

The Tuftonboro Times

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A Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Tuftonboro Association

Spring, 2023

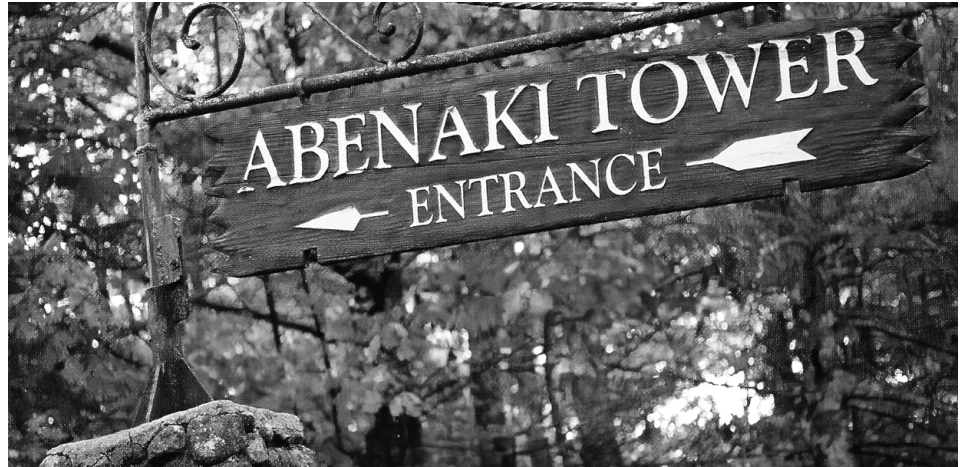
Abenaki Tower prepares for its centennial celebration

Tuftonboro's Abenaki Tower has provided residents and visitors alike with a spectacular view of Melvin Village, Lake Winnepesaukee, and the Ossipee mountain range for nearly 100 years. The Abenaki Tower and Trail Association (AT&T) itself almost as old as the tower, is organizing several events leading up to the tower's centennial on July 12, 2024.

It is Tuftonboro's tower -- built by the people of Tuftonboro for the enjoyment of everyone -- and the association envisions a community-supported project. Anyone can be a member of the AT&T, which is always looking for volunteers.

This year on April 22, Earth Day, the Kingswood Youth Center, and the Wolfeboro Rotary, are going to be at the tower helping to make some repairs, stain, pick up trash, etc. There will be a kiosk installed at the tower this year in cooperation with the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission. And the Tuftonboro Selectmen wrote a letter of support for a NH Historic Roadside Marker that has been approved by the state and will be installed next year on Route 109 near the entrance to the tower. It will emphasize the connection of the tower and the Abenaki nation.

The AT&T is raising money this year in the same way they raised funds in the 1920's to pay off



Nearly 100 years old, Tuftonboro's Abenaki Tower is a featured attraction in Lakes Region guidebooks and has recently been approved by the State of NH for the placement of an historic roadside site marker celebrating its Abenaki connection.

the mortgage for the first tower -- through bake sales, bingo and whist games, etc. The association is also working with the Tuftonboro Parks and Recreation Director on several upcoming activities -- including a community bingo night in April at the Tuftonboro Town House.

What follows below are two histories of the

tower: the first compiled from numerous sources by Karen Burnett-Kurie, whose grandfather, Admiral George C. Dyer, was a key advocate urging the 1978 rebuilding of the original tower.

The second history was written by Norman Farwell, President of the AT&T, on the occasion of the tower's 75th birthday in 1999.

A "wonderful, community-supported, town resource"

Despite local rumors, the Abenaki Tower was neither a fire tower nor built to watch for German airplanes during World War II. It was built simply to offer everyone enjoyment of an expansive and beautiful view.

One August day in 1923, Mr. Joshua Q. Litchfield, headmaster of the Agassiz School in Jamaica Plains, MA, and Mr. Frank Speare, President of Northeastern University in Boston, went for a walk and found themselves standing on Edgerly Hill, gazing out over clear pastures at the waters of Lake Winnepesaukee. Due to extensive foresting and the ravages of forest fire, the land was nearly unrecognizable to today's mature forest.

The outdoors enthusiasts suggested a tower for the spot and quickly organized a group of like-minded friends and neighbors, naming Mr. Chester I. Campbell president. In February 1924, plans were drawn up and the land was purchased for \$800 from

Mr. John Edgerly. Mr. Lewis McIntire, of Tuftonboro, put in a bid to construct the tower for \$400. It was accepted. It would later be said, "much credit is due Mr. McIntire for no man in the entire region could duplicate Mr. McIntire's splendid work."

On July 12, 1924, the Abenaki Tower was formally dedicated in front of a crowd of 125 onlookers. So how did the tower get its name? According to historian Ethel Turner Burnett's record-keeping, "the tower is said to be built at the junction of several old Abenaki Indian Trails."

The Abenaki Tower Association went into debt during construction, which wound up costing \$500, and slowly paid that debt off through bridge and whist parties, food sales and other entertainment. By 1930, all bills were paid. For fifteen years, the organization hired someone for \$10 annually to raise and lower the flag each Sunday during the summer season.

In 1972, amateur historian Ethel Burnett wrote,

"In the forty-eight years since Abenaki Tower was built, many hundreds of people have enjoyed the view and it is the wish of the Association that the Tower will continue to be 'freely and considerably used.'"

Around that time, the original tower was being overshadowed by tall trees and visitor numbers were dwindling. The tower itself had become dangerous. Lifelong Wolfeboro resident Kirk Titus remembers climbing on it as a kid and noticing "how Ricketty it had become."

In 1976, demolition of the tower was discussed, but Admiral George C. Dyer, who now lived in Litchfield's old cottage at the end of Wawbeek Road, spoke up for the need to "repair and preserve."

"Many local residents have climbed up Abenaki Tower and enjoyed the view of Melvin Village, the Ossipee Range, Lake Winnepesaukee and beyond," he

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Tuftonboro Fire & Rescue lauded for February loon rescue



Loon Preservation Committee

P.O. Box 604, Lee's Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH 03254
603-476-LOON (5666) • Fax 603-476-5497 • www.loon.org

March 20, 2023

Town of Tuftonboro
Board of Selectmen
240 Middle Road, P.O. Box 98
Center Tuftonboro, New Hampshire 03816

Dear Selectmen and all concerned,

As the Loon Preservation Committee's winter loon rescue season ends, I am writing to thank the Tuftonboro Fire Department staff for their outstanding help in rescuing a group of loons stranded off Tuftonboro Neck in February. When the loons were spotted from shore, the quick response of an airboat crew allowed trained LPC and Fire Department staff to safely net several loons from a small area of open water on the Broads, southeast of Welch Island. The rescue operation took place after dark, with spotlights and headlamps, over a mile from shore, in extremely thin ice. As the LPC staff person on the airboat, I appreciated the seamless cooperation and flexibility of the crew, their clear communication and attention to safety throughout. Their competence made the mission successful.

