Events Calendar

Wilton Photography Club Exhibit at Wilton Library

Photographs by members of the Wilton Photography Club are currently being exhibited at the Wilton Library. Selections by eight artists from Wilton, Milford and Amherst including Doug Bratten, Bob Cunningham, Paul Grueter, Betsy Hansen, Bob Ingraham, Lisa Miner, Elizabeth Riendeau, and David Schmidt will be on display through the end of November. This very interesting and uniquely presented show represents three subjects – Seasons, Transportation and Faces. The Wilton Photography Club, in existence since 1985, meets the first Tuesday of each month at the library and welcomes visitors and new members.

Turkey Cheer Event from the Knights of Columbus

The Milford Knights of Columbus council 3035 cordially invites all to our annual Turkey Cheer to be held on Friday, November 18 beginning at 7:00 pm in the church hall below Saint Patrick's Church at 34 Amherst Street in Milford. This fun family event provides people an opportunity to win a turkey, chocolates, or a bottle of "cheer" (alcohol or non-alcohol) for 50 cents per round. We will hold 30 rounds of drawings this year. All proceeds from the Turkey Cheer rounds will go to SHARE. All proceeds from a 50-50 raffle will go to Operation Tribute (a program to provide Christmas gifts for children of active military members). Refreshments will be available. We look forward to seeing you there!

Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon October Events!

The Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will be traveling the NH Coastline from Odiorne Point to Hampton Beach State Park on Sunday, November 13. The trip will start in Nashua at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind the Granite Inn at 7:30am. If you would prefer to meet the group at the destination and/or to register, contact Richard Bielawski 603-429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com Bring along your binoculars or scope, if you have one, and pack a lunch. This trip is free and open to the public.

Want to take a trip to the White Mountains without leaving the city? Join Stephen Hale, PhD and research associate at UNH, for this presentation on the birds of Dixville Notch. This visual and audio presentation includes birds likely to be encountered during all four seasons of the year, from the valley to the mountain tops. You'll also be able to test your knowledge of bird songs and calls! The program will take place on Wednesday, November 16 at 7pm in the downstairs Theater Room of the Nashua Public Library. This program is free and open to the public. No registration is necessary but if you would like more information contact Richard Maloon 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net This program is made possible by the UNH Speakers Bureau.

Amherst MOMS Club

The Amherst MOMS Club holds a monthly business meeting open to residents every third Tuesday at The First Baptist Church, 25 1/2 Middle Street in the Town of Amherst. The International MOMS Club is a non-profit organization supporting moms who are home with their children. Members can be stay-at-home, work-at-home, or work part-time outside the home, but most activities take place during the weekday to support these moms without taking away from family time in the evenings and weekends. The exception to this rule is MOMS Night Out, a once-a-month chance for moms to get out and have some me-time with friends. Other activities include play dates, outings, get-togethers, and community service projects. For more information please e mail amherstmomsclubnh@gmail.com

Amherst Junior Women's Club Seeks New Members

The Amherst Junior Women's Club is actively seeking new members. Any woman over the age of 21 who is a resident of the Amherst area is eligible to join. Members of the AJWC volunteer their time, energy and talent to enhance the community. The club's mission is to focus efforts on civic needs, educational advancement and the less fortunate. For more information, please contact membership chairwoman Kathy Wason at membership@amherstjuniors.org.

Town News

Historic Amherst

Fulling Mill & Saw Mill on Beaver Brook

One Mile Below the Common

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

Our neighborhood 's a pleasant place ...
A wealthy place it is, also, although it looks so greasy,
Chock full of every kind of trash, of suet skins and specie.
On it the hardness of the times have made no great impression ...
It's on the road to Boston, too, about a mile from town,
Where you can see the people's carts as they are going down.
Right through it runs a brook, a better one none wishes...
Across it too they've built a bridge all out of stone and mortar. ...
Nigh to this bridge, as you go up, once lived old Col. WARNER ...
Some dozen rods above it, too, long before you were born,
There was a mill for sawing boards, and one for grinding corn.
.... Not far from [there]... upon a little hill,
E. TAYLOR lives, the clothing man, who tends the fulling-mill. ...
Here EASTMAN keeps the tavern-house, and sheds to put the teams in,
And TOLMAN bakes the earthen pots for folks to bake the beans in. ...
Nor has ELEAZER left us yet, – our former tavern-keeper ...

Stone bridge over Beaver Brook on the post road to Boston, looking north, in 19th century. On left is the Luther Towne House, still standing at 250 Boston Post Rd, which Luther Towne (1805-1896) bought in 1838. He operated the saw mill north of the bridge until 1865. The building on right is believed to be the cooper shop of James Lovejoy (1802-1876), who resided on west side of Ponemah Rd since 1826 and bought a piece of land by the bridge in 1835 from the estate of Ebenezer Taylor Sr. (1761-1835). Taylor's house stood just south of the bridge and his fulling mill a tad eastward on the brook. (Antique image from Howard Locke collection of old house notes.)

