



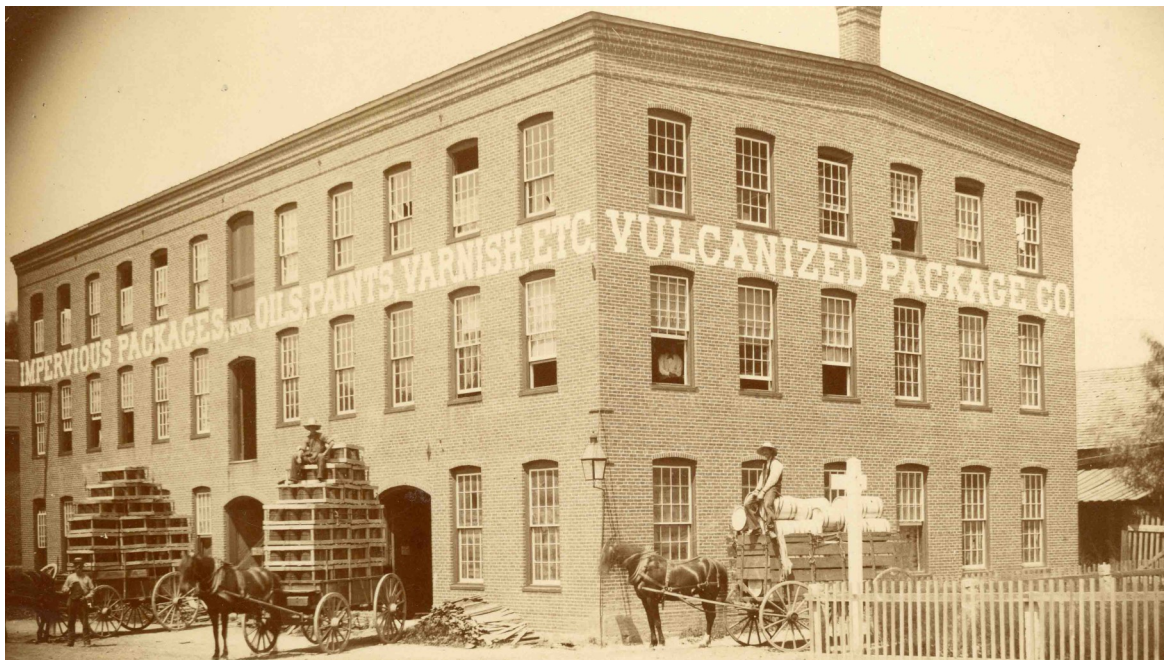
Historical Society of Cheshire County

Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating the History of Cheshire County

VOL. 38, NO. 2

JUNE 2022

Impervious Package Company Artifacts Illuminate Local History



Impervious Package factory on Mechanic Street, Keene

The Historical Society owns several artifacts related to Keene's Impervious Package Company. These include products, photos, business directories, and advertising brochures. These items can be used to help illustrate our understanding of the time period and the region in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

John A. Wright, the founder of Keene's well-known J.A. Wright & Co. silver polish firm, patented a compound of silicate of soda that could be used to treat wooden containers to make them impervious to liquids stored in them. The result was the 1883 incorporation of the Impervious Package Company, named for the cutting-edge items it was formed to produce.

The Keene company guaranteed that liquids stored in its wooden pails and buckets would not spoil, evaporate or leak as they did when stored in the inferior metal cans of the late-1800s. The interior of the wooden containers was coated with the new compound so that kerosene, paint, varnish, oils, and other products could be safely stored in them. The company also produced wooden tubs for pickles, syrup, sugar, and other food products.

Impervious Package built a three-story 100 by 50 foot brick factory in Keene and a second plant in Chesterfield. The firm soon employed 60 to 75 people as its packages were sold across the country. Two years after the company was formed it advertised that it had sold 200,000 oil cans. The firm made five sizes of kerosene cans ranging in size from two to ten gallons with a wholesale price of \$12.00 to \$20.00 per dozen. These buckets had plated nickel faucets and vented fillers. They did not emit any odor and lamps could be filled directly from the faucet.

Impervious Package opened a sales office in New York and soon gained an important client. The U.S. Government chose to use Impervious Package oil buckets in all of its lighthouses in the country because they stood up to the harsh climate conditions along the coast. Several large paint manufacturers also chose the Keene pails for their products.

