

The Arrowsic Arrow

News Around & About Arrowsic

Volume 38, Number 1
Spring 2024

Record Flooding Inundates Arrowsic

As if to emphasize the need for climate resilience discussed elsewhere in this issue, the last year has been the warmest on record, during which Arrowsic has weathered five torrential rainstorms, three of which on December 20th and January 10th and 13th set new records. But that was not all. March 10th saw heavy rains and astronomical high tides that closed Route 127 and adjacent roads for 4-5 hours around midday and again at midnight. Are these an augury of our future in a rapidly warming world?



Route 127 at Field Road looking South (photo: Evan D'Souza)



Route 127 at Stone Tree Road and Sasanoa Road facing North (photo: Vicky Stoneman)



Squirrel Point and Bald Hill Trails (photo: Lucy Hull)

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Spinney Mill Road (photo: Stephen Boyce)



Spinney Mill Road (photo: Norma Dreyfus)



Range Lights (photo: Janet Persen)



Indian Rest Road (photo: Vicky Stoneman)

Arrowsic Artworks

Arrowsic artists gathered to reconnect with one another, welcome new artists to town and to share their recent works with others.

Arrowsic Artworks was first established by Clare Bridge and Phine Ewing in November 1998. That first year a dozen or so artists created a day long pop-up gallery at the Town Hall that residents visited for finger food and holiday gift buying. In the ensuing years an appropriate mascot (complete with t-shirts and postcards) was identified, and a cheer song was created.

After a hiatus of about 20 years, those with a fond memory of the Artworks gatherings began whispering to each other, ‘we should do another Artworks.’ The whispers grew to a cacophony and Arrowsic Artworks 2024 was scheduled for January 10th.

Of the over 40 Arrowsic artists contacted, 22 participated in the show. Fiber artists, painters,

illustrators, printers, sculptors, and multimedia specialists displayed their work. Several came with supplies to let the public experiment with their loom, sketch pad, or printing press. A steady stream of visitors kept the Town Hall so full of guests and artists that the far wall could not be seen through the crowd.

Three young artists were showcasing their skills when one of the original 1990’s high school artists brought her three young sons back to see what happens in Arrowsic. This made older artists smile and was especially heartening since sales from this year’s show went toward the Arrowsic Scholarship Fund.

The sharing of process, artistic inspiration and lived experience made the day, a day of connection, community, and comradery. One glowing visitor later remarked: ‘It was definitely the homiest community feeling I have experienced since we moved here in 2017.’

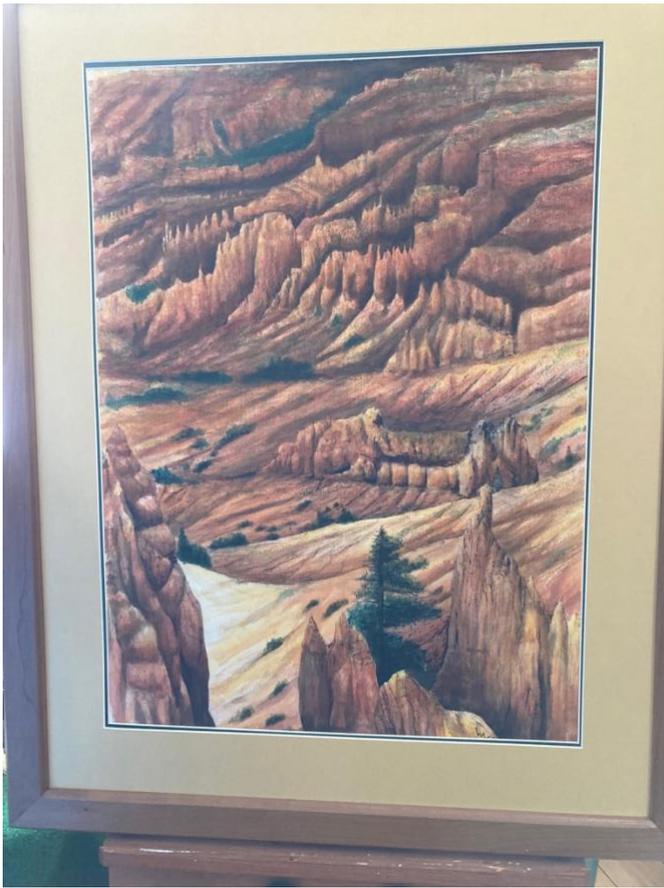
—Karen Robbins



John Stenquist (Photos by Tom Spear & Evan D’Souza)



