

The Arrowsic Arrow

News Around & About Arrowsic

Volume 37, Number 1
Spring 2023



Sasanoa Sunrise (photo by Denise Parker)

Arrowsic's First Alewife Harvest

'So, what have you two been up to?'

'Counting alewives in Arrowsic.'

Silence.

'For real?' Pause. 'What's an alewife? I thought they made beer or something.'

'In Medieval Europe, they did. Here, they're a river herring. They migrate up to Sewall Pond just down the road from us.'

'And people count them?'

'Yes.' 'So *that's* what you do for fun in Arrowsic?'

'Yep.'

Each spring, thousands of alewives make their way from the Gulf of Maine, up the Kennebec, up Sewall Creek and into Sewall Pond. The residents of Arrowsic can be proud that the river herring are there at all.

Once there were over a thousand plentiful river herring runs in the eastern United States. The fish were eaten and used as bait and garden fertilizer. Ospreys, striped bass, and other predators depended on them. Over time, dams, overfishing, and pollution took their toll. Fewer and fewer rivers had commercially viable runs. Regulators banned catching them in the hope that the population would recover.

Today, there are just 19 commercially viable river herring runs, most of them in Maine. There are also a handful of 'provisional' runs - small runs where restoration efforts seem to have worked. The Arrowsic alewife run is one of those success stories. *(cont on p 2)*

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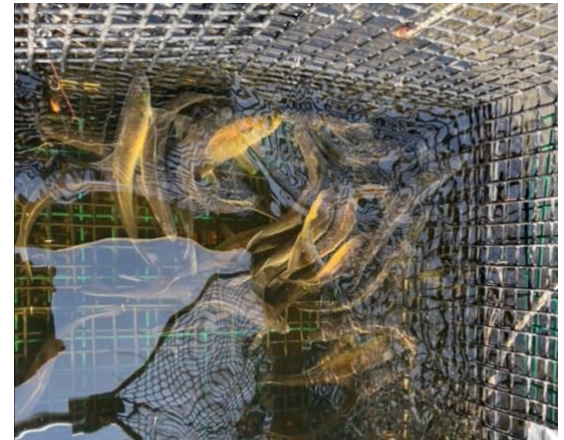
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(cont from p 1) More than fifteen years ago, the people of Arrowsic began investing in restoring the island's alewife population, moving towards balancing the Sewall Pond ecosystem and re-establishing Sewall Creek as a river herring run. Working in partnership with the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), and other organizations, the Conservation Commission secured grants that re-established passage along Sewall Creek. Finally, a fish and animal pass culvert, the first of its kind, was installed under Route 127 in 2014.

When we bought our house in 2021, we were told that our barn was the home of the fish counters. It was still winter when I started nagging the ACC's alewife coordinator Karen Robbins, chief data assembler, volunteer wrangler, and alewife monitor: 'When do the fish come? How do we know when to put the trap in?'

'Watch for the osprey on the river,' she wrote. 'And then watch for them fishing in the Creek in front of your house.'

Early one April morning, Karen and I were outside our red barn having doublechecked that all was in readiness. As we stood there in the warm spring sunshine in no particular hurry to get a start on our official day, an osprey rose from the marsh and flew right over our heads. And in its talons was a fine fat alewife, facing forward, as the ospreys always carry their prey. We watched it fly off, and then Karen said calmly: 'It might be time to call DMR and let them know we're putting in the trap.'



Alewives waiting to be counted. (photo by Karen Robbins)



Karen Robbins and Angel Braestrup count fish (photo by Mark J Spalding)

The 2022 count was underway. By the time the trap was pulled, over the course of a month, dozens of volunteers had counted 12,426 alewives, a couple of sun fish, two beavers, and a trap-happy snapping turtle.

Because of the successful restoration of the run, DMR and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission have granted Arrowsic the right to provisionally harvest river herring. Early each winter, it is decided whether to continue the conservation closure or permit a small provisional harvest. The decision is based on a review of the monitoring data from the prior five years. If there have been enough fish of the targeted sex ratio and age classes as well as repeat spawners a provisional harvest is allowed. This spring, we will be harvesting up to 6 bushels of fish or 720 fish for the first time. Please join the volunteers during the morning monitoring session at 9 am on May 13th for Arrowsic's first ceremonial harvest.

