

2015

Whitefield News

Whitefield Newsletter Team

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Whitefield News

Volume 2, Issue 7

Published Monthly

January 2015

January Notices

Don't forget to license your Dogs!

Food Pantry—January 2nd, St. Denis Hall 1-3pm

Storm Shelter

Whenever there is a large storm or any other large scale disaster that impacts our town, the fire station will be open as a warming shelter where people can come, have some coffee, get water and the latest information on the situation. We are in contact with Lincoln County Emergency Management giving us the latest updates. We will address any needs or concerns of our community until the emergency is over. The station's phone number is 549-6125. Alternately, people can contact the Lincoln County Communications Center at 549-7072.



Jane Hellegers Memorial - Little Free Library "Take a book, Return a book"

By Cheryle Joslyn

Have you finished reading that really great book you were given for Christmas? Wait, before you just leave it to collect dust on the top shelf, consider sharing it with others who might enjoy reading it also. Books are sometimes difficult to part with it, but for what other purpose do they serve than to be read? Thanks to Stephen Smith, we have a new means of sharing books here in Whitefield. You have probably driven by and seen the tall, colorful structure near the Whitefield Superette. Perhaps you have even opened the doors to that wooden box and discovered the treasures within.



Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

As a young boy growing up in Whitefield and attending Whitefield Elementary School in the early 1980's, Stephen loved library time, and he

had a special connection with librarian Jane Hellegers. In fact, many Whitefield students had a special connection to Jane. Her warm and gentle spirit welcomed all young readers into the library. She opened the magic door to them at an early age with her read-alouds to kindergarteners squeezed in around her to hear her inviting voice read of some fantastical adventure. Jane was a one-of-a-kind "great" teacher, and she left her treasure with Stephen.

Stephen said he was a "bookworm" growing up. He likes to quote the Roman officer and encyclopedist, Pliny the Elder: "There is no book so bad that some good can not be got out of it." Pliny, indeed, read everything he could obtain. It is obvious that Stephen's thirst for books was quite similar. Now working as an attorney at the Augusta law firm Lipman & Katz, he recently combined his passion for reading and his fond memories of Hellegers by building the Little Free Library in her honor.

Whitefield needs a public library, but lacks the budget for a full-blown traditional library," said Smith. "Whenever I think of libraries and librarians, I think of Mrs. Hellegers. I built the Little Free Library because she helped nurture a generation of children reading, and reading has taken me to some wonderful places." The Jane Hellegers Memorial Little Free Library welcomes all ages to be "taken to some wonderful place".

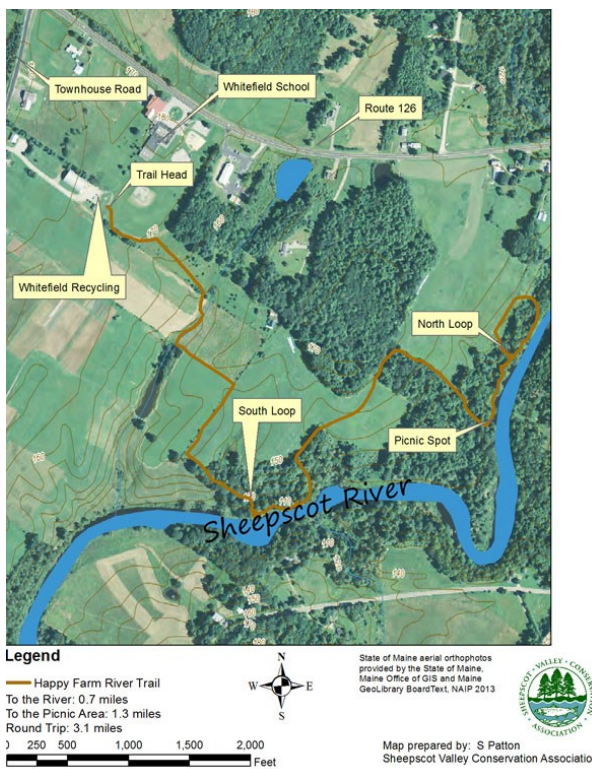
The origin of the Little Free Library is quite recent. In 2009, Todd Bol from Hudson, Wisconsin, its founder, started a worldwide phenomenon, or a "water cooler of literacy," as he described it. At his wife's garage sale, he displayed some books in a miniature red schoolhouse. The books were traded or given away in honor of his late mother who had taught neighborhood kids how to read. Now, there are 20,000 Little Free Libraries in 80 countries, and Whitefield has one of them.

The Whitefield box is a unique community connector. It is always unlocked and holds books that are free for the public to take and return, or to add to the library collection as many have already done. Smith's memorial library is larger than most, with three shelves for **Continued on Pg. 2**

Happy Farm River Trail opens

Due to inclement weather, the planned December 18 opening ceremony with the Whitefield School student body was cancelled. Nonetheless, this beautiful trail through fields, forest and along the Sheepscot River is now open to walking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Thank you to landowners Brad Bowden, Robin and Pat Chase, the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association, trail volunteers Kit Pfeiffer, David Elliot, Steve Patton, David Wright, Carole Cifrino, Ed Mooney, Bill McKeen, Libby Harmon and Jessica George.

The Whitefield Trail Committee will be planning a springtime event involving Whitefield students. (see picture on Pg. 4)



Legend
— Happy Farm River Trail
To the River: 0.7 miles
To the Picnic Area: 1.3 miles
Round Trip: 3.1 miles
Scale: 0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet
State of Maine aerial orthophotos provided by the State of Maine, Maine Office of GIS and Maine Geolibary BoardText, NAIP 2013
Map prepared by: S Patton
Sheepscoot Valley Conservation Association

Free Library from Pg. 1 books, so there is plenty of space to accommodate the interest of a variety of readers.

Jane Hellegers's legacy as a librarian and a human being left quite an impression on Stephen. "I have felt that access to libraries is key to opening young imaginations. While literacy is not a big issue nowadays, our modern culture does not value our priceless literary and cultural patrimony. Libraries help ground us in the past and look into the future," Stephen noted.

Whitefield, fortunately, also has other places where books are cherished. Our school serves as one of these places. The Whitefield school library remains a welcoming spot for its students. The cozy "nook" (corner) dedicated to Mrs. Hellegers is a favorite amongst the younger students who enjoy being read to by their new librarian, Mrs. Nason. For the older students who are now learning how to access books from the Maine State Library on their ipads, there are still shelves of paperbacks, hardcovers, and periodicals to enjoy, and the library space is still a popular "go-to" spot for quiet inspiration.



These Whitefield School students are enjoying a rainy day in the library nook! Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

Sheepscot General Store also has a "free to borrow" book space which was started by Austin Moore and his daughter, Becky, when they first opened the farm's store. There are children's books, movies, books on health, agriculture, and more. Community volunteers keep the resources organized, and more help is always welcome. It's easy to borrow a book for one month by simply checking it out at the counter.

Additionally, there are books to borrow at the Whitefield Recycling Center located behind the town office. You are welcome to take these books, return when you are ready, and discard unwanted books here as well. The center is open Saturdays from 8:00 AM to noon. You never know what treasure has been dropped off.

Check out all of these resources offered in our town, find a book, allow your imagination to venture, and share your experience with your family, friends and neighbors. Enjoy a good book!

New Deputy Town Clerk

At its December 16th meeting, the Select board appointed Deborah Willette of Jefferson as Deputy Town Clerk. Deborah holds a degree in business administration from the University of Southern Maine and has extensive financial experience including banking, stock and bond transactions, mortgage lending, payroll, credit card services and fraud detection. She also served as part time Assistant Town Clerk for Whitefield from 2002-2006. She currently works for Edward Jones in Camden.



Deborah Willette
Submitted Photo

As Deputy Town Clerk, Deborah will be responsible for tax collection, voter registration, hunting and fishing licenses, motor vehicle registration, voter registration and other functions.

Please join us in welcoming Deborah to the Town Office where she will start on January 2nd.



Small business community forum

You are invited to a small business workshop on January 10, 2015 from 9:00AM to 11:00AM at Sheepscot General. The workshop will be presented by local businessman, Ed Karass, owner of Karass Financial & Accounting located at 737 Townhouse Road. Mark your calendars for the workshop that will include information about business ideas, business structures, startup considerations, business plans, managing, and resources in the area for help with tax and business support. The presentation will be helpful for farmers and business owners and will provide an opportunity to compare plans and ideas with your neighbors. Selectmen will be present.

Whitefield Budget Committee

Discussions on the Whitefield budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 will begin on Tuesday January 6th at 7PM in the fire station. The discussions will continue each Tuesday in January until completion and then go to Town meeting in March. Budget committee members are Barry Tibbetts, Charlene Donahue, Carl Ribeiro, Malinda Caron, Erik Ekholm, David Hayden, Taryn Marcus and Simon Frost. Key considerations that the budget Committee and Select Board will be evaluating relate to the recommendations of the road committee and potential changes in Town Office staffing.

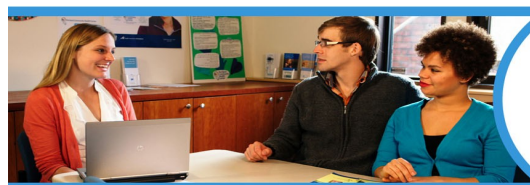
The public is encouraged to attend these meetings. The draft budget as it progresses through the process will be available on the Town website.

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From Emma Chase's diary

1934

Thursday, January 25

Central Maine sent bulbs and Harry is to attend to street lights. He is a lamplighter now.

Tuesday, January 30

Awful cold children all wore two coats to school. Norman went to dance Roosevelt's Birthday ball for Warm Springs foundation.

1935

Tuesday, January 8

Horace Tarr's house burned while he was in Gardiner with family. I went to fire with Chet and Kay all burned down

Tuesday, January 16

I went to Ladies' Aid down to Hall we sewed for Horace Tarr's children I run machine all day. Took our lunch

(Note of interest: Horace

Tarr's house was located on Rt. 194, where Phil and Barbara Russell now live.

Evelyn Tarr Joslyn was Horace's oldest child. She was six when the house burned. She recalls that her family had taken George Hunnington to Farmingdale to see a relative.



Tarr home Photo submitted by the Whitefield Historical Society

They didn't know of the fire until they came home. They did indeed lose everything! She and her sisters were boarded at the Felt farm for three and a half years. Her parents lived and worked at the Augusta State Hospital during that time until they were able to move into the house across the road where Evelyn still resides.)

They did indeed lose everything! She and her sisters were boarded at the Felt farm for three and a half years. Her parents lived and worked at the Augusta State Hospital during that time until they were able to move into the house across the road where Evelyn still resides.)

1937

Wednesday, January 20

I am listening to Roosevelt's inauguration. It is raining in Washington. Wonderful thing this radio. It is being broadcast all over the world. This is the first time the president has taken oath on January 20th.

Jane Chase, Whitefield Historical Society

HVNC helps outfit young skiers

Submitted by HVNC

Recent cold temperatures turn our thoughts to winter and winter fun. Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC) in Jefferson is dedicated to making it possible for everybody to enjoy winter. For the past two years HVNC has teamed up with the Maine Winter Sports Center and their Health Hometowns program to get kids in the community outfitted with quality cross country ski equipment. On November 19th HVNC volunteers and staff hosted a Ski Fit Session for young skiers, ages kindergarten to eighth grade and arranged to lease over sixty pairs of skis!



Photo submitted by HVNC

Kids participating in the HVNC program will take home a set of skis, boots, poles, and a ski bag for the entire season for just \$65. Participants can ski where and whenever they want all winter long. HVNC has orga-

Whitefield School students need your help

By Kit Pfeiffer

This school year there are several worthy programs which the Whitefield Elementary School students are helping to finance by doing some fun fundraisers. It's an important part of their education to work for something they really want to do. Here's how you can help them out!



The sixth grade students will spend five days at Camp Kieve in Nobleboro in early April in an experiential education program to develop team-building skills, such as working together to solve hands-on problems and navigating a ropes course. Attending Kieve as a sixth grader has been a tradition at Whitefield Elementary School, but this year's school budget could not fund it. To continue this tradition of learning beneficial life skills, the sixth grade students have set up an online campaign at www.gofundme.com/hhdjv4. They also plan a quilt raffle and a bottle drive in the winter.

Again this year, the fifth graders will take an educational trip to Boston in late May or early June. They will be walking the Freedom Trail starting at the Bunker Hill Monument and stopping along the way to see many historical attractions. The students will be learning about all of these places before they go, so the day will have rich meaning. To help raise money for their trip, the fifth graders run the school store and will hold a raffle later in the winter.

Sports are essential in middle school because it builds confidence, wellness and teamwork. A baseball team is planned for the spring, as well as a return of softball, and uniforms are needed for these and other team sports. For the first time this year, student athletes will be selling sweatshirts, t-shirts and other athletic items with the Whitefield Wildcats logo on it. A portion of all sales goes to the school's athletic programs.

An annual tradition is the eighth graders' class trip at the end of the year, to celebrate their graduation from elementary school. They're discussing a few day trips to locations right here in Maine, and their fundraising includes a Holiday Raffle and movie nights once a month after school.

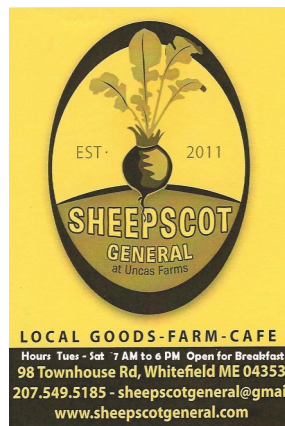
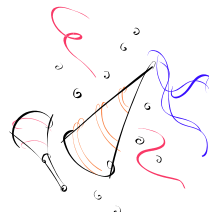
Please show your support for our elementary students by donating to one of their fundraising efforts. They will certainly benefit from your generosity. You can drop off a donation to any of these projects at the Whitefield School or mail it to 164 Grand Army Road, Whitefield, ME 04353.

nized several events to help young skiers put their equipment to use. Early in the year there will be an "Ski Waxing Basics" class.

HVNC will also offer the annual Kids XC-Ski Clinic for kids ages 5-12. The clinic, starting on Saturday January 3 and running for six consecutive Saturdays, is a great place for skiers of different levels to gain confidence and enjoy HVNC's trails. Instructors use fun, non-competitive methods to get the skiers out on the trails having fun each week. For more information about upcoming events visit www.hvnc.org or call 207-200-8840.

JANUARY 2015 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
- 2nd **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 3rd **Kids XC Ski Clinic**, Hidden Valley Nature Center, 9:30—11 am
Full Moon Owl Prowl, VCA's Trout Brook Preserve, Alna 5-7 pm
- 4th **Full Moon Art Walk and Community Supper**, HVNC 5:30 pm
- 5th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Anyone interested in supporting or learning more about CMVFD is welcome. We won't rope you into anything right off. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 6th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board Fire Station, 6pm
- 7th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Historical Society, 6:30 pm
- 8th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30 pm to 9 pm
- 10th **Small Business Community Forum**, Sheepscot General, 9-11 am
Growing Good Timber, Pruning Techniques HVNC 12-2pm
- 11th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
"Made in Maine" Ski history presentation & potluck, HVNC 5 pm
- 12th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Department Mgt., Fire Station 7 pm
- 13th **Select Board Fire Station**, 6pm
- 14th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
- 15th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 16th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 17th **Adult XC-Ski Clinic**, Hidden Valley Nature Center, 12-2:30 pm
DRUMMING CIRCLE: Open to the public, all ages welcome.
 Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
- 19th **Exploring Seasonal Adaptations at** SVCA's Bass Falls Preserve 1-3 pm
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 20th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board Fire Station, 6pm
- 21st **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Planning Board Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 22nd **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 25th **4th Annual Liberal Cup Biathlon**, HVNC, 9 am—lasts all day
- 26th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 27th **Select Board Fire Station**, 6pm
- 28th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 29th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am



Happy Farm Trail
Story Pg. 1
 Photo by
 Tony Marple

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
 We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

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Whitefield News

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Happy Valentine's Day

Volume 2, Issue 8

Published Monthly

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February Notices

Select Board update:

Road Work

by Dennis Merrill

The Select Board has received and endorsed the report of the initial citizen Road Committee's year-long analysis of local roads in Whitefield. The report sets an initial plan for restoring all Town roads to "good" condition over time.

One critical element of the report is a recommendation for a new Standing Roads Committee. That committee will continue to evaluate town roads and the effectiveness of work done. It will also recommend priorities, needed work, and budgets. This information, along with input from the Road Commissioner and Select Board, will form the basis for future road improvement and maintenance.

The Select Board is very interested to hear from citizens who may want to participate on the Roads Committee either as a member or as a contributor to the committee's work as needed.

This includes both those who have some background with road management and those who simply have an interest in town affairs or roads. Also, it includes people who may want to contribute over time and those who may have something to add on a limited or intermittent basis.

If you want to know more about the Standing Roads Committee, you can contact the Town Office at 549-5175.

Storm shelter

Whenever there is a large storm or any other large scale disaster that impacts our town, the fire station will be open. The station's phone number is 549-6125. Alternately, people can contact the Lincoln County Communications Center at 549-7072.

Maine ice boating

By Bill Bunting

Red Herring, my iceboat, is #86 of the Nite class. Nites first appeared about 1970, built by the same shop in Wisconsin that builds them today. The class now numbers over 600 boats, overwhelmingly located in the Midwest – very few have ever come to Maine.

