



The *Weathervane*

Summer

A Quarterly for and from West Gardiner

2019

Where in West Gardiner?

- Deb Couture



This is the future site of the West Gardiner Historical society building. It will be located to the left of the Town Garage and behind the right side of the Fire Station. No construction can begin until the old Town Garage is removed and the new salt shed has been contracted out. The garage will be removed by September 5, 2019. The proposed initial size of the historical society building is 32 X 40. However, the site is large enough to allow additions to be made to the back of the building in the future. For more information, please attend the next meeting of the West Gardiner Historical Society at the Auxiliary Hall September 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Thank you West Gardiner School Board Reps

A special thank you to Deb Couture and Tim Doyle for their years of service on the MSAD#11 School Board. Tim has served for 2 years and represented the GAHS Class of 2019 on the Board. He is leaving this month to begin a program in Mechanical Engineering at Western New England University in Springfield, Massachusetts. Deb leaves the school board due to the hiring of her daughter, Rebecca, as a teacher in the MSAD#11 school district. Deb has served 10 and a half years and served on the Finance Committee, and chaired the Policy and Curriculum Committees. She has been the Vice-Chair of the MSAD#11 School Board since December, 2018. She has loved working for the MSAD#11 school district and appreciates all the support she has received from the people of West Gardiner. Deb is being replaced by Matthew Lillibridge. Matt is a LTC in the Maine National Guard (MENG) and is the Advisor to the Commander of the MENG. He has served 23 years and plans to retire next year. Matt and his wife Heidi have a son, Matty, Jr., who is in the 3rd grade at Helen Thompson School. Many thanks to Tim and Deb!

Gardiner Area High School Class of 2019

Congratulations to the Gardiner Area High School Class of 2019! There were 37 West Gardiner graduates (total graduates -143) in the GAHS Class of 2019. Twenty-two will be attending 4-year colleges. Eight will be attending 2-year colleges. Five will be joining the workforce. Two will be entering the military. You are an outstanding group of young men and women. We wish all of you much success as you enter this next chapter of your life.



The Wakefield Wildlife Sanctuary by Sabrina Costell & Susan Emmet

Bequeathed by Kendra Wakefield Shaw to the Kennebec Land Trust on her passing. West Gardiner is lucky to have this sanctuary, a place of wonder and beauty and careful planning. Of the four original cabins, two were restored by Maine Cabin Masters. Two Eco-Cabins are available for rent between July 1 and October 31 on 115 acres with 4000 feet of shore frontage along Cobbossee Stream, just off High Street before Purgatory Bridge. You'll see the small wooden sign marking the entrance to the sanctuary. The Wakefield family enjoyed the property and cabins for over a century. The Kennebec Land Trust "works cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve the forests, shorelands, fields, and wildlife that define central Maine," emphasizing "low-impact recreation and preservation of local heritage and culture."

We drove in on a pine needle trail to the small parking area and then hiked a quarter-mile to the cabins, camera in tow. We were stunned at the beauty and careful thought and craft that guided the cabin restoration work. A solar array marked by a tin Plaid Stamps sign runs power to the cabins which also have propane fireplaces and cook stoves. Two metal markers commemorate Eugene and Helen Wakefield, Kendra's parents.

The cabins provide composting toilets but no running water. Outdoor solar showers beckon. All drinking water must be toted in and the prevailing rule of "carry in and carry out" is clear. Each cabin sleeps six people, and two cars per cabin can park in the upper area. No fireworks, sparklers, or smoking, but you can enjoy a tended firepit and wood is provided. Some boats are available and you can bring your own paddleboards, kayaks, canoes and other floating craft. There's a dock where we saw six kids frolicking and exploring the shore, ready to plunge in for a swim.

A full list of items provided, booking rates and suggestions is included on the tklt.org website. You can even view clips from the DIY Network "Maine Cabin Masters" program if you haven't already seen full episodes. The Wakefield project is among them.

All revenues support long-term maintenance of the sanctuary. Plans include future workshops for artists, writers and scientist and other projects to expand access and use. Kendra Wakefield Shaw would be right onboard with all the changes that preserve her treasured site for generations to come.



