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INSIDE

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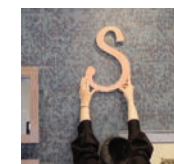
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THE SIMPLE JOYS OF BUZZ MANAGEMENT



THE LAUNCH OF ADULT-USE CANNABIS STORES IN PORTLAND HAS ME IN MY FEELINGS, I ADMIT. WHEN I MOVED TO THE CITY IN 1999, IT'S REALLY HARD TO DESCRIBE THE WAY I INSTANTLY FELT AT HOME — A FEELING THAT I'VE ONLY EVER HAD IN ONE OTHER PLACE: AMSTERDAM.

In Portland, I've always felt like I could be myself. For example: Moving here, I made a promise to myself that I would never smoke cigarettes in Maine, because I had never smoked cigarettes for any good reason whatsoever. I remember forcing myself to power through the nausea that would hit me every time I smoked when I was 14 because I wanted to hang out with the cool girls who smoked so freakin' badly.

And then, well, you really can't stop.

But I didn't want to be a smoker. That wasn't who I was. It made me feel like shit and wasted money and really just make me feel like a stupid tool of corporate America. A dupe.

In Portland I could stop. Cigarettes were not part of the vision I had for myself here.

The same can't be said for weed. Since I discovered actually well cultivated "kind bud" in the wilds of Vermont, it's been a part of my entire worldview. And that might sound contrived and maybe uncool, but I know unquestionably that it makes my life better. Maybe that makes it "medicine" for me, but mostly it just makes it part of my overall buzz-management plan.

Like food, coffee, exercise, alcohol, and various other things my body uses for fuel, weed helps me adjust the dials of happiness and contentment.

And it has always unnerved me that it was illegal. I'm terrified of the cops. I do not do well with authority and doing anything that might result in even a traffic ticket is generally beyond my capabilities. I don't even speed. So, the whole subterfuge of acquiring a bag has never sat well with me, even if I was morally and ethically at peace.

With legalization, I relaxed considerably. What a joy not to have to worry about Johnny Law breaking down my door (and, yes, I know that was never going to happen in my current well cultivated rural life where we don't even have a police department, but still).

Having it actually be in stores, though? That's a whole new thing. I've never wanted to get a medical card because I also have privacy and medical industry hang-ups — I try to avoid being on any list that could be used against me somehow in the future and I have personal space issues — so the whole shopping experience remains relatively brand-new for me.

My first retail stop was out in Seattle, maybe four years ago. I came home raving: "It's in, like, beautiful glass cases. And they have 50 types of edibles. And beverages. And they, like, consult with you and ask you what kind of buzz you're looking for!" It was almost too much. Like most people, I'm guessing, I bought way too much that first time and ended up giving away gummies to someone at the hotel bar because I was terrified of bringing them on the plane home.

” What a joy not to have to worry about Johnny Law breaking down my door.

That we now have this in Portland — heck, in Mechanic Falls and Bangor and Stratton! — seems almost too good to be true.

I know it's not for everyone. I have friends who gave it up after college because it always made them feel anxious and paranoid and they never liked it. Of course! Lots of people don't like the way coffee and booze make them feel, either. It's not part of their buzz-management plan and I can't think of much that's more personal and less my business than a buzz-management plan.

For me, though, this 4/20 is a true holiday experience. Cannabis independence day, you could call it. I hope you can enjoy it, too.

 WORDS / **SAM PFEIFLE**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



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BAXTER GETS MUDDY IN MARCH

In a reprise of the first beer she ever brewed in joining Baxter Brewing in 2017, president Jenn Lever's recipe for Muddy Boots was back on the shelves in March as part of the brewery's philanthropic "Passion Project" beer series.

A 7% ABV brown ale, Muddy Boots Trail Mix features flavors created with raisins, dark chocolate, and peanuts, evoking the earthiness that Mainers know all too well when mud season rolls around. A portion of the proceeds, too, will go to the Pink Boots Society, an organization focused on providing educational opportunities for women looking to get into beer-making as a career.

And, in order to truly walk the walk, Baxter brought women from the brewery's sales and administrative side onto the brewery floor to participate in the actual brewing. While Becca Hardin and Sarah Twosley normally head up New Hampshire sales and HR, respectively, for this project they were able to dive in and get their hands dirty.

Sold in four-packs across Baxter's full distribution footprint, you should be able to find Muddy Boots for as long as the mud lasts at the end of your driveway. Grab it while you can and know you're supporting the diversification of brewing here in Maine.

THIS JUST IN / WORDS / SAM PFEIFLE

FIRST MILE GOES THE EXTRA MILE

It's no secret that the pandemic has upended businesses from Kittery to Fort Kent. But one brewery from Fort Kent has done its part to try to alleviate some of the pain for everyone.

First Mile Brewing reached out to Maine Senate President Troy Jackson, of Allagash, with a simple request: Since in-person dining has been largely curtailed, and sales of beer and liquor has sustained many businesses, could we temporarily waive the rules about food sales necessary for renewing a liquor license?

Jackson quickly saw the logic and teamed up with Ellsworth senator Louie Luchini to pass "An Act To Temporarily Waive Certain Requirements for Relicensing for Restaurants that Serve Liquor," which waives the requirement that 10 percent of all sales must be food and automatically grants a 90-day extension to restaurants that got their licenses during the worst of the restaurant shutdown.

As an emergency bill, it went into force as soon as it was passed in March. Hopefully this increases the chances that your favorite places to grab a beer and a bite are still around when the pandemic truly lifts.



COPS GIVE VOLUNTEERS FREE WEED TO STUDY IMPAIRMENT

It seems impossible, but the Lewiston Sun Journal's Christopher Williams swears it's true: Last month, the Maine Public Safety Training Institute hosted a group of seven volunteers, gave them a variety of edibles, vapes, and flower, and then had them get stoned so that cops could learn to detect signs of cannabis impairment.

Yes, really.

They even gave them Doritos and soda. Because apparently that's what people like to consume alongside cannabis.

Then, officers were tasked with testing them for impairment, giving them field sobriety tests such as you might see for general driving under the influence: touching your nose with one finger, standing on one foot, etc. One volunteer, according to the paper, vaped "multiple dabs of TCH concentrate" and passed every test. Another volunteer, however, consumed only 15 mg worth of a chocolate bar, but ended up "arrested" at least once.

The trainer noted that, "consumption doesn't necessarily equal impairment." Because there's no lab test similar to a breathalyzer for alcohol, police will rely on these kinds of field tests to determine impairment for the foreseeable future. Hopefully, having Doritos breath remains completely legal.

UVM EMPHASIZES THE BUSINESS OF BREWING

Thinking of adding to Maine's mix of more than 150 microbreweries? Maybe look two states to the west, where the University of Vermont has spun up a successful "Business of Craft Beer" program that offers university-level coursework toward earning a Business of Craft Beer Professional Certificate.

But maybe you don't want to take all the courses necessary for the certificate. Instead, you could try just a course on Brewery Finance and Accounting, or Digital Marketing and Social Media Promotion in Craft Beer. Or even learn about distribution and sales.

The courses are designed to help small breweries get bigger and help those who'd like to get a foot in the door find some industry-specific knowledge, rather than just take generic business courses at the local uni.

If you're interested, summer courses start in May and each course runs about \$1,500. Which would buy a lot of beer.



DISTRIBUTION DISCOVERIES

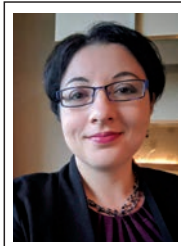
EACH MONTH, OUR INTREPID DIRECTOR OF DISTRIBUTION, MARK SAYER, MAKES THE ROUNDS OF THE 50+ BREWERIES AND DISPENSARIES THAT MAKE UP OUR DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS. INEVITABLY, HE PARTAKES IN A VARIETY OF NEW PRODUCTS. BECAUSE WHY NOT?

