

Bulletin Board

Nashaway Chapter of the NH Audubon Society

Enjoy the last bits of summer with the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon. Join a nature walk to look at plant adaptations at Ponehmag Bog in Amherst, NH on September 13. The walk begins at 9 am and last 1 1/2 - 2 hour. Children are welcome. Meet at the parking area off Rhodora Drive, off of Stearns Road in Amherst. For directions, go to <http://merrimack.wildnh.com/ponehmagbog/> For more information, contact Jack Gleason at 673-3177 or westonpond10@gmail.com.

On Wednesday September 17 at 7pm, The Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will show the award winning film: Ordinary Extraordinary Junco: Remarkable Biology from a Backyard Bird with Dr. Jeanne-Marie Maher as host. Juncos are little gray songbirds affectionately known as snowbirds, but for scientists who study these birds, the Junco is a rock star. This program takes place in the downstairs theater room of the Nashua Public Library and is free. Registration is not necessary. For more information, contact Richard Maloon 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net.

On Sunday, September 21 from 8am to 2pm, the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will visit the Raptor Migration Observatory at Miller State Park, (Pack Mo-nadnock), in Peterborough to watch for migrating hawks. Under the right weather conditions, thousands of hawks can be seen. Bring a chair, binoculars, lunch, and drink. There is a fee to get into the park. This trip begins in Nashua at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind the Fireside Inn & Suites. The public is welcome. To register for the trip or for directions to meet the group at the destination, contact Field Trip Coordinator: Richard Bielawski 429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com . For info or directions to Observatory, www.nhaidubon.org/locations/raptor-observato-ries.

DISCUSSION GROUP at TOADSTOOL BOOKSHOP

On the first Thursday of each month, the discussion group meets from 7PM to 8:30PM. We share ideas on philosophy, current affairs and familiar truths. For more information contact: Norah at 673 - 6948.

Open to All Southern New Hampshire Women

The Amherst Area Newcomers Club has been an active social organization in the area for 45 years.

The club is open to all women in the Souhegan Valley, regardless of how long she has lived in the area. We hold monthly general events on a wide variety of topics along with smaller special interest groups which cater to socializing with others of similar interests. The club is a great way to meet new people, get to know the area if you're new, or cultivate a new passion. We currently host interest groups for crafts, knitting, bunco, walking, charity, lunch, poker, healthy eating and golf.

For information and a calendar of events visit: NHNewcomers.com

Amherst Juniors Open for New Members!

Our mission is civic needs, educational advancement and those less fortunate. Our goals are achieved with the assistance and generosity of businesses, organizations and individuals.

We are in need of women with motivation and dedication to join us in growing our mission even further within our surrounding communities.

Please email us at memberships@amherstjuniors.org. Our website is www.amherstjuniors.org. Call Barb @ 508-783-3686 or Karen @305-3046 for more information. Join Us!

The Board of Selectmen Seek Community Input

AMHERST - The BoS has retained the services of Municipal Resources Incorporated to perform an operations review of the Fire Department and the Emergency Medical Services Department.

The purpose of this review is to assess how these services are delivered to the community and to compare our method to contemporary best practices in New Hampshire, New England and around the nation. You do not need to have had

firsthand experience with either Fire or EMS to participate.

This is an opportunity for you to ask questions, offer comment and suggestions or simply listen to the consultants and your fellow citizens for a couple of hours.

Date: September 15, 2014
Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Location: Town Hall 2 Main Street
Barbara Landry Meeting Room (2nd Floor)

Town News

Historic Amherst

What the Prisoners Wore - When They Escaped from the County Gaol in Amherst

Examples of Late 18th & Early 19th Century Apparel

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

The variety of fabrics offered by general stores in Amherst and the types of garments offered by local tailors in their advertisements of the early to mid 19th century excite the imagination, but it's rather hard to come by descriptions of clothing worn by folks in Amherst in the days before the advent of photography. The descriptions of the apparel of local jailbreakers in the late Colonial or Revolutionary period and in the early years of the new nation tickled my fancy. As Amherst was the shire town for Hillsborough County and therefore was the site for court trials since 1771, it also held the county "gaol." The jail was conveniently located near the Village Common at the top of Old Jailhouse Road (hence the road's name).

Red Quilted Petticoat in 1774

Two years after the erection of the first county gaol, a wooden frame building, the Sheriff of Hillsborough County, Benjamin Whiting, put a notice in the newspaper (*Essex Gazette*, Salem, Mass., 29 Nov. 1774) about four escapees, three men and one woman, who "Broke out of his Majesty's Gaol in Amherst, in the County of Hillsborough, and Province of New Hampshire, on the night of the 15th inst.," viz:

James Danely, in prison for committing an Assault and Battery, is a tall well set fellow near six feet high, dark short hair, had on a blue short Jacket, light-colour'd Waistcoat, and claret colour'd Breeches.

Thomas Clark, in prison for aiding and assisting one Joseph Kelley make his escape from prison, is about 5 feet 10 inches high, thin favoured, dark hair tied behind, had on a cloth colour'd Coat and Breeches.

Jonathan Fish, convicted of the crime of Adultery, is about 5 feet 9 inches high, well set, had on a light colour'd serge Coat, red Waistcoat and new leather Breeches.



Stone gaol (built 1793 and 1811) & County House (built 1772) in Amherst, N.H.; sold by County to private in 1867. Photo taken 1890 on Old Jailhouse Road, looking north. Courtesy of Historical Society of Amherst.

Mary Foster, convicted of the crime of Adultery, is about 5 feet 4 inches high, black hair and black eyes, wore a green calimanco Gown and a red quilted Petticoat.

