



**Volume 4, Number 9 - September 2023**

**Festival of the Hills, October 1, 2023**



**Want to Help with the 2023 Festival?** It takes 120 people to run this event. Volunteer opportunities abound! There are three ways to sign up:

- Go to the website, [festivalofthehills.com](http://festivalofthehills.com), and click on the red “VOLUNTEER” button.
- Contact us by email at [festivalofthehills@yahoo.com](mailto:festivalofthehills@yahoo.com).
- Sign up in person at Field Memorial Library on Saturday, September 9, and Saturday, Sept 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A festival board member will provide information and can sign you up.

**New for the 2023 Festival:** Games for Tweens and Teens. Two to four players for each game.

- Corn Hole: Points scored by your opponent during each turn cancel yours out = competitive!
- Ladder Ball: Compete to reach 21 points first.
- The Boardwalk Toss Game: Frisbee aim, toss, score (or don't) – two strategies!

**Attention All Festival of the Hills Scholarship Recipients, Past and Present!** The Festival of the Hills has awarded over \$175,000 in scholarships to graduating Conway high school seniors since 2000. If you were one of the lucky recipients, pick up a “Conway FoH Scholarship Recipient” sticker at the 2023 Festival Information Booth and walk proudly in the Festival Parade!

This QR code takes you right to the Festival Home Page!



### **Festival of the Hills Zoom**

**meetings.** Meetings are scheduled for September 7, 12, and 18 at 6:30 p.m. To get the Zoom link, email [festivalofthehills@yahoo.com](mailto:festivalofthehills@yahoo.com). We encourage anyone who is interested in hearing how we put the festival together to attend!

**Annual Festival of the Hills Bake Sale** The annual FOH bake sale will be held on Saturday, September 30, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., on the Town Common in front of the library. We are looking for donations of baked goods: cookies, pies, bread, etc. The food must be wrapped and labeled for things like nuts, GF, etc. Food can be dropped off the morning of the sale after 8:00 a.m. We will also have coffee, tea, and cider for sale. No time to bake? Please stop by and purchase some baked goods for the weekend, holiday company, or your freezer.

All proceeds from the bake sale are for the benefit of the Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund for Conway's graduating high school seniors. Thank you for supporting the festival and Conway students. Any questions? Call Gail Connelly, 369-4287.

**Café Conway** Please consider donating to Café Conway, the baked goods tent at the Festival of the Hills, Sunday, October 1. We're located across from Town Hall. Donations may be dropped off anytime during the morning.

Thank you in advance. All proceeds go to the Festival of the Hills Scholarship Fund.

**Festival Raffle - by Phyllis Jeswald** Another terrific raffle is in store for the 2023 Festival of the Hills. As always, the raffle will feature prizes donated by Conway's talented and generous artists, craftspeople, and businesses. Raffle prizes include pottery, baskets of goodies, accessories, art work, gourmet foods, gardening items, gift certificates, and much more. And don't forget the \$200 grand prize! The complete list of prizes will be in the festival program booklet and wherever tickets are sold. You'll find them starting in September at Baker's Country Store, Pekarski's, the Conway Inn, and Greenfield Savings Bank.

## Conway Wins!

by Philip Kantor, Chair, Conway Selectboard

By now you've heard that the Town of Conway's 21+ inches of rain in July beat all competitors to claim top honors as the rainiest town in the entire United States and Canada. In monetary damages, it is the costliest disaster in Conway history. Let's hope that we never have to experience such a victory again.

The rain events on July 10 and 21 did the most harm. Thirty roads in town and many homes were seriously damaged. As of this writing the loss to town infrastructure – roads, bridges, culverts, and drainage systems – is \$3.9 million. Known damages to privately owned houses and property, including the Conway Swimming Pool and Natural Roots Farm, brings total July 2023 flood damages in Conway closer to \$5 million.

The floods have also revealed that many of our drainage systems are dangerously inadequate, and we need to improve them. Slopes such as the Pine Hill to Upper Baptist Hill to River Street drainage carried watery destruction to far too many homes. The Conway Fire Department is owed our thanks for saving lives and life

savings with their tirelessness, skills, and professionalism in successfully responding to almost constant calls for help.

