



Volume 2, Number 8 - August 2021

Notes from the Town Administrator

In May the Town of Conway submitted a Mosquito Opt-Out Plan application to the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and in July the town's plan was approved by the EEA. This means that Conway will not be part of any statewide aerial spraying for mosquito control. A major part of the plan calls for providing information on methods for controlling mosquitoes, and you will find some of this information included in this newsletter. Given all the wet weather we have had in July, it is especially important now to prevent mosquito populations, so please do spend a few minutes looking around your properties to spot areas where standing water can breed mosquitoes. I personally have turned over my birdbath, both because of the potential for mosquitoes and also because of the mysterious disease that is killing songbirds in states just south of us and that MassWildlife fears may spread north.

Eight Conway residents have recently had their wells tested for PFAS (short for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances), and no PFAS has been detected in any well in Conway to date. This program is still open for free testing of private wells in Conway, and if you are interested in signing up please visit <https://dwp-pfas.madwpdep.org/> or call 413-545-PFAS.

I am currently meeting with department heads and board and committee chairs to introduce myself and become better acquainted with town employees and town procedures. I am very impressed by the talent and commitment of both our volunteers and our employees. If you are interested in joining a committee or board, I

urge you to visit the website at www.townofconway.com and scroll down to Employment/Volunteer to see which boards and committees have openings.

Have a happy and healthy August!

Véronique Blanchard

Conway Council on Aging

The COA receives a grant from the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs and an appropriation from the town. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in Town Hall. There will be no August meeting. Next meeting will be in September. For more information, contact Patricia Ann Lynch, COA chair, at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Senior Calendar for August

Healthy Bones & Balance Classes These free classes, sponsored by RSVP, offer a combination of upper body, lower body, core, and balance exercises. Classes will continue to be held on Zoom on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Contact leader Gary Fentin at 369-0001 for the Zoom link.

Monthly Foot Care Foot clinics are usually held on the first Monday of the month in Town Hall by appointment only. The next clinic will be on August 2 with appointments starting at 9:00 a.m. There is a \$20.00 fee. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Peg Tiley at 369-4010.

Senior Lunches Grab-and-Go meals will not be offered in August. Instead there will be a meal prepared by seniors and an ice cream social. For more information and the dates of these, call Carolyn Thayer at 369-6948.

Walking Group The walking group is enjoying walks around Conway for companionship, conversation, and exercise. The group gathers at 9:30 a.m. in front of the library every Monday, weather permitting. For more information, contact Phylis Dacey at 369-4326.

Yoga for Seniors Led by Jody Fontaine Wednesdays on Zoom. Class times: mat yoga, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; chair yoga, 11:15 a.m. – noon. Call Jody at 413-824-9435 for the Zoom links. Outdoor "pop-up" classes will be held during the summer, weather permitting. In-person classes are expected to resume soon at the library. Call Jody for information.

Senior Services

Durable Medical Equipment Loans The COA has items of durable medical equipment available for loan, including wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, tub and shower chairs, commodes, and raised toilet seats. Call Hank Horstmann at 369-4405 to borrow equipment. Owing to lack of storage space, we are currently unable to accept donations of equipment.

Home-Delivered Meals Meals on Wheels are provided by LifePath for Conway seniors seven days a week. Call LifePath at 773-5555 for further information and registration.

Transportation for Medical Appointments and Shopping The Shelburne Falls Senior Center provides curb-to-curb van transportation within Franklin County for seniors 60 and over, for medical appointments and grocery shopping. Call the center at 625-2502 to make an appointment at least 48 hours in advance or for information about reservations and fees. A short application with a copy of a photo ID is needed to be pre-approved for ridership. Fares range from \$.75 to \$2.25 each way. For rides to out-of-county medical appointments, call the FRTA at 774-2262 x 163 for information and reservations.

“First Friday” Wellness Clinics Resume

Monthly Walk-in Wellness Clinics are resuming August 6 and each “First Friday” of the month in the 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 Franklin Regional Council of Governments Cooperative Public Health Service.

- Blood pressure screening, weight, pulse oximetry
- Help connecting to needed health and social services
- Sharps collection/box exchange
- Mosquito and tick bite prevention/testing information
- Help accessing COVID testing and vaccine
- Flu vaccine (available beginning late September; check the FRCOG website (frcog.org) or call for dates)

For more information, call 413-665-1400 x 114.

