



The *Weathervane*

Fall

A Quarterly for and from West Gardiner

2021

United States Army Veteran Terrence “Terry” Marks

by Debra Couture

Terry graduated from Maine Central Institute (high school), Pittsfield, Maine in June, 1980. He enlisted in the US Army through the delayed entry program in July, 1980. He reported for Basic Training at Ft. Dix, N.J. on November 4, 1980. After 8 weeks of boot camp, Terry remained at Ft. Dix for an additional 8 weeks to complete his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as a Motor Transport Operator (Military Occupational Specialty-MOS 64C10). He graduated in March, 1981.

Terry’s first duty station after completing school was with the 1st Infantry Division, B Company, 1st Supply & Transport Company, Fort Riley, Kansas. He spent 18 months there before transferring in 1982 to the 15th Transportation Company, Nellingen, Germany, Federal Republic of Germany. Terry enjoyed his tour in Germany. He remembers vividly the events of October 23, 1983 when the US Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon were bombed. Terry’s unit was immediately put on alert, moved and lock downed at Nuremberg, Germany and prepared to deploy to Lebanon. Thousands of soldiers arrived at the base, vehicles and tanks were loaded on aircraft and all were prepared to leave. However, the US Government changed their mind just before deployment and troops were not sent to Lebanon from Nuremberg. Terry was released from active duty one month later in November, 1983 and returned to Maine.



Early in 1984, Terry joined the Maine Army National Guard (MENG) as part of the 152nd Maintenance Company. He was re-trained in the MOS 63B10 – Light Vehicle Mechanic and worked in that field for the next 6 years. In 1990, he retrained to Heavy Equipment Mechanic. While Terry was in Maintenance Company, he was also a member of the Maine Army National Guard Honor Guard, assisting at hundreds of military funerals over an 8 year period. Terry also deployed to many areas around Maine, the US, and around the world for training and active duty during his 20 years in the MENG. Terry retired as a Staff Sergeant on January 4, 2004.

Terry, we sincerely thank you for your service to our country. Job well done.

Hands-On Craftsmanship ~ by Bryce Smith

Todd and Elke Jubinville, a creative and crafty couple of West Gardiner, have had a passion for ceramics and knitting since they could remember. Todd, a graduate of The University of South Carolina with a Bachelor’s in Arts and a concentration in ceramics and jewelry making, began his journey in 1988 at his high school in art class. Todd’s teacher was a potter, which allowed him to pursue ceramics quickly, and proceeded to follow through with the love of the craft in college. Today, Todd enjoys making “big stuff” as large as 6ft tall, and as small and as quaint coffee cups. All of Todd’s pieces are created in his home-made kiln residing on his front lawn, which can reach temperatures up to 2400 degrees Fahrenheit!



Elke began knitting in Norway with her mother and grandmother at the age of five. She recalls her family knitting these beautifully cultural designs on sweaters, mittens and hats, while she was only permitted to knit straight, and flat edges. “I remember my mother wouldn’t let me do anything else until my edges were straight and flat” she says. Today, not only has Elke mastered her edges, but also the art of knitting socks, hats, mittens and sweaters. “Sweaters are satisfying because you can wear them”. Elke has made a handful of sweaters with the classic Norwegian “marius” pattern for her friends and family, and is currently adding length to a sweater she made for her daughter, Tekla, when she was in 5th grade.



Kim Greenleaf, a savvy quilter of West Gardiner, has been sewing since she could remember; making barbie doll clothes with her neighbors, crafting and dawning her own glad rags for school, and joining The Back Road Quilters with her sisters and mother in 1978. The group was organized by Bobby Roberts and Mrs. Quinn, watering her love for the craft. “I like the camaraderie,” Kim says. “I like thinking about the person it’s for when I’m putting everything together.” Today, Kim enjoys creating “log cabin” quilts, where she takes various pieces of scrap fabric, and separates them by light and dark tones to then strategically combine them into a cozy, useful piece of art, perfect for camps, cabins, and your own home. She marks her identity on each project with a special tag saying, “made especially for you, by Kim Greenleaf”.

