

Mountain View



A newsletter by and for the Randolph Community, published by the Randolph Foundation.



Cover photos from top; bottom row left to right: Sarah Eusden Gallop, Brad Meiklejohn, Jim Loudon, and Lucy Sandin

Articles, poems, notices, inquiries, and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. Send materials for the **Mountain View** to Lucy Sandin, lucy.sandin@gmail.com (207)831-7127, by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Publication is quarterly: September, December, April, and June. **The Blizzard** is published the first of each month, with the exception of July and August. Send winter event notices to Linda Dupont, linda.dupont90@yahoo.com by the 24th of the preceding month. **The Randolph Weekly** is published in July and August only.

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN Co-Chairs, Michele Cormier, Lauren Bradley; Assistant, Linda Dupont	466-5771	Meets 7pm 1st Thurs. at Town Hall	
Meets 7pm 2nd & 4th Mon., Town Hall		RANDOLPH CHURCH Moderator, Beverly Weatherly. Sunday morning services July & August, 10:30am.	
BUILDING PERMITS See Board of Selectmen	466-5771	RANDOLPH COMMUNITY FOREST Chair, John Scarinza. Meets 7pm 1st Weds., Town Hall	
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION Chair, Bruce Kirmmse	466-5777	RANDOLPH MOUNTAIN CLUB President, Jaime Maddock	
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DOG LICENSES Obtain/Renew end April, Town Clerk	466-5771	TAX COLLECTOR Anne Kenison, by appointment.	466-5771
GRS COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD SAU 20 Meets 6:30pm 3rd Tues., Location Varies	466-3632	TOWN CLERK Anne Kenison	466-5771
		Mon. 9-11am, Weds. 7-9pm	

Weir's Weather Wise

August 26th through November 13th, 2020

Rainfall: Total: 8.10"

Month	Rain (in)	Days
August	0.60"	5
September	1.59"	7
October	6.36"	18
November	0.15"	2

Snowfall: Total: 10.00"

Month	Snow (in)	SWE*	Days
August	0.0"	0.00"	0
September	0.0"	0.00"	0
October	4.7"	0.94"	7
November	5.3"	0.56"	3

* Water remaining after melting snow.

Temperature and Wind

Month	Max Temp (°F)	Min Temp (°F)	Peak Gust (MPH)
August	74.1°	45.6°	WSW 31MPH
September	84.8°	31.3°	S 36MPH
October	73.9°	19.6°	W 32MPH
November	71.9°	19.3°	WNW 40MPH

Noteworthy weather in Randolph:

Full foliage color occurred on September 28th.

Interestingly, there was a temperature rise of 20.3°F between 4:00am and 7:58am on October 10th.

Then, a tornado warning was issued around 6:50pm on Oct 10th. Ultimately, it did not touch down in Randolph but we saw a great display of cloud-to-cloud lightning.

We experienced frequent wind gusts of 20-40MPH between 4:00am on November 2nd and 7:00am on November 3rd.

In a warm turn, temperatures remained above 70°F from 11:00am to 2:00pm on November 10th.

We cannot wait to see what the winter has in store for us!

Welcoming a New Editor

With this edition of the Mountain View, I am honored to introduce myself as the new editor of the publication.

I have spent summers on Randolph Hill Road, in the Flagg/Foynes/Sandin/Hammond family cottage, over the span of my entire life. Through this time spent in Randolph, I have fostered a great love of the mountains, the forests, the town, and the community.

This May, I graduated from Connecticut College with a degree in English and American Studies, with a concentration in creative writing. Graduating into a global pandemic certainly changed my post-graduation plans, but has also presented me with several unique opportunities.

In the summer of 2019, I worked as an “intern” for the Randolph Foundation, as the editor and distributor of The Randolph Weekly. In this position, I was able to give back to the community that has shaped me into the person I am today. So, when I learned that the Mountain View was in need of a new editor, I jumped at the chance.

I could not have asked for a more thorough and thoughtful person to take the reins from than Dede Aube. With her guidance in filling, formatting, and everything in-between, my first edition will hopefully measure up to the standards set by her years of hard work.

I wish everyone a safe holiday season, and I hope you all enjoy the show!

Lucy Sandin



Critter Corner



The wildlife in Randolph never fails to inspire awe. Bears, birds, beavers, bugs, and everything in between fill our yards with excitement. Here's a little more about one Randolph Critter:

Merlins are taking over Randolph! The past few summers, a family of merlins have been nesting along Randolph Hill road and making themselves widely known. Their shrill call and bold behavior can make them seem more menacing than their small stature would lead you to believe. Standing less than a foot tall with a wingspan around 2 feet, they're smaller than the ravens and crows that patrol the skies, but they pack quite the punch! Merlins take parenting very seriously and will let you know when you get too close. Keep your distance from their nesting areas or you just might be on the menu!

Written by Joel Sibley

Center Photo: a Merlin in flight courtesy of Macaulay Libraries

Left Photo/ Right Photo: a Beaver in Durand Lake, and a Barred Owl, respectively. Photos by Jim Loudon

Randolph Big Tree Treasure Hunt

Randolph has big trees: the soaring ancient hemlocks and spruces of Snyder Brook strain our necks and stretch our arms in multi-person tree hugs. But it is not just in this grove that Randolph hides its giants. In fact, Randolph currently has the largest individuals of nine species of trees in Coos County, and more record-breakers waiting to be found. In the Randolph Big Tree Treasure Hunt, we want you to go find them!

As we know from Judy Hudson's book, *Trails or Timber?*, our forests were cut heavily beginning in the late 1800s. By all accounts, few forest areas were left untouched by logging and the subsequent fires that burned up mountainsides to the alpine ridges. The 36-acre Snyder Brook Scenic Area, purchased from Laban Watson by the Appalachian Mountain Club in 1895 to protect what was, even then, a forest cathedral, is commonly thought to be our only surviving island of original trees in an ocean of young forests. A keen eye and a willingness to bush-whack, however, helps to locate single specimens or small clumps of trees throughout Randolph that were inaccessible to loggers, or intentionally left uncut a century ago. We know a few of these giants escaped the saws because close examination of their growth rings has yielded ages up to 400 years.

