

The Arrowsic Arrow

News Around & About Arrowsic

Volume 30, Number 4
Winter 2017

Browntail Moth Update

Now is the time to look around and take stock of the browntail moth situation in your backyard. The Maine Forest Service (MFS) has put out an alert for towns in our area, indicating where they expect strong infestations of browntail caterpillars in the summer of 2017. The prediction is based on aerial photographs taken at the end of this past summer showing where the young caterpillars had skeletonized the leaf canopy. The north end of Arrowsic is part of the alert area. Nests can be seen at the tips of high oak tree branches in the Preble Point area, and across the road on the northwest tip of the island, along the properties on Sirois Rd. and in scattered trees as far south as Spinney Mill Creek and around the old fire barn on 127. Isolated nests are seen further south.

For people who find they are living with browntail moth nests, there are several options:

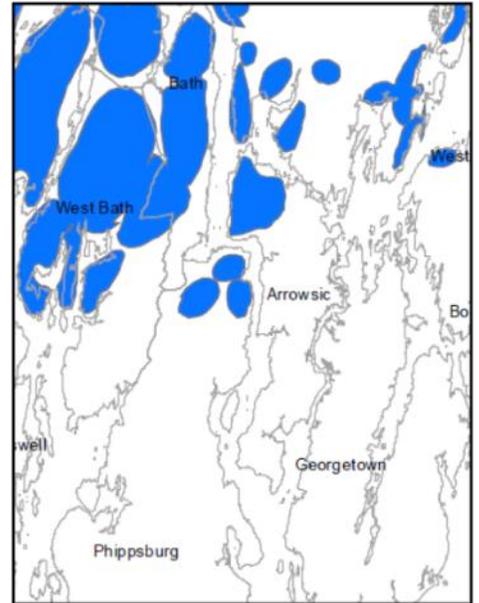
(1) First and foremost, there is *the option of doing nothing*, and allowing nature to take its course. Population explosions tend to be followed by crashes, either by predation or disease, as happened here as recently as 10 years ago, due to a cold, wet spring and a fungal disease that lays waste to the caterpillars and is native to this area. Keep your fingers crossed for a repeat event next spring!



Browntail moth winter webs at the top of an oak tree and ready for pruning (Photo Bradbury, 1966).

(2) Another approach is to *take personal precautions* while sharing territory with the moths. This means wearing long sleeves and long pants when doing yard work, and washing them afterward. Any activity that may stir up browntail moth hairs, such as raking leaves or mowing lawns, is best done when the yard is damp, either from rain or a quick hosing down. Take a cool shower after any possible exposure to browntail moth hairs. Do not hang clothes outside to dry from May through July. (More from the MFS on precautions: <http://tinyurl.com/jlnwfeb>.)

(3) *Pruning* is an excellent way to decrease the population of browntail moths, where the nests can be reached, and this is the time of year to be doing it. From now through mid-April, the nests are visible, and the caterpillars are inside the nests. These nests can be clipped and either burned or soaked in a bucket of soapy water and then composted or disposed of in the trash. Browntail moths prefer oaks and members of the rose family, including roses, apples, pears, cherries, and wild cherries, for forage and for nesting. Landowners can reach nests in the shorter members of the rose family with their own loppers, extension clippers, or orchard ladder.



Browntail Moth Aerial Detection Survey (August 2016).

If you can't do the work yourself, consider hiring one of our three landscaping outfits in town:

- Jeremy Blaiklock's Seaflower Garden and Design at 443-4630 or jeremy@seaflowerdesign.com
- John Hinds' Logical Landscaping at 751-1550 or logicallandscaping@myfairpoint.net
- Mark Jorgensen's Jorgensen Landscaping at 443-9396 or mjorgensen@zwi.net

For tackling the tips of a tall oak tree, an experienced arborist can be hired. The following returned the Conservation Commission's inquiries and all four offer on-site consultation and estimates:

- Marty Folsom at Lucas Trees, mfolsom@lucastree.com, with bucket lifters that can reach to 65 feet
- Brian Gehan, Georgetown, "Climbing Arborist," high-canopy and specialty pruning, 371-9930 or briangehan@yahoo.com
- Jeff Gillis at WellTree, 721-9210 or info@welltreeinc.com (availability may be limited)
- Noah Tucker at Bartlett Tree Experts, ntucker@bartlett.com

(4) Browntail caterpillars can also be controlled with *pesticides*, although the Conservation Commission does not recommend their use. There is ample scientific evidence of the harmful effects of pesticides on human health and the environment. At a minimum, there is sufficient doubt to indicate that we must err on the side of caution, and the clear risks do not outweigh the supposed benefits. As they can drift in the air and leach into the ground, pesticides cannot be contained in a target area, and can end up in neighboring properties, waterways, and drinking water supplies.

