

THE HAMPTON GAZETTE



Volume I Number 1

April 1978

FRUIT OF THE LAND

by Pearl Scarpino

"HAMPTON, Windham County.... Area 25.3 sq. miles. Population, est. 1,100.... Principal industry, agriculture...."

Connecticut Register and Manual

IN THE BEGINNING

Like most other things in Hampton, a newspaper begins slowly; The Hampton Gazette certainly began slowly. It started last fall, before the leaves were off the trees. They are nearly back on again as this first issue sees the light.

First, there was the long winter to contend with, replete with the snow which is now barely a thing of the past. The last flakes were still falling when a group of citizens got together to make plans. We decided on our name on the analogy of an early New England gazette, which was an information sheet with news of government activity, built around the idea of an informed citizenry.

We certainly like the idea of an informed citizenry. We wanted to start a paper whose contents would answer questions for everyone who lives here. Questions like: What do they do at selectmen's meetings? How many people were born in town last year? How many died? Who's still farming in town? How's business? . . . Lots of questions.

The Hampton Gazette is designed to answer some of those questions and to give townspeople an opportunity to ask more. Write to us. Write for us. Even phone us. Air your opinions. Share your thoughts. You will make this paper work.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Dick Brown	Ernie Loew
Lenore Case	Kathie H. Moffitt
Bob Gillard	Donna Parson
Charlie Halbach	Janet C. Robertson

Agriculture would seem to have been the principal industry in Hampton since the first settlers cleared the land and provided for themselves and their families through their own toil and sweat on the original family farms.

Over the years the face of agriculture has changed with the times, until today we think of a farm as having large barns, capacious silos, dozens of well-kept cattle, and lots of big machinery.

In 1957 the Connecticut General Assembly, recognizing the importance of keeping the farmers in business, passed legislation granting certain tax exemptions to farmers. A farmer was defined as one who earned more than fifty percent of his income from the farm. The 1957 grand list showed that there were twenty-one exemptions granted to dairy farmers in Hampton that first year, and eight to poultry farmers.

The 1977 grand list, two decades later, lists only four dairy farmers eligible for the exemptions, and only two poultry farmers. Times have certainly changed. There are presently only three producing milk farms left in Hampton, all at the north end of Route 97, operated by the Geers, the Stones, and the Loews.

The Stone Bros. Farm has been a "family farm" for the longest of the three. Walt Stone says the farm has been in his family since around the Civil War, more than 100 years.

Walt recalls his father, the late Elmer Stone, telling that he had bought the farm from his father in 1919. That year he cut a total of eight tons of hay off the old farm, and had twelve milking cows. The herd had been built up to about twenty-three milking cows when Walt was in high school, and the farm still supported the family and a hired man or two. Back in those days the milk was kept cool by ice cut from the pond in winter.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Celebrating 40 years of service to the Hampton Community!



EDITOR

Dayna McDermott-Arriola

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Juan Arriola, *Interim Chair*
 Patricia Smith Boss, *Treasurer*
 Renée Cuprak, *Secretary*
 Angela Fichter
 Diane Gagnon
 Peter Witkowski

PRODUCTION

Mary Oliver, *Art Direction*

The Hampton Gazette is published monthly, and as a non-profit 501(c)(3) venture, it is registered with the State of Connecticut and IRS, and is supported by advertising revenues and donations. All contributions are tax-deductible.

CONTACT INFORMATION Editorials, articles, calendar or event information, press releases or questions: please email to hamptongazette@yahoo.com in Word format (not pdf) or to Editor, Hampton Gazette, PO Box 101, Hampton, CT 06247, by the 15th of each month. All submissions to the Gazette are subject to editing. The Gazette reserves the right not to accept submissions.

CIRCULATION The Hampton Gazette is available online at hamptongazette.com, and in print by request, free of charge, to every home in Hampton. Domestic subscriptions are available by requests at cost; international may be charged extra postage. To subscribe, or receive email notification of the current issue on the Web, contact the Editor at hamptongazette.com

ADVERTISING Please contact us by email for advertising policies and rates. Payments should be mailed to PO Box 101, Hampton, CT 06247

PHOTOS

(jpg high resolution, please) may be emailed to photos@hamptongazette.com

EDITORIAL POLICIES

Each letter to the Gazette must be signed and include address & telephone contact for verification. Signing all correspondence to the Gazette is encouraged, but at the request of the writer, a signature may be withheld. Letters written on behalf of an organization require the signature of an authorized spokesperson. All letters submitted to the Gazette are subject to editing and the Gazette reserves the right to reject any or all letters. Readers should be aware that the opinions of individual writers are not necessarily those of the Gazette. The Gazette will not print letters it regards as libelous. Photographs and articles published here are the property of the individual photographer or writer and may not be reproduced without express permission of the contributor.

OUR BOARD AND STAFF THROUGH THE YEARS

Dick Brown 1978 - 1981	Alice Mathews 1980 - 1981	Mary Kennan 1986 - 2001	Gordon Hansen 1999 - 2013	Sue Matejka 2007 - 2011
Lenore B. Case 1978 - 1980	Jim Rodriguez 1980	Lawrence MacNaughton III 1987 - 1989	Dayna McDermott 2000 - present	Pete Vertefeuille 2007 - 2017
Bob Gillard 1978 - 1979	Georgia Rondeau 1980 - 2000	Cynthia Rondeau 1987 - 2001	Richard H. Braun 2001 - 2008	Karen Haraghey 2008 - 2010
Charlie Halbach 1978 - 1983	Emil Reiss 1980 - 1982	Pearl Scarpino 1987 - 2001	Margaret Haraghey 2001 - 2005, 2007 - 2015	Bob Petix 2009 - 2011
Minnie Halbach 1978 - 2009	Norine Barrett 1982 - 2001	Muriel Hall 1989 - 1990	Sandra Hastings 2001 - 2009	Brian Tracy 2009 - 2016
Tom Hemphill 1978 - 1980	Robert McDermott 1982 - 2001	Margaret Hemphill 1989 - 1991	Sam Higgins 2001 - 2003	Paula Ruffo 2011 - 2016
Art Hesford 1978 - 1981	Virginia Marland 1982 - 1994	Mary Jane Hodges 1989	Ellen Kinzer 2001 - 2004	Diane Meade 2011 - 2016
Ernie Loew 1978 - 1980	Arthur Blondin 1983	Mary Ellen Nienstadt 1989 - 1990	Mary Oliver 2001 - 2004, 2017-present	Laura Petix 2011 - 2013, 2014
Kathie H. Moffitt 1978 - 1980	Allan R. Cahill, Jr. 1983 - 1985	Carrol Waite 1992 - 1993	Donna Tommelleo 2001 - 2006	Anne Curry 2012 - 2013
Donna Parson 1978 - 1979	Gary Eichler 1983-1990	Ed Adelman 1993 - 1994	Juan Arriola 2002 - present	Sue Martin 2012 - 2014
Daryl Perch 1978 - 1980	Peter Linkkila 1983 - 1984	Andy Jones 1993 - 1994	Judi Caron 2003 - 2007	Cindy Bezanson 2014 - 2016
Janet C. Robertson 1978 - 1982, 1991 - 1994	Rhoda Micocci 1983 - 1984	Jan Luke 1994 - 1995	Ruth Halbach 2004 - 2007	Pat Cascio 2014
Carolyn L. Gaines 1979 - 1983	Carol Harris 1984 - 1985	Joyce Fiondella 1995 - 1996	Lisa Sanchez 2005 - 2007	Jan Leitch 2014 - 2018
Claudette Russell 1979 - 1985	Sharon Wakely 1984 - 1992	Lois Kelley 1995 - 2000	Kathy Donahue 2006 - 2008	Jimmy Halloran 2015 - 2017
Geraldine Dunphy 1980 - 1986	Mary Doyon 1985 - 1986	Sue Hochstetter 1996	Jean Romano 2006 - 2008	Pat Boss 2015 - present
Jim Edwards 1980	John A. Woodworth 1983, 1985 - 2000	Helen Waite 1996	Jim Ryan 2006 - 2008	Michael Quick 2015 - 2016
Ethel Engler 1980 - 1982		Barry Dana 1997	Kathi Newcombe 2007 - 2014, 2016	Angela Fichter 2016 - present
Joe Hallett 1980 - 1982		Wendell Davis 1997 - 2001		Diane Gagnon 2017 - present
				Renee Cuprak 2017 - present
				Peter Witkowski 2018 - present

MEETINGS EVENTS
Calendar

- PHHS Board of Education**, PHHS Library
Tuesday, April 3, 7:00PM
- RD#11 Dissolution Committee Public Hearing**
Town Hall, Lower Level
Wednesday, April 4, 7:15PM
- Library Board**, Fletcher Memorial
Thursday, April 5, 4:00PM
- Board of Selectmen**, Town Hall Community Room
Monday, April 9, 7:00PM
- Special Town Meeting**, Town Hall Lower Level
Tuesday, April 10, 6:45PM
- Board of Finance**, Town Hall Community Room
Tuesday, April 10, 7:00PM
- PFLAG Potluck Dinner & Movie**, LL Community Center
Saturday, April 14, beginning at 5PM
- PFLAG Monthly Support Group**, LL Community Center
Tuesday, April 17, 6:30PM
- Planning & Zoning**, Town Hall Community Room
Monday, April 23, 7:00PM
- Conservation Commission**,
Town Hall Community Room
Tuesday, April 24, 7:00PM
- HES Board of Education**, HES Library
Wednesday, April 25, 7:00PM

For more information on Hampton Happenings, please visit our Town online at www.hamptonct.org



THUMBS UP to the road crew for seeing us safely through another winter of treacherous storms. From the comfort of our homes, we've watched you faithfully plow, hour after hour, during blizzards that produced multiple inches of snow per hour in gale force winds. A humbled town thanks you.