Today and with the recent reopening of Adam's Road, I can report that all Conway residents can once again access their homes. The Conway Highway Department has accomplished much already, but there is a long list of roads that still need extensive work, and that and all other flood-related work has to be paid for. MassDOT has helped by rebuilding Whately Road, among others, but necessary and very costly work still lies ahead of us. Although Conway can now deficit spend to fix town storm losses, the selectboard, town administrator, and many others are searching high and low for other funding sources. We remain hopeful that we will be the eventual beneficiaries of a significant supplemental appropriation from our state government. We are also pursuing other funding possibilities at multiple levels of both state and federal government as well as from private organizations.

If you have alternative funding ideas, we'd like to hear from you. If you have monetary costs from flood damages, please make sure the town administrator knows, and save your estimates and receipts. If you want to help, please contact the governor and state and federal legislators and join us in asking for an appropriation for Conway. And you can join me in asking for some sunshine!

## Notes from the Town Administrator

**Important Transfer Station News:** The next Transfer Station Public Forum will be held on **September 14 at 6:00 p.m.** in Town Hall to discuss the changes that begin October 7, including what needs to be in a bag and what is allowed in the compactor.

On September 1 sales of the new blue vehicle permit decals begin, and decals must be visible on the front windshield of any vehicle entering the transfer station by October 7. Decals are sold *only at the town offices*, NOT at the transfer station or Town Hall. Below

are the new instructions, which will also be online on the town website along with the decal application:

There are four options for purchasing a vehicle permit decal for FY24. Please note that in all four options we must see your vehicle registration. We accept viewing the actual registration in person or a photo on your phone if it contains all the necessary information. A copy must be provided for the drop box or mail-in options.

**Town Offices.** Decals may be purchased with cash, check, or credit/debit card swipe at the town offices during open hours. Please bring your vehicle registration for verification. You will be given your 104 free bag stickers at time of decal purchase.

**Online.** You may purchase the decal online at this link: [conwayma.gov/p/25/View-or-Pay-a-Bill](https://conwayma.gov/p/25/View-or-Pay-a-Bill). You must then either pick up your decal at the town offices (see above) or choose from one of the other two options below.

**Drop Box.** If you are unable to come to the town offices during open hours, you may drop off the application and payment in the drop box located in the front door. No cash is accepted in the drop box, so please provide a check or online payment receipt. Please provide a copy of your vehicle registration with the application, and we will mail back your registration, decal, and 104 free bag stickers.

**Mail in.** If necessary you may mail in the application. Please provide a copy of your vehicle registration with the application along with a check or online payment receipt, and we will mail back your registration, decal, and 104 free bag stickers.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we transition to this new system.

Véronique

## Firemen's Auxiliary Turkey Dinner

The Conway Firemen's Auxiliary annual turkey dinner will be held on Saturday, September 30, at the Conway Grammar School. As in past years, this will be a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings, including a choice of pies. There will be one sitting at 5:30 p.m. Pickup time for takeouts starts at 6:30 p.m. Please, no early birds! The cost, for either eat in or take out, is \$20 per adult, \$12 per child.

Space in the cafeteria is limited, and so is the number of takeouts, so reserve early! Call Baker's Country Store at 369-4936 for reservations or stop by the store at 101 River Street.

Proceeds from the dinner help fund the annual Firemen's Auxiliary Scholarship, awarded to graduating Conway seniors each May. Donations to the fund are always welcome and may be made to Conway Firemen's Auxiliary, PO Box 46, Conway, MA 01341.

## Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Franklin County Solid Waste District plans to hold the 2023 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 23, at GCC's Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station.

**Residents and businesses must preregister by September 15.**

Online preregistration for the 2023 collection will open on August 16, at [franklincountywastedistrict.org](https://franklincountywastedistrict.org). Mail-in registration forms will be available in mid-August at town transfer stations and in local newspapers. Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring wastes to the collection. An appointment time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of most of the District's 21 member towns. Businesses may participate but must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call 413-772-2438.

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other household chemicals. A more complete list of acceptable items is at [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org).