For more information about alewives:

- ['Cool Little Culvert \(Arrowsic Alewives\)'](#): video about the 2014 culvert installation under Route 127.
- [Maine River Herring Fact Sheet](#)
- [Kennebec Restoration Project](#)
- The [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission](#): The ASMFC oversees the management of the migratory fish of the east coast of the United States from Maine to Florida.

—Angel Braestrup

Elections

There is no State election this June; however, Arrowsic citizens will be voting on the Regional School Unit (RSU) 1 budget referendum. The tentative date is June 13, 2023.

- Get [information](#) on upcoming federal and state elections.
- If you would like to register to vote, please contact the Registrar, Vicky Stoneman at Vicky.stoneman@arrowsic.org.
- You can download a voter registration application [here](#).

On February 14, 2023, I traveled to the Maine State House, with members of the League of Women Voters, to discuss proposed legislation that, if enacted, will affect how we vote in Maine.

- LD 34 - Photo ID: This bill would require voters to show photo ID at the polls.
- LD 237 - Voter Re-registration: This bill would require voters to renew their voter registration every four years.
- LD 26 - Prepaid Postage for Absentee Ballots: This bill would require the Secretary of State to provide prepaid postage on the return envelopes for absentee ballots.



Barbara Boyce and Sen Eloise Vitelli

I met with Senate Majority Leader Eloise Vitelli and State Representative Allison Hepler to discuss how the proposed legislation might affect Arrowsic voters.

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. Contact [Ms. Vitelli](#) and [Ms. Hepler](#) to share your thoughts on voting rights in Maine.

—Barbara Boyce, Town Clerk

Mark Geiger

Arrowsic lost one of its brightest lights with the passing of Mark Geiger on Saturday, February 4th.

Mark was a generous volunteer who painted Town Hall and always showed up when needed. He was a passionate political activist who never shied away from any discussion. And he was, for as long as I can remember, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, where he always navigated difficult situations with grace, humor, and an unwavering sense of fairness.

An obituary can be found [here](#).

On a personal note, Mark was a great friend for almost 40 years who always showed up for me and my family. I feel blessed for having him in my life, and I am going to miss him dearly.

—Walter Briggs, Selectman

Arrowsic Climate Resilience Committee

Preparing Together

‘Prevention is better than the cure.’ Rather than reacting to an illness with treatment, proactively try to avoid getting sick in the first place. We can’t ‘cure’ the changing climate, but Arrowsic residents can act now to prevent the worst of its effects.

This idea is the foundation for the Arrowsic Climate Resilience Committee, a new subcommittee of the Arrowsic Conservation Commission, charged with equipping the town’s residents with the resources they need to navigate what lies ahead—whether its sea level rise, more severe storms, prolonged drought or saltwater intrusion.

The ACRC was formed in December 2022, following town approval to pursue grant funding for climate resilience initiatives. It includes 13 volunteers with expertise in policy, communications, grant writing, engineering, town governance, and climate and environmental issues, along with a passion and commitment to build a sustainable, resilient Arrowsic for generations to come.

The first step in this climate resilience process is the development of a climate action plan. A climate action plan serves as a roadmap for implementing resilience strategies and realizing goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. (Learn more [here](#) about climate action plans. Visit [here](#) to see Maine’s climate plan.)

Supporting this effort is a \$35,000 grant awarded to Arrowsic by the State of Maine. These funds cover the cost of a consultant with expertise in writing climate

action plans for municipalities, and the publication of a climate resilience handbook for town residents.

You, too, will help in the creation of the climate action plan! Central to the plan will be your input, which the ACRC will solicit through surveys and during a workshop to be held in September. Further details to come. The town will vote on whether to approve the climate action plan at the town meeting in June 2024.



Looking North on Rt 127, Dec 23, 2022 (photo by AFD)

You can learn more about the ACRC and the work it has done so far by visiting the committee’s [page](#) on the town website. The ACRC also welcomes your questions and input at any time during this process. Contact co-chairs Jody Jones or Aleisha Khan at resilience@arrowsic.org.

—Jesse Nankin McMahon

Arrowsic Broadband Authority

IMPORTANT NEWS: The Town of Arrowsic and Arrowsic Broadband Authority has been awarded a \$996,912 grant from Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA). The grant, available this Spring, together with a very generous local donation and other grants, will enable the ABA to replace the USDA loan/grant of \$604,254/\$604,254, and it will provide significant advantages.

