

Town News

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

Amy Lapointe, Library Director
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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.

Children’s Programming at the Amherst Town Library 102014

COME TO STORYTIME AT THE LIBRARY!

SESSION 1
Starts Sep. 8 and runs to October 17

SESSION 2
Starts Nov. 3 and runs to Dec. 12
(no storytimes Nov. 27 and 28)
Baby Listeners (newborn-2yrs.)
Fridays at 10:30

Caregivers present

Our “baby” group offers an opportunity for babies and their caregivers to gather for rhymes, songs and puppets. Emphasis is on traditional rhymes that reinforce language patterns and provide for parent/child interaction. A simple book or two intended for this age is generally highlighted.

Toddler Time (2 and 3-yr. olds)

Tuesdays at 10:00

Caregivers present

Toddler Time is for our 2 and 3 year olds who are just beginning to discover the joy of books and stories! We mix it up with simple rhymes, songs, and puppets to appeal to a toddler’s attention span. Each session concludes with a simple craft for the caregiver and child to create together. Come and join us, we have lots of fun!



Book Bunch (3-6 yrs.)

Wednesdays at 10:00

Thursdays at 1:00pm

Our “Book Bunch” storytime is designed for the longer attention span of the preschool-kindergarten set. These action-packed 40 minute programs include a wide variety of books, finger plays, and songs. At the conclusion of each session, caretakers are invited to come in and assist their children with a simple craft.

NEW THIS FALL!

Pajama Storytime! (ages 3-6 yrs.)

Mondays at 6:30pm

This is a ‘Book Bunch’ for the after-hours set!

Put on your ‘jammies’ and head on down to the library for some stories and fun. Then it’s home to brush your teeth and hop into bed. The perfect program for working families, or for those kids who like a little ‘nightlife’!All groups meet once per week for six-week sessions which run from September until June. No registration is required.

For more information, please call 603-673-2288 and ask for Miss Sarah or Miss Sue. For up-to-date information concerning library programs and events, please visit our website, www.amherstlibrary.org and click on Calendar of Events.

COMING SOON:

STEVE BLUNT IN CONCERT!

On Thursday, October 30, at 4:00, Steve Blunt will perform in the Children’s Room for our annual Not-So-Scary Halloween Party. We’ll be singing and dancing and having fun! Costumes are encouraged. No registration necessary.

Amherst Town Library

An Evening With Michael Blanding, Author Of “The Map Thief”

The Amherst Town Library presents “An Evening with Michael Blanding, author of The Map Thief,” on Wednesday, November 5th at 7 p.m. in the Main Reading Room of the Library. In The Map Thief, award-winning investigative reporter Michael Blanding tells the true-life story of a map dealer-turned-criminal E. Forbes Smiley III, who stole more than \$3 million worth of antique maps from rare-book libraries including the Boston Public Library. Smiley was ultimately caught in 2005 when an attentive librarian spotted a razor blade he dropped on the floor, leading to the ultimate unraveling of his deceptions. With an exclusive interview with Smiley, as well as in-depth investigation involving map collectors, dealers, curators, and law enforcement, Blanding paints a compelling psychological portrait of an obsessive man who committed

daring crimes against the backdrop of a quirky and cutthroat subculture. Alongside Smiley’s confessions, he spins the backstories of the explorers and mapmakers who charted the history of North America through their maps, many of which are worth tens of thousands of dollars today. As Maxwell Carter states in The Wall Street Journal, “Blanding’s most moving passages commemorate those who helped build and, bit by bit, envisage the world as we know it.”

Blanding is currently a senior fellow at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University and a staff writer at Harvard Business School. His work has appeared in The Nation, The New Republic, Slate, Salon, Consumers Digest, The Boston Globe Magazine, and Boston Magazine. His first book, The Coke Machine: The Dirty Truth Behind the World’s Fa-

vorite Soft Drink, was published by Avery/Penguin in 2010. His latest, The Map Thief: The Gripping Story of an Esteemed Rare-Map Dealer Who Made Millions Stealing Priceless Maps, was published by Gotham Books in June 2014 and named a New England Indie Best-seller by the New England Independent Booksellers Association. He has won multiple awards for his writing and has three times been named a finalist for the Livingston Awards for Young Journalists.

This Library program for adults is free and open to the public. However, registration is REQUIRED due to space limitations. You can register for this event by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherstlibrary.org, or by visiting our website at www.amherstlibrary.org and selecting the “Community Services” tab, then click on drop down “Sign-Up for Programs.”

Amherst Town Library – Information Session:

The Health Insurance Marketplace

Health Insurance Marketplace Information and Open Enrollment Assistance at the Amherst Town Library is being provided through a certified Marketplace Assister from the Servicelink Resource Center for Hillsborough County. The sessions are scheduled for Tuesdays, beginning November 11, and continuing through Tuesday, February 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Archives Room of the Library. These sessions will begin with a formal presentation from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. by Bokyoung Mun, a certified Marketplace Assister, and follow up

with a Q & A session from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. If you are planning to attend the formal educational session, please register. During the Q & A time, “drop-ins” are welcome.