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A SUDDEN SELTZER SURGE?



THERE'S A NEW TYPE OF BEVERAGE CREEPING (WELL, CRASHING) INTO THE CRAFT BEER SPACE: HARD SELTZER. ACCORDING TO MARKET RESEARCH FIRM IRI, IN JUST THE FIRST 3.5 MONTHS OF 2021, SALES OF JUST THE TOP FIVE HARD SELTZER PRODUCTS (WHICH INCLUDE WHITE CLAW AND TRULY VARIETY PACKS) MADE ROUGHLY THE SAME AMOUNT (\$387 MILLION) AS YUENGLING, NEW BELGIUM, SIERRA NEVADA, SAMUEL ADAMS, SHINER, FIRESTONE WALKER, BELLS, STONE DESCHUTES, AND CIGAR CITY COMBINED.

Fundamentally, hard seltzer isn't that far outside the box. By spiking seltzer with alcohol, producers offer a drink that's both low calorie and light-drinking and fruity, while still providing a buzz. On the heels of a rise in popularity of seltzers in general (lead by brands like La Croix), this new entry into the alcoholic beverage scene seemed, at first, just like a slight extension to the big categories of beer, wine, and hard alcohol, occupying a space similar to kombucha and pre-mixed cocktails.

But the hard seltzer growth seems to be anything but a fad — with new dollars spent on hard seltzer doubling every year since 2018. And Maine craft breweries are taking note.

Sea Dog Brewing, part of Shipyard, now has a line of 5% ABV seltzers modeled after the “Blue Paw” lineup of beers, and are offered in blueberry, raspberry, and black cherry via a variety pack. In practice, this was likely an easy move, as they are probably using some of the same flavoring ingredients across both the seltzer and beer versions. Blue Paw seltzer drinks like a thinner version of Blue Paw beer, but the sweet blueberry notes are front and center.

In March, Lone Pine Brewing announced the launch of its own craft-brewed hard seltzer to distribution, meaning that it can be sold through the same channels as their other beer (including the six states that they distribute to outside of Maine). Sold in a mixed 12-pack format, the included flavors parallel those of national seltzer brands, including raspberry lime, strawberry, blueberry lemon, and watermelon cucumber. Separate from that effort is a standalone Oh-J version, which is meant to resemble a seltzer version of their citrus-forward IPA named Oh-J and tastes, in my opinion, not like the beer at all, but like a light soda made with fresh oranges.

The fact that some of these hard seltzers are meant to resemble their beer cousins might be a deliberate strategy, though. For the growing number of Americans who are choosing to remove gluten from their diets, wine and cider were the only options for some time — each with their own drawbacks as a beer alternative. It is possible that consumers have found seltzer to be an easier-drinking replacement, which could forecast a huge change in the craft beer landscape.

”

Hard seltzer growth seems to be anything but a fad.

The question is not, really, whether hard seltzer will impact the local craft beer market, but where and how. Right now, most hard seltzer is sold exclusively in cans, competing for space among craft beer producers who are already fighting for the same shelf space amongst themselves. If you combine the impact of the pandemic — where many Maine breweries were forced to do more distribution and packaging to survive the lack of on-premise sales — this could be quite a competitive pressure to wake up to once the pandemic's effects on retail are lifted.

Though it will be hard to pinpoint the direct effects as breweries and bars crawl closer towards “normal” operations, there might actually be positive impacts for on-premise, provided that the licensing doesn't become an undue hurdle. Offering some kind of hard seltzer as a beer alternative — especially if it is locally produced — might bring new non-beer-drinking audiences out to craft bars and breweries who may not have gone before. For breweries who produce both, it could mean that more sales and profit are staying in-house, and that friends who don't enjoy beer can still come along for brewery visits because there might be something there that they like to drink.

If the hard seltzer segment continues to grow like it has in the last four years, you'll definitely be seeing more of it ahead.



WORDS / BEER BABE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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CANNABIS BEER, A PRIMER

How to get started combining your two favorite things



FEATURE:
SEMI-LEGAL THINGS

WORDS / BREWER X

You are, right now, reading a magazine called “Beer & Weed,” so odds are pretty good that at some point in your life, you have enjoyed a pint of craft beer together with a bowl of fine weed. Or if you’re not a smoker, maybe you’ve munched down a THC edible with your beer. However you consume it, pairing beer with weed lets you experience different flavor combinations with a buzz that doesn’t follow from either substance alone.

So why not combine forces and drink a beer made with cannabis? The short answer is you can. But given the colorful legal history of both substances, you’ll have to make it yourself — at least for now.

Since the beginning of the beer revolution in the United States in the 1980s, craft brewers have prided themselves on experimenting with new methods and materials. Given that hops and cannabis are closely related (both members of the *Cannabaceae* family), marijuana beer seems like a natural. But you won’t find it on the grocery store shelf anytime soon because the current wave of cannabis law reform applies mainly at the state level; federal law still predominates in matters of food safety and production and distribution of alcoholic beverages. The bottom line is that THC is not permitted in commercial beer (though numerous non-alcoholic THC beverages are available from breweries in states where recreational cannabis is legal, including here in Maine, where Shipyard and Sea Dog Brewing have introduced options, and nationally, with brands like Lagunitas).

Of course, none of this has stopped people from trying to make marijuana beer themselves. A few years after homebrewing was legalized in the United States in 1978, a little book appeared called, “Marijuana Beer: How to Make Your Own Hi-Brew.” In light of the perilous legal

FEATURE:
SEMI-LEGAL THINGS

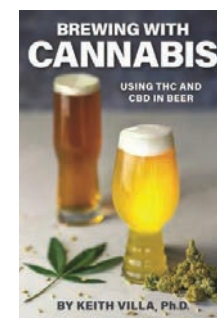
climate of the time, the author, long-time marijuana advocate Ed Rosenthal, was careful to attribute the source of his instructional manual to U.B., “the Unknown Brewer.”

U.B.’s monograph, though a bold stroke at the time, now seems a bit dated. Homebrewing had just been legalized, so a good part of the book served as an introduction to homebrewing itself. The book also argued that leaf trimmings could be used instead of bud to get THC into beer, but even with the higher levels of THC in today’s weed, many high brewers now opt to use bud instead of leaf.

The key insight of the book, though, was that THC is not water soluble. This means you can’t just add it like any other ingredient in your brewing process. If you want to make psychoactive beer, you need a way to extract THC from the cannabis. U.B.’s method was to ferment the beer up to a certain level of alcohol (ABV), and then add the leaves. Since THC is alcohol soluble, the theory was that alcohol produced after beer had fermented would extract the THC and get you high.

In the late 1980s, a friend of mine followed U.B.’s original guidelines, and created a batch of marijuana beer he called Doppelbuzz. It was a German doppelbock recipe, designed to produce a 7-8% ABV beer — high enough, he thought, to extract THC and produce a “doppel buzz.” Most thought it worked.

Brewing With Cannabis



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Today, high brewers use a different method to introduce THC into their beer. Raw cannabis contains a compound called THCa, which is not psychoactive. But a relatively simple process called decarboxylation can convert it to THC, which is psychoactive. A simple way to decarboxylate weed is to add heat. For example, spreading weed on a cookie tray, putting it in the oven, and holding the temperature at about 240° F for 45 minutes is sufficient to convert raw THCa to psychoactive THC for your high brew. (Note that a separate decarb step is not necessary when making pot brownies, for example, because baking inherently heats the weed as required.)