Looking back tells us one story, but looking forward, we see a new one unfolding as more of our trees regain their majestic stature. The passage of the Weeks Act and establishment of the White Mountain National Forest in 1911 curtailed the most intensive logging, such that much of the southern flank of Randolph has not been cut in over 100 years. The northern hardwood forests on the lower Presidential slopes are beginning to exhibit their natural grandeur as the mature sugar maples, beeches, and yellow birches reach their full potential.

The single largest tree in Randolph is a towering White Pine behemoth found along the Crystal Mine Trail not far from U.S. Route 2, clocking in at 14' in circumference and 110' in height. As big as this tree is, it is not a Coos County champion. But Randolph trees take the county prize for Bigtooth Aspen, American Beech, Black Cherry, Red Maple, Striped Maple, Eastern Hemlock, Red Spruce and Tamarack. We have the largest Serviceberry in New Hampshire and an also-ran Quaking Aspen that is the third largest of its kind in the state. Neighboring Jefferson has the largest White Spruce in the United States, and the national champion Mountain Paper Birch is near Jefferson Notch.

I know there are more record-breaking trees out there in Randolph's woods: in October 2020 I located three new county champions (Black Cherry, Bigtooth Aspen, and Tamarack), three strong contenders as New Hampshire state champions (Pin Cherry, Balsam Fir and Quaking Aspen), and one possible national champion (Mountain Paper Birch). Some excellent search prospects are along the major brook corridors (Bumpus, Snyder, Coldbrook, Carlton) as well as the Moose, Israel and Upper Ammonoosuc rivers. I am fairly confident that the upper ridges of the Crescent Range will yield new trophy Balsam Fir, Mountain Ash, Yellow Birch or Mountain Paper Birch, as these forests are some of the most intact of any in Randolph. (Mountain Paper Birch is distinct from Paper Birch, and the two generally separate by elevation: if it is above 2500' it's probably a Mountain Paper Birch.)

Looking for big trees brings a new perspective on our woods. Where once we watched our feet or admired the view, now we actually see the trees for the forest. It is fun to really look into the forest – who knows where the next champion could be hiding? When we start looking, we start finding big, beautiful trees everywhere in Randolph. The pace of trees exhibits a slow patience. Consider how these humble trees transform into stately elders in the course of our lifetimes, and in a few Randolph generations they become legends. That is, if we leave them alone. The Snyder Brook grove was secured because it was the last of the forest cathedrals that were once common in the ancestral wood. The sanctity of this stand is now unquestioned and we are much the richer for it. Just as I am grateful for the restraint and foresight of those who left some big trees standing, so will those who come after us be thankful that we allowed the big trees to become giants.



Big Trees: Explained

The metrics of big trees are a blend of height, girth and canopy; the formula is circumference (in inches) + height (in feet) + 25% of the crown spread (in feet). Because tree height and crown spread are hard to measure accurately without the proper tools, for the purposes of the Randolph Big Tree Treasure Hunt we will use only tree circumference as a surrogate for size. A twenty foot tape measure marked in inches is the easiest way to record the circumference of the tree. A handy rule of thumb is that your arm span is roughly the same as your height, so if you can't get your arms around the tree, it could be a contender. The tree must be a native species (see full list below), it must be alive and it must be in Randolph, New Hampshire.

To participate in the Randolph Big Tree Treasure Hunt, report your big trees to me at bradmeiklejohn@aol.com. Please include the tree species, the circumference of the tree in inches at breast height [cbh] (breast height = 4.5' above ground level at the midpoint between the high and low sides of the tree) and the GPS location of the tree in the following format (eg; 44 degrees 21.5973' N, 71 degrees 16.4337' W). An estimate of tree height, if possible, would be helpful. I will compile the records, verify the trees, document any new town and county records and publish a report on the Randolph Big Tree Champions.

The circumference at breast height (cbh in inches) of the largest currently known Randolph Big Trees is shown below. Please only submit reports on trees that are within 20% of the existing known records. For instance, report only White Ash trees with a circumference larger than 80" cbh.

Tree	CBH (In)
White Ash	101"
Mountain Ash	45"
Bigtooth Aspen	88"*
Quaking Aspen	86"
American Basswood	56"
American Beech	94"*
Mountain Paper Birch	61"
Paper Birch	96"
Gray Birch	35"
Yellow Birch	151"
Butternut	49"
Black Cherry	94"*
Pin Cherry	34"
American Elm	49"
Balsam Fir	77"
Eastern Hemlock	122"*
Hophornbeam	29"
Red Maple	110"*
Striped Maple	29"*
Sugar Maple	153"
Red Oak	130"
White Pine	171"
Red Pine	70"
Allegheny Serviceberry	32"#
White Spruce	84"
Black Spruce	6"
Red Spruce	96"*
Tamarack	85"*



Article and photos courtesy of Brad Meiklejohn.

Photo Page 4:
Brad Meiklejohn with a giant Hemlock near Snyder Brook

Left: Dave Govatski measuring the champion Black Cherry

Below: Birch Tree in the Kenyon field

Table:

