



The Weathervane

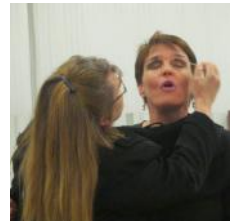
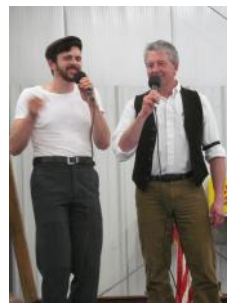
Spring

A Quarterly for and from West Gardiner 2015

The Historical Society Variety Show



When Ann Berry suggested to the Historical Society that a variety show should be held as a fundraiser, several members of the group looked at her as though another head had begun to sprout from her shoulders. Needless to say, the idea was met primarily with opposition. Most felt that such an event would be too difficult to organize. Not to be deterred, Ann began searching high and low throughout West Gardiner for talented performers who would be willing to sacrifice a Saturday night in order to benefit the Historical Society. In addition, she made several intricate dresses to be worn by performers in the show. Ann's efforts were not in vain. A total of ten acts participated over a span of two hours at the West Gardiner Fire Department on April 11th due to the Ann's relentless work. Ann herself made an appearance on stage when she amused the audience with a story told using witty wordplay, while Maine humorist Gary Crocker paced the show as the special guest emcee. After a brief opening featuring hilarious monologues from Crocker and local legend Mert Hickey, Steve Adams demonstrated his unique and impressive vocals accompanied by his stellar guitar playing. Following Steve's opening numbers, Mike and Brad of the West Gardiner Fire Department showed the audience exactly how difficult it is to prepare for a fire, and they did so with an expertise that undoubtedly comforted many members of the audience who now know that they will be protected by capable hands in the event of a fire. Walt and Brad Longfellow, a father-son combination, impressed all those watching with their voices and musical talents, while Jean and Joan, twins originally from Hallowell, serenaded the audience with several harmonious ballads. In between Crocker's hilarity and several tuneful melodies, three skits took place, all of which were entertaining and well-planned. The Historical Society also shared the stories of Civil War soldiers that hailed from West Gardiner. Throughout the show, drawings were held in order that several members of the audience could win prizes. The night could not have been considered anything other than a success. Ann does not know if there will be more variety shows to come, but if there are, I would strongly recommend being in attendance.



~ Josh Caldwell



Top left, bottom and up right - Gary Crocker, Ann Berry, Kathy Chapman, Steve Adams, Shawn Nash, Joan Morgan, Jean Davenport and Burleigh Lewis, the audience, Kathy Bolduc and Laura Dill, Joe Ware, and Brad and Walt Longfellow. Don Davenport, (not pictured) played the keyboard.



Connections... A Walk in the Woods

~ Susan Emmet

We've all had good teachers whose lessons stay with us. One of mine gave us an assignment in 1966. Walk home from school and notice all that you see. We let the school know we were walking home and triggered the phone tree. No cell phones then, but our parents would be notified, top down, by landline. It worked and we walked two miles home, remembering the experience for tomorrow's assignment.

My husband and I were walking the woods near our house on a late and sunny April day. Imagine that...sunshine and warmth. In April? As we moved along, I thought about my high school assignment. Mike and I were looking for sheds and feathers and scat.

Leaves crunched, beds of moss grew green, porcupine leftovers and deer scat littered the ground, and then we came upon a derelict F-250. A sizable maple arched up through the engine compartment. Two wheels remained attached; two others sat nearby. Windows yawned, clear of glass, and beer cans and litter remained in the cab. I thought about that Ford. Whose was it? Where had it traveled? Why was it this far in the woods? Could it be salvaged? Would it be worth it to rescue the remains? And what were the stories that hovered over the bench seat and steering wheel? Who could tell those stories?

We kept on walking and saw a few chickadees and signs of woodpeckers. Slash made the going a little hard. I thought about why, amid all the re-emerging tree life, someone would leave so much to rot. I know things rot and return to the earth to feed future growth, but in the forest canopy, this somehow seemed disrespectful of the pine and oak that were felled. But I'm no logger, so I sure don't know about what to take - and what to leave to the seasons of change. But, nature also reclaims.

