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# Made IN LINCOLN COUNTY

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

The art of the  
**BLACKSMITH**

.....

*'Stuffed' Animals*

.....

East Coast meets  
Far East at

*Whitefield Pottery*

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*magazine*

The Lincoln County News

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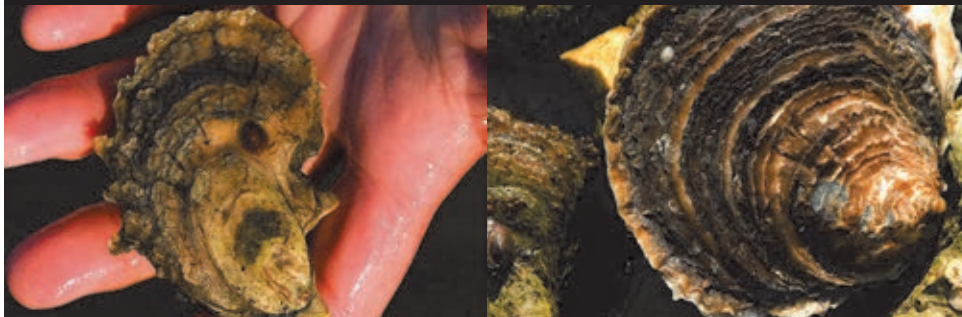






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## Editor's note



Here in Lincoln County, we are lucky to have an abundance of talented artists and artisans, from gifted painters to highly skilled craftspeople. This issue of Lincoln County Magazine, "Made in Lincoln County," honors three of those creative, hardworking people – Libbey Seigars, Ed Frankonis, and Andy Leck – in three feature stories.

Seigars is the one-woman creative force behind Whitefield Pottery, in the northern Lincoln County town of Whitefield. My story "East Coast meets Far East at Whitefield Pottery," on page 20, takes a look at the beautiful, Asian-inspired ceramic work Seigars makes in her cozy rural studio near the banks of the West Branch of the Sheepscot River.

In nearby Alna, Frankonis' Harvest Time Taxidermy turns out taxidermied animals, such as moose, bears, and even, once, a baby fox. J.W. Oliver's "Stuffed animals" (page 14) is a fascinating piece that delves into Frankonis' history and his painstaking method of working.

Leck's Scottish Lion Wrought Iron, in the coastal community of Bristol, has raised the occupation of blacksmithing to the level of art. Fittingly, my piece "The art of the blacksmith" (page 8) honors Leck's fine work.

On page 22, our "Portfolio" section features Bruce Babb, another Lincoln County "maker," and his marquetry work.

In this issue, Paula Roberts' "On the Trail" column, on page 26, is focused on the Sheepscot West Branch Trail in Whitefield, just down the road from Whitefield Pottery. Tip: Visit Seigars' studio and then take a hike on that lovely nearby trail (or vice versa).

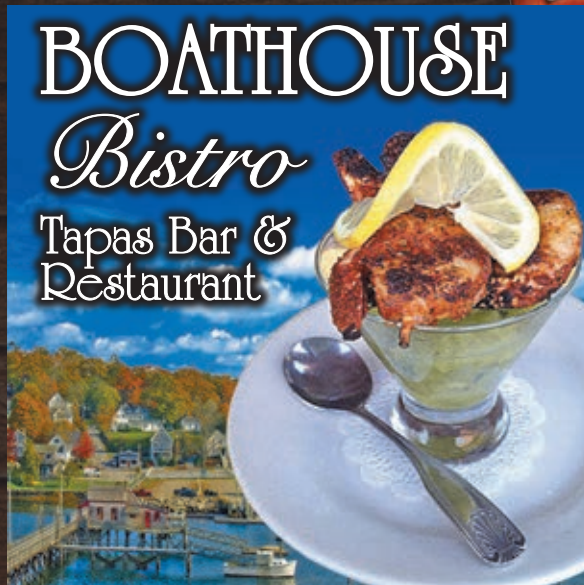
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Christine LaPado-Breglia



