



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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June/July 2008

CLASUS
OF
2008



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Heath Herald

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Heath Union Church News

We are reminded that this is the "Year of the Organ." As we do have the oldest Johnson organ in existence, we need to restore it to its original condition to keep being able to hear its glorious music "until Eternity." Look for announcements of fund-raising events in the future months. Anyone interested in aiding us in this endeavor can donate to the Johnson Organ Restoration Fund, Heath Union Church, 5 Main Street, Heath, MA 01346.

We may be having CDs of our morning worship service available soon.

Check the Church's outside bulletin board for announcements of coming events.

The congregation wishes to join in congratulations and best wishes to member Justen Brooks as he graduates from Franklin County Technical High School on June 6.

As always:

Adult Sunday School-Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship-10:00 a.m.

Bible Study- Thursday, 6:00 p.m. at Dot Sessions' home

Pastor's office hours- Thursday, 4:00 -6:00 p.m.. He can be reached at the Church at 337-4019 or at his home at 413-648-9077

~ The Deacons

Editors note: The beautiful photograph of the Barn Owl appearing on this issue's front cover was taken by Douglas Mason at the Heath Transfer Station in early May. The Owl captured the hearts of all who witnessed its majesty and inspired the following poem.

Flowers in red, purple, deep blue have a line to my heart.
The green of spring inspires energy.
Faithful pansies resist freezing temperatures.
Primroses haven't learned about failure
Tiger lilies defy death
....but the sight of the year was
An owl sitting on a wire at the dump.
Sick?
We breathed deeply.
We are 10 feet away.
The eyes flicking
Body erect
Still
Suddenly flight to a lower branch.
We waited.
Sick?
Food might help.
Off to Peter's Store for chicken.
Owls want moving chicken.
Owl doesn't move.
Quiet, majestic, white and black speckled.
He flew to another wire.
40 minutes later we left.
Hearts lifted by the majesty of nature.

~ Hazel Porter

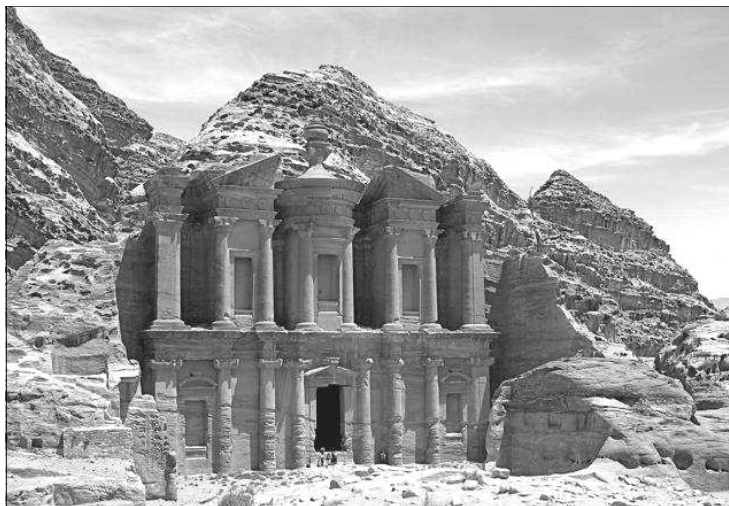
Thoughts on Jordan

Two weeks after 9/11 Del and I boarded a Delta jet for a previously planned trip to Venice. As you might expect, the crew members outnumbered the passengers. On that flight and for about two years later, each time I boarded a plane I scrutinized my fellow passengers, particularly those with darker skin and Semitic features. My reaction to terrorism is no different than that of a million or more people living in the Washington D.C. area to the sniper killers.

Much has been written about the ability of a few to terrorize the many. Fear of the unknown passes all bounds of rational behavior. This fear has become institutionalized to include practitioners of the Muslim faith, a fear reinforced by the many incidents in recent years; a fear to which I am not immune.

These fears crossed my mind when we received an invitation to visit with John Palmer and Suzanne Hanney, two Heathans and Deerfield teachers. They are taking a sabbatical in Muslim Jordan, to help the start-up of the first coed boarding preparatory school in the Middle East, called Kings Academy. Joined by Jan and Calvin Carr and Lisa and Ted Merrill, we brought some Heathan cheer to our neighbors.

We did find security throughout the country quite tight – mobile inspection checks on the highways, and very thorough inspections at the airport. However, in general, there was less military presence in the cities and tourist areas than we had encountered in Europe or South America. Despite long common borders with both the West Bank and Iraq, there has not been a terrorist attack in Jordan in the last three years.



The Monastery, Petra

Photo by Jan Carr

Jordan is the size of Virginia; about 80% is desert.

Almost six million people live there, a third in the capital, Amman. The native Bedouin population is in the minority as 70% of Jordanians are Palestinian refugees. In one shop we saw the key on the wall...the key to the home which is now in Israel.

Our first stop was at King's Academy, roughly modeled on Deerfield Academy from which the present King, Abdullah, had graduated. Eric Widmer, the retired Deerfield headmaster, is in charge, his wife Meera is Dean of Students, and our friends John and Suzanne are teaching English. It is a noble experiment. The girls do not wear a head covering, and all classes are taught in English. Five other languages are also taught. The school is beautifully designed and fully equipped to handle 600 students. There are 110 now and there will be 250 next year.

We had dinner above the Dead Sea, surrounded by rocks glowing red orange in the dusk. As night approached, we saw the lights of the cities on the West Bank. Understandably, the Jordanian views of events in the constant Israeli-Arab conflicts vary substantially from those we are exposed to in the States. It's quite an eye-opener to be exposed to the difference in perspective.

Jordan is a poor country without oil or other major natural resources. Tourism is important and by far the main attraction is Petra. It was founded by the Nabataeans, nomads who settled in the area around 6,000 B.C., and were major contributors to the spice trade. Most of the tombs were carved into the soft sandstone around 200 B.C.

The city is entered through a great natural cleft in the rock – at times two hundred meters high and as narrow as two meters- known as Bab-as-Siq. It ends as you come upon the lovely “treasury” building. Continuing on you reach a wide bowl where many of Petra's 800 monuments are located. These include Roman temples and a theater. From here, 800 to 1,200 steps (we did not count them) lead up to the top of the mountains surrounding Petra and to the largest façade – the Monastery.

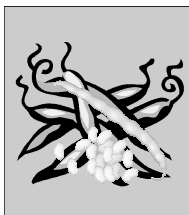
We found the Jordanians to be unusually friendly, able to separate Americans from their government. When asking directions in the countryside, we were invited to tea. We were told that Mohammed respected Jesus and Abraham as prophets. We were often thanked for visiting the country. The food was wonderful and each meal was basically the same. One starts by ordering *Mezze*- a variety of small plates including hummus, *tabouleh*, *baba ghaoug*, *falafel*, stuffed with either meat or vegetables, and a variety of salads with vegetables. Arabic unleavened bread (*khobz*) is served with everything. The main course is invariably lamb, both kebabs and minced, and chicken, all served with rice. Alcoholic drinks are widely available Amstel beer is brewed in Jordan, and the local red wine is drinkable.

This is clearly a “bird's-eye” view of a country in which we spent only five days, but the trip was very rewarding and could be combined with visits to either Israel or Egypt.

~ Bob Viarengo

Green Thoughts

Beans



By Pat Leuchtman

I love beans, green string beans, golden wax beans, beautifully mottled dried beans like *Jacob's Cattle Beans*, glossy black turtle beans – all kinds of beans.

Beans are ancient plants and have been important nutritionally in many cuisines around the world. Here in the US, Native Americans grew the Three Sisters, corn, squash and beans, together so that each crop benefited the other. The beans grew up the corn stalks and the sprawling squash vines provide a living mulch.

Fava beans are famous in Italian cuisine, soybeans in Asia, flageolets in France – and one could go on an on.