The MCA funding will enable ABA to accelerate the timeline for the project for completion in late summer/autumn this year! Detailed reporting to MCA will be significantly simplified and shortened from 22 years to five years compared to USDA reporting. Project costs will also be reduced by perhaps \$100,000 to \$150,000 due to reduced capital expenditure cost and lower engineering/ admin expenses required on the USDA option.

Importantly, the MCA service levels will be greatly improved from the USDA alternatives. The basic service will have symmetrical speeds of 100/100 megabytes per second for \$49.99 per month, then 250/250 mbps for \$79.99 pm, 500/500 mbps for \$109.99 pm and 1/1 gigabyte per second for \$149.99.

Moreover, Axiom, our Internet Service provider (ISP) assures us those speeds will be consistently available, nothing like our current highly variable speeds via DSL. These services will enable subscribers to ‘cut the cord’ to cable and satellite TV, saving money and focusing on the services actually used. There will also

be a 50/10 mbps service at \$30 pm for qualified lower income subscribers.

Finally, we will offer an early sign-up opportunity to all residents who elect to sign up of \$99 for a standard connection to the ABA network by aerial or a usable clean conduit. Those homes requiring a new aerial, conduit, or buried line, will incur some cost, to be determined by the actual cost of the connection and the amount of credit ABA can give to the connection.

Delaying your connection until after the construction crews have gone off island will mean costs of \$1,000 or more for most folks. Hence it is important that property owners know just what kind of phone/cable connections they currently have and the location of the lines. The property owners will be receiving an email and/or postcard with further details from ABA. The Town website will also provide details. In short, know what you’ve got and sign up early!

Another new volunteer has joined our team - Vince Capone – who adds to our business and technical knowledge and support.

ABA team: Don Kornrumpf (Chair ABA Commission), Don Hudson (Commission member), Sukey Heard (retired Commission member), Ken Hnottavange-Telleen, Will Neilson, Dave Beberman, Vince Capone, Mike Loviska, Ben Rawlingson-Plant, Jon Schau, Alex Schwartz, and Jeff Stoebe.

—Don Kornrumpf

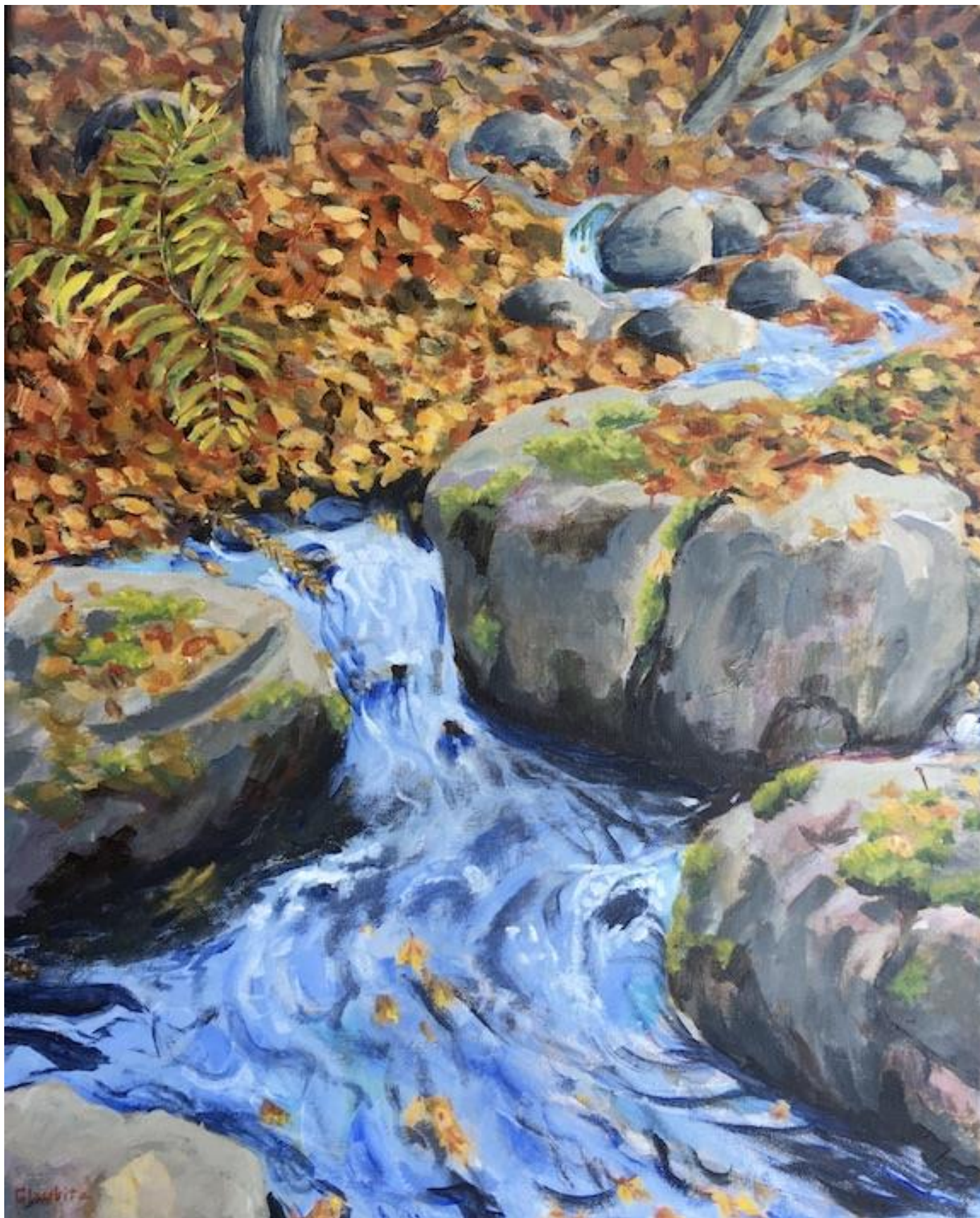
Reduced Browntail Moth Outbreak Forecast for 2023