We hope loon ice rescues on Winnepesaukee remain a rare event. However, these strandings are an increasing focus in New England and the Midwest, as warmer winters increase the risk in some years. For example, we also appreciated the Department's help last year, in January of 2022, when another group of loons was rescued, also on the Broads. I'm pleased to report that monitoring last summer found that at least six of the ten loons from that group had survived, and were back on their breeding lakes in several cases. Because adult loons can live for decades and produce few young each year, preventing even a handful of adult loon mortalities has a significant long-term conservation benefit. The Department's help has directly contributed to this gain for wildlife conservation.

February's rescue teamwork renewed our respect and appreciation for the Department's well-trained and well-equipped capacity to respond to ice rescues, not just for our mission to help loons, but in terms of human safety for the town and region. Thank you, again, to the Town and the Fire Department for this resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Cooley', written in a cursive style.

John Cooley, Jr.
Senior Biologist
Loon Preservation Committee
603.476.LOON x 17

Spring chores: detector maintenance and chimney cleaning

Hopefully spring has sprung, and the warm weather is here to stay. It has been a strange winter but strange seems to be the new normal. The seasons appear to be shifting by a few months and blurring together.

When you changed your clocks did you change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors? Working smoke and CO detectors save lives every day. But, when your detectors are not working, they are useless. Often, we see smoke detector wires hanging from a ceiling or laying on the counter because they were chirping and annoying the home's occupant. Well DUH! The detectors were doing their job and telling you they needed a new battery to keep them in working order. Put a new battery in them. If you can't afford a battery, please contact us, and we can get you a battery. Smoke and CO detectors only save lives if they are working properly. You may have maintained your own detectors, but have you ever thought of ensuring that the detectors where you or your loved ones visit away from your home have also been maintained? (There are travel detectors on the market that you can bring with you.) You would be smart to make sure that there are working smoke detectors and a CO detector in the bedrooms where you and your kids will be sleeping. There have been numerous deaths of children staying in someone else's home without working smoke detectors. When firefighters must crawl down halls to find babies, we are the last resort! And, while at times we are successful, most times, tragically, we are not. And not because we didn't give it our all. It's often just too late--Often because other successful methods didn't work. After all, smoke alarms won't work if they're not there or the batteries are gone.

Spring is also the time to clean up your property. If you plan on having an outside fire, remember you need to have a permit. Wait till after 5:00 p.m. (unless it is actively raining) and call the dispatch center (539-2262) to let them know you will be burning. The burning laws are regulated by the state, not the Tuftonboro Fire & Rescue Department. Please refrain from shooting the messenger. Category 1 and category 2 fire permits are available online at www.nhfirepermit.com. There is also a link from the Town website, or a person can get a permit at the Central Fire Station or Tuftonboro General Store. Category 3 (brush) permits are only available at the Central Fire Station and the Tuftonboro General Store. Seasonal campfire permits are available online or in person at the Central Station. If you choose to get a permit online, there is an administrative fee that is charged. It goes directly to the vendor and not to the State or the Department. If you have any questions, please contact the Department. One way or the other we will get you a permit.

Why can I only burn between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.?

There are several reasons that the state of New Hampshire requires that most open burning occurs



A NH State Certified ice rescue class was held in Tuftonboro in March. Firefighters, Kate Dow, Esmay, Longver and Runnels of the Tuftonboro Fire Rescue took the class and 3 members of the department assisted in teaching it.

during the evening and nighttime hours.

The main reason is to prevent and control wild-land fires. As the day progresses from morning to afternoon the environment changes and makes fire control more difficult.

The temperature increases in the afternoon, and the surface fuels on the ground are pre-heated.

The relative humidity decreases in the afternoon, and small fuels such as grasses, leaves and twigs dry out.

Winds pick up allowing sparks and embers to travel away from the fire, making control more difficult.

Being a mostly rural state, New Hampshire relies on volunteer fire departments. During the daytime it is common for communities to have less coverage, because many of their volunteers are at work. In the event a permitted fire did escape control, a quicker response may occur during the evening hours than during the day.

Why is a permit required?

Other than meeting the requirements of RSA 227-L:17, there are several reasons why permits are required:

Permits are the first tool in fire prevention and education.

It ensures that forest fire wardens know where fires are occurring. Often a citizen may call 911 when they observe smoke in an area. If the warden knows there is a fire permit for that area, they may investigate the call first rather than call out an entire department.

It allows the forest fire wardens to inform the public when unsafe fire conditions may be present or predicted. This is important during times of high fire danger.

It gives the warden an opportunity to ensure that the fire is in a safe location, and that the proper setbacks from structures are in place. (25 feet for Cat-

egory I, 50 feet for all others)

It protects the air quality in the state by outlining the materials which may be burned (clean, untreated wood/brush no greater than 5 inches in diameter).

Other helpful information regarding outside fire laws can be found at the NH Division of Forest and Lands website: www.nh.gov/nhdfl. There is also link from the Tuftonboro Fire Department web page on the town website.

This is a reminder that anyone who burns wood should clean their chimneys as soon as you can. It is easier to clean them now, so you don't forget to clean the chimneys in the fall. It is very common for us to respond to chimney fires in late spring after the stoves have been shut down, and folks restart them during a cold, rainy spell. So, please be proactive. And, if you clean the chimney now, you don't have to do it in the fall. I'm sure by now everyone is looking for more projects to take up their time.

The support our community gives us is tremendous, and it is greatly appreciated. Thank you, stay safe.

**Caleb Pike, Capt.
Tuftonboro Fire and Rescue**

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Selectmen elect Guy Pike chair, request bid on police station

The selectmen would like to thank all of those who participated in the recent town elections and the town meeting. In the first meeting of the new term, as is tradition, the selectperson serving in the third year of his term was selected chairman. Congratulations to Guy Pike, Chairman of the Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen for the 2023-24 term.

The selectboard has started the process of implementing the warrant articles which were passed at Town Meeting on March 15. Bids have been received for a new compactor at the transfer station, a new car #1 for the fire department, and a generator at the Melvin Village Fire Station. The selectmen intend to award these bids in April. The permitting process for Union Wharf with the Governor and Council is scheduled to be completed this month and bids on this project have started to come in. Our hope is to do the

project after Labor Day so as not to adversely affect the wharf this summer season.

There has been a lot of discussion about paving and road maintenance in the local press. The selectboard has chosen to make the road study, done by Lakes Region Planning Commission, and the maps showing the condition of our roads in 2012, available for review. Implementing that plan over a few years has made significant improvements. The selectmen plan to continue this program of incremental changes and improvements going forward.

The selectmen, with their engineers, are pursuing grant funding to address drainage issues on Ledge Hill, Sodom, Tuftonboro Neck and Curtis roads. The selectmen are also now able, with the passage of warrant article #18, to apply for a grant to fund the work on Union Wharf.

Requests for bids have also gone out to contractors for the construction of the new police station. The board expects to award that contract in the next few months and begin the project as soon as possible.

