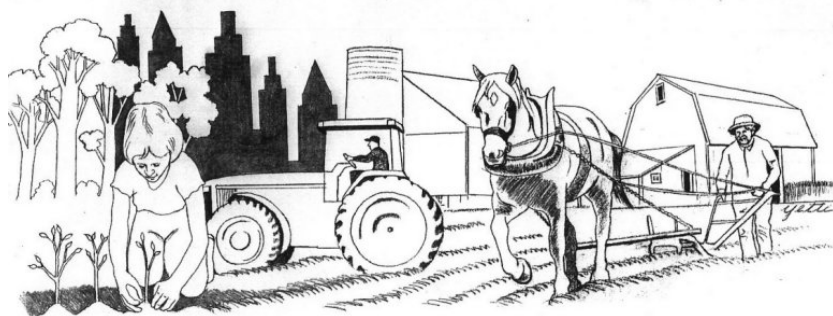


Aggie News



Volume 17 Issue 1

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Scholarship Fund Challenge Grant

We have good news again concerning the Challenge Grant. Our anonymous donor has once again offered to fund a Scholarship Fund Challenge Grant for 2014.

Every dollar that is donated to our Scholarship Fund this year will be matched up to \$5,000 as a matching grant.

We wish to thank each and every one of our donors for their generosity in supporting the 2012/2013 Challenge Grant campaign. The donations received last year provided a tremendous boost to our effort to build a healthy scholarship fund. We were able to provide a helping hand to four more worthy students who applied for a scholarship. Last year we received 57 applications from students for the four scholarships we offered for 2013 which further indicates that the need is there. We hope to offer five scholarships for 2014.

So now we get to do it again! If we can collect another \$5,000 in Scholarship Fund donations this year we will be adding another \$10,000 to our Scholarship Fund. We have another chance to give back to the school that gave us all so much.

From The Editor

Welcome to the "33rd" Aggie News

This issue marks the 17th year of publication of the alumni newsletter. As stated in our last issue, for the last 16 years the alumni association has provided free copies of the alumni newsletter to anyone who was registered with the association whether they paid membership dues or not. We also described the various reasons why a change was needed in our newsletter distribution policy. Things such as the increased costs of postage & printing, the increasing number of alumnus who have failed to notify us of an address change, etc.

Starting with this issue, our mailing list has been reduced to only include those who have paid membership dues in the past which in turn helps to support the publication of this newsletter. So now our family of readers has been reduced to a much smaller group of supporters. We hope you will continue to enjoy reading the newsletter and will continue to be informed about activities, news about the school, news about former classmates and news about any scheduled reunions and alumni functions. We also hope you will continue to provide your support with payment of membership dues.

Charles Main '56

Environmental Leadership

Samantha Hardy of Saugus receives environmental leadership scholarship

(From the Saugus Advertiser, August, 2013)

Samantha Hardy of Saugus was selected by the Saugus River Watershed Council to receive the 2013 Scholarship for Environmental Leadership. Hardy graduated as salutatorian from Essex Agricultural and Technical High School this spring and will study environmental science at the University of New England in the fall.

In high school, Hardy was one of only 20 students accepted into the competitive environmental science agricultural major. She has excelled in a challenging academic and field-based program that included coastal marine ecology, wetlands science, Hazmat, AP environmental science and GIS.

Hardy has been interested in helping the environment since she began exploring the natural beauty of Breakheart Reservation in Saugus as a young child. While studying environmental science in high school, Hardy had the opportunity to participate in field studies of the Merrimack River where she sampled water quality to determine causes of pollution in the watershed, and New Brunswick, where she studied marine life and intertidal species. Once she completes her college training in environmental science at the University of New England in Maine, Hardy plans to work on conservation projects to protect endangered species and their habitat.

Each year, the Saugus River Watershed Council selects one scholarship winner based upon their commitment to environmental protection, academic record, demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities, statement of personal commitment and future goals related to protecting the environment.

"Samantha has a clear passion for marine conservation," Saugus River Watershed Council Executive Director Joan LeBlanc said. "With her academic achievements, knowledge of environmental protection and plans to study environmental science in college, she is well on her way to becoming a future leader in the environmental field."



Pictured from left to right are Saugus River Watershed Council Director Joan LeBlanc, scholarship recipient Samantha Hardy of Saugus and Saugus River Watershed Council President Debra Panetta.