Pesticides are, by design, poisons, and they affect not only the target pest, but kill or sicken a broad range of other organisms. Sprayed pesticides land on all organisms in the spray area, and can also affect animals that come through after spraying and eat the sprayed vegetation or prey species. Also, the toxin can percolate down into our groundwater reserves. Pesticides that are injected into tree trunks or into soil or root systems are taken up by the tree's vascular system and render the leaves poisonous to browntail moth caterpillars and other munchers. Some pesticides can also persist in trees for several years after the initial application. They also poison the pollen and nectar that the tree produces, so that foraging pollinators are killed as well. It is likely that soil organisms are adversely affected, and a thriving soil community is essential for a thriving forest.

Because pesticides have been shown to affect shellfish and other aquatic organisms, there are specific restrictions and requirements for the homeowner and licensed commercial pesticide applicators for the use of these toxic chemicals within 250' of the water, as required by the Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) (see Section 5 at <http://tinyurl.com/zohzg64>). There are a range of pesticides approved for use on browntail moth caterpillars, ranging from biological insecticides of unknown efficacy, to widely used toxic neonicotinoids and organophosphates. For more information about pesticides approved to control browntail moths, and to better understand the legal requirements, contact the BPC at 287-2731 or pesticides@maine.gov.

—From the Conservation Commission

Nurse's Notes from Your Local Health Officer

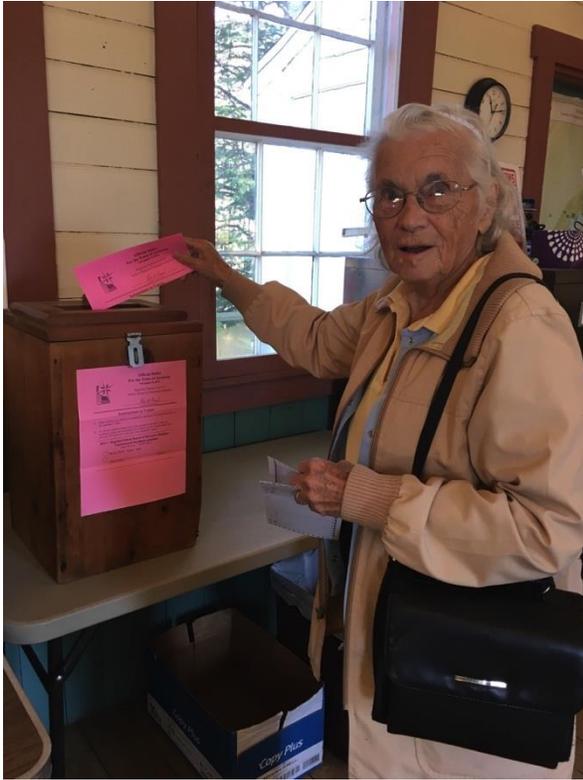
Hello, and welcome to the new "Nurse's Notes" column of The Arrow. My name is Christine Woodman, R.N., and I am your new Local Health Officer. I would like to share some useful health and wellness information with Arrow readers.

Something to know: Maine has a referral system called 2-1-1. This is a phone number to a call center that is available 24/7. The call center provides resources for family support services, mental and behavioral health services, veterans' services, fuel and utility assistance, child care, aging and elder services, plus much more. The center can link callers to more than 8,000 services in Maine.

2-1-1 is a phone number to know! You may also access more information through the 2-1-1 Directory of Services website: <https://211maineportal.communityos.org/cms/>.

More information is available at the new health kiosk at the Town Hall. Check it out!

The 2016 Elections



The suffragettes would be pleased!

