

HARPSWELL ANCHOR™

FEBRUARY 2020, VOLUME 22, NO. 8

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Oscar's Pond Generations of Fun



Slapshot Eben McFadden, Emmett Stuart and Tiffany Stuart, all from Harpswell, take a break from a rough and tumble hockey game. Final score: Team Tiffany, 5, Team Eben and Emmet, 1. (ROBERT ANDERSON PHOTO)

BY KELLI PARK

Oscar's Pond in Cundy's Harbor has set the stage - literally and figuratively - for bringing community together winter after winter, generation after generation. The pond, located in the heart of Cundy's Harbor, has drawn ice skaters to its frozen waters since the late 1950's and continues to do so today.

Oscar's Pond is named for Oscar Stuart, whose family found their way to Cundy's Harbor from Lewiston in the late 19th century. The Stuarts were stonemasons who worked at a quarry and helped build the canals that were used to power the mills. They first stumbled upon Cundy's Harbor while vacationing at Sandy Cove, and then purchased the nearby property that currently surrounds the pond. After his return from World War I, Oscar

purchased a 1919 Reo Speedwagon and ran the Cundy's Harbor Stage line, which transported passengers, freight, and mail on a daily basis between Brunswick and the harbor for ten years. Oscar was the constable, the fire chief, and the Cumberland County Sheriff, while raising livestock and selling and delivering milk door to door. During the 1960's, Oscar also owned and operated Stuart's Last Stand, which was a small seaside resort with a motel, cabins, a wharf, and a seafood shack located on what is now the property that houses Millstone Apartments. Oscar gradually sold pieces of his property to his son, Louis, and they worked to build a dam in the 1950's, resulting in the formation of the pond.

"Oscar lived right on top of the hill in his house overlooking the pond. He

See POND p. 15

Investing in Ocean Diversity Planning a Career in Fishing

BY SUSAN OLCOTT

"I loved mud. My dog loved mud. It was an amazing way to grow up. I watched my brother digging clams and I wanted to try what he was doing." That was Isaac Burtis at age 8. Now, he's 17 and not only holds student shellfish licenses in both Harpswell and Brunswick, but has also started his own kelp farm. He's not one to hesitate to jump on an opportunity and has certainly plowed forward whenever he has seen one. "I'm going to go across the street right after I talk with you and ask Aki (Japanese Cuisine Restaurant) if they'll buy my seaweed," he said over a cup of coffee on Brunswick's Maine Street. "Why wait, right?" he asked. "The trick with things like this is to do it before you can convince your-



Setting a Course Isaac Burtis pilots his skiff out to check on his kelp farm. (MAX BURTIS PHOTO)

self not to."

Isaac isn't a multi-generational Mainer. In fact, he's the first in his family to be born in

See ISAAC p. 13

Harpswell Course Trains EMTs

BY DOUG WARREN

The Orr's and Bailey Islands Fire Department and Rescue Service continues to bring onboard more highly trained and dedicated Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), a big boost for OBIFD and the community it serves.

Twenty people from throughout Harpswell and beyond enrolled in an intensive, 15-week EMT training program last year at the Orr's Island Schoolhouse. While most of the trainees have additional work to do to become fully certified, OBIFD is starting to see new EMTs join its ranks of first responders.

Alexandra Hamm and Joanna Whitman have both received their National Registry EMT and

Maine EMT licenses, according to Ben Wallace Jr., OBIFD Fire and Rescue Chief. They have both also enrolled in the Tri-County Fire Academy. Wallace added that he is hopeful that at least four more members of the local class will pass the national registry and get

See EMT p. 12



First Aid George Lyons, left, and Alexandra Hamm practice stabilizing "patient" Joanna Whitman during EMT training at the Orr's Island Schoolhouse. (BILL SNELLING PHOTO)

 **Letters to the Editor**

Memory Lane

The news item regarding fire-fighter and paramedic, Meriel Longley, in the January 2020 issue of The Harpswell Anchor, brought back fond memories of her father, Dr. Andy Longley II. On a cold, wintry, pre Christmas evening many years ago, Andy and I were ringing the bells at the Cooks Corner Salvation Army kettle on behalf of the Brunswick Rotary Club. As we were visiting, an elderly woman recognized Andy and rushed up to embrace him while wishing him a Merry Christmas. When she left, I asked Andy about her enthusiastic and emotional greeting. He simply replied that he doctored her late husband. Andy was a very humble man, but I finally got him to tell the rest of the story. As I recall, the couple lived in Phippsburg and it was a long and difficult drive from Cundy's Harbor, especially in the winter when the roads and driveways were nearly inaccessible. So he would make the house calls in his small boat and then snowshoe through the woods while carrying his medical equipment to their home. Anyone who has dared to venture onto open coast-

al Maine waters in the winter knows that it is a cold and dangerous challenge with no help readily available in the event of a breakdown or other emergency. Andy would be so proud that Meriel continues that impressive legacy of caring and service to the Harpswell community.

Bob Millar

AirB&B: A Blessing or a Curse?

The State has been flooded with new individual rentals available on the mass marketing machine. This brings people to restaurants, shops, boat rides, and other services. A blessing for all those businesses. The state (at least in the past 3 years) has collected taxes from these rentals. A blessing for the State.

I understand that the State has no interest in regulating these rentals by leaving it to the towns. Each town then struggles individually with their set or rules and regulations. How then are these enforced? Three or more units have to be licensed and inspected by the State which includes water testing. There is no law that says you can't buy and rent multiple units and put them

under different names, bypassing state requirements.

As small business owners who have 6 cottages licensed by the state for the past 36 years, we have felt the negative impact of the flooding of the market with unlicensed, uninspected rentals. A curse! Other "curses" would be housing shortages, lack of available help, and neighborhood disruption.

This brings up the greatest concern, that for the customer. Without any oversight, who protects them? Their biggest question is "Do you have WiFi?" They never think to ask, "Is the water safe?" or "Is there a functioning fire and carbon monoxide alarm?" Do we have to wait for a catastrophic event to happen before something is done?

Donna McNelly

Sea Escape Cottages &

Exercise your First Amendment Rights!

Speak out, be heard!

Send your letters to news@harpswellanchor.com

FEBRUARY EVENTS AROUND THE STATE

- Feb 1-9: Almost, Maine, Portland Stage, Portland. FMI visit portlandstage.org.
- Feb. 1-29: #BestDonutsPortland Love Fest 2020. 13+ participating donut shops throughout Portland. FMI visit eventbrite.com.
- Feb. 7-9, Acadia Winter Festival, Winter Harbor. FMI visit schoolinstitute.org.
- Feb. 9: Nordic Biathlon Series, Roberts Farm Preserve, Noway. FMI visit mainetrailfinder.com.
- Feb. 11: 19th Annual Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour, State Theatre, Portland. FMI visit statetheatreportland.com.
- Feb. 12: What's the Catch? Join Maine Coast Fishermen's Association at Luke's Lobster on the Portland Pier for a seafood experience like no other. FMI visit portlandmaine.com.
- Feb. 14: Old Port Valentine's Holiday Historic Walking Tour, Monument Square, Portland. FMI visit portlandmaine.com.
- Feb. 15: The Maine Home, Remodeling and Garden Show, Cross Insurance Arena, Portland. FMI visit 10times.com.
- Feb. 15: 2020 International Dance Festival at Collins Center for the Arts, UMaine, Orono. FMI visit calendar.umaine.edu.
- Feb. 16: Annual Ice Harvest, Thompson Ice House Harvesting Museum, South Bristol. FMI visit thompsonicehouse.com.
- Feb. 16: MTC Longfellow Frostbite 2.5k Road Race to benefit the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center. FMI visit runsignup.com.
- Feb. 19: Swan Lake, Merrill Auditorium, Portland. FMI visit box-office.porttix.com.
- Feb. 22: Skijoring Clinic, Roberts Farm Preserve, Noway. FMI visit mainetrailfinder.com.
- Feb. 22: Winter Family Fun Day, Bradbury Mountain State Park, Pownal. FMI visit maine.gov.
- Feb. 29: 2020 Portland Polar Dip to support Camp Sunshine, East End Beach, Portland. FMI visit freezeforallreason.com.



