

INCLUDES EAST HADDAM NEWS

Haddam Killingworth News

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February 25, 2021

For breaking news go to HK-Now.com every day

Free weekly

HKHS Fine Arts Winter 2021

Submitted by Donna Hayward and Marcy Webster, HKHS

2021 Southern Region Music Festival: 2020 was a record-breaking year for Haddam Killingworth High School's music students. We had 64 students accepted into this year's festival, a 46% increase in acceptance over last year. This accomplishment is especially notable because of the perseverance students displayed learning the piece in both the hybrid and fully remote instructional models. There is no in-person concert this year however, 33 of our accepted students have chosen to continue on to the prestigious All-State Festival audition which they are now preparing for.

Music Classroom Happenings: New digital piano lab! Piano and
Continued on page HK2



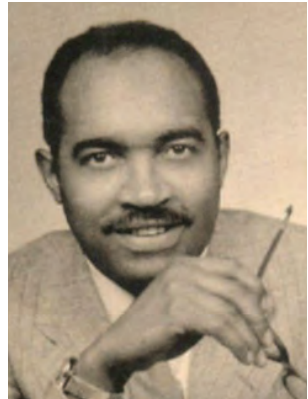
Artwork by Brenna Lonergan, Grade 10. Photos provided by Marcy Webster.

Horatio Strother's Pioneering Work on the Connecticut Underground Railroad: Part 2

By Philip R. Devlin

Last week's column dealt principally with the life of scholar, athlete, and author Horatio Strother. Though born in New York City, Strother spent most of his adolescence and adult life living in Middletown and Higganum, CT.

It was in Middletown that young Horatio began to distinguish himself both as an athlete and as a student. A star football player for Woodrow Wilson High School and a state champion in track and field, Strother also developed a keen interest in American



Horatio Strother.

Continued on page HK4

Salty windshield becomes canvas for Higganum artist, mom

By Kathy Brown

What do you do while your kids are playing in the snow? Sit inside and drink hot cocoa? Clean the house while they are occupied? How about creating art on your salty car windshield?

I first saw the photo on Eweather and reached out to the artist, Kelly Morin, of Higganum. Kelly is a former art teacher, who is now a stay-at-home mom. "I sneak in creative escapes whenever I can, whether it is making pancake art, crafting with or for my kids, or in this case, drawing on my car."

"I was watching my girls play in

the snow last week and just started doodling in the window with my finger," Kelly explained. "That drawing of mountains and sky eventually got covered with more road salt and dirt and this week when my daughters were playing in the snow again, I took another stab at it with my daughter's pencil eraser. The trickiest part is not being able to make a mistake or erase."

The level of detail is impressive, considering Kelly was only using a pencil eraser.

It took one trip to school to cover the drawing with more road salt and dirt. Kelly says, "I'm sure I'll be at it



Photo courtesy of Kelly Morin.

again, especially after all the encouragement. The most rewarding part is the thumbs up and horn toots I've gotten on the road."

In This Issue: Campus Corner, Page HK3 • Letters to the Editor, Page HK5 • Fun Page, Page HK7



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HKHS Fine Arts Winter 2021

Continued from page HK1

Music Production students are enjoying our new lab which fully utilizes our one-to-one student Chrome-book program because of the 6, brand-new, 88-weighted key pianos that the district has purchased. The instruments have Bluetooth and wireless capabilities making them a powerful tool for students learning basic through advanced piano, theory, and production knowledge and skills.

March Concert: A Journey Through the Decades:

Students in Concert Choir, Concert Choir Honors, Swing14, and Decca are preparing for a virtual concert in March that celebrates popular music from 1920-today! Each ensemble will present a choral selection, prerecorded and edited together. Selections include: Stand by Me, Wake Me Up, Jolene, and Africa. The HS choral department is joining forces with the 8th grade choir directed by Katrina Potts to bring our audience Don't Stop Believin' as a grand finale.