How Arrowsic Voted

President

√ Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) 221 65.38%
Gary E. Johnson (L) 9 2.66%
Jill Stein (G) 10 2.96%
Donald J. Trump (R) 98 28.99%
Write-ins 4 Blank 12

Maine Senate District 23

Guy M. Lebida (R) 92 26.74%
√ Eloise A. Vitelli (D) 252 73.26%
Blank 6

Question 1: Legalize Marijuana

√ Yes 200 57.64%
No 147 42.36%
Blank 3

Question 3: Require Background Checks

Yes 228 65.71%
√ No 119 34.29%
Blank 3

US House District 1

Mark Holbrook (R) 115 33.63%
√ Chellie Pingree (D) 227 66.37%
Write-ins 1
Blank 6

Maine House District 53

William L. Neilson (D) 245 71.85%
√ Jeffrey K. Pierce (R) 96 28.15%
Blank 9

Question 2: Public Education Fund

√ Yes 180 52.17%
No 165 47.83%
Blank 5

Question 4: Raise Minimum Wage

√ Yes 230 66.09%
No 118 33.91%
Blank 2

Question 5: Ranked Choice Voting

√ Yes 210 60.52%

No 137 39.48%

Blank 3

Question 6: Transportation Bond

√ Yes 265 76.59%

No 81 23.41%

Blank 4

√ = Overall winner in Maine

[Source: From results as posted on the Bangor Daily News website: <http://tinyurl.com/zue9wez>, with additional information from State of Maine Return of Votes Cast: <http://tinyurl.com/ztbg8qr>.]

Letter to The Arrow

I voted early Tuesday morning and witnessed the gentleman voting next to me become very agitated because the computer (or some similar electronic device) directly behind his chair was actively being used as he was voting. He mistook it for someone taking his picture. Also, as I was walking to an open voting chair, the woman getting up had not folded her ballot and I was able to see it clearly who she voted for, even though I averted my eyes immediately. I would hope that each of these instances can be easily rectified. Maybe it's time that we reconsidered bringing back the voting booths with the curtains. Thank you.

—Dave Puff

The Select Board's Comment

This year, voting in Arrowsic went really smoothly thanks to the many people who pitched in—including Gretchen MacLeod who agreed to stay on as Town Clerk through the big day and Barbara Boyce who served as Deputy Clerk so she could learn the ropes as she takes on this responsibility in the future; Mary Louise Blanchard who has served as election warden for many years; and 15 residents who stepped forward to serve as check-in clerks and ballot counters. For a well-told account of the ballot counting process in Arrowsic, read this article by one of the counters, Lisa Margonelli, which was published in *Zócalo*: <http://tinyurl.com/juuusex>.

David Puff's letter raises several issues of voting day etiquette—taking photographs, folding a ballot, averting one's eyes. Other concerns arose that day, including people failing to turn off their phones and taking calls while in the voting booth. Privacy was a key criterion when we selected the current voting booths, and indeed this equipment provides more privacy than others on the market, which have people standing side by side with only shoulder height dividers. Issues are bound to arise: a voter could walk to the ballot box with an unfolded ballot. One person almost left without placing the ballot in the box. Likewise photography—including a selfie from within the booth showing a voted ballot—is legal. Election staff sought to address these issues throughout the day as they arose. Ultimately, David's consideration is the kind of attitude we need to bring to the election process so that we can be comfortable with each other, keep appropriate confidences, and express our concerns respectfully. Etiquette is everyone's responsibility and we're pleased so many residents take it seriously.

Quotable Quotes

"If we are not serious about facts and what's true and what's not, and particularly in an age of social media, where so many people are getting their information in sound bites and snippets off their phones, if we can't discriminate between serious arguments and propaganda, then we have problems."

—President Barack Obama, November 17, 2016

(The Arrow invites you to submit your favorite quotes on any topic of your choice.)

Updates from the Select Board

New Town Clerk

On Monday, November 14, the Arrowsic Board of Selectmen accepted the resignation of Gretchen MacLeod as Town Clerk and appointed Barbara Boyce to serve as Town Clerk until the next Town Meeting.

New Town Office Hours

In November, Town Office Hours changed. The Wednesday hours remain 3:00 to 5:30 PM, but the Friday hours have changed to Thursday from 8:30 to 11:00 AM.