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Once converted, there are numerous ways to add THC to the beer. This is an area of active discovery and standardization among high brewers (I highly recommend “Brewing with Cannabis: A Measured Approach,” from the March/April 2020 issue of Zymurgy), but below are a few simple ways to add decarboxylated weed to homebrew:

DURING THE BOIL: After decarbing weed, you can add it during the main boil (which is also the point at which brewers add hops for bitterness). This method will also ensure that any bacteria that happen to be on the weed will be killed by the boil.

DURING FERMENTATION: Alternatively, you can add decarbed weed during the beer at the fermentation step (which is also the point at which brewers dry hop certain styles of beer such as New England IPAs). This method can be dicey since it requires the fermenter to be opened, potentially exposing the beer to air, and also because adding weed may also introduce bacteria at a time when the developing beer should be left to the yeast alone.

AT PACKAGING: Another approach is to prepare a THC tincture by steeping decarbed weed in high proof alcohol, say 100 proof vodka, for a few weeks, then strain out the weed and add the tincture to the beer before bottling or kegging it.

In all aspects of homebrewing, you can choose to work with raw, natural ingredients, or rely on easier to use, processed inputs called extracts. For example, you can start with raw grain, or skip the mashing step and use malt extract. Similarly, you can use raw hops, or avoid filtration issues and use hop extracts. The same is true for THC, which

is starting to become available in extract form, from any number of local dispensaries. So if you’re willing to go the “laboratory route,” as a brewer you could just add a THC extract to your brewing process (or as a drinker, you could even just add it to finished beer). A side benefit of this approach is that you can precisely dose each pint of beer, because with an extract you’ll know exactly how many milligrams of THC went into the overall batch.

Certainly though, some brewers will want to work with weed au naturel. In this case, if you know the THC content of your weed, then you can estimate the strength of your high brew by multiplying by the extraction efficiency of decarboxylation, which as a rule of thumb is about 75%. If you are working with homegrown weed and don’t have a way to measure its THC content, then you’ll have to come up with some other heuristic to estimate how high the beer will be.

In any case, this is a fun beer to make and share. It requires knowledge of both brewing and weed. So if you’re a homebrewer, grab a homegrower and give it a try. If you’re a homegrower, grab a homebrewer. Just keep in mind that marijuana beer can make for a potent brew, so start slowly and enjoy responsibly.

 WORDS / **BREWER X**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brewer X has 35 years of experience making beers of all kinds, including cannabis brews. He’s currently working on an Elderflower Orange Cream Ale and can’t wait to try it. Maybe the next brew will have a dash of absinthe.



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Badder? Shatter? Diamonds? A look at smoking more than flower

If you run with a cannabis crowd, you’ve most likely heard of dabbing, but you might not have any idea how to bridge the gap between knowing that it exists and actually enjoying cannabis via this method of inhaling. Or maybe you’ve been in a dispensary or adult rec outlet, seen the stuff in jars and didn’t want to sound silly asking what it was. That’s okay!

For folks who are familiar with flower (bud, weed, the stuff you roll in joints), novel options including shatter, resin, rosin, badder, budder, and crumble, coupled with the accoutrements needed to enjoy these products, might make the world of concentrates sound like an intimidating new frontier. Lucky for you, there are plenty of shops in Maine where they have the knowledge and the products to help you blaze a trail, and they’re more than happy to share them.

Given I make my home in the Berwicks, I traveled to Kind Farms Reserve in Berwick and Green Truck Farms in North Berwick to investigate.

First you might wonder: What’s the benefit to smoking one of these other forms of cannabis? The short answer is more

potency, with some forms, like live resin, offering as much as 90% THC; flower, by comparison, typically runs around 15-25%. Live resin, a favorite among concentrate enthusiasts, involves flash-freezing an uncured plant, including fresh buds and sugar leaves. This process preserves terpenes, which are responsible for the unique, complex flavor profile of a particular plant, and delivers a “full spectrum” experience (as opposed to just raw THC).

Most forms of concentrate across the board are going to deliver 80%+ THC.

All of this means not only a level up for people who’ve been using cannabis for decades and who are looking for more bang for their buck, but also better pain relief for those who use it primarily medicinally. Andrew Beasley, processing manager at Green Truck Farms, knows that side of dabs well. “For me, with flower for 14 years, it gets old. You’re chasing something that’s not there anymore. I was in a couple motorcycle accidents where my whole right side got rebuilt into metal — pins, needles, plates, stuff like that — I could be taking pain pills all day, but taking a couple dabs, I don’t even think about pain.”

Jen Young, Kind Farms Reserve’s assistant manager, notes the same reasons people might venture into concentrates. “When people are getting into that range of things, it means they’re not quite getting the effect they want from flower anymore — like it’s kind of a waste for them to even smoke flower.” She’s a big fan of hash rosin, and says it’s one of their most desired products, despite the \$70 price tag per gram, which is almost double the cost of many other concentrates. “It’s smoother, I like the flavor better, it tastes more like the actual plant. You don’t get that residual burn in your throat as you get sometimes with other products.”

The thing is, you can’t just roll up and grab a jar of badder at Green Truck, some hash rosin at Kind Farms, and head home to use them in the trusty glass bowl you use to smoke flower. Optimum dabbing temps require about 600-700 degrees, and you just can’t get there from here with a typical pipe or bong. You need a dab setup, which at its most traditional involves a list of items including a glass dab rig, a nail that fits your rig, a dabber to apply the concentrate to the nail, and a torch.

Yes, a torch.



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THE 420TH WORD OF THE MAINE CONSTITUTION IS “OF.”

We know the law, we know the cannabis industry, and we know Maine. For compliance, licensing, and business development, please contact our experienced cannabis small business attorneys Jill G. Polster, Esq. and Andy M. Cohen, Esq. at 207 387 3192 or cohenlaw.maine.com.



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Beasley knows a thing or two about what he calls the “backyard boogie” from his early days of dabbing in Arizona, when dabbing was much less common and he and his friends had no idea what they were doing. “Back in the day, we started doin’ red hots. As soon as the torch was done, drop the dab, and we were killing our lungs. Just destroying them.”

The need for sometimes costly paraphernalia and a process that on the surface seems quite complicated is likely an impediment to some who’d like to try dabbing. Learning to

understand the temperature, timing, and dosing is all a part of the process, and that can take a lot of wasteful, painful trial and error doing things the old-fashioned way. Excessive heating of concentrates not only affects the taste of the terpenes you’re paying dearly for when you pony up the cash for a jar, but it also can do major damage to your lungs and throat, as Beasley experienced.

Another possible pitfall can come from users not fully grasping the potency of the products. Beasley suggests a tentative approach if you’re trying concentrates for the first time, simply because of the immense amount of THC in concentrates. “They think, ‘This little piece isn’t gonna do too much,’ and they fuckin’ drop it and that thing destroys their world. And it will. It’s gonna hit really hard.” So trying it with someone who has some experience, along with having an idea of your basic weed tolerance level, can be very beneficial to a successful foray into concentrates.

Despite the challenges, the popularity of concentrates and dabbing is only increasing. Young says when Kind Farms first opened, their business was very heavy on the flower side, which is a specialty they’re known for, thanks to the owner’s reputation for his cultivations. When they first ventured into concentrates, they were unprepared for the demand: “Now we’ve kind of gauged a little bit better, but it does just seem like it keeps increasing weekly.”

With all of these cannabis enthusiasts jumping on the dab train, some companies are working to offer more user-friendly consumption options that alleviate a lot of the user error and



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equipment needs that exist in dabbing’s traditional format, with sleek, tech-savvy solutions. Beasley is a big fan of Puffco’s smart rigs, the Peak and Peak Pro, which cost around \$400 and are fully controllable through an app with indicator lights letting you know when to drop the dab. Beasley likes them so much he has two. “It’s very convenient. That’s what I use at my house; I have one upstairs and one downstairs, and they’re just always on. So anytime I wanna dab, I’m not just sitting there torching it.” Young agrees they’re a great choice for new and seasoned users alike, and Kind Farms is a licensed seller of Puffco products.