Thank You to the Sportsman's Club

The Conway Council on Aging, on behalf of Conway seniors, extends a grateful thank you to the members of the Conway Sportsman's Club who hosted a luncheon for us on July 22. A beautiful, sunny day on the club porch, a delicious meal, our welcoming and cheerful hosts, and – after so long a period of anxiety and isolation – the joy of time spent with others combined to make this a special day for all who attended. A heartfelt thank you for the gift of this day!

Celebration of Life/Memorial

A celebration of life for Ann Hawkes, who passed away on May 31, 2021, will be held on Saturday, August 21, 2021.

Location: Conway Sportsmen's Club
245 Elmer Road (off Newhall Road), Conway, MA
Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Conway Firemen's Auxiliary Annual Turkey Dinner

The annual turkey dinner will be held on September 25th at the Conway Grammar School. There will be two seatings, one at 5:00 p.m. and another at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for adults are \$15.00 and for kids, \$8.00. Takeouts will be available! Call for reservations: 413-369-4936 or 413-369-4087.

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
P.O. Box 46
Conway, MA 01341

Thank you!

Festival of the Hills Fundraiser: Results of the Un-Tag Sale

Given that the Festival of the Hills needed to be canceled for the second year in a row, the festival committee chose to run a new fundraiser called "The Un-Tag Sale," which was held on Saturday, May 22. We are happy to share with you the positive results.

We had 21 different locations throughout town, at which very generous neighbors donated their items and their time. There were no price tags, so customers set their own prices. Most sites were in the center of town, but there were others down our beautiful country roads, such as Main Poland, Roaring Brook, and South Shirkshire Roads. Many were multifamily sites.

Our final proceeds were stunning! We made \$4,987.25 and generated another \$1,036 from donations. Wow! The committee learned valuable lessons on how to improve things for next time (such as providing a better map and setting minimum prices for more valuable items), but feedback told us that there were many smiles, jolly conversations, and much generosity.

Thanks to so many of you!

Pixie Holbrook, Festival of the Hills Committee

Update from the Field Memorial Library

After being closed due to pandemic safety concerns for 15 months, The Field Memorial Library is now open again! We are so happy to welcome you back to our special Conway landmark. It also has been a pleasure to welcome many newcomers to the library. Your excitement at becoming a part of the town through the library is contagious – in a good way!

As part of our grant sponsored *Perspectives on the Pandemic* community engagement project, we have scheduled a zoom-based conversation for Tuesday September 14 at 6:30 PM. Our aim is to facilitate a conversation that helps people gain perspective on their pandemic experience through sharing and comparing their experiences. Comparing our experiences to the fictional pandemic in the novel *Station Eleven* and other fiction and non-fiction resources about pandemics in the past enlarges our options for gaining perspective.

In our conversation, we look to sharing and reflection on the disruptions, losses, and heartache caused by the pandemic, as well as the silver linings many have experienced. More time at home for long neglected activities, the heroics of our health care workers and scientists, the ingenuity of our delivery services, and our robust communications systems are often cited with gratitude. We look to you to fill out these ideas with what happened to you. This will provide a method to ease, through sharing, the stress and grief that our real-world pandemic created as well as to recognize the things for which we are grateful that have allowed us to cope and survive.

The conversations about and cataloging of gains and losses will be followed by a more joyful forum in the form of an afternoon concert at the library on Saturday October 2nd. Katie Clark and Larry LeBlanc have accepted the challenge to lead us in using music to further the healing goals of the project and bring us together. We plan this will be a hybrid in-person and Zoom event so all can join and still be socially distanced.

During normal business hours, face coverings are required although vaccinated people may request to remove their masks if there are no unvaccinated people in the library. Children between 2 and 12 must wear a face covering. Staff are fully vaccinated. Patrons may walk in during open hours or schedule an appointment for a browse time, by emailing the director or calling during open hours.

Our open hours are Monday 3-6; Wednesday 2-7; Saturday 10-2.

FML's "Steps-Side" system of picking up of materials and returning to our outside book drop continues for now. Patrons may schedule a pickup by emailing the director or calling during open hours. Our patron computer is available for use and is connected for printing. You may use it by appointment or by walk in if not scheduled.

The Friends of the Library are seeking new members. If you are interested in supporting the library, please contact Co-President Linda McDaniel at lindamcdaniel2@verizon.net.