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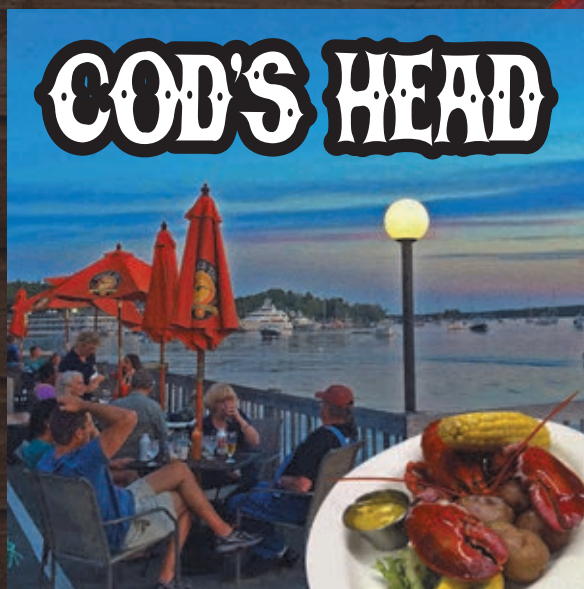
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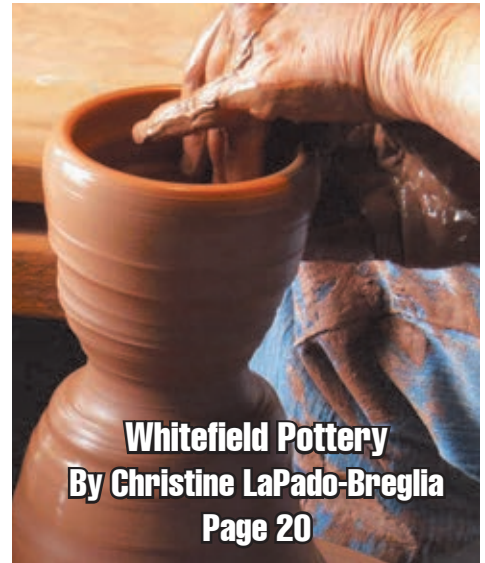
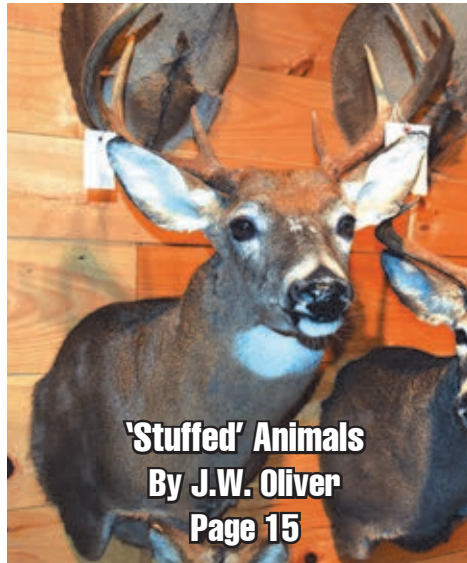
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**PUBLISHERS:** Christopher Roberts • Allan Roberts • John Roberts

**EDITOR:** Christine LaPado-Breglia

**DESIGN COORDINATOR:** Megan Hyson

**PROJECT COORDINATOR:** Maia Zewert

**EDITORIAL AND PHOTO STAFF:**

Charlotte Boynton • Jessica Clifford • Greg Foster • Christine LaPado-Breglia  
John Maguire • J.W. Oliver • Jessica Picard • Paula Roberts • Alexander Violo

**ADVERTISING:**

Sarah Caton • Candy Foster • Julie Greenleaf • Graham Walsh

**PRODUCTION & DESIGN:**

Rovena Baron • Graham Burnham • Amber Clark • Lorna Cole  
Jeff Hillman • Gearry Judkins • Kathy Lizotte • Jeanne Pendleton  
Jill Rice • David Sidelinger • Nate Theriault • Brandon Touchette  
Jennifer Touchette • Steven West • Joe Wilkey

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A large photograph of a blacksmith, Andy Leck, working in his workshop. He is wearing a white shirt and a dark apron, and is focused on shaping a piece of metal with a hammer and tongs. The workshop is filled with various tools and equipment, and a bright light source is visible in the background.

# THE ART OF THE BLACKSMITH

Bristol's Andy Leck takes blacksmithing to a whole new level

Andy Leck at work in his workshop at Scottish Lion Wrought Iron in Bristol. (Photo courtesy Andy Leck)

BY CHRISTINE LAPADO-BREGLIA

**A**ndy Leck is a blacksmith -- and he is an artist.

While many people customarily associate the work of a blacksmith with such practical tasks as making horseshoes and edged weapons, and repairing metal objects, Leck -- the owner of and creative force behind

Scottish Lion Wrought Iron in Bristol -- has taken blacksmithing to the level of art.

Chances are you've seen his beautiful work while traveling around Lincoln County and not even realized it.

The finely crafted wrought-iron sign bracket at Damariscotta Veterinary Clinic, complete with a metal ark full of animals? Leck's work.

The triumphant-looking woman-of-metal dancing beneath a silver crown on the sign

at Damariscotta's Women of Substance store? Also Leck's.