Despite three devastating fires at the firm's plants, the company was successful well into the 20th century. Keene's Impervious Package Company closed in 1928, 45 years after it opened,

(Continued on Page 2)

Historical Society of Cheshire County



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Impervious Package (Continued from Page 1):

due to competition from improved materials and designs used to produce metal cans in the late-1920s.

The Impervious Package items in our collections help us teach about manufacturing and business operations more than 100 years ago. J.A. Wright's inventions and patents, along with samples of the products themselves, help to illustrate technological advances of the time. Cheshire County was a wooden package manufacturing center for the northeastern United States and Impervious Package was one of the largest of many woodenware companies. Photos illustrate working conditions, employees (all males, including children), industrial architecture, and transportation, including horse-drawn wagons piled high with buckets. Nationwide sales were possible thanks to the railroads that were built in the Monadnock Region.

The Impervious Package Company items are just a few of the 300,000 artifacts and archival items in the Society's collection which make it possible for the organization to carry out its mission of sharing Monadnock Region history.



*Impervious Package
Advertising Brochure*

Nature and Humanity in the Monadnock Region

Art Exhibit

June 3 through August 26, 2022

Historical Society of Cheshire County Exhibit Hall

The Monadnock Region is recognized for its natural beauty. It is almost entirely forested, but in times past it was cleared as a result of farming and logging. **Nature and Humanity in the Monadnock Region**, opening June 3 in the Historical Society Exhibit Hall, will illustrate the varied relationship between nature and humanity as interpreted by local artists. The following events will be held in conjunction with the exhibit:

Opening Reception: June 3, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Gallery Tour: June 4, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Led by Alicia Drakiotes, artist, and guest curator.

Plein Air Demonstration with Mary Iselin: June 4, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm., on the Historical Society lawn.

Hike at Sip Pond in Fitzwilliam, NH: July 22, Time TBA, with the Historical Society and the Monadnock Conservancy.

Plein Air Painting at Monadnock Berries in Troy, NH: July 29, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Open to artists of all ages and abilities.

Art Raffle: One lucky winner will receive a framed original oil painting titled "Heron" by Alicia Drakiotes. Tickets are available on the Historical Society's website or at the Historical Society. The drawing will be held on August 26, 2022.

The exhibit will be open during the Historical Society's regular hours. Admission is free. **Visitors can vote for Best in Show.** Most of the art work is available for purchase. A portion of proceeds from the sale of artwork will benefit the Historical Society. The **Nature and Humanity** exhibit is supported in part by a grant from the NH State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support is provided by the Putnam Foundation, New Hampshire Humanities, Price Chopper's Golub Foundation, and RiverMead Lifecare Community.



Wyman Tavern is the Destination for Craft Brews and Spirits on August 6

Tickets are now on sale for the **Wyman Tavern Brew Fest**, presented by the Historical Society of Cheshire County, Monadnock Broadcasting Group, and Amoskeag Beverages. A VIP hour will begin at noon on **August 6** featuring limited edition brews, excellent access to meet the brewers, and music by Heath Lewis. General admission runs from **1:00 to 5:00 pm**. VIP tickets are \$70 and include souvenir items. General admission tickets are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the gate. Tickets are available at Eventbrite and through the Historical Society's website. All proceeds support the programs of the Historical Society of Cheshire County, helping people "find their place in history."

New this year is an on-site brewing demo by Bryce Daugherty (formerly of Ashuelot Brewing). The demo batch of beer will be available three weeks later at Outlaw Brewing's Taproom in Winchester. Also new this year is a "History on Tap" event at Copper Cannon Distillery in West Chesterfield on a date to be determined in the weeks leading up to the Brew Fest. Master distiller Blake Amacker will offer a tour of the Copper Cannon Distillery, a talk on the New England history of spirits, and a homemade batch of jambalaya. An announcement about tickets for the History on Tap event is coming soon.



At the Brew Fest, look for the Monadnock region's finest craft beers and spirits from the Brewers of Nye Hill Farm in Roxbury; Branch and Blade, Elm City Brewing, and Modestman in Keene; Outlaw Brewing and New England Sweetwater Farm and Distillery in Winchester; Granite Roots in Troy; West LA Beer Company in Swanzey; Frogg Brewing in Marlborough; Henniker Brewing Company; and Copper Cannon Distillery in West Chesterfield. Also, this year the Brew Fest welcomes for the first time Whetstone from Brattleboro, Post and Beam from Peterborough, and Tamworth Distillery from the Lakes region. Amoskeag Beverages will bring about a dozen acclaimed brewers from around New England.

