

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XVIII No. 8

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

August 1, 2018

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz?

August question: Before the "Poor Farm" was established in the 1840's, how did Litchfield provide for its poor residents? **July question:** Since winter burials were impossible, at least three early Litchfield families-built tombs for their dead. Can you name the families? (Clue: They all begin with "P".) answer: Plimpton, Potter and Patten. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to

WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

RCAM

Rural Community Action Ministry seeks yard sale donations—RCAM has been serving Litchfield and 12 surrounding towns in Oxford and Androscoggin for over 45 years. Current efforts include services for housing repair and rehabilitation, homelessness prevention services, transportation for the elderly, comprehensive services for rural families and seniors, gardening, hunger prevention activities, support of local food pantries, and assistance for shelter and other needs. RCAM also provides clients with information and refers them to other organizations that offer special services. If you wish to donate items call Marilyn Dunn (Litchfield's current RCAM Board Representative) at 512-5382 and she will bring them to Leeds by August 20th. She will store items at her house until then if you like. The Sale is August 24th and 25th are RCAM in Leeds.

Litchfield Community Park

This month, Conservation Commission Volunteers along with David Smith and Charlie Smith of Bowdoin installed safety guardrails at the parking area and sand pits entrance. Their efforts and Charlie's equipment were greatly appreciated. Our Wildlife Trail signs are up so try out the new shaded trail. We have one participant that will be putting in a tire display for children to play on. We are still hoping someone will install balance beams, benches near the slide or other creative play ideas! Also, we are looking for a volunteer to smooth our parking area where vandals roughed it up. We meet again at the Conservation Commission meeting September 16, 2018 at 6:30. *Get outside- the rest happens naturally!*

Senior Corner

The Senior Center is located at 466 Academy Rd., beside the Libby-Tozier School.

On August 1 the Carol Bailey String Band (a program of the Litchfield Senior Center) has been invited to perform in Prospect Harbor. This concert is part of the Schoodic Arts for All summer program. We leave at 7:30 from the Sportsmen's Club.

The book club meeting is on August 8 at 12:15. The book to be discussed is "Together" by Tom Sullivan w/ Betty White.

Join us for Bowling on Thursday, August 9 at 1-7-10 Lanes in Augusta, call 441-9005 to car pool.

The pot luck lunch and celebration of August birthdays is Friday, August 17.

Line dancing instruction Mondays at 9:30-11 for beginners and advanced.

Aerobics exercises are Wednesday and Friday at 8:30-9:30. Feldenkrais exercises with Lindsay Nelsen are off for August.

Cribbage games or Unlucky 7's for fun on Mondays at 11-12 and Fridays 10-12. Bring a lunch and stay for bingo or other games on Mondays in the afternoon & on Friday cards.

The thrift shop is open the first and third Monday 10-11.

Join us for music practice at 10-12 on Wednesdays August 8 & 22. If you like to sing and/or play an instrument come and join in the fun.

The Seniors Advisory Committee meeting is at 10 on Thursday August 16.

The "Roadrunner" trips are: **August 14 Pemaquid Beach for fun in the sun and water, leave at 9:30 from Sportsmen's Club; August 23 Maine State Music Theater "Singing in the Rain". Lunch at the China Rose, leave at 10:30 from Sportsmen's Club.**

Upcoming in September - Saturday, September 1 - Ogunquit Playhouse "Grumpy Old Men, the Musical"; Tuesday, **September 18** - No. Conway, NH; Thursday, **September 27** - Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.

Please stop in to the Senior Center for more information a cup of coffee or tea and to sign up for the trips & activities.

Reminder - Exercise equipment & Wii games available Mon & Fri 9 - 4, Wed 9 - 12.

Senior Center @ 215-4595 or Pat @ 441-9005.

The **Town House** museum will be open for tours on Saturday, August 25th from 2-4" to the calendar

Litchfield Academy Thrift Shop

Ready for REAL bargains? Here it is! For ALL of August it's Buck-A-Bag! Yep. That's right. Fill a paper grocery bag for \$1 (bring one as I've only got a few) or a reusable shopping bag like Hannaford sells for \$2. The gowns and wedding gowns are not included, but it's a great time to buy!

