

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXI No. 3

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

March 1, 2021

All activities and meetings may be postponed until after the Covid 19 Pandemic has passed. Please call your contact for each specific activity or meeting for more information.

## Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

March question: The present-day Dennis Hill road crosses a bridge over Cobbossee Stream. Before the bridge was built, the "Landing" had two different names. What were they? February question: What was the source of the stream known variously as, Libby Mill Stream, Potter Mill Stream, and Hatch Stream? answer: Loon Pond To read more about the history of Litchfield go to

[WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org](http://WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org)

## Kennebec Land Trust

**Surry Hill Bushwhack** - Saturday March 13th, 10:00 AM -

Fayette - Snow date March 20 - KLT stewardship staff will lead an "off-trail" excursion on Surry Hill to explore this special area. Participants should plan on bringing snowshoes, skis, or ice grippers and should be comfortable traveling off trail in winter conditions. Preregistration required, as attendance is limited. Email Marie at [mring@tklt.org](mailto:mring@tklt.org) to register.

**An Introduction to Maine Medicinal Plants:** Cultural Uses, Ecology, and Botany Virtual Annual Lyceum Lunches Thursdays, March 18 and 25, 12:00 - 12:30PM Although we won't be having our annual Lyceum Lecture Series in-person this year, we are thrilled to be able to offer a modified Zoom lunch program. Join guest speakers as they present a short introduction to Maine medicinal plants. On Thursday March 18, Jennifer Neptune, artist, anthropologist, educator and member of the Penobscot Nation will introduce Past, Present and Future: Cultural Uses of Native Plants in Maine. On Thursday March 25, Eric Doucette, of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, will introduce Botany of Medicinal Plants. Email Marie at [mring@tklt.org](mailto:mring@tklt.org) to register.

## Litchfield Recreation

We are now accepting registrations for t-ball, baseball & softball. Registrations can be downloaded from the Litchfield-maine.org site or picked up at the Town Office and should be returned March 31st. The registration fee is \$50 and there will be no fund-raising this season due to the pandemic.

The Litchfield Senior Center is open. No fee to attend.

"Aging is more fun when you share it"

When we are open, your attendance is a personal choice. Masks will be provided as well as temperature checks if desired.

The hours **at the Center** are Monday 10-4, Wednesday 10-12 and Friday 8:30-4 subject to change. Come in for card games, Unlucky 7's, etc. Check out the books and puzzles available for your use. **FREE Winter sand is available in 5 gal. buckets for Litchfield Seniors.** If you would like to be on the list for delivery, please contact Pat Soboleski at 215-4595/441-9005.

**Indoor walking exercise** on Fridays at 8:30 with Dian White using a "Leslie Sansone Walk at Home" 5 mile tape-mile markers let you choose a 1 mile, 2,3,4 or 5 mile walk. Your choice. The easy and safe way to exercise especially during these winter months.

We also have exercise equipment available for use when the Center is open. Come in and check out what we have to offer.

**The Senior's Advisory Committee** meeting is at 1 on Thursday March 18.

**There is a WiFi hot spot** available at the Senior Center.

**Basic Computer** - We have set up a schedule to train Seniors on basic computer applications using Google at the Senior Center. The dates for March are Tuesday 3/9 at 10am & Thursday 3/18 at 2pm. If interested, call 215-4595 leave a message with name & phone#.

**We are looking for volunteers** to form a winter wellness check committee. If interested, please contact the Senior Center at 215-4595 and leave your name & phone #.

**At this time we will not** be offering Line Dancing, Tai Chi or Music. The Feldenkrais Method lessons called Awareness through Movement will not be held until further notice as well.

**Even though the Carol Bailey String Band** is not performing, members continue to practice at home and keep in touch by email and telephone.

**Tai Chi/Qigong** students practice at home with guidance arriving weekly by email. If you would like to receive these installments, please email Pat Bailey at

**Book club**, making cards with Anne Thompson and the Potluck lunch have also **not** been scheduled.

*We have a number of books donated pertaining to healthy living and eating, i.e: Eating for good health, Alternative Cures that really work, Chicken Soup & other Folk Remedies and many, many more.*

**Please stop in to the Senior Center** located on Academy Rd. next to the Libby Tozier Elementary School for more information, a cup of coffee or tea and check out our books (paperback & hard cover), puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations always appreciated, or work on the 1000-piece puzzle already set up on the table.

