

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XVII No. 2

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

February 1, 2017

## Historical Society of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

**February's question:** If your ancestor had lived in Litchfield's Thurlow neighborhood on what present-day road would they have lived?

**January's answer:** In early Litchfield, trees of the larch family were commonly called hackmatack. This was derived from an Abanaki word meaning *snowshoe wood*.

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

## RSU4

Please join us for a Baked Ziti Dinner and Silent Auction to benefit the Stewart-Grover family. They were recently involved in a car accident which seriously injured a mother and her 5-year-old son. Money raised will help with travel and medical costs for the family. It will be held on Thu., Feb. 2, 5-7 p.m. at Carrie Ricker School. Cost: \$5 per person; \$15 per family. To make a monetary donation or donate a Silent Auction item, contact Sarah Joslyn ([sarah.joslyn@rsu4.org](mailto:sarah.joslyn@rsu4.org)) or call the school (268-4136).

If you have a child that will be age 4 by Oct. 15 (for Pre-K) or age 5 by Oct. 15 (for Kindergarten), please contact either Sabattus Primary School (375-4525) or Libby-Tozier School (268-4137) for registration information. If your child is currently attending a RSU4 Pre-K program, there is no need to re-register him/her or have him/her screened.

There will be no school the week of Feb. 20-24 due to school vacation.

## Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed—Winter Nature Day Camp

**Dates:** Tue.-Wed., Feb. 21-22; and Thu.-Fri., Feb. 23-24. Sessions will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. Both sessions open to children in grades 3-5.

**Location:** Camp Mechwana on Lower Narrows Pond, Winthrop

Sessions will include a mixture of both indoor and outdoor activities, including snowshoeing, winter tracking and a variety of games. Our culminating activity will be learning to ice fish with Ryan Burton of the Cobbossee Watershed District.

Register by Mon., Feb. 6, for only \$80/pp! Cost for each 2-day camp session after Feb. 6 increases to \$90/pp and includes the use of all equipment along with afternoon cocoa and snack. Early registration is highly recommended as space is limited to only 20 campers per session!

Registration forms can be downloaded from: [www.watershedfriends.com](http://www.watershedfriends.com)

**FMI:** Please contact: Cami Wilbert, Education Coordinator, at (w) 621-4100 / (c) 207-333-0250; or [cami@watershedfriends.com](mailto:cami@watershedfriends.com)

## Notice

Please be advised—the newsletter will be going on an indefinite hiatus beginning with the March issue.

The current editor has resigned, effective January 31, 2017.

## Senior Center Corner

466 Academy Road (next to Libby-Tozier School),  
Tel.: 215-4595; or Pat, 441-9005

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

**Closed:** Mon., Feb. 20 (Presidents' Day)

**Thrift Shop** open Mon., Feb. 6, ONLY, 10-11 a.m.

**Note:** If RSU4 schools are closed due to bad weather, the Senior Center will also be closed.

Join us on Wed., Feb. 1, at 1 p.m. to **make Valentine cards** with Anne Thompson. Call 215-4595 or stop in at the Center to sign up for this fun activity.

**Bowling**, 1-7-10 Lanes, Augusta, Thu., Feb. 9. Call 441-9005 to car pool. Leave at noon.

**Book Club**, Wed., Feb. 8, 12:30 p.m., at the Center. Book: *Brooklyn*, by Colm Toibin.

**Pot Luck Lunch and Celebration of Feb. birthdays** is Fri., Feb. 17.

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

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

**Music Practice** at 10 a.m., Wed.'s. If you like to sing and/or play an instrument, join us.

**Awareness through Movement class exercises**, Fri.'s, Feb. 10, 17, and 24, at 9:30 a.m.

**Cribbage Games** 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.'s for **bingo**, and Fri.'s for **cards**.

**NEW—Reiki Share**, Wed., Feb. 15, 1-2:30 p.m. Call: 215-5948 for a free 15-minute treatment.

**Seniors Advisory Committee**, 10 a.m., Tues., Feb. 21.

**REMINDER:** Exercise equipment available for use 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.'s and Fri.'s, and 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Wed.'s. Come in and use the equipment here. Save a trip to Lewiston or Augusta.

We are still **looking for a large flat-screen TV**.

**Coming in March—Making Easter cards**, Wed., Mar. 15, 1 p.m.

Stop in to the Senior Center for more information, a cup of coffee or tea. Need something to do at home during the cold weather? Come and get a book (paperback & hard cover), or pick up a puzzle—we have a good variety of sizes.

### Town Manager

**Office Closures**—Please be aware of the following office closure in February:

- Mon., Feb. 20, in observance of Presidents' Day

**Select Board Vacancy**—Nomination papers are available at the Town Office. They must be returned no later than Thu., Feb. 16, at 6 p.m. The position's term is from March 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.

**Special Election to Fill Select Board Vacancy**—A special election will be held on Tue., March 7, 2017, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Town Office.

