



*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 2021

P.O. Box 119, Corea, ME 04624

<https://coreabythesea.org/>

*The PBRA newsletter is our way of sharing Association news and happenings of interest to our members. This summer issue is mailed to all property owners in our Corea by the Sea subdivision; other issues are sent to Association members via email. If you are not an Association member, we invite you to join.*



## Annual Meeting and Summer Social for all residents of Corea by the Sea

Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 6:00 pm  
Schoodic Education and Research Center Pavilion

Last year we tried to hold our annual summer social and business meeting at Schoodic but were thwarted by the pandemic and its many restrictions. This year, thanks to the lifting of those restrictions, we are trying again. And as of this newsletter, all looks good. But the get-together will be a bit different from years past, recognizing that some members are not quite ready to fully return to the normal of “the before time.” To start with, there will be no buffet or other shared food; everyone is to bring their own. This includes beverages. Another change is that tables will be set up six feet apart for those groups who wish to socially distance. There are also a couple of charcoal grills and one propane grill at the pavilion, which will provide some very limited opportunities for grilling.

Even with these changes, we still need to know how many people will attend. So **PLEASE** RSVP with the number in your party to Susan Haight at 860-501-5362 (basbhaight@gmail.com) by August 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Helping our Neighbors

In prior years we have asked all who come to our annual PBRA summer social to consider bringing non-perishable food items and toiletries/household necessities to help stock the Gouldsboro Life Line Food Pantry, and/or donate money to the Pantry. We will be collecting donations again this year. But if you want to donate cash directly, the address is: **Life Line Food Pantry**, 15 Mitchell Lane, Gouldsboro, ME 04607. If you would, please consider enclosing a note letting them know that you are donating on behalf of the Paul Bunyan Road Association.



All property owners in the Corea by the Sea subdivision are welcome to become members of the Association on payment of their annual dues. Dues of \$35 for the coming 2021–2022 year can be paid at any time from now through the end of August. You can bring a check with you to the social or mail it c/o PBRA Treasurer to the address on the letterhead. Additional details are on the membership form enclosed with this newsletter.

## **PBRA Business in the Time of COVID-19**

*(Part of this article ran last summer but is worth repeating this year.)*

This past year, while the COVID virus raged, the business of the Paul Bunyan Road Association went on, although not quite like normal. But what do we really do, you ask? The thing that most everyone knows about is the planning for the annual business meeting and summer social, now moving ahead full steam after a long year's absence. But there are also other matters that the Board must contend with. Throughout the past year, thanks to the miracle of today's technology, we have been able to carry on that business without difficulty. Regular discussions included:

- Considering whether we should—or even can—amend our Association purpose, goals, and bylaws to strengthen the emphasis on community development,
- Maintaining an up-to-date awareness of property transfers within the Corea by the Sea subdivision,
- Considering articles for the newsletter,
- Seeking candidates who might want to serve on the Association Board,
- Determining what if anything we can do about residents who disregard deeded covenants, and
- Deciding if, when, and to whom we should donate money.

Most recently the Board has been trying to understand our Association's obligations—and potential liabilities—regarding our ownership (since 1990) of Bay Point Lane. In short, your Board endeavors to improve the sense of community for all of us who live or visit the Paul Bunyan Peninsula. If you have any suggestions for how better to accomplish this, please let us know. Speak with a Board member or send an email to [pbra.newsletter.editor@gmail.com](mailto:pbra.newsletter.editor@gmail.com) and we'll be sure to discuss your ideas at a Board meeting.

## **Summer at Dorcas Library and the DLC**

As is true everywhere, the last 18 months or so have been a challenge for our beloved library and the Dorcas Learning Center (DLC). Although we had to open on a reduced schedule and make several other changes, the library remained open throughout the pandemic—and we could have not done half the things we wanted to without YOUR help and support. It feels great to connect with our community on a personal level again and what better way to reconnect than to be here at Dorcas! And we can always use new volunteers.