E-nails are another popular option, which can be easily set to heat to a particular temperature of your choice, based on personal preference and the form of concentrate you’re using, and paired with a glass rig of your choice. Another more portable, discreet, and cost-effective option is a dab pen, which will run you about a hundred bucks, but doesn’t allow quite the same range of flexibility in the forms of concentrate you can smoke, or the dose size.

Clearly, dabbing is nothing new in the world of weed, but its current surge in popularity is quickly making the practice

more mainstream. With that increased visibility, more shops are making and carrying a large range of concentrate products, not just limited to the vapable variety that you find in cartridges. Kind Farms is known for their vast array of edibles, including their highly sought after house-made chocolate bars that contain THC distillate and full spectrum hash rosin, in cravable flavors like Toasted Coconut, Milk Cookie Crunch, and White Fruity Pebbles. Young describes the appeal of using concentrates in an edible product: “Anything full spectrum is gonna be more medicinal and get people where they need to be depending on what their issue at hand is.”

And that’s really the focus at both shops, and most shops, where they want to help you find the product you need for exactly the purpose you define. So if you’re curious about dabbing, don’t be shy — head to your favorite shop and ask the staff any questions you have. They’re happy to use their passion, knowledge, and experience to get you hooked up with your new favorite concentrate.

WORDS / **CYNDLE PLAISTED RIALS**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



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PIECES OF EIGHT

Justin Barr and his inspired glass octopuses

WORDS / CYNDLE PLAISTED RIALS

When Justin Barr started searching for what could be his “thing” in glass work, the octopuses actually ended up finding him.

As a 17-year-old fresh out of Windham High School, with no idea what to do with his life, Barr was stoked when his brother signed him up for a glassblowing class. Barr took to it immediately: “I was kinda like a pyro as a kid, so obviously melting down glass is fuckin’ cool. And I liked weed, so it all kinda worked out.” A hearty laugh crinkles his crystal-line eyes, which shift blue to green, not unlike the colors in the glass pieces he makes. “I kind of went into it headfirst.

I started smokin’, and next thing you know, I’m makin’ pipes. I went in there and he was like ‘What do you wanna learn?’ And I was like ‘I wanna know how to make pipes!’ And he was like ‘Alright, let’s make pipes!’ And that was about it.”

Around that same time, Barr started working toward an anthropology degree. “I got a little ways into it and I was trying to do this [working with glass] at the same time, and I was kinda ... failing at both things. So I was like, ‘School can wait.’”

That’s turned out to be a good choice. Barr has spent the last 13 years honing his craft, working in rented studio space

at Royal River in Portland for the majority of that time, before the studio closed. When he built his home studio two summers ago — which includes costly items such as customized ventilation, a kiln, and a torch, among other things — it came with some unique perks. “The home studio is next-next level. I don’t usually wear regular pants. I’m usually in pajama pants,” he laughs, gesturing to his worn canvas pants, apparently an anomaly here. They’re likely Carhartt, to match the mustard yellow beanie and thick sweatshirt of the same brand that he wears in the airy studio, with its wide open door looking out on the grassy stretch of field behind his house.

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Highbrow
A CLASSY JOINT

FEATURE : ARTIST PROFILE

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In the early days, he took a class with Mr. Gray, a glassworker of some renown. “During this class, he taught us some techniques involving shears where you’re heating a gather of glass and then cutting it and stretching out the pieces that you cut. And I’m like, ‘Wow, you can really do fuckin’ anything.’ So I ordered a pair of shears and the first thing I made was a tiny little octopus. At the time I was looking for my thing and I was like, ‘Well fuck, if that’s not a thing, I don’t know what is.’ So I never stopped.”

That first pair of shears is the very same pair he still uses to this day. There’s a very good reason for that, and it’s not just the \$120 price tag: “These shears gave me a career and a product.” He grips their worn handles, snipping the half-formed blob of glowing glass into the beginnings of eight distinct tentacles. “They really did just kind of give it to me. Inspiration comes in weird ways.”

Barr works with borosilicate glass, different from what is used in traditional “soft” glassblowing; it cools quickly, allowing the artist to work in very fine detail, but necessitating a confident and decisive approach. For those in the know, what Barr does is actually called “lampworking,” a process that originally required a foot-pedaled oil lamp and was used to produce items like beakers and flasks. Some of Barr’s pieces nod to the history of lampworking and weed consumption with familiar shapes we might remember from chemistry class or a first-ever bong rip, because, he says, “A lot of those classical, old-school bong shapes are inspired by scientific glassware. What most people call a beaker is actually an Erlenmeyer flask, but everyone calls that shape of bong a ‘beaker bong.’ I usually make the joke that it’s an ‘Erlenmeyer Bong’ just cuz it’s a funny name.”

That sense of playfulness is evident in Barr’s creations. Through the transformative power of heat and his know-how, two unremarkable rods of glass, one clear and one green, are slowly melded, twisted, and shaped until the familiar

form of the octopus emerges. The real magic comes in when the seemingly plain green glass is heated and cooled to specific temperatures. As Barr works the glass, iridescent purples and blues emerge, gliding over the surface of the piece and shimmering in the sun that streams through the window. Barr knows his materials and their capabilities inside and out, a knowledge that al-

lows him to create pieces swirling with color and reflected light — pieces that upon first glance may seem more art than tool.

But he really does want you to use them. “People will tell me, as a sign of respect I think, ‘Oh, man I don’t even think I’m gonna smoke out of it, I’m gonna leave it on the shelf and just admire it as a



FEATURE : ARTIST PROFILE

piece of art.’ And I’m like honestly, bro, smoke out of it, because if you weren’t going to, I wouldn’t have taken all that time to make it a pipe. I would’ve just made you a cool sculpture. So smoke out of it, because it’s a functional thing and part of the art piece is that it’s used. The art isn’t even really complete until you use it, you know?”

That intersection between form and function is a point of particular interest for Barr, who has also harbored an interest in engineering. “I’m a very physical, mechanical-minded person so the engineering component of making functional stuff is cool for me, too,” he says. “And glass is a cool medium just for building things in general. If you know what to do, it can do anything.” For some of his pieces, like the very popular spoons, the octopus is a shimmering adornment to admire as you enjoy your favorite strain of cannabis. For others, like the water pipe, the octopus can become integral to the actual use of the pipe.

From the inspiration to make octopuses in the first place, to the daily work in his studio, allowing the materials and process to guide the creation is a big part of Barr’s approach. “Every octopus comes out different,” he says, “how it ends up sitting on the piece totally determines where the tentacles sit. They’re all one of a kind.” Even where the last tentacle was placed plays a part in where and how the next one curls and flows along the vessel.

Barr holds tight to the flexibility that has gotten him this far: “When it’s not working, you just can’t fight it. I’ve had days where stuff starts exploding and I’m like, ‘What did I do to deserve this?’ you know? Sometimes you just gotta let it win.” Today though, as Barr shapes the intelligent eyes of the cephalopod that has emerged from two rods of plain transparent glass, it’s apparent that his vision is the one that’s winning.

bw WORDS / **CYNDLE PLAISTED RIALS**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

OCTOPUS GLASS: @ JUSTINBARRGLASS

Want one? Barr sells his octopus-adorned glass pieces directly to customers online, and you can also find his work for purchase in shops like Green Truck Boutique, Sweet Dirt, The Blazin’ Ace, Riptide, and Above & Beyond, among others. Spoons (straight-forward pipes) run around \$200, Sherlocks and hammers (they have a dip in them) are \$420, and rigs vary depending on size and level of complexity, but typically come in at \$800ish for typical bong shapes and can hit the \$1-2k range for big pieces like recyclers. In addition, he does some custom work for those who request it and are willing to pay for the service.

