Stagecoach Travel Anyone?

A long look back, with Dublin a part of the greater whole.

BY RUSTY BASTEDO

On June 5th of 1834, a stagecoach travel advertisement titled “New Line of Stages” in the Keene Sentinel listed the arrangements from “Brattleborough, VT to Concord, NH” in this way:

“Leaves Brattleborough on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 4 o’clock A.M. and passing through Chesterfield, Keene, Marlborough, Dublin, Peterborough, Hancock, Antrim, Hillsborough, Henniker and Hopkinton, arrives at Concord at 6 o’clock P.M. Returning from Concord at 5 o’clock A.M. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and arrive at Brattleborough same evenings...”

Fare from Brattleborough to Concord $2.50; from Keene to Concord $2.50.

June 1834 — J.N. Cunningham, & Co.

So consider this: 185 years ago in the Monadnock Region and beyond, it took more than 12 hours to travel in a stagecoach from Brattleboro, VT, to Concord, NH, leaving Brattleboro at 4 am and arriving at Concord 6 pm, 14 hours later. The route was along the present Route 9 – Route 101 – Route 202.

The route followed was not exactly as it is today, because the stages went into (and out of) town centers – and the roads were dirt, which meant that passengers pushed the stages (when necessary) through mud and snow, in addition to enduring hard seats that were not cushioned with springs!

BACK TO SCHOOL, AGES AGO, IN DUBLIN

From the Keene Sentinel dated August 27, 1835, and repeated September 8, 1835:

“A school will be opened in Dublin Town Hall on Monday, the 31st of August, to continue 12 weeks, under the care of Mr. Richards, from Brown University.

Thorough instruction will be given in the different English branches [Old English, Middle English], also in the Ancient Languages [Latin, Greek].

Tuition, $3 per Quarter
Board, from $1 to $1.25 per week
Dublin, Aug. 12, 1835

From time to time, gleanings from the four-page weekly Keene Sentinel from much earlier days may appear in The Dublin Advocate. Stay tuned!

RUSTY BASTEDO is on the staff of the Advocate.
Dublin Public Library

While packing up the books so the new carpet squares could be put down, the biographies caught the eye of anyone packing them. We have a wonderful selection of books that allow the reader to experience the lives of so many people. The library is now going to display many of them, and we hope you will want to read some of these great stories.

September always symbolizes new beginnings. Older siblings have gone back to school, and the library will be offering a new Story Time program on Wednesday mornings in September. It’s a great time to bring your child to the library for singing a song and listening to a story. A craft is chosen to help the child remember the story. Refreshments are served at the large table where friendships can begin.

Programs begin at 9:30 on Wednesday mornings. This month we will discuss bugs and insects, dinosaurs, automobiles, and harvesting the farm. Books that we will read include The Honeybee by Kirsten Hall, What Kind of Car Does a T.Rex Drive? by Mark Lee, and Before We Eat by Pat Brisson.

The Summer Reading program was a huge success again this year. It was a pleasure to host the Dublin Playground every week as well as many families. Children enjoyed ice cream on the last day, which was once again provided by Diddie Staples.

If you want your child to continue coming to the library, remember that our Book Buddies program will resume in October. Children from DCS may ride the bus to the library on Tuesday afternoons after school lets out. Any children in grades K through 5 are welcome to attend.

Open House at Dublin’s Library

Come and help us celebrate!

BY NANCY CAYFORD

In celebration of new changes at our library, the Trustees, along with the Friends, will be holding an Open House on Saturday, September 21, from 4 to 6 pm. New carpeting will have been installed on the main level. Most of the books had to be removed and stored to accomplish this task. The trustees, staff, and volunteers have been working hard on this project.

After 20 years, the lower-level entrance, the bathroom, the kitchenette, and the multi-function room have been freshly painted by Robert Codman of Hancock. The Gowing Room (storage area) has been completely cleaned and re-arranged.