### Litchfield Broadband Committee

The goal of the Town of Litchfield Broadband Committee is to support the Select Board in bringing quality, affordable broadband service to all households and businesses in town. Over the past year, the Committee has completed the following:

**1) ConnectMaine Planning Grant** - A \$8250 grant request was written by the Committee and awarded to the town. This grant covered 50% of the cost to develop a Planning Report for the mapping of current broadband capabilities here by an independent consultant. This completed Report includes mapping of served areas by incumbent service providers Charter Spectrum (cable) and CCI (Consolidated Communications phone DSL). The Report also showed unserved locations.

**2) Maine Community Foundation Grant** - Another grant request was written by the Committee, and \$7000 was received by the town in October. This provided funding for (a) a community hotspot at town hall, (b) upgraded video conferencing equipment for meetings there, and (c) computer literacy equipment and training for the Senior Advisory group at the Senior Center.

**3) New Wireless Internet Provider to Litchfield:** TK Networks, a wireless internet service provider from Auburn met with the Committee in early 2020. With no infrastructure costs to the town, TK Networks has connected over 100 previously unserved households in the past year with affordable, quality broadband service. This activity was quite timely given the need of many to learn and work from home during the COVID outbreak.

**4) Digital Literacy Initiative at the Senior Center** - Laptops, tablets, and printing equipment was procured for the Senior Center Advisory Group through the Maine Community Foundation Grant. This group participated in multiple 'Train the Trainer' workshops throughout the winter. There was focus on Windows, MacOS, and ChromeOS basics, creating and participating in Zoom Calls, setting up contact lists, etc. The purpose was to improve the digital literacy of Litchfield senior citizens through skills gained by the Advisory group there.

**5) Franchise agreement negotiation with Charter Spectrum** - The cable tv contract with the town is currently up for renewal. Details and terms of the agreement are under review with participation by Deputy Town Manager Kelly Wessenfels and the Committee.

**6) Request for Quote (RFQ)** - Recently sent out to a dozen internet service providers doing business here in Maine - including to the incumbents Spectrum and CCI. Bidders have been provided a copy of the Planning Report. The purpose of the RFQ is to determine the best partner to support a build-out of the unserved areas here. The goal is to provide options for the town to review at or before the annual Town Meeting in June. If you have any questions, send us a note at [lbell248@gmail.com](mailto:lbell248@gmail.com).

### LITCHFIELD FIRE AND RESCUE

Litchfield Fire & Rescue is offering a great program for anyone interested in purchasing a reflective numerical address sign for your mailbox or home. This reflective blue sign will have yellow numbers on one or both sides, vertical or horizontal. Numbers are 3" and the sign itself is 6" x 18". A sample display will be available at the fire station and town office. Signs are priced at \$20.00 and orders can be placed starting now at the Town Office or Gowell's Shop & Save. You can pick up your sign at the station or come in to have one made. Hours will be Saturday and Sunday mornings between 8-10am. Any questions regarding this program, please call Tina Gowell at 485-5565. Signs are available for local residence as well as out of town residence. Need help installing? We would be glad to help.

### Town Clerk's Corner

**Daylight Savings Time** starts this month. Clocks should be set ahead one hour on March 14th.

**It's still snow plowing season**, and as tempting as it may be to place your trash can for pickup on that nice bare space just off the edge of the road, please think twice if there is still snow on the road and plows may be running. That area is bare because of the wing on our plows and it is not possible to avoid those cans. Sincerest apologies to those who found out the hard way at the end of the last storm.

**Town budget reviews** begin this month. Each section of the town budget will be reviewed at upcoming Select Board meetings between now and the end of April. You don't have to wait for the annual Town Meeting to find out what's being proposed for the budget. Attending the Select Board meetings and following along during the reviews will give you a chance to hear the details, and an opportunity to ask questions. Alternatively, you can link to videos of the Select Board meetings at the Town Website, [LitchfieldMaine.org](http://LitchfieldMaine.org)

### June Municipal Elections

If you are thinking of getting involved in local government, there are positions coming up for election on the Budget Committee, Academy Trustees, School Board, and Board of Selectmen. In anticipation of voting in June, candidates for Litchfield offices on the June, 2021 ballot may obtain their nomination papers at the Town Office beginning Monday, March 1st. All paperwork must be returned by Friday, April 9th.

### Positions coming open in June are:

Selectman: 1

School Board: 1

Budget Committee: 2

Academy Trustee: 1

### Some upcoming meetings at the Town Office, all via

**Zoom (or dial-in) only.** If you would like to attend and aren't quite sure how, give us a call at the Town Office 268-4721.