Batteries and mercury-containing items such as fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, and thermostats will not be accepted at this collection. These items, which may contain mercury or heavy metals, should never be put in trash or recycling. Handle carefully, bring them to a municipal transfer station or a Regional Hazardous Waste “Super Site” and hand to an attendant. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted at Lowe’s Stores (all types) and Home Depot (CFLs only).

For more information visit [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org) or contact the district at [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org), 413-772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The district is an equal-opportunity provider.

## Forest and Trails Committee Work Projects

The Town of Conway owns two forested properties: the Fournier property near the Grammar School and the Town Farm Forest off Cricket Hill Road.

One stated objective of the Stewardship Plans developed to guide the care of these properties is removing invasive species that have become numerous in some areas on both properties. Asiatic bittersweet, honeysuckle, barberry and multiflora rose are some of the most commonly found perennial invasive species. They threaten the healthy native plant communities that sustain biological richness, plant diversity, and forest resilience.

The Forest and Trails Committee has been removing invasive species, primarily Asiatic honeysuckle, from the trailhead on the

Fournier property. We have made good progress and look forward to completing the trailhead areas at Fournier over the next two months. We are asking interested members of the public to please join us in these efforts. June and July opportunities were rained-out!

If you are interested in invasive species removal; in planting native ground covers, shrubs, and understory trees; or in trail maintenance, please let us know by emailing us at [lagd2101@gmail.com](mailto:lagd2101@gmail.com), putting “Conway invasives” in the subject line.

Our next work parties are on Sunday, September 10, and Sunday, October 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We will meet at Conway Grammar School in front of the playground area.

## Conway Hills Wildlife Sanctuary Walk

The Conway Open Space Committee presents a walk through the Mass Audubon Conway Hills Wildlife Sanctuary on Sunday, September 10, at 10:00 a.m. Audubon naturalist John Green will guide a tour of fields and wood trails on this special property, which provides important habitat for birds and other wildlife. Learn about the current management strategies and interesting facets of its plants and animals.

The Conway Hills Wildlife Sanctuary is on Rte 116 but has limited parking. Meet at the Conway Grammar School, 24 Fournier Road, to carpool to the site. Come prepared to walk in the woods. This event is free and open to all and will occur rain or shine. For questions contact Janet Chayes at [janet@chayes.org](mailto:janet@chayes.org) or 413-768-7416.

## Serving Seniors Effort at Festival of the Hills

The Mass in Motion Working Group, appointed by the Conway Selectboard, is part of Franklin County’s effort to make sure that seniors are well served in our community. Our first task is to

identify those of the town's 776 residents over 60 who might be underserved by existing efforts. We will have a booth at the Festival of the Hills, and we invite you to stop by for more information about our work. You'll be invited to fill out a simple questionnaire that will automatically enter you into a drawing for prizes. So far, these include cash prizes of \$100 and \$50.

Members of the working group are Thad Bennett, George Forcier, Tilda Hunting, Phil Kantor, Kathy Llamas, Pat Lynch, and Robin Yerkes. The statewide Mass in Motion Franklin County initiative is designed to complement the local ongoing Age-Friendly project led by partners LifePath and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). FRCOG staff with whom we are working include Rachel Stoler and Meg Ryan. Visit [frcog.org/project/mass-in-motion/](http://frcog.org/project/mass-in-motion/) to learn more.

## Conway Sportsman's Club News

This month is a busy one for the Conway Sportsman's Club as we prepare for three sporting clays shoots in September, one public, two private. Several private events will also be held at our spacious pavilion.

Our membership is coming close to two hundred members, most of whom are not Conway residents, nor are they necessarily (like myself) hunters. As with any competitive sport involving targets, there are those who compete in archery, sporting clays, skeet, pistol competitions, and fishing tournaments for top scores, titles, and/or trophies. This is reflected in our largely nonresident membership. Many members belong to multiple clubs, which offers them the possibility of more events in which to participate during the year. Conway's 3D archery range and our well-designed and maintained sporting clays stations are among the best in New England, thanks to the hard work and dedication of resident members and others from nearby towns. To learn more about the Conway Sportsman's Club, visit our website: [conwaysportsmansclub.org](http://conwaysportsmansclub.org).