In conjunction with the Open House, we will have on exhibit paintings by Sally MacMillan, Rick MacMillan’s mother.

Come, all ages, and enjoy the updates to your library. Refreshments will be served.

NANCY CAYFORD serves on the Library Board of Trustees.
Vira Elder Honored for 30 Years of Service to the DPD

The Dublin Police Department recognized Vira Elder on August 19 for her 30 years of service in that office. She was presented with the award in a presentation during the Selectboard meeting at the Dublin Town Hall. Behind her are [L] Selectman Dale Gabel, Barry Elder, and Dublin Police Chief Tim Suokko.

MedBox in Town Hall by DPD

Help dispose of medical substances safely.
BY TIMOTHY J. SUOKKO

The Dublin Police Department has acquired a medication disposal box for residents; it is installed in the lobby of the Town Hall. The secure container allows for unused or expired medications to be dropped off and disposed of properly at no cost. Next time you come up to register your car, make sure you bring your unused and expired medications and drop them in the box, so they don’t unintentionally fall into the wrong hands.

Thank you for helping us dispose of these dangerous medical substances safely.

If you have questions, contact Chief Suokko at tsuokko@townofdublin.org or call the non-emergency number at 563-8411.

TIMOTHY J. SUOKKO is Chief of Police, Dublin Police Dept., located at 1122 Main Street.

More than a BBQ

A Dublin Community BBQ will be hosted by the Dublin Police Department on Sunday, September 15, from 11 am to 2 pm in the Yankee Parking Lot. Children can enjoy food, fun, and games and even Touch-A-Truck from the Dublin Fire Department, the Dublin Highway Department, and the NH State Police. Other attendees will include NH Liquor Enforcement, Southern District Fire Mutual Aid, and the Cheshire County Sheriff’s Office. There is more! Special guests will include visitors from the Animal Planet Series, North Woods Law, Lt. Boudreau & K9 Ruby, and NH Fish and Game. All are welcome to attend this third annual event in Dublin.

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Information from Avitar

Regarding current town-wide revaluation and your preliminary assessment.

According to a posting on the Town of Dublin website 7/31/19: “Values were updated to reflect market value as of April 1, 2019. What this means is recent sales transactions from the Town of Dublin are reviewed. From those sales we extract base land and building values and update the CAMA (computerized assisted mass appraisal) model to reflect accurate rates and depreciation. The Town is then field reviewed to ensure all homes are graded consistently as compared to the sale properties. This ensures assessments are fair and equitable.

Due to the changes in the CAMA system not all properties are affected similarly by the change. For example, vacant land may change at a different rate from improved properties, but similarly property to property may see rates of change that are not the same percentage. This is based on every property’s specific age, quality, condition, and specific components of that home. As all homes are different, the rate of change is different. Also, with more sales data the model can be more proficiently updated. For example, if a model was created to value waterfront properties based on specific parameters (beach, linear frontage, weedy, etc.) and factors associated based on limited or no sales data, that model could drastically change if new sales data showed the old model was not properly accounting for a feature such as a beach and was either over or under assessing that feature.

If taxpayers believe their assessment is not accurately reflective of the market value of their property, they are urged to schedule an appointment (per the instructions in the letter) and come and review their assessment.

However, taxpayers should also be aware that just because the assessment has gone up does not mean your taxes will go up. The Town can only collect the amount of money voted on at Town meeting for the budget. As such, if the total Town value increases, the tax rate MUST decrease to reflect that change.

Also, solar panels are now a part of the assessment. If a taxpayer filed for a solar exemption and was approved, the associated value will show up in the assessment, but the exemption will not show up until the tax bill, which reduces the assessment by the total value of the solar panels.”

Source: townofdublin.org/2019/07/31/information-from-avitar

The Ice Cream Social at the DPL was enjoyed by all.

Photo by Sally Shonk

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48th Dublin Gas Engine Meet September 6-8
Antique tractor and vehicle parades Saturday and Sunday at 1 pm.

