

## Town News

### AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

Amy Lapointe, Library Director  
14 Main St., Amherst NH  
Phone 673-2288 Fax 672-6063  
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.

The Amherst Town Library Children's Room will be very busy during February vacation week, so please join us for all the fun!

**Babymouse Extravaganza- February 23rd, 3:30-4:30pm.**

Are you a fan of Babymouse? If you are then you should stop by the library, where you'll create your own Babymouse comic, make sweet strawberry mice and play games. Registration is required. For ages 6 and up.

**Feeling the Beat, Feeling the Spirit with John Root - February 24th, 3-5pm.**

This program invites children to flex their bodies, voices, and imaginations. Children will help create and enact new verses to familiar music and movement songs to John's instrumental accompaniment. All ages are welcome.

**Stuffed Animal Sleepover- February 25th, 7-8pm.**

Bring your favorite stuffed animal, enjoy some great stories, a snack and make a craft. Your stuffed pal will stay over in the library and have his or her picture taken. Please come and pick up your animal the following day and get your picture. Registration is required.

The Book Bunch - February 25th, 3:45-4:45pm. Join us for a couple of fantastic read aloud books and a craft. This book club is meant for children ages 6 to 8. Registration is not required.

**Fashion Cuff for Teens and Tweens Workshop- February 26th, 3-4pm.**

Make a cute cuff that you can wear anywhere! Registration is required

#### Upcoming Children's Room Programs:

#### Upcoming January Events at the Amherst Town Library's Children's Room

Storytime for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers will resume on January 5th. We will be having storytime for babies on Tuesdays from 10-10:30am and at 11:15-11:45am for toddlers. Both storytimes will feature songs, stories, fingerplays and dancing. Preschool storytime will take place on Wednesdays from 11:30am till noon. No registration is required for storytime, so stop by anytime!

### Amherst Town Library

## Inexpressible Tenderness And Fragile Delicacy: Exploring The Themes Of Winter And Love

Looking for something wonderful and exciting to do on those cold wintery afternoons in January and February? We invite you to come to the Amherst Town Library, which offers a warm and comfortable setting, to explore the themes of winter and love. "Inexpressible Tenderness and Fragile Delicacy: Exploring the Themes of Winter and Love," is a four part series scheduled for four Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Johnson Meeting Room of the library. Offered by Nancy Baker, this series is an interdisciplinary exploration of two themes: Love (February 10 & 17). [A snow date of February 24 is set aside if needed.] The program is similar to the approach used in Nancy's interdisciplinary course Myth and Idea, taught for many years at Souhegan High School. It uses an essential question to link ideas about and expressions of a universal theme. The format is interactive, being both informative and a sharing of ideas about art, philosophy, literature, mythology and classical music. No previous study of any of the disciplines or specific works is expected, and all in-class and follow-up materials are provided. You are welcome

to attend any or all of the sessions.

Henry David Thoreau said that "Many of the phenomena of winter are suggestive of an inexpressible tenderness and fragile delicacy." For January, in this interdisciplinary series we will explore the time of year when we often feel most delicate and tender. The first two sessions will focus on the essential question, "Is winter a season or a state of mind?" We will read five poems by Shakespeare, Emerson, Frost, and Hayden, listen to some of the "Winter Concerto" from Vivaldi's The Four Seasons, consider tales of winter from Greco/Roman and Welsh mythology and the Arthurian Romance, and look at about 20 paintings from the history of Western art depicting winter.

In February, the final two sessions of the series will consider the essential question, "Is a kiss the ultimate mind/body connection?" We will read Anton Chekhov's short story "The Kiss" and John Donne's sonnet "Image and Dream." Then we will explore the question further through the myth of Cupid and Psyche, briefly consider the philosophical issue of the mind/body problem, and view 30 works which

#### Upcoming 2010 programs:

Family Game Night

Toddler Dance Party

Babymouse Extravaganza

Dolly Tea Party

Make Your Own Comics Workshop

Please come in and check out some of the new books and video games that we've added to the collection. We also have a box full of fun math games that kids can play with their families, such as Blokus, Battleship, and Mancala.

#### Door, Roof, Floor: Dwelling in Poems & Art

The Amherst Town Library is pleased to continue its yearlong series of literature and arts conversations with "Door, Roof, Floor: Dwelling in Poems & Art," beginning Wednesday, March 3rd. This year-long series, funded by the Friends of the Amherst Town Library, invites you to live in houses both familiar and strange, dark and light, near and far, through rich readings, lively conversations, and writing opportunities. Poems and paintings, sometimes called "the sister arts," have long inspired each other, sharing a space lively with color, form, line, and close attention to feeling and experience. If you would like to escape the world of skimming, texting, and twittering for a little while, then come settle down and dwell in a poem's image or a painting's story. During the series we will enjoy the voices of writers such as Rilke, Stevens, Auden, Williams, and Leverton, whose poems share an especially close relationship to artists such as Brueghel, Velazquez, Cezanne, Van Gogh, and Picasso. The series continues on March 24th and April 14th with lively conversations about selected poems and paintings, and on April 21st with an opportunity to write art-inspired poems in a "wordplay workshop." Join us for any or all at 1-2:30 p.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. in the Johnson Meeting Room. All materials will be provided by the library.

Facilitator Emily Archer, who holds a doctorate in American literature and is a published writer, has designed this series in consultation with Ruslyn Vear, Head of Reference.

Please register for this special series by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherst.lib.nh.us or by visiting the website at www.amherst.lib.nh.us and click on the calendar icon labeled "Calendar of Events" on the homepage.

trace the history of Western art from Egyptian statuary to Pop Art, all featuring couples.

