

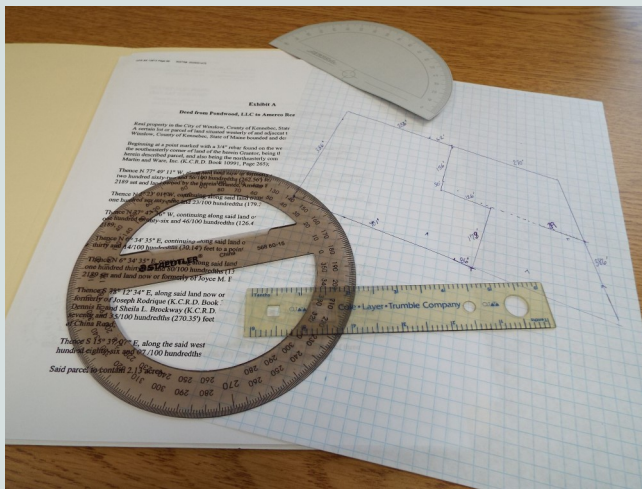
February 2021

Judy Mathiau, Editor

### Chapter President Judy Mathiau

**Old school** means something close to old-fashioned, doing things the way they've been done in the past. It's a term with pride behind it.

For me, I enjoy grabbing my old "1/10ths" ruler that I have had forever, my protractor and a fresh sheet of graph paper to draw a new parcel split. I know, I know. I could use Greenbriar's Deed Plotter, or even my ArcGIS tools, and I have, but... well, some of you old timers will get it.



I always believed that when using any modern technology, you should also understand what it is actually doing for you. I had this argument with an older lady, a dear friend of mine and former teacher. She was adamant that her students use only calculators. I argued that they should understand mathematics before touching a calculator, that it should be used as a tool. Hmmm.

*Continued on Page 5*

### Maine News

Congrats to the following!

**Nichole Philbrick**, formerly of MRS, is now the Assessor for the Town of Hampden! **Justin Poirier**, also from MRS has taken the position of Town Administrator for Chebeague Island. **Penny Thompson**, Assessor for Caribou recently earned the professional designation AAS (Assessment Administration Specialist) through IAAO. **Cindy Namer** was hired as the Paris Assessor.

The **Central Maine Association** is organizing a few virtual meetings for the year, including Cost Schedules and Revals, a TRIO Discussion, Mapping & Deeds, Solar and COVID Impact on the Market. Contact Secretary Amber Poulin to become a member and to learn more about their offerings! [assessment@stocktonsprings.org](mailto:assessment@stocktonsprings.org).

A very warm and cuddly  
**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to **Caitlin & Paul Thompson**  
on the arrival of their beautiful daughter,  
born January 12th!

**Virtual  
Chapter Meeting**  
February 23, 2020

*See Page 6*

## JATA Program

A brand new brochure with new mentors listed! They are waiting for your call.



Log onto  
[www.mechapteriaao.org](http://www.mechapteriaao.org)

## IAAO NEWS



Greg McHenry of Kansas, has been named the new IAAO President for 2021.

The new IAAO Executive Director is Debra McGuire from Michigan, replacing Ron Worth.

Questions or Concerns regarding IAAO? Reach out to our very own Bill Healey, Lewiston Assessor and current member of the IAAO Executive Board.

### Visit the IAAO Web Site!

The IAAO Library has a lot of new material! Check out their newly posted articles on farmland values, strip malls and the effect of COVID on commercial properties in Massachusetts.

Go to the **ABOUT** drop down tab for the FAQ Section where you will find some great material that you can use for public relations in the assessor's office.

Go to the **EDUCATION** tab for information on upcoming live courses and webinars.

[www.iaao.org](http://www.iaao.org)

### Delinquent Property Tax Interest Rate Set by the Maine State Treasury Department

The interest rate charged to Maine residents on delinquent property taxes will be no more than 6% for taxable year 2021, the lowest rate on record, in consideration for economic challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

## IAAO COURSE 331 \$50 DISCOUNT FOR CHAPTER MEMBERS

The Property Tax Division  
will be hosting IAAO Course 331  
*Mass Appraisal Practices and Procedures.*

This week-long course will be held through Zoom and will be instructed by David Cornell.

March 1-4, with a 3.5-hour exam that may be taken any time from March 5-10.

This course is one of the qualifiers for the IAAO Mass Appraisal Specialist designation as well as the Maine CMA-4 advanced assessor certification. Although it will be online, the class is limited to 30 students, so get your registration and payment to Andrea as soon as possible, but no later than February 12.

IAAO Course 300 – Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal is a recommended – but not required – introduction to this course.

You can find a description of the course and a registration form here: <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/sites/maine.gov.revenue/files/inline-files/registration331.pdf>.

## IAAO Members

Please reach out to your representatives **Kerry Leichtman** and **Karen Scammon** if you have any questions or concerns!

**Kerry Leichtman**

[assessor@rockportmaine.gov](mailto:assessor@rockportmaine.gov)

**Karen Scammon**

[kscammon@auburnmaine.gov](mailto:kscammon@auburnmaine.gov)

## Maine Chapter Annual Meeting 2020

*Kerry Leichtman, Education Committee Chair*

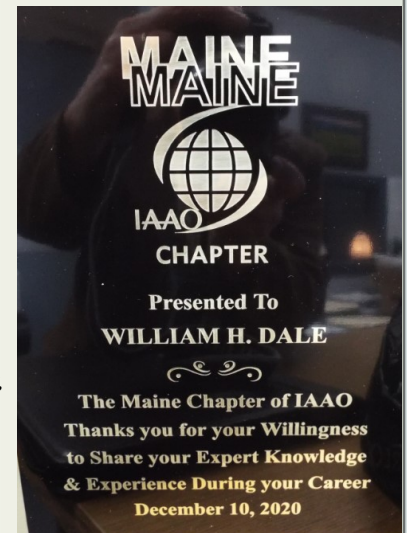
From the comments you made on the returned surveys, it looks like the presentations were well received and that we're all better prepared to deal with valuing solar farms. The presenters did an outstanding job explaining their slice of the overall solar pie.