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Fine Print:

Anchor Publishing assumes no responsibility for errors and omissions in any advertisement.

All letters to the editor must include your address and phone number for verification. Letters are to be no longer than 250 words. Letters may be brought to the Anchor office, mailed (see Contact Information), or emailed to news@harpswellanchor.com

To receive a copy of a back issue send a check for \$1.50.

Harpswell's Mitchell Field Master Plan Update

BY DON MISKILL

*Mitchell Field
Committee Chair*

Mitchell Field is “the most priceless piece of real estate that the town has.” -- a quote attributed to Selectman Katherine Chatterjee in 2006. It is a place where the entire town can gather and recreate. The fact that it is not centrally located in the town does not diminish its value or importance to the town. The Mitchell Field Master Plan was drafted in September 2007 and approved at the 2008 Town Meeting. It was the result of two years work and significant public input. It was the first step to thinking about the future use and potential of this property.

In the interim 12 years, Mitchell Field has seen numerous changes: a steadily increasing number of users year-round, removal of the old pier and some structures, new uses for parts of the field, a wonderful beach area for swimming and kayaking, fishing on the causeway, special events throughout the year for all ages, a bandstand hosting well-attended summer concerts, walking, running and biking in a safe environment, a growing marine-related business, an ice cream stand at the front gate, programs to manage invasive species and natural resources, and a community garden.

Now envision what the future of Mitchell Field could be: new Town dock with a ramp & float system, boat launch facility, moorings, communications tower, solar power array potential, expanded community garden, increasing attendance at the band concerts, changing rules for special events, mobile vendors, community use center, expanded



Landing Site The north side of the causeway at Mitchell Field is the location of the town's proposed public boat launch. (ROBERT ANDERSON PHOTO)

parking to support new uses, and a natural resources management plan.

The 2019 Update of the Master Plan fine-tunes the objectives for use(s) in 2007 Master Plan while expanding to address areas that were not envisioned in the original document. It is the result of more than a year's effort by members of the Mitchell Field Committee (past & present), other town committees and continuous input from the public over the years as they used

the field and attended public forums on various projects.

The Mitchell Field Master Plan Update is available for review on the town website. Any questions may be sent to mitchellfieldinfo@town.harpswell.me.us. And finally, there will be a public informational forum on the Tuesday, February 11 at 6:00 PM at the Town Office.

Additionally, there have been numerous studies and assessments on various aspects of the field, covering infrastructure,

natural resources, coastal erosion and field-related projects. These reports and assessments continue to inform our decision-making about projects at Mitchell Field, and they are available for anyone to review on the town website.

One very important final note, approval of the Mitchell Field Master Plan Update at this year's town meeting does not commit the town to any expenditure of funds. All future projects must be individually presented at town meeting for approval. ☺

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🌀 February Tides POTT'S HARBOR, SOUTH HARPSWELL

Date	High				Low				Sun		Moon
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	
1 Sat	3:54	8.3	4:17	7.7	10:05	1.3	10:19	1.4	6:56	4:52	☾
2 Sun	4:41	8.3	5:12	7.5	10:58	1.4	11:08	1.6	6:55	4:54	☾
3 Mon	5:32	8.3	6:11	7.4	11:55	1.3			6:53	4:55	☾
4 Tue	6:27	8.5	7:12	7.5	12:03	1.6	12:55	1.0	6:52	4:56	☾
5 Wed	7:23	8.9	8:09	7.8	1:01	1.5	1:53	0.6	6:51	4:58	☾
6 Thu	8:17	9.4	9:01	8.2	1:57	1.2	2:45	0.1	6:50	4:59	☾
7 Fri	9:08	9.9	9:49	8.7	2:49	0.7	3:34	-0.5	6:49	5:00	☾
8 Sat	9:58	10.4	10:37	9.2	3:39	0.2	4:22	-1.0	6:47	5:02	☾
9 Sun	10:47	10.9	11:24	9.7	4:29	-0.4	5:09	-1.5	6:46	5:03	☾
10 Mon	11:37	11.1			5:19	-0.8	5:56	-1.7	6:45	5:05	☾
11 Tue	12:11	10.1	12:26	11.1	6:10	-1.0	6:43	-1.7	6:43	5:06	☾
12 Wed	12:59	10.3	1:17	10.8	7:01	-1.1	7:31	-1.5	6:42	5:07	☾
13 Thu	1:48	10.4	2:11	10.4	7:55	-1.0	8:22	-1.1	6:41	5:09	☾
14 Fri	2:41	10.2	3:09	9.7	8:52	-0.8	9:16	-0.5	6:39	5:10	☾
15 Sat	3:37	10.0	4:12	9.1	9:54	-0.4	10:14	0.1	6:38	5:11	☾
16 Sun	4:37	9.7	5:18	8.6	10:59	-0.1	11:16	0.6	6:36	5:13	☾
17 Mon	5:40	9.5	6:27	8.3			12:08	0.1	6:35	5:14	☾
18 Tue	6:47	9.3	7:35	8.2	12:23	0.9	1:18	0.2	6:33	5:15	☾
19 Wed	7:51	9.3	8:36	8.3	1:31	1.0	2:21	0.1	6:32	5:17	☾
20 Thu	8:48	9.4	9:28	8.5	2:31	0.9	3:15	-0.1	6:30	5:18	☾
21 Fri	9:38	9.6	10:15	8.6	3:23	0.8	4:02	-0.2	6:29	5:19	☾
22 Sat	10:24	9.6	10:57	8.8	4:09	0.6	4:45	-0.2	6:27	5:21	☾
23 Sun	11:05	9.6	11:35	8.9	4:51	0.5	5:23	-0.2	6:26	5:22	☾
24 Mon	11:43	9.6			5:30	0.4	5:57	-0.1	6:24	5:23	☾
25 Tue	12:09	8.9	12:18	9.4	6:06	0.4	6:29	0.0	6:23	5:25	☾
26 Wed	12:42	8.9	12:53	9.2	6:41	0.4	7:01	0.2	6:21	5:26	☾
27 Thu	1:15	8.9	1:29	8.9	7:17	0.5	7:34	0.5	6:19	5:27	☾
28 Fri	1:48	8.8	2:07	8.5	7:55	0.6	8:10	0.8	6:18	5:28	☾
29 Sat	2:24	8.7	2:49	8.2	8:36	0.8	8:49	1.1	6:16	5:30	☾

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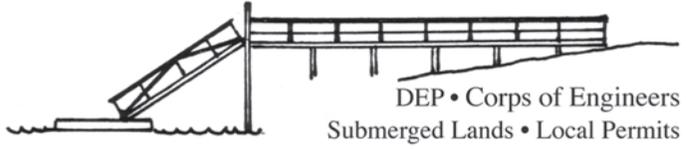
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Musings with Butch Lawson

Shopping Off the Fantail



In 1968, I bought a Nazi-proofed Mauser 7.65mm semi-auto pistol off the fantail of my ship for the hefty price of a carton of Marlboros. The transaction was made reasonably secure by the presence of an armed Gunners Mate beside me staring sixty feet down at the seller in the leaky rowboat below who was nervously tying the pistol to the end of a dangling line. A great buy, the little pistol outlasted fourteen homes, a couple dozen vehicles, a dozen pets, a marriage, thousands of rounds, and three holsters before it retired to a life of leisure in a collection somewhere. Who knows what interesting things it experienced before I gave it a loving home? Today that same purchase can be made with far fewer people present and far more security, but it wouldn't conjure up that vision of a sweaty purveyor of black market goods floating ten fathoms below in a rocking little rowboat and looking straight upwards as he tied a mystery knot in a dangling line of

six-thread. The price has probably gone up a lot as well.

