

# Town News



Pruning in Amherst’s Lindabury apple orchard

## Orchard Pruning and Maintenance Workshop

AMHERST – The Amherst Conservation Commission and the Friends of the Lindabury Orchard will hold an apple tree maintenance workshop at the Lindabury Orchard on Christian Hill Road, on Saturday, April 11, from 1PM to 4PM (Rain date, the same time on Sunday April 12th). This workshop is aimed at anyone who wants to learn how to reinvigorate their own fruit trees, or for volunteers who want to help maintain the Lindabury Orchard.

The workshop leader, Lee Gilman, of Amherst, is a member of the Amherst Conservation Commission, and a NH certified arborist. (leegilmanassociates.com) There are dozens of orchards and fruit trees in the area, including our own Amherst Lindabury Orchard on Christian Hill, that need maintenance and restorative work. Lee’s workshop will show us the proper cultivation and pruning techniques needed to maintain our trees, and explain how to keep them productive and in good health. He will also show how to restore old trees that

have not been cared for or pruned for many years.

The Lindabury Orchard was purchased in 2003, following the death of Jack Lindabury, through efforts of the Amherst Land Trust, the Conservation Commission, and with funds provided by those groups and a town warrant article. The Friends of the Lindabury Orchard, a group of community volunteers, have been instrumental in raising money, organizing the fall Cider Festival, and restoring and maintaining the orchard and it’s trees.

Come and join us to see how you can bring that old fruit tree back to life. There will be a \$10 registration fee that will be collected at the workshop. Meet us at the orchard at the top of Christian Hill Road. Call Richard Hart at 673-5128 if you have questions and to let us know that you plan to join us. If you can, bring a saw, or clippers to use. Check the Amherst Conservation Commission web site (amherstcc.org) for news and possible postponement notifications.

## ► Old Recipes to Water-Proof the Leather of Boots & Shoes

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of Charleston, Mass. In 1829, Russell offered for sale Day & Martin’s, Byam’s, and other shoe blacking. In 1842, Russell & David, his partner being the blind shoemaker John Oliver David (1813-1887), offered Baker’s Water Proof Oil Blacking for harnesses, chaise tops, boots, shoes, etc.

Well of course you would expect drug stores, general stores and shoe shops to carry such an item. What’s interesting is that the local newspaper office also carried boot blacking! Given New England weather, there must have been considerable demand. Richard Boylston ran a book & stationary store in conjunction with his printing and newspaper publishing business, and for several decades advertised blacking for sale there, changing brands often. In 1815 and 1816, it was “Italian paste blacking,” “the only blacking that has been invented that does not injure the leather;” which was in the form of “a thick paste, [making] it convenient for being carried on a journey.” In 1819, it was “the real Japan blacking made by Day & Martin, 97 Holborn, London,” sold for 42 cents per bottle. In 1820, it was “chemical London Japan blacking for boots, shoes and morocco, prepared with oil, and proof against water.” In spring 1821, it was O. & A. Crosby’s improved chemical Japan blacking, put in small glass junk bottles for 38 cents each, with a sponge attached to the cork, which “when applied to boots, shoes, ladies’ morocco shoes, harness, chaise tops, and

cavalry trimmings, produced an elegant gloss without brushing;” the advertising promised it would not crack if “applied immediately after greasy substances.” O. & A. Crosby of Cambridge, N.Y., warranted their product and promised \$100 to anyone whose leather was injured by it. In Amherst, two general stores also carried the Crosby product, John Eaton in the 3-story brick building known as Cushing’s Folly and David McG. Means in his father’s store at 1 Pierce Lane. In fall 1821, Boylston switched to the blacking of local cordwainer Porter. In 1823-5, the Cabinet office carried Gould’s Japan Sponge Blacking, the same brand offered by local shoemaker D. Russell. In 1829, it carried Partridge’s Blacking Powder for 12.5 cents per paper that would make half a pint of blacking, “warranted to produce immediately a beautiful Japan liquid blacking, superior to any other now in use;” its advantages “over any other kinds hitherto invented” being that it was “more convenient, more economical, and more portable, and less liable to waste;” “requires less labor in the application; produces a more durable and glossy black; does not injure by keeping; ... does not soil the hands or clothes; and contains nothing to injure the leather.” If it was soooo fabulous, why did Boylston switch yet again to another brand the following year?! In 1830, the Cabinet office offered for sale Knapp’s Paste and Liquid Japan Blacking and Byam’s Sponge Blacking. In 1837, it was the

“Patent Water Proof Paste for Boots & Shoes manufactured by David Boutelle of Hancock.”

By the way, this Amherst “book store” also offered some other unexpected items: “head-ache snuff,” useful for keeping a person awake during church services (1813) [hmmm – I wonder if the good deacon would have approved its use for ladies?!]; bottles of Dr. Frink’s restorative elixir (1816); American starch, preferable to Poland starch and only half the price (1816 and later years, the 1823-5 version manufactured by Mssrs. Abbots of Wilton); shaving soap (1818); penknives (1820, 1832); razor straps & paste (1821-’32); pelucid transparent soap for shaving, wash balls, and lather boxes (1823); patent window springs with brass and silver heads (1824); fresh garden seeds (1828); drops for humors invented by Charles Jones of Claremont, a sure remedy for salt rheum, erysipelas, scrofula, leprosy, scald head, scurvy (1841); Chinese sugar cane seeds, available in papers of 10, 15, 30 and 50 cents (10 cents an ounce or \$1 per pound), the 50-cent packet sufficient to plant a quarter acre (1857); a new kind of lamp and its oil (1857).

