

Andover Libraries DARRYL FURTKAMP'S WORK EXHIBITED

By Ray Mitchell
Beacon staff

In June the Library of Congress named Donald Hall the next Poet Laureate of the United States. He lives in his grandparents' house by Eagle Pond in Wilmot.

Shortly after the Library of Congress bestowed the honor on him, he received a call from a local group he had promised to address. "Will you have time to be with us now that you have added responsibilities?" they asked.

"There is no place I would rather be," he replied. He is a neighborly neighbor.

My first encounter with Donald Hall was through his book *String Too Short To Be Saved*. It is a remembrance of summers at his grandparents' house, the one he now occupies. Stories of milking and haying and evenings on the porch describe the simple life we have left behind. Only the great eminence of Mount Kearsarge remains unchanged.

His more contemporary work, *Here at Eagle Pond*, describes our four seasons: maple sugaring, black fly, Red

Sox, and winter. Baseball is prominent in Hall's writings. *The Country of Baseball* is about the colorful major leaguer, Dock Ellis. Many of his poems reflect his interest in the game also. One of his books, *The Ox-Cart Man*, is a favorite of children.

Donald Hall has published more than

Mount Kearsarge shines with ice; from hemlock branches
snow slides onto snow; no stream, creek, or river
budges but remains still. Tonight
we carry armloads of logs
from woodshed to Glenwood and build up the fire
that keeps the coldest night outside our windows...

From *Mount Kearsarge Shines*, by Donald Hall

a dozen books of poetry. Among them are *The One Day*, *Museum of Clear Ideas*, and *Without*, which records the illness of his wife, the poet Jane Kenyon, and his grief after her death.

His latest book, *White Apples and the Taste of Stone*, is a selection of his poems spanning sixty years. This book includes a CD of the poet reading some of his works. It is a treat to hear him give added life to his words when he reads them. He describes scenes that

are familiar to us. Most of Donald Hall's books may be found in our Andover Libraries.

The drawings, paintings and mixed-media work of three artists will be on display at The Gallery at New England College from September 7 to October 14. One of the three is oil painter and mixed media artist Darryl Furtkamp of Andover.

Furtkamp's "Recent Work" will feature assemblages that evoke the formality of Byzantine icons, the specificity of late medieval manuscripts, and the preciousness of Renaissance altarpieces. Furtkamp uses discarded material and collage images and combines them with traditional painting and drawing alluding to the working methods of twentieth century artists Schwitters, Cornell, and Duchamp.

Other formal issues addressed in Furtkamp's work are the back and forth play of two-dimensional illusion and three-dimensional space. His use of light, glazing techniques, and multiple physical layers allows Furtkamp to explore illusion through luminosity and physical depth. "I am interested in moving beyond the traditional approaches to view fine art . . . I have always sought to

engage the viewer on an intimate level through a process of discovery over time," said Furtkamp. "These should be works that one investigates, discovers, and ultimately comes to know."

Furtkamp has taught at the University of Idaho, McKendree College, the Art School at the Art Museum of Missoula, the University of Montana, and currently at New England College. His work is exhibited nationally. He was the former director of the YO Gallery in Manchester and earned his MFA from the University of Idaho.

The public is invited to the opening reception from 4 PM to 7 PM on Thursday, September 14.

Admission to The Gallery is free. Regular Gallery hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM and Thursday from 10:30 AM to 6 PM. The Gallery is located on Main Street in Henniker, adjacent to the college's Administration Building. For more information and for select weekend hours, call The Gallery at 428-2329 or check NEC.edu.

Donald Hall At Kearsarge Poetry Festival In Wilmot

The New Hampshire Writers' Project (NHWP) will present the Kearsarge Poetry Festival on October 7 in Wilmot, home of US Poet Laureate Donald Hall. This festive day of programs includes morning hikes, poetry readings and roundtables involving more than a dozen regional and out-of-state poets, afternoon writing workshops, and, in the evening, a gala Writers' Block Party celebrating Hall's appointment.

Festival participants will have a rare opportunity to listen in on a conversation between Hall and Maxine Kumin as they discuss the writing craft, the role of the US Poet Laureate, and the influence of the Kearsarge region on their work.

Hall, Kumin, and Jane Kenyon, Hall's late wife, are among the most prominent voices in contemporary American poetry. Hall recently pub-

lished *White Apples and the Taste of Stone*, a collection of his poetry spanning more than 50 years. Kumin's 15th poetry collection, *Jack and Other New Poems*, was published in 2005. She served as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress in 1981 and 1982, a post now called US Poet Laureate.

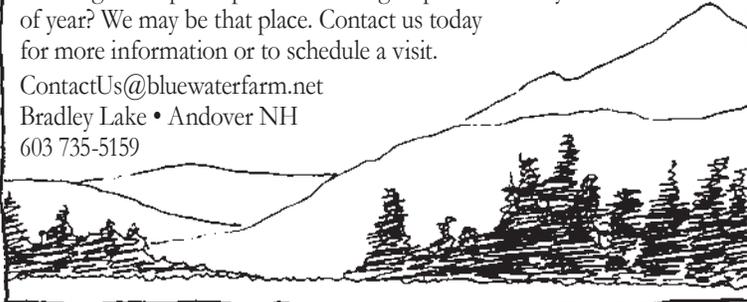
Daytime festival programs are set in charming, historic buildings and rural areas of Wilmot. Many programs are free; fee-based programs benefit NHWP. The Writers' Block Party at Eagle Pond Lodge, a fundraiser for NHWP, features music, hors d'oeuvres, toasts, presentations by such special guests as Tree Swenson, President and Executive Director of the Academy of American Poets, and a reading by Donald Hall.

Program details and registration are posted at NHWritersProject.org.

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