THUMBS DOWN to the snow storms of March. We acknowledge that the earlier part of winter was milder and dryer than what we usually withstand, but four nor'easters over the course of three weeks is a cruel abnormality even for New England standards. Enough!

40 YEARS & COUNTING

Forty years ago,

a group of neighbors gathered at the home of Charlie and Marion Halbach to discuss publishing a town newspaper to report on – and encourage discussion of – issues facing the town, to apprise residents of the happenings and history of Hampton, and to share our neighbors' news.

The first edition of *The Hampton Gazette* was published in April of 1978. It contained six pages and reported on farming, bears, winter, the Hampton Co-op, and the original "Hampton Chronicle", circa 1939.

The Selectmen, the Town Clerk, the Fire Department and the Ambulance Corps, the schools, the girl scouts and the boy scouts, the 4-H Club, and the Hampton Community Players contributed information. The production process was a cut and paste operation, first as a volunteer effort and later as a monthly task that Mary Kennon performed for over 15 years. Minnie Halbach delivered the monthly edition to every household, a responsibility she fulfilled for 30 years. As the years progressed, the paper grew. By 1980, twelve pages per issue was the norm, with approximately 40% of the newspaper in advertisements.

In 2001, technology was employed to put the paper together – a computerized cut and paste process that Mary Oliver introduced to us. The cost of photographs was no longer an issue, and in 2007 we enlisted Pete Vertefeulle as a staff photographer to cover events, accompany articles with pictures from his collection, and produce photographic essays. Our coverage of the news grew, with the paper reaching 16 – 20 pages. Rarely are there only twelve pages of news now, and once in a while we have 24. It's usually people's opinions that lessen or increase the size of the paper – one thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to make room for everyone's voice.

In 2010, Bob Petix created a website for online delivery of the monthly edition. The website also grew to include archives and photographs and is visited by many people, near and far, every month. With Minnie's retirement, we switched to a system of mailing to subscribers under the bulk rate of Gulemo, Inc., our publisher for over twenty-five years, and an online notification system. Our newspaper is delivered to 330 households with another 30 residents notified of the online publication.



The website and the mailing reduced costs considerably.

One of the major changes the *Gazette* has experienced is in advertising, which represents less than one-sixth of our newspaper now. There are far fewer businesses in town than there were in the beginning.

The *Gazette* continues to evolve: new neighbors with new interests, new writers with new perspectives; new board members with new ideas.

What hasn't changed is our commitment to the community and its presence on our pages – from the youth we congratulate for the laurels they earn, to those we salute in their passing. Every issue evinces the volunteer efforts of those who serve us, as public officials, emergency respondents, pillars of our churches, leaders of our organizations, directors of our preserves, those who keep us apprised of the news, and those who pen opinions on it. Every issue reflects what's important to us: from politics to chickens, the *Gazette* remains, as one subscriber described, "a patchwork quilt of life in a small town in New England". ■

The Hampton Gazette

Every issue this anniversary year will include a retrospect of the Gazette over the last forty. We look forward to celebrating our shared history with you!

FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Many thanks to the members of the Department of Public Works and the Fire Department for jobs well done coping with heavy snowfall, ice, and wind, and with downed trees and power outages in this epic year of March blizzards. Their outstanding efforts kept Hampton roads and buildings OPEN as usual.

Budget crafting season is here with final adjustments being calculated. The Fire Department has a Building Addition Plan that will be brought to the Board of Finance and then to a special Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 10th. ■

Allan Cahill



Hampton Happenings VILLAGE VIEW

FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

If you are not allergic to it, the Conservation Commission could use some help removing poison ivy from a tree close to where pollinator plants will be planted. The tree with the poison ivy is located near the playground at Town Hall. Please contact Marcia Kilpatrick 860.455.1226 or Kalmia1234@gmail.com if you could help. Removing it would be best if it could be done before the poison ivy's leaves come out. ■



太極拳



TAI CHI AT FLETCHER MEMORIAL

Hampton resident Rich Haldas is offering a series of classes on the benefits of Tai Chi and basic Tai Chi movements. As Tai Chi does not require any special physical abilities, it is ideal for people of all ages and degrees of fitness. The six week series which started March 22 runs 1 to 1.5 hours, beginning at 9:30AM, and is held outdoors, weather permitting. If the weather is inclement, the class will move indoors; otherwise, dress warmly. ■

SENIORS

This group of neighbors and friends will meet in the lower level of the Community Center on April 11, at 1PM, and will include soup and sandwiches prepared by local chefs, as well as a special program. All "seniors" (55 and over) are welcome.

Here, one can engage in issues affecting Hampton, watch a movie, or plan trips. Occasionally there are visiting speakers or musicians. There is no charge to be a member of this organization. For more information, contact Stan Crawford: sc96hampton@gmail.com or call: 860.933.8177 ■

Get Strong, Get Fit, Have Fun!

Are you ready to join in the fun and improve your life by learning cardiovascular and strength training exercises? Participants have been burning calories and enhancing muscle tone, weight loss, balance improvement, and overall body function. With variations this exercise program is appropriate for most adults of all ages and fitness levels. Classes, taught by Lisa Grady, a certified personal trainer and class instructor for over 15 years, are held on Thursdays at 9:30AM at the Community Center. We are celebrating our first year, so come and see what you've been missing.

BALANCE & MOBILITY CLASS: A Fall Prevention program is designed to improve strength, mobility, flexibility, and balance for enhanced overall physical health and better functioning in daily activities, with movements modified especially for fall prevention. Participation in the program may also result in better mental health, reduced stress and improved memory and cognition. You will be provided exercise equipment and instructions to use at home. The program is targeted toward older individuals who are physically mobile with impaired stability and/or mobility. Classes continue to be held at the Hampton Town Hall on Thursdays at 11AM. ■

Please contact Lisa Grady for information on both programs at jlmgady@charter.net



In the Beginning...

Forty years ago, Charlie Halbach, observing that Hampton people were divided over issues of development and open space, with old timers often favoring development and newcomers often seeking to preserve Hampton's rural character, invited about 15-20 people to his and Marion's living room where we discussed what to do. A consensus formed around creating a FREE monthly newspaper, delivered to all. The paper would include news of town offices and committees in a strictly non-partisan way. Because it would be a quasi-official town paper, I proposed that we follow early American precedent and call it "Hampton Gazette". Unpaid volunteers ran it, and printing costs were paid via voluntary contributions.

Dick Brown

Janet Robertson called to say she was starting a hometown newspaper called the Hampton Gazette, and asked if I wanted to be part of it. I was then working as a reporter/editor at the Willimantic Chronicle and could foresee conflicts with my employer and readers — not to mention my neighbors — if I were to write copy for the Gazette. So I agreed to limit my help to layout and paste-up. I remember going to the Hemphill's to produce the first issue. Tom Hemphill and I designed the layout in his living room. I worked on the masthead. I tried using the Hampton Congregational Church as the iconic town symbol, but knew some folks might feel excluded. So I opted for an American eagle that I found in the phone book, of all places. I thought it looked newspaper-y. I sketched it with tracing paper and added the words, Hampton Gazette, with press-type, sets of letters that had to be rubbed on individually. We used press type for headlines, too, a tedious process. I am happy to note that my sketchy eagle was later replaced with a printed version. Good move.

So, happy anniversary, Gazette. I can't believe that was 40 years ago. I have worked on other start-up newspapers, but count the Gazette among my most fun jobs.

Daryl Perch

Forty years ago as a young mother and newcomer to Hampton, I was happy to meet new friends and be part of the beginning of this new publication. Time sure flies. As a senior now, I still have some of the same friends. We are still interested in the growth and well-being of the children in town as well as us older folks. We're looking forward to continue seeing the successful blend of old and new in town.

Lenore B. Case

Dear Auntie Mac,

At my son's insistence, I relocated to Hampton last fall from an upscale, suburban neighborhood in the South. Shortly after my arrival, my son's company transferred him to another state for a few months, leaving me alone in this ridiculously small town. I haven't the means to become a snowbird, and I'm too old to gallivant around the area in slippery months, but I don't know how I'll ever endure another winter here. Just what does one do in a place so evidently devoid of culture? I doubt there's even anything worth reading in what appears to be a poor excuse for a library. Ideas?

Bored to Tears

My Dear Neighbor:

On behalf of everyone north of the Mason-Dixon Line, I do apologize for the rather challenging winter temperatures that we endure here. I assure you that to a person, each of us swears that next year we will repair to one of your upscale suburban neighborhoods in the South without fail. And yet...we remain. Foolishness? Far from it. Sloth? Hardly. A narrow worldview? Please.