The concert will also have a livestreamed component with solo acts representing students from all ensembles and grade-levels. Check the RSD17 HKTV link for viewing options. The concert is scheduled for March 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Black History Month: HKHS Jazz Band musicians will be exploring the contributions of cross-over



Artwork by Ryan Thompson, Grade 11.

artist Ray Charles. Charles reached the pinnacle of his success with the release of "What'd I Say," which

combined gospel, jazz, blues, and Latin music, bridging the gap between genres and cultures.

Charles was also an advocate for equality in the Civil Rights Movement, eventually ending the segregation between his white and black audiences. Jazz band students are having a blast playing his upbeat signature song "What'd I Say."

Art Class Happenings: Mr. Cannan's Painting students just finished up their "Hero Paintings." Students are learning about artists like Gustav Klimt whose ornate figurative paintings incorporate repetition and pattern throughout the background and into the figure.

Similarly, contemporary artist Kehinde Wiley utilizes ornate floral decorative backgrounds that activate the negative space and begin to overlap the figure.

They also looked at the work of Shepard Fairey, famous for marketing his brand OBEY and the Obama Hope poster. Students will learn how to digitally manipulate a photo by "posterizing" the image to break down the values or colors into simpler shapes.

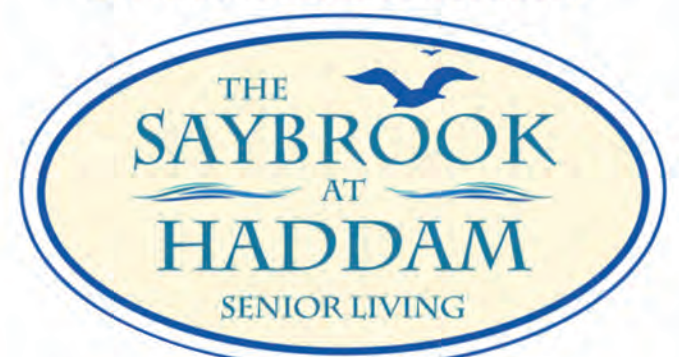
Advanced Art Projects Art Portfolio Honors: Ryan Thompson and Hannah Petrus-Chapman worked on character design in the Advanced Art class utilizing the materials of their choice. Hannah created a beautiful story of a lonely masked soul whose inner voice leads them to find friendship in a dark, mysterious alley. Ryan studied the work of different animators and made multiple drawings but this single-panel comic of the footloose and fancy-free bachelorette makes me smile every time I see it. Look for both works of art in this year's Reflection magazine.

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Haddam Senior/Social Services Reports for Dec. & Jan.

By Jessica Condil

The Haddam Food Bank needs personal items like shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant, as well as shelf-stable milk, and kids' snacks. Haddam Social Services/Food Bank is located at 11 Jail Hill Road, Haddam.

December 2020

A special thank you to The Lions Club, HK Dairy Barn and Connecticut Horse Crematorium, the Old Cart Neighborhood, St. Peter's Church, Higganum and Haddam Congregational Church, Higganum United Methodist Church, St. James Church, Haddam Neck Congregational Church, Valley Bible and all our private donors who helped make Christmas wonderful for those in the community.

Senior & Social Services*:

The following programs have serviced the community:

Haddam Emergency Food Bank has serviced a total of **45 Adults & 18 Children**, in addition to food, Haddam

Emergency Food Bank has serviced **5 families with gift cards** to local restaurants and grocery stores in town.

71 Christmas Baskets were given to families in need among the community for Christmas.

19 children received Christmas gifts from Social Services.

Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank has serviced a total of **3 family for fuel assistance. 1-Oil, 2-Wood.**

Haddam Senior & Social Services has serviced **2 individuals with paper-work assistance.**

Haddam Social Services/ Clothing Bank has serviced **6 families** with clothing.

Haddam Social Services has done **0** wellness checks for November of 2020.

