Bulletin Board

Open to All Southern New Hampshire Women

The Amherst Area Newcomers Club "Welcome Social" will be held on Tuesday, September 10 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce building located at 69 Route 101A, Amherst. This will be a wine and cheese social to start off another great year of events. The event is free and open to all interested women of southern New Hampshire, whether you are new or have lived here awhile. The clubs focus is to socialize, relax and to grow friendships. Monthly, the club holds social gatherings both informational and entertaining. The club also has subgroups, which include Book Group, Bunco, Crafts, Golf, Knitting, Out-to-Lunch and Walking groups. Early December the club hosts an annual "Breakfast with Santa", for the community, which is optional for members to participate in. If interested in joining the membership annual fee is $20 (only $1.67 a month). For information and calendar of events visit www.nhnewcomers.com or contact Lorelei at 488-0781. RSVP's are appreciated, but not necessary.

Nashaway Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society

Upcoming Events

Carter Hill Raptor Migration Observatory, Concord, NH

From 8am – 2pm on Sunday, September 15, The Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will visit The Carter Hill Raptor Migration Observatory. The Observatory is located at the Carter Hill Orchard in Concord, NH. Bring a chair, binoculars, lunch, drink. Trip is free and open to the public. Meet in Nashua at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind the Fireside Inn and Suites. To register contact Richard Bielawski at 603- 429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com For info or directions to Observatory, http://www.nhaudubon.org/locations/raptor-observatories

Wednesday September 18

Bugs and their Bad Habits!! In March of this year, the emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees, was confirmed in New Hampshire. The Emerald ash borer attacks and kills North American species of true ash, and tree death occurs three to five years following initial infestation. The detection in Concord is the first for New Hampshire and is the easternmost detection in North America. On Wednesday, September 18, 2013, The Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will host NH State entomologist, Kyle Lombard, and UNH Cooperative State Forester, John Nute, to talk about these and other invasive bugs in NH Forests, their lives and bad habits. Find out what you can do to help! The public is welcome to attend this free program which takes place at 7pm in the downstairs theater room of the Nashua Public library. No registration necessary. For more info go to http://nhbugs.org/

Newcomers Club Welcomes New Members

Amherst Area Newcomers Club holds monthly meetings and events for a wide array of interests. The Club is always open to new members regardless of how long you have lived in the area. For information and a calendar of events visit: NHNewcomers.com

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.

Free Yoga Week at Amherst Yoga

September 15 - 21

To celebrate National Yoga Month, Amherst Yoga is offering a free week of yoga classes beginning Sunday September 15. Attend any yoga class on the schedule for FREE. Amherst Yoga offers day and evening classes for any level of experience. Check our schedule at www.amherstyoga.com. Amherst Yoga and Fitness, 10 Northern Blvd #15 (behind Walmart) Amherst. 673-7661 www.amherstyoga.com email: info@amherstyoga.com

Town News

Historic Amherst

Firemen Enjoy Clam Bake at Baboosic Lake in 1874

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

Clam bakes were an early tradition in the Ocean State. In 1830, the *Providence Patriot* newspaper reported on such an event held at the ocean shore in August, "the incipient cravings of the appetite gratified by mealy crackers and stinging old cheese and washed down with lemonade" until the clams were ready, having been "thrown together on heated stones and covered with seaweed; then was put in a layer of green corn with the husks on, and then another covering with seaweed [to] impart a delicious saline flavor to the corn." And in 1839 (Feb. 12) the *Providence Journal* waxed so eloquent on this Rhode Island culinary custom, that the account was picked up by newspapers as far distant as Macon, Georgia. "Every inhabitant of Rhode Island, without distinction of age, sex, color or condition, ... holds it a solemn and indispensable duty, once in every twelve months, to visit "the shore." On a fine day, any time between the middle of June and the middle of September, the roads leading to Narragansett Bay are crowded with vehicles of every fashion," from the aristocratic coach to ox-drawn farmers' wagons, on their way to take advantage of rights of fishing, access to the shore being considered common property, and enjoy a clam bake. The custom was not limited to R. I. In 1835, when Engine Company No. 2 of New Bedford, Mass., "gave an entertainment," it was a "clam bake." "The tables were profusely covered with shell and other kinds of fish, besides vegetables and fruits of the season in great abundance. Everything was done on total abstinence principle – no wine or spirituous liquor was on the the ground." (*New Bedford [Mass.] Mercury*, 4 Sep. 1835.)

But here in inland New Hampshire, clam bakes were practically unknown. They came to the attention of Amherst's newspaper publisher in the fall of 1842, when political activists in southern New Hampshire planned to copy the practice of Massachusetts political activists and hold a clam bake near Nashua. The event was never held, but in the meantime Amherst and other Hillsborough County readers were treated to a description of a clam bake for a crowd.

Clam Bake – a Novelty in N.H. in 1842

"A Great Clam Bake in New Hampshire!" announced the headline in the *Farmers' Cabinet*. "It appears that there is to be a baking of Clams in our borders speedily. The last Nashua Gazette says, "We learn ... that Gov. Hubbard has ... accepted an invitation to be present at a Clam Bake, which is to come off some two of three miles below this village [Nashua], on the first day of November [1842]. ... If one should be holden, Governor Dorr will undoubtedly be present, together with a number of his friends from Rhode Island and Massachusetts."

