

The Arrowsic Arrow

News Around & About Arrowsic

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Spring 2022

Visitors from Afar in Arrowsic and Georgetown

Birders from far and wide are flocking to Arrowsic and Georgetown to see a rare Steller's Sea Eagle that has taken up residence in the area. The eagle has also made quite an odyssey. A native of eastern Russia and Japan, it was first sighted in Anchorage, Alaska in August 2020. By March 2021, it had flown over 3,000 miles across North America to San Antonio, Texas, and three months later another 2,500 miles to the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec.

That November, it was sighted in Falmouth, Nova Scotia and had made the *New York Times*. It then flew south to Taunton, Mass, where it was seen December 19th, and on December 30th, it appeared at the wharf in Five Islands. New Year's Day, it made the front page of the *Portland Press Herald*, and it has continued to be seen from Five Islands to Boothbay and Pemaquid ever since, including almost daily sightings between February 13th and March 5th from the Arrowsic-Georgetown bridge over the Back River, causing the Georgetown FD to erect warning signs along the roadway.

On a beautiful sunny, and bitter cold winter day, about fifteen birders scanned the shores of the river from the bridge, hoping to get a glimpse of the large bird. All were from out of state, including Colorado, Texas, Rhode Island, Washington DC, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Some had come up for a day trip, others were spending a week in Maine. Their patience was rewarded around midday. Unfortunately, the *Arrow* had already left, but Karen Robbins had caught the visitors watching, each other on a previous day (see p 5).

You can follow the latest sightings at [Maine Audubon](#) and tune in to an [Audubon webinar](#) on the eagle.



Bird Watchers Eagerly Await the Eagle on the Rte 127 bridge (photo by Karin Sadtler)

Town Notices

New Faces in Town Hall

There will be a plethora of new faces in Town Hall this June following the resignations of Town Treasurer, Brett Jensen; Tax Collector, Jon Biehler; and Town Administrator, Sheila Spear. As we go to press, Steve Bonine has agreed to serve as Treasurer and Rebecca Strachan as Tax Collector, both subject to election at the town meeting, June 16th, while Norma Elwell has been appointed as Town Administrator. The Town Clerk, Barbara Boyce, and Selectman, Dee Dee Jorgensen are both standing for reelection at the town meeting.

Maine Primary Election, June 14, 2022

A primary election is held on the second Tuesday in June of each general election year. This year's primary will be on June 14, 2022.

Primary elections determine each party's candidates for federal, state, and county offices. Party candidates, elected in a primary, qualify to appear on the November General Election ballot.

Offices included in the 2022 Maine Primary Election are Governor, Representative to Congress, all 35 State Senate districts, all 151 State Representative districts, and local and county offices including Register of Deeds, Register of Probate, Sheriff, District Attorney, and County Commissioner.

To vote in a primary election in Maine, a voter must be registered in a qualified political party.

Currently, there are three official political parties in the State of Maine: Democrat, Green-Independent, and Republican. Registered voters may enroll in one of these three political parties. Unenrolled voters may not vote in a primary election.

Voters must remain in their chosen party for three months before they are eligible to file an application for withdrawal or change party enrollment.

Additionally, those who withdraw from a party are ineligible to enroll in a different party for 15 days.

If you wish to change your party affiliation for the June 14 primary election, you must do so by May 27, 2022.

You may not change your party on election day; however, if you are unenrolled (have no party affiliation) you may enroll in a party at any time, including on election day, and vote for that party's primary candidates.

Voters with questions regarding activities of Maine's political parties are encouraged to explore the following links for additional information about each political party and for election information.

- [Maine Democratic Party](#)
- [Maine Green-Independent Party](#)
- [Maine Republican Party](#)

If you wish to register to vote, enroll in a party, or change party affiliation, contact Registrar, Amy Smith at amybluefeet@gmail.com. For general information about voter registration click on this link [Register to Vote](#).

—Barbara Boyce, Town Clerk

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Election Clerks and Counters Needed

For every election, election clerks from each of the major parties must be represented at the voter check in, to count ballots, and to verify the voting machine tally. **Currently, we do not have enough election clerks that are members of the Republican party.** If you meet the following criteria and would like to participate, please contact Barbara Boyce, Town Clerk, at barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org.

To be eligible, you must be at least 18 years old, a registered Maine voter, and a resident of the municipality where you will serve. 16- and 17-year-olds who are conditionally registered to vote may also serve, but candidates and members of candidate's immediate families cannot.

Arrowsic Propane Cooperative

The average price for propane in Maine is \$3.35. However, members of the Arrowsic Propane Coop have been paying \$1.39 this past year. For each year (sometimes for two years) Matt Bachman has negotiated with local suppliers to get us a price that is well below usual retail. We need support from residents to get this special rate. Please join the Coop this year.

Details about the 2002-2023 Coop will be available on the town website, arrowsic.org, when we know who the supplier will be, and at what price. At that time, you will be able to download from the website a

2021 Spirit of America Award

The one-year anniversary of the January 6 assault on the Capital building brought back a flood of memories and emotions around the November 3, 2020 election and the fragility of our democracy. During a deadly pandemic, our election workers helped ensure that Arrowsic citizens were able to exercise their fundamental right to vote safely and securely.