Tadpole Patrol is an "On the Water Adventure"!

There's no better way to spend a Maine summer than out on the lakes! So why not *learn* about the lakes at the same time? The **Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed** is once again offering the Tadpole Patrol program, an educational, FUN, interactive and hands-on experience aboard the Friends' 22' pontoon boat "floating classroom" the OTTER II. Children *and* families will enjoy the experience with **five** different options offered to learn about watershed protection and water quality.

The first level is **Tadpole Patrol** for children entering grades 2-3-4 where they are introduced to lake ecology, observing wildlife, and learning the basics of water quality testing. **TP-II Lake Science Investigators (LSI!)** is for children entering grades 4-5-6 where participants become "science investigators" as they observe the lake ecosystem, conduct water quality tests, and record data in their own keepsake journal. The third level offered is **TP3-Junior Lake Monitors** for youth entering grades 6 and up. **TP3** participants are educated in proper water quality data measurement techniques, conduct precise measurements themselves, then analyze and compare their results with data recorded by the Cobbossee Watershed District from the past 30+ years.

The fun continues on the water with our **Family Tadpole Patrol** and **Spotter's Amphibious Adventures**. Get the whole family involved in our Family Tadpole Patrol adventure! Kids and adults of all ages can board the OTTER II for an hour and half long session to observe wildlife, learn and share the human and natural history of the lake, and experience water monitoring with professional equipment. Spotter's Amphibious Adventures explore and learn about aquatic *and* terrestrial habitats. Participants cruise aboard the OTTER II to a private island in the middle of the lake where we will explore, learn about the importance of riparian areas for wildlife, the benefits of preserving wild spaces, and the basics of the "Leave No Trace" method of enjoying nature. The Tadpole Patrol programs are graciously sponsored by Kennebec Savings Bank, Augusta Fuel Co., and Clark Marine—without them these programs would not be possible!

FMI about dates and times of the programs and for registration forms, please contact FOCW Education & Outreach Director Cami Wilbert by phone 621-4100 or email cami@watershedfriends.com or visit the Friends' website www.watershedfriends.com.

RSU 4 School Board meetings are Wednesday, Aug. 8 and Wednesday, Aug. 22 beginning at 6:30pm at OHHS.

All Kindergarten through 9th grade students begin school on Wednesday, Aug. 29. All students will attend on Thursday,

Town Manager/Clerk's Corner

Property Revaluation

A property revaluation of all Litchfield real estate will begin this month and be completed by April of 2019. Assessors from R.J.D. appraisal will visit each property. They will have identification and their ID photos will also be posted on the Town website. Assessment visits will not be specifically scheduled or announced due to the large number of sites and relatively short time allotted for completion. If you are home when an assessor arrives they will ask to see the interior. If you are not home at the time of the visit they will try back two more times. If the assessor does not see the inside, the quality of the inside of your home will be assumed to be of equal quality to the outside. If the assessor is refused entry, the home owner gives up the right to seek tax abatement for one year from the completion of the revaluation.

Late Tax Notices

30 day notices for unpaid 2017 property taxes will be mailed out the week of the 20th. If taxes have not been paid before that, you will incur an additional processing fee to cover the notification.

New Animal Control Officer

Our local Animal Control Officer, Kathleen Ross, has stepped down from the position as of the end of June. We appreciate her assistance and willingness to serve.

Our new Animal Control Officer is Clifford Daigle. He will have a cell number soon. In the meantime he may be contacted through the Town Office, 268-4721.

Upcoming meetings at the Town Office:

Board of Selectmen - Monday, August 13th, 6:30 pm

Budget Committee – No meeting in August
Board of Selectmen - Monday, August 27th, 6:30 pm

Community Event

Do you knit or crochet? Come join others in Town and enjoy knitting/crocheting with friends and neighbors. Thursday, Aug 9th from 6pm—8pm at the Litchfield Senior Center.

