



**Volume 27 Issue 1**

# The Common Thread

Working to improve the quality of life in the North Quabbin region for over 26 years!

**427 Main Street Athol, MA 01331**

**Ph: (978) 249-3703      Fx: (978) 575-0474**

**[www.nqcc.org](http://www.nqcc.org)**

[Info@nqcc.org](mailto:Info@nqcc.org)

Join us on Facebook!

## ***Rebecca's Ramblings***

### **Coalition Meeting**

**Sept. 17, 2010**

**9 - 10:30 a.m.**

#### ***This Month:***

**Join us for a  
conversation with  
Congressman  
John Olver**

It's been a busy summer! The Coalition has been hard at work developing the plan for the coming year and it is jam packed. The NQCC continues to be committed to meeting the needs of the region. This year the focus will continue to focus on the prevention of drug abuse for youth as part of the Youth Policy Board, development of the System of Care for children's behavioral health, working to improve the child welfare system for children and families, working on the completion of a marketing assessment for the region with the Economic Development Task Force and continuing to support local projects which improve the quality of life for residents. Stay tuned for events and news to come through Facebook, or our website. For more information on how to get involved in any of our work, please email [info@nqcc.org](mailto:info@nqcc.org) or call us at (978)249-3703.

*Rebecca*

### **Athol-Orange Elks Club**

92 New Athol Rd.(Rt. 2A)  
Orange, MA 01364

Driving directions at  
[www.nqcc.org](http://www.nqcc.org)

**Recent Donations:**  
Athol Council on Aging

### **Garlic and Arts Festival**

October 2 & 3

At Forster's Farm 60 Chestnut Hill Rd. Orange

10 -5

Admission \$5 for adults or a weekend pass for \$8.

Children 12 and under free!

The Bridge is Out but the Festival is On!

Visit [www.garlicandarts.org](http://www.garlicandarts.org) for parking and shuttle details!

## Athol Bird and Nature Club Events

### \*\*\* Wednesday, September 8, 7 p.m. DCR Gull Study

Why do we see gulls so far inland? This monthly meeting at the Center (100 Main St., Athol) will address that question when Ken MacKenzie and Dan Clark discuss the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Gull Study – research into ring-bill, herring and black-back gulls in Massachusetts, including their movements, feeding and use of public water supplies. Ken is a senior wildlife biologist and Dan is the Director of Natural Resources for DCR.

### Saturday, September 11, 1-2 p.m. Monarch Mania!

Join educator Rachel Roberts at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol, for a program exploring the complete life cycle of butterflies with emphasis on the monarchs who will be migrating through our area at the time. FREE and geared towards families with young children. *This program is supported in part by a grant from the Athol Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.* To register or for more info, contact Rachel at [robertsrml@verizon.net](mailto:robertsrml@verizon.net) or 413-774-7290.

### Sunday, September 12, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Exploring Tully Mountain

Allen Young, author of *North of Quabbin Revisited* and other books of local interest, will lead us on a loop trail exploring the mountain, part of ABNC's celebration of Orange 2010. Meet at the parking area near 98 Mountain Rd. Bring a bag lunch to enjoy on the summit. *Info:* Allen Young, 978-249-7612. *Note change of date from Orange Bicentennial listing.*

### Saturday & Sunday, October 2 & 3, 11 a.m. The Chestnut Story

Meet at the headquarters booth at the Garlic & Arts Festival, for a short hike in the Fittz Family Forest to learn about the glory days of the chestnut, its tragic demise, and the promise of the future. Guides for this event, part of ABNC's celebration of Orange 2010, will be Lula Field and Christine Beckert Long. Those who wish can continue the hike to an overlook with a magnificent view of Orange's Chestnut Hill, led by Daniel Bolton. For directions to the festival, visit the website: [www.garlicandarts.org](http://www.garlicandarts.org). *Info:* Chris Long, 978-249-0246 or [christyblue@juno.com](mailto:christyblue@juno.com). *Co-sponsored by New England Forestry Foundation and North Quabbin Woods.*

### \*\*\*Wednesday, October 13, 7 p.m. Weasels

This regular monthly meeting at the Center (100 Main St., Athol) features Laura Hajduk // Laura Hajduk is currently the Furbearer and Black Bear Project Leader for the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, but her first love is weasels – she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Illinois, where she studied space and habitat use of long-tailed weasels.