In recognition of their commitment to democracy, the Arrowsic Select Board nominated our election team for the 2021 Spirit of America Award for their 'commitment to their community and Sagadahoc County'. This award is given by the Spirit of America

Duties include checking in voters, distributing ballots, monitoring the voting machine or ballot box, and helping to tally the results.

This is a valuable opportunity to support our community, to visit with neighbors you may not have seen over Covid, to learn about the electoral process, and be paid.

Contact the Town Clerk, Barbara Boyce at barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org if you wish to apply for this rewarding position.

—Barbara Boyce, Town Clerk

contract for the year's propane. You will need to estimate your year's usage (look at last year's deliveries). No money is required up front, and deliveries will be automatic.

If you would like to be notified when a contract is available, fill out a short form at <https://tinyurl.com/arrowsicpropane> and I will send you an email notice. If you have questions, please email me at news@arrowsic.org, not Matt.

—Paul Kalkstein, Town Webmaster

Foundation to individuals and organizations for commendable community service.

I echo the sentiment of the Spirit of America Foundation, Sagadahoc County, and our Select Board in recognition of the dedication of our election team to our community: Mary Louise Blanchard, Joe Bonnett, Anita Brown, Phine Ewing, Jim Flannery, Lois Hewlitt, Olivia Glaubitz, Marnee Kalkstein, Caroline Kurrus, Gretchen Macleod, Elizabeth Skillings, Amy Smith, Thomas Spear, and Victoria Stoneman.

—Barbara Boyce, Town Clerk

Recycling

While we continue to find ways to lower our volumes of trash and recycling by reducing, repairing, and reusing, here is some interim good news from the Recycling Committee.

Thanks to your efforts, we sent out 1500# of metals (half from cleaning out the old fire barn), 231# of batteries, and 1244# of electronics, among other items that were collected at the Shed in 2021. A portion of the electronic items will still go to trash after the recyclable parts are removed, but scrap metal is mostly recycled. Taken together these items are having an impact on the amount going to the landfills.

In addition, now that the markets have reopened, our curbside recycling costs have dropped from a high of \$138/ton in 2020 to as low as \$17/ton in

2021. Compared with a current trash disposal fee of \$94/ton we save ourselves money with every item we reuse or recycle.

Read on to learn the ways we will be trying to make our environmental impact broader and easier for you. We are excited to announce that ARSWC is exploring options for not just expanding the current recycling shed but also adding a swap room. Residents would be able to drop off items in useful condition and pick up anything they need. In April, we will be holding an open meeting to discuss options for the location and design of a new Arrowsic Recycling & Swap Shed. Stay tuned!

—*Arrowsic Recycling and Solid Waste Committee*

Clam Camp

In 2022 the Shellfish Committee is planning to revive Clam Camp, which is open to all ages. As in the past, there will be opportunities to learn how to dig clams from Clam Warden Jon Hentz, gathering to do watercolor painting, exploring the world of seaweed, and learning about green crabs. We hope to also have other activities. Anyone who is interested in green crabs or Clam Camp should contact us at clams@arrowsic.org.

—*Arrowsic Shellfish Conservation Committee*

Alewives

The Arrowsic Alewife Restoration Project will once again be putting a trap this spring to monitor alewives coming into Sewall Pond. Volunteers are needed to help tend the trap. If you are curious about alewives or fish in general and want to help add to our understanding of how they are using Sewall Pond, volunteering is fun and a great way to help. The actual commitment of time is variable and adjustable to your schedule. If you would like to help or learn more, contact Karen Robbins at conserve@arrowsic.org. She can answer any questions you have or sign you up.

—*Arrowsic Conservation Commission*

Arrowsic Visitors, Watching
Works on Paper by Karen Robbins



A Lifetime on Arrowsic Island: Mildred Doughty Knight, Part 2

Mildred Doughty and Stewart Paul Knight (known as Paul) were married on December 24, 1949, when Mildred was 17 years old, and Paul was 21 years old. (Unfortunately, no photos of their wedding exist.) They obtained their marriage license from Norman Drummond, who lived in the house on Rt. 127 currently owned by the Blaiklocks.

Paul's first paying job, which he started during high school, was at the Bath Box Company, building crates. He started working at Hyde Windlass around 1950. Three months after the wedding, Mildred was pregnant with their first child, which wasn't quick enough in Mildred's opinion, and Stewart Paul Knight Jr (also known as Paul) was born on November 27, 1950, weighing 7 pounds 10 ounces.



Paul Sr & Mildred, about 1980

Lillian Gowan (who lived next door) and Mildred were very close, although Lil was quite a bit older. When Mildred went into labor, Lil loaned her car to Paul so that Mildred didn't have to ride to the hospital in Paul's truck.

At the time of Paul Jr's birth, the Knights' house consisted of a kitchen and a bedroom, with an outhouse at the edge of the water. With no electricity and water coming from a well across the road, having a baby was lots of work. Cloth diapers were washed by hand and the clothesline was always full. Each

morning before leaving for work, Paul Sr would carry three or four buckets of water into the house from the well so that Mildred could cook, do dishes, and wash laundry.

