

THE TAMWORTH CIVIC NEWS

Volume XIX, Number 5

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the Tamworth Civic Association

July 1st, 2014



NEWSLETTER BUSINESS

On a fine June evening, people gathered at the Tamworth Town House to enjoy a presentation on Colonial Meeting Houses. Photographer and historian Paul Wainwright spoke about the construction of meeting houses throughout New England, illustrated by his stunning photographs of these simple, practical, and—most importantly—adaptable buildings. Although some meeting houses have been preserved exactly as originally built, many—including Tamworth's Town House—have changed with the times and community needs.

Since its construction in 1794, our Town House has served many functions, hosting meetings, elections, recreational activities of all kinds, Saturday night dances, community meals, rummage sales and Christmas fairs, weddings, farmers markets—the list of how Tamworth's citizens have used this building over the centuries is substantial, and it continues to be a vibrant and important social hub.

Recently, due to space constraints at the Tamworth Town Office, the selectmen have decided to move all town board meetings to the ground floor of the Town House. During June and July, this will be done on a trial basis, after which the selectmen will decide if the Town House will continue to be used exclusively for official meetings and file storage, thus potentially closing the first floor of the building to other community activities.

This topic will be on the agenda of the Thursday, July 3rd selectmen's meeting, 4:45PM, at the Town House. Come join the discussion.

A CHOCORUA POEM

Poetry is the product of keen observation and quiet reflection, words distilled down to capture a moment, an image, the essence of a place well-loved. This is how Tom Weare came to write his poem *Wings Over Water*.

Since a hospital stay in 2006, Tom—now retired—spends his days on the shore of Chocorua Lake. He sits on his tailgate and watches the sunrise. He greets friends who can count on finding him there each day. He watches the comings and goings of the wildlife and people who visit the lake throughout the year. Our thanks to him for sharing his appreciation of this Tamworth jewel, expressed here in verse.

WINGS OVER WATER

As the sun starts to rise,
its light filters through the pines
casting shadows on the water
where the bald eagle flies.

A silent breeze whispers across the water,
and the fish begin to rise.
They leave ripples of circles
where the bald eagle flies.

The loons are already here.
The same pair come every year.
Flocks of geese dot the skies
over the water
where the bald eagle flies.

The water is a pretty shade of blue;
kids are in swimming,
while others enjoy the view.
The sun is shining in my eyes,
as I am looking up I see
the bald eagle as he flies.

—Tom Weare

TAMWORTH HEALTHCARE

Geoff Burke says that the Affordable Care Act saved his life. When he and his wife, Annie, signed up for a plan this winter, it was the first time in their adult lives they were able to afford health insurance. The first thing he did was get a physical. Within ten days, he had undergone surgery for a carotid artery that was ninety-percent blocked. If he hadn't gotten that physical, he almost certainly would have had a stroke by now. If he had gone for that physical without health insurance, the surgery would have cost more than his family's annual income.

This is the most dramatic ACA story I've heard since I started helping people sign up for health insurance last fall, but it's not the only one. I've been working through a federal grant that White Mountain Community Health Center received to ensure that there are those in every community who can help people navigate the new system. Many were able to do this just fine on their own, but for those I helped, I feel like I've seen a cloud of stress lift off the Mt. Washington Valley.

When my partner and I moved to Tamworth, we knew we wouldn't be able to keep the subsidized health insurance we had relied on in Massachusetts as we pursued our youthful dreams. But when I asked around about our options, I was shocked at how unattainable health insurance seemed to be in this area. Hardly anyone we met in Tamworth was

Continued on page 4

April 24th

A number of residents were present to voice concerns raised by the news that the Town House is going to be used solely for town board and committee meetings and will no longer be available to outside groups. (*Editor's note: This was proposed by the select board as an alternative to building an addition to the Town Office building, due to their concern that the existing meeting room at the Town Office needs to be converted to additional office space.*) After lengthy discussion, it was decided that a two month trial will start June 1st. During that time, all committees and boards will meet at the Town House and take what they need with them so that the door to the meeting room will remain unlocked and that the building can be shared; however, town board and committee meetings will take precedence. The board will reassess this situation after the trial period and see whether or not there needs to be a trial with the door locked and the files moved.