Oh, and Barr creates ocean-themed sculptures, too, purely for aesthetic enjoyment. They’re great for a centerpiece or side table.



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FINDING 'REAL MAINE'

From Ambition to Freedom's Edge on Route 27

WORDS / KIRAH BROUILLETTE

Maine is a state with multiple personality disorder. Each region brings its own sense of place, space, style, history, and, in some cases, even dialect (we're looking at you, Lewiston-Auburn). Once you dare to venture outside the regularly traversed locales, you never know what face she's gonna show you next. It's one of the many reasons millions of people come into the state each year, all year, exploring her, season by season. And for the most part, Maine's ski slopes and coastal inlets get the most attention (a google image search for the state proves that in seconds: It's all rocky beach scenes and mountain top vistas).

But between the ubiquity of these two regions lies the vast valley and lumbering hilly farmland of West Central Maine, or "Real Maine," as I like to call it — the place I grew up and the place I would wager most out of staters (and maybe even some natives) know the least about.

With a history of agriculture and industry urged along by the rushy Kennebec River for more than 200 years, this part of Maine is quieter, calmer, and much less flashy than her more well known areas. There's a gentle

anachronism to life here: Pre-Covid, folks still lined up for church suppers on Sundays; prom weekend brought the whole town out to the high school gym to take pictures of kids in their finery; and when tragedy would hit one of their own community members, everyone came out of the woodwork to help make sure families had what they needed.

From the Belgrade Lakes fishing and kayak/canoe scenes to white water rafting and camping along the river in summer to the ski, snowmobiling, and ice-fishing life to be found in the mountains in winter, there are endless ways to enjoy the region.

Luckily, Rt. 27 is a great way to get a stop-by-stop taste of what this Maine face has to offer, linking the sea with the mountains in one long, oddball road that's dotted here and there with both traditional-to-Maine spots to stop, like downtown Farmington's old-school book shop, Devaney Doak & Garrett, and the newest little up-and-coming breweries like Cushnoc in Augusta and Ambition Brewing in Wilton (more on those later).

Quite simply, Rt. 27 is the one of the best road trips Maine has to offer.



traditional brick pizza oven. We tried the Lawyer Up porter that was creamy-smooth and left a coffee bite on the tongue, plus the Freedom's Edge Cider, a totally light, crisp, and distinctly green-apple-tasting hard cider that was way too easy to drink and perfect for erasing the saltiness of their spiced nuts and fancy olive snack bowls. Be sure to hit the Insta-worthy neon sign on the wall that reads, "Born on the Kennebec," while you're there for a bomb trip-memory pic, too.

FARMINGTON

Up the road a piece, as my old-school-Mainer dad likes to say, after many twists and turns along the slowly ascending Rt. 27, you end up in Farmington, a tiny town compared to some of Maine's other cities, but culturally impactful nonetheless, as the influence of UMF has opened the downtown to a slew of art museums, shops, bespoke little eateries and, most importantly, a few cool weed shops — not least among them being **Caniba Naturals**. Their bright downtown Farmington storefront is only medical, but they're opening a recreational spot in Portland this summer. We were pleased to find the staff friendly and the flower selection vast. We chose Headband, which provided us with a breezy high that tasted like lemonade.

By this time we were thirsty and needed something to accompany the picnic lunch we had packed with sandwiches from **The Homestead Kitchen and Bar's** takeout menu (picture a traditional sandwich selection, but everything fresh, locally grown, and house-made), so we took a slight detour, about 13 miles round trip, out to Maine Street Wilton to visit **Ambition Brewing**. Arguably the tiniest of tiny craft breweries in the state, Ambition serves up a clutch of really out there drafts, with the Stop. Hammock Time. Cream Ale being our favorite among many great choices. It had a light malty flavor, with a soft creamy mouthfeel and a great finish to our Chicken, Maine Crab and Avocado paninis from Homestead.

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AUGUSTA/BELGRADE

For this weekend excursion, I wanted to bring my fiancé on this familiar-to-me trek — he's a city boy from South Portland who had never left the area until I convinced him to move north with me to the midcoast three years ago. Route 27 is a road I've been driving since I first got my licence, and though it technically starts in Southport and extends all the way northwest to the Canadian border, we began our trek in the Augusta/Belgrade area, kicking it off with an early stop for CBD tincture and coffee at **The Warehouse**, off 95 at the Waterville/Oakland exit, where a huge barn-like interior space fills out the front of a big brick-red warehouse exterior out back, in which they grow the plants used to create their homemade CBD tinctures and gummies and the oils they add to their house-ground coffee.

You can't find any flower here, but don't worry, Farmington offers plenty of that down the road.

From there it's just a handful of miles on criss-crossing back roads (your GPS can get you there from here) to pick up Rt. 27, or you can cut over to the Augusta link up like we did, being sure to stop in at **Cushnoc Brewing's** Water Street, Augusta, restaurant location (there's also an annex and tasting room, both of which were closed when we visited). It's a huge steel and concrete multi-floor behemoth that smelled like the fresh-dough pizzas they serve up from a modernized take on the

◀ FROM PAGE 23
KINGFIELD

By the time we got on the road to Kingfield, we were happily high and full of good beer and food, but we wanted to find some edibles to take back home with us (the kids were gone for the weekend, so why not?!). We were in luck, too, when we found **Sugar Leaf Co.** in New Portland. Focusing on small batch, organically grown flower, and derivative products, Sugar Leaf made up for in quality what they lacked in in-store purchasing options. We ended up grabbing a house-made chocolate bar that contained 100g of THC and found we slept better than we had in weeks when we finally made it home and got a taste with a single piece each.

In Kingfield, we ended up poking around all the shops in the little downtown; we actually ended up finding lots of good sales on ski gear at Downhill Supply. Though still full from our huge sandwiches, we decided to stop into **The Maine Beer Shed**, a store focused on selling beer cans and bottles from more than 150 craft breweries in the state, no matter how new or how small. They also pride themselves on selling cheeses and other farm goodies from local farms within 35 miles of Kingfield, with plans to expand into a beer garden and cafe once social distancing releases. It's surely a spot to return to at any time of year.

We look forward to seeing what they have coming up in the future because the six pack we grabbed from Foulmouth, **Bigelow Brewing's** Cast Iron Bitch made us extra happy, especially when paired with greasy Chinese from our fave local spot, back home in Bath later that night.

bw WORDS / KIRAH BROUILLETTE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WHERE WE STOPPED:

The CBD Warehouse & Coffee Shop
826 Kennedy Memorial Dr., Oakland / 207.716.4007

Cushnoc Brewing
243 Water St., Augusta / 207.213.6332

Caniba Naturals
232 Broadway, Farmington / 207.578.2102

Ambition Brewing
295 Main St., Wilton / 207.491.8458

Sugar Leaf Co.
211 Lemon Stream Rd, New Portland, ME

The Maine Beer Shed
394 Main St., Kingfield / 207.491.2282



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OIL AND JUICE MIX JUST FINE

WORDS / BRIANA VOLK



RECIPE

The weather is warming up and we are right in the middle of citrus season. The last few times I have been to the store, the oranges have been in peak form. And that is what inspired this cake. It uses plenty of fresh orange juice in both the cake and the glaze, so you won't waste a single drop, and it fills this olive-oil cake with flavor.

Creating this recipe, I went through six different iterations until I was happy with it. I wanted to find the perfect balance of sweet and savory, using the citrus and olive oil. I knew this was the cake to perfectly end a leisurely meal, where you cut into this late in the evening, or make for a sunny outdoor brunch. And as someone who doesn't particularly love saccharine sweet desserts, olive-oil cake has held a steady place

in my dessert rotation. By adding the orange juice and glaze, this recipe rides that line between savory and sweet, but remains a hit with those with a sweet tooth as well.