Awards

Last year, our Town's Annual Report won the "Superior Award" for an "exemplary municipal report." The Maine Municipal Association gave the award, which placed us second among small Maine towns. Also, on December 21, the Maine Spirit of America Foundation gave Jeremy Blaiklock an Exceptional Volunteer Award in recognition of the many ways he serves served Arrowsic and the wider community.

Revaluation

We received two bids from revaluation firms for our deadline on November 28. We have been reviewing the proposals and contacting references and plan to select a firm at our January 23 meeting.

Properties Committee

The Select Board met with Matt Stelzer and Bob Ater on November 14 to reactivate the Town Properties Committee. We expect the new committee will help the Town maintain, manage, and improve its properties more effectively.

Proposal for a New Town Administrative Assistant

The Select Board plans to open a discussion about the increasing workload at Town Hall. Many neighboring Towns have addressed this problem by hiring an administrative assistant and we think it is an idea worth considering. We will be drawing up options and holding meetings before deciding whether to place it before Town Meeting.

Browntail Moth

The Town received a letter from the State of Maine with a map showing the extent of browntail moth damage. The Select Board has asked the Conservation Commission and Local Health Officer (Christine Woodman) to meet about the issue, to monitor the situation and to keep residents informed. You can find more information about browntail moth in this and the previous two issues of *The Arrow* at <http://arrowsic.org/arrow/>.

On the Roads Again

The Town 2016–2017 snowplow contract period has begun. Charlie Collins and the Maine Moss crew are in their third year of the contract. During the winter months, if you have any comments or questions about the snowplowing, you can contact Maine Moss directly at 371-2853. Or you can contact the Road Commission via Jim Stump at 442-7527.

We all need to remember that the Town roads will not always be free of snow or ice. Winter driving requires attention to the road condition; and speed and maneuvering should be adapted accordingly. Be safe.

—For the Road Commission, Jim Stump

Another Great Fall Festival



Theo Stone enjoys the Fall Festival and a crab cookie.

Many thanks to the Arrowsic community for making the Fall Festival a great success again this year! Family, friends, and neighbors gathered together to celebrate our town and its resources. Our greatest assets—the people—were instrumental in creating such a fun and festive environment.

The Arrowsic Education Committee would like to thank the following individuals and businesses:

- *Mark Aukeman, for his informative table on Broadband Education.
- *Rowan Blaiklock and Sarah Grill, for kindly helping with cleanup.
- *William Blaiklock, for graciously taking the hay off our hands.

- *Dale Carlton, for granting use of the fire station and for allowing kids to play on the fire truck.
- *Phine Ewing & Friends, for volunteering their excellent musical talent.
- *Sukey Heard, for her artistic talents and creative weaving station.
- *Al Heath, for turning out some delicious apple juice with his cider press.
- *J'adore Consignment, for sharing their great game supplies.
- *Main Street Bath, for generously donating their hay bales.
- *Lisa Margonelli, for a fabulous interactive table about clams and crabs.
- *Pleasant Pond Orchard, for their bountiful apple donation.
- *Nancy Sferra, for sharing her beautiful leatherworking skills and tools.
- *Christine Woodman, for setting up a great blood pressure screening table.



Milly Stafford shows how it's done at the cider press.

Last, but not least, we'd like to thank everyone who came and shared a couple of hours of their Sunday afternoon with us.

—The Arrowsic Education Committee

From the Town Clerk

Dog licenses

Time to register your dogs! Dog licenses for 2017 are available at the Town Office. Please register your furry friend prior to January 31st to avoid a mandatory \$25 late fee. For dogs new to your family, you must provide proof of immunization against rabies. Expiring rabies certificates will need to be updated for previously registered dogs. Questions? Contact Barbara Boyce at clerk@arrowsic.org or 443-4609.

Lost and Found

A blue L. L. Bean jacket, Women's M was left at Town Hall on Election Day.

Arrowsic Writers Read

On Friday, January 27, Arrowsic Writers Read starts at 6:45 PM at the Town Hall. This event is open to the public. All can join as a reader or listener. For more information, contact Nancy Brown Stump.