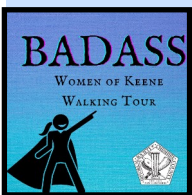
Many thanks to major sponsors Mascoma Bank and the Melanson Company; patron sponsors Keene Eye Care, Ingram Construction, Norton and Abert, PC; and sponsors Filtrine, Monadnock Food Co-op, Clark-Mortenson Insurance, Bulldog Design, Outlaw Brewing, and Granite Roots.

Guided Tours Offered by the Historical Society

Get your steps in while learning about Keene History. This summer and fall, the Historical Society offers five guided tours at the Historical Society Exhibit Hall, the Wyman Tavern and in downtown Keene. **Register** for scheduled tours on the Historical Society website at www.hscenh.org. **To book a private tour**, call the Historical Society at **603-352-1895**. Each guided tour is \$10/person, with a minimum of 5 and maximum of 15 participants (youth under 18 are free.).

Walldogs Mural- Magical History Tours

In June 2019, over 200 Walldogs artists descended on the city of Keene to paint 16 historically-themed murals across its cityscape in a matter of 4 days. Let our tour guides share the story of that event and the stories behind the murals on this 2 hour walking tour in downtown Keene. Dates and times: Public tours will be held on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am, June through October, or private tours can be arranged by calling the Historical Society.

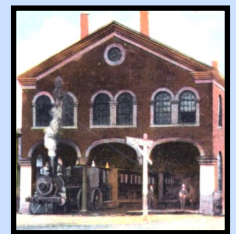


Badass Women of Keene Walking Tours

Delve into the history of the women's suffrage movement from a local perspective. This history-on-the-streets experience highlights empowered women from the community and shares one city's involvement with a national movement. Tours are 1 1/2 hours. Call to schedule a tour.

Railroad History Tour

How did the coming of the railroad impact New England communities like Keene? Walk the Cheshire Rail Trail through downtown Keene and learn about the arrival of Keene's first train in 1848. This 2 hour tour visits the sites where many industrial firms found success along the tracks in the downtown area. A public tour is scheduled for September 17th at 10:00 am. Call to schedule a private tour.



The Wyman Tavern:

The Wyman Tavern was built in 1762 and is the Historical Society's largest artifact and a historical house museum. Book a tour of the Tavern and learn the story of the Isaac Wyman family and the history of taverns in New England in the 18th and 19th centuries. Call to schedule a tour.

Nature and Humanity in the Monadnock Region Art Exhibit:

Today the Monadnock Region is recognized for its natural beauty. It is almost entirely forested, but at times in the past it has been cleared as a result of farming and logging. This exhibit, opening June 3 in the Historical Society Exhibit Hall, will illustrate the varied relationship between nature and humanity. Self-guided tours of the exhibit are free. Private guided tours with the guest curator may be available. Please call the Historical Society main office to arrange a guided tour.

The Historical Society website also has information about two self-guided walking tours in Keene: **A Walk Through Keene History**, an audio tour created by Franklin School 3rd graders, and a **Barry Faulkner Tour**, about Keene's own world-renowned muralist. A third self-guided tour has been created about **Jonathan Daniels**. More information about the Jonathan Daniels tour is available on the Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility's website at <https://jonathandanielscenter.org>.

Leadership Circle and Legacy Society are Keys to the Society's Future

For quite some time, the Historical Society of Cheshire County has been accomplishing marvelous things with a small staff and a culture of frugality. The community has come to value the breadth and depth of the educational programs, exhibits, and events at the Society. There has been consistent, strong leadership at the board and staff levels, and the organization takes its mission seriously.

It has become apparent that the Society's budget should be considerably larger to match the impact and level of activities. The Historical Society needs to increase its annual operating budget by about 25% over the next few years to achieve sustainable support of programs, competitive compensation, and growth in staff.

A key element for success in the short term is to ask more from donors who are in a position to make major gifts. In 2022, the Historical Society is establishing a **Leadership Circle** to recognize donors who are making large contributions toward the Society's future. Supporters who donate over \$1,000 a year will be inducted into the Leadership Circle.