May 2nd

Board discussed an email received from HEB Engineering regarding a light base that was missed when estimating the final proposal. They need to know if the board wishes to do a change order and add another light or just move on at this time. Board reviewed the location and after discussion decided not to hold up the process any longer by ordering changes. ♦ Board discussed the current office staff situation, the workload, and the balance of the budget for this line item. It was decided that the town administrator could notify the municipal managers group and the government finance group that we are looking for some temporary experienced office help.

May 22nd

At a 3PM meeting, the board discussed the scheduling of the Town House for meetings and other usage. Notices were sent out to all departments and committees and there has been some negative feedback. ♦ At the 4PM meeting, Fire Chief Richard Colcord described problems with the current forest fire warden. People are not able to get fire permits or make contact with the warden. Colcord requested the selectmen recommend to the state that the current warden be removed from the position. Board voted to appoint Colcord to be the new forest fire warden for Tamworth. ♦ Joel Clement of Freedom Computer was in to discuss the way the town currently does computer backups. He explained the Carbonite backup system and advised the town use it. Board voted to purchase the system. ♦ The committee organizing events for Tamworth's 250th anniversary was assembled. ♦ Marie White was in about a parcel of land she has been renting and is considering purchasing on Depot Road, but is concerned with a neighboring property. She believes Tamworth Camping Area may be considered a junkyard and she would like to know what her next steps are. Selectmen will make a site visit. ♦ Selectman Steve Gray attended

the library meeting. They discussed hiring a director for thirty-five hours a week and the upcoming plant sale. ♦ Selectman Jim Hidden stated he had an economic development committee meeting where discussion centered on the regional effort to promote local sustainable agriculture. ♦ Selectman John Roberts attended a planning board work session where they approved the trimming for PSNH on all scenic roads. He attended the cemetery trustee meeting; they are developing regulations for plantings and what is left on cemetery plots.

June 5th

The select board meeting took place at the Town House. Present were former select persons Donald Hutchins, Mariette Ross, William Farnum, David Haskell, and Samuel Hidden. J. Roberts and Gray appointed Donald Hutchins to fill in for J. Hidden who was unable to attend. Hutchins was the only selectperson present who had served on the board when the meetings were last held at the Town House. ♦ Board voted to sign a heating oil contract with Jesse Lyman for the fixed rate of \$3.299 per gallon for the 2014-15 heating season. ♦ The Dyrenforths were again present to discuss the request for a curb cut on their property from the Chocorua Road to access their back land. There was much discussion between the board and members of the community. The community members felt, on the whole, that the omission of this curb cut from the design was an error, and said that there was never a public hearing allowing residents to examine the plans. They said that the driveway would have been paid for by the grants had it been included in the original design, and, given that there is sufficient funding in the grant monies to pay for it, the selectmen ought to approve the change order allowing a curb cut giving access to the Dyrenforth's back land. Selectman Roberts stated he is not changing his mind and feels this discussion should be tabled for another meeting when the full, elected, board is present. ♦ The selectmen reported on their visit to Tamworth Camping Area. The Bonicas do have a number of old cars. The question at hand seems to be whether these vehicles are junk or antiques. The selectmen have requested a list of vehicles with the model year. ♦ Ned Beecher was present to request the board review and sign the conservation easement for the Reich property. Board declined to sign until the town attorney reviewed the document. ♦ Town Administrator Cassandra Pearce informed the board that the bank is now charging the town fees when a check to the town "bounces." Board voted to increase the check penalty from twenty-five to fifty dollars. ♦ Copies of the proposed wage and classification study for another town have been obtained for the board's review, and Tamworth has been asked to provide data for this study. Any town completing the questionnaire will receive a copy of results.

