

## Make Rockland Great Again Three Green Ideas

by Joe Steinberger

### Idea 1: Breakwater Lighthouse Cafe

The breakwater lighthouse could house a summer cafe, on the deck and inside. Customers could walk to the cafe along the breakwater, or take a ferry from downtown. The lighthouse is about 2 miles from the public landing, or about 15 minutes at 8 knots, a very comfortable speed for an electric boat. The lighthouse already has an adequate floating dock. There is electricity, but no water or sewer, so the cafe would be a simple one serving items prepared on the mainland. Floating toilet services could easily be provided since the public landing has pumpout facilities. The lighthouse is a beautiful place to sit and eat and drink, the trip would be fun, it would greatly add to Rockland's attraction as a place to visit, and the proceeds could be used to maintain the historic lighthouse.

### Idea 2: Red Jacket 2

The clipper ship Red jacket was built on the Rockland shore in 1853. She was one of the greatest and fastest sailing ships of all time, and still holds the Atlantic crossing record for commercial sail: New York to Liverpool in 13 days. For a couple hundred million dollars, easily raised, we could build a new Red Jacket, 250 feet of the fastest and safest sailing machine that modern materials and technology can build. Totally wind and sun powered, she would take passengers across oceans, from Rockland to London, to Barbados, to New York, and around the Cape and the Horn to the rest of the world, on all the great passages of sailing history, setting new records and thrilling her eager passengers. The challenge is to find a really great design, and to overcome regulatory hurdles so we can proudly carry the American flag around the world, championing the green revolution.

### Idea 3: Night Train to Grand Central

Amtrak has recently received a lot of money to improve train service. Bringing passenger service to Rockland, the end of the Atlantic coast line, is on their list. But the train line is slow, bus and air service to Boston already exists, and the end of the line at North Station in Boston is inconvenient to further travel - so it would be unlikely to attract many passengers. Imagine, though. that you could get on the train in Rockland at 7 pm, enjoy a fine meal in the dining car, pick up some more passengers in Wiscasset, Brunswick and Portland, go to bed in a pleasant sleeping car, and (average speed 30 mph) wake up at 8 am in Grand Central Station in center of the greatest city in the world. You could do your business in NYC and come back that same night, or hang out for longer. And of course for New Yorkers it would be a dream to chuck the crowds, lines and stress of the airports and take a relaxed old fashioned overnight train trip to the great little city of Rockland on grandest harbor of the beautiful coast of Maine.



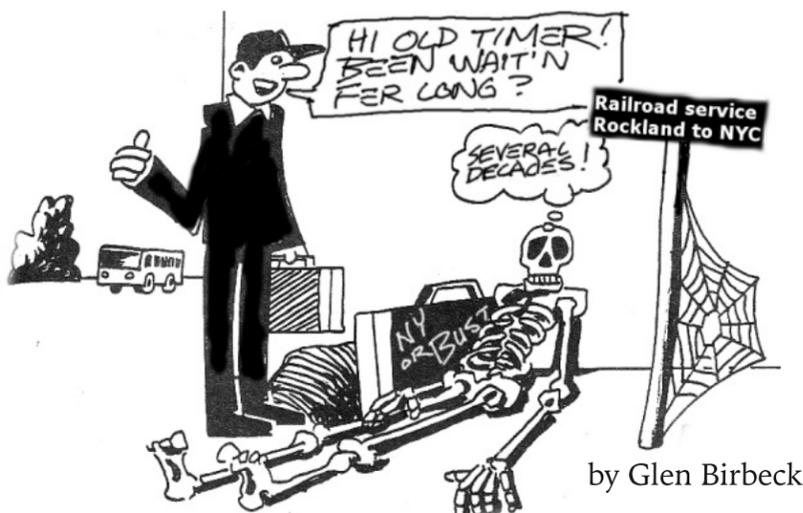
The Breakwater Lighthouse from the Rockland Public Landing

### Bluegrass concert on the Rockland Public Library lawn



The Rockland Public Library presents the Katahdin Valley Boys Bluegrass Band, Thursday, August 26, at 6:00 p.m., on the lawn of the Rockland Public Library. This event is free and open to all.

The Katahdin Valley Boys, one of Maine's most popular and respected Bluegrass bands, has been entertaining appreciative audiences throughout New England since 1998. The group has received awards from the Maine Country Music Association and the Maine Academy of Country Music. The Katahdin Valley Boys take pride in presenting a top quality show featuring traditional and contemporary bluegrass music. Each band member brings with them many years of experience and mastery of their instruments. Their repertoire features vocal versatility in tight harmonies, smooth solos, and flashy, fiery instrumentals. Katahdin Valley Boys shows have a fresh, personal approach that is presented in an engaging, lighthearted, family-friendly format that is sure to entertain. Bring a chair or picnic blanket from home and come experience one of Maine's most popular bluegrass bands!



by Glen Birbeck

## Interview with Nancy Olmstead Invasive Plant Biologist

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

8:00 PM 9:00 PM

On the Airwaves: WRFR-LP

Nancy and Cheech will discuss invasive plant species that are in your back yard and ways to control (and hopefully stop) the spread of these species.