Planning Board, Thursday, Mar 4th, 6:30 pm

Select Board, Monday, Mar 8th, 6:30 pm

Budget Committee, Monday, Mar 15th, 6:30 pm

Select Board, Monday, Mar 22nd, 6:30 pm

### LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

The Food Bank will be moving to the east end of the same building in March and are working to not miss a food distribution in the process. We'll appreciate your patience and would love to put your name on a list of volunteers for the move if we need them. Call Rayna at 582-4098 for more information about timing and what might be needed.

### Litchfield Academy Thrift Shop

We are offering Cabin Reliever Shopping for clothes and books at great bargain prices. Continuing our special sales through the Month of March (our own March Madness). Bring your reusable shopping bags and fill them for \$2.00 each. PS, Some really great books have come in that you can get lost in and forget Covid-19. Masks and sign-in required.

### March Community Calendar

1 Mon	<b>Litchfield Recreation Comm.-</b> Contact Town Office for more information	17 Wed	<b>Happy St. Patrick's Day</b>  <b>Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>
2 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers-</b> 6:30pm; Station		
3 Wed	<b>Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>		
4 Thur	<b>Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd</b> <i>Planning Board -6:30pm</i>	18 Thur	<b>Senior's Advisory Comm -1pm -Center</b> <b>Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>
5 Fri	<b>Town Office, closed</b> <b>Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m</b>	19 Fri	<b>Town Office, closed</b> <b>Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m</b>
6 Sat	<b>Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</b> <b>Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm</b> <b>Litchfield Sportsman's Club—</b> Public supper 5pm-6pm, \$7/person, take out available	20 Sat	<b>Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</b> <b>Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm</b>
7 Sun		21 Sun	
8 Mon	<b>Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office &amp; on line-See Website for more information</b> <b>Lit. Sportsman's Meting—7pm</b>	22 Mon	<b>Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office &amp; on line-See Website for more information</b>
9 Tue	<b>First Responders Meeting-6:30pm; Station</b>	23 Tue	
10 Wed	<b>RSU 4 School Board—6:30pm-Zoom</b> <b>Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd</b> <b>Conservation Commission -6pm-For Zoom connection email Diane Clay <a href="mailto:c112a3y4@gmail.com">c112a3y4@gmail.com</a></b>	24 Wed	<b>Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd</b> <b>RSU 4 School Board—6:30pm-Zoom</b>
11 Thur	<b>Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>	25 Thur	
12 Fri	<b>Town Office, closed</b> <b>Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m</b>	26 Fri	<b>Town Office, closed</b> <b>Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m</b>
13 Sat	<b>Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</b> <b>Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm</b>	27 Sat	<b>Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</b> <b>Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm</b>
14 Sun		28 Sun	
15 Mon	<b>Budget Committee—6:30pm via Zoom</b>	29 Mon	
16 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire Assoc &amp; Regular Meet-6:30pm</b>	30 Tue	
		31 Wed	<b>Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd</b>

# BOX HOLDER

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

*The Litchfield Sodalite*  
Litchfield Town Office  
2400 Hallowell Road  
Litchfield, ME 04350  
Tel.: 207-268-4721 FAX: 207-268-2196  
[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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## The Litchfield Sodalite

### Conservation News

Now's the time to prune out Browntail Moth nests: inside the nests tiny moth larvae will be ready to start eating new leaves. The poisonous hairs of the caterpillars fall to the ground or from the cast skins as the larvae grow. These hairs can cause painful rashes and lung irritation, they remain poisonous until they decompose, they can be stirred up in dry weather with a lawnmower, for example. Learn now how to avoid the trouble later: search Browntail Moth in Maine.

### Outdoor Activity Ideas

Hiking, Snowshoeing and Cross Country Skiing can be enjoyed at any of these Litchfield trails: MacInnes Trail (the Pine Tree Road, about a half mile from the junction of the Dennis Hill Road) [Smithfield Plantation](#) (the Libby Road, about a half mile from the junction of the Huntington Hill Road) Turkey Trail (between Plains Cemetery and the Town Office) [Woodbury Nature Sanctuary](#) (the Pease Hill Road near the junction of the Whippoorwill Road) [Webber-Rogers Farmstead Conservation Area](#) (the Plains Road near the junction of the Thorofare) [Small-Burnham Conservation Area](#) (the Pine Tree Road about a half mile from the junction of the Plains Road)

**April Issue Deadline:**  
March 22, 2021 5p.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 Hallowell Rd. 04350

**Hand deliver to:** Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd



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