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HOW ONE VILLAGE HELPED ANOTHER

Over a year ago I was driving my five-year-old son, Jamie, home from daycare in Sandwich, talking about a man named Sayon Camara, whom I met through a drumming performance group I'm part of. Sayon is the village drummer from Kouya Sidia in Guinea, Africa, who recently moved to Vermont. When I told Jamie that Sayon had invited me to accompany him back to his village, and about Sayon's dream of having a better school for the children of Kouya Sidia, Jamie asked, "Daddy, can we do a lemonade stand for his school?"

That weekend, we set up a little table in front of our house, made a sign, and began raising funds. All lemonade was sold "by donation." When people heard Jamie talk about Sayon and his desire to help, they eagerly purchased cups of lemonade. It was soon apparent Jamie's customers weren't simply buying lemonade, they were supporting my son's desire to make a difference and his willingness to act on it. That weekend he raised over \$135, and the non-profit called "Stands for School" was born, challenging others to organize stands of their own. The K. A. Brett School agreed to be the umbrella organization for **Stands for School**, assuring that every penny raised would go directly towards purchasing items for the children of Kouya Sidia.

When I shared Jamie's idea with some of my students at the Brett School, they were eager to help. With the support of Grammy Gordon, two students, Jessica Noyes and Evan Eldridge, set up a lemonade stand at the Tamworth Farmers' Market. The kindness and generosity they received was both amazing and inspiring. During two different Saturdays they raised over \$500, one cup of lemonade at a time. It was then I realized that this project was as much about empowering children in Tamworth as it was about helping those in need halfway around the globe.

Soon other lemonade stands popped up in various places in town: outside Barnstormers, during a family fun night at the school, at the end of various driveways. Throughout the summer, children in other states heard about what was happening in Tamworth, and they set up stands as well. Funds came in from Madison, Sandwich, and Moultonborough. A stand was set up as far away as Vermont, and individual donations came in from Boston and Chicago—even Singapore and New Zealand.

A week prior to my trip, the school set up a "Coins for Kouya Sidia" campaign. Children arrived with baggies of



Sayon Camara, seated, left & the author, seated, right.

coins, adding over \$700 to the **Stands for School** project. On December 15th, I departed for Guinea with a total of over \$2,600.

Sayon is renowned throughout Africa for his drumming. As we traveled in Guinea, whenever we were stopped by soldiers looking for money, they would see Sayon, and suddenly everyone would be smiling, with handshakes all around.

Guinea is an extremely impoverished country where there is no electricity or running water, even in most of its capital city of Conakry, where, with the help of Sayon and his family, we purchased most of the school supplies suggested by the village elders and, two days later, began the bumpy, eighteen-hour trip to the village of Kouya Sidia. Upon entering the village of about 400, we saw that a new school had been built for the 140 children presently attending. It was a shell of a building containing only tables and benches. As soon as the sixteen of us got out of the van, children came running from every direction, drums and flutes were brought out, and a welcoming celebration began.

The money raised allowed all children of school age to attend school. We provided 160 school uniforms (a requirement that makes education unaffordable for many), along with a long list of school supplies: 180 pairs of shoes, 160 backpacks, 480 notebooks, over 4,000 pencils, 150 pencil sharpeners, 320 square erasers, 140 chalkboards, over 4,000 pieces of chalk, and two large, laminated maps of the world.

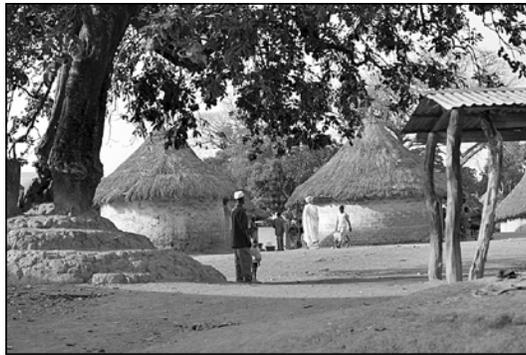
Upon my return, I was constantly asked by students, "What's next?"