From the Porch**“Follow the Sun”****by Mike Wing**

What I know about flowers is pretty much limited to golden rod and Queen Anne’s lace on the roadside so I was surprised by small shoots in Susan’s undisciplined flower bed in front of the porch. Nope. She hadn’t set new seeds. The planter turns out was a chipmunk, hiding seed it salvaged from the birdfeeder. The critter did a good job.

We watched about twenty of these stalks, or storks, crane up over other blooms and sway in the breeze. Seems they do more than sway. In the morning they are ready for the sun, facing due east. By dusk, they have done a 180, having followed their star. If you are ever lost in West Gardiner, find a sunflower. At least you’ll know east and west even on a cloudy day. Hence the name Helianthus, sun-centered. Being new fans of this annual or perennial, we scout for them on our town travels. The fan club is far-reaching. Some houses are so fronted by sunflowers that the inhabitants are blocked from the road. One friend planted his pole beans near them and uses them as climbers. Another bird lover harvests them to dry and hang in the trees to feed the chickadees and nuthatches. Smart.

We could go to the plant place in the spring and buy the commercial package of seed, the one with the deceiving picture on the cover. Probably not. Chipmunks seem to know depth and soil and positioning. Birdseed to birdseed, dust to dust. And that following the sun thing? I almost looked it up to understand the science but decided not to. I think it’s better to enjoy the mystery of “how does it know?” Nature doesn’t always have to be understood or analyzed to be appreciated.

**In the spirit of growing and learning****by Kady Gould, Principal HTS**

It has been a busy fall at Helen Thompson School and we are thrilled to have our K-5 students back in the building 5 days each week. Our regular schedule for morning and afternoon PreK classes has resumed, Monday through Thursday each week. After operating in small cohorts and following a hybrid schedule for the first two trimesters last year, we know that there is no substitute for live, in person learning at school. While we had been looking forward to this year being "back to normal," we are still operating within the COVID safety parameters recommended by the Maine CDC. This includes universal masking, physical distancing (3 ft.) when possible, and regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

In curriculum news, all K-5 teachers are implementing a new literacy program called Collaborative Classroom. Along with the new resources, each Kindergarten and 1st grade class received 125 new books, and each 2nd-5th grade class received 250 new books for classroom libraries! This is our second year using the Ready Classroom math program. Our students have completed fall testing which provides teachers with learning profiles for each student, allowing us to identify student strengths and goals in literacy and math. Our PreK continues to follow the PreK for ME curriculum and our Kindergarten team follows the K for ME curriculum.

We are eager to move our 4th and 5th grade classes into the new modular unit that was purchased with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds. We have also used this federal funding to purchase lockers, bookshelves and bulletin boards for the classrooms in the modular unit. In total, the new space includes: 4 classrooms, two spacious offices, two group bathrooms, a kitchen area for staff, an adult bathroom, a small storage room and a custodial closet. We'll make good use of the new unit which will free up space inside the original building for: Title I reading, an art classroom, occupational and physical therapy, and a staff room. As soon as the heating, plumbing, and electrical work is done we can make a plan for moving into the modular!

The HTS staff works as a student-centered team. The pandemic has caused our work to be even more challenging as students (and families) face new and ongoing challenges. The staff is putting in long hours and is constantly planning to best meet students' social-emotional, behavioral, and academic needs. We are so fortunate to have this team at school every day.

The HTS new staff members in each photograph are: (3 people from left to right): Alicia Belmore, Hannah Waterhouse, Casandra Dyer (9 people from left to right): Javan DeHaven, Kayla Krech, Meghan Colby, Allie Beaulieu, Tiffany Cockrell, Donna Brown, Melissa Porter, Jenny Skipper, Brian Schaab

**Wreaths Across America – December 18, 2021****by Deb Couture**

National Wreaths Across America Day will take place on December 18 this year. A brief ceremony is planned for 9 am at the West Gardiner Town Office. After the ceremony, we will decorate the approximately 200 Veterans graves at the 7 cemeteries in West Gardiner. We thank all of you for your help over the past 4 years and we hope that West Gardiner will continue to honor its Veterans by participating in Wreaths Across America for many years to come.