## Conway Historical Society

On Tuesday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m., the Conway Historical Society presents *A Selection of 19th Century Hassell Family Letters*, a reading of letters by Hassell family members written between 1850 and 1903. The letters detail daily life on a farm in Maine while touching upon how rapid changes in the country, brought about by industrialization and expansionism, shaped the ensuing generations. Jennifer Hassell Coliskey, great-great granddaughter of Benjamin and Sarah Parker Hassell, has compiled a selection of her family's letters which will be read by members of the community.

The reading takes place at the Conway Historical Society Museum, 50 Main Street, Conway. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Check [www.conwaymasshistory.org](http://www.conwaymasshistory.org) for weather/updates.

**Historic Deerfield Passes:** Two passes are available to Conway residents, and each pass admits up to four people. To reserve, call or text Joe Zadroga at 413-824-2719. It's best if you can give 24-48 hours' notice. Passes should be picked up either the day before or the day of your planned visit, and must be returned immediately following your use so that others may enjoy them! For more information on Historic Deerfield, including hours, see [historic-deerfield.org](http://historic-deerfield.org).

## South River Knotweed Alert

by Michele Turre for the Friends of the South River

You may have noticed the hedges of knotweed along our riverbanks. Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica* s.l.) is an aggressive invasive plant species that thrives in disturbed soils such as roadsides and stream banks. Some people call it "bamboo." If you aren't sure what it looks like, check out [blogs.cornell.edu/weedid/japanese-knotweed/](http://blogs.cornell.edu/weedid/japanese-knotweed/).

Knotweed displaces native vegetation and limits biodiversity. The stuff grows fast! It blocks out sunlight and consumes large amounts of minerals and nutrients from the soil.

Established stands have an extensive root system that spreads via underground runners (rhizomes). You might think river banks armored by this plant would be less prone to erosion, but not so. The rhizomes break apart in flood events, then drop along with silt and branches when the high water recedes.



In the storms last month, knotweed roots broke off, washed downstream and dropped onto uninfested areas. Right now these small chunks of knotweed are mostly sitting on top of silt and are easily picked up or disentangled from flood refuse, but soon the roots will dig in and start spreading. The root bits are sending up new shoots and leaves so they are easy to spot and collect.

If you own or use property along the river, collect the dropped rhizomes and stems now, before they set root and start new infestations! Put them in black plastic contractor bags to cook in the sun or dry them out and burn them.

## Notes from an Old House

by Julia Carroll

If you were born and raised in Conway, chances are you may currently live in an old house, grew up in an old house, or had the wisdom *not* to live in an old house. It is a way of life not for the faint of heart: Important home systems break down, fieldstone foundation walls crumble into a heap on your basement's dirt floor,

and sill plates dissolve into sawdust before your eyes. Perhaps a variety of small mammals lives rent-free inside your walls and ceilings, doing as they have done for generations, and feel entitled to stay. You've come to refer to them simply as "friends in the wall," a waving-away of the problem because, frankly, you have more pressing matters at hand, like figuring out the source of some Roman numerals you discovered carved into a support beam.

Such was the case for my wife and me during a recent home renovation project. It was an exciting find in a house that has so far yielded more mysteries than treasures. Roman numerals and symbols carved into a wooden post! Who put them there, and why? We were determined to find out.

As far as we can tell, our house was built around the turn of the nineteenth century, maybe 1820. It does not sit on the ground like the colonial-era homes of historic Deerfield, nor does it have a center chimney, so it is likely newer than the 1700s. Based on its style of timber framing, it appears to predate 1830.<sup>1</sup> Timber framing is a type of construction that uses giant, interlocking wooden beams, braces, and pegs to hold a structure together. Our house seems to have been assembled using this method. How was this actually done? Rather than using blueprints, carpenters of old would have laid out the frame on the ground and, using an axe or adze, custom-cut each beam to fit together.<sup>2</sup> Then, in order to keep track of these unique fittings once at the job site, they would chisel or cut marks at the end of each piece of wood, usually some combination of Roman numerals and arcs. It was a system of notetaking to help the carpenter assemble an enormous (and very heavy!) puzzle.<sup>3</sup>

Since discovering those first inscriptions, we have found more in the attic and on floor joists. (Which, as an aside, are actually small trees complete with bark!) Some symbols are easy to read Roman numerals – V, VI, VII, for example





(5, 6, 7 respectively), while others are unfamiliar, such as a *P* whose tail spans beyond the top. We plan to leave some of these beams exposed. While we have yet to determine who exactly built our house, I like to think of these carvings as each carpenter's signature. The marks they left behind are reminders that the distant past is never really so far away. History is always speaking to us, and, if we are lucky enough to play steward to an old house, through us.