## NOW HIRING

by Steve Carroll

You now see the signs everywhere: “now hiring” - “Hiring Fair” - “signing bonus.” All types of businesses are looking for workers, yet few apply or even show up for an interview. A perplexing dilemma with few clear cut answers.

I interviewed several business owners, asking the question “why is it so difficult to find workers?” The answers were varied. Many believed government subsidies were pushing workers not to seek employment - unemployment subsidies (an extra \$300 to \$600 just to stay home), rent subsidies, child care reimbursement. Many of these government programs are scheduled to run out on October 1st.

A number of those we spoke to feel service workers left the field due to covid-19 restrictions and have sought other lines of work with better working conditions and better benefits. Others thought perhaps people have just chosen other lines of work, sought different careers, gone back to school to learn different career fields, or simply left the work force altogether. A gentleman I spoke with suggested many have entered the new field of “marijuana dispensaries a blossoming new business enterprise that is employing many new workers.

Whatever the reason, It is plain to see all business sectors are struggling to find workers. Last weekend I went to our usual restaurant and was told we must wait for a table. I looked around and there were plenty of open seats. I asked why we were being asked to wait and the hostess replied “because we have a limited number of servers”.

Without question all of us have experienced many changes in the last year. Prices of everything spiking, products either unavailable or on long order. Certainly COVID-19 has changed our world. Of course we all hope things as we knew them will again return to normal, however the reality is that it may not, but for now we shall all just grin and bear it for the time and hope for changes in 2022.



## WRFR is community radio in Rockland.

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Get The Buzz at these Rockland locations: Good Tern Co-op • Dunkin' Donuts • Jensen's Pharmacy • Rock City Cafe • Southend Grocery

The Buzz is composed and printed by the Fellows of The Old School at the WRFR studios, 20 Gay Street, Rockland. Email: [wrfr93.3@gmail.com](mailto:wrfr93.3@gmail.com)

## WEEK SEVENTY-FOUR

### COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

by Phyllis Merriam

I've read several articles about how to approach Covid vaccine-holdouts with compassion and curiosity instead of scientific info, the latter of which only further entrenches the hesitant, the deniers or whatever they're calling themselves. Several online media are featuring stories about how angry those who are fully vaccinated are feeling toward the holdouts, the hesitant and the wholly anti-Vaxxers. So far, I've kept my ire to myself but have silently practiced responses, if I'm approached by any of these three categories.

More Americans are getting vaccinated in the face of the Delta variant. We're seeing 86% of Maineiacs getting ill and hospitalized due to the stealthy Delta variant. Daily statewide cases have been in the triple digits.

The big challenge will be when schools begin again soon. School districts' expectations vary around the country and in Maine. I don't even know what our RSU13 policy will be. Pediatric coronavirus cases are increasing among low vaccinated populations. A recent national poll found most parents want school mask mandates for their children's safety. In my non-scientific opinion, I think the national CDC erred when it said in June that we could all go mask-less, if vaccinated. Now that the Delta sneak thief and Lambda artful dodger variants are roving, asking people to mask-up again goes against all that is known about behavioral science. Once you give a large populace freedom of any sort, and then ask them to give it up; it's usually a lost cause with resulting anger, distrust and low-level compliance.

Well, another try of compassion and curiosity did not have any sway with the one family member's vaccination holdout. So I tried science but that only made the breach wider, as predicted. I cannot overcome my biases toward scientific methods. Anti-Vaxxers don't seem to understand that CDC recommendations are bound to change and evolve as the coronavirus and its variants change and evolve. While I agree with the relative's approach of eating healthy food, such as the Mediterranean Diet, regular exercise and plenty of sleep, adhering to non-scientific theories is way beyond where I'm willing to go. So, all I and other family members, can do is hope they'll be safe. So far, they're very, very lucky.

Went to The Good Tern health food store today to get more of the fresh wild Maine blueberries on offer. They have the best wild Maine blueberries I've found. They're from the Ewing Fruit Co. in Warren, certified organic by MOFGA and have interesting packaging: green re-cycle able pint boxes that enclose the blueberries in an elasticized red netting with a charming product label. If I had long enough hair to form into a bun, the red netting would make a fashionable snood. (Now there's an old fashioned word out of use these days.) Some people prefer the large, out-of-state blueberries. But the big ones have no flavor. Sometimes, the smaller is sweeter.

Looked around at Plants Unlimited to see what they had to replace a window box's white flowers that are past it for the season. I was only one of three customers on this fog-as-thick-as-pea-soup day. I finally found one white flowering plant on sale. There were countless selections of fall flowering bushes and trees and lots of mums. Most gardeners love mums. I've never been a fan. Their colors are the same as '70's kitchen appliances. I'll never understand how event planners put them in table bouquets or worse - in bridal bouquets. Mums smell sour and look stiff and angry at full bloom and haggard when they're about to die naturally. If they're hit with a frost, they could be on set in any Halloween horror movie or a Stephen King film. An all-white flower garden would be my ideal garden. The famous English gardener, Gertrude Jekyll (pronounced JEEkel), was known for hundreds of private estate gardens, including one or more all white, said to glow in the moonlight.

It's odd how angry and cynical I am toward simple chrysanthemums. Maybe I'm really getting worn out from the extended pandemic and unconsciously finding a scapegoat in innocent mums.