Our website at <https://fieldmemoriallibrary.org> posts news, events, and other resources.

David Whittier
Director, Field Memorial Library
director@fieldmemoriallibrary.org
Phone: 413-369-4646

Distinguished Conway Residents: Hugh Borton and Tony Borton

Hugh Borton (May 14, 1903 – August 6, 1995) was a historian and academic whose special interest in Japan and its emergence as a modern, industrialized nation led to a position with the U.S. Department of State from 1942 to 1948 as head of its Japanese affairs division, where he became one of the principal architects of U.S. postwar policies toward Japan. For the role he played in the government's focus not on punishing Japan but on reforming it, the emperor of Japan bestowed on him the highest award the country could confer on a non-Japanese: a medal designating him as an "Ancient National Treasure."

Born into a traditional Quaker family in Moorestown, New Jersey, Dr. Borton resolved with his wife, Elizabeth (Wilbur), to live according to Quaker principles. Joining the American Friends Service Committee, they worked as teachers, first in Tennessee and then in Japan as part of the committee's efforts to enhance world peace by increasing Americans' understanding of other nations. Their years in Japan began Borton's immersion into Japanese history.

Educated at Haverford College, Columbia University, and Harvard, he was awarded a Ph.D. in Japanese history from Leiden University in the Netherlands following several years of study at Tokyo Imperial University. In 1937 he joined the faculty at Columbia, teaching Japanese history and language. World War II interrupted his academic career. As a Quaker pacifist he refused a commission in the army but agreed to a civilian appointment with the U.S Department of War to teach Japanese language, history, and culture to officers in training at the Army War College, following which he joined the state department's efforts to prepare for peace. He returned to Columbia's faculty in 1948, where he played a central role in establishing the university's East Asian Institute, which he later served as director. Among his published works during this time was *Japan's Modern Century*, a widely used text. Dr. Borton left Columbia in 1957 to take on the role of president of his alma mater, Haverford College.

In 1972 Dr. Borton retired from Haverford and with his wife and daughter, Nancy Carter Borton, moved into a home he had built in Conway "just up the road" from his son Tony Borton's farm. According to Tony, his father "enjoyed his final retirement in the country," tending a large vegetable garden that "provided both families with an abundance of fresh vegetables, berries, and fruits." (Source: "Trip to Japan," by Tony Borton, 2020.) With his son, Dr. Borton regularly hiked and rode horseback along local trails. His book about his life experiences, *Spanning Japan's Modern Century: The Memoirs of Hugh Borton*, was published in 2002. Dr. Borton died on his Conway farm at the age of 92.

Anthony (Tony) Borton (June 6, 1933 – June 6, 2021), educator, horseman, and conservationist, was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Following in his father's academic footsteps, Tony attended Haverford College and went on to earn a master's and a Ph.D. degree in animal husbandry from Michigan State University. He joined the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at Education Farm in Hadley. In time, he became the director of UMass's Morgan breeding program. In addition to teaching, Tony



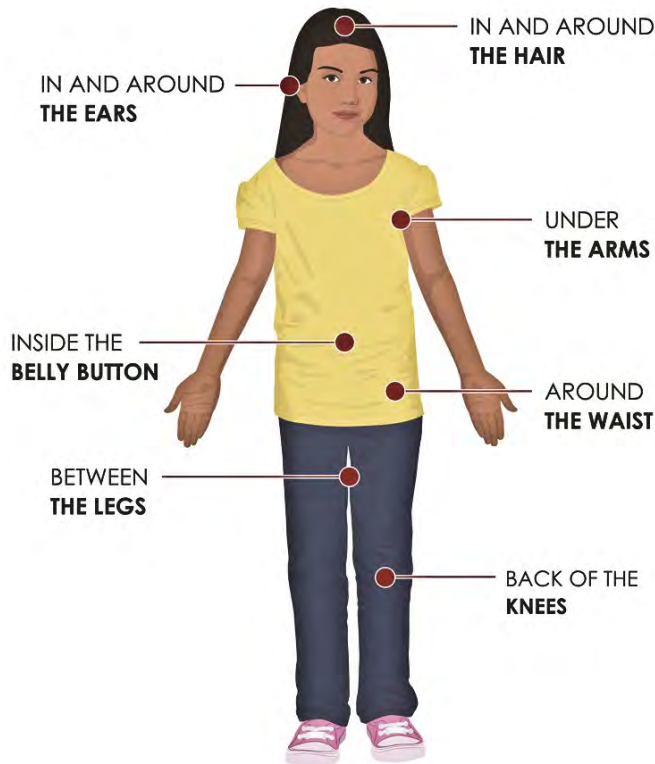
UMass-Amherst in 1964. With a colleague, he worked to expand the Equine Studies Program at UMass and to establish the UMass Equine and Livestock Research and judged horse shows throughout New England and beyond and was a co-author of *The Horse*, a textbook for animal science and equine studies students. Following his retirement in 1995, UMass established the Anthony Borton Equine Studies Scholarship in his honor.