Thank you to Nick Cloutier, Brent Martin, Jim Thomas, Bill van Tuinen, Joel Moser and ReVision Energy's Hans Albee. And congratulations to the Maine Chapter Education Committee for a job well done.

Aside from the business meeting, the only non-solar presentation was from the recently retired Bill Dale. Bill offered pearls of wisdom cultivated from his many years working both sides of municipal law - ours and, as he always called it, the dark side (those who would appeal our decisions).

During his career, Bill presented numerous times to the Maine Supreme Court and at the US Supreme Court. His knowledge of statute and his ability to communicate its applicability to our work is exceeded only by his quick wit and good-natured sense of humor.

We certainly surprised him, not only by giving Bill an award of appreciation, but by enlisting his wife as a co-conspirator, getting her to hide the plaque in a nearby closet for him to retrieve at Judy's direction. What he must have been thinking when she instructed him to forage in his closet for a certain marked bag!



*Bill Dale*

We'll all be in a better place when we can meet in person again, but we appreciate your patience and cooperation in settling for zoom at the present time, and especially for joining us with cameras on so we can see you too. In these trying times it is good to see everyone. Stay well and healthy!



## Maine Chapter Annual Meeting 2020 Zoom Gallery



Jim Thomas

Jim Thomas, Speaker



Bill van Tuinen, Speaker



Joel Moser, Speaker

**Thank-you  
to all  
who could attend!**





**Happy Retirement to  
Susan Nadeau!!!**

The ME Chapter held their annual meeting on December 10, 2020 with over 86 attendees. The **winner** of the Michael Austin Scholarship is

**Lauren Asselin  
Gray Assessor**

#### **Tax Mapping:**

- └ Annual Maintenance/Updates
- └ Recompilation
- └ CAMA Database Review
- └ House Numbering
- └ G.I.S. Applications
- └ Reductions
- └ Acreage Determination
- └ Land Classification

#### **Chapter President Continued.....**

Perhaps it is my graphic design background and interest in solving puzzles, but oh my, reading the deed, measuring the angles, scaling the distances, and seeing the metes and bounds close to form a polygon, is a satisfying feeling. I want to parade my sketch for all to see and say "HA! I did it!"

A few years ago, during a class I taught on "deeds and maps," I thought it would be fun to teach them how to draw a parcel from scratch by reading a deed description. A "hands on" experience. I even created little rulers and protractors out of cardboard and passed them out, along with a sheet of graph paper. After reciting a few basics, and giving a demonstration using a certain deed, I told them to give it a try.

I walked around a bit and could see that most students were rubbing their foreheads, yawning and shuffling papers. Oh-kay. But then I realized that one student off to the side was concentrating hard and sketching diligently. I smiled and said a silent YES!

After a few more minutes, I asked the class how they made out. Nobody answered, and I realized they were not even interested, so I turned to my diligent student and asked how he did. He very proudly raised his paper and said, "I did it!" He had a big smile on his face, a twinkle in his eye and he then said, "I worked for a tax mapping company for several years before becoming an assessor."

I believe I learned a lesson that day. Keep my old school out of their new school.

## **MAINE CHAPTER MEETING**

### **February 23rd via Zoom**

**The Education Committee has prepared a day filled with great presentations that you will not want to miss! At your request, we have shortened the day to end at 2 p.m. All presentations reflect the impact of COVID.**

**Starting at 9 a.m. with opening remarks, followed by a legislative update from Kate Dufour plus the mechanisms of an LPC (Legislative Policy Committee)**

**Next, Martin Cates, a well known realtor on the midcoast will talk about the real estate market during the past year, both commercial and residential.**

**Following will be our best friend and attorney Joel Moser who will talk about practical considerations for assessors to acknowledge.**

**After lunch, we will review a few court cases that may be relevant to the assessor during the unprecedented COVID market.**

**Ending the day before 2 p.m. will be an overview of the State Valuation Process and how your sales ratio this year will be reflected in the next State Valuation.**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>FREE</b>
<b>NON-MEMBERS</b>	<b>\$30 (INCLUDES AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP)</b>

**Registration shall be sent out soon!**

## **State of Maine Chapter of the IAAO Executive Board**

Judy Mathiau	President/Newsletter Editor	jmathiau@winslow-me.gov
Karen Scammon	Vice President/IAAO Rep	kscammon@auburnmaine.gov
Kerry Leichtman	Past President/IAAO Rep	kleichtman@camdenmaine.gov
Julie Ethridge	Secretary	jethridge@yorkmaine.org
Clinton Swett	Treasurer	clinton.swett@capeelizabeth.org
Natalie Andrews	Director	assessor@norwaymaine.com
Phil Drew	Director	phil.drew@bangormaine.gov
Brent Martin	Director	assessor@cityofbelfast.org
Darryl McKenney	Director	assessor@waldoboromaine.org
Caitlin Thompson	Director	cthompson@camdenmaine.gov