We saw birches girdled by sapsuckers, beech trees destroyed by bugs, and hemlocks toppled with roots sideways. Iron implements were strewn, broken and curious. A beaver even slapped his tail at us on a nearby pond where no beavers had been before. The chewed alders made us wonder if he was a "bank beaver" or one just passing through.

It was important to see and hear and smell and feel rot and renewal as Spring rises slowly this year. "Pay attention," said my teacher long ago. Walk with purpose. The woods offered up its wisdom. Sure is good to take a walk, even without an assignment.

Notes on Town Meeting and Dates to Remember

The West Gardiner Fire Department sincerely thank 4 Corners Store, Emery's Meat Market, Weston's Meat Market, Fuller's Market and George Marcotte for providing free food at the Town Meeting every year. Joan and Richard Mank provide the onions and the Fire Association offers soft drinks.

School Budget Vote, Fire Station, June 9th, 8:00 to 8:00, Secret Ballot
Public meeting on boat launch, Town Office, June 11th at 6:00

It was great that people took time from their busy schedules to come to town meeting. If people stop coming to town meetings they will lose their say on how to spend money and govern the town. ~ Mert Hickey.

The Town of West Gardiner was able to keep the tax rate level in check with 3 million more in valuation. However, school spending has gone up. If the proposed budget is passed, taxes will go up about 6%. ~ The Selectmen

More Pictures of the Historical Society Variety Show

Gary Crocker kept himself and the audience laughing even through instruction time!



Stacy Brann w/ daughters & their classmates

Mike Dovinsky, Brad Kalloch

Xavier Hood, Jimmy Smith, Savannah and Emalee

Gary!

Spring **WEST GARDINER BUSINESS DIRECTORY** 2016

FOR FREE LISTINGS, CONTACT *The Kathervane* AT 724-3869 OR margaret.peacock@yahoo.com

ANIMAL SERVICES

AT HOME VETERINARY CARE -	Hospital and at-home care	582-8800
BO-VET SERVICES -	Farm animal veterinary care	582-8927

AUTO SALES AND SERVICE, TOWING and AUTO CARE

A/C TOWING INC. -	Full service towing 24/7, AAA accepted	582-0003
ADVANTAGE AUTOMOTIVE -	Professional auto repair at a fair price, all makes and models, also boats and ATV's...	724-4087
ATKINS TOWING SERVICE -	24 hour towing service	215-7329
CROSS ROADS AUTO -	Burleigh Lewis, Subaru Guru, new address, 899 Hallowell-Litchfield Rd.	458-9066
DK AUTO SALES -	Used auto sales and service	582-0005
DYNO MIKE'S AUTO DETAILING -	Auto detailing and reconditioning	724-7224
JEFF'S AUTOMOTIVE -	Used car sales and service	582-5333
LAST CHANCE GARAGE AND CUSTOM FAB -	Mike Ouellete, owner. Vehicle repair, welding, diagnostic, State Inspect. & fabrication	215-1540
McKAY'S BODY SHOP -	Auto body repair	582-2882
MIKE'S AUTO REPAIRS -	Big and small mechanics, diagnostic, and State Inspection	724-3806
PHILLIS'S AUTO SALES -	Used vehicle sales	724-3959
R & J JOHNSON AUTO -	Repair and sales	582-2211
WHITMORE'S BODY SHOP -	Painting and repair of anything	582-7569

CHILDCARE

BUSY BEAR NURSERY SCH. AND DAYCARE -	Full-time daycare with nursery school program	582-5437
CARRIE LYNN'S DAYCARE -	Licensed home day care, infant to 12 years	582-8862
LOVING AND LEARNING CHILDCARE -	Home daycare for infants to school age children	724-3205
MS. SHAUNA'S BEFORE & AFTER SCH. CARE -	Grades K-3 school care & summer camp program	582-0330

