



The *Something to Crow About* **December 2019** RICHMOND ROOSTER



DECORATED DECEMBER

Karen O'Brien of The Green Woman's Garden

*Every year at just this time,
In cold and dark December,
Families around the world
All gather to remember,
With presents and with parties,
With feasting and with fun,
Customs and traditions
for people old and young*
— Helen H. Moore

DECEMBER IS HERE, and many of us will decorate our homes with fresh greens for the holidays. In doing so, we are continuing in traditions that span not only the centuries, but various cultures of the world. It is important to acknowledge the history and rituals associated with the adorning of our abodes with fragrant fir and balsam, as well as boxwood, holly and other seasonal greens.

The ancient Egyptians treasured and worshipped plants that symbolized everlasting life. Their quest for immortality, evidenced by their elaborate funerary

plans, also led them to decorate at the Winter Solstice with green date palm leaves. The palm tree is generally regarded as symbolizing victory, and was used by these ancient people to signify life's triumph over death. As in most ancient cultures, their lives were ruled by the seasons, with times of plenty, and times of want. Anything that might help them gain even a small measure of control over the vagaries of Mother Nature would appeal to them. During the Solstice, a time when night is longer than day, they would be sure to appease the gods and goddesses and ensure that the lean season would be followed by a fruitful one.

The ancient Greeks and Romans revered evergreens, too, as they felt they represented supernatural powers. These plants always stayed green and full of life, not withering and losing their vitality as the end of the growing season approached. As a symbol of the coming spring, evergreen trees were decorated with metal ornaments, and with Romans, figures of Bacchus. The Roman celebration of Saturnalia included the adorning of temples and homes with greenery.

The Druids of ancient Great Britain continued this use of evergreens, believing them to be useful in the chasing away of evil spirits. To them, holly and mistletoe represented eternal life, and they took great pains to correctly harvest these sacred symbols for use in their ceremonies.

During the Middle Ages in Germany and Scandinavia, people began to bring greens into their homes to demonstrate their hope in the coming year. St. Boniface, over 1000 years ago, was incensed by the pagan worship of an oak tree. He ordered it cut down, and in its place a fir tree sprang up, which he claimed was a sign from God and therefore sacred. This was seen as a recognition of the death of paganism and the beginning of Christianity.

Christmas trees as we now know them are a relatively new phenomenon in the greening of our holidays. Legend has it that Martin Luther decorated the first tree with lights in 1500. Supposedly he was walking through the forest and was enchanted by the shimmer-



ing of moonlight on firs that had been dusted with a light snow. So taken was he by the sight that he brought a tree home and lit it with candles to simulate the twinkling of the stars over Bethlehem. However, the city of Riga, Latvia, insists that the first New Year's Tree (or Christmas tree) was actually adorned in their town square in 1510, and a plaque to that effect (in six languages) can be found on the very spot the tree was erected.

Still, Christmas trees didn't catch on with most people until they got some good press (just like today!). Queen Victoria's Prince Albert, a German, had been decorating with Christmas trees in the palace since 1841. An illustration of his efforts in 1848 that appeared in *Godey's* magazine led to much greater acceptance of this tradition, and Christmas trees soon became a status symbol and eventually trickled down to more common folk. The first White House Tree was installed by our 14th president, Franklin Pierce, in 1855. President Calvin Coolidge ramped up the stakes when he decked out the first National Tree Lighting on the White House Lawn in 1923. In New England, though, Christmas and all its trappings were still frowned upon by those old Puritan values, and such holiday traditions were slow to catch on. As late as 1870, schools in Boston were still open on Christmas Day, and it was business as usual.

Fragrant evergreens are now firmly entrenched in our holiday festivities. The sweet, clean, and fresh scent of balsam is one of my favorite seasonal smells. Even if you prefer an artificial tree for ease of cleanup or cost,

you can use wreaths, swags and other fresh greenery to scent your home and round out your decor. Use them and continue the age-old customs of hope, triumph, and eternal life, connecting with the spirit of festivals from long ago.

The following is a list of evergreens that can be used in holiday decorating. I have included long-held beliefs and traditional symbolism as to their meanings. You may want to consider that pine and yew have meanings that don't necessarily connect with our holidays today, and are more suitable for funerals than the celebrating of the end of December and hopes for a new year.

