



*Serving neighbors along Bay Point Lane, Grand Marsh Bay Road, Paul Bunyan Road, Peninsula Road, and Roaring Brook Road in Corea, Maine*

Paul Bunyan Road Association

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

P.O. Box 119, Corea, ME 04624

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Hi Neighbors,

The Maine summer is here again! What a beautiful time of year to catch up and reconnect with our Corea-by-the-Sea community of friends, family, and neighbors.

As we have since 1988, the Paul Bunyan Road Association Board encourages all property owners in our community to support the Association by becoming members. Regardless of whether you are a long-time member who hasn't quite gotten to renewing your membership, are a new resident of our community, or is someone who has never been a member but wants to join now, you can download the membership form here <https://coreabythesea.org/membership>. Visit the website to print the form and bring it to the Annual Meeting. We will also be sending out renewal forms for the 2022-23 season with the next newsletter.

This year our Summer Social and Annual Meeting will take place on August 9<sup>th</sup>, once again it will be held at the Schoodic Education and Research Center pavilion by the ball field. We learned last year it is a perfect place for an outdoor picnic! Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details in our next newsletter. It takes a tribe to make the annual meeting happen and this year we would like to thank Mary Vauthy, Susan Haight, and Barbara Stewart for again volunteering to organize and plan the event. If you want to help, too, let me know; we are always looking for more volunteers!

Another important matter for this year is expanding the Association Board. Last year we had several members resign after several years of dedicated service so, currently, we currently have only seven members on the PBRA Board. To ensure the broadest possible community representation, we will be replacing them. At present, we have three additional volunteers who have said they will help lead the PBRA. But we are always interested in identifying Association members who might want to serve on the Board, if not now then perhaps in the future. If you are interested in serving on the Board or would like to nominate a member of our community, please send me an email at [frankchudnow@gmail.com](mailto:frankchudnow@gmail.com). Association members who attend the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be voting on the slate of officers for the 2022–2023 fiscal year.

So, with the return of summer weather in Maine, go watch the sunrise and sunsets over the bay! Ride your bikes, kayak our bays, take a walk or a hike, tend your gardens, have an outdoor meal with your neighbors! I look forward to seeing you soon and at the annual get together in August. Enjoy! Have a wonderful summer.

Frank Chudnow  
President, Paul Bunyan Road Association

**Please remember to renew your membership.  
We don't want to lose you!**

Mail your \$35 dues to Paul Bunyan Road Association, P.O. Box 119, Corea, ME 04624

## Peninsula Visitors

In addition to the usual crop of tourists, peninsula residents are fortunate to see a host of more interesting visitors. GMBR residents Jeff & Yumi Young get all sorts coming to their property during the spring months. Below are three photos of critters they saw this spring.



And they weren't the only ones with a large and unexpected visitor. In April, GMBR residents Mel & GayLynn Jackson reported that, "Our bird feeders were taken down last (night) and the creature left a paw print on the glass of our sliding glass door... It was definitely not a raccoon! The metal arm that held the squirrel-proof feeder will never be the same... The feeder itself, which the squirrels love, proved that



it was not bear-proof either. I think the warmer weather has brought the critters out of their dens earlier than usual. We don't usually have to take in the feeders until early May." Sadly, no photo. (But it could have been the one in the Young's photo, above.)

Another early spring unwelcome "visitor" to the peninsula was the beaver in the heath off the gravel portion of Grand Marsh Bay Road. For a short while it looked like it had taken up permanent residence again with the attendant threat of regular road flooding. But fortunately, it seems to have gotten tired of having his handiwork regularly destroyed and moved on. We hope.

Then there is the category of truly unexpected visitors. In the very early spring (OK, maybe winter), I (your



editor) saw a large black animal running along the shore at my house on Grand Marsh Bay. It was an animal I'd never seen before. It was all black and about the size of a very large dachshund. After some quick internet sleuthing, I decided it was a fisher cat. A quick survey of neighbors told me that others had heard they were around but no one else had seen any here at our end of the peninsula. One neighbor commented that the fisher was perhaps the reason we hadn't seen many porcupines that summer. Then just this month, my daughter and son-in-law found some unusual tracks in the pollen on their porch. A neighbor who is a former forest ranger thought the best answer for what made them was a fisher. He commented, "...after reviewing the ME fish and wildlife animal tracks poster: size, five toes, and the only animal that size that puts down an 'offset' pair of feet. Otters would have more pronounced toenails and foot pairs are planted together." Given the damage porcupines can do, some of us hope he's right.



Not to be outdone by GMBR residents, PBR residents Pierre & Mary Vauthy recently spotted an elusive beast in the shallow water off their property very early one morning. (We know moose are around but why is it that it's the tourists and summer residents who are usually the ones who see them?)



And finally, there was this apparently hungry woodpecker. What could it have found in a creosote treated power pole? (We're just glad he left before doing any more damage!)

