

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington,
Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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SOUTH WORTHINGTON

LOCAL MUSHROOM EXPERT encourages foragers to look, not eat

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

On Saturday July 13, the Hilltown Land Trust presented a guided mushroom foraging walk led by Jess Evans, president of the Pioneer Valley Mycological Association.

The walk took place on the Conwell Property in South Worthington. The event comes on the heels of what has widely been reported as an explosion of interest in foraging fueled by social media as well as mobile phone apps like Google Lens and Shroomify. These apps use artificial intelligence to supposedly identify the mushroom with accuracy. On June 11, the New York Times reported that the problem had gotten so out of hand that state and federal agencies are imposing restrictions on government-managed lands.

Sara Welch, community engagement manager of the Hilltown Land Trust has seen the phenomenon locally. "We've had absolutely massive interest in this event nearly 500 people responded as interested on Facebook, which



Jess Evans, president of the Pioneer Valley Mycological Association lead the walk on the Hilltown Land Trust's Conwell Property in South Worthington. Attendees learned about the symbiosis of specific trees and mushrooms.

Turley photos by Kathryn Koegel

MUSHROOM, page 10

BLANDFORD

Scottish Festival happens Saturday

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

"This is the premiere Scottish Festival in the Northeast today," said Peter Langmore.

He is the chairman of the 29th Annual Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival, which is this Saturday, July 20 at Look Park, 300 North Main St., in Northampton from 9 a.m. -5 p.m. It is actually 30 years ago when "on July 30, 1994, the very first festival was held in Blandford at the fairgrounds," said Langmore. "It was supposed to be a one-time only event," he said, but it has grown over time.



Peter Langmore

IF YOU GO

Where: Look Park, 300 North Main St. Northampton

When: Saturday, July 20; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and continues after closing ceremonies until 9 p.m. Held rain or shine. Free Parking

Cost: Adults: \$28, Children 6-12 \$5, Children under 6 Free. Advance tickets on-line at www.glasgowlands.org for \$25.

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CUMMINGTON

Cultural walks explore William Cullen Bryant legacy

By Kathryn Koegel
Correspondent

The air was warm and still as the sound of a saxophone played by master jazz musician Mike Kolodny riffed off of bird song from the porch of the William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington.

The Saturday the 13th event "Nature as Jazz" was the aptly named beginning of a series of interpretive walks exploring the legacy of Cummington-born poet William Cullen Bryant. Called "deTours" the culturally-inspired walks continue through the summer from 9-11 a.m., Saturdays through

Aug. 24.

Kolodny introduced his music and animist worldview to the participants and encouraged them to tune in to the sonic landscape, exploring natural vibrations, silence and sounds of the fields and woodlands that surround the home of a man who once was America's most famous poet.

In his day, Bryant was wildly successful and known not just in the U.S., but abroad for his nature poems influenced by the landscape of his birth as well as where he spent his summers. The American Poetry Foundation notes that "Bryant alerted the English-speaking world to an American voice in poetry."

The thematic walking tours, which encourage participants "to experience place and history anew" are called "deTours: Exploring the Bryant Homestead." The series is "inspired by Bryant's legacy in the arts, humanities and nature, led by Hilltown experts and creatives in those fields," says Maude Haak-Frendscho, the community engagement and media specialist for the Cummington Cultural District, which just received this special designation from the state last year. Cultural District Committee member Ilse Godfrey welcomed the group and noted

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Local jazz saxophone player Mike Kolodny encourages deTours participants to listen to the music of nature. Submitted photo



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CUMMINGTON

CULTURAL WALKS

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the importance of the designation to the town. "We lost our local school and with this designation want to bring in a new sense of community as well as tourism to the town," says Godfrey.

The series continues Saturday, July 20 with "Growing from Farm to School: A walk through history" honoring the land and its roots in the LGBTQ+ Community on the J.S. Bryant School's 300-acre farming campus, which is located next to the Bryant Homestead.

The school is named after William Cullen Bryant's daughter, Julia Sands Bryant. She was the first steward of Bryant's legacy and an important early queer figure in the region. J.S. Bryant School is a new "therapeutic day high school that will energize LGBTQ+ students' curiosity and learning passion through creative exploration, farming entrepreneurship and climate innovation."

On Saturday, Aug. 10, local naturalist John "Burnsie" Burns leads Stepping Back in Time: Science in the 19th Century and Nature Now which focuses on science and environmentalism in the late 1800s. Saturday, Aug. 17 brings Deep Presence: Cultivating a Sense of Place led by Kim Carlino, a renowned



Ilse Godfrey of the Cummington Cultural District on the grounds of the William Cullen Bryant Homestead says that the series of interpretive walks will re-introduce the community to the rich cultural history of the region.

Submitted photo

painter who takes inspiration from wild landscapes for the forms and themes of her murals and paintings. The final event is Bryant's Legacy, Cummington's History on Saturday, Aug. 24, which is led by Carla Ness, Cummington Historical Commission chair and lead archivist. She will explore William Cullen Bryant's impact on the social history of Cummington including the Cummington School of the Arts (where artists such as Helen Frankenthaler, Willem de Kooning, and Diane Arbus studied), and an exploration of the Cummington Press, a renowned publisher of poets such as Robert Lowell, William Carlos Williams, Robert Penn Warren and Marianne Moore.

deTours are a rain or shine series of events, free and open to all ages; children 12 and under must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Park in the open lot at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead by following the signs, and gather with the walk facilitator on the homestead porch, with the exception of the Aug. 24 walk which meets at Dawes Cemetery on Potash Hill Road. Full details are available by visiting www.cummingtonculture.art/detours.

REGION

MassDOT announces I-90
daytime nighttime roadwork

Gasoline prices increase
by one cent last week