Beans are not difficult to grow if you have a sunny spot and average garden soil. They grow best when the pH is between 6 and 7, a fairly neutral soil. Beans are legumes and take nitrogen from the air and use it to grow. Even ancient peoples knew that beans enriched the soil. Beans need a soil that drains well, and adequate rainfall. Possibly the most common stories of bean failure include a wet spring that causes the bean seeds to rot before they sprout, or a too dry summer that keeps the pods from filling out properly. Regular watering during a dry spell is vital.

There are many varieties of pole beans. Just the name *Kentucky Wonder* makes me think of generations of farm wives tending their vegetable gardens and then putting up the bean harvest, in Mason jars, or the freezer.

I grow filet beans, known as haricots verts in France. These slender beans are picked and eaten young. Actually, all beans should be picked when they are young, before the pods get tough, unless you are growing shell beans to dry, of course. Then you just leave the pods on until the vines dry and shrivel.

One year I grew the asparagus or yard-long bean. This is a bean that was commonly sold in the Beijing markets and served in a hundred ways in Beijing cafes. I never actually saw them grow to three feet, but even at a foot long, one pod gives you a lot of bean.

I have also grown soybeans as a bush bean. Right now there is a fashion for preparing Edamame, an easy to prepare Japanese snack. The fresh soybeans, in their pods, are tossed into boiling water and cooked for about three minutes. Then they are drained, rinsed with cold water, put into a bowl and sprinkled with salt. You squeeze the beans out of the pod, getting a bit of the salt, and discard the pod. As delicious, but much more nutritious than chips.

I still use the term string bean, although most beans have been improved so that they no longer have a string. Instead the catalogs list them as snap beans. These are usually bush beans that grow to about 18 inches tall. Harvesting snap beans should be done in an unhurried manner because the beans are not always easy to distinguish from the overhanging leaves and stems. That is one reason I like wax beans so much. They are easier to see.

Sequoia and *Royal Burgundy* are purple snap beans and like *Dorabel* or *Hildora* wax beans they are easy to find in the bean foliage. They are also magic. When you toss the purple beans into boiling water to blanch them, they turn green when they are cooked. Watch children's eyes grow wide when you pull off that trick.

Beans belong in any child's garden. They are quick to grow and given a structure they can provide a sculptural bean teepee that the children can enter and sit in, or even a green and shady fort. All it takes is some help from the parents, poles and twine, and a packet of seed. If you use scarlet runner beans you'll also get wonderful red flowers that attract hummingbirds. Just be sure you arrange those supports in a sturdy fashion.

Charles Dudley Warner, in his delightful book, *My Summer in the Garden*, says there is no poetry in beans. On the other hand, when I look at a list of bean names in a seed saver catalog, I have to think that farmers must have poetry, humor, and romance in them to name beans as they do.

Tidal Wave, *Provider*, and *Valentine* bush beans; *Midas*, *Paille D'Or*, *Sunrise* wax beans; *Gold Buddha*, *Sultan's Golden Moon*, and *Champagne* climbers. Some beans must be named after family members, *Frederick's Bean*, *Gramma Walters*, and *Lazy Wife*..

There are no lazy wives in Franklin County. We are all too busy working in our gardens, anticipating the garden harvest, and the harvest of memories that every summer brings.

One the summer memories we routinely collect are those of our **Annual Rose Viewing**. This year the last Sunday in June falls on the 29th, and we welcome those who want to stop and smell the roses with us from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. We'll have lemonade and cookies to keep up our strength while viewing.

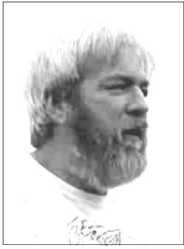
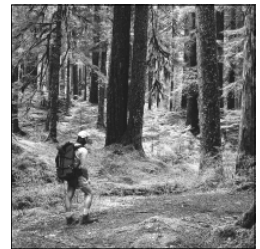
The Annual Rose Viewing at the End of the Road

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hardy roses will be in bloom.

Cookies and lemonade will be
served.

Pat and Henry Leuchtman
Knott Road

Wild Ramblings**Succession**

By Bill Lattrell

Within the world of ecology, plant community succession is defined as the predictable and orderly progression of plant communities within a given setting such as old fields, forests, and other plant community habitats. In the northeast plant succession may take hundreds of years for an area to succeed from an open field habitat to a climax forest. The many different stages and the great amount of time it takes make it difficult to get a clear look at all the nitty-gritty elements of plant community succession, so the only real hope for one to get a reasonable look at this process is to find separate plant communities in their various stages. While it is not too difficult to find an old field habitat, a shrub/sapling habitat, a young forest, middle-aged forest, and old forest habitat, it is very difficult to observe each and every change that occurs within a plant community as it slowly, very slowly, evolves from one stage to the next.

A long time ago, I found an old field and decided that I would check in on it from time to time. I knew when I started that I would only observe one human lifetime of changes, but at the time, that seemed plenty long enough. From the beginning I realized there was quite a risk to this simple endeavor as I did not own the property and had no control over its future. As luck would have it, I randomly chose a spot that to this day, has been left untouched by human disturbance. For my purposes that has been very fortunate.

My informal study has in no way been scientific. It was only meant to be a random set of observations from which I might learn something about plant community succession. To my complete surprise these observations chaptered bits and pieces of my life.

1978

It is the summer of my 26th year. I sit on the edge of this three-acre old field located not too far off a dirt road. It is late summer. The field is dominated with goldenrod, asters, and milkweed. Some of the agricultural grasses are still identifiable like orchard grass and timothy. The southern end of the field is being encroached upon by blackberries. My black and tan/bloodhound cross dog, Hickory, wanders the edge of the field with his nose to the ground and the loose skin on his face covering his eyes as it rolls forward under the forces of gravity. His partner in crime, Scruggs, an old shepherd/collie mix lies next to me panting away. Scruggs is about nine years old and happy to stay close to my side while Hickory explores every nook and cranny of the field. Hickory happens upon a groundhog den and starts digging away. This will keep him busy for hours if I let him be.

It is early in the morning, and the low angle of the sun casts long shadows across the field in a westward direction. A few butterflies work the asters for nectar in sunny areas. The honeybees and other wild bees have not yet begun their day's collection of the nectar from the blooming goldenrod.

A few shrubs and saplings dot the northern edge of this field. They seem to enjoy the shade that the forest surrounding the old field provides. I decide to walk over to this area of shrubs and find a few meadowsweet shrubs, and poplar, and white birch saplings. They are very small, less than two feet high. As I wander around this area I intercept a well-worn deer trail along the edge of the old field.

I jog down to gather up Hickory digging away at the groundhog hole, Scruggs remains at my side panting more with every step. Hickory is quite excited, sounding off as only hounds can do, a sort of cross between a bark and a howl. There will be no wildlife observations today, his baying can be heard for at least a quarter of a mile. When I reach him his black and tan face is covered with dirt, and he couldn't be happier. Scruggs, my other dog, quickly finds some shade along the edge of the field and lies down to get a little rest. Hickory is very sad that I make him stop his game.

The sun is getting high and it is time to get back to clearing my land, so we head back up to my 72 Dodge pickup truck. As we drive away I can see, through my rear vision mirror, the dogs' ears flapping in the wind as I drive towards home, a teepee located in the clearing on my land.

1986

For the past twelve years I stop by this spot several times a year to spend some time and see what I can see. I'm seldom here for more than an hour, and most of the time it is 30 minutes or less. Over the past twelve years the old field has slowly changed. For about three or four years the goldenrod and asters took over more and more of the field. The grasses and milkweed were crowded out, until only scattered remnant islands of them could be found between the mosaic of yellows and purple flowers of the goldenrod and asters. As time passed, the blackberries continued to encroach into the field from the south, and the shrubs and saplings from the north, creating an hourglass shape that could easily be seen from the high ground to the southeast.

(“Succession” continued on page 6)

("Succession" continued from page 5)

A lot has changed in my life since my initial visit. I have a wonderful wife, Maureen, who met me at work and took the time to "find" the true me in the woods. Together we built a cabin to live in while we built our house made of lumber from trees we harvested from our land. The teepee is now a memory. We have created two wonderful children, both boys, and they now occupy most of our time.