## **Roads**

The condition of roads on the peninsula has been a long-standing concern of all Association members... both the three paved town roads and our so-called Orphan Road through the Oceanside Meadows field. But thanks to the efforts of a few members, there's good news!

**Paul Bunyan Road.** Early in the year several PBRA members approached our Superintendent of Town Infrastructure Jim McLean about the poor condition of Paul Bunyan Road. Jim was sympathetic to our concerns and noted that he had recommended to the Select Board that the remaining 2.6 miles of PBR be repaved in 2022. Even though we subsequently learned that the Select Board had agreed with Jim's recommendation, Association President Frank Chudnow thought it would be worthwhile to send a letter to the Select Board reinforcing our concerns and gently encouraging them to follow through with their plan for PBR. In part, the letter read, "Needless to say, we are all excited about the prospect of this road finally coming off the 'worst in town' list. It has been a long time coming, as our cars would readily attest if they could talk." As these interactions unfolded, the Select Board also realized that it needed to substantially increase the amount of money spent on road repaving if the Town is to keep from falling further behind on road upkeep throughout the town. As a result, our Town's Budget Committee recommended—and Town voters approved—a 33% increase in the paving fund, which should allow the Select Board to fulfill its plan for upgrading Paul Bunyan Road. As of this newsletter, the plan is still to repave the remaining 2.6 miles of PBR this fall. But if you happen to encounter any of the Select Board, it wouldn't hurt to thank them for making this commitment.



**The Orphan Road.** As you all know, last year several residents successfully raised enough money to substantially remediate the gravel road. Despite the huge temperature swings over the winter that partially thawed the road surface at times—and the determined efforts of several thoughtless and inconsiderate drivers to undo the work—the road held up reasonably well during the winter. But with the coming of spring the road got progressively worse until it needed another grading. Unfortunately, the fellow who did the original work was not available and so the “keeper of the checkbook” elected for an interim solution to, we hope, get us through the summer until we can get it properly regraded and compacted again. In the meantime, please encourage any visitors and delivery services to slow down and help save our road and our money.

## **The Gouldsboro Comprehensive Plan**

Last winter's edition of this Newsletter described the functions and upcoming plans for the Gouldsboro Comprehensive Plan Committee. The committee's work is to revise and update the Town's 2005 Plan by incorporating resident's desires and ideas for making their town a great place to live over the next ten years. The prime question asked is, “What would you like your town to look like in ten years?” The plan covers all residents: older and younger, part-time and full-time, diversities of employment as well as the needs of retirees.

The first phase of the committee's work was research and coordination with Hancock County Administration. The second phase was to create and disseminate a questionnaire to as many



residents as possible asking for their input. The responses to the questionnaire were very enlightening and now the Committee wants to meet informally with as many as possible to discuss their views and comments. The results will be incorporated into the final approved plan to be used as a basis for future Planning Board decisions.

**GOULDSBORO  
NEEDS YOU**

**Share a vision  
for your town**

**Meet your  
neighbors**

**Refreshments  
will be served**

**Family Friendly  
Kids welcome**

**join us for a**

**Community Conversation**  
Hosted by the **Comp Plan Committee**  
“The Pulse of the People”

**Housing • Economy • Zoning • Development**

**July 17th, 2022**  
**Drop by anytime 2-5pm**  
**Community Center-Pond Road**

## Chapter Two Returns for Another Season

Long-time local residents and former PBRA members Garry and Rosemary Levin have recently reopened their unique gallery *Chapter Two* in “downtown Corea” for the 17<sup>th</sup> season. The reopening reflects lots of changes, both for Garry and Rosemary and for the gallery itself. After 20-something years on Paul Bunyan Road, they moved away... but didn’t go far. They spent the last year transforming the buildings of *Chapter Two* into a home and new gallery space. The old schoolhouse has been completely renovated into their wonderful new home and their “new” gallery in the Spurling House is now what they describe as “an elegantly rustic, humbly sophisticated space.” And recent visitors agree. Their gallery and workshops are a tremendous asset for our community, continuing to provide opportunities to discover an eclectic selection of contemporary art, fine craft, local books and whimsical gifts. They will continue to offer workshops to our community and feature artwork by Maine artists. Find them at [www.chaptertwocorea.com](http://www.chaptertwocorea.com) or stop by, bring your guests, check it out.



## Gardening for grubs (by Margie Patlak)

This spring I’m gardening for grubs.

