



# Whitefield News

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## Whitefield Town Meeting Balloting Friday, March 18th, 2016 Meeting March 19, 2016

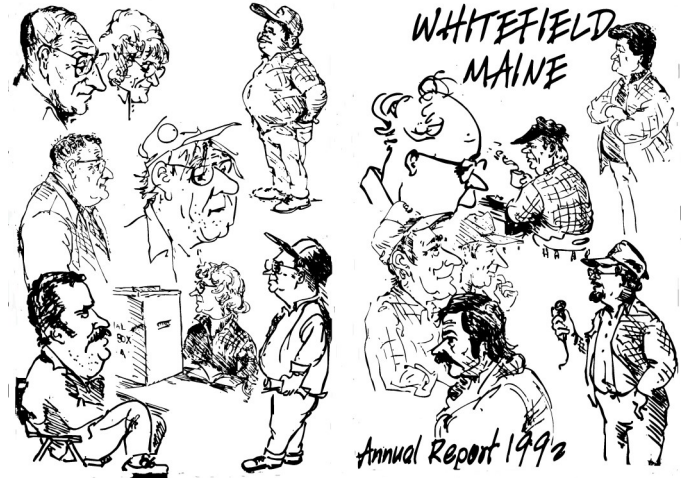
By Tony Marple

This year's Town Meeting will take place on Friday, March 18th from 4 to 8 PM for ballot voting and Saturday, March 19th for the open Town Meeting beginning at 10 AM. The reason for the time change is to make the meeting more convenient for residents and to improve attendance. While many people prefer the old schedule when ballot voting took place before and during the open Town Meeting, State law doesn't allow simultaneous floor and ballot voting.

In addition to the municipal budget, townspeople will consider a ballot initiative to remove the Coopers Mills dam and two new ordinances.

\* A proposal to remove the Coopers Mills dam spillway and replace the current dry hydrant with two sources upriver from the dam and a backup site on Route 17, along with dam site improvements and educational displays, would be funded entirely by the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and Midcoast Conservancy (MC), formerly Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association. Additional ASF and MC funding would be used to set up Town-managed funds for the maintenance of the hydrants and the dam site improvements, along with \$25,000 for improved river access throughout town, including trail construction. No town funds will be required if the proposal is approved.

\* The citizens will consider a Flood Plain Ordinance. The ordinance would impose some development restrictions within the relatively nar-



row federally mapped flood plain, but would offer flood plain property owners access to federally-subsidized flood insurance and would also allow the Town to apply for FEMA disaster relief in the event of a major weather disaster.

\* Peter Froehlich has asked that the Town consider an ordinance that would allow seniors over 70 who have owned their primary residence in Town for at least ten years and have household incomes below 300% of federal household poverty levels to defer taxes with accrued interest until they either move out of their residence or die and pass their property and deferred taxes with accrued interest on to their heirs. This ordinance **Continued on Pg. 2**

## Maine Maple Sunday in Whitefield

by Kit Pfeiffer

March usually means maple sugar in Maine. Last year the sap run was so late that Maine Maple Sunday hosts had to buy syrup "from away" to treat their visitors to the traditional maple syrup on vanilla ice cream. However, this winter's persistent warmth has allowed many producers to start tapping as early as late January. This year Maine Maple Sunday on March 27 should provide lots of local syrup, and the boiling-off season may be all over by then. Ah, Mother Nature!

Whitefield resident Sandy Benne's new sugarhouse on the center Hunt's Meadow Road will be open for business on March 27. He built it three years ago with wood harvested from his own property. (If you have walked on the public-access Marr's Ridge Trail, you probably noticed the building and the tubing network.) For over thirty years, Benne has been managing his woods to favor sugar maples. He now has 550 taps, and in four years, he should have 800. The wood-fired evaporator can handle up to 1,200 taps.

Three connected networks of gravity-feed plastic tubing lead to his three holding tanks; one right by the sugarhouse and two at the bot-



Sandy Benne at his Hunt's Meadow Road sugarshack Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

tom of the drive. He has to pump that sap up the hill with a generator. Benne chose the hillside location, however, because as he said, "I've always liked this spot. I'm happier here."

