

Bulletin Board

Evening Meeting The Amherst Garden Club

"Feeding and Caring for your Backyard Birds"
The Evening Meeting of The Amherst Garden Club will meet on Thursday, February 12 at Pankhurst Place (11 Veterans Road, Amherst). The February (12) Evening meeting will take place at Pankhurst Place at 11 Veterans Road in Amherst starting at 7:00 pm. The speaker for this meeting will be Gene Harrington from Nashua Farmers Exchange. Gene will be speaking on "Feeding and Caring for your Backyard Birds". Gene and his wife Judy are owners of the exchange, where their mission is to bring to the consumer top quality nutrition for animals as well as plants. Gene holds a degree in both Wildlife Biology and Entomology. If you enjoy attracting birds to your yard, you will want to hear this informative talk. A question and answer period will follow. Guests are welcome. If inclement weather, the cancellation will be listed on WMUR-TV. Gene had been scheduled to speak in January and unfortunately was cancelled due to weather. WE are happy he can come this month!

Nashaway Chapter of the NH Audubon Society

Upcoming Events

NH Bald Eagle Recovery

On Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7pm, the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon welcomes Chris Martin, raptor biologist for NH Audubon. Chris has coordinated Bald Eagle recovery in the Granite State for a quarter century. He recruits, trains, and supervises an enthusiastic corps of volunteers and coordinates breeding recovery with NH Fish and Game. Learn about the success story that has led to the 2007 removal of the Bald Eagle from the federal Threatened and Endangered Species List. 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.

Wintering Owls and Raptors, Salisbury & Newbury, MA

On Saturday, February 21, 2015, from 8am to 3pm, the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will have a field trip to Salisbury Beach State Park and Parker River Wildlife Refuge, at the mouth of the Merrimack River. These places are winter havens for birds of prey. Rodents and birds are often exposed in the salt marshes, attracting Short-eared and Snowy Owls, Bald Eagles, and numerous hawk species. Bring your scope if you have one and pack a lunch. Dress WARMLY. There will be a small entrance fee per car at Parker River, and dogs are not permitted on the refuge. Meet us in Nashua at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind the Fireside Inn and Suites, or contact Richard Bielawski at 429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com to arrange to meet nearer the coast.

Amherst Area Newcomers Club Monthly Meetings

Amherst Area Newcomers Club holds monthly social meetings both informative and entertaining. We have many interest groups that also meet weekly or monthly including book group, knitting, bunco, crafts, golf (is still meeting), out to lunch, movie night, poker and more.

For more information on our activities visit our website at www.nhnewcomers.com. We would love to meet you!

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 Junior Women's Club Announces 2015 Call for Volunteers

The Amherst Junior Women's Club is an organization of energized, dedicated Amherst-area women who volunteer their time, energy and talent to the community. Our mission is focusing our efforts on civic needs, educational advancement and those less fortunate. Our goals are achieved with the assistance and generosity of businesses, organizations and individuals and fundraisers.

We are in need of women with motivation and dedication to join us in growing our mission even further within our surrounding communities. If you have that energy and would like to "burn it off", we would love to have you join us to accomplish these goals. The advantage is the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends at the same time. This is a great opportunity especially for, but not limited to, those with children in the school system. The AJWC sponsors several of the elementary and middle school events.

If you are interested in joining or just learning more about Amherst Junior Women's Club, visit: www.ajwcnh.org or look for our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AmherstJuniors. Also, please feel free to contact the membership chair Susanne Lynch at ajwcmembership@gmail.com. Thank you!

Town News

Historic Amherst

Mr. Perkins Nichols, Esq., of Boston and New York City – Part Two

Amherst's Native Son Who Gave His Hometown a Clock

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

In 1805, Perkins Nichols, Esquire, of Boston presented the town of Amherst with "an elegant clock for the inside of the meeting-house" (*Farmer's Cabinet*, 10 Sep. 1805). The new clock was hung "on the front of the gallery opposite the pulpit." The meetinghouse (built 1771-1774), which served as both town hall and tax-supported Congregational church, stood inside the Common at this time. (I suppose marching around the obstacle was useful practice when the militia held their training exercises.)