### September 5, 12, 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 7:30 a.m. "Early Bird" Birding with Jeff

Join Jeff as he explores the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. Come for as long as your schedule allows. Meet at the Center, 100 Main St., Athol. Severe weather cancels. *Info:* Jeff Johnstone, 978-249-9052.

## Community Events and Happenings

### North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce News

#### Calling all Businesses, Crafters, Exhibitors, Farmers & local Artisans!

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Fall Festival , Oct 9, 2010  
9 am to 3 pm.

The North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce will provide an 8x10 space along the beautiful downtown Athol's Main Street. Booth Fee \$10 for members of the chamber, and \$15 donation or item for prize valued at \$15. Non-Member Fee \$20, and \$25 donation or item for prize valued at \$25. Space is limited, please register by September 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to have a booth, or would like to sponsor the Fall Festival, please contact Tammy-Lynn at the chamber for details (978)249-3849.

Meet the Director! Join us in welcoming new Executive Director of the NQ Chamber of Commerce, Tammy-Lynn Chace at an upcoming Chamber Networking event. Business After 5 is sponsored by Kessler Investments, Inc. at 1045 Pleasant St. Athol from 5 – 7 p.m. on September 9, 2010. Light refreshments served. Please RSVP to [nqcc1@verizon.net](mailto:nqcc1@verizon.net).

### Valuing Our Children Programs for Fall 2010

*Valuing Our Children is now taking applications for the **fall 2010 Nurturing Program**. What Is The Nurturing Program? A sixteen-week class for families to take together for any family with young children that wants to get along better, communicate more, and feel closer to each other. Learn effective ways to discipline your children, a sense of personal power and have fun with your family. Starts September 16, 2010 weekly from 10 AM – 1 PM; Lunch served, Transportation available; Free! For more information call Regan Kleber at (978) 249-8467.*

The **North Quabbin Family Resource Center** is available to provide family support and advocacy. Services can range from information and referral to weekly home visiting. For more information, contact Kena Vescovi at VOC at (978)249-8467.

**Fall Playgroups** : Tuesdays beginning September 21st; 10-11:30am; 217 Walnut Street, Athol, MA  
Crafts and fun provided! For children 0-5 and their families. Transportation available if needed.  
Any questions please call Valuing Our Children at (978) 249 - 8467.

**Patch Parents Council** recently gave out over 500 backpacks to area children. If there are still children in need, please call the Patch office. The group will meet on Tuesday September 14 at 5 pm at 423 Main St. Athol. The PPC is open to all North Quabbin families to provide support and to provide opportunities to participate in civic activities and to effect change in the child welfare system. Call Patch for more info at (978)249-5070.

## Community Events and Happenings

### Seeds of Solidarity, 165 Chestnut Hill Rd. Orange (978)544-9023

**Seeds of Solidarity Tour: Oct. 23, 10 – 11:30.** Experience our farm, home and education center that integrate solar greenhouses, energy efficient buildings, abundant market gardens, solar electric and hot water systems, biodiesel vehicles. Free! If you wish, bring a potluck lunch then stay for the afternoon workshop.

**Growing Community, Saturday October 23, 1-3 PM,** We are thrilled to live among creative and skilled folks. We'll do a neighborhood tour that includes Little White Goat dairy and examples of innovative energy efficiency in new construction and a renovated farm house.

**Grow Food Everywhere TM Trainings** Bring us to your school or community for a workshop that inspires, educates and transforms. Contact us for fees and [info.solidarity@seedsofsolidarity.org](mailto:info.solidarity@seedsofsolidarity.org)

**“Farm, Field and Forest: Living with the Land”** September 25 will open at 9:00 a.m. in the Orange Town Hall at 6 Prospect Street with a workshop on sustenance hunting and fishing, followed by trailblazing, and a panel discussion on sustainable energy and conservation. The keynote address by Dr. Dempsey will be delivered at 1:00 p.m. A talk by US Forest Service wildlife biologist, David King at 2:00 p.m. will be followed by panel discussions on sustainable forestry and farming practices and land-based industries. The keynote address for “Farm, Field & Forest: Living with the Land,” scheduled for September 25, will be delivered by an authority on the early contact period between Native Americans and colonists, historian Dr. Jack Dempsey (Ph.D. Brown University). “Farm, Field and Forest,” organized as a “Teach-in,” will take place at the Orange Town Hall and White Elephant in Orange, MA. The overall theme is building local economies by looking at past and present practices in sustainable farming and forestry. The event is free and open to the public. Doors at the White Elephant, 19 East Main Street, Orange, will open at noon and feature an art and photography exhibit, talks by local historians Elizabeth Peirce and Allen Young and group discussions on daily life as lived by locals in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early and mid-20th century. If you are an artist or photographer interested in exhibiting at the White Elephant for the one-day event, contact Marie MacDonald at (978)-249-6879. For further information, contact the organizer, Genevieve Fraser, at (978) 544-1872; Email: [farmfieldforest@gmail.com](mailto:farmfieldforest@gmail.com) ; or visit [www.FarmFieldForest.org](http://www.FarmFieldForest.org)

