

# ACWORTH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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*Delivering the news from Acworth to places near and far since 1943*

## OCTOBER 2023



# HAPPY HALLOWEEN

*THE*  
**"RED CARPET" PREMIERE**  
OF THE PILOT EPISODE OF  
*AMBER OAK:*

*THE HAUNTING OF HAVEN LANE*  
WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 21, 2023 FROM 4 TO 7 P.M.

AT THE ACWORTH TOWN HALL

(see details inside this issue.)

FILMED IN ACWORTH BY

CEARA COMEAU

BOOK SISTERS PRODUCTIONS, LLC



## GRAB THOSE SHEARS! IT'S CUT-BACK TIME!

Leaves are starting to turn colors and settling on the ground so it's time to clean up your gardens for the winter. Perennials are so attractive in full bloom during the spring and summer, but once those stalks and leaves have turned brown, not so pretty! Cutting back perennials will help protect them from disease and get them ready for spring regrowth. Not all perennials need to be cut back if they are healthy as leaving them stand during the cold months will increase their hardiness. Don't bother cutting down coneflowers, hibiscus, ornamental grasses, Russian sage or sedums as it will benefit birds and other wildlife needing food and shelter. Some commonly grown plants you want to trim up in the fall are described below.

Bee Balm is susceptible to powdery mildew during the growing season and any infected plant parts should be trimmed right away with the infected cuttings disposed of rather than putting them in a compost pile. If mildew is a problem, cut the plants right down to the soil in the fall. You can leave healthy plants standing or just thin them out to provide air flow as well as seed heads for the birds.

Peonies are also susceptible to mildew and its leaves will turn dark brown or black. Remove any infected leaves as you see them, and after the first frost when the healthy foliage turns a golden yellow prune them to a few inches above the ground.

Phlox! Again that miserable mildew! Prune it down to the ground in the fall.

Daylilies can be easily pruned by taking a handful of leaves near the base of the plant and shearing them off. Doing this in the fall saves you from a long messy job in the spring.

Iris leaves tend to flop over early in its growing season providing a cozy hiding place for iris borers and fungal diseases. Remove any damaged or diseased leaves but leave the healthy ones, cutting them down to six inches. Dispose of the foliage rather than composting.

Sunflowers (*Helianthus*) do not benefit from deadheading and are usually finished blooming by the end of summer. Tall stems will just flop, so cut them down to the ground.

The leaves of the Lily signal when the plant is ready to be trimmed—they turn red or yellow which means the leaves are no longer feeding the bulbs. Give it a quick snip right at ground level and done!

Blanket flower or *Gaillardia* will benefit from pruning out spent stems. It will make the plant fuller, healthier and stronger and will reward you with more flowers in the next growing season.

Hollyhocks are vulnerable to leaf rust, so cut them down to six inches high to reduce the risk of leaf rust. Scatter any seed pods in the fall to produce more plants in the springtime.

Hostas need any damaged or b leaves trimmed near the crown. They become total mush after a good frost, so rake out the mess to reduce the risk of providing a hiding place for those dreaded slugs.

Chrysanthemum flowers should be cut back after blooming or after a hard frost. Use mulch (leaves) to protect them from winter's freezing and thawing.

The leaves of hardy begonias will blacken and collapse after a frost. If the leaves are not removed it will cause crown rot, so cut them back.

Painted Daisies should be deadheaded during the blooming season but will turn brown after a frost, so prune the dead foliage.

Perennial salvia should be sheared back several times to keep it from flopping. On the fall cut the plant down to the new basal growth (at the bottom of the plant).

Solomon's Seal should be pruned back to the ground.

—Sue Boudreau

*Sue her husband, Henry, are the owners of the "Wooden Mistress" in South Acworth.*

## ROLLIN' OUT THE RED CARPET

Hello my fellow Acworthians! It's been quite some time since I've made an update, so let me catch you up. I've written ten books, slowly working on an eleventh. Oh, and this past summer I finished a film in Acworth. That's right—a film in Acworth!

Let's rewind a little bit and I'll tell you how I went from the pages of a book to the big screen. For those who don't know me, my name is Ceara Comeau. I lived in Acworth for about 18 years. It was here that I started writing my short story series, "Amber Oak", at the ripe young age of twelve. Three years later I self-published them. And it's these very stories that I've turned into a twelve-episode film series!

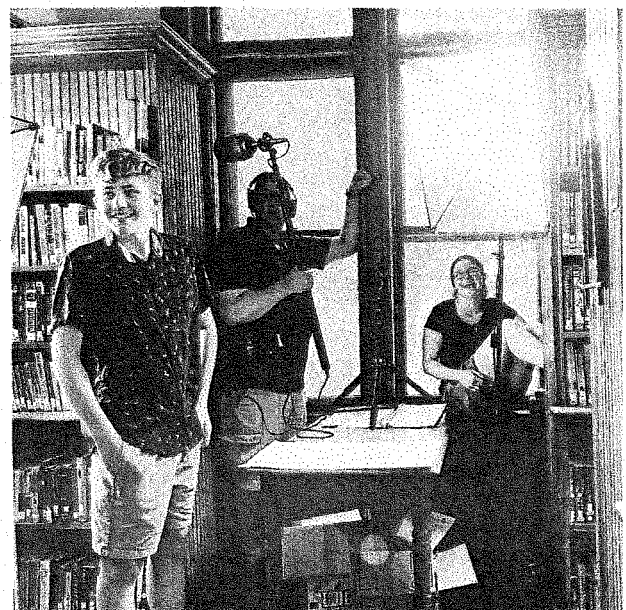
For the last two years, I started getting more into the film industry by assisting another New Hampshire author on the set of her films. It was from this experience that I started studying film outside of the set and started gathering equipment. I formed Book Sisters Productions LLC from the very idea that authors who want their books turned into films shouldn't have to rely on Hollywood for their work to come alive. I believe the power should always be in the author's hands.

With the assistance of my family and close friends, we put together the pilot episode of the series, "Amber Oak: The Haunting of Haven Lane." Based on the very first story I wrote, this film starts out by following Adam Greenwood as he searches for a way to save his brother from the influence of an angry ghost boy. The only one who seems to believe his story is the school's outcast—Amber Oak. Together this adventure leads them to the farthest corner of the town where a down-trodden man holds the key to a 25-year-old mystery.

Come join us for a night of fun and food at the Acworth Town Hall on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 4pm-7pm where we will be rolling out the "red carpet" for the Acworth premiere of our pilot episode. All food is by donation and proceeds will go to benefit the Acworth Library and Acworth Meetinghouse.

Hope to see you all there!

—Ceara



*Filming at the Silsby Library—Photo Credit: Sarah Levesque*