More Giving Back

Last November the sophomore, junior, and senior classes held a Harvest Gift and Craft Fair to benefit their classes and the New England Center for Homeless Veterans. Bob Gaudet '56 made a donation in the name of the alumni association and the association also added a \$300 donation. The sophomore, junior, and senior classes are also selling an Essex Aggie bracelet and charm for \$20 as a fundraiser. More info can be found at:

<http://www.essexaggie.org/alumni/alumni.html>

The next time your class holds a reunion, why not pass the hat and make a collection for something like our scholarship fund? Some classes have done that in the past and the funds are much appreciated. It is easy to do and it gives everyone who attends your reunion a chance to do their part in "Giving Back"

Membership & Donation Forms

When filling out a membership & donation form, please be sure to fill in the e-mail address line if you have one. In addition to making it possible for us to save money with newsletter delivery, if we have an e-mail address it saves the cost of mailing out donation receipts.

News From The Classes

The typical life of an American farmer

4 am the alarm goes off, start of another day. Time to feed and milk the cows. Boots coat and hat and its off to the barn. By 6 am 200 head milked and fed, time to clean the barn. 8 am starts outside chores. Tractor needs fuel and oil, then off to the field, hay needs bailing. Afternoon and its off to the local feed store to order up a load of grain. A quick stop at the hardware store for some wire and its back to the field, a fence needs mending. Back to the barn for evening milking, maybe help bring a new calf into the world. Clean the barn again and all before supper. This is the typical life of the American farmer. No complaints, just does a hard days work and loves it. For this farmer is an Aggie. Maybe not from Essex but an Aggie still. Work hard, love life, be free!

Donald Lavigne '81

Check out Donald's page/group on Facebook The group is entitled "You know you went to Essex Aggie if you remember....." The last time we checked the group had 438 members. With a group that size you will find all sorts of interesting postings relating to people's thoughts and experiences about the Aggie.

Seeds and Sparks

(We had a little column space left over in this issue so I will invoke "editor's privilege" and insert a photo so we can go to press with this issue.)

Charlie Main '56

This is an example of the agricultural seed that was created and the spark that was ignited from attending the Aggie 58 years ago. This is the latest addition to our race horse stable. Our home grown 2 year old colt, Mr Bo Diddley.



In The Spotlight

Natures Edge Photography

We recently discovered another jewel in the Essex Aggie alumnus jewelry box. Barry Merluzzo '96 who has become an accomplished photographer.



Barry can be located on his Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/naturesedgephoto>

And on his web site at:

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

From Barry's web site; "My goal as an artist is to capture those special moments in nature when everything comes together, sun, sky, flora, fauna and everything in between in order to bring about a true sense of wonder to those who see these photographs. My years of experience as a naturalist allows me to not only capture what's in the present scene, but also to ponder what lies beyond it. Hopefully, my photographs will serve as an expression of the vast natural beauty which lies in our remaining wild places and may inspire you to venture out onto Natures Edge."

In addition to nature photography, Barry does real estate photography and provides a photo restoration and preservation service.



Deceased Classmates

William J. Walsh, Class of 1949

William J. Walsh, 80, died unexpectedly Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011 at the Beverly Hospital. Born and raised in Beverly, he was the son of the late James J. and Margaret (Moynihan) Walsh. He received his education at St. Mary's Grammar School in Beverly and graduated from the Essex Agricultural and Technical School in 1949. As a young man, he met his wife working at the Flying Horse Farm on the Pingree Estate and shared 56 years of marriage together until her passing in December of last year. An honorably discharged veteran, he served his country in Korea during the Korean War as a member of the U.S. Army as an artillerymen and was the recipient of three Bronze Star medals. Mr. Walsh had been employed for 33 years as a police officer for the City of Beverly until the time of his retirement in 1988 and was the former President of the Beverly Police Relief Association. Following his retirement from the police department, Mr. Walsh served for over 20 years at the Beverly National Bank. A lifelong resident of the City of Beverly, Mr. Walsh enjoyed card playing, was an avid golfer and an accomplished master gardener who had won awards at the Topsfield Fair for his prize winning tomatoes and onions. He was known by many for his sense of humor and his quick wit. He was a loving and devoted father, grandfather, brother and friend who will be missed by all who knew him.

Shirley A. Miller, Class of 1950

Shirley Ann Miller (previously known as Shirley Gray-Goyette), 80 years old from Piedmont, SC passed away on Thursday, May 23, 2013, surrounded by family at the Open Arms Hospice in Simpsonville, SC. Shirley was born in Salem, MA on October 27, 1932 and lived the last 16 years in Piedmont, SC with her son and family. Shirley was a long time supporter of the alumni association and could always be found in attendance at any of our reunions. She loved to travel all the way from South Carolina to see her friends and former classmates.