Finally, meetings are being scheduled with New Hampshire Electric Co-op and solar installers to begin the process of designing a solar electric system to offset the town's \$30,000 plus annual electric bill.

Each month the Board of Selectmen has scheduled two evening meetings and the town's input is always welcome. It will also have public hearings on various topics throughout the year to which the public is urged to attend.

Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen
Guy Pike, Chairman
Bob Murray
Chip Albee

Police Dept looks forward to new and improved workplace

"Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past and present are certain to miss the future" -John F. Kennedy

Since the last *Tuftonboro Times* there have been several changes affecting the Tuftonboro Police Department. At Town Meeting on March 15 voters approved a police station reduced in size from the original design. Everyone in the department looks forward to an improved workspace. The final plans are still going through the review process with the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Program, so Tuftonboro can still receive the grant previously awarded. A request for qualifications has been sent out to interested contractors. The construction process will now be managed through a general contractor with a guaranteed maximum price, instead of a construction management company.

Several people have asked what was eliminated

in the latest plan. The locker room area was reduced, some storage was removed, an office was eliminated, and a training area/meeting room/emergency operations center was cut. A small storage/fitness area is no longer part of the plan. Other items were moved into areas that had been planned for other purposes. The Information Technology area was put into the end of a hallway and a shower was moved.

Another change at the department is in staffing. Officer Gillis has left Tuftonboro to go to the Moultonborough Police Department. This opening will be a challenge to fill as departments across the county, state, and country are having difficulty hiring new personnel. Many have responded to the shortage by offering hiring and retention bonuses, along with increased wages and benefits. At present, in Carroll County, there are approximately 18 openings. Departments are seeing a very small pool of eligible applicants and often candidates do not complete the

entire hiring process.

Tuftonboro has started the hiring process and will have begun applicant testing by the time you read this newsletter. No one who has currently applied is New Hampshire certified. That means they will have to be hired and then apply to attend the Police Academy in Concord. Then there are 12 weeks of field training after the academy. It will likely be more than seven months before a newly hired officer can work alone.

The hiring process is lengthy and involves several pre-employment tests: physical fitness, written and oral tests, a medical physical, psychological and drug testing, and a background check.

In the meantime, the Department wishes everyone a safe spring and summer.

Chief Andrew Shagoury
Tuftonboro Police Department

Cornhole, CPR class, music and art all part of Parks & Rec

The Tuftonboro Parks & Recreation Commission has announced that there are still openings for the Spring cornhole league that is slated to begin on May 24, 2023. The league is open to two-person teams in two divisions, one for beginners and one for more advanced. All matches will be played at 19 Mile Beach in Tuftonboro, NH., every Wednesday beginning at 6:00 PM. Entry fee is \$50 per team. There will be 8 weeks of regular season plus playoffs.

Parks & Rec will also offer a CPR/AED class for area residents to be held at the Central Fire Station in Tuftonboro, NH on Tuesday, May 9 at 5:00 p.m. The three-hour course covers adult, child, and infant CPR/AED with and without a mask and choking.

People successfully completing the course receive an American Heart Association Heart Saver CPR/AED course completion card that is valid for two years. The cost of the course is \$35.00. Checks should be made out to Tuftonboro Fire Association. Class size is limited, and forms are available at the Tuftonboro Town Offices or online at www.tuftonboronh.gov/parks-recreation-commission.

Area music legend, Carolyn Ramsay will be entertaining on Saturday, May 13 at the Tuftonboro Town House from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 per person with limited seating. Patrons can bring their own snacks and drink, with free popcorn for everyone! Previous acts included Jody Robichaud

and local favorite Brian Hastings. The Town House is located at 247 Middle Road in Tuftonboro.

Tuftonboro Parks & Recreation will offer painting classes to the area under the direction of the popular Doodling Di (Diana Spaulding). The class will take place on Wednesday, May 10 at the Tuftonboro Town House, located at 247 Middle Road in Tuftonboro, NH. Space is limited and patrons can pay \$25.00 at the door, payable to the Town of Tuftonboro, cash or check. The class will begin at 6:00 p.m. Patrons are urged to bring their own snacks and drink, as all other class materials will be provided.

Dennis Zilembo, Director
Tuftonboro Parks and Recreation

Tuftonboro Association wants to organize local StoryCorps

The Tuftonboro Association is considering starting a StoryCorps project. StoryCorps is an American organization whose mission is to record, preserve, and share the stories of Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs.

We think that there are many stories our Tuftonboro residents have to share that should be saved and made available to others in the community: stories of town history, personal experiences, family history, friendships, etc. Think of the stories you tell when the family gets together. How many times have you said, "I should write that down." How many times have you regretted not documenting something from relatives and friends who are no longer with us?

If there is enough interest in such a project for Tuftonboro, then we will hold an organizational meeting. We would be looking for people interested

in: organizing the project, recording stories, telling stories, etc.

StoryCorps DYI offers free online classes to help interested people to organize a local Story Corps project. We would utilize this training to help get us started. This is a project that could involve all members of the community. Age or experience is no limit! If you think you would be interested, please contact Sue Wingate: swingate0447@roadrunner.com, PO Box 93, Mirror Lake, NH 03853.

Below is additional information on the national Story Corps Project:

StoryCorps is modeled—in spirit and in scope—after the efforts of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of the 1930s, through which oral history interviews across the United States were recorded. StoryCorps interviews usually take place between

two people who know and care about each other. They can be friends, family, or mere acquaintances. A trained StoryCorps facilitator guides participants through the interview process. At the end of each 40-minute recording session, participants receive a complimentary recording of their interview. With participant permission, a second copy of each interview is archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for future generations to hear. Segments of select interviews may air nationally on NPR's Morning Edition (www.npr.org/series/4516989/storycorps). These interviews can also be heard on the StoryCorps website (<https://storycorps.org/stories>).

**Susan Wingate, Secretary
The Tuftonboro Association**

Historical Society's May 24 program features Rebecca Rule

Think Spring! The birds have arrived, maple syrup season is over, and, as of this writing, the ice is about to go out. The Historical Society is getting ready for the upcoming season. The society welcomes everyone to participate in its programs, whether a member or not.

We will start our season with a "clean up morning" on the museum premises May 25 at 9:30 a.m. Could be museum dusting, washing windows or display cases, vacuuming, picking up and light raking out front, maybe a little touch up painting, sweeping out the barn, there's something for everyone. Many hands make light work!

Wednesday May 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the library will be the Historical Society's first program: Rebecca Rule presenting "Moved and Seconded" featuring the NH Town Meeting. Many of you may have had the pleasure of hearing her sense of humor and storytell-

ing. If not, mark your calendar. She is sponsored by The New Hampshire Humanities.

Wednesday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the society museum there will be a presentation about Abenaki Tower which is gearing up for their 100th anniversary. The summer exhibit will be "Abenaki Tower."

Saturday, June 24 is the first-of-the-season barn sale, or market day. If you would like to rent a table to sell your white elephant, antiques, collectables, or whatever from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, contact Sue Weeks 603-520-0395.