Arborvitae	Unchanging friendship
Bay	Glory
Boxwood	Long life, Immortality
Cedar	Strength
Holly	Foresight
Ivy	Fidelity
Juniper	Protection
Mistletoe	Surmounting difficulties
Olive	Peace
Palm	Victory
Pine	Pity
Spruce	Hope in adversity
Yew	Sorrow

Happy Decorating! Karen

Agricultural Committee

Carol Jameson and Jonathan Hill

As part of the continued effort by the Richmond Agricultural Commission to maintain the towns beauty while promoting the agricultural, historical integrity and preservation of the land, in October, Agricultural Commission members Jennifer Daniels, Louise Nolan and Maryann Lauretti, along with Bill Daniels, Selectmen Chair and Carol Jameson-Historical Society, planted Daffodil bulbs around town.

The Agricultural Commission holds free educational demonstrations throughout the winter months and 2 Bazaars each year to promote locally made products produced from the land and animals raised here. The commission has raised money from these Bazaars, which has helped provide planting to the town, Thank-giving baskets to local families and monies to non profit



organizations such as the Veterans Hall and 100 Nights shelters and Humane Society.

Karen O'Brien – The Green Woman's Garden who writes for *The Rooster* each month is our newest member of The Agricultural Commission. As a Horticulturist, Karen is a great asset to the group.

The commission meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Veterans Hall 6:30 from March to November. Public is always welcome.

Selectmen's Minutes October 21, 2019 Meeting

Selectmen present: William Daniels, Andrew Wallace

Selectmen absent: Douglas Bersaw

Non-Board members present: Susan Harrington

Public present:

Meeting opened at 5:30 pm

Wallace moved; Daniels 2nd; the Board voted to approve the manifest dated October 21, 2019 for payroll /accounts payable in the amount of \$ 7,518.26 for the week of October 11, 2019- October 17, 2019.

Daniels moved; Wallace 2nd; Board approved Building Permit for Map 402 Lot 081.

Letter from New Hampshire Department of Envi-

ronmental Services notice of acceptance of permit application for Map 402 Lot 081. Read.

Daniels moved; Wallace 2nd Board signed QBS Waiver and Consultant Authorization. The QBS(Qualifications-Based Selection process and the ability to utilize the services of Quantum Construction Consultants, LLC for the Tully Brook Bridge over Tully Brook and Whipple Hill Road over Roaring Brook projects.

Letter from the Town of Royalston, Massachusetts Planning Board stating that in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Royalston Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing on October 30, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall to consider a proposed Recreational Marijuana Establishment, Marijuana Cultivator to be located at 130 South Royalston Road. A draft of proposed plan is at www.royalston-ma.gov.

Appointments

Elton W. Blood Jr. met with the Board to discuss the 2020 Budget and plans for upcoming year.

Land Use Department, Kim Mattson, met with the Board to discuss the 2020 Budget.

2019 Approved Budget=\$11,635.00

2020 Requested Budget=\$11,635.00

Town Clerk, Annette Tokunaga met with the Board to discuss the 2020 Budget.

2019 Approved Budget= \$47,570.00

2020 Requested Budget=\$48,770.00

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Harrington

October 28, 2019 Meeting

Selectmen present: William Daniels, Douglas Bersaw, Andrew Wallace

Non-Board members present: Susan Harrington

Public present:

Meeting opened at 5:30 pm

Wallace moved; Daniels 2nd; the Board voted to approve the manifest dated October 28, 2019 for payroll

Richmond Public Library

19 Winchester Road, Richmond, NH 03470
library@richmondnh.us Tel. 239-6164

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Wednesdays 9-noon
Saturdays 10am-2pm

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opac.libraryworld.com/opac/home.php. Library name: Richmond Public. No password required.



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/accounts payable in the amount of \$ 180,297.76 for the week of October 18, 2019- October 24, 2019. This includes the monthly stipend payroll and a payment in the amount of \$150,000.00 payable to the Monadnock Regional School District.

Daniels moved; Wallace 2nd; Board approved Building Permit for Map 408 Lot 025.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board approved application for payment from the Fire Department Equipment Fund in the amount of \$6,361.99 payable to Firematic to outfit the “new” Engine #3.

Harrington to forward application to the Trustees of the Trust Funds.

Received letters from the State of New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee and Orr & Reno notifying the town of Richmond of SEC Docket # 2019-02, Chinnook Solar,LLC application for Site and Facility for the Construction and Operation of a 30MW Solar Generating Facility in Fitzwilliam, NH. Per RSA 541-A:39, I. Read.

Invoice received from the Cheshire County Treasurer. Richmond’s portion of the County Tax is \$381,691.00 due by December 17, 2019. Harrington to contact Savings Bank of Walpole to obtain TAN (Tax Anticipation Note).