Leck's fine metalwork also includes numerous ornate garden gates and residential hand railings. He has made more than 150 railings, a number of them featuring his signature "wrapped rock" flourishes, a style

***"My focus is doing what people want. Garden gates and hand railings are my forte. Sign brackets are a big thing, too." - Andy Leck***

he describes as "kind of organic."

A stunning example of his work is the decorative fence and gate surrounding a Damariscotta Mills home just up the road from Mill

Pond Inn.

Leck also makes sundials, weathervanes, pot racks, and plant hangers.

"My focus is doing what people want," said Leck, relaxing with a cup of tea in the



One of Andy Leck's signature "wrapped rock" railings. (Photo courtesy Andy Leck)



living room of the home he shares with his wife, weaver Phyllis Leck. "Garden gates and hand railings are my forte. Sign brackets are a big thing, too."

He also, as visitors to his workshop on Bristol Road know, makes some pretty amazing metal sculptures, such as the giant moose riding an old-fashioned penny-farthing bicycle that graces the front yard of his home and workshop.

Leck said he began making metal sculptures after his three children, Annie, Zack, and Jonathan, now adults, moved out of the house. "When they left home, I started making sculptures," he said.

"*I* lost a showroom in a fire, but my workshop was untouched," Leck said, reflecting on the fire that occurred at Scottish Lion Wrought Iron on the morning of Sept. 25 of last year. "There was no damage to my tools.

"I didn't miss a beat. We are rebuilding the showroom and putting in a nice open-air post-and-beam pavilion ... to use for

*(continued on page 28)*



Andy Leck does the artistic wrought iron work for business signs, such as the one in front of Damariscotta Veterinary Clinic in Damariscotta. (Christine LaPado-Breglia photo)



Andy Leck's huge metal moose sculpture beckons passersby from the front yard of his home and business, Scottish Lion Wrought Iron in Bristol. (Christine LaPado-Breglia photo)



"Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it." - Edmund Burke

# The Lincoln County News

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## 50 Years Ago in Lincoln County

By J.W. Oliver

From The Lincoln County News, June 6 and 13, 1968:

**New principal:** An article on the front page of the June 6 edition reported the appointment of William H. Lunt as principal of Wiscasset High School. Lunt had most recently been principal of Calais Memorial High School.

**Graduation speech:** Congressional candidate Horace A. Hildreth Jr. was to be the commencement speaker for the Bristol High School Class of 1968. A Republican state senator from Cumberland County, Hildreth would go on to secure his party's nomination but fall to Democrat Peter Kyros in the general election.

**The more things change:** The editorial in the June 6 edition addressed an upcoming referendum with an argument that sounds familiar today.

"It is important that voters go to the polls and, as long as we have this referendum system, those questions should be seriously considered," the editorial reads. "Unfortunately, the Legislature has become more and more prone to leave the final decision on matters with which they should

be better informed to the general voter. We'll just have to pick up the job."

A similar refrain - criticism of the Legislature for failure to act on important issues until the people (or special-interest groups) take matters into their own hands through the referendum process - was common amid the referendum campaigns of 2016, especially those regarding the minimum wage and education funding.

**News from Vietnam:** U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. William E. Buck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford H. Buck, of Southport, received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry from Vietnamese Air Force Lt. Col. Vo Cong Thong, director of the IV Corps Direct Air Support Center.

Staff Sgt. Buck "was cited for his contribution to the successful aerial support of Army of the Republic of Vietnam troops, outposts, villages, and (cities) in the IV Corps tactical zone during the Viet Cong January Tet Offensive."

**What a bargain:** Tent Trailer Sales and Rentals, of Elm Street, Damariscotta, advertised a 1968 North East Explorer camper trailer for \$795. Sleeps eight!



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**Space race:** The editorial in the June 13 edition lent begrudging support to U.S. Sen. Margaret Chase Smith's effort, as ranking Republican on the Space Committee, to pass \$4.1 billion in funding for NASA.

"The program, she says, is on the brink of making substantial benefits in agriculture, forestry, geology, oceanography, navigation, and traffic control," the editorial reads. "She also stressed the space program's impact in U.S. foreign policy and our military defense position. Exploration and technology may well be the principal

factors to determine whether this country will even survive in the future, she says.

"The world picture is grim at best and if, as Sen. Smith says (and she knows whereof she speaks), the space program can go far to alleviate it, the only answer is to go on with it and pay the cost."

**Mini-editorial:** Fifty years later, this editor would like to see Congress renew its commitment to the space program. We hitch rides to the International

(continued on page 32)

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With its close proximity to brick kilns and lumber mills, Midcoast Maine's local economy has largely been sustained by hearty craftsmen who take pride in their work and the tried and true methods they've always used to build homes.

