trail takes one into a marsh in transition.
- **Peatlands** - We find this habitat in the NH Audubon Ponemah Bog Reservation where a boardwalk carries visitors over the quaking bog.
- **Shrublands** - Typical areas to find this habitat type are under transmission lines, and on farm fields reverting to the forest. A walk down Grater Road into Grater Woods past the beaver pond will bring you to a right of way in this category. The Pulpit Brook Trail also travels through this habitat type along with several others.
- **Southern Upland Watershed Group** - Here we encounter small streams and rivers such as the Souhegan. A walk up the Hammond Brook Trail in Joe English or the Lorden Path off Nathaniel Drive will take you along this habitat.
- **Vernal Pools** - Much more than just woodland puddles, these important seasonal habitat's features are often lost in land planning ordinances and regulations. Vernal pools can be visited in the Haseltine Reservation and heard in springtime as wood frogs carouse along the Harding Trail in Joe English.

In our next article we will explore the threats to these habitats and the diverse populations dependent on them.

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The 2012 Fraud: Misreading The Maya And Their Calendars

AMHERST - March begins a new series for adults at the Amherst Town Library entitled Time Travel: Back to the Future. In the first program of the month, R.P. Hale presents "The 2012 Fraud: Misreading the Maya and their Calendars" on Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00 p.m. How many Ends of the World have you lived in so far? The hysteria surrounding 2012 turns out to be the usual fraud and misrepresentation aimed at separating you from your money, and based on falsehoods about the Maya Calendars. Explore the history of the Apocalypse - mankind's second oldest story - along with what the Maya Calendars are and how they work. Then, take a look at what the frauds and fearmongers say and "debunk" them yourselves. R.P. Hale, of Aztec heritage himself, presents a fully illustrated and participatory program with a surprising conclusion in this New Hampshire Humanities Council sponsored program.

R.P. Hale holds a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Arizona and is an interdisciplinary artist, craftsman, musician and historian. He is a senior astronomy education staffer with the McAuliffe-Shepherd Discovery Center in Concord, and he is an active participating scholar in Mesoamerican history, astronomy, archaeoastronomy, the Náhuatl (Aztec) language and particularly the evolution, workings, and astronomical basis of the Maya and Aztec calendars. Recognized by the Smithsonian Institute as one of this country's top harpsichord makers, he is also a concert harpsichordist.

Hope you can join us for this first of the March series programs. You are also invited to join us for the rest of the Time Travel: Back to the Future series at the Amherst Town Library: "Shakespeare's Greatest Hits: The Lunatic, the Lover, and the Poet—a living history presentation" on Tuesday, March 15th

from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.; "Celebrating March...The Equinox: Expectations and Equilibrium" on Wednesday, March 16th from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.; "Brainstorming: Rory Raven, Mentalist and Mindbender" on Tuesday, March 22nd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.; "Ty Burr, Boston Globe Film Critic presents: Does Film have a Future?" on Wednesday, March 23rd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.; and, "Lafayette and the Farewell Tour: The American Idol" on Tuesday, March 29th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

This event and all the events in the series are free and open to the public. The Amherst Town Library is grateful to the New Hampshire Humanities Council for providing funding to make this program possible. Please register for this event and all the upcoming year's events by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherst.lib.nh.us or by visiting our website at www.amherst.lib.nh.us and selecting "Calendar of Events."

Art on Display at the Library

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uncover their meaning. Her watercolors are often inspired by relevant, transforming events in her life. Clay invites her to explore glazes, surfaces, form and texture. Through teaching pottery, she is inspired by the incredible energy and dialogue with students.

After studying under Phoebe Florey, Janice graduated with a BA in

Art from Plymouth State College concentrating in Printing and Ceramics. Janice is a member of the NH Art Association, the NH Potter's Guild, the Mont Vernon Artists, and owner of Pottery@PhoebesBarn in Mont Vernon.

To learn more about Janice's ceramics classes and view her work, go to www.phoebesbarn.com

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Moushumi Mozumder, MD

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Fellowship: Geriatric Medicine, New York University Medical Center, New York, NY

Board Certified: Family Medicine

Clinical Interests: women's health, preventive health, geriatric medicine

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The Children's Room at the
AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY
presents
WINTER VACATION...

...IN THE
"TROPICS"

For those of you who AREN'T someplace warm this vacation...
let's forget about the cold and pretend we're having an
ISLAND GETAWAY!

• **Monday, Feb. 28** ISLAND MOVIE MATINEE PG
1:00pm "Lilo & Stitch" classic Disney, set in Hawaii!

• **Tuesday, March 1** TROPICAL TODDLER
10:00am DANCE PARTY

• **Wednesday, March 2** "BEACH PARTY" w/
2:30 pm STORIES, SONGS, & SMOOTHIES!
Bring your flip-flops and a beach towel/ wear your
sunglasses! We'll SING! We'll DANCE!
We'll hear some STORIES!
fresh fruit SMOOTHIES! FACE PAINT! PRIZES!

• **Thursday, March 3** VACATION CRAFT CLUB—ages 8+
2pm March Lion Pillow—if March comes in as a lion,
will it go out as a lamb?? Registration required.

ALL WEEK LONG:
MAKE-IT/TAKE-IT
CRAFT:
wavy beach scene
TROPICAL TRAINS
A train table will be set
up in the Children's
Room for the week!
Trains will be available.
If you bring your own,
please label them!

FOR MORE INFO,
call 673-2288 or visit
www.amherst.lib.nh.us