With the birth of their first child, Paul started renovating and expanding their house. Initially, he built a bedroom and living room. On August 4, 1952, a second son, Richard (known as Dick), was born weighing 8 pounds 12 ounces. Twin girls, Sherry and Cheryl, were born on April 21, 1955, weighing 6 pounds 12 ounces and 6 pounds 13 ounces. They were the first twins delivered by Dr. Dougherty. Four children by the age of 21!

The two boys slept in twin beds in the living room and the girls slept in the new bedroom. Paul Sr and Mildred slept in the original bedroom, which eventually became the bathroom. When the children were very young, neighbors and family helped Paul Sr add a second floor with two bedrooms. A big crew helped them do this on weekends. Once electricity came to the island—sometime after the new bridge was built in 1950—Paul Sr and Mildred had a well drilled and a septic system added so that a bathroom could be built in the house.

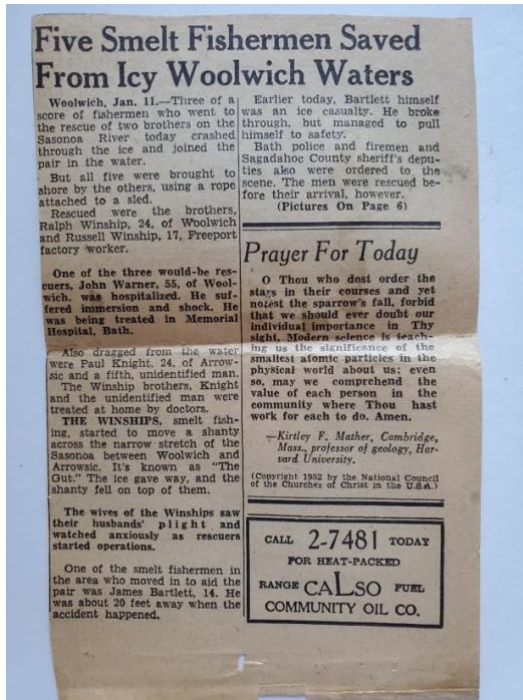


Paul Jr, Sherry, Cheryl, and Dick dressed for a recital

All four children were healthy and had all the immunizations available at the time. Each of them had chickenpox and measles when young, and the twin girls had their tonsils removed on the same day.

In about 1954, Paul Sr was involved in a dramatic rescue after two brothers fell through the ice, as described in the accompanying newspaper article.

While Mildred had a Brownie camera in her younger days—with film developed by Douglas Photo—picture-taking was not common in those days, so Mildred has few family pictures.



According to Mildred, Paul Sr was always very involved in caring for the children. At the time of Paul Jr's birth, Paul Sr worked at Hyde Windlass, which later became Bath Iron Works. Payday was every Friday so Mildred would call a taxi around 3pm and take all four children with her to the First National Grocery Store in Bath to purchase groceries for the week. Paul Sr got off work at 4pm and would meet them at the grocery store to take them home. The children got a toy at the grocery store each week. Initially, Paul Sr was paid \$1.00 per hour, \$40 per week. At the time, Mildred and Paul could do lots with \$40. According to Mildred, 'I thought I was in heaven!'

The entire family would often take car rides in the evening, and each year went to Santa's Village in New Hampshire.

Growing up, the kids played basketball using a hoop mounted on a tree at the south end of Preble Point Road (the backboard is still there). Classmates would join in the game, playing in the street. Although he didn't participate physically on a sports team in high school, Paul Jr was a statistician for the high school football team.

A favorite activity of all the children was ice skating on the bay. The ice was thick enough that bonfires were built on the ice to allow them to warm up without going ashore. Sledding down the hill on the other side of Preble Point Road was another favorite activity in the winter. There were no computers or cell phones, of course, so outdoor activities were popular: fishing, hopscotch, biking, jump rope, and roller-skating in the summer. During the school year, school dances were popular.

One of Paul Jr's favorite memories is playing Zorro in the woods with Gordy who lived with his mother, Rachel, in the bridgetender's house at the end of Preble Point Road. Paul remembers that Gordy had a talking crow. He also remembers Old Phil Sirois carving birds and ducks and eating squirrels. He paid kids \$1.00 per critter for each squirrel and other game delivered to him by local kids.

A one-room schoolhouse with eight grades was located near where the Arrowsic Town Hall now sits. When Mildred's two younger sisters—Jean and Fran—attended the school, one of the teachers was Mr. Drayton.

When Mildred's own children, Sherry and Cheryl started 9th grade, they went to Bath High School. They often used the family boat to go to school, and Paul Jr sometimes walked across the railroad bridge over the Kennebec River—although Mildred didn't know this until years later.



Paul Sr emerging from his smelt shed

Paul Sr ice-fished and lobstered from a young age, fishing on the bay near their home. He would catch smelts, which Mildred cleaned, rolled in cornmeal, and fried for dinner. Paul Sr built lobster traps, had a license, and fished twelve traps in Hall's Bay. The growing family ate lots of fish, lobster, crabmeat, clams, and smelt.