In 1992 I found #86 lying under a bush in Calais.

Some structural damage was evidently the result of a very sudden stop. Blue paint had been slopped over the original red gel-coat of the fuselage, and a plate on the cockpit coaming read, "Property of the U.S. Navy." This former (recreational) naval vessel, once stationed at the Winter Harbor radar base, had been auctioned off for \$140; I met the current



Photo by Dickie Saltonstall taken on Damariscotta Lake at sunset

owner's asking price of \$200 with but little dickering, so we were both pleased. Today, a new Nite costs about \$8,000.

Nites remain popular because they sail well, are ruggedly built, seat two people in a squeeze, and, if not quite "Barco-loungers on ice," are much more comfortable than smaller, open iceboats like the DN, the world's most numerous iceboat. Unlike the DN, Nites are a strictly one-design class, frozen in time, keeping Nite #1 competitive with Nite #600, but foregoing recent go-faster innova-

tions.

The allure of an iceboat lies in its acceleration, its magical speed, and the deep rumble of the runners. Iceboats sail faster than the wind – in fact, they cannot sail at all unless they are going faster than the wind. At high speed, the iceboater is transported to a private state divorced from other worldly realities. **Continued on Pg. 2**

Crooked Door Farm

By Jim Torbert

Suzanne Balbo and Clint Towle covered a lot of territory before settling on their farm on the Gardiner Road a little over two years ago. They were first introduced while Clint was teaching in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Suzanne was teaching at Belgrade Elementary, in Maine.

Suzanne Balbo is a native Mainer. She grew up in Oakland, graduated from Messalonskee High School, then earned a Bachelor's degree in Education at U.M.O. She went on to earn a master's degree from Ohio University and then landed her first teaching job in a Montessori school in Santa Fe. A year later, she came back to Maine to teach in the Belgrade elementary school.

With a dad in the Air Force, Clint Towle grew up "all over the country," but he ended up earning a B.A. at Colorado College. After traveling for a year to satisfy his wanderlust, he settled down (or so he first thought) to be an elementary school teacher in Santa Fe.

After being match made by the parent of one of



Candace, Clint & Suzanne Balbo-Towle

Photo by Kristen Dillon, Blue Horse Photography

his students, Clint convinced Suzanne to move to New Mexico. At that point, farming and Maine were far from their minds. A few years later, they were married, but quickly realized that their mortgage was bigger than their incomes. They took on teaching jobs at an international school in Surabaya, Indonesia, where they were able to live frugally for three years and grow their bank account, even with the birth of their daughter, **Continued on Pg. 2**

Iceboat Continued from Pg. 1 Additionally, iceboating is a relatively safe and economical way to occasionally be scared to death, a mind-cleansing experience not easily attained in our tame, modern world.

Sailing an iceboat is not like sailing a boat on ice; rather, it is a matter of piloting a vertical wing on ice, which explains its seemingly impossible speed. An iceboat always sails close-hauled to the apparent wind, even when sailing downwind, and must tack when going downwind, as well as upwind, or else it will stall, just as an airplane can be stalled. The ideal wind speed for most iceboats is 10 to 15 mph. While most boats can attain speeds into the 50s without excessive drama, it is very difficult for them to achieve 60 mph or better, due to the greatly increased effect of parasitic drag at that frontier. An iceboat is a high voltage, low amperage vehicle, if you will.

Iceboating is very much a social sport. Sailing by oneself is not only dangerous but also really not very much fun. However, by adding just one more boat to the lake, it can become about as much fun as one can have. Despite their off-putting Darth Vader helmets, iceboaters are a very friendly tribe, sometimes even compared with drug pushers in their zeal to rope in new addicts.

The dedicated iceboater must have great patience with fickle weather gods, and must learn to seize the often fleeting opportunities when good ice appears. As a result, many are self-employed or retired – iceboating can be enjoyed long after other sports are given up. One of the more active members of Maine’s iceboating community is in his nineties – indeed, just last year he bought a third ice boat. Female iceboaters are warmly welcomed but few in number.

The Chickawaukie Ice Boat Club is Maine’s principal iceboating organization. Originally, CIBC members exclusively raced their DNs on Chickawaukie Pond (next to Rt. 17 in Rockport and Rockland). Nowadays, the emphasis is on cruising wherever good ice may be found within the state or beyond, and the fleet includes about every sort of ice craft from antique stern-steerers to cutting edge, winged-masted, carbon-fiberized, flyers.

Maine’s earliest ice is almost always on Plymouth Pond, in Plymouth, usually about December 7. Clary Lake often comes next. The larger lakes – Damariscotta is the CIBC favorite – ice over in January. Early lake is “black ice,” hard and fast; later season ice most often is “snow ice,” formed from “wetted out” or saturated snow, lying atop a black ice base.

Home-built boats have always been an important component of iceboating. Beginning in the 1930s, the DN became the favorite home-built entry-level boat, and thousands upon thousands have been built worldwide since. Today, while used DNs, of widely varying quality, remain the most common entry-level boat, the high cost of materials and fittings required to build a new DN scares many would-be home-builders away.

Recognizing a need, the CIBC features on its website (iceboat.me) detailed plans and instructions for building the recently developed and thoroughly tested entry-level Cheapskate, utilizing common lumberyard and hardware store materials, along with the rig of the popular Sunfish sailboat. On the CIBC website one can also order *Think Ice!*, the best iceboating book ever, written by Lloyd Roberts, of Rockport, and the CIBC.

See you on the ice?

Farm continued from Pg. 1 Cadence.

Both of them hankered for an outdoor life in the country; raising their daughter to live closer to nature. After teaching for a few more years and settling up in New Mexico, the Balbo Towles took the decisive first step by quitting teaching and moving to Maine. Once here, Clint signed up for a year as a MOFGA apprentice at Broadturn Farm in Scarborough.

After the apprenticeship and an undiminished love of farming, the couple discovered, through Maine Farmland Trust, that an interesting property was available in Whitefield. Suzanne admits that, although she grew up only forty miles from here, she had to be shown it on a map, “but the more we asked around, the more good things we heard.”

Long-time “Whitefielder”, Mike Sodano, wanted to sell his property and retire. He also wanted to assure that it would remain both rural and productive, so he had placed it under a conservation easement administered by Maine Farmland Trust, which also seeks out and vets aspiring young farmers and helps them find affordable financing. Clint and Suzanne were ideal candidates. They closed on the property in October 2012, and moved in two months later, naming their place and enterprise “Crooked Door Farm” after one of the openings into the old barn.

Now about to embark on their third season of organic market gardening (MOFGA certification in process), Clint and Suzanne have a little over an acre under intensive, raised-bed cultivation, much of it under season-extending hoop houses, along with a large flock of laying hens. They also share their cultivatable acreage with Andrea Bachynsky (another Broadturn Farm “graduate”), d.b.a. *Honeysuckle Way Flowers* and with *Fuzzy Udder Creamery* on Townhouse Road, whose owner, Jessie Dowling, pastures her sheep and goats on their land on a rotational basis. This partnership allows them to offer a wide range of farm-fresh and value added products to their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shareholders, including seasonal fresh produce, pasture raised eggs, a variety of cheeses, and cut flowers. Between early June and late October, their customers can make regular, weekly pickups at the farm in Whitefield, the Juniper Hill School in Alna, the Gardiner Farmers Market, and the Oakland Public Library. They also make weekly deliveries to Portland and So. Portland. More details and an order form can be found on their website, <http://crookeddoorfarm.com/>, by sending them an email (crookeddoorfarm@gmail.com), or by phone (1-207-299-3972 or 1-207-385-7451).

Clint and Suzanne also firmly believe in “Agriculture Supporting Community” (ASC), as Clint puts it. To that end, they donate unsold produce to local food banks, and this coming season, they plan on donating 5 vegetable shares, at a value of \$400 each, to needy families here in Whitefield. “Cost,” insists Clint, “should not be a barrier to healthy food.” If you would like to nominate a family for an ASC share, please contact them directly.



Web photo of produce from Crooked Door Farm



Whitefield Trash Service
Dana Rogers
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Household Garbage Pickup - \$2.00 per bag

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yard or sheds.**

Whitefield Trails Committee announces special planning meeting February 11

Have you been out yet to enjoy one of the two new trails in Whitefield--the Marr’s Ridge Trail on the Hunt’s Meadow Road or the Happy Farm River Trail which starts at the Recycling Center?

Do you have ideas about where the next new trail should go?

The Whitefield Trails Committee needs your ideas! Please join us on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:30 PM at Sheepscoot General Store for a special planning meeting open to anyone interested in the trails. If you can’t attend, send your ideas to Kit Pfeiffer, kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com, or call 446-9768, before the February 11 meeting.

The Walter Kennedy Homestead



This photo was taken by Walter's son, Horace "Hoddy" Kennedy by moonlight in the winter of 1936. What cannot be seen in the photo is a carriage and blacksmith shop which was located across the road from the house.

Walter Kennedy was born in Whitefield in 1866, and his sons, Roland and Horace, lived in the homestead until their deaths; Roland in 1972 and Horace in 1976.

Horace was an amateur photographer and took many pictures of Whitefield; including the destruction of the Ford Mill during a flood. His camera was a Kodak box camera with its own celluloid roll film. With much appreciation to him, we have many images of places and people in Whitefield.

The Kennedy homestead was owned by Jim and Theta Torbert at the time that it burned in 1996. It is now the location of the farm of Alice and Rufus Percy on the East River Road.

Jane Chase, Whitefield Historical Society

had any income not reported on the forms listed above, make a note for your tax accountant to include it.

When you sell stocks and other securities, you will receive a 1099-B as described above that includes the gross proceeds. However, it is not unusual for the price you paid for the stock (the cost basis which is your investment) not to be listed on the 1099-B. If the stock was received as a gift or inheritance, other means of determining the cost will be necessary. For every stock you sold, you should provide documentation of the basis for your tax accountant to determine the net gain/loss.

If you are a homeowner, you may be able to itemize deductions. Bring the property tax bill and the mortgage interest statement to your tax appointment. Medical expenses are deductible if they exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Prescription drugs, doctor, dental, eye doctors and glasses, hospital bills, medical insurance premiums and the mileage to and from the doctor's office enter into this category. Charitable contributions are deductible; however, records of the donations are required. Contributions may be cash, property, or out-of-pocket expenses you paid to do volunteer work. While commuting to an organization's office is not deductible, any mileage incurred delivering services, goods, transporting clients, etc. is deductible. You may deduct the actual cost of gas and oil or use the standard rate of 14 cents a mile. Remember, receipts and documentation of miles traveled are critical to support the donation or expenses incurred from your volunteer efforts.

Two final reminders. As you may remember, the Affordable Care Act requires everyone to have health insurance. Your tax accountant will have several questions for you regarding your status, as well as your family's status, regarding your health insurance situation. Remember to bring documentation of your health coverage. Finally, it is most important that you inform your tax accountant if you have been victimized by identity theft or have been provided an identity protection PIN from the IRS. Please provide the letter to the tax accountant.

This article provides general tax information focused on the most common items encountered by taxpayers. Please note that it is not all-inclusive as each tax situation is unique in some way, so please do not rely upon this information as your only basis to prepare for your tax appointment. Please contact me, Ed Karass, EA, and MBA, at Karass Financial & Accounting at 207-549-7182 for professional advice for your tax situation. As an Enrolled Agent, I am required to keep current on tax law changes that impact all taxpayers. I am a member of the National Association of Enrolled Agents, a member of the National Association of Tax Professionals, and graduate of the National Tax Practice Institute where I am a Fellow. I will save you time and offer insight on how to take advantage of tax breaks available to you to minimize your tax liability.



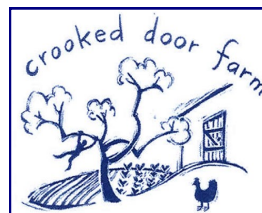
Tax tips

By Ed Karass

The 2015 filing season has arrived. It is important for you to contact your tax professional early to ensure you schedule a convenient time to meet with your tax accountant to prepare your 2014 income taxes. If you take the time to gather and organize your financial records, your tax return(s) will be done more accurately and in a shorter period of time. Filing your returns, for the most part, ensures that any refund(s) due will be processed in a timely manner; putting the cash in your hands sooner.

Start preparing now for your tax appointment by compiling a list of the documents you expect to receive based on last year's tax returns and this year's personal and/or business activity. If you are uncertain of what documents you may need, call your tax accountant for his or her advice, ask for a tax organizer worksheet to help you prepare for the appointment. As you start receiving your tax documents in the mail (usually around the last two week in January), mark them off your list and put them in a "tax folder".

If employed, include your W-2. Bring any 1099 that you may have received for interest income, dividends, pensions, self-employment, government payments (such as unemployment, tax refunds or Social Security), and the sale of property. It is helpful to bring the actual statements as well as the 1099s to your appointment. Remember that not all forms will look alike. Be sure to check the bottom of year-end statements that may be substitute 1099s. Don't forget to include any Schedule K-1s you receive from a partnership, an S corporation, or estate. If you



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FEBRUARY 2015 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Artist in Residence George Mason.** 6 pm at HVNC suggested \$5 donation
- 2nd **Full Moon Owl Prowl**, HVNC, 6 pm suggested \$5 donation
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Anyone interested in supporting or learning more about CMVFD is welcome. We won't rope you into anything right off. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 3rd **Select Board Fire Station**, 6pm
- 4th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
Whitefield Historical Society, 6:30 pm
- 5th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 6th **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
Author Reading from Hard Chance: Tree Farming in Troubled Times with Peter Pfeiffer, Sheepscot General, 6:30 PM
- 8th **4th Annual Liberal Cup Biathlon**, HVNC, 9 am—lasts all day
Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA) Whitefield School 6 pm
- 9th **Whitefield Municipal Fire Department Mgt.**, Fire Station 7 pm
- 10th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board Fire Station, 6pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 11th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
Arlington Grange 30: pm Meeting All are welcome. At Dana & Debbie Rogers
Whitefield Trails Committee special planning meeting. Come and help decide where the next trails should be! Sheepscot General, 6:30 PM
- 12th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30 pm to 9 pm
Meeting to Discuss Road Committee Report, Fire Station, 7 pm (Storm Date Fe19)
- 14th **Natural History Rove at SVCA Stetser Preserve** Saturday, February 14, 10:00 a.m. Egypt Road in Jefferson
- 17th **Nature Journal Workshop** sponsored by SVCA Tuesday, February 17, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Snowday February 18) at the Sheepscot General Store Fun for all ages!
Select Board Fire Station, 6pm
- 18th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
Planning Board Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 19th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 20th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 21st **DRUMMING CIRCLE:** Open to the public, all ages welcome. Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
- 24th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board Fire Station, 6pm
- 25th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
- 26th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am



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Volume 2, Issue 9

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March 2015

Town Meeting

By Dennis Merrill

Whitefield's annual Town Meeting will be held on March 21, 2015 at Whitefield School. Voting for one Selectman, one School Board member and three Planning Board members will be from 8:00 am to noon. The open Town Meeting will begin at 2:00 pm.

Much of the Town Meeting will apply to the usual business of the Town. The most significant issue this year is an increased budget for summer road maintenance and improvement. This is based on the recommendations of the citizens' Roads Committee. Over the past year, the committee developed an initial long-range plan to return all town roads to at least "good" condition and to reduce the need for costly rehabilitation over time. The plan stresses both capital improvements and a strong routine preventive maintenance program.

There is also a proposal to add a new part-time assistant in the Town Office two days per week. This would restore hours that were in place several years ago and will help ensure tighter financial procedures and cross checks.

The meeting warrant includes a proposal to build a town parking area between the Fire and Rescue Station and the Town Office. Currently, voting or meetings quickly fill the existing parking, and people have to park on Townhouse Road; creating dangerous conditions. The new parking area would provide space for about 30 cars with access from the Town Office.

Voters will consider an amendment to the Development Ordinance that would allow the Select Board to set fees for processing or applications under that ordinance. The fees in the present ordinance are old and do not reflect current costs.

Perhaps the most important thing is that the Town Meeting is the opportunity for every voter to have a meaningful say in the town's activities and direction for the next year. Don't miss your opportunity to participate in the purest form of democracy, Town Meeting.

St. Patrick's Day down on the farm

By Chris Colpitt

Growing up in a large family in a small town in the 50's and 60's was not uncommon. Growing up in a strict Catholic family of Irish descent on a small farm in Whitefield that had been in the family for five generations was, to my mind, special.

I'm not sure when my siblings and I started learning the story of our Irish heritage, but the lessons were subtle and not grandiose; almost inaudible. This history was spoken with quiet pride by our dad over the years, but it had left many gaps and lingering questions. As the genealogy bug spread in the 70's, my mother and brother, Mike, took an interest and started filling in some of the branches on both sides of our family tree. It was soon our Patrick of County Meath, Ireland whose name was revered as the pioneer of our Whitefield farm.

When we were young, our social events revolved around our family, church, and school...in that order. St. Patrick's Day seemed custom-fitted to the Mooney family. It provided us with a



The Mooney Clan Photo by Chris Colpitt

chance to just get together, eat, drink, and be merry. These were mostly civilized family affairs, thanks to 'marm' (our mother), whom of mostly proper English descent, kept the occasions tempered, but not dampened. There were no bawdy Irish ditties sung, as dad preferred the more Americanized 'When Irish Eyes Are Smiling' or 'My Wild Irish Rose', but just lots of food and fun.