On this day I have my one-year-old son in a backpack, and I am holding the small hand of my two-and-a-half-year-old son as we enter the field. Hickory, my loyal companion, is no longer with us, but Scruggs, surprisingly, at nearly 17 years old is still standing by my side. He walks about 30 yards and lies down to rest, and does his trademark panting. His body is slow, but his spirit is still vibrant, enjoying each day to its fullest. Our new hound, Blue, a bluetick/black and tan cross is scouting the field ahead of us.

I take off the backpack and place my one-year-old son, Liam, sleeping soundly in a sitting position within the frame of the pack, by my left side. Brendan, my two-and-a-half-year-old son, lets go of my hand and is trying to follow Blue around the edge of the field. The thick vegetation trips him frequently as he tries to make the rounds with our hound. Each time he falls he bounces back up as quickly as he fell down. Scruggs sleeps in the shade.

I dare not wander away from Liam, so I am content to observe my immediate surroundings. The old field is now transitioning to a young forest. The saplings have crowded out most of the shrubs, and only remnant areas of goldenrod and asters still survive. White birch, red maple, black cherry, and poplar seem to dominate. Most of the saplings are between 8 and 12 feet tall and are two to three inches in diameter.

The young forest is a thick pole stand. There have been ice storms that have bent some of the white birch and black cherries over, so that even on this late summer day, they form a sort of arch that frames a view of the landscape.

In my wanderings today I see buck rubs on the poplar trees where a male deer has scarred a tree while removing the velvet from his antlers. There is still a well-worn deer trail along what was the edge of the old field, but now it is a deer trail that marks the edge of young forest, and middle-age forest.

Blue seems to be aware that Brendan is following him around the field, and somehow knows not to wander too far away. Liam starts to cry, and I know it is time to go. I pick him up in my backpack and whistle for Blue. Blue runs up the hill with Brendan following as fast as his little legs can carry him. Scruggs stirs in the shade, gives a long yawn, and struggles to get up. He slowly follows us up to my 75 Toyota Land Cruiser. With the boys latched into their seat belts, and the dogs stowed in the back, I drive towards home thinking about how different things are than they were a few years ago.

1999

As we drive to my little area of study, I am, again, thinking about how things change. Brendan is at the wheel of his 1986 Saab, and he is going to drop me off and continue on about his day's explorations. Liam is playing basketball with his friends in

the center of town. In the back of the car, Ella, our family Newfoundland dog, and Shadow, our hound, a bloodhound/walker hound/bluetick hound mix, peer out the windows at the rural landscape. Maureen is getting some much needed alone time while working in our garden. Our longtime buddy, Scruggs, died a while back at age 19 and Blue met an early and very sad demise as the result of his bad habit of chasing cars.

Brendan drops the two dogs and me off, and we proceed into the woods. Now, in my late 40s, I let the dogs go ahead, although Ella stays close by, her 150-pound frame not being conducive to speed, but rather power. Shadow, being a typical hound, runs to the edge of the field, with his nose to the ground. He picks up a scent and bounds off into the woods. Although I am in reasonable physical condition, I am certainly not as spry as I once was. I can feel my weight on my knees as I descend down the gentle hill in the woods. It is a cloudy day, although I do not expect rain. The low light conditions make the woods dark but this seems to favor the pastel colors of the changing foliage on this autumn day.

The "old field" is now a young forest. The trees are 6-8 inches in diameter and 25-30 feet tall. The understory plant community is comprised of club moss, interrupted fern, Christmas fern, Canada mayflower, and other forbs (herbs other than grass). A few young hemlocks, now about a decade old, have found their way into the forest plant community. I notice a few invasive barberries, a shrub that can dominate the understory to the disadvantage of native shrubs and plants. The forest has developed some vertical habitats. For instance, I see ovenbirds on the forest floor, nuthatches flickering about on mid-level branches, and scarlet tanagers singing from their preferred treetops.

Ella barks for no reason, letting the world know that she is in charge, and Shadow, being her loyal subject, comes running from his pursuits. We head back towards home, a two-mile walk that we will enjoy on this September morning.

2008

It is early in the spring, and as I walk into the woods with my two bloodhounds, Cooper and Adia. I remember the first time I came here with Hickory and Scruggs. Ella and Shadow have passed on at the result of old age. How much everything has changed in 30 years! The forest, although still young, is showing signs of maturity, the trees now about 40 feet tall, and 8 to 10 inches in diameter dominate the landscape. The young hemlocks are becoming more prevalent and shade much of the forest floor. There are now about a dozen hemlocks ranging from a few years old to about 20 years old. There are still clumps of ferns, primarily Christmas ferns and wood ferns, but the club moss has become very sparse. The barberry has not yet become a serious problem, it seems to be staying in the same areas and not spreading as I feared it would.

On this day I keep Adia on a leash, and Cooper stays close by exploring the smells and scents on the forest floor. With his head down his loose skin falls forward, making this two-year-old 125-pound pup look like an old dog. Adia, not yet

("Succession" continued on page 8)



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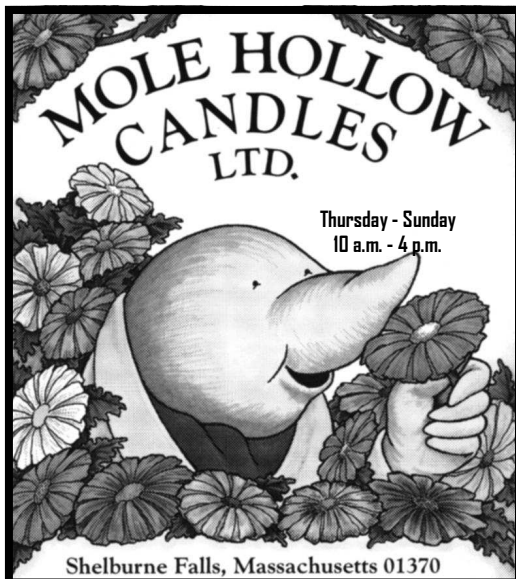
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Memories of Life on a Small Heath Dairy Farm

On a bright sunny day in spring when the grass is beginning to turn green, I think of "turn out" day. All winter the cows have been standing in their stanchions and at last the day arrives when they get their summer freedom. Hours and days have been spent "mending" the pasture fences and gates in preparation for summer pasture feeding. At last the grass is abundant enough so the day is set to let the critters free.

One by one the stanchions are opened and the "ole-girls" back out, slip a bit, get too anxious and stumble, but finally get out the barn door into the lane to pasture. Then the circus begins. They are able at last to stretch out those legs and kick up the heels. Some just graze along sedately and enter the gate to the pasture but some go through elaborate gymnastics before the herd is all out and the bars are put across the gate.

The young stock have been exercised with the cows or in the barnyard until reasonably calm and the long awaited day comes to drive them down to their summer pasture. A good leader is roped and led by Dad and we girls, and hired help keep them moving down the field, through the woods, to the gate of their vacation place. They are not abandoned as someone checks on them each week, with some grain and attention so they will remain friendly and easy to catch when it is time to come back to the stable. If one is due to calf, she is brought home by herself.

The very best part of this three-ring circus is letting the babies out into the barnyard where they will hopefully learn the restraint of a fence before being summered in the calf pasture near the barns. Dad was never allowed to have this performance take place unless we could all be home to enjoy the antics. It was just hilarious. We would stand and watch these little ones try to keep all four feet under them as they stumbled and cavorted about.

A "Three-Ring Circus" indeed, that was enjoyed as much by we humans as it was by those bovines.

~ Ruth Johnson

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Heath Historical Society News

Since late last summer the Center Schoolhouse has been closed due to foundation problems. Contractor David Cote was engaged to assess the problem(s) and proceed forthwith. Winter set in too quickly last year to do the work, but now he is ready to go.

The Board of Directors also thought this was a good time to deal with the problem of the overgrown spruce tree that is impeding the entryway and causing additional foundation problems.