During my time in the village, I met with the village elders and found their biggest hardship is getting water—especially during the dry season. They have one hand-pump well for the 400-or-so villagers, and during the hottest time of the year, many families go without, or get water from a local stream (if it's running), which often transmits diseases. **Stands for School** is looking to help build at least one more well. Hopefully, this can be accomplished one cup of lemonade, by donation, at a time.

If you'd like to know more about **Stands for School** visit www.standsforschool.weebly.com. All donations for the village well are graciously accepted and can be sent to "K. A. Brett School—Stands for School" at 881 Tamworth Road, Tamworth, NH 03886.

—John Marlowe

John teaches 4th & 5th grades at the K. A. Brett School



The village of Kouya Sidia, Guinea, Africa.

HEALTHCARE, continued from page 1

insured—not because they didn't want to be, but because health insurance was impossibly expensive. If we had bought health insurance last year, it would have cost almost as much as our rent.

Now, almost all those people are covered. Over and over, I've heard from friends how having insurance relieved a stress they hadn't even realized they had. I've also heard stories of people who had knee surgery or carpal tunnel surgery and can work at full speed for the first time in years. For me, paying my premium every month and getting up-to-date on vaccines and screenings gives me that deep relief of being on top of things, taking care of myself in a way that I couldn't have done last year.

For those who still don't have health insurance, there are a number of options. Open enrollment for 2014 ended on March 31st and won't open again until November 15th, but many people can still purchase health insurance right now when they qualify for a special enrollment period. *Healthcare.gov* has a widget you can use to find out if you might be eligible for a special enrollment period—you can also go there for general information or to enroll. Or you can talk to the call center at 800-318-2596.

If none of this applies to you, but your income is relatively low, keep your eyes peeled for a new program that New Hampshire is about to roll out to close the last big gap in health coverage. During my time as a navigator, I have talked to many people who were shocked to find out that, even with very low incomes, they had been denied premium assistance when they applied for Marketplace insurance. This was because of a US Supreme Court decision that left coverage for Americans with the lowest incomes up to the states they lived in.

Now, New Hampshire is about to close that gap and offer new health coverage for adults with incomes under 133% of the federal poverty level. This program will roll out sometime this summer. For more details, or to sign up to get updates, you can go to *www.dhhs.nh.gov* and follow links for the New Hampshire Health Protection Program (NHHPP).

I'm still at White Mountain Community Health Center in Conway, helping people sign up for health coverage, dealing with ongoing enrollment issues, and assisting the newly enrolled in understanding how to use their new coverage. If you have questions or want to set up an appointment, you can call me at 447-8900 x328, or email me at *skaplan@whitemountainhealth.org*.

—Siena Kaplan

MINUTES, continued from page 2

June 11th

A meeting with the full board was held at 5PM to review change orders for the Chocorua Project. First was the proposed curb cut for Dyrenforths' land. Discussion from the previous meeting was recapped. Then the subject was again discussed at length. Eventually, J. Roberts called the question. Majority of the board was not in favor of approving the change. The Dyrenforths then asked if they could pay the \$1,293 and still have the curb installed while the project is being done to avoid having to rip up the granite later to have an entrance installed. Whether or not the state allows the town to accept private funds for use on the project was questioned and the town administrator is to look into it. ♦ Board discussed a \$17,784 change order from HEB Engineering related to light pole base design. The board had understood that this design change was not going to have a fiscal impact on the project. They requested a meeting with the engineers before voting on this change order. ♦ Board was given copies of proposals submitted to another town for a pay and classification study. They were also given a copy of a survey, the completion of which will assist that town with their study. ♦ Board was given a copy of the agenda for June 19th. It contains enough requests for their time that they considered adding meeting times to their meeting schedule. ♦ Voted to recess the meeting until 8AM Monday morning, June 16th, at Chocorua Village.



Photo by Kate Thompson

On June 10th, three members of the Tamworth Historical Society visited K. A. Brett's two first grades, with old-fashioned apple peelers, apples, and stories about Tamworth's orchard days. Here, Ann Albrecht helps Cassidy, Anthony, and Sabrina. On June 12th, the THS ambassadors visited Matt Krug's fourth grade class, which was doing a unit on the 1960s. They showed Chris Clyne's PowerPoint about Tamworth's 1966 Bicentennial Celebration and shared their recollections about that era in Tamworth.