Because we are set up as a non-profit for wreath purchasing, we receive 1 free wreath for every 2 wreaths purchased. Wreaths are \$15 each. If you would like to help by purchasing a wreath(s), you can make a check out to Wreaths Across America and put “West Gardiner” in the memo block. If you would like your wreath(s) designated for a specific Veteran who is buried in one of the 7 cemeteries, please also note that on the check. If you would like to place that wreath(s) that you have purchased on the Veteran’s grave, please call me at 582-3897. Checks can be given to Angie at the Town Office. If you are interested in helping to place the wreaths on the cemeteries this year, please also contact me at 582-3897. Blessings to all.

Welcome to West Gardiner! by Susan Emmet & Mike Wing

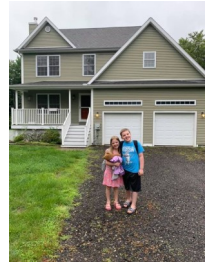


In late September we rolled down Libby Lane and into the driveway of Dennis and Brittany VanLeeuwen who had recently closed on their home. They're far, far away from all the other places they've lived as a Navy family.

Dennis is from Florida and Brittany from Rhode Island. They have deployed to Florida (2008), Washington (2011), San Diego (2012), Maryland (2015), back to Washington (2015) and then to Maine in 2021. Brittany stayed on shore with their two children while Dennis was at sea for up to a year. They hope to remain in West Gardiner since Dennis can retire at 39 if he chooses and move into other work. Naval training has given him varied and deep background.

Most of Dennis's Navy work focused on air traffic control and he rose through the ranks in that field. An officer's commission led him to be in charge of a large and complex group of sailors and aircraft, including drones. Since moving to Maine, he now does officer recruiting, "chasing" college graduates, college students and prior service members in person and via platforms like Zoom. He and his family are meeting more active and retired service members in West Gardiner. He's even filled out paperwork as a volunteer fireman since the Navy requires parallel training.

The VanLeeuwen family is excited to have a big yard with lots of trees and critters. They're up for exploring all sorts of winter activities including snowmobiling. Bass fishing is a favorite with other sorts of fishing in the offing, too. Questions loom... Pay for plowing or buy a snowblower? Or a plow rig for the truck? Neighbors have offered suggestions, directions and referrals so the family has already developed a good network of contacts. Their children love Helen Thompson School and staff, another key part of the network. We welcome the VanLeeuwens and all the other folks who have moved to West Gardiner – and there are many!



Did You Know?

According to the Selectmen, between April 2020 and April 2021, twenty-five new homes were built and 150 homes changed ownership in West Gardiner.

Because real estate transfer tax forms often lag behind sales, we can't tell you how many homes were bought by WG residents and how many from elsewhere. Our population is changing though and we welcome all to town!



Happenings around town and other West Gardiner news

This summer, local West Gardiner artist El Costell and her sister Paloma (from Hallowell) opened the doors to the Costell & Costell Gallery of fine art at 25 Water Street in downtown Gardiner. Open Thursday-Saturday from 2-8 p.m., the gallery features local Maine scenes and views of Cobbossee Stream among many other paintings and prints. For information on upcoming shows and events, please visit the gallery's website at costellandcostell.com.

Cobbosseecontee Snowmobile Club News- Charlene McFarland

A huge thank you to the landowners who allow us to use their property for our trails. Please stay on marked trails and respect their property. Please use caution on trail on Chet Meadow Road, that is a private road and loud, excessive noise and speed may jeopardize the use of this area.

The 2021-2022 snowmobile season is underway. Crews meet at the Auxiliary Hall (clubhouse) every Sunday at 8 a.m. With 25+ miles of trails that connect to surrounding towns of Litchfield, Farmingdale, Gardiner and Hallowell, there is a lot of work to be done before snow flies, appreciate any and all help. Any concerns with the trails or if you would like to help, contact David Cogley, Trailmaster, at 724-7041.

2020-2021: 301 snowmobiles were registered in West Gardiner, 160 individual households registered snowmobiles, of that number only 27 are members in the snowmobile club. Pitch in and help us with the trail maintenance, many hands make the work lighter for all. Contact Dave Cogley, Trailmaster if Sunday trail session doesn't work for you and you'd still like to help.