The Historical Society Museum will be open for the season from July 1 through August 30 on Saturdays (10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.) and Wednesdays and Fridays (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.). There is no charge to enjoy the Museum.

Wednesday July 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum, there will be a "Civil War" program. Sue Weeks has

been reading N. H. soldier Elijah Bryant's Diary. She will share some of his interesting daily life during the war. She will also talk about what New Hampshire women did for the war effort.

Refreshments are served after all meetings.

The Museum has many interesting and different items on display for all ages to enjoy. You could spend an afternoon just sitting and looking at the albums of photographs of Tuftonboro, the Mt. Shaw fire, the tornado in Melvin Village, and the history of the Tuftonboro Fire Department. There are local artist works, genealogy, an early telephone switchboard, old tools, a dugout canoe salvaged from the bottom of the lake, and so much more.

We hope you have time to visit this gem in Tuftonboro, 449 Governor Wentworth Highway (Route 109) across the street from the Melvin Village Post Office.

Jackie Rollins, President

Hikers to sponsor first Women's Charity Golf Tournament

The Hikers' group has a three-part mission: to raise monies for scholarships, to make donations to area charities, and to promote community awareness. The group's activities over the past winter and the coming spring, demonstrate how each of these objectives has been met.

Fund-raising efforts such as Winter Holiday events, Easter breakfast, bi-annual rummage sales, and more have enabled us to award more than \$12,000 each year to Tuftonboro students who will be furthering their education in college, university, or technical school. In addition, each year we have donated to 15 non-profit organizations that serve our local communities, including End 68 Hours of Hunger, Caregivers, Tuftonboro Free Library, Kingswood Youth Center, and ACTS Therapy Dogs.

At our Guest Night in mid-March, Jeremy D'Entremont from the NH Humanities Council

shared his entertaining and informative stories and photographs of seacoast history in his program "New England Lighthouses and the People Who Kept Them". His lively presentation highlighted the pleasures and perils of the men and women who chose this lifestyle.

The Hikers have a busy schedule planned as we shift into the spring season. Our Easter breakfast has always attracted a hungry crowd and gives people a chance to connect with friends and neighbors after a long winter. We are happy to be back in Willing Workers Hall for this year's breakfast. The Tuftonboro Historical Society barn is the location of our spring rummage sale on Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Stop in and find bargains on clothing, housewares, linens, books, home décor, and more! Donations will be accepted at the barn on Friday, May 19, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Please do not bring

furniture or electronic items).

We are looking forward to our first Hikers Women's Charity Golf Tournament at Bald Peak Colony Club on June 15 featuring a luncheon and a raffle, and, of course, great golfing on a beautiful course. This event is proving to be very popular with nearly full registration already. For information on participating in the tournament either as a sponsor or player, contact Heather at (508) 864-7805.

The Hikers meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month (except July & August) at the Tuftonboro Free Library. We welcome new members from Tuftonboro and surrounding communities. For more information about our group, contact President Pat Jones at (603) 515-6536 (text or phone) or email pdjwolf2@gmail.com.

**Pat Jones, President
The Hikers**

Work continues on the historic renovation at 70 Middle Road



The extensive repairs on the “dreaded gable end” of the barn have been completed and the “ell,” connecting the barn to the house, has been disassembled and rebuilt. Still ahead: plumbing and electrical work and new metal roofs for the barn and ell.

Avery and I were asked to provide an updated report on the renovations at Lake Breeze Farm, 70 Middle Road, so I will do my best to let everyone know what is happening behind the scenes. By the time you are reading this there may be more done than I am currently expecting. This week we are waiting on roofers to come and start stripping the barn roof and then re-roofing the new ell as well as the barn.

Even though it seems like we are moving slowly, when I review our progress over the past six months, we really have accomplished a good amount. Since the last article in the Tuftonboro Times (in the fall of 2022) we have finished repairing the gable end of the barn and got it re-sheathed. The long transom window that we had removed for repair was also carefully replaced. It looks beautiful with all it is antique wavy glass. The barn doors have been ordered but won't come in until early summer. One unexpected complication of this renovation is all the delays in receiving ordered items. When we started the farm project at the beginning of the pandemic, the extent of supply chain issues had not fully revealed themselves.

Avery wrangled his framers back north to frame the ell in early December right before the real cold arrived. Unfortunately, they quit before it was completely done, and we were left to finish the job. We can do the work ourselves, but because of full time

jobs off the farm, we have limited time. It just slows progress down and can be discouraging.

We did get the ell's cement basement floor poured before the real cold of winter showed up, and that was one long awaited project completed. Not a glamorous job but necessary. The old windows that we had stored in the barn for a year got put back into their places, and other re-purposed old windows were installed in the newly framed ell. Ice and water shield was put onto the roof just in time for the first snows to fall. During January, Avery and I framed interior partitions downstairs in the ell where our kitchen and mudroom will be. The stairs were framed going upstairs, allowing materials to be brought into place much more easily.

Avery and a friend were able to leave their regular jobs for a few days to build out the trim on the ell and the gable end of the barn. To move forward with doing electric and plumbing work inside the house, building codes require roofs to be on, and the trim completion was the first step towards that. Like I mentioned at the beginning, we are waiting on the stripping of the barn roof as well as the new metal roofs to be installed but will need some decent dry weather for that. We will probably delay putting on the new roof on the main house until we complete the ell and barn renovations, because of time and resources.

Over the next few months, people will notice new, pre-painted wooden siding going up on the front gable end of the barn, and along the two sides of the ell. It will look very different for residents used to the traditional white but still a color historically correct for an 1865 Greek Revival/Italianate house. It was a decision that our family thought long and hard about, but ultimately, we felt the farm might like a change. Part of the summer plans will be getting the main house scraped and painted to match the other structures. By then the house and barn from the road should look fully renovated and finished.

However, that will be a bit of an illusion, as there still will be much more for us to work on. The interior of the ell will need to be built, all the house utilities done, floors, bathrooms, kitchen, cabinets, walls plastered, painting, etc. Because the ell will hold all the guts of our house, after the ell is livable, we can move in and fix up the main house during another construction phase. I had hoped to bring up the animals this summer, but I'm just not sure we will be able to with all the fencing and water lines needed while finishing the interior house projects. If we have learned one lesson during this large project, it is to have patience and try to take each day one at a time.

Elizabeth Woodworth
Lake Breeze Farm

Oldest religious congregation in Tuftonboro meets Sundays

The Tuftonboro United Methodist Church, the oldest congregation in Tuftonboro, is holding services every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in its historic building at

Tuftonboro Corner. Three local pastors take turns preaching different Sundays and it is working out very well. No other events are planned until August. Look

for more information in the Tuftonboro Times 2023 Summer Edition.