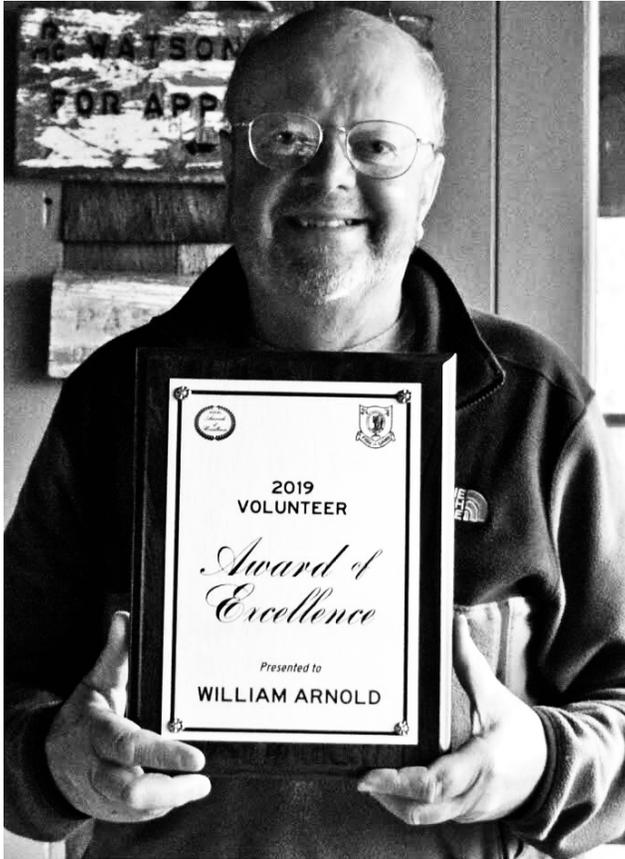
* Denotes current Coos County champion

Denotes current State of New Hampshire champion

For more information about New Hampshire Big Tree Champions visit <https://extension.unh.edu/programs/nh-big-trees>



Bill Arnold Recognized



Last spring, Bill Arnold received a letter from the NH Fish and game Commission notifying him that he was to receive a volunteer award. He had been nominated by Lieutenant Mark Ober, a Fish & Game officer he has worked with since Mark moved to the area about 15 years ago. Bill was honored and surprised. Due to the pandemic, however, there would be no official ceremony so he filed it away and got busy with the home projects we have all put off but suddenly had time to do.

This fall, he received his plaque in the mail, with a note further explaining his award. He is one of four individuals honored by the N. H. Fish and Game Commission with a 2019 Volunteer Award of Excellence for their outstanding efforts to support the N.H. Fish and Game Department's mission.

Bill has summered in Randolph his entire life, at his family cottage at the end Randolph Hill Road. His father, Ben Arnold, was in seminary school in Cambridge, MA and anticipated frequent moves due to his career. Ben and his wife, Peggy, stayed at the Grand View after being introduced to the area by one of his professors, Professor Hatch. In 1939, an opportunity arose for Ben and Peggy to purchase one of the Baldwin sister's cottages they later named "Boots Station." The two felt this would be a good place to anchor their future family, a constant if Ben's career made it hard to set down roots. Ben's career eventually led to a long-term assignment (25+ years) at Christ Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Their life there was full of community work; Ben in the civil rights movement (he was at the MLK march on

Washington in 1963), and Peggy in women's issues (she established one of the first Planned Parenthood sites in Cincinnati). Each summer, the family packed up and drove from Cincinnati to Randolph, where Peggy and their children, Jackie and Bill, spent the summers. Ben joined them when he could, usually 2 to 4 weeks in August. Peggy did not drive in the early days, so activities for the kids were comprised of walks and hikes in the mountains as well as RMC activities. This cemented Bill's love of the area and his feeling of community responsibility.

In the fall of 1967, Bill decided to make Randolph his permanent home. He winterized the family garage and made it into a 1-room cabin to live in. He turned 21 on the mountain that September while helping to close Lakes of the Clouds Hut. Bill was an active member of the backcountry SAR community before any official organized groups existed. An early experience for Bill was the Cog Railway disaster. More recently, he responded on June 21, 2019, as a member of the Randolph Fire Department, to the deadly motorcycle accident on Route 2 in Randolph. He was one of 50 first responders honored last fall by the nonprofit North Country Public Safety Foundation. Over these many years, Bill has taken part in hundreds more search and rescue operations: across all seasons, and in all weather. He has worked closely with NH Fish and Game and the USFS covering avalanche rescues/recoveries, plane crashes, and lost and injured hikers. He became an EMT in the 70s and is a certified level 1 firefighter; he fought western forest fires for 30+ years; he is the assistant chief of the Randolph Fire Department. Though his list of accomplishments is long, Bill remains humble. In 2014, he was honored as the NCPSP's EMS Provider of the Year. The 2014 citation reads: "Yet with all of his accomplishments and experiences he has had, Bill is a quiet and humble man who lists his greatest accomplishments as being husband, father and grandfather."

In 1990, he married his wife, Barbara, and gained a daughter, Alex, who was age 11. The two became part of the team. Barbara, an RN, became an EMT, and served on the Life Squad alongside Bill. Alex, for her part, was running the radio on rescues by the time she was 14, while Bill and Barbara were in the field. Alex participated in SAR training, usually as the "victim" as she was small and light for litter carrying practice. Bill is now fostering his sense of community responsibility in his grandchildren, Henry and Della.

This is the history that led to the recognition for Bill's volunteerism. While he doesn't often go out on a rescue anymore, Bill is still an active member of the SAR community. He dispatches for Androscoggin Valley Search and Res-

Bill Arnold continued...

cue, when needed, and is ready to lend his knowledge of the mountains and trails to Fish and Game when figuring out where to search for someone, or the best way to reach and evacuate an injured person from the mountains or forest.

Bill is grateful and humbled by his recent recognition. As he has put it before, “it could be someone you care about in trouble out there, so why wouldn’t you help someone you may not know.” Community is made up of everyone doing their part to make the world a better place. Thank you, Bill.

This article was written thanks to the contributions of Edith Tucker and Barbara Arnold

Page 6 Photo: Bill Arnold courtesy of Edith Tucker

The Hermitage

It was 1986 and Harriet and I were part of an organized tour of the “bad old Soviet Union.” We were in Leningrad (now again called St Petersburg) on a crisp, but sunny, winter Sunday. On the docket for our tour was a two-hour visit to “The Hermitage” to see the French Impressionist paintings there. Hell, we could see Impressionist paintings in the Louvre or even the Elizabeth Stewart Gardener museum in Boston! So, as we often did on the tour, we disengaged from the official itinerary. We decided to attend an Orthodox service at the Church of the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God (better known as the Vladimirskiy Cathedral). Finished in 1783, during the reign of Catherine the Great, it is one of the most beautiful and significant of Russian cathedrals.

