

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XVI No. 9

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

September 1, 2016

## Historical Society of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

**September's question:** Litchfield's early settlers could have caught only one of the following fish in Litchfield waters: large-mouth bass, brown trout, or brook trout. Which one was it?

**August's answer:** The tree for which Litchfield's Black Ash Swamp is named has, over time, had two other names—Brown Ash and Basket Ash.

**FMI:** [www.historicalsocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org](http://www.historicalsocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org)

## The Creators 4-H Group

The Creators will be at Litchfield Fair with a fundraising booth (drinks and homemade baked goods) near the Exhibition/4-H Hall. Come and support your local 4-H club.

They will start their new year on Sun., Oct. 2, at 3:30 p.m., at Libby-Tozier School where they will start work on a recycling project.

## Baked Goods 911

Can you believe it? By the time you receive this call for baking volunteers, Litchfield Fair will be a little over a week away—Fri.-Sun., Sep.9-11. Where did summer go?

Once again, Litchfield Firefighters Association is asking Litchfield's Finest—bakers that is—for help with our food concession at the fair. Last year's response was wonderful. Thanks to those of you who contributed, we had a very successful year.

When asked what we are looking for, our answer is always the same. We want you to make whatever you like to bake. Our concession is known for its homemade pies, but we sell anything and everything and will be very pleased and grateful for whatever you contribute. Some of the things people like to buy from us are: pies, cakes, brownies, squares, cookies, muffins, fudge, anything you very talented and generous cooks are willing to bake.

If you are willing to donate something, please call either Darryl Ellis (441-3650) or Tina Gowell (485-5565). Leave your name and number if we cannot come to the phone, and we will return your call.

The members of the Litchfield Fire & Rescue greatly appreciate the help we have received over the years. Last year, we raised over \$4,000 for additional fire-fighting/EMS equipment and training. The money helps us better serve you and keeps us as safe as possible.

Thank you very, very much.

## Senior Center Corner

**Open:** Every Mon. and Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Every Wed., 8:30 a.m.-noon

**Closed:** Mon., Sep. 5 (Labor Day)

**Senior Day, Litchfield Fair, Fri., Sep. 9.** **Band** performs at 2 p.m., and **Steppers** perform at 3:15 p.m.

**Band**, Hammond Hall, Winter Harbor, as a featured group of Schoodic ARTS for ALL programs. Sun., Sep. 18, 2 p.m.

**Band**, Margaret Chase Smith House, Augusta, Wed., Sep. 28, 10 a.m.

**Awareness through Movement, Fri.'s, Sep. 2, 16, 23, 30, at 9:30 a.m.**

**Bowling, 1-7-10 Lanes, Augusta, Thu., Sep. 8.** Call 441-9005 to car pool and leave at 12.

New program (**Art with Marilyn Dunn**) Mon.'s, Sep. 12 and 26, 1 p.m.

**Book Club, Wed., Sep. 14, 12:30 p.m.,** at the Senior Center. Books: *Scones and Bones*, by Laura Childs and *One True Loves*, by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

**Det. Bourque, Kennebec Sheriff's Office,** will discuss **elder abuse and fraud** at the Center Fri., Sep. 16, 10 a.m. Important information for all seniors.

The pot luck lunch and celebration of **September birthdays** is Fri., Sep. 16, at noon.

**Line dancing** instruction (beginner and advanced) Mon.'s at 9:30 a.m.

**Aerobics** on Wed.'s and Fri.'s at 8:30 a.m.

**Music practice, 10 a.m.,** Wed.'s, Sep. 7, 14, and 21.

**Cribbage** for fun on Mon.'s, 11 a.m., and Fri.'s, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring a lunch and stay in the afternoon on Mon. for **bingo**, and Fri. for **cards**.

**Thrift Shop** open only the third Mon., 10-11 a.m.

**Seniors Advisory Committee, 10 a.m.,** Tue., Sep. 20.

**Flu Shot Clinic,** presented by Rite Aid Pharmacy, at the Center on Fri., Sep. 30, from 10 a.m.-noon.

## September Roadrunner Trip:

**Fri., Sep. 23**—Common Ground Fair, Unity; bus leaves at 8 a.m. from Sportsmen's Club.

## Upcoming Trips:

**Tue., Oct. 11,** North Conway, NH

**Fri., Oct. 28,** Hollywood Slots or Bangor Shopping Mall

**Thu., Nov. 10,** Christmas Tree Shop; Portland Mall; buffet lunch.

**REMINDER:** Exercise equipment available for use 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon. and Fri.; 9 a.m. to noon, Wed.

Stop in at the Center for more information, a cup of coffee/tea, and activity/trip sign up. Check out our books, or work on the 1,000-piece puzzle.

## From the Town Manager

### Transfer Station and Swap Shop Hours

Just a reminder—the Transfer Station is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Fri.-Sat. The Swap Shop is currently open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Swap Shop will be closing sometime in September—depending on the weather. Check at the Transfer Station.

