

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July 2005



Volume VIII, Issue VI

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PHINEHAS S. NEWTON LIBRARY, ROYALSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Summertime – and the living in Royalston is especially rich. This newsletter is jammed with local events: camps, plays, fairs, concerts, lessons, tournaments, hikes and public suppers. Many are free; the result of hard work from a few volunteers and generous contributors. All could enrich a time of year in our Town already lush with color, scents and song. Take advantage. As usual, summer will fly by, so make a point to get out and enjoy .

Calendar of Events

July 4 Monday **Independence Day**

July 6 Wednesday

8:02 a.m. **new Buck Moon**

11:30 a.m. **Royalston Luncheon Club** at Town Hall. Continues every Wednesday at 11:30.

7:30 p.m. **Royalston Fish & Game Club meeting**

July 7 Thursday

3:30 p.m. **Friends of Library meeting** at Phinehas Newton Library. Discuss Shakespeare, summer reading program, “yellow” and “pink pages”, fall programs and upcoming newsletters. All welcome. No Friends meeting in August.

July 8 Friday

7:00 p.m. **Royalston Shakespeare Company** workshop performance by local youth of *The Tempest* at Town Hall. A Friends of the Library Production.

July 9 Saturday

7:30 - 10:00 a.m. **Pancake breakfast** at Town Hall sponsored by Second Congregational Church

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Church**

Fair on the Common: Crafters, concessions, Attic wonders, raffles, children's activities, hay rides, live Country/Gospel music all day featuring the Mac Donald Family, Unity, Noel Veilleux and others.

4:00 p.m. **Chicken Barbecue** : BBQ tickets will be limited this year, please be sure to purchase yours early from a church member or call 978-249-9252 and reserve yours with Kelly Newton.

July 11 – 14

9:00 a.m.–noon **Scrapbook Camp** at the Royalston Community School for grades 3 – 6 led by RCS principal, Bobbie French. Create an ABC photo album on a topic of choice. Cost \$60. Call 978-249-2900 to register.

July 14 Thursday

7:30 p.m. **Open Space Comittee Meeting:** Public encouraged to attend to give input on methods to preserve undeveloped land in Town that has particular value as recreational land, wild-life habitat, agricultural use and scenic and historic sites.

July 17 Sunday

noon - 5 p.m. **Royalston Music Fest** at Bullock Park, Royalston Center behind the Post Office. (Rain venue: Royalston Town Hall.) Featured band is TRAILER PARK; Opening acts: Elizabeth Farnsworth & Rene Lake, Linq, The New Funky Door Boys and the Hendricks Family. Bring your own chairs & blankets. Free admission. Festival tee shirts and food will be on sale. Sponsored by The Royalston Cultural Council.

July 18 Monday

7:00 p.m. **Fire Dept EMS training** (Fire Dept meets every Monday at 7:00 for meetings, traing and work parties)

July 21 Thursday

7:00 a.m. **full Buck Moon**

July 27 Wednesday

11:30 a.m. Royalston Luncheon Club with **blood pressure clinic** and distribution of Brown Bag commodities, Town Hall

July 30 Saturday

Fire Department Benefit Golf Events: \$5.00 mini golf price and team golf tournament at 202 Driving Range (rain date Sunday, July 31). Contact Scott Newton at 978-844-0276 for more information or to sign up.

August 8-12

6:30-8:30 p.m. **Vacation Bible School** School: Students from Faith of Theology will be returning to lead the youth A seminar of the Prophecy of Daniel will be conducted for the adults.

August 11 Thursday

Perseid Meteor Shower – This is one of the best of the year, and occurs after midnight tonight through the predawn hours of Saturday. Look to the northeast sky for remnants of the Swift-Tuttle Comet, which should send on the order of 75 shoot stars per hour across the sky.

August 19 Friday

1:53 p.m. **Full Sturgeon Moon**

August 20 Saturday

7:00 p.m. **Gospel Music Concert** with Shiloh at First Congregational Church. Free.

August 27

Saturday

1:00 p.m. - ?

Terrapin Music Fest at the Royalston Fish and Game.

Questions call Terrapin Traders at 978-632-4893. All local music.

August 30

Tuesday

First Day of classes Monty Tech

August 31

Wednesday

First day of classes for ARRSD

4:30 p.m.

Ladies Benevolent Society Family Swim and

Potluck Supper at Packard Heights. (Swim at 4:00 eat at 6:00ish)

Call 249-0358 for directions.

What Happened at the Town Meeting?

About 50 voters attended the Reconvened Annual and Special Town Meeting on June 24. Many seemed to be motivated to come out due to the proposed zoning changes, which had been tabled at the Annual Town Meeting. A two-thirds majority vote was required to "un-table" these zoning articles, and it was not achieved on any except for the two articles correcting typographical errors. This inaction was after a public hearing to discuss the zoning changes and after quite a bit of work preparing documents explaining the changes, so the group that proposed the changes, including the Building Inspector, was justifiably a bit frustrated. Comments from the floor indicated that some voters would like to see these zoning changes incorporated into a different set of proposals backed by a consensus of this group, the Planning Board and the Zoning By-law Committee. The emergency rescue vehicle articles were approved. The Town unanimously accepted the \$77,000 raised by the Royalston Fire and EMS Association and a further \$50,000 of Town funds will be raised and appropriated to purchase the vehicle. However, voters did not approve an increase in the Town Administrator's hours from 19 to 24 hours per week. This seemed to be mainly because an increase over 19 hours would require the Town to offer health benefits, which would increase the hourly cost of this position quite significantly. Discussion acknowledged that the work load is indeed heavy and that Town employees deserve benefits. The Selectmen's office will need to find a creative solution to these issues, such as hiring someone else to help part time for 5 hours/week or finding work enough for a 30-40 hour week position, which would have the same health benefit cost as 24 hours. In addition, \$30,760 to operate the sewer system (much of which is generated from user fees) was raised and appropriated. The Finance Committee recommended some clean up of the Town budget for the fiscal year. The Assessors' office got an extra \$1000 to purchase a new computer and software. Expenditures for Town budgets in FY2006 were approved totaling \$1,229,796.

At the Selectmen's Office

Used Computers and Monitors Available; the computers have no operating system nor any other software. Equipment can be viewed at the Selectmen's Office 9- noon. Priority given to Town Offices. If no Town Boards express an interest by July 15th, the computers will be given to citizens on a first come; first served basis. Both Town Offices and residents should call the Town Administrative Assistant, Helen Divoll at 978-249-9641 to express an interest ASAP.

The interview process has begun for the Town Clerk opening. Also, an application and cover letter are due July 1 (the day the newsletter comes out!) at noon for the 10 hours per week @ \$8.50/hr. Town Custodian position opening. Call the administrative assistant for info.

Fire and EMS News

CALLING ALL GOLFERS! The Royalston Fire & EMS Association has an 18 hole, 'Best Ball Format' Golf Tournament scheduled for Saturday, July 30 (raindate Sunday, July 31) at the 202 Driving Range on Daniel Shays Highway in Orange. Registration (limited to 18 teams) begins at 9:30 a.m.; tee time is 10 a.m. Teams of four can reserve a spot for \$100. Cash and other prizes awarded. Miniature golf at \$5/person is also open at that time, again with proceeds going to the Royalston Fire and EMS Association. All are welcome to the 19th hole (Herrick's Tavern) following the tournament. Special thanks to former Royalston resident Kenny White, who has graciously offered his businesses, 202 Driving Range and mini golf course, for this fun benefit! Contact Scott Newton at 978-844-0276.

