

The Brooksville Breeze



The newsletter of Brooksville Friends & Neighbors

Fall 2007

What's to Eat in Brooksville

By Joan MacCracken, Becky Poole, Kathleen Caldwell

There's more going on than meets the eye in our community-- regarding food, that is. So, we thought it would be fun and informative to discover the folks who are producing local food for others' consumption. (The list has gotten longer and longer so we will make this an article to be continued).

New on the block is **Tinder Hearth**, a sourdough bakery, located on the Coastal Road just after you round the corner from the Elementary School, going south that is.

Tim Semler and Lydia Moffet, who both grew up on the Peninsula. (Tim in Brooksville and Lydia in Deer Isle), have returned to Maine after some time away. Tim attended Brooksville Elementary School and his mother is Lake Larsson and his grandmother, Barbara Larson of Brooksville. After traveling to many foreign countries, Tim believes Brooksville is the most beautiful place. Together with a few of their friends, they hope to create a community where baking bread for a living and giving back to the greater community of Brooksville is a possibility. Tim has noticed that Brooksville has a paucity of youth and he would like to see that change.

Last year Tim built the large dome-shaped oven in the backyard where they now bake the bread loaves. The



The Tinder Hearth

original sourdough starter came from Africa (where Tim learned to play drums) and he has kept the culture growing. Before WWII most breads were made in the old European sourdough style. They're trying to buy Maine flour and have been able to get at least 50% of their flour from Aroostock County, but the white flour is obtained from the Midwest.

This summer they fired up the oven three days a week, baking about 100 loaves in the evening before their Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday deliveries. They're happy to sell right out of their home (best price) and usually hang up the sign. BREAD TODAY, but the loaves can be found at the Buck's Harbor Market, The Blue Hill Coop, and in the summer the Ston-

ington Farmer's Market. Purchase a loaf or two and taste the delicious Sourdough Whole Spelt Loaf (100% spelt grain from Maine) or A Rustic European Sourdough Companion Loaf. You'll be sure to come back for more. JM

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There was a buzz in the air that **Jonathan Chase** was coming to run the **Buck's Harbor Market** and **Buck's**, the new restaurant. Those who remembered "Jonathan's", the incredible dining spot on Main Street, Blue Hill, were pretty excited by this news. One crisp summer morning, after the warm spell broke, I was able to catch up with Jonathan Chase in the deli. He believes the goal is to make the market and restaurant sustainable. He wants people from Brooksville

It's All About the People

By Judy Tredwell

"It's all about the people. What made the job pleasant and doable were the people we worked with and dealt with." That was the phrase reiterated over and over in the interview I did with **Katherine Clifford** and **Lois Austin**, former Town Clerk and Town Tax Collector, respectively. Sitting in Katherine Clifford's living room one Friday afternoon, with her cat in my lap, I tried to learn about these two people who had worked for the Town for the last 14 to 15 years until their retirement this spring. It wasn't easy to get the two women to tell me something special about themselves. They resisted me at every turn. They clearly were in the business of the Town together, and were quietly protective of the transactions of others. So how did they get there?

Katherine Clifford, mother of three children, was a stay-at-home mom for a while, and then after earning her MA in Education, she returned to teaching at Brooksville Elementary School for 23 years. She still tutors some students in reading and math. And "I love every minute of that work." After a year at home without a full time job, she started looking for something to do. So she began helping the then current Town Clerk, Louise Grindle.

Living in North Brooksville Lois Austin was also a stay-at-

Continued on page 2

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Whats to eat... (continued from page 1)

to be able to come into the market anytime, buy the ingredients, and be able to go home and cook dinner. It's true, it's a long way from Cape Rosier to Blue Hill. Jonathan is committed to serving Brooksville residents and others by offering reasonable prices, using as many local food suppliers as possible, and having things on the shelves that folks want. Clearly he understands the Buck's Harbor social traditions as well. It's a gathering place to see everyone-- elected officials, local and summer folks, people chatting and eating blueberry muffins with their tables all jammed together.