News from the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee

Bad News

RC Rogers, our town's trash/recycling hauler, wants to remind us that *styrofoam, in any form, even with a number 6, cannot be recycled.* This is true for all of Maine. Rogers is still finding a significant amount of styrofoam mixed in with our materials, and this can be a problem for the entire load of recyclables, causing it to be rejected. Removing these materials is difficult and time-consuming for them to do.

Rogers also reports that plastic bags are still being mixed in with the recycling. *Plastic bags, of any type, even with numbers, cannot be recycled at curbside.* These include grocery store, department store, produce, and newspaper bags. And *using plastic bags to contain recyclables at curbside is not allowed.* The bags get caught in the recycling equipment and bring it to a halt! While these cannot be recycled in town, *they can be taken to Brackett's or Shaw's, where they will be recycled.*

Good News

It has come to the Committee's attention that Mail It 4 U, located on 10 State Road in Bath (Old Bath Road, just before the new rotary, when heading toward Brunswick), uses styrofoam for packing, and will welcome our contributions. Any form of styrofoam, except for food packaging, is acceptable, as long as it's clean and dry.

So, save your styrofoam, and drop it off in Bath, at the same time you drop off all your saved plastic bags at the supermarket!

If you have any questions, please contact ASWRC chair Paul Schlein, pschlein@gmail.com, 443-3209.

Safer Housekeeping Tips

Sparkling Sliver

Get your silver sparkling by placing it in a solution of 1 quart warm water, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt, and a piece of aluminum foil. Or, to clean your oven, sprinkle warm spills with salt, or scour older spills with baking soda and water. (From *The Natural Resources Council of Maine*: <http://tinyurl.com/z3qxkmu>.)

Think Green for Chemical Safety

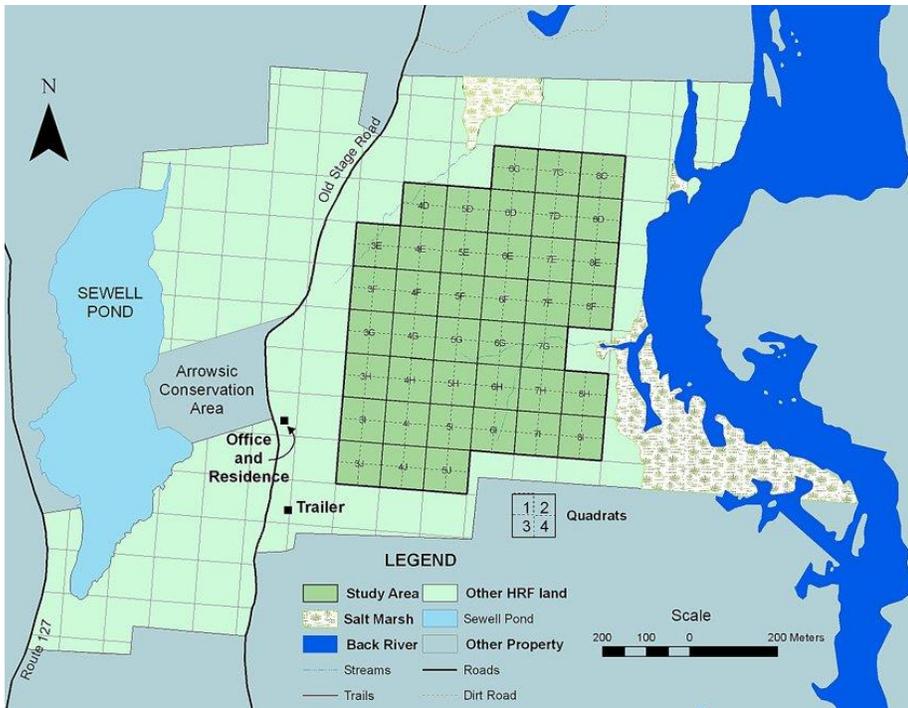
There are non-poisonous and organic substitutions for many house and yard pesticides and cleaning products. Could your home be safer for you and your children and better for the birds and bees if you switched? Check out the selection of "green" products at the grocery store, garden, or home center. (From the *Maine Emergency Management Agency*. More safety bulletins can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/hk4k9s5>.)

