Events Calendar

New Members Welcome at Amherst Junior Women's Club

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.

Photographers Forum Monthly Meeting

Photographers Forum camera club's next meeting is Monday, Oct. 1st at 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua. This meeting will feature Ken Harvey presenting and discussing photographs from his trip to Tibet. We are an informal club offering educational programs for all ability levels and the opportunity to meet people with similar interests. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month. Be our guest for your first meeting. Dues thereafter are $30/yr for individuals, $50 for dual families; $15 for full-time students. For more information or to leave a message go to www.photographersforum.org

Basic Digital Photography

Photographers Forum Camera Club will be offering classes in Basic Digital Photography on the first Wednesdays of Oct. Nov. and Dec. at 7:00 at Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua. Br. Ralph Lebel will teach the classes which are free for all paid members of the camera club. For more information on the classes and how to join Photographers Forum go to www.photographersforum.org

Ponomah Bog, New Hampshire Class, October 2012 - New England Wild Flower Society

New England Wild Flower Society's Education Department has announced its field trip Wednesday, October 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., to Ponemah Bog, Amherst. The centerpiece of a 75-acre sanctuary in southern New Hampshire, Ponemah Bog is less than an hour's drive from Boston. At the center of the property lies a three-acre kettle hole pond, encircled by a floating mass of sphagnum moss. The pond and bog are easily accessible by a boardwalk which includes spur trails to four viewing platforms. Fall is a beautiful time of year in a bog and instructor Roland "Boot" Boutwell, naturalist, expects to see a host of plants, including pitcher plants, sundews, tamaracks and cotton grass. Fee: $38 (Member) / $46 (Non-member). Pre-registration is required either online or by calling the registrar (508-877-7630).

HELP WANTED

Amherst Conservation Commission – An Equal-Opportunity Employer

ACC needs trail stewards to be the primary care givers to make monthly physical check-up walks on their adopted trails, clearing minor fallen limbs and seasonal growth, maintaining trail markings, and reporting major concerns and opportunities for trail enhancements to the ACC Trails Manager. ACC properties where trails will benefit from stewards' attention include: Joe English Reservation East and West, Bicentennial Trail, Pond Parish Town forest, Grater Woods, Patch Hill, and Pulpit Brook and Joppa Hill Farm. Standards for trail maintainers are available and guides to help plan major trail additions and improvements. The ACC maintains 25 miles of trails on the 2,000 open space acres it manages.

Free Airplane Rides for Young People

Free airplane rides will be given to kids ages 8-17 on Saturday, October 6th from 10 AM to 3 PM (rain date Sunday October 7th) at Boire Field, off Pine Hill Road in Nashua. Registration and flights will be at Infinity Aviation, Hangar 117 on Perimeter Road. Local pilots will donate their time and aircraft to promote interest in general aviation through the "Young Eagles" program sponsored by a national aviation association (EAA). The program has a goal of increasing the number of pilots from 600,000 to 1,000,000 and giving 100,000 kids introductory flights annually. Rides are given on a first come, first served basis and there is no cost or obligation. No reservations are required. A parent/guardian must accompany the child to the airport for registration. Nashua Flight Simulator will be demonstrating their Flight Sims. For information contact Harlan Loken at 620-5627 or hloken@nhhomes.com.

Hollis Arts Society October Meeting

The Hollis Arts Society announces that Monique Sakellarios will be demonstrating the process of creating a landscape painting at the Wednesday, October 10 meeting held at 7pm at the Lawrence Barn, 28 Depot Road in Hollis.

Artist, Monique Sakellarios, creates original oil paintings of landscapes, gardens, and market scenes in the impressionist style. She studied at the Leonardo Da Vinci School of Art, and the American University, both in Cairo, Egypt. For more information, contact Pat Hurd, president Hollis Arts Society at phurd1503@aol.com

Town News

Historic Amherst

The Development of Carriage Road

An Old Village Neighborhood

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

For my next trick, I shall attempt the impossible: to figure out the sequence in which an historic neighborhood in Amherst Village developed. Here is a timeline of Carriage Road. The western portion of Main Street was laid out by the Selectmen in 1778. It was called "the highway from Amherst meeting house to Milford." (Remember that the meeting house then stood "in" the Common and faced south.) Before 1800 the only road leading south from the Common was the post road, now called Courthouse Road. The section of road through the Village now called Boston Post Road, from its intersection with north end of Middle Street to intersection with south end of Courthouse Road, did not exist until after 1806, the pressure of turnpike traffic (opened 1802) prompting a more efficient route.