THE TAMWORTH CIVIC NEWS

Issue deadline: August 30th for the September 15th edition

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TAMWORTH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July & August

Cook Library hosts an amazing variety of programs this summer. Magic! Tropical bats! Comics in World History! Animal Defenses! Sunspots & Telescopes! Hiking & Discovery! Frisbee! Call 323-8510, go to tamworthlibrary.org, or stop by the library for details.

Sundays, 1–5; Mondays & Thursdays, 1–7

Chocorua Public Library is gathering stories & photos for preservation. Call 323-8610 to learn more.

Sundays

Live From The Lyceum. 1:30 at Tamworth Lyceum. Concert listings are at tamworthlumber.com.

Sundays

Dinner Bell, 5PM at St. Andrew's Church.

Mondays

Congregate meals for age sixty & up. Runnells Hall, 12–1PM. Call 539-6851.

Tuesdays & Fridays

Community Food Center at St. Andrew's Church, open 10–12. Call 960-4067.

Tuesdays in July & August

Storytime, 10:30AM at Cook Library. 323-8510.

Tuesdays in July

Remick Museum Historically Speaking, 7–8PM. A different topic about American history and culture each week. Free. All welcome! 323-7591.

Wednesdays (first & third of each month)

Prayer shawl group meets, Chocorua Community Church, 1–2:30. Join for fellowship and knitting.

Thursdays

TCNA weight loss group with registered dietician. Free. Cook Library, 5:30PM. Call 323-8511.

Fridays

Meditation group at Unitarian Church in Tamworth, 6–7:30PM. Call Ed Parsons at 603-960-0363 for details.

Fridays

Live music at Chequers Villa Restaurant, 6:30–10:30.

Saturdays, through Columbus Day

Tamworth Farmers' Market, 9–1. Tamworth Village. 323-2368 or tamworthfarmersmarket.org.

Saturdays

UUFES Thrift Shop open, 9–1. South side of the Tamworth Farmers' Market. Donations welcome.

Saturdays, July 5th, August 2nd, & September 6th

Bean supper at Union Hall. Family style, two settings: 5 & 5:45PM. \$7 adults; \$4 for kids under 12.

Sundays, July 6th–September 7th

Wonalancet Chapel services, led by a different clergy/speaker each week at 10AM.

Sundays, July 6th–August 10th

Concerts by the River, 3–5PM behind The Other Store. Shady lawn and ice cream. Kids and dogs welcome. Suggested donation, \$2 to \$5.

Starting Monday, July 7th

Community School nature camps for ages 3–12. 323-7000 or communityschoolnh.org for info.

Tuesday, July 8th–Saturday, August 30th

The Barnstormers Summer Theatre. 8 shows in 8 weeks! 323-8500 or barnstormerstheatre.org.

Thursdays, 7/10 & 8/21; Saturdays, 7/12 & 8/23

Yeoman's Fund for the Arts workshops, 10–3, Runnells Hall. Writing with Susan Jeffreys (7/10); Tango & painting with Philip Hood (7/12); Rambling & writing with Ed Parsons (8/21 & 8/23). 323-8877 or yeomansfund@yahoo.com. \$25. Preregistration required.

Friday, July 11th & Tuesday, July 29th

Turn Your Craft into Business with Doug Shapiro. Cook Library, 1–2:30 (7/11); 7–8:30 (7/29).

Saturday, July 12th

Firemen's Club Auction, 10AM, South Tamworth Station. Preview at 9AM.

Saturdays, July 12th & 19th

Contradances at the Tamworth Town House, 8–11. Hosted by the Tamworth Outing Club.

Wednesdays, July 16th & August 20th

Farmers' Table Dinner at The Community School, 6–8PM. Local foods, by donation. 323-7000.