Due to cool, rainy weather in May and June that promoted a fungus that kills the caterpillars, the suspected outbreak of BTMs in Maine last year was nowhere near as bad as expected, and there has been a dramatic decrease in their population for 2023, as reported by the *Kennebec Journal*.

Winter counts of their nests show a decline everywhere except parts of Androscoggin, Penobscot, and Waldo counties. In the meantime, winter pruning has further reduced their numbers, while the state has secured funding to continue research on the use of baculovirus and the fungus that are fatal to the caterpillars.

—Tom Spear

Featured Artist – Livy Glaubitz



Arrowsic Rill by Livy Glaubitz



Squirrel Point Reflections by Livy Glaubitz

Artist's Statement

I have been inspired by my father who accompanied me on painting expeditions. My artwork, including in oil, acrylic and watercolors, reflects my travels and interest in the out-of-doors.

'Arrowsic Rill' is viewed from a spot on our loop walk in the spring when the flow of a seasonal stream is not intermittent. I painted it in the fall when the bright green moss contrasted with the fallen leaves and blue water.

'Squirrel Point Reflections,' on the other hand, is a summer scene I rendered from a couple of

photographs taken from our boat. I tried painting from the boat, but I found it impossible because the forceful currents kept rocking the boat fitfully.

As I look, as I paint, I feel we are blessed to be able to live in such a lovely corner of the world.

I am a founding member of the Centre St. Arts Gallery, LLC in Bath and exhibit there regularly. I may be reached at Stonewall Studio/Gallery (207) 442-7614, at livyglaubitz@yahoo.com, or at www.livyglaubitzart.com.

—Livy Glaubitz

Community News

After a career in higher ed and non-profits, **Irene Burgess** is enjoying being back home in Maine after her brother and sister-in-law, Paul Burgess and Polly Moutevelis-Burgess, convinced her to rent a place on Whitmore's Landing Road. Most recently, she was Executive Director of the Andalusia Institute, a humanities institute devoted to the legacy of Flannery O'Connor, and she is looking forward to pursuing non-profit leadership here.

James Flannery, 74, Steen Road, died on February 26th. Born in Queens, N.Y., 'Jim' was a real polymath. Gaining degrees in History and Psychology, Urban and Regional Planning, Law, and Education, he worked as a highway planner in Massachusetts and North Dakota, lawyer and law school professor in Pittsburg, Philadelphia, and Indianapolis, and high school teacher in Indiana. He was predeceased by his parents and survived by his wife, Kathryn, brother John, sister Patricia Haire, and sister-in-law Marie Thoms. A memorial is planned for the Spring.