The four kids grew up, as kids do, and eventually left home. Paul Jr joined the Air Force and was first stationed at Andrew's Air Force Base (Washington, D.C.) and then in California. Dick joined the Navy and after basic training was stationed in Puerto Rico. Sherry and Cheryl worked for a short time following

high school graduation and then married. Sherry lived in Wiscasset and Cheryl lived in West Bath.

Next episode: Life as a widow.

—Denise Parker



Arrowsic Volunteer Fire Department is Open to All

How was it for me when I joined the fire department?

When we first moved to Arrowsic in 2017, Mike Kreindler asked me whether I would consider joining the Fire Department. I was surprised that I could do that without prior training. I was also very apprehensive at first. Circumstances here are quite different from my previous life in an urban environment in Germany. He said that I could ease my way into it and try it out and see whether I liked it. Dale Carlton, the fire chief, gave me an application to fill out that included the question: 'Why?' I saw it as an opportunity to support this community that we had chosen and that so heavily relies on its volunteers.

There are only 12 volunteers in the department. Typically, we meet on the third Saturday of every month from 8 to 10 a.m. for drivers' training, clean-up, and mandatory training, or we run the pumps and check the equipment. On another occasion, in cooperation with fire fighters from Georgetown, we responded to an imaginary structure fire in a West Bath parking lot. And a small group has been working on a project to replace our aged brush truck.

Dispatch in Bath receives our residents' 911 calls. The majority are for emergency medical services, and Bath

Rescue responds with amazing speed. We can help by marking a driveway, by carrying equipment, or assisting with the portage of the patient. Joe and Dale went out during the last big snowstorm to help plow the driveway and shovel a walkway to the house.

Because of our long windy roads, it can take a while to get to places. Additional volunteers living in different neighborhoods across the island could help us respond more quickly.

Other 911 calls are for downed trees and powerlines, car accidents, or chimney fires. I have also heard stories about brush fires and a horse in peril. Fire departments in the surrounding towns have formed a mutual aid system and support each other when needed.

I have overcome some of my trepidations, and sometimes I have the feeling that I can make a difference. The experienced Arrowsic Volunteer Fire Fighters are so very patient with me, no matter how often I ask the same question. They are: Derrick Baker, Jeremy Blaiklock, Rowan Blaiklock, Joe Bonnett, Chris Carlton, Dale Carlton, Mike Kreindler, Stan Lane, Lenny Lebrun, Michael McMahan, and Stephen Theodore.

—Karin Sadtler

The Hunt for Public Saltwater Access

The Arrowsic Conservation Commission is seeking feedback from residents on their interest in public saltwater access in town for boating. Current public access to the island's three rivers is limited, with no practical place to even launch a kayak or canoe. Oh, the irony! The ACC remains committed to changing that.

The town's Comprehensive Plan, completed in 1989, noted the extremely limited public access to the shore, as well as the lack of public docking and moorings. The plan tasked the ACC with changing that. In the intervening years, the establishment of three sizable preserves have greatly expanded the public's ability to recreate along the shoreline, achieving part of the plan's goal. But these new public spaces didn't solve the problem of boat access.

In fact, despite the town being surrounded by water, this has proven to be a complex effort. Each of the three rivers surrounding the island presents its own set of challenges, depending on the kind of boat. What may work for a kayak in one place may not work for a powerboat.

An ideal site needs: the ability to enter the water with relative ease; a navigable current, not constrained by the tide; adequate road access and parking; affordability; and buy-in from neighbors. And while the ACC has pursued several opportunities over the last three plus decades, all have ultimately come up against one or more of the obstacles described here.

It is possible we will need a combination of solutions with more than one access point and public and

private agreements, ranging from town ownership of land to town held easement across private property, to temporary permission for limited use of a private access point.

And this is where you come in. Your feedback will be invaluable, as we continue to try to navigate the complexities of finding public saltwater access. If you would like to participate in a saltwater access conversation, please read the questions below, and leave your thoughts in the town hall mailbox, addressed to the ACC, or send an email to: conserve@arrowsic.org. The ACC thanks you for your time and thoughts.

Saltwater Access Conversation Starters

- What kind of water access would you personally be interested in?
- Would you be willing to pay a small yearly fee for a resident sticker allowing access, with all funds going toward maintaining the site?
- Would you be willing to volunteer to help maintain a town-managed access point?
- How do you think the town could best manage and maintain the site?
- Do you own waterfront property across which you would be willing to negotiate access for neighbors?
- Please share any other thoughts you have or things you think the town should take into consideration when considering saltwater access.

—Arrowsic Conservation Commission

[editor's note: The Arrow will be pleased to consider printing submissions on this topic. Please send to tsppear@wisc.edu.]

Water Access: Questions to Consider

Recently, the Conservation Commission has been active in bringing potential leads to the Select Board to provide public water access for the town. It may well be a noble cause to seek out a common point of water access for the Arrowsic Island community. In a quest at least as old as the 1989 Comprehensive Plan, there have been many sites pursued and rejected over the years. Why has this seemingly simple goal been so elusive?