That may be the last time I actually enjoyed shopping for anything. Five decades later, shopping isn't nearly as much fun and I now make a distinction between shopping and buying. To me, shopping is going to a place where stuff is sold, but going without an intent to purchase. It's closely related to loitering, but I think my mother called it "browsing." It's like buying but one can do it without actually spending money, making it the perfect activity for those who just like to snoop around other people's stuff. Buying, on the other hand, is what it says. I go to the place of business likely to have the item I wish to own, I try to locate the item without having to ask directions of the nice person in the colorful vest texting his/her mom. Then I go directly to an employee-staffed checkout lane where I eventually pay for the item, or at least promise to pay for it when I get the bill, and I go on about my business. Done.

That is, done except for getting my new little truck safely out of the parking lot. If I'm lucky, it isn't blocked by freshly abandoned shopping carts left close enough to risk body damage upon exit. I'm rarely that lucky at a food store, but interestingly, it doesn't seem to happen nearly as often in

the big hardware store lots. Coming into a parking lot, I can choose a spot not blocked by carts that have been eighty-sixed by people who are too important to put them in the cart corral themselves. Sometimes, getting my truck back out again requires extra effort and the movement of more than just the cart I used. If my timing works out just right, I can grab one just as the user has left it far enough out of the way of the driver's exit path and offer a helpful, "Here, let me put that away for you, ma'am," as she gets in her car. Makes my day to see the facial expression when that happens.

Sometimes just doing the right thing is all the fun I need for the day, but that expression on someone getting caught being a dork is icing on the cake. Kinda makes going to the store not so bad after all. ☺

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Maine Pines Offers Free Red Ball Youth Tennis

Maine Pines Racquet and Fitness has a special offering this year for kids ages 4 to 7. Youth can join Maine Pines professional tennis instructors on the courts for free Red Ball Tennis. The Red Ball Tennis program will be held from 5:00 – 6:00pm on Mondays and/or Wednesdays. No hidden costs, just register for the session(s).

Red Ball Tennis is a tennis program introduced by the United States Tennis Association (USTA) in 2010 to make the game of tennis easier for children to learn and succeed. The court, balls, racket and net are all adapted to the size and strength of younger players. These alterations create better opportunities for children to hit the balls, improve tennis skills and advance development, with the goal of developing basic athletic skills as well as hand eye coordination.

The court dimensions are smaller, the rackets are shorter (23 inches or less) and the tennis nets lower than the standard 3' of regular tennis, at the Red Ball height of 2'9". Additionally, the balls used are larger and have less compression – with a lower compression, balls don't bounce as high, keep-

ing them within a younger player's strike zone. The Red Ball tennis program name is reflective, as suspected, from the coloring of the balls. The unique red coloring provides better visual for youth.

"We want to focus on playing and having fun in this introductory program, and engage kids with physical activity," stated Andrea Georgian, Maine Pines Tennis Professional. "Within our Red Ball lessons, the children will learn to play tennis and also learn about good sportsmanship on and off the court."

As young players progress in age and ability, the size of the court and balls will change, as they transition to the standard adult game. Maine Pines welcomes local youth to this free Red Ball program giving them an opportunity to try tennis and get involved in a physical activity having fun and learning life lessons that sports can offer.

For more information on the program or to register a child for one of the monthly sessions, contact Maine Pines, 207-729-8433 or stop by to talk to instructors and see the facility and register in person. ☺

ATTENTION HARPSWELL VOTERS

• ANNUAL TOWN MEETING •
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

HARPSWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Polls Open: 9:00 AM – Close: 5:00 PM
Business Meeting Starts: 10:00 AM

**The deadline for requesting absentee ballots is the close of business on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.*

Are your hemlocks hurting?

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1 February 2020 Community Calendar

February 4, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented weekly by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Bailey Island Union Church, 2141 Harpswell Islands Road, Bailey Island. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Surrey at 207-833-0092 or email surreysh@comcast.net.

February 5, 1-2:30PM

Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) meeting, Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, 153 Harpswell Neck Rd. Show your Harpswell Pride: Volunteer ideas to restore our native habitats. This time, we're focusing on the Otter Brook Preserve. FMI visit <https://hhlmaine.org/hipp/> or email hipp.maine@gmail.com.

February 6, 10:30AM

Cundy's Harbor Library Children's Story Hour. 935 Cundy's Harbor Rd. FMI call 207-725-1461 or email assistant@cundysharbor.me. Please note this event repeats every Thursday in February (2/13, 2/20, 2/27).

February 6, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Cundy's Harbor Community Hall, 837 Cundy's Harbor Road, Harpswell. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Surrey at 207-833-0092 or email surreysh@comcast.net.

February 6, 1-3PM

Cundy's Harbor Library Tech Help. Tech problems? We have solutions. 935 Cundy's Harbor Rd. FMI call 207-725-1461 or email assistant@cundysharbor.me. Please note this event repeats every Thursday in February (2/13, 2/20, 2/27).

February 8, 3-4PM

Wonders of Maine's Wildlife with Ed Robinson. Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, 153 Harpswell Neck Road. Free. FMI visit hhlmaine.org, email outreach@hhlmaine.org, or call 207-837-9613.

February 9, 2PM

Pejepscot Genealogical Society meet-

ing. Morrell Meeting Room, Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St, Brunswick. FMI call Steve Gilchrist at 603-454-4094.

February 11, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented weekly by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Bailey Island Union Church, 2141 Harpswell Islands Road, Bailey Island. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Surrey at 207-833-0092 or email surreysh@comcast.net.

February 13, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Merriconeag Grange Hall, 529 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Surrey at 207-833-0092 or email surreysh@comcast.net.

February 15, 10-11:30AM

Harpswell's Winter World: Join HHLT and a naturalist on the third Saturday of each month, Janu-

ary through April. Location to be announced. Free. FMI visit hhlmaine.org, email outreach@hhlmaine.org, or call 207-837-9613.

February 17, 2-4PM

Community Snow Day: Try out a fat tire bike, sled, snowshoe and enjoy hot cocoa and tea! Harpswell Community School, 308 Harpswell Islands Road. Free. FMI visit hhlmaine.org, email outreach@hhlmaine.org, or call 207-837-9613.

February 18, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented weekly by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Bailey Island Union Church, 2141 Harpswell Islands Road, Bailey Island. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Surrey at 207-833-0092 or email surreysh@comcast.net.

February 20, 10-11:30AM

Southern Midcoast Forest Playgroup Comes to Harpswell: Location and activity to be announced.

Free. FMI visit hhlmaine.org, email outreach@hhlmaine.org, or call 207-837-9613.

February 20, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Great Island Church of the Nazarene, 806 Harpswell Islands Road, Harpswell. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Surrey at 207-833-0092 or email surreysh@comcast.net.

February 20, 1PM

The Harpswell Garden Club will meet at the Kellogg Church, 917 Harpswell Neck Road. Following a brief business meeting, a presentation from Brunswick Topsham Land Trust and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust will discuss "Coming Soon: Woodward Point Conservation Project" on the New Meadows River. Free and open to the public. FMI call Becky 207-833-6159.

February 24, 7-8:30PM

Merrymeeting Audubon Meeting, Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St, Brunswick. Jeff Stann will present a program with photos about his trip to Antarctica and Chile in 2019. Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided. FMI call Carol Jack at 207-729-0220 or visit www.merrymeeting-audubon.org.