Club meetings are held the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. On the 3rd Tuesday a potluck supper is served prior to the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Memberships are: \$30 for family, \$35 for business, \$10 for associate (member of another club as well). Check us out on our website at www.cobbosseeconteesnowmobileclub.com for membership application, updates on trail conditions and club news. If you have a student that is in need of community service hours, we can help by putting them to work on trail maintenance, such as clearing brush, contact David Cogley, Trailmaster or Chuck McFarland, President.

West Gardiner Garden Club

Update on the Memorial Garden: At the request of the Selectmen, construction of the Margaret Peacock Memorial Garden will be postponed until the outside work on new Historical Society building is completed. In the meantime, the Club is meeting with gardening expert, Jean Vose, on Saturday November 13th to plan the layout and the selection of plants.

The Club meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Auxiliary Hall. All are welcome. A Zoom option will hopefully be in place for the winter months. For more information or if you have questions, contact June Zellers at 582-5248 or jzellers@roadrunner.com.

Town Office will be closed Nov.11 to observe Veterans' Day

Winter sand will be available soon at the town garage, one 5 gallon bucket per visit

Dog licenses are now available at town office

The Rod and Gun Club will not be hosting any Hunters Breakfasts this year.

West Gardiner Historical Society by Debra Couture

The West Gardiner Historical Society (WGHS) is moving forward with the clearing of the land at 310 Spears Corner Road. Steve McGee Construction will be clearing the lot in the next few weeks. The goal is to move the septic tank and complete the basic groundwork, in preparation for a concrete slab to be poured in 2022.

The garage on the property was cleaned out by a great team of volunteers. Thank you to Laura Weeks, Audrey and Dwight Littlefield, Joan Anastasio, and Greg and Deb Couture. We also had a flea market on September 4th that raised about \$150 for the WGHS. Thank you to Diane Thompson, David Dodge, Earle and Darlene McCormick, and the WGHS for having booths at the flea market.

Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at the West Gardiner Auxiliary Hall. There will not be a meeting in December and January. Currently, the WGHS is planning on submitting a warrant for the Town of West Gardiner 2022 budget to begin construction of a WGHS building on the property at 310 Spears Corner Road.

West Gardiner Awarded FEMA Grant for New Thermal Imaging Cameras & AEDs by Debra Couture

On August 26, 2021, the Town of West Gardiner received notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the Town had received a \$25,675.25 grant award from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. This award was applied for by the West Gardiner Emergency Management Director Debra Couture in February 2021. The award enables the Town to purchase 2 new Thermal Imaging Cameras and 3 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Both items will enable the West Gardiner Fire Department to better accomplish their mission by protecting the lives and property of the residents of West Gardiner.



Fall's vibrant colors on the stream

Just Another Day... Mert Hickey

You never know what's going to happen on any given day, but some days should just disappear as far as I'm concerned. One of those days happened recently when Julie was off on a trip to Long Island to see her brother. That Long Island in New York, you know? I was friggin' with a sink while she was gone. The faucet needed work. Julie said I needed a washer. I broke the two service line shut-offs so I went down cellar and shut off the main feed, but I couldn't get the faucets off. So I took out the sink, bought new faucets and they wouldn't fit. Well, I had to get another sink to fit the faucets and I ended up at Lowe's. Needed 19 ¾ inches. They only had oblong and I needed round. I argued a bit with the clerk. I ended up buying one an inch smaller than the hole so I shimmed the hole so the sink would fit. I got the sink and faucets in, but the drain was rotten. So I went to ACE Hardware in Winthrop. I bought a drain. Then I needed to tear up the floor to get at the bottom of the drain. When Julie got home and went upstairs, she said it was the ugliest sink she'd ever seen. But it works and she uses it. She can even put a jug under the faucet to fill the humidifier. Instead of a 99 cent washer, I ended up spending \$250, two days work and five trips to hardware stores. I should have called George Yankura. Oh yeah – he's retired. I don't much like plumbing.



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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