

President's Message

As I sat down to write my message, several thoughts occurred to me:

The weather has been nasty. The weather promises to be nastier. We are still seeing high numbers from our new, regular companion Covid.

This has made me realize, that despite the curtailment of most of our groups meeting in person, we are very fortunate to be able to meet via Zoom and have our regular speakers. They have provided us with thought provoking ideas and resources that I, and I assume others, may not have availed ourselves of otherwise. Our February speaker, I'm sure will be equally interesting and informative.

Stay well and enjoy all that we have coming our way.

Jeff Gaulin

Monthly Meeting via Zoom Thursday February 3, 7:00 pm

☹️ The promised presentation on Bees will be postponed until next year due to unavoidable changes in schedule for one of the speakers.

😊 We have a very interesting and timely presentation from one of our neighbors and favorite speakers, Jon Dykstra. On Wednesday, you will receive an email with the Zoom link.

A member of the Beach Advisory Committee, Jon has been involved on the water testing for some years. I think you'll remember that Jon, a retired geologist, gave a fabulous presentation to N&N last year on the various types of sands on southern Maine beaches. This time he will be updating us on GRB (Goose Rocks Beach) Water Quality and DNA testing, what the data say, what ME Department of Environmental Protection says, and what it might mean to you.

Jon suggested that we view the short storymap presentation at the following link:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c7c5bbcc2d414e66ab2e9801e09d3121>

He thought it would be useful in introducing the issues and letting folks get any concerns/questions ready for Thursday's program.

Both Kennebunk and Kennebunkport have been participating in the Maine Healthy Beaches water testing for several years. GRB is tested at four different parts of the beach. We've known for some time that the two river ends of the beach have tested above the acceptable EPA bacteria levels, particularly after heavy rains and at low tide. Information regarding

bacteria levels is fully posted at the beach entrances and the Town has been working for some time to do further water testing farther back up the rivers and in the marshes to identify the types of bacteria and the sources. However, EPA is changing their annual reporting to include beach waters and will be issuing a report this month identifying three beaches in Maine as "impaired beaches" -- the two river ends of GRB and a beach in Ogunquit. This presentation will help us understand the EPA report.

Hope to see you on Thursday, February 3 at 7pm!



An example of a tidal river and a frothy beach (Mousam River and Parsons Beach)

Directory update: If you have moved, changed your e-mail or gotten a new cell phone number, please notify Bob Mills.

Sunshine outreach: If you know of a club member who is sick or hospitalized, please let Donna Lombardi know so she can send a card.

The **Beachside Bookenders** -- We continue to meet by Zoom. For February 3 our book is *The Lowering Days* by Gregory Brown. The book for March 3 is *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. The book group welcomes new members. If you're interested just send me an email: Leader: Susan Gilbey

The **Breakfast Group** will most likely not meet in February. Leader: Kathy Johnson.

Bridge at Duffy's – on Wednesdays, Lunch at 12:30 pm, Bridge 1:30-3:30 pm.
Leader: Tom Boak .

Knitting and Crafts group: will not meet in February due to the pandemic.
Leaders: Linda Gaumond and Marie Ali-Hassan.

TGFun: Due to the high covid surge, we will not be planning any TGFun events right now.
Leaders: Pat & Bill Dugan