The Society will recognize the members of the Leadership Circle in its annual report and newsletter, and members will be invited to a special event annually to celebrate their commitment to the Society's continued success.

For the longer term, the David R. Proper Legacy Society is a great way to protect the future of the Society without spending money today. Members of the Legacy Society have listed the Historical Society in their will or designated the Society as a beneficiary of their life insurance policy, retirement plan, or other planned gift that will benefit the Historical Society long after they are gone.

We encourage you to work with your financial or tax advisor on your philanthropic planning. Please reach out to us if you have any questions about the Leadership Circle or Legacy Society. Contact Rick Swanson, Development Director at rswanson@hsccnh.org or 603-352-1895.

NH Gives Campaign June 7-8 is a Great Opportunity to Support the Historical Society

A generous donor has offered to match up to \$10,000 of gifts to the Historical Society of Cheshire County during the NH Gives campaign on June 7th and 8th. Each dollar you give during the NH Gives campaign will be worth two dollars. With your help, we can meet or exceed our goal of \$20,000 for the NH Gives campaign from 5:00 pm on June 7th to 5:00 pm on June 8th. Here are a few examples of what your NH Gives gift can accomplish:

- A \$10 gift covers the cost of a Historical Society tour for a third-grade student. With the match, it covers two students.
- A \$100 gift will support two weeks of providing public online access for a searchable database of over 17,000 historical Cheshire County photographs. With the match, the gift supports the service for a month.
- A \$200 gift will cover the cost for a teacher to attend a tuition-free teacher workshop in August. The match leverages the gift to support two teachers.
- Fifteen \$500 gifts will make it possible to hire a part-time coordinator and tech person to support educational programs for half a year. With the match, the new hire can be supported for a full year.

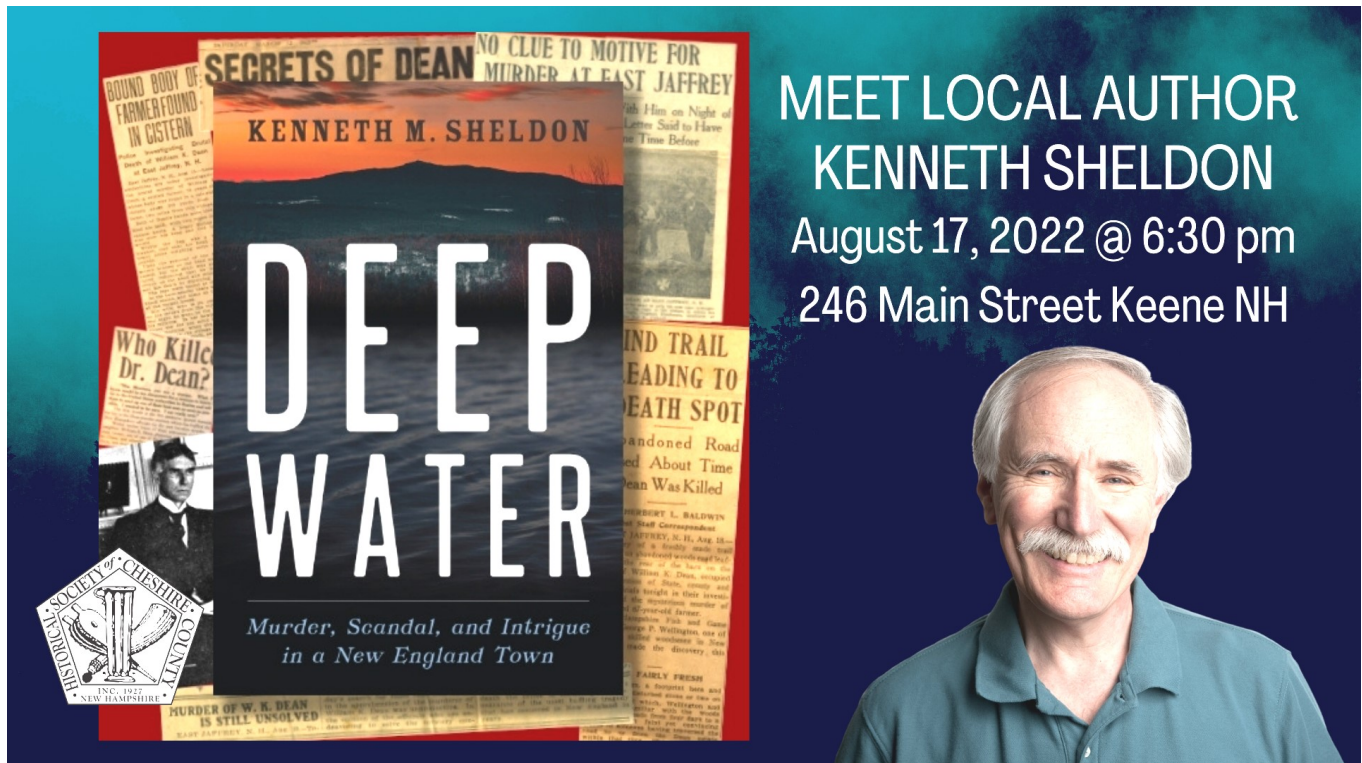
On June 7th and 8th, please visit our NH Gives page and help us reach our \$20,000 goal: nhgives.org/organizations/historical-society-of-cheshire-county.