Estelle Zedalis
Tuftonboro United Methodist Church

After nine months Birch & Vine Restaurant is serving smiles

Nine months ago, on July 15, 2022, Patti Edson opened her Birch & Vine Restaurant at the site of the old Pine Cone Café in Melvin Village. Not everyone was pleased. The transition from a local, fan-friendly, casual restaurant and watering hole to an upscale restaurant with American cuisine and craft beverages was not universally appreciated. Some critics took to social media to express their outrage. But through it all Patti kept her eye on her goal to create a pleasant culinary experience where patrons would enter the building smiling and leave the building still smiling after a good meal.

Judging from the Birch & Vine website on Facebook with its 1,100 “likes,” customers have been receptive to Patti’s approach. In addition to the regular restaurant hours, the Birch & Vine will also cater meals in their own facility for groups holding bridal or baby showers or birthday celebrations. It has even catered a meal for a local business’ board of directors that entertained 50 people. Local Tuftonboro organizations are also signing up for this service.

There were growing pains during the first year. Shortly after opening nearly the entire staff from the Pine Cone Restaurant, unhappy with the many changes, resigned to pursue other interests. The one exception was Joey Adams, the present cook and son of the former Pine Cone owners, Dave and Sheila Adams. But when he first became aware of the variety of dishes Patti wanted to include on the new menu, Joey exclaimed “I’ve never cooked that before!”

Solution: An Executive Chef, Chris Roscoe, recently retired from many years with a fine restaurant in Concord, was brought into Birch & Vine for three weeks of intensive coaching and teaching until Joey was comfortable with his new role. To this day Chris, now working with a food supplier, will often sit down with Patti and Joey to review new dishes and provide advice on how they should be prepared.

Another bump in the road came early last August on a hot, humid, summer day when the power went out in Melvin Village. The restaurant was nearly full of people looking for a good meal inside a cool, air-



Joey Adams, son of Dave and Sheila Adams, ex-owners of the Pine Cone Cafe, is First Cook at Birch & Vine.

conditioned space, but the air-conditioning was down for nearly four hours. Patti offered apologies and refunds, and the Birch & Vine crew did everything they could think of to keep the sweltering diners entertained. It worked. Nobody left until they all left smiling.

The saddest moment for Patti during the first year: the untimely death of her friend and mentor Gerry Conway.

In the early months the Birch & Vine was opening in stages. The “front of the house” (wait staff) and the “back of the house” (kitchen staff) needed to proceed slowly to learn about their jobs and about each other. Today the restaurant employs 15 people, which Patti refers to as her “family.” They take two days a week off (Monday and Tuesday) a schedule that will likely continue into the summer unless more workers become available. During the rest of the week Birch & Vine is open from 11:00 a.m. until closing: 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Pizza, an old Pine Cone staple, is available in-house or take-out, anytime the restaurant is open. Delivery service is available to those living within

3 miles of the restaurant, and (after ice-out) Birch & Vine will resume its shuttle service to the Union Wharf docks or the Melvin Dock for boaters and island dwellers. (Call 603-544-3800 to order pizza. Call the same number when arriving at the dock for pick-up.)

All the desserts at Birch & Vine are sourced locally from either From Scratch Bakery in Wolfeboro or The Boro in Moultonborough, as Patti supports local vendors whenever possible. Another way Birch & Vine supports the community is through charitable work. On every major holiday the restaurant provides dinners to the Hope House in Wolfeboro. And on one night recently, Patti and nine other members of her “family” could be found “sleeping out” on the lawn in front of the restaurant. It was a fundraiser to support Covenant House, a charity with 11 locations nationwide providing shelter to youths made homeless through human trafficking or other circumstances. The Birch & Vine team pledged to raise \$2,500 in donations; the actual amount contributed by friends and customers totaled almost \$6,000!

There will be some changes to the menu coming this spring as Patti and Joey like to keep the fare offerings fresh. They are right now reviewing the three components that go into the restaurant’s menu: salads and appetizers, grilled entrees, and sautéed entrees.

After nearly a year since the restaurant opened, Patti Edson said she and the Birch & Vine team are happy to be in Tuftonboro and look forward to a long relationship in this community. On a more personal note, Patti became a grandmother for the first time recently and traveled to Seattle to spend a week with her grandchild and oldest daughter Caitlyn and her husband. She was delighted to discover that the team she left behind was able to manage the restaurant without her.

Patti has two other daughters, Emily and Megan, and lives in Wolfeboro with her retired-educator husband Charlie, also known as the Birch & Vine handyman.

Interview by Dan Barnard

Results from Winter Edition survey revealed by Parks & Rec

Here are the results of the Parks and Rec survey included with the Winter Edition of the *Tuftonboro Times*.

The survey was returned by 55 people: 48 were from Center Tuftonboro, six from Melvin Village, and eight from Mirror Lake.

Included in the survey was the number of people in each household as well as their ages. There were 65 people over the age of 60; 20 people between the ages

of 30-59; and 17 people ages six-29.

Question #4 was about an indoor swimming facility in our area. There were 29 yes votes and 27 no votes.

Question #5 asked should tax dollars be included to pay for the project. There were 31 yes and 25 no.

Question #6 asked if such a project should involve other area towns. There were 39 yes and 19 no.

The survey also asked to identify program needs. Answers included youth sports, adult sports, arts and crafts, social activities, after school programs and educational classes.

**Dennis Zilembo, Director
Tuftonboro Parks and Recreation
Commission**

Library acquires collection of old local and new fabled maps

Greetings and happy spring from Tuftonboro Free Library!

The winter months are behind us, and the warmer weather lies ahead. Soon it will be nice enough for beach reading or simply sitting outside with a good book in hand. Don't forget to take a break from yard clean-up and gardening projects to visit the library and pick up a bestseller or newest release.

The History Book Group returns to evening hours, and will now meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. They will discuss *The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War* by Catherine Grace Katz on April 26, and *Red Line: The Unraveling of Syria and America's Race to Destroy the Most Dangerous Arsenal in the World* by Joby Warrick on May 31.

The Readers' Choice Book Group continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. On April 20, they will discuss *The Enlightenment of Bees* by Rachel Linden, *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks on May 18, and *Portrait of an Unknown Woman* by Daniel Silva on June 15. *As always, future titles for both book groups will be listed on the library website once they are selected. Copies of all books will be available in advance at the circulation desk. Please use the rear entrance when attending meetings.*

Our regular Preschool Story Hour will continue on Friday mornings through the remainder of the school year. Join us every week at 10:30 a.m. for engaging stories and simple crafts. Beyond that, activities will shift to our Summer Reading Program schedule. Stay tuned for a full list of SRP events as we get closer to the date.

On Saturday, April 1, TFL held the first of two spring Book & Author luncheons. We were joined by local author Jessica Ellicott, who discussed her *Beryl and Edwina* mystery series. The first book in the series is *Murder in an English Village*. This title, along with others in the series (and other books by this author), are available to borrow.