Borton loved Taman Farm, the 114-acre former dairy farm he and his wife, Ann (Hutton), purchased in Conway in 1964, as a place to raise Arabian horses. The Bortons actively managed their land as a wildlife habitat, and they were determined to secure it – with its winding streams, pond, and woods – as a haven for the wildlife it was home to: deer, moose, black bears, beavers, other mammals, and an array of birds. In 2006 the Bortons began the process of donating a conservation restriction on 106 of the farm's acreage to the Franklin Land Trust to be held by the Conway Conservation Commission. The *Greenfield Recorder* referred to him as "a role model for budding land conservation activists." These words express Borton's view toward land ownership: "We don't really own the land. We just have stewardship of it while we're here."

By including Conway's Conservation Commission as a holder of the conservation restriction, Borton hoped that town residents would feel a sense of ownership in the project and that it would foster a conservation ethic in the town. His involvement in the Conway community's affairs included a term as president of the Historical Society. The Conway Swimming Pool Committee wrote in *Conway Currents*, ". . . the committee will sadly miss Tony Borton, a valuable member of the pool committee and swimming community." Tony died on his 88th birthday.

Mosquito and Tick Bite Prevention

We're at the height of summer, which means we're also at the height of mosquito and tick season. Ticks and mosquitoes are more than a nuisance; they can carry diseases, such as Lyme disease and anaplasmosis (in the case of ticks) and West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (in the case of mosquitoes). Luckily, there are many things you can do to avoid tick and mosquito bites and stay healthy.



Prevention measures that work against both ticks and mosquitoes:

- Wearing long pants and long sleeves provides the best protection.
- Light-colored clothing is less attractive to mosquitoes and makes ticks easier to spot before they attach to skin.
- Spray yourself and your children with EPA-registered insect

repellents, such as those containing DEET. DEET has been in use for more than 40 years and has a strong safety record. Look for the EPA registration number and follow directions on the product label.

- Treat clothes you like to wear outdoors with Permethrin or buy pretreated clothing. Permethrin repels or kills mosquitoes and ticks, and it is odorless and nontoxic to humans once it dries. Again, be sure you read and follow directions on the label.

Prevention measures for ticks:

- Know your ticks. This time of year, the ticks to look out for are the nymphs (the smaller, immature form) of the black-legged tick, also known as the deer tick. Only black-legged ticks carry Lyme, and the nymphs are tiny: about the size of a poppy seed. By fall, black-legged ticks grow to about the size of a sesame seed. Dog ticks, which are about the size of a small watermelon seed, are also common in our area, but they are less likely to carry disease. Want help identifying a tick? The free Tick Spotters service through the University of Rhode Island offers tick identification. Send in a photo of a tick, and they will respond in about 24 hours.
- Know where ticks hang out. Ticks especially like tall grasses, the edges of woods, and wooded areas. Shady yards can also be tick habitat. Consistently sunny spots with short grass, like a recently mowed lawn or park area, are less likely to have ticks.
- When you come indoors, do a head-to-toe tick check for yourself and your kids, including in and around ears, head and neck, under arms, around the waist, between the legs, at the backs of knees, and don't forget the belly button. It takes at least 24 hours after a tick is attached for it to transmit Lyme and most other diseases, so a daily tick check is a great preventive measure.
- Put clothes, blankets, and towels that you brought outdoors with you in the dryer on high heat for at least ten minutes to

kill any ticks that might have hitched a ride.

- If you find a tick attached, use fine-pointed tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the head as possible and pull it straight out. Wipe the area with alcohol or wash with soap and water.