For the young couple looking to build their first home or the retirees embarking on the construction of their forever home, there are a great many options of contractors to take on your next building project. However, one should always approach this vital decision with careful considerations. Beyond the finishes, the granite countertops, and energy efficient windows, there is a more important question to ask yourself: who should you trust to guide you through the myriad decisions you're about to make and how can you be sure they will have your best interests in mind?

Unlike most states, Maine has no licensure for general contractors. While there are licensure requirements for other trades, such as HVAC, plumbing, and electrical, there are none for general contracting. With this in mind, how do you about choosing a general contractor? Consider the following points:

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## References:

Not only is it important to get a list of references from your builder, but you should also take the time to call them. Ask what they liked about their builder and if they would change anything about their experience. Not only does Medomak Construction supply a list of references before taking any job, but we also take the time to survey our customers during and after our work to find out how we can continue to improve.

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A man wearing a blue sweater, a blue cap with "HARVEST TIME TAXIDERMISTRY" on it, and glasses is working on a taxidermied animal head with large antlers. He is wearing blue gloves and is focused on his work. The background is a workshop with various tools and equipment.

# ‘Stuffed’ Animals

**Alna taxidermist restores  
personality to wildlife trophies**

**Story and photos by J.W. Oliver**

On a quiet country road in Alna, in a workshop around the corner from the general store, Ed Frankonis practices the ancient art of taxidermy.

Only a small sign announces the presence of the business, Harvest Time Taxidermy. At least it did, until a storm got the better of it last fall. The business does not have a website or a Facebook page.

Yet Frankonis has plenty of work from customers who return time and again and refer their fellow hunters – a testament to the experience and care he brings to each project.

Harvest Time Taxidermy will mark its 20th year in business next year, yet few

people likely know it exists or what happens behind the doors of the little workshop on Dock Road.

A native of Connecticut, Frankonis came to Maine to attend Unity College, where he earned a degree in environmental sciences. After a couple years each in Colorado and Florida, he returned to Maine.

“I got the itching to come back north,” he said. “I always liked Maine, so I moved back up here in ’88.”

Frankonis and his wife lived in Waterville, then Winthrop. In 1999, he took a leave of absence from work to attend a 13-week course at the Northwood Institute of Taxidermy in Pennsylvania.

“When you’re growing up, certain things catch your eye, and I was always wondering how (taxidermists) did it and figured one day I might dabble in it,” he said.

He started Harvest Time Taxidermy the same year, and has run the small business ever since. He also has a full-time job as a forklift operator in Augusta.

In 2004, the family and the business moved to Alna.

While some taxidermists specialize in one type of animal or even one species, Frankonis has the licenses and skills for any job.

He avoids anything “too big” because he works by himself. “I wouldn’t want to do a full-size moose ... I would do a full-



size bear,” he said. “That’s about as big as I would go.”

The biggest projects of his career to date include a shoulder mount of a moose and a three-quarter mount of a bear: a bear from the hips up, including the front paws.

His most unusual projects include an osprey, for an educational institution, and a baby fox.

For the fox, Frankonis had to go back

encourages the occasional pet owner who contacts him to remember their pet with a framed photo instead.

The most difficult job for a taxidermist is a fish, in Frankonis’ estimation.

With a fish, “there’s no hair, there’s no hide, there are no feathers. It’s just the fish scale and its body. If there’s a flaw or there’s a blemish, it’s going to be right there for you to see,” Frankonis said.

to “old-school taxidermy” and make a body cast of the animal in order to create a custom form – the base on which a taxidermist mounts the animal’s skin.

“There is nothing to buy other than the eyes – everything else you have to make,” he said.

Some customers contact Frankonis about pets. As with the fox, each pet requires custom work. Custom work takes time, and the additional time drives up the price.

Some taxidermists only work with pets, but Frankonis would rather not. He

***“I wouldn’t want to do a full-size moose. I would do a full-size bear. That’s about as big as I would go.”***

***– taxidermist Ed Frankonis***

Frankonis’ best customers, by far, are deer hunters. Five deer heads hang on display in the entryway with a bobcat, a turkey, moose antlers, and other trophies. More deer

heads hang on a wall inside. Some belong to Frankonis and his wife, who often hunt together.

During the season, he often takes vacation from his full-time job to keep up with the business.

“I’ll get anywhere from 12 to 20 deer in a

normal year,” he said. “This year I got 15, I think, so it’s a normal year.”

The November hunt keeps him in work into early spring.

It’s important for hunters to bring their deer to the taxidermist as soon as possible after the butcher to avoid “hair slippage” and other problems.