On Saturday, May 6, the library will welcome mystery and suspense author Dan Lawton. Dan is the author of five stand alone novels, and the *That Was Before* mystery series. (All of Dan's books are also available for loan.) The program begins at 11:00 a.m., followed by a brief Q&A session and book signing. Lunch will be served after the program. Both the presentation and lunch are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Please call or stop by the library for more information, and to sign up for the event.

Great news for garden lovers! A new pass has been added to our existing selection of passes to area museums and local attractions. Beginning in May, library patrons will now be able to visit Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH. (Open May 17 thru October 9) The pass is valid for free family admission for two adults and children under the age of 18. Please visit our website for more information, and to see the full list of available passes.

For our art lovers, the library has a full line up of local artists and crafters who will be displaying their work in the upcoming spring months. In April, the Lakes Region Photography Club will showcase the diverse, photographic talents of their many members. The month of May features beautiful watercolors by Jane Podsen. And in June, Joseph Cardamone will display his 'Serenity Collection' of oil paintings that capture breathtaking sunsets.

Want more art? In addition to what is listed above, the Friends of the Tuftonboro Library generously donated funds to buy some much needed artwork for the many bare walls throughout the library. Thank you Friends!

Given the huge (and subjective) task of selecting and framing artwork, it was decided it would be easiest to go with a theme. In choosing one, I borrowed from a quote by legendary fantasy author J. R. R. Tolkien, "I wisely started with a map, and made the story fit."

Beginning with previously owned and newly



A map of *The Shire*, on permanent display with many other maps at the Tuftonboro Library.

purchased vintage maps of Tuftonboro, Carroll County, Lake Winnepesaukee, and New Hampshire, the theme was expanded outward to include maps of fabled worlds created by well known authors such as A. A. Milne, L. Frank Baum, C. S. Lewis, Frank Herbert, George R. R. Martin, and J. R. R. Tolkien himself. Patrons visiting the library can now visually explore the Hundred Acre Wood, the Wonderful Land of Oz, Narnia, Arrakis, Westeros, and Middle Earth.

These are just a few of the many fantastical and richly detailed worlds on display, created by some of the most revered and celebrated writers of our time. Plan a visit to the library today, and check out this fun and nostalgic display. And while you're here, you might as well revisit one of these timeless classics in print: Winnie-the-Pooh, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, Dune, A Game of Thrones, The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings. We have them all in our collection. Borrow one (or two) today!

See you at the library!

**Dennis R. Guilmette, Director
Tuftonboro Free Library**

Country, Bluegrass, and Gospel jam at the Old White Church

It is spring and now is the time to come out and enjoy an old-fashioned jam session.

The Tuftonboro Country, Bluegrass and Gospel Jam session continues weekly all year-round at the historic Old White Church of Center Tuftonboro. Everyone is invited to attend; the jam is free and open

to the public.

Musicians and listeners alike gather at the church on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 to sing, play their instruments, learn some new songs, and share their musical skills with others. The jam sessions are open to singers, instrumentalists and fans of country, bluegrass,

and gospel music. If you play a guitar, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, dobro, harmonica, or other appropriate instrument come and join the jam.

Dig out your instruments and come to play and sing along or just come to listen. There is no admission charge, but donations are greatly appreciated and help support the jam session and the historic structure of The Old White Church. The Church is located on Middle Road (Route 109A) across the street from the Tuftonboro General Store & Post Office.

Everyone is invited to attend the jam session every Tuesday evening at 6:30. Come on out and enjoy the fun!

**Joe Ewing
Tuftonboro Jam**



Old-fashioned church fair scheduled July 8 in Melvin Village



Going, going, GONE! Auctioneer Chris Coulter fires up the crowd at the Melvin Village Community Church Fair & Auction, scheduled this year for July 8.

On Saturday, July 8, Melvin Village Community Church will host its 71st Annual Church Fair. This beloved community tradition will feature a Flea Market, Crafters, Clothing and Jewelry Boutique, Games, Food, Music, and a Live Auction.

The Fair will run from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with the auction beginning at 12:00 p.m. The Flea Market and Craft booths are open to anyone wanting to sell items at the event – families with attic treasurers and artisans with crafts or art to sell. They can rent the

space and the church will provide a table and publicity. Details are in the process of being finalized so check back frequently at www.mvccnh.org/fairauction for details as well as for the 2023 Vendor Registration Form.

The Fair Committee is also reaching out to businesses and individuals for live auction items including artwork, sporting event tickets, watercraft (boats, canoes, kayaks, sunfish, paddle boards), golf outings, golf carts, or getaways.

For more information on how to donate items to the live auction please call the church office at (603) 544-9661 or Debi Lynch at (484) 467-3242. We look forward to seeing everybody at the Fair on July 8.

Debi Lynch
Melvin Village Community Church

Mirror Lake Church survives winter winds, looks to summer

The Lay Committee of the Mirror Lake Community Church is thankful to think of summer services for 2023, despite tough winter winds. There was some damage done to the property: one tall pine blew down across the 2-car garage in the church's parking lot. Fortunately, the internal damage was nil, and removal of the tree, albeit hard to get accomplished when the whole town was calling for help those days, was simple. A few days later, Church Lane was blocked by a downed tree which fell across the roadway near the highway and temporarily stopped passage for the few families who live there year-around. Many thanks to our local heroes, the Tuftonboro Volunteer Fire Department, who were quick to help by truncating (pun intended) the top of the tree and moving the interfering base. Meanwhile, the tree service engaged to finish both jobs is still behind on their schedule. The top of the second tree fell into the front yard of the church, over the historic stone wall and horse rings, and destroyed one of the pair of coach lights near the right front door. Mother Nature has no regard for history nor symmetry! The Lay Committee will vote on either replacing the light post or removing the other one. It's mostly a sentimental and decorative decision since the church is seldom used in the evening.

With the new summer season starting in July, we regret that several of our regular preachers who have served us so well, are now unable to carry on this meaningful leadership, because of full retirement, relocation, health issues, or death. We will miss Ray Weigle, Robert Cain, Edward Charest, Edward

VanderHey, Alden Barnes, Alan Mather, Robert Bossdorf, Marshall Davis, and Arthur Rouner. These speakers brightened our summer services for as many as 10 to 30 years.

However, "happy recidivism" and loyalty are in play, as there are five veteran speakers lined up for the nine Sundays in July and August; all these preachers have filled this pulpit before – some for decades. We'll be hearing **Brad Wolff** of Moultonborough, **Blair Moffett** of Wolfeboro, **Mark Monson Alley** of Wells (ME), **Carol Snow-Asher** of Hill, **Rick Clogston** of Warren, and **Amy Gardner** of Gilmanton.

These folks represent varied denominations – Lutheran, American Baptist, Congregational/United Church of Christ, and United Methodist. Every Sunday brings a different voice and experience to the sermon. Our church is known for its multi-denominational character. Another part of our reputation is our offering of several different talented musicians who enhance the church service with their voices or instruments. Our roster of special music and service musicians is being assembled now. Mirror Lake residents will receive a full agenda for the summer by U.S. Mail in June, and a copy will hang in the Mirror Lake Post Office.