Should you want to treat it as a less of sweet snack, you can simply skip the glaze altogether. There is enough orange juice and zest to carry the cake on its own.

One of my favorite drink parings with this cake is a Shandy: a drink made from combining a Pilsner and Lemonade. The citrus in the drink and cake play off each other for a delicious and easy flavor combination. And you can always play around with the citrus in your drink; if you have extra orange juice, mix it into your beer instead of lemonade!

Embrace spring, the height of citrus season, and make a really easy cake that feels decadent, but fits in anywhere.

ORANGE GLAZED OLIVE OIL CAKE

YIELD: 10 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/3 cups extra-virgin olive oil
1 cup light brown sugar
2 cups all-purpose flour
2/3 cup cornmeal
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup fresh squeezed orange juice
1 tablespoon fresh orange zest
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 large eggs, room temperature

FOR THE POWDER SUGAR AND ORANGE GLAZE:

1/2 cup fresh squeezed orange juice
3 tablespoons powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat your oven to 375°F. Lightly oil the bottom and sides of a springform pan.

In a large bowl, whisk together the cake flour, cornmeal, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In a separate bowl, stir together the orange juice and vanilla.

With an electric mixer on high speed, whisk together the eggs, orange zest, and brown sugar until the whole mixture is light and fluffy (there should be no clumps), about 3-5 minutes.

While continuing to mix on high, slowly pour the extra-virgin olive oil into the egg mixture. When that is combined, reduce the mixer speed to low and add 1/3 of the flour mixture, followed by half the orange juice mixture. Repeat this, ending with the flour mixture. Continue mixing until everything is well combined and there are no clumps.

Scrape the batter into the oiled baking dish. Place the cake in the oven and bake for 60 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and a tester in the center comes out clean. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

While the cake is cooling, make the glaze by mixing together the fresh squeezed orange juice and powdered sugar. Once the cake has cooled to just warm, drizzle the glaze on top. Top with powdered sugar. Serve immediately.

Briana Volk is the author of "Northern Hospitality" and "The Wonder Woman Cookbook," and the owner of the Portland Hunt + Alpine Club.

GROWING OUTRAGEOUS WEED OUTDOORS

WORDS/ **DIRT DIVA**

Step 2: Soil and Germination

The weekend can be the best when you're able to have time off from owing anyone your time. When I do, I find myself wearing muck boots, with a cup of tea in hand, wandering around my yard. On this warming day in March, I note it is time to sow larkspur seeds, one of my favorite annual flowers. Unlike cannabeans, larkspur likes cool soil (55F), while a cannabis seed prefers mid-70s soil temperatures to germinate.

Okay, where's my garden shovel and rake? There most likely is a bit of uncovering to do before digging into the earth to scoop up a pot of rich healthy composted soil for the germination process of our selected cannabis seed.

Did I say, "pot"? It sure is fun to take a puff of last year's well kept stash before you get knee deep into the dirt. This is productive therapy. There's so much to be said about growing your own plants. Take the time; flowers bring pleasure.

Perhaps you have easy access to a pile of compost to use for the restoration of your land? Composting is a process by which we convert organic waste into soil-building matter to cultivate fields for grazing animals, crops, orchards and gardens. Muck turns to gold! It is claimed that early American composter Thomas Jefferson gave careful consideration to creating a nutritious compost and then drafted the Declaration of Independence on hemp paper.

Compost allows for favorable aeration at all times. If your garden has poor soil structure and lack of aeration, it will appear as a crusty cracking of the soil surface. To grow great weed, you will need soil that allows air and water to germinate and generate your cannabis beans. I highly suggest *The Rodale Book of Composting*, by Grace Gershuny and Deborah Martin.

No need for any fertilizer when you are germinating your seed, nor when your seedling is small; compost naturally releases nutrients and gradually adjusts as soil temperatures warm up.



The pH range for organic soil should be between 6.2-6.8, slightly acidic, almost neutral. If you didn't opt to get a soil test kit from UMCExtension, and you are curious about your soil pH, try the basic alkalinity/acidity test. This will tell you if your soil is alkaline, acidic, or neutral. Take two samples of your soil and place them in separate containers. Make a small hole in both of the centers using your finger, then put distilled water in, just enough to fill one of the small holes. After adding the water, sprinkle some baking soda into the same hole. If it fizzes, the soil is too acidic. If nothing happens the soil is alkaline or close to neutral. In the second container pour a small amount of white distilled vinegar in the hole you created. If it fizzes the soil is too alkaline. If nothing happens the soil is close to neutral or acidic. If nothing happened in either test then your soil is close to neutral.

While this basic test does not give you an accurate pH, it can tell you if your soil is beyond suitable ranges of acidity or alkalinity. (Do not use these test soils to germinate your seeds!)

Choose a clean, sturdy 1-or-2-gallon container with drainage holes to germinate your selected cannabis beans. The seedling will live in this container indoors for (most) of the next six weeks. Place a plate beneath the pot.

The container should be conservatively and loosely packed (if that makes any sense), three-quarters full of nourishing soil.

Now, let's plant our magical beans. One bean per pot. Make an

indentation in the center of the soil and place your seed upon it, take a pinch of soil and firmly cover the bean. Place the pot in a warm area, keep the soil moist to germinate, and throughout the grow. It usually takes 3-5 days until the bean pops; when it does, give your li'l' sprout glorious amounts of sunshine! When your seedling is strong and vigorous (having 2-3 sets of leaves) it will enjoy visiting the outdoors during warm sunny days. Mind that direct sunlight does not burn it, and be sure to bring it back in at night.

So, what if the leaves look a bit yellow? Poor li'l' seedling is stressed. It may be lacking in nitrogen and may need a gentle stir of the composted soil, just a tad with a pencil, minding the roots. Adequate water? Enough sunlight?

So, what if the leaves look a bit wimpy? Check for any drafts that may be chilling the seedling. Make sure the plant has good air circulation and adequate water.

So, what if the sprout is demonstrating marvelous straightforward growth? Consider it may be time to introduce Pro-Gro (somewhere around three weeks).

I am in awe of Pro-Gro 5-3-4. Skillins in Falmouth is the merchant that carries it. And now there is Pro-Hemp 5-3-9. I am looking forward to checking out this new product. The small 25-pound bags are about \$15. Healthy soil repays you far more than the effort it involves.

Create a compost/Pro-Gro sun tea by using a 3:1 compost and Pro-Gro combination in a five-gallon bucket, covering with water to an amber color. Set it out in the sun, periodically stir within a 24-48 hour period. Use this nutritious fertilizer to nurture the cannabis seedling.

The rule of thumb is to keep fertilizer from touching the plant or burning the root system. So gently baby spoon feed your 3 week old cannabis plant. Let the Sunshine, water, warm air and happy vibes bring great growth to your plants and to you: repeat.

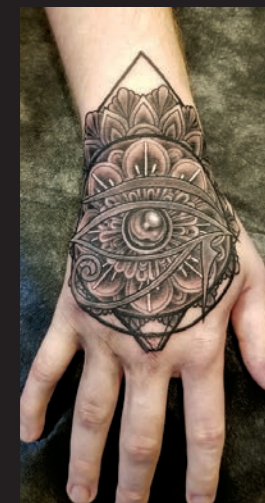
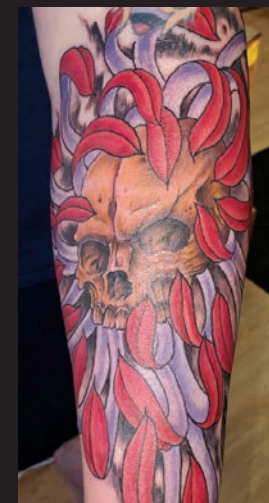
Next month, in Step Three, you'll be putting your seedling in the ground, right around Memorial Day. Stay tuned! Did you miss Step One? Find it in the March issue of Beer & Weed.