Your Auntie Mac remembers a trip she took several years ago to a remote island in Prince William Sound. She admits that she had to be stuffed forcibly into the boat by her traveling companion, who thought it would be great fun to ruin a perfectly good summer by visiting a locale similar to Yakutsk, Siberia. Upon approaching the island she prepared herself for an afternoon of ticks, mud, cold snacks and the guide's coma-inducing description of sea life. As we landed, the rattiest looking fellow she had ever seen was ambling out of the scrub brush towards the shore, waving madly at us. At last it's happened, she thought to herself: I've died and gone to hell. He was ever so delighted to see us, and urged us to follow him down a ladder into what appeared to be a cold war-era bunker. My dear, I was not amused. But what I found at the foot of that ladder forever changed my once-ingrained habit of leaping to conclusions about the ability of a place to surprise me. For in this cavern was one of the most complete and esoteric private libraries I had ever encountered. This scrawny, filthy-bearded fellow was a poet, philosopher and student of geopolitical discourse, and we spent a fascinating afternoon discussing Sartre, the Chicago School of Economics and its implications in a post-NAFTA world, the difficulty of getting a reservation at Le Cirque, and why a deKooning is far superior to a Rothko. All while dining on salmon pâté and mint tea.

My point, dear, is that you cannot begin to know what secrets a small town possesses until you take it upon yourself to begin to explore them. From the more than extensive library to the cultural/historical organizations to the countless civic participation opportunities just begging to be seized, Hampton is, as I'm sure your son has told you, a virtual cultural mecca. It is also a place of remarkable beauty whatever the season. And unlike my Alaska experience, it is all above ground. As far as I know. Visit the town's website, read the Gazette, say hello to everyone at the Town Hall and ask what's going on. The "slippery months" will fly by...and you will miss them.

Auntie Mac



Fletcher Memorial Library

HOURS Wednesday 12-8PM,
Thursday & Friday 9AM-12PM,
& Saturday 9AM-3PM
ONLINE: fletchermemoriallibrary.org
860.455.1086

UPCOMING EVENTS

April & May Top Shelf Gallery: Hampton resident Ethel Engler's paintings will be on display.

April 4 FML Book Discussion Group 6:30PM
We will be discussing *Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan. We always welcome new members!

April 14 Hampton Maple Festival 10AM – 1PM
Celebrate the maple season with tastings and products from three of our Maple Farms, plus a maple bake sale, which includes homemade maple ice cream.

April 28 Bobcat Program 10:30 – 11:30AM
Wildlife biologist Paul Colburn presents: "Bobcat: Connecticut's Secretive Wild Cat", a program for all ages (*more information below*).

Wednesdays Knitting Group NOON – 3PM
Have a cup of tea or coffee and work on a needlework project, or just socialize. All are welcome.

Thursdays Tai Chi Workshop 9:30 – 10:30AM
Starting March 22, this is a six week workshop with instructor, Rich Haldas.

Fridays Story Time, Song & Play 10 – 11AM
An interactive program for children (0-5) and their caregivers using a variety of musical instruments, rhymes, songs, finger plays, puppets, as well as a story or two.

Drop-In Adult Coloring: Experience the stress-reducing and meditative benefits of coloring. Coloring sheets and pencils will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. ■

Bobcats are Making a Comeback!

Master Wildlife Conservationist and avid outdoorsman, Paul Colburn, will present "Bobcat: Connecticut's Secretive Wild Cat," an illustrated program, Saturday, April 28 at 10:30 a.m. at Fletcher Memorial Library.

The bobcat, *Lynx rufus*, the only wild cat found in Connecticut, is a distant relative of the domestic house cat. Due to deforestation and habitat loss, bobcats became a threat to agriculture and game species in the last century and were hunted nearly to extinction. However, since receiving protection in 1972, they have been making a comeback.

Learn all about the habitat, diet and behavior of this fascinating animal, and about the Connecticut Bobcat Project, a DEEP study of bobcats' ecological niche in Connecticut. ■

NEW BOOKS

Lots of terrific new books this month. Favorites like John Hart, Laura Lippman, Brad Meltzer and Alexander McCall Smith have new novels, as do well reviewed newcomers like Chloe Benjamin and A.J.Finn. We have a raft of non fiction from ancient Rome to vaccines to rowing the Northwest Passage, plus DVD's and an audio book.

ADULT FICTION

Chloe Benjamin
Amy Bloom
Chris Bohjalian
Barbara Bradford
Lawrence Dudley
A. J. Finn
John Hart
Greer Hendricks
Jonathan Kellerman
John T. Lescroart
Laura Lippman
Will Mackin
Alexander McCall Smith
Jason Matthews
Brad Meltzer
Neel Mukherjee
Joyce Carol Oates
Yrsa Sigurdardottir
Charles Todd

The Immortalists
White Houses
The Flight Attendant
Secrets of Cavendon
New York Station
The Woman in the Window
The Hush
The Wife Between Us
Night Moves
Poison
Sunburn
Bring Out the Dog (short stories)
A Time of Love and Tartan
The Kremlin Candidate
The Escape Artist
A State of Freedom
Beautiful Days (short stories)
The Legacy
The Gate Keeper

LIBRARY OFFERINGS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



ADULT NON-FICTION

- Stuart Blume
Immunization: How Vaccines Became Controversial
- Claire Lisa Evans
Broad Band: The Untold Story of the Women Who Made the Internet
- Lyle Harper
The Fate of Rome: Climate, Disease & the End of Empire
- Michael Korda
Alone: Britain, Churchill & Dunkirk: Defeat into Victory
- James Patterson
All-American Murder: The Rise & Fall of Aaron Hernandez
- Amy Tan
Where the Past Begins (memoir)
- Kevin Vallely
Rowing the Northwest Passage: Adventure, Fear & Awe
- Elaine Weiss
The Woman's Hour:
The Great Fight to Win the Vote

LARGE PRINT

- Ace Atkins
Robert B. Parker's Kickback
- Reed Farrel Coleman
Robert B. Parker's Debt to Pay
- John Grisham
The Rooster Bar
- Thomas Kenneally
Shame and the Captives
- Brian Kilmeade
Andrew Jackson & the Miracle of New Orleans
- Beverly Lewis
The Photograph
- Betty Medsger
The Burglary
- Anthony McCarten
Darkest Hour: How Churchill Brought England Back from the Brink



Our Rural Heritage

The front page of the first issue of the Hampton Gazette

illustrated the importance of farming in our town. "Under All Is The Land", written by Pearl Scarpino, was the first of many articles on local agriculture. Coverage has included timber harvests, tree farms, "truck gardening", poultry and sheep. Although the dairy farms that once defined our countryside and sustained most families are no longer, agriculture, as Pearl reported, remains our "principal industry". When we covered "Hampton Harvests" in 2010, there were five contributors to the farmer's market. We've written recent articles on Full Moon, Three Niece, Hampton Hill, Turtle Ledge, and Bright Acres farms, on alpacas, apples, maple syrup, the "Spring Plow" and beekeepers, and Cindy Bezanson continues to keep us entertained with delightful tales of her chickens.

An article written in 1988 by Claire Winters remembered twenty-eight dairy farms in the 1930's. Pearl's article reported that the Grand List of 1957 named twenty-one dairy farms, four in 1978 at the time of publication. Now there is only one left. Those old barns that housed all those dairy operations, or sheltered the family's assortment of cows, goats, sheep and chickens, are also fading from the landscape with the erosive forces of time and weather. This year the Gazette has committed to capturing for posterity those barns with photographs, histories and memories. We started with the Burell's barn, the Freiman's barn, and this month, the Halbach's. So far the history of the farms has proved as diverse and interesting as the families who owned them. ■



TOP SHELF GALLERY FEATURES ETHEL ENGLER

Throughout April and May, lose yourself in the peaceful landscapes by award-winning Hampton artist, Ethel Engler. She finds her favorite subjects on Martha's Vineyard and at home in Eastern Connecticut. Her familiar work has appeared in many regional juried shows, most recently at the 74th Annual Connecticut

Artists Exhibition Invitational at the Slater Museum in Norwich. In both 2016 and 2017 her work was honored, including Best in Show (2016) at the Arts of Tolland, and she has received the Richard Whitehouse Memorial Award at the Marlborough Arts Center. Her work has also won awards at the Artists' Cooperative Gallery in Westerly, RI., at Arts Center East in Vernon, and the 2017 Piedmont Regional Art Show in Somers. She has shown at the West Hartford Art League and been represented in shows at the Jorgensen Auditorium Gallery at UConn.

Engler says that her main interest is "in light and atmospheric representations" and that she works both "en plein air and in the studio." Although she has done handsome portraits and floral pieces, landscapes in oil remain her chief focus. Engler has studied with internationally shown artists, including Eastern art professor Qimin Liu and ECSU Art Professor Emerita Lula Mae Blocton. ■

Along the Old and New Roads

OUR COMMUNITY WELCOMES NEW BUSINESSES



WARMTH & HOSPITALITY AT NEW EVENT VENUE

Since the new year a second new business has opened in the Town, *Stone Hurst at Hampton Valley*, an events venue that features an inn and barns set on 90 acres of countryside. The events venue provides facilities for weddings, showers, proms and corporate and community gatherings. The proprietors are well known local business people, Craig and Elke Gates and Kathy Borner.