Senior Van:

The Senior Van has serviced a total of **7** medical appointments for the month of November 2020 and average of **3** seniors who attend the weekly shopping trip for November.

Haddam Senior Center:

As of **3/16/2020** all CRT meals have been a grab and go or frozen meal due to COVID-19. Meals are distributed on Mondays for the week and are available for pick up Mondays at noon.

The Haddam Senior Center has distributed **131** CRT meals for the month of December 2020 and a total of **64** visitors for November 2020.

January 2021

Senior & Social Services*:

The following programs have serviced the community:

Haddam Emergency Food Bank has serviced a total of **39 Adults & 17 Children**, in addition to food, Haddam Emergency Food Bank has serviced 1 family with gift cards to local restaurant and grocery store in town.

Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank has serviced a total of **3 family for fuel assistance. 1-Oil, 1-electric & 1- alternate source.**

Haddam Senior & Social Services has

serviced **18 individuals** with paper-work assistance.

Haddam Social Services/Clothing Bank has serviced **4 families** with clothing.

Haddam Social Services has done **0** wellness checks for January of 2021.

Senior Van:

The Senior Van has serviced a total of **6** medical appointments for the month of January 2021 and average of **2** seniors who attend the weekly shopping trip for January 2021.

Haddam Senior Center:

As of **3/16/2020** all CRT meals have been a grab and go or frozen meal due to COVID-19. Meals are distributed on Mondays for the week and are available for pick up Mondays at noon.

The Haddam Senior Center has distributed **67** CRT meals for the month of January 2021 and a total of **96** visitors for January 2021.

*please note Social Services reports include totals for Municipal Agent.

CAMPUS CORNER

Local students excel at colleges, universities

Merit Pages News

University of Hartford is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the Dean's List for Fall 2020: **Emily Bagnoli** of Killingworth, **Hattie Hall** of Killingworth, and **Gabriella Kulmacz** of Higganum.

Rochester Institute of Technology is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the Dean's List for Fall 2020 semester: **Devin Galant** of Killingworth, who is in the film and animation program; **Freddy Stock**

of Haddam, who is in the applied mathematics program; and **Bridget Harry** of Higganum, who is in the film and animation program. Undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their GPA is greater than or equal to 3.40 for nine credit hours of traditionally graded coursework; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete," NE, D, or F; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

University of Tampa is pleased to announce that **Nikole Clemental**, of

Haddam, has earned dean's list honors for the Fall 2020 semester. Clemental is a Junior majoring in Criminology

and Criminal Justice. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.



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Late Appearing Automobile Collision Injuries

By Attorney AnnMarie Cienava Rocco

With few exceptions, any automobile collision is a traumatic event. Whether it's catastrophic or a fender bender, there is a lot of force involved when a vehicle hits your vehicle or you, if you are a pedestrian. In the case of a less catastrophic collision, injuries may not appear right away because your body may generate adrenaline and endorphins. Once the release of those chemicals subsides, pain could start.

Following a collision, you should see a doctor if you feel any pain or discomfort, however minor. Your doctor will be able to determine whether you sustained a more serious injury than you initially believed. If you intend to make a claim for personal injuries arising from a collision, it is crucial that your doctor document all of your symptoms, even if a symptom may seem mild at that time, within a reasonable time after the collision occurred. If you wait too long, the insurance adjuster considering your claim may discount symptoms of pain or discomfort if there is a large gap of time between the collision and the first report of your injuries to your doctor.

Thereafter, it is important to follow your doctor's medical advice whether the advice is to attend physical therapy, obtain additional diagnostic testing such as an x-ray, MRI or CT scan, or follow up with him/her or other medical professional if a referral is made.

Unfortunately, no matter how careful you are you may still end up in a winter collision due to the negligence or carelessness of someone else. If you are involved in a winter collision, the attorneys at Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, P.C. are available for a free consultation regarding your rights and options to protect your interests.