Saturday, July 19th

Wonalancet Out Door Club trail work day. Meet in the Ferncroft parking lot at 8:30AM. No experience needed. Tools provided. Bring glasses, food, & water. Call 323-8913.

Saturdays, July 19th–August 16th

Community Art at Remick Museum, 9–10:30. Meet at the museum gazebo. 323-7591 for info.

Friday, July 25th–Sunday, July 27th

Art Works' Art Show & Sale, Runnells Hall. Friday opening, 6–8PM; Saturday & Sunday, 9–4.

Saturday, July 26th

11th Annual Chocorua Day Festival. Bake Sale, BBQ lunch, live music, & more! Call 323-2021.

Saturdays, July 26th & August 2nd

Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30-noon. For more info, follow the link at tamworthnh.org.

Friday, August 1st

St. Andrew's Church Lobster Bake & Steak. Call 323-8515 for ticket information.

Starting Monday, August, 4th

Soccer Camp for players age 8–12. Call 323-7000.

Wednesday, August 13th

Early Schools of Tamworth. Betty Wasson and the Historical Society. Unitarian Church in Tamworth, 7PM.

Saturday, August 16th

8th Annual Bearcamp Music Fest, Community School, 5–9. Music, pig roast, & local foods feast.

Sunday, August 17th

Wonalancet Out Door Club annual meeting in the Wonalancet Chapel, 6:30PM; potluck at 5PM.

Wednesday, August 20th

Tamworth Community Nurse Association annual meeting, Brass Heart Inn, 6:30PM.

Tuesday, August 26th

Seed saving workshop, Remick Farm, 6PM. Free.

Saturday, September 13th

TCNA Benefit Concert, 7PM, Barnstormers Theater. Local musicians on stage! Call 323-8511.

Send calendar items to TCNcalendar@gmail.com. Submissions for the September 15th TCN are due by August 30th.

FAMILY DAY SCHEDULE, FRIDAY, JULY 4TH

- 7:00 Ordination Rock 5K sign-up at Brett School.
- 8:30 Ordination Rock 5K race begins.
- 10:15 Parade sign-up on the porch of the Tamworth Lyceum, Main Street, Tamworth Village.
- 11:00 Parade starts at the Tamworth Town House and proceeds to the K. A. Brett School.
- Anyone interested in entering a float should contact Parker @ 323-7582 or email Barb Bloomberg at bigskycook@yahoo.com. Everyone can enter—the more old cars, tractors, civic groups, local businesses, animals, musicians, dancers, decorated bikes, costumes and kids the better! Prizes include: most patriotic, most original, humorous, best music, best commercial, best overall, and, a new category: best family entry.
- 12:00 Swift River Jazz Band plays at the school.
- 1:00 Parade awards presented under the tent.
- 1:30 Egg toss, pie eating contest, sack race, hula hoop contest, and more!

7:00 The Jonathan Sarty Band will perform under the tent at the Brett School, 7–9:30.

9:30 Fireworks at the Brett School!!!

There will be activities for all ages at the Brett School after the parade and plenty of food available from noon to 2:30 and again starting at around 7PM, thanks to the many town organizations with fundraising concession stands. Members of the 2013–2014 K. A. Brett 8th grade will host games and activities to raise funds for their class trip. Come enjoy Family Day!

THE TAMWORTH REC DEPT offers ongoing classes in Tai Chi, step aerobics, “Living Strong” for older adults, and yoga. Contact Parker Roberts at 323-7582 for program information.

The Summer Rec Program for Tamworth children ages 7–14, begins Mon., July 7th, and runs until Thurs., August 7th. The fee is \$10 per child, with add'l fees for field trips. Children are welcome to join the program for part or all of the summer.

SEPTEMBER STATE PRIMARY

On Tuesday, September 9th, there will be a New Hampshire State Primary, with polls open from 8am to 7pm. This event may be held at the K. A. Brett School, due to proposed changes of Town House usage.

At this primary, nominees will be chosen to run for state and federal offices in the November 4th general election, including governor, representatives, and senators.