Daniels moved; Bersaw 2nd Board voted to edit Richmond’s Procedure for Sale of Tax Deeded Property from requiring 10% of the accepted bid within 45 days to 10% or \$1,000.00 at the time of accepted bid.

Daniels moved; Wallace 2nd Board voted to require a Criminal History Record to be obtained for any new employee.

Avitar Associates of New England, Inc. has sent out letters to Richmond residents regarding an interior inspection for the annual data verification process. Avitar will have a special contact number for residents to call to arrange an appointment for the interior inspection. The phone number is 603-798-3502 starting on Mon-

day, November 4, 2019 thru Wednesday, November 6, 2019, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Board reviewed pending legal documents.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board signed letter to Hamshaw Lumber giving list of approved employees and/or volunteers allowed to charge on the town account.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board voted to close the Police Department Revolving Account and transfer the remaining balance to the General Fund.

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; Board voted to issue invoice in the amount of \$15,332.75 for reimbursement for previous expenditures.

Appointments

Sheriff Eli Rivera met with the Board to discuss the 2020 Budget.

2019 Approved Budget= \$ 98,058.00

2020 Requested Budget=\$ 75,067.00

Supervisors of the Checklist, Pam Bielunis met with the Board to discuss the 2020 Budget.

2019 Approved Budget=\$ 1,767.00

2020 Requested Budget=\$ 2,420.00

Moderator, Walden Whitham met with the Board to discuss the 2020 Budget.

2019 Approved Budget= \$ 925.00

2020 Requested Budget=\$ 2,375.00

Treasurer, Loreal Schmidt met with the Board to discuss the 2020 Budget.

2019 Approved Budget= \$ 6,614.00

2020 Requested Budget=\$ 6,614.00

Walk In Appointments

Buddy Blood met the Board to provide an update on road work and other Road Agent responsibilities.

Meeting adjourned

November 4, 2019 Meeting

Selectmen present: Douglas Bersaw, Andrew Wallace

Selectmen absent: William Daniels

*Richmond Community
United Methodist Church*

PASTOR SHARON SARGENT

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 am

All are welcome to join our church family!





The Richmond Heritage Commission



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105 Old Homestead Hwy www.richmond.nh.gov

Non-Board members present: Susan Harrington

Public present:

Meeting opened at 5:30 pm

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; the Board voted to approve the manifest dated November 4, 2019 for payroll/accounts payable in the amount of \$11,189.16 for the week of October 25, 2019- October 31, 2019.

Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; Board approved Building Permit for Map 414 Lot 005.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board signed letter requesting Report of Wood and Timber Cut for operation #18-385-08-T.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board signed appointment form naming Elton W. Blood Jr., Buddy, as Richmond Road Agent. Term to expire in March 2020.

Letter from Avitar Associates of New England with preliminary 2019 assessment to sales ratio analysis for the Town of Richmond. The preliminary analysis indicates a median assessment to sales ration of 96.81% and a coefficient of dispersion of 18.09%. Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd Board signed 2019 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate.

Appointments

Mark Beal and John Holman met the Board to discuss salt invoices from 2016 to 2019. Board to follow up.

Librarian, Wendy O'Brien, Library Trustee, Jerry Mills and Library Trustee, John Lewis met with the Board to discuss the 2020 Budget.

2019 Approved Budget=\$ 37,486.00

2020 Requested Budget=\$ 38,829.48


Jerry Mills and John Lewis also spoke to the Board regarding the large rocks that were from the 4 Corners Lot that are now near the Quaker Cemetery rock wall. Board was asked to give authorization to John Holman to work on the rocks. Bersaw moved; Wallace 2nd; Board approved John Holman to have access and approval to work on the 4 corners property.

Parks and Recreation Commission, Blair Heise met

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with the Board to discuss the 2020 Budget.

2019 Approved Budget= \$ 7,500.00

2020 Requested Budget=\$ 7,500.00

Agricultural Commission Chairman, Lisa Hedenberg met with the Board to discuss the 2020 Budget.