Somewhere along the line, 'marm' discovered a recipe for 'whoopie pies', and they soon became our traditional holiday dessert; but only for holidays. St. Paddy's Day to us was a holiday! So over the years, the next generations perfected the making of this delectable treat, and for St. Patrick's Day, the filling was to be tinted a delicate green.

After our mother died in the early 80's, my siblings and I circled the wagons **Continued on page 2**

Plowing with David Spicer

By Tony Marple

It's Saturday afternoon in late January, and David Spicer is pulling his "wheeler" away from the Whitefield sand and salt shed. The prediction is for a coastal storm of four to eight inches.

David is the owner of Spicer Tree and Spicer's Bees. He thought that plowing and tree work might be a good mix, given the overlap in equipment and the somewhat complimentary seasonal workload. He won the Whitefield contract in 2012 and is currently paid \$175,000 for plowing and sanding 59 miles of road; a price that compares very favorably with that of neighboring towns. When he won the contract, he invested in three large "wheelers" (owing to the trucks' double wheels), the related plowing and sanding gear, a pair of two-ton trucks and two one-ton trucks which were also fitted out. He hired six crew members and has a back-up as well. "I always try to



David Spicer Photo by Tony Marple

hire the right people with the right experience," he explained.

Before the snow started, the men laid down a coat of sand and salt. This technique helps keep the roads clean and ice-free after plowing, but doesn't work when the temperature falls below 20 degrees.

David remarked, "I love plowing my hometown", as his "wheeler" lumbered **Continued on Pg. 2**

Mooney's continued from Pg. 1 around dad. We knew his love for his family would have to sustain him during this wrenching time, and we protectively gathered on any occasion we could. Birthdays, Christmas, Easter, and christenings were all fine, but come March 17, the closest weekend to that date was religiously reserved for our St. Patrick's Day gathering. Dad's kitchen table groaned with its burden



Mooney Farm Photo submitted by Chris Colpitt

of food. The counter was well-stocked with Jamesons and other libations and a tray mounded with whoopie pies waited its turn to satisfy family and friends assembled. Dressed in our various outfits, we were a virtual sea of green that would rival that of any on the Emerald Isle, and poor dad endured wearing whatever silly hat we had presented him for the celebration. As grandkids and then great-grandkids came along, dad embraced his role as 'Gramps' and loved being surrounded by them and the rest of the family; especially on St. Patrick's Day!

At one of these gatherings, a friend asked, "You 'kids (meaning my fifty-plus year old siblings and me) sing, but you don't sing any Irish songs! What's with that?" We had no answer, but soon after, we all learned to sing an Irish Blessing together, and it became our way of blessing many family occasions. I leave you here with the words to that lovely song, and wish you all a very happy St. Patrick's Day.

"May the road rise to meet you; May the wind be always at your back; May the sun shine warm upon your face; May the rain fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again; May you be held in the palm of His hand."



MAPLE SUGARING marks the warming of early spring, a job that helps piece together a year of work. On his farm in Whitefield, Austin Moore, along with Mark Fenderson, has been tapping sugar maples for over 20 years. They produce nearly 100 gallons of maple syrup each year.

Spicer continued from Pg. 1 down the road. The truck shook as the plow blades struck uneven road surfaces, and the noise was deafening. Proceeding down the Cooper Road, David explained that though the trucks are rear-wheel-drive, the studded tires make them "track like a Billy goat". Going down some of the steep hills on the Cooper Road, he uses the engine like a brake which gives the truck more stability. At each intersection, he backs up several times to give each direction of the intersection an extra layer of sand. With the 365 HP engine straining up and down the hills (fully loaded with sand), the cab was stifling; even with the windows open, and the open windows amplified the noise even more. "The Cooper Road is our hardest road to plow due to the high crown." In one of the many ironies in Town/State relationships, the State is responsible for the physical maintenance (such as paving on the Cooper Road), but the Town is responsible for plowing.



Photo by Tony Marple

Looking out the passenger window as David plowed the Hunts Meadow Road, I watched the snow fly off the wing plows as the wing barely cleared the mailboxes. It seemed like a superhuman feat to plow that close without hitting them. "You're most apt to hit a mailbox on a narrow road", David said, "like on the Hunts Meadow Road when there is an oncoming car that isn't pulling over in his lane".

After plowing the Cooper, Hunts Meadow, and Devine Roads and heavily sanding all intersections along the way, David headed to the sand and salt shed to load up. "The trucks don't track as well without a full load", he pointed out. This "blizzard" was producing less snow than predicted, but he still expected to be working ten hours. "The longest winter storm event, primarily an ice storm, required four days of work; while the worst snowstorm I've experienced was when we were out 36 hours with only a few four hour breaks".

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Pictures of people at the 1952 Whitefield Town Meeting from a film taken by Chester Chase
 Can you help us identify these people?
 Email us at whitefieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
 or call Jane Chase at 549-7613



The Wilderness and Robert Perry

By Charlie Tobin

When I was growing up the last telephone pole on our road was right in front of our house. The road continued on past our place, but the absence of poles said to this wild-eyed boy that what was beyond just had to be "Wilderness".

What was beyond?

Where did the road go? As a child you can imagine all kinds

of magical, beautiful, scary, dark, and mystical possibilities. It was anything and everything my mind wanted it to be. It became the Wild West with buffalos and Indians in the summer and the North Pole with Santa's workshop just over the hill in the winter.

Using the internet of the day (Encyclopedia Britannica) Daniel Boone or Davey Crockett and a host of others beckoned to me to come explore what lay beyond the limit of how far I was able to wander from my front step. Not being the perfect child, I sneaked further past the allowable distance and returned at dusk as if I'd been close by all the time. Yet each venture was like an elixir; calling me to go further and faster than the time before. One such occasion follows:

While researching the North Pole, I read that a man named Robert Peary is credited for discovering the place. Not Santa! I was mad about that, but glad to see this Peary fella standing on a pair of snowshoes in a photo alongside the article. Immediately, thoughts of polar exploration filled my head. I found some snowshoes which had been dropped off at our house on the Benner Road (where Sam and Alice Hutchinson now live). The Hutchinsons might concur that the tree line looking north from the back stoop is about 1/4 mile in distance. That was my goal. Tree line = The North Pole!

Now typically, kids know everything. Take snow, for instance..."don't walk where you have to shovel", "do learn to cut blocks if the snow is sticky enough", and "keep your shovel the same temperature as the snow". I didn't know that also meant "glossy-varnished snowshoes being left outside", as well. Another thing was "just because the snow isn't real deep in your yard, doesn't mean that the whole field is the same depth as your yard".

Bear Paws! They were Bear Paws, and for short-legged kids, they make you step with this hideous outward swing of your legs in a forward circular motion. Being nice and warm from the house, they quickly gathered mass by not letting go of the snow they touched. Within 50 feet of the great expedition, my hips were on fire! By the halfway point, I was fisting snow into my mouth for moisture and sweating like a coal tender on a locomotive. About 200 feet from the North Pole, I was exhausted, played out, spent, and a failure. Nothing left to do, but get out of those snowshoes and head for the house.

My first step without those Bear Paws on let me know the snow was even with my pants pockets. I tried tucking the snowshoes under my arms. That didn't work. I tried balancing them on my head. That didn't work, either. I ended up dragging them. I'm sure it would have been easier to push a wheelbarrow full of stones from my house to the State House steps and back again. That was an adventure I'll always remember...going to the North Pole.



Joe, Mary, Maryjo, Ann and Charlie Tobin (Terry Tobin born after photo) Submitted photo

MARCH 2015 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 2nd** **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.** Anyone interested in supporting or learning more about CMVFD is welcome. We won't rope you into anything right off. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 3rd** **Select Board** Fire Station, 6pm
- 4th** **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
Whitefield Historical Society, 6:30 pm
- 5th** **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscoot General. 10 am
- 6th** **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 7th** **Fire Recovery Dinner/Dance Benefit for the Rideout Family, American Legion 46, Griffin St., Gardiner 3pm—11 pm ish Dinner, Music, Raffles, Cash Bar**
Build a Pack Basket HVNC is offering an opportunity to learn to build a traditional pack basket. The cost of the class is \$75 for HVNC, PWA, SVCA, DLWA and SWLA members, and \$85 for non-members. Registration information are available online at hvnc.org/registration/. 8am – 4pm
- 8th** **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 9th** **Fire Department Appreciation Gathering** express support and appreciation to our local Fire Fighters, Whitefield Fire Station 6:30 pm (presented by the Women of Whitefield)
Whitefield Municipal Fire Department Mgt., Fire Station 7 pm,
- 10th** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board Fire Station, 6pm
- 11th** **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
Arlington Grange 30: pm Meeting All are welcome. At Dana & Debbie Rogers
- 12th** **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscoot General. 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30 pm to 9 pm
- 13th** **Honey and the honey bee talk Ralph Lyden** brings 30 years of beekeeping. His experience with beekeeping started as a market gardener, using a few colonies for crop pollination. Sheepscoot General. 6:30 pm
- 17th** **Select Board** Fire Station, 6pm
- 18th** **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
Invasive Forest Insect Outreach Training ,Knox-Lincoln Cooperative Extension Office 377 Manktown Rd, Waldoboro 9 am—1 pm
Planning Board Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 19th** **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscoot General. 10 am
- 20th** **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscoot General, 7-9 pm
- 21st** **Town Meeting, Whitefield School, Voting 8 am—12 noon Meeting 2:00 pm**
Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Benefit Dinner Serving beginning at 5 pm
 At The St. Denis Parish Hall, Route 126 in North Whitefield Good Will Donations Only - Proceeds to Benefit Local Charities
DRUMMING CIRCLE: Open to the public, all ages welcome. Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm
- 24th** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board Fire Station, 6pm
- 25th** **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
- 26th** **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscoot General. 10 am
- 29th** **Whitefield Historical Society** - Joint program with the Jefferson Historical Society at 2PM on Sunday March 29th at the townhouse. There will be a slide show and presentation by Marie Sacks on the artistic colony that settled and lived around Clary lake in the early 1900's.
- 31st** **Select Board** Fire Station, 6pm



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Donations for Families who lost their home to Fire.



Rideout Family Fire
<http://www.gofundme.com/WhitefieldFire>

Fenderson Family Fire
<http://www.gofundme.com/lbgc8>

A benefit supper is being planned by Erskine Students for the end of March. We will put the date on the Town Calendar when the date is finalized.



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Volume 2, Issue 10

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April 2015

Last Issue of the Whitefield Newsletter

We are sorry to say that this is the last issue of the newsletter. We appreciate the opportunity to share this publication with you and hope you enjoyed it.

Sadly, we have found that our busy lives make the time we put into the newsletter a real chore, and we (being such popular and often called upon individuals) feel we need to work on other projects; such as world peace and the extinction of rare species. So, thanks for picking up a copy of the newsletter and farewell.

(APRIL FOOLS)

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 50/50 Raffle - Activities for the Kids!

**MUSIC BY: Chris & Crosby, Spare Parts,
 The Whitefields and Double Jinx**

A DAY OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

The story of Whitefield's Happy Farm

by David Chase

(By now, most everyone has driven by and sadly seen the "collapsed"

Happy Farm. With appreciation to David, we would like to share with you a time when it was a very productive Whitefield farm.)



Photo Submitted by David Chase

The farm that I grew up on is popularly known today as "**Happy Farm**", and was probably built shortly before the Civil War - in the 1840's-50's on the eastern edge of the Irish section of Whitefield. The land was originally part of large holdings of Fr. Denis Ryan, the first ordained Catholic priest who also built and named St. Denis church. Clearing land, building barns, and creating homesteads was booming in the Sheepscot River valley.

For the next hundred years the farm with its setting along the river, its hilly fields and modest woodlands, provided a complete living for several families in succession - with a dream to make a living "off the land", start a family, and contribute to the vibrant community of Turner's Corner (later called North Whitefield).

By the time the newly married Norman and Lydia Chase (my parents) bought the 40 acre, fully furnished farm from the Jodins in 1940 for \$1800.00, the WW&F narrow gauge railroad had come and gone. Despite a post-depression economy, the dream of making a living on a farm was still alive. Dad and Mom populated the farm with a cow, a few chickens, and us four children (Steve, Peter, Marnie, and me).

It was a modest farm. The house had a dirt floor cellar with a stream of water trickling over the clay - when the drain had frozen mid-winter and after a rain, I've seen water two feet deep. There were three bedrooms on the second floor. The main floor had a bedroom, a living room, a dining room (that we NEVER used), a door to the attic over the living room, and a bathroom. In the el before the shed, there was the kitchen and pantry with its

iron sink. The shed contained the woodshed and a "two-holer" that we used up until the 50's. There was a full second floor; although, removal of much supports over the years rendered it VERY shaky, despite the metal rod holding the sides together.

In the early 50's, dad decided to provide opportunities for his growing boys by expanding the milk herd. An addition to Dad's wooden barn was designed and built. It was all concrete with a low metal roof supported by a multitude of trusses - new farm-building techniques for the time. It seemed that teams of masons and cement contractors were at work all summer. An electric powered vacuum system was piped to each stall (all 40) so that the new milking "machine" could be used. Automatic nose-activated watering bowls were also at each stall. This was modern stuff!

There was a nice milkroom addition where we had a small four-place-milk-bottling machine and deep stainless steel sinks where the returned milk bottles could be cleaned with a power brush mounted on a 1/3 hp motor. There was a chilled water tank where the racks of newly bottled warm milk were submerged **Continued on Pg. 2**

Whitefield Town Meeting

By Tony Marple

About seventy-five residents of Whitefield attended Town Meeting on March 21st. In the morning's uncontested voting for town officials, 106 voters cast ballots. David Boynton received 94 votes for Road Commissioner, Lester Schaeffer 95 votes for Selectman while Planning Board candidates Marianne Marple, Carl Ribeiro and Glenn Angel received 93, 88 and 88 votes respectively. There were no official candidates for RSU 12 School Board but the Town will investigate to see if write-in candidates are interested in serving.

The open meeting, moderated by Jeff Frankel, began at 2:00 with a Select Board summary of the overall budget proposal. The proposal would increase the municipal budget by \$107,667, with most of the increase due to winter and summer road maintenance. Town officials have not yet been informed of the County Tax, roughly 7% of the budget. Whitefield's share of the RSU 12 Budget, the largest share of Town spending (more than 60%), will increase by an estimated 2.9% according to RSU 12 Superintendent Howard Tuttle, largely as a result of a 7%



Photo contributed by Lincoln County News

health insurance premium increase. Voting on the RSU 12 budget will take place in May.

The Select Board informed citizens of the upcoming personal property survey and encouraged business owners, including farmers, to complete the form promptly and accurately. The Town is updating antiquated property records to improve the accuracy of our personal **Continued on Page 3**

Happy Farm Continued from Pg. 1 to cool. There were 30 to 40 milking cows at different times.

During these times, my brother Steve and I (smack in the middle of our teens) both attended Cony. There were very little extra curricular activities available to us given the obligations at the farm. One day Steve would milk the cows, and I would bottle the milk, then run the "milk route" from Jefferson to Chelsea and Gardiner. The next day, we would swap duties.

However, our social lives were not crippled. We delivered milk in an old blue dodge pickup crowded with our buddies – sometimes taking time in the evening to "illuminate herds of deer" off Vigue Rd. Other times, purposely careening off snowbanks and doing 360's on the secluded Piper Lane. We would also deliver milk in the Jeepster convertible; often with a pretty girl to assist.

There was a basketball hoop in the big barn. We focused on feeding out the bales from that area first, so the court would expand daily as the winter continued.

There were many many basketball games played in that old barn. Earlier on, we had pogo sticks, and with the sloping concrete walkways around the cows, we would speedily jump around the course; much to the entertainment of the cows!

Come spring there was an outdoor game with the neighbors. The trick of the game was to "take your turn" to race back to the barn in order to move the milker on to the next cow in time! This was a challenge I often failed .

When pasture time came (about mid May), the cows were "put out". On that first day, they were literally crazed with joy. After a full half year chained to a stall there was little wonder.

Fencing with the insects, mud, and heavy tools was no ones favorite chore. It was reduced to a quick visual check and some staples. We paid for that! As the grass on the other side of the fence grew taller, the wire stretched to breaking because of the leaning cows. We were constantly on edge. When the phone rang, we knew we were in for a bad time. We had to round up the wandering cows from neighbor's gardens and lawns, and they often crossed the river to visit their friends who were captive behind better fences. Dad would sometimes use a bull for field-breeding, and that "dude" was accused more than once for starting a family with a neighboring herd. Soon, AI (artificial insemination) seemed a very wise idea.

Dad always grew corn for silage for winter feed supplement. There was a series of wooden and metal silos at Happy Farm. At least one collapsed. Many sported strings of Christmas tree lights around the top. There is an old shallow rocked-up dug well next to the silo. When the open-top silo was full, water would drain down the 50 feet of ground corn, through the soil, and into that well. There were those who claimed that by mid- winter that water was 30 proof!

When my brother and I headed off to college, it was impossible for Dad to continue the milk route. Shipping bulk milk had become the practice among most dairy farmers, so Dad made the move. He continued to supply raw milk by the jug to only a few locals who were "brought up" on it.

Mom would experiment with an English style B&B which had several very interesting and dear people who boarded at Happy Farm. There were school teachers, doctors from Togus, and many people visiting in town who needed a place. Maria Patfoort came from the Congo to Whitefield and spent years at Happy Farm becoming a dear family member.