MLCC is a unique institution – since 1854, it has been providing a place for worship, friendship, and Christian service, on the corner of Tuftonboro Neck Road and Gov. Wentworth Highway. 19th Century Tuftonboro residents felt the need to create this church to serve the farmers on this side of the town, so that it



The two-car garage at the Mirror Lake Church was tougher than the tall pine.

would be more convenient than the original Christian church, which was several miles buggy ride away. Now we serve weekend visitors, summer residents, and lifetime dwellers of our fine town. We donate tens of thousands of dollars to local agencies. It's a sought-after location for weddings, christenings, and funerals here in the quiet, beautiful sanctuary with its original pews, windows, and chandeliers, as well as a more modern fellowship hall where community meetings and receptions can be held. We are looking for volunteers to help in some small part of the running of this church. You can participate in history and do good for the Tuftonboro community.

When the bell starts ringing at 9:30 Sunday morning, you still have time to "come as you are" and leave even better, after spending an hour of reflection, learning, and camaraderie at 10:00. All are welcome!

Ginny Cole
Mirror Lake Community Church

Annual Tuftonboro Roadside Cleanup
Saturday, April 22, 2023

Conservation Commission says take a hike: look and listen

The sun is warming things up and the snow and ice are disappearing. Birds are singing, buds are swelling, and the first flowers are blooming. It's so great to be outside!

The singing birds are mostly males who have staked out their nesting territory. Their robust song shouts out "This is my territory, I'm claiming it. If you are a male, go find your own area, but if you are a female, whoow hoo hoo (tweet, tweetily, tweet!), I'm the guy for you". Woodpecker males find a hard, dead wooden stem to hammer out their "rattatat tat" message that says, "This is my territory, only potential mates are welcome."

Generally, the females move about the territory edges listening to the males advertising. Females listen to hear the right tune in the song and the vibrancy of it to judge the quality of each suitor and will try to find the right guy before any other rivals do so. And so begins a new generation to carry on that bird species.

Look closely and you will see some wildflowers blooming. Some are very subtle, blending with their surroundings, while others are bright and beautiful. Perfect timing is required between these flowers and the emerging pollinators. One is dependent on the other to remain part of the picture. The pollinators must get the seasonal signals right to emerge just in time to feed on the flowers' pollen. At the same time, the pollinators distribute a small amount of pollen to fertilize the plant so it can grow seeds.

You can hear and watch all these things happening by taking a hike today. Take your time, and quietly watch and listen. You can use tools like **inaturalist** with your cell phone (www.inaturalist.org) to identify learn, report, and catalog what you find. We have some great hiking trails in our area. The Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) has a great network of trails, just go to (www.alltrails.com/parks/us/new-hampshire/lakes-region-conservation-trust/lake).

The Tuftonboro Conservation Commission is currently working on a web site and brochure to help people find and navigate our local trails such as: the Chandler Trail near Twenty Mile Bay, the Central Park Trail near the Central Fire Station, the Hackle Trail off Dame Road, and the trail and observation

platform at Copps Pond. Oh hey, let's not forget our newest, the Great Meadow Trail.

Speaking of the Great Meadow Trail, the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission (TCC) is planning a celebration of the completion of the first part of the trail and the observation platform that looks out on the meadow and the Melvin River. The celebration is scheduled for June 17 at 1:00 p.m. We hope to assemble all the generous people and partners who have helped us along the way with this project. The kiosk will be freshly filled with information about the trail, and we will have guides lined up to give tours. More details will be available in the Granite State News and on the TCC website (www.tuftonboronh.gov/conservation-commission) and the TCC Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TCCCommission) as we get closer to the event.

Also in June, we will renew trail construction efforts. Beavers have raised the water level again making some portions of the trail near the observation platform too wet. For long term protection, we may need to add some boardwalks to that area. After that we can kick off construction on the new loop going back to the trail head. We are excited to welcome three new volunteers to our construction crew. If you want to help, call, and leave a message at the town office (603) 569-5439 ex 24 or email us at Conservation@tuftonboro.org.

Speaking of other Tuftonboro trails, as most of you have probably observed, we had a lot of trees blow over and debris scattered about from this winter's storms. The TCC is organizing a town wide, trail cleanup day on May 20. Volunteers are going to meet in the parking lot at the town office at 9 a.m. From there we will organize into groups and disperse to each of the trails. By then we will have a good idea of how much needs to be done at each location. Most of the work will be picking up branches or tree parts and moving them off the trail. There will be one chainsaw and operator assigned to each group to handle the bigger stuff. This will be great whole-body exercise, and you can meet some other fine people. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing, gloves, and good foot gear. If the weather doesn't cooperate on May



Spring is for mating and nesting.

20, we will reschedule to the next Saturday, May 27. Any updates will be posted on the town website or the TCC Facebook page. We hope to make this an annual spring tradition.

Back to our spring birds, isn't it amazing how songbirds can return from their wintering grounds, establish territory, raise a new generation, and have their young ready to make the arduous journey on their own to the south by the fall? Songbird populations have been declining, sometimes dramatically, over the last decade. These little creatures have many challenges to overcome. One of the greatest is loss of habitat. Some species can adapt to the changes humans bring upon the landscape. Most, however, do not have the capacity to adjust as fast as we are changing things. That is why we need to conserve and restore as many representative habitats as possible for all our wildlife species.

Please help the conservation commission do our share in Tuftonboro. The Great Meadow is an excellent example of an area with a range of diverse habitats servicing a broad spectrum of our natural heritage.

Steve Wingate
Tuftonboro Conservation Commission

Volunteers help monitor water quality in the Lakes Region

A big question: Is our water clean? New Hampshire's 800 lakes and ponds are regularly evaluated in the labs at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) with the help of an army of dedicated, trained volunteers who dutifully collect water samples and transport them to the state water quality laboratory. This special program, the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) originated in 1985 and is steadfast in training energetic volunteers to properly sample not only the lakes but also the tributaries to New Hampshire's lakes.

Our own Mirror Lake team, comprised of Larry Gil, Steve Scapicchio, Tom Bissett, Al Hardiman, Steve Cloutier, Fran O'Donoghue and Val Zanchuk collect samples from the tributaries draining into Mirror Lake. Many lake associations also participate in the Lakes Lay Monitoring Program (LLMP) administered by Bob Craycraft at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension Natural Resources Program and the Center for Freshwater Biology.