2019 Approved Budget= \$ 500.00

2020 Requested Budget=\$ 500.00

Kim Mattson met with the Board to request the Board sign a letter granting approval for a kennel on Morgan Road even though the Zoning Ordinances states the road must be paved. Board signed special exception letter. Reference Map 407 Lot 059.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Harrington

Richard P. Drew LLC

Licensed Land Surveyor

Lot Staking Subdivisions

Boundary Plans

266 Tully Brook Road, Richmond, NH 03470

Phone: (603) 239-4147

Email: rpdrewllc@gmail.com

Pamela Goodell

Author

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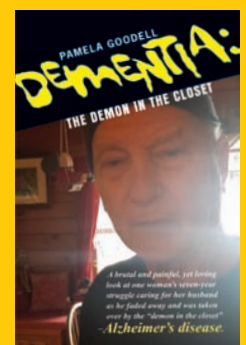
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Library News

Wendy Obrien

library@richmondnh.us (603) 239-6164

Library calendar for December:

Every Saturday, 10:30, Knitting Circle

Every Wednesday, 10:00, Storytime

Special Events

Thurs. Dec. 5, 5:00, Teen Pizza Night-NOTE DIFFERENT DATE!

Sat. Dec. 7, 10:30-11:30, Community Coffee Hour

Tues. Dec. 10, 6:00, Book Group, *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

Sat. Dec. 14, 10:30, Saturday Stories: Happy Holidays

Tues. Dec 24, OPEN – 3-5 ONLY

Wed. Dec. 25 CLOSED – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Tues. Dec. 31, OPEN – 3-5 ONLY

Wed. Jan. 1, CLOSED – NEW YEARS DAY

Free Baby Board Book Bags

Do you or a loved one have a new baby? Thanks to a grant from the Keene Rotary Club, we have created special Library Board Book bags for your little one to keep (and chew on!). We will be reaching out to new families, but in case we miss you, please contact us for your bag! New grandbabies are welcome as well.

Book Group: *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger
“On the surface, *Ordinary Grace* is the story of the murder of a beautiful young woman, a beloved daughter and sister. At heart, it’s the story of what that tragedy does to a boy, his family, and ultimately the fabric of the small town in which he lives.”— GoodReads. Join us at 6:00 on Tuesday, Dec. 10 for a lively book discussion with your neighbors. Copies of the book are available at the Library-pick one up today!

Saturday Stories: Happy Holidays

The RPL is pleased to offer a new program for our younger residents once a month. On Saturday, Dec. 14, drop in anytime between 10:30-11:30 to make holiday cards for friends and family. We will also have addi-

tional crafts, snacks, and stories.

New Titles

The Most Fun We Ever Had, Claire Lombardo

Blue Moon, Lee Child

Toy Story 4 (DVD)

Night Fire, Michael Connelly

The Guardians, John Grisham

Olive, Again, Elizabeth Strout

The 2020 Town and School Elections

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The Town Election and the Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD) Election will be held on March 10, 2020, at the Veteran’s Memorial Hall. The polling hours will be 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The following Town officers will be elected at that time:

One Cemetery Trustee, 3-year term.

One Library Trustee, 3-year term.

One Moderator, 2-year term.

Two Planning Board members, 3-year term each.

One Selectman, 3-year term.

One Supervisor of the Checklist, 6-year term.

One Trustee of the Trust Funds, 3-year term.

If you would like to run for any of these offices, please come during regular business hours to the town clerk’s office during the filing period. The filing period begins January 22, 2020 (Wednesday) and ends January 31, 2020 (Friday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. only). You must be a registered voter with the Town of Richmond in order to file to be on the Town Election ballot.

The MRSD Budget Committee member and the MRSD Board member representing the Town of Richmond will be on the School ballot specific for the Town of Richmond. These two offices are for 3-year terms. If you would like to run for either of these offices, you will need to file with the MRSD office. The filing period is the same as for the Town Election.

Please call 239-6202 or stop by the office if you

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have any questions. For inquiries about the School Election, you should contact the School District office at 352-6955.

From the Town Clerk's Office

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

WED, Dec. 25, 2019 CLOSED for Christmas

WED, Jan. 1, 2020 CLOSED for New Years Day

Richmond Needs A School Board Member!

Neil Moriarty

After a couple years on the school board – I will not be running for the post in 2020. I have enjoyed my time on both the board and the SAU's Budget committee.

It has been some time since the School Board seat has been a wide open spot in Richmond. Please consider running and having Richmond's voice in operating the school, which is the highest part of your property tax dollars. The Budget Committee seat is also open.

Sign up for either post at the SAU building at 600 Old Homestead Hwy., Swanzey,** between January 21, and January 31, 2020, (they will remain open an extra hour to 5:00 p.m. on 1/31). During normal business hours Michele, the lady at the door, can take care of you. Phone 603-352-6955.

I will be more than happy to spend some time with our new School Board member so you won't start cold. Or I can answer questions before hand if you have any. Call 239 4031.

