

The Monadnock Conservancy Presents:
Stories About This Place



Friday, March 31st, 2023
Cohen Hall at the Keene Public Library
Doors open at 6pm, speakers and music 6:30-8:30pm



Speakers & Musical
Guest
Bios & Photos

Speakers

Alan Rumrill

Executive Director, Historical Society of Cheshire County

<https://hscconh.org/>

Alan Rumrill has been Executive Director of the Historical Society of Cheshire County for 40 years. He holds a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Rhode Island and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Keene State College.

As part of his work at the Society, Alan has presented more than 1,000 public programs, published eight books on local art and history, and presents a weekly radio program and newspaper column on historical topics. He has served as president of the New Hampshire Archives Group and as an officer of other statewide professional history organizations.

Alan's family has lived in the town of Stoddard since 1770. Stories of their time there piqued his interest in history as a youngster. He is passionate about sharing stories about the entire region through his writing and presentations.



Mary Ann Kristiansen

Executive Director, Hannah Grimes Center

<https://www.hannahgrimes.com/>

Mary Ann Kristiansen was born and raised in Minnesota. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. After college, she moved to New York and worked for J. Walter Thompson Advertising and Merrill Lynch. While she was there, she earned her Master's Degree in Public Administration from New York University.



She moved to New Hampshire in 1991 and bought Buckminster Farm in Roxbury. She started a home-based soap making business in 1991 and also gardens and raises sheep and chickens at her farm. Through her soap making, gardening, and farming contacts, she began to realize that there was a shortage of markets for locally-made products from small-scale businesses, while at

the same time, there was a shortage of skills on the part of local producers to enter and succeed in those markets.

She started the Hannah Grimes Marketplace in 1997 to create a thriving marketplace for local products and to help the people who make those products build sustainable and successful businesses and added the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship in 2006 to support the successful startup and growth of local small businesses.

Chief & Elder Paul (Gwilawato) Bunnell

Chief Ko'asek Traditional Band of the Sovereign Abenaki Nation, Tribal Genealogist

<https://koasekabenakination.com/>

Over 44 years experienced in genealogy research, Paul has focused all his knowledge on Loyalist and Metis Studies. He has accredited classes in Genealogy through B.Y. U., Provo, Utah, and awarded Accreditation and Fellowship at American College of Genealogists, Ill. 1985-95 (now closed); certified, registered member of The United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada; and the Hereditary Order of Descendants of The Loyalist and Patriots of The American Rev., Wash. DC.; held past/present memberships in 60+ genealogical, literary and historical societies around the world, including life memberships, chairman positions, with Falmouth Genealogical Society; past (10 years) and present President of the Violette Family Asso., and present president 2022-2023, and past member of the Mass. Gene. Council; one of the first volunteers in the BYU blood donor for genealogical DNA study in his early Essex County, Mass settlers of 1600's; Member of Ancestry.com Amerindian DNA Group; Supporting member of MCNAA (Mass Center For Native American Awareness); and was a supporter to the Confederation of Nova Scotia Metis, Sou' West Nova Metis, and the Sartigan Abenaki of Quebec; registered citizen and Tribal Genealogist and past Koasek Sub-Chief 2008-11 and elected Tribal Chief 2011-20, and again 2020-27. Tribal membership 473, and Editor of the Dawnland Voice Newsletter, Koasek (Cowasuck) Band of Abenaki Nation 2004-present, and editor of the Loyalist Quarterly Newsletter 2004-present.



Awards: 1989, His Majesty The Prince Philip of Wales (England) accepted his first book, "Thunder Over New England, Benjamin Bonnell, The Loyalist," and placed it in the royal library at Buckingham Palace; presented with "Loyalist Pin" from past Mayor, Elsie Wayne of Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada; awarded The Waltham Mass. Historical Society's "Edmund L. Sanderson award for Loyalist Lectures March 2007.

Author of over 30 books on Loyalist and Metis genealogy and others in related fields as Barnstable Cementers; and Life of a Haunted House, The Barnstable House; 10+ books in various stages of completion, subjects including Abenaki history and genealogies.

Research: Paul has done genealogy research for over 1000 clients and tribal members, from Canada, England, Australia, New Zealand on Loyalist and Metis fields. Contributor of Loyalist research for T.V. programs; "History Detectives," and "Who Do You Think You Are." "Ancestry.com Road Show," Took part in radio programs on Loyalists and Metis, appeared on T.V. programs from Cape Cod, Mass. to Saint John, New Brunswick; listed in newspaper articles in those same locations plus Concord, N. H., N.Y. and N.J, Mass., Me., Ct. He was a genealogy vendor and speaker for over 100 conferences, Paul has supported them in Mass., N.H., Me, Vt., Ct., N.Y., N.J., Wash. DC, New Brunswick and Quebec, R. I., and founding member of the Falmouth Genealogical Society (Cape Cod) in creation of the New England Regional Genealogical Societies Conferences. Creator/founder of the New England Vendor Conferences, Nashua, NH. Contributed to the Ancestry Road Show and appeared on the Ghost Hunters; and Holzer Files (2019).

Lila Thorne

Director of Development, Northern Forest Center

<https://northernforest.org/>

Lila loves that her role as Director of Development offers opportunity to collaborate with the Center's generous supporters. She brings experience in economic development and conservation from her various roles at Forterra, a regional sustainability non-profit in Seattle, Washington. Working in major gifts, investor relations and planned giving, she secured social impact investments for affordable housing built with cross-laminated timber and launched a community campaign for the permanent conservation of a 3,000-acre forest. A graduate of Clark University, Lila holds a master's degree in International Development and Social Change.



A native of Peterborough, New Hampshire, Lila grew up with pond hockey in her bones and a fierce pride for bug season, mud season and the beautiful forests that make this place home. As someone who left this region and returned, she is particularly interested in how to make our rural communities places that young people are proud to call home. She is the mother of two very tall children and lives in Newbury, NH.

Kim Peavey

Hillside Springs Farm

<http://www.hillsidespringsfarm.com/>

Kim Peavey and her family have been raising vegetables sustainably since 2002 in Westmoreland, New Hampshire, working with two teams of draft horses, and providing produce for 50 CSA members and the local farmers' market.



Kim grew up on a family dairy farm in central New York State and studied literature, theology, and environmental issues before returning to her farming roots. Kim's essays and poetry have appeared in various periodicals, and she also writes the monthly column Farm Talk on farming and sustainability.

Music

Ben Cosgrove

<https://www.bencosgrove.com/>

Ben Cosgrove is a traveling composer-performer whose music explores themes of landscape, place, and environment. Ben has performed in every U.S. state except for Delaware, collaborated with groups ranging from rock bands to research scientists, and held residencies and fellowships with institutions including the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, Harvard University, Middlebury College, the Schmidt Ocean Institute, NASA, and the Sitka Center for Art & Ecology. His nonfiction has appeared in Orion, Taproot, Northern Woodlands, Appalachia, and other publications, and he is based in New England.