February 25, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented weekly by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Bailey Island Union Church, 2141 Harpswell Islands Road, Bailey Island. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Surrey at 207-833-0092 or email surreysh@comcast.net. ☺

Nature Day Camp

Explore the Harpswell coast this summer!

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Camp registration opens March 1 at 8 p.m. This camp fills quickly! More information: www.hhlmaine.org.



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Adapting to Changing Everyday Living Needs?

Harpswell Aging at Home Has a Tool for You

What do a one-handed cutting board, glasses that allow you to read while laying flat, a seat belt grabber handle and a tool that allows a person to more easily fasten their shirts have in common? They're all part of Harpswell Aging at Home's list of adaptive tools that make everyday living tasks easier.

Common daily tasks can be hardships if the ability to care for oneself becomes more challenging. Living independently centers on the idea that many people can regain or find the ability to take care of themselves with little, if any, help from others. With the right adaptive tools, many people can remain more confident and comfortable in their own homes as they age.

When people adapt to their changing levels of ability by giving up things they previously enjoyed – for example, letting go of cooking if using sharp knives has become a difficult task – the



Grab and Go A grabber tool allows people to more easily reach items around their home. (HAH PHOTO)

first step in reclaiming daily living skills is recognizing when some extra help would be useful. Consulting an occupational therapist can identify changes in a person's level of function.

In an effort to help older adults age in place, Harpswell Aging at Home's Health and Wellness Committee has compiled a list of tools that will help people continue preparing and eating food, getting dressed and being safe in their homes with a little more ease.

Generated with advice from the Bowdoinham Advisory Committee, Bath Housing and Patricia Oh of AARP Maine, the devices all help improve a person's mobility and level of function. They may be new things to add to a home – such as an “under cabinet jar opener” – or improvements for something that is already in place – like reading glasses worn in a laying down position, called “prism glasses” which help the wearer avoid neck and eye strain.

In addition to the list, Harpswell Aging at Home has pur-

chased some of the devices so people can have the opportunity to try them out. While the non-profit's tools are not available to be lent out to individuals, organizations are welcome to borrow them for display. HAH volunteers have taken the devices to a number of community events – including open houses at Harpswell's fire departments, the People Plus Senior Expo and the Harpswell Historical Society's Memorial Day celebration – to give people an opportunity for a hands-on experience.

To find a list of adaptive tools and price ranges, as well as other resources, visit hah.community/senior-resources.html. For more information about Harpswell Aging at Home's “tool table,” contact the organization at hah@hah.community or (207) 833-5771.

Harpswell Aging at Home is a community organization helping older adults address the challenges of aging at home. For more information visit our website at hah.community and like us on Facebook.

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BOOK EXCERPT: *Boiling Off*

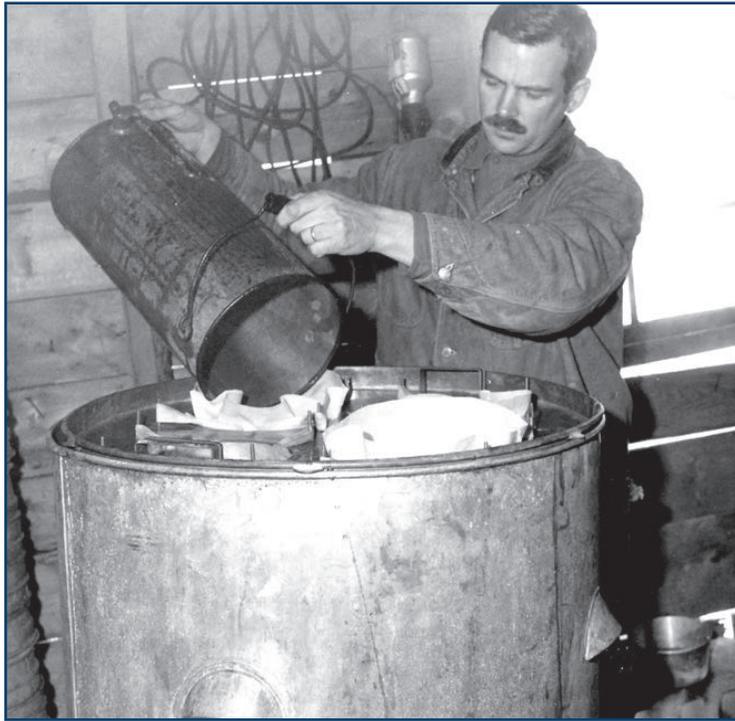
This excerpt is from the book Boiling Off: The Story of Maple Sugaring in Maine, by John Hodgkins, DownEast Books, copyright 2020. Printed with permission.

1781 PLANTATION NUMBER ONE

I first made maple syrup—sugared—in 1944. I knew little about sugaring then, but Pa was away at war and the government had rationed sugar. Ma, left behind in tiny Temple, Maine, pretty much on her own, needed some sweetener, and she showed me how to use Pa's bit brace and bit. Though only nine years old and not handy with tools, I saw an opportunity to help out on the home front.

I went to work. With the bit and brace I drilled a half-dozen holes in the sugar maples that lined the road in front of our house, inserted metal spiles, as they were called then, and hung tin cans to catch the sap that dripped over the end of the spiles. As the cans filled, I took the sap to Ma and she steamed it down on the kitchen cook stove into a thick, murky liquid and put it in a jar. I don't recall us producing any sugar—nor do I recall the wallpaper falling from the kitchen walls as such stories are usually told—but Ma did drizzle some of the life-giving sweet liquid onto our breakfast pancakes a few days later. I felt a part of the cause; I had a role in the war; I was a soldier, too. With the coming of summer though, I put away the bit and brace and pails and spiles, and Ma trained me to use Pa's lawnmower. Later, while the war still raged, I raked scatterings in Uncle Sheriden's haying crew. Twenty years would pass before I produced any more maple syrup.

The first pure maple syrup made in Maine, it's widely held, came from Stephen Titcomb's place on the bank of Sandy River in what was known then as Plantation Number One, now Farmington Falls. Titcomb is claimed to have produced syrup there in 1781.



In December 1780, so the story goes, nine years before George Washington was inaugurated president of the United States, Titcomb and his family left Topsham, Maine, in a two-ox wagon—some say a sled—and headed north. Stowed in the small wooden buckboard were the necessities of homesteading: a larder of dried and salted food; overcoats, snowshoes, and furniture; a bed, a mirror, and a wooden keg. Seed corn was packed under the seat. Two cows and a few sheep trotted alongside. The driver, Stephen Titcomb, a forward-looking man some thirty years old, herded the oxen and animals northerly sixty miles distant toward Plantation Number One and a piece of land alongside Sandy River. In 1776 Titcomb had come to Plantation One via the Kennebec River with partners Robert Gower and others, cleared land, and staked out a lot. In subsequent years he built a cabin, tilled land, and made maple syrup. This year—1780—he was coming to stay.

Four passengers accompanied Titcomb: wife, Elizabeth, snuggled one-month-old Hannah, and two sons, two-year-old Henry and four-year-old Joseph, who watched over the wagon's sideboards and examined the earth as it passed beneath them.

Their first year in Plantation One, it's said, the boys passed their days playing on the river's sandy beaches. One day Joseph dug up an old cast iron kettle buried in the sand, a kettle thought to have been left behind by Abenaki Indians who had encamped there some time previously. Titcomb, perhaps Maine's first sugarmaker, saved the kettle and put it to work in the spring boiling off maple syrup and sugar.