It was very dark inside, with flickering candles in front of the many icons. It was also very cold. There were no pews; one has to stand on the cold stone floor for two or more hours. The service itself was similar to western Catholicism: Kyrie (Gospodi), Sanctus, Credo, etc. But it unfolds in a solemn, majestic pageant. Unlike in Catholicism and “high church” Protestant churches, the altar is concealed behind an “iconostasis,” a screen of icons. It is, however, porous enough to see the priest preparing the bread and wine that are dispensed in front of the iconostasis.

There was lots of bell-ringing but not much smoke or incense. Surprisingly, the choir—important in the Russian liturgy—consisted mostly of younger people. (On a later trip to Russia, we learned that the resurgence of the Church was attributed to the young). During the service, papers, often enclosing a coin, were being forwarded by congregants, addressed to the icon of their choice. We helped them along. My interest in religions lies primarily in the art, architecture, and music they engender. Nevertheless, with pageantry, glorious Russian a cappella liturgical singing, and the fervor of the congregation, I was moved. Even after 70 years of communism, the ancient Russian faith thrived.

Afterwards, we wandered the streets of “downtown” Leningrad in search of a restaurant. We came upon a hotel that advertised “pectopah” (pronounced “restaurant”), and went in. We were in a large dining room dominated by a huge banquet table serving a tourist group not too different from ours. There were a few tables scattered about and, as there was no *maitre d’*, we just sat down. There was no menu either, so we expected the standard dish of the Communist Bloc: a piece of pork or sausage swimming in greasy sauerkraut.

Soon, two waiters appeared, eager to please. Quite a difference from the usual sullen treatment one encounters in communist countries. To surmount the language barrier, I uttered the one Slavic word that always works: Pivo! (Beer!) Laughter, and the beer came in copious quantities. With a bit of German and English, we got a meal. First, an excellent borscht, followed by an attempt at chicken Kiev.

As our dinner was progressing, we noticed that our waiters were simply taking plates for us from the cart serving the tour group at the banquet table. It turned out that we were in a hotel serving tour groups from the Soviet satellites in eastern Europe: East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia et al. They received a more basic experience than that of tourists from western Europe and the US.

Although we knew that our waiters were stealing from the government, we happily paid them what the meal would cost in most Russian restaurants, and they pocketed it, all smiles. Even after 70 years of communist rule, the entrepreneurial spirit survives.



Written by Bob Kruzyna
Photo of the Randolph Church by Sarah Gallop

Tip-Top Memories



Many of you who have lived in or visited Randolph are familiar with Hillcrest Cottage (sometimes referred to as the Flagg Cottage) at 245 Randolph Hill Road, across from Beringer's field. Built for my mother's—Marion Flagg Foynes—family back in 1902, it sat in open fields facing the mountains and became a summer home and refuge for our family through the past century. In addition to memories of hiking (tramping as it was called in the early 1900's), fishing, lawn games, and the like; most summers included a trip to the top of Mt. Washington.

I took my first trip to the top of Washington when I was 9 months old. My parents, Thomas and Marion Foynes, took me up via car. When I was older, I hiked to the top. I remember a few trips over the Presidential peaks. On one occasion the temperature at the base was in the 70's and had gone down to the 30's on the Gulfside Trail, and though there had been sun at the base, our hike began in thick fog. When I was growing up in the 1940s, we often drove up the auto road in our old Chevy or Buick with visiting families. It was always an awesome ride, though somewhat fearful. The old cars had to stop at a halfway point when they became overheated, so that we could add cold water to the radiator before continuing to the top. It was exciting for all and a highlight of our summers. When I was a teenager, I had the opportunity to spend a cold night in the old hotel on top of the mountain.

My last trip to the top was about 10 years ago, when I was 75. This time I took the Glen House van to the top. There were no stops for overheated engines, and a wider, safer road, but the spectacular views remained the same. I felt the same old exhilaration as the trees grew shorter and the van came precariously closer to the edge of Huntington Ravine. Now it's 2020 and I can no longer drive or climb, and Covid-19 has changed all our lives. I can still, in my memories, recall the cool air at the end of those long hikes, the distant sounds of traffic on Rte. 2, the occasional song of a Peewee bird and I am once again at that beloved place.

Written by Carol Sandin-Woodruff

Left photo: Carol Sandin, 9 Mos.

Right photo: Carol Sandin, 75



Shelburne Riverlands Conservation Project

Shelburne, New Hampshire, Randolph's near neighbor to the East, is a lovely town situated along the Androscoggin River between Gorham and the Maine border. Most of us have traversed Shelburne's peaks—Mount Surprise, Mount Hayes, Mount Evans, and the Moriah Peaks—visited the Town and Country Inn, or canoed or kayaked along the Androscoggin. Now, Mahoosuc Land Trust and The Conservation Fund have created the Shelburne Riverlands Project, an effort to conserve 853 acres of significant riverfront and wildlife habitat along the Androscoggin River in Shelburne.

Seven months ago, Mahoosuc Land Trust (MLT) was approached by the Shelburne, NH Conservation Commission about an urgent conservation opportunity along the Androscoggin River in Shelburne. The Conservation Commission felt that the land strongly supported Shelburne's master plan goals of protecting open space, scenic vistas, rural character and the Androscoggin River and they sought the assistance of MLT to permanently conserve this area. The Land Trust, in partnership with the town, The Conservation Fund, and a group of dedicated volunteers are making this dream a reality.

The Riverlands includes 22 islands and 12 mainland parcels along the Androscoggin. The Shelburne Riverlands Project started with a goal of raising over \$1,000,000 to secure the parcels of land in the Riverlands. Sponsors and individual donors from across the area immediately stepped up to kick off the fundraising campaign. The Randolph Area Conservation Opportunity Fund awarded a \$200,000 grant to the Shelburne Riverlands Project in late October.

Shelburne Riverlands Conservation Project continued...

On Thursday, November 19, MLT announced the completion of the \$1,000,000+ Shelburne Riverlands campaign when it was awarded significant grants by the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment program and the NH Dept of Environmental Services Aquatic Resource Mitigation program. These grants, combined with support from dozens of individuals and grants from the Randolph Area Conservation Opportunity Fund and Brookfield Renewable, will allow MLT to close on the purchase early in 2021.