Bokyoung holds a Bachelor’s degree in Health Care Management and a Master’s degree in Business Administration with a Certificate in Health Care Administration from Plymouth State University. During these scheduled sessions Bokyoung will assist people in completing and submitting an eligibility application for health coverage; assist people with enrollment; re-

view eligibility determinations for enrollment in health coverage; educate people about eligibility and enrollment through the Marketplace; and, assist consumers in applying for exemptions or appeals.

All sessions at the Library are free and open to the public. To register, please sign up by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherstlibrary.org or by visiting our website at www.amherstlibrary.org and selecting the “Community Services” tab, then click on drop down “Sign-Up for Programs.”

“Get Festive With a Thanksgiving Centerpiece”

The Amherst Town Library presents “Get Festive with a Thanksgiving Centerpiece” on Thursday, November 20th at 7 p.m. in the Main Reading Room of the Library. Local artist and floral designer Kevin Dadoly of Woodman’s Florist will share creativity tips while he develops several centerpieces that will be raffled off at the end of the program.

Using all the autumnal colors, flowers, and textures, Kevin will bring his exuberance and love of color and design to this fun, informational evening program of good cheer. Along with watching art in progress as Kevin develops beautiful arrangements, Kevin plans to share guidelines for keeping flowers fresh and maintaining centerpieces; and, he will speak about the latest trends in flower design. The Library thanks Woodman’s Florists for providing all materials to be used in the presentation.

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Amherst November Garden Club Speaker

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plementing interesting fashion accessories and flavored with visions of Coco Chanel. Eight arrangements will be created and raffled off at the end of the program.

Bill Graham is one of New England’s leading floral design professionals. Owner of Beautiful Things Flowers and Gifts Ltd in Salem,

Massachusetts, he is recognized in the floral world as a designer, commentator, educator, lecturer, and motivator.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 am with a short business meeting and social time followed by the program at 10:15 am. Visitors are welcome.

Sue Alger will be the speaker at the evening meeting of the club on November 13 at Parkhurst Place, 11 Veterans Road in Amherst starting at 7:00 pm. She will speak on “Decorating with Succulents and Fall Bounty.” The meeting, which will begin at 7:00 pm, is open to the public.

It’s About Conservation

My Take

By BRUCE B. BECKLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Perhaps it is well to remind readers that the views expressed in this column are mine and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Amherst Conservation Commission.

Color – Everywhere! What a marvelous display of fall exuberance the native species have given us this year from the ground-level blueberry bushes up to the sky-reaching hickories and maples, swamp and sugar.

Hunting – The deer hunting season will be open until December 7th. That’s no reason to hole up. There is a beautiful world out there to be wrapped up in. Just play safe. Wrap up in a jacket or cap of hunter orange. That goes for canine companions, too. A blue bandana around a dog’s neck doesn’t cut it. Get your furry friend an orange vest as well.

Hunting is an important component of wildlife management. The deer population is multiplying, not only to the detriment of residential landscapes but to the health of the species as well. Coyotes can control the number of deer to an extent, picking off young or aging that straggle when the tribe moves. The hunter, following NH F&G regulations which are science-based, is the only other control in our area.

Vandalism – The ACC works to create places for safe and friendly outdoor experiences. We are a volunteer organization, enriched by two dozen other trail stewards (your neighbors) who help monitor and maintain the trails for you.

It hurts when our efforts are damaged or destroyed. Cases in point: ATV operators who ignore the law by entering and chewing up ACC hiking trails; new roadside trailhead signs have been stolen; in Pond Parish Town Forest signs identifying trail junctions have been destroyed; and in Grater Woods the new kiosk and maps were defaced and burned. Please help keep ACC properties, your properties, family friendly.

Atta-Boy – The Amherst DPW crew has done a yeoman’s job of upgrading the newly designated Class V portion of Grater Road leading to the Grater Woods Trail parking area for year-around access. Thanks to Bruce Berry and the crew.

ACC Meetings – Commission meetings are open and welcoming to residents. To be more accommodating, to the public and presenters, the meeting time has been changed to 7 PM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Utility Rights of Way (ROW) – These thoughts and opinions stem from growing up with a father in the hydro generation side of the business and 40 years myself working for New England utilities to

generate and supply energy for homes and businesses.

We live with an energy-based economy. Our home life, our incomes, even our leisure time and activities call for energy. And, believe it or not, that goes for open space protection and enjoyment as well.

When the sources of the energy we use are limited, charitable giving for churches, the arts, community assistance programs and conservation suffer. If gas, heating oil, and electricity cost more, the cost of living goes up and the available cash for all those causes we’d like to support goes down. Energy is an important factor in our quality-of-life equation.

Until nuclear power generation resumes its place in the region’s energy mix, New Englanders will need to import a growing share of the energy it expects to be available at the flick of a switch. New nuclear power plants are 20 years out – well over the political horizon. Imported energy can be delivered by sea from foreign countries, over the roads and railroads, and by gas and electric transmission pipes and wires from domestic hydro-power and natural gas sources.