We now allow 10 people in at a time and if you are fully vaccinated, you don't have to wear a mask. It is impossible to know who is fully vaccinated, so have your mask ready and wear it if you are not comfortable or unvaccinated. As we begin to return to normal, we have already held a couple of regular annual events and have a few more lined up for this later this summer and fall.

- ✓ Our annual Attic Treasures Sale, held this year June 10-July 1
- ✓ Book/Plant/Bake Sale, held July 17 at the Dorcas Learning Center
- ✓ Regenerative Agriculture, Speaker: Flo Reed, August 24
- ✓ Gordon Thomas Ward live concert by the stream and Hot Dog sale (donation based), August 28, 3-5:30 PM
- ✓ Reel Food film series & potluck, starting in July with John Finn. We'll watch a movie about food while enjoying our potluck food (at Learning Center)
- ✓ Check us on Facebook for the latest information on your library!

And while not a library-sponsored event, the informal jazz sessions in the Town Park started again in late June. These informal concerts happen every Thursday.

## Et cetera...

- **Town Paving Plans:** Good news! We hope. After early inauspicious signs it seems that our long-neglected peninsula roads will finally be getting some much-needed attention. At the Town Meeting in June, residents approved an additional \$150,000 for the paving reserve which, when added to the unspent paving budget from last year, provide adequate funds for significant paving work. And the good news is that our Select Board agrees with our Road Commissioner, judging our three peninsula roads as among the worst in town and needing significant maintenance. At about \$120,000 per mile for complete repaving, we may have to settle for heavy-duty repair work instead, perhaps just lots of “shimming” (leveling the sides) of the worst stretches. But regardless, whatever gets done will be a marked improvement. Look for work to start in the fall.
- **Info for Spouses, Partners, etc...** Last fall, after PBRA President Bob Youtt died, his wife, Katie Wheeler, started to tackle the seemingly endless string of actions that follow someone’s death. As she neared the end of the paperwork she thought it would have been helpful if she had had a simple list of things to do. So she wrote one. Katie’s list includes 24 things to consider that will help guide you when the last thing you want to do is worry about paperwork. About half of us will be faced with these same tasks someday and being prepared can make those difficult tasks a bit easier. If you’d like a copy of Katie’s list, you can email her at [kathleen.wheeler@verizon.net](mailto:kathleen.wheeler@verizon.net).
- **Burn Permits:** Don’t forget, permits are required for ALL uncontained outdoor fires. You can get your free burn permit at the Town Office, subject to a day-to-day decision by the Fire Chief on whether or not it is safe to burn that day.
- **Local Author:** Margie Patlak’s book, *More Than Meets the Eye: Exploring Nature and Loss on the Coast of Maine* came on the market May 1<sup>st</sup> and sold a thousand copies in its first six weeks, primarily due to word of mouth. Readers have been enthusiastic: One called the book “an exquisite treasure in so many ways—part memoir, part poetry, part scientific study, part loss therapy, part adventure, and part uplifting hallelujah for life.” Another claimed. “*More Than Meets the Eye* beautifully captures what makes the Schoodic peninsula in Maine so magical.” Margie’s book is available at Works of Hand Gallery and Artisans and Antiques Gallery in Winter Harbor, many Maine bookstores, and at the Dorcas and Winter Harbor libraries. You can also order it online from a number of sources. Margie will be giving an in-person book talk at the Dorcas Library on Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 pm.
- **Town Manager:** Once again Gouldsboro is looking for a new Town Manager. Andrea Sorois, Town Manager for the past year, resigned at the end of June. Eve Wilkinson (once again!) will be stepping up to take care of town business until the Select Board chooses a new Town Manager.
- **Police Department:** It was, indeed, a turbulent year at the Town Offices. In addition to our Town Manager stepping down, our Police Chief and one deputy did as well. Residents at the Town Meeting approved sufficient funds to hire a new police chief and, perhaps, a part-time second deputy. The searches are ongoing.
- **Noise Ordinance:** It’s no secret that as our town’s population has changed so has the decibel level. To some, unacceptably so. To help combat excess noise, Town residents will likely see a noise ordinance come up for a vote at the June 2022 Town Meeting.