The plastic tubing is installed at a 3% slope, strung between maple trees wrapped in wire with a high tensile strength to withstand heavy windfall. Ingeniously, a weaker wire is used to attach the length of tubing to the tree trunks. If a large branch should fall on some tubing, for example, the

weaker wire around the tree trunks will break first, releasing the whole system of tubes to fall to the ground, hopefully, undamaged.

Benne's operation gets under way with tapping in the second to third week of February, and the season lasts three weeks to a month, depending on the conditions. Marilyn Monroe is the muse of the sugar house; smiling down on the huge evaporator from her perch on a large poster on the wall. The evaporator boils off sap for 8-10 hours each day, and Benne hires an assistant during that time. "I can't even read a short

**Continued on Pg. 3**

**Town Meeting from Pg. 1** falls under State Law 36 MRSA, Section 6271, et. seq., and has, to date, only been adopted by Wells.

Regarding the Whitefield municipal budget, the total amount that would be raised from taxes will decline modestly. The budget would continue the second year road funding under the Road Committee long range plan as discussed at last year's meeting. At the recommendation of the Road Commissioner, the Budget Committee and the Select Board, there is a proposal to purchase a used grader for up to \$95,000 out of surplus to replace the current unusable grader.

The Town is fortunate to be in very good financial shape, and we propose to fund the \$95,000 grader and reduce taxes by \$155,000 using a total of \$250,000 in surplus.

While the Select Board and Budget Committee recommend levels of spending that will reduce the mill rate attributable to the municipal budget, we do not yet know Whitefield's share of the RSU 12 and Lincoln County budgets, and the mill rate is the product of all of those budgets.

This year in particular, there are many issues to discuss in detail at Town Meeting. There will be displays and handouts to further explain the dam proposal and the new ordinances. Very soon the Town Report will be available at the Superette, Country Corners, Sheepscot General and the town office, while supplies last. Copies of the budget and the Town Report are available on the Town website, and there will be handouts at the meeting. We really would like you to attend.

#### **On the Ballot, Friday, March 18th 4-8 pm**

##### **Two seats- Selectmen 3 year term (CONTESTED)**

Tony Marple  
Frank Ober  
Bruce Mathews

##### **Road Commissioner 1 year term (UNCONTESTED)**

David Boynton

##### **Planning Board (CONTESTED) Two positions 2 year terms**

Jim Torbert  
Mike Panosian  
Jacob Mathews

##### **School Board**

1 year term (UNCONTESTED)

Terri Blair

3 year term (NO ONE TOOK OUT PAPERS) WRITE IN

## **Many Thanks, Jim!**

Jim Torbert has been tirelessly working for the Whitefield Newsletter since we began in July 2013. Jim has been the driving force in funding the newsletter and has been getting sponsors for the newsletter ever since we started. Without our sponsors, we couldn't do this.

Jim works in many areas of our town including the Planning Board, MOFGA and the Lincoln County Democratic Committee to name a few.

We are looking for someone to fill the void left by Jim's departure from the group so, please let us know if you might be interested in helping the Whitefield Newsletter continue. The job entails checking with our sponsors to see if they would like to have an ad in each month. Contact Debbie at 549-3491 or Cheryle at 549-7305.



## **The kids will be coming soon**

### **@ Fuzzy Udder Creamery**

by Cheryle Joslyn

To most of us "locals", March means but one thing...two more months of mud season (hopefully that is all!). However, at Fuzzy Udder Creamery on Townhouse Road, March signals a lot more than that. Jessie Dowling is pulling her boots on for lambing and kidding season. From her 14



Photo Courtesy of Fuzzy Udder

sheep mamas and her 14 goat mamas she expects around 55 babies. Her barns will be getting very full and she and her crew will be very busy!

Two winters ago, Jessie moved into the old Townhouse Creamery across from the Town Office in Whitefield. She has a flock of sheep originally from EllsFarm Sheep Dairy in Union and goats that hail from Appleton Creamery where Jessie worked for five years with Caitlin



Photo Courtesy of Fuzzy Udder

Hunter of Appleton Creamery and learned the fine art of cheese making. She buys organic Jersey cow milk from Two Loons Farm in South China. This increases her supply during the winter months and keeps her producing cheese all winter until she can begin milking her own goats and sheep again in March. She has a large cheese-room where she makes a variety of fresh and aged cheeses. You can stop by her creamery to buy gouda, swiss, tomme, aged goat cheese, Waldo Smog, and of course much more once Spring and Summer arrives.