CONSTRUCTION AND HOME REMODELING

BOWER CONSTRUCTION -	Building new homes and remodeling existing ones	724-3746
GORAJ BUILDING AND REMODELING -	Start to finish home construction	462-2135
JIM BRANN GENERAL CONTRACTING -	Master elect., master plumber, master oil burning, all your building needs...592-2971 or	724-4100
LAKELAND BUILDERS - Casey Peacock -	Frame to finish carpentry	441-6864
MALLOY CONSTRUCTION INC. - Shane & Jennie -	New homes, remodel, residential, commercial	582-3213
MANNING CONTRACTING -	All aspects of home construction	242-2244
McFARLAND CONSTRUCTION INC. -	Building of new homes and real estate sales	242-5583
SJ HYDE DRYWALL, LLC -	Drywall installation and priming, light carpentry	441-7877
THE HANDYMAN -	Carpentry, drywall, painting, decks, new construction or remodeling	242-7620
WAYNE BRETON PAINT, ETC. -	Inside and outside painting, staining and wall covering	582-4564

EXCAVATING AND SITE WORK

CANTY CONSTRUCTION -	Excavation, septic and site work and gravel	582-1687
CAPITAL AREA TREE SERVICE -	Residential & commercial tree work, licensed & insured.....	446-7346 or 740-6335
COUNTRYSIDE CONCRETE -	Foundations, slabs, frost walls and barn jacking	333-9009 or 215-5312
KEVIN PECKHAM EXCAVATING -	Residential earth work and firewood	582-8995
KYLE L. PECKHAM & SONS -	Logging, firewood, earth work, trucking, hay	582-4026
HICKEY CONSTRUCTION -	Excavation, site work, sand, loam and grave	441-4852 or 724-3652
HICKEY'S LOGGING & TREE WORK -	Private homes and woodlots	724-3648
MB LOGGING & STUMP GRINDING -	Licensed arborist and stump removal	724-3064
SPRAY FOAM OF MAINE -	Closed cell foam insulation	724-3746
VAUGHN SMITH ASSOCIATES -	Soil testing, wetland and soil mapping	724-5635

FARMS AND FOODS

FOGGY MOON FARM -	Turkeys, pigs, grain, feed and pet food for sale	582-7524
MOOER'S SUGAR SHACK -	Maple syrup, licensed maple sugar business, Windy Acres, 31 Stoneham Drive	582-1309
WESTON'S MEAT & POULTRY -	Custom cutting, vacuum packaging, retail & wholesale sales, state inspected.....	724-2027
BEN'S LOBSTERS -	Fresh lobsters off the boat. Pre-orders only. (Ben or Erica)	713-6835

LAWN CARE AND MAINTENANCE

FURLONG'S HOME AND YARD CARE -	Rototilling, bush-hogging, residential and commercial lawn care	724-3376
GARY LADNER LANDSCAPING -	Full service landscaping, commercial and residential	582-1817
L&L LAWN CARE AND HANDYMAN SERVICE -	Yardwork, buy, sell & trade antiques & furn., cleaning, light trucking. Call Victor	441-3290

SELF STORAGE

GARDINER SELF-STORAGE -	86 units, sizes 5'x5' to 10'x30'	582-8090
WEST GARDINER SELF-STORAGE -	Year round access, sizes: 5'x10', 10'x10' & 10'x20'	724-3729

SPECIALIZED BUSINESSES

AQUASCAPES -	Sales and service of commercial aquariums	724-7180
CREATIONS BY LISA -	Handmade bags, quilts, crafts, alter. prom dresses, visit Lisa Plaisted on Facebook...	458-8131
DIANE'S SIGNS AND SERVICE -	Vehicle lettering, banners, magnetics and more	582-0520
GARY CROCKER -	Character/Maine humorist	462-3774
JCB PRODUCTIONS -	Video, photography, design, www.jcb-productions.com	582-7406
LARRABEE MARINE -	Sales and service of boats, trailers, outboard motors, snowmobiles and ATV's	582-3452
LIBERTY GUN WORKS -	New & used firearms bought, sold and traded	446-GUNS
MARKHAM TENT RENTAL -	Delivery and set up of tents, tables and chairs	724-3163
MUSCLE KNEADS -	Therapeutic massage and wellness services	242-3785
PELLEGRINI'S PICNIC TABLES -	All sizes of unfinished picnic tables	724-4082
ROBIN COX -	Independent Avon representative	449-7416
SWEET CREATIONS BAKING -	Birthday cakes and specialty desserts.....	724-3329