Despite commercial products being readily available in town, the local newspaper ran another do-it-yourself water-proofing recipe for footwear in the middle of the 19th century. It does make me wonder if the proportion of Burgundy pitch, which a dictionary says is resin from the Norway spruce, actually

matters. Burgundy pitch, already sold in pre-revolutionary America, was also an ingredient of early home-made milk paints; and part of an 1821 recipe to “cure the itch,” along with turpentine and fresh butter.

### A Composition for Rendering Boots and Shoes Water-Proof

“Take one pint of boiled linseed oil, two ounces of beeswax, two ounces of spirits of turpentine, and two ounces of Burgundy pitch. Let them be carefully melted over a slow fire. With this mixture, new boots and shoes are to be rubbed in the sun, or at a little distance from the fire, with a sponge or brush. This operation should be repeated, without wearing them, as often as they become dry, until they are fully saturate, which will require four or five time brushing. By this the leather becomes impervious to water. The boot or shoe thus prepared lasts much longer than common leather; it acquires such pliability and softness that it will never shrivel or grow hard, and in that state is the most effectual preventive against cols, &c. It is necessary to remark that boots and shoes thus prepared ought not to be worn until they are perfectly dry and elastic; as, in the contrary case, the leather will become too soft, and wear out much sooner than it otherwise would.” (Farmers’ Cabinet, Amherst, N.H., 11 Jan. 1855.) shoe blacking prepared by Abraham Gould

## ► Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

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The program will teach the basic fundamentals of shooting target archery focusing on safety and proper shooting form.

**Who:** grades 5-8  
**Where:** Outfield of Bean Field  
**When:** 5/8-5/29 from 2:30-3:30  
**Fee:** \$71R; \$81NR

**Who:** grades 1-4  
**Where:** Outfield of Bean Field  
**When:** 5/8-5/29 from 3:45-4:45  
**Fee:** \$71R; \$81NR

### Pre-School Programming

#### Homeschool Science Programs

Amherst Recreation offers environmental and science programs to home school students throughout the school year at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center!

**Who:** Home school students ages 3-14  
**Where:** Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)  
**When:** April 21st from 1-3pm (3-5yr olds from 1-2pm)  
**Fee:** \$5 for 3-5 yr olds, \$10 for 6-14 yr olds

please visit [www.amherstrec.org](http://www.amherstrec.org) for activity descriptions

#### Start Smart Baseball

This once a week program is an opportunity for children to be introduced to the game with the support and presence of a parent. Sessions will last one hour for six weeks.

Season runs from 5/20/15-6/20/15

#### Pre-school Playgroup

**Who:** Preschoolers and parents (ages 3-5, younger siblings with parents are welcome!)  
**What:** Pre-school Playgroup  
**Where:** Peabody Mill Environmental Center  
**When:** 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3 @11am-Noon  
**Fee:** FREE

#### Adult Programming

##### Cooking With Paula Garvey

Simple Home Baking Class- Deserts from Scratch

**Who:** Ages 18-108  
**Where:** Amherst Middle School Life Skills Room  
**When:** 3/26 from 7-8:30pm  
**Fee:** \$20R; \$25NR

**Zumba Gold®** (Low Impact for Beginners)

If you have ever enjoyed any kind of dance in your life...ballet, tap, swing, ballroom, folk dance, country line dance or Jazzersize...you’ll pick this up in no time!

Class Format: 45 minutes of dance including: 10 min. warm-up, 20 min. moderate intensity aerobic dance, 10 min. cool-down and a 5 min. standing stretch.

Please visit [www.amherstrec.org](http://www.amherstrec.org) for schedule/pricing options

#### True Potential: Fitness for Women

March through June session Starts now!

Please visit [www.amherstrec.org](http://www.amherstrec.org) for schedule options

#### Couch to 5K- A Walk to Run program

Are you looking for some support and community while reaching your fitness goals? Join us for a 12 week Couch 2 5K program, led by coach Amy Hull.

Starting in March - please visit website for full scheduling options (T/TH 6am option will meet in the SHS parking lot)  
**Fee:** \$75R; \$85NR

#### Rugby 7’s for Adults

Rugby 7’s is a quick, fun and easy to learn sport.

**Who:** Adults 18+  
**Where:** Lower Wilkins

**When:** Wednesday Nights starting June 24th  
**Fee:** \$20R; \$25NR

#### Adult Basketball and Adult Volleyball

Pick up games at AMS have begun. The registration fee covers the entire school year. See our website for details and to register.

#### Game Days

Amherst Recreation offers a fun afternoon of table or card games for adults.

Thursdays 1:00-3:30pm @ the Amherst Fire Department Training Room.

No registration required, It’s free!