The tree was planted years ago by the late Jake Tripp and Dave Howland and was decorated at Christmas for several seasons while it was of reasonable size. Sadly, the Board of Directors decided this was a good time to take it down and replace it, after the work is done, with another, better placed tree, the variety of which is to be decided.



The Society and the Heath Historical Commission are planning a joint celebration of the designation of the Heath Center Historical District by the National Register on Saturday, July 26, 2008. This is the same day as the Ladies Aid Fair and the Community Hall Craft Fair, so we are going to see some lively activity on the Town Common on that day! Watch for further details.

~ Jack Cable
President

(*"Succession"* continued from page 6)

well trained, would pick up a scent and be off on the trail, perhaps for hours, if she were not on a leash. She is young, vibrant, and has a mind of her own, not the like of which I have seen since the days of Hickory, my black and tan/bloodhound cross that I had many years ago.

After wandering around a bit, I take a much needed rest on the sideways trunk of a tree that was toppled under the weight of ice this previous winter. The toppled tree has created a sizeable space where sunlight can enter and grasses and herbaceous plants will likely find a home in a place that has not seen these plant species for nearly thirty years. I see it as a small rebirth of a plant community I knew thirty years ago!

I think of Brendan who is now living in Boston working on a film career. I think of Liam, recently home from traveling in South America. I think about how lucky I am to still be with the same woman after nearly 30 years. I think about all of our dogs and their personalities. I think about how the landscape here has changed, and how much my life has changed, also. And I wonder where all the time has gone and what is to come during the next 30 years.

Support Heath Agriculture



Benson Place

Wonderfully Wild Blueberry Spread

- We are now taking orders for the 2008 crop, and we welcome inquiries about PYO as well.
- Our Annual Wild Blueberry Jubilee will be held on Saturday, August 2, from 2 - 8 p.m.
- Wonderfully Wild Blueberry Spread is available locally. Visit our website for locations.
- Come walk this beautiful land anytime. Please call ahead.
- Farm transfer and preservation efforts continue. Do ask us about this.

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cheese at farm prices.

"A perfect summer day is when the
sun is shining, the breeze is blowing,
the birds are singing, and the lawn
mower is broken."

James Dent
1928-1992
U.S. Humorist

This section is free to Heath Farmers, and is made possible by the sales of Carroll Stowe's compilation "The Way it is in the Country." Agricultural producers should submit their information to *The Heath Herald*, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346.

Heath Fair News

It seems cruel to say it just as the summer is getting started, but it's true. Before you know it, it will be time for the 91st Annual Heath Fair. The dates are Aug 15-17. The theme is Local Harvest. In the meantime, **READINESS IS ALL!**

Work Bees and Volunteering

Now is the time for Heath Fair lovers to come to Wednesday night work bees, 6:00 p.m., rain or shine. There is always something that needs doing, mowing, weed whacking, cleaning, painting, general repairs, plus visiting, of course. Bring your tools and gear. If you want to lend a hand but can't make Wednesdays, call Chris O'Brien and Dave Freeman (337-4766) to see about projects you can do at a time that works for you.

Help is always needed at the Fair, too. Selling tickets, parking cars, working at the food booth, to name a few. If you haven't done it before and would like to volunteer here is whom to call (See Heath Fair Contact Information, below, for phone numbers):

Food Booth:	Deb Porter
Tickets:	Tammy Miller
Parking:	Justin Lively

If you have volunteered in the past, you can probably count on hearing from them soon!

Vendors

After decades of faithful organizing, Grace Crowningshield has decided to step down as the Superintendent of the Midway. She doesn't intend to miss the Fair, though, so stop by and see her at the Ken Crowningshield Memorial Silo. Meanwhile, after a year of working with Grace to learn the basics, Jenna Day has agreed to take on midway job. Don't be surprised to find a few changes. For example, in addition to the Speakers' Tent, we are adding a crafts tent, hope to have a farmers market, and are inviting a wider variety of food vendors. Contact Jenna for more information or application forms to rent and reserve a place on the midway.

Preview of Coming Attractions

There will be lots of excitement Friday night when for the first time ever PDP Productions will bring to the Heath Fair a **Battle of the Bands**. Come hear several young bands strut their stuff and vie for first place under the Heath Fair Music Tent. Down at the show ring, John Miller of Goat Rising Farm in Charlemont, is organizing the first ever **Goat Show**, complete with **Goat Cheese Tasting** where you can sample some of the area's fine products. The **Antique Tractor Pull** will be back by popular demand, and we'll start off the evening with the first ever **Antique Tractor Parade**.

As always, there will be a Pony Pull (Friday night) and Horse Pull (Saturday) and an Ox Pull (Sunday). New this year will be a Truck Pull on Saturday at 5:00 p.m.. We like to have a Kids Pedal Tractor Pull on Saturday morning. If you have a pedal tractor in good working condition that we could borrow for the event, call Pam Porter at 337-5525.

Look for information on entering the goat and other farm animal shows, exhibits, parades, and pulls in the 2008 premium book, available soon at the Heath Town Hall, several local businesses and libraries. Or visit our Web site: www.heathfair.org.

We are reviving an old Heath Fair tradition this year by adding a speakers' tent. In keeping with our Fair theme, *Local Harvest*, Annie Cheatam, retired Executive Director of Community Involved in Sustainable Agriculture (CISA), will speak on buying local all year-round. Bob Barkley, Heath apple grower, will share what he has learned about choosing, growing, pruning and maintaining apple trees in our hill town climate. Tom Ricardi will be at the Fair on Sunday afternoon to bring us his up close and personal introduction to local birds of prey. Kevin Fox is returning with his popular demonstration of hand sheepshearing, and farrier Randy Hemminger also returns with his demonstration of horseshoeing.

Heath Fair Music will just keep coming all weekend long. After the Battle of the Bands on Friday, Heath's honey-voiced Karen Brooks leads off on Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon includes Northern Lights and The Dave Sammarco Band. Saturday night you can join Doug Wilkins and the Country Friendship Band for square dancing down at the barn, (I think of it as Heath's tribal dance), or opt for Dixieland energy with Primate Fiasco under the music tent. Or enjoy a bit of both! On Sunday the phenomenal Zoe Darrow and the Fiddle heads return to the Fair with their wild Celtic rhythms. In addition there will be barber shop harmonies and rumor has it Morris Dancers may show up to dance down the midway.

We are grateful to the Cultural Councils of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Rowe, and Shelburne and our many music underwriters for helping to make Heath Fair Music possible. If you would like to add your name to the list of Heath Fair Music sponsors, call or E-mail Carol Sartz.

And That Ain't All! Of course, along with the many new attractions, you can expect to enjoy many of our beloved standbys;

- Kids' Games, Saturday and Sunday, expanded this year with some competitions of strength and agility for grown-ups.
- Fireworks on Saturday night.
- The Heath Fair Parade, Sunday at 1:00 p.m. The theme is *Local Harvest*.
- Sheep, Poultry, Rabbit, and Cattle shows. The Adult Cattle judging is being brought back after a year's hiatus.

New speakers and attractions are still being added so stay tuned.

Exhibit Hall

The Exhibit Hall remains one of my favorite places at the Fair. I love the quality and variety of entries, the handiwork work of young and old, generously laid out for all to see and admire. This year we are adding new age

("Heath Fair News" continued on page 11)

("Heath Fair News" continued from page 10)

categories for youth: 10-13 and 14-18. **Preregistration tips:** Preregistration is required for all entries so fill out and send in entry forms now for every category you think you might like to enter. For example, enter green beans, beets, tomatoes, and squash now. If by fair time you decide you don't want to enter squash, say, then don't. Dropping an entry is not a problem. Entry forms are available in the premium book and online at Heathfair.org. The deadline for entries is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 13. Exhibits are accepted for display on Thursday, August 14, starting at 4:00 p.m. The Hall closes at 8:00 p.m. to get ready for judging, so all exhibits must be labeled and in place by then. If time and space allow, unregistered entries can be accepted and marked for display only, but cannot be entered for judging. If you have questions about Exhibit Hall entries call Kim Richter at 337-4293.