The Shelburne Riverlands include silver maple floodplain forests, flood channel wetlands, and interspersed grasslands. These unique habitats host wildlife species of conservation concern, according to the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan. With vibrant fish populations in rapids, riffles, and flatwater; bear, moose, deer, along with all manner of bird life building homes or visiting to forage and hunt in the river ecosystems; and trail systems and paddling opportunities for nature lovers; protecting the integrity of the Shelburne Riverlands through the project will provide opportunities for plant life, wildlife, and human life for generations to come.

In Early November, Lucy Sandin was able to have a telephone interview with Ginger Lawson, a volunteer with the MLT and the Shelburne Riverlands Project.

What is your job title/ connection to the Shelburne Riverlands Project?

I am a volunteer fundraiser with the Riverlands Project. I have owned land in Shelburne for 26 years, and have been coming to New Hampshire since my childhood.

This project began when the owner of the land came to the town of Shelburne wanting to sell the land as a town forest. The Shelburne Conservation Commission (SCC) evaluated the area and decided it was not suitable for a town forest. The high wildlife values made it more suitable as conservation land. The SCC contacted Mahoosuc Land Trust (MLT) for help with the project and MLT stepped up to acquire the lands and make this project a reality.

Luckily, a grant opportunity that seems made for this very project was being advertised by the state of New Hampshire. For 2020, in this valley, the state of New Hampshire was offering an aquatic resource mitigation grant. This was simply an opportunity too good to pass up. Mahoosuc Land Trust jumped at the opportunity. MLT already has several conservation lands that exist in the area and fit in well with this project: First Mountain and Crow Mountain Farm. There is also additional work being done on a number of properties along the river, including Tumbledown Dick.

Speaking of Mahoosuc Land Trust and their other projects in the area, could you give some background on their “Campaign for the Androscoggin?”

Certainly. The Mahoosuc Land Trust owns or has easements on a number of properties along the river from Shelburne to Rumford. The goal of the Land Trust has always been to conserve and share the Mahoosuc region’s natural lands. With the Androscoggin an important part of these lands, adjoining parcel conservation has been very important. In the Campaign for the Androscoggin, the Valentine Farm and the McCoy-Chapman land in Bethel are already in conservation. The Campaign was presented with an amazing opportunity for further conservation when the Tumbledown Dick parcel came up for sale and conservation at the same time as the Shelburne Riverlands. The Land Trust looks to develop sustainable trails and stewardship for the land in conservation, to make sure it is available for the use and enjoyment of future generations

Could you speak briefly about the connections with other organizations? I.E. Shelburne Conservation Commission, Shelburne Trails Club, and anyone else.

Mahoosuc Land Trust is very focused on working with the local community. This fits perfectly, because it was the Shelburne Conservation Commission that first came to MLT with the information about the Riverlands parcel. The Land Trust eventually brought the Riverlands Project—once the idea had been a little more fleshed out—back to the Shelburne Select Board, who unanimously supported the project. With this project, we plan on instituting a stewardship committee that will work on managing the land. We are hoping that this group can be made up significantly of



Shelburne Riverlands Conservation Project continued...

Shelburne residents and people with connections to the area. The Shelburne Trails Club (STC) started a few years ago and was able to reopen many of the trails in Shelburne. They also created a beautiful trail map. We will work with STC on trail development. Three of the mainland parcels are great trail candidates. Much of the remaining land will be land to paddle by and admire. We have worked with land in Shelburne before—with First Mountain, Crow Mountain, and Philbrook farms. The Riverlands project includes conservation of a section of land between Philbrook Farm and Crow Mountain where the well-loved White Trail crosses to the Crow's Nest.

Is there a set timeline for conservation projects once the Shelburne Riverlands Project is able to close on the land parcels?

We are working to complete the fundraising by the end of the year, and plan to actually close in the first quarter of the year. Following that, Mahoosuc Land Trust will be the official owner of the land.

After that, survey work and trail development will be worked on and will fall into place; we already have a fairly good idea of a trail network and what we want to do, but there is still a lot of engineering work and design work that will have to be done. The Shelburne Trails Club will be helping a great deal with this! Obviously, we want to be sensitive to the wildlife areas all around. All of the land will remain open to public access—and as such, will still be available for hunting and fishing—and we want to be careful with the land because of the high wildlife values.

This all sounds absolutely wonderful, and I can't wait to be able to get out there. Are there other ways that people can get involved beyond simply donating/sponsoring the project?

People can always contact the land trust, info@mahoosuc.org if they would like to get involved! Though we have biologists and ecologists that we are already working with, we welcome any knowledge that we can draw on when developing plans and trails. Also, Mahoosuc Land Trust is always interested in participation and they are enthusiastic about crafting connections to real New Hampshire people.

Anything else you think should be included in the Mountain View?

Yes! Our Randolph connection! We are extremely grateful to have been the recipients of a grant from the Randolph Area Conservation Opportunity Fund. Our fundraising has been hugely helped by this grant of \$200,000. This Fund was established in 2018 by donors to support conservation projects in the Randolph area, including all of Coos County and neighboring communities in New Hampshire and Maine. Our missions fit well together, as the RACOF believes in the importance of the stewardship of the land happening at a local level, and that is exactly what we believe should happen with the Shelburne Riverlands Project. The conservation opportunities with the Randolph Area Conservation Opportunity Fund are almost endless. If anyone is interested in contributing to this Fund, visit <https://give.nhcf.org/RandolphOpportunityFund>.

In closing:

This project is so compelling on so many levels. Thinking about the opportunities for wildlife conservation, wetland conservation, hiking, hunting, and fishing, it is easy to see why this land means so much to the community. What's more, 50% of this land is floodplain forest and keeping this area in conservation is a huge benefit to both the dam and the town (the dam is just before the Stone House on Rt. 2, owned by Brookfield Renewable). Even with all of these benefits, we are leaving out the simple fact that this land is astonishing. It is gorgeous to paddle through, to set foot on, and to be near. We are thrilled that future generations will be able to enjoy this land as we have.

2020 has given us a unique perspective. Many people have been desperate to get outside, and we hope to provide ample opportunity to do just that.