Prevention measures for mosquitoes:

- If you go outdoors between dusk and dawn, be sure you are well protected, as this is when the mosquitoes that carry diseases are most likely to be out in search of a meal. Use screens on windows and doors. Repair holes in screens to keep mosquitoes outdoors.
- Mosquitoes breed in standing water, so once a week empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers.
- Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, cisterns, rain barrels) and, for containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

For links to a variety of sources of information on tick and mosquito bite prevention, go to the town website, townofconway.com.

A Look into Conway History When the South River Rises . . .

On August 28, 2011, Tropical Storm Irene blew into western Massachusetts with ferocious wind gusts and six to eight inches an hour of pounding rain. Losing strength as it barreled up the coast after making landfall in North Carolina as a Category 1 hurricane, Irene still packed enough power to snap power lines, uproot trees, and threaten dams. Conway holds the record for the region's highest observed amount of rainfall: 9.92 inches (National Weather Service). Ashfield's total was next highest at 9.75. The threat that Ashfield dam might fail led to evacuation orders for homes along the South River. Although the dam held, the rising waters of the river flooded Conway center.

This was not the first time the South River – which had powered Conway mills throughout the town's history and was crucial to its economy – brought destruction. What *History of Conway 1767-1917* calls "the great freshet of 1869" caused far more damage to the town than Irene. Rain had begun on October 4 and "poured in torrents for forty-eight hours." The earthen wings of the granite dam constructed by the firm of Tucker & Cook to power its cotton mill gave way, and the water in the reservoir joined the swollen South River, "already a raging flood," sweeping away everything in its path.

The Burkeville covered bridge was the only bridge between Ashfield and the Deerfield River that remained after the water's fury subsided. Fourteen bridges were washed out, and many of the town's mills were seriously damaged. William Clapp's tannery – an important town industry was – totally destroyed, and the business never recovered. Main Street "was the center of a sizable lake."

The remains of the Tucker & Cook dam can still be seen. Just drive north from the town center on Route 116 and park at Eldridge Road.

Help Control Stiltgrass in Conway!

Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is a shade-tolerant annual grass that can dominate forest understories, severely displacing native herbaceous and woody species. The plant spreads by producing abundant seed that remains viable for seven to ten years. It is listed as an invasive species by Massachusetts.

After nearly a decade of control efforts we still have Japanese stiltgrass encroaching along Conway's roadsides. And not just roadsides: last year volunteers working to monitor this aggressive and persistent grass discovered it has gained a foothold on the banks of the lower stretches of the South River.

To volunteer to help pull stiltgrass along the riverbed, contact the

Conway Open Space Committee or leave a message at 369-4034. We'll be forming small work parties from mid-August to mid-September.

Project volunteers have only enough time to monitor infestations and work in ecologically sensitive areas. Landowners who have stiltgrass along their roadside frontage or elsewhere on their property should work to control its spread. For assistance identifying the plant or to arrange a consultation on how best to control it on your land, contact the Conway Open Space Committee or leave a message at 369-4034.

Learn more at <https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants/japanese-stilt-grass>.

Why Clean Gravestones?

Do you want to spruce up a family's or friend's cemetery monument? Biological growth and ambient soiling often obscure important features and are detrimental to longevity . . . and after monuments have been cleaned, they look better!

Monuments should never be cleaned or scrubbed with anything metallic or washed with something that will harm the stone or be toxic to the environment, such as Fantastic, Formula 409, Spic and Span, Clorox, or Calgon. That being said, a free tutorial will be held on **Wednesday, August 18, beginning at 6:00 p.m.** at the town hall. We will show you what you will need to make the monuments better and answer as many questions about cleaning them as we can. When this meeting is finished, we will set up a time (or times) that work best for everyone interested, and we'll "road trip" to Howland Cemetery and refurbish some monuments.

Jennifer Coliskey, Jody DeMateo

Garden Club Notes

Bee Balm: Beauty, Bees, Butterflies, and Birds

Common, or scarlet, bee balm (*Monarda didyma*) is a hardy perennial native to eastern North America whose crimson blossoms – which are highly attractive to bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds – can add a bright shot of color to your garden. Its close relatives, pink-blossomed wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) and lilac- or violet-colored purple bergamot (*Monarda media*), are equally attractive to the eye and to precious pollinators.