"It's the atmosphere", one explained. "The minute I was two feet in the door, I could feel it!" another chimed in. "You can learn all the news of the town!" All agreed that the store felt well organized with many good things on the shelves and was serving the needs of local folks as well as those from "away". I closed my note book when the conversation turned to sump pumps.

For **Buck's Harbor Market** hours, see page 4. Bread is baked Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tinder Hearth Bread is available Tuesday & Friday.

Buck's Restaurant offers a simple, reasonably priced menu. "Downeast Comfort Food", and is focused on excellent ingredients. Beer and Wine are served. To receive e- notices on specialty items be sure to sign up at the market! Buck's hours of operation are on page 3. BP

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Not every town can claim to have a popsicle man, but we do! One morning in Massachusetts **Jim Picariello**, 36, a former computer techy, and his wife awoke and realized they wanted a different life-- away from the hustle and bustle of Massachusetts. They'd always dreamed of living the good life in Maine, so they headed North, eventually landing in Brooksville on the Varnumville Road. Over the past five years, they've moved up from a tent to a shed to a house with two active daughters. Jim was the co-manager for the Blue Hill Coop for a few years.

Now Jim has been making popsicles-- and these aren't your usual ones. He in-

vented the green tea, honey-sweetened popsicle, initially as a hobby to "make people happy with popsicles." But it has now turned into a complete entrepreneurial adventure with his new company,

Wise Acre. For the past year he's been on the move with this as his fulltime occupation. He has received three Maine Tech Institute seed grants for initial funding, consulted with the University of Maine regarding a manufacturing plant plan, won Best New Product at the Common Ground Fair last year and was excited to mention that the supermarket chain Whole Foods, which has more than 100 stores, has just agreed to carry his popsicles.

Wise Acre popsicles, called **FROSTEAS** and **FROSTBITES**, comes in five flavors: jasmine green tea delight, Maine maple lemon, "cool your jets" herbal, just honey, and yerba mate. These stickless popsicles come in frozen plastic sleeves. One stewed batch makes 2000 popsicles which are about 3oz each. For \$1.49 each (or \$5.99 for a six-pack) you can enjoy this 40 calorie snack. He uses all natural sweeteners, wild Maine honey, and organic teas. Jim is not driving around in an ice cream truck ringing his bell, but you can buy these little gems at Buck's Harbor Market, the Blue Hill Coop, and Tradewinds. Because of expansion he is no longer making them in his kitchen in Brooksville. His new factory will be located behind Tradewinds. But, for sure, it all began right here in Brooksville. JM

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On the Varnumville Road you'll also find a delightful spot for breakfast or brunch on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings from 6am till noon (Summer hours). At the **Breakfast Shed**, **Fred and Shirley Bull** welcome everyone with a smile and a bottomless cup of coffee and then you get to read about the specials, which just make your mouth water. Lobster Hash with two poached eggs made with fresh Maine lobster, bell peppers, and seasoned with thyme and paprika; Italian Bread frittata; apple cinnamon hotcakes or vegetable omelette with red

potatoes, red bell peppers, red onion and chayote. And each weekend the specials are different and always created with fresh ingredients. "We never make the same thing twice. That's what makes it fun for all."

In 2002 they moved here from Cape Cod where they ran a kayaking business with nature tours. But they too wanted something a bit more remote and discovered their current home in Brooksville. The Sunrise Cottages, which Fred built on the now lovely green acreage, are very attractive and available as seasonal bed and breakfast. Besides being the friendly waitress, Shirley has been the office manager of Kniesel Hall for the past three years, while Fred holds down the fort (shed). She'll retire from that position this year.

Fred was a ship's cook, sailing to foreign lands, picking up ethnic recipes along the way. His love of the world is evident from his international breakfast special: each week a new country flag is posted for identification; if you guess right, you get a free glass of juice. On the beautiful wooden wall of the shed, which used to be an actual goat shed, you notice the map of Costa Rica where Fred and Shirley now winter December thru April and on the menu is *gallo pinto*, a traditional national dish of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, consisting of beans and rice. Yum, yum!