Let's see. I think that's all for now. Did I mention the **Wednesday night Work Bees at 6:00 p.m. ?** Hope to see you there.

Heath Fair Wish List

We need:

Two Pedal Tractors in working condition
Unsheared Sheep for the hand shearing demonstration
Two horses in need of shoeing
Call Pam Porter, 337-5525 if you can help with any of these items.

Heath Fair Contact Information. Here's a summary of whom to call for more information or to volunteer. See also the listing in the premium book.

Workbees, grounds rentals
Chris O'Brien and Dave Freeman.....337-4766

Working at the Fair:

Food BoothDeb Porter.....337-4715
Tickets.....Tammy Miller.....337-4078
Parking.....Justin Lively (cell phone)..834-0168
Exhibit Hall.....Kim Richter.....337-4293
Publicity.....Gloria Fisher.....337-6626
Vendors or Midway...Jenna Day.....339-8321
Music Underwriting...Carol Sartz.....337-4077
Truck and Tractor
Pulls.....Devon Clark.....337-4730
Tractor Parade.....Dave Freeman.....337-4766
Animal Shows
and Competitions...Shirley Tombs.....625-2168
Horse, Ox,
Pony Pulls.....Nathan Clark.....337-6697
Speakers.....Pam Porter.....337-5525
Don't know whom to call Pam Porter...337-5525

Other Summer Events

Saturday, June 28, Massachusetts Ox Teamsters Draw, Weigh in at 7:00 a.m. , pull at 9:00 a.m.. Admission: \$5.00.

Sunday, June 29, Heath Agricultural Society June Horse Draw. Weigh in at 7:00 a.m., pull at 11:00 a.m. Admission: \$5.00.

Friday, August 2 through Sunday, August 4, the Yankee Beemers return. They have been supporters of several organizations in Heath, including the Church, Fire Department, the Library, and the Preschool. We are always glad to welcome them to our town.

Note: The Fairgrounds are available for graduation parties, company picnics, weddings, and other private events. Contact Chris O'Brien for information: 337-4766.

~ Pam Porter
Gloria Fisher
Copresidents

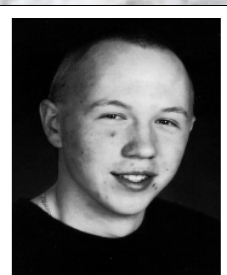


Class of 2008

Heath Elementary School Sixth Grade



First row, left to right: Abbi Yeziarski, Lilly Boyd, Tucker Jenkins, Amanda Williams, and Jacob Pieffer. Second row, left to right: Kai Weblar, Noah Jacobson-Carroll, Kesheal Henderson, Garrett Woodard, and Josh Rode. Third row, left to right: Amalise Cain, Hannah Lessels, Riley Phelps, Justin Davila and Tyler Sheridan.



Justen Brooks

At Franklin County Tech, I was in the Auto Body Shop, was a member of Fur, Fins, and Feathers Club, and was OSHA certified.

In Heath, I am a firefighter and CPR and First Responder certified, and am a member of the Heath Union Church. After graduation I plan to work in auto body and auto mechanics.

Daniel Clark



Also Graduating

Kayla Decker
Shayla Howe

Franklin County Technical School

Desiree Decker



I have spent the last four years learning how to weld at the Franklin County Tech school. However, I am not going to continue my path in welding. I am planning on attending UMASS in Boston for a career in Forensic Sciences and Crime Scene Investigation. I have been an honors student for all

of my high school career and received the Superintendent's Award in the beginning of this year. I have participated in a program called Skills USA for the past three years and have been an officer for my school's local chapter for the past two years. I don't play sports. I am in a theater English class and music and love to sing and act.

Mohawk Trail Regional High School

Justin Begin



Corinna Inman



Beth Sterling



Ashley Williams

While attending Mohawk I was active in the girl's track team from 7th grade to 10th grade. My future plans are to attend college and get a degree in nursing. I have been accepted at Greenfield Community College which I will be attending full-time in the fall. I plan to get my RN degree and work in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Baystate.



Chris Wilkins



During the last four years of high school I have played on the varsity soccer and ski teams for Mohawk and was a captain in each this year. I have also been in Select Chorus since the tenth grade. I also tried out for Western District Chorus with Justin Begin and made that as well. During the last two summers I have been a lifeguard and a water safety instructor as well as a soccer coach. I play on a travel soccer team in the spring and was invited up to a soccer camp at the University of Maine last summer. At the end of the camp I was offered a spot on the team for the 2008 fall season. I applied for early acceptance and got into the College of Natural Sciences with a zoology major. Since then I have been having a blast in school with my classmates and gearing up for next year.

Photos by Dianne Cerone

The Academy at Charlemont

Devon Adie



Editors Note: We asked all the high school graduates to tell us of their high school activities and plans for the future.

Congratulations to graduates and their proud parents.
Best wishes for a shining future.

Heath Elementary School Parent-Teacher Partnership (PTP) News

The final quarter of the school year is always chock-full of exciting learning and enrichment opportunities for our students at the Heath School. The PTP supports and sponsors many of these activities each year. Dollars earned through year-round fundraisers are earmarked for special treats and water bottles at Field Day, buses, life-guarding, and goodies for our All-School Beach Day at Rowe Lake, a substantial educational gift for each graduating 6th grader, as well as flowers and refreshments for graduation.

As in years past, we will again honor our dedicated Heath School staff during "Staff Appreciation Week," May 27 to 30. Each morning during the week, volunteers provide specialty coffees and home-baked goodies. Staff also receive "surprise supplies" in their mailboxes. The week culminates in an elegant luncheon Friday, prepared and served by parents. This year, the luncheon coincides with Grounds Improvement Day, so we will provide cold drinks and goodies for staff in their lounge throughout the day. All the school staff, and especially Principal Anne Marie Mislak, our Secretary Kathy Sprague, Custodian Tim Lively, and Kitchen Manager Loralyn Boyd work closely with the PTP Officers throughout the year. A BIG "Thank You" goes out to them from the PTP – we couldn't do it all without you!

This spring we again cosponsored a very successful Bike Rodeo with the Heath Police Department. Fun and safety were emphasized, as Officer Chris Lannon reviewed Bicycle Safety and "Rules of the Road," after which the PTP provided bicycle games and challenges. Every child attending received a free bike helmet and water bottle. Thank you to Chief Margot Newton and Officer Lannon for your support!

Other spring enrichments supported by the PTP included: Garden Club, Naturalist Tedd Watt's visits to classrooms cosponsored by the Susan Todd Fund for Excellence in Environmental Education at the Heath School, monthly Family Movie Nights, monthly after-school enrichments (seasonal or holiday-themed arts and crafts), and our annual student literary publication named *WINK*, featuring poetry and artwork produced by students throughout the school year. Whew!

As we celebrate the ending of another successful school year, we look to the glorious Heath summer and, of course, our beloved Heath Fair. The PTP, as in years past, will have a strong presence on the midway with our booth featuring arcade-style games, as well as the PTP/Heath Preschool Raffle. It is very important to the success of the Raffle (a major fundraiser for the PTP and the Preschool) to presell as many tickets as possible. With generous donations from local businesses and artisans, there's something for everyone – from a cordless drill to handblown glass. So plan to buy your ticket early and consider selling to family and friends. Please contact the school (before June 18) or Lorena Loubsky-Lonergan throughout the summer for tickets (624-3842). Many thanks!

Given last year's chilly weather at the Fair, we had wildly successful sales of School "Hoodie" Sweatshirts emblazoned with an image of the school and Margaret Mead's memorable quote regarding community, which aptly describes the Heath School Community, as well as our larger town community. We will have T-shirts and hoodies in all sizes available at the Fair.

If you need XXL (they run small!), call us at the school and we'll preorder for you (Please stipulate color: grey or dark green).

Finally, we recognize how important it is to keep our older students engaged with the Fair, and to this end, we are planning to expand our offerings to include activities geared to their age group. Some ideas being considered are: fast-pitch/radar, a Jacob's Ladder, a bounce-house, and dunking booth, as well as cooperative-style games and challenges. Look for our second site on the midway and our posted roster of new games/activities to be held throughout the Fair weekend. See you at the Fair!