Bella Kahl



Bill Nickerson



Maria Kokenos



Sukey Heard



Phine Ewing

Packard Property News

The Water Access Management Committee is happy to report that the town of Arrowsic took ownership of the Packard property at 31 Indian Rest Rd. on February 14th. After many years of effort, the Town at last has a public hand-carry boat access to the beautiful Back River.

We are setting some ambitious goals for our first year of ownership. We hope to have the house and garage removed by May. A crew from Habitat for Humanity's ReStore will remove any useful items such as windows, cabinets, and countertops before the house is demolished. We also hope to retain some windows for future installation in the barn. A couple from Georgetown have agreed to move the garage to their property at their own expense.

Most excitingly, we are working towards installing a ramp and float in June.

We have been working with Codes Officer, Chris Wilcoxson, to determine what we can and cannot do on the property, most of which lies in the resource protected zone. An environmental survey of the property has been conducted with favorable results and the barn and grounds have already been cleared of

debris. Several dead and hazardous trees have also been identified for removal. Most importantly, we have been in regular communication with the abutters and held two public workshops to find out the community's concerns and ideas. We were encouraged by the thoughtful input

and guidance from those in attendance, as well as the enthusiasm and visions shared by all for what the Town's new asset can do for the community.



Winding access to the Back River (photos: Karen Robbins)

Over the next several weeks, we will have the work of the Water Access Management Committee (WAMC) posted on the Town's website to include the results of the workshops, a timeline of the work ahead, and the minutes from our meetings, which are held in the Town Hall and open to the public to attend.

WAMC is dedicated to moving these plans forward and improving this property for the future. If you would like to be involved in helping make us make these goals a reality, please contact one of our members: Bob Ater, Clarke Cooper, Norma Dreyfus, Mike McMahon, or Nick Stoneman.

—Bob Ater & Clarke Cooper for the Water Access Management Committee



Approaching the Packard House

Climate Action in Arrowsic

When thinking about a complex and intimidating global challenge like climate change, it can be helpful to start in one's own back yard. It can also be incredibly rewarding. The Arrowsic community has done just that - taken a look in its 'back yard' to produce a plan to help us all become more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate. It's a good time to pause and feel good about this accomplishment.

The plan started at a gathering in fall 2022 with a conversation among Arrowsic residents that continued into 2023. Climate

experts and data can tell us a lot about how our environment is changing, but it's the people living with the daily changes and major weather events that can complete the full picture of how a community is being impacted. In these meetings,

participants discussed changes they were experiencing and concerns about the climate – including flooding on Route 127, the integrity of our wells and drinking water, adequate emergency services, and sea level rise impacts on wildlife and fish habitats. It was these community priorities which shaped the new Climate Action Plan for Arrowsic.

If you've ever worked on a community project, it won't surprise you to hear that a lot of work went into the development of this plan. A state grant, written

and submitted during summer 2022, was awarded. A consulting group – Viewshed, located in Yarmouth – was identified, hired, and became a key member of the Arrowsic Climate Resilience Committee (ACRC) along with 10 community volunteers. The ACRC met monthly and took on several subcommittee assignments beyond the Climate Action Plan: developing an accompanying handbook, conducting outreach to Arrowsic town committees, networking with neighboring communities, gathering information on additional funding, leading participation in a local

hydrology study, and participating in many reviews, discussions, and feedback on drafts of the Plan as it came together.

The [Climate Action Plan](#) will be presented to the town for adoption this summer. As residents, we will all need to

consider what actions we can take as individuals. While the real work starts now, it feels good to know Arrowsic has taken the first steps to address the challenges brought by climate change. We can take a moment and appreciate that we are ahead of curve in planning a climate resilient future. Arrowsic can also be proud of how its community came together to work on a big challenge facing all of us.