ARROWSIC SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING COMMITTEE					
2017 TRASH/RECYCLING					
PICKUP SCHEDULE					
<i>January–May; September–December</i> Biweekly schedule for everything; Friday pickup					
<i>June–August</i> Weekly trash pickup; biweekly recycling; Friday pickup					
JANUARY	6 ^R		20 ^R		
FEBRUARY	3 ^R		17 ^R		
MARCH	3 ^R		17 ^R		31 ^R
APRIL		14 ^R		28 ^R	
MAY		12 ^R		26 ^R	
JUNE	2	9 ^R	16	23 ^R	30
JULY		7 ^R	14	21 ^R	28
AUGUST	4 ^R	11	18 ^R	25	
SEPTEMBER	1 ^R		15 ^R		29 ^R
OCTOBER		13 ^R		27 ^R	
NOVEMBER		10 ^R		24 ^R	
DECEMBER		8 ^R		22 ^R	

^RRecycling, as well as Trash pickup
Questions? Contact: Paul Schlein, pschlein@gmail.com, 443-3209

Holt Forest Hosts Annual Conservation Commission Field Trip

The Conservation Commission held its annual field trip at Arrowsic's Holt Research Forest in November. Commission members and other townsfolk, totaling 22, toured the property, led by University of Maine School of Forest Resources associate scientist Jack Witham and research assistant Clarke Cooper, both Arrowsic residents.



Parts of the 300-acre forest were farmed from the late 1600s to the 1940s. The Holt family bought the property in 1941, added several parcels afterward, and, in 1981, offered it to the University of Maine for research. In 1983, the project began in earnest with the pursuit of forest management and research goals. Witham has been managing the forest and its research program from the beginning.

Detailed information on the forest can be found at: <http://holtforest.org/>.

The February 2016 issue of *The Arrow* included an article on research being done in the forest on mice, ticks, and Lyme disease (<http://tinyurl.com/h8lhk7d>).

The Holt Research Forest. The main study area consists of about 100-acres between Old Stage Road and the Back River to the east. For research purposes, a grid system has been superimposed over this area.



Clockwise from top left: Jack Witham shows the coverage of the Holt Forest, explains the nature of the research that has been done there since 1983, and touches on the history of the forest along the way. A new Education Pavilion has just been constructed for classes held at the forest. Witham led field trip attendees along a trail, down to where the forest borders the Back River.

A Banner Year for Squirrel Point

For Arrowsic's long-neglected Squirrel Point Light (SPL), 2016 was a banner year. Citizens for Squirrel Point (CSP) raised sufficient funds to carry out the first, urgent stage of SPL's restoration, aided by profuse volunteer participation, plus generous donations of material and services from local businesses. For 2017, the first priority is to replace the collapsing south porch of the keeper's residence, fresh finances permitting. We have submitted grant applications to three more Maine foundations, as well as to the National Park Service's National Maritime Heritage Grant Program.

Next August 19, by the way, will be the three-hundredth anniversary of the mishap to which SPL owes its name: on that date in 1717, then-Massachusetts governor Samuel Shute's frigate *The Squirrel* ran aground on a certain rocky spit while returning down the Kennebec from a parley with English settlers and Native Americans on Lee Island.

CSP invites you to read our full 2016 Annual Report on our website, squirrelpoint.org.

—Roman Wasilewski



Maxine Hall, center, great granddaughter of George Matthews, first lighthouse keeper at Squirrel Point Light with her brother John Gammon and nieces Lisa Thibodeau and Jenny Mulholland.

Arrowsic's Intrepid Shoreline Stewards

Late in August, Doug Ware took four young Arrowsic citizens to the North Squirrel Clam Flat to gather trash. In the marsh grass behind the flats they found a treasure trove of plastics and foam that had floated in on the tide: commercial fishing gear (rope, bait bags, buoys, swivels), disposable bottles, several party balloons, a variety of footwear, a few rubber balls, beach toys, plastic sheeting, tarp material, flotation foam from docks or vessels, and a bathtub rubber ducky. More ominously, they also found a full gallon of waste oil and a pesticide sprayer full of liquid. They picked all of this up, put it in trash bags much larger than themselves, and hauled it out of there in Doug's boat. The heroic flotsam avengers who picked up all of this trash were Ren Kauffunger, Declan Wright, Frida Wright, and Charli Ware. Thank you!