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

Margaret Mead

~ Dana Blackburn

Robin Jenkins Heath School Volunteer Extraordinaire!



This spring we mark the "retirement" of Robin Jenkins from the ranks of the Heath School Parent-Teacher Partnership. While Robin will remain a dedicated Heath School Staff Member, her son Tucker is graduating (Congrats, Tucker!) and, therefore, Robin will "downshift" a bit in her school-related volunteer commitments. The PTP owes Robin a huge debt of gratitude, as in her past six years of service she has held the positions of Chair (1992-1993), CO-Chair (1993-1996), and Treasurer (2006-2008)! Robin has been instrumental in conceiving and organizing successful activities such as Monthly Family Movie Nights, Back-to School Potlucks, 50s, 60s, and 70s (!) Family Nights/Dances, the Town-Wide Tag Sales, Spring Bike Rodeos, Earth Day Activities, and much more. Robin always put her special signature on the annual Halloween Party and the Heath Fair PTP Booth Games. She took great joy in imagining the kids' reactions to every detail in the "Haunted House," and thought long and hard about skill level and agility required as she and her husband Tommy fabricated all our arcade games for the Fair. Robin cares deeply about our children and it came through in every detail of every event she planned.

Of course, sports are Robin's passion, and we benefited greatly having her in the role of our first "Sports Coordinator" here at the School. She worked with PE Teacher Judy Burger, Principals Todd and Mislak, and other PTP Officers to ensure that the many sports offerings we sponsor were truly developmental learning experiences, as well as great fun. She emphasized good sportsmanship above all and our students are recognized throughout the larger West County community for their excellent sportsmanship.

Finally, Robin helped to develop and codify guidelines for volunteers working as coaches with our youth, strengthening parent involvement and providing clear-eyed guidance for our many after-school sports enrichments.

(*"Robin Jenkins"* continued on page 15)

(*"Robin Jenkins"* continued from page 14)

Although not strictly speaking a school activity, we would be remiss not to mention Robin's many years of involvement with our youth through the Heath-Rowe Little League Baseball Program. Robin coached the Twins rookies team for three years, taking them all the way to the Championship two years in a row. But, most importantly, the kids remember Coach Robin as a coach who taught them that having fun is more important than winning, and that we give each other "put ups" not "put-downs." Thanks Coach! We will miss you around the Cherry Table the first Thursday of the month, but you deserve some well-earned rest.

Post Script: Robin has informed us that she does not plan to "retire" from Heath Fair activities, so come by and visit her at the PTP Booth!

~ The PTP

Heath Preschool Preregistration

The Heath Preschool is now preregistering students for the 2008-09 school year. Children who are three or four by August 31, 2008, are eligible to attend.

Please call the Heath Elementary School at 337-5307 or Suzanne Crawford at home at 339-4265 for more information and to preregister your child.



Heath Herald Abroad



Heathans Suzanne Hanney and John Palmer in Jordan catching up with the Heath news.



HEATH HERALD Heath's First Newspaper

Dear Readers,

We have decided, after careful analysis and discussion, that it is necessary to increase the price of the *Herald* in order to keep pace with the escalating costs of ink, paper, and postage. The new price per issue will be \$1.50 and the subscription price (one year - six issues) will be \$8.00. Given the hard work of all those who donate their time and talents to creating our paper, this is still the best buy in town.

~ Jan Carr
Business
Manager

Please Note

Due to a work conflict with our newest member Alice Wozniak, we will meet weekly on Mondays at 12:30 p.m.

~ The Assessors

Art Exhibit



Art patrons enjoying the paintings by Del Viarengo and photographs by Bob Viarengo on May 18, at the Community Hall.

Celebration on July 26

Plans are underway for an Ice Cream Social on the Heath Common on Saturday, July 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Certificates from the National Register of Historic Places will be presented to owners of properties within the Heath Center Historic District.

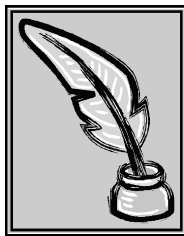
This celebration is jointly sponsored by the Heath Historical Society and the Historical Commission.

We expect to have live music, games for all ages, and Heath Bar Crunch ice cream.

The July 26 date was chosen because it coincides with the Ladies Aid Fair held downstairs in the Heath Union Church and the Craft Fair under the direction of Dolly Churchill held upstairs in the Community Hall. The Senior Citizens will serve morning coffee and lunch downstairs at the Hall. It is also the date of the annual picnic of the Franklin Land Trust, held this year in Heath at the historic home of Dr. Michael Coe. Some historic buildings, including the beautiful church, with its important Johnson organ, and the Old Town House Museum, will be open to visitors.

Save the date, Saturday, July 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wear period costumes if you wish, and come celebrate on the Historic Heath Common. We look forward to having a large crowd of Heathans and others at these events.

~Del Viarengo
Chair, Heath Historical Commission



Letter to the Editors

OLE!

On Sunday, May 4, my spouse and I attended the Cinco de Mayo, Fiesta being held at the Heath Community Hall. It was an event being held with the proceeds going to the Community Hall Refurbishing

Fund.

When we arrived there was a wonderful assortment of appetizing food, the hall was decorated festively, and music was being played for singing and dancing. Many were dressed in appropriate attire.

As the afternoon progressed, it was apparent that the Fiesta was not a noble success. I also noticed there were no selectmen, town officials, and few members of the Heath community present. It is very discouraging for volunteers who give their time and effort to promote community programs.

The hours for the Fiesta were from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. However, because of low attendance, they decided to close early. It is sad to see the lack of support for such a worthy cause.

I am sorry to say that we find the same APATHY in our town of Charlemont.

Your truly,
Caroline Booth

Another great year of keeping up with events in the old hometown.

Many thanks. I sincerely appreciate your efforts.

Bruce Patterson
Wilmington, NC

Cinco de Mayo



Heath Business Directory

Bald Mountain Pottery

625-8110

The Benson Place

Wild Blueberries & Blueberry Spread

337-5340

Fred Burrington

Artist

337-4302

Dave Cote Builders

Branch Hill Road

337-4705

Robert Delisle

Electrician

337-5716

Russell E. Donelson

Design/Construction/Cabinetry

337-4460

Jerry Ferguson

Home Improvement

Lic. Electrician

337-4317

Earl M. Gleason

Fire Equipment

337-4948

Heath Brook Studio

Glass and Baskets

337-5736

Maple Ledge Goldens

AKC Registered Golden Retrievers

337-4705

John Mooney

Custom Remodeling

337-8344

Wanda Mooney

Realtor

337-8344

Tripp's Blueberries

Taylor Brook Road

337-4964

Paul Turnbull

Janice Boudreau

Commercial/Wedding Photographers

337-4033

Bonnie Wodin

Custom Gardens & Landscapes

337-5529

Support Your Local Businesses

If you would like more information about the Heath Enterprise Council, please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

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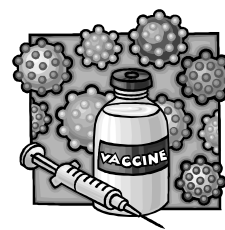
52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls



It's Your Health and Safety

Shingles Vaccine



Donna Weber RN

A question I have been hearing recently is about the new Shingles Vaccine. Hopefully this will help to answer people's questions, concerns, and fears.

Shingles is a rash that develops in one area of the body and follows along a nerve root. It typically produces blisters that that can be both severely itchy and painful, sometimes numb and tingling, and the pain and numbness can continue for weeks, months, or years after the rash has resolved. It is caused by the Herpes Zoster Virus (which also causes chicken pox) and is an illness that often affects people during times of stress. The people at highest risk for developing it more than any other age group are those over 60. This is why the CDC (Center for Disease Control) is recommending that anyone over the age of 60 get vaccinated.

As for effectiveness, the vaccine is only effective in approximately 50% of those who get vaccinated. Of the other 50%, if they do develop Shingles, it tends to be a much milder case and typically does not have the long lasting pain and numbness that can continue for years.