—Aleisha Khan



Workshop Participants (photo: Karin Sadtler)

Spring Roadside Cleanup

Mark your calendars for this year's annual Spring Roadside Cleanup on Saturday, **April 27, 9:30 - 11:30**. Come to the town hall first to sign up for a section of road to clean and receive a supply of bags

for trash and for recycling. We can't do it without our wonderful volunteers! Rain date April 28.

—Phine Ewing for the Conservation Commission

Arrowsic Awarded \$50,000 from MDOT

Thanks to a small group of volunteers and a new funding opportunity from the Maine Department of Transportation, Arrowsic will be putting out a Request for Proposals to help find solutions to road flooding on Indian Rest and Spinney Mill roads. The project will conduct hydrologic modeling and geotechnical surveys at both road crossing sites including the flow through the culverts, marshes, and the ‘fish friendly’ culvert between Spinney Creek and Sewall Pond. The



Indian Rest Road at the Packard Property in Flood) photo: Sarah Mahoney

condition and sustainability of roadbeds and surfaces will also be assessed.

An important part of the process for determining solutions will be your input. Community conversations will identify and confirm community needs and goals and weigh costs and benefits of conceptual alternatives for both sites. Considerations may include long-term maintenance costs, construction costs, emergency access, school bus access and links to the new Town recreation area. In addition, considerations for increasing health and resilience of the impacted salt marshes will be an important part of the discussion.

The Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund (MIAF) recently became available for direct funding to public

entities enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership (CRP). Arrowsic enrolled in the CRP in 2022 when we launched our climate action planning. A major benefit of being part of the CRP is access to this funding and a minimal required match of 5% (20% or more is typically required). Our match is being met by the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust by having KELT’s Ruth Indrick oversee the project. Local guidance will be provided by an Advisory Committee yet to be formed but letters of support and/or a commitment to participate was



Spinney Mill Road in Flood

provided from each of the following committees intown:

- Selectboard
- Climate Resilience Committee
- Fire Department
- Road Commission
- Conservation Commission
- Fish Commission

A town Project Leader will be selected and approved by the Select Board. You can view the grant on the town [website](#).

—Jody Jones for the Climate Resilience Committee

From the Town Clerk

Presidential Primary Election Results

Voter turnout was low across the State for Maine's first semi-open Presidential Primary on March 5, 2024. Unofficial results indicate that 27% of Maine voters participated in the election. The voter turnout for Arrowsic was 30% with the following results:

Democratic Party Primary Results.

- Biden, Joseph R., Jr. – 77
- Phillips, Dean B. – 1
- Lyons, Stephen P. – 1
- Blank – 0

Republican Party Primary Results.

- Binkley, Ryan L. - 0
- DeSantis, Ron – 1
- Haley, Nikki – 21
- Ramaswamy, Vivek – 1
- Trump, Donald J. 24
- Blank – 0

Up next is the June 11, 2024, State Primary Election

Offices included in the June Primary Election are United States Senator, Representative to Congress, all 35 State Senate districts, all 151 State Representative districts, and county offices, including Judge of Probate, Registrar of Probate, County Treasurer, Registrar of Deeds, Sheriff, District Attorney, and County Commissioner. The June primary will also be a semi-open primary, allowing unenrolled voters to choose the party ballot they wish to vote. For more information go to [here](#) and [here](#).

Ongoing Absentee Voting

Voters who are at least 65 years of age by the next election or who self-identify as having a disability may apply for ongoing absentee voter status: [PDF](#) | [Word](#). A voter who qualifies will automatically receive an absentee ballot for each statewide election, municipal election, and any other

election for which the voter is eligible to vote and need not submit a request for each election. Voters must return the completed form to Town Clerk, Barbara Boyce.

Need to Register to Vote?

Maine residents may now register online to vote. Use this online service if you are a Maine resident and want to:

- Register to vote for the first time in Maine.
- Provide updated information for your existing Maine voter registration.
- Change your party enrollment.

If you are unsure whether you meet the requirements to be a Maine voter, please click [here](#).

You may also register in person by contacting the Registrar at vicky.stoneman@arrowsic.org.

Election Clerks Needed!