You might also be interested in helping Jessie's business grow by signing up for Fuzzy Udder's CSA which works as a line of credit at area farmers markets and/or at the farm to purchase lamb, goat, mutton; as well as cheese. If you sign up before March 1, you get a 15% discount. Please stop by or call to sign up.

Plan to visit Fuzzy Udder in March to meet the adorable bouncing kids!

(Call 549-3817 for arrangements or email Jessie at [fuzzyudder@gmail.com](mailto:fuzzyudder@gmail.com). The sales fridge for cheese and freezer meat is self serve 24/7.)



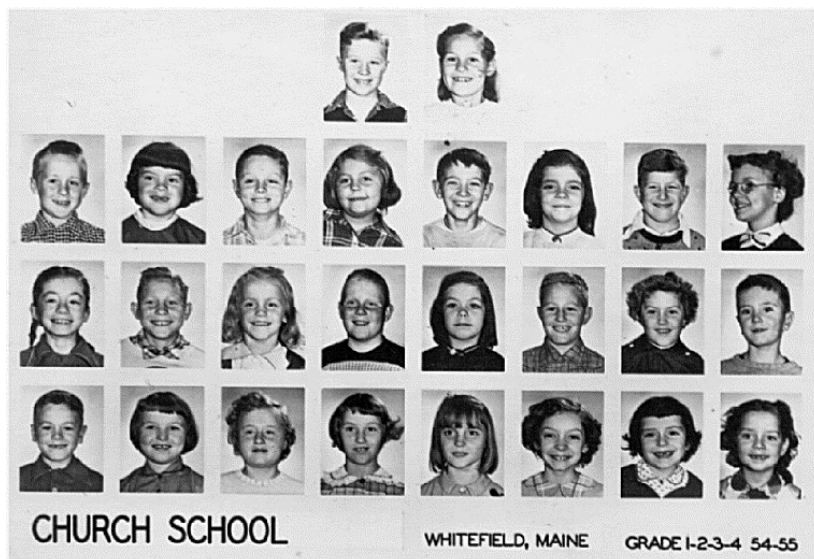
## Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Church School (era 1947)

This is a picture of the Church School in North Whitefield. It was located about halfway down the hill from St Denis. Jane Chase remembers being thrilled when it was her turn to be one of the students who went up to the St Denis Rectory with a pail to get water to put in the blue striped crockery so everyone would have something to drink with their lunches. Out in back of the school were teeters and swings. There was also a baseball field directly across the road for Fall and Springtime fun. In the Winter, kids would slide down the hill in the road. The picture was taken circa 1946. The sign on the front reads "Official Salvage Depot". Janet McBride remembers that children used to bring scrap to school for the War Drive.

*Photo from the David Field Collection: courtesy of the WHS*



Church School 1954-55 Grade 1-4

Jane's (2nd row, 2nd from left) classmates at the Church School. Do you recognize these smiling faces?

## Mary Edgerly Creamer Celebrates 102 Years

Whitefield proudly wishes long-time resident, Mary Edgerly Creamer, a very Happy Birthday! Mary will celebrate her 102nd on March 26 in her favorite manner (welcoming visitors, surrounded by family and friends, sharing cake and ice cream, and opening her birthday cards).

Mary was born in Augusta, and moved to Whitefield when she was 5 years old, and she has lived

here ever since. In 2010 at 95, Mary was presented with Whitefield's Boston Post Cane to honor her as our oldest resident. Her father had also been a recipient of this honor in 1968 at the age of 94, and her brother, Loring, of Woolwich also received the Boston Post Cane in 2013 at 97. The Plains of Whitefield must have been a good healthy place to grow up.

Congratulations and Best Wishes, Mary!



**Sugar Shack from Pg. 1** story while I'm on duty. There is so much moving around you have to do," he tells me. He does have a steam-away, an electric-powered machine that greatly speeds up the evaporation process, but he rarely uses it. It's for future use when he can get his sugarhouse hooked up to power. Anyway, he says he doesn't like the noise it makes!