Early in the process, Frankonis will “cape it out.” He removes the cape – the hide of the deer from its nose to behind its front shoulders – from the rest of the animal. After special preparations for the ears, eyes, and lips, he salts and dries the cape.

Next comes the tanning process. Tanning transforms the hide into leather much in the same way as other leather goods, except the animal’s hair stays on. Some taxidermists tan the hides themselves, while others ship them to a tannery. Frankonis does a little of both.

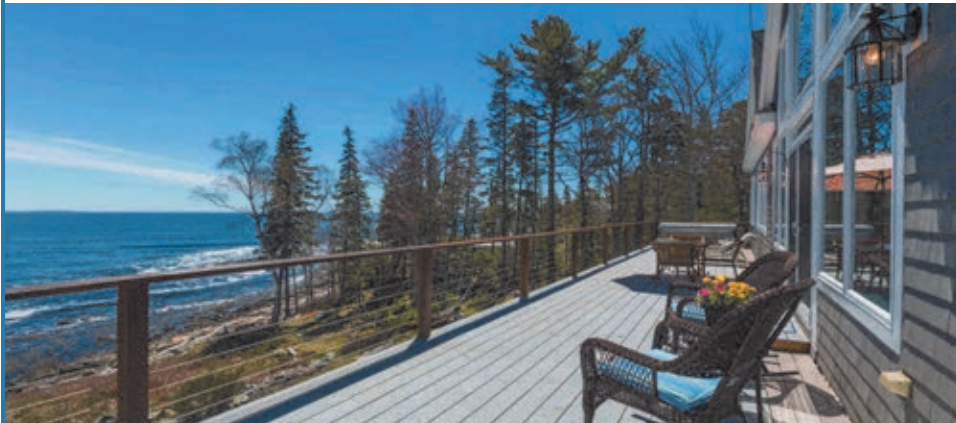
“I tan just about all my own deer hides, but moose and bear and some other stuff, whatever comes in — bobcat, coyote — I send out to the tannery,” he said.

He prefers to tan deer hides himself because he retains control over the quality and the time it takes to complete the project. He can tan a hide in five days, while he

*(continued on page 38)*

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Hilton".

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# East Coast meets Far East at Whitefield Pottery

**Whitefield potter's love of Maine's outdoors — and Japan — is evident in her beautiful tableware**



Libbey Seigars stands before her pottery studio on Howe Road in Whitefield. (Christine LaPado-Breglia photo)

By Christine LaPado-Breglia

"Pottery bringing the Maine outdoors home" reads the introductory slogan at Whitefield Pottery's website, [whitefieldpottery.com](http://whitefieldpottery.com). It is an apt motto for the ceramic tableware made by Libbey Seigars (pronounced "Seegars"), the woman who owns Whitefield Pottery and produces all of the beautiful pieces turned out by the little studio located in the northern Lincoln County town of Whitefield.

Seigars' ceramicware output includes dinner plates, bowls, coffee mugs, storage crocks, wine chillers, and even lamps. Her signature colors — Spring Green, Summer Blue, and Autumn Brown — are the colors of the scenic world around her in bucolic Whitefield. Seigars often paints animals and insects on her pieces — dragonflies, rabbits, hummingbirds, and fish — as well as delicate leaves.

One notices the lovely Asian calligraphy-like strokes — suggesting slender bamboo plants that decorate Seigars' work. Seigars' resume speaks volumes to this observation. She has bachelor's degrees in Japanese history and ceramics from Marlboro College in Vermont and studied pottery at Marlboro with Malcolm "Orv" Wright, who studied with Japanese potter Taroeman Nakazato XII, a Living National Treasure as certified by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology.

Seigars also traveled to Japan as a college junior on a study abroad program for two semesters, where she did research on ancient kiln sites around Kyoto. "I was lucky enough to go to Japan," she said, smiling.

Her potter's wheel, she proudly points out, is a Shimo wheel from Japan. "It was one of the first Shimo wheels imported into the U.S.," Seigars said. "These are workhorse potter's wheels. They are like the Maytags of Japan. I love my Shimo potter's wheel."

While Seigars does some slab work — clay work done by hand, as opposed to wheel-thrown — she produces most of her pieces on her Shimo wheel. "Most of my work is thrown," she offered. Seigars uses cross-shaped tools made from thin wooden skewers to measure the height of cups and bowls when throwing them, as is customarily done in Japan.

"I love nature — camping, canoeing, fishing. My pottery shows my love for the outdoors," said Seigars, who worked for a number of years as a volunteer service



coordinator for the Maine Department of Conservation, the precursor to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. "For me, my commitment to and passion for nature and the outdoors has always been there."