By the mid 60's, Dad had retreated from politics and was working his way out of the farm equipment business. The farm became his sole income. He raised and thrashed dry beans. He grew sweet corn.

In July 1981, on Dad's birthday, there was a devastating fire in the farmhouse at Happy Farm. It was nearly a total loss, but with the help of the entire community, the place was made comfortable again. The spirit of Happy Farm survived.



Photo Submitted by David Chase

No one is certain when Dad named his farm, "Happy Farm", but it was probably in the mid 80's because a traveling photographer for the Boston Globe took a picture showing Mitch Cooper on a ladder painting the peak doors while Dad held the ladder. That picture in the Sunday, October 30, 1988 issue had the byline, "Don't worry", and the "Happy Farm" lettering looks new.

In 1976 the North Whitefield Volunteer Fire Dept. (which Dad had organized in the late 40's) sponsored what would eventually be a series of five very popular Annual Bluegrass Festivals in the back fields of Happy Farm; near the river - the crowds were large and the music wonderful. Dad was in his glory - live music, young people having fun, dancing in his backfield!

As he neared his 80's, milking cows and the obligations tied with shipping milk, forced Dad into selling the herd.

In 1990 he received recognition for his 25 years of service to the Lincoln County agricultural community. By the 90's, he was slowing down and his separation from farming activities bothered him. His health deteriorated, and in 1995 he died.

In 2002, recognizing the importance of Happy Farm and its location on the Sheepscot, SVCA, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Farms for Maine's Future brought easements and guarantees that Happy Farm would forever be a farm. The farm was sold to Dad's nephew, Pat Chase and his wife Robin, with life tenancy for Mom.

(A more detailed and illustrated history may be found on the Happy Farm webpage: www.mainething.com/happyfarm/)

Coopers Mills Dam Committee

By Tony Marple

The Select Board has appointed a citizen committee to review options for the Town owned Coopers Mills dam. The committee members are Leslie McCormack, Chuck Vaughn, Herb Hartman, Louie Sell, Jane Chase, Barry Tibbetts, Scott Higgins representing the Fire Department and Tony Marple representing the Board.



Photo by Tony Marple

The committee was formed to respond to the interest of and potential funding from the Atlantic Salmon Federation (AFS) and the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (SVCA) for a plan that would remove the dam or provide enhanced fish passage. Any solution must retain or enhance access to water for the firemen, historical recognition of the dam and former mill and a long term maintenance plan. While AFS and SVCA have a particular interest in enhancing the passage of anadromous fish, the committee will review all potential options including dam repair and hydropower.

Our goal is to have a recommendation for the Town to vote on at the March 2016 Town Meeting. Committee meetings will take place at least monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Fire Station. The public is welcome. After a number of educational sessions from biologists, engineers, and historical representatives, the committee will begin considering options this summer. Public forums will take place no later than next fall to explain the options and to receive input.



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To the left is the Ford Mill in Kings Mills during the flood of March 1936. That flood also took out (never to be replaced) the Carlton bridge which spanned the river from East River Rd. to

Philbrick Lane as is noted in Emma Chase's diary. The large brick house down right was known as the "Ford Place" at the time. Tom Wellman and Ann Twombly have lived there for many years and have just recently sold it. Previous owners were John and Tatiana Sitchenko.

Town Meeting Continued from Pg. 1

property taxes. The Town is required to levy personal property taxes under State law and wishes to do so as fairly as possible.

The discussion and voting on warrant articles proceeded quickly. The voters approved a \$69,250 increase in the road maintenance budget under a ten year plan recommended by the citizen Road Committee. The road plan includes an emphasis on preventive maintenance such as ditching and a more scientific approach to road paving and reconstruction.

After some discussion, the voters approved the construction of a gravel parking lot between the Town Office and the Fire Station, to improve parking safety during emergencies, elections or other events such as Whitefield Day.

There was considerable discussion regarding the Select Board's recommendation to accept Moosehead Lane as a Town road. The measure was voted down a year ago due primarily to the lack of a road acceptance policy which the Select Board developed last fall. Ultimately, the acceptance of the road was approved.

Citizens also requested that the Board provide more details regarding charitable programs in the Town budget.



Photo contributed by Lincoln County News

School and community come together in Whitefield

By Niki Mathews

Kindness, perseverance, and teamwork are themes that have been circulating around Whitefield Elementary School this winter. On January 26th, middle school students from Whitefield and Chelsea joined together to participate in the PBIS Bully Prevention Program. (Keep reading for a little more information about PBIS). The Friends of Rachel Club from Erskine Academy opened the event with a presentation about kindness and its positive effect on people. The group had students and staff laughing and cheering during role plays outlining various social scenarios encountered at school. Scenarios that are sometimes about fun, but can often become hurtful. Students reflected on how they may have changed each situation for a more positive outcome. Brave students who spoke up were happy recipients of t-shirts and water bottles, from the F.O.R. Club.



All students were then challenged as a group, to pass through a moving jump rope. After a few attempts, students came together to form a team plan and succeeded just before time was up. During the last hour, students rolled up their sleeves and got to work, learning the school's new bully prevention program. The program teaches the "stop, walk, talk" method to handle a bullying situation. The steps are easy: ask the bully to stop. Next, walk away. Lastly, talk to an adult if needed. To many students it seemed too simple, but the key is consistency. Students are taught what is expected of them and how to react to a situation, rather than guessing what to do.

Excitement continued at Whitefield Elementary School on February 12th, when Bob Holmes, the "One Man Volleyball Team" visited the school. Bob hosted two assemblies (for grades K-5 and 6-8) as well as an evening program for the community. Throughout the day, Bob played volleyball against teams of students, staff, police officers, and other community members. Bob has won over 16,000 volleyball games, his list of victories includes the Miami Dolphins, Toronto Blue jays, Pittsburgh Steelers, and now the Town of Whitefield. But it wasn't volleyball that made the biggest impact on the crowd. Bob left students with a powerful message to dream, look ahead, and beat the odds by never giving up.

The students of Whitefield and surrounding schools, as well as the community, have enjoyed these unique learning opportunities. Whitefield School will continue to build kindness, perseverance, and teamwork through daily activities and the school is in the planning stages of more distinct learning events.

Notes: The bully prevention program is part of PBIS, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. PBIS is being implemented within the school district. Whitefield is in its second year. The goal of the program is to create a school climate that offers a continuum of positive support to all students. Expectations are clear and lay a foundation for students and staff to build on. Whitefield School has seen great improvement in school climate since the program was introduced. PBIS information and updates can be found in the school's newsletter, the Wildcat Weekly.

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APRIL 2015 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Whitefield Historical Society**, 6:30 pm
- 2nd **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 3rd **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 6th **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 7th **Laughing Yoga with Karen Stultz** Join us and discover the fast and easy way to reduce stress, and have fun doing it. 6:30 pm
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting, Public welcome, 7 pm
- 8th **Arlington Grange**: 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
Grow Your Own Organic Garden presented by Crooked Door Farm an evening long work shop on how to grow your own organic garden. Please call or email the store to sign-up. 6:00 pm
- 9th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30-9 pm
- 10th **Mes Amis Concert** performed as a duo, trio or quartet depending on which friends (on bass, violin, sax or clarinet) join in to play the music they love, a mix of Gypsy, Latin, and American jazz 7 pm
- 11th **Benefit Concert Event** for Whitefield School's Food Pantry, 3-7 pm. Music and crafts for the kids. FMI, contact Sarah Crosby, 458-7905
- 12th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 13th **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 14th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 15th **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6-8 pm
"Fairytale Network" dramatic production, Whitefield Elementary School, 10 am and 6 pm. Donations welcome.
- 16th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 17th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscoot General, 7-9 pm
- 18th **Chainsaw Safety for Women, HVNC, 8 am to 4 pm**: Hands-on workshop will cover safety gear, chainsaw maintenance, safe cutting, directional tree felling. Saws and safety gear provided. Register at hvnc.org \$150 for non-members, \$130 for HVNC/MOFGA
Vernal Pool Ecology Field Tour, HVNC, 2-4 pm.: Learn importance of vernal pools to Maine's native frogs, salamanders, and other wildlife. Dress appropriately. Free
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm, Open to the public, all ages welcome
- 19th **Chainsaw Safety for Women, HVNC, 8 am to 4 pm, (see April 18 details)**
- 21st **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 22nd **Earth Day Nature Journaling Walk, SVCA's Bass Falls Preserve, Alna, 10 am-noon.** Become a keen observer of the natural world by drawing and writing about plants and animals in the field. Bring a journal.
Earth Day Bog Walk, HVNC, 10-11:30 am with Hildy Ellis, Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District. All ages welcome. Members free. \$5 suggested donation for non-members.
Kennebec and Lincoln Local Working Group Meetings NRCS Augusta Service Center, 21 Enterprise Drive, Augusta 1-3:30 pm
Arlington Grange, 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
- 23rd **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Timber Frame Construction, four-day workshop, April 23-26: Students will build an entire timber framed shed from stump to finished frame. Tools provided. No experience necessary, \$450 HVNC/MOFGA members, \$500 for non-members. Register at hvnc.org
- 24th **Vernal Pool Field Trip**, SVCA's Stetser Preserve, Jefferson, 10 am – noon. (rain date May 1) Register at sheepscoot.org
Solar Energy Lecture by Revision Energy Friday Sheepscoot General 7pm
- 25th **Essential Oil wellness day** by Bethany Rackliff will be giving essential oil wellness consulting. Come find out how to balance naturally. 4 pm
- 26th **Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Training, SVCA**, 1-3 pm. New water quality volunteers needed to be trained and do weekly water sampling from May to Sept. Register at hvnc.org.
- 28th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 30th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am



*Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
 We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.*

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Town updating personal property records

By Tony Marple

Towns are required under Maine State law to tax personal property for businesses; including farms. In Whitefield, the Town's personal property records are out of date, and you should by now have received a survey to update that information. Personal property includes items like skidders, computer systems, farm tractors, backhoes, switching equipment, and other items used to produce revenue. Farms growing field crops and generating less than \$10,000 in revenue are exempt from personal property taxes with the exception of their tractors or other self-propelled vehicles. Farms with revenue greater than \$10,000 and all businesses will be taxed on their personal property at the same mill rate that applies to structures and land.

To estimate your taxes, multiply the value of your personal property by .015. For example, a tractor that has a depreciated value of \$10,000 would be taxed at approximately \$150.

There are business incentives (BETR and BETE) under State law that can substantially reduce your property taxes. Details are available at: <http://www.maine.gov/revenue/propertytax/propertytaxbenefits/betr-bete.pdf>.

It is important to note that any new tax revenue generated by additional personal property taxation will be used to reduce the overall mill rate. The Town's total tax revenue; including personal property, land, and buildings is set at the amount required to fund voter-approved municipal and school expenses; along with the Lincoln County assessment.

Please complete this survey thoroughly by the May 5, 2015 deadline. The Town will audit the results to ensure completeness.

For questions, please contact the Town Office.

Certified "Happiest Baby" educator: Pat Parks

by Cheryle Joslyn

Many of us have been there. Maybe we don't even want to admit it. It was (and is) such a parent's nightmare - our beautiful new baby just cries and cries and cries! Remember these words, "colicky baby"? Doesn't that phrase make you quiver? It is estimated that "half of all new babies cry and fuss more than two hours a day - their prolonged crying often triggers exhaustion, breastfeeding failure, marital stress, maternal depression, and even child abuse". Today, Dr. Harvey Karp shares with thousands of families his clinical techniques for quickly calming fussy babies and helping them sleep longer.

The Happiest Baby is more than just a parenting course, it is a "life skill that will help improve parent bonding", and for the first time, it is available in Whitefield. It IS the "cuddle cure" for those cries!

After retiring from Maine Department of Education's Child Development Services, Pat Parks of Whitefield



wanted to continue to make a difference in her community. With her 13 years of career experience, her work with parents as they learned about their child's growth and development, her Bachelors Degree in Social Science, her own two sons grown and establishing their own lives, and her desire to teach, Pat was led to learn more about another form of service that she could provide. After learning about Dr. Harvey Karp's *Happiest Baby, Inc* parenting course, she became a certified program educator.

With her training, Pat brings to Whitefield what hundreds of other communities across the nation are offering new parents and infant/child care providers.

As a certified educator, parents and providers can be ensured of Pat's familiarity and competence with the methodologies presented in her single two-hour course. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Harvey Karp, a nationally renowned pediatrician and child development specialist, has taught working **Continued on Pg. 2**

RSU 12 Budget Information for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

by Howard Tuttle (RSU 12 Superintendent)

The RSU 12 Board of Directors is pleased to present to you the fiscal year 2016 budget. Board budget goals and priorities include upgrading facilities and improving energy efficiency, expanding Pre-K offerings to more students, improving technology infrastructure, providing quality programming and quality training, and maintaining reasonable classes. The RSU 12 Board of Directors is presenting a fiscal year 2016 expenditure budget increase of 2.90% when compared to the fiscal year 2015 budget. State and federal subsidies and other revenues are less than anticipated causing a total local increase of 3.34% to local towns.

The cost sharing formula approved by RSU 12 citizens in 2012 continues to be phased in resulting in differences in contribution by town. The increase is not shared evenly by each town, because the cost to a town is based on several factors including the "historical" cost-sharing formula, the "new" cost-sharing formula (which is based on the percentage of the RSU 12 student body that lives in the given town), a Safety Net (that is helping the towns transition to the "new" formula), and a town's number of "subsidizable" students, as listed on the State funding formula worksheet, the ED 279. The interplay of these factors causes the individual RSU 12 towns to be affected differently, as shown in the table - which shows the local contribution that each town will be responsible for in the 2015-2016 school year if the voters in RSU 12 towns also approve the budget approved by the RSU 12 School Board on April 9th.

The RSU 12 budget continues to place an emphasis on staff and programs that contribute positively to the education of our students. More details about the budget can be found on the RSU 12 website - www.svrsu.org. There you will find the budget development timeline, the total detailed budget, and a budget overview presentation by the Superintendent. There is also a place where you can ask questions about the budget and the Superintendent will answer them. It is the RSU 12 Board's hope that you will find this to be a school budget you can support and that you do support it by coming to the District Budget Meeting on Tuesday, May 19 at Chelsea Elementary School at 6:30 PM, and by voting on June 9th. **See Chart on Page 4**

Parks from Pg. 1 moms to superstars like Madonna this innovative approach to baby calming, authored the highly acclaimed, best selling book and DVD, *The Happiest Baby on the Block*, and designed a certification program for educators. Pat offers Dr. Harvey's treasure -the calming reflex (the virtual off-switch for a baby's crying) in the two hour session as well as the excellent resource book and video.

Parents will learn:

- Why the idea that colic is due to gas pains is an old wives tale.
- Why keeping the house quiet is often upsetting to newborns.
- Why most babies get more upset in the evening.
- Why it's impossible to spoil young babies.
- An easy way to help infants sleep a few hours more at night.
- Why fathers are often the best baby "calmers" in the family.

As a *Happiest Baby* educator, Pat will share Dr. Karp's 5 S's: the five simple techniques that activate the calming reflex (swaddling, side/stomach, shhhing, swinging, and sucking) and she will "give new moms as well as dads (as well as other family members and childcare providers) the tools they need to help infants sleep longer and calm unhappy babies almost as easily as...turning off a light". If you are an expectant parent, already a parent with a newborn, grandparent, relative or friend of a new parent, babysitter, or child care provider and you would like to know more about this innovative, successful program, you are urged to contact Pat at 549-7191 for more information. She is anxious to share with you the techniques for calming crying babies. Remember, we don't always know what to do from the very beginning, we sometimes have to learn, so give Pat a call and she'll be glad to help you.

Arlington Grange is celebrating 100 years as a Grange in Whitefield

By Debbie Rogers

On June 7th, from 1-4 pm, we will be celebrating this milestone with an open house and farming appreciation day. The open house will include refreshments, tours of the

grange, and a history of our grange and the building. We will also have tables available for any farmers who wish to market their products, converse with the attendees and celebrate the rich agricultural history of Whitefield, the Grange, and its farming community.

MOFGA will be attending as our guest and also Taryn and Ben Marcus from Sheepscoot General.

In 1884 the members of Erskine Post #24 G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) undertook the project of raising funds for the hall to be used as a public library, free high school, and event center. On September 1st, 1914, the Arlington Grange first assembled there with 27 members, including Fred Arlington Naray, who was instrumental in organizing the Grange, and it was for him the Arlington Grange was named.

We hope you will join us in the first of several events we will have this anniversary year.

Please contact Debbie Rogers for any questions at 549-3491 or email windsweptcreations@myfairpoint.net



Kieve Experience

By Kit Pfeiffer

Need a recipe for a life-changing experience for Whitefield sixth-graders? Put all 21 eager classmates and their duffels on a bus to Camp Kieve in Nobleboro on a Monday morning, lead them through the diverse curriculum of cooperative games, group problem-solving activities, adventure-



Whitefield 6th graders team up for a cooperation game of balance Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

based challenges such as the climbing wall and the maze, encourage them with energetic and talented Kieve counselors and faculty, feed them well (of course!), and return them to their families Friday afternoon, tired, yet full of new-found confidence in themselves and their friends. It's called the Leadership School at Kieve, and it's exactly what Whitefield School's 6th graders did the week of April 6-10.