Photo Page 9: Courtesy of Jerry Monkman - Ecophotography

Photos Page 10: Courtesy of the Shelburne Riverlands Project Website



Randolph Remembers



Bidding Farewell to Mike Micucci: One of the great benefits of living in a small town is the tight sense of community that binds us. This closeness often stems from key figures around whom we gather: community members who bring us together with a certain ease and a friendly personality.

On October 22, Randolph lost one of those people. Mike Micucci, 66, passed away at home, surrounded by his wife, Sally Penrose Micucci, son John, and daughter Isobel, after a battle with bile duct cancer.

Mike grew up in the 60s and 70s, not far from the Androscoggin River in Gorham. He graduated with a degree in Environmental Conservation from the University of New Hampshire, and only spent a brief period away from the North Country after graduating.

Since his return to the North Country, Mike became arguably the best source of information, energy, and enthusiasm for the mountains and trails around us. Spanning five decades, his list of memberships and employers is all-encompassing in our corner of the world. It reads: Gorham Outing Club, Mount Washington Observatory, Mount Washington

Auto Road, Randolph Mountain Club, Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue, and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Mike's 25 years running Gorham's Moriah Sports made him a North Country fixture. Following the shop's opening in 1983, it became the region's "go-to" destination for outdoor gear. Mike bailed out many an Appalachian Trail hiker after their pass through the White Mountains left them with worn or broken gear.

Mike contributed time—formally and informally—to Randolph and the RMC. He began volunteering for RMC in 1976, when he worked as the first spring caretaker at Gray Knob. Mike served on the club's board of directors from 1996 - 1999 and from 2007-2013, and as Vice President and co-chair of the Trails Committee. He also served on the Randolph Board of Adjustment from 2014 to 2020, and was on the board of Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue for a number of years in the 1990s.

Mike always encouraged others to get outside. He started a running race in Gorham, founded the Wildman Biathlon, and was a co-director for the Randolph Ramble trail race. He ran the Mount Washington Road Race a dozen or more times, once even entering his father, Joe. Joe completed the race: a legendary feat. Through Moriah Sports Mike shared his love of the region, organizing weekly road and mountain bike rides, and trips kayaking on Lake Umbagog.

Mike was wonderfully funny, with an upbeat and empathetic personality. You could not be around Mike and not smile. He was modest and had a self-deprecating sense of humor. His spirit shone through to his last moments. Mike wrote his own obituary, presaging that he, "passed away at home surrounded by his beloved family and with a full head of hair and all of his own teeth." Facing cancer his own way, Mike wrote, "Many people fight a courageous battle against cancer, but Mike Micucci willingly chose to accept the inevitable and let the disease take him on its schedule. Without a treatment offering a life extension of any meaning and serving only to diminish the quality of his life, the end came quickly. He was clear eyed and of clear of mind when his time came."

After his marriage to Sally Penrose in 2002, his two children, John and Isobel, became the center of his world. In his obituary, Mike wrote, "Cheering his children's success and lifting them up when they were down was his mission." He left, with, "one unfulfilled dream—to be with his children through the next episodes; graduations, college, careers and possibly families of their own. To help when needed, get out of the way when not."

Mike's energy rarely flagged. He was one of a small number of people whom I could always count on for an adventure in the mountains, no matter the day. For a dozen years, he and I would meet most winter mornings at 6:30 in Gorham to skin up to Tuckerman Ravine's Hermit Lake, and enjoy a run down the Sherburne Ski Trail. Conditions varied wildly but Mike always liked to point out that there was no such thing as a bad morning on the Sherburne.

On October 26th, a small gathering of friends and family met in the Randolph Church to say their farewells, per Mike's request. He rests now in the new Randolph Cemetery.

Bidding Farewell to Mike Micucci continued...

Upon someone's passing, we often quote Ecclesiastes, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven." I believe this is perhaps not always true. Like the seasons, people can leave us abruptly and too soon, making their departure all the more poignant. Such was the case with Mike's passing. However, we who knew Mike can take solace in the fact that Mike lived a life described by a different quote, found on a plaque in the home of conservationists Olaus and Mardy Murie:

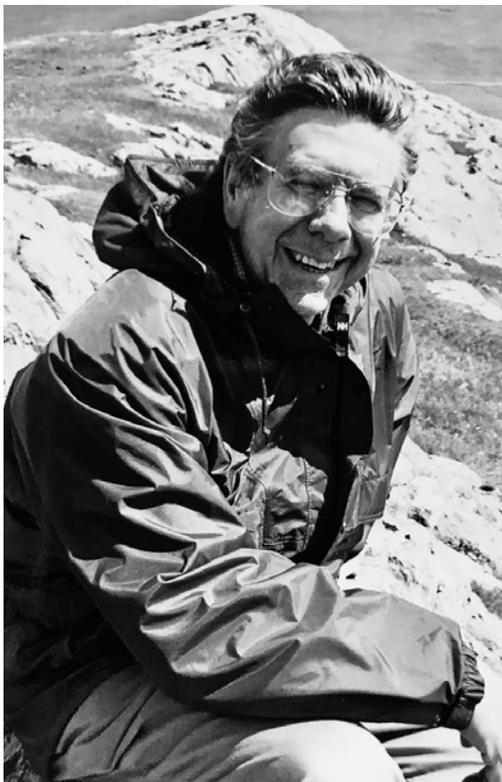
The wonder of the world, the beauty and the power, the shapes of things, their colours, lights, and shades; these I saw. Look ye also while life lasts.

The Randolph Mountain Club will be raising funds in Mike's memory to install solar panels at Stearns Lodge and replace aging solar panels at Gray Knob. If you would like to support the project, donations can be sent to RMC, PO Box 279, Gorham NH 03581. For further information, please contact Doug Mayer at doug@runthealps.com.