Some say that like other towns, it is important that Arrowsic has its own access. In concept, it would be a nice point of pride. However, we should question what it requires in terms of management commitment, ongoing expense, safety and security issues, and adverse impacts.

First, do no harm. A public recreational area must not have adverse impacts on the character of the neighborhood, the abutters, and the environment. The infrastructure of the town, including its human resources, services and roads must not be unduly burdened. Adequate off-street parking and site management must be provided. Arrowsic ordinances set these reasonable minimum standards.

An undertaking of this sort requires careful planning and will be an ongoing responsibility. Can we support it? Increasingly, the Selectmen struggle to find enough people to staff our administrative positions and committees. Arrowsic is also in the midst of an

expansive infrastructure project to construct and operate a broadband communications system that represents a level of municipal financial liability never before contemplated.

What options are presently out there for those of us who don't live on deep water? If we have watercraft, trailered or cartop, we're fortunate to have at least 8 public-access boat launch facilities within a 5-mile radius. Is it worth the effort and expense to our small town to duplicate these services?

In today's connected media environment, word travels fast and far. Special local places become well-known recreational destinations with Instagram pointing the way to the next 'secret' spot. Sewall Pond, our local swimming hole, suffers from search engine popularity and attendant problems like illegal parking, noise, vandalism, fireworks, late night parties and other issues that negatively impact neighbors. Would another public recreation area not suffer the same problems?

It is my recommendation that first we should develop a well-considered plan with written criteria that provide a thoughtful way to evaluate potential sites. Hopefully, looking carefully at our needs will help us preserve the residential character of our community while respecting our neighbors and neighborhoods.

—Michele Gaillard, *Selectman 2000-2019*

Call for Artwork Visible to the Public

Charli Ware and Heather Weiss pleasantly surprised us with a sculpture in front of the town hall (see the article, 'Public Arts Stir Arrowsic' in the *Arrow*, 35/3, Fall 2021, p. 9), and wanted to encourage other artists to contribute their own work.

I have been thinking about the subject for a while, and there are a couple specific suggestions that I would like to propose to our 'Arrowheads,' to use the term of Al Miller, our theater guy.

'Art for Art Sake:' or whatever you wish to call it-- what the artist's 'fancy' conjures up without any

immediate practical utility. But, especially sculptures, need to take the natural environment into account (*see* "Note on Ecological Art" below). Since we seem to have very limited public space, I think our sculptors and painters could still make their work visible by exhibiting it temporarily or permanently alongside our roads (think of the trolls at Boothbay). This could be done on your own property or on that of others who might like to exhibit them. I, myself, would love to have someone do this around our place.

Life-Saving Works: You have probably been distressed, as I have, at seeing small animals—

beautiful snakes, toads, chip monks, and others—killed on our roads (I’m not even talking about the highways). Because we all can be distracted while we drive, we might need to be alerted to pay attention. And this is where artworks might help. We can’t legally place signs on the road itself, but again we could do these on private property alongside the road, if the owner approves. They would be artistic, perhaps with animal drawings, and perhaps with a gentle reminder, like ‘Life Crossing.’

Naturally, if any work is on someone else’s property, you need to get their permission, and if it is in a public space, you need prior approval from the Select Board.

I am a poet, not a visual artist, and I am sure that you artists have better ideas than these.

—Sharif S. Elmusa

A Note on Ecological Art (Ecoart)

As with all such categorizations, it is not easy to pin down what Ecological art is, and what it is not. Much has been said about the topic by artists and critics that might make this note sound pretentious or inadequate. And it is certainly better to hear from our Arrowsic artists what they think of this art genre and, if they practice it, how they approach it. What I am talking about in our Arrowsic context is first of all artwork that is visible to the public, not exhibited in museums and galleries, although it is possible to produce Ecoart for these venues.

Put positively; that is, what it is rather than what it is not, Ecoart is ‘of’ the site where it appears, not just ‘in’ it. The materials used are dictated, or at least strongly conditioned, by the site (like the driftwood used in Charli Ware and Heather Weiss’s sculpture discussed in the previous issue of the *Arrow*).

Preferably, they are not massive and do not require spending a lot of energy, although Ecoart in the vast Arizona desert (such as James Turrel’s ‘Roden Carter’), for instance, may have to be a bit massive to have a presence (size can be relative!).

But not all public art qualifies as Ecoart. Two random examples: the massive portraits of U.S. Presidents on Mount Rushmore, apart from the objections of the Cherokee Nation as to the scaredness of the Mountain, has nothing to say about ecology, or nature, other than being carved in rock. And Robert Smithson’s ‘Spiral Jetty’ on the north arm of the Great Salt Lake, Utah, which required ten-wheeler trucks and Caterpillar loaders to place thousands of tons of earth, basalt, and limestone. Both works (easy to look them up on the Internet) are also seen as projecting ‘masculine gestures,’ in the sense of power and domination, values that contribute to the despoilation of the environment. Both also suggest permanence, not ephemerality, a quality prized by many in Ecoart.