*Monadnock Regional School District or SAU93

** It's the white house on the school property – you enter thru the back.


Congratulations

Neil Moriarty

Toby Forger – Cutler School, 5th Grade, Writing Award. Richmond's only October Award. ATTA Boy Toby!!!

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Joint Press Release

Jennie Gomarlo

Citing Budget Concerns and the Unknown Impact on New Hampshire Schools, Fiscal Committee Tables Charter School Grant

CONCORD – Today, the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee voted to table a grant that would double the number of charter schools in New Hampshire citing budgetary concerns and an unknown impact on the charter schools already operating in the state. New Hampshire has just established a two-year study commission on public education funding as part of the bipartisan budget.

After the decision, Senate and House Finance Chairs Lou D'Allesandro and Mary Jane Wallner, who both serve on the Fiscal Committee, released the following statements:

"These grant dollars do not come without strings

Kevin R. Marcotte

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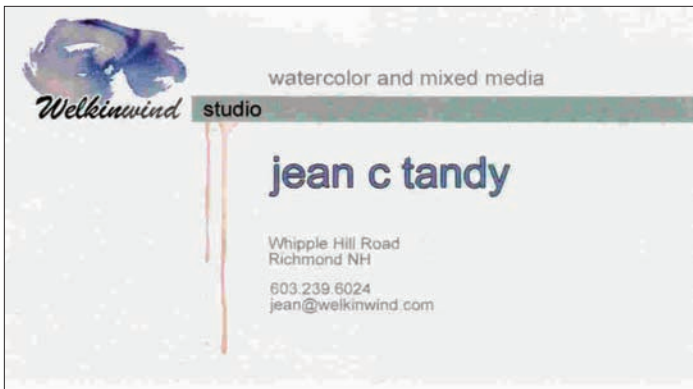


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attached – they require investments from the state not accounted for in the current two-year budget and pose unanticipated costs to municipalities, including transportation costs for in-district busing. It is prudent that legislators weigh this decision carefully while looking at the full education landscape in New Hampshire and the potential impact doubling charter schools in our state would have on students, school districts, and the charter schools already operating in our state.” said Senate Finance Chair Lou D’Allesandro (D-Manchester).

House Finance Chair Mary Jane Wallner (D-Concord) added, “The Legislature just negotiated a budget package that allocates the most state funding for education in at least twenty years, and work has begun on the Commission established in the budget to study long-term solutions for public education funding in New Hampshire. Without further information and a more comprehensive review, it would be fiscally irresponsible to move forward with this grant, which represents an end-run around the budget that ties our hands and commits state dollars years into the future.”

Jennie.gomarlo@leg.state.nh.us 352-9282

Doolittle Trail/Pisgah State Park

Jon Hill and Carol Jameson

Pisgah State Park covers more than 13,000 acres in the towns of Winchester, Hinsdale, and Chesterfield. It is the largest state park in New Hampshire and the second

largest in New England. Approximately 85% of the park is forest, roughly the same proportion as is assigned to New Hampshire in general (84.32%, according to the USDA Forest Service Inventory and Analysis Program. The only state with a higher proportion of forestland is Maine, with 89.46% forest, according to the FIA Program).

Although parts of Pisgah Park have not seen much settlement, the eastern part of the park, on Old Chesterfield Road and on Broad Brook Road, had been actively settled in the 1800s and early 1900s. This walk along the Doolittle Trail took us through the vestiges of the abandoned farmsteads, mills, orchards, cider mill, lumber mill, boarding house, several stone dams and an abandoned canal. We walked this trail twice this fall. The first time on October 1, as a two-and-a-half mile in-and-out walk on the Doolittle Trail from the Visitor’s Center in Pisgah on Old Chesterfield Road in Winchester. The second time we walked it on November 8, we made it a four-and-a-half-mile loop hike from the Visitor’s Center on Old Chesterfield Road to the Doolittle Trail, west on the Doolittle Trail to the Broad Brook Road, then north on the Broad Brook Road to the intersection with Old Chesterfield Road. Then back to the Visitor’s Center south on Old Chesterfield Road.

We drove into the park on Old Chesterfield Road up to the Visitor’s Center, accessing Old Chesterfield Road from the center of Winchester. The road was in

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good condition and we did not need four-wheel drive. A short walk north on the road past the Center led us to the site of the old Doolittle Farm and the turnoff on the left for the Doolittle Trail. The trail is well-marked and there are signs on the trail that tell much about its history and vegetation. We walked north a short distance on Old Chesterfield Road past the trailhead to read one of the historic markers. We were rewarded by the sight of a grove of shag bark hickory on the right across from the sign and a group of about 8 to 10 robins in a grove of common winterberry near-by.