GOT PHOTOS? - The Royalston Fire & EMS Association is planning a fundraising calendar and is looking for any old pictures of the FD or Rescue Squad. If you have one or more, contact Joshua Morris-Siegel at 508-733-2243. Business card sized ads (just 25) are available for a \$35 donation; 1" x 5", bottom of the month ads are available (only 12!) for a \$45 donation. The first \$300 donor can own the cover of the calendar! Contact Scott Newton at 978-844-0276 to reserve an ad space.

Message from the Town Clerk

Lloyd LeBlanc

Hello everyone, many of you may already know by now that I have resigned my position as Town Clerk of Royalston, but what appears to be less known is that I have accepted a temporary appointment until the Board of Selectmen find a replacement. I will continue to keep hours, normally Tuesday evenings from 6 - 9 pm at Whitney Hall in South Royalston.

I would like to thank everyone that recently voted for me and those that have supported me during my short stay, (especially Helen Divoll and Barbara Richardson). I would also like to apologize and explain why I am leaving on such short notice. My sister unexpectedly decided to sell her house in Gardner, which is the house that I grew up in and had been in the family for almost 40 years. At the last minute, I decided to buy it and move back to Gardner. This is difficult as I truly enjoyed living in Royalston and working as Town Clerk, but I cannot hold an elected office in a town that I do not reside in. However, I still hope to see many of you as I still own property and my daughter Tasey still lives in Royalston.

Dog Licenses: At this time we still have about 90 dogs that were licensed last year that have not been renewed this year; please call the Clerk's office to either make an appointment to have your dog licensed or make arrangements to do it through the mail.

Pink Pages/Street List Both in the Works: Also, Mary Barclay and I (mostly Mary) have been working on putting the 2005 street list and the Pink Pages together. Don't be surprised by a phone call or a knock at the door by Town Clerk Lloyd LeBlanc or a designee (who will have credentials with a raised, Town of Royalston seal in their possession) to verify street list data. Thank you to the many residents who submitted their street list form, as required by law, and the optional Pink Pages form. The publications should be ready by the next newsletter. Stay tuned.

Montachusett Regional Planning Council

The Montachusett Enterprise Center and the Twin Cities CDC were recently awarded \$200,000 in funding through the American Dream Downpayment Initiative to assist income eligible residents in purchasing their first home. The maximum award for down payment and closing costs assistance is limited to five percent of the property purchase price up to a maximum of \$10,000. Average assistance will be approximately \$7,000. The Montachusett Region's 22 cities and towns*, including Royalston, are eligible to participate in this program. The region is split into income categories as determined by HUD. A homebuyer's income must meet 80% of the median income. Properties can be a one-to-four family residence, a condominium, or a manufactured home on a lot within the region. The house has to meet basic health and quality safety standards before you can purchase the home.

For more information, contact Shelly Hatch, Montachusett Enterprise Center at 978-345-7376, extension 2205.

*Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Ayer, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Shirley, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, Westminster, and Winchendon.

Open Space Committee Sketch Contest Winners

The recent bio-diversity days were a huge success. About 45 people participated in the nature walk down June Pink scented Wileys Rd. Great finds included Cala Lilies and Pitcher Plants in spaghnum bogs, Staghorn Beetle, Soloman's Seal, and Wood Frogs. The leaders were generous with their expertise and most participants learned something new. In addition, Royalston's century old herbarium was fascinating. Many thanks for Kathy Morris at the library for getting the collection ready for display and offering refreshments for the nature walk.

The sketches submitted to the Bio-diversity Days Sketch contest were fantastic. The contest was judged by Elizabeth Farnsworth, who has been a professional scientific illustrator since 1978, and have most recently illustrated forthcoming books on Atlantic seashores and the Peterson Field Guide to the Ferns. Here are the winners:

Ages 8-9: First prize: Hannah Smith - a drawing reminiscent of Van Gogh's Starry Night done in birds, flowers, and trees. Second prize: Nicholas Powell - insects; Third prize: Tiffany Lusco - bird, frog, and acorn. Honorable Mention: Cody Nolette -fox and frog

Ages 6-7: First prize: Emily Mangum - wild strawberry; Second Prize: Tobey Chase - frog and fern; Third Prize: Emma Finocchio-purple clover

Special prizes: Youngest drawing: Turtle by Molly Divoll (age 4)...really is very good! Most interesting perspective: Bears by Caleb Chase (age 9)

Winners should pick up their prizes at the Phinehas S Newton Library. All entries will be on display at the library during the Summer Reading Program events. (Thursdays 7/7 - 8/4) or can be viewed at the Open Space Committee link to the library website: www.royalstonlibrary.org.



Royalston Board of Health News:

New transfer station stickers are in and are due for all vehicles by July 1, 2005. The price is \$10.00 for residents and \$50.00 for non-residents and commercial haulers \$50.00 per vehicle. See Charlie for the new sticker purchase. The new stickers are white and are good July 1, 2005-June 30,2006.

The demo boxes have been filling up faster than normal recently. Some tips to make the boxes last longer are: break down large items before you throw them away, fill the demo box wisely, don't create buried spaces by throwing large items in upside down. Same thing goes for the paper box. Break down your boxes first or fill them up with paper, mags, newspaper etc. first. Plastic containers can be crushed also after rinsing. This helps increase tonnage in the roll off boxes. We pay the same transport rate heavy or light.

Compost bins are for sale for \$30.00 with a free kitchen scrap bucket while supplies last.

Ladies' Benevolent Society Busy

The end of June brought along two great LBS events. The annual **blood drive was a success** with 36 donors presenting and 32 pints donated. Thank you to all who participated. Donors left thrilled at the speed which the particularly good Red Cross team got them through the whole process of screening, lying on the table and recuperating. For most, the whole shebang only took about 45 minutes. The LBS has already requested the same Red Cross crew for late June next year when it is hoping to finally break the 40 pint barrier. As usual, the canteen was stocked with homebaked goodies provided by the LBS. Kudos to Brenda Putney for taking on the organization and staffing of this benevolent event.

Thank you also to Dickenson biographer and Davis Hill Rd resident, **Polly Longworth**, who led a LBS sponsored trip to Amherst to tour the houses of Emily Dickenson and her brother Austin. Both were evocative for different reasons. It wasn't hard to imagine the chestnut haired poetess, tired from a day of tending to family, house and gardens, in her small, neat room scribbling verse by lamplight on her tiny cherry wood desk. Forced hyacinths bloom on her wide windowsill. The brother's house was a little eerie because it has barely changed since the late 1800s. The faded wallpaper on walls filled with oil paintings, the frayed rich colored upholstery and the suprisingly sensual statuary were placed there by Austin Dickenson or his wife and daughter. In fact, when a son died of typhoid at age 8, the door to his room was closed out of grief and all of his clothing and toys were left to lie untouched for many decades and are on display now. Recently Amherst College acquired the house and is in the process of making structural repairs. No doubt these will impinge on the moldy romance of the place but make it easier to vist. Both houses are open to the public. Call 413-542-8161 for admission times.

Memorial Day Committee

Celebrate the long Independence Day weekend, July 1 - 4, by displaying Old Glory at full staff. In anticipation of the weekend, if you find that your flag is faded, worn or damaged, please replace it with a new one. You can retire the old one yourself, in an outdoor fire or indoor fireplace/stove. Out of respect to our flag and that for which it stands, the fire should be started specifically for flag retirement.