Three decades later, in order to effect the separation of church and state, the meeting-house was rolled off public land, pulled by oxen, to its current site. In Milford, the Congregationalists built themselves a separate church in this time period, in part not to have to share the building with other denominations. But Amherst citizens solved the separation differently. Amherst already had a fine public building, the brick county courthouse built in 1823; with forethought the Town had conveyed ownership of the new building to the County with the reservation that ownership would revert to the Town when it was no longer used for court. And Amherst's Unitarians and Baptists had just already acquired new homes in 1835: The Unitarians built themselves a meetinghouse on Middle Street (now the Baptist church), and the Baptists bought the old Read store on what is now the Soldiers' Monument Common in Dec. 1835 and used the upstairs chamber for their services until 1843 while getting rent from the store below. So the Town worked out a deal with the Congregationalists, retaining ownership of the belfry/clock tower and selling the building to the Church & Society – and the new lower story built in 1836 was used as both town hall and vestry. After the remodeling, the donated clock was moved to the lower story so as not to be in the church. And when the third county courthouse became Amherst's town hall some decades later, the clock was moved there – where today it hangs on the wall in the big meeting room. It seems just a tad prideful that Perkins Nichols had his name as donor molded into Milford's Revere bell and inscribed right on the front of Amherst's clock – but it sure is helpful for provenance. He must have been doing quite well indeed in his mercantile business to afford such costly gifts.

Perkins Nichols (1773-1855) was born in Amherst, N. H. His father, Gen. Moses Nichols (Sr., 1740-1790) was a big deal in early Amherst. He was the first settled physician in the newly incorporated town; served as selectman and representative; did battle as colonel in N.H.'s fifth regiment in the Revolutionary war, which impaired his health, and post-war was general in N.H. militia;



The finely carved gravestone of the Honorable Moses Nichols, 1790, in Old Burying Ground behind Town Hall in Amherst, N.H. bears a lovely angel face.

and from 1776 until his death also was county register of deeds. Perkins, the sixth of nine siblings, was still a minor when his pa died but old enough to go to work as a clerk.

Perkins Nichols formed a partnership with Moses Poor (1774-1851), another New Hampshire native, in a general store in Boston at 9 Cornhill, offering such items as India muslins, Brussels carpeting, English goods, silk hose, and ladies' beaver hats. Since 1801, Perkins Nichols was in business for himself as an importer and wholesale merchant at 73 State Street in Boston. In addition, from 1799 to 1805 he served as register of probate for Suffolk County, Mass.

Family

In July 1798, Perkins Nichols was married in Lynnfield to Bridget Orne (1774-1831). They had six children born in Boston between 1799 and 1811, of which two sons would die there as babies (9 months and 14 months old), buried in King's Chapel burying ground.

His few entries in the index of the Hillsborough County registry of deeds suggest that Perkins Nichols's real estate purchases in and around his hometown may have been more like favors than investments. For example, "Nichols & Poor" bought the house lot of a Milford storekeeper in Dec. 1799 for \$400 and sold it three months later for the

same amount to Timothy Danforth (1778-1855) of Amherst, son of a tavernkeeper and blacksmith, who would be a Jack of many trades throughout his life and would build the brick mansion at 117 Boston Post Road in Amherst Village in 1824. When his younger brother Pearson Nichols (1779-1834) & partner Flagg wanted to sell the store on the west side of the Amherst Village Common after only five months of ownership, in order to continue their partnership in a store in Boston, Perkins Nichols took it off their hands in Nov. 1801 for the same amount they had paid, \$700. He sold the store in March 1802 for \$1100, either making a tidy profit because it now stood right on the newly opened Second N. H. Turnpike – or perhaps he is the one who in absentia added the second floor, in which the Baptists would later hold church. In 1805, he bought Captain John Traill's farm with the old Hildreth-Jones Tavern at 18 Jones Road for \$1800 (taking \$1300 mortgage), and for \$100 gave a ten-year lease to his older brother Moses Jr. (1763-1849), a doctor like their pa, who resided there with his family. Perkins then sold the farm outright to Moses in Jan. 1809 for the same \$1800. Moses sold out in April 1810 and moved to Canada. Pearson Nichols also moved to Canada, where he was a successful merchant who smuggled U.S. goods into Canada.