On election day, citizens are needed to work at the polls. For transparency, an equal number of Democrats and Republicans check in voters, distribute ballots and tally votes. Arrowsic does not have enough Republican election workers and has had to rely on our neighboring towns to fill positions. If you are a registered Republican, please consider becoming an election clerk. There are many benefits to supporting our elections:

- Opportunity to help community and residents.
- Chance to visit and see neighbors and old friends that you may not have seen in a while.
- Learn more about the election process.

This is a paid position and usually requires that you be available for 4 hours on election day. Training is provided. For more election information see the [Town website](#).

Dig Your Own Clams

Want to feast on Arrowsic clams? Dig your own clams! Recreational shellfish licenses may be purchased by emailing barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org. Recreational fees are:

- Resident Recreational - \$10
- Non-Resident Recreational - \$20
- Temporary Three Day Recreational - \$5.00
- Fee waived for recreational harvesters 12 years old and younger or 65 years old and over.

For more information go [HERE](#).

ATV and Boat Registrations and Renewals

ATV and Boating season are just around the corner. ATV registrations may be renewed online [here](#).

Boat registrations may be renewed online [here](#).

To register a **new** ATV or boat email me at BarbaraBoyce@arrowsic.org.

—Barbara Boyce, Town Clerk

Arrowsic Bioblitz 2024

The Arrowsic Marshland Association held Arrowsic's first bioblitz in October 1970. Per the *Bath-Brunswick*

Now 54 years later the Conservation Commission will be doing a series of follow up of blitzes.

Help inventory the living plants, creatures, and mushrooms of Arrowsic. Join the Conservation Commission and local experts at the vacant Town Parcel AKA Phinney Lot. There will be three sessions four hours long this year to see the various species that are present in different seasons. The first will be the afternoon of **April 13th**. Then the morning of **June 9th** and finally the morning of **August 24th**. More specific details will be forthcoming.

Everyone is invited to join us even if for only a few hours or only one session. Arrowsic has a long history of caring for our island habitat, and it will be interesting to discover what other species call Arrowsic home. If you have any thoughts or questions contact the Conservation Commission at conserve@arrowsic.org.

—Karen Robbins for the Conservation Commission

Arrowsic Broadband Authority

The last seven months have been a busy time for the construction of our Town's broadband network. At this time:

- 100% of the Strand (wire that holds up the fiber) has been installed,
- 99.5% of the Fiber has been lashed to the strand,

- 80% of the Drops (connection to the outside of the home) are built, and
- 76% of the Gray Boxes (attached to the outside of the home, receiving the Drop) have been spliced.
- The Central Office that hosts the network equipment (located in the Little Barn next to the Fire House) is fully operational, with all equipment installed and running.



Times Record, 'The group sponsored an exploratory field trip to discover for themselves just what their marshes contain.'

- Testing of the system, location by location, is underway with approximately 140 homes tested as of this writing and connectivity confirmed. Remaining testing to be completed over the coming week.
- Axiom crews will be starting the internal modem install work, home by home, by calling to set up individual appointments with each homeowner. Axiom estimates it will take 3-5 weeks to complete this process.

- The first 5 homes will “go live” at the beginning of the week of 3/18.

We are nearing completion of the establishment of the Town’s broadband network. We sincerely appreciate the patience, feedback, and support the three Commissioners and the ABA volunteers have received over the several years of work on this project, and are excited about the prospect.

—Don Kornrumpf for the ABA

Raising Money for College Scholarships - Save the date!

Although it is hard to believe, the days have started to get longer, soon the weather will warm up and flowers will bloom as we head into summer. The Education Committee has a new and exciting event planned for early June to give everyone an opportunity to socialize and at the same time raise money to support the Arrowsic scholarship fund for our high school seniors. The Committee is planning a silent auction at the Arrowsic Fire Station on Sunday, **June 2nd**.

As the time draws near, we are looking for support in the form of interesting items for the auction as well as volunteers for the day of the event. And if you are wondering how we can do a silent auction in one day-

worry not. All auction items will be available for bidding three weeks before on a dedicated website.

The committee is working hard to put together a fun and engaging experience so stay tuned. After the June event the Committee will continue to host the annual yard sale in September.

If you are interested in volunteering for either event, please contact Denise Parker at denise.parker@arrowsic.org.