#### Family Programming

##### Birthday Parties at PMEC!

Create amazing birthday memories this year with a Birthday Party for your child age 3-12 at the Peabody Mill Environment Center!

We have several themes to choose from or we can work together to tailor one just for your Birthday Girl or Boy. Please visit [www.amherstrec.org](http://www.amherstrec.org) for more details.

#### We add programs weekly, so check our website often...

And make time in your life for Recreation!

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## Join us this Spring

Amherst Soccer Club/Hampshire FC, the area’s oldest competitive soccer program, is pleased to announce Spring 2015 signups for our Tots (Ages 3-5) program as well as our acclaimed Early Development Program (EDP, Ages 6-10). Both programs are managed by our professional and licensed coaches. For either program please visit our website to sign up: [www.amherstsoccerclub.com](http://www.amherstsoccerclub.com)

**“Developing soccer skills that can take you to the next level.”**

**TOTS (Ages 3-5):**

- Day of Week: Monday nights
- Dates: 5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 6/1, and 6/8
- Rain date: 6/15
- Time: 5:30 pm -6:30 pm
- Location: Bean Field #3 (to the right of SHS as you drive in-top field)
- Cost: \$50. includes t-shirt

**EDP (Ages 6-10)**

Practices start 04/20/2015 – 06/13/2015 (pending fields opening)

Monday – Bean Field #1 5:30-6:30

Wednesday – Upper Wilkins field 5:30-6:30

Friday – Upper Wilkins field 5:30-6:30

- Days of the Week:** Practice Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. More times per week to offer scheduling flexibility around other activities. Practice will start on 4/20 (weather permitting and at discretion of Town) at Bean Field #1. Practice drop off at 5:15 with core practice from 5:30-6:30.
- Games:** Saturday Jamboree games at Bean Field from 8-9 AM. Our older and more experienced players are rostered on our EDP Travel Teams playing in the NH Soccer League and also have one night of extended training
- Cost:** \$165. This fee covers a training t-shirt, 3 training sessions per week for 8 weeks, 6 jamborees, 8 league games for travel players, and our very own Memorial Day Tournament for older players.

**Please visit our website for more information and to register:** [www.amherstsoccerclub.com](http://www.amherstsoccerclub.com) (go to sign-up tab) Graduates from our EDP program can transition into our upper club competitive Hampshire FC and Hampshire United SC teams. There might be limited spots available on our Spring U11-U19 teams. If interested please email: [registrar@amherstsoccerclub.com](mailto:registrar@amherstsoccerclub.com)

## A Home for Nelly: From Amherst to Zimbabwe

Last June the Woman’s Association at the Congregational Church of Amherst voted to give \$1500 in memory of former member Elizabeth Ikerd to build a home for Nelly Mundeta, who lives in Zimbabwe. On February 10th the group heard from Carol Lundgren, the sister of Elizabeth Ikerd, the rich story of the history leading up to the gift and saw pictures of the results, which may mark the beginning of another chapter in the story.

Over 20 years ago a missionary visit to the church in Amherst inspired Elizabeth to begin a correspondence with Nelly, a nine-year old village girl who had been physically disabled from birth and faced many challenges.

Over the following two decades Elizabeth and Nelly carried on a friendship and correspondence. Elizabeth, without fanfare, sent Nelly regular letters and packages, prompting Nelly to refer to Elizabeth as “my mother in America.” In 2012 Elizabeth, who was seriously ill, prepared to send her final package to Nelly but didn’t really know how to convey the news that this would be her last package.

Connie Littlefield, a UCC church member from the Wakefield, NH, (where Elizabeth’s sister lives), offered to take Elizabeth’s package to Zimbabwe and to deliver it personally to Nelly. The New Hampshire Conference of the UCC has a partnership with the UCC in Zimbabwe, and Connie’s church is one of many New Hampshire churches that are paired with churches there.

Connie brought back warm greetings from Nelly and pictures of their meeting for a grateful Elizabeth who died four months later.



Friends of Nelly Mundeta (seated, fifth from left, wearing red hat) gathered to see the progress on the construction of her new home.

In the communication between folks in New Hampshire and those in Zimbabwe, there was a talk of building a small home for Nelly close to her brother’s home, a home with a strong floor to support Nelly’s wheelchair. Elizabeth’s sister Carol Lundgren had taken up the correspondence with Nelly and initiated a plan to raise funds to build the home. Connie Littlefield, from the Wakefield UCC church, planned to be in Zimbabwe for two years as a volunteer and offered to supervise the project.

At this point the Amherst UCC Woman’s Association was moved to donate \$1500, the total cost of construction, in Elizabeth’s memory, leaving the remaining funds

that had been raised to go toward furnishing the home. At her recent presentation to the WA, Carol Lundgren reported that the house had been built in August 2014 and showed pictures of the building, its furnishings and its smiling occupant, Nelly.

Carol also shared with the group some of the other projects linking churches in New Hampshire with churches and schools in Zimbabwe. The pen pal relationship between Elizabeth and Nelly has inspired the Amherst UCC women and is part of a series of events that continues to build ties between folks in New Hampshire and in Zimbabwe.