New England Ventures

Our subject was venturesome in business. He was one of the incorporators of the Middlesex Turnpike (from Tyngsboro to Bedford, Mass.) in June 1805. Although a great public service by private corporations, generally the shareholders of most turnpikes did not end up making money but rather had to pay multiple assessments. In 1806 he was one of the organizers of the Pond Street Corporation, for the purpose of building a street from the Boston side of the Charles River bridge across the Mill Pond to connect with Middle Street. It must have run over-budget, for in 1807 Nichols petitioned the town (not yet a city) of Boston "praying for consideration and indemnity for his losses on building a street across the mill pond" and in 1808 his petition "that the Town would agree with him upon the terms of completing Pond Street and grant him such further relief as may appertain to equity & justice" was passed in the affirmative "almost unanimously and in a very full meeting."

From 1807-1809, Perkins Nichols bought mining rights from land owners in Southampton, Mass., and in 1809 Perkins Nichols, Thomas H. Perkins, Isaac P. Davis and David Hinkley of Boston became proprietors of the Southampton lead mine. But only a single miner worked there for the next 13 years.

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Be sure to visit our new website design at www.amherstcitizen.com and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and other social media for frequent updates on events and celebrations.

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
Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram @amherstrec

NEW Programming

NEW Tiny Toes Dance

Lets get groovy!
Our Tiny Toes Dance program is for girls and boys ages 3-5. In this 4 week program, students will get an intro to dance. During each 45 minute class Our dance instructor, Amber Ciarcia, will guide the dancers through fun, creative movement.

Who: Boys and Girls ages 3-5
What: Tiny Toes Dance
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center

When: March 6, 13, 20, 27 from 10:15-11am
Fee: \$25R; \$30NR

NEW Pre-school Playgroup

We would like to offer a brand new program to the town of Amherst! This FREE program will give pre school students and parents a chance to get out of the house and play together. This is a great way to get preschoolers out and engaging with children their own age.

Who: Preschoolers and parents (ages 3-5, younger siblings with parents are welcome!)
What: Pre-school Playgroup
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center
When: March 6, 13, 20, 27 @11am-Noon
Fee: FREE

NEW Start Smart Baseball

4 Cross Rd, Amherst, NH 03031
603 673-6248
Peabody Mill Environmental Center
66 Brook Road
603 673-1141
www.amherstrec.org
Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram @amherstrec

Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

We are excited to offer Start Smart Baseball for boys and girls ages 3-4 again this year!

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 5/2015-6/2015

Who: Children ages 3-4
What: Start Smart Baseball
Where: Front of Clark School
Fee: \$45R; \$55NR

NEW Volleyball for Middle School Girls

This 5th through 8th grade program for girls is designed to develop basic volleyball skills for beginners, while reinforcing fundamentals and introducing positional play for those who demonstrate mastery of the basics.

Who: 5th-8th Grade Girls
When: Mondays and Wednesdays 4/6-5/20 @6:45pm-8pm
Where: AMS Gym
Fee: \$55R; \$65NR

NEW Track and Field

The Amherst Track and Field program helps athletes develop age-appropriate skills and overall conditioning, including strength and flexibility, which are essential to performance in all athletic fields. Participants receive expert training in individual events.