WORDS/ **DIRT DIVA**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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WORDS / SAM PFEIFLE

CANNABIS CITY, USA

A look into Portland's future as a destination and craft community

When 4/20 rolls around in 2022, Portland, Maine, will likely be among the premiere cannabis cities in the world. Given the current number of pending licenses for both medical cannabis and adult-use cannabis shops, there's some possibility those celebrating weed's annual holiday will find as many as 40 storefronts open for business.

That's roughly one shop for every 1,625 residents. Which would be a truly amazing development.

Of course, not every one of those licenses will be approved, and not every potential business gets off the ground or lasts even a year, but it's unquestionable that Portland will rapidly go from a city with a handful of medical establishments, serving only those with a card, to one of the hottest cannabis destinations in the world, with dozens of options for those over 21 and looking to catch a buzz.

Add that to the 21 breweries Portland boasts, and the seemingly countless bars and restaurants, and it's likely we see Maine's biggest city join the likes of Amsterdam, Prague, Marrakech, New Orleans, Montreal, Nashville, and Las Vegas as a world-class destination for bachelor parties and "hen do parties," as they say in the U.K.

Well, at least in the summer.

But just as Old Port bars don't represent every approach to serving alcohol, neither will there be just one kind of cannabis experience in Portland. Already, as of the first weeks of March, Portland has its first adult-use retail shops, and while they opened roughly six months after the October go-live date the state set, they're quickly catching up with their neighboring cities and towns and demonstrating a deviation from the stereotype.



Touring Sweet Dirt's new Portland location a few days before it's open, situated in the iconic Wok Inn building on Forest Avenue, it's quickly clear these aren't fly-by-night operations we'll be getting. An interior designer holds up printed decorations and talks about their patina. Contractors examine floor-to-ceiling window treatments. A bank of point-of-sale systems spin up. There is talk of installing a "living wall" on the building's exterior.

We could be preparing to open a high-end spa or yoga joint. The executive team who leads the operations could be running a tech start-up. They've even acquired the Maine Organic Farmer and Gardeners Association's Certified Clean Cannabis designation.

There's a reason Sweet Dirt founders Hughes and Kristin Pope reached out to friends Jim and Rebecca Henry, now CEO and VP of marketing, to help them take their

company from a targeted medical operation to a state-wide business.

"They wanted to brand the whole experience," said Rebecca. Coming from corporate marketing, she looked at some of the standard girl-in-a-bikini-with-a-bong cannabis marketing and knew there was a lot of room to grow for the industry.

"She saw a lot of bros," remembered Jim, "and I said, 'That's a good point. Why don't you go change it from within?'"

So they signed on and dove into cannabis, and they're now confident a lot of similar suburban families will do likewise. "I surprised myself," she said. "I loved the innovation in this space." And she thinks the Portland location

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will mimic the experience of their Waterville adult-use spot, where they've found a large population of older customers coming in to try cannabis for the first time. It's not surprising for Kaspar Heinrici, who heads up business development for SeaWeed, which opened its second adult-use retail shop down on Marginal Way in the middle of March.

"I can see where if you're a long-time resident of Portland," he said, "you might have a fear that there will be zombified people high on weed running around your city, but that's not what I see. I see people coming to Portland for what it is — beautiful neo-colonial architecture, all the local craft experiences — and they happen to be enhancing that experience with a 5-milligram or 10-milligram edible. And they're having an even better time than they would have otherwise."

Just like craft breweries, you can expect cannabis shops to have events and integrate themselves with the local community.

SeaWeed has plans for pop-up markets in their retail space, with partners like international importer Harlem House or local coffee brands setting up inside SeaWeed to give shoppers a diverse retail experience. For opening day, recently, they had a jazz duo in the corner.

"Bayside is a quickly changing neighborhood," said Heinrici, "and we want to be part of the fabric of that change and the new experience of that neighborhood." With recently announced plans for a large apartment complex with an outdoor pool, the rapid expansion of Bayside Bowl, the new Batson River Brewing & Distilling right around the corner, and any number of new restaurants and bars in the works, it would surprise no one to quickly see Bayside as the next hottest night-spot destination.

"The whole area is peppered with fun, interesting things to do," Heinrici said, "whether it's based on the consumption of great food, craft beer, and now add to that mix craft cannabis."

And you can be sure that people around the country have already gotten the message.

Jon Sherman is co-owner of Origins Recreational, a cannabis company that began with retail operations in Washington State, expanded to Oklahoma, and now will open this spring a location in the old Dunkin' Donuts building on St. John Street, right around the

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corner from Hadlock Field. He sees Portland's potential bright as day.

As a sommelier in a previous life, he can see parallels to the wine world in the same way others see parallels to the craft brewing world.

"One of the most exciting parts is changing the paradigm and people's preconceived notions about cannabis," he said. Remember when a screw cap on a bottle of wine meant you were likely to consume it out of a paper bag? Perceptions change. And cannabis perceptions will change rapidly, Sherman predicted.

"As the market matures," he said, "you're going to have a lot of players who are really trying to paint it in a different light."

While some will embrace the pot-leaf, psychedelic branding, others will go in a different direction. He points to their location in Seattle's Dexter neighborhood, where "it's very hard to tell it's a cannabis store. We don't have the traditional neon green lights. There's an aspect of preserving the image of the community. It just feels comfortable going in."

He also predicted events like beach clean-ups or guided hikes or tree plantings that will help cannabis companies show their commitment to the local community and its overall wellbeing. Once the city truly opens up from its pandemic slumber, you can be sure that cannabis companies will be right there with breweries and bars in encouraging fun gatherings — the only difference being an inability to offer on-premise consumption. But that may change.

After 2023, there's a possibility we'll see cannabis social clubs — as they now have in California — and places combining live music, cannabis consumption, and food in ways that will really rev up the fun.

Jim and Rebecca Henry envision a future with food and cannabis tastings, cannabis cooking clubs, and more. Heinrich said Sea-Weed's South Portland location is all set up for a back-deck experience and would love to be able to offer samplers like breweries offer tasting flights. Sherman predicted a farm-to-table atmosphere, where the growers are on site and mingling with those who want every detail about how their weed is grown and cured.

While Portland may get a bump from the bachelorette party crowd, it'll still be Portland. It will still be accessible and walkable and awfully cold in the winter. And it will still value local, craft experiences — whether for food, beer, or cannabis.

WORDS / SAM PFEIFLE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Future of Portland's Retail Cannabis

THERE ARE CURRENTLY AT LEAST 40 RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS IN PORTLAND THAT HAVE EITHER ALREADY OPENED THEIR DOORS OR APPLIED FOR A RETAIL LICENSE. WHILE WE CAN'T KNOW HOW MANY OF THEM WILL EVENTUALLY BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN THE FOREST CITY, WE CAN PROVIDE YOU A HANDY LITTLE GUIDE TO WHICH ARE OPEN AND WHICH HOPE TO BE OPEN SOMETIME THIS YEAR.

KEEP THIS LISTING AND MAP HANDY AND FEEL FREE TO CHECK THE BOXES AS THESE RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS COME ON LINE. GOTTA TRY 'EM ALL!