Side effects from the vaccine have been minimal, typically being only itching, redness, or swelling at the injection site that lasts from a couple of hours to a couple of days.

The vaccine is currently not being offered by the Department of Public Health because it is expensive and must be kept frozen until the time of administration. It is covered in full by Medicaid, however, and by Medicare, Part D only. Most other insurance companies do cover it but your best bet is to contact your Claims Department to find out prior to getting one. It is made available to doctors' offices by Merck Pharmaceuticals and distributed by MCKesson.

If you have any further questions about this vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or me at home at 337-6605. For in depth questions, you can call an immunization epidemiologist for the Department of Public Health at 617-983-6800.

Thank you and have a great summer!

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

With all the recent news of weather-related disasters, below is a reminder and checklist of items you should have in a disaster situation.

Canned goods and nonperishable foods that do not need cooking:

Canned meats and fish	Bread, cookies, and crackers
Canned fruits and vegetables	Peanut butter and jelly
Canned soups and puddings	Bottled water
Canned fruit juices	Coffee and Tea
Dried fruit and nuts	

Manual can opener

Bottled water (1 gallon per person/per day –
Usually a three-days supply)

Prescription medication (2-week supply)

Pet food/supplies

Disposable plates, cups, and utensils

Infant care items:

* Disposable diapers	* Baby wipes
* Baby food	* Formula

First aid supplies

Masking and duct tape

Flashlight or lantern, with extra batteries

Battery operated radio, with extra batteries

Watch or battery operated clock

Ice chest

Matches

Canned heat (Sterno)

Portable outdoor camping stove or grill with fuel supply

Plastic trash bags

Plastic sheeting or drop cloth

Chlorinated bleach

Personal hygiene items

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations.

Every family member should carry a copy of this important information:

Contact Name:

Telephone:

Out-of-Town Contact: (a friend or relative out of the disaster area who could serve as the contact)

Telephone:

Neighborhood Meeting Place:

Meeting Place Telephone:

~ Timothy Lively
Heath Emergency Management

Selectboard's Report

Summer Meeting Schedule

The Board will meet every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall for the summer and early fall unless posted otherwise. The tentative Monday meeting dates are 6/2, 6/23, 6/30, 7/7, 7/28, 8/4, 8/25, 9/22, 10/6, and 10/20, and on Tuesday, 9/9.

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting was held at 8:30 a.m. on May 10, 2008, for the purpose of transferring money from accounts with surpluses to accounts with deficits for the FY 2008 budget. This is what is known as a "housekeeping" meeting. There were 14 Articles on the warrant all passed unanimously. The largest of the deficits was in the Winter Salt and Sand account which had a deficit of \$107,216.05 owing in large part to the frequency of storms and a substantial increase in material costs last year.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am on May 10, 2008, immediately following the Special Town Meeting. There were 24 Articles on the warrant, all of which passed. Among the more notable articles were changes to the dog licensing bylaw that eliminated kennel licenses and changed fees for licenses and penalties. The zoning bylaw was changed to permit mobile homes in Residential Zones A and B with a Special Permit. Definitions were changed to include the formal definition of a mobile home as "manufactured housing." The meeting approved an article to purchase a new Highway Department truck to replace the 1 1/2 ton dump, the smallest of the trucks. Lastly, a resolution to oppose the relicensing of the Vermont Yankee Atomic plant passed by a large margin.

The Meeting passed a budget for FY 2009 of \$1,986,139 that included Article 3 plus the school related articles and the other appropriations on the warrant.

Election Results

Selectman – Brian De Vriese
 Moderator – Doug Wilkins
 Finance Committee – Donald Freeman and Dave Gott
 Assessor – Alice Wozniak
 Planning Board – Doug Mason
 Library Trustee – Kate Bailey
 Dog Officer – Robert Tanner Jr.
 Constables – Robert Tanner Jr. and Jeffrey Simmons

A Special Thanks

A standing ovation was given to three people who are leaving their elected offices this year. David Howland has served on the Finance Committee for 12 years, Henry Leuchtman has been an Assessor for 12 years, and Deborah Phillips has been a member and chair of the Planning Board for 10 years. All three have contributed immensely to the Town and will be greatly missed.

June Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 23 at the Heath Elementary School.

The meeting is being held to clean up some end of the fiscal year bills. The warrant will be posted on the town's Web site.

Traffic Study

The Selectboard has accepted the offer of the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments to do a free traffic study. The study will track the number and types of vehicles as well as their speeds as they enter the center of Town from South Road, West Main St., East Main St., and Bray Road.

Heath Online

Take some time to visit the Town's Web site at www.townofheath.org. You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. The Web site is being updated. All comments and suggestions are welcome. You may address them to Gloria Fisher at towncoordinator@townofheath.org. You may contact the Board at BOS@townofheath.org. Send messages to any board or individual via the E-mail address, or visit the Heath Web site.

Heath Selectboard
 Thomas Lively, Chair
 Brian De Vriese
 Sheila Litchfield

Planning Board Changes



Deborah Phillips, after ten years on the Heath Planning Board, including six years as chair, was recognized in absentia at the Annual Town Meeting by Planning Board member Robert Viarengo who cited her hard work as being ten times what anyone else had done as chair. Later in the meeting she was again recognized, this time by the Selectboard, with words of praise for her years of "yeoman service" to the town. She is replaced as chair by Calvin Carr. The new member of the Board is Douglas Mason.

~ Dianne Grinnell

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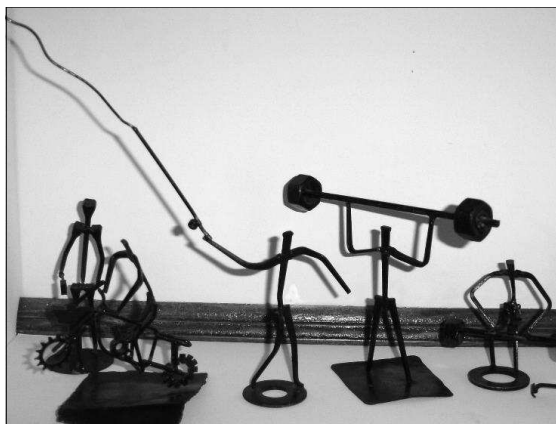
Mowing, Snow Removal, Painting



Library Lines**Wild Reads At Your Library**

By Donald Purington

This summer's reading program for children is called *Wild Reads At Your Library*. Children who register will receive a *Wild Reads* T-shirt and a gift certificate to World Eye Bookshop when they turn in their reading log. There will be a craft program for ages 5 – 12 on Wednesdays (July 9, 16, 30, and August 6) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Hall. Make animal masks and puppets and march with them in the Heath Fair Parade. The summer reading program is funded by the Heath Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library.



The display case has several small steel sculptures made from cut nails, washers, nuts, and steel rods by David Freeman. Many of them are sports-themed, such as weight lifters, boxers, and a cyclist. There is also a drummer, a blacksmith, and a single prop airplane.

Self-portraits by Heath Elementary School kindergarten and first-grade students of Deb Porter's class are hanging in the library. Children love to see their work displayed in public places. We are pleased to have the opportunity to share their artwork with our library patrons.

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books : *Careless in Red* by Elizabeth George, *So Brave, Young, and Handsome* by Leif Enger, *The Front* by Patricia Cornwell, *The Demon from Dakar: A Mystery* by Kjell Eriksson, *Sundays at Tiffany's* by James Patterson and *The Girl of His Dreams* by Donna Leon.

Adult Nonfiction Books: *From the Ground Up: Sustainable, Healthy, and Energy-Efficient Home Construction* by David Johnston, *A Child's Garden: 60 Ideas to Make Any Garden Come Alive For Children* by Molly Dannenmaier, and *The Open Road: the Global Journey of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama* by Pico Iyer.

Books on CD: *The Plague of Doves* by Louise Erdrich and *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch.

Young Adult Books: *The Calder Game* by Blue Balliet and *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart.