Written by Doug Mayer

Photo Page 11: Mike taking a break during back country skiing on Mount Washington, courtesy of Doug Mayer

Randolph Remembers



Remembering Avery Post: Avery Post, a long-time summer resident of Randolph, died peacefully on September 7, 2020 at Kendal in Hanover NH. Avery and his wife, Margaret "Peg" Post, first came to Randolph on the recommendation of Dough and Mildred Horton and Bill and Paula Bradley, renting the Crosby Cottage on Randolph Hill Road from Miriam Underhill in July 1967. The couple, of course, fell in love with Randolph and vacationed at the Crosby Cottage for two summer homes before building their own summer home on Boothman Lane in 1969.

The Post family spent many happy summers in Randolph; hiking, and enjoying the community. Over the years, Avery and Peg's Boothman Lane home was a regular gathering place for their family and friends, and ultimately a three-season destination from Norwich, VT and later Hanover, NH where they retired.

Avery was known to occupy his days in Randolph with reading and writing, collecting poetry, crafting sermons, walking, hiking and managing—with much love and care—their nine-acre woodland. The Randolph Church was another core part of Avery's love of Randolph; he preached there once a summer and was Moderator of the Church for a number of years.

Born in Norwich, Connecticut on July 29, 1924, Avery was the second son of John Palmer Post and Dorothy Church Post. He was a descendant of John Post, one of the original founders of Norwich. He attended Norwich Free Academy and Middlebury College before entering the Navy in 1943. Preparing for the chaplaincy, he received officer training in the V-12 program at

Ohio Wesleyan University, receiving a B.A. in English in 1946. Avery married Middlebury classmate, Margaret "Peg" Rowland, on June 8, 1945 in Wellesley, MA. He attended Yale Divinity School, receiving a Bachelor and Master of Divinity degrees in 1949 and 1952. He held honorary degrees from Chicago Theological Seminary, Lakeland College and Middlebury College, among others.

His early ministries took Avery and family to churches in Columbus, OH; Clinton, CT; Norwich, NY; Garden City, NY; and Scarsdale, NY. Parishioners remember Avery as a natural leader, a gifted and provocative preacher, and a sensitive pastoral counselor. He was involved in outreach ministries promoting action for civil rights, witnessing for peace, refugee resettlement and community theological education. He taught at Union Theological Seminary, Adelphi College and Yale Divinity School.

Leaving the parish ministry in 1970, Avery moved to Boston to serve as Conference Minister of the Massachusetts United Church of Christ (UCC). In 1977, he was installed as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ (UCC). His ministry as UCC President was marked by nationally and internationally focused visionary leadership for peace and social justice. He worked in the US for civil rights, women's rights, among other social justice issues. His influence was significant in the emerging ecumenical movement for disarmament and the easing of

Remembering Avery Post continued...

east-west tensions and in the maintenance of ecumenical relations in East and West Germany, Central America, the Middle East and Asia. With other church leaders, he conferred with representatives of the South African Council of Churches and led actions to end apartheid. He was a member of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee, the National Council of Churches' Governing Board and led UCC task force efforts. He was president of the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

Avery and Peg enjoyed a full retirement in Norwich, VT and Hanover NH. Avery's care and nurture of the spiritual life of the church remained his focus, serving as a seminar leader and senior fellow at Hartford Seminary, as an active member of the Norwich Congregational Church, UCC, and a frequent worship and special service leader at the Kendal Community in Hanover, NH.

Avery and Peg enjoyed the company of Randolph friends who also resided at Kendal in Hanover, including the Hortons, Crosses, Alexanders, Breunigs, Baldwins, and others. After Peg's passing in 2010, Avery found a beloved colleague and companion in Louise Parsons Pietsch, an Episcopal priest, a fellow resident of Kendal. The Post family is grateful for their care of each other.

Avery is survived by one brother, John E Post, 99, of Coventry, CT; his daughter, Susan Post Ross and her husband Robert of Northfield, MA; his daughter, Jennifer Campbell Post of Tucson, AZ; his daughter, Elizabeth Post Elliott of North Andover, MA; his daughter, Anne Post Poole and her husband Matt of South Berwick, ME. He leaves eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Life of Avery Post was held on November 1 via Zoom and a recording is available here: <https://www.norwichcongregational.org/avery-post-memorial.html>. A memorial service at the Randolph Church next summer is planned for August. Interment will be in the Randolph Cemetery. Donations may be made to the Randolph Church in Avery's name.



Written by the Post family
Photos of Avery courtesy of the Post family

Notes from the Selectmen

Ravine House Pool and Durand Lake Upkeep:

The Ravine House Pool has been dredged! This is great news for all of you swimmers! The Randolph Town dredging permit will expire in March 2021, so it was decided that the dredging should take place this fall. The pool area is considerably deeper than it has been in the past and should give us 5 more years of enjoyable, debris-free swimming. A big "thank you" goes out to the Randolph Foundation for the cost share on this project. You may also have noticed the new wood steps down to Durand Lake; this is another shared project with the Foundation and the Randolph Mountain Club. Thank you to both.

See more on the Durand Lake step project on Pages 14 and 15.



Randolph Hill Paved Overlay:

At the selectmen's office, we hope that everyone is enjoying the final paved overlay on Randolph Hill Road. This overlay has taken care of the uneven spots where the catch basins are located along the edges of the road. All have been brought up to the proper grade. Our road agent is arranging for the road edges to be graded off with finish gravel. We hope this project can be completed before winter sets in.

Road Protection and Erosion Mitigation:

Other mitigation projects are completed and underway to protect our gravel roads from the increased intensity of rain

Notes from the Selectmen continued...

storm events. All the uphill ditches have been cleaned out and drainage improved to existing culverts. Some of these culverts are tagged for replacement next year. Remember, if you have a driveway culvert, be sure it is cleaned out and kept open for the winter.

A Reminder About Town Plowing:

Speaking of winter, please remember to give way for the town plow. If he is ahead of you, be patient, he will let you by when the way is clear. Don't crowd and don't try to pass until it is safe. For those who plow their driveways, remember that it is illegal to plow out across the road. This practice leaves two small berms that freeze hard and make it difficult for the town plow to pass by. If you must deposit snow out on the road, be sure to feather it out along the roadway. Remember to also not dump snow into your culverts. When the thaw comes, this area will need to be kept open for proper drainage. If you are visiting Randolph during the winter months, be sure to find off-street parking for your vehicles. It is important that the plow can keep the roads open, not just for residential traffic, but also for emergency vehicles.