Rewards offered: \$10 per prisoner re-apprehended; "also whoever will give information of any person or persons that aided or assisted the Prisoners in making their Escape, so that he or they are legally convicted thereof, and brought to punishment, shall receive \$20 reward." All masters of vessels and others were cautioned against "conveying, harbouring, entertaining or carrying away" any of these prisoners.

Velvet Shoes in 1795

"Stop Prisoners" screamed the headline of a notice by deputy gaoler Samuel Morrison in the local weekly newspaper, the first and as yet only one published in Hillsborough County (*Amherst Journal*, N.H., 10 April 1795). The following two men had broken out of "the Gaol in Amherst, New Hampshire" five days earlier, now a stone building separate from the clap-board County House:

Oliver Hale, about 31 years of age, 5 feet and 10 or 11 inches high; had on when he went away, a blue strait Coat, a pair of Corderoy Breeches, and a pair of black velvet shoes. He has a light complexion, with sandy hair, and is a blacksmith by trade.

John Hokes, about 27 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high; had on a light colored great Coat; has brown hair and is round favoured, and is a thick set fellow.

Rewards offered: \$10 for Hale and \$5 for Hokes, with all necessary charges to be paid by the deputy gaoler.

Capt. Samuel Morrison kept a public house in Amherst (town records show that he was granted year-long tavern licenses in June 1793, July 1794, Mar 1797, June 1800). He was a carpenter by trade, and at the time of his death his shop was next to the house of Capt. J. Convers. His wife Jane (Adams) died in Feb. 1814, aged 59, and he died insolvent in June 1820, aged 64, after falling from a scaffold while shingling his barn. His daughter Sophia (b. 1786) became a milliner in Amherst Village 1825/6.

Seal-Skin Caps in 1828

Deputy gaoler Charles Richardson of Amherst placed a newspaper notice in the 5 April 1828 issues of the *Farmers' Cabinet* and *Portsmouth Journal* about jailbreakers: "Broke from the Common Gaol in Amherst, County of Hillsborough, on the night of the 29th [March], the following prisoners, all of whom were committed for criminal offenses, and for trial at the next term of the Superior Court, viz":

Caleb Stiles, about 55 years of age, light complexion, sandy hair and whiskers, bald in the fore part of the head, stout built; and dressed in dark clothes and blue surtout; is a native of Massachusetts and was recently discharged from the state prison of N.H. (to which he had been sentenced to three years hard labor after being convicted at age 48 in June 1823 for

Continued on page 6 ▶

AMHERST RECREATION DEPARTMENT

4 Cross Rd, Amherst, NH 03031
 603 673-6248
 Peabody Mill Environmental Center
 66 Brook Road
 603 673-1141
www.amherstrec.org

Fall means back to school, back to schedules and back to Recreation.

We now have a category dedicated to our many running programs. We have also added multiple programs for adults. Let us know if there is something you are looking for!

Change in CANCELLATION POLICY

Registrations cancelled before a program begins will no longer be charged a cancellation if the fee is held as account credit toward a future program for anyone in your household. Refunds will continue to be charged the \$15.00 fee and will not be applied to tickets sold.

Fall Programs and Events

Adult Programming

LAST CLASS Beach Yoga at Baboosic

The last class will be held this Saturday, with a rain location inside the on-site building.

Who: Adults 18 and up
When: Saturdays 8:00-9:15am 8/30
Where: Baboosic Lake Town Beach, 25 Broadway Circle

NEW Motivation for the 5K Runner

You are a Runner. You get your shoes on and head out the door. But you wish you'd run more often, and are looking for others to run with to motivate you, keep you on track and keep your goals in the forefront. This group will keep you hitting the road, with the goal of participating Amherst Turkey Trot 5K.

Who: Adults 18 and up
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-6:45am 9/9-11/27
Where: Meet in the parking on the

Village Common across from the Congregational Church

NEW Couch to 5K Running Program, Fall

Do you want to return to running or are you NEW to running? Would you like support in training for getting a 30 minute run in or perhaps participating in your first 5K? You will be surprised how easy a thirty minute run will be with the support of this program. Register with or without the 5K at the end of the program.

Who: Adults 18 and up
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00-9:45am 9/9-11/27

Where: Meet in the parking on the Village Common across from the Congregational Church

The Technical Aspects of Running- Improving your Mechanics

If you have never had any formal coaching or training, you likely do not know how to practice running

or understand the technical aspects of the sport that will increase your efficiency and make your runs more enjoyable. This 8 week program will emphasize developing the fundamental elements of running: proper biomechanics, strength, speed endurance, and range of motion. Each week there will be a classroom session to introduce and discuss the elements of running and a weekly technical run.

Who: Adults
When and Where: 9/23-11/13
Tuesdays and Thursdays
Tuesday runs 7-8:30 and Thursday meetings 6:30-8, Rec office, 4 Cross Rd.

Game Days for Adults

Join an enthusiastic group of seniors for a game of Dominoes or Hand and Foot!

Who: Adults
When: Thursdays from 1:00-3:30
Where: Amherst Fire Station Community Room, 177 Amherst Street

Continued on page 6 ▶

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Antiques on the Green

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The Ninetenth Annual Show & Sale

presented by the

Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Quality Antiques & Collectibles

Saturday, September 13, 2014

9 am to 3 pm ♣ Admission \$5

Rain or Shine ♣ Food Available

- ♣ 11 am to 12 noon ~ Free Appraisal by Jason Hackler (of one personal antique or collectible)
- ♣ The Historical Society's Wigwam & Chapel Museums open

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