

E. KINGSTON EDITION

“All things seem possible in May.” – Edwin Way Teale



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SPRING BIRDS

Book Bake and Plant Sale

The Friends of the East Kingston Public Library are hosting their fourth annual Book, Bake and Plant Sale! Join us on **May 20th from 10am - 2pm** on the East Kingston Public Library lawn to peruse hundreds of used books, many different plants (both indoor and outdoor), and delicious goodies.

As always, these events are run by many wonderful volunteers. If you'd like to donate time, baked goods or plants, please don't hesitate to reach out! The Friends have an online sign up (available on the website), an in-person sign up at the library, or you can email them at any time: friendsofekpl@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Beautiful Native Wildflowers: May Bloom Alert

by Vicki J. Brown, Pollinator Pathways, NH

May is a great time to look for native spring flowers.

The flowers of New Hampshire natives do more than delight our senses. They also provide forage for pollinators, serve as host plants for butterfly caterpillars, and provide food in the form of fruit and berries to birds and mammals. Research shows that native plants provide 29 times more biodiversity than non-native plants.

The "spring ephemerals" are the first plants to pop up in spring and the first to flower. They emerge early to take advantage of the sunlight that penetrates the bare branches of the deciduous woodland. During the month of May you can find these three:

1. Jack-in-the-Pulpit. The true flowers of the native Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) are tiny, green or yellow-tinged dots embedded on the tall, maroon-colored stalk (the "jack"). Jack-in-the-pulpit is a long-lived perennial that's pollinated by flies and springtails.
2. Painted Trillium. The enchanting Painted Trillium (*Trillium undulatum*) is a woodland flower easily recognized by the splash of pink in the center of the white flower. A mid- to late-spring bloomer, it requires deep shade and is most often found in the moist acidic soils of deciduous forests.
3. Fringed Polygala. This beauty, often mistaken for an orchid, is also called Gaywings. Find it in moist conifer woodlands.

One other woodland flower to look for is Eastern Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). This perennial is not ephemeral, as the leaves remain throughout summer and fall. Native Red columbine is a pollinator powerhouse plant favored by Ruby-throated hummingbirds. A reliable self-seeder, it is an enchanting NH-native plant which provides a lovely natural ground cover with pretty three-lobed leaves, like clover but larger.

Enjoy these native May flowers!



East Kingston Edition

Town of East Kingston
www.eknh.org

Town Clerk & Tax Collector

(603) 642-8794

Monday: 8am - 5pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

8am - 2:30pm

Wednesday: 5pm - 7pm

Town Administration

(603) 642-8406

Monday: 8am - 4pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

8am - 2:30pm

Wednesday: 11am - 7pm

East Kingston Police

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: (603) 642-5427

East Kingston Fire

ekfd.org

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: (603) 642-3141

East Kingston Public Library

eastkingstonlibrary.org

(603) 642-8333

ekpublib@comcast.net

Monday & Wednesday:

9am - 5pm

Tuesday & Thursday:

11am - 7pm

Friday & Saturday:

9am - 1pm

E. Kingston Elementary School

(603) 642-3511

EKES on the web: eks.sau16.org

SAU16 on the web: sau16.org

Newsletter Deadlines

Submissions for the following month must be submitted by the 17th of each month. Send submissions to

newsletter@eastkingstonnh.gov

Planning Board Launches Housing Needs Assessment Survey

The East Kingston Housing Needs Assessment Survey has been launched!

The survey should take 5 minutes or less to complete. Following the last survey question, there is a space to enter personal contact information for participants interested in joining a housing needs discussion group. Paper copies of the Housing Needs Assessment Survey will be available at the East Kingston Town Offices and Library. The survey will be open through May 22, 2023.

You can find the survey, and more information, at:
www.eknh.org/planning-board

TOWN OF EAST KINGSTON, NH – HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT

WHY

Like many other states, New Hampshire is experiencing a housing shortage for both ownership and rental options partly due to historic trends of zoning and land use regulations that still exist today posing challenges to development of affordable housing.

HOW

Investigation of regional and local housing trends and needs has been funded in 2022-2024 by grants from the state's [InvestNH Planning Grant Program](#). Grants are being used to evaluate local housing trends and data and convene public outreach and engagement.

HOUSING PROJECT GOALS AND INFORMATION

HOUSING NEEDS COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY

A community opinion survey will be launched in March 2023 to gather input from residents, business owners and property owners focused on housing needs, challenges and opportunities for the town to expand housing types that offer affordable choices.

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND REPORT

Regional and local demographic and housing data will be summarized in a report along with the public input gathered from the community opinion survey.

