

This, the 7th edition of MARA's annual MUD SEASON newsletter, features a year-end summary of MARA activities and finances, current legislative highlights, great photos, and articles on "International Mud Season", a special "Mud Dance" video, and "No Surprises" Leadership.

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# MUD SEASON

7th Edition, Published April 11, 2021

**MARA CONFERENCE 2020**

**SOCIAL DISTANCE LIVE and ZOOM ATTENDANCE**

**MAPLE HILL FARM INN & CONFERENCE CENTER**

**October 3, 2020**



Attorneys Denison and Cunningham; our own Roberta Manter in action during the morning session. (clockwise)



Our new Treasurer, Jim Bunting, and 3 others (Right and below) after receiving token gifts from MARA for speaking and for work behind the scenes making Conference possible.



John Maclain from the DEP spoke on road maintenance issues in the afternoon



**Betsy Connor Bowen  
MARA Founder**



**Sandy Allen  
Conference Moderator**



**In-person attendees masked at  
social distance.**



**Souvenirs for all at Maple Hill:  
Stones from Mrs. Bagg's Beach,  
Thread of Life, South Bristol, ME.**

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**Sandy Allen**

Welcome Members,

The sun is shining today and the temperature above freezing this afternoon in late March. What a year it has been. COVID be gone! I hope you and yours have been spared from tragedy. Thanks to rapid development of a vaccine there is hope for a merciful lifting of the deadly viral fog in the coming weeks and months.

This edition features a year-end summary of MARA activities and finances, current legislative highlights, great photos, and articles on "International Mud Season" and "No Surprises" Leadership.

I'm pleased to report that the Maine Alliance for Road Associations is doing well. Our membership is now 120 MARA Members up from about 80 last year. Google Analytics tells me that we had 2,791 "hits" on our website from Mar 6 through Apr 4. There were 136 Downloads --83 PDFs and 49 WORD.docx. The MARA Manual and MUDSEASON 2020 won top honors in the PDFs with 13 and 10 Downloads, respectively. WORD.docs were spread out --lots of sample by-laws!

Jim Bunting has replaced Peter Dunn as Treasurer. Jim's Treasurer's Report is attached. He assures me that we are currently solvent with good prospects of staying that way. Our main expense is Website software provided by Wild Apricot. Peter, thankfully, remains with us on the Board and as a Discussion Forum contributor. Peter's experience with road association debt collection is legendary.

A successful Road Association Conference at Maple Hill Farm Inn and Conference Center has helped us tremendously. Betsy and Roberta's new MARA Brochure has been well received. Check out the new content on our Resources Page and recent postings on our Discussion Forum.

We welcome submission of articles and bits of information of interest to our members for our newsletter. Please send to Betsy or me at [info@maineroads.org](mailto:info@maineroads.org). I have enjoyed email exchanges with members; several have turned into Discussion Forum posts.

We will soon be making plans for our Road Conference in the fall. It is a pleasure to begin to know individual MARA Members. Please keep in touch.

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## INTERNATIONAL MUD SEASON

Betsy Bowen, Founder

We Mainers can get a little overbearing when it comes to things we're famous for. Blueberry pie, lighthouses, beautiful ocean sunsets, the view from the top of Katahdin. And oh yes, mud season!

Lest we burst our breeches and appear arrogant, even a tad insular, it's important to know that although Maine is rightly famous for its mud season, other places in the world have mud season too.

The Russian bear can make the mother of all mud holes. The German army (below) bogged down in Russian mud, hastening the end of WWII. Russian roads, few in number and not built for traffic, proved the downfall of around 40% of the German truck fleet.



In the U.K., two gallant Britishers brought gentlemanliness to a new level trying to pull an elephant out of a mud hole by its trunk.





**In South Sudan, a bad mud season can bring on famine. South Sudan has a rainy season which lasts from May to November.**



**The rainy season massively limits roads and other transportation due to South Sudan's roads being dirt tracks and in the rainy season, they turn into mud tracks. The only paved roads South Sudan has are in major cities like Juba and Rumbek.**



## But a skilled artist can make even a Russian mud season look beautiful!

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### MUD DANCE!

A Performance  
by  
Roberta Manter

*"A masterful work of art!" --Peter E. Dunn*

**Sandy, recently:** Did you write the lyrics and choose the melody? How did you come up with this song?

**Roberta:** I wrote the lyrics AND the melody. It all started because I'd be walking across the parking lot headed into a store and would stop to try to knock the mud out of my boots before going inside, so as not to leave a trail of dried mud behind me. When people would give me funny looks, I'd tell them it was the "mud dance."

**Sandy:** Thank you, Roberta. All enjoy much mud fun!

[https://www.facebook.com/Maine-ROADWays-588714017873781/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Maine-ROADWays-588714017873781/videos/?ref=page_internal)