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

Mondays: 1:00 - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm. Thursdays: 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:00noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank You

I would like to thank all of those who helped during the past few weeks of preparation for the book and plant sale, especially since I conveniently got sick just before it all happened. First, to the staff: **Jan Bartkus**, who stepped in and took over organizing, preparing for, staffing and running the book sale and then organized, baked for and created a beautiful and appetizing table for Barbara's farewell party and all the while staffed the desk at the library; **Barbara Stowell**, who had to help clean up after her own party while filling in for me and who was supposed to be done working but stepped in to create an incredible poster for the Summer Reading Program; and then, **Gina Verrelli**, who rearranged her schedule so she could staff the library for us. Thank you also seems meager for **Becky Divoll**, who rearranged her schedule and helped all morning with the book sale and to her family who helped move things around. I would also like to thank **Aaron** and **Michael Richardson**, who saved us tons of work by carrying all the books out and the remaining ones back in at the book sale and to **Ashley Gladden**, who helped get books ready for the sale. We earned around \$340 from the book sale. Thanks also to **Cindy Savoy**, who happened to see me struggling and volunteered to do several errands for me. And, a giant thanks to **Beth Gospodarek**, **Maureen Blasco**, **Sharon Harmon**, **Sharon Hood** and **Barbara Willhite**, who once again shared their knowledge and gave generously of their plants and time to run a successful plant sale, which brought in about \$800 for Friends projects like this newsletter and the upcoming Shakespeare production. Of course, thank you to all those residents and businesses who donated plants. It is this community support and generosity that makes the library and the Town of Royalston such a great place to live. And I hope none of you get this virus.

Friends Contributors:

The following people have donated to the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library in the last month:

Alyce Mayo

Halima and Abraham Sussman

Meryl and Marie Willhite

If you haven't paid your membership to the Friends of the Library, or you'd like to make an additional contribution, simply fill in the form below and mail to P.O. Box 133, Royalston, or bring to the Library.

Great Ways to Support the Friends:

Become a member, adopt a shelf at the library, help with library programs, advertise in the newsletter, come to a meeting and give input, attend events or buy some of the interesting stuff listed below:

Shop at the Library-

Cool Fundraing Items Available to Benefit Friends: 8x10" glossy aerial photos of your home for \$10; *I was Born in a Small Town* DVDs for \$10; Royalston Shakespeare Company and Friends Softball Team t-shirts for \$10 and the Natural Treasures of Royalston poster for \$5. All are arty, reasonably priced and designed by and for our unique community.

The Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library support this Newsletter and many other activities.

Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library 2005 Membership & Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Memberships:

Single \$2.00 _____

Family \$5.00 _____

Supporting \$25.00 _____

Donation \$ _____

I would also like to buy a Newsletter sponsorship ad:

\$25.00/month x _____ = \$ _____

\$200/year (10 issues) \$ _____

(we will contact you for display information)

Tax deductible. Make checks payable to:

Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, PO Box 133, Royalston MA 01368

I would like to help with Friends projects



Thank You!

This summer, the library will again be offering a 5 week program of music and movement programs for preschool children. The programs will be held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. beginning on July 11th and continuing through August 8th. Tina Gembroys, music educator and trained **Kindermusik** instructor, will lead the programs. Jen Bartkus will staff the library and help with the programs. The programs will each last about one hour and there will be healthy snacks provided. The programs are free. Older children are welcome to use the library during this time but the program is only for preschoolers.

Positions Available at Library

Temporary Preschool Story Time Coordinator: Mondays at 10:15 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. from September 12, 2005 until approximately December 2005 to fill in during Jen Bartkus's maternity leave. Responsible for setting up the children's room, selecting a book and theme and reading to the children, coordinating activities such as small crafts, serving a healthy snack (provided by the library), and cleaning up afterwards. Compensation: \$9.00 per hour.

Substitute Librarian: Looking for a person or persons who interact well with the public, have a love and knowledge of books and libraries, have a basic understanding of how libraries are set up, is computer literate, trustworthy, prompt, courteous, shows respect for all, maintains confidentiality, and is available (sometimes on short notice) during the library's open hours. Employment schedule is very variable. At times there may be no work for several months and then several hours a week. Will train. Compensation: \$8.75 per hour minimum depending

Summer Hours: Please note that in the summer, the library opens at 1:00 p.m. This is because the grant from the Community Partnership for Children, which pays for staffing during the hours of the Preschool Storytime, doesn't apply in the summer.

Summer Reading Programs:

Going Places @ Your Library

Free programs held on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at the library

July 14- Going Places on a Horse: Join Wendy Warner, owner of Seven Springs Farm in Royalston, as she demonstrates basic horsemanship and discusses handling and safety issues with one of her horses. Wendy is trained in classic dressage and "natural horsemanship." Younger children should be accompanied by an adult.

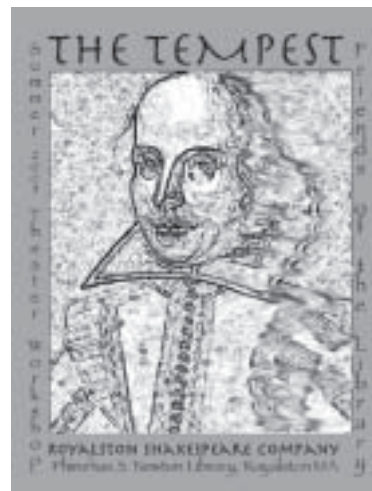
July 21 Going Places with Clay: A creative adventure with local artist and potter Kerry Stone. You will create "Tree Masks" by pressing clay into the bark of a tree, and using that impression to create your own tree mask. *Pre-registration required for this session*.*

July 28 Going Places on Stilts: Stephen Chase and Noah Siegel will help you build your own pair of wooden stilts to take home. When they are completed, you'll receive a lesson on how to use them so everyone can walk around elevated. *Pre-registration is required for this session*.*

August 4 Going to a Party: A yearly tradition has been the cranking of homemade ice cream to eat at our annual party to celebrate the end of our summer program. We will also play traditional and new games.

*Please register at the library or by calling 978-249-3572.

The 2005 Massachusetts Summer Library Adventure is sponsored by your local library, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Funding for these programs is being provided by The Royalston Academy, the Judith Jenkins Musco Scholarship Fund, and the Friends of the Phineas S. Newton Library.



The Royalston Shakespeare Company Presents: *the Tempest*

A workshop performance of *the Tempest* will be held July 8 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Watch as dozens of local kids as they get their tongues around Shakespearean lingo to tell the tale of the wronged Prospero and his scheming brother. With something for everyone, the *Tempest* holds a love story, political intrigue, magical fairies,

injustice to slaves, drunken foolishness and all around reconciliation. A crack tech crew will be providing impressive special effects including a crashing ship and a rainbow wedding. Free with donations welcome. Refreshments available. A Friends of the Library Production.

Support the Bard! / Defray costs for the Friends: Advertise in the program: \$5 to list your name as a benefactor; \$25 for a 1x2" ad. or buy a *Tempest* t-shirt at the library. To advertiser, drop your text at the library or zap chasegos@gis.net. New England Fabrics (on Ralston St up in Keene) gave us a steal on material to use for sets. Thank the staff when you shop there and reassure them that yes, there really is a Royalston.