REGULATORY AUDIT AND REPORT

A review of existing zoning ordinances and land development regulations will form the basis for an audit that will identify ways to address housing needs, challenges, barriers and opportunities. The report will include specific recommendations for consideration by the Planning Board, officials and the public about options to address housing issues identified by the audit and the housing needs assessment.

WHEN

The Housing Needs Assessment and Regulatory Audit projects began in March 2023 and will be completed by the end of 2023. Information and community outreach events will be posted on the [Housing Needs Assessment Project webpage](#) including the **Community Housing Needs Survey**.

THE EAST KINGSTON PLANNING BOARD WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU TO SHARE OPINIONS AND IDEAS ABOUT TOWN HOUSING NEEDS AND CHALLENGES



Visit the [Housing Needs Assessment webpage](#) for project details and updates. **A link to the [Community Housing Needs Survey](#) is now available at this link, from the project webpage and in paper form at municipal buildings through May 22, 2023. Follow us on the East Kingston Facebook page!**

This project is being supported, in whole or in part by, federal award number SLFRP0145 awarded to the State of New Hampshire by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Spring Birds of East Kingston, NH

by Kirk Elwell

Spring here in East Kingston is always a new awakening for nature! This year our early arrival bird species came even earlier than before. The American Woodcock is an interesting species from the Snipe family that are basically ground dwellers and breeders. They have been arriving earlier and earlier most probably due to gradual but continued warming of our overall climate. This year the first detected on Autumn Lane was February 12th, the earliest recorded here in EK and also all of NH! That's three weeks earlier than usual. They also completed most of their breeding/courtship "rituals" almost three weeks earlier as well. As a resident of EK since May 2017 at Autumn Lane and as an avid, and maybe obsessive birder, I keep very careful records through an organization called eBird, a worldwide organization run through Cornell University in New York that collects data from users such as myself on bird sightings and statistics all over the world.



Recently East Kingston was visited by the rare Sandhill Crane a truly majestic bird formerly of mostly the Mid-United States with breeding well up into Canada and the Tundra. On the 27th of March, -7 Sandhill Cranes were spotted in the large fields of Bodwell's Farm on North Rd just opposite Sanborn Rd. They dwindled to 4 individuals the next day or so. These 4 then headed North. One known breeding location in Rockingham County is in Nottingham. Many breed further North up in Maine and Northern NH.

Natural Pest Control

We get many, many species migrating through our area heading to their breeding grounds up North. Basically eating their way North by gobbling up insects, including all the possibly harmful species such as mosquitoes, ticks and their larvae. Natural pest control the way it should be.

Great Species Diversity

In East Kingston, my "Life List" (total species detected) is 160 species – most at or near our home on Autumn Lane and some just down the street. Since the New Year, I have logged 67 species here in EK. Some winter residents and now many migrators. But we have up to 80 species who just come for the Spring, Summer and Fall. Grassland and forest and swamp species. We have it all.

Kirk Elwell is an avid East Kingston birder whose sighting of an American Woodcock in Spring 2023 made NH Audubon's Rare Bird Alert for NH. Before moving to East Kingston Kirk resided in Essex County where he also was an avid birder and co-led Friday tours years ago at Mass Audubon's Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary.

Friends of EKPL (FoEKPL) News

by FoEKPL

Spring is in the air and we hope you have noticed the results of the **Spring cleanup and landscaping** at the library. Our thanks to local business K&B Landscaping for their great job in providing this service.

Please join us at the library for the **Friends' 1st Quarter Meeting** on Wednesday, May 3rd @ 5pm. More details, a Zoom Link and meeting materials will be posted on the Friends' webpage.

Book, Bake & Plant Sale @ EKPL May 20th

Saturday, May 20th 10am-2pm (rain date: June 3rd) Mark your calendars! The Friends' annual Book, Bake & Plant Sale is around the corner. Plan to attend this fun-filled day and support the library at the same time. In the meantime, if you would like to donate any plants, seedlings or baked goods, please sign up using Google Form (www.eastkingstonlibrary.org/friends-of-ekpl) or by emailing us. Thank you!

May at The Used Book Store (UBS)

Located at the Pound School; open Fridays 10am-5pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm Get a jump on your summer reading and stop in to check out our May specials:

- Comic and graphic novels
- Crafts - knitting patterns, etc
- Featured Authors - Elizabeth Peters and Dick Francis
- DVDs \$1 each or a box of 10 for \$25

Charitable Games of Chance Dates

FoEKPL receives 35% of the profits from Oceanfront Gaming Casino on Hampton Beach on designated dates. Our upcoming dates include June 3rd & 4th.