THE MUSEUM STORE
LOCATED AT
246 MAIN STREET, KEENE, NH



Open Tues, Thurs & Fri 9-4 and Wed 9-8, and
the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month 9-12 pm or online at www.hsccnh.org



Meet Local Author Kenneth Sheldon

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 6:30 pm

Registration required

In the waning days of World War I, William K. Dean was brutally murdered, his body hog-tied and dumped in a rainwater cistern on his farm in the quiet town of Jaffrey, New Hampshire. Was the murderer his wife, suffering from dementia? Was it his best friend, a politically powerful judge? Or was it a former tenant, suspected by many of being a German spy? Kenneth M. Sheldon will read from Deep Water: Murder, Scandal and Intrigue in a New England Town, the first in-depth examination into the murder and its aftermath in the town of Jaffrey.

Register for the event online at www.hscen.org. Books are available for purchase in the Museum Store and online at www.hscen.org

Abenaki History in the Monadnock Region Teacher Workshop

Friday, August 12, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Historical Society of Cheshire County

The Historical Society of Cheshire County is pleased to offer a one-day teacher workshop, *Abenaki History in the Monadnock Region*, on August 12, 2022 from 8:30-4:30. This learning opportunity is ideal for grade school and middle school educators who seek to expand their knowledge of Abenaki history and culture. Sessions are a mix of lectures and activities and focus on 13,000 years of the region's history.

Presentations by Dr. Robert Goodby, Judy Dow and Lynn Murphy will cover the following topics: archaeology and how Indigenous culture has evolved; interactions between Indigenous people and European settlers, Native connections to the land, ethnobotany, and a contemporary look at Abenaki identity and culture. The workshop will close with an introduction to free educational resources offered by the Historical Society of Cheshire County for classroom use. Teachers will receive 7 credit hours for attending.

Register online at www.hscen.org. A \$75 registration fee includes morning refreshments, lunch, credit hour certificate, and lesson plan packet. Teachers using the promo code "Abenaki" will receive a 100% discount thanks to support from: New Hampshire Humanities, The Putnam Foundation, and The Harris Center for Conservation Education.

Leadership Circle

The following individuals have made gifts to the
Historical Society of Cheshire County of \$1000 or more in 2022.
We deeply appreciate their support.

Jay and Lisa Blanchard
John Cooney
Carl and Ruth Jacobs
Walter and Barbara Lacey

Daniel and Michal Mariaschin
Chris and Gaynelle Pratt
Katherine Snow

Tavern Keepers

The Tavern Keepers are supporting the Historical Society's most important artifact, the Wyman Tavern (1762). Tavern Keepers contribute \$300 specifically towards the operation and stewardship of the Wyman Tavern. With gratitude we list below the Tavern Keepers in 2022.