BY DIDDIE STAPLES

The 48th Annual Dublin Gas Engine Meet will be held at the Cricket Hill Farm field (Route 101 between Peterborough and Dublin) on September 6, 7, and 8. Come join us for a great showing of gas and steam engines plus many working displays. Featured this year will be large, six-horsepower (6hp) engines.

The work continues on the early stages of the railroad track. Children will enjoy watching wooden bats being made, riding in the tractor-pulled barrel cars, and playing in the toy-filled sandbox.

Lots of New Things to See!
Including a locomotive built by the Weidners.

Here is a photo of the flat car that Jake and Will Weidner have built for the railroad that’s going to be at the Dublin Gas Engine Meet field. This flatcar was at the meet last year, and was running on the 200 feet of new track that they laid. It won’t be there this year, but they are going to try to bring the locomotive that they have been working on for the last year. They are also laying more track, hopefully in time for the meet. There are lots of new things to see at the field, including a sawmill that was owned by Paul Burnham, which is being set on a new foundation.

DCP Explorations Abound

BY SHEENA BALDWIN

Our summer has been full of aquatic adventures here at Dublin Community Preschool and Childcare Center. We’ve been learning about the ocean and the plethora of animals that call it home. Our students got busy turning their classrooms into their own underwater oasis full of octopus, jellyfish, seashells, starfish and sharks.

Many August mornings were spent outside on the playground, splashing in the water, pretending to be favorite sea animals.

As the nights get cooler, we begin to discover the Monarch Caterpillar and how it transforms into a butterfly to travel thousands of miles to California and Mexico in the fall.

If you have a unique skill, hobby, or talent you would like to share with the children at DCP, please reach out to me. The Dublin Community Preschool and Childcare Center can be reached at info@dublinpreschoolandchildcare.org or call 563-8508.

SHEENA BALDWIN is Director/Teacher at Dublin Community Preschool and Childcare Center.

Rummage & Yard Sale October 4 & 5

The Fall Rummage & Yard Sale at the Dublin Community Church is Friday, October 4, from 1 to 6 pm, and Saturday, October 5, from 8 am to 12 noon. The Yard Sale is Saturday, October 5. No fees, no prices; pay as you wish! Call the Dublin Community Church at 563-8139 if you have any questions.

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THE DUBLIN ADVOCATE may be found online and in color at WWW.DUBLINADVOCATE.COM
DCA Constructs Science Lab, Infirmary, & Office
BY BETHANY PAQUIN

Upper school students at Dublin Christian Academy (DCA) found the academy’s science classroom and laboratory transformed when they returned to campus on August 28.

In June, DCA gutted the original science lab and began a major remodel, designing the classroom and lab to enhance learning opportunities and support state-of-the-art teaching methods and technology.

The remodel provides learning space and laboratory stations that can accommodate up to 24 students. This year the lab will serve students in grades 7 to 12 studying anatomy and physiology, biology, chemistry, physical science, and earth science.

Students now have more direct access to the school nurse and director of student life since the Academy has relocated both offices to the classroom building, renovating space previously used for storage. The fresh, new infirmary space will reduce the amount of missed class time when minor health needs arise and will allow the school nurse to more closely monitor student health.

The student life office provides academic and spiritual support and guidance to students and advises the student government. The new location will make student communication easier and more effective. Formerly, the student life office and infirmary were housed in the administration building across the street from the classroom building.

DCA staff, volunteers, local contractors, and Detandt Family Ministries worked through the summer to complete these capital projects by the start of school. DCA families and friends raised funds for these improvements through a service project called Feed the Need. In April, students packed 10,000 nutritious meals for needy students in Haiti. Individuals and businesses sponsored the service project with proceeds benefiting DCA’s capital fund. DCA appreciates almost 20 business sponsors that were involved.

Dublin Christian Academy is still accepting enrollments for the 2019-20 school year. For more information, call 603-563-8505 to schedule an educational consult.