Richard P. Pilotte, Class of 1961

Richard P. Pilotte, 69, died peacefully on Wednesday, July 24, 2013, at the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers. He graduated from Essex Agricultural High School, Class of 1961. He lived in Peabody for many years. Mr. Pilotte worked as an automobile service technician for 36 years, with Commodore Lincoln-Mercury in Peabody and the last few years with Thomas Ford in Beverly before retiring. Richard was an outdoorsman who enjoyed nature. He liked hunting, gardening, and visiting family in Canada. He was an avid animal lover who enjoyed rescuing animals in his neighborhood. He was devoted to his family and those who knew him appreciate all he did for them.

Paul A. Demeule, Class of 1972

Paul 'Tiny' Demeule, 59, of Salem, died unexpectedly, Friday evening, October 25, 2013, at the NSMC/Salem Hospital. He was the son of the late Albert J. and Lina H. (Michaud) Demeule. Born and raised in Salem, he was a graduate of the Essex Agricultural School, class of 1972. Tiny was currently employed as a mechanic for Garelick Farms, producers and distributors of dairy products. He had been with the company for 27 years. Tiny had many hobbies, and among his favorites were mining and rock collecting, model building and his passion for motorcycles.

Richard J. Essler, Class of 1982

Richard "Dick" Essler, 49, formerly of Lynn, passed away peacefully on July 6, 2013 in Lahey Clinic Burlington following a brief illness. He was born, raised and educated in Beverly and graduated from the Essex Agricultural High School in 1982. He served our country with the United States Coast Guard. Dick had been employed with the Ira Group in Danvers for over five years. Dick enjoyed the outdoors and especially loved fishing and camping with his family.

To help us keep informed about the passing of alumnus, please send any obituary information you may come across to: cmain@comcast.net

Reunion News

Class of 1978

The class of 1978 held a reunion last September at Creighton Pond, Middleton, MA. We didn't receive a reunion report from the attendees but by the looks of the photos we found on their Facebook page everyone had a great time.

Essex Aggie Class of 1978 Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/197996920218046/>



Alumni Board of Directors

Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers. We Need Volunteers !

The alumni board of directors has dwindled down to just a handful of bodies. We are getting old and will soon be looking to retire. We have a strong scholarship program and it is getting stronger. What we need now is some fresh new younger blood with new ideas and a desire to keep the alumni association going. We have many board positions to fill.

The school has been operating for 100 years now and is ready to move on to the next 100 years. We would like to see the alumni association remain intact for the next 100 years also.

If anyone is interested in serving on the board for the 2014-2015 term of office please contact Secretary, Charles Main at cmain@comcast.net for information.

News From The School

New Construction

Construction of the new school is still coming along nicely and it looks like the new school will be ready to open as scheduled this year. Early reports indicate that the new facilities are going to provide a first class state of the art learning environment.

Our primary source of information as to what is happening with new construction at "Essex Technical High School" these days has been Michael Bourgault '71 and his Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Essex-Agricultural-Technical-Institute/188649074490713>

Michael attended the Open House at the school last October and came away with a couple new photos.



The new Vet Tech Building



The new Horse Barn

History Corner

The Greenhouse Plant

The new Essex Technical High School will continue to offer courses in Greenhouse Management and Floriculture, but most of the learning will take place across the highway within the new facility. We thought this might be a good time to have a quick look at the old Greenhouse Plant operation which is no longer in use and will soon be demolished.



Original Greenhouse Plant (1932)



Inside the old Greenhouse Plant (1933)



Greenhouse Students (1934)

The Greenhouse area, later known as the Horticulture Greenhouse, remained as an important part of the Aggie for about 80 more years. As the Horticulture courses gravitated to locations across the highway to the other side of the campus the old building was no longer used.



Weeds & broken glass foretell the future.

Essex Aggie Alumni Association Membership Registration Form 2014

Membership dues for 2014 will be \$20.00

(Term of membership is Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Please fill out the form below

We need your support



Member Name and Address: (Please Print)

Class of _____ High School Division (____) College Division (____) School Staff (____)

First Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

E-Mail _____

Please register my membership and/or donation for 2014

I am enclosing my check for \$20.00 for 2014 Membership: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the General Fund: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the General Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the Richard M. Brown Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the V. Byron Bennett Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

I would like to donate to the Ellery E. Metcalf Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed for membership & donations: \$ _____

(Essex Aggie Alumni Association is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax deductible)

Your membership is important and we hope you will send your dues today!

Check should be made out to: Essex Aggie Alumni

Mail this form to:

Essex Aggie Alumni Association

c/o Charles Main

643 Main Road

Phippsburg, ME 04562

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Please deliver my newsletters via email at the email address indicated above.

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Please deliver my newsletters via regular mail at the postal mailing address indicated above.

The Aggie News

Essex Aggie Alumni Association

c/o Charles Main

643 Main Road

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"Getting old friends and classmates together"

www.essexaggie.org