"What is a clam bake, it may be asked, up here, 'in the woods,' where bake-beans are better known than clams. The following description from the Boston Post, would naturally excite one to desire to go and partake of 'this bake.'

"The process of preparing a clam bake on a large scale well deserves a description. A trench is dug, some forty feet long and four wide, and filled with stones. Over these wood is placed and a fire kindled. When the stones are sufficiently heated, the coals and ashes are removed. Eighty bushels of clams are poured upon the pile, with some twenty bushels of potatoes, five hundred tautog, neatly dressed and put into clean cloth bags, of half a dozen in a bag, to which are added a dozen barrels of green corn in the husks. The whole is then covered over with fresh sea and rock weed, and subjected to a steaming and baking process of two hours, that gives a flavor and relish to the simple food beyond the reach of the most skillful cookery of the kitchen. When done, the weed is carefully removed, and the wholesome luxuries are served up on the table, separately, in pans and dishes, and with melted butter and brown bread, eaten with a relish that the choicest preparations of hotels could not give."

"But, after all," the Amherst newspaper could not resist editorializing at the conclusion of the article, "as this 'baking process' is to be accompanied with so much 'Dorrism,' and to be so strongly seasoned from the Rhode Island political pepper-pot, we believe people had better stay away, mind their business and suck their own 'clam-shells' at home, rather than to meddle with the 'clammy' concerns of others." (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 28 October 1842, page 3.)

Henry Hubbard (1784-1857) of Charlestown, N.H., nominated by the Democratic Party and elected governor of New Hampshire twice by popular vote, held office from June 1842 to June 1844. Dorr (1805-1854) of the People's Party (also called consitutionalists) was a reformer and Rhode Island's "extralegal" governor from May 1842 to Jan. 1843, who hid in Massachusetts and N.H. for most of his 'term.' For those not familiar with this fascinating chapter in R. I. history, I recommend wikipedia's entry for "Thomas Wilson Dorr." Many in Massachusetts in 1842 were all too eager to 'meddle in' – I mean, show support for – the free suffrage movement espoused by Dorr – that is, suffrage for ALL white MALES, even the ones not owning any real estate. In the fall of 1842, many clam bakes were held in Massachusetts, events often attended by thousands of men, women and children, often "got up and conducted" by "the ladies." (Political expression by women! Oh what does that portend for this country?)

Amherst Firemen Party at the Lake

Well, it would be another three decades before the Amherst newspaper mentioned a clam bake again. The town does have a shore after all – of a lake situated about 2.5 miles

Continued on page 7 ►

Amherst Garden Club Marks First Meeting in New Location

Cheryl Collins

AMHERST – The first meeting of the Amherst Garden Club will be on Thursday, September 5 at the Messiah Lutheran Church, 303 Route 101 in Amherst next to the Amherst Garden Center. The speaker will be Cheryl Collins, a freelance photographer for over 30 years under the name "Picture This." She has been the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts state photographer for over twelve years.

Cheryl has twice been the president of the Mansfield Garden Club and a South Shore District Director for the Federation. She will speak on "Gardening for the Spirit" at the September meeting in Amherst. Included in her talk will be simple tips and tricks that can help a gardener create different types of gardens.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a social hour and business meeting. The program will begin at 10:30.

Souhegan Valley Chorus Prepares for Holiday Concert Season

The Souhegan Valley Chorus invites interested singers to join the chorus for its upcoming season. Weekly rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Milford Middle School music room, starting on September 10th. The first two rehearsals of the season are "open rehearsals" for new members to visit and see what we're all about!

The SVC is directed by Jennifer K. Erdody of Milford, and accompanied by Kimberly Vars Whitehead of Milford. SVC, now in its 33rd season, performs a variety of choral music – from classical and jazz, to popular and gospel. Its membership of 60+ singers are from towns in and around the Souhegan Valley. Two sets of concerts are performed each season, one in December and two in late April or early May. SVC also participates in local town events such as the Amherst 4th of July celebration, Milford Labor Day parade, veteran's observances, and the Milford Holiday Stroll.

Jennifer K. Erdody is the choral director at Milford High School, where she also teaches voice workshop and musical theater. Jennifer serves on the staff of the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club School of Theatre Arts, and directs the annual "Messiah" performance in Mont Vernon. The music she has selected for our next concert will include holiday songs that have special meaning to the families of chorus members, and we will be joined on stage by the Milford High School band.

Souhegan Valley Chorus is open without audition to singers of high school age or older. Members bring a wide range of abilities and experience, so anyone who loves to sing is encouraged to come give the chorus a try at one of the first two rehearsals in September. As one member put it - "Rehearsals are a good balance of work and fun. It's such a welcome treat for me at the end of a busy work day." For more information, visit the chorus website at www.souheganvalleychorus.org, or find us on Facebook,

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