On the whole, this class of art may make us think of aspects of nature that we may have overlooked, or view them in different ways or from different angles which escaped our attention. It may make us feel closer to the natural world and want to care for both the human and non-human. Most often it is ephemeral; the material disintegrates over time, slowly or quickly, or the work itself claims timelessness or begs to last.

Ecoart, it goes without saying, is concerned, with beauty, one of the things we seek in this human creative activity.

—Sharif S. Elmusa

Green Crab Recapture Project, or How We Ended up Drying Green Crabs with a Hair Dryer

The ASCC is charged with management of the town's soft-shell clam (*Mya Arenaria*) resource, including enforcement of the town shellfish conservation ordinance and applicable state regulations. That purpose may sound stodgy, but committee members and friends are intrigued by all kinds of creatures in our waters.

In recent years our group tried to learn about the European Green Crab (GC) on Arrowsic's shores. Invasive GCs have populated the East Coast for more than 200 years and were first reported in Casco Bay in 1900. The species has a high tolerance to fluctuations of environmental factors—including oxygen, salinity, and temperature. The crab has been blamed for harming the soft-shell clam industry on the U.S. East Coast.

Crabs do have some uses. They can be used as bait. In Venice, Italy, freshly molted soft-shell crabs are a [delicacy](#), and our neighbors in Georgetown have been identifying molting crabs for years. It is a difficult task. In another [collaboration](#) the potential for utilization of green crab waste streams is being assessed. [New Hampshire's GC project](#) aims to identify a clear window of time when male and female green crabs are molting as part of the exploration of the soft-shell green crab market and fishery in the Granite State.

ASCC's past [activities](#) concerning GCs have focused on yearly trapping events on the three rivers around Arrowsic. Last summer we set out to learn more about the crabs that live near us by capturing them, marking them, and then attempting to recapture them.

Why recapture? We hoped to answer a couple of different questions: Is it possible for us to recapture GCs? What is the approximate size of the population in the trapping area on the Kennebec? And in addition, we were interested in describing changes within the population that occur during the summer. Before beginning to capture crabs, we had to figure out how to mark them. We were excited to learn that acrylic paint pen markings lasted the entire time. This procedure was the most successful: dry off crab's

carapace with towel and/or hair dryer, apply white acrylic paint and dry again before releasing the crab. The acrylic paint pen allows precise markings. How exactly would we mark each crab? We contemplated symbols and numbers for trap location, project day and a combination thereof that included sequence numbers to help us identify specific individuals.



GC 24 marked 8/4/22

We set two traps near Squirrel Point to catch GCs for the initial marking trials. We also borrowed two 'green crab condos' from Georgetown, specialized traps with individual cells to prevent cannibalism. GCs were marked and placed in their little 'condo'. The traps were placed in the intertidal zone on the Kennebec. We checked them regularly for ten days. Many crabs seemed sluggish after just a couple of days. Maybe this was caused by an abrupt change of their environment, the difference in salinity and dissolved oxygen between the capture site at the South end of the island and the intertidal location in a brackish cove? Some GCs died, others disappeared or were able to cross into neighboring cells and it looked like cannibalism had occurred.

On three project days, seven baited, modified eel traps were set over night. On 8/4/21 we caught a total of 36 GCs, marked their carapaces with an acrylic paint pen, using sequence numbers 1-36 and a central dot. We then released them in the center of the trapping area. On 9/1/21 we caught a total of 62 crabs and marked again with the pen, used sequence numbers 1-62 and a horizontal bar. We released the GCs as before. On 9/25/21 we trapped a total of 164 crabs with just one recapture.

Total numbers of GCs as well as the percentage of females increased during the project interval. We recaptured one male GC marked 48 on project day 2. He had initially been caught in trap #7 near the dock

and was recaptured in trap #5 near the release site in the center of the cove. 48 was a male, yellow orange (9/1/21); his carapace was 6.5cm wide, he was missing one claw and one leg. On 9/25/21 we noticed a slight change of the carapace color to orange and recorded the same size and identical extremities missing.

We were unable to estimate the population size because we only recaptured one crab and that is insufficient for reliable results. This coming summer we hope to repeat the trapping using a different schedule. If you are interested in studying the curious ways of the green crab, please contact kasadtler@yahoo.com. to get on the list.

2021 recapture project

	Day 1: 8-4-21	Day 2: 9-1-21	Day 3: 9-25-21
Male	34 (94.4%)	51 (82.3%)	116 (70.7%)
Female	2 (5.6%)	11 (17.7%)	48 (29.3%)
Total	36	62	164
Recapture	-	-	1
Marking technique	Acrylic Paint Pen	Acrylic Paint Pen	Acrylic Paint Pen

—*Arrowsic Shellfish Conservation Committee*

Migrant

Leaves drop like birds fluttering to the ground
to feed before seeds disappear
then brown to make cover for the worms
and bugs burrowing for winter.

We wait and wonder when the snow
will come, remembering winters
with bundled kids and a basset hound
appeared, disappeared and reappeared.
It always has, hasn't it.