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PHONE NUMBERS FOR YOU

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER.....	215-3207
CHILD & ADULT PROTECTION	1-800-452-1926
CRISIS HOTLINE	1-888-568-1112
CHRYSALIS PLACE (food bank)	582-5507
FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT	623-3569
FIRE DEPARTMENT	724-3945
Chris McLaughlin, Fire Chief/Warden	582-0109
FUEL ASSISTANCE	622-4762
GARDINER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB.....	582-8458
GARDINER PUBLIC LIBRARY	582-3312
HEALTH OFFICER*	441-6864
HOSPITALS:	
Maine General, Augusta	626-1000
St. Mary's, Lewiston	777-8100
Central Maine Medical, Lewiston	795-0111
POISON CONTROL.....	1-800-222-1222
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	441-6864
ROAD COMMISSIONER	724-3648
SCHOOLS:	
Gardiner Regional Middle School	582-1326
Gardiner Regional High School	582-3150
Helen Thompson Elementary.....	724-3930

SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTORS:

Deb Couture	582-3897
Michael Dovinsky.....	mdovinsky@msad11.org
Carrie Boudway	cboudway@msad11.org

SELECTEN:

Greg Couture	582-3897
Earle McCormick.....	724-3228
Mert Hickey	724-3668

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Sen. Earl McCormick	724-3228
Representative Charlotte Warren	441-9116
State House	287-1440

TOWN GARAGE

724-3944

TOWN OFFICE

724-3945

TRANSFER STATION

724-3951

WEST GARDINER CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS:West Gardiner Rod and Gun Club

724-3948

Cobbosseecontee Snowmobile Club

582-7239

West Gardiner Gardeners

582-7239

***REMINDERS ABOUT OPEN BURNING PERMITS**

Burning Permits are free, but required for every outdoor burning.

Free on-line burning permits available at wardensreport.com

Or call Chris McLaughlin 582-0109

Richard Mank 724-3567 or Gary Hickey II 441-7135

Burning with a permit is allowed Monday-Friday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

“GOINGS ON”

First Baptist Church Of West Gardiner

- Sunday School 9:15 am
- Worship Service 10:30 am
- Summer Worship Service June– Aug. 9:30 am
- Bible Study/Prayer meeting Weds. 6:30 pm
- Vacation Bible Sch. July 13-17, 6-8 pm Ages 3 to 6 grade

Contact Dave Adams 724-3587

Wayside Chapel

- Sunday School 10:00 am
- Worship 11:00 am
- Bible Study, Wednesdays 6:46 pm

Historical Society

- Meetings every third Wed. of the month at Aux. Hall 7:00 pm

W. G. Senior Citizens Club Luncheons

- Friday (3rd of the month, lunch is offered free to W.G. seniors) at the Fire Station. Membership is \$1.00 a year.

Contact Mary Blen to reserve your seat.

Grace Community Chapel

- Sunday School 9:15
- Worship 10:30 am
- Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 pm

Contact Lin Libby 724-7153

West Gardiner Town Office

- Selectmen meet Thursdays, 5 to 8 pm. To speak with selectmen, call 724-3945 for an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

The Weathervane Directory will be updated and published once a year. Place it in your phone book for easy reference.

William Bucci, Eagle Scout



On 3-29-15, an Eagle Scout Court of Honor convened for William. He received his Eagle Scout badge, Boy Scouts highest rank. Will is part of Troop 613 from West Gardiner. His eagle project consisted of designing, gathering donations for and coordinating the construction of an 8ft. by 16ft. weather shelter. The shelter is out on the nature trail across from Helen Thompson. Will had help from his family, friends and members of Troop 613. A special thank you to LaPointes in Gardiner for their significant generosity.

DICK GREENLEAF MEMORIAL TRAIL



On March 29, 2015, under a beautiful sunny sky, the Cobosseecontee Snowmobile Club dedicated the Dick Greenleaf Memorial Trail with his widow, Zerilla, their family and club members present. Dick was one of the original members of the Cobosseecontee Snowmobile Club when it began back in the early 70's. He supported the sport of snowmobiling and did so much to make the club what it is today. He was probably the most resourceful person, never letting piece of wood, wire or whatever he found go unused. Being near his home, he hunted in the area and snowmobiled this trail (Rt. 27) for many years, thus, it is THE trail to dedicate in Dick's memory. Rt. 27 is located off the old power line near First St. and crosses the Hallowell-Litchfield Road.