In 1808 Joseph Titcomb, now thirty years old, married and built a house in Farmington village. In 1820, unwilling to bring up his family amid the temptations of village life, he moved one mile to Titcomb Hill. In March 1820, so the story goes, he and his father, Stephen, using the old kettle he'd found buried in Sandy River years ago, boiled off what is declared to be the first batch of pure maple syrup made in the state of Maine. A hundred years later, Nellie Titcomb Williams, a fourth—or fifth, or sixth—generation descendent of Stephen, and her husband, Charles, produced syrup on the same Titcomb Hill farm, known then as Maple Hill Fruit Farm. The old kettle hung in Nellie's saphouse then, a tribute to sugaring history. In 1971, Albion and Donna Tracy acquired Maple Hill Fruit Farm—

the kettle as well—and renamed it Maple Hill Farm. The Tracys continue even now to produce pure Maine maple syrup at Maple Hill Farm, displaying the old kettle every sugaring season on Maine Maple Sunday.

The use of an iron kettle to boil sap, according to Helen and Scott Nearing in *The Maple Sugar Book*, was the first innovation in the Indian way of sugaring. The Indian way, as the Nearings described it, was to hollow out troughs from downed tree trunks, place sap in the troughs, and insert heated stones hot enough to cause the sap to boil—or steam. This method was used for making sugar until the arrival in North America of European explorers and fur traders. Not until the European traders brought metal to North America, perhaps early in the eighteenth century, was the iron kettle used

the boiling kettle.

The Natives, though likely the first to make sugar from the sap of the sugar maple tree, are not so likely the discoverers of the sweetness in sugar maple sap. Yes, the Natives made and used maple sugar before anyone. They just didn't discover it. The sweetness in maple sap was shown to them, passed down you might say. The American red squirrel, *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*, the chatterer, it's said, discovered the sweetness in maple sap. The American red squirrel dates from the Ice Age, ten thousand years ago, and is known, as many producers have observed, to chew into maple trees in the spring and drink the sap. The American red squirrel also gnaws into the bottom side of a sugar maple limb, lets the sap ooze out onto a branch, and returns later, after sunlight



Sugaring The founders of Jackson Mountain Maple Farm: (left to right) John Hodgkins, Ronald Smith, Bill Hodgkins, Brud Hodgkins. (DOWNEAST PHOTO)

to make maple syrup and sugar. Kettles and pots, though popular for boiling off syrup or sugar, produced syrup that usually tasted dark and strong due to the lengthy boiling time and the cook's need to keep adding sap to

has evaporated moisture out of the sap, and devours the residue. The American red squirrel is the only rodent observed to harvest and evaporate maple sap. The early Natives likely made the same observation. ☞

Happy Valentine's Day!

BOOK EXCERPT: *Beautiful Harpswell*

Beautiful Harpswell

The Neck and its 45 Island Jewels

Written and Illustrated by
Margaret* and Charles Todd

*Member, Maine Historical Society

This excerpt is from the book Beautiful Harpswell: The Neck and its 45 Island Jewels, a faithful reproduction of the history of early Harpswell. Written by Margaret and Charles Todd, it is believed to have been written in the early 1950's. Original spelling and punctuation have been retained. Although few original copies remain, it has since been published by Anchor Publishing. Copies are available for sale at the Anchor Office.

POND ISLAND

Pleasant little Pond Island, which lies less than a mile to the south-east of Orr's Island, was named for a fresh-water pond that has long since dried up. It is reputed to have been the scene of some very strange, unexplained happenings that have given rise to the reputation that it is haunted. As a result, the island goes uninhabited for long periods of time.

It was on Pond Island that the pirate Lowe was supposed to have buried three kettles of bar silver and a chest containing gold and jewels from the Spanish galleon Don Pedro del Montclova. Lowe is said to have supervised the placing of the treasure in three boats, which his crew rowed to the little cove at the north end of Pond Island. The treasure was carried ashore and dropped into the pond for safe keeping. The pirates then fell to quarreling among themselves. Two of their number were slain, and the survivors dumped

their bodies into the pond along with the loot. The pond has since gone dry, but its bottom, along with almost the entire island has been dug over innumerable times in hope of discovering buried treasure.

Stories are told of mysterious, shimmering, weirdly-colored lights, and strange, unaccountable noises that, at the time, could only be attributed to supernatural causes. It is said, for example, that there was a white light that extended from Little Cove over the entire length of the island. This might be explained by a heavy vapor of phosphorus that lies close to the ground preceding a spell of damp weather; but the weird noises could only be attributed to the ghosts of the slain pirates in their never-ending quarrels over who should possess the treasure. This

was in residence at Orr's Island, and was reported to have conducted successful seances.

Then, too, it was at Pond Island that the "Acaraza Man" from Portland conducted his experiments

the house and stayed under the bed, refusing to yield to coaxing and come out. Sylvester had to remain at Pond Island that night, but the next day he began to move all his possessions back to Orr's Island.

For a time, too, Pond Island was the home of the robust, red-headed John Darling, the so-called Hermit of Harpswell. It is usually claimed that Darling was exiled to Pond Island by the Harpswell Town Fathers and left there to freeze to death. But the town records tell a different story. So do the good-hearted people of Orr's Island.

John Darling and his family fared quite well at Pond Island. He fished some lobster traps and had seasonal employment with S. J.

Prince and Son, assisting with the salting down of fish. John always managed, too, to be on hand to assist in unloading the cargoes from the many large fishing vessels that, at the time, made Orr's Island a port-of-call. John also transported his children by dory to Orr's Island to school.

Then a tragic disease struck down Darling's wife, and the family had to be separated. Town records show that when Darling was no longer able to fend for himself, he was given a one-room cabin on Sebascodegan Island, and a neighbor was delegated to look in on him daily. His death is recorded at the Maine General Hospital on January 15, 1918; at the age of 68. Very definitely, then, he did not freeze to death on Pond Island.

When John's body was brought to Orr's Island for burial, the casket rested over night in the Union Meeting House. Before burial, Charles Huff, a lay minister at Orr's Island, read the burial service from the Methodist Discipline.

Pond Island was owned, for many years, by the late Robert Peter Tristram Coffin, formerly Pierce Professor of Literature at Bowdoin College. †

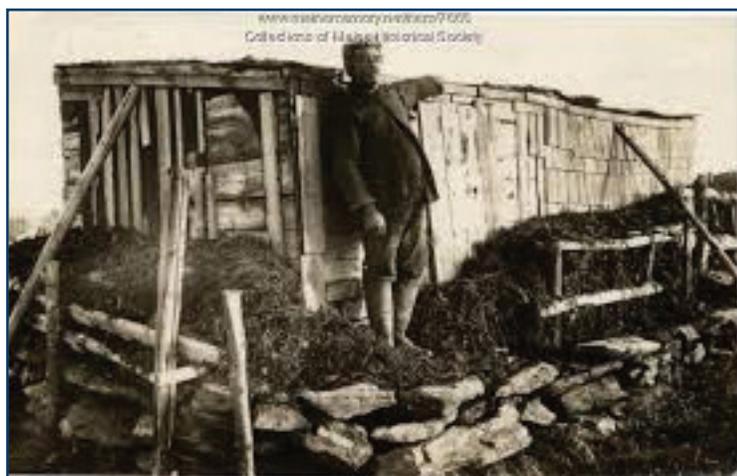


Island Life Pond Island, seen beyond the Cribstone Bridge on Bailey Island. (ROBERT ANDERSON PHOTO)

Dried mussel shells from Pond Island were ground up and used for plastering the walls of the David Johnson house, built at Bailey Island in 1763. But restless spirits from Pond Island were said to have

in 1801. The Professor, as he styled himself, duped a group of highly respected citizens into forming a corporation for the making of silver out of morning dew. The first experiment at Pond Island, however, with dew gathered at Freeport, turned out to be a dismal failure. The second experiment, with dew gathered under what the Professor claimed were more favorable circumstances, was a success. (The Professor had had the foresight to drip some melted coins in with the other boiling ingredients.) The Professor thereupon lost no time in collecting his fees and disappearing, leaving the other members of the corporation holding the kettle of dew!