All three of these members of the mint family are edible and medicinal. Individual flower petals can be pulled out, dried, and used to make a soothing tea. (Steep 1tbs of dried petals in 1 cup of simmering water for 15 minutes.) Fresh petals can add color and flavor to a summer salad. Bee balm received its common name from its ability to ease the sting of bees and wasps when the petals are crushed and rubbed on the site. (The plant is a natural source of the antiseptic thymol.) Native Americans, including the Blackfoot, Menominee, Winnebago (Ho-Chunk), and Ojibwe discovered its antimicrobial properties and used poultices made from its blossoms to treat minor wounds and skin infections. As an herbal tea it is used to treat colds and the flu, and its antispasmodic properties can soothe digestive disorders.

Bee balm can be grown from seed in spring or fall, or young plants can be purchased. It does best planted in full sun in rich, well-drained soil. Bee balm is low maintenance and can tolerate drought but should be watered if leaves start to wilt. Powdery mildew can be a problem, so take air circulation into consideration when

planting. Bee balm will reseed and spread but not aggressively, and plants can be dug up and divided when necessary.

Planting bee balm, even in a small area, will both reward you with its beauty and fragrance and provide habitat and sustenance for the pollinators on which we depend.

Note: The Conway Garden Club is not meeting at present. For information contact Pat Lynch at 369-4284 or email patricialynch@earthlink.net.

Historical Society Museum Open Sundays

The Conway Historical Society Museum is open this summer on Sundays through August 29, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Escape the heat and take a detour through Conway's rich history. Several models of Conway's unique covered bridge are on display, along with selections from a beautifully preserved 19th-century herbarium and many other items that document Conway's mills, farms, and material life.

Meet Me at the Station

by Kathy Llamas

Since mid-July the "Conway Mall" has been getting ready to open its door once again for the residents of Conway to shop! After being closed for about eighteen months, it feels good to return to something that seems pre-pandemically normal. So many of you have stopped by and expressed great enthusiasm for its reopening!

Sunday, August 8, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Grand Reopening Celebration
Light Refreshments Will Be Served

This new column will give you updates on the mall and important information about things happening at the transfer station. You will

get to know the wonderful attendants who work there. You will find some educational information on recycling programs and events of interest.

Several people have offered to volunteer time to help out at the mall. If you would like to volunteer, please either stop by while at the transfer station or call me at 413-695-5626.

Fire Department Fund-Raising Raffle

Because of the pandemic over the last year, the Conway Fire Department has been unable to do our usual fundraising. The ham dinner that we have held in the past raised money to help us fund our association building and local charities. With that being said, we chose to do a raffle with a prize of a guided fly-fishing trip for two with Harrison Anglers. (Date to be determined with the guide.) Dan and Tom of Harrison Anglers are great river guides and know their stuff. Tickets cost \$10.00 and can be purchased either from a Fire Department member or at Baker's Country Store. The drawing is on September 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Thanks for all the support you've given us.

New Forests and Trails Committee

In 2019-2020 the town engaged experts in forestry management to help the community assess our vision and desires for two town-owned parcels of land: the Fournier Lot and the Town Farm Forest. The products of that contract are two very detailed Forest Stewardship Plans (which are available on the town website: townofconway.com/forest-stewardship-plan/). Both properties are embedded in larger open spaces that include state forest and private land. It became clear after surveying our community that our top priorities for these parcels were:

- To value the gifts of clean air, clean water, and carbon sequestration and to support the biodiversity that our forests provide.

- To enjoy the beauty of wildlife and nature, allowing only the natural forest processes to change over time, while also maintaining our access to the woodlands.

As such, the selectboard has approved a Forests and Trails Committee. We see our tasks as the following:

- To foster community, education, and connection with our woodlands.
- To prioritize and implement aspects of the proposed Forest Stewardship Plans to maintain and encourage the health of the town forests, including the trails.

The committee will be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month, with the next meeting on August 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. We are eager to have one more person join the committee. If you are interested, please contact Deb Donaldson (deb.donaldson@yahoo.com) or Marilyn Webster (marilyn@whimsyandtea.com).

Newsletter Committee Seeks New Member

The *Conway Currents* Newsletter Committee is seeking a fifth member to join us in our efforts to produce a monthly town newsletter that gives creative voice to residents; connects readers to local activities, programs, groups, and services; and provides a vehicle for the town administration to communicate information townwide. Required: residence in Conway, enthusiasm for our community, and a desire to volunteer your services. This is a selectboard appointment. If interested, please email a letter of interest to Kathy Llamas, Newsletter Committee Chair, at conwaycurrents@gmail.com.