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Horatio Strother's pioneering work on CT's Underground Railroad

Continued from page HK1

history in general and in the Underground Railroad in particular. He pursued his interest in history at UConn and became a social studies teacher at Hale-Ray High School in the Moodus section of East Haddam. Later, he became a professor of history at a community college in New Haven.

Though discouraged to do so, Strother persisted in writing his master's essay on the Underground Railroad in Connecticut. His pioneering study of this subject was first published 59 years ago in 1962 by Wesleyan University Press and was reprinted in 2012. Strother's research was hampered by the fact that finding documented sources dealing with the topic was very difficult due to the fact that aiding runaway slaves was an illegal activity. Consequently, "conductors" on the underground railroad were very circumspect about their activities and were understandably reluctant to keep any records of their actions. Nevertheless, Strother's dogged determination to research his topic yielded many results. In an appendix published in his book, Strother identifies 86 "underground agents" by county. Below are some of the highlights of Strother's research:

- The first slave appeared in Connecticut in 1639. By 1680 there were 30 slaves in the state. Fifty years later the number had dramatically increased to 700. By 1755, there were an estimated 4,000 slaves in Connecticut. The number peaked in 1774 with 6,562 slaves identified; thereafter, the number of slaves in the Nutmeg State quickly declined to 2,759 in 1790 and just 951 ten years later in 1800. By 1840, there were only 17; finally, in 1848, Connecticut outlawed slavery completely.
- By 1837 there were 39 anti-slavery societies in Connecticut — most formed during the decade of the 1830s. The largest by far was in Mansfield. Though a small town, Mansfield's anti-slavery group had an incredible 300 members! Hartford had the second-highest number of members with 120. None of the other 37 anti-slavery societies had more than 100 members. Strother also notes that Clarissa

Beman of Middletown organized the second female anti-slavery society in the United States on April 2, 1834. It was called the "Colored Female Anti-Slavery Society of Middletown."

- New Haven was a hotbed of anti-slavery activity. Strother points out the courage and legal acumen of a young lawyer named Roger Baldwin whose actions in court freed a runaway slave. Baldwin then went on to argue successfully on behalf of the crew of the Amistad. He later was elected governor and a senator for Connecticut.
- The Compromise of 1850 resulted in a new, strict Fugitive Slave Law. Connecticut abolitionists, such as the fiery Rev. George W. Perkins of Meriden, were quick to speak out against it. Perkins preached an "almost inflammatory" sermon in Guilford entitled "Conscience and the Constitution." In his sermon, Perkins asserted that Americans were bound to obey two authorities: the Constitution and the law of God, "but in the case of conflict between the authority of the U.S. and the authority of God, obey God and disobey the United States." Led by the Lyman family, the farmers of Middlefield echoed similar sentiments by adopting a resolution in opposition to the Fugitive Slave Law, saying that "conscience, humanity, self-respect are greater than the Union and these must be pursued at all hazards." (The distinction between manmade law and a higher law had been made famous by Henry David Thoreau in his famous essay "On Civil Disobedience" just a couple of years before — an essay also centered around anti-slavery sentiment.)
- Runaway slave ads commonly appeared in Connecticut newspapers until the 1820s. One of the last runaway slave notices appeared in the Connecticut Courant on Aug. 5, 1823. Elijah Billings of Somers placed an ad looking for the return of a mulatto named William Lewis. The ad read, "Any person who will return said boy shall receive one cent reward and no charges paid."

- Strother also reports in his book that so fervent was the spirit of anti-slavery in some Connecticut communities that law enforcement personnel often refused to cooperate with the provisions of the Fugitive Slave Law. For example, two fugitive slaves, claiming to be jockeys for the famous thoroughbred racehorses Phantom and Fashion, settled in Meriden, working for Homer Curtiss in his lock shop. Curtiss, described by Strother as a "stout Underground man," refused to allow their Southern overseer to re-claim them and was supported in his refusal by the local sheriff. Frustrated by the lack of cooperation from legal authorities, the slave owner returned home without his two slaves.