BETHANY PAQUIN is Development Assistant at Dublin Christian Academy and a graduate of the Class of 1998.

A Parents Group for Homeschoolers

Parents who homeschool their children are welcome to come to a gathering on Thursday, September 5, at 7 pm. The intention is to connect with other homeschool parents, exchange ideas, and share challenges.

This group is open to all parents who homeschool. We hope to make this a regular gathering on the first Thursday evening of each month. We will meet at the Dublin Community Center.

For information, please contact Carla at carla@lovebeingamom.com.

Monadnock Rotary Club
BY PEGG MONAHAN

The Monadnock Rotary Club is hosting a Walk for Recovery to help curb the crisis of Substance Abuse Disorder on Sunday, October 20, from 12:30 to 4 pm. Walkers may hike from Dublin to Harrisville (3.1 miles, 5K) and gather at Historic Harrisville, Granite Mill. Non-walkers welcome. Contact Harry Wolhandler at 827-3139 with any questions.

MRC speakers since July include Sandi Albom, All Saints’ Parish, who presented about Substance Disorder Recovery. Clay Hollister spoke about the federal building bombing in 1995. With the Peterborough Rotary, the Monadnock Rotary Club presented $1,635 to Brantwood Camp, a summer camp for inner-city children.

Augusta Patrone and Rick MacMillan talked about their recent trip to Egypt.

Monadnock Rotary Club meets on Tuesday mornings at 7:15 am downstairs at the Dublin Community Church.

All are welcome.

PEGG MONAHAN is the president of the MRC.
News from Dublin Consolidated School

We are excited to welcome new families to DCS.

BY NICOLE PEASE

Working as an educator is unique in many ways. One of the most exciting is that each fall we have the chance to begin again, rested and rejuvenated, often with new students. Teachers spend much of their summer readying themselves and the school to welcome students back.

All this work paid off! The first day of school, August 28, was filled with excitement as students reconnected with each other as well as their teachers and other staff. It was fun to watch the new students begin to establish their connections to the other students and staff at DCS. Students arrived at school that first day to participate in the morning walking club to get their bodies and minds back into the routine of school.

There have been some staffing changes at DCS: we welcome Hannah Sheppard as our elementary Music teacher. While I happily remain the Principal of DCS, my position remains as Teaching Principal, and this year I will be focusing on mathematics as I co-teach with the DCS teachers. I am very fortunate to have the help and support of the wonderful DCS staff.

We are excited to welcome new families to DCS and know they will come to love our school! Our building and district continue to focus on understanding and effectively using the Responsive Classroom approach to learning. We will spend the first few weeks of school establishing routines and rules in the classrooms and building. It is important that we take the time to create these rules together to create a strong community of learners. This time also brings an analysis of old assessments and the administration of some new assessments to identify each student’s needs. It is a busy time!

For many years, longer than I can remember, and far longer than he has had children in our school, Mike Edick has volunteered his time each Wednesday to stop by DCS, load up the recycling, and take it to the transfer station. We are so very appreciative of this. Thank you, Mike! We are in search of another volunteer to take over these weekly visits. If you are interested, please call the school.

This year, DCS will be hosting monthly Community Lunches on the last Friday of the month starting September 27. We welcome any member of our town or school community to join us for lunch. If you are interested in ordering a school lunch, please call a week ahead and place your order. Lunch is from 12:15 to 12:45 pm, and following lunch we will engage in conversations about all that is going on at DCS.

As always, we welcome visitors any time. We simply ask that you call DCS first at 563-8332.

NICOLE PEASE, M.Ed. has been Teaching Principal at DCS since 2018-2019. Prior to that, she was Principal for two years.
**Autism Services for Children**
Crotched Mountain’s *Ready, Set, Connect!* program has opened an autism clinic at the Greenfield campus. *Ready, Set, Connect!* provides ABA therapy for young children in a group setting, offering an environment of fun and learning and a path to a bright future! Locations also in Manchester and Concord, NH.