## Signs of Spring Turning to Summer

Last summer’s newsletter featured the observations of Grand Marsh Bay Road resident Katie Wheeler on the various critters she regularly spotted from her home. They included deer, hares, eagles, herons, and other various creatures. This year is no different. After a fairly quiet winter, the animals have started to reappear. In addition to the usual assortment of foxes, deer, and eagles, the most notable creatures spotted on Grand Marsh Bay Road have been a family of hungry black bears helping themselves to food items “provided” by local residents. The Jacksons reported two bears on their deck ravenously attacking some suet that wasn’t taken in in time. (Sorry, no photo.) The Youngs photographed a family of three bears looking for food in their back yard in early May (below left). And in mid-June Perry Cook & Sonja Dean recorded the bear family attacking their supposedly-bear-proof compost bin (below right). For them, the score at “the end of the half” was Bears 2, Cook/Deans 0. But some additional reinforcements to the compost bin seem to have tilted the score permanently in favor of the Cook/Deans.



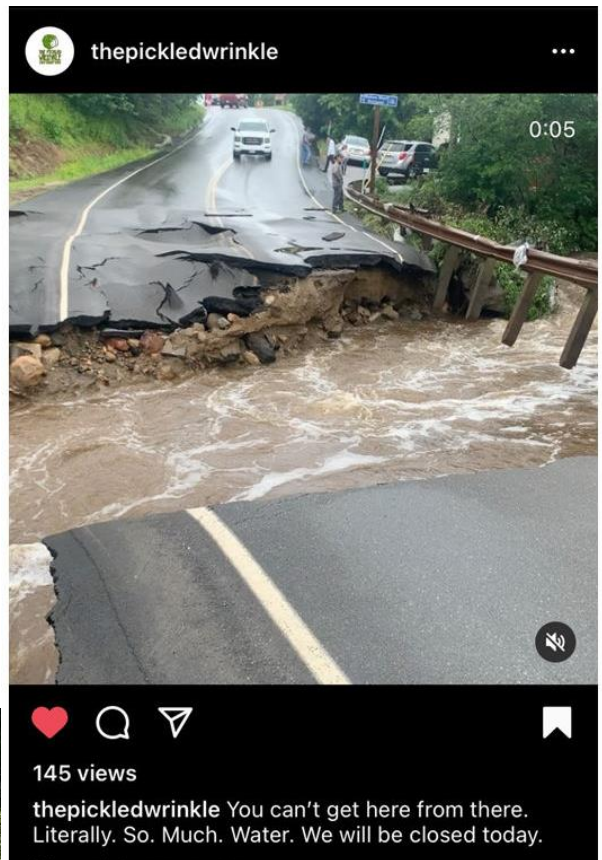
Other signs of spring on our Peninsula were far less intimidating. These included various flowers and shrubs. While many of us have beautiful gardens of our own, it’s nice to be reminded of what we see on the peninsula.





Jackson's 2021 Bleeding Hearts (L) and Daffodils (R)

**Another sign of spring moving into summer was the weather!** One night in mid-June our area experienced a series of brief but heavy rainstorms. Those of us on the Paul Bunyan Peninsula only saw about 1½" of rain, give or take. But other parts of the Schoodic Peninsula saw much heavier rains. Judging from the water under the bridge by the Dorcas Library and the water over Pond Road, Prospect Harbor saw a good bit more than 1½". But Birch Harbor was hit hardest with supposedly over 5" of rain falling in about two hours which, according to one local resident, washed out several beaver dams upstream. Many of you may have heard about the damage these rains caused but didn't have a chance to see it for yourself. The photo below is from the bridge by the library; the one to the right is from the Mc's Market side of the bridge on Rt. 186. The State DOT had one lane open by June 24<sup>th</sup>, but even that was closed for long periods as repair work continued.