Charles Sylvester, a veteran of the Civil War, lived at Pond Island from 1875 to 1880; and while there he operated an extensive and successful hen farm. One evening, however, just at sundown, while resting on his doorstep, he suddenly saw a large phantom dog, the size of a year-old colt, pass by. Sylvester's dog, a lively spaniel, whimpered and was so frightened by the spectre that he dodged into



Roughing It John Darling in front of his home on Pond Island, courtesy of the Maine Historical Society. (MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO)

gave rise, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to a wave of spiritualism at Harpswell. For a number of years a medium

been attracted by the mussel shells and, as a result, the new house was the scene of many strange and unexplainable sounds.

This Week In Harpswell Photo Project

Have you enjoyed Harpswell's scenic wonders? Yes! Have you ever been inspired to reach for a camera or phone to capture a moment of Harpswell beauty — a sunset, a dewdrop, a smile, or the majestic arc of a forest giant? Most likely. If you're like most of us, you're eager to share those golden moments.

In a new photo project, Harpswell Heritage Land Trust (HHLT) will collect photos in a year-long series called "This Week in Harpswell," with a week selected in each of the four seasons. All who love or live in Harpswell are encouraged to join the project by heading outdoors to take some photos.



This Week in Harpswell will launch February 10-16. HHLT is seeking photo submissions in three categories: scenery, people

and detail (close-ups of plants, rocks, animals, water, etc.). Photos should be taken in Harpswell during that week but don't have to

be taken on HHLT properties.

Selected photos will be presented in an online gallery, on social media and in future HHLT publications.

"We hope for this project to celebrate and document Harpswell's incredible scenic beauty in all seasons," said HHLT Outreach Director Julia McLeod. "And to encourage us to slow down, pay attention and snap a photo."

Email photos to photos@hhlt-maine.org or send a link to an online album. In the email, please include the name of the photographer and date and location of the photo.

Future dates will be announced in May, August and October. For more information, visit: www.hhltmaine.org.

Smart Kid

Laney Phillips, of Orrs Island, a student in the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences of the University of New Haven has been named to the Dean's List for the fall, 2019.

Phillips is working on a Bachelor of Science in National Security.



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TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020

Voting Locations
Polls Open 8AM-8PM

Fellowship Hall at Elijah Kellogg Church
(Harpswell Neck and Mountain Road Voters)

Old Orr's Island School House
(Orr's and Bailey Island Voters)

Cundy's Harbor Community Building
(Great Island Voters)

**The deadline for absentee ballots (except for special circumstances) is Thursday, February 27, 2020.*



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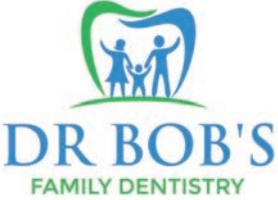
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DID YOU KNOW?

Thanks to a couple of grants, HIPP is developing an **Invasive Plants Project** at Otter Brook Preserve on Rte. 123 Beginning this spring. Stay tuned!!



Find out more at www.hhltmaine.org/HIPP



Bowdoin International Music Festival Faculty Housing Needed

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In Memory

Patricia Sankey Imfeld Robinson 1926 - 2020

Patricia Sankey Imfeld Robinson passed away Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at her residence.

Patricia was born February 9, 1926, the daughter of Frederic W. and Marguerite C. (Imfeld) Robinson of Maplewood, New Jersey.

She graduated from Short Hills Country Day School, Short Hills, New Jersey; Kent Place School, Summit, New Jersey in 1943. She then went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree from Connecticut College in 1947; and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Michigan (1951) where she was elected to the Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Honor Society.

Patricia's teaching career included Bates College (1947 - 1950); Winsted Connecticut Public School System (1952 - 1953); and the University of Connecticut in Storres, Connecticut (1953 - 1975).

At the University of Connecticut, she taught required physical education classes as well as courses in methods of teaching various sports to students in the physical education majors. Through her years of teaching, she trained referees and umpires in field hockey, basketball and volleyball; and served on the examining boards of these officials. Patricia also coached field hockey, basketball and softball for the, then, Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Program. She served as Head of the Women's Physical Education Program, and as Acting Head of the Physical Education Department at various times. During her teaching career, she was a member of the American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Women's National Officials' Rating Committee; National Section for Girls and Women's Sports; National Association of Physical Education for College Women; the United States Field Hockey Association; and the Hampshire Field Hockey Association.

In 2005 she was elected to the New Agenda Northeast Women's Hall of Fame; and in 2006, to the Connecticut College Athletic Hall of Fame.

Many of Patricia's summers were spent as a Camp Counselor, Head of the Waterfront, and Assistant Director at Camp Accomac, Douglas Hill, Maine.

Upon her retirement in 1975, she moved to Bailey Island, Maine where she had built a home. Not one to sit around the house, Patricia continued to lead exercise classes in the community that included Brunswick Naval Air Station, Peoples Plus, and the smaller groups on Orr's and Bailey Islands. She also taught swimming in the Harpswell elementary school program, and continued with her Red Cross Swimming Instructor Certification (from 1951) until 2007 when she would teach lessons with her friends in the salt water pool until the age of 89! Pat was an active member of the Mingo Club of Bailey Island for many years and held offices as Treasurer and even President. Summers were enjoyed by fishing, lobstering and swimming, as well as entertaining family and friends.

Pat sold her beloved home on Bailey Island to live full-time in Brunswick in the Fall of 2018. She was well-cared for by friends, Linda's Home Care, Aging Excellence, CHANS Hospice, and the staff of Thornton Hall where she resided until her passing. She was predeceased by her parents, two sisters and two nephews. She is survived by three nieces, several great nieces and nephews, as well as several great-great nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service was held at the Islands Community Church, Harpswell Island Road, Bailey Island, Maine on Friday, January 24, 2020 at 11AM.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to either: Mingo Club c/o Margaret Broughall, Treasurer, 91 Johnson Point Road, Orr's Island, ME 04066; or, Kent Place School, Office of Advancement, 42 Norwood Avenue, Summit, New Jersey 07901 - in memory of Patricia S. I. Robinson, Class of '43.

Arrangements are in the care of the Brackett Funeral Home, 29 Federal Street, Brunswick. Condolences can be expressed at www.brackettffh.com.



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Town of Harpswell
Public Information Forum
for the
Mitchell Field Master Plan Update
Tuesday, February 11, 2020
6 PM at the Town Office

Fishing News

Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage (PMFH) is releasing a video involving fishermen who believe that the rules and regulations around aquaculture leases need to be changed. Currently, a bill supported by PMFH, LR 2718, has been tabled in legislative council. The proposal calls for lessening the size of aquaculture leases in Maine.

Currently, a single person, business or corporation can lease up to 1,000 acres of the ocean. Those leases can be transferred to an out of state corporation, individual or business without the benefit of a public hearing. The terms of the lease have grown from 10 to 20 years.

Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Spokesperson Crystal Canney said, "We believe the stage is being set right now for Maine's inshore fishery to be owned by big companies. Large aquaculture leases limit the ability of those who want to recreate on the water and those who have traditionally been part of the lobstering and fishing business. The Department of Marine Resources approves in-water marine applications 99% of the time. As we have consistently said – we are not anti-aquaculture, but we are about a fair playing field for all who use the ocean. We also don't want to see Maine's Ocean be purchased up by large corporations in the future."

The video can be found at ProtectMaine.com.

EMT

From page 1

their state licenses.

"This is huge for the department," Wallace said. "The addition of new EMTs will let OBIFD spread out the workload, allowing volunteers to better balance service to our community with family, work and other personal needs."