Young Adult/Children's Nonfiction Book : *A Writing Kind of Day: Poems for Young Poets* by Ralph Fletcher.

Children's Picture Books: *Woolbur* by Leslie Helakoski and *Good Night, Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann.

DVDs: *Bee Movie*, *Diving Bell and The Butterfly*, *Golden Compass*, and *Juno*.



**KNOWLEDGE IS FREE AT THE LIBRARY
JUST BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER.**

~ ANONYMOUS

Milestones

Eliette Harmony Cerone, was born on May 10, 2008. She is the daughter of Dominic and Lesia Cerone, and the granddaughter of **Jim and Dianne Cerone of Heath**, Diana Lawson of Philadelphia, PA, and Winston Vanhorne of Westmoreland, Jamaica.

Madyson Erica Lynde, daughter of **Paul and Laura Lynde** of Heath, was born on May 19, 2008. She is the granddaughter of the late Heath Police Chief, Lorin Gowdy and Sandra Crowningshield of Readsboro, VT, and Brian and Vicki Lynde of Colrain.

Judith Basalari, 69, of Heath, died on May 24, 2008, at home. Services will be private, and burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Alice G. Giard Gilbert, formerly of Shelburne Falls, died on April 23, 2008. Born in Easthampton on March 26, 1921, she was the daughter of Joseph and Melvina Chagnon Giard.

She was a homemaker all of her life and was dedicated to caring for others. She was a member of St. Joseph's Parish, Shelburne Falls, where she sang in the church choir, and of the Shelburne Senior Center.

Her husband Lawrence died in 1999. Survivors include six sons, Roger Gilbert of Derby, VT, Joseph Gilbert of Charlemont, **Gerard Gilbert and Kenneth Gilbert**, both of Heath, and Russell Gilbert and Kevin Gilbert, both of Colrain; three daughters, Emilie Tetreault of Mesa, AZ, Rosalie Prystacz of Gilbert, AZ, and Luanna Gilbert of Stanley, WI; one sister, Germaine Lively of Easthampton; three brothers, Emil Giard of Melbourne, FL, David Giard of Polk City, FL, and Victor Giard of Colchester, VT; 32 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions maybe made to St. Joseph's Church, 34 Monroe Avenue Shelburne Falls, MA 01370.

Dennis L. Kratt of Heath died on April 21, 2008. Born on April 1, 1940, in Montague, he was the son of Arthur and Anne Cane Kratt.

A graduate of Arms Academy, he enlisted in the US Army in 1962. He worked at Millers Falls Tool for several years., then as district manager for Wells Fargo in Florida until his retirement in 1998. After returning from Florida, he owned and operated Diamond Auto Sales in Heath.

He is survived by two sons, Darryl and David Kratt, both of Greenfield; a sister, Patricia O'Connor of Minneapolis, MN; his longtime companion, **Betty Decker** of Heath, and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701.

Heath People in the News

Sarah Coye of Syracuse, New York, graduated magna cum laude from State University of New York, Geneseo, with a bachelor of science degree in education with concentration in Childhood Education as well as in Special Education. She is going right on to Syracuse University for a master's degree. Sarah is the daughter of Robert and Deborah Coye of Syracuse, and the granddaughter of **Doug and Alli Thane Stetson** of Heath.

Elizabeth Kuehl was awarded a bachelor of science degree summa cum laude at recent graduation exercises of the University of Hartford. She majored in Radiologic Technology and was a member of Alysha Chi Sorority, a national honor society of colleges throughout the United States.

She is currently employed as an x-ray/MRI technologist at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton.



Liam Lattrell graduated with honors from the University of Massachusetts in January of this year. His major was Legal Studies. While an undergraduate, he participated in University Democrats and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Liam is employed currently by the University and plans to pursue a master's degree in the near future.

Ross Thane graduated from Point Park University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on May 3 with a degree in Film and Video. He has started work for JPL Productions in Harrisburg, PA. Ross is the son of Arleen Thane of Philadelphia and Bill Thane of Shelburne Falls and the grandson of **Doug and Alli Thane Stetson** of Heath.

Jennella Porter and David Ouellette will be married July 19 at the home of the bride in East Freetown. Jennella is the daughter of **Hazel Porter** and the late Perry Porter.

She is principal of the Studley Elementary School in Attleboro. Dave is the Director of Operations at the Agawam plant of Governors of America Corporation that supplies governors, temperature control devices used to operate huge boats, railroad cars, and other machines, to China, France, and other countries.

Jenella has spent many summers in Heath since 1969 camping on the Porter land on Royer Road. Winters of late have found her and Dave here every weekend to ski at Berkshire East.

She is a great Heath Fair enthusiast. For many years she has been a prize winner for her dahlia bouquets, and she has been making several gallons of oven-roasted red pepper hummus for the Food Booth at which both she and Dave serve with the Porter team.

Dominic Musacchio, currently an associate producer of Northern Light Productions and an assistant director of Broadcast Development, has coproduced the documentary, *Killer Poet: The Double Life of Norman Porter*, about a convicted murderer who escaped from jail, remaining free for 20 years until his recapture in 2005. The film's world premiere was held at the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival in Toronto in April. The US premiere will be at the Boston International Film Festival on June 14 at 4:45 p.m. at the Loews Boston Common Festival.



Hilma Sumner was awarded a master's degree in Education summa cum laude at the recent graduation exercises of Springfield College. Her major was in Psychology with a concentration in Marriage and Family Therapy. This past semester she was inducted into Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, and was a member of the Springfield College AmeriCorps program.

Judy Thrasher has been awarded the Edwin C. Peck Mathematics Award by Greenfield Community College.

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Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Snow/sleet</u>	<u>Rain</u>
From March 11, 2008	17 "	3 ¼"
April	2 ¼ "	3 ¼"
To May 10	0"	½ "

In this reporting period:

March came in like a lion and went out like a smaller lion and in between, winter seemed to hang on with continued wet snow and some sleet/ice. April Fools' Day was on the mild side, with the first seasonal thunderstorm (and wind) that night. We ended the winter season with approximately 111 inches of snow. The long awaited sunny stretch, happened from the 14th through the 27th, when we had very warm and dry conditions. The first day of May (May Day) started with a morning low of 24 degrees.

~ Timothy Lively

Community Calendar

June 2008

- June 03/04** - MCAS Biology/Science, Mohawk Trail Regional High School
- June 04** - Fifth and Sixth Grade Spelling Bee, MTRHS Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.
- June 05** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
6th Grade Project Safeguard
PTP Meeting, Heath School, 3:30 p.m.
- June 06** - Volunteer Appreciation Brunch/Art Display, Heath School, 9:30 a.m.
- June 12** - 6th Grade Mohawk Visitation
- June 13** - Final Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:15-11:15 a.m.
- June 14** - Italian Supper, Community Hall-Senior Center, 5:30 p.m.
- June 16** - Field Day, Heath School
6th Grade Graduation, 6:30 p.m.
- June 18** - **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**
HAPPY SUMMER!
- June 19** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- June 29** - Rose Viewing, Pat and Henry Leuchtman's, Knott Road, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

July 2008

- July 03** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- July 09** - Library Craft program for ages 5-12, Community Hall, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- July 16** - Craft program, Community Hall, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- July 17** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- July 26** - **Heath Center Historical Center Celebration, Town Common**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Sale, Heath Union Church
Lower Level,
Community Hall Craft Fair
Senior Center Morning Coffee and Lunch,
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- July 30** - Craft Program, Community Hall, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



*'Now summer is in flower and
Is never silent round her sultry blooms.
Insects as small as dust are never done
Wi' glittering dance and reeling in the sun
And green wood fly and blossom haunting bee
Are never weary of their melody.
Round field hedge now flowers in full glory twine
Large bindweed bells wild hop and streaked woodbine
That lift athirst their slender-throated flowers
Agape for dew falls and for honey showers
These round each bush in sweet disorder new
And spread their wild hues to the sultry sun.'*

*~ John Clare
English Poet, 1793-1864*

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