The inn, which can accommodate 80 guests, is set on a small rise that overlooks a large open field with views of rustic barns and the Little River. The property was an alpaca farm and bed and breakfast and will maintain much of its former past. The existing barn is currently being renovated and a new post and beam barn will soon be constructed. All work is expected to be completed by August 1st, and once completed, the barns can accommodate up to 299 guests and will be climate controlled with modern bathroom facilities.

Since its opening on March 1st, the facility has already booked ten events, including a local high school's junior prom. Events can be catered by the owners' Black Dog Bar and Grille restaurant, or one can rent a space and catering can be provided by a licensed caterer selected by the guest. A future bed and breakfast utilizing the upstairs rooms at the inn is a possibility, however there have been only preliminary discussions with the Town.

In addition to the building of the barn and other general renovations, the owners are re-landscaping the property. The landscaping is being done by Elke Gates' business, Elke's Plant Scapes. Areas along the Little River have already been cleaned and a gazebo has been moved from the inn to a site overlooking the river to create an intimate space for wedding ceremonies.

As with any changes in a small town there has been some concern on local impacts to the environment, traffic and the general quiet nature of the area. As reported by *The Gazette*, these impacts were discussed during the site's permitting process and specific terms have been added to the permit to address potential impacts. Several of the concerns will be reviewed again next year by the Town. ■

Peter Witkowski



Stone Hurst at Hampton Valley
119 Providence Turnpike, Hampton
860.377.4816



A 'SPIRITED' OPENING AT CLARK'S CORNER

Owned by Mickey and Manisha Patel, Hampton Beer, Wine & Spirits opened its doors this winter, with Hampton Mini-Mart next door. The Patels have been Hampton residents for over 23 years, raising their two children here. We are fortunate to have Mickey's business expertise and knowledge for choosing Hampton as the location of the new business.

In Beer, Wine & Spirits you'll find everything from nips of just about any kind, big beer selections, and a generous selection of liquors. Mickey's motto is "If we don't have it, we can order it for you!" Cognac, bourbon, whiskey, scotch, vodka and the list goes on. Most recently Craft ales and beers seem to be top sellers in the beer selection, with new additions every week!

In the wine world, Mickey carries both Domestic and imported: an impressive selection. They carry local favorite Sharpe Hill from Pomfret, as well as longstanding French and Italian favorites. Just a taste of what they have: North Star Merlot, Stag Leap, Chateau St. Jean, Cake Bread Cellars, along with 19 Crimes Hard Chard, Oliver Soft Red Wine, Cannonball Merlot, 14 Hands Cabernet Sauvignon, Sterling Cabernet Sauvignon, Predator Old Vine Zinfandel, Educated Guess Napa County, 1000 Stories Bourbon, aged Zinfandel, Bonterra Pinot Noir ... and the list goes on and on, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$50, and many Champagnes to choose from as well. Prices are competitive. Selections in all categories are huge. Looking for a gift set? They carry those too.

Have no concerns regarding your safety at night. The building, parking lot and pumps are extremely well lit with top of the line lights and surveillance equipment. "Like" them on Facebook and watch for specials throughout the year. Buying for a party or guests, spend \$100 to get a 5% discount.

So folks, stay local, shop local, and support Hamptonites! ■

Pat Cascio

Hampton Beer, Wine & Spirits

396 Hartford Turnpike, Hampton, 860.942.8990

GAZETTE DESIGNER AWARDED ARTS GRANT

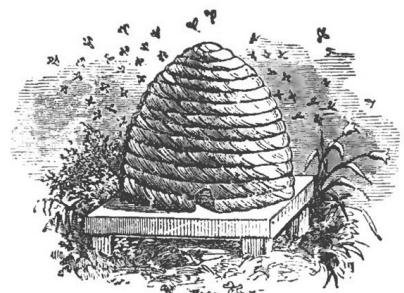
The Connecticut Commission on the Arts (Department of Economic and Community Development) recently awarded Regional Initiative grants (REGI) throughout the State to individual artists, schools, and arts organizations. Mary Oliver was one of three artists in the greater Windham Region for her project: Rural Art Alive: Preserving Rural Heritage Arts. The REGIs are a good fit for applicants that "intend to use small arts-based projects to engage in a specific community matter, reflect on personal experience, and/or that bring neighborhoods together".

Oliver's project was inspired by the camaraderie and sharing at a 1992 Clark's Corner reunion, that melded memory, Depression experience, and the sharing of ideas and practical country life.

This endeavor will focus on collaborating with longtime residents and immigrants alike, embracing a rich and diverse cultural heritage. The ultimate goal is to develop a Rural Heritage Center for the area.

Gatherings with residents will be held in communities of the Windham -Tolland County Region in cultural centers such as the Windham Textile and History Museum, the Carter House of the Prudence Crandall Museum, CLiCK (Commercially Licensed Cooperative Kitchen), community libraries, communities of faith, and area historical societies and Grange halls. Teaching artists will facilitate community conversations, collect stories, photograph community members and longtime residents, and document traditional artisan "making" demonstrations and classes. ■

Share the story of your journey! Contact Mary Oliver at 860.455.9031 or via email at ruralartsalive@charter.net to participate in this special project.



Time Capsule: 40 Years of Headlines

GOODWIN GETS ITS LAKE BACK 6/79

Fox Escapes from Town Hall 8/01

Here Comes Santa Claus!

Norine Barrett 12/95

About Folks Alice Matthews

**Bank Wants to Locate
in Hampton** 6/80

Ambulance Corps Celebrates 25th 6/80

*The Overlooked & Overcooked
Holiday Vegetable* Prudence Sloane 12/99

Andy Jones is on the Money 9/98

Grange Celebrates 100 Years 2/86

**Players "Fiddler on the
Roof" a Box Office Smash** 12/80

BARNEY DAY 12/81

**Arguments for Renaming
the Little River** Lois Kelley 7/90

Notes of Newcomers Dorothy Holt 5/78

**A Tribute: Selectman, Gazette
Chair, Teacher, Director, Friend**
Dayna McDermott 2/02

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS DAY 6/89

Parish Hill Future is Talk of Town
Donna Tommelleo 4/04

Hampton's Constitutional Oak 6/98

The Barbara Bush I Knew
Margaret Hempill 9/88

Hampton's Treasures Georgia Rondeau

**A NATURALIST DESCRIBES THE
'GOLDEN THRONG'** Edwin Way Teale 9/79

**Wild Turkeys
Making a Comeback** 12/98

**AND THEY FINALLY FOUND
THEIR CLOTHES** Diane Meade 8/88

**Hampton's History Becomes
National News** Alison Davis 5/99

'Discovering Hampton' Wins Award 11/01

**Naomi Lewis Oates:
An American Negro** 4/05

Fire Department Celebrates 75 Years 3/05

**REFERENDUM DEFEATS
REGIONALIZATION** Kathi Newcombe 6/88

The General Store: A Vital Link 6/78

New Fire Trucks Roll into Service
Wendell Davis 3/88

**Hampton's Historic Organ:
Oldest in State** William Utley 2/84

**Hampton Man Stars at
Nutmeg Summer Theater** 7/80

**PLOW IT &
THEY WILL COME** Ruth Halbach 5/05

Walter A. Stone - Town Father
Jean Trescott Tucker

HAMPTON TO GET A NEW SCHOOL 5/88

**On the Road with
Stanley Gula** 12/79

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 9/86

Gazette Needs a Transfusion
John Woodworth 8/00

Charlie Halbach: A Model of Yankee Ingenuity & Community Pride Jo Freeman 8/08

ALLELUIA! DOORS TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES TO REMAIN OPEN TO PARISHIONERS 9/08

The End of the Road for the Hampton Probate Court Stuart Case 7/09

70th Annual Pearl Reunion 9/09

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LITTLE RIVER GRANGE: HAMPTON'S NEW COMMUNITY CENTER 2/09

A HAMPTON EYE ON THE WEATHER Eleanor Linkkila 5/10

The Passing of an Era: Warren Stone 9/10

Local Man Inducted to Hall of Fame 12/10

The New Hampton Town Garage 2/11

2012 Citizen of the Year: Hampton's Unsung Heroes & Survivors of 2011: A Year of Crisis & Citizen Response Jean Romano 2/12

Hampton's Vote Really Counted Laura Petix 2/12

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: PEARL SCARPINO 3/12

Hampton Initiates a New Form of Governance: Board of Finance Approved, 200 – 192 6/12

CABBAGE PUTS HAMPTON ON THE MAP 5/13

Quentin Equaled the General Store & the General Store Equaled Hampton Bob Grindle 11/11

Everything You Wanted to Know About the Electoral College But Were Too Bored To Ask Gordon Hansen 2/01

TEMPERATURES ARE FRIGID... BUT HAMPTON HEARTS ARE WARM 2/14

...And That's How Chickens Became Part of Our Family Cindy Bezanson 8/14

FIRECROW COMES TO HAMPTON 8/14

The Heart of the Tree: Remembering James L. Goodwin & His Forest 9/14

Feet to the East and Right Hand Road to Boston: History and Mystery at Hampton's North Cemetery 11/14

Rebel from Hampton: How a Hampton Minister's Son Laid the Foundation for "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Jean Wierzbinski 6/15

JUST WRITE Jimmy Halloran 5/15

How to Sit in a Hoop Skirt 7/15

To Be or Not To Be...