"It also means that when more than one medical call comes in, that there is a greater depth of responders to call upon, which should be faster than relying on mutual aid," added Wallace, who also serves as chief of the Cundy's Harbor Volunteer Fire Department.

The trainees met for four hours of hands-on instruction every Wednesday evening from mid-January until the end of April, with many additional hours of online study required each week. Jason Downing, a Bath firefighter and United Training Center instructor, ran the program and said it was intense.

"The students were educated in what to do in a medical emergency. Anything from someone not breathing to someone injured in an accident," Downing said. "This included CPR training, what to do in cases of a heart at-

tack, asthma, abdominal pain, etc. An EMT is the base for all pre-hospital medical care."

Once the trainees successfully pass the course's final exam, they have 60 days to complete a minimum of 24 hours of "clinical" training, riding with EMTs in an ambulance, and pass a practical test. Then they must pass the National Registry EMT written test and apply for a state license. "As you can see," Downing said, "there is a lot to becoming an EMT, and the students have worked hard to achieve it."

Bethany McNelly-Davis of Bailey Island and her husband, Perry Davis, were both members of the EMT training program. The couple runs Sea Escape Cottages and the Schooner Alert Windjammer Cruises (seascapecottages.com), while also raising a young family. They have a very full plate, but they also want to contribute.

"We'd like to see the volunteer system remain in place," said Perry. "But for that to happen, people are going to

have to step up to the plate and be willing to play a part. There's more pride in having a community-run fire and rescue service."

"It's also important for us to find ways to create connections with our community," added Bethany. "It can be hard to socialize in a small town and making those connections is a big deal."

Both Bethany and Perry agreed that the EMT course was challenging. "It's been a while since I spent that much time in a classroom," Perry said. Bethany added: "I have been continuing with my EMT and Emergency Vehicle Driving certification efforts this fall and winter. I have to pass my National Registry EMT test to be licensed and get some driving time in to be checked off on driving." She added that Perry has decided to be an emergency vehicle driver primarily.

Downing said he was impressed by the large turnout for the class and recognized the sacrifices being made by the trainees. "It's very hard

in today's society to get people that are able to help in their community. It is very demanding to get the training and to maintain it. The students will be a great asset to Harpswell once they achieve their licensure. In an emergency, time matters, and with more responders available, that time will be reduced."

"We don't have a lot of spare time, with the kids and work and whatever," said Perry. "But ultimately, we think it's important to try to give back and be a useful member of the community."

OBIFD will pay the cost of training and equipment – Chief Wallace estimated the total at about \$2,000 per person – for the certified EMTs that complete the program and join the department. To support this effort, and the life-saving work done by the department's volunteer first responders, please consider making a donation by visiting our website at obifd.org. ☘

Town of Harpswell Public Hearing

Thursday, February 6, 6:30pm, Harpswell Town Office

- To hear Public Comment on the 2020 Proposed Appropriation of \$150,834 for Curtis Memorial Library.
 - This item will be a secret ballot item on the warrant of the March 14, 2020 Town Meeting.
 - Absentee voting will begin 30 days prior to the March 14 Town Meeting.
- Contact the Town Clerk's Office to request an absentee ballot. Ballots will also be available at the Annual Town Meeting, at Harpswell Island School, on March 14, 2020. Polls open at 9am and close at 5pm.

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Isaac

From page 1

Maine. But, he comes from a family that has worked on the water - his dad worked on oyster skipjacks in Maryland. And he has raised his sons to appreciate working on the water as well. Isaac's older brother Max and his friend Sam own an oyster farm together with their father. It's called Ferda Farms - because it was started "fer" "da" boys. Isaac is branching out from this to try his own farm - this one for kelp. It's called Ridley Cove Kelp Farm after its location in Harpswell.

"When I was 13 or so and starting to earn some money clamming, my grandfather said, "Right now isn't going to matter tomorrow". He told me I needed to start investing for the future. That's when I really started working hard," says Isaac. Now he's using some of that to start his kelp farm.

He got the idea to grow kelp after working with Colleen Francke on her kelp farm in Yarmouth one summer. "She's a really cool person," says Isaac. Francke is working with women recovering from addiction. When Isaac looked ahead at the fall, he decided to go for it. "I thought - I'm not playing a sport and I didn't want to be sitting on my couch. Some kids my age spend all day on their phone and think that's productive, but I want to do something that's good for the ecosystem. Kelp is good for the world and it's good for my pocket."

Isaac looked to Sea Grant's Marine Extension Associate, Jaclyn Robidoux, for help in crafting his business plan and creating a design for his farm. "I couldn't have done anything without her. She has been an incredible resource." Plans in hand, he approached Harpswell Harbormaster, Paul Plummer, to see if he thought this would work in Harpswell. They selected Ridley Cove and he put together an application for several small LPA (Limited Purpose for Aquaculture) leases that was approved this past August.

"Then, I bought 1200 pounds of concrete and 2000 feet of rope," says Isaac. I made the anchors in my garage and got some buoys. I remember thinking, "Alright, I'm in it now, here I go!" he says. But, there was more that he wanted to incorporate into this project. He asked Brunswick High School teacher Stephanie Dumont if he could design a project to monitor the water quality around his site. The idea was to see if the kelp changes the water quality in the waters around the farm. He got to borrow some sophisticated equipment thanks to Dumont's connection with the Jackson Lab and started to measure pH, dissolved oxygen and salinity every week. He also decided to write his Senior research paper on kelp. "I knew I needed to research it for my business and I also needed to write a paper, so I figured I'd get two birds stoned at once."

Come December, it was time to get the kelp in the water. He got seed from James Crimp at Atlantic Sea Farms in Saco and used large

PVC pipes to spin the kelp around a length rope. Each "kelp line" consists of the kelp wrapped around 200 feet of rope. Along with anchors to hold the lines below the surface and buoys to mark it, Isaac and his brother loaded everything into a skiff on Christmas Day and set things out to grow over the winter. The first crop will be ready this spring. Setting the farm up was not without its challenges. "We nearly sunk my dad's van at the boat launch that day when the tide came further up the boat ramp than we'd expected and its two wheel drive was no match for the icy concrete," he says laughing. "We had to drive around a cul-de-sac with the doors open to get all the water out."

There will certainly be more challenges ahead as Isaac tries to make a profit from growing kelp. But, he already has ideas of where to sell his kelp. "We hope to have 10,000 pounds in April or May," he says. "I've already got Portsmouth Brewery on board to make a beer called Selkie with it. Too bad I'm not old enough to drink it yet." He'll use his connections to seafood dealers and wholesalers he already sells quahogs and clams to. "I like to eat it, too," he says. "When I'm done clamming and my boat's all loaded up, I find a nice piece of kelp and I just grab it. It's crunchy and it just tastes like the ocean."

While he's waiting for his kelp to grow, he's staying busy. He's still clamming when he's not in school where he is serving as Vice President of his class and he's also serving as the first student representative

on Brunswick's Marine Resource Committee. It's a new position created to gather input on the experiences of student license holders. He's taken this a step further and is participating in a Regional Shellfish Working Group that spans several towns along the coast as well. He will be working with BHS's Service Learning Director Rick Wilson to study the differences between student license programs in the state. "I want to help other students explore their options and help other towns create student programs or make theirs better," says Isaac. He already works with Rick to report his catch; in Brunswick, students are required to record how much they harvest. "It's important for people to realize the total of what you're taking from the environment," Isaac says.