—Janet Persen for the Education Committee

Free Computer Classes Online or In-Person at Georgetown Historical Society

‘Good instructions – No fluff!,’ a participant recently commented after attending the class ‘Videoconferencing with Health Care Providers’ at Georgetown Historical Society (GHS) in February. Georgetown Town Office and GHS offer technical support and provide the space for a monthly in person learning experience while a teacher from the [National Digital Equity Center](#) connects remotely. We hope to offer similar classes at the Arrowsic Town Hall later this year.

The [class catalogue](#) covers many topics for work, business, home, education and aging well with technology. [Age-Friendly Georgetown](#) and [Age-](#)

[Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec](#) have chosen recent topics and facilitated classes.

We still have openings for the class on April 9th at 10am on ‘Learning about Devices’ that are connected to the internet: from the servers that receive, store, and transmit our data, all the way to tablets, smartphones and wearable devices.

We are eager to add additional topics based on your feedback. What’s of interest to you? Let us know and send an email to [Jim](#) or [Karin](#).

—Jim Peavey and Karin Sadtler

Featured Artists
Andreas von Huene



'Aether,' 2017: stainless steel 73" H x 40" w x 31"



'Frog,' 2023: Diorite 25" H x 43" W x 59" L

Artist's Statement

Andreas von Huene creates art that comes alive and engages its audience through layers of imagination. His joy is in developing the character and vitality of each work, whether figurative or abstract, and breathing life into the medium. The freedom to work across a wide spectrum of ideas and forms derives from responsibility to the process of discovery and sharing. New endeavors fuel his delight in invention and enrich the range of projects that serves as his grand adventure. Advancing in league with colleagues and assistants is a special part of his practice.

Delivering the bright blue sky into the space of light in which you stand, AETHER is of service to its viewer and the world around. From some vantage points, it disappears in the reflections of its

surroundings and from others, it glows with the light of the atmosphere. Both curved and flat surfaces, meeting crisply or simply approaching each other, create highlights and shadows that enliven the sculpture itself.

In the blink of an eye, a frog can be gone- imagine leapfrog for real! Frogs have so many features that are joys of creation and delights to sculpt. To be able to share polished eyes, bumps of the surface, as well as a great seat ready for launch, is already a reward to the artist. Made of diorite for the children's garden at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, even the heavy equipment operator who helped install it couldn't resist.



Pediastrum



4 Boats-Waiting

Artist's Statement

'You sure have a lot of different styles.' That's true.

As I work on a painting, I find that it takes on its own life and identity as it progresses. Forcing a painting to be a particular style, such as expressionist, impressionist, realist, etc., would not be faithful to my vision or process. It must evolve its own identity.

In 'Pediastrum,' I chose to abstract the colors and design of the plankton, rather than try for a more photographic style. '4 Boats Waiting' is more about patterns I saw in the Boothbay Harbor scene: boat,

windows, posts, siding lines, water.

For several summers, I have volunteered as a plankton counter for the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust in Bath. The amazing variety of these microscopic oxygen-producers living in the oceans inspired my recent series of large-scale phytoplankton paintings, which I hope others will enjoy as well.

KMeadvH Studio in Bath at 92 Front St is currently open by chance or appt (207-837-4732). My website is [here](#).

The Hubcap

On the wall of my room, just above my bed, is a hubcap. If you asked me why, I couldn't tell you. Nor could I tell you whose car it came from, or under what circumstances it parted ways with its wheel. If you inquired as to my reasoning that crisp winter night, when I glimpsed a metallic circle gleaming in the headlights and pulled to the side of the road to make it mine, I would have nothing to offer you. It just felt right. It felt right when I carried the hubcap to my room, flipped the lights on, and took a closer look, noticing the ebbs and flows of the plastic's silvery form (to me it resembled a giant squid eye). It felt right when I hung it up, giving purpose to the single nail that had protruded from the wall, unused, since my family moved in two years earlier.