On Mirror Lake, samples are collected from the

deepest location on the lake and from seven shallow water stations. Both NHDES and UNH provide annual reports for Mirror Lake which are used to track trends and spot problems in the lake. In forty years of sampling we've learned Mirror Lake has springs; the phosphorus has increased; there is more aquatic vegetation in the lake; and we've seen increased development on and around the lake. Yet, Mirror Lake has remained remarkably clear and often reflects, as

Continued on the next page

Water, continued from previous page

its name suggests, the clouds, mountains and stars; while being listed online as the 5th most beautiful lake in New Hampshire. (www.onlyinyourstate.com/new-hampshire/most-beautiful-lakes-nh)

The most common and alarming problems in today's lakes are caused by phosphorus. Phosphorus, according to Dan Egan, author of *The Devil's Element: Phosphorus and a World Out of Balance*, is both life giving and life threatening. Although our bones and each strand of DNA in our bodies are composed of phosphorus, that same element in different forms, can be highly toxic to humans and animals. Phosphorus, still regarded as a savior when in the form of crop fertilizer because of its capacity to feed billions of people, can be lethal in a lake.

One of the major objectives of the Mirror Lake Water Data team is to track phosphorus levels in Mirror Lake. We know a major culprit in adding phosphorus to the lake is stormwater runoff, and we have encouraged residents living on and near the lake in its

watershed to use techniques, often termed best management practices, to control and slow stormwater runoff. Simple techniques such as not using fertilizer with phosphorus; planting blueberry bushes near the shoreline; leaving property "natural"; properly maintaining septic systems; using rain gardens and rain barrels to "slow the flow"; limiting paving or using pervious (flow through) materials rather than impervious materials (concrete, asphalt, manufactured wood) on the property are just some of the ways to keep phosphorus from the water.

What happens if there is too much phosphorus in the water? An abundance of phosphorus can lead to cyanobacteria blooms. Cyanobacteria looks a lot like algae and can be difficult to distinguish from other green substances floating on the water. While there are many varieties of cyanobacteria and some can be perfectly safe, others, when in bloom, can be toxic and have killed wildlife and pets while making humans quite ill. The toxins attack the nervous system and have been linked to various neurological diseases.

For this reason, when a cyanobacteria bloom is spotted the NHDES closes the local beaches and alerts residents to stay away from the water until the bloom has dissipated. Beach closures have been increasing across the state throughout the last several years.

Local lake organizations in Wolfeboro and Tuftonboro have joined together in a citizens group named Wolfeboro Waters led by Warren Muir. This group is establishing up-to-date water testing protocols in conjunction with the NHDES and UNH Extension programs that already exist. The efforts of the Mirror Lake water testing team and the larger group of concerned citizens in Wolfeboro Waters bring to mind an often-quoted thought from Margaret Mead, an American anthropologist, who said:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

**Kathleen Sciarappa, President
Mirror Lake Protective Association**

Abenaki, continued from Page 1

said according to the meeting minutes. "It is a location featured in the Lakes Region tourist publication 'For spectacular views of our lakes and mountains: Take a hike.'"

Titus' company — Maine Line Tree Service, now Bartlett Tree Service — was hired to rebuild the tower for \$12,000. The town of Tuftonboro contributed \$1,500, and the Hurlburt Fund gave \$1,000. The balance came from private donors, including funds raised by the "Village Pinups" who made a quilt and raffled

it off. Bill Cornell, a local builder, designed the new, taller tower. Construction began in 1977 and

continued until it was dedicated on July 22, 1978.

Dick Mullen and Sam Snow, still Tuftonboro residents, as well as Bill Kotz of Effingham and Cecily Clark of Ossipee, were the primary crew and Chet Fernald, longtime owner of the Wawbeek Hotel supervised the project. Titus recalls the four sides and top were cut and assembled on the ground before being hoisted into place by a large crane.

"It was a fun job," Titus says. "The timbers are

all utility poles. Materials came from power company supply sources."

Kirk Titus still takes his grandchildren to the tower at least once a summer. They are impressed that their granddad built it.

**"History of Abenaki Tower, Tuftonboro, NH"
was compiled from notes assembled by Karen
Burnett-Kurie, and printed in several papers,
including the Granite State News, in 2018.**

Abenaki Tower as celebrated during its 75th Anniversary

The history of the Abenaki Tower and Trail Association is largely the story of local friends who were willing to perform a public service. The Granite State News reported the dedication of the Abenaki Tower taking place on July 12, 1924. This year, 1999, is the 75th anniversary of the tower. It is maintained by members of the Association, is in good condition, and is enjoyed by thousands of visitors every year.

The original tower was built by Lewis McIntire of Center Tuftonboro. His pay was \$4.50 per day and his helpers \$4.00 per day. Construction cost \$500, the five acres of land, purchased from John Edgerly, \$800. The first president of the Association was Chester Campbell. The mortgage was paid off in four years by activities organized by Susanna Schofield. She continued to be the

backbone of the Association for fifty years, serving as Secretary and Executive Committee member.

In 1939 the land owned by the Association was surveyed and marked, but even at that time the trails long associated with the tower were being lost to neglect and concepts of land use privacy. Incorporated Nov. 22, 1924, the Association became a tax-exempt organization in 1969.

By 1976 dry rot and age jeopardized the tower and threatened personal safety, so the tower was closed. President George Dyer appointed Wes Burnett to raise funds for the new tower. This was quickly accomplished due to the generosity of the members and a \$1,500 contribution from the town of Tuftonboro. For \$13,000 Chester I. Fernald built the tower, using pressure treated poles donated by the NH Electric Co-op. The new tower was dedicated in July

1978.

In addition to maintaining the tower the Association has been a significant contributor to local causes such as the Tuftonboro Association, and the Tuftonboro library and Fire Department. Also, two civic minded Association members, Cecily Bentley, and the Chandler family, created two large adjoining conservation areas extending from Twenty Mile Bay along Twenty Mile Brook, then upland to 100 acres of former farmland. These easements about 33 acres of town owned parkland giving a total of 211 protected acres to preserve the beauty of one of Tuftonboro's most scenic areas.

**Written in 1999 by Norm Farwell
President of the Association**



Send your answers to:

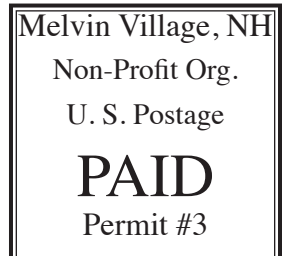
karen.burnettkurie@gmail.com

**If you get them all correct, you'll
win a prize!**

Without further ado, the **Abenaki Tower** trivia questions:

1. The Abenaki Tower was built at the intersection of indigenous Abenaki walking trails. Do you know where the trails went? (Hint: one was a water trail.)
2. The tower is on a list of the tallest observation towers in North America. Do you know where it falls in the top 100?
3. The tower was built on Edgerly Hill. Do you know the earlier names for this hill? (Hint: there were two.)
4. The tower was not built as a fire tower, but one year it was used by locals to watch a fire which burned nearby. Do you know which mountain the fire burned on, and what year?
5. The people of Melvin Village raised the funds for the land and original tower through bake sales, card parties, and other entertainment. Do you know how long it took them to pay off the loan they took out?
6. One of the originators of the Association which manages the tower is buried in the Melvin Village Community Church cemetery. Do you know who it is?

The Tuftonboro Association
P.O. Box 121
Melvin Village, NH 03850



TUFTONBORO POSTAL PATRON