Mark Geiger, 70, passed away at his home on Arrowsic Road, on February 4th. Mark grew up in Summit, N.J. and moved to Maine four decades ago, where he founded Preservation House Painters and helped to maintain historic buildings along the coast.

'Magic Markie' was a born raconteur, regaling his clients and friends with tales of his nine lives, Arrowsic, and progressive politics. He was a generous public citizen, chairing the Board of Appeals and contributing his skills to the maintenance of the Town Hall and lighthouses in town. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer; his children, Colin, Trevor, and Molly; siblings, Merritt, David, Pam, Stephen, and Lauren; six grandchildren; and 13 nieces and nephews. A memorial is planned for the Spring.

Allen Miller, 84, Bald Hill Road, passed away on November 25th, 2022. After college, 'Al' taught in the Middle East before settling in Brunswick, where he first taught in Harpswell. But Al's real calling was theater, founding the Young People's Theater and the Summer Theater Project. Performing as 'Clown Al', he taught acting, mime, storytelling, playwriting, and directing in schools, prisons, and retirement centers from Aroostook County to Michigan and Palestine. He is survived by his children, Wendy, Chris, Geoff, Jessica, and Tim; their mother, Margaret Washburne; eight grandchildren; and his partner, Jean Shaw.

(Note: Al was also a poet, and we are reprinting a poem of his from 2022 in his honor on p. 11.)

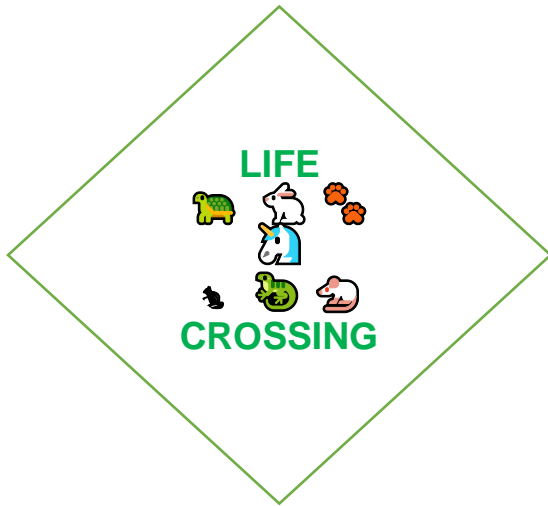
Winter



Merrymeeting Bay (photo by Michael Kreindler)



Reid State Park (photo by Michael Kreindler)



Motorized human mobility is among the principal threats to wildlife in the United States. Non-human species were better off when we traveled on our legs or on some of theirs. It is estimated that one million vertebrates perish daily (yes, daily) on this country's roads. The estimates may miss smaller, less observable animals, like caterpillars, not to speak of the countless insects and birds that strike our windshields to their own detriment.

Underpasses, fences, and culverts have been built to steer the animals through safe passages, but it is hard to steer a chipmunk or a lizard. The animal-specific road signage system meant to alert drivers may also help in ameliorating 'roadkill.' But such signs are mostly limited to deer, bear, moose and cattle in farming areas. They are designed primarily to protect motorists against collision with these big animals, the protection of these beasts may happen as a side-benefit.

How about the smaller creatures whose carcasses we speed by or over-- racoons, turtles, porcupines, squirrels, toads, opossums (they are not playing possum), birds, snakes, and skunks that assaults our noses, as if to itch our conscience for the misdeed. How do we signal their possible presence on the road?

Animals have to move for food, for mating, for hatching and to adjust to weather. They inevitably have to cross roads and risk being hit by cars. Walking on the dirt roads in Maine, made me more conscious of dead animals on the ground. I came 'face to face' with corpses of toads and snakes and turtles and others that sometimes had already decomposed beyond recognition.

And I was moved over the last few years to take pictures of these animals, especially snakes (see photo). I am not sure why snakes in particular; perhaps because I saw many, and couldn't avoid the sight of them lying inert, outstretched, not their usual sleek bodies belly-dancing across the road. I also found out that at least one snake species, the Northern Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*), has been classified as 'endangered.' The threat, marked as severe in the Maine 2015 Wildlife Action Plan Revision, stems not insignificantly from roads and railroads. I chanced on an artistic rendering of the species by Arrowsic painter, Jackie Johnson, which the potter Mary McKone from Georgetown used as part of an endangered species pottery line (see photo).