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**Labor Day Weekend**
*Events in Dublin, Nelson, & Milford.*

BY RUSTY BASTEDO

On Saturday and Sunday, August 31 and September 1, the exhibition at Dublin’s 1841 Museum on Main Street “Dublin Horsepower, 1800-1900,” traces Dublin history as collected in 1852, when the town was 100 years old, and in 1876, when the country was 100 years old. Come to the 1841 Museum, Main Street in Dublin, from 12 noon to 2 pm both days.

On Sunday, September 1, at 3 pm, the Nelson Town Band plays at the Nelson Ice Cream Social, on the Nelson Church green. Bring a blanket and a folding chair to enjoy an hour of Sousa marches, musical tributes to “Mary Poppins” and Louis Armstrong, and others. Profits from ice cream sales help support music education in area schools.

On Monday, September 2, starting at 1 pm, is Milford’s Labor Day Parade, an event featuring national and state politicians, in addition to bands and parade ‘floats’ from the area.

RUSTY BASTEDO is on the staff of the Advocate and plays trumpet in the Nelson Town Band.

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**THE DUBLIN ADVOCATE** may be found online and in color at WWW.DUBLINADVOCATE.COM
Yankee Barn Sale

The Yankee Barn Sale was a huge success again this summer. Many thanks to Linda Clukay for organizing and Yankee Publishing for providing the Yankee field.

Walk for Animals: Humane Society’s 31st Annual

Highlighting the health benefits of the animal-human bond.

BY CAROL LAUGHNER

The Monadnock Humane Society (MHS) announces its 31st Annual Walk for Animals on Saturday, September 21, from 10 am to 1 pm, rain or shine. Sign-in begins at 9 am at the Keene Dillant-Hopkins Airport in Keene.

The theme for the 31st Walk for Animals is “Healthy Pets, Healthy People!” Accessible to all on a scenic paved road at the airport, everyone walks together for three miles (max.). Walkers choose whatever distance they prefer (with or without a leashed dog). Walkers who raise $50 or more will receive a T-shirt as well as a vegan lunch by Country Life Restaurant. A celebration follows at noon with music by a deejay, a vendor village, opportunities to meet therapy pet teams, and see dog demonstrations – and more!

Registration for the Walk is required by August 31. Register at www.mhswalkforanimals.com. Call Lisa at 352.9011, ext. 107 or email lisab@humanecommunity.org with questions.

If you can’t participate but would like to support the Walk for Animals, please visit www.mhswalkforanimals.com to make a donation.

All money raised from this event goes directly to the care of the animals at Monadnock Humane Society.

CAROL LAUGHNER is Marketing Communications Manager at the Monadnock Humane Society (www.monadnockhumane.org) in Swanzey. She can be reached at 924.2244 or email caroll@humanecommunity.org.
September Events at DubHub

Qigong, an Eastern Healing Exercise for All

Qigong classes will begin at the Dub Hub after Labor Day, on Wednesdays from noon to 1 pm. The four-week September session is $48; single classes are $15. First class is free to new participants. Instructor Ginnette G. Groome is a nationally certified Massage Therapist, licensed in NH and NY. Qigong is a natural extension of her practice, which is based on traditional Chinese medicine. For more information, contact Ginnette at ammatwirl@aol.com or call 313-9828.

Song Circle Moves to First Fridays

Song Circle will be held on the first Friday of the month for the next season, following the art opening, starting on September 6. This is an informal gathering of guitar players, bassists, mandolinists, singers, fiddlers, and other instrumentalists. The group plays folk, pop, blues, and Americana from the past 60 years or so. For details, email Bruce Simpson at Bruce_Simpson@msn.com. Donations to DubHub always welcome.

New Works by Soosen Dunholter

Soosen Dunholter will be the featured artist during September in a show titled “West to East.” The opening reception will be on Friday, September 6, from 5 to 7 pm.