That is the Question 9/15

SEARCH AND RESCUE: MYSTERIOUS PAW PRINTS, LIKE GINGERBREAD CRUMBS, LEAD TO FAIRY TALE ENDING P. Vertefeuille 4/15

State Police Gun Range in Hampton? Residents Say No Way! 5/16

Business is Picking Up Along Route 6 5/16

Burying Betsey: Unsolved Mysteries of the Prentis Family 9/16

Everyone Loves A Parade! 12/16

Fletcher Memorial: My, How You've Grown 8/17

DOWN BY THE OLD MILL STREAM 12/17

A Stroll through Elm Pine Farm

with Ruth Feltenberger Halbach

Walking down what was once known as Goshen Highway, admiring the farm house that stands before you. The large patch of poppies letting you know spring has really arrived, poppies planted by Katie Halbach so many decades ago. Walking up the drive, you see the sign hanging above the shop, "Elm Pine Farm since 1922".



Katie Bauman and Adolph Halbach met in New York where they were married and where Katie gave birth to two of their sons, Charles and Adolph. They settled in Hampton after buying the farm from the Tryon brothers. Their third son, Edward, born in the house that still remains in the family nearly one hundred years later. Edward building his home for his family just down the road, less than a tenth of a mile, overseeing and doing the upkeep as needed with the help of his son Dave.

As you continue up the drive, beyond the barn through the gateway the pasture opens to what you feel is a paradise. Open land, a pond on the left that once watered live stock, a pond on the right where many happy days of your youth were spent with the neighbors, young mothers sharing summer afternoons catching up and watching children swim. Walking the dam, and rounding the back side of the pond, finding the break in the wall that leads to the roadway that you have always favored. The shade of the spring leaves and the heaviness of the fiddle head ferns that grow in abundance along that trail. You continue walking as you have a hundred times in the last forty years, you find your way to the top of Clark Hill, and see the remnants of a tree stand from the previous fall's hunt. Making your way down to what is known as the last lot, the turned soil and the fresh rye planted. Taking in the simple beauty, the peace, the quiet, sitting down to rest and take a break by the pond, watching the turtles

pop up and down in the water, the fish jumping, the frogs, singing in their deep raspy voices.

Thinking back to the days when the pond was so active. The Fourth of July when friends and neighbors brought their pot lucks to share and so many grills burning at once. Jim and Louise Oliver, Bert and Pat Vaillancourt, Yvette and Gerry Lavoie, Judy and John Osborn, Jeanne and Don Dickerson, and, of course, the Halbachs. A celebration of America's freedom, good food, good drink, heading down to the house to pick up Katie, Gram, so she might enjoy a meal with family and friends. Even in pouring rain a good time, and most of all good friends.

Hearing stories about the picnics of so many years past, the company picnics for Akim Engineering where Katie and Charles worked, having the employees here to celebrate another year and to socialize, getting to know others and their families. Remembering the day our daughter married Dan Merasco right on this very spot. The bride's wedding party arriving on a hay trailer towed by the 1940 Farmall tractor, Louise Oliver, Helen's Godmother, officiating, a very special day.

Our Rural Heritage: Historic Barns **FOREST & FIELD**

Adolph, or, Pops as he was known, passed at a relatively young age, working on the farm in the 1950's. Katie continued to live here, until she was 97 and was a pioneer of her own kind. You could find her working in the garden, splitting wood, or making the entire family a Sunday night dessert to go with some really good coffee, perked on the woodstove in the kitchen that blasted you from the heat. After Gram, Katie, passed on, the house stood empty for a time.... ■

REMEMBRANCE FROM LENNY PATERA:
I first met David Halbach in grammar school in the 1960's. We became friends and played at his grandmother's farm, Elm Pine Farm.

David and I went to different high schools, however we attended the same college and commuted together in the early 1970's. In the mid -70's I was hired by his father Ed Halbach and we became friends. Life changes and so do jobs. But my friendship with David and Ed remained. Years later, David's grandmother, Katie Halbach, passed away leaving the farm empty. I was living in an apartment in Willimantic and was looking to move back to the country. Knowing the Halbach family wanted to keep the farm, I approached Ed with a proposal to rent the house. We came to an agreement. I believe it was in 1990 when I moved in and lived there for 15 years.

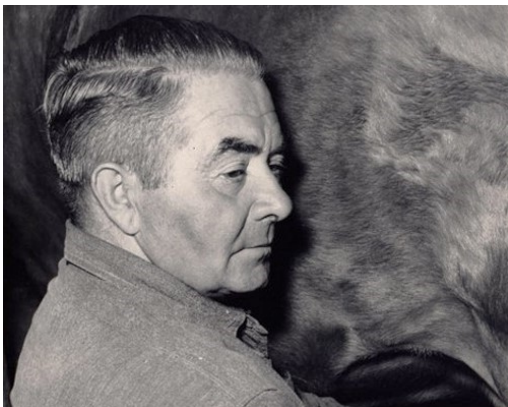
At that time in my life I was doing home improvement renovations in a partnership. As with many partnerships, it didn't last. The year was 1998 and I decided to go out on my own. The Halbach Farm became the



Katie "Gram" Halbach, making her famous strudel.

birthplace of the Hampton Remodeling Company. With the help of the Halbach family, the company thrived and it became necessary to expand. In 2005 the Hampton Remodeling Company was reestablished in Chaplin.

To this day I consider the Halbach family and my time at the farm instrumental in the success of the Hampton Remodeling Company, and I will always have an emotional tie to the Halbach farm for all the good times and good people that made life so comfortable there. ■



Adolph "Pops" Halbach, milking.

...Since Lenny, there have been few tenants, and today Ed's granddaughter, Helen, her husband Dan and their two sons, Taylor and Tom, reside on the family farm. Helen and her family learned through the years what it is to prune a Christmas

tree, work in a hot hay field, or cut over 20 cords of wood for three families for one season, planting vegetables to help support the family in the same location where your great-grandmother once dug and turned the soil by hand.

In the summer months you can see Ed and his dog, Romeo, at the farm in his golf cart, riding around checking out the gardens, making sure the lawns are properly mowed. Checking out the tractors, thinking back of all the days of working side by side with his son, doing repairs, maintenance of old equipment that has seen better days.

I have worked side by side with Dave and Dad when needed for over forty years; I have seen and learned the love and respect for the land, and for Elm Pine Farm.

THE HALBACH BARN

The Halbach barn at 167 North Brook Street is not as old as many of the Hampton barns, but one of the builders is still a resident over sixty years later. It was built in the early 1950's by Edward Halbach and his father, Adolph "Pop" Halbach, and another who helped, but whose name has long been forgotten.

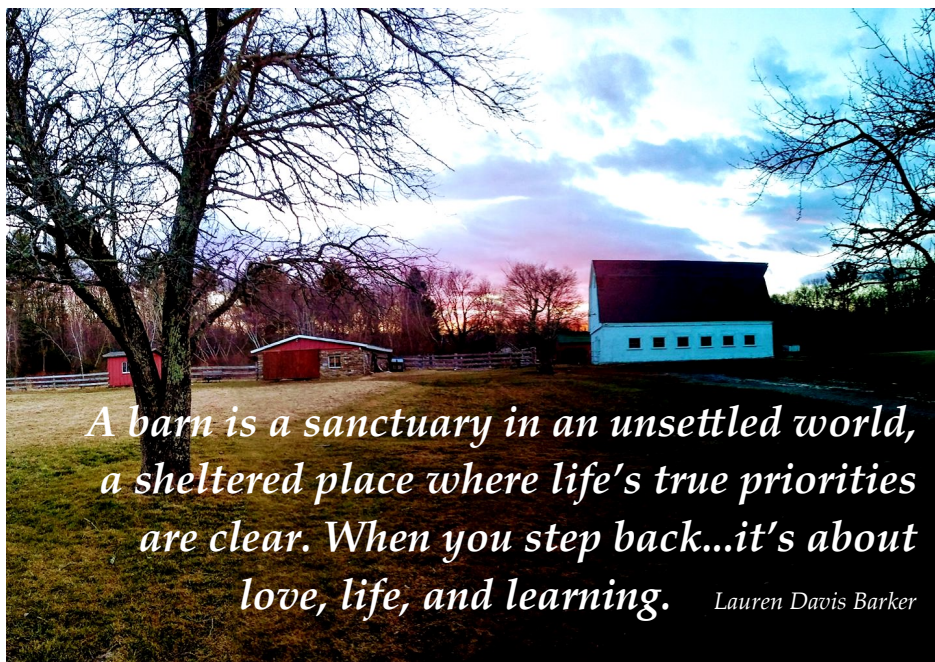
I remember walking into that barn for the first time over forty years ago, the stalls with baby calves waiting to be bottle fed, the smell of hay drifting down from the loft, Dave Halbach, throwing the hay down and his dad, Ed, preparing the bottles, the babies bellowing their impatience as they wait to be fed. The vet would come out and checked them over and castrate the bulls, though I do remember one calf born on the farm. As they grew they were let out into the barn yard, coming in every evening to be grained and fed their hay; as they

continued to grow their area was increased, free to wander over many acres, coming in every morning and evening to Ed's call, "Come boss, come boss," and you would hear their mooing as they approached their barn. There were cows milked on the farm, and steers raised as beef animals for meat, healthy, all natural, for family, neighbors and friends. You knew what you were eating and you knew it was good.