Unheard Melodies

by Nicole Braden-Johnson

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

A Brimming Bowl of Basil

After the rains, the leaves have become full and toothsome.
 Fingers seek out the right spot between the green silk domes,
 Just above budding joints to snip a fragrant harvest.
 Even a large bowl fills quickly with the scent of sweet and minty zest,
 Of summer days, Tuscan wine, and cool penumbra,
 Of the hot sun, the Venetian nights, and fresh bruschetta.

Swift blades swirl the leaves with oil into a jade paste.
 A bit relished on the spot over golden pasta,
 And a bit stored away in the freezer's artificial winter
 As a bit of viridescent sunshine for a day much colder.



Volunteer Opportunities

Committees are always in need of volunteer members. The committees below especially need volunteers:

- Energy Committee: contact Peter Martin at plm314@hotmail.com
- Finance Committee: contact Jimmy Recore at jimmyrecore0318@gmail.com
- Board of Health: contact Virginia Knowlton at boardofhealth@townofconway.com
- Parks, Recreation & Trails Committee: contact parksandrec@townofconway.com
- Personnel Committee: contact Susan Fentin at susan@gsfentin.com
- Planning Board: contact Beth Girshman at planningboard@townofconway.com

Upcoming volunteer positions will be posted on the town website townofconway.com/employment-volunteer/

Currents Advertisements & Notices

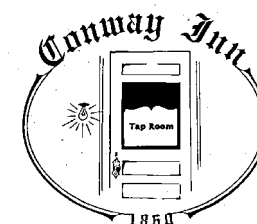
Rates for ads up to 150 words are: one month \$7.75, three months \$15.75; six months \$25.75, twelve months \$44.75. For cost of longer ads or to include images (limited), call or email Louise at 413-559-1180 or lmbeckett@crocker.com.

Advertisements can be paid for by checking account or credit card through the town's website: <https://townofconway.com/> > [View or Pay a Bill](#) > [Pay 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. If you want to discuss your ad or have

any questions, please call or email. Thank you for your support of *Conway Currents*!

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 to order for takeout. Dine in or outdoors as weather permits. Thanks again for the hometown spirit you've shown toward your local businesses!



Baker's Country Store - open seven days a week for all-day take-out breakfast and lunch. Hours: Monday-Friday 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Call 369-4936. We have local fruits and veggies, including fresh corn! Find a variety of homemade desserts and baked goods and a large selection of last-minute items. We always have freshly baked cakes, muffins, pies, and cookies - put in your order today for one of Helen's famous pies! Check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/Bakers-Country-Store for today's specials.

Join Natural Roots CSA - for delicious, fresh vegetables grown right here in Conway. We have several CSA share options, including part-time and low-income shares, main season (June through October) and winter shares. Our farm store is also open to the public year-round during daylight hours. We offer eggs from our own pastured hens as well as other local items like beef, chicken, pork, dairy, bread & backed goods, honey & maple products, coffee & tea, ice cream, snacks, beverages and more! Support a horse-powered farm in Conway and enjoy this beautiful, bountiful farm and the vibrant community that we feed.

www.naturalroots.com. Natural Roots, 888 Shelburne Falls Rd., Conway, MA 01341, (413) 369 - 4269, naturalroots@verizon.net

PCA Wanted - Looking for a personal care attendant in our Conway home. Openings available on Fridays and Saturdays, possibly Thursdays. \$15.75/hour. Flexible times and will train. Prefer medical/nursing background but not necessary. Contact: Henry at tsstreetcars@gmail.com or call Danielle 413-369-9975

Your Home Town Realtor - As a Conway resident for over 20 years, I provide local, attentive and trustworthy service for both buyers and sellers in our community. Previous experience as a licensed residential architect is valuable for my clients. Please contact me for a free, no obligation consultation! Sarah Newman, Realtor with Coldwell Banker Community Realtors. Call or text: 413-548-6525 or email sarah.newman@cbcommunityrealtors.com - Thank you!

Auto Detailing - Exterior/Interior services available. Call or text Matt at 413-262-2687 for details or to make an appointment. Pick-Up and Drop-Off service available in Conway, April - October weather permitting. Makes a great gift for someone who "has everything".

Transportation Services for Elders - Driving services for doctor appointments, shopping, supermarket visits are available at very reasonable rates. Over 6 years experience assisting community elders. Please call John at 413-369-6099 or email at johnpitz17@gmail.com.

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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