Randolph Election Results:

as reported by Anne Kenison, Town Clerk

General Election Thanks:

The office would like to offer a big "thanks" to the election officials who guided us through a seamless general election in November. The planning and preparation in light of the pandemic really paid off so that we could have a safe Election Day. We will be getting guidance from the Secretary of State's office soon as to what plans we need to make for the March 2021 Town Meeting. We will be sure to keep everyone posted on that front.

Remember:

You can always call the selectmen with your concerns: reach John at 723-1604, Lauren at 915-9087 and Michele at 466-5841.

Thank you!

Offices	Republican Candidate	Democratic Candidate	Other Candidates (*Write-Ins)
President and Vice President	Donald J. Trump and Michael R. Pence	Joseph R. Biden and Kamala D. Harris	Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy Cohen
# of Votes	83	186	8
Governor	Chris Sununu	Dan Feltes	Darryl W. Perry
	143	128	1
United States Senator	Corky Messner	Jeanne Shaheen	Justin O'Donnell
	74	200	1
Representative in Congress	Steven Negrón	Ann McLane Kuster	Andrew Olding
	88	184	2
Executive Counsilar	Joseph D. Kenney	Michael J. Cryans	
	106	159	
State Senator	Erin Hennessey	Susan Ford	
	103	160	
State Representative Coos County District 5	John Greer	Edith Tucker	
	74	194	
Sheriff	Brian L. Valerino		Paul Rella*
	238		1
County Attorney		John G. McCormick	Tom Cote*
		207	1
County Treasurer	Suzanne L. Collins		Katie Kelley*
	156		2
Register of Deeds	Leon H. Rideout	Kathleen U. Kelley	Angela Brown*
	78	183	1
Register of Probate	Terri L. Peterson		Katie Kelley*
	151		
County Commissioner		Paul L. Grenier	Other Write-Ins
		191	3

A Quintessential Randolph Collaboration

While the Covid-19 virus may have scuttled many a summer plan, a small group of Randolphians did manage to come safely together to address a growing issue that needed attention. There has been an area of increasing erosion on Durand Lake's north bank where the path from Durand Road meets the lake. The Randolph Foundation (which shares responsibility of the Lake's upkeep with the Town of Randolph) realized that the erosion couldn't be ignored any longer. During an inspection of the area with a number of community members who were knowledgeable of the Lake and its use, a plan was created. Using a general design outline envisioned by Board of Selectmen Co-Chair Lauren Bradley, experts from the Randolph Mountain Club developed a construction plan.

The Foundation purchased the lumber and other materials which were delivered on-site by White Mountain Lumber. Steve Hartman kindly donated and delivered four granite slabs which were used as the project's base. Daniel's

Randolph Collaboration continued...

Landscaping was hired to do some backhoe work and haul materials. Three of the RMC's trail crew, headed by Justin Taylor with assistance from Joey Schilke and Matt Rebolini, did the real work. All went very well and the weather even cooperated by bringing the water level in the Lake down below where the work was to take place. The Foundation is thrilled with the result and is grateful to the Town, the RMC, and all who helped to make it happen. The erosion problem is now eliminated and the project should last for many years. Next time you're down at Durand Lake on a sunny day, sit yourself down on the steps and check out the grain and sparkles in the rocks on either side.



Randolph Holiday Activities 2020

Christmas Eve Carol Service, 2020

Our traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service, usually held at the Randolph Church, will not take place in-person this year.

Rather than canceling this wonderful tradition, Angela Brown and her very tech-savvy family have offered to host a virtual celebration.

Angela Brown has long been kind enough to play the organ during the hour-long service. It is a time of community and retrospection. We connect with so many people and wish all tidings of good cheer and set the mood for a peaceful celebration of friends and family.

The Brown family will try to virtually connect on Christmas Eve, via Zoom, for our annual Christmas Eve Carol service directly from the Church. It will be only their family in the church, Angela playing, Charlie moderating, and their children helping resolve any technical issues. The plan is to take requests for carols while community members stay safely at home and sing along. There will be readings, as always, featuring readers recorded from their home but broadcast from the church. A Zoom meeting has been scheduled, details below. The service will start at 4:00pm but everyone will be able to begin logging in at 3:50pm.

No problem finding a parking spot or seat this year! Have patience with this new idea, and hopefully next year we will be able to once again meet in person.

Please check the Town of Randolph, Randolph Foundation and/or the Randolph Church's websites for details.

Carol Party

As with so many other holiday traditions in Randolph, the town Carol party will not be able to be held in person this year. We are still working on a way to create a short virtual gathering for all to enjoy and bask in the holiday spirit. Please check the Town of Randolph and/or Randolph Foundation websites for details as we develop a plan.

Firemen's Party:

Safety dictates that the Fire Association not host an in-person gathering for the Children's Christmas Party this year. The Association is working on a way for Santa's elves to safely visit children in town before Christmas.

Please contact Barbara or Bill Arnold if you have children age 10 and under who would enjoy a visit from an elf before Christmas (466-2438; barnold@ne.rr.com). Please include their name, age, and address, and reply by 12/10/20.

Thank you for your help in spreading the holiday spirit!

A Toast

If you wish to toast the Holidays in traditionally while watching, a variation of Jack Boothman's recipe for hot buttered rum is listed below:

Adapted from *How to Party Like a President* by Brian Abrams, John Q Adams chapter, Hot Mulled Cider

2 quarts apple cider	2 cups dark rum
½ cup maple syrup	ground cinnamon
Pinch of salt	8 cinnamon sticks for garnish
1/4 cup unsalted butter	serves 8

Warm the cider in a crock pot, remove cider & stir in syrup, salt & butter until dissolved. Wait 5 minutes, and then stir in the rum. Serve the cider in heated mugs, sprinkle the ground cinnamon on top and add a cinnamon stick.



Evening at Durand Lake Photo by Sarah Eusden Gallop

*Mountain View Publications
Randolph Foundation
P.O. Box 283
Gorham, NH 03581 - 0283*

To:

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