Then those hot summer days, pulling hay bales off the fields, throwing the hay up into the loft as the seed stuck to you, and the sweat poured off your brow...a time when neighbors and family would show up in the fields to help. It wasn't a lot of bales, but when the sun beats down, and a storm is brewing in the distance, it is always nice to see Gerry Bailey and Len Patera show up to help. As little as it may have been, you cannot afford to have it get wet; live stock needed to be fed. I think one of my fondest memories of the barn – the shadow it threw when we were all done bringing in the hay. Sitting in that shade, drinking a beer or a soda, just chatting and doing a bit of catch up with those who appeared to help, the warmth of friendship.

It has been a few years now since steers were raised or hay was thrown in the loft. With the busy lives of all around and even aging, the hay is picked up now by another that uses it, the meat now raised by others, just as good and natural. The barn has seen better days, but memories make it seem like it is 40 years younger, and when there is a bon fire in the pit at the pond and a storm comes in, there is always shelter, as there always was. ■

Ruth Feltenberger Halbach



*A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world,
a sheltered place where life's true priorities
are clear. When you step back...it's about
love, life, and learning.* Lauren Davis Barker



CONNECTICUT AUDUBON

GRASSLAND BIRD CONSERVATION CENTER

218 Day Road, Pomfret

April 1 – May 31 Art Exhibit: Focus On Birds

April 3 – 24 Early Morning Bird Walks 8AM

April 3 – 24 Tuesday Toddler Trails and Tales 1 – 2:15PM

April 4 – 25 Wednesday Noon Walks NOON

April 4 Woodcock Watch 7PM

April 4 – 24 Early Morning Bird Walks 8AM

April 6 & 7 Vernal Pool Inventory Surveys Training Workshops 9AM - NOON

April 7 Long Pond Bird Walk 8AM

April 7 Survival 101: Fire Making 10AM - NOON

April 8 Return of the Sea Otter: The Story of the Animal That Evaded Extinction on the Pacific Coast 2PM

April 17 – 20 April Vacation Camp 9AM – 4PM

April 27 Virginia Rail Bird Walk 6PM

April 28 Nature Sketchbook Journaling 9AM - NOON

April 29 Beginners Bird Walk 8AM

TRAILWOOD

93 Kenyon Road, Hampton

April 4, 11 25 & May 2, 9 & 16 After School Nature Club: grades 1 - 6

April 21 Spring Cleaning: Trail Wood Work Day 9AM

For more information on all listed programs, call (860) 928-4948 or visit www.ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

GOODWIN BOOK CLUB: *The book club recently read and discussed the book "Listening to Nature, How to Deepen Your Awareness of Nature" by Joseph Cornell. Many uplifting quotations and activities are presented in the book along with photographs. One of my favorites is by Rachel Carson: "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in". The next book to be discussed is "Reading the Forested Landscape, A Natural History of New England". It is by Tom Wessels with etchings and illustrations by Brian D. Cohen and a foreword by Ann Zwinger. ■*

Marcia Kilpatrick

GOODWIN CONSERVATION CENTER

April 7 Backpacking for Spring, Summer, and Fall 10AM - NOON
Join Reach Your Summit founder Mat Jobin for a backpacking presentation to include campsite selection, efficient hiking, essential gear, and lightweight alternatives for three seasons.

April 7 Medicinal Weeds of Connecticut 2 – 3:30PM

This workshop and weed walk with herbalist Debra Hultgren will emphasize identification and use of wonderful weeds. Recipes will be shared and demonstrated.

April 8 Favorite Hikes of Connecticut: Case Mountain-Yellow Trail 1 – 2PM

Jim Giana has hiked all of the blue-blazed trails in our state and beyond. Learn what makes the Yellow Trail on Case Mountain his favorite with maps, photos of the view, and interesting sights and sites.

April 8 & 15 Long Distance Guided Hike NOON – 3PM

Enjoy the company of fellow hikers with Goodwin Guide Elaine Koza. All are welcome, including friendly leashed dogs.

April 15 Living in Harmony: West Direction 1 – 2:30PM

Mohegan tribal member Chris Harris "Turtle" returns to present the third part of this series on living in harmony with Mother Earth, looking west to its correlation with the medicine wheel and cycles of life and ceremony.

April 18 & 19 Senior Walk 10AM – 12:30PM & NOON – 2:30PM

These easy to moderate walks on forest trails are very popular, and not just for seniors! All are welcome. Hiking sticks are available to borrow.

April 21 Garlic Mustard Pull: Edible and Invasive 9 – 11:30AM

Join DEEP Forester Ed McGuire as he instructs participants in an important forest management practice – invasive removal. Pull while you learn, and help Goodwin continue its ongoing eradication efforts.

April 21 & 28 Phenological Walk 10AM - NOON

Join Master Naturalist Carrie Crompton on a search for the "firsts" of the season. We'll be looking for wildflower blooms, bud break in trees and shrubs, and bird arrivals.

April 21 Gardener's Roundtable 10 – 11:30AM

A workshop intended for gardeners of all experience levels, please come with your questions, your expertise, and your own stories of success and failure in your gardens.

April 21 Movie Screening: Plight of the Grassland Birds 1 – 2:30PM

This movie explores efforts to protect grassland birds and their habitats. Master Naturalist Joanne Warren will briefly discuss her efforts to help protect bobolinks in our area.

April 22 The Apiary Series: Spring to Fall Hive 1 – 2:30PM

In this program, part of a year-long series, Dave Gilbert will instruct prospective beekeepers on spring and fall management of the hive.

April 29 Youth Series: Discover Goodwin's Vernal Pools 1 – 3PM
Registration is required for this program with Master Naturalists Lynn Kochiss and Jim Bancroft as we explore the vernal pools at Goodwin equipped with nets, buckets, and magnifiers.

April 30 Full Pink Moon Night Hike 7:30 – 8:30PM

Let the full moon guide your path on this night hike at Goodwin State Forest with Guide Kat Gayson. Join us for hot chocolate afterwards.

Goodwin Conservation Center is looking for volunteers who have knowledge about various conservation-related topics and the desire to share that knowledge with others. Teaching experience is recommended but is not required. For more information, contact Jasper Sha at jasper.sha@ct.gov.

REFLECTIONS OF A TREE HUGGER

I love their dark corridors of summer, the skeletal silhouettes against the snow; while most prefer the fall harvest, I favor the early spring veil of every imaginable green, threaded with the occasional rust or silver or gold, fallen across the hills and valleys. Yes, I am, admittedly, a tree hugger. People are surprised to learn that our house was built on an empty lot – a completely empty lot. Not a single tree grew on a parcel hemmed in with stands of pines and a stone wall. Now there are twenty-five.

Every one of our trees has its story. Most of the oldest of them were house-warming presents. A pair of crab apples from my uncle to frame the front door with burgundy foliage, flowers and fruits, the purple umbrella of a Japanese maple from a close friend, a Japanese lilac with its primrose racemes from another. My parents christened the property with a weeping cherry, a fountain of pink parasols in springtime, a neighbor, with the Korean mountain ash, an autumn crown of bittersweet berries. Other neighbors dug desirable seedlings from their yards to adorn ours: a “Kousa” dogwood smothered in spring with ivory bracts, a mimosa with exotic fronds and feathery flowers all summer, a purple-leaved peach producing fall fruit. One neighbor dug a Norway maple from his garden which has grown into a sixty foot tree to provide the yard’s shade, and another let me search his fields for a swamp maple to provide a splash of rust to the chartreuse, sage and olive pallet of spring’s emerging leaves. The cutting from a Main Street home has turned into a fifty foot tall twisted willow, an impressive sweep of corkscrew limbs, which has since given countless visitors their own.

Other trees we purchased for their attributes – a shadblow for the subtle beauty of every one of its seasons and its friendliness to birds, the dogwood “Wolf Eyes” to lighten a dark woodland corner with frosted leaves, a zelkova that anchors the property, elm-like and statuesque, a lot of *salixes* – the black and the white pussy willows, an orange twigged, the variegated, a silver weeping willow -- to soak up spring’s puddles, a “Heritage” birch for its winter, a witch hazel for its winter scent, a magnolia for blossoms that resemble flamingos, a “Carolina Sweetbell” for its ceiling of white flowers in the moon garden, katsura and sour wood for their glorious fall foliage, pinkish orange and bright scarlet rivaling the burgundy dogwoods and the bronzed oaks and the flames of maples in the lawn and beyond. When you study your yard, it really tells you what it needs.