Practices will be held on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday starting 4/20

10 and under: 6-7pm
11 and up: 6-8pm
Who: Ages 6-18
Where: Practices will be held at the SHS track
When: Practices start 4/20 from

6-8pm
Fee: 10 and under: \$45R; \$55NR
11 and up: \$60R; &70NR

NEW Couch to 5K- A run to walk 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.

The Couch to 5K program will focus on training to safely build up strength and endurance to participate in a 5K (3.1 mile) race.

When: Starting in March (please visit website for full scheduling options)
Fee: \$75R; \$85NR

NEW Knitting for Adults

Do you love crafting, color and creativity? Knitting is a life-long skill that can be practiced whether you have 3 hours or fifteen minutes, in a group or by yourself.

Our instructor is Sandy Zielie, local knitting and fiber enthusiast and co-owner of Twill, a Nashua fabric and yarn store. Good quality yarn and needles are included in the cost of this program, and the needles are yours to keep.

What: knitting for adults
Where: Amherst Recreation Department Office
When: Starting 1/14/15
Fee: \$72R; \$82NR

Youth Programming

Baseball for Youth

Batter up! Baseball is open for kids 5-15 years old. Practices will be held Monday-Friday between 5:30 and 7:30pm. Games will be held on Saturdays between 8am and 8pm. Baseball age is based on partici-

ant's age on April 30, 2015

NOTE: We are hoping to start baseball practices the week of April 12th, depending on weather and field conditions.

*** Register by Friday February 27 to avoid a \$25 late fee. Teams will be formed and uniforms will be ordered Friday March 20***

5&6 year olds: T-Ball

Introduces the player to organized baseball

Who: 5&6 year old boys
What: T-ball
Where: The back of Wilkins Elementary School
When: 5/2015-6/13/2015
Fee: \$40R; \$65NR

7, 8, & 9 year olds: Instructional and Rookie

All 7 and 8 yr olds will participate in skills screening. Numbers will dictate if we will be able to separate into two levels

The instructional level will be coach pitched

The rookie level will begin to develop player pitching

Who: 7, 8 and 9 yr old boys
What: Instructional baseball
When: Tentative start date of 4/2015
Fee: \$45R; \$70NR

9-12 year olds: Minor/Major League

Players will play regulation Cal Ripken baseball

Team placement will be based on the screening

Minors play on a 60' diamond, Majors play on 70' diamond

Who: 9-12 yr old boys
What: Minors/Majors
When: Tentative start date of 4/2015

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Next Issue: February 24 • Deadline: February 18

AJWC Funds Available for Area Non-Profits

The Amherst Junior Women's Club invites non-profit organizations in need of charitable contributions to apply for a donation. Throughout the year, the AJWC raises money and then disburses those funds within the community.

Request must follow these guidelines:
Requesting organization must be affiliated with a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

- Organization does not need to have an Amherst address but must service the local community.
- Request must be submitted by March 31, 2015, in writing or by e-mail.

Request must contain the following information:
Name of organization, mailing address, e-mail address, website (if available), telephone number, contact name.

- Dollar amount requested.
- How would donated funds be used?
- How does requesting organization currently benefit Amherst and greater community?
- How does organization's objective correspond to the mission of the AJWC? AJWC mission is explained below.
- When was organization established? Provide short history of organization.
- How does organization fund itself, ie. federal/state/local grants?
- What is organization's annual budget? Include any expected shortfalls.

The AJWC is an organization of women who volunteer their time, energy and talent to enhance the community. The club's mission is to focus efforts on civic needs, educational advancement and the less fortunate.

All requesting organizations will be notified when applications are received. Once approved, funds will be distributed no later than June 15, 2015. Only chosen recipients will be notified of disbursements.

Questions may be e-mailed to Christina Zlotnick at cip.ajwc@gmail.com. Please reference "CIP Request" in subject line. For more information, please visit our website at ajwcnh.org. Our mailing address is: AJWC, CIP Request, P.O. Box 513, Amherst, NH 03031.