<sup>1</sup> James L. Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England* (2001).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Jack Sobon and Roger Schroeder, *Timber Frame Construction* (1984).

## Contest #1389

by Mike Haley

Text or email me and tell me in one or two sentences what this photo is all about. I'll announce the winner of six delicious Pekarski's breakfast sausages in next month's *Conway Currents*. Text 413-537-9149 or email [verybratty@aol.com](mailto:verybratty@aol.com). Deadline for entry is September 10.



## Apply Now for Cultural Council Grants

The Conway Cultural Council's 2024 Grant cycle opens on September 1 and closes on October 17, 2023. Grants are given to support a variety of cultural projects that will benefit the people of Conway. Programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences are projects that are considered, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, workshops, lectures, and programs in schools.

The Conway Cultural Council gives preference to applicants from Conway and/or programs that take place in Conway and also

considers the number of residents served. Typical grant amounts range from \$150 to \$500. For more information about the Conway Cultural Council's priorities and how to apply for a Cultural Council Grant, please visit [massculturalcouncil.org/Conway](http://massculturalcouncil.org/Conway).

The Conway Cultural Council is made up of volunteers who are appointed by the selectboard. If you are interested in serving on the council or if you have questions about the grant process, please email [conwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:conwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com). The mission of the Mass Cultural Council is to promote excellence, education, diversity, and inclusion in the arts, humanities, and sciences in order to foster a rich cultural life for all Massachusetts residents.



*June Morning, Conway*; Hannah Harvester, 2023; Pastel on gessoed paper, 9" x 13". Gift of the artist to the Field Memorial Library.

## Field Memorial Library Update

August is vacation time in New England, but the Friends of the Library have been busy planning their next book sale and a September 16 concert by talented Conway duo Katie Clarke and Larry Leblanc. Please check our website for scheduling

details. The library is open, and the shelves are stocked for your end-of-summer reading.

Our yearly annual report shows dramatic increases in circulation. We hope to have a brief summary next month. See you in September!

David Whittier, Director, Field Memorial Library  
[director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org](mailto:director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org)  
[fieldmemoriallibrary.org](http://fieldmemoriallibrary.org) 413-368-4646

**FML Fall Book Sale** The Friends of the Field Memorial Library annual Fall Book Sale will be held on Saturday, September 30, and Sunday, October 1, at the Field Memorial Library from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The sale coincides with Conway's Festival of the Hills on Sunday. There will be a large selection of books and puzzles. Proceeds benefit the library's educational and cultural programs.

We are now accepting donations of books, and we especially welcome children's books, books on local history, puzzles, and recent books of all genres. Donations – in good condition, please – can be brought to the library during open hours: Monday 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00 to 7:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Check the library website, [fieldmemoriallibrary.org](http://fieldmemoriallibrary.org), for more information.

**Thank You** The Friends of the Field Memorial Library give thanks for all the friends and neighbors who donated more than \$3,000 to our second annual appeal on the occasion of the library's 122nd anniversary and the Friends' 10th anniversary. Thank you all for your support. We promise to use the funds to make the library a wonderful place and resource for our town. For information or to make additional donations, go to [fieldmemoriallibrary.org](http://fieldmemoriallibrary.org) or send to Friends of the Field Memorial Library, PO Box 189, Conway, MA 01341. Again, thank you!

## Conway Council on Aging

Council on Aging meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in Town Hall. The next meeting will be September 6. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email [patricialynch@earthlink.net](mailto:patricialynch@earthlink.net).