In fact, Seigars' love of the outdoors goes back to her childhood in Caribou. "Talk about the outdoors and winter!" she said of the small town in Aroostook County, in far northeastern Maine.

*Seigars* likes the challenge of creating – and refining -- functional pieces for the table. "Figuring things out is what's kind of fun -- making sure things are nice to hold and pitchers don't drip," she said. "Form follows function -- and that's what's always attracted me to pottery."

Acknowledging that "more and more people shop online," Seigars said she wants to accommodate such customers more. Along those lines, she plans to "offer a limited number of pieces that I could have available and ship immediately." Currently, the turnaround time is 6-8 weeks for dinnerware.

Seigars is looking forward to her upcoming pottery show at the Maine Coastal Islands



The shelves of Whitefield Pottery are stocked with plates, cups, and bowls in Libbey Seigars' signature patterns. All of Seigars' pieces feature food-safe glazes. (Christine LaPado-Breglia photo)

National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in Rockland in September-November of this year. She has another show scheduled to kick off Nov. 18 in Portland.

Seigars will also offer a Christmas season show, as she has done two previous years, at Badger Cafe & Pub in Union. "They meet my criteria: fairly local, I don't have to pack

*(continued on page 34)*



Libbey Seigars paints a dragonfly over the underglaze on a coffee mug. (Christine LaPado-Breglia photo)



A Spring Green wine chiller with Whitefield Pottery's most popular design, a dragonfly. (Photo courtesy Libbey Seigars)

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# PORTFOLIO

ARTIST OF THE MONTH • BRUCE BABB

Damariscotta marquetry artist Bruce Babb is a native Mainer. He grew up in Falmouth, graduated from Falmouth High School, and then earned a degree in chemistry from the University of Maine at Orono. Babb's first professional job was with Great Northern Paper Co. in Millinocket.

Babb met his wife, Julie, in 1962. They lived in Millinocket for a short time, then moved to Rochester, N.Y., where Babb worked for the Eastman Kodak Co. research labs. Bruce and Julie Babb have two daughters and three grandchildren.

After almost 30 years with Kodak, Babb took early retirement and he and Julie moved back to Maine in 1992. After retirement, he began to seriously pursue the craft of marquetry – inlaid artwork made from variously colored pieces of wood — which had been a hobby of his for many years.

“Thirty years ago, I ordered a package of veneer samples from a woodworking catalog. When they arrived, I started playing with them and found myself fascinated by the variety of colors and grains that are available. I was hooked. I’ve been making marquetry pieces ever since,” Babb said recently. “I didn’t know anyone else who worked with veneers, so I had to teach myself. The challenge and precision still intrigues me, as does the array of woods available and their great beauty.”

Babb's work is currently shown seasonally at Pemaquid Art Gallery at Pemaquid Point and The Good Supply in Pemaquid (Bristol), and year-round at Gifts at 136 in Damariscotta.

In addition to his stunning wall pieces, Babb also makes a full line of game boards, jewelry boxes, clocks, dominoes, trays, storage boxes, and music boxes, as well as custom-designed table tops. He recently teamed up with Michael Stevens, a cabinetmaker from New Harbor, and together they are creating beautiful and unusual tables, which can be seen at Gifts at 136.

Babb's work can also be seen at [covehousestudios.com](http://covehousestudios.com).







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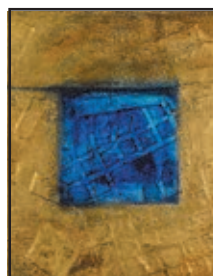
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# ON THE TRAIL IN LINCOLN COUNTY

BY PAULA ROBERTS

## *Sheepscot West Branch Trail North Howe Road, Whitefield*

*Directions: The Sheepscot West Branch Trail is located off North Howe Road in Whitefield. From Route 17 just over the Jefferson line in Whitefield, turn onto Howe Road (on the Jefferson side of Country Corners Grocery). Drive 1.3 miles and the Whitefield Salmon Preserve parking lot is on the left. From the Whitefield Salmon Preserve parking area, walk down Howe Road and through the barricades. On the right is the trailhead for the Sheepscot West Branch Trail.*

The Whitefield Trails Committee maintains the 1.5-mile blue-blazed trail. The Midcoast Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the property. Ellis Percy owns the property and generously allowed the Whitefield Trails Committee to build the trail.

The trail follows the contours of the West Branch of the Sheepscot River for seven-tenths of a mile. The trail offers many spectacular views up and down the river. Just north of the trailhead is a small set of falls with a large pool below. The area has been used in the past as a swimming hole.