Christmas, too, will come again
more reliably than snow.
Children and purveyors of goods
insist, if there is a question.
Perhaps a messiah also appears
every year, a child born beneath
a flimsy plastic roof strung
between trees in old forest.
Will they survive, the babe, *Isa*,
and his mother, *Maria*?
Would we worship best caring
for them any way we can?

—*Al Miller*, Founder and Director of
the Theater Project in Brunswick

Community News

Amy and Nathan Andrew moved into their house on Bald Head Road in September with their year-old son Jack. Amy works in events and hospitality, while Nathan is in marine services. They have both lived in Maine since the early 2000s and are excited to be putting down roots in Arrowsic. Since moving in, they have been working on the house and looking forward to seeing what comes up in the spring. They note: ‘We have loved living here so far and have met a lot of our neighbors, who are all so friendly. We hope to become more involved in the community once we have settled down a bit with the new baby, house, and renovations.’

Nadine de Vries and Vince Capone recently moved into their new house in Doubling Point with their dog, Leia. They are mostly retired, she from corporate life and Vince from running a small marine technology company. They note: ‘Our long-time dream of moving to Maine finally came true last year. Why Maine? Because...well... MAINE! Enough said. Why Arrowsic? We were attracted by the quiet, rural feel, being on the coast and the proximity to conveniences in Bath and nearby towns. It really is the best of both worlds. What we did not know when we signed on the dotted line was what a wonderful, vibrant community we were joining, with a strong volunteer spirit and dedication to making this a great place to live. Everyone we have met, be it in our neighborhood, on committees, at town hall or just out walking enjoying the scenery, have also made us felt so welcome. Thank you, Arrowsic!’

Sylvia M. Carlton, 81, of Woolwich, died December 8th, 2021. Sylvia was an avid gardener and outdoorswoman, long time Woolwich selectperson, and the mother of Arrowsic fire chief, Dale Carlton, and grandmother of the director of our Emergency

Management Agency, Brian Carlton.

Arrowsic author **Fred Hill** has three new books coming out. *A Flick of Sunshine: The Remarkable Shipwrecked, Marooned, Maritime Adventures and Tragic Fate of an American* (Lyons Press), co-written with his son, Alexander Hill, is the story of an intrepid Bath seaman told from his own letters home. It is available now at Mockingbird Books, and there will be a talk and signing at the Patten Free Library, May 7th at 2:00. Forthcoming titles due this summer include collected stories of a Maine sailor and popular writer, *Beyond the Tides; The Classic Tales of Richard Matthew Hallet* (Downeast Books) and the life of a Senator, *Mathias of Maryland: A Lincoln Republican*.

Norma J. MacMahan, 72, of Old Stage Road, passed away December 17th, 2021. Born in Bath, Norma enjoyed playing cards and spending time with her family. She was predeceased by her husband, Joe MacMahan and survived by a son, Joe MacMahan, and two daughters, Marylou Hutchins and Morgan Moores, all of Phippsburg.

Alex Schwartz and Halcyone Wise have moved into their house on Tidewater Lane with their Golden Retriever, Berko. They note: ‘While we were initially attracted to Arrowsic for its stunning beauty, since moving here, we’ve been floored by the welcoming, supportive, and inclusive community that we’ve found. Our neighbors have been nothing but kind, from offering us homemade maple syrup to taking care of our puppy to even being invited to the town music jam. This community is truly a magical place. We’re so excited to be joining you all here and looking forward to meeting all our neighbors and participating in the community in the years to come.’

Enjoy a Summer Full of Flowers

If you have a deep appreciation for locally grown flowers, you can join the Silybum Arts flower CSA to receive fresh bouquets biweekly from July to September, dried arrangements in the fall, and workshops that teach you how to create beautiful designs of your own! With over forty varieties of flowers in cultivation, your bouquets will always be full and unique. The gardens are located at 725 Old Stage Road in Arrowsic. For more details about the CSA, please email Maria Kokenos at inquire@silybumarts.com or visit www.silybumarts.com.

Arrowsic Broadband Authority

Arrowsic Broadband Authority has made continued progress albeit complicated at times since our last report in November 2021.

After many hours of review and discussion, we have now completed the start of the 'Make Ready' process, which involves surveying, planning, and preparing the existing power and communication poles and lines to accept the new ABA broadband fiber lines. We have executed Pole Attachment Agreements with Consolidated Communications and Central Maine Power, the owners of the poles. Under rules administered by the Maine PUC, the two utilities are compelled to follow a specific timeline to carry out the process, which should take six to seven months. Once done, the actual construction process normally takes 6 to 8 weeks.

However, Covid and the demand for new broadband networks has lengthened delivery dates for fiber and equipment and increased prices substantially. The fact that we are a very small project has both positive and negative ramifications: A small order might just pick up left-over fiber from a larger job, or it may be so small that it falls to the end of the queue. While we are actively reviewing means by which we can accelerate the process whichever course we choose, USDA approval of contracts is required.

Many will have noticed our project engineers surveying our roads and existing poles needed to produce an updated detailed project plan, which will be used to put the project out to bid via a request for proposals. We expect the plan will basically hang our fiber on existing poles mostly following roads in town.