### Senior Calendar for September

**Durable Medical Equipment Loans** The COA has items of durable medical equipment available for loan, including wheelchairs, transfer chairs, walkers, crutches, canes, tub and shower chairs, commodes, and raised toilet seats. Call Hank Horstmann at 369-4405 to borrow equipment **NOTE:** Please, when loaned equipment is no longer needed, call Hank to return it.

**"First Friday" Walk-in Wellness Clinics** Clinics are held on the first Friday of the month in Conway Town Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Regional public health nurses Lisa White, RN, and Meg Ryan, RN, staff the clinic. There are no out-of-pocket costs to residents for this service, which is provided through the town's membership in FRCOG Cooperative Public Health Service. For more information, call 413-774-3167 x 156 (Lisa) or x 158 (Meg).

**Healthy Bones & Balance Classes** Classes meet on Tuesday from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. and Friday from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. Contact leader Gary Fentin at 369-0001 for information and the Zoom link.

**Mah Jongg** A Mah Jongg group meets at Town Hall at 10:00 a.m. every Wednesday. This group plays the Wright-Patterson style of Mah Jongg, which was created by the Officer's Wives Club at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the early 1920s. For more information, contact Phylis Dacey at 369-4326

**Monthly Foot Care** Foot clinics are usually held on the first Monday of the month in Town Hall **BY APPOINTMENT**



**ONLY.** Because of the Labor Day holiday, the next clinic will be on September 11. Clinic hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

**Senior Meals** In most months meals are held at Town Hall on the second and last Thursdays of the month. Meals may be eaten in or picked up at noon. For more information or to be added to our email or phone list for announcements, call Carolyn Thayer at 369-6948.

**Walking Group** The walking group has been enjoying the group's conversation and companionship while indulging in healthful exercise. Join the group on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. in front of the library, weather permitting. For more information, contact Phylis Dacey at 369-4326.

**Yoga for Seniors** Led by Jody Fontaine on Wednesdays in person at the library and on Zoom. Class times: mat yoga 10:00-11:00 a.m., chair yoga 11:15 a.m.-12:00 noon. Call Jody at 413-824-9435 for information or for the Zoom link.

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## Currents Advertisements & Notices

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Rates for ads up to 150 words are: one month \$8.50, three months \$16.50; six months \$26.50, twelve months \$45.50. For cost of longer ads or to include images (limited), call or email Louise at 413-559-1180 or [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com).

Pay by checking account or credit card through the town's website <https://conwayma.gov/> > How do I . . . ? > Pay for > Newsletter Advertising; or send a check to **Conway Currents, PO Box 240, Conway, MA 01341**. Please send the text of your advertisement to Louise by email at [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com). **Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.** If you want to discuss your ad or have any questions, please call or email [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com).

**The Conway Inn** - Open for pizza, chicken wings, and breadsticks, Friday and Saturday, 4 - 10 p.m.; Sunday 5 - 8 p.m. Call 413-369-4428 for takeout. Live music jams, second Friday 7 p.m.-ish, and third Thursday - starts around 6 p.m. - of each month! Look for the blue flag on the porch.



**Baker's Country Store** - open seven days a week for all-day take-out breakfast and lunch: Monday-Friday 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Find a variety of homemade desserts and baked goods – freshly baked cakes, muffins, pies, and cookies



– and a large selection of last-minute items. We have flavored iced and hot coffee, fruit smoothies, gluten-free bread and bagels, and ice cream cones!

Check us out on Facebook: [facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store](https://facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store) for today's specials.

**Natural Roots Farm** - We are a horse-powered CSA farm located along the South River right here in Conway. Enjoy this beautiful, bountiful farm and the vibrant community that we feed. Our farm store is open to the public year-round, self-serve during daylight hours. We offer eggs from our own pastured hens as well as other local items including beef, chicken, pork, dairy, baked goods, honey, maple products, coffee, tea, ice cream, snacks, beverages and more! Details on our website: [www.naturalroots.com](http://www.naturalroots.com). Natural Roots, 888 Shelburne Falls Rd., Conway, MA 01341, 413-369-4269, [farmers@naturalroots.com](mailto:farmers@naturalroots.com).