Continue up over a ridge and back down, and a large, flat rock protrudes

into the river, making for a perfect spot to bask in the sun or have a picnic. A short distance up the trail, bright red cardinal flowers stand out in stark contrast from the green fauna and black rocks on the riverbed.

Further up the trail, watch for white-tailed deer prints in the soft mud on the river.

The trail is shaded, thanks to a mature stand of hemlock with a few pine, fir, and hardwood trees mixed in. A slight breeze off the river makes for a pleasant summer hike.

During the spring or after heavy rains, two brooks cross the trail, as is evident by an empty bed and two rock





bridges on the trail.

After a half-mile, the trail comes to a 0.44-mile loop trail at the site of a viewing bench. Hiking the loop in a clockwise rotation, the loop trail wanders away from the river and loops around, turns right onto an old woods road, and continues for a couple hundred yards. Where the trail meets the logging road, look for a large American hornbeam tree with its ripple trunk.

When the woods road bends to the left, look for blue-blazed trail markers off to the right. The trail narrows and climbs up over a small ridge, then winds through ferns before coming out at the viewing bench.

Return by the same trail along the riverbanks. The hike takes about 30 minutes. Plan on longer if exploring the river or sitting to enjoy the view.

For a longer hike, walk back to the parking area by way of the trail on the Whitefield Salmon Preserve, which is directly across the road from the Sheepscot West Branch Trail trailhead and enters the woods just before the

(continued on page 40)

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# BLACKSMITH

(continued from page 9)

displaying my artwork. The focus will be on garden-wall and fence art.”

Leck welcomes visitors to Scottish Lion.

“I encourage people visiting and seeing the latest several things that I am doing,” he said. “Look at our website, or just come



Blacksmith Andy Leck specializes in decorative wrought iron fences, such as this one surrounding a home in Damariscotta Mills (Nobleboro). (Christine LaPado-Breglia photo)



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by and see the new improvements at our property. 2018 is definitely our rebuilding year.

"It's kind of pushed my retirement off by a couple of years," Leck said, smiling. "That's OK. I don't mind working. I'm doing more what I want to do these days than what I have to do."

Scottish Lion Wrought Iron is located at 587 Bristol Road, Bristol. It is online at [scottishwroughtiron.com](http://scottishwroughtiron.com) as well as on Facebook, and can be reached by phone at 563-5788.



Andy Leck relaxes with a cup of tea in his living room. (Christine LaPado-Breglia photo)

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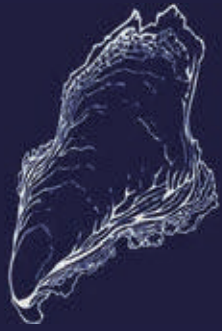


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The three common growing practices are:

Surface aquaculture: floating bags or cages, grown in lines along the surface. (ex: Moondancer from Mook Sea Farm).

Bottom aquaculture: oysters that are finished off on the bottom can also be grown in cages, or loosely scattered along the river bottom and are harvested by diving, dragging, or hand picking (ex: Norumbega).

Intertidal aquaculture: oysters that spend time both under the water and exposed due to changes in the tide (ex: Wild Dams or Belons).



**Fun Fact:** Did you know that an oyster can filter anywhere between 30- 50 gallons of water a day? Also, eating four oysters a day gives you a complete daily supply of copper, iodine, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, and zinc.

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## 50 YEARS AGO

(continued from page 11)

Space Station with Russia and leave space exploration to billionaires like Richard Branson and Elon Musk, who approach space with profit motives rather than humanitarian motives.

President Donald J. Trump says he intends to return U.S. astronauts to the moon and to pursue "human exploration of Mars and the broader solar system." We hope he will follow through with this commitment, with the support of Congress.

**More bargains:** Yudy's, of Damariscotta, "the tire center of Lincoln County," took out a full-page ad for its fourth anniversary sale. Among the door prizes? A live pig. A front-end alignment, regular price \$7.50, was available for just \$3.88. Alas, Yudy's is no more, having become Sullivan Tire in October 2012.

**Tin can blues:** Under the headline "Newly weds caught littering" on page 4 was a tale of a short honeymoon and a police state run amok.

"A happy, smiling bride and groom



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were arrested last Saturday in Wiscasset for speeding and littering," the article opens.

After their wedding and reception in Damariscotta, the couple headed south.

"Their car was festooned with streamers (and) old shoes, tin cans, etc. were tied beneath it," according to the article. "The couple left town pursued by friends and well-wishers through Newcastle, Edgecomb, and to Wiscasset. There it happened: some cans came loose, they were over the speed limit, an alert trooper made the arrest."

The reporter couldn't resist a little editorializing - or a pun - in the final paragraph.