One of the first people Strother thanked in the preface to the book was Cedric L. Robinson. Most people reading the book would probably have no idea who Robinson was. Cedric Robinson of Windsor was one of the most respected book dealers in the United States in the decades following World War II. He specialized in Americana and was undoubtedly a valuable source for Strother in acquiring pamphlets and sermons dealing with the Abolitionist movement and with the Underground Railroad. There could have been no better source for that kind of material than Cedric Robinson. It is likely that Robinson was the source for the narrative appearing as "Appendix 1" near the end of the book. It is the compelling narrative of Nehemiah Caulkins, who describes in graphic detail the horrors of slavery during an 11-year period in North Carolina. The narrative was first published in pamphlet form in 1839.

Strother quite properly devotes an entire chapter to "Farmington, The Grand Central Station" of the Underground Railroad. He notes that like most Connecticut towns, opinions regarding slavery were divided; however, the author maintains that the Amistad

incident changed many people's minds about slavery. In writing about the relocation of the slaves from the ship to Farmington, Strother notes that "their simple friendliness and almost child-like delight in the new sights about them did much to break down local prejudice against people of color." It should come as no surprise, therefore, that the people of Farmington adopted a more enlightened racial viewpoint and became very committed to the Underground Railroad.

Of the six New England states, Connecticut had more slaves than the other five combined; nevertheless, at its peak in Connecticut in 1774, slaves accounted for less than 3% of the state's population, with the highest concentration of slaves being in two towns — New London and Fairfield. Approximately half of Connecticut's ministers, lawyers, and public officers and about one third of all doctors owned slaves just prior to the American Revolution. A gradual movement toward banning slavery in Connecticut began in the post-revolutionary period, eventually culminating with its abolition in 1848.

The abolitionist spirit was alive and well in antebellum Connecticut and found expression in the Underground Railroad — what Horatio Strother defined as "a widespread and loosely knit network of hideouts and secret routes of escape." From the 1830s to the Civil War, the Underground Railroad operated actively here. The necessarily clandestine nature of the Underground Railroad will never allow a complete picture of its operation to emerge fully, but anyone who would like to add to or modify the story must start with Horatio Strother's pioneering work on the topic — The Underground Railroad in Connecticut, published exactly 50 years ago.

Notes, Sources, and Links

The Underground Railroad in Connecticut by Horatio Strother (1962).

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Eversource Celebrates Black History Month

Submitted by Mitch Gross, Eversource

As part of Eversource's strong commitment to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, the energy company is celebrating Black History Month by recognizing African American suppliers who are helping to drive the company's success and giving back to their communities. Founded by Jamaica native Rohan Freeman, the first African American to climb the Seven Summits, Freeman Companies is one of the hundreds of companies that do business with Eversource as part of its Supplier Diversity Program. Eversource's continued efforts to advance active inclusion of diverse businesses in its supplier base is driving innovation and helping to ensure that its workforce reflects the diversity of its customers and communities.

"We know that continuing to expand our partnerships with businesses owned and operated by members of traditionally underrepresented or underserved groups is not only beneficial to these diverse suppliers, it also makes our company more successful and it uplifts the communities we serve

by creating jobs and stimulating economic development," said Eversource Vice President of Supply Chain and Property Management Ellen Greim.

In the past three years, Eversource's Supplier Diversity Program has increased its spending with diverse suppliers supporting jobs for underrepresented groups in the energy industry across Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

"Freeman Companies is a growing, Black American-owned small business, driven by our promise to clients and employees to 'Elevate Your Expectations,'" said Freeman Companies Founder and President Rohan Freeman. "This promise has enabled our business to retain nearly all of our clients through repeat business and to grow a robust roster of new clientele. Eversource's Supplier Diversity Program helped to support this growth by providing a foot in the door – an opportunity that we used to expand our partnership with the energy company through our innovative 'integrated practice approach' offering complementary and coordinated services through a single provider, enabling sustainable, high-quality land development in the most cost-effective and

time-responsive manner possible. As our partnership with Eversource continues to grow, so does the number of jobs and internship opportunities that we are able to provide to talented and diverse candidates, as well as our continued investment in the educational and human-service organizations supporting our community."