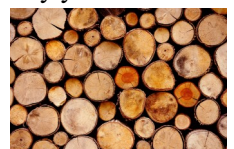
Hauling Wood by Mert Hickey

A fellow came to see me one day and said he wanted to work in the woods because he liked the outdoors. He was a big guy – 6'2" and 260 pounds. He'd played some semi-pro football. I'll call him Wendell.

This was a time when I loaded four-foot logs by hand. Wendell had been working for a surveyor holding a stick so he probably wasn't in the best of shape. Well, Wendell went with me to haul wood. We hauled two loads of oak bolts to Richmond and Wendell didn't feel so good. When we got done, I wanted to load the truck again and usually took an hour to do that. The bolts are heavy, but we didn't load any that day.

The next morning I called Wendell to see where he was. He said he was lying on the floor and he quit. I told him that we were going to haul fir pulp and it was like feathers compared to oak. So Wendell came to work and stayed for twenty years.

Wendell and I used to wrestle occasionally. On Fridays the crew got paid and Wendell was hollering because someone was abusing "his" skidder. I told him it was my skidder and it was okay for another man to drive it if I said so. Wendell jumped out of his chair, jumped on me and we wrestled a while. Then he left. He told his wife I'd fired him. I called him and told him I never fired anybody and he wasn't fired. So he came and got his paycheck and stayed the rest of the twenty years.



From the Porch**Be A Bird**

by Mike Wing

We started feeding birds outside the kitchen windows when we first moved down this West Gardiner dirt road. The drive is barely traveled, and the woods are handy, so the breakfast buffet is busy. Before the sun comes up, hummingbirds dip and sip. Then the regular customers pull in. Gold Finches are early risers, and they share with sparrows. Try to tell them apart. The crimson cardinal brings his mate for brunch. He's all decked out. She's intentionally drab. Mr. Goldfinch wears his canary outfit while the missus dresses down, better cover for nest eggs. Grackles and Blue Jays have no manners, gobbling and shoving, bird brutes. Like bullies, they are cowards and run at a wave. Cowbirds and Catbirds are locals for sure, meowing and mooing around the suet, bringing in their fledglings late in the day. And, a pair of bluebirds showed up and headed somewhere over the rainbow.



We were surprised by a few unusual visitors, like a head-spinning barred owl on a branch around the corner. He watched us, too. An indigo bunting, a wood thrush, an oriole from Baltimore, bluebirds, and a singing mockingbird, all made cameo appearances. The swallows entertained us from the bird house with acrobatic bug catching to feed their brood. The variety and frequency of these animals never fail to amaze two retired oldies. Of course, being retired and in and about the yard really helps as does a good bird book.

We have been relating to the different types of flyers in people terms. Maybe that's how we need to identify them, like the human animal. Their actions, appearances, and attitudes offer a character. Can a sparrow have an attitude? We could look at people in bird terms....wise, pushy, shy, and content could work. Hey, if you were to be a bird, which would you be?

Katie Smith—PEMF Therapy

by Sabrina Costell

You may have seen Katie with her dogs or riding her horse on the Collins Mills Road. What you may not know about this extraordinary woman is that she brings one of the latest technologies in non-invasive healing to West Gardiner, making house calls as far away as New York and Pennsylvania. Katie Smith, native to Augusta, Maine, moved to West Gardiner when she was ten. The PEMF (Pulsed Electro- Magnetic Frequency) Therapy she offers is not just for humans but for our four- legged friends as well. The machine she utilizes, called the Magna Wave, focuses on increasing blood oxygenation, reducing inflammation and pain, and stimulating acupuncture points in the body which helps natural healing. As it happens, the morning I went to see her, I foolishly tripped on a rock and sprained my ankle. Arriving at her doorstep with a limp, Katie thought this an opportune time to demonstrate her technique. After explaining how the coil, which resembles a 3/4" white plastic hose, will deliver a pulsating electromagnetic field to the targeted area stimulating cell metabolism, she began. She placed the coil on the outside of my ankle and let the Magna Wave unleash its healing power. I admit I was a tad skeptical but kept an open mind. Normally a session lasts anywhere from 20-30 minutes, but for my ankle she only applied the coil for 7 minutes. I felt noticeable relief from the throbbing pain and was able to leave her home with less of a limp. However, the following day I woke to a welcomed surprise: the pain was totally gone, as if the sprain never happened. She explained that all energy is electromagnetic in nature. A disruption in this energy can cause the body to become ill. Katie's therapy is able to correct this disruption at the cellular level, without drugs, without surgery, without exorbitant bills. Simply put, her therapy is a "massage for your cell membranes."





