



Kevin Gardner: *Discovering New England Stone Walls*

Kevin's informal talk covers a few of the main topics of his book about New England stone walls, *The Granite Kiss* (Countryman Press), touching 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, and their significance to the famous New England landscape. Other topics may include: differences in approach between historical and contemporary wall-builders, a discussion of restoration tips and techniques, and information about design, acquisition of materials, preservation, and analysis. There is always a generous question-and-answer period, during which listeners are encouraged to bring up specific problems or projects on their own properties.

Along the way, Kevin 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, and copies of *The Granite Kiss* will be available for sale.

Since the publication of *The Granite Kiss*, Kevin has presented his program at dozens of historical societies, bookstores, and town libraries all over New England, including Canterbury Shaker Village, the NH Historical Society, Castle-in-the-Clouds, Old Sturbridge Village, Boston's Arnold Arboretum, and many, many more.

“A Thoreauvian do-it-yourself guide”.

The Christian Science Monitor



“...the reader learns much about stone and gravity, but also about the meaning of work, beauty, and the presence of the past.”

James L. Garvin, NH State Architectural Historian