Summer Reading Book Review:

Deb Nunes

The library recently purchased the latest book by one of my favorite authors, Wendell Berry. "Hannah Coulter" is the latest chapter chronicling the decades-spanning story of fictitious Port William, Kentucky. Hannah Coulter, now in her seventies, relates her childhood memories of young love and loss, raising children, ordinary daily farm life, and the deteriorating community and way of life in Port William as the twentieth century progresses. I first discovered Berry's writing when I picked up a copy of his book "Jayber Crow" several years ago, and I found this to be one of the best books I have ever read. Another one of his books that our library owns is "Distant Land," which is a collection of short stories about many of his characters from Port William that we have met already in "Jayber Crow." I have found that his wisdom and prophetic voice about the human experience and, in particular, his thoughts about faith and war, are especially relevant today.

Read something interesting lately? Tell us. Write a brief review and submit it to the newsletter.

What's New at the Library?

NEW BOOKS

Adult Fiction

Banks, Melissa *The Wonder Spot*
Benjamin, Curt *Lords of Grass and Thunder*
Berg, Elizabeth *The Year of Pleasures: A Novel*
Box, C. J. *Out of Range*
Byatt, A. S. *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye*
Cook, Robin *Marker*
Cunningham, Michael *Specimen Days: A Novel*
Deaver, Jeffrey *The Twelfth Card*
Devoto, Pat Cuningham *The Summer We Got Saved*
Evanovich, Janet *Eleven*
Evanovich, Janet *Full Blast*
Evanovich, Janet *Full Speed*
Hornby, Nick *A Long Way Down*
Kellerman, Jonathan *Rage*
Koontz, Dean *Velocity*
Johansen, Iris *Countdown*
Lewis, Beverly *The Revelation*
Lindsey, Johanna *Marriage Most Scandalous*
Parker, Robert B. *Appaloosa*
Quick, Amanda *Lie By Moonlight*
Ray, Jeanne *Julie and Romeo Get Lucky*
Riggs, Cynthia *The Paperwhite Narcissus*
Robards, Karen *Superstition*
Sanford, John *Broken Prey*
Shannon, John *Dangerous Games*
Theroux, Paul *Blinding Light*
Weber, David *On Basilisk Station*
Wells, Rebecca *Ya-Yas in Bloom*

Adult Nonfiction

Abeel, Samantha *My Thirteenth Winter*
Rose, Carol *Giants, Monsters, and Dragons: An Encyclopedia of Folklore, Legend, and Myth*
Keightley, Thomas *The World Guide to Gnomes, Fairies, Elves, and Other Little People*
Huygen, Wil *Gnomes*
Cone, Marla *Silent Snow: The Slow Poisoning of the Arctic*
Corbell, Jean-Claude *The Firefly Spanish/English Visual Dictionary*
Farrell, Jeanette *Invisible Aliens: Microbes That Shape Our Lives*
Guiliano, Mireille *French Women Don't Get Fat*
Kirby, David *Evidence of Harm: Mercury in Vaccines and the Autism Epidemic: A Medical Controversy*
Hallowell, Edward M. M.D. *Driven to Distraction: Recognizing and Coping with Attention Deficit Disorder from Childhood Through Adulthood*
Gravelle, Karen *The Driving Book: Everything New Drivers Need to Know But Don't Know to Ask*
Bitner, Mark : *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*
Food Kids Eat: The Village School Cookbook
Thorson, Robert M. *Exploring Stone Walls: A Field Guide to Stone Walls*
Matoh, Sanami *By the Sword*
Gilchrist, Ellen *The Writing Life*
Johnson, Paul *George Washington*
McCullough, David *1776*

New Web Site Offers Massachusetts History

The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities has created an "electronic almanac" of Massachusetts history called Mass Moments, which includes a story for every day of the year, in text and audio formats, background essays, primary sources, images, links and more. You can visit the Web site at www.massmoments.org and even sign up to receive the daily "moment" by email.

Royalston Academy and Harvard Law: Many residents in our area are aware that most of the houses on the Common were almost turned into a girl's boarding school, but do they know that once the school project foundered, the buildings involved were offered to Harvard Law School for use as a conference center?

Royalston Academy, a girl's school something on the model of Deerfield Academy, was begun back in the early 1970s as the brain-child of Mrs. Katherine Bullock Cole. Her family, the Bullocks, had strong Royalston roots. They were some of the first settlers, first shopkeepers, and the most successful at profiting through ownership of the textile mills of South Royalston. This wealth was parlayed into good college educations and some impressive careers. Alexander Hamilton Bullock was Governor of Massachusetts from 1866-68. Calvin Bullock profited by futures trading of sugar beets and then, invented the mutual fund on Wall Street. Throughout, the Bullock family gave generously to the Town of Royalston, especially, the Congregational churches and the schools.

Mrs. Cole had summered on the Common in the Bastille, the Columns and Lighting Rods. All these houses on the southeast side of Royalston Common had been owned by her family for generations. However, by the 1960s, many of the other homes on the Common were empty and in disrepair. Mrs. Cole undertook to use her contacts to attract private funding and worked hard to get grants to buy and fix the houses up to begin a girls' school. The project got as far as acquiring and making repairs on quite a bit of property. Teachers and a headmaster were hired and some students had even enrolled when it became clear that there just wasn't enough funding to run a school.

At this point, Mrs. Cole invited Mr. John Mansfield from Harvard to Royalston with the proposal of turning half the common into a Harvard Law School Conference Center. She was aware that Isaac Royal had left the money for the first law chair at Harvard and thought the connection made it the perfect spot for a Harvard getaway. "Visions of garden parties and stylish picnics swarmed in our heads" according to Mr Mansfield. "At Mrs. C's invitation, we came up for a visit and spent a glorious summer's day wandering about the empty houses and walking in the meadows. I recall a deserted shop, deserted since the 19th C. I suppose with some of the merchandise still in it....Unfortunately, the Conference Center plans came to naught, wrecked on the reef of unimaginativeness."



Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?

Melanie Mangum

*It's amazing to think of how many experts on the natural world we have right here in Royalston. This includes **Elizabeth Farnsworth**, a botanist and senior research ecologist for the New England Wildflower Society, and a member of Royalston's Open Space Committee. She and her husband, Aaron Ellison, have lived in Royalston for 3 years.*



From Holyoke to Royalston in one

weekend: When Elizabeth and her husband decided to move closer to Petersham to be nearer to Aaron's job as a research ecologist at the Harvard Forest, the move happened very quickly. "It literally happened in 72 hours," Elizabeth said. They had looked at a house in Royalston that they "kind of fell in love with at first sight," and Aaron's cousin said he wanted their house in Holyoke. "Clearly karma was on our side," she said. They live on 108 acres of land, most of which is under conservation restriction. "It's a peaceful kind of feeling, knowing that this land will be able to do what it wants to do."

"South Africa is one of the most blindingly beautiful places on the face of the earth - except Royalston." Elizabeth spent a year (1994-1995) in Cape Town, South Africa, finishing up her dissertation on plant physiology in mangroves, and studying plant hormones. "We all know hormones run the world and they run the plants' world, too, and mangroves were interesting to study that in." She was there when Nelson Mandela had just come into office, so along with "an incredibly diverse, little vegetational kingdom," to explore, it was "particularly amazing because of the social change happening at the time," she said. "It was a time of incredible hope and incredible forgiveness."