So, if you haven't yet discovered this local treasure, you'll be in for a very pleasant surprise! From October-November, it's open Saturday and Sunday 7am-noon - until they head south for winter. JM

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Sixteen years after its launch and several years since its last winter solstice celebration, **Sow's Ear Winery** will be throwing a wine and cheese party this season -- a great chance to check out some unusual wines.

Tom Hoey started his home-based winery, at the junction of Herrick Road and Coastal Road, in 1991 after several years of contemplating a career change. He had thought about a bread-baking or cheese-making business. Then he planted an orchard and soon discovered that the goats would have to go--before they de-

What's to eat (continued from page 2)...

destroyed all his fruit trees. He began to make cider from his apples, then hard cider, which became his favorite drink. Later he began experimenting with thin-bark and blueberries. His attempts at growing grapes in this inhospitable climate failed, except for the Marechal Foch variety, which he still grows. His wines feature local cultivated fruits and wild fruits. Perhaps his most unique offering is "Wildberry," a blend of his left-over grapes, apples, blueberries, cranberries, and currants.

You can find Sow's Ear wines at

Town Office Hours 326-4518
 Monday 9am-2pm
 Wednesday 9am-2pm
 Thursday 6pm-8pm
 Selection
 John Gray
 Richard Bakeman
 Clifford (Kip) Leach
 Amber Bakeman
 Frieda Peasley
 Joanne Van der Eb
 Tax Collector

Burn Permits (at Fire Station)
 Thursday 7pm-8pm

Harbormaster Sarah Cox 326-9622

Library Hours 326-4560
 Monday 9am-5pm
 Wednesday 9am-5pm
 Thursday 6-8pm
 Saturday 9am-12pm
 Post Office Hours (Window)

Monday-Friday
 8:30am-12:15pm
 2-4:15pm
 Saturday 8:30-10:30am
 Post Office Hours (Lobby)

Monday-Friday
 7am-4:45pm
 7-11am
Saturday Harbor Market Hours
 326-8683
 Monday-Thursday
 7am-6pm
 Friday 7am-7:30pm
 Saturday 8am-7:30pm
 Sunday 8am-1pm

Brooksville Elementary School
 2007 Graduates by Joan MacCracken

Buck's Harbor Market, the Blue Hill Food Coop and the Blue Hill Wine Shop. From May to October, Tom keeps regular hours at the winery: Tuesday - Saturday. 10-5. During the winter months, call him at 326-4649 to arrange a visit. Check the local papers for the time and date of Tom's 2007 winter solstice/Christmas gathering. He'll be offering his "chustive" Choke Cherry wine, a cold weather warmer, and plenty of holiday cheer. KC

Six eighth graders graduated in June from Brooksville Elementary School. The Brooksville Breeze is excited to give you a little profile on five students from telephone interviews. The sixth student could not be reached.

Cody Grimmel, born in Lewiston, has lived in Maine all his life, on Deer Isle for many years, and recently he moved to South Brooksville. He makes model cars, loves lobstering, and plays soccer, basketball, and baseball, hoping to continue these at Deer Isle/Stonington High School, which he selected for his many friends and relatives on the island. "My mother is an Eaton." He couldn't think of anything he would change in Brooksville and likes it small, the way it is. The 8th grade class trip to Boston's Aquarium, Science Museum, and Quincy Market was his favorite memory from school. Some day he hopes to see California and the Pacific, and in the future, perhaps, he will go to business school, and become a producer.

Kalle Bailey was born at home in Brooksville on the Varnumville Road and has remained here all his life. His two older brothers are in colleges in Maine, and his sister just graduated from George Stevens Academy where Kalle plans to go in September. Home schooled until the eighth grade, he enjoyed his year at BES. He plays soccer and hopes to do track. Most memorable school activities were the great hikes his PE class took, especially to Acadia and the Bee Hive. Kalle believes Brooksville is .. good, just as it

is". He did love his first trip to Boston with his class this spring. After high school, he plans college and perhaps travel to South America to use his Spanish. This summer he will chill out and attend his favorite Camp Tanglewood for two weeks.