Soosen looks for the visual poetry in the world. The work shown in “West to East” is a snapshot of life along Route 101 in New Hampshire, as well as along her trek on the Camino de Santiago, or GR 65, the 450-kilometer walking route in France, which she undertook last spring.

Fall Session of Dance Fitness

The fall session of Dance Fitness with Deb begins September 9 and continues for 8 weeks through October 28. Classes, which are held on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, are geared to aerobic dance enthusiasts wanting a low-impact, moderate intensity workout. Many of Deb’s routines are choreographed to familiar songs from the ‘50s to the present and include a diversity of rhythms. The cost for the 8-week fall session is $40. For more information, call Deb at 563-8648 or email her at fredebg@myfairpoint.net.

Community Lunch

Join us for a delicious home-cooked meal on Tuesday, September 17. The menu this month is lentil/sausage and potato/sausage/kale soups with cornbread, sweets, and drinks. Cost is $3. Lunch is served from noon to 1 pm. Come enjoy delightful...
conversation with your neighbors over a tasty meal!

**Bring Your Own Ukulele**

The Monadnock Ukulele Group meets on the third Friday from 7 to 9 pm. A $5 contribution to the DubHub is appreciated. Song lists will be emailed to participants ahead of each meeting and each member must bring their own copy. No lessons given, but easy two- and three-chord songs are always included each month.

Please email Nancy at thoreaucottage@gmail.com or call 785-9857 to request a song list or to be put on the monthly email list. Beginners through advanced uke players welcome.

**Community Forum: How To Get Involved in Town Government**

The next Community Forum will discuss “How to get involved in Town Government,” on Saturday, September 21, starting at 4:30 pm. Neil Sandford will moderate the discussion, which will include Tim Clark discussing basic Robert’s Rules of Order, how to write an amendment, and how to speak to an issue. Also on the agenda is volunteering to serve on a committee; attending meetings or writing to committees; the “right to know” law and how to ask to see documents; writing a petition warrant; and voting. This hour-long forum is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

**Open Mic Moves to Fourth Friday**

The DubHub Open Mic will resume, with a changed format, on Friday, September 27, starting at 7 pm. The open mic will no longer have featured performers, which will allow for longer sets for participants. Musicians, poets, and other performers should come prepared to do three songs or 15-minute sets. Attendees may bring a snack to share and BYOB. Coffee, tea, and water will be available. Admission is $5, which benefits the DubHub.

The DubHub will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 2. Otherwise the DubHub is always open for Coffee & Conversation on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 am to noon. On Mondays the Hub is open until 5 pm. On Wednesdays, the Hub is closed from noon to 1, and open again from 1 to 4 pm.

**Dublin Smartphone Photo Contest Rules**

1. Open to all Dubliners. Deadline December 1.
2. DubHub employees and board members may not enter.
3. All entries will be on display at the DubHub in January 2020.
4. Winners and honorable mentions will be announced January 3.
5. All entries must have been taken on a smart phone. Photos must be taken within the town limits of Dublin, New Hampshire, between December 1, 2018 and December 1, 2019. Post-production effects permitted. Submit all high-resolution images to dubhubphotocountest@gmail.com.

For more information, email Volkert at info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

**Do You Have a DNA Story to Tell?**

The DubHub Forum Committee is considering an upcoming session entitled “My DNA Story.” If you have a unique discovery or story to tell based on submitting your DNA to an ancestry site, we’d love to hear from you. Email Volkert at info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

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**The Dublin Advocate**

SEPTEMBER 2019

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THE DUBLIN ADVOCATE may be found online and in color at WWW.DUBLINADVOCATE.COM
Hawk Watch 2019

Pack Monadnock celebrates its 15th season as the location for the annual Hawk Watch.

The Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory, a partnership of the Harris Center for Conservation Education and NH Audubon, located within Miller State Park in Peterborough, returns for its 15th consecutive season of monitoring raptor migration and providing education to broad audiences.