Nancy Baker, recently retired teacher, is one of the Founding Faculty at Souhegan High School. During her time at the school, Nancy taught Mythology, History of Ideas, Philosophy, Ancient History, and Latin. She was runner up as New Hampshire Teacher of the Year in 2004. A Classical Languages major at Harpur College, SUNY at Binghamton, Nancy continued graduate work in Egyptology at Brown University. She also worked in the Research Department at Colonial Williamsburg, was Director of Research at the Historic Annapolis Foundation, and is the author of several articles on early Annapolis, Maryland, silversmiths in the 18th century, and colonial ship chandlery.

This series is sure to bring a sense of wonder and delight to the cold days of winter!

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 selecting "Calendar of Events."

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### It's About Conservation

## Wetlands Not Wasteland

BY BRUCE B. BECKLEY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Wetlands like mountains have a being, a personality, a complexion of color, size and life dependencies. In our town, wetlands span the size spectrum from the great ponds like Baboosic Lake to the banks of flowing streams like Beaver Brook, to the cattail marshes like the Ross Bird Sanctuary, and down to vernal pools which another writer described as "Wicked Big Puddles".

Mountains have height. Wetlands have depth. Each is burdened with dual ownerships: nature, the original primal owner, would keep each for her family of diverse species, and secondly, the human newcomer who pays the taxes and would exert an owner's influence and control.

Turning to wetlands, measures to protect wetlands from the smallest to the largest have been implemented by regulators at all three levels of government. For regulatory purposes, a wetland may be delineated by the vegetation it supports, the soils beneath it, and the more obvious, standing water at sometime during the year.

Then there's the marriage thing - even in nature. Wetlands are married to the lands surrounding them called the natural buffer. A buffer's most important function is to act as a filter for sediments and pollutants that might otherwise be washed into the wetland from lawns, roads, parking lots and other developed areas. Buffers are not as easily defined in the field by vegetation or soils as are their wetland partners. For protection purposes, buffers are defined instead by laws which establish buffer widths and what may and may not be done within them.

Are wetland regulations enforced? You betcha!



In Amherst enforcement begins with the planning and zoning process. Information on our local ordinances, processes and permits is available from the Zoning Administrator in the Town Offices. From the state level, strong enforcement originates with the NH Department of Environmental Services. For example: On Baboosic Lake, DES ordered an expensively constructed high wall of boulders to be removed from within the wetland. Two other homeowner wetland violations in 2009 have resulted in DES orders for removal of illegally placed fill and replanting the buffers with native vegetative species. One action on Honey Pot Pond and another by Baboosic Lake resulted in removal of 11,000 square feet of fill - costly to place, more costly to remove.

#### Who owns the wetlands?

Don't we all?

We more than share the wetlands with Nature and all the wetland critters. We are members of Nature's family, albeit rebellious at times, and one of her heirs. Henry van Dyke, writing in "Who Owns The Mountains", concludes:

What is property, after all? The law says there are two kinds: real and personal. But it seems to me that the only real property is that which is truly personal, that which we take into our inner life and make our own forever, by understanding and admiration and sympathy and love. This is the only kind of possession that is worth anything.

### Amherst Town Library

## Program on Russian Nesting Dolls, February 20th

AMHERST - The Nellie W. Perkins Doll and Miniature Society of NH, UFDC (www.ufdc.org) will host Russian artist Marina Forbes on Saturday, February 20, at 10:30 am in the Johnson Room of the Amherst Public Library. Ms. Forbes will present a program on Russian Nesting Dolls. To attend, please call Diane Gardenour at 424-9808. Space is limited; this event is made possible through a grant from the NH Humanities Council.

Marina Forbes is a native of St. Petersburg, Russia. For more than 20 years, she has been an active artist, historian, storyteller, lecturer and teacher in the area of Russian art, culture, language and folklore, offering more than 75 workshops, courses, and presentations each



Marina Forbes

year both in Russia and throughout the New England area. Marina is an accomplished painter of traditional Russian icons (egg tempera/gold leaf on wood), traditional Russian

Matryoshkas (nested dolls), and numerous traditional Russian craft items. Many of her works are in private collections in Russia, Italy and the United States. Marina is currently the Director of International Programs at the New England Language Center in Rochester where she coordinates cultural exchange programs, teaches Russian culture and language, and leads art-related tours to Russia each year. She is an active watercolorist and art teacher and regularly does dramatic performances of Russian fairytales. Marina has a distinctive ability to generate energy and enthusiasm in the classroom and to bring the rich fabric of traditional Russian art and folklore to life for children of all ages.

## Friends Of The Amherst Town Library Offer Friday Afternoon Book Club

AMHERST - The Friday Afternoon Book Club, organized by the Friends of the Amherst Town Library, cordially invites new members and visitors to their February meeting on Friday, February 12, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Johnson Meeting Room downstairs at the Library.

Readers will discuss the novel, Bel Canto, by Ann Patchett. Set in

a South American country, terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party and an unlikely assortment of people are thrown together, including American opera star Roxanne Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan. The international hostages and their captors forge unexpected bonds and the enfolding story remains a gentle reminder of the transcen-

dence of beauty and love. Bel Canto earned an Orange Prize for Fiction and a PEN-Faulkner Award for Fiction.

The Friday Afternoon Book Club Meetings are scheduled the second Friday afternoon of every month through June 2010. For more information, call Beth Blodgett, member of the Friends of the Amherst Town Library at 673-2506.

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