To be clear, I don't make a habit of displaying roadside debris on walls. In fact, the hubcap is the sole piece of decor in my room, the monotonous gray of the walls otherwise uninterrupted. I have never been one to plaster my room with inspiring posters or heartwarming pictures of friends and family. The idea of motivational quotes shouting silently from my wall in all caps, demanding attention, does not appeal to me. As an artist might say, perhaps with a sanctimonious air, I see a wall as a canvas. I just choose to leave mine blank. I appreciate the calming consistency provided by four walls painted in a pale, cool gray, like the clouds that linger over quiet landscapes after a storm has blown through. I also appreciate the sheer randomness of a hubcap. And so it found its place on my wall.

Rather than a part of a collection, the hubcap is a product of utter spontaneity, of "there's no reason to do this, but there's no reason not to." For me, the lack of a reason to *not* do something often qualifies as a reason in itself. This philosophy has led me down a variety of unusual paths. It has led me to try four new sports in high school and to run a solo marathon one foggy August morning after failing to find an official

marathon in my area to sign up for. "No reason not to" has led me to lay on a dock on the Kennebec River for an hour, taking photos of lightning as the dusk faded to darkness (the photos were worth the mosquito bites). It has led me to teach myself to juggle and to play piano, to operate a drone and to paddle board, to walk on my hands, and to spell floccinaucinihilipilification and antidisestablishmentarianism. To me the unknown is magnetic. Which is perhaps why I adopted a hubcap.

A hubcap, in the end, is a piece of plastic. It garners little attention and less acknowledgement. But a hubcap, like a person, has a journey. A hubcap has seen thousands of miles of road blur past, along with cities and coastlines and farms and forests. Like a hubcap, my identity is tied to the road. My life is scattered across six US states. My childhood is not the home I live in, it is the unending rain of Seattle, the prickly pear cacti of Austin, and the autumn ticks of Massachusetts, plucked off of my legs after each walk through the woods. It is the swimming pond of Wingdale, the hay fields of Sumner, and the ever-present droning of the BIW shipyard in Bath. My journey weaves the fabric of my identity. Where the hubcaps wanderings ended, frozen on the wall of my bedroom, my own are just beginning.

— Evan D'Souza

'The Hubcap' came in second place in the 2023 Patten Free Library Writing Contest for nonfiction, grades 10-12.

Evan D'Souza is a senior at Morse High School. He has long harbored a passion for writing and is thrilled to have won this recognition from the Patten Free Library. Thanks to Brian Stanton, the English teacher who encouraged him to enter his essay in the contest and to Hannah Lackoff, the programs and outreach manager of the library, for making it possible.

Arrowsic at Night
Photos by Mark Spalding



Good Bones: Cemeteries on Arrowsic Island (Part I)

This article on the cemeteries of Arrowsic draws on the author's presentation in the local history series at the Patton Free Library, where a [video](#) of it may be found. It will be serialized here over the next three issues of the Arrow.

Cemetery: The term has its origins in the Greek word for 'sleeping place,' and is land meant for burial.

In the fall of 2023, a visitor contacted me to ask if I knew where she could find the Preble Cemetery. I didn't, but as a genealogy enthusiast my curiosity got the better of me, so I asked around, found the property owner, and obtained directions to the cemetery. The property owner even offered to meet the visitor to show her the cemetery. And that was the beginning of my quest to learn more about the cemeteries on Arrowsic Island.

After finding the Preble Cemetery for the visitor, I remembered seeing a folder labeled 'Cemeteries' in a



1970s map with cemeteries

file cabinet at Arrowsic Town Hall, so I retrieved it. Although a neighbor, who lived on Preble Point Road her entire life, once told me that there were many family cemeteries on the island, I had no idea how many until I perused that file. Twenty-three cemeteries were listed, along with a list of the graves in each cemetery. The original research was done in the early 1970s by Millie Stafford, Arrowsic Town Historian, and Harold Brown, of the now Maine Maritime Museum.

The cemeteries were started by families living in Arrowsic in the 1700s and 1800s. Imagine living on the island at that time: no electricity, no running water, no good roads, and no bridges across the rivers. Imagine using an outhouse in the middle of winter. Residents fished, farmed, trapped, cut lumber, and built ships. Life wasn't easy, but families were close. Marriages and deaths were community occasions.