There are those trees I wish our yard could accommodate. Anyone who has the room to grow a copper beech – should. It requires its own acre. A tree we plant for posterity, you’ll never live long enough to witness its 100 foot girth, but strangers passing your property generations hence will thank you for it. Similarly, I wish there was space for a ginkgo, a 100 foot tower of shimmering yellow fans in fall, or *robinia* ‘Frisia’ which requires a large area to absorb the chartreuse of its summer foliage. I’m still searching for a suitable site for Cornelian cherry, near enough the house to appreciate its haze of late winter yellow flowers, and *stewartia*, which deserves a special place to showcase its multi-stemmed vase of bark mottled grey, green, cream and russet, spectacular fall foliage, and camellia-like flowers. I’m also still contemplating spaces to exhibit the trunks of a cluster of paper white birches, or a single lace-bark pine which exfoliates silver, olive and pale purple.

I know we can’t be the only family who actually visits certain places because of their trees. The Redwood Forest, for example, Joshua Tree and Sequoia National Parks, the plantation, Oak Alley, with its 300 hundred year old allee of live oaks, the National Arboretum. There are the groves of crepe myrtles in the South, the pines that create the Black Hills, the allees of palms in Hollywood, the elms of Central Park’s Promenade, the trees dripping Spanish moss in Savannah’s squares. Where ever we are, I always have to spend time with the native trees there. Serious time.

Garden

IN THE

with Dayna McDermott

And then there are those of our own town – the Glen named for its hemlocks, the Charter oak at the end of our road, the one on Connecticut’s quarter. I still remember the trees I climbed, the leaf piles they produced, the one from which my swing hung, the ones we picnicked beneath, those that bore apples and pears. As a matter of fact, I can remember every tree that grew in our yard, and many of those in our neighborhood. Growing up, we learned to identify trees by their bark, form, and foliage. We learned of their importance to the environment, the uses of their lumber, their place in the wild even after their demise, finding evidence in the woods of their decay and its benefit to insects, animals, and eventually the soil, learning the cycles of their seasons, and life. We discovered art in their fall foliage, adventure in climbing on their limbs, and peace reading in the crooks of their branches, and resting in their shade. A visit to a tree would immediately calm my children when they were infants, for scientific reasons – the abundance of oxygen, the play of sunlight through leaves – yet I always felt that it was something more – something instinctual, spiritual – that cast this spell.

Arbor Day was an important holiday at school. Every class was responsible for some form of reverence – pictures and posters, stories and reports. Someone would recite Joyce Kilmer’s poem, and, of course, the ceremony would always culminate with the planting of one. These were important concepts to instill in children – how to plant a tree and how to take care of it, along with all the lessons as to why – the scientific reasons and the personal ones. Whether you celebrate at a ceremony in a school, or a public place like a park, or your own yard, there’s almost always room for another tree. And time for all the lessons that accompany the planting. Happy Arbor Day! ■





JOSHUA'S TRUST

April 14 at 8AM: Join Master Naturalist Deb Fields on the second in a series of five Wildflower Walks planned for the Hubbard Sanctuary in Chaplin, this session focusing on the seasonal progression of wildflowers.

Directions: property is located behind Chaplin Town Hall. For more information, call Deb at 860.208.5459.

April 15 from 10AM – NOON: Take a moderate 1.5 mile walk with Steward Marian Mathews at the Josias Byles Sanctuary in Ashford, discussing historical and natural aspects of the property.

Rain cancels. Directions: 1 mile east of the junction of Routes 44 & 89. For more information call Marian at 860.420.8544.

April 29 from 2 – 4PM: Welcome May at the Atwood Farm in Mansfield attending our Maypole Celebration. There will be dancing around the Maypole, live music, and May baskets. Rain cancels. Directions: Route 89 to Wormwood Hill. For information, call the Trust at 860.429.9023.

HAMPTON MAPLE FESTIVAL

Some of New England's finest maple syrup producers are right here in Hampton! Come celebrate the sugaring season on the grounds of Fletcher Memorial Library, Saturday, April 14 from 10AM to 1PM.

Local farms – Pebble Brook, Buell's Dragonfly, and Bright Acres – will offer tastings of their sugar products, along with the chance to buy locally produced maple cream, sugar and candy, as well as peanut brittle, walnut brittle, maple almonds and other confections.

Homemade ice cream and maple flavored baked goods by Hampton's talented bakers will be on offer, too. This is a sweet way to support both local farms and the library. ■



Celebrating the Seasons!

TEALE'S PHOTOGRAPHY ON DISPLAY AT UCONN

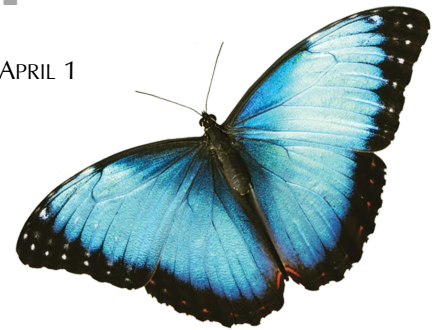
The exhibition "Edwin Way Teale's Photographs of American Nature", open to the public at the Dodd Center Monday through Friday, 9AM to 5PM, explores Teale's skill and creativity as a photographer and the role of photography in his writing and storytelling. Teale produced over 50,000 pictures documenting his travels, nature observations, and personal discoveries. A self-taught photographer, Teale worked with the utmost economy -- careful in framing his shots, utilizing consumer-grade cameras and equipment, writing letters seeking advice from other photographers, and processing prints in his household dark room. By 1966, when he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in General Nonfiction, and nearly a million copies of his books had been sold, the artistic value of his photographs was recognized throughout the world. ■

from A WALK THROUGH THE YEAR, APRIL 1

*Today we are off for
the North woods to search for
the blue butterfly.*

*Each year as March draws
to a close and the earliest days
of April arrive,*

*Nellie and I wander along mossy trails,
in open glades, down the Old woods road,
our eyes roving ahead and beside our paths,
alert for a glimpse of the small gay insect
that for us symbolizes the return of spring.*



Edwin Way Teale

GREEN THUMBS

Suggestions for Having More Fun and Less Fatigue in the Garden

- Avoid doing the same task for more than 30 minutes. Take regular breaks to give your parts a rest. If necessary, set a timer. Sit on one of those fancy benches you bought.
- Stretch before, during, and after gardening. Try yoga to improve your flexibility.
- Avoid unnecessary twisting. Move your feet instead.
- When raking, don't reach. Keep your center of gravity and movement close to your body.
- Stand up straight. Maintain good posture at all times as you work.
- Lift objects by bending at the knees, not by bending your back.
- Hold heavy items close to your body.

Marcia Kilpatrick

GROWING AND LEARNING

Boy Scouts, contact: John Tillinghast, 455.9387 or jwaltill@mindspring.com
Cub Scouts contact: Michelle Mlyniec, 455.1278 or MMmlyniec@gmail.com

SCOUTING NEWS

BOY SCOUTS

Under the guidance of leader Walter "Sam" Gailey, the Boy Scouts have been working on their merit badges for Backpacking, in which you carry all that you will need for camping on your back while hiking into the woods. The Troop is building towards two 15-mile 2-night trips and one 30-mile/4-night trip this spring and summer.

Additionally, the Troop has been busy with the Eagle Scout project designed and organized by Nicholas Nunn who organized volunteers to build a staircase in the Scotland Volunteer Fire Department. The staircase leads to a second floor storage area that was previously accessible only by climbing a ladder. The work took four weekends to complete and the boys learned many carpentry skills with this project, including the complexities of building a staircase from scratch. The project was assisted by many talented adult Scout leaders. ■

The Boy Scout Troop is for boys in grades 6-12 and meets Tuesday evenings at the Hampton Congregational Church from 7-8:30 PM.

CUB SCOUTS

Back in December, each Cub Scout was given a simple cardboard box containing a block of wood and four tiny wheels. The Scouts worked with their families and den leaders during the winter to craft their very own Pinewood Derby racing cars. Designs ranged from army tanks and sports models to (completely separate) entries of a strip of bacon and two fried eggs! On March 3rd, it all came together for the big race.

Congratulations to first place winner: Ryan Rondeau. All boys did a great job cheering one another on. Thank you to parent Indu Poonja for her coordination of the event! ■

Michelle Mlyniec, Heather Nunn, and John Tillinghast



PARISH HILL RELEASES HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following students:

Grade 12 High Honors: Maxwell Landeck, Thomas Lehoux, Phoebe Miller, Vanessa Surridge

Grade 12 Honors: Meg Nurnberg

Grade 11 High Honors: Aliyah Tomas

Grade 11 Honors: Kyleigh Horan, Cyrus Sprague

Grade 10 High Honors: Maximilien Blanchard, Ethan Dunn

Grade 10 Honors: Rebeca Burnham, Amelia Chokas

Grade 9 High Honors: Brent Freed, Nicholas Meister

Grade 8 High Honors: Vivien Rowntree, Jason Salois

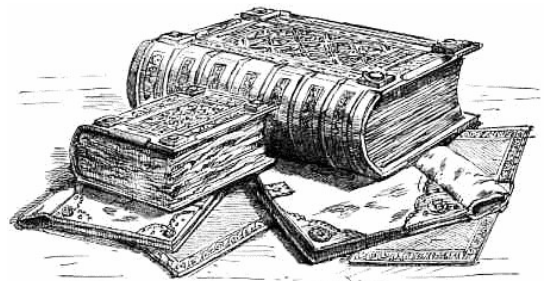
Grade 8 Honors: Hannah Bell, Tori Nurnberg

Grade 7 High Honors: Jaeron Ruck

Grade 7 Honors: Brett Burlingame, Kendall Crawford, Caleb Evans, Ethan Jacobson, Nathanael Studer

Congratulations, Scholars!