### Completed Road Work

The Ferrin Road culvert/bridge replacement has been completed.

The process of double chip-sealing the Libby Road has been completed.

The process of stockpiling road construction material at the town garage is ongoing. This material will be used for road, ditching, and culvert repairs on Dennis Hill RD and Huntington Hill RD.

Culvert replacement (by the Maine Turnpike Authority) at the east end of the Plains RD bridge over the Turnpike has been completed.

Replacement (by the Maine Turnpike Authority) of the Small RD bridge superstructure over the Turnpike is ongoing with anticipated completion by November.

**Meeting Reminder**—All are welcome to attend **Select Board meetings**. Come and see how town government operates.

### Planning Board Needs

The Planning Board is in immediate need of two permanent members, two associate members, and one secretary. If you would like to serve in one of these positions, please send a letter of interest to the Town Manager.

### Conservation Commission

Twelve people enjoyed a lovely full moon paddle on Buker and Jimmy Ponds, Fri., Aug. 19. Great company and great fun! Watch the Sodalite for future events.

We are sad to say that early this month a loon died on Buker Pond from lead poisoning (confirmed by a necropsy at Avian Haven). Although lead sinkers are no longer being sold in Maine, many of us have them in our fishing gear. Maine Audubon has a free lead sinker exchange that anyone can take part in. Lead is not water soluble, and many sinkers are already on the bottom of our lakes looking dangerously like small rocks which are ingested by loons to aid in digestion. When swimming please check out those little black perfectly-round “rocks” and remove them when you can.

At our Sep. meeting we are happy to be hosting Lindsay Nelson (Road Committee) who is giving a talk on terrestrial invasive plants. They can be more dangerous and costly than we thought! That meeting is at 6:30 p.m., Wed., Sep. 14, at the town office. (See Road Committee report, p. 4.)

### Litchfield Fire and Rescue Golf Tournament

This year’s Litchfield Fire and Rescue Golf Tournament will be held at the Meadows Golf Course on Fri., Sep. 16, (rain date: Fri., Sep. 23). So sharpen up your golf game and come for a great day on the links.

## Clerk’s Corner

The kids are going back to school, and the RSU4 budget vote takes place at our town office on Tue., Sep. 6, from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. This is a vote whether to accept the budget proposed by the school board on Wed., Aug. 24, at Oak Hill High School Gym. You can register to vote at the town office during regular business hours and on election day from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

It’s time to start thinking about getting dogs licensed for another year. You can start registering your dog in mid-Oct. as soon as we receive the new tags. I have compiled all dog owner names from the state veterinarian’s office and will be sending notices to anyone who misses the state licensing deadline. There is a \$25 late fee for each dog not licensed on time. Going forward, licensing your dog will be enforced along with the late fee. You have plenty of time to prepare for the small fee of \$6 for altered dogs and \$11 for unaltered. If you have any questions you can call the town office (268-4721) during regular business hours.

## Tacoma Lakes Association

TLA has recently entered into a long-term contract with the Trustees of Litchfield Academy, one of the oldest existing buildings in town built in the 1850's. TLA is in the process of renovating space on the second floor of the building, which will be used as office space by TLA as well as allow for storage of its records. TLA is celebrating its 75-year anniversary, and it is important that TLA establish a more permanent and physical location in town so that it may offer more and varied services to its members and local residents. Once the room has been renovated and set up as an office space, TLA directors will determine the best use of this space in regards to how to best serve its members and others.

TLA is now conducting its annual fall membership campaign. One does not have to live on a lake or be a resident of Litchfield or Monmouth to join. Our dues are only \$15 per year. All monies go to support environmental activities on the Tacoma Lakes lake chain. We encourage you to visit our website, and sign up today. We also accept PayPal. All dues and donations are greatly appreciated and fully tax deductible as we are an IRS approved non-profit charity. Help us set a record membership this year in celebration of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

**FMI:** Contact James Adams, Pres. ([jadams13@gmail.com](mailto:jadams13@gmail.com)); visit our website ([www.tacomalakes.org](http://www.tacomalakes.org)); or like us on Facebook.

TLA activities are conducted year-round.

## CLYNK Program

Are you aware of the Hannaford Community Cash “CLYNK” Program?

It’s another way funds can be raised for the town’s fuel fund. Just pick up a CLYNK packet at the town office. Fill the bottle recyclables bag, affix the “Litchfield” bag tag, and drop it off at the CLYNK location at your nearest participating Hannaford.