The mission of the Leadership School, now in its 34th year, is to challenge students, teachers, and parents to take positive risks, set meaningful goals, and make healthy decisions, all while being supportive team members and strong leaders. Throughout the week, course classes cover communication skills, healthy relationships, solo reflection, decision-making, team-building and adventure.

Also at Kieve the same week were students from Bucksport Middle School and the island schools of Vinalhaven, North Haven and Islesboro. It was a dynamic mix and gave Whitefield students a chance to see what kids their age are like from other parts of Maine. "I liked hanging out with my friends and making new ones," commented Saydi.

What did other students think was the most challenging experience of the week? Around the lunch table, Devan said, "Rock-climbing, and the challenge of getting to the top." Abby agreed. "I liked the indoor climbing wall the best. I'm afraid of heights, but I finally made it to the top of the wall and rang the bell. Everyone cheered!" Dominic, Johnathan and Dylan all liked the cooperative games. Said Dylan, "We had to restart a few times, but together we figured it out." Then Isabella summed up the week this way: "It's a really good experience. You learn to use leadership skills, and it's fun."

Whitefield 6th graders have been attending the Kieve program for several decades, with funding coming from the district and special grant programs such as Safe and Drug-Free Schools. This year, without any grant funding, it took a special fundraiser by the sixth graders and several generous donors in town to come up with the cost. Anyone interested in helping to continue this valuable program for next year's 6th graders should contact principal Josh McNaughton at the Whitefield Elementary School.

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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Photo taken circa 1915 - Courtesy of the Eleanor & Eric Westbye Collection
 This picture shows the so called "Mill House" that sits on the dam at the head of Clary Lake. Behind and to the left of the mill house are the drying sheds where lumber was stored as it dried. Just beyond the mill house building you can see the entryway to a building. It has a sign hanging over the door which read Fred Benson Blacksmith Shop.

On the right side of the road is the house where Albert Boynton lives today and where he was raised after being born in the Mill House. Beside the barn was the ice house. Just beyond his house is what is often called the Mable Brown House. Over the years a lot of different people and families lived there and there was not a particular name attached to it.

I want to thank Albert Boynton for assisting me with this information.

Submitted by Jane Chase

School speech contest helps students develop skills

Contributed by Whitefield School

Whitefield Elementary students recently gained the opportunity to demonstrate their public speaking skills and take pride in personal accomplishments. On April 16, students took part in a speech contest sponsored by Modern Woodman of America, a fraternal financial services organization.

Students competing in the contest shared their presentations on this year's topic, "An Interesting Landmark".

The winners of this year's speech contest were Simon McCormick in first place, with the topic "The Lincoln Memorial", second place was Milo Lani-Caputo ("Machu Picchu"), and Colby Northrup was in third place ("Yellowstone National Park"). Each of them received a trophy and a gold award pin, and their names will be engraved on the school's speech contest plaque. They will be competing in the district contest at a future date. Gold award pins were also given to the next six ranking finalist: Arianna Coulliards, John Cook, Dominic Smith, Alexia Mathews, Johnathan Blair, and Everett Blair. All participants received certificates of participation for the hard work they did writing about their chosen topic and delivery of their speech.

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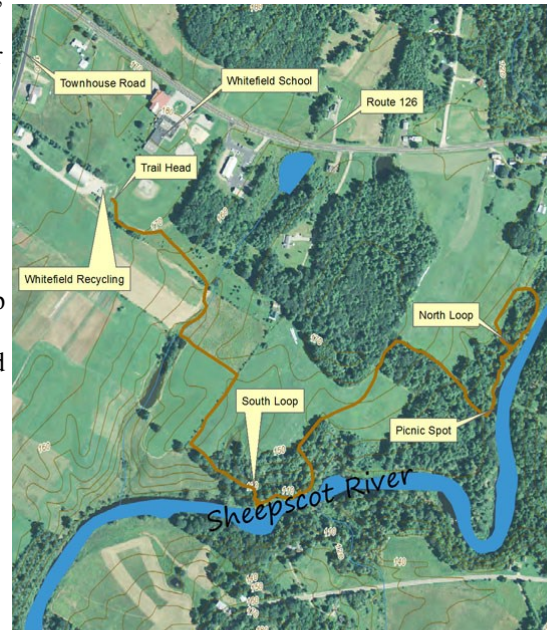
Community celebration of the new Happy Farm River Trail set for May 28

by Kit Pfeiffer

With the return of the good weather, there will be a community celebration of the new Happy Farm River Trail on Thursday, May 28 at 12:30 PM at the trailhead at the Recycling Center. (rain date is June 4.) The event is part of the Whitefield School's annual Day of Caring. In the morning, groups of students will be helping out various groups all over town with worthy projects. The Whitefield Trails Committee will get help with spring clean up of their trails.

Students and teachers from the Whitefield School will walk over and participate in the community celebration of the Happy Farm River Trail and will sing a special version of Pete Seeger's "This

Land Is Your Land". The new trail is expected to be a valuable resource for outdoor education and recreational use by the school.



Legend
 Happy Farm River Trail
 To the River: 0.7 miles
 To the Picnic Area: 1.3 miles
 Round Trip: 3.1 miles

State of Maine aerial orthophotos provided by the State of Maine, Maine Office of GIS and Maine Geolibrary Board/Text, NAIP 2013

Map prepared by: S Patton
 Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association



Mark Fenderson at the Sugar Shack Photo by Tony Marple

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MAY 2015 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 4th **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 5th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
Laughing Yoga with Karen Stultz Join us and discover the fast and easy way to reduce stress, and have fun doing it. 6:30 pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting, Public welcome, 7 pm
- 6th **Trail Run Training Series**, Hidden Valley Nature Center 5-6pm
Whitefield Historical Society, 6:30 pm
- 7th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 10th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 11th **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 12th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 13th **Trail Run Training Series**, Hidden Valley Nature Center 5-6pm
Arlington Grange: 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
- 14th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30-9 pm
- 15th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscoot General, 7-9 pm
- 16th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm, Open to the public, all ages welcome
- 19th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
District Budget Meeting at Chelsea Elementary School at 6:30 PM
- 20th **Trail Run Training Series**, Hidden Valley Nature Center 5-6pm
Planning Board, Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 21st **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 26th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 27th **Trail Run Training Series**, Hidden Valley Nature Center 5-6pm
Arlington Grange, 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
- 28rd **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Happy Farm River Trail Community celebration Recycling Center, 12:30 pm
- 30th **Ham & Baked Bean Supper**, Kings Mills Union Hall, 5-7 pm

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
 We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

RSU 12 Budget Information for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

TOWN	2014-2015 LOCAL CONTRIBUTION	2015-2016 (proposed) LOCAL CONTRIBUTION with Safety Net applied	Change in LOCAL CONTRIBUTION from 2014-15	Percent Change from 2014-15
Aina	\$ 898,625	\$ 894,679	\$ (3,946)	-0.44%
Chelsea	\$ 1,968,607	\$ 2,017,017	\$ 48,410	2.46%
Palermo	\$ 1,643,085	\$ 1,774,525	\$ 131,439	8.00%
Somerville	\$ 474,356	\$ 527,669	\$ 53,313	11.24%
Westport Island	\$ 1,012,040	\$ 867,952	\$ (144,088)	-14.24%
Whitefield	\$ 2,063,070	\$ 2,113,559	\$ 50,489	2.45%
Windsor	\$ 1,874,138	\$ 2,070,776	\$ 196,639	10.49%
TOTALS	\$ 9,933,920	\$ 10,266,177	\$ 332,256	3.34%

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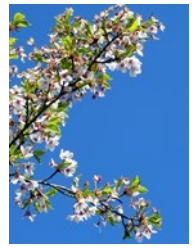

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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com



Whitefield News

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Volume 2, Issue 12

Published Monthly

June 2015

Smooth Bedstraw: an invasive plant that loves Maine fields

by Dan Joslyn

Smooth Bedstraw (*Galium mullugo* L.) is one of approximately 700 non-native plants growing in Maine. Of this number, a few are considered "Invasive". Bedstraw is one of the few.

According to Nancy Olmsted (nancyolmstead@maine.gov), an Invasive Plant Biologist with the Maine Natural Area Program, Smooth Bedstraw has not been tracked until very recently, primarily because it has not been considered as significant a threat as other invasive plants. Nancy monitors a GPS invasive species mapping system for Maine (www.imapinvasives.org/meimi).

Smooth Bedstraw is, however, a weed that hay growers and livestock owners of all sizes might want to become familiar with.

Richard Kersbergen, Extension Professor, University of Maine Cooperative Extension (Richard.kersbergen@maine.edu) has dealt with Maine bedstraw for decades. Around the third week of June many land owners call to inquire what that pretty white tint to their hay fields is coming **Continued Pg. 2**

Arlington Grange celebrates 100 years with an Open House/Farming Appreciation Day on June 7th

by Debbie Rogers

Arlington Grange #528 is at the top of Grand Army Hill on Rt. 126 in Whitefield. In February 1884, the members of Erskine Post #24 G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) began raising funds to build a memorial hall. The purpose of the hall would be a meeting place for the GAR, a free high school, and "contain a hall for a public library, public lectures, and other such amusements, which will be for their own intellectual advantage as well as the community at large".

On Sept. 1, 1914 the first meeting of the Arlington Grange was held in the GAR building. It was decided at that time to name it the Arlington Grange in recognition of Fred Arlington Naray.

It has been an honor to work with the grange these past two years, and we have new members joining regularly. In preparation for the events we will be hosting this summer, we have been busy cleaning and sorting items in the Grange.



Arlington Grange #528 Photo by Tony Marple

During a cleaning day, we discovered a box of "stuff" under the stairs. In the bottom, we found several old books (roll books and notes). To our utter surprise, one was the original minutes of the very first Grange meeting at the hall.

Mary Jo Higgins (Tobin) was working as well. She was overjoyed to discover that her grandmother, Lizzy Tobin, was one of the very first officers of the Arlington Grange. The roll book was very enlightening with lists of members and their occupations. Barber, railroad employee, housekeepers, students, and milkmaid were some of the listed occupations.

Charlie Miller has been a member of the Arlington Grange for over sixty years. He and his wife, Fran, who recently passed away, have been tireless workers for the Grange. When it came to a Grange supper, you could always be sure there would be one **Continued on Pg. 2**

A Farmer's Update

by Cheryle Joslyn (as reported by Ben:=-)

Don't you ever wonder what is growing in that big white hoop house behind Sheepscoot General Store? I am always curious about what Ben Marcus has growing in the rich soil that was once fertilized by many grazing head of cattle. When I've had a chance, I've interrupted Ben's routines with a question about "what's in, what's up, and what are you picking". I know he always will intrigue me with his reply. He is (as well as is becoming) a farmer that we can gauge our seasons on. As spring turns to summer, ask him yourself. You'll discover that he is in synch with the rhythm.

This is Ben's reply to my multi-layered question, "What do you have growing in that hoop house, coming up in those outdoor beds, and planted in those beautifully seeded fields?" I got my answer once again, and now I can't wait to sample the fruits and vegetables so carefully tended by this young farmer.

Ben: I tilled in the last of the fall-planted spinach a couple weeks ago as it began to bolt, and the spring planted spinach proved worthy of harvest. I also have a couple successions of arugula and radishes coming on; alongside some early mesclun greens (a bed of mustard and a bed of lettuce). The tilled spinach beds made way for some early cucumbers and basil and will soon make room for a full house of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant under plastic.

The soil-less greenhouse (i.e. the seedling house) is chock full of peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, cole crops, flowers, some herbs and soon-to-be cucurbits.



Ben Marcus Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

Everything is timed around the first frost free date, the average being the third week of May.

Despite many people's cynicism about an early start, we have had a good dry, windy spell allowing me to work a lot of ground in a timely manner. These newly tilled fields are now home to early transplants of kale, broccoli, swiss chard, onions, lettuce heads; along with direct seeded peas, carrots, beets, greens and radish.

Garlic is up; some of it 8" tall by now, and side dressed (fertilized) to give it a little boost. Last year's strawberries have been raked free of their winter mulch and are putting on new growth. Now it's time to start fertilizing

and keeping ahead of pests and disease to give them the best conditions for a good fruit set at the end of June.

Strawberry crowns will be arriving via UPS from Massachusetts and will promptly be planted in a field that was prepared all of last year. These plants will be cared for and established this year in order to be picked next year.

That's about it for now, Benjamin J Marcus

Grange Continued from Pg. 1 of Fran's pies, if not more. Charlie remembers attending the meetings at the age of 5 or 6 with his parents, who would arrive in their Model T Ford, and he recalls falling asleep on the benches which are still there. "Behind the building was a covered shed for the horses. During the Second World War, the Civil defense came out and built a tower where volunteers came to spot for planes in case of an air raid.

During our meeting on May 13th, Charlie told us that the walls on the main floor have blackboards under the paneling from the school that was there in the late 1800's. He is such a wealth of information, and we so appreciate his presence at the Grange. Charlie remembered watching his father put down the hardwood floor in the upstairs meeting area. His father did much of the carpentry work around the building. That work continued with Charlie, who not only installed the fire escape and the lift chair on the stairs in the hall, but he regularly maintained the building.

The current members of the Grange, including Charlie and longtime members Gladys and Leo Glidden, invite you to join us for a celebration of 100 years of community service and fellowship. We are also celebrating "Farming" in our area. The Grange is, after all, an agricultural-based group with deep roots in the farming community.

On Sunday, June 7th, from 1-4 pm, we will be having an Open House celebration. During that time, we will have local farmers and organizations there with products, information, and demonstrations. Flintlock Forge will be there with Jeff Miller demonstrating Black Smithing. Also in attendance will be Sheepscot General, Narrow Gauge Farm (which will be bringing 3 baby lambs), Crooked Door Farm, Thirty Acre Farm, Tim's Sugar Shack, Hidden Valley Farm, Treble Ridge Farm, Whitefield Trails, MOFGA, Sheepscot Valley Conservation Assoc., Whitefield Historical Society, and many others. We will be conducting tours of the Grange and serving free refreshments. There will also be a white elephant table in support of the Grange.

So, come visit the historic Grange and our wonderful farmers and organizations in our local area!! We are so lucky that 100 years later we can celebrate an ongoing success story of the agricultural community of Whitefield and its neighbors!



Charlie & Fran Miller
Contributed Photo



Theresa Kates, Mary Grady, Gladys Glidden, Debbie Rogers & Maddie Frinco
Contributed Photo

Bedstraw Cont. from pg. 1 from. Bedstraw generally blossoms the third and fourth week of June. It is here in Whitefield.

Bedstraw dates back thousands of years and lives in much of the world in various forms. At least four types are native to Maine: Marsh Bedstraw, Boreal Bedstraw, Scratch Bedstraw, Northern Bog Bedstraw. Their country



Bedstraw Photo by Dan Joslyn

cousin, Lady's Bedstraw, was used in parts of Europe by ladies of rank to stuff mattresses during King Henry VIII's reign; thus the name "bedstraw". Women used its yellow blossoms to produce blond hair and if steeped in water first, it helped to curdle milk for making cheese; giving a beautiful and much sought after tint to the goat and sheep cheeses produced at the time.

Smooth Bedstraw, an invasive and opportunistic weed, lives primarily in fields; both those poorly maintained as well as fields treated with lime and fertilizers. Originally farmers were told that lime would decrease the volume of bedstraw in their fields, but over time this proved to be untrue. "Galium Mollugo L." loved lime, fertilizer, and any other nutrient used to increase hay quantity.

Smooth Bedstraw arrived here from contaminated fields elsewhere and continued its expansion from seed rain, contaminated farm equipment, and rapid growth of its root system. The plant produces rhizomes (mass of roots) that move along the sub-surface of the soil; spreading somewhat like strawberry plants.

Bedstraw decreases the quality of hay for Maine's domestic animals. Many will not eat it. Although this plant has great nutritional value when green - 18% protein (one of the highest percentages of all forages), its leaves dry and fall off during harvest; thus leaving only a vine with an unsavory taste. It overtakes clover and other nutritionally rich plants endemic to quality feed. Hay from fields heavily infected become less desirable and thus less profitable.

The University of Maine conducted trials in 2004-2005 in Northport, Maine to determine the best control techniques. The report written by Kersbergen may be found through the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service Bulletin, "Controlling Smooth Bedstraw in Hayfields and Pastures" #2278. Four treatments were studied. **In all four, keeping bedstraw from going to seed for one year before attempting to kill it is key.**

-Tillage Treatment: Tilling the soil and following with a cover crop of buckwheat and then a fallow period in the summer works well, but may not eradicate the plant. This treatment may work best for organic farmers.

-Nitrogen Fertilizer: Large amounts of nitrogen were applied in the second test area. It was hoped that the other grasses would flourish and shade out the bedstraw. The bedstraw liked the nitrogen as much as the grasses did.

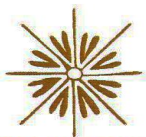
-Systemic Herbicide: The herbicide was applied; killing the bedstraw and grasses. The land was then reseeded with a no-till drill. Fields where tilling could not be used would be the best choice to treat in this manner.

-Late Summer Crossbow Application: During late August a Crossbow application provided near total elimination of the bedstraw.

-Training Your Animals (a different approach): Kathy Voth of Loveland, Colorado has developed a technique that trains cows, sheep, and goats to eat unsavory weeds. She has worked with the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group Weed Committee in Ennis, Montana. 320 cows were taught to eat Canada Thistle. She states that this training has been used to teach animals to eat smooth bedstraw.