For a botanist, Royalston is "a very cool place." As a botanist, the land they own and Royalston in general is a great place to go exploring and documenting. She recently participated in Bio-diversity Days, alongside "a bunch of amazing naturalists", such as Noah Siegel and Matt Hickler. "We have a lot of northern species you typically associate with New Hampshire, and we've got some really rare species; it's really cool to see what's here."

Regional Geocaching Tournament

Announcing the August 20th and 21st Great Northern Tier Geocaching Tournament. Hunt for "caches" hidden throughout the North Quabbin Region's forests, parks, farms and cultural centers using a Geographic Positioning System ("GPS") unit and a list of coordinates. Classes will be available on GPS use and GPS units will be available for rent and for sale. Pre-registration is required. Register on-line at [_www.thetrustees.org/geocache.cfm_](http://www.thetrustees.org/geocache.cfm) or call North Quabbin Woods (978) 544-3332. Start on Saturday morning at North Common Meadow in Petersham. Awards ceremony on Sunday late afternoon. Great for individuals or families.

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

It has been a topsy-turvy growing season to date: first, the record-setting cold temperatures of May; then, the eleven days of mid-summer heat in early June. The berries are thriving. As I write (June 20), the strawberries are covered in fruit and I am on the cusp of my best year in a decade. With only a few rodents in sight (has anyone else noticed the paucity of chipmunks and squirrels?), I remain guardedly optimistic. Even the raspberries, pruned routinely by the porcupines, have lots of berries on their stunted growth. Some wild blueberry patches have set fruit well and some have not, so move around in your search.

July and August are payback for the efforts in April and May. The garden is planned so that at any given time our focus will be on one vegetable. As June closes, we are consuming asparagus four or so times a week and will continue to do so until the peas commence. With three successive plantings (about 12 days apart), I anticipate a four-time per week consumption of peas throughout July. As peas finish up, the first beans will be ready; they will become our primary green vegetable in August. Because we do not plant greens in succession, our fresh green salad season is relatively short (by August, the lettuce has sent up its four-foot high flower stalks), so we endeavor to eat a salad on a daily basis. By mid-August, of course, there is a multitude of vegetables; every day offers something new to harvest, prepare, and consume. The garden is at its most plentiful.

Though damage this season has been minimal, the potato beetle persists as my scourge, my most troublesome garden pest. There are actually two of them: the more common Colorado (roundish, plump, black-and-yellow striped body) and the one referred to as the old-fashioned (significantly smaller, narrower, striped body resembling a cucumber beetle). The former is sluggish, falling off the plant when disturbed; the latter mobile, flying away at your first approach. Both lay clusters of orange eggs (on the underside of leaves); they soon hatch out to similar appearing larva. If left to their own devices, they can defoliate a plant in days. There are sprays, both conventional and organic, designed to kill the young larva. I eschew both, as well as the common practice of dropping the larva into jars of water (or, worse still, kerosene), which strikes me as cruel and unusual punishment. I take matters into my own hands, literally, by hand picking, crunching the adults, squishing the larva, aborting the eggs, and reminding myself that all of us, vegetarian or otherwise, cannot eat without killing.

I have been in the garden every day since mid-May and anticipate doing likewise for the next couple of months (when an organic farming conference pulls me away for a couple of days). Mostly it is to perform one task or another but occasionally (not often enough) the incentive is to wander, to observe, to reflect. It is always a challenge to accomplish the latter without succumbing to the urge to bend over and pull just a few more weeds or squish just one more beetle, but I am working on it.

Royalston Coop

June orders are due to Mary and Brenda by Thursday, July 14. Goods will be delivered the following Thursday 21. Those unable to pick up their orders promptly should drop off a cooler with ice packs for cold and frozen goods, as there is limited space for those items.

Save our Steeple Fund: Auction Donations Needed

During the First Congregational Church of Royalston Fair on July 9, 2005, there will be an auction from 2:00 to 3:00 to raise money for the Save Our Steeple Fund. The church is looking for usable items for donation to the auction. All proceeds are for the Save Our Steeple Fund. The church steeple needs \$30,000 in repairs and painting. Sky-line Engineering Company from Ashburnham has been secured.

To arrange donation pick-up, contact one of the following people: Dave Putney - 978-249-3379, John Divoll - 978-249-3163, or Charlie Scribner - 978-249-2649. WK 978-275-7437. Contact Charlie Scribner, Chairman of the Trustees, with any questions.

Church Fair on the Common: July 9

How much fun can one have on a mid-summer's day? There will be plenty of opportunities to find out at the annual First Congregational Church Fair in Royalston, on Saturday, July 9th.

It all kicks off at 7:00 a.m. with a Pancake Breakfast at the Town Hall, sponsored by the Second Congregational Church of Royalston. Flapjacks will be flipped and forked from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Helen Divoll will have her homemade donuts ready. John Scribner and helpers will serve up hamburgers and hot dogs. David and Shirley Putney are heading up the Attic Wonders Table. Jan St. Jean is in charge of the raffle table. Louise Clement and Nancy Bolton will be found at the baked goods table.

Rainboe the Clown will return with an array of new games and activities. Her schedule is as follows: 9:00 – 11:30 – duck ring toss, clown bean bag toss, bowling, goblet toss; 11:30 – 12:00 – clown show; 12:30 – 3:00 – basketball, fishing pond, golf, and ring toss.

Music will fill the air throughout the day.
9:00-10:00 - K & C Homeward Bound Band
10:00-11:00 – Tender Mercies - a ladies duo.
11:00- 12:00 - The MacDonald Family Singers
12:00- 1:00 - Unity Band
1:00 – 3:00 – A singing mix: Noel Veilleux; Lynn Jahl; Jane Gargulinski

The Save Our Steeple Fund Auction begins at 2 p.m. - donations needed.

The fair on the Common begins at 9:00 a.m. and will go until 3:00 p.m. There will be a transition time to set up for the Chicken Barbecue, which will be serviced at 4 p.m.

Chicken BBQ

The Second Congregational Church of South Royalston is once again having a Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, July 23rd at the Royalston Fish & Game Club. Ray is cooking up his famous barbecued chicken! Last year's barbecue was an early sell out, so reserve your tickets now!!! Dinner is served at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$9.00 and are available from any church member or by calling 978-249-8746 (leave a message) Hope to see you there!!!

Frank B. Stearns Organ Recital at Athol Historical Society on Award Winning 1848 Pipe Organ

Uptown Athol has a treasure of a local history museum, which also sponsors cultural events. It is open from 1-3 p.m. on Sundays during July and August.

Among the special programs offered at the Athol Historical Society this summer, Royalston native, Frank B. Stearns, will give a recital on Sunday, July 31 at 2 p.m. The 1848 pipe organ he will play is one of the oldest in the area. Though small, it has a wonderfully warm sound and can produce a lot of music. At this recital, a plaque will be presented to the Athol Historical Society by the Organ Historical Society, designating the organ one of historical significance because of its age, condition and location. It will be a big event for the Society and the organ...one which is of interest to musicians, historians and folks interested in woodcraft. The event is free, and refreshments will be served following the recital.

The organ at First Congregational Church on Royalston Common has also been declared eligible for the Organ Historical Society award. A special program highlighting the plaque presentation will be scheduled within the next several months.

Vacation Bible School - August 8-12. 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Presented by Students from Faith School of Theology Place - First Congregational Church of Royalston Theme for Children - "Fishers of Men". Includes puppetry, storytelling, songs, contests, recreation, and refreshments. Theme for Adults - "Daniel: Prophecy for then and now" To participate, please send child's name(s), parents' names, telephone number and address to the 1st Congregational Church.