**FMI:** [clynk.com/communitycash](http://clynk.com/communitycash)

## September 2016 Community Calendar

1 Thu	<b>Litchfield Food Bank</b> , noon-2 p.m. <b>Planning Board</b> , Town Office, 6 p.m.	16 Fri	<b>Litchfield Fire and Rescue Golf Tournament</b> , Meadows Golf Course <b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
2 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	17 Sat	<b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
3 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon <b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	18 Sun	
4 Sun		19 Mon	<b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 10-11 a.m. <b>Budget Committee</b> , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. <b>Historic Preservation Commission and Historical Society</b> , Shorey Family Research Room, 7 p.m.
5 Mon	<b>Labor Day</b> <b>Town Office</b> , closed	20 Tue	<b>Sen. Ad. Com.</b> , Academy Bldg., 10 a.m. <b>Fire/Rescue Station cleanup</b> , 6 p.m. <b>Fire/Rescue Assoc. Mtg.</b> , Station, 6:30 p.m. <b>Fire/Rescue Mtg.</b> , Station, 7 p.m. <b>Masons</b> , Masonic Hall, 7:30 p.m.
6 Tue	<b>RSU4 Budget Vote</b> , Town Office, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. <b>Fire/Rescue Officers Mtg.</b> , Station 6 p.m.	21 Wed	<b>Road Committee</b> , Town Office, 5:30 p.m. <b>TOPS</b> , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907
7 Wed	<b>TOPS</b> , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907	22 Thu	<b>Litchfield Food Bank</b> , noon-2 p.m. <b>Snowmobile Club Meeting</b> , Academy Bldg., 6:30 p.m. <b>Fair Directors</b> , Sportsmen's Club, 7:30 p.m.
8 Thu	<b>Litchfield Food Bank</b> , noon-2 p.m. <b>Snowmobile Club Pot Luck Supper</b> , Academy Bldg., 6 p.m. <b>Snowmobile Club Meeting</b> , Academy Bldg., 6:30 p.m.	23 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
9 Fri	<b>Litchfield Fair</b> <b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	24 Sat	<b>Public Breakfast</b> , Masonic Hall, 7-10 a.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
10 Sat	<b>Litchfield Fair</b> <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon <b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m. <b>Legion Auxiliary</b> , Legion Hall, 10 a.m.	25 Sun	
11 Sun	<b>Litchfield Fair</b>	26 Mon	<b>Select Board Meeting</b> , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.
12 Mon	<b>Select Board Meeting</b> , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. <b>Sportsmen's Club Monthly Meeting</b> , Sportsmen's Club, 7 p.m.	27 Tue	
13 Tue		28 Wed	<b>TOPS</b> , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907 <b>Franks &amp; Beans</b> , Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m. <b>American Legion</b> , Legion Hall, 7 p.m.
14 Wed	<b>TOPS</b> , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907 <b>Conservation Commission</b> , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.	29 Thu	<b>Litchfield Food Bank</b> , noon-2 p.m.
15 Thu	<b>Litchfield Food Bank</b> , noon-2 p.m.	30 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



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 3—September Calendar  
 4—Newsletter Deadline, Road Committee

# BOX HOLDER

*The Litchfield Sodalite*  
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[sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)  
[www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://www.litchfieldmaine.org)  
 Open: Mon.: 8:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.  
 Tue.—Thu.: 8:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.  
 Closed: Every Fri.

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4 **The Litchfield Sodalite**

**October Issue Deadline:** September 20, 2016, 5 p.m.  
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:

- E-mail ([sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org))
- U.S. mail to: Town Office, 2400 Hollowell RD

**Road Committee**

The Road Committee has received the support of the Select Board to pursue options for control of nonnative invasive plants in the 25-foot town right-of-way.

In order for water to drain off roads properly and to extend road surface life, the Public Works Department must recreate the ditches approximately 6 feet from the edges of the roads on a 3- to 5-year rotation. They not only remove the sand and soil but also the plants that have become established there, spreading the problem plants.

In a recent roadside survey of the 30 miles of town roads, invasive species were found on all roads. Initial focus will concentrate on the 8-foot tall, voracious spreader known as Japanese Bamboo, more accurately called Knotweed. This plant prevents other plants from growing and creates a “desert” beneath it since no native insects eat it and therefore a food chain does not exist. The smallest pieces of the roots or above-ground

**Road Committee** (*cont'd.*)

underground for 30 feet and so you see it on both sides of a road. Control is done by repeated mowing (with proper disposal of debris) for many years or targeted, well-timed spraying—again for a number of years—until the plant is eliminated. The town will be sending out letters to property owners who have invasive species on their roadside land to discuss options and get permission to spray. It is hoped that each landowner might try to control the invasive species on their property to keep town expense to a minimum.

For more information on what these plants are, how to manage them and why—

- come to Road Committee meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of the month, at 5:30 p.m., at the town office;
- come to a special Sep. 14, 6:30 p.m. Conservation Commission educational meeting;
- call Lindsay Nelsen at 268-4569; or
- go to the Maine Natural Areas Program website ([http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/invasives.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives.htm)) and look at their descriptions of the plants listed as invasive in Maine and possible alternative native replacements.