In addition to advancing its commitment to corporate responsibility and sustainability, Eversource's Supplier Diversity Program is promoting an equitable clean energy future as the energy company works towards achieving its industry-leading goal of being carbon neutral by 2030. Recognized by Newsweek Magazine for the second consecutive year on its list of America's Most Responsible Companies, Eversource's dedicated employees are focused on delivering safe and reliable electric, gas and water service to customers while at the same time nurturing an inclusive environment both at work and in their communities, advancing clean energy and working to protect the environment. Learn more about Eversource's commitment to supplier diversity in its Sustainability Report and at Eversource.com.

TO THE EDITOR

The views stated here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors of this newspaper.

To the Editor:

I would like to express a great big thank you to our local Nutmeg Pharmacy! The owner and pharmacist, Greg McKenna, made it possible to start administering COVID 19 vaccines once a week, 3 weeks ago. The first two were run so efficiently. I was helping out and did not hear one complaint. Folks were so grateful to receive it, close to home, without having to wait hours in line. It was also a wonderful opportunity for folks to see friends they haven't seen since last March, in a socially distant, safe way. I loved seeing many folks I used to work with at RSD17! Thank you Greg, and staff, for providing this vital service

to our communities. Killingworth, Haddam Neck and other nearby folks are welcome. Just call the pharmacy at (860) 345-3607 to set up an appointment.

*Carol Flanagan-Dupuis, RN
February 11, 2021*

To the Editor:

Thank you Greg McKenna and the entire staff at Nutmeg Pharmacy of Higganum for their superlative efforts during the COVID pandemic. Greg's procurement and organization of Covid vaccine distribution for residents here has been nothing less than miraculous. As I see reports from friends in other towns, waiting hours in their cars to get the vaccine, I am so very grateful to Greg for his efforts. Well organized, no waiting, and truly compassionate care of checking in on

us during our post vaccine wait in a safe, socially distant, warm environment... all made for a good experience.

I must also add here that for many months I have also utilized Nutmeg Pharmacy of Higganum's curbside service for everything from prescription pick up to purchasing Christmas gift cards for a variety of stores. A special

note of thanks to Taylor and Allissa who have braved the cold and always cheerfully been my "personal shoppers."

This town is very, very lucky to have such wonderful, caring people take care of us.

*Ellen Lowrance
Higganum, CT
February 15, 2021*

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HK-Recreation Dept: March 2021 Programs

By Josselyn Salafia, HK-Recreation Supervisor

St. Patrick's Day Activity Kit

Each activity kit includes supplies, ingredients, & directions for the following crafts and treats: Make your own Leprechaun, Popsicle Stick Leprechaun Hat, Shamrock Sun Catcher, Shamrock Pretzel Pops, Also other fun activities include word Searches/ Puzzles and St. Paddy's Day Coloring Sheets. Fee is \$12. Orders must be placed by 3/5. Curbside pick-up available. Visit www.hkrec.com to register today.

Easter/Spring Activity Kit

Each activity kit includes supplies, ingredients, & directions for the following crafts and treats: Spring Flower Pretzel Bites, Graham Cracker Dippers, Peeps Playdough, Bunny Nose Mask, Cupcake Liner Flower. Other fun activities include, Word Searches, Puzzles and Coloring Sheets. Fee is \$12. Orders must be placed by 3/19. Curbside pick-up available. Visit www.hkrec.com to register today.

