



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

SERVING TILTON, NORTHFIELD, BELMONT & SANBORNTON, N.H.

FREE

## *Belmont Historical Society hosting program “Discovering New England Stone Walls”*

BELMONT — On Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m., the Belmont Historical Society, with funding from the New Hampshire Humanities Council, will host a presentation by Kevin Gardner, entitled “Discovering New England Stone Walls.”

For nearly 40 years, Gardner, who lives in Hopkinton, has been a stone wall builder in a family business widely known for traditional New England stonework. His informal talk covers a few of the main topics in his book about New England stone walls, “The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls” (Countryman Press). He touches on history, technique, stylistic development, and aesthetics. He explains how and why New England came to acquire

its thousands of miles of stone walls, the ways in which they and other dry stone structures were built, how their styles emerged and changed over time, as well as their significance to the famous New England landscape. Other topics may include: a discussion of restoration tips and techniques, and information about design, materials, preservation, and analysis. There will also be a Q&A period during which listeners are encouraged to bring up specific problems or projects on their own properties.

Along the way, Gardner occupies himself building a miniature wall or walls on a tabletop, using tiny stones from a five-gallon bucket. He often brings along his collection of books about stonework.

The presentation will

be held at 7 p.m. the Corner Meeting House in Belmont, and is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. The meeting house is located at the intersection of Fuller and Sargent Streets in the village. Parking is available behind the meeting house or in the gravel lot approximate-

ly one-half block south of the meeting house on Sargent Street.

Since the publication of “The Granite Kiss,” Gardner has presented his program at dozens of historical societies, bookstores, and town libraries all over New England, including Canterbury Shaker Village, the New Hampshire

Historical Society, Castle-in-the-Clouds, Old Sturbridge Village, Boston’s Arnold Arboretum, and many, many more.

For more information on the Belmont program, or directions, contact Christine Fogg, program coordinator, at 524-8268.