Alec Peasley, born at the Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, has lived in Brooksville for 12 of his 14 years and can currently be found on the Breezemer Road. He has a sister who is 20. At BES he played basketball and baseball; first base is his preferred position, and he hopes to continue these sports at Deer Isle/Stonington High School in September. As far as having any special places in Brooksville, he says he likes anywhere on the water. Lobstering is his thing. He has two boats, one 14 ft and one 30ft and his own license. Alec has been as far away as Jamaica. He has no idea what he wants to do after high school. He wishes Brooksville would have a grocery store and a gas pump. When asked about his summer plans, he says, "Lobstering, I love it!" and a bit of summer baseball, too.

Joey Jones was born in Blue Hill and has lived in Brooksville all his life. He has two brothers, one in high school and one married. According to his mother Betsy Jones, her son loves colors, lights, and people. His favorite color is red and his favorite food is ice cream. He also loves to be read to and to listen to music. Almost anything on the TV entertains

Help support this newsletter...
 (Continued on page 3)

Donations to help offset the cost of publishing this newsletter would be greatly appreciated!!!
 To help, send whatever you can to:
 Brooksville Friends & Neighbors
 P.O. Box 101
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 Make checks payable to:
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 Thanks!

People (Continued from page 1)...



Catherine wants to travel. Brooksville has been made richer by the two ladies who greeted us so warmly at the Town House. Yes, it really is all about the people!

2007 Graduates... (Continued from page 4)

him. This summer he will be at home with his aides coming in three times a week. When Joey was about three years old, he went to Washington, DC and went to the White House. Next year he will be staying at BES with a specialized high school program.

Jessica Dyer, born in Kentucky, lived in Ohio for a while, and settled in Maine at age nine. She has lived in Brooksville and Bar Harbor and completed third and seventh and eighth grade in BES. She played basketball, soccer, and softball, but hopes to continue with her swimming at GSA.

For several years she has swum at the V in Ellsworth, swimming freestyle and butterfly strokes. Recently, having previously done English riding, she's been trying Western saddle riding. Now she dreams of barrel racing or calf roping, but figures she probably lives in the wrong state to be a cowgirl. "But it would be cool!" She jokingly said she'd like to see a mall in Brooksville, or just a place where kids could hang out. Maybe she'll go to college after high school but she's not sure where. This summer she looks forward to going to Robin Hood Camp.

Open 10-5 Tuesday-Saturday ~April-January
23 Harborside Road Harborside, Maine 04642
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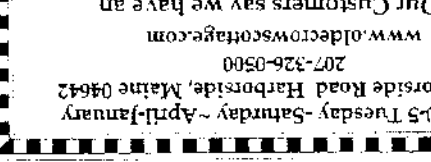
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When asked about the future of the town and how they see their jobs changing over time, they were both very quick to say that Brooksville is growing, and the demands on the Town Offices are growing, probably into a full-time job. Even when they were in Office, there were many demands for services after hours. Catherine has performed 33 marathons over the years, and, occasionally, people came knocking on her door at off hours to get a license and have her perform the ceremony.

They both plan to stay active in the Friends of the Library, quilt, help with Meals for Me, keep involved in the West Brooksville Congregational Church, and

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The newsletter of Brooksville Friends & Neighbors

Published Quarterly Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter

Brooksville Friends & Neighbors (BFN)

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Brooksville? Attend our November 7th meeting—6:30pm at the Brooksville Town Office. That's what we'll be discussing!

Tell Us Who You Are...

Fill out this form and mail it to us at the address above. We want to know what you are interested in.

Would you like to help with the newsletter? Do you belong to a group that would like us to help promote their activities? Brooksville Friends and Neighbors is a new and growing organization. We need you! We need ideas and we need to know how we can best serve the community.

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Comments: _____



Do you know where this is?