Kidscapades Via Zoom - March

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

A little art, a little science and a little sensory mixed into one class to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. A Zoom link and materials list will be provided for you to gather supplies prior to class. Ages 3 - 4

Wednesday, March 17 from 10:00 -10:30 am. Fee is \$15

Leprechaun Science

Children create and investigate their own clouds, rainbow paper and a special Leprechaun potion eruption! A Zoom link and materials list will be provided for you to gather supplies prior to class. Ages 5 - 8

Wednesday, March 17 from 4:30 -5:00 pm. Fee is \$15

Crossroads Driving School via zoom

The Haddam-Killingworth Recreation is offering a Driver's Ed program. Participants must be 16 years old before the start of the first class. Option 1 is a Full Program that includes 30 hours of classroom as well as the safe driving and alcohol program along with 8 hours of behind-the-wheel. The fee is \$565 (non-residents add \$10). Option 2 is a Classroom only option, where participants can take the 30 hours of class, but no driving. Includes the Safe Driving portion. The fee is \$290 (non-residents add \$10). Option 3 is the Safe Driving and Drug and Alcohol Program, which is the 8 hour course that fulfills the requirement of the State of CT for license applicants who took a Home Training Program. This course is required for all drivers, including those who are over the age of 18. The fee for this course is \$150.

Classes will be held in the months of March, April and May Mondays - Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Please visit www.hkrec.com for more information on the classes.

Writing a Children's Book 101

Learn the craft of writing books for children. Editors are looking to bring to their publishing house the next new talent. Write the stories that interest them by writing about what interests YOU. Learn how to find those editors, what to send them, and how to present your work. It's a misconception that you need to be an artist to write children's books - if you are not, the publisher hires one for your story. Topics include: Formats, brainstorming, writing and illustration do's & don'ts, what publishers look for, finding publishers, submitting work, contracts, working with editors, agents, and more. Min. of 7 needed. The program will meet via zoom, March 3 - 24 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. The fee is \$165. Non-residents please add \$10.

Please call the HK Recreation Department at 345-8334 for more information or visit www.hkrec.com to register on-line.

Basic Boating safety Class via Zoom

The Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Department is offering the CT Basic Boating Safety Class for participants ages 12 and up, March 16 and 17. Classes will be held via zoom from 5:00 -9:00 pm. The fee is \$15. This 10-hour D.E.E.P. course includes instruction in navigation rules, legal requirements, safety afloat and other topics that will help students become safe and knowledgeable boaters. Students passing the course will satisfy the requirements for the CT Safe Boating Certificate and Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation.

Please call HK Recreation Dept. at 860-345-8334 for more information or visit www.hkrec.com to register on-line.

LOCAL DEATHS

Joy Lee Clew

Joy Lee Clew, 84, formerly of Haddam, passed away on Saturday, January 2, 2021.

The Reverend Dr. Lorraine J. Bouffard

The Reverend Dr. Lorraine J. Bouffard, 80, formerly of Haddam, passed away on Saturday, January 30, 2021.

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HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH TOWN & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please visit www.haddam.org, www.townofkillingworth.com or hk-now.com for the most current information, including cancellations, location changes, time changes.

See hk-now.com for more information on calendar items.

Thursday, February 25

Haddam ZBA Meeting (remote access only) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 27

Virtual Super Saturday Storytime
 While the Killingworth library remains closed, we

will now be holding our Saturday Storytimes on our YouTube channel! <https://killingworthlibrary.org/>

Monday, March 1

Haddam BOF Budget Review Mtg. (remote access only) 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Killingworth Charter Revision Comm. Mtg. (remote access only) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2

BOE Special Mtg. Superintendent Budget presentation. 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

HKHS Community Room/Lower Media Center

RSD17 BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Central Office

Thursday, March 4

Haddam P&Z Meeting, 30 Field Drive, Haddam, CT 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

RSD17 BOE and Towns Budget Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. HK/I/MS Cafeteria

RDS17 Budget Workshop (After mtg. with Towns) Time TBD

HK/I/MS

Parmelee Farm Comm. Mtg. (remote access only) 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



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How Cockaponset State Forest is Managed by DEEP: Part I

By Emery Gluck, Forester, Cockaponset State Forest

Editor's note: This is Part 1 of a two-part story on how CT State forests are managed by DEEP.