Before getting into the various cemeteries, it helps to know a bit about the history of Arrowsic Island. Originally, Arrowsic was part of Georgetown, which was incorporated on June 13, 1716, and consisted of Bath, West Bath, Phippsburg, Woolwich, Arrowsic, and Parker's Island (now Georgetown). As a result, cemetery records may sometimes be found in a town where the cemetery isn't located depending on the date the cemetery was established. The five towns that comprised Georgetown started separating in the 1700s: Woolwich was first in 1759, Bath (including West Bath) in 1781, Phippsburg in 1814, and Arrowsic in 1841. In addition to using the research done in the early 1970s, which lists 23 cemeteries, I also used FindAGrave.com, which lists 26 cemeteries in Arrowsic. This discrepancy illustrates the need to verify information found online.

In the case of the Arrowsic cemeteries, visiting each one to verify the location and the graves is important. In addition to the separation of the towns creating confusion, other issues were created by the publication of records created, but not finished, by an early researcher who died before finalizing and publishing her records. The person who published the research wasn't as meticulous as the woman who started it, and there are mistakes.

Preble Cemetery

One of the oldest cemeteries in Sagadahoc County is the Preble Cemetery located on Moose Point Lane off Field Road.



Preble Cemetery

Jonathan and Rebekah (Harvey) Preble are the first people buried here. Jonathan was born in York, Maine, and his wife was born in London in 1699. She was sentenced to bondage in America in 1704, when she was 5 years old. She may have been an orphan, and indentured servitude was a prominent system of labor in the colonies until it was supplanted by slavery. Their epitaphs read:

*Jonathan Preble
11 April 1695 – 7 March 1768
He was of uncommon sagacity in Judgement
and affectionate, just, benevolent
husband, father, neighbor, friend
and a firm believer in ye Christian Religion
and shewes his faith by his good works. John 11.18
in a word "He was a good man". Act XI.24*

*Rebekah Preble
Here lyes interred
The body of Mrs. Rebekah
the amiable consort of
Mr. Jonathan Preble
she was born in Old England
and in the mids't of her days died
September 1739
The memory of the just though dead, live
and to the living friendly warnings given.*

Jonathan and Rebekah were the parents of Ebenezer and his wife, Mary Harnden Preble, who were killed on June 9, 1758, when a small band of Abenaki

attacked their farm, killing both and capturing their six children. The Preble family was supposedly planning to head to Harnden's strong house but had waited an extra day to plant their corn. (For earlier relations with the Abenaki, see earlier [presentation](#) by Sheila Spear.)

Five of the children survived a trip to Quebec, where they were sold to the French. The sixth, an infant, was killed because they had no means to nurse the baby. Four of the children (two daughters and two sons) were eventually rescued and returned to Woolwich. A third daughter, who was adopted by a French family, was so young at the time of her capture that she had no memory of her family and didn't want to leave. She ended up in France with her adoptive family.

While FindAGrave.com lists the Preble Cemetery as the site of Ebenezer and Mary's graves, the list of does not contain their names, and they are thought to be buried in Woolwich. (Thanks to Allison Hepler & Amanda Martin for this information.)



Preble Family Work Crew

The death's head symbol, found on several Prebble stones, was frequently used in the 17th century, and it features a stylized skull, often with wings or crossed bones or both. Winged skulls were intended to symbolize a combination of physical death and spiritual regeneration.



The death's head symbol is found on five of the gravestones in the Preble Cemetery

Several years ago, a Preble descendant organized a group of family members to clean up the Preble

Cemetery, and every year a group of descendants arrives to take care of it.

If anyone is interested in exploring Arrowsic's many cemeteries, please contact the property owner, who is responsible for their maintenance, prior to searching for the cemetery. You can ask who they are by writing denise.parker@arrowsic.org.

To be continued in the next issue of the Arrow.

—Denise Parker, Town Administrator

A Quiet Mind

A few weeks ago, I found myself alone in the woods behind my home. There are acres and acres of woods on this island where I live. Woods and water. And quiet, I paused in a thickly wooded spot where the monochrome of late winter/early spring wrapped itself around me and the silence was palpable. Is there silence here on Earth? In outer space? Even here in the woods, it is difficult in this digital age to experience absolute silence.