Gospel Music Concert



Shiloh singers will present a concert of Gospel Music at the First Congregational Church on Saturday, August 20th at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Free.

Big Brothers and Sisters Needed

Big Brothers Big Sisters is looking for volunteers in the North Quabbin to be matched as mentors with children aged 6-14. In particular there are 3 children living in the North Quabbin that we are hoping to match. Two are boys and one is a girl. They are wonderful children who would benefit from a little more one-to-one attention. If you would enjoy spending a few hours a week with a child doing things like walking the dog, playing catch, going swimming, spending time at the YMCA, baking cookies, fishing, or doing a crafts project, Big Brothers Big Sisters can tell you how to apply to become a volunteer. You can help the community by simply spending time with a child. Call 413-772-0915 and ask for Catherine Rogers.

Royalston Music Fest



Trailer Park @ Bullock Park 2005

Sunday afternoon July 17 noon - 5 PM at
Bullock Park, Royalston Center
A Royalston Summer Tradition for the whole family
Bring your own chairs & blankets
Free admission
(in case of rain at the Royalston Town Hall)
Sponsored by The Royalston Cultural Council

Featured band is TRAILER PARK
Opening for Trailer Park will be
Elizabeth Farnsworth & Rene Lake
Linq
The New Funky Door Boys
The Hendricks Family

Festival tee shirts will be on sale
Food on sale by The Royalston Fire Department to benefit the
Emergency Rescue Vehicle Fund.

Terrapin Fest

On Saturday, August 27 at 1:00 p.m., local musicians will gather for **Terrapin Fest** at the Royalston Fish and Game (off Rte. 68) Children 12 and under are free. The cost of the ticket is \$15.00. No coolers please, food, soda, and beer will be sold on the premises. Rain or shine. Contact www.terrapiintraders.com for band list and other updates or call 978-632-4893.

Revitalization of Athol's Memorial Hall

Ethan Stone has begun a revitalization fund for the Athol Town Hall's Memorial Hall in order to bring major national acts into Athol. He has the necessary contacts but the auditorium needs some modifications first. The Memorial Building Committee has given their full support, and fundraising has already begun, beginning this fall with a series of benefit concerts. Those interested in donating to the Athol Memorial Hall Revitalization project should e-mail ethanstonemusic@hotmail.com.

Lunch Concerts and Rockin' Car Wash in Orange

The **Orange Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series** will take place each Friday throughout July, from noon-1pm at Butterfield Park on the Bandstand in Orange. These concerts are free and open to the public. (Rain venue: Orange Town Hall). Purchase lunch at the concerts from a non-profit organization or bring lunch.

Friday July 8- Trailer Park, Friday July 15- Ethan Stone Band Friday July 22- Moonstruck, Friday July 29- The Franks

These concerts are sponsored by the Orange Business Association, The Orange Cultural Council, Ethan Stone, and 97.3FM WJDF.

Tool Town Live Rock and Roll Car Wash

Every Saturday, at Pete's Tire Barn in Orange, come on down from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and get a GREAT car wash for only 6 bucks! While you're there, listen to some great live music by the Little Monsters Band, Ragtime pianist Luis Gonzalez, and other great entertainers, pick up a bite to eat at the grill, and watch your car get transformed into an awesome, glistening machine by the beautiful Tool Town Live crew. Take a few shots at the basketball shoot-out or throw a few pitches in the Wiffle Ball pitching derby. Winners get their choice of some incredible prizes and all who participate in the games receive prizes. Some folks are calling it the GREATEST CAR WASH EVER. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Tool Town Live fund for an even bigger and better concert series this year. This event is sponsored by Pete's Tire Barn, 97.3FM WJDF, Ethan Stone, and Hannaford Supermarket.

1794 Meetinghouse

The Royalston Cultural Council, along with several town-based businesses and individuals support the 1794 Meetinghouse, Inc., a non-profit group whose goals are to preserve the meetinghouse itself (New Salem's former religious, political and social center) and to give it new life as a meeting place for the arts. 1794 provides metropolitan quality programs at country prices. To obtain the details on a particular program, go to www.1794meetinghouse.org, or call Royalston residents: President Patience Bundschuh (978-249-6081), Treasurer Phil Rabinowitz (249-4422) or Board Member Diane Lincoln (249-4173).



1794 MEETINGHOUSE JULY PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

ALL TICKETS \$10/\$8 available at the door, on-line or at The New Salem General Store.

- THURSDAY, JULY 7, 7:30 PM : 5 ALONE - Award winning jazz/gospel/pop. Tight, intricate 5 part harmony a cappella
- SATURDAY, JULY 9, 7:30 PM: THOMAS FOSNOCHT III - Piano Phenomenon. Classical/rag/jazz. Chopin/Scott Joplin/Waller
- SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2 PM : TULLY MOUNTAIN SINGERS - mix of gospel/country/bluegrass/ bebop in close harmony
- THURSDAY, JULY 14, 7:30 PM: DANNY BAKAN - master of clawhammer style banjo from Canada. Old classics - hoot & holler
- SATURDAY, JULY 16, 4 PM: KENNY ROBERTS - Famous King of the Yodelers with Bettyanne. New Salem Old Home Day.
- SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2 PM: MARK CHEIKHET, MARIANNA RASHKOVETSKY - Russian violinist & pianist-Schubert/Brahms
- THURSDAY, JULY 21, 7:30 PM: ECLIPSE - Jim Bennett & four piece combo - vocals, piano, bass, sax - pop/jazz/show tunes.
- SATURDAY, JULY 23, 7:30 PM & SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2 PM - CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS
Camille Saint-Saens musical portraits of animals performed on four-hand piano with performance by SchatzDance troupe
- THURSDAY, JULY 28, 7:30 PM: PAMELA MEANS - Boston Indie Folk artist/punchy provocative songs/kamikaze guitar style
- SATURDAY, JULY 30, 7:30 PM: RORY BLOCK - phenomenal Blues legend, four time Handy award winner. Season closing party!

Tickets, info & directions at www.1794meetinghouse.org



Congratulations and Good News

Got something to crow about? Drop the news by the library or e-mail chasegos@gis.net.