**Sand for Homeowners**—The Town has a salt and sand pile available at no charge for use by Litchfield's private homeowners. Use for commercial properties is prohibited. Homeowners are allowed to take two 5-gallon buckets of the mixture per storm.

**New Employee**—A big "welcome" to Anthony Karkos, a Litchfield resident, who will be the newest public works/equipment operator in the Public Works Department.

### First Responders Need Your Help

We are looking for information on people that have **oxygen** in their homes. We would like to compile a list of Litchfield residents who have oxygen in their homes, so that when storms cause power outages, we can make sure to check on you. We will keep this for our records only. If you would like to be placed on this list, please call either Tina Gowell (485-5565) or Reggie Poirier (713-1628).

### Calling all Litchfield Residents

Are you looking for another way to serve your community?

Come join the Litchfield First Responders!

Our volunteers are diverse in every respect and come from all walks of life. Challenge yourself, build new skills, and become part of a tight-knit public service force. Benefits include:

- Professional development
- Leadership experience
- World-class First Responder training
- Emergency Vehicle Operation Training

Requirements for joining:

- Minimum 18 years old
- Possess good manual dexterity
- Pass a background check

Come join one of the best teams in town where we are dedicated to serving and protecting the people and properties of Litchfield.

Please let Tina Gowell know if you are interested in learning how to become a part of this wonderful team. Tel.: 485-5565; Email: lfd900@yahoo.com

### Transfer Station Reminder

Please remember to remove all external doors from refrigerators before bringing them to the Transfer Station. Thank you.

### Clerk's Corner

A **Rabies Clinic** is planned for Sat., Mar. 11, 8-11 a.m., at the Central Fire Station. Watch for more information in the March Sodalite.

### Gardiner Public Library

Have you been disappointed to learn that your favorite author has been publishing stories only available in an electronic format? Are you curious to learn how one actually READS these titles?

GPL staff is pleased to announce that users may now borrow e-readers. With grant money from a local foundation, we have purchased a few iPads and Kindle Fires and pre-loaded them with titles. Folks can borrow these devices for 3 weeks and are even able to download titles from our download catalog:

<http://www.gpl.lib.me.us/downloads-gardiner-public-library.html>

We do ask that first time users of these devices read and sign a document that explains the policies on borrowing these mobile devices. Just like any other title that we circulate, you may borrow the e-readers for 3 weeks. Staff is also very happy to give you a quick tutorial to get you started.

GPL is located at 152 Water Street, Gardiner. It serves Gardiner, Litchfield, Farmingdale, Pittston, Randolph and West Gardiner. We can be reached at 207-582-3312 if you have any questions about library services. Please come and check out these new mobile devices!

### Informational Meeting—Upper Pond Road Reconstruction

There will be an informational meeting on Mon., Feb. 13, at the Town Office, during the regular Select Board meeting which starts at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the reconstruction of Upper Pond Road and to review the report prepared by Calderwood Engineering relative to this work.

Upper Pond Road residents are encouraged to attend.

### Tacoma Lakes Association

Although the ice is thick and solid as this is written, spring is fast approaching.

Ice fishing season is in full swing. All are urged to abide by all state rules and regulations. Please think safety at all times, and remember to take out of the area what you bring in.

TLA directors and officers remain busy behind the scenes. Our new office space in the historic Litchfield Academy building is fully furnished with only some finishing touches remaining to be done. Soon, we will begin filing all of our records, and loading as many as possible onto our computer in the office. Our hope is to see you all in the spring, with the ability to offer resources for waterfront landowners, lake enthusiasts, sportsmen, and sports-women.

Think Spring.