Come spring, he will not only have kelp to harvest, but he will have to decide what to do after graduation. He's been accepted in to several programs for physical therapy and is excited about that. "I'll probably sell my farm to my family when I go to school so they can add it to what they're already doing." But, "the more I work on the water, the more I like it, so a marine program could be really cool," he says. "Wherever I end up, I want to be on the water. I love the quiet humility of the work," he adds. "Some people forget the novelty of a job on the water - I get to see sun-up and sundown. That is beautiful," he says. "And growing kelp, I get to do something that's good for the world and will hopefully be a strong investment financially." †

MCPKids! Announces Performance of Disney's High School Musical Jr.

Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical is coming to life on the MCP stage in Disney's High School Musical Jr. Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extracurricular activities. The show's infectious, danceable songs are sure to engage performers and audiences alike.

It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes all find their cliques. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy Bolton (Taylor Sutherland), discovers that the brainy Gabriella Montez (Makenzie Finnegan), a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. The couple cause an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical, ruffling the delicate feathers of Sharpee and Ryan Evans (Sam Melquist and Shawn Jimenez), East High's reigning divas. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

The show will run Friday, February 21st at 7pm, Saturday the 22nd at 2pm and 7pm, and Sunday the 23rd at 2pm. The understudies will be performing for the afternoon performance on Saturday. Tickets cost \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and are available through the theaters website at www.monmouthcommunityplayers.org. For more information, please call the box office at 370-9566 or by emailing them at mcpboxoffice@gmail.com.

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Pejepscot Genealogical Society Meeting

The Pejepscot Genealogical Society (PGS) will hold its next meeting in the Morrell Meeting Room of the Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, Maine on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 2 pm. Lynne Holland will be the presenter for the meeting. We will start in the Morrill Room and work our way up to the Genealogy Room on the second floor. Lynne will go over some of the resources available to pa-

trons of the library and explain the type of help she provides each Friday during the Genealogy Open Hours.

Lynne has been "doing genealogy" since the mid-1990s and enjoys the thrill of the hunt for ancestors, her own and other's ancestors. As a member of the Board for the Maine Genealogical Society, she works on both the Event Committee as co-chair and Website Committee

as chairperson. Over the years, Lynne has taught classes in Basic, Internet and Maine Genealogy for adult ed programs and various libraries.

Refreshments will be offered both before and after the meeting. We hope you will join us and learn what resources are available at Curtis Memorial Library.

For more information contact Steve Gilchrist at (603) 454-4094. ☺

Scam Alert: Text Claims There's a Problem with Your FedEx Delivery

BBB is warning consumers that a phony text message that seems to come from FedEx is sweeping the United States and Canada. The fake message could also arrive via email. It addresses you by name and asks that you click on a link to set delivery preferences for your package. Don't click!

Some individuals who got the text and clicked on the link have reported being taken to an Amazon survey site where they were asked to input credit card information.

Any suspicious text messages or emails should be deleted without being opened, and reported to abuse@fedex.com.

If something sounds suspicious, confirm it by calling the company directly or checking the company website. Don't click on links in an unexpected email – type the URL for the company into your browser or do a web search to find the right website.

Don't click, download, or open anything that comes from an anonymous sender. This is likely an attempt to gain access to your personal information or install malware on your computer.

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Pond

From page 1

was a character, is what I will say. He was the town constable, and the fire chief, and the postman, all these things at the same time. He was a go-getter," said Jamie Welner, who has skated on the pond since the late 1970's and works to maintain the pond for skaters every winter.

"Oscar would like that people are still skating," said Oscar's grandson Eddie Stuart, who currently owns a portion of the property that surrounds the pond. "I'd just as soon have people out there enjoying the skating. . .If people are skating there, people can see their friends without having to make big plans."

Oscar's Pond, with its close proximity to Cundy's Harbor Road and clear visibility to passersby, has become a central gathering place during the winter months for the past several decades. "Oscar's Pond in our youth represented something active to do from dawn to dusk,

every single day of the week. You cleared the pond in the morning, played hockey by day, played hide and seek after dark, and hung around a bonfire on the island in the middle," said Neil Welner, who, like his brother Jamie, spent countless winter days on the pond.

The pond's ability to draw skaters to its frozen expanse has withstood the test of time, despite changes in the world around it over the past sixty years. "People love driving by the pond and seeing people skating. People will run to their house, grab their skates, and come back to skate. That's always been my philosophy - if you want to get a hockey game going, just go up there on a clear day and hit a puck around and see what happens," said Jamie Welner. "A number of times we've gone up there just with the intentions of having a couple people skating, and it attracts others."

Individuals of all ages have learned to skate on Oscar's Pond over the course of time - from 3-year olds to 80-year olds - and hockey games have always con-



Harbor Master Oscar Stuart, owner of Oscar's Pond, standing beside his 1919 REO Speedwagon which transported passengers, freight and mail between Brunswick and the Harbor. (PHOTO COURTESY OF EDDIE STUART)

sisted of team members of all ages. "The Bichrest boys were an inspiration to a lot of the skaters that were younger than them. When you went up there, you had all these generations of skaters and, of course, the teenagers were the best skaters, especially when you were like 5, 7, 8 years old," said Jamie. "They always went out of their way to help people learn how to skate and they were always attentive to the

kids. They weren't just teenagers who didn't care what was going in. They cared about everyone who was up there."

Oscar's Pond has been the home of many winter traditions within the community as a result of its role as a local gathering place. "As a youngster, I remember there would be skating parties, sometimes after dark. Someone would provide some lighting and there'd be a bonfire

out on the island," said Jamie Welner. "Those skating parties would have all the families up there hanging out in the evening and on the weekends, hanging out and playing games."

Due to external factors and changes in weather, the conditions of the natural ice skating rink have become less consistent in recent years. Lily pads have changed the dynamic of the pond, requiring additional layers of frozen water to create a smooth skating surface. Jamie hopes to explore the possibility of improving skating conditions with a pump, which would be used to siphon water onto the surface, allowing it to freeze and create a more substantial skating rink. Jamie said that he also looks forward to the possibility of bringing people together to maintain the frozen pond as a platform for ice skating and building community with increased opportunities for recreation.

"It wouldn't be that hard with a little bit of a group effort to keep the pond going strong. . .That's always been my dream: to figure out how to keep the pond going," said Jamie. ☺

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- February 4, 11, 18, 25
- March 3

Great Island Church of the Nazarene
1st Thursday, Noon

- February 20 (date change)
- March 5

Merriconeag Grange
2nd Thursday, Noon

- February 13
- March 12

Cundy's Harbor Community Hall
3rd Thursday, Noon

- February 6 (date change)
- March 19

For more information about the HAH food programs, contact Surrey Hardcastle at (207) 833-0092 or surreysh@comcast.net.



Harpswell's Winter World

Join Harpswell Heritage Land Trust on the third Saturday of each month, January through April, for a series of programs called Harpswell's Winter World. Each month we'll visit a different land trust preserve with a naturalist for an informal walk to explore how plants and animals have adapted to survive winter in Maine, as well as other winter-worthy topics. Details for each outing will be posted on HHLT's website prior to the walk. Programs are free and appropriate for adults and school-aged children. No advance registration necessary. For more information: www.hhlmaine.org, 207-837-9613, outreach@hhlmaine.org.

"A Good Read"

Send your Good Read photo to news@harpswellanchor.com



A Fiesta Good Read This Harpswell group enjoyed a Good Read in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. From left to right: Shauna McLean, Jean Calderwood, Liam McLean, Linda Despres and Scott McLean.



ORR'S ISLAND WATERFRONT ~ Just bring your suitcase. This Contemporary Cape on 2.7 acres on Orr's Island comes fully furnished and is totally turn key. Home was built in 2010 and has been very lightly used since then. Enjoy over 240 ft of water frontage on Reed Cove. Features include whole house automatic generator, central air, wood floors, master with walk-in closet and full bath, daylight walk-out basement, 2-car attached garage, fireplace and much more. \$750,000



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