As one of the premier locations in New England for watching raptors, viewing the migration from atop Pack provides a long-term dataset of fall-migrating raptors and reaches thousands of people annually through both casual and formal learning opportunities.

The Harris Center has again hired two seasonal employees to fulfill the staffing commitment within this partnership. Phil Brown will continue to serve as Hawk Watch Coordinator to provide continuity to this important research and education project, and Levi Burford will be the onsite Raptor Biologist five days per week. Other key volunteers will help round out the Observatory’s schedule during suitable weather between September 1 and November 15. All are welcome, anytime.

As always, the Observatory will celebrate the much-heralded Raptor Release Day – to be held on September 22. Harris Center staff and volunteers provide programming to visiting school groups and the public, enhancing the environmental literacy of visitors to the Observatory.

Thanks to the many volunteers, supporters, and partners of this project, in particular, NH Parks and the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources, the Observatory will remain an outdoor classroom for all to enjoy for many years to come. See you on the Mountain!

For a schedule of Observatory events, visit harriscenter.org/conservation-research/pack-monadnock-raptor-observatory.

Perkin Observatory Evening Fun for All

We are so thankful to Dublin School and all the volunteers for making the Forum a huge success!

The second Night Sky Forum at the Dublin School Perkin Observatory had 125 people separated into three groups: Venus, Mars, and Saturn.

We began with introductions: Eric Nemitz and Erik Schmitt, both faculty from Dublin School, Susie Spikol from the Harris Center, and Sherin Pierce and Tim Clark from The Old Farmer’s Almanac.

Our Forum volunteers included Balmeet Kaur Khalsa and her daughter Charlotte, June Brening, May Clark, Donna Garner, and Lucy Shonk.

The groups rotated between the telescopes with Eric and Erik, the constellation stories with Susie Spikol, and a presentation by the folks from The Old Farmer’s Almanac.

Be a responsible pet owner.

The River Center

Summer may be coming to a close, but our programs keep chugging along:

Families, Forests & Farms continues Thursday mornings, from 9:30 to 11:30 am; and Bonnie Harris is back with Parenting Tweens & Teens (September 10 from 12 to 2 pm) and Parenting Your 4 to 9ers (with children’s program) on September 11, from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

On October 15, Angela Hanscom, author of Balanced and Barefoot, will speak at 6:30 pm. She will share strategies on helping children thrive through nature play.

For more information, visit riverrcenter.us (9 Vose Farm Rd., Suite 115, Peterborough), or call 924-6800.

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The Horseshoe Crab and the Red Knot

BY TOM WARREN

A year ago, in the Advocate, I wrote about the long flights of the Red Knot, a shorebird, from its nesting sites in the Arctic to its winter home in Patagonia, a roundtrip flight of some 20,000 miles.

But far more important for the bird and for us is its relationship to the Horseshoe Crab, which has been with us for millions of years. This crab is in sharp decline because it is used for fertilizer, bait, and biomedical research.

The Red Knot spends much time at staging and feeding areas during its long migration. It feeds on the eggs of the Horseshoe Crab.

The Horseshoe Crab is important to humans because of its blue blood, which is gathered for research labs throughout the world. Called LAL Test, the Limulus Amoebocyte Test is a unique medical product from the Horseshoe Crab, used for drugs, vaccines, intravenous solutions, and medical devices.

When drugs and medical equipment can be used on humans, they must be cleansed of bacteria. The test for bacterial contamina-
tion makes use of the blue blood of the Horseshoe Crab to identify endotoxins. For many years a rabbit test was used, until scientists discovered the clotting technology of the blue blood of Horseshoe Crabs. With Horseshoe Crab blood, the test to identify endotoxins takes only 15 minutes. It saves lives. Unfortunately, bleeding Horseshoe Crabs for medical science weakens them after they are returned to the sea and some are unable to breed.