Voth has produced a DVD that outlines the training process:
<http://www.livestockforlandscape.com>

Farmers in Whitefield have faced weather, weeds, insects, and diseases for over two hundred years. Bedstraw will in the end be managed. Information is key and given access to copious amounts of data and research, our young people will make the right choices. Why wouldn't they? They are Maine country farmers.

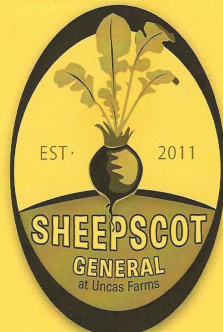


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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"

Lineage and lore

by Charlie Tobin

There are so many cool words in the English language; such as luncheon or participant. They have a resonance that seems to almost make you smile just because you've got to use them in a sentence. Now the word begat is similarly rewarding, yet seldom does it get mentioned. Used many times in the Bible (Genesis and 1 Chronicles) the word begat somehow fell out of popularity, so to you, dear reader, Charles M. Tobin (grandpa) begat Charles H. (Uncle Bert) and Joseph (dad). Joseph begat Charles H. (me). Now wasn't that simple? All that "begatting" gives me kin through the families McCormick, Morin, Chase, Olsen and Stultz; my lineage. Staying true to the title, my family passed on to me stories of family members, interspersed anecdotes blended with reality for the time and maybe hardships that were endured. This, by default, becomes family lore.

Some stories were meant to be unbelievable; like "When I walked to school, it was uphill both ways", or "If you stand on top of that horse manure pile for twenty minutes each day, you'll grow an inch in just one week!" (Alas, I have to admit to falling for this one; hook, line, and sinker. Morris Harrington was tending work horses tied up in our barn, and he told me if I wanted to get taller, all I had to do was hang out on top of a manure pile. I thought Mom was going to come unglued when she caught me on top of that pile. I think it was the third day, but I'm not sure. I had just gotten a new pair of Red Ball Jets sneakers from Vigue's General Store. They were never white again). Some stories can be hard to wrap your head around. Speaking of trying to wrap your head around something, imagine being six or seven years old and finding out that your father killed a bull with a rock!

This coming August will mark the seventy-fourth year since the passing of a ten month old bull which happened to escape from its owner, Maurice Brown. Two young male teens and one young male bull by chance did come face to face. Classic example of too much male in one area, and the young bull, I guess, wanted to assert his presence. It would be many years later that Dad and I would speak a little more in depth about the encounter that took place when he was only seventeen. He told me that he wished the rock had grazed the bull and scared it off. Dad knew the value of the bull to Mr. Brown. He told me that although he was happy and thankful to not be hurt or even killed, that he felt badly for Mr. Brown's loss of livestock. It wasn't long after that incident that Dad became a livestock owner himself, acquiring his first team of draft horses.

Some family stories get to be recreated by different family members at later times, emulating a past achievement or event, thereby insuring that the event stays current in the present and for the future lineage of that family. I would be hard pressed to reenact my father's "Whitefield Youth Slays Bull With a Single Stone" byline from the Kennebec Journal, 8/29/1941. Farming has come forward in profound ways since 1941, yet livestock is just as important now to today's farmer as it was in the past. Give thanks to a farmer if you know one and



—Kennebec Journal Photo.

DAVID SLEW GOLIATH with a stone but he used a slingshot. Seventeen-year old Joseph Tobin of North Whitefield, shown in the photo above, killed a half grown bull, that charged him, with the rock he holds in his hand.

try to buy local when you can, it makes it more personal. Who knows, you might even hear some lore.

What follows is the article from the Kennebec Journal, 8/29/1941:

"Whitefield Youth Slays Bull With a Single Stone- "Lucky Shot" Says Joseph Tobin

Joseph Tobin and George Talbot were walking along the Benner road in North Whitefield, Wednesday afternoon, on their way to the Chisholm farm. About a mile from the center of town they noticed a young bull in a field at the edge of the road. Neither one gave the animal any thought, and they continued on their way.

A few minutes later they heard a rustling in the alders ahead and out stepped the young bull. The animal came down the bank and stopped in the center of the road in front of the boys. From this point Joe Tobin's memory suffered a lapse, but he does remember the big moments of the incident.

The bull began to walk toward them and then charged. The boys turned and ran. Joe looked over his shoulder – the bull was gaining. Seconds flashed by, the bull was within 20 feet of the boys. A short distance ahead Joe saw a large stone in the road. In his stride he picked it up, swung around, hurled it at the bull and sped on his way. Seconds later Joe looked back – the bull was sprawled in the middle of the road, dead.

After the boys had gotten over their excitement they found that the rock had struck the animal in the head, killing him instantly.

The bull was a ten-month-old Holstein and belonged to Maurice Brown of North Whitefield. Brown had missed the animal since early morning, but thought he was on the farm.

Joe summed up the situation in a few words. "It sure was a lucky shot for me."



Whitefield Athletic Association Spring Sports

By Kit Pfeiffer

It's been a busy and fun spring for the Whitefield Athletic Association, according to President and coach Chris Delisle. In addition to his leadership duties, he's been coaching both Little League and T-ball this spring. "I'm out five nights a week and often Saturday," he says, and it's a "family affair", with all three of his children (11, 8, and 5) playing a sport. He says the Association is now fairly stable financially, and they were able to purchase almost \$2,000 worth of new equipment this year. Students pay a modest fee to play for each sport; between \$20 and \$40/season.

WAA runs athletic programs from September 1 to the end of June; using the school's facilities. The fall sport is soccer, in winter it's basketball, and for spring, there are three sports offered: baseball, softball and T-ball. The baseball program is affiliated with a 5-town Little League. WAA pays a considerable fee to be associated, but Delisle thinks it's ultimately worth it for the opportunity to send a team to Williamsport, Pennsylvania for the nationals. "It happened 30 years ago, and it could happen again," he anticipates.

The numbers of students involved in WAA teams is down from 4-5 years ago. He hopes to turn that around. "I know how important it is to learn to be a team member and a competitor. It's ok to be a winner and ok to be a loser, if you always try your best. I try to keep it fun, and strive to be competitive as well." And he says he does it all for the kids. "If I can change one kid, I know I've done my job."

WAA serves as the "farm program" for the Whitefield School teams. He is supportive of Athletic Director Tim Jordan's efforts at the school. "Kids need to be allowed to find their way" and try out different sports. The more opportunities there are, the better!

WAA holds monthly meetings on the second Sunday of the month at 6 PM at the Whitefield School. Delisle encourages anyone interested to come and get involved on behalf of the kids. You can find the Whitefield Athletic Association on Facebook.



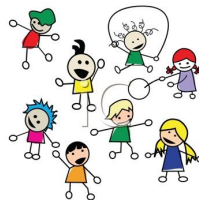
JUNE 2015 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 2nd **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
Laughing Yoga with Karen Stultz Join us and discover the fast and easy way to reduce stress, and have fun doing it. 6:30 pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting, Public welcome, 7 pm
- 3rd **Whitefield Historical Society, 6:30 pm**
- 4th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 5th **Palermo Preserve**: new steps by river and trail clearing by SVCA 1:00 pm
Whitefield Food Pantry, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
The New Milenium Jelly Rollers - Live Music, Sheepscoot General 7 pm
- 7th **Arlington Grange 100th Anniversary Open House/Farming Appreciation Day**- tours and refreshments. We have many members of the Farming community attending with info. about their products and services. 1-4 pm Hope you can join us!
Fuzzy Udder Creamery Open House, There will be cheese tastings, farm tours, lamb and goat kids 10-3 pm
- 8th **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 9th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
"Threatened and Endangered: An Artist's Books" by Rebecca Goodale, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
River Arts Gallery, Damariscotta
School Budget Validation Referendum, Whitefield Fire Station, 8 am — 8 pm
- 10th **Arlington Grange**: 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
- 11th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30-9 pm
- 12th **Forest Trails join HVNC for a workshop called "Forest Trails"** www.hvnc.org/registration/, or 207-200-8840 9-2 pm
Salt Marsh Exploration Marsh River Preserve, Newcastle
Naturalist Lynne Flaccus will lead a guided walk to explore the wonders of a salt marsh. 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
"The Complete History of Whitefield" will be featured as the second of the series of musical plays by Art Mayers as a video reprise at the Sheepscoot General Store in Whitefield on Friday, June 12 as part of pizza night at 7 PM.
- 14th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 16th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 17th **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 18th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 19th **Whitefield Salmon Preserve: invasive plants removal, 9:00 am**
Open-Mic Night, Sheepscoot General, 7-9 pm
- 20th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm, Open to the public, all ages welcome
- 23rd **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 24th **Arlington Grange**, 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
- 25th **Little Dyer Adventure Club. Session 1— Ages 10-14** Trail Mountain Biking June 25, 26 & 27 contact HVNC 207-200-8840
- Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Kid's Printmaking Workshop with Keith Rendall, Keith Rendall Gallery, 65 Main Street, Wiscasset 1-4 pm
- 30th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

Whitefield Head Start/Pre-K Program at Whitefield School!



This is a new program starting in the 2015-16 school year for Whitefield children who will be 4 years old by October 15th. Transportation to and from school will be provided on Whitefield buses. All parents, regardless of income, are encouraged to apply. Families can visit or call Whitefield School (549-7691) or call Case Manager, Michaela Stone (882-7613) for registration application and questions.

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Happy July 4th

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Volume 3, Issue 1

Published Monthly

July 2015

Come celebrate the 4th in Kings Mills

by Michelle Duncan Shaw

Search your memories of the Kings Mills 4th of July parade and celebration. What did it mean to you as a kid and now, as an adult? Are you excited to share it with your own family? Are you "from away" and make it a point to come home for the parade? I hope this will encourage all "Whitefielders" to participate in the Kings Mills celebration by being in the parade, organizing floats with your friends and family, and taking part in all the activities after the parade.



Photo by Tony Marple

Did You Know:

-There is evidence at the Whitefield Historical Society suggesting that the Kings Mills parade dates back to 1911 and 1912:

Inhabitants of the Kings Mills Village have always been ready to support an Independence Day celebration; bunting draped the stores, Union Hall, and churches, with the parade and water sports on the nearby Sheepscot River."

-For many years there was a dance in the evening to bring the day's festivities to an end. From the Jewett Journal, July 4, 1911: *They had a celebration at the Mills. Fantastic boat races, grease pole, 3-legged race, good dinner, fireworks, and a dance."*

-Kings Mills Fire Department (organized in 1947) immediately instituted the "4th of July Celebration" which included a parade, bands, games, dances, and a cake walk. There are even pictures

showing that there was once a "Miss Whitefield Contest" as part of these festivities.

The money raised by the Kings Mills Fire Auxiliary (the wives of the firemen) went to fund the Volunteer Fire Department's needs before they were included in the town budget.

-During Whitefield's 175th Anniversary year, a newspaper advertisement read: *"...there will be a rousing band....and after the parade, more fun in store with canoe races, beano, board games, a fireman's dunk tank, and the annual country auction!"* Other promotions/ advertisements promised "pig scramble, firemen's run, and lumberman's contest." Some of these activities (the white elephant sale, cake walk, games, ice cream, hot dogs with homemade fries, and the country auction) are still staples of the celebration today. The Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Department still organizes the event.

-Perhaps due to its patriotic nature, this annual event has always attracted a lot of community support. Originally it was a salute to the Veterans of the Armed Services, and parade organizers selected a resident veteran to be the marshal of the parade. Bob Gilman, the volunteer fire department chief, was one of these honorary parade marshals. For many years, he drove his lawnmower at the head of the parade. His unique ride was decked out in American flags, and he always wore his Uncle Sam uniform. His son, Robert Jr., has paid



Uncle Sam Leads the Parade

Continued on Pg. 3

The River

by Lynne Flaccus

The Sheepscot River flows from its headwaters in Montville to the ocean in Southport a total of 58 miles, connecting natural and human communities along the way.

When the glaciers receded from Maine 12,000 years ago and ocean levels receded, the Sheepscot River and its tributaries carved through soils and glacial till shaping the land. The Sheepscot watershed includes 320 square miles of land with 55 miles of tributaries draining to the sea, over 30 lakes and ponds, and more than 5 miles of tidal waters. Native Americans, and later Europeans, found resources they needed along the fresh and salt water reaches, shaping the river and land along with the natural processes.

Though these numbers relay facts, they don't really help us know the river and its many qualities, or its natural and human history. Whether exploring this ribbon of water by boat, hiking,



Remains of Kings Mills Dam

fishing, hunting, or working the land, there are unique qualities of the river and its systems that we often overlook.

The seasons of the river change dramatically over the year, and even from year to year from the headwaters to coastal sections. In some years you can paddle a canoe every month of the year, while in others, the ice is thick enough to snowshoe or ski long stretches. In winter this ribbon of ice provides a glimpse into the lives of the animals that stay active throughout the year. Mink, otter, fox, coyote, deer, and of course, the industrious beaver all make tracks that provide a window into their year. Snow-

shoeing along the banks, you may find otter tracks and slides from one small opening in the ice to the next, and

spots where beaver come out to nibble fresh branches. Beneath the ice, freshwater mussels (including the endangered Brook Floater) remain buried in the mud along with insects, turtles, and amphibians which will stay hidden until spring thaws.

Spring paddling allows us to take in the glory of blooming ephemeral wildflowers, returning songbirds, and waterfowl. Trout lilies and Bloodroot carpet forest floors along the river. Jack-in-the-Continued on Pg. 2



Summer Fun: How to Enjoy the Outdoors Close to Home

by Kit Pfeiffer

We have finally made it to summer, so it's time to get outside! Here are a few ideas for you and the family to do for little or no cost. And they're not very far from home.

Take a Hike

Why not check out the two trails developed by the Whitefield Trails Committee? Marr's Ridge Trail is on the center Hunt's Meadow Road, featuring a granite tower that overlooks the coastal plains out to the Camden Hills. The Happy Farm River Trail starts right behind the recycling center and goes across fields and down along the river to a refreshing swimming hole. The Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association also has some wonderful preserves in our area with hiking trails and natural history information. The one right here in town is the Salmon Preserve on the Howe Road. Check www.sheepscot.org for trail maps and special events at the preserves. It's all free.

Enjoy Nature

On the Egypt Road in Jefferson is the thousand-acre Hidden Valley Nature Center, with 25 miles of multi-use trails, a kettle bog with boardwalk, and over a mile of frontage on Little Dyer Pond. A \$5 donation is requested for day use of HVNC, and you can rent a canoe for \$10 additional a day. Check details, trail map and special activities at www.hvnc.org

Learn a Lifelong Sport

Anthony Anderson, Whitefield resident and director of wellness programs for Bath Iron Works, is a big fan of lifelong sports. "This is the type of activity we need to be doing more of," he says, "since very few of us can continue to play team sports after high school." So he has coordinated with George Hall at Sheepscot Links on the Townhouse Road to offer a low-cost summer golf program for ages 8-16 called the Youth Scramble. Every Sunday in July and August from 4 to 6 PM, groups of 4 youth compete as a team on the Sheepscot Links course. There is a \$25 flat fee to participate for the summer. Contact George Hall at 446-8511 or Anthony Anderson at 441-9738 to sign up.

Free Basketball Clinic

The youth basketball clinic will be held again this year for 4 days in August, Thursday through Sunday, for ages K-8th grade. It's free, and details will be posted on the Whitefield Elementary School Facebook site.

A happy outdoors summer to you!

River Cont. From Pg. 1 Pulpits and Ostrich Fern come a bit later to crowd the shores along with alder and other shrubs. Turtles crawl onto the banks in early spring to finally soak in the warming sun and begin another year, then venturing farther afield in June to lay eggs.

The spring paddling season is usually short from April to May with levels running from 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) that wash out the rocks, to 180 cfs that leave expectant paddlers dragging boats more than paddling.



Quiet paddle downriver Photo by Lynne Flaccus

The spring also brings runs of 7 species of migratory fish, including

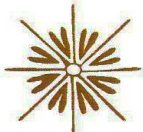
American and Lamprey eels, Shad, Alewives and Smelt. Each species working its way against the current to spawn in the upper reaches of the river. These runs intricately tie the river to the ocean. The Atlantic salmon spawn in the fall, but the young 2-3 year old smolts make their way to the ocean in the spring, mixing with schools of incoming fish. Exploring the river on a day in June you might discover the nest building activities of lamprey eels. Intertwined in courtship, the male and female carefully pull rocks together with their mouths to build a u-shaped stone wall in the gravel where the female lays her eggs. During their runs, they don't eat, and shortly after spawning they will die, their carcasses providing fertilizer for the creatures they share the river with.

The estuaries and salt marshes of the lower Sheepscot, provide habitats for a diversity of plants and animals. Many species are rare or little known. The Marsh River is home to a distinct population of wild oysters (the farthest north they are found), as well as Sharp-tailed Salt Marsh sparrows (a species of special concern in Maine). Salt marshes and the plants that grow there act as sponges, nurseries, filters and food factories as sediments and nutrients flow into them from upstream, exchanging with tidal waters. In Alna and Newcastle there are populations of rare plants with funny names like Parkers Pipewort and Pygmyweed growing in the tidal marshes.