Primaries are a vital part of our political system. Speaking for Tamworth's Supervisors of the Checklist, we hope that all eligible residents of Tamworth will turn out for this primary.

At this time, it is not possible to change your party registration until after the primary. Republicans and Democrats will be given their party's ballot. If you are currently registered as “Undeclared,” you can choose either ballot. By casting your vote for a specific party, you become a member of that party. If you wish to go back to Undeclared status, visit the supervisors' table after you vote.

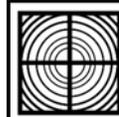
Not a registered voter? Register to vote in the primary at the Town Clerk's office through September 2nd, at the supervisors' meeting on September 2nd (7–7:30PM), or at the polls on September 9th at the supervisors' table.

New registrants should bring a photo ID and proof of residency, which is a document that has your current residence printed on it. This might be a driver's license (if it lists your residential address), a rental agreement, an electric bill, or other document showing that you are a Tamworth resident.

At the polls, the ballot clerks will request a photo ID. If you cannot show them this ID, there will be affidavits available for you to sign prior to being given the ballot—a requirement set by the State of NH.

If you have any questions, you may talk to any of the Supervisors of the Checklist (Amy Berrier, Sharon Nothnagle, or Lisa Remick) or Town Clerk Kim Trammell.

—Sharon Nothnagle



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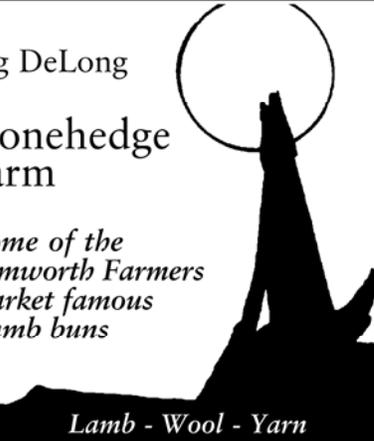
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TAMWORTH CIVIC ASSOCIATION
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OBSERVATIONS FROM A TAMWORTH BEEKEEPER

As many already know, our pollinators—bees in particular—are in trouble. Most of our honey bees' problems are caused by human activity. Here in Tamworth, we can all work to improve conditions for bees by being aware of their natural food sources, cultivating plants that bees utilize, and taking care not to harm or poison bees, thereby harming ourselves through decreased pollination and contamination of our own food supply.

Two trees which all of us can encourage and grow are locust and basswood, which are native to this area. The locust is a resilient tree with beautiful flowers that bloom in early June. If you are in our region in late spring through early summer, all you have to do is look up to see and inhale deeply to smell the blossoms.

Basswood is a forest tree that grows along stone walls and moist areas. The leaves look like big hearts and the bark is similar to an ash tree.

When they blossom in early summer, you can hear the pollinators on their flowers overhead and the sound is distinctive. These trees and their flowers are above the goings-on of humans, but a major food supply for pollinators.

Over the years, when I set up timber sales for landowners, I have it written into our contracts that no basswood is to be harvested. We can all do our part; both of these trees are easily adaptable and are prolific sprouters for transplanting to your dooryard.

What else can you do for bees? Encourage plants such as poplar and pussy willows—prolific suppliers of pollen in the very early spring which is extremely important for young bees in the larval stage. Select bee-friendly plants for your garden. A bit of research—at the library or online—by interested gardeners will provide a list of the most suitable choices for bees.

Provide a fresh source of clean, contaminant-free water for thirsty bees passing through.

Think twice before reaching for lawn and garden chemicals. Consider the impact that powerful insecticides and herbicides have on bees and on the environment we all share. As bees make their way from flower to flower, they can easily ingest or come into contact with chemicals sprayed or dusted onto lawns, flowers, shrubs, and trees. These chemicals can be instantly deadly to bees, or the contaminants can be carried back to the hive, thereby creating serious problems for the entire colony.

No matter how you help bees in Tamworth and beyond, when you smell the blossoms and hear the buzz you'll know you are doing something right.

—Harold Cook