August Community Calendar

1 Wed	TOPS-Carrie Ricker School-6:30pm	17 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10a.m.-2p.m.
2 Thur		18 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
3 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10a.m.-2p.m.	19 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m.
4 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lit. Sportsman's Club; Public Bean Supper & Music Jam, Supper 5pm, Music 6pm	20 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting-6:30pm, Town Off
5 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Lit. Sportsman's Club; Country Sunday, live Music noon—4:30p.	21 Tue	Masons-Masonic Hall, 7:30pm Fire Rescue Station clean-up, 6:00pm Fire/Rescue Assoc., Station, 6:30pm Fire/Rescue Meeting, Station, 7:00pm First Responders Meeting, Station, 6:30pm
6 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm—6:30pm, Town Off	22 Wed	RSU4 School Board-OHHS; 6:30p.m. TOPS-Carrie Ricker School-6:30pm
7 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting—6pm	23 Thur	
8 Wed	RSU4 School Board-OHHS; 6:30p.m. TOPS-Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m.	24 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10a.m.-2p.m.
9 Thur		25 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Public Bean Supper-4p-6:30p; Morning Star Lodge #41
10 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10a.m.-2p.m.	26 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m.
11 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Amer. Legion Ladies Aux, LegionHall,10a	27 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting-6:30pm, Town Off
12 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m.	28 Tues	
13 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting-6:30pm, Town Off Lit. Sportsman's Club Meet—7:00pm	29 Wed	TOPS-Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m. Franks&Beans, Legion Hall, 6:30pm American Leg. Post 181, Legion Hall 7pm
14 Tue		30 Thur	
15 Wed	TOPS-Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m.	31 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10a.m.-2p.m.
16 Thur	Senior Advisory Comm-10am, Academy Bldg Lit. Farmers Club; Sportsman's Club-7:30p.m.		

BOX HOLDER

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4. Newsletter Deadline, Road Advisory Committee

ECRWSS
 PRSRT STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Litchfield, ME
 Permit #2

The Litchfield Sodalite
 Litchfield Town Office
 2400 Hallowell Road
 Litchfield, ME 04350
 Tel.: 207-268-4721 FAX: 207-268-2196
www.litchfieldmaine.org
sodalite@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.

Road Advisory Committee

Invasive Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is blooming NOW, July to September. These pretty purple plants in roadside wet ditches and wetland edges colonize wetland ecosystems driving out other plants and the animal life they support. “Wetlands are the most biologically diverse, productive component of our ecosystem. Hundreds of species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, fish and amphibians rely on healthy wetland habitat for their survival. When purple loosestrife gets a foothold, the habitat where fish and wildlife feed, seek shelter, reproduce and rear young quickly becomes choked under a sea of purple flowers.” (Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters)

Why they can invade so well is twofold: a mature plant has 2.7 million seeds the size of grains of sand which are easily spread and the seed can live for a long period so they “build up a seedbank of massive proportions.” (Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #2508)

When the area is disturbed by human activity or by natural water drawdown in dry years the loosestrife population can explode. The other adaptation is an extensive perennial rootstock; mature plants can send out 30 to 50 shoots creating a dense web that chokes out other plant life.

The two references quoted above have good plant descriptions and very detailed control methods listed. It is easy to see the plant and try to control when in bloom. Be careful not to spread it: loosestrife can give off seed as early as July so cut the flowering part over a large plastic bag as you put the flowering heads in the bag. After cutting the flowers off, small infestations can be dug out. Get a few neighbors together and work on neighborhood invasive plant control regularly as it will take persistence. Feel free to call retired horticulturalist Lindsay Nelsen at 268-4569 if you have questions.

Sept. Issue Deadline:

Aug 20, 2018, 5 p.m.
 Deliver material in any of the following ways: **E-mail**

sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org **U.S. mail to:**
 Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350

Hand deliver to: Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd

