

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

Amy Lapointe, Library Director
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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.

October Programming in the Children's Room at the Amherst Town Library

Traditional Storytimes

Our traditional storytimes start on Tuesday, October 14th and run for six weeks. Babies-2s meet on Tuesdays at 10am. 2s meet on Tuesdays at 11:15am. 3s meet on Wednesdays at 11:00am and kids 4 and up meet on Wednesdays at 3:30pm. Drop in as your schedule permits, no registration is required. We would love to see you!

These programs are filled with songs, finger plays, stories and fun!

Finger-Knitting Class

Wednesday, October 22 at 4pm. Sign up to learn how to finger-knit. All you need is your hands, we will provide the materials. This class will be lead by 5th graders Abby Schulte and Alison Bowman. Register in the children's room or online. For inspiration, check out Abby Schulte's collection of scarves on display in the Children's Room. Open for kids ages 7 and up!

Halloween Storytime

Thursday, October 20 at 6:30. Join us for a family-friendly slightly-spooky craft and storytime! Costumes are welcome. Sign up online or in the Children's Room.

Music and Movement with Roger Ticknell

Saturday, November 1 at 10:30. Join musician Roger Ticknell in a fun program of participatory songs for pre-school through grade three. Children sing, dance,



move, imitate animals, play rhythm instruments, learn foreign languages, and explore other cultures through traditional and contemporary children's songs and play parties. No registration is required.

Sojourns with Short Stories continues October 29th

AMHERST - The Amherst Town Library invites you to join other readers for the third session of Stories from the Borderlands, the fall portion of an exciting yearlong program, Lit at the Edges: Sojourns with Stories, Poems, Essays. On October 29th, we will explore pieces by Native American storytellers: two traditional creation tales from Northeast woodland tribes, the elegiac beauty of "Lullaby" by Leslie Marmon Silko, and Sherman Alexie's comic story of two would-be warriors in "This is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona." More than a literary form, the Native American story is a world-making power. Come join the discussion. This fall series continues on Nov. 12th with a "wordplay" workshop focused on writing the short story. Join us for any or all at 1-2:30 p.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. in the Johnson Meeting Room. Materials may be picked up at the library in preparation for the discussions.

Facilitator Emily Archer has designed this series in consultation with Ruslyn Vear, Head of Reference. Emily holds a doctorate in American literature, is a published writer, and has led humanities discussions and writing groups for over fifteen years for numerous New Hampshire libraries, schools, churches, and medical communities. She lives in Mont Vernon with her family.

The event is free and open to the public. You can register by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherst.lib.nh.us or by visiting our website at www.amherst.lib.nh.us and click on the calendar icon labeled "Calendar of Events" on the homepage. For more information, please call Ruslyn at the library.

at 8:30pm for an evening of Heart-Pounders - Scary Stories for the Strong at Heart with renowned storyteller Odds Bodkins. Odds' character-voice and music-filled storytelling style has been mesmerizing listeners, young and old, for twenty-four years. This program is appropriate for adults, teens, and older children who can handle dark and spooky stories. This event will take place at Souhegan High School in Amherst. Entry is only \$8 per Amherst resident and \$10 per non-resident.

The Peabody Mill Environmental Center, located at the end of Brook Road in Amherst is an environmental and science education center that abuts almost 600 acres of Joe English conservation land. More information on our website: www.pmec.org or by calling 673-1141. Register online at www.amherstrec.org or call us at 673-1141.

PMEC Halloween Programs

Does your family like to meet strange and unusual creatures? Do you and your older children and teens like to be delightfully scared? The Peabody Mill Environmental Center is thrilled to announce Halloween programs for kids of all ages. Our Annual Nature Spooktacular, held on October 26th, will delight animal lovers both young and old. Our HeartPounders - Scary Stories for the Strong at Heart program offers an older audience a chilling storytelling experience on Halloween night.

On Sunday, October 26th, you're invited to crawl on in for an afternoon of fun for all ages at our annual Nature Spooktacular. This year's event takes place 1-4pm at Souhegan High School in Amherst, NH. En-

joy educational booths, crafts, and a concession stand. Visit misunderstood creatures such as spiders, snakes, beetles, worms, and more. Youngsters can crawl through our soil tunnel and discover what lives underground. Costumes are encouraged. Hourly afternoon presentations will amuse even the most difficult to please children. Learn about Misunderstood Animals with Squam Lake Science Center at 1pm. Visit with and even touch a few Spooktacular Creatures with NH's Wildlife Encounters at 2pm. Enjoy Storytelling and Music at 3pm. Entry is only \$5 per Amherst resident and \$6 per nonresident.