How quiet can it get? The hum of a refrigerator, the roar of a jet plane, the song of the cardinal all checked in with me while I paused in the woods to rest my thoughts. Science has shown that as little as ten minutes spent outdoors can balance the energy spent in front of a computer screen.

Modern times call for modern ways to cope, to find balance in our lives. and that led my thoughts to how silence, or Silence, is in short supply now that we live with the addition of new devices and apps to our repertoire of self. We can easily fill in the blank spaces in our experience of time with texting our friends or reading emails or playing video games.

Yes, resting alone in the peaceful confines of nature seems to recharge our batteries, but there is the other side of the equation: For some people the greater the quiet, the greater the fear. There's even a word for it:

Sedatephobia. Although rare as a full-fledged phobia, fear of quiet affects most of us in subtle ways. We've all entered an empty house and immediately turned on the radio or television just to fill in the quiet. We've become adept at avoiding the truth of the moment of our own loneliness.

My mother's last moments of life were spent with us, her family, at her bedside at the nursing home. There were five of us – my father, sister, brother, and me. There was no conversation. And every time we'd try to leave, she would cry out not to leave her alone. The outbursts attracted the night nurse; Jackie was the name displayed on the tag. Nurse Jackie. Once we were out in the corridor the nurse gathered us together and spoke.

'See how she quiets down when you all leave. I've worked the night shift for twelve years. I've seen all kinds of drama. The thing is, you know, she must do this herself, on her own. No one can accompany her. She must do it. It'll be the same for us when the time comes. You must let go and you, her loved ones will have to let go too.'

That was a long time ago. But the woods are still here, and the quiet still works, and it all remains for us to discover.

—Bob Kalish

Musings From Long Island, Bahamas

Man, in the Face of Nature

The ocean glows,
even in bright sunlight,
in many bands and shades
of blue and green, light and dark,
with one long, narrow, bottomless crevasse
of deep, deep blue.

“Lit up like a swimming pool at night,” remarked a man.
Was that the best comparison that could be made?
Humans can hardly even begin to approximate
what nature does so effortlessly and spectacularly.

Yet we spend our lives making comparisons,
holding our own creations up to Mother Nature.
The truth is we learn from Nature,
and spend our lives trying to emulate it.

For the man, mesmerized
by the luminescent colors of the ocean,
fathoming this seemed far beyond his comprehension,
and so his mind relaxed in submission, at least
allowing him
to be dazzled by the wonderment.

Paving a Way Back. . .

The earth is quarried
the stone is crushed
to pave a path to the shore.

We follow the path
get a glimpse of the ocean
where the water beckons.

We cross the sand
ease into the warm blue
and float our way
back to the womb.

—Paul Schlein

Community News

Rosemary Hentz, 81, died on March 4th at her home in Georgetown. She was the wife of Arrowsic Shellfish Warden Jon Hentz. Rosemary was an EMT and crew chief for the Georgetown Fire Department, an ombudsman in the Navy, and a special education teacher. She was also a ballet dancer, hospice volunteer, textile artist, and businesswoman. She is survived by her husband, four children, 11 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Rosemary marched to the beat of her own drum.

Damian Joseph Sokol, 75, of Mill Island Road, passed away on February 1st in Arrowsic. Damian attended Central Washington State College, Kansas University, and Mount Angel Seminary. He served in the Army and worked for the San Antonio Symphony.

The State Legislature is in the process of approving naming Route 127 after **Merwen Delano Jr.**, a former resident of Arrowsic who was killed in Vietnam in 1966 at the age of 18 years old. Delano was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his bravery.

The Arrowsic Arrow is Arrowsic's independent newsletter, produced through the efforts of volunteers. The newsletter is published three times a year in March, July, and November. The Arrow is primarily distributed via e-mail to all those on the Town of Arrowsic email list or on paper to those who are unable to access them online. The town covers any costs for paper and postage. All articles and notices are welcome. Notices should be limited to 100 words. The Arrowsic Arrow Editorial Group: Sharif Elmusa, Karin Sadtler, and Tom Spear. Contact: Tom Spear, tspear@wisc.edu, 607-9649. Past issues of the Arrow can be found at www.arrowsic.org