Thomas and Susan Abert
Harry and Angeline Ackerman
Eleanor Ball
Carol and Lewis Barnes
Wayne and Becky Barton
Rusty Bastedo
Larry and Tammy Benaquist
Jay and Lisa Blanchard/Keene Monument
Chris J. Booras and Mary J. Booras
Charles and Nancy Butterfield
Deirdre Chretien and Dominique Perkins
Mike and Betty Christiansen
Rick and Betsey Church
John Cooney
Irene and David Davis
Mary Delisle and George Foskett
Dick and Pat Dugger
Sybil Dupuis
Rhonda Fowler
Joslin Kimball Frank
David Frechette and
Sydney (CeeCee) Croteau Frechette
Mike Giacomo and Rachel Eschle
Roger and Nancy Hansen
Richard High and Joyce Clark (in memoriam)
J. Robert and Joanne Hof
John and Lynda Hunt
Martha Hunt
Jeff and Lori-Anne Ingram
Carl and Ruth Jacobs
Cornelia, Peter, and Catherine Jenness
Jane and Gregory Johnson
Claire Kluskens
Jay and Cheryl Kahn
Walter and Barbara Lacey
Steven and Jane Larmon
Susan Landers Gilbert and Sarah Handford

Marion LeFrancois
Karen and Bob Lyle
Daniel and Michal Mariaschin
John and Susan McGinnis
Brian and Lois Merry
Monadnock Garden Club
Susan and Gary Murata
Lee and Paula Page
Mike Pappas, Pappas Contracting
Chris and Gaynelle Pratt
Jay and Jean Prior
Thomas and Barbara Putnam
June Rawlings
Dr. and Mrs. R. Winfield Raynor
Michael Remy
Marilyn Wyman Riley
Jim and Sharon Rousmaniere
Marie Royce Ruffle
Art and Lynn Simington
Edwin "Smokey" and Sharron Smith
David and Jane Stabler
Robert Stephenson
Jeanie Sy
Richard Talbot
Kimball and Maria Temple
Rob and Lianne Therrien
Anthony and Barbara Tremblay
Paul and Nancy Vincent
Ken and Pam Walton
Phil and Janet Warren
Bob and Joanne Webster
Jan Weekes
Rebecca and Wayne Whippie
Jeanne Williams
Peter and Martha Wright
Robert and Lisa Wyman
7 Margaret (Gretchen) Ziegler



Historical Society of Cheshire County
P.O. Box 803 – 246 Main Street
Keene, New Hampshire 03431
603-352-1895 – www.hscn.org
Hours: Tues., Thurs., & Fri.: 9 am - 4 pm
Wed.: 9 am - 8 pm;
First and Third Saturday, 9 am - 12 pm

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Calendar: Complete List of Events at www.hscn.org

What's Happening at the Historical Society?

June 2022

Friday, June 3, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Exhibit Hall,
Opening reception for *Nature and Humanity in the
Monadnock Region* Art Exhibit (see pg. 2)

Friday, June 3 through Sunday, June 12, Down-
town Keene, Art Walk

**Saturday, June 4, Historical Society Exhibit Hall
and Front Lawn, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**, Gallery
Tour led by Alicia Drakiotes and Plein Air
Demonstration by Mary Iselin (see pg. 2)

Saturday, June 4, 10:00 am, Wall Dogs Guided
Walking Tour (see pg. 4)

**Tuesday, June 7, 5:00 pm to Wednesday, June 8,
5:00 pm**, "Giving Tuesday" (see pg. 5)

Thursday, June 9, Alstead, 9:30 am, Monadnock
Historical Societies Round Table Forum

July 2022

Saturday, July 2, 10:00 am, Wall Dogs
Guided Walking Tour (see pg. 4)

Friday, July 22, Sip Pond, Fitzwilliam, Time TBA,
Hike (see pg. 2)

**Friday, July 29, Monadnock Berries, Troy, 10:00
am to 1:00 pm**, Plein Air Painting (see pg. 2)

August 2022

Saturday, August 6, 10:00 am, Wall Dogs Guided
Walking Tour (see pg. 4)

Saturday, August 6, 1:00 pm, Wyman Tavern
Grounds, Wyman Tavern Brew Fest (see pg. 3)

Friday, August 12, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Exhibit
Hall, *Abenaki History in the Monadnock Region*
Teacher Workshop (see pg. 6)

Wednesday, August 17, 6:30 pm, Exhibit Hall, Ken
Sheldon Book Reading of *Deep Water* (see pg. 6)

On-going Event:

June 3 through August 26, Exhibit Hall, *Nature and
Humanity in the Monadnock Region* Art Exhibit (see
pg. 2)