Next to the entrance to the trail, there is a sign on Old Chesterfield Road that marks the site of the old Doolittle cider mill, circa 1800. There is an extensive orchard here. Although long abandoned, the apple trees on our first visit on October 1 were still heavily laden with red apples. Several apples had fallen on the ground and we had a delightful surprise – delicious apples to eat on our walk. We also saw grape vines laden with grapes, and a large swath of the invasive multiflora rose.

Multiflora rose was introduced into the US from Asia where it is native. It can grow to 10 or 15 feet high preferring sunny spots in well-drained soil like the conditions on the start of the Doolittle Trail. It has thorns and canes like our ornamental roses. The flower is a

small white rose and the plant bears red fruit in winter. It is an aggressive spreader propagated by seed dropped by the birds and by layering – branches that hit the ground develop root systems for a whole new plant. The seeds can survive in the soil for up to 20 years. Multiflora rose leafs out early in the Spring before most of the other wild meadow shrubs. It is easily identified in all seasons from the thorns, the canes, the early leaves in Spring, the small white roses in summer, and the dark red rose hips in winter.

Jon remembers getting apples from the Doolittle Orchard when he was a boy after the farm had been purchased by the state for parkland and the buildings torn down. There were more extensive orchards then – on both sides of the Old Chesterfield Road, and deep into what is now the Doolittle Trail heading west towards Broad Brook Road.

The Doolittle Trail starts as a wide grassy path on a gentle downhill grade, an easy walk with meadow on the right. Past the apple trees, the grape vines, and the multiflora rose, the grassy trail meanders gently downhill until it opens on the left to another large meadow. There is a marker about the meadows being mowed by Fish and Game to provide shrubland habitat for wildlife as part of the Pisgah Park management plan.




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The trail continues on a gentle downhill slope into the woods, through hemlock groves and a mixed hardwood forest with many oak trees. There were few areas of white pine until we came upon several giant white pines, just past Broad Brook Meadow. Into the woods, the trail curved left and we saw a large wetland on our right. On our first hike on October 1, we walked down to explore it and saw deer tracks leading into the wetland and a channel with moving water that had been created by beavers. When we returned on November 8, the wetland had been dammed up by the beavers and the channel had disappeared.

About a mile into the walk, the land levels out and we came upon Broad Brook Meadow, a grassy wetland next to the trail on the left. We saw a prominent deer track leading through the grass. There were a few scattered, spindly maples in the wetland, no taller than 40 to 50 feet high. The hemlock forest ends abruptly at the edge of the marsh. Towards the northern end of the marsh, we came across a small grove of enormous white pines on our right with diameters larger than 3 feet. Soon we saw Broad Brook itself on our left, and soon after that, the site of the settlements that marked the activity of the Dickinson Lumber Company here in the 1800s and early 1900s. There is a long wood bridge on the Doolittle Trail over the Broad Brook before the western terminus of the trail at Broad Brook Road. The foot bridges are magnificent – this one is a 50-60 foot expanse on top of telephone poles, well maintained and strong. Many thanks to the organizations that maintain the trails at Pisgah Park.

In the late 1800s, the Dickinson Lumber Company owned most of the land that later became the western part of Pisgah. This part of the Pisgah forest had not been farmed, perhaps because of its many rocky ridges

and inhospitable terrain. Once the Dickinson Lumber Company began harvesting the area for lumber, it became a settled region populated with the hive of activity that accompanies active lumber operations. Many of these vestiges are visible in the area today. Dickinson Lumber managed the land for sustainable logging, which is perhaps why we see the mixed woodlands and mix of old and young forests there today. There is supposed to be some original forest in Pisgah, never forested and that survived the 1938 Hurricane. It is said to be in the North Round Pond area, and some also visible from Pisgah Ridge. We'll search for that another day.

Dickinson Lumber merged with several other companies in 1889 to form New England Box Company, America's largest producer of wooden crates. Much of Richmond and Winchester was owned and logged by Dickinson Lumber, and later by its successor, NE Box Co. It was a large employer for the area – Jon Hill's uncle Harry Bennett worked for NE Box. The company went out of business sometime after the 1950s, when cardboard replaced wood for packaging material. It was Harry Bennett who started the Richmond Conservation Commission and initiated their early projects. He also created many of our town maps. Our Town Forest on Athol Road is named after this same Harry Bennett.