2023 Membership Drive Continues

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2023 Friends Membership drive! As we've mentioned before, this is our most important fundraising period. If you would still like to donate, it is not too late! Pledge forms can be found at the library, the Used Book Store, or please send us an email at friendsofekpl@gmail.com.



Book, Bake and Plant Sale



Saturday
May 20, 2023
10-2

Please contact the Friends of the East Kingston Public Library if you would like to donate any plants, seedlings or baked goods.

friendsofekpl@gmail.com

Bring the whole family - something for everyone, including kid's activities.
Rain date Saturday June 3rd

Republicans to Meet

The Newton, East Kingston, Kensington and South Hampton (NEKS) Republican Town Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 24th at 6:00 pm.

Our Republican Town Committee is an organization of voters who meet monthly to learn about the Republican Party and support its candidates and principles.

Any and all Republican voters, and like-minded independents, are invited to participate in the committee.

For detailed information about speakers and the location of the meeting please email neksgop@icloud.com.

School Board Meeting Announcement

by Andy Herum, School Board Chair

School Board Meeting Dates:

May 17th, June 14th. All times at 4:00 in the EKES Library. Meeting times and dates subject to change. Please see the EKES website for the latest information.

Alternate Trustees Needed

by Zoe Sucu, Library Director

The East Kingston Public Library Board of Trustees are looking for volunteers to fill two spots on their board. These spots, called Alternate Trustees, would be on the reserve board to fill in when a board member is unavailable. All that is required is a signature at the town offices, and approximately two hours a month for our monthly Trustee meetings.

Don't know what the Board of Trustees does? They run the library! They work together to build policies, oversee the Library Director, help with programming, and make sure that the East Kingston Public Library is a place for every member of our great community.

If you are interested, or would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out. We have meetings once a month, on the fourth Monday of each month, at 5pm in the Library. If you'd like to email for more information, please email our Chairperson, Robert, at chair.ekplbod@gmail.com



Town of East Kingston Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee Members Wanted

by Ron Morales, Chairman Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee

The East Kingston Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee is seeking interested town residents to serve as members on the Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee. The Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee meets on a quarterly basis to review the past quarters performance metrics and to review action items for the upcoming quarter. Experience is not required, but an understanding Microsoft Office is a plus.

Any person interested in serving should submit a letter of interest as follows:

Ron Morales, Chairman
East Kingston Solid Waste Removal & Recycle Committee
24 Depot Road
East Kingston, NH 03827
Alternatively, email to rmorales@EASTKINGSTONNH.GOV

Town of East Kingston Trustee of Trust Funds

By Ron Morales, Trustee of the Trust Fund

ALTERNATE MEMBERS WANTED

The East Kingston Trustee of Trust Funds is seeking interested town residents to serve as alternate members on the Trustee of Trust Funds. Alternate members will participate as voting members when a regular member is absent or unable to serve on any matter. Alternate members are encouraged to attend all meetings to keep themselves informed and to familiarize themselves with Trustee procedures; however, this is not required.

The Trustee of Trust Funds meets as required to act on requests for funds from the Capital Reserve and Capital Trust Funds and any other matters that come before the Trustees. Experience is not required, but an understanding of investments is desirable.

Any person interested in serving should submit a letter of interest as follows:

Ron Morales, Trustee
East Kingston Trustee of Trust Funds
24 Depot Road
East Kingston, NH 03827
Alternatively, email to rmorales@EASTKINGSTONNH.GOV

Important Dates

- **May 1st @ 6:30pm - Selectmen's Meeting**
 - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the Town offices. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found on eknh.org/selectmen.
- **May 3rd @ 5:00pm - Friends of the Library**
 - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the East Kingston Public Library. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found at www.eastkingstonlibrary.org/friends-of-ekpl.
- **May 8th @ 5:00pm - East Kingston Conservation Commission**
 - In-Person. Meetings will be held at the Town Offices. More information can be found at www.eknh.org/conservation-commission.
- **May 15th @ 6:30pm - Selectmen's Meeting**
 - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the Town offices. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found on eknh.org/selectmen.
- **May 17th @ 4:00pm - EKES School Board Meeting**
 - In Person. Meeting will be held in the EKES Library. More information can be found at eks.sau16.org.
- **May 18th @ 7:00pm - Planning Board Meeting**
 - In Person. Meetings are held at the Pound School. More information can be found at www.eknh.org/planning-board.
- **May 22nd @ 5pm - EKPL Board of Trustees**
 - In-Person with Zoom Option. Meetings will be held at the East Kingston Public Library. The agenda, Zoom link, and more can be found on eastkingstonlibrary.org.
- **May 25th @ 7:00pm - Zoning Board**
 - In Person. Meetings are held at the Pound School. More information can be found at www.eknh.org/zoning-board-adjustment.