**Jan and John Maggs** - specializing in 17<sup>th</sup>-century English oak furniture, Queen Anne and Georgian jewelry, paintings, carpets, and small accessories. Our next online antiques show will be the Fall Fox Valley Antiques Show on




October 21 & 22. You'll find more details on our website as the dates approach. We're open these days by chance or appointment. You can visit our shop online at [www.jmaggs.com](http://www.jmaggs.com), or stop in when you see the blue doors on the front of the barn. Alternately, arrange an in-person visit by calling us at 369-4256 or emailing [jmaggs@jmaggs.com](mailto:jmaggs@jmaggs.com).

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**Wilder Hill Gardens** - Open weekends 8-5, other times by chance or appointment. Buy healthy plants directly from the grower.

Hardy perennial flowers, native and flowering shrubs, trees, annuals and herb plants, all grown without pesticides/herbicides.

Consultations, expert pruning and tutorials, landscape design and installation. **Landscape Design Workshop:** September 16, 9 a.m.

 - 4 p.m. Learn simple and accessible landscape design drafting techniques developed by Lilian Jackman, amid the gorgeous gardens and plant collection of Wilder Hill Gardens in this

intensive one-day workshop. \$160 All materials provided including handouts and templates to take home. Lilian Jackman, 351 South Shirkshire Road, Conway, MA. 413-625-9446.

[wilderhillgardens.com](http://wilderhillgardens.com). Email [lilianjackman@gmail.com](mailto:lilianjackman@gmail.com)

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**September** - is a great time to gather all the essential tools you'll need for your fall harvest. Picking bags and buckets, fruit pickers and sizers, sheers, snips, and stem clippers: We have it all! September also means cider season is right around the corner so it's time to stock up on cider making supplies, too; like our 5-gallon glass carboys, food-grade hose and 55-gallon used whiskey barrels. Be sure to pick up *The New Cider Maker's Handbook* or *The Big Book of Cidermaking* while you're here! If you need help clearing up any low hanging or damaged limbs from summer storms, we carry a variety of saws and pole saws to help. We have great resources right at your fingertips so stop by and talk with Gemma, Rebecca or Tim. Shop where the pros shop and thanks for buying locally! OESCO, Inc. (Orchard) M-F: 7-5; 369-4335.

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**Debra Hoyle Studio and Gallery** - 46 Main Street. Stop by to enjoy some refreshments and get a flavor of creative Conway! Deb exhibits collage paintings at the annual Festival art exhibit in the Field Memorial Library. Many talented Conway artists come together here to show beautiful art and craft items they've been creating this year. Thanks to all who showed interest and support for the August Natural Roots flood relief fund raiser at the studio. The store at Natural Roots farm is open to members and non

members each day, offering all sorts of delicious essentials and goodies. Shopping there helps support the farm. The studio is open by appointment or just pop in when you see the 'OPEN' sign.

Accessible, browsers welcome! 413-325-5579 or

[instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors](https://www.instagram.com/debhoyle.art.rockpaperscissors)

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**Hannah Harvester** - offers original pastel paintings of Conway landscapes, woodblock prints, and more at her Delabarre Avenue studio and at [hannahharvester.com](http://hannahharvester.com). Landscape and portrait commissions are available. [hannahharvesterfineart@gmail.com](mailto:hannahharvesterfineart@gmail.com) to set up a time to view work in person or discuss your commission. Private and small group instruction in drawing, printmaking and painting available.

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**Tea at Two Gift Shop** - 85 Whately Road, Conway. Handcrafted goods - jewelry, pottery, woodenware, baby items and more. See RADA cutlery and the line of Stream2Sea products: sunscreen, body and bath essentials - all ecologically friendly. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons or by appointment. Call 413-834-2339.

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**Home organizing** - room design, and small repairs. I'd love to help you maximize your space, stage for sale, spruce up for an event, or transition to life's next chapter. I'll see you through with efficiency, ease and the "heart of a midwife." Jiyanna Vagedes, Home Consultations, [jiyannarose@gmail.com](mailto:jiyannarose@gmail.com), 413-387-8934

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**Looking to sell or buy a home?** - Conway native Laura (Kuzdeba) Dziura is here to help you navigate today's real estate market, while providing exceptional support along the way. Buying and selling throughout the Pioneer Valley - contact Laura today: [laurad@delaprealstate.com](mailto:laurad@delaprealstate.com) or 413-695-3743.