These lines were penned in 1834 by a local school teacher, Eben Taylor Jr. (1794-1864). His poem, entitled "Our Neighborhood," was published in the Farmers' Cabinet in 1879 (and reprinted in Secomb's History, p. 920-922). Faithful reader, you surely recognize these characters from my previous column – except for Taylor and Warner, so I shall introduce them to you as we continue an exploration of that corridor of 18th-19th century industry that lay just a mile below the Village Common, near where the road to Hollis (now called Ponemah Road) forks off from Boston Post Road, just before the post road crosses Beaver Brook.

Fulling Mill

Ebenezer Taylor Sr. (1761-1835), born in Dunstable, N.H., established himself as a clothier in Amherst and in 1784 at the age of 23 bought his own fulling mill on the bank of Beaver Brook about a mile south of the Village Common, just southeast of the bridge, with utensils for the clothier's business, for 135 pounds money. The deed mentions a flume that leads the water to the fulling mill wheel. The seller, Daniel Warner (1745-1813) who had bought the nearby saw & grist mills in 1779 when he was still "of Dunstable," also granted "one third of the stream for use of the mill when water is plenty [enough] for [both] fulling mill and corn mill[;] when not water sufficient for both mills, then the full use of the water two days in fourteen." Taylor thereafter styled himself "a gentleman" in deeds (rather than giving specific occupation). In 1814 he paid $100 to the new owner of the 250 BPR property for an additional third of the stream, accepting the obligation to keep two thirds of the dam in repair.

The clothier seems to have hedged his bet, because in Dec. 1789, he bought, for 16 pounds, a bit of land by Shepard's bridge in Amherst with 13 rods of frontage along the river together with full privilege of half the water of the river. In 1792, he and Thomas Gillmore of Amherst, also a clothier, jointly purchased a fulling mill on Salmon Brook in Dunstable (Nashua). Besides keeping part of the shared dam in repair and only drawing so much water "so as not to hinder the [nearby] corn mill from grinding more than one day in 14," the deed further spelled out that they must "always allow the waste or sluice way where it is now for the fish to run up & down said brook according to the law." Gillmore, who married a granddaughter of Rev. Daniel Wilkins that same year, moved to Nashua and operated that mill; he died in Vermont in 1814 "in the service of his country," leaving behind eight children under the age of 21. (His brother Asa was a clothier in Milford and Hillsborough before moving to Vermont around 1800.)

Five years after buying the Amherst fulling mill, Taylor bought a piece of land lying in the triangle of the road fork directly south of the bridge and built a house there on the east side of Ponemah Road, presumably before he married in

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Maggie Hassan to Speak at Amherst Democrats' Potluck November 16th

Former NH State Senate Majority Leader Maggie Hassan will speak Wednesday evening, November 16th, at a potluck supper at the Congregational Church of Amherst (on the Village Common), 6 to 8:30 p.m. hosted by The Amherst Democrats. Maggie Hassan served three terms in the NH Senate, and just recently announced she will be a candidate for Governor of New Hampshire in 2012.

Maggie Hassan is a graduate of Brown University and earned her law degree at Northeastern University. She was with the law firm of Edward Angell/Palmer Dodge from 1985 – 1992, and then was Associate General Counsel for Brigham & Woman's Hospital in Boston from 1993 – 1996. Since 1996, she has worked in commercial and business law with Sullivan, Weinstein and McQuay. She was elected to represent District 23 in the NH Senate in 2004.

During her six years in the NH Senate, Hassan has served on a number of committees, and was active introducing legislation promoting economic development, conservation (the RGGI plan, and Great Bay Watershed initiative), anti-bullying laws, and mandating broader health insurance coverage for mental illness in New Hampshire. Maggie Hassan will talk about her prospective goals as NH Governor.

Please join us by bringing a dish (appetizer, entrée, salad, or dessert) to share for the potluck supper starting at 6 PM, with our speaker at 7 PM, followed by a lively discussion period, and concluding at about 8:30 PM. RSVP is not required, but for questions contact Ray Iannuzzelli at 672-2701, or via email at riannuzzelli@comcast.net.

THE 2011 MEMORY TREE

A donation to the Memory Tree with its little white lights acts as a remembrance of a loved one. It is an Amherst Tradition going back to 1995 located right in the center of town. It speaks out with a twinkle to all who pass by, ìRemember me, remember the times we shared. î The lights on the Memory Tree will go on Friday, December 9, the weekend of the Tree Lighting Festival and will stay lit through the cold winter nights into January.

The Amherst Garden Club has donated the money raised each year (around $1,000.00) to various projects around Amherst and the local area. We are happy to announce that the donations this year from the Memory Tree will be going to the Sustainable Garden Program at Amherst Middle School and garden projects at Souhegan High School. We know they will put the money to good use.

MEMORY TREE 2011

Print YOUR NAME Clearly:_____
Name of person to be remembered.
A. Family - i.e. The John Smith Family -$25.00
B. Per Individual Name - i.e. John Smith - $5.00
Select (Either A or B)
A. The _____Family ($25.00)

B. Last Name_____First Name _____
Last Name_____ First Name _____
Last Name_____ First Name _____
Last Name_____ First Name _____
($5.00 per individual name)
Make checks payable to:
"The Memory Tree"/Amherst Gardeners
PO Box 694
Amherst, New Hampshire 03031

Deadline: Please return by December 2, 2011. Thank you.
Need more information? Contact Judy Smith at 673-7937

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