**FMI:** Jim Adams, president, 268-2070 or [jfadams13@gmail.com](mailto:jfadams13@gmail.com)

## February 2017 Community Calendar

- |        |  |        |   |
|--------|--|--------|---|
| 1 Wed  | <b>TOPS</b> , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m.  | 16 Thu | <b>Litchfield Food Bank</b> , noon-2 p.m.<br><b>Select Board Vacancy Nomination Papers Due</b> , Town Office, 6 p.m.  |
| 2 Thu  | <b>Litchfield Food Bank</b> , noon-2 p.m.<br><b>Planning Board</b> , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.  | 17 Fri | <b>Town Office</b> , closed<br><b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.<br><b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  |
| 3 Fri  | <b>Town Office</b> , closed<br><b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.<br><b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.   | 18 Sat | <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.<br><b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon<br><b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-12 p.m.   |
| 4 Sat  | <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.<br><b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon<br><b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.<br><b>Public Supper</b> , Sportsmen's Club, 5-6 p.m.<br><b>Music Jam</b> , Sportsmen's Club, 6-8 p.m. | 19 Sun |   |
| 5 Sun  | <b>Country Sunday</b> , Sportsmen's Club, 12-4:30 p.m.   | 20 Mon | <b>Presidents' Day</b><br><b>Town Office</b> , closed<br><b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 10-11 a.m.<br><b>Budget Committee</b> , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.   |
| 6 Mon  | <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 10-11 a.m.<br><b>Recreation Committee</b> , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.<br><b>Order of the Eastern Star</b> , Masonic Hall, 7 p.m.  | 21 Tue | <b>Senior Advisory Comm.</b> , Academy Bldg., 10 a.m.<br><b>Fire/Rescue Station cleanup</b> , 6 p.m.<br><b>Fire/Rescue Assoc. Mtg.</b> , Station, 6:30 p.m.<br><b>Fire/Rescue Mtg.</b> , Station, 7 p.m.<br><b>Masons</b> , Masonic Hall, 7:30 p.m. |
| 7 Tue  | <b>Fire/Rescue Officers Mtg.</b> , Station, 6:30 p.m.  | 22 Wed | <b>TOPS</b> , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m.<br><b>Franks &amp; Beans</b> , Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.<br><b>American Legion Post 181</b> , Legion Hall, 7 p.m.  |
| 8 Wed  | <b>TOPS</b> , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m.<br><b>Conservation Commission</b> , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.   | 23 Thu | <b>Litchfield Food Bank</b> , noon-2 p.m.<br><b>Snowmobile Club Meeting</b> , Academy Bldg., 6 p.m.   |
| 9 Thu  | <b>Litchfield Food Bank</b> , noon-2 p.m.<br><b>Snowmobile Club Meeting</b> , Academy Bldg., 6 p.m.  | 24 Fri | <b>Town Office</b> , closed<br><b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.<br><b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  |
| 10 Fri | <b>Town Office</b> , closed<br><b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.<br><b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.   | 25 Sat | <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.<br><b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon<br><b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  |
| 11 Sat | <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.<br><b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon<br><b>Transfer Station Swap Shop</b> , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.<br><b>Legion Auxiliary</b> , Legion Hall, 10 a.m.   | 26 Sun |   |
| 12 Sun |  | 27 Mon | <b>Select Board Meeting</b> , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.  |
| 13 Mon | <b>Select Board Meeting</b> , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.<br><b>Sportsmen's Club Monthly Meeting</b> , Sportsmen's Club, 7 p.m.   | 28 Tue |   |
| 14 Tue |  |        |   |
| 15 Wed | <b>Road Committee</b> , Town Office, 5:30 p.m.<br><b>TOPS</b> , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m.  |        |   |

**Contents:**  
 1—Historical Society, RSU4, Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, Senior Center Corner  
 2—Town Manager, First Responders, Transfer Station, Clerk, Library, Upper Pond RD Reconstruction, Tacoma Lakes Association  
 3—February Calendar  
 4—Newsletter Deadline, Road Committee-Invasive Plants

# BOX HOLDER

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*The Litchfield Sodalite*  
 Litchfield Town Office  
 2400 Hollowell Road  
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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.

**March Issue Deadline:** February 20, 2017, 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**

**Update—Eradication of Japanese Knotweed Offered**

The licensed applicator that will spray Japanese Knotweed in the rights-of-way along town roads in June will be available to spray Japanese Knotweed on your property outside of the right-of-way. He has given us the following cost estimate: a \$20 fee to show up, and a cost of \$10 per 1,000 square feet for time and materials. The price goes down for larger areas. He will be guaranteeing a kill of the Knotweed using a formula tested by Maine Department of Transportation. Please contact the Road Committee if you want to create a private contract to control this rampant plant on your property.

**Other Control Methods for Japanese Knotweed**  
 (from the MNAP website)

New patches (<20 stems) can be cut repeatedly throughout the growing season \*, as often as once/week, for several years. Larger patches cannot be controlled manually without  
*(Continued next column.)*

**Road Committee—(cont'd.)**

a persistent, reliable labor source. Smothering with heavy black landscaping cloth or erosion control fabric can be successful but requires biweekly maintenance and must be repeated for up to 10 years. Herbicides \*\* are effective (though follow-up will be needed) as: foliar applications (2-3% glyphosate or triclopyr solution), the stem injection method, cut-wipe herbicide treatments or in a combination cut-allow to regrow, glyphosate foliar spray- all in one growing season. Some sources recommend imazapyr but extreme care must be used as it is soil-active. It can translocate to kill neighboring plants and remains active for several years.

\* Correctly dispose of all plant parts: can sprout from any stem node or rhizome fragment.

\*\* Follow all label directions when using herbicides.

**FMI:** Come to a Road Committee meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of each month, at 5:30 p.m., at the Town Office; call Lindsay Nelsen, 268-4569; or email [lmnelsen@fairpoint.net](mailto:lmnelsen@fairpoint.net)

Read up on invasive plants at: [http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/invasives.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives.htm)