### Orange Bicentennial Celebration 1810-2010

**Celebrate the Harvest Parade** steps off at 1 pm sharp on October 10, 2010. Register your float or group for the parade now! Registration form available at the Orange Business Association website at <http://www.orangebusinessassoc.org/2010CTH-ParadeRegistration.pdf>

**Pancake Breakfast:** First Saturday of each month from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Orange Armory, \$5 per person for all you can eat French Toast, pancakes, and sausage, coffee and juice. Proceeds benefit the Bicentennial Committee and upcoming events.

**State Government**

(for the North Quabbin Region)

**Governor Deval Patrick** (617) 725-4005

Office of the Governor  
 State House, Room 360, Boston, MA 02133  
*Email: GOffice@state.ma.us*

**Senator Stephen Brewer** (617) 722-1540

*Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Warwick, Athol*  
 State House, Room 109B, Boston, MA 02133  
*Email: stephen.brewer@massmail.state.ma.us*

**Senator Stanley Rosenberg** (617) 722-1532

*Wendell, Erving, New Salem*  
 State House, Room 320, Boston, MA 02133  
*Email: StanRosenberg@state.ma.us*

**Rep. Chris Donelan** (978)-544-2180

*Erving, Orange, Athol, Warwick*  
 186 Walnut Hill Rd., Orange, MA 01364 *Email: rep.christopherdonelan@hou.state.ma.us*

**Rep. Anne Gobi** (800) 650-4624

*Petersham, Phillipston*  
 State House, Rm. 473F, Boston, MA 02133  
*Email: Rep.AnneGobi@hou.state.ma.us*

**Rep. Robert L. Rice, Jr.**

**Royalston**  
 State House, Rm. 33 Boston, MA 02133  
*Email: Rep.RobertRice@hou.state.ma.us*

**Rep. Stephen Kulik** (413) 665-7200

**New Salem, Wendell**  
 1 Sugarloaf Street, S. Deerfield, MA 01373  
*Email: Rep.StephenKulik@hou.state.ma.us*

**COALITION MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Coalition is open to all agencies, religious communities, business and industry, government officials, civic groups and other interested individuals and organizations. The Coalition holds monthly meetings (the third Friday of every month except July & August) on relevant topics, facilitates monthly task forces on critical local issues, publishes a monthly newsletter, provides resource materials, networking services and advocacy efforts on behalf of Coalition issues. The North Quabbin Community Coalition is an affiliate of Valuing Our Children. The Coalition is funded in part by the generous contributions of members; the Department of Children & Families' Community Connections; the Central Mass. AHEC; Community Coalition for Teens DFC Mentoring Grant; and the Athol-Royalston Regional School District.

**NQCC Board of Directors****Charlie Winters (President) - Athol Area United Way****Chief Tim Anderson - Athol Police Department (VP)****Chief Brian Spear - Orange Police Department (VP)**  
**Jeanette Robichaud—(Treasurer) Athol Area Y.M.C.A****Shirley Hebert - Community /Business Rep.****Fran Gromelski- Community Transit Services****Donna Liebl - Franklin County Home Care Corp.****Kathleen Hardie - Valuing Our Children****Sharon Tracy - Quabbin Mediation****Frances Graziano - MOC Partnerships for Children****Pat Roix - Community Representative****Pat Moore - Community Representative****Steve Raymond - Community Representative****Task Force Meetings:**

Youth Policy Board:

Economic Development: Wed. Sept. 22 5 pm at NQCC Office

NQ System of Care, Monday Sept. 27 @NQCC office



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427 Main St.  
Athol MA 01331

## **Mission Statement**

**The North Quabbin Community Coalition  
is a community-wide alliance committed to  
improving the quality of life for all those living  
and working in the North Quabbin region.**

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