After more than 30 years of gardening for flowers to fill my vases and fighting off any pests that came their way, I’ve changed my focus. I still have a garden full of perennial flowers. But this spring, I decided to fill a new expanded area of the garden with native shrubs and perennials after getting inspired by a webinar and by the warblers, hummingbirds, thrushes and other birds that fill our yard with song and color each spring and summer. Amazingly, those birds travel all the way from their wintering grounds in Central or South America to grace our Maine forests in spring and summer. Here I thought I had it rough sitting through 14 hours of plane travel and a long boat ride to make it to the Peruvian Amazon on a vacation years ago. Yet these birds make this arduous trek every year, battling the odds of running out of food and overcoming stormy weather and predators. But sadly, the populations of many of these songbirds are declining, according to Doug Tallamy, an entomologist at the University of Delaware. In his webinar, he proposed rewilding yards so such songbirds continue to return each spring.



Tallamy explained that it is quite costly and dangerous for these birds to migrate such long distances. So why do they bother? After all the weather in the tropics is always amenable and



there's always a steady source of food there. But they are compelled to head north because of the abundance of insect bird food when the leaves in temperate zones burst out in spring and zillions of caterpillars come out of their cocoons and chrysalises. Those caterpillars are vital for nestlings—it takes thousands to fledge a single nest of baby birds. So from an evolutionary standpoint, it's worth the high costs of migration if it provides birds with an abundant source of food when they raise their offspring.

That may someday no longer be the case.

Although data is not complete and varies from region to region, a recent study reported in the scientific journal *Biological Conservation* suggests that worldwide about 40 percent of insect populations are declining so precipitously that they could be extinct in a few decades. These declines are fostered by multiple factors including development, nonnative plantings, pesticides, light pollution, and climate change. This “insect apocalypse” has been accompanied by about a 30 percent decline in the number of songbirds spotted in temperate zones since 1970, as reported in *Science*.

If both these trends continue, we may be headed for another silent spring, akin to the one predicted by the biologist and conservationist Rachel Carson decades ago after widespread use of the pesticide DDT decimated certain bird populations. That would mean no more thrush flutes, warbler trills, or hummingbirds zooming by. All these birds are only borrowed from the tropics. They bless our area with their flashy colors and songs only if they are repaid with bountiful sources of food. When those sources diminish, so will they. Imagine how deprived we would be with a spring and summer lacking in these wondrous beauties of the natural world.

So at Tallamy's suggestion, I entered my zip code into the National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder (<https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/>) to access lists of native plants in our area that support high numbers of caterpillars or other foods for birds. I then went to various nurseries, native plant sales, and neighbors to find these plants, which include winterberry, wild raisin, clethra, butterfly weed, New York ironweed, meadowrue, swamp milkweed, goats beard, Virginia rose, and native bee balm.

For so long I saw caterpillars munching on my flowers as the bane of my garden's existence. But this spring I purposely planted for their presence. Plant it and they will come. Hopefully all those colorful birds that come up from the tropics will dine on the caterpillars my garden will provide.

I can't imagine a spring and summer without them.

## **Community Broadband**

Most of us have heard about Town efforts to bring high-speed internet to our area. The Community Broad Band committee has been working hard make this a reality. Town Office Supervisor Anne Laine recently provided this brief summary of what's been happening:

“Currently we are preparing a survey that will go out by mail. Additionally, we are working on mapping infrastructure so that we have a better idea of expenses before we try to create pro forma financials for the RFP. The chairman of the committee is speaking to the ISPs regarding collaboration and the co-chairman is also working on current infrastructure mapping.” (*Editor's note: RFP stands for Request for Proposal. ISP means Internet Service Provider.*)

Committee meetings are on Zoom if anyone wants to see for themselves how things are going. Contact Anne at the Town Offices for the link.

## **Corrections to Last Winter's Newsletter**

This is, sad to say, almost becoming a regular feature... Last winter's newsletter had a rather amusing but certainly embarrassing error. I got the name of the State Senator who sponsored LD1033, the Sunday hunting law, wrong. Rather than naming one of Maine's senators (Jeffrey Timberlake) I had pop singer Justin Timberlake sponsoring the bill. I wonder which of them would be more upset with the error...

## **A View from the Porch (Editor's musings)**



When I first thought about this issue of the newsletter, I thought that this short column would simply say, “More of the same” thanks to Covid. Fortunately, things do seem to be brightening, if slowly and in fits and starts. I still don't see as many neighbors out walking as in the pre-pandemic days, but I'm not sure that isn't just that I'm not paying as much attention as I think. And there certainly have been far fewer kayakers paddling by my house than three summers ago. But friends are now going to restaurants and doing some limited socializing, all of which is good. There is also one particular sign, unique to our part of Maine, that something is changing for the better: For the first time in three summers I can see a multitude of lobster buoys out in West Bay. Not as many boats—at least not so far this year—but lots of buoys. Couple this small sign with the more important statistics of falling infection, hospitalization, and death rates here in Maine and I, for one, am increasingly optimistic that we all might get back to something approaching normal before too long. Let's all work to keep ourselves and others safe and perhaps this will be a reality before too long. In the meantime, I'll echo Frank's opening remarks: Summer is here—Take advantage of the many things that living on this peninsula offer. Go out and enjoy the summer!