Old view of muddy, rutted Main Street, looking west, and houses along Carriage Road with shutters closed. On far right is 5 Carriage Road, the Jonathan Knight House.

1757 ca. – 19 Main Street: Farmhouse

Samuel Stewart (1716-1776), yeoman, built house facing south, on west end of the Plain. Hon. Sam Dana (1739-1798) bought it in 1782; turned into Georgian-style mansion (still standing), facing east toward village center. Dana owned the land along Carriage Road and opposite along west Main Street.

1782 – 3 Carriage Road: Original House

Francis Lovejoy, feltmaker, bought 1 acre "pine plain," extending back to Foundry Street, in April 1782 from Samuel Dana, gentleman, and built one-story house. 1788, bought by John Watson (1762-1813), saddler. Nov. 1796, Benjamin Wade (d. 1819, aged 52, Milford), tailor and habit-maker, for $920; had shop on property. 1798, Samuel Preston (1778-1852), printer-publisher from April 1797 through 1801 of *Village Messenger* newspaper, paid $1000.75; printing office stood west of house on same lot. 1801, Samuel Foster (d. 1824, aged 83, Merrimack), clockmaker and, in 1808, postmaster, bought house (minus printing office & its land) for $540; his watch shop, aka goldsmith's shop, stood near the well, between printing office and house.

1814-'21, Charles Cavender of Greenfield (d. 1833, aged 83), yeoman, owned (paid $450, excepting goldsmith's shop which Foster intended to remove). His son-in-law Jonathan Holmes, storekeeper in 3-story brick block, occupied with wife Annis Cavender and paid taxes.

1824, widow Mary Wilson, who had been renting, bought (for $750) from her brother Solomon McNeil (1782-1863) of Hillsborough, whose wife Nancy (1792-1832) was a sister of President Franklin Pierce. (Mrs. W. traded up by buying mansion at 13 Carriage with 1.25 acres ($2000) in April 1825, owning until Oct. 1830.)

1825, David Underhill (1799-1840), wheelwright, bought one-story house on half acre in March ($750) and occupied with bride Jane Lawrence, who died at age 23 just 8 months after their wedding in Oct. 1825. 1826, Nathan Kendall "Jr." [4th] (1799-1842), unmarried merchant of Dunstable/Nashua, bought ($700) and gave life lease ($1) to his mother Sarah nee Kendrick (1759-1841) if she pay taxes and upkeep; occupied by Sarah & bankrupt husband Nathan Kendall "Sr." [3d] (1755-1846), former merchant & tavernkeeper on Mack Hill. 1845, Lemuel Blood (d. 1867), stonemason, bought ($505) from guardian of Sarah W. Kendall of Nashua, a minor child and heir of late Nathan Kendall of Nashua; occupied with wife Anna (d. March 1849, aged 57). Lemuel became "insane or distracted" in 1850 and was shipped off to the Asylum for Insane at Concord, N.H., where he died. His court-appointed guardian sold this place to pay for his support.

1798 ca. – 3 Carriage Road: Printing Office

Stood west of house on same lot until Preston, then a merchant in Nashua, carved off the land as a separate little lot in 1801 and leased to Joseph Cushing (1781-1852), founder (1802) and printer-publisher of *Farmer's Cabinet*, who bought land with printing office in 1804 ($230). His successor Richard Boylston (1782-1857) leased, then bought in 1816 ($225); in 1817, one-story building moved and little lot (sold for $50) rejoined to 3 Carriage house lot.

1795 circa – 1 Carriage Road: Tavern

John Watson (1762-1813), saddler, erected as tavern-inn (still standing) and occupied with his wife Betsey Stevens, who died Dec. 1801 aged 35, until he built another house (at 101 BPR, now gone) around 1804. In 1815 became family home of Richard Boylston ($1650).

Continued on page 6 ►

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