The vestiges of the lumber operations of the Dickinson Company are evident in the western portion of the Doolittle Trail and at its western junction with the old Broad Brook Road. Most of the historic sites are marked with signs telling a fascinating tale of what went on in these woods decades before the land became a state park.

At the western terminus of the Doolittle Trail, we headed south on Broad Brook Road for a short distance. Past the Dickinson lumber mill on the right (one of

many such mills), the sign shows it as “Dickinson Lumber Co. Mill, Circa 1811 to the 1930s.” The dam is still visible, as is another dam to the left on a feeder brook into Broad Brook. We went past the site of the Dickinson Mill house on the left. The sign at the Mill House says, “Dickinson Lumber Co. Mill House, Circa 1850: Unlike the company boarding house, the mill house was only occupied by individual families. In 1877, Emma A. Doolittle was born here and later moved with her parents Abigail and Edwin, after a short stay in Ashuelot, to the Doolittle homestead on Old Chesterfield Road. The house finally collapsed in the 1930s.”

Many cellar holes are marked with historic signs in this area, but we came across an unmarked cellar hole on the right past the mill house site. Where there is a cellar hole, there may well be a well, too. The well was uncovered and unmarked – a treat to find by spotting with our eyes instead of with our feet. We left branches sticking out of it to mark the spot. We headed back north on Broad Brook Road, past the Doolittle Trail.

The site of the Dickinson Lumber Co Boarding house is at this intersection, too. The sign states, “Circa 1870. It is nothing too fancy, but convenient and dry, the company owned boarding house provided a home to workers during their employ away from home. Frequently the commute to work was too far by foot and long days and inclement weather made this a welcome spot. The quarters were simple but had plastered walls, and family members were welcome to visit. As business grew, an addition of equal size was added to the west.” The cellar hole is still visible.


Nearby to the north on Broad Brook Road, we passed the remnants of the old canal for the Dickinson Lumber Co structures, also marked with an historical sign. Walking further north on Broad Brook Road, with the brook originally on our right, but later crossing under the road, we saw several signs marking older settlements: “The King Water Mill, circa 1790,” on the

left, the dam still visible over Broad Brook; and the cellar hole for the William Whittemore Homestead circa 1870 just beyond this. About a mile or so on Broad Brook Road after the terminus on the Doolittle Trail, we came to the intersection of Broad Brook Road with Old Chesterfield Road, the same road we had started our hike from at the eastern end of the Doolittle Trail, to the south of where we now stood. Here, there was a marker for the District Number 8 Schoolhouse, circa 1835-1899: “About 1835 this district was formed by taking local students from overcrowded districts No. 7 and No. 9. Initially, school was held in a room in the shed of James Snow, with only rough benches for seats without any backs. The first teacher was Mary Ann Fassett, sister of Captain Albert Fassett. About 1838, a new schoolhouse was built on this site and used for about 50 years. The average number of students was 20 and the teacher’s salary was \$5 per week.”

We walked back south on Old Chesterfield Road approximately one mile and a half, back to the Visitor’s Center and back to our truck. We passed Cheese Rock and Jon Hill Road, named for an ancestor of Jon’s that had lived here before it was Pisgah Park. There were snow flurries now on our second visit on November 8. The flock of robins were still hanging out in the winterberry shrub as we headed home.

Purchase of the land for Pisgah Park began in 1968 using federal Land and Water Conservation Fund money. Some of the land was taken through eminent domain. By mid 1988, most of the land purchases were completed, although a few additional tracts were purchased after this. The management plan for the park is available on the web. Trail maps are available on the Internet, too, and the site of the Friends of Pisgah has much helpful information. They lead periodic hikes and workday sessions too. We are fortunate to have this vast expanse of open parkland on our doorstep.



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STUFFED MUSHROOMS

Terri O'Rorke

Here's an appetizer dish to be prepared in advance and quickly baked if need be. Enjoy! Serves 6

18 large mushrooms 1 Tblsp. olive oil
1 Tblsp. grated Parmesan cheese
1/4C. finely chopped walnuts 1/4C. minced onion
1 shredded wheat biscuit, crushed
1/4 tsp. each, basil and oregano
Black pepper to taste 1/2 tsp. paprika

Wipe mushrooms with a damp cloth. Remove and finely chop stems. Heat oil in a non-stick skillet over med-hi heat. Cook chopped mushroom stems, onion, garlic, and walnuts until onion is tender, about 4-5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in Parmesan cheese, shredded wheat, seasonings, and pepper. Stuff mushroom caps, packing mixture firmly. Arrange in a shallow baking dish. Sprinkle tops lightly with paprika. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes or until mushrooms are tender.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah Richmond!

