

The Roundtable

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Bangor Area Rotary Club Breakfast**

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And It Comes With Mushrooms

You will find mushrooms – and a lot more at the Hirundo Wildlife Refuge – as we learned from outdoor (and mushroom) enthusiast Larry Beauregard in this morning’s meeting. Mr. Beauregard is a member of the Hirundo Board of Trustees.

The retired medical geneticist (EMMC) began volunteering at Hirundo a few years ago. “And you know, if you do a good job at volunteering, they want to put you on the board.” His enthusiasm for all things Hirundo (the Latin word for swallow) emanates in his speaking engagements to community groups.

The 2400 acres that make up the Hirundo Wildlife Refuge are located on two sides of Route 43 near Old Town. Pushaw Lake forms a major portion of the Refuge that affords bird and duck sightings and ten miles of trails around the lake.

The Refuge celebrated at 50th anniversary last year. The board took a look at what they have accomplished and what they want to do.

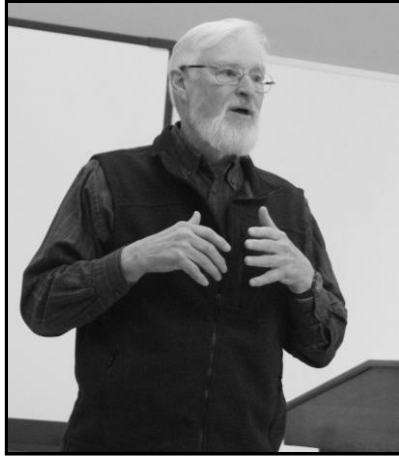
“We decided that we need to make those ‘rock and root’ trails more accessible.” With help from engineering students and others from the University of Maine, as well as equipment loaned by Sargent and Central Maine Equipment, the trails were made wheelchair accessible, and guide ropes help those who are visually impaired. Mr. Beauregard described the glaciated land in the Refuge as a “quiet place.”

The Refuge has three missions: learning, enjoyment and preservation.

From its website: Scores of tree

swallow nest boxes attract flocks of tree swallows, breeding in the Spring.





Hirundo Wildlife Refuge was founded by Oliver Larouche from his parents' three-acre camp in 1965, expanding to its present 2,460-acre size. In 1983 Oliver and his wife June Larouche deeded the Hirundo land to the University of Maine cementing a long-term collaboration. Hirundo is a living laboratory, where much past research and scientific studies continue.

The Refuge has canoes, including two 28' crafts and kayaks available for visitors. Mr. Beauregard mentioned the educational value of physics when maneuvering the large, people-filled canoes around Pushaw Lake. They offer canoe and kayak clinics so you can learn to row, row, row your own, gently down that stream.

Mr. Beauregard, who is a Registered Maine Guide, encourages groups to sign up for Refuge activities, including brick curling. School field trips allow students to take water measurements- depth, how many mussels, and mercury levels. A recent Winter Fun Day included dog sledding.

Funding for the Refuge comes from memberships and grants. It is independent from any University of Maine funding.

An idea was floated that we should try to schedule a Breakfast Rotary meeting at Hirundo. Mussels for breakfast, anyone?

Trailing Off Into the Morning's Business

President Doug Townsend reported on board agenda items, including approval of a computer for the front desk to help keep track of the increasing complex numbers crunching tasks. The Club will begin to keep track of volunteer hours for our own information rather than try to participate in the Governor's Citation program.

Kristy Kimball's Challenge for Charities Fundraiser meeting will next happen February 28 at 7:05 am at Dysart's on Broadway. **Ken Huhn's** Membership Committee gathers at Channel 2 next Wednesday.

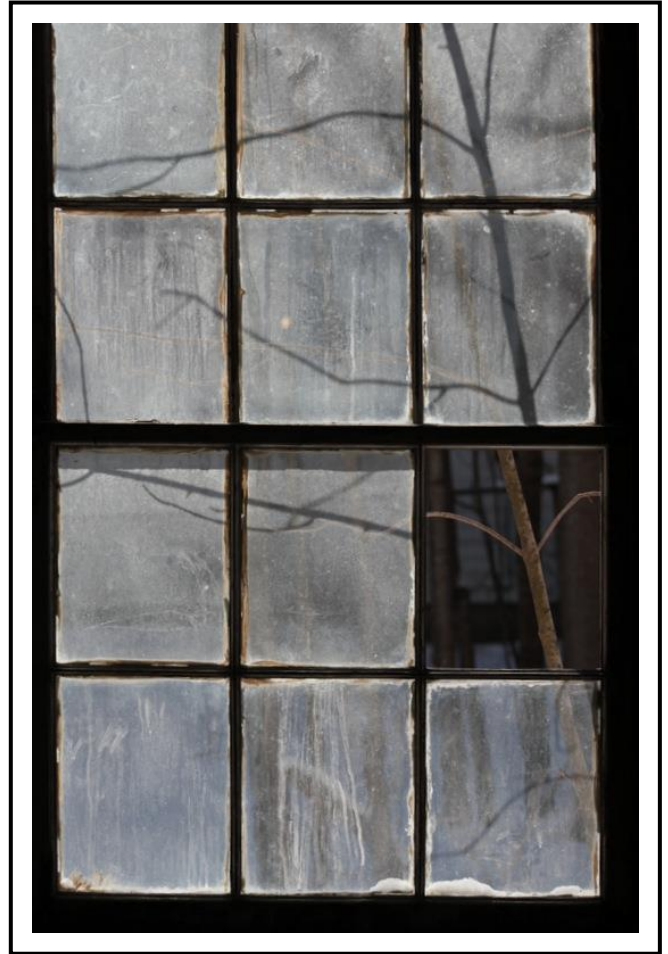
He was quick to flash a "Sad" dollar for the presence of all three members of the Breakfast Refuge Trio but **Paul Miragliuolo** had no birthday celebrant suspects. However, he had to eat his dollar, so to speak, when **Greg Urban** volunteered that his birthday was last month. The trio- **Dick Cattelle, Lisa Wahlstrom** and **Les Myers** - sang a calorically rich rendition of the birthday tune.

David Zelz, the Club's most enthusiastic fan of George Harrison, noted that Mr. Harrison's birthday is February 25. He mentioned this factoid to a group of younger colleagues and, you guessed it, they asked, "Who?"

Les Myers- February 15, 2018

The paucity of Roundtable newsletters in recent weeks is caused when Winter happens and you have made other plans. Your subscriptions will not be affected.

A small morning gallery



The pane of Winter



More panes- University of Maine