Many folks feel the rights of way maintained by utilities and suppliers are scars on the face of nature. I don’t see them that way, different but not scars. This summer we walked trails in Brookline that led under a PSNH transmission line. We came home with quarts of large sweet wild blueberries, picked where the views stretched to the hills across the Merrimack valley. This fall we walked amidst the explosion of color along another PSNH ROW in Amherst. We followed paths kept open by deer and moose; all the while with long range views to the Temple Mountain Range.

Utility rights of way on which taxes are paid, be they for natural gas or electric transmission, are enjoyed by wildlife, hikers, and X-C skiers. Every mile of a typical ROW creates six plus acres of wildlife sanctuary with two miles of woodland buffer, essential for many small mammal and bird species while creating no demands for town services.

In Closing – Now it is time to get off this computer and use some imported gasoline to shop for groceries flown in from Argentina or trucked from the Dakotas where Diesel-powered combines harvested the wheat to be prepared and cooked by electricity in NH.



Who Are Nipmugs and The Questers?

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The Questers board also funds graduate studies in the field(s) of preservation. Its scholarship program was started in 1973 and now Questers members annually award a two-year \$17,000 scholarship to a student earning a Master of Science Degree in Preservation and Restoration at Columbia University. A three-year fellowship program was established in 1997 for students earning a Master’s Degree in the University of Delaware/ Winterthur Program in Art Conservation. The Columbia scholarship program provides four sectors relating to preservation (design, history, conservation and planning), whereas the Winterthur program provides an education in archival care and conservation, restoration and proper storage of art, artifacts, and antiquities. Nipmugs regularly contribute to these educational programs, most recently from money we raised amongst ourselves through silent auctions of used books and Christmas goodies when we met at members’ homes.

Nipmugs – an Indian Name

The name of this Questers chapter was chosen to honor native inhabitants connected with our town’s history. “The town of Amherst [N.H.] had its origin in a grant of land made by the General Court of Massachusetts to some of the citizens of that Province for services in the Narraganset War in 1675-76.” That war is better known as King Philip’s War, Philip being the English name of Wampanoag chief Metacomet. Because of their geographical proximity, Narraganset and Nipmuc tribes were drawn into that war between natives and European settlers. The European soldiers had been promised land as a reward for their service in fighting the Indians, but it would be more than half a century before those rewards materialized. The first land grant, to petitioners from four towns, was a township eight miles square in the “Nipmug country” “in the south part of the Province” granted in 1685 by the General Court of Massachusetts. The Nipmug – now more usually spelled Nipmuc or Nipmuck, meaning “by the freshwater lake” or “freshwater people” – were inland natives of central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. Acquiring land in the wilderness was easier said than done. As time passed, that vaguely identified land in Nipmug country was “disposed of” by the Court to others, so in 1727 the grantees petitioned for a different tract as re-

placement. The reward metric was changed to be 6 miles square for every 120 claims. In 1728, six miles square (13,040 acres) of suitable land near the Sowheagan River was identified as one of the townships to be granted to the soldiers or their heirs. That township, now in New Hampshire but then still part of Massachusetts, would initially be known as Narraganset No. 3 and later as Souhegan West and finally as Amherst. But the process of vetting all the claimants and divvying them up into the newly created townships, took another five years. (Secomb’s *History of Amherst*, 1883, p. 1; 9-25.) Bottom line: the land of the town of Amherst, N.H., was not in Nipmuc territory. Nipmuc artifacts are exhibited in Fruitlands Museum’s Native American Gallery in Harvard, Mass., and in the Willard House & Clock Museum in North Grafton, Mass. Skunk and

moose are said to be words derived from the Nipmuc language.

There are altogether 705 chapters of Questers with about 11,700 members in 42 states of the United States and two provinces of Canada, the dozen Canadian chapters making this an “international” organization. Massachusetts and seven other states have a single chapter; there are four chapters in N.H., including the two in Amherst, one in Wilton and one in Derry area; 14 in North Carolina; 29 in California; 65 in Michigan; 95 and headquarters in Pennsylvania; and Iowa, having 128 chapters with about 1885 members, is the state with the largest membership. All the members in Amherst are ladies, and indeed the majority of Questers are women, but not all – there are men, avid collectors and history buffs, among the membership. Their website is Questers1944.org.

Historic Painting Returns to Amherst After Restoration



The large oil portrait of Barnabas Bradt David (1802-1883), painted in 1884 by Boston artist Thomas H. Badger (1820-1897) for Barnabas’s son James, looks fabulous after its recent professional conservation, including careful cleaning and repair. Mr. B. B. David was a partner in the whip manufacturing business of Melendy & David, who employed men and women in their factory in Amherst Village for four decades. Holding the painting, back again in its original frame, on the day of its return to the museum, October 21, 2014, are Martha Cox of Maine, painting conservator (on left); Katrina Holman, president of Nipmugs Questers; and Susan Fischer, curator for the Historical Society of Amherst. The conservation cost of \$2,365 was funded by Nipmugs, a 24-member local chapter of The Questers, a non-profit organization headquartered in Philadelphia, thanks to a combination of a Questers preservation & restoration grant of \$1,700 and proceeds from the sale of Historic Amherst suncatchers by Nipmugs.