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**Need Live Music?** - Katie Clarke and Larry LeBlanc are your Conway connection for old-time country, bluegrass, folk, Irish and original tunes. Private events, weddings, house parties, memorials, etc - we've got you covered. We've got guitars, mandolins, banjos, vocal gymnastics, even accordions! We can customize material to suit your needs. [kclarkewaddell@gmail.com](mailto:kclarkewaddell@gmail.com) / 413-695-7193.

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**House Above The Hollow** - Need accommodations for visiting family or friends? House Above The Hollow is a charming one-bedroom apartment in a lovely Greek Revival home overlooking the historic Pumpkin Hollow. For more info visit [airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com) House Above The Hollow.

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**Pottery Class** - Adult wheel throwing class offered locally at the studio of Hart Pottery, Tuesday mornings from 10:00 - 12:30 for 6 weeks beginning September 19<sup>th</sup>. A class of three with a lot of individual attention! All levels welcomed and all material and firings included. For more information and to register, contact Megan Hart at [hartpottery@gmail.com](mailto:hartpottery@gmail.com).

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**Viola and violin lessons at Conway Fine Arts** - Openings available for individual and group viola and violin lessons at Conway Fine Arts' new location at 86 Main Street. Teaching children and adults of all levels. Study music with Geoffrey Archambeau, a professional classical violist and violinist with decades of experience performing and teaching. Improve how you play, listen, and hear music. Contact Geoffrey by email at [conwayfinearts@gmail.com](mailto:conwayfinearts@gmail.com) or 215-760-0729.

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*Disclaimer:* The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we cannot be responsible for errors or accuracy of materials submitted. *Conway Currents* does not endorse any specific product or service mentioned in its pages and is not responsible for the reliability of any service.

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**The deadline** for articles and ads in the newsletter is the 15th of the preceding month. Send content, comments and suggestions by email to Kathy Llamas at [newsletter@conwayma.gov](mailto:newsletter@conwayma.gov). Send your advertising requests to Louise at [lmbeckett@crocker.com](mailto:lmbeckett@crocker.com). Thank you!



## Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

*"Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard / Are sweeter"*  
– John Keats "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

### After the Flood

While the river flows down a familiar path,  
Its banks have shifted and changed,  
As though a giant's hand had cast  
Sand and trees and boulders  
Like so many sticks and pebbles along the shore.  
The ones unchanged then feel so much heavier –  
Stones like icebergs with roots reaching for inky depths.

The water is gentle now  
Rippling softly in the unclouded blaze of summer.  
Underwater, the sand glistens with untouched mica  
Over tiny dunes assembled in intricate patterns like lace.  
The air hangs still about the breath.  
The mica glows in the sun – untouched.  
Time eclipses in this Precambrian glimpse of the world.

The air is still.  
The birds have not yet returned.  
No deer prints lead to the water's edge for a drink.  
The mica is undisturbed by flickering minnows  
Or the tiny feet of crustaceans and insect larvae.  
Turning over rocks, there is no familiar flash  
Of a crayfish flipping his tail to safety.  
Where have they all gone?

Life is slow in returning.  
The next day there is a sole blacknose dace,  
And the next there are more and above the birds converse.  
There is a stonefly's exoskeleton stuck to a rock,  
And finally paw prints along the bank.  
Life slowly returns.

## From the Files of the Conway Historical Society



The late Percy Culver Jr. drives a team and sled through the Burkeville Covered Bridge in the late 1970s. Culver and his wife, the late Marilyn Culver, then owned the white farmhouse at 10 Manning Road, seen across the South River, the long-time Hassell farm now owned by the Sorvino family. The covered bridge, built around 1870, was closed for safety reasons by order of the state in 1985, accepted for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. But townspeople wouldn't accept permanent closure of the historic bridge, and after almost two decades of local effort to facilitate and fund needed repairs, it was renovated and strengthened by state contract in 2005, and finally reopened to vehicular traffic in 2003. Image courtesy of the Culver family via the Conway Historical Commission.

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