Many Scholarships Awarded to Royalston Grads

ATHOL WOMENS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP Julie Drouin, Shannah Lively, Elizabeth Wheeler; LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF ROYALSTON SCHOLARSHIPS: the H. Pauline Smith Memorial to Kimberly Bassett; Clara Mimms Memorial to Elizabeth Wheeler, Dorothy B. Corser Memorial for returning Students to Kim MacLean, Patricia C. Poor Memorial to Stephanie Bennett; Maxine E. Wilcox to Shannah Lively and LBS to James Charest; AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS (AARP), Shannah Lively; ATHOL BOOSTERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP: Stephanie Bennett, James Charest, Shannah Lively, ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL PEER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP, Shannah Lively; ATHOL LION'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIP, James Charest and Shannah Lively; DR. HERBERT L. AARON SCHOLARSHIP, sponsored by the Athol Lions Club, Elizabeth Wheeler; MASSACHUSETTS ELKS SCHOLARSHIP, INC: Stephanie Bennett; NATIONAL ELKS FOUNDATION STATE ALLOCATED SCHOLARSHIP: Stephanie Bennett; ROBERT ANDERSON MEMORIALSCHOLARSHIP, sponsored by the Athol-Orange Lodge of Elks: Shannah Lively; "BUD" GIRARDI TRACK SCHOLARSHIP: Stephanie Bennett; DONALD T. BLACK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: Julie Drouin, Elizabeth Wheeler; GERTRUDE M.F. HALE SCHOLARSHIP: Kimberly Bassett and James Charest; HENRY P. COLE ATHLETIC AWARD FOR CHILDREN OF ROYALSON: Shannah Lively; KATHERINE SEYMOUR BULLOCK COLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP sponsored by the Royalston Academy: Elizabeth Wheeler, JAMES D. ROCKEFELLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP sponsored by the 202 Street Hockey Association: Kimberly Bassett and James Charest; NEW SALEM ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP: Elizabeth Wheeler; ROYALSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL P.T.G. SCHOLARSHIP: Julie Drouin; 1794 MEETINGHOUSE SCHOLARSHIP: Kimberly Bassett; SOUTH ROYALSTON SCHOOL REUNION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP: Elizabeth Wheeler; WILLIAM F. CASEY SCHOLARSHIP, sponsored by the Hampshire-Franklin Board 28 of Approved Basketball Officials: Shannah Lively; ATHOL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP: Alisha Taylor, Deana Deacon, Julie Drouin, and Amanda McLaren (children of current or former Royalston elementary educators).



James Charest of South Royalston recently graduated from Athol High. He will study business at UMASS/Dartmouth in the fall.

Milestones: Spread the word in your hometown about big life transitions through this newsletter.

Happy 25th Anniversary to **Ken and Andrea Lively**

Congratulations and good wishes to **Ginger May and Don Fourtin**

Welcome to new resident **Samantha West**, born May 30 to Kristin and Andy West of South Royalston Rd. Brown haired, petite and placid Samantha joins two doting siblings, Elizabeth and Benjamin.

Graduates and Scholars:

Congratulations to Monty Tech 2005 grads **Danielle Gaudette, Shawn Gladden and Jennifer Taylor** for their hard work and academic accomplishments.

Congratulations to **Amber L. Jarvenpaa** of River Road, who has earned an Associate of Arts and Sciences in Culinary Arts from Southern New Hampshire University.

Gina Verrelli was named to the Dean's List at Fitchburg State College for the second time this year.

The United States Achievement Academy announced that **Cotey Basso** has received two awards: All-American Scholar, to recommended superior students, who maintain a 3.3, or higher, grade point average, and United States National Award Winner in Science. Fewer than 10% of all American high school students receive these awards. Cotey is the son of Todd and Karla Basso. His grandparents are Linda Braun of Winchendon, John Basso of Baldwinville, and Raymond Jean of Winchendon.

Go Get 'em Girl to **Cady Boucher**, who won highest GPA in every subject but history at the recent RCS 6th grade completion ceremony.

Wildlife Sightings

Jeff Hendricks of Upham Road spotted a **Scarlet Tanager** by the pond and saw a **Pileated Woodpecker** on Royalston Road near the Winchendon line.

Elizabeth Hart of Laurel Lake Rd. had a **Luna Moth** on her porch for two days and saw a **Turkey Vulture**.

The Journey

a Holocaust poem by Christine Sawyer, grade 8

Watch the filthy Grey-striped uniform freeze and stick to my body.
In soiled rags, stabbed by hunger, we were lined up in rows,
They marched us into dusty lands,
to dig deep trenches with enslaved hands,
They locked us in cattle cars by the millions,
On a dreaded night, as our train slowed and stopped in the open plain,
They stole you from me.
Mother from daughter and Father from son,
One by one were separated.
And in my dreams,
I return home to rest my search,
To find you,
To see you morning, noon and night.
Returning to a normal life,
That I once had.

Royalston Community School Updates:

Creative Memories Scrapbook Camp at RCS

A scrapbook camp will be held July 11 – 14 from 9:00 a.m.–noon at the Royalston Community School for grades 3 – 6 led by RCS principal, Bobbie French. This 4 day camp will assist children in creating an ABC photo album on a topic of choice. Students should bring photos already organized into A-Z pages. (examples: A-adorable (baby photo) or A- apples (apple picking trip)...Z-zoo (photo of zoo trip or a zoo-ey experience like a slumber party.) \$60 cost includes: instruction, snack, 7x7" album, page protectors, stickers, additional pages as needed, and use of all tools and art supplies. Space is limited. Please call Principal Bobbie French at RCS to register 978-249-2900.

Nature's Classroom a Blast

Ms. Cindy Drouin

The Sixth Grade students at RCS recently returned from spending 5 days at Nature's Classroom in Ocean Park Maine. Activities at the beach, salt marsh and swamp taught about erosion, tides, wind currents and the creatures that inhabit the ocean and surrounding land. Inland during their field group activities, kids worked on team building skills and cooperative learning. One challenge was to build a Burma bridge and get everyone safely across; another was to build a geodome that all 13 members of the group could climb upon. They were also given the choice of classes twice a day, some of which were: dissecting a shark, a sea star, a pig or lamb eyeballs; investigating spiders; making ice-cream, dream catchers, and paper; or building sand castles. One class even investigated the classification system using jellybellyology. Who could forget the class on deer survival? Night time activities were: Funky Hat Dance, Science Fair, Thursday Night Live and The Underground Railroad. The latter left a lasting impression about the plight of slaves in their search for freedom. The class, along with their teacher Ms. Drouin and chaperones, Mr. Hall, Mr. Dawson and Mrs. Hutchins, were sad to leave the awesome teachers and new friends that were made, but happy to return to their loved ones. Thank you to all in the community who supported this awesome trip by participating in our many fundraising activities. Next year's 6th grade is gearing up to raise money for its trip. Watch for ways to help.

RCS Poetry Club Members Win Awards

Congratulations to all these winners in the Boston College Science Poetry Contest. These entries were winners from among thousands of entries from across the Commonwealth. First and Second Place in the multi-grade collaborative poem category was Poetry Group 1: **Tiffany Lusco, Kadasia LaJoie, Austin Kinsman, Chelsea Sanderson, Derek Bates, Emily Mangum, Tobey Chase and Katelyn Robinson** for its poems *Thanksgiving* and *Mushroom Haiku*; Third Place for grade 4 collaborative most expressive category was *My Dog is a Pig* by Poetry Group 2: **Michele Thompson, Ben Boudreau, Shelby Bronnes, and Jessica Porrier**; Individual winners included **Caleb Chase** for 2nd place in Most Humorous 4th Grade Science Poem for his entry *A Penguin Named Greg* and **Derek Bates** 3rd place in the Most Expressive grade 1 category. Here is his poem:

Sun
Sun, sun hot as fire
You're the beauty of space
Don't burn the moon
in a foot race.

Royalston Contributors to After Prom Party

The After Prom Party at the YMCA was a huge success for the graduating class of 2005 at Athol High School. The support was outstanding from the community and the After Prom Party committee would like to thank the Royalston contributors. We would like these people and businesses to know we truly appreciate their generosity and time. Thank you to: First Congregational Church, Roberta and Peter Newman, Pete 'n Henry's Restaurant, the Ladies Benevolent Society, Putney Mill, Russ Pearson and Sally Wheeler.

Monty Tech News

A REUNION for the Class of 1980 is slated for August 13, 2005 at the Polish American Citizen's Club (PACC) on Kendall Pond Road in Gardner. Cocktails are 6 – 7 p.m., and a "Steamship Buffet Dinner" by Shirley Catering begins at 7 p.m.