In addition to the role of the Sheepscot and its habitats providing a migratory corridor for fish, and other wildlife, the Sheepscot has, and continues to be, a migratory corridor for people. Providing a "highway" to move goods, deep waters for boatyards, and fertile lands for farming and timber, rural communities followed the flow of the river. Forty-four mills and associated dams were found along the Sheepscot at one time, beginning in the 1700's. The earliest dam was at Kings Mills or "great falls". Grist, lumber, barrel mills, and dams generating electricity all had their place on the river supporting communities throughout the watershed. A quarry and limestone mine were found near Weary Pond in the 1700's, and brickyards developed in the lower reaches of the River.

At one time 80% of the land in Maine was cleared of forests for agriculture, until the late 1800's when much of the farm lands were abandoned. Farming still continues to be one of the main economies in the watershed; small farms taking advantage of niche markets and tied to communities where they're found. The signs of past land uses are found in the fields and forests of the watershed; stone walls, cellar holes, and hidden family cemeteries tell stories of the past. Exploring the river and its landscapes lead to discoveries that are expanded on when talking to residents, many who have been in the valley for generations. The river ties human and natural communities together.

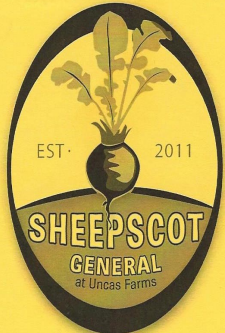
The best way to learn about the river and its many human and natural connections is to get out and explore; look, listen and ask questions. There is much to learn and share!



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The Whitefield Parade—a long standing tradition



Kings Mills 4th of July float in front of Union Hall with a band in the wagon (circa 1910) (Photo courtesy of the Glendon Jackson Collection)

Parade Cont. From Pg. 1 tribute to his dad by opening the parade the same way since his dad's passing in 2011.

-One of the things that makes the parade so special is that you can count on "the same old same old" every year. You can look forward to the same old cars, noisy fire trucks, and shiny emergency vehicles. You can count on the vintage tractors and farm equipment that may or may not make it through the whole parade route "down and back" (this may be one of the only parades that goes by twice). You can count on the same amount of cheering as the floats go by. Routinely, Natasha Mayers organizes marchers to creatively protest and demonstrate their latest political grievances and environmental concerns. Children can always count on candy and popsicles being tossed into the crowds, and if they are lucky, there are a few water guns being squirted from floats to kindly relieve spectators from the heat of the day. These are the staples of the Kings Mills parade that I look forward to each year.

-What also keeps this parade exciting each year is the creative expression chosen for floats. A few themes from the past have included: "Freedom,"



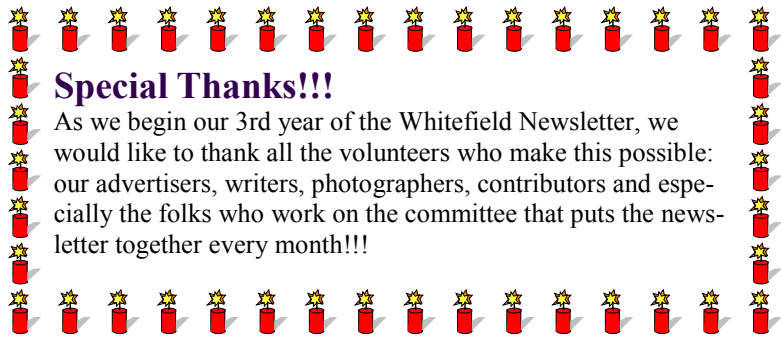
Ben Harmon in his favorite swimming hole

"Maine: The Way Life Should Be," and once there was a "Whoville" style Dr. Seuss float. In the 2011 parade Ben Harmon was in a water tub representing his old swimming hole!

-All of this is so generational. We have watched our friends and neighbors drive by us on the parade route for years. Now they are sharing this experience with their children and grandchildren. Isn't this the true measure of success and wealth in a community; we are able to pass on our traditions and values to the next generation, and they pick them up and make them their own?

How Can You Participate?

Get your family and friends together to make a float, or at least come "home" and attend the parade. Do your part to make the day a huge extended family reunion. One of the best parts of going to the Kings Mills parade is seeing old friends, reconnecting with them, catching up on current happenings, and reminiscing about old times. Even if you are not from Kings Mills, come and be a part of this all-American small town celebration. See what it is all about and make it your new family tradition. Come celebrate the 4th with us!



Special Thanks!!!

As we begin our 3rd year of the Whitefield Newsletter, we would like to thank all the volunteers who make this possible: our advertisers, writers, photographers, contributors and especially the folks who work on the committee that puts the newsletter together every month!!!

Remember

Lt. David Mason (1988-2015) followed in his father's footsteps as a member of the Coopers Volunteer Fire Dept. David, on countless occasions, answered the call to aid his neighbors in need. Please honor his memory by volunteering in our community.



"Headtide" in memory of Julian Sacks (1930-2015), one of Whitefield's remarkable citizens and treasured artists.

Roger Majorowicz (1931-2014) Besides his many sculptures as seen here at Whitefield School, Roger brought passion to everything he did; such as building floats for the annual 4th of July parade. He believed that art captured the meaning of life and made the world a better place.



Kenneth Marden (1928-2015) known to many in Whitefield as the "Flag Man" served his adopted community well. One of the contributions that we will remember him for was hanging the American flags around town each July and diligently unfurling them as the wind wrapped them around the poles.

JULY 2015 Community EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
 2nd **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 4th **Whitefield Parade, Kings Mills 10:00 am**
White Elephant Sale, Cake all, games, ice cream, hot dogs, homemade fries & the country auction,
 After the Parade
- 6th **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 7th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
Laughing Yoga with Karen Stultz Join us and discover the fast and easy way to reduce stress, and have fun doing it. Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm
- 9th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30-9 pm
- 12th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
 13th **Little Dyer Adventure Club Session 2**, HVNC, Mon., Tues, & Wed. 9 am—2 pm
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept., Fire Station, 7 pm
- 14th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting, Public welcome, 7 pm
- 15th **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6-8 pm
 16th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
 17th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscoot General, 7-9 pm
Farmers Market/Flea Market, Arlington Grange, \$10 per table, call 549-3491 for more information 9 am—1 pm
- 18th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm, Open to the public, all ages welcome
 21st **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
 23rd **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
 23rd-26th **Timber Frame Construction Workshop** at HVNC, call 207-200-8840.
SVCA Annual Barbeque, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. SVCA Office Sheepscoot Road in Newcastle
- 28th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 30th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am



Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
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Above—Music teacher, Scott Morgan, leads the entire school body in singing *This Trail Is Your Trail* at the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open Happy Farm River Trail.
 Photo by Libbey Seigars



Left—Proud 4th graders try out the new bench they installed by the Sheepscoot on the Happy Farm River Trail
 On a hot and sunny Thursday in late May, class groups of Whitefield School students completed a long list of community chores to give back to the town. Picking up litter, leaf-raking, planting flowers and trees, and clearing of Whitefield's new hiking trails were among the many activities. The day culminated in a barbecue and a walk over to the Happy Farm River Trail kiosk for a grand-opening ceremony. Hooray for all their hard work!
 Photo by Tony Marple

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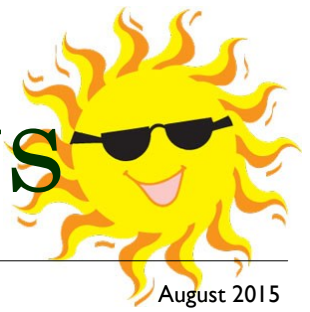
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Volume 3, Issue 2

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August 2015

Annual Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Dept. Auction

by Dan Joslyn

“PLEASE BID HIGH AND OFTEN”

Keep your day flexible! This 59th Auction is scheduled to be held on Saturday, August 15, starting at 10:00 A.M. and ending late afternoon.

The annual fundraising auction originated with the Whitefield Lions Club and was handed over to the CMVFD in 1945. Just as a reference, this was the same year and month that the Howe Fur Company was broken into and 27 rifles and 8 shotguns were stolen. One would need to be near eighty to remember that. The auction has survived and thrived since; without a missed year.

Typically, nearly 120 bidders (some from as far away as the western mountains of Maine and southern New England) sit under a large rented tent and collect their wares. Most were not born when the first auction was held. Brian Huntley said, "The event is a magnet for all "junkies" from Knox, Lincoln, Kennebec, and Waldo counties who purchase to resell at the Monday Livestock Auction in Fairfield. These bidders are affectionately known as the "Ameritas Patrons." They are the regulars; the "any weather folks."

Although much has stayed the same, some things have not. Years ago, a large tarp; (likely blue) was strung up using ropes, duct tape, and an old gas hot-water heater as an anchor. A fierce wind came up and threatened to tear the tarp off and send it toward Augusta. "It was a real gully washer," said Brian



Coopers Mills Firehouse Photo by Cheryl Joslyn

Huntley. The heater lifted and danced around. Having been adequately secured to a sixteen foot 2x4 with copious amounts of duct tape, it was the only thing giving any hope to the folks sitting there; casting one eye toward the auctioneer and the other toward the heater. The auctioneer held his tempo, but the clanging of the heater on the stones seemed to concern him. Yet the wind finally abated and another successful event drew to a close.

Originally, firemen went door to door to collect items or donations. Now, calls start coming in to Norm Best (215-6600) or Brian Huntley (549-5668) well before the auction date; always the third Saturday in August. The firemen volunteers go to great lengths to accommodate all callers.

Antiques, tools, furniture, gift certificates, equipment, and sporting goods are just a few of the items sold.

Unusual items, like a three-hole toilet seat once brought fierce bidding. The winner intended to use it as a picture frame. What is now called the "Benny Barn" with 1.5 acres was put up for bid by its owner. It sits next to the fire station's east side. According to Timmy Yorks, bidders got his grandfather, Walter Yorks,

in a spot where they could help him own the building. Tim said, "He got stuck with it." It was eventually sold to Benny Avery.

Once a Jeep Wrangler offered by John Libby was bid up by Vern Dufault. It was demonstrated for the proud new owner after the bidding had stopped and promptly caught fire! However, it sustained little damage; possibly due to the proximity of the fire department.

When the auction is near its end "Box Lots" of items will be offered, and everyone knows it is time to exit the premises when auctioneer, Brian Huntley, can be heard saying, "I'll take ten cents as the first bid! **Continued on pg. 2**

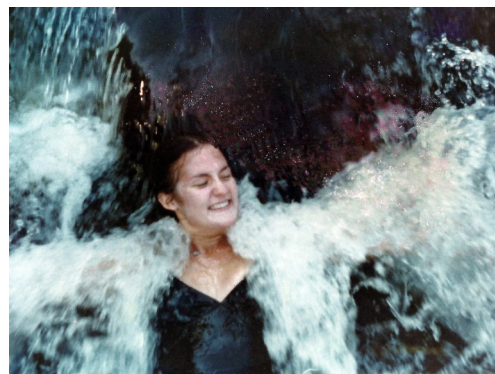
The Swimming Hole

by Debbie Rogers

As many of you may remember, the swimming hole was the best place to be in the summertime. When the weather was hot and sticky, no matter what you did, the thought arrived that a dip might be the best course of action on a hot, humid, summer day. Most kids in my time remember haying in the summer and knowing that after a grueling day in the sun, the swimming hole was our reward.

There were many places to go and we always had a favorite. The "Swimming Hole" was your neighbor's access to the river, pond, or if you were very lucky, right in your own back yard. Sometimes the cherished spot was by a road, so access was easy. We were fortunate. Our neighbors were more than willing to have us tromp through their field (if we didn't damage the hay crop) and meander down the path that led to the cool water that was the ultimate goal.

One of these spots was on the West Branch of the Sheepscot on the Howe Road by the bridge. We always called it the "dump road" because of the location of the...you guessed it, dump. There was a convenient turn-out for parking; although, before we drove, we walked there or rode our bicycles. A steep path led down to the river where there was an outcropping of rocks and many waterfalls; depending on the water level. We would sit in the waterfalls or sunbathe on the



Leane Morin (teen)—Howe Road Swimming Hole Photo by Debbie Rogers

rocks. It was not a place to go swimming; although at the base of the large rocks was a pool large enough to swim in. It was a beautiful spot; still there today, but I rarely see anyone there.

Mary Jo (Tobin) Higgins remembers their swimming hole on "The River".

She grew up on the Benner Road where Sam and Alice Hutchinson current-

ly reside. Mary Jo's family spent many hours at the river where they had built a rock patio on the water's edge. In the evening, Mary Jo remembers they often would ask mom (Mary Tobin) if they could go swimming as it was too hot to sleep. On many occasions the answer would be yes. They would all climb out of bed, walk across the field in the moonlight, and take a cool swim. When they returned to bed, sleep was easy!

Continued on pg. 2

Auction Cont. from pg.1

The firemen never know what is being donated, but consistently gross in the range of \$10,000.00. For years, they relied on this income to pay off a \$100,000.00 fire truck. Once it was owned, they started saving for a new or renovated building.

David Landman of Windsor offered his architectural services several years ago to begin the design process. "I wanted to give something to the community," he stated. He continues the relationship, working at a discounted rate and is eager to see the building completed.

The current structure is in three sections. The A-frame portion in the center was built prior to 1956. The last of the three pieces was largely built by the Army Corp of Engineers. It has been determined that the small crew of dedicated men and women cannot risk mortgaging a large debt approaching \$389,000.00, so they are remodeling the current building, gutting it, installing wiring, new insulation, sheetrock, and adding a new bathroom (which the current station does not have).

CMVFD has served Whitefield, Windsor, Jefferson, Somerville, and other surrounding towns for a very long time. The village also has the largest concentration of homes and businesses in the immediate area. The firemen are sensitive to the importance of their location.

The remodeling is ready to begin in earnest as soon as the auction is over, so come one, come all, to a fun day for a great cause.

Swimming Cont. from pg.1

Back in the 70's, a large group of us adventurous folks decided to float down the river on various inner tubes, air mattresses, and anything else that would float. We started at David Boynton's on the Benner Road with about 15-20 people, and by the time we hit the bridge on Route 126, we had lost most of the participants due to leaky crafts. Bob Gibson, June Lordi, Peter Froehlich, and I went on to Laurie and Fred Stone's swimming hole on the Townhouse Road. We were treated to the beautiful sights along the river. With the water level

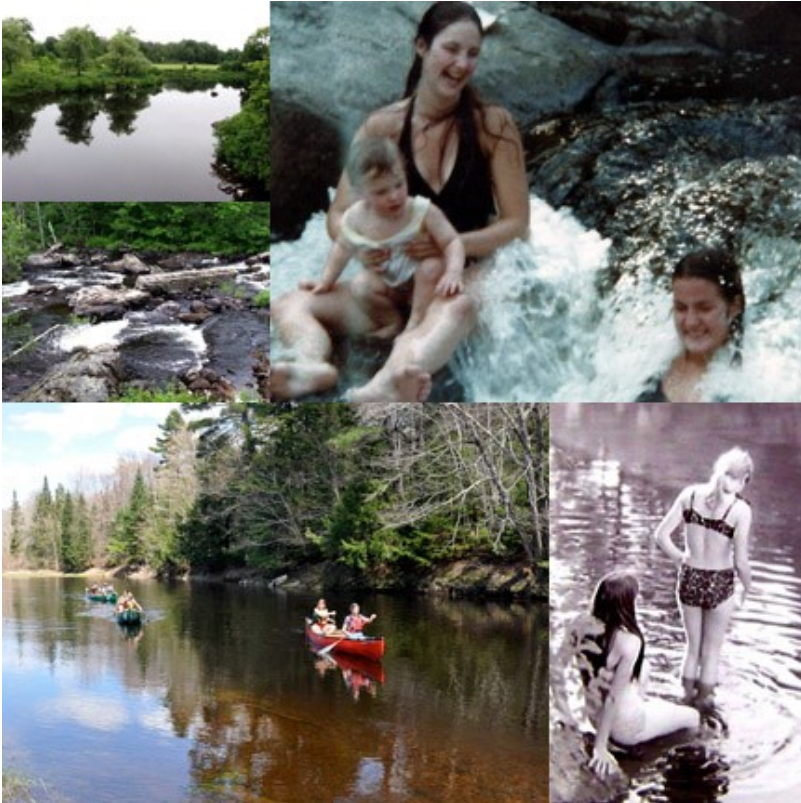
low, little islands develop with beautiful wild flowers and neon blue dragon flies with black wings. The trip was longer than we anticipated, and we ended up floating for several hours. The original group and many more were there to meet us with food, drink and merriment at the water's edge. We enjoyed the gather-



Owen's first dip in a favorite Joslyn swimming hole 2015 (photo by Mike Joslyn)

ing despite the horrible sunburns we developed on the river. That trip was repeated many, many summers, often with a cooler in tow. - and a little more reminiscing from Charlie Tobin - *One summer morning Eugene MacDonald and I were on one of our many adventures behind the Happy Farm and Eugene's house; starting in the cow pasture, and gravitating toward the river. It was extremely muggy, and we were pretty sweaty. The water looked so cool and inviting. It was my bright idea to continue further down the river to the Oxbow behind the Rogers Farm. Living up to its name, the Oxbow was bff limits' according to the adults, but Gene and I proceeded to shuck our duds to wade around in the water. At the bend of the Oxbow was a very large rock. I said to Eugene, 'Let's swim over to it,' and I plunged in where the rocks we were wading on stopped, and the deep channel of the Oxbow started. I was almost to the huge rock, and I looked back over my shoulder to see Gene flailing and going under and popping up again. I swam back toward him, and as I got within reach, he immediately became squirrel-like. He crawled up my outstretched arm to the top of my head, sending me under, and forcing me downward. He tried to stand on me to keep from going under himself. I swam away from him underwater and surfaced. I told him, 'Calm down, or I'll let you drown!' He and I made it back to the bank, got our wits back, and I said, 'I thought you could swim,' and he said, 'I thought I could!'*

We are very blessed to live in an area with so many beautiful places to swim, float and relax. I'm sure many of you have your favorite swimming hole somewhere down the river between Coopers Mills and Head Tide. I encourage you to take the time to visit the water (wherever that may be for you); as it is the best part of summer in Whitefield, Maine.