## The “Orphan Road” (the gravel part of Grand Marsh Bay Road)

As most of us know, the gravel part of Grand Marsh Bay Road is deeded right of way across private property and it is up to those of us who use the road to maintain it. So many thanks to Jeff Young and John Ward who motivated a few of us to finally get rid of the old culvert that lay beside the road for so long! It took a couple of hours to wrestle the culvert out of the ditch and empty the dirt out of it, but persistence paid off and it is now a thing of the past. And, more significantly, special thanks to Wally Bell and Mike Hunt who drag the road now and then. Their efforts help to keep the road at least somewhat passable most of the year.



### *And now that we have your attention...*

“Passable” is a very relative term. Despite frequent efforts of Wally, Mike, and others, the gravel road is steadily deteriorating. It takes just one or two good rainstorms to undo whatever small improvements they make. It is long past time to “do the road right” so that it requires less, and less frequent, maintenance. This means hiring a professional to actually improve the road, not just apply another bandaid. This type of work will likely be fairly expensive, probably north of \$20,000. Given the likely cost, the work—and the need for donations to pay for it—could be split across two or three years. There are more than 80 properties for which the gravel road is the shortest way off the peninsula, and everyone on the peninsula needs a second route out in case of emergency. But, in any given year, our pleas for donations only get 15–25 responses. That has provided just enough money to keep bandaiding the road over the years. We hope that all of us who use the road regularly will now see the benefits of significant road improvements and contribute generously this time around. Once we have professional estimates of the work required and its cost, our “Keeper of the Road Checkbook” will send out a letter again seeking donations. If most of us chip in \$500–\$1000 this year and perhaps the next, we think our project goal is realistic. If *everyone* were to contribute this year, this “big plea” could be a one-time event. **Together, we can make this happen.** Look for Mel Jackson’s letter and please do your part to keep the shortest route off the peninsula for many of us more than just “passable.” (If you want to get a jump on all this, you can send a check now for your contribution to Mel Jackson, PO Box 67, Corea, ME 04624. We’ll all thank you!)



## Proposed Salmon Farm & Fish Factory

By now many of you have undoubtedly noticed the numerous sky-blue yard signs expressing opposition to the American Aquafarms proposal for Frenchman Bay. The Norwegian company, together with several American teammates, wants to build a salmon hatchery in Prospect Harbor and establish 30 salmon pens on 120 acres in the bay. Their goal is to produce 66 million pounds of salmon each year in what they say is a “next-generation technology (that) addresses major challenges in the traditional aquaculture industry, through the use of an eco-friendly Closed Pen System...” Those opposed—including ecologically-conscious local citizens, area fishermen, and Acadia National Park officials—dispute the company’s claims and believe the farm would negatively alter the area for decades to come. Their concerns include the project’s sustainability; the potential for water, light, and noise pollution; the effects of additional truck traffic on Gouldsboro roads; and excessive barge traffic in Frenchman Bay. For more information visit **American Aquafarms’** website at <https://americanaquafarms.com/us/about-us/> and **Frenchman Bay United** at <http://friendsoffrenchmanbay.org/2021/04/save-the-bay-stop-the-fish-farm/>. While the first period for public comments expired on July 7<sup>th</sup>, they may accept comments into August. If you would like to voice your opinion about this proposed project, visit <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/index.html> or send your comments via snail mail to the Department of Marine Resources in Augusta.