So, an intricate relationship exists between our small shorebird and the Horseshoe Crab, which feeds the bird for its long migratory flight and which also saves the lives of humans. We need to save both Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs, especially from use as bait and fertilizer, a practice now banned in many states.

TOM WARREN is Dublin’s resident ornithologist. He leads many hikes in the region.

Come Hike Around Dark Pond

Join Tom Warren for a moderately strenuous, 3-mile roundtrip hike around Dark Pond in Dublin on Saturday, September 7. Bring a snack and meet at 1 pm at the Dublin Lake Golf Club parking lot on Old Marlborough Road in Dublin. Back by 3:30 pm. Please RSVP to Tom Warren at 563-7190 or twassociates@myfairpoint.net. This event, and many others like it all around the region, is sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education, based in Hancock.

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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Hawk Watch atop Pack runs through Nov. 15</td>
<td>2 Labor Day HUB closed, DPL closed, schools closed</td>
<td>3 DCC MRC 7:30 am; DPL HillTop Group 6:45 pm; DCS resumes</td>
<td>4 HUB Coffee 9-noon; Qigong 12-1 pm; Open-4 pm; DPL StoryTime 9:30 am; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm</td>
<td>5 TH Planning Board 7 pm</td>
<td>6 HUB Art Reception 5-7 pm; Song Circle 7-9 pm; Dublin Gas Engine Meet @ Cricket Hill Farm</td>
<td>7 TH Broadband Meeting 7 am; Hike Dark Pond 1 pm; Dublin Gas Engine Meet @ Cricket Hill Farm, Parade at 1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Dublin Gas Engine Meet @ Cricket Hill Farm, Parade at 1 pm</td>
<td>9 HUB Coffee 9-noon; Open 9-5 pm; Dance with Deb 5:30-6:30 pm; DPL Raylynmor meeting 6 pm; TH BOS 4 pm</td>
<td>10 DCC MRC 7:30 am; DPL Republican Exec. Comm. 5 pm; Lake Preservation Comm. 6:45 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm</td>
<td>11 HUB Coffee 9-noon; Qigong 12-1 pm; Open-4 pm; DPL StoryTime 9:30 am; Trustees 7 pm; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm</td>
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<td>15 Dublin Police Dept. Community BBQ 11 am-2 pm with Touch-A-Truck</td>
<td>16 HUB Coffee 9-noon; Open 9-5 pm; Dance with Deb 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4 pm</td>
<td>17 DCC MRC 7:30 am; HUB Community Supper 5:30 pm; DPL HillTop Group 6:45 pm</td>
<td>18 HUB Coffee 9-noon; Qigong 12-1 pm; Open-4 pm; DPL StoryTime 9:30 am; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm; TH Conservation Committee 7 pm</td>
<td>19 DPL Recycle 6 pm; TH Planning Board 7 pm</td>
<td>20 HUB Ukulele Group 7-9 pm</td>
<td>21 DPL Dublin Comm. Foundation 9 am; Open House 4-6 pm; MHS Walk for Animals 10-1 pm; HUB Forum 4:30-5:30 pm</td>
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<td>22 Raptor Release Day on Pack Monadnock, part of Hawk Watch</td>
<td>23 HUB Coffee 9-noon; Open 9-5 pm; Dance with Deb 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4 pm</td>
<td>24 DCC MRC 7:30 am; Community Supper 5:30 pm; DPL HillTop Group 6:45 pm</td>
<td>25 HUB Coffee 9-noon; Qigong 12-1 pm; Open-4 pm; DPL StoryTime 9:30 am; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm</td>
<td>26 TH ZBA 4 pm</td>
<td>27 HUB Open Mic 7-9:30 pm; DCS Community Lunch 12:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Jewish New Year begins at sundown</td>
<td>30 Jewish New Year HUB Coffee 9-noon; Open 9-5 pm; Dance with Deb 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4 pm</td>
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