Music Works

With a passion for music, Chris Bigelow, owner of Music Works LLC, started DJing High School dances when he was 15. Decades later and a desire to “take the next step” into sound and stage productions, he made his first capital investment into large area sound system, stage and lighting that can accommodate indoor/outdoor venues up to 3-4,000 people. Just a year later, he again increased his investment and contracted the design and fabrication of a trailer that mechanically unfolds into a covered stage, a project that took over a year to complete. In 2013, he started this new venture with 1 stage, 1 sound system and booked 5 event days that first summer. In the last six years, Music Works has grown to include multiple stages, multiple sound systems, large venue lighting and a team of 8 per diem staff working to provide for 38 event days in just 14 weeks this summer. Most weekends have had multiple events going in multiple locations. You can find the Music Works at such events as: Gardiner River Fest, Gardiner Swine and Stein, Johnson Hall Waterfront Concerts, Old Hallowell Days, Snow Pond, Augusta 4th of July, Augusta Colonial Theater Concert Series, Taste of Waterville, Waterboro Blues Festival, Laconia NH Bike Week, Bangor Beats and Eats, Church in the Park, Hallowell Woodstock, Capital Kids Day in the Park, Boots and Bulls and several other Town Square Media Events. According to Chris, “Even though my focus is large sound, stage and lighting, Music Works still offers DJ/Karaoke services, corporate events, sound equipment sales/installation and integration as well as sound/lighting/stage rentals.”

****Announcements & Reminders ****

The Garden Club awarded scholarships to Maddie Curran and Brooke Wright in the amount of \$500.00 each. Reminder taxes are due by Sept. 30, 2019. Interest will be accrued beginning Oct. 1, 2019. If you have sold your real estate since April 1, 2019 it is your obligation to forward the current bill to current property owners. Failure to forward may result in a lien placed against your name. If you have an escrow account, please forward a copy of your tax bill to your mortgage holder. Homestead Exemptions need to be applied for by April 1, 2020.

Cobbosseecontee Snowmobile Club hosted a 50th anniversary celebration at the clubhouse. Former and current members were served a delicious luncheon and browsed through the memorabilia of the past 50 years that was on display. It was interesting talking to the members from the early days of the club, many stories were shared and reminisced about days gone by. In talking with these folks, this is what we do know. The club has the same values as it did when it was started in 1969 and that is to stay a family oriented club, respect our landowners and support the sport of snowmobiling in West Gardiner and points beyond. Yes, the machines and trails have change a great deal and most of us have stories of the “one lungers” and our first sleds which always brings back memories. We look forward to the next 50 years. Many thanks to local businesses and people who donated items for drawings: Four Corners Store, AllyKats, Dave’s Diner, Cheryl Adams, Janice Adams. A Landowner Appreciation Supper to thank landowners for allowing the snowmobile club to use their land for snowmobile trails was held earlier this year. If not for the support and generosity of these folks, there would be no trails. Meetings are held the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Auxiliary Hall. Memberships applications are available on our website: cobbosseeconteesnowmobileclub.com or stop in during a meeting, As the season gets underway, so does the trail work, we welcome any and all help.



WEST GARDINER NEWSLETTER

The Weathervane

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The Weathervane is a non-profit quarterly informational newsletter intended to be unbiased, non-denominational, non-partisan, accurate, and enjoyable.

Schedules of town events, organizations and activities as well as local businesses will be listed in the spring issues.

The Weathervane welcomes story ideas from our readers.

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