Good news is that the Properties Committee has completed the first stage of preparing the Little Barn to house our network's communications center, including electronic, switching, and power equipment. The work included water and moisture control measures and trenching, moisture proofing the floor, and building a wall to separate the equipment room.

With our project engineers, we are exploring means of reducing the project time-line – early equipment ordering, separating the project into small units of

work where USDA review procedures are simpler and seeming quicker. We are also seeking a grant in excess of \$100,000 from Sagadahoc County to cover covid related cost increases.

Subscriber connection planning is another important process. While most homes have aerial connections with power and communications lines running along the roads, others have underground conduit or a combination of conduit and aerial. Most conduits cannot carry both power and communications lines; hence two conduits are needed. Some properties may have Right of Way considerations. To assist in ABA's planning, accelerate installation, and possibly lower costs, ABA needs to know the status of subscriber connections. Any homeowner who has a conduit, a right of way agreement, or other possible complications, should contact Ken Hnottavange-Telleen at khnottel@myfairpoint.net.

While we continue the process of building our network, it is important to keep in mind the benefits of our public-private broadband network and service:

- Reliable and consistent high speed internet service level at 50/50, 100/100 and 250/250 mbps,
- Increased range of services including streaming, teleconferencing, telephone, telehealth, and educational programs,
- Opportunity to 'cut the cord' on your satellite tv service,
- Consistent maintenance and repair service from Axiom,
- Town/Axiom partnership on key management decisions,
- All at a reasonable price.

Finally, a word of caution to not lock into any long-term internet/tv contract with high cancellation penalties as we anticipate the ABA network will be operational in the first half of 2023.

ABA team: Don Kornrumpf (Chair ABA Commission), Don Hudson (Commission member), Sukey Heard (retired Commission member), Ken Hnottavange-Telleen, Will Neilson, Stan Lane, Mike Loviska, Jon Schau, Alex Schwartz, and Jeff Stoebe.

—Don Kornrumpf

Patten Free Library

The Patten Free Library has recently resumed in-person programming. Check out the schedule below for adult and family events and visit www.patten.lib.me.us to see the full calendar, including weekly children's programs. All events are free.

Edible Book Contest

Patten Free Library will again be hosting an Edible Book Contest! This year the entries are open to any kind of food, with any kind of literary inspiration. Entries are due April 30. Need ideas? View our Facebook live events with Kaite Thayer from Thayer Treats:

- Friday, March 25 at 4 p.m.: Dragon Egg Sugar Cookies
- Friday, April 1 at 4 p.m.: Very Hungry Caterpillar Pull Apart Cupcakes
- Friday, April 8 at 4 p.m.: Book Cakes

Visit patten.lib.me.us to learn more, find entry forms, and see the videos after they stream. With support from Now You're Cooking.

Poetry Walk

Celebrate National Poetry Month all month long in Library Park. Stroll through Library Park anytime during the month of April and discover poetry by local, national, and international authors, including the winners of our 2022 poetry contest. With support from Mid Coast Hospital and Now You're Cooking.

Patten in the Park

Spring has returned, and it's time to get moving! Drop in to these outdoor, all ages, outdoor events Thursdays in April:

- Thursday, April 7 at 4 p.m.: Historic Downtown Bath Walking Tour with Embark Maine Tours
- Thursday, April 14 at 11 a.m.: Let it Go Fiesta with Tony Dance Fiesta

- Thursday, April 21 at 4 p.m.: Yoga with Johnna Stanton
- Thursday, April 28 at 11 a.m.: Walking with Words Poetry Walk with Gary Lawless

For more information visit www.patten.lib.me.us. With support from First Federal Savings.

Armchair Traveler: Every Bird in Maine - The Story of a Maine Big Year

Why would a successful Maine software developer in his early 60's close his laptop and spend an entire year chasing a little-known Birding Record? Follow the author's 2021 adventure as he travels from Kittery to Caribou to Camden to Fryeburg to see every species of bird in the State of Maine. With support from Mid Coast Hospital. Wednesday, April 6, 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Writing Workshop

Local short fiction authors Shannon L. Bowring and Hannah Lackoff lead this hour long generative writing workshop. Through a mix of writing prompts, (optional) sharing and group discussion, participants will leave with lots of new ideas. This month we are joined by special guest Jennifer Dupree, author of the upcoming book *The Miraculous Flight of Owen Leach*.

Geared towards adults and short fiction but open to any genres and interested teens grades 7 and up. With support from Bath Savings Institution. This workshop will be held via Zoom at 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 12 and requires registration.

Summer Reading: Oceans of Possibility

Join us all summer long for a variety of programs, reading logs, prizes and more, June 17- Aug 26. Visit patten.lib.me.us for more information and a complete list of events.

—Hannah Lackoff, PFL Program Manager



Sewell Pond Reflections (photo by Heather Weiss)

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: Bob Kalish, Sharif Elmusa, Karin Sadtler, and Tom Spear. Contact: Tom Spear, tspear@wisc.edu, 386-1475. Past issues of the Arrow can be found at www.arrowsic.org.

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