What is it?

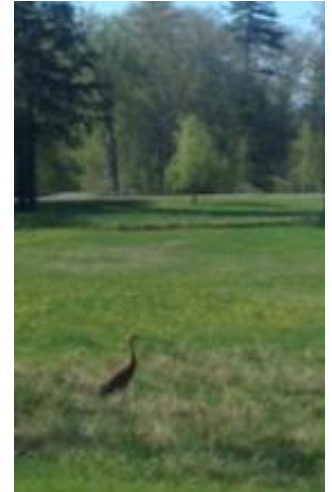


Photo by Casey Peacock

It's a Sand Hill Crane!



A **Big Thank You** goes out to Elmore Morgan who donated the flag at Cherry Hill Cemetery.

From the Porch....

“ The Sap”

~Mike Wing

Down the front hill along an old stone wall stands a line of mature maple trees, starting to show early buds way out on the limb ends. Further beyond them a neighbor drills holes in his trees and hangs buckets from the spiles. Inspired and ignorant, Susan and I are at the hardware store later that morning loading up with spiles, buckets and hose. We picture Sunday morning and French toast floating in dark syrup that we had created. Not quite yet. To start, we dig a trail through a deep snow pack and along the stone wall to the trees. Seven sap sources are tapped and run well as we connect to the five-gallon pails. “Start the French toast, honey.” The temperature falls that night and stays down through the next several days. After a week, the temps rise above freezing to start the run again. Eventually we haul six gallons, mostly frozen, up to the garage for the boiling on the outdoor propane stand. Boiling outside, we are told, is critical because the maple steam will do a number on walls and ceilings. Six hours later, the six gallons become one gallon of sweet brownish stuff which we move to the kitchen stove to finish. Sometime after dark, Susan has it reduced it to two pints, and our patience is reduced with it. Into scalding mason jars it goes, sort of thick, about the color of honey, and wicked sweet, but not dark and thick like that concoction on the shelves in the market. Now that we are busy with spring chores, the nights are freezing, the days are almost warm, and the sap is filling five-gallon pails like crazy. We lug and boil each day, but continue chores. Boiling maple sap to syrup is something to do while you're doing something else. Like raising vegetables, or baking bread, or harvesting game, working with nature for food sustains health and enriches souls. It is also more expensive and time consuming. Those two pints of thin and pale sauce probably cost us twenty bucks each requires six gallons of pure sap, no getting around it. We continue to boil as the run speeds up and even haul ten gallons a day over to that neighbor who started this adventure. We count a dozen jars of amber in the pantry, the family enjoys it, and before long the French toast will taste great with the gift from those old maples. Going to the store sure would have been a lot easier but nowhere near as interesting.

Historical Society Announces Events

Come and enjoy meeting old friends and new friends at these community events!

Public Supper

May 30th

4:30 to 6:00 at the Fire Station

\$7.00—\$3.50

Take-home meals are available

Heritage Day

June 27th 11:00 to 4:00

Dedication of New Civil War Names on Memorial

3rd Maine Civil War Re-enactment Company

Infantry Field Music, Musket Firing, Drills & Demonstrations

Hot Dogs and Sides with Drinks

Ice Cream Social

Civil War Memorabilia

West Gardiner Gardeners Card and Plant Sale

“Gil” Gilpatrick Retiring

Gil Gilpatrick is retiring from his position of Code Inspection Officer for the Town of West Gardiner after 14 years. His expertise in the field inspecting building sites for the town has been much appreciated. A true gentleman, Gil always performed his job with professionalism. Thank you, Gil, and the very best to you.



WEST GARDINER NEWSLETTER

The Weathervane

A Quarterly For and From Our Town

U.S.
POSTAGE
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GARDINER,
MAINE 04345
PERMIT NO. 5

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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 issue.

The Weathervane welcomes story ideas from our readers.

Call 724-3869 or write margaret.peacock@yahoo.com