## Clam Research in Grand Marsh Bay

Downeast Institute, a marine research institute in Beals, Maine, has proposed a clam fishing research project that will take place in Grand Marsh Bay. Aimed at promoting aquaculture of a clam species native to the Gulf of Maine that is not yet commercially farmed in the state, the project will test if the clams will grow well in dozens of 1'x2' wooden boxes. These boxes will be staked to the bay bottom in the intertidal zone and will be covered with mesh to prevent predation by the invasive green crab that has depleted natural clam populations in many areas. Despite the scientific objective of this project, some PBRA residents have expressed concerns about its potential adverse environmental effects. Diane Tilton of the Institute responded to these concerns in a letter to PBRA member Margie Patlak, further explaining the project: The boxes will be 4 inches high and positioned in four 20'x20' areas 500 feet from shore, areas that are nearly always subtidal. This means that the project is not likely to affect nesting shorebirds or other marsh activity, nor will the boxes require marking buoys and so shouldn't interfere with boating. The project will be visited by the Institute's scientists no more than one day per month on the lowest negative tides, which is the only time the boxes will be visible or accessible. Ms. Tilton further noted that the clams can be grown and harvested without the need of a boat, crane, and other large and expensive gear, making them a good alternative source of income for clammers and others. Additional information about the project can be found by going to the Institute's website at <https://downeastinstitute.org/research/arctic-surf-clams/>. If you wish to express your concerns about the project, contact the Department of Maine Resources' Aquaculture Program. Their website URL is <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/index.html>.

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



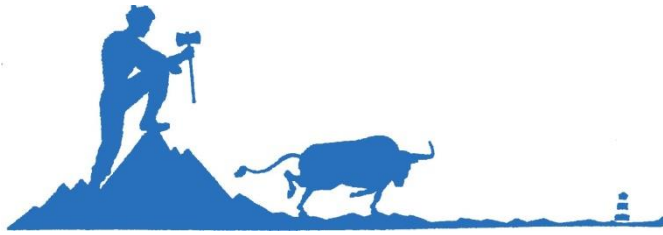
With the amazing success Maine has had in convincing people to get vaccinated, once again I can say that this year the sounds and sights around the Peninsula are different this summer—different from both the “before times” as well as summer 2020. There are not as many people out and about this year as we used to see as we near July 4<sup>th</sup>, but still a LOT more than last summer. More people are venturing out for walks with their neighbors, stopping occasionally to have conversations with strangers they see on the road. And many of us are even brave enough to go to restaurants, confident that their vaccinations will keep them from serious illness or, perhaps, from getting COVID at all. Frustratingly, we

are not among those who are fully getting their lives back to pre-pandemic normal, at least not just yet. As daycare providers for our 5-year-old granddaughter—obviously unvaccinated as yet—we are still practicing some of the COVID protocols, including no indoor gatherings of any sort. But we are optimistic that news stories guesstimating a fall date for a young child vaccine are accurate, just in time for school to open. In the meantime, we are continuing to enjoy meeting neighbors on the street and making good use of the sort-of-enforced time at home, still catching up on long overdue projects (it was—and still is—a LONG list) and homeschooling our granddaughter. (We had often thought that we were not exactly qualified to homeschool anyone... and now we are more certain of that than ever. The questions a five-year old can ask! Things we haven't even thought of in years.)

Over the years I have asked folks to send in photos of things they see on their property or around the peninsula that others may find interesting. This winter the Jacksons sent me a photo of one humongous fungus. Mel reports it was a good 8–9" inches across. And, as you can see from the photo, vibrant red. Does anyone know what it might be? If you can identify this beauty email me at [pbra.newsletter.editor@gmail.com](mailto:pbra.newsletter.editor@gmail.com).



Join now and you will be paid through August 2022



## PBRA DUES

Mail to: Paul Bunyan Road Association, P.O. Box 119, Corea, ME 04624

**You are cordially invited to join your  
community association for the 2021–2022 year!**

Membership Dues for 2021–2022 are only \$35 per year.  
The year runs from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting (August to August).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you provide your email address, we can send you  
timely notices of community events and our electronic newsletter.

---

### Other Contact Information (if appropriate)

---

Other (e.g., local) Address (if appropriate): \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Good for Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want this annual summer newsletter mailed to this other/local address?  YES  NO

**Thank you for joining your Association!**

**Please return this form even if you have already paid  
your dues. We need to ensure our mailing list is accurate.**

Mail this form to Paul Bunyan Road Association, P.O. Box 119, Corea, ME 04624