SUMMER SCHOOL applications are now available at Monty Tech for any and all students regardless of their school. Classes, which begin July 11, are offered for grades 9, 10, 11, & 12, and subjects offered include English; pre-algebra; integrated maths I, II and III; algebra I; geometry; algebra II; intermediate algebra; consumer & business math; and trigonometry & advanced algebra; science & technology; biology; environmental science; chemistry; U.S. history I and II; and world history. Monty Tech students may also sign up for classes related to their trade or profession. Call Rich Ikonen at 978-345-9200 ext. 5220.

Monty Tech SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS are out and may be ordered through Royalston's library or purchased at area books stores. Freshmen choices: *Forbidden City: A Novel of Modern China* by William Bell; *Green Angel* by Alice Hoffman, *Midnight Magic* by Avi; *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry and *Tangerine* by Ed Bloor. Sophomore selections: *Brian's Hunt* by Gary Paulson, *The Fighting Ground* by Avi; *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson, *The River Between Us* by Richard Peck and *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*. Junior options: *Don't Look Behind You* by Lois Duncan, *Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers, *A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly, *Out of Order* by A. M. Jenkins and *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. Seniors choose from: *Hanging on to Max* by Margaret Bechard, *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke, *The Silver Kiss* by Annette Curtis Klause, *Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman, and *You Don't Know Me* by David Klass.

Nine Royalston freshmen applied to attend Monty Tech in September. Three students currently have seats. Two students have completed the application process and are awaiting seats. Three students need to complete the application process to be considered. One student who was offered a seat, declined.

Free Hunter Ed Program

Free, Basic Hunter Education classes (required to obtain a license to carry firearms) are being offered at the Templeton Fish & Game Club, by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game. Pre-registration is required; classes are July 13, 18, 20, 27; August 1, 3, & 8 from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwhuntr.htm for details.

In your Own Backyard

Jeff Mangum

I was putting a worm on a hook for my daughter when she asked me what worms ate and how they ate without faces. Unlike us, they get by just fine without a face as we think of it. At the front of their segmented, slimy body they have just a mouth and a brain, the more to enjoy their food with. Earthworms are decomposers, feasting on dead plant material, such as leaves and roots.

Long before humans invented the word “recycling”, worms (among many other organisms) have been recycling the world’s dead organic matter into fertile soil. In fact, worms are such good recyclers, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has a web site explaining how to compost indoors using earthworms: “<http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/files/vermi.htm>” www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/files/vermi.htm. Indoor composting may be desirable for those who don’t want to trek outside, or don’t have a backyard, or want non-traditional pets!

There are actually several thousand species of worms worldwide, ranging from 1mm to 2 meters in length, living in freshwater mud, under the ocean, or in the soil. The worms most of us encounter are earthworms living within 3 feet of the ground surface, using tiny hairs on their body to tunnel through the soil. Earthworm movement aerates and turns the soil and allows water to saturate the ground. Earthworms usually burrow during the day, but come to the surface for feeding at night or in the rain. They reproduce by laying eggs in protective cocoons underground, usually hatching 1-4 worms per cocoon. Oddly, most earthworm species have both male and female organs, and some don’t need to mate to produce eggs.

Although some worms can live up to 8 years, most are eaten sooner by a host of predators, such as birds, snakes, moles, and toads. If you want to join the list of worm predators, you can enjoy nutritious worm recipes such as Worm Meatloaf, Caramel Worm Brownies, or simply Worm Burgers. These are actual recipes I found on the Internet. While I may not wish they are the answer to “what’s for dinner?”, they do give me more options for baiting the hook.

2005 Tully Lake Summer Series

sponsored by the Trustees of Reservations, Athol Bird and Nature Club and US Army Corps of Engineers

JULY 2005

Friday the 8th, 8 - ? pm: **Astronomy - Explore the Summer Sky** with John Kocur: John will have an 8 inch reflector telescope and a laser pointer to present a tour of the Summer sky and talk about constellations, planets, and deepsky objects. Meet at the Tully Lake Campground on Doane Hill Road. Free.

Saturday the 9th, 10:00-1:00: **Hike to Royalston Falls**. Come on out and enjoy a hike to the beautiful Royalston Falls with U.S. Army Corps Park Rangers. Bring water and pack a lunch. Meet at the Tully Lake Campground Ranger Station at 10:00 am. Free.

Junior Ranger Program. This summer children ages 6-11 can become official Jr. Rangers! At Tully Lake Park in Royalston Summer Rangers will teach children about environmental issues such as the environment, wildlife, and forestry as well as water safety and the responsibilities of being a Park Ranger. This one-week program is FREE of charge. Choose the week that is best for you and contact Jeremiah or Steve, your Tully Lake Summer Rangers, to pre-register. Enrollment is limited and students will be admitted to the program on a first come first serve basis. Please do not hesitate to call us and learn more about the program. (978) 249-9150. **Classes run from 2 - 4:00 p.m. on July 13-15, July 20-22, and July 27-29.**

Saturday the 16th, 10:30 – 11:30am: **The History of Doane’s Falls:** Tully Lake Campground Manager Keith Bockus will lead a short walk to the top of Doane’s Falls and talk about its history. Meet at the Tully Lake Campground Ranger Station on Doane Hill Road. Free.

Saturday the 30th, 6 – 8 pm: **Russ Cohen, Edible Plants Walk:** Russ Cohen, professional environmentalist and wild foods enthusiast, will lead a walk in search of wild edible plants. Plan on encountering at least two dozen of the 150 different species of edible wild plants and mushrooms that New England has to offer, many which are more flavorful than their cultivated counterparts. Meet at the campground ranger station. Free.

AUGUST 2005

Saturday the 6th, 10:30 – 11:30am: **The History of Doane’s Falls:** Meet at the Tully Lake Campground Ranger Station on Doane Hill Rd.. Free.

Saturday the 13th, 9:30-1:30: **Tully Mountain hike.** Hike up Tully Mountain with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Park Rangers. Take in the beautiful scenery and views. Bring water and pack a lunch. Meet at the Tully Lake Recreation Area at 9:30. Free.

Saturday the 13th, 10:30- 1:30 pm: **Down a Ferny Lane:** What are ferns anyway? How do they “work”? How do you identify them? Explore these questions and a number of ferns and fern allies on a walk along the East Branch of the Tully River with naturalist Christine Beckert Long, who holds a certificate in native plant studies from New England Wild Flower Society. Meet at the Tully Lake Campground Ranger Station on Doane Hill Road and bring a lunch Free

Sunday the 14th, 7:30- 9 pm: **Basics of Birding, Part I:** Join Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary resident caretaker and birding enthusiast Dick Knowlton at Tully Lake Campground for an illustrated lecture on the principles of bird identification. Free

Monday the 15th, 8 am: **Basics of Birding, Part II:** Join Dick Knowlton at Tully Lake Campground as he builds on his presentation from the night by putting the basics to work in the field. Free.

Saturday the 20th, 1 pm: **Mountain Bike Ride** with Park Ranger James West:: Bring your mountain bike, helmet, appropriate clothing, snacks and water, and ride a 7.5-mile trail of moderate difficulty along the Tully River and Long Pond. Meet at the Tully Lake Campground on Doane Hill Road. Free. Call (978) 249-9150 for more information.

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The Royalston Community Newsletter
Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library
PO Box 133
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