- All Kind Bodega

684 Congress St.

Adult Use

In Review

Core Empowerment

553 Congress St.

Adult Use

In Review

Evergreen Cannabis Company

178 Washington Ave.

Medical

In Review

Fire on Fore

367 Fore St.

Medical

Approved

Fire on Fore

363 Fore St.

Adult Use

In Review

Grass Roots Marijuana Shop

377 Saint John St.

Adult Use

Approved

Green Alien Cannabis II

486 Congress St.

Adult Use

In Review

The GrowRoom

230 Warren Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

Hazy Hill Farm

482 Congress St.

Medical

In Review

The Happy Cloud

306 Warren Ave.

Medical

In Review

Atlantic Farms

460 Warren Ave.

Adult Use

In Review - currently medical

Balance

360 Cumberland Ave.

Medical

In Review

Beach Boys Cannabis Co

115 Middle St.

Medical

In Review

Black Bear Bud

429 Warren Ave., Unit 7

Adult Use

In Review

Caniba

94 Portland St.

Adult Use

In Review

Coast 2 Coast Extracts

64 Washington Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

Coastal Roots

953 Congress St.

Adult Use

In Review

All Kind

688 Congress St.

Medical

Approved

The Higher Concept

301 Forest Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

Local Leaf Retail One

1397 Washington Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

Mountain Hi

783 Forest Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

Pot & Pan

646 Forest Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

Royal Oil Sebago

1140 Brighton Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

ME Plant Based Therapy

609 Congress St.

Adult Use

In Review

OMG Cannabis

47 India St.

Adult Use

In Review

Origins

327 Saint John St.

Adult Use

In Review

Portland Greenhouse

4 City Center

Adult Use

In Review

Stage R1

5 Spring St.

Adult Use

In Review

Silver Therapeutics of Portland

370 Forest Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

Sweet Dirt

1207 Forest Ave.

Adult Use

Approved

Upstate

610 Congress St.

Adult Use

In Review

Wellness Connection

685 Congress St.

Adult Use

In Review - currently medical

Higher Grounds

45 Wharf St.

Medical

Approved

Mantis Retail

408 Forest Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

Mystique Retail

745 Forest Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

SeaWeed Co

23 Marginal Way

Adult Use

Approved

JAR Co. Portland

9 Exchange St.

Adult Use

In Review

Kind & Co

684 Forest Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

Meowy Jane

145 Commercial St.

Adult Use

In Review

Landrace Cannabis Co

373 Forest Ave.

Adult Use

In Review

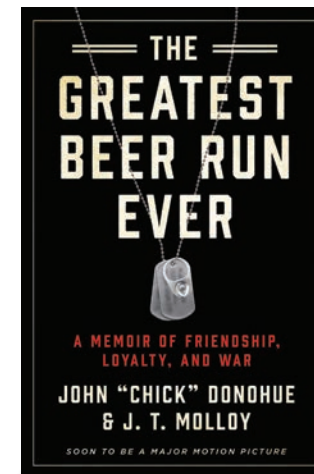


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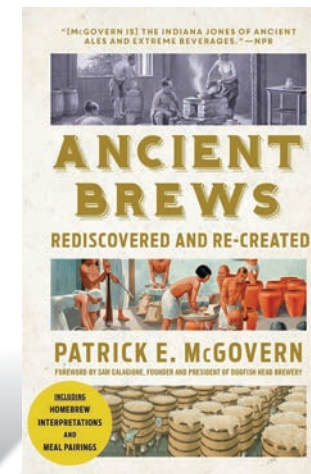
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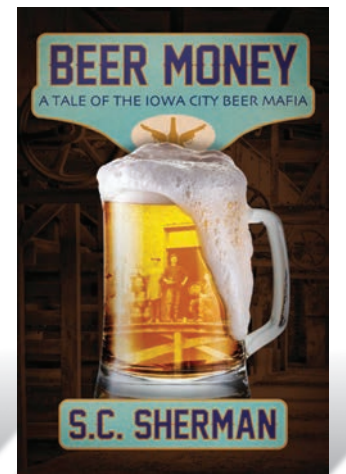
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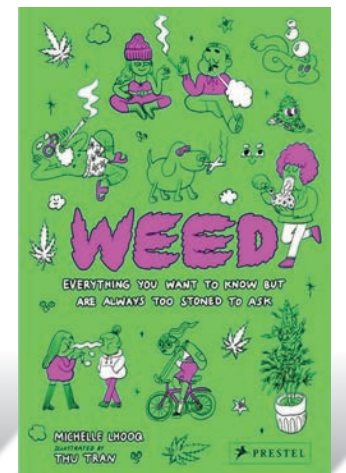
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BREAKING NEWS: THINGS HAVE CHANGED



SOMEWHERE IN THE WINDING PINES OF TATNIC ROAD, BEYOND THE HIGHWAY OVERPASS, AND OVER THE BUMPS, IT IS 2002. IN HIS TEAL HONDA PRELUDE, GALE PAULY PACKS A BOWL IN THE GARAGE LIGHT OF HIS MOM'S HOUSE. I SIT NERVOUS BUT EXCITED IN THE BACK SEAT. OUTSIDE THE CAR, DEER AND POSSUMS SNIFF THROUGH THE SPRING SMELLS OF MUD, THAWED DOGSHIT, AND THE SALT MARSH. INSIDE THE CAR, IT SMELLS LIKE WEED. THE FOUR OF US RAP EVERY WORD OF "AW NAW" BY NAPPY ROOTS WITH FAKE SOUTHERN ACCENTS. SOMEONE PASSES ME THE BOWL. IT'S MY TURN TO SMOKE WEED FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

Or I tried to. They walked me through it. Apparently, there was a hole on the bowl that I had to cover with my thumb. I fumbled for it in the faint light. Couldn't find it. They explained it again. Okay, I think I found it. Then I had to work the lighter. I couldn't get it to stay lit. I should've practiced. I had to hold the red part down. Okay. Couldn't get it.

Someone lights it for me. I'm embarrassed. I cover the hole. I remove my thumb. There it is.

I cough a lot.

I don't remember what happened next, but apparently it was good.

It's 2003 and I want to get my own bowl. My friends and I drive to the porn store in Eliot to buy one because that's the only place that sells glass pieces in York County. Next to various dildos, I pick one that is shaped like a Sherlock Holmes pipe — red fading to green. I name it Johnny Damon, after the Red Sox player.

We immediately christened Johnny in the parking lot of the porn shop.

Johnny Damon would faithfully follow me in my travels for the next year and a half. My friends and I would gather at my mom's house every weeknight to watch Jeopardy! — Jeff, Tom, my then-girlfriend Liz, and, of course, Johnny Damon. I smuggled him into Six Flags New England on our senior class trip. He attended

the prom. He stayed in the car every day while I went to work slinging seafood that summer. He came with me to college at the University of New Hampshire, where he met all sorts of new friends (thinking about how many mouths touched him in the time of Covid-19 is a little unsettling to me but it was 2003! Germs everywhere!).

Tragically, Johnny Damon would shatter into a dozen pieces on the steps of the Williamson Dorm that September, before the Red Sox won the World Series. He never saw the celebration that night in the late hours of October 27, 2004, when the Sox finally reversed the curse.

It's 2005 and I now want to own a bong. Again, we drive to the porn store in Eliot. I buy an epic bong and announce that we will christen it that night at a house party at my house. My mom and step-dad were out of town four-wheeling, as Mainers do, and after work the party begins. All my friends are there. Beers in hand, we gather in my room.

Unfortunately, we weren't the only ones who arrived.

Curious about all the new smells and foot traffic, my gigantic family dog Drew joins us in my bedroom. Everybody loves Drew, he's fat and old, so he makes the rounds as gentle scratches and hugs rain down on his greasy fur from all the guests. I set the bong on the floor to wrangle Drew but it's too late. Drew barrels through the bong on his way to smell one of my friends and, unused and virgin, the bong shatters spectacularly across the carpet of my bedroom.

We rolled a blunt instead.

In the years since, things have changed. I learned how to use a lighter. Marijuana went from secret contraband to a legal industry. The quality of the flower improved significantly. I learned how to keep glass things out of reach of dogs. And now you can buy a bowl at the convenience store without having to even see a dildo.

But one thing remains the same: "Aw Naw" by Nappy Roots still slaps!



WORDS / SPOSE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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