—Lisa Margonelli



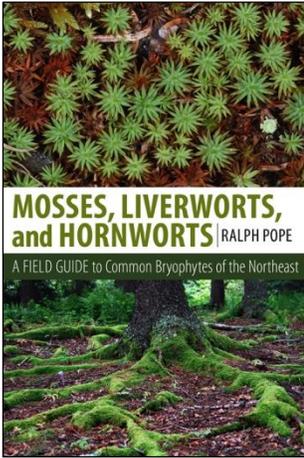
Living in Arrowsic means finding lots of buoys.



The Undaunted: (left to right) Declan Wright, Charli Ware, Frida Wright, and Ren Kauffunger.

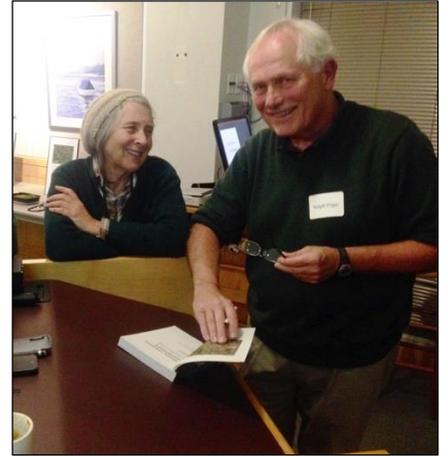
Arrowsic Naturalist and Author Ralph Pope Publishes New Book

The launch of Ralph Pope's new book *Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts: A Field Guide to Common Bryophytes of the Northeast* was celebrated November 6 at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. Over 100 people turned out for the informal presentation by the author and a hands-on exhibit of various mosses.



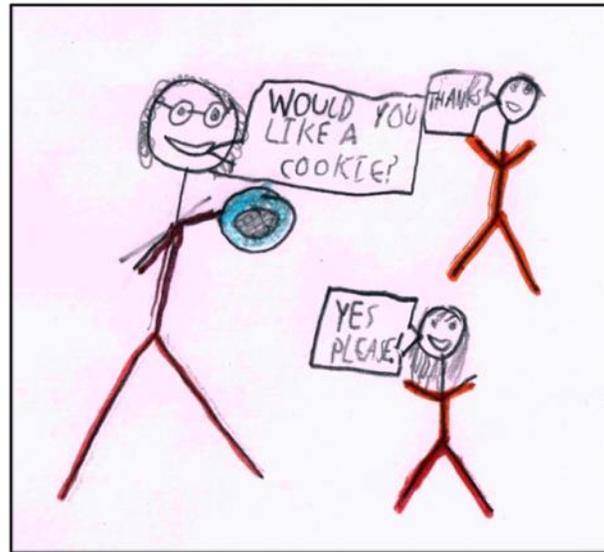
According to publisher, Cornell University Press, the photo-based field guide gives beginners the tools they need to identify bryophytes without using a compound microscope. It features information on collecting, preserving, and identifying specimens to help hikers, naturalists, botanists, and gardeners find their way into this beautiful miniature world.

Ralph and spouse Jean, residents of Bald Head Road, can often be seen exploring the trail to Bald Head and Squirrel Point Light. Ralph's latest fascination is with the area's marine algae, otherwise known as seaweed. He collects samples from his walks along the beaches and rocky coasts which are pressed flat and preserved for further study; perhaps material for a future field guide.



Ralph Pope signs copies of his new book at the Curtis Memorial Library

—Caroline Kurrus



Happy 95th Birthday Milly Stafford!

(Cartoon by Charli Ware)

The Arrowsic Arrow is Arrowsic's independent newsletter, produced entirely through the efforts of volunteers. The newsletter is published quarterly, currently in Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. The Arrow is distributed via e-mail to all those on the Town of Arrowsic list or on paper to those who have asked to receive it in this way. The Town covers any costs for paper and postage. To avoid cost to the Town, please consider receiving The Arrow through e-mail or printing your own copy. All articles and notices are welcome. Notices should be limited to 100 words.

Arrow Committee: Suzanne Gunston, Bob Kalish, Paul Schlein, Thomas Spear, and Nancy Brown Stump

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