"This must certainly mean the end to the old tradition of decorating newly weds' cars; unless securely tied it will be littering our highways. Tradition is passe. 'Every litter bit hurts,' Larry and Ethel."

("50 Years Ago in Lincoln County" brings news and other tidbits from the archives of The Lincoln County News to readers of Lincoln County Magazine. The columnist, J.W. Oliver, is the editor of The Lincoln County News.)

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## **WHITEFIELD POTTERY**

*(continued from page 21)*

and ship, and I usually get a dinnerware order – and those are really fun to do!” Seigars said.

While her pottery business keeps her busy, Seigars is certainly not too busy to welcome those who wish to drop by her studio and watch her in action – in fact, she encourages it.

Whitefield Pottery is located at 442 Howe Road in Whitefield, near the banks of the West Branch of the Sheepscot River. It can be found online at [whitefieldpottery.com](http://whitefieldpottery.com) and [facebook.com/whitefieldpottery](https://facebook.com/whitefieldpottery). Whitefield Pottery is open April through early December, by chance or appointment; call 518-3781 to make an appointment. In addition to her studio, Seigars’ pieces are available in Lincoln County at:

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Other locations are listed on the Whitefield Pottery website. Pieces may also be purchased via the website.



A Whitefield Pottery dinnerware set featuring its popular dragonfly design. (Photo courtesy Libbey Seigars)

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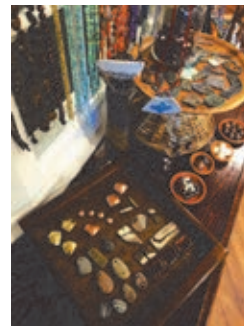
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Deer heads on the wall at Harvest Time Taxidermy in Alna.

## ALNA TAXIDERMIST

*(continued from page 16)*

waits three to four months to receive a hide back from the tannery.

After tanning, he rehydrates the cape to soften the leather and make it pliable. Then he applies paste to the form and mounts the cape. The pliability of the cape allows him to stretch it and fit it to the form. The paste takes a week to 10 days to dry.

"Once it dries, you come back and do your finish work, your epoxy work, and then you paint it, texture the nose and whatnot, clean the hide one last time, polish the antlers up, and then it's ready to go," he said.

Each animal poses unique challenges. "The biggest problem deer have are the number of ticks they have on them," Frankonis said. "That's getting to be a major problem for me, as a taxidermist."

The hair follicles around a tick bite fall out, which leaves a hole in the cape from a dime to a half-dollar in size, "and you can't possibly repair all the spots, because there are really just too many," Frankonis said.

Ticks could hurt business if their numbers continue to rise, as more capes will come in beyond repair, according to Frankonis. The ticks also pose a health hazard for taxidermists.

Taxidermists also repair bullet holes and bald spots from fights with other deer. "A lot of taxidermy is sewing, believe it or not," Frankonis said.

A deer head runs \$525 before sales tax. Taxidermy is labor-intensive, and the cost of supplies has risen over the last two decades.

But as a hunter and a working man, Frankonis understands his average customer and aims to keep his prices reasonable.

Frankonis completes about 25 projects a year – deer and all other animals. "It doesn't sound like a lot, but if I'm working only on Saturdays, that's half a year," he said. He enjoys the work.

"It's relaxing," he said. "You're working with your hands ... You're re-establishing the personality of the animal that came in your door."

"Each skin is a little different, at least the

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way I view them,” he said. “Each one has a different personality, sort of like people.”

“The skin has a memory to it and that memory comes back when you mount it is

the best way I can describe it,” he said.

Harvest Time Taxidermy is at 21 Dock Road in Alna. For more information, call 586-5760.



Ed Frankonis works on a deer form in his workshop.



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# ON THE TRAIL

(continued from page 27)

bridge.

Lands on both the Whitefield West Branch Trail easement and the Whitefield Salmon Preserve protect more than 4,000 feet of vital Atlantic salmon rearing and spawning habitat. Many small mammal and bird species make their home on the preserved lands as well.

Watch for poison ivy both along the edge of Howe Road and on sections of the trail.

The Whitefield Trails Committee also maintains the Marr's Ridge Trail on Hunts Meadow Road and the Happy Farm River Trail, behind the school and town office on Town House Road.

(Paula Roberts writes the column "On the Trail in Lincoln County" for The Lincoln County News. The fifth edition of the book by the same name, which collects columns about 114 trails, is available at Lincoln County Publishing Co. in Newcastle and many other locations in the region. Proceeds from the sale of the book benefit local conservation organizations.)



Cardinal flowers on the banks of the West Branch of the Sheepscot River. (Paula Roberts photo)



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