Eastern Garter Snake (Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis)

I have also been thinking recently as to what can be done by us as a community to reduce roadkill of the less charismatic species not included in the already existing traffic signs. Apart from fences, culverts, and underpasses, which may require sponsorship by official administrative bodies, we could install more inclusive animal road-crossing signs. Since it is impractical to have a sign for every species, I thought we could put up an inclusive sign "LIFE CROSSING" Or "LIFE -XING." Although we may (*cont on p 11*)

(cont from p 10) not be able to place them on the government-designated perimeters of the roads, we still can place them in visible spots.

The overall task could be sponsored by the Conservation Commission, which has been doing a splendid job in mobilizing Arrowsic citizenry in planning for responses to climate change. Climate is already altering and will likely continue to modify animal habitats and separate their populations. Wildlife will try to adapt to the disruptions by seeking alternative spaces, and migration from old to new homes will become more common, and with it the risk of meeting their fate on the road. It therefore seems only natural that the Commission bring these vulnerable earthly creatures into the fold of its stewardship. Our artists could also lend beauty to the cautionary message, by getting involved in the creation of such eco-artistic signs.

—Sharif S. Elmusa



Northern Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*).
Artist: Jackie Johnson (Arrowsic) and potter Mary McKone (Georgetown)—endangered species series

Four Road Haiku

A bare belly dancer
Is crossing the road
The snake

*

Slow Keep Right
Reads the road sign
What is a walker to do?

*

Low Flying Plane
Reads the road sign
I duck

*

Driving on the New Jersey Turnpike
I think how the Mississippi River
Flows in one direction

—Sharif S. Elmusa

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



Snowy Owl by Andreas von Huene, Sculptor

ARROWSIC RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

2023 RECYCLING/TRASH

PICKUP SCHEDULE

January–May; September–December

Biweekly schedule for everything; Friday pickup

June–August

Weekly trash pickup; biweekly recycling; Friday pickup

JANUARY		13 ^R		27 ^R	
FEBRUARY		10 ^R		24 ^R	
MARCH		10 ^R		24 ^R	
APRIL	7 ^R		21 ^R		
MAY	5 ^R		19 ^R		
JUNE	2 ^R	9	16 ^R	23	30 ^R
JULY	7	14 ^R	21	28 ^R	
AUGUST	4	11 ^R	18	25 ^R	
SEPTEMBER		8 ^R		22 ^R	
OCTOBER		6 ^R		20 ^R	
NOVEMBER		3 ^R		17 ^R	
DECEMBER	1 ^R		15 ^R		29 ^R

^R Recycling, as well as Trash pickup

Questions? Contact: arswc@arrowsic.org or call John Hinds at (207)751-1550

Images Wanted for Arrowsic Website arrowsic.org

Having examined the glorious \$15,000 new website of Phippsburg, I thought maybe we should have a bit more life in our town website. On the other hand, I originally designed the site to load fast and easily, since many in town had (and still have) spotty internet connections. That means to be sparing of graphics, which use a lot of bandwidth. Recently I made the header a revolving image. Those who have looked at arrowsic.org in the last ten years have seen these images. It would be nice to have some new ones.

If you have digital images that speak to you of our town, could you send them to me? I will have to cut them to the ratio presently on the site, so they should not be too complex--but I'm happy to have anything you can send me at news@arrowsic.org.

These modifications to our website should cost our taxpayers about \$15,000 less than Phippsburg's.

—Paul Kalkstein, Arrowsic Webmaster

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 biweekly fresh bouquets 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 at inquire@silybumarts.com or visit www.silybumarts.com.

—Maria Kokenos

Some Numbers to Contemplate

Did you know that January was the warmest January on record? Or that it also had two of the coldest days on record? That ten of the warmest Januarys on record have occurred in the last eleven years?

And that winter is now 21 days shorter than a century ago, and it now has almost as many mud days (20) as snow days (21)?

—Tom Spear

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, 386-1475. Past issues of the Arrow can be found at www.arrowsic.org.