Looking for a bit of spine tingling? Join us on Halloween night

It's About Conservation

A Quality of Life Recipe

By BRUCE B. BECKLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



How did your grandmother's recipes go? A handful of this, a pinch of that? That's sort of how a recipe for the quality of life would read - a handful of comfort, a pinch of space. "Space" that's an interesting ingredient. For you it may be your own fuzzy easy chair, the garden, the neighbor's Back 40, or all you can see and imagine from a hilltop or lakeshore.

Often we have written about "Open Space", an elusive commodity. What is it? What does it feel like under foot or smell like? Each of us will have our own definition but most of us voted to preserve it for whatever reason was personally important. Probably it comes down to being any place - wet or dry, wooded or field, flat or on edge - that doesn't have houses on it. Needless to say, we have found it difficult to locate open space parcels that can be obtained for the town. Willing sellers are not jumping out of the woodwork (or woods).

Once open space has been acquired for critter and humankind conservation purposes, its management presents different questions. Woodlots are easy. The ACC has professionally-prepared forest management plans for the properties it manages that are over 10 acres. The plans lay out steps and schedules for selective cutting that enhance the woods for wildlife and return a modest net income to the Commission land management fund.

Fields are a different management story at this time. What do we do management-wise with them? Meadowland, when available, may be acquired and managed as a definite part of the natural mosaic, providing food, nesting places and shelter for a variety of wild inhabitants. On the New Boston Air Station former meadows have been restored and maintained to create woodland buffers for songbirds and small mammals and food supplies for larger animals and birds.

Another management approach for ACC fields could be the "Do Nothing" program. This is the least expensive program but will soon result in a field being recaptured by invasives, coarse weeds and pioneer trees such as white pine and gray birch. In 10 to 15 years the meadow aspect is lost.

Then there's the recreationist viewpoint. Is walking or cross-country skiing more satisfying and interesting on a trail through or along a regularly maintained field, one that nature is moving in on, or one in between that's brushed out every 3 to 4 years to be kept open in a coarse way.

The ever-present factor of energy costs weighs strongly on open space management. (Here, I am not speaking of open space for team sports.) A decent hay-producing field must be fed with fertilizers whose costs track energy costs - energy to manufacture them and energy to bring them here. I think we all enjoy seeing working farms. Unfortunately, Amherst has lost those mostly due to economics and farmers are strapped to buy fertilizer to enhance field productivity.

So what do we do with those attractive open meadows that we buy or hope to preserve? Controlling sub-divisions and finding more in-town recreation space are wished-for goals and accepted prudent uses for tax dollars as expressed by the majority of voters. How far do we go though with tax dollars to preserve land productivity and aesthetics? Not so clear.

The Amherst Master Plan states that a goal for the town is to preserve the town's rural character. That's part of the quality of life recipe. Are the open fields we enjoy seeing part of the cake or frosting?

Amherst's Own Shows at the Library

The October Amherst Town Library Artist of the Month will be Amherst resident Sharon B. Beckley. There will be a reception for Sharon on October 12th from 2-4 pm and everyone is invited.

In a recent interview Sharon commented, "As long as I can remember, I've loved to paint and I've had a love of art and learning more about it. I started serious painting in oils with Ann Hynes back in the 1970s. She had a group of artists who painted at her home. It was so much fun that I became caught up in that form of expression and have been painting ever since." For the past ten years Sharon has attended the Museum of Fine Arts School where she studied with Marlene Oliver. Describing that opportunity, Sharon explained, "The class time was divided between art education and painting. We would go through the museum and hear lectures based around films and slides of exemplary art. After viewing other artists' works, it was pure delight to develop one's own style. We were encouraged to experiment, to find our emotional selves and step out of the expected and grow."

The artist's journey has taken Sharon to the Sharon Arts Center for continued studies under Mary Iselein. The focus here is the style called Plein Aire - based on painting outdoors regardless of the weather to express on canvas what is seen through the artist's eyes, experience, and spirit. Sharon summarizes her experiences by saying, "I've loved it all and learned not only from each teacher but as much from the other students as we each developed a style to call our own."

The works displayed at the Amherst Town Library represent the range of subjects and media with



Lilies, a painting by Sharon Beckley, on display at the Amherst Town Library in October

which Sharon works today and examples of earlier works. The exhibit of her paintings is open during normal library hours.

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