Congratulations to Sam Britner who was recently named to the Dean's List at Bates College, and to Emily Buell who was named to St. Lawrence University's Dean's List.





PASSAGES

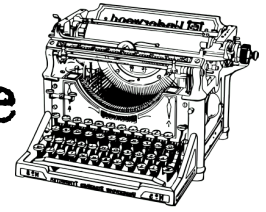
Donald R. Brown passed away on December 13 in the 71st year of his life. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy, serving during the Vietnam War. He worked at Rogers Corp in Windham and retired from Loos & Company in Putnam, and here in Hampton, he was very proud of his garden, his greenhouse, and his antique car. He is survived by his wife, Anne, his daughter, Sheila Sauter, his brother, Philip Brown, his grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Our condolences to all. *Donations in Don's honor may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.*

Joseph Paul Christadore Jr. passed away at his home in Hampton on March 11 at the age of 78. Born on September 7, 1939 he served in the U.S. Army after graduating from Windham High School, and retired from Brand Rex after 39 years. A life time member of the Elks Club, he enjoyed playing cards there, as well as baseball, bowling and golf. Our condolences to his son Keith Christadore, and his daughter Stacey Gendreau, her husband Michael, and their sons, Evan and Cody. *Donations in Joseph's memory may be made to the Hampton-Chaplin Ambulance Corps.*

Jean A. Pennington passed away on March 15th in her 79th year. Born on September 19, 1938 in Norwich, Jean and her husband, Norman Moreau, who predeceased her, raised five children, and she was later married to Donald Pennington until his passing in 2009. Our condolences to her children, Donna McCormick, Nancy and Daniel Dorval, Karen Rioux, Kenneth and Lorrie Martin, and Harold Jr. and Theresa Martin, and her nine grandchildren. *Donations in Jean's name may be made to the American Kidney Fund.*

CONTRIBUTORS: Deb Andstrom, Dick Brown, Allan Cahill, Pat Cascio, Lenore Case, Anne Christie, Stan Crawford, Lisa Grady, Ruth Halbach, Angelika Hansen, Sarah Heminway, Marcia Kilpatrick, Michelle Mlyniec, Heather Nunn, Lenny Patera, Daryl Perch, Jasper Sha, John Tillinghast, Janice Trecker, Pete Vertefeuille. *Photos: Diane Gagnon, Lisa Grady, Deborah Halbach, Ruth Halbach, Helen Merasco.*

Time Capsule



40 Years Ago in Hampton, April 1978:

The Selectmen appoint a committee of five to study the feasibility of Town purchase of land.

An article titled "The Bear Truth" quotes Conservation Officer Phil Russell's answer to rumors about bears in the area:

"No reports; no sightings; no bear."

"Hampton Cooperates" reports on the Hampton Food Coop

30 Years Ago, April 1988:

"Progress Report on the New School" by Quentin Woodward updates residents on the elementary school building project.

The Selectmen approve the Fire Department's request to purchase a new truck to replace Engine 112, a 1953 American LaFrance, at an estimated cost of \$70,000.

The Democratic Town Committee adopts a resolution critical of the State's spending to promote its plan to build a Route 6 alternate, specifically the use of "the peoples' own revenue on ads and brochures to sell them its ideas".

20 Years Ago, April 1998:

The front page reports a "UFO Sighting in Hampton", advising residents to "not be unduly alarmed. The UFO has been around a long time, and to date no ill effect or danger has ever been proven to be related to their visits."

The Little River Grange announces an Awards Night to honor 70-year member Idamay Richmond.

Hampton Elementary School Principal explains their new program: preschool.

10 Years Ago, April 2008:

A salute to Minnie Halbach, longest serving member of the Gazette staff, who delivered the Gazette to every household in town for 30 years. Seniors announce upcoming trips to: Vermont Quilt Festival, The King & I, and Booth Bay Harbor.

Dog Warden Brianna Walton reports on a rabid cat captured at the home of Diane Gagnon.

40 Years Ago, April 1978:

Jimmy Carter is President and Ella Grasso is Governor.

"Night Fever" by the Bee Gees is number one on the radio and movie fans are still headed out to see "Star Wars".

Gary Player wins The Masters golf tournament.

Actor Will Geer, famous for playing Grandpa on the hit TV series

The Waltons, dies at the age of 76.

30 Years Ago, April 1988:

Ronald Regan is President and Lowell Weicker is Governor.

The number one song was "Man in The Mirror" by Michael Jackson and the top box office draw was "Beetlejuice".

Kansas wins the 50th NCAA Men's Championship and Louisiana Tech wins the 7th NCAA Women's Championship.

20 Years Ago April 1998:

Bill Clinton was President and John Rowland was Governor.

In Florida, Disney's Animal Kingdom opens in Orlando.

The number one song was "Getting Jiggy Wit It" by Will Smith and "Lost in Space" is tops at the box office.

Peyton Manning is the number one pick in the NFL draft taken by the Indianapolis Colts.

10 Years Ago, April 2008:

George W. Bush was president. Jodi Rell was Governor.

The number one song was "With You" by Chris Brown and the top box office draw was "The Forbidden Kingdom".

Actor Charlton Heston passes at the age of 84.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



POTTER'S Oil Service, Inc.

PO Box 91 • 688 Boston Post Road
North Windham, CT 06256-0091

Phone: (860) 423-1684



Scott's Cyclery, Inc.

1171 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226 (860) 423-8889

Come see Hampton residents Scott & Glen!

YOUR AUTHORIZED FORD DEALER SINCE 1930

BOWEN'S GARAGE

EASTFORD, CT

860-974-0363

www.bowensgarageinc.com

gulemo PRINTERS inc.

PO Box 467 | 2 Birch Street
Willimantic, CT 06226

tel 860.456.1151

fax 860.450.1600

gulemo06226@gmail.com

DAVE GARCEAU EXCAVATING, LLC

FREE ESTIMATES - FULLY INSURED

- Video Pipe Inspection
- Septic Inspection
- Driveways
- Trenching
- Septic Systems
- Oil Tank Removal
- Drainage
- Site Work



860-455-0432

d.bgarceau@yahoo.com

Chaplin, CT

Lic. 005261/564902

Hampton Mini-Mart & Beer, Wine & Spirits



**396 HARTFORD TURNPIKE
HAMPTON 860.942.8990**

HOURS:

Mini-Mart 6:00AM — 10 PM Daily
Package Store Monday-Saturday 8AM-9PM
Sunday 10AM- 6PM

Monthly Specials!

*Owned and Operated by
Hampton Residents Mickey & Manisha Patel*

**Restoration
Services**

Text
Text

paul pribble productions llc
860 455 1933
plastering . painting . carpenter . siding . windows

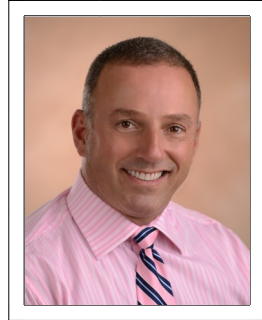
The Hampton Gazette
PO Box 101
Hampton, CT 06247

PRESORT
MARKETING MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
WILLIMANTIC CT
PERMIT NO 37

**Weichert
Realtors**

Browning & Browning

580 Providence Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234
Cell 860.377.1906
Office 860.774.4005 x122
Fax 860.774.0345
Email Mark.Benard@snet.net
Web BrowningAndBrowning.com



Mark S. Benard
Broker Associate

"Independently Owned & Operated"



Donahue General Contractors Inc

93 Windham Rd. Hampton, CT
860-423-0618
donahueconstruction@snet.net



**SAND * STONE
GRAVEL * TOPSOIL**

Roll-off Containers Available
New Septic System Installations
Existing Septic System Repairs
Driveway Repairs
Residential & Commercial Sitework
Underground Utilities
Land Clearing - Drainage Work
Licensed Demolition Contractor

Licensed & Insured
Call for a Free Estimate

**"YOUR HOMETOWN CONTRACTOR"
57 YEARS IN BUSINESS**

Equal Opportunity Employer

NIKKO OIL, LLC

High Quality Home Heating Oil

*Now Delivering
Dyed Kerosene*

860.822.1188

860.564.9746

COUPON

\$5 OFF*

**A PURCHASE OF
25 GALLONS
OR MORE!**

*NECCO OIL - Can Not Be Combined
Please Mention Coupon When Ordering

Now Accepting...

ACCESS & TVCCA



HOD #1089

Canterbury, CT

Low C.O.D. Prices - Senior & Large Quantity Discounts