MHS Holiday Pet Family Photo Sessions

Carol Laughner

Start the holidays off with a keepsake photo that captures the love you feel for your pet!

Monadnock Humane Society is pleased to partner with Peterborough Paw Spa and Pawprints Pet Photog-

raphy offering a Holiday Pet Family Photo Sessions to the community. On Saturday, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 am – 4 pm, Heather Smith of Pawprints Photography will take a holiday portrait of your family (with or without humans) at the Peterborough Paw Spa location at The Strand Building, 174 Concord Street, Suite 130, Peterborough, NH, phone 603-924-9425.

For \$25, you will receive the professional photo shoot, a 4x6 in. glossy, matted print of your favorite photo (approximately 8 photos will be taken during the



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session) and access to electronic downloadable versions for use for holiday cards or reprints, on a gift or to post on social media! Holiday-themed design sets are the perfect backdrop for your family's portrait. Volunteers experienced in handling pets will spend time with you and your family to capture the best moment. All money raised goes to the animals being cared for by MHS.

Enjoy complimentary refreshments and shop at the Paw Spa Boutique. There will be a "Pet Gift Table" for gifts and stocking stuffers! Proceeds from all sales will be donated to the care of the homeless animals.

Appointments are scheduled every 15 minutes (call for reservations 603.924.9428). Walk-ins are welcome and scheduled in between. Make sure dogs are leashed and cats, rabbits, and small pets are in carriers. For information: https://monadnockhumanesociety.org/event/holiday-pet-family-photos/?instance_id=184

Mystery Rock

Carol Jameson

Here is a mystery photo from the woods in Richmond. Let *The Rooster* know if you have seen it before, know where it is, or the story behind it. The date painted on the rock is August 27, 1960, "C.P.H. + H.C.H."



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Sarah

Jean Tandy

Sarah was in the fertilized egg business.

She had several hundred young pullets and ten roosters to fertilize the eggs.

She kept records and any rooster not performing went into the soup pot and was replaced.

This took a lot of time, so she bought some tiny bells and attached them to her roosters.

Each bell had a different tone, so she could tell

from a distance which rooster was performing.

Now, she could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report by just listening to the bells.

Sarah's favorite rooster, old Butch, was a very fine specimen but, this morning she noticed old Butch's bell hadn't rung at all!

When she went to investigate, she saw the other roosters were busy chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing, but the pullets hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover.

To Sarah's amazement, old Butch had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring.

He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his business, and walk on to the next one.

Sarah was so proud of old Butch, she entered him in a local Fall pageant and he became an overnight sensation among the judges.

The result was the judges not only awarded old Butch the "No Bell Peace Prize" they also awarded him the "Pulletsurprise" as well.

Clearly old Butch was a politician in the making.

Who else but a politician could figure out how to win two of the most coveted awards on our planet by being the best at sneaking up on the unsuspecting populace and screwing them when they weren't paying attention?

Vote carefully in the next election. You can't always hear the bells.

(If you don't send this on, you're a chicken...no yolk.)

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70 Whipple Hill Road, Richmond, NH 03470



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Email – therichmondrooster@yahoo.com

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Town Business Hours

105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond NH 03470

William Daniels, Doug Bersaw, Andrew Wallace

Mon. 9 AM – 12 PM, 3 – 7 PM, 5:30 – 7 PM for business

7 PM – ? for public concerns)

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM

Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON (unless posted)

Public is welcome to attend. Please call for an appointment if you have an item for the agenda.

Town Administrator: Susan Harrington

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Thompson

Town Clerk: Annette Tokunaga

Deputy Town Clerk: Martine Imon

Mon. 9 AM – 12 NOON, 1 – 4 PM, 6 – 8 PM

Wed. 9 – 12 noon, 1 – 4 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Ann Dea Whippen

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Planning Board:

Meetings held at Veterans Hall.

1st Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM

and 3rd Tues. if needed

Transfer Station and Recycling Facility: 239-8136

Tues. 8 AM – 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM – 7 PM

Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

Town Library: Wendy O'Brien, Librarian, 239-6164.

Tues. 3 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

Police (Non Emergency): 355-2000

Fire/Rescue (Non Emergency): 239-4466

Fire Warden: Ed Atkins, 392-2027

Selectmen – 239-4232

Town Clerk – 239-6202

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Road Agent: Elton "Buddy" Blood, II

Visit town on-line: <http://richmond.nh.gov>





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