Cockaponset State Forest is Connecticut's second-largest state forest with almost 17,000 acres in 11 towns. Like many forests in the state, Cockaponset has recently experienced a glut of oak and ash mortality. Oaks have been impacted by the 2016 drought and several years of Gypsy Moth defoliation. Stressed oaks attract secondary damaging agents such as two-lined chestnut borer and shoestring root rot, which often puts the nails in their coffin. Ash have been severely impacted by the exponential population growth of non-native Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).



Figure 1 Woodpeckers have flecked off the outer bark (which can be seen on the ground) of this ash to get to the EAB. These partially debarked ash are referred to as "blonded ash" Photo by Emery Gluck.

As the trees die, they become a liability along roads, parking areas and places where people congregate. Deadfalls killed at least two people in Connecticut last year. To reduce the risk to the public, Forestry and Park staff, a Forestry volunteer, tree removal contractors and loggers have felled over 800 hazard trees in Cockaponset State Forest. Some of the logs have been trucked to the DEEP sawmill in Portland where they are turned into boards for picnic tables and for other projects in the State Parks and Forests. Other logs have been sold to loggers and local sawmills. The wood too small or crooked for timber can be purchased by the public for \$50 for a 2.5 cord permit.

Even before the recent infestations, oak populations were declining as oak forests are not sustaining themselves under current natural conditions. This is a huge ecological concern. Oaks replaced American chestnut as our forest's keystone species after the Chestnut Blight. Oaks are keystone species as:

- Acorns provide the most nutritious plant-based

protein for almost 90 species of wildlife.

- Oaks overwhelmingly host the most species of moths and caterpillars (over 500 for all the species of oak) which is extremely important for birds.
- Oak forests have more bird abundance and diversity when compared to maple forests.
- Oak forests are less prone to being overrun by non-native invasive plants than other forest types.

The main reason oaks rarely sustain themselves in our time is that their seedlings die out or stagnate in the shade.



Figure 2 The largest oak grew in full sunlight, was 66 years old and almost 3' in diameter at the stump level when it died on the author's land. The smallest oak grew in the shade of the understory and is approximately 40 years old and is less than 2" in diameter. Most overstory oaks in Cockaponset are approximately 120 years old. Photo by Emery Gluck.



Figure 3 Understory oak from the author's land. Photo by Emery Gluck.

Deer's preference to feeding on oak seedlings compounds the problem even if there is a burst of

sunlight after a disturbance such as mortality from infestations, windfall, or a harvest. Deer browse was not such a problem before 1990 when their population was lower. With deer pressure and shade, less palatable and shade tolerant saplings such as birch and beech have now become entrenched in most of the forest.

Oak forests were historically sustained by frequent forest fires, clear cuts, and abandonment of agricultural field. Native Americans and settlers burned the forest frequently in part to make it more habitable for themselves, game animals and livestock as well as other reasons. Without frequent fires, the forest has become much denser as an overabundance of shade-tolerant fire-sensitive species have filled in. These less ecological valuable trees are poised to take over as oak die out in the overstory.



Figure 4 Shade tolerant beech saplings (with leaves) dominate the understory in an oak stand. Given the current trajectory, oaks will likely not be part of the future stand. Though global warming is expected to make Connecticut more suitable for oaks, it is improbable that the understory will become open enough for oaks to be sustained without active management. Photo by Emery Gluck.

Forest management in Cockaponset State Forest emphasizes promoting upland ecosystems and species that are dependent upon understory and overstory disturbances for their long-term survival. They are promoted by providing disturbances similar to those that have historically sustained them. Some ecologists view aboriginal management activities (including their use of fire) as part of the historic natural disturbance regime of an area. Since reintroducing widespread fire is not practical in this landscape, on-going forest management includes judicious cutting of small and large trees and some prescribed fires.

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