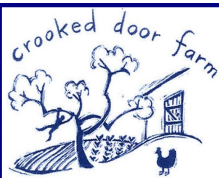
So if you want to visit a quiet, peaceful maple sugar operation on March 27, drive over to center Hunt's Meadow Road. You can also enjoy a hike on the Marr's Ridge Trail while you're there!

For an interactive map of sugaring operations open on Maine Maple Sunday, March 27, visit <http://mainemapleproducers.com>. One Whitefield operation is listed there: Tim's Sugarshack on Rte 126 across from the grange, inviting you to "come and watch a back yard sugar house. Walk thru the sugar bush, watch us make syrup on a wood evaporator, and enjoy a dish of ice cream with maple syrup on it."



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## MARCH 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 2nd** **Arlington Grange Meeting**, 7 pm  
**Whitefield Historical Society** meeting 6:30 pm
- 3rd** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 4th** **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 5th** **Republican Caucus**, Lincoln County will hold its biennial convention at: Wiscasset High School 225 Gardiner Rd., with the Presidential Preference Pole to elect our next presidential candidate. Also, all towns in Lincoln County will be caucusing at 11am at the Wiscasset High School. FMI contact Bill McKeen at 446-8991.  
**Birdhouse Building Workshop**, Walker Elem. School, Liberty. This free, hands-on workshop will include: time to build a birdhouse, a demonstration of how to mount bird boxes, and discussion of ideal placement to attract bluebirds and tree swallows. [news@midcoastconservancy.org](mailto:news@midcoastconservancy.org).
- 6th** **Democratic Caucus**, Wiscasset High School, 10 am. The Democratic State Convention will be May 6 & 7 in Portland. Coming up sooner are the party caucuses. Democrats from Whitefield and other towns along the Sheepscot River will caucus on Sunday, March 6 in the Wiscasset Elementary School Gym, located at 83 Federal St (Rt.218), with registration beginning at noon and delegate selection beginning at 1:00 pm. Details and FAQ's can be found on the web at <http://www.lincolncountydemocrats.com/>.
- 7th** **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
- 8th** **Kings Mills Fire Dept.**, 7 pm
- 8th** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 9th** **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 9th** **Lincoln County Community Health Forum** community discussion about the issues that affect us most. Please join us to share your thoughts and ideas about making our community the healthiest it can be! Let's tackle these challenges together. 3-5 pm, Wiscasset Community Center, 242 Gardiner Rd. Wiscasset For more info contact Mike Glennon at (207) 563-4834 or [mike.glennon@lchcare.org](mailto:mike.glennon@lchcare.org)
- 10th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 10th** **RSU School Board Meeting** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 12th** **Astronomy Night, 6-9pm** we will have a Waxing Crescent Moon, one of the best times to observe the craters on the Moon, and an opportunity to observe Earthshine. A Lunar phenomenon where sunlight is reflected off the Earth, gently illuminating the full disc of the Moon. We will meet at HVNC's education center, The Barn. When you arrive at the main gate, walk 1/3 mile past the gate on the service road. Come prepared with snowshoes or skis if necessary. CLOUD DATE: Sunday March 13, 7-10pm.
- 13th** **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 14th** **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 15th** **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 16th** **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 17th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 18th** **Town Balloting, Whitefield Fire & Rescue 4-8 pm**  
**Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 19th** **Town Meeting, Whitefield Elementary School, 10 am**  
**DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 22nd** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 22nd** **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 22nd** **Full Moon Hike**, Join us for a walk through the woods under the light of a full moon! The length of the walk will be determined based on weather, but will be appropriate for most ages. We will be on snowy trails, and in the woods. After the walk we'll all gather around the woodstove. Please meet at the gate a little in advance of 7:00pm so that we can all walk without leaving you behind! Come dressed for the weather - i.e. warm boots, hats, gloves, etc. There is a suggested \$5 donation for this event. Individuals of all ages are encouraged to attend! Register at <http://hvnc.org/events-and-workshops/>
- 24th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 29th** **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 31st** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am



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