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Coopers Mills dam, sawmill, and a favorite summertime swimming hole (from the Roger Glidden Collection)

Free summer lunch served weekdays at Whitefield School

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does a child's need for good nutrition. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds free, nutritious meals to help children continue to get the food power they require to learn, play, and grow over the long summer vacation.

This summer, USDA expects to serve more than 200 million free meals to children 18 years and under at approved SFSP sites across the country. The three elementary schools in RSU 12 are all approved as open sites, with no enrollment necessary.

Just show up Monday to Friday between 11:30 and 12:30 at the Whitefield Elementary School (or Chelsea or Windsor Elementary if more convenient) to enjoy a delicious free summer lunch for children aged 2-18. No questions asked. The only requirement is to eat lunch on site.

Kings Mills Union Hall Association WISHING FOR A WELL

We are a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to restoring and maintaining one of Whitefield's historic landmarks and community centers, Union Hall (built in 1901), which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Our next project is installation of a new well.

Donations gratefully accepted at:
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 attn. President/Treasurer Judy Maldovan



Energy Efficiency at Whitefield School

by Kit Pfeiffer

Have you noticed the new propane tanks behind the Whitefield School or seen contractors' trucks in and out this summer? All this activity is part of a comprehensive energy efficiency improvement project in RSU 12 elementary schools on schedule to be completed when students return from summer vacation.



An energy audit of the Whitefield School identified three areas most needing improvement: the heating system, insulation and lighting. The outdated oil burner has proved inadequate to heat the entire building with its several additions. It is being replaced with a high-efficiency propane boiler, and automation of vents and controls in the ductwork will regulate temperatures more effectively room by room.

A second area of improvement is an overall tightening-up of the building. Foam insulation has been sprayed into the walls, and the gym ceiling has been newly insulated. After the fire last spring, an inspection of the entire building revealed that the old windows were too small to meet new fire codes. Newly replaced windows throughout the building are now much tighter; contributing to energy savings. All these improvements are expected to bring a 30 percent savings in heating costs annually.

The third area of improvement is classroom lighting. Most of the fluorescent lighting has been converted to LED technology, not only for energy efficiency, but for a healthier learning environment. Research studies report that many children tire quickly, show diminished eye contact and have shorter attention spans in rooms with fluorescent lights. LED lighting is a win-win for the school, since the result will be a cost savings and a healthier space.

The financing of all these improvements was achieved with a Federal QECB (qualified energy conservation bond). A QECB is a bond that enables qualified issuers to borrow money at attractive rates to fund energy conservation projects. The low 3-5% interest rate on the QECB means the energy savings at the Whitefield School cover the financing costs, "and perhaps then some", says RSU 12 Superintendent Howard Tuttle. "The QECB allows school districts strapped for money to make cost-saving improvements, spend more resources on education, and do good for the environment with the energy efficiency." He also explained that the RSU is allowed to finance this work without taking it to the voters, because the contractor guarantees the energy savings. Under a performance-based contract with Siemens, the energy cost savings are guaranteed. If the contracted savings are not achieved, Siemens has to pay the difference for what they guaranteed.

To add to all of this good news about our school, a dedicated RSU 12 school board member has also volunteered to improve the bottom line. Richard DeVries, of Westport Island, on the board since 2009 and a member of the Facilities Committee, saw a chance in this project to save money and help the environment. "I've been gathering all the material that can be sold to a scrap yard at all four buildings: Whitefield, Windsor, Somerville and Palermo," he says. "So far I've delivered about 5 tons, valued at about \$1,500. I've put 2500 miles on my vehicle and made 29 deliveries so far." Fortunately the end is in sight!

AUGUST 2015 Community Events Calendar

- 2nd St. Denis Irish Picnic, St. Denis Hall, following 11 am Mass. Hot dogs, hamburgers, entertainment. No admission or food cost, donation accepted.
- 3rd **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 4th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
Laughing Yoga with Karen Stultz Join us and discover the fast and easy way to reduce stress, and have fun doing it. Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
- 5th **Arlington Grange Meeting**, Potluck Dinner 6 pm, meeting 7 pm - All are welcome
- 6th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 7th **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 9th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 10th **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 11th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 13th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 15th **AUCTION**, Coopers Mills Fire Dept., 10 am
Sheepscot Church Craft and Yard Sale, Parking Lot between Kings Mills Union hall and Church. 10-3 pm
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm, Open to the public, all ages welcome
- 19th **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 20th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 21st **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 22nd **Baked Bean Supper**, Arlington Grange Hall, Home made baked beans, hotdogs, rolls, salad, pies and desserts 4:30-6:30 pm
- 23rd **Live Edge Music Festival**, Hidden Valley Nature Center 12-6pm. Four great bands will bring HVNC's out door pavilion to life with a stunning variety of music. Tickets are on sale at the restaurants as well as Sheepscot General, the Alna Store, Mexicali Blues, Ames Supply, and at <http://hvnc.org/annual-music-fest/>.
- 25th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 27th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am

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September 2015

Shepherds Craft Farm: From California to Maine

by Tony Marple

In April, Laurel and Josh Banks and their son, Brandon, moved to Whitefield from their 100 acre farm in Mendocino County, Northern California. Josh and Laurel moved to Maine in part due to the drought and forest fires in California. Laurel grew up in Mendocino, and Josh grew up outside of Boston. They met during Laurel's senior year in high school; while Josh was building a house with one of Laurel's classmates. She built a cabin for her senior project.

Asked how they feel about living in Maine, Laurel said she's "stoked", a term she learned from the "old hippies" living near their California farm. She does find the culture here a little "chillier" than that of California. Josh loves Maine, though he retains ties to California where he still manages a "word of mouth" business renovating and servicing farms, so he travels back and forth to California often. Their young son, Brandon, is clearly "stoked" to be in town and has been seen riding the rocking elephant at Sheepscot General.



The Banks Family

In their search for a new farm, the Banks looked in Oregon, Sebago, Pittston, Gorham, Waldoboro and Warren, among other locations.

Josh had heard good things about Whitefield from friends and when they saw the farm, then owned by Austin Moore's daughter, Rebecca, they knew immediately that they wanted to own it.

The farm includes Gotland, Teeswater, and Merino sheep; totaling 130. The Banks plan to grow the flock to 200-300. The sheep are usually rotated twice a day to different grazing areas to the benefit of grass and sheep and to the detriment of parasites. They are building a 65x150 foot clear span half circle barn to house their flock.

Photo by Tony Marple

They also have laying hens; primarily for their own use. They sell wool, meat, milk, and pelts.

A visit to their website will give you a lot more information about their farm and their sustainable farming practices: www.shepherdscraftfarm.com

The family is hard working, enthusiastic, and accessible. They want to become active in town activities once their barn is built. We can all look forward to that.

Forest Harvest

by Dan Joslyn

Summer is soon ending and all things to be picked, pulled, mowed, or otherwise harvested are on man's conveyor belt, or will be by October. During a drive around Whitefield, gardens can be observed lush with summer's bounty. Kitchens have canning jars. Hayfields are smoothly shaven and a joy for children to run through again.

There is one crop, however, that generally cannot be so easily observed...wild mushrooms! Yes, it's that scary fungi that many folks care not to harvest, and that is just fine for those of us who do partake. Fear is a reasonable emotion. It makes us cautious; keeps us on our toes, but it shouldn't deter us from enjoying one of Maine's most enjoyable crops.

With ample knowledge, one can pick safely. "Our" first picking started after taking a class from Greg Marley offered by the



Black Trumpets Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

Maine Mycological Association several years ago: www.mainelymushrooms.org. One needs to be a member to access all of their information. We also purchased the *National Audubon Society Field Guide To American Mushrooms*. This guide is very helpful. There are lots of other books and instructors out there, too.

Over twenty folks were in our first class. We learned about many types of fungi; both edible and poisonous. There were so many types; it was overwhelming at first (sort of like watching a scary movie on TV), but also exciting and empowering. We learned how to pick four safe mushrooms. "Safe" because those four have no poisonous look-alikes at all. Pictures of two of our favorite types are included with this article; Maitake (Hen of the Woods) and Black Trumpets. Both can be found during September and October before the first heavy frost.

As a beginner, you should learn from an expert and stay with the easily identifiable types. These are delicious. Maitake are called the "yelling mushroom" because when you find your first, you are likely to jump up and down and yell. They grow up to forty pounds

and will provide a winter's supply for soups and stews. Trumpets are dainty, but grow in clusters on the forest floor. They are cooked in a variety of ways.

Continued on Page 2

Harvest Continued from Pg. 1

Never pick with only a book as your guide. Never throw varied species in one basket or bag. Never eat multiple species at one time. Never, never, be untrained, and once you know the safe mushrooms, you can pick with abandon. Leave the others for another year, when you have attended classes and gone on forays with experts. For us, we've stuck with four safe mushrooms, but enjoy finding others.



Maitake (Hen of the Woods) by Dan Joslyn

We buy farm-raised mushrooms when wild are not available, but this time of year gets us yearning to start gathering our own. These wild edibles are enjoyed in some of the best restaurants in the country. Their flavors far exceed what you get from farm-raised varieties. They're great in soups, stews, with scrambled eggs, or simply sautéed in oil or butter. Get creative!

In season, Sheepsfoot General sells several wild varieties. Give them a call or stop in: 549-5185 or sheepsfootgeneral.com to see what they have. Oyster Creek Mushroom in Damariscotta also sells a wide variety:

OysterCreekMushroom.com

Greg Marley from Rockland teaches classes for the Maine Mycological Association and for many others. He also has a display at the Common Ground Fair. Stop by his booth this Fall and learn what he has to teach you about medicinal uses of mushrooms: "Maine is home to some of the tastiest wild mushrooms available. Some of the best edible mushrooms also are among the best-researched medicinal mushrooms," says Marley.

There are a bunch of cautions that you'd be wise to follow, so go to the website previously mentioned, and join the Maine Mycological Society. Everyone should take a class (such as the one you can read about on page 3 of this edition). Join the Maine Mycological Association for ten bucks or twelve for a couple. Welcome to the club and enjoy a safe harvest! (P.S: Don't forget your tick spray!)

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Wild September in Whitefield: Goldenrod and Raptors

by Kit Pfeiffer



Day by day, month by month, the wild world around us is changing here in Whitefield. During September, be looking for some natural sights that are especially obvious signs of fall approaching.

Abundant Goldenrod:

Canada goldenrod

Did you know there are at least 20 species of goldenrod in Maine? The most common is Canada goldenrod, growing thickly in fields and roadsides. When I first see its familiar tall plume of yellow in August, it reminds me that summer is speeding by and will soon turn to fall. Other common goldenrods have descriptive names such as flat-top, hairy, downy and bog goldenrod. Next time you see a goldenrod, take a closer look. Is it tall and feathery, or does it have tighter clusters that form a flat top? Is the stem covered with stiff hairs or softer down? You may see two or more kinds of goldenrod clustered together, and that makes it easier to see the differences.

Don't worry about sneezing when you inspect the flowers, either. Goldenrod is not the culprit for [hay fever](#) this time of year. The pollen that causes the most trouble is [ragweed](#), which blooms at the same time as goldenrod. The ragweed's pollen is blown around by the wind (and into your nose and eyes!), but goldenrod [pollen](#) is too heavy and sticky for that. It is mostly pollinated by insects.

Migrating raptors:

It's the time of year to look up in the sky over our beautiful open fields around Whitefield. The raptors are restless and on their



American Kestrel © Christopher L. Wood

way south. If you're lucky, you may see a "hawk happening" called kettling. The broad-winged hawks like to gather in large numbers (50 or more, up to 1,000!) to make their journey together. You may see a big black clump high in the sky, as the hawks circle in the wind currents, forming a kettle shape. One by one, they will shoot out of the formation and fly off. They are headed to Central and South America for the winter, returning in April.

Easier to see are the raptors who soar over cut hayfields or perch on wires along our roads. One beauty is the American kestrel, Maine's smallest falcon, about the size of a crow. (It used to be called the sparrow hawk.) It will perch and peer around with its large eyes (a falcon can see up to 8 times more clearly than a human). Then it will strike out with strong, rapid wing-strokes to snare the rodent or insect it spied in the grass.

Good luck spotting the migrating raptors and the different species of goldenrod this month. Please let me know what you discover by writing to kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com



This team of 4 white-faced oxen and steers with a load of pressed hay on a platform wagon has stopped in front of the grain building next to the former Roger Glidden house on Main Street in Coopers Mills, early 1900s. The teamster is believed to be Roger's uncle, Clarence Glidden. The grain building was used as storage for bags of grain to be sold at the Achorn Bros. Store. *The small black rectangle on the upper left side of the barn near the eaves contained pigeon holes to allow them access to the barn. The pigeons cleaned up spilled grain and helped to keep down the rat population.* This building is no longer

Open House/Annual Meeting Event

(by Cheryle Joslyn)

The Kings Mills Union Hall and the Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Department Association invite you to an Open House Sunday, September 27 from 2:00-5:00 pm. Refreshments will be served, members and volunteers will be available



to share information about the Fire Department and the Union Hall, and will be eager to acquaint you with the work and efforts that each organization plans for the upcoming year. The Union Hall will also hold its annual meeting. The Whitefield Historical Society volunteers also plan to be available to answer questions about the Society. This is a chance to learn about what each group has accomplished



this past year and their plans for the upcoming year. Please join in our community event. We hope to see you there.



Introduction to Mushroom Foraging

Join Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC) and noted mushroom enthusiast David Spahr for an "Introduction to Mushroom Foraging" workshop at HVNC in Jefferson on Saturday, September 19, 9am to 1pm.

Mushrooms are revered in many other cultures for their medicinal and nutritional properties, as well as their essential and fascinating role in local ecologies. In the U.S. mushrooms are just beginning to get the widespread respect and attention they deserve.



Local mushrooms. Photo by David Spahr.

David Spahr has been an active member in this transformation. He has collected countless amounts of wild mushrooms for restaurants across the state; he leads regular workshops about growing, identifying, and cooking mushrooms; and he is the author of *Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada* available in many bookstores and libraries in Maine and online.

Participants will get an introduction to mushroom ecology and the basics of foraging during a short presentation. Following the presentation David will lead the group on a foray into HVNC's forest on the hunt for local mushroom treasure. Past forays have turned up many noteworthy species, some edible, and some just really fascinating.

Pre-registration is required for this workshop and is available online at: <http://hvnc.org/registration/>. Tuition is \$45 for HVNC, PWA, SVCA, SWLA, and DLWA members; \$55 for all others.

For more information about HVNC's events, or to find out how you can support HVNC visit www.hvnc.org, write to info@hvnc.org, or call 207-200-8840.

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SEPTEMBER 2015 Community EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
Laughing Yoga with Karen Stultz Join us and discover the fast and easy way to reduce stress, and have fun doing it. Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
Kings Mills Union Hall board meeting, public welcome, 7 pm
- 2nd** **Arlington Grange Meeting**, Potluck Dinner 6 pm, meeting 7 pm - All are welcome
Whitefield Historical Society meeting 6:30 pm
- 3rd** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 4th** **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 7th** **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 8th** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 10th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 12th** **Make a Traditional Gathering Basket at Hidden Valley Nature Ctr.** you're invited to learn to make your own gathering basket at Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC) in Jefferson. Join instructor Wanda Garland and HVNC for a full day (8-4pm) For more information: www.hvnc.org, info@hvnc.org, or 207-200-8840.
SVCA's Champagne on the Sheepscot fundraiser Saturday, September 12, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Westport Island
- 13th** **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 14th** **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 15th** **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 16th** **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 17th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 18th** **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 19th** **Farmers Market—Flea Market—Arlington Grange** Join local farmers and neighbors and see what is available for produce, flowers, crafts, and collectibles!! Food as well. Join us for a grilled hot dog lunch. 9-1 pm
Introduction to Mushroom Foraging, see article on Page 3
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm, Open to the public, all ages welcome
- 22nd** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 24th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 27th** **Annual Meeting/Open House—** The Kings Mills Union Hall, the Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Department Association and Whitefield Historical Society invite you to an Open House Sunday, September 27 from 2:00-5:00 pm.
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- 30th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am



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Volume 3, Issue 4

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Keeping the Bees: A Backyard Beekeeper's First Summer

Q & A with Brandi Grady

By Cheryle Joslyn

When did you become interested in beekeeping?

My love for beekeeping began when I started learning about homesteading and how to live a more sustainable life. I have always loved gardening, which led me down the path to more homesteading projects; like raising chickens for eggs and meat, composting, canning, and bees! I have always been fascinated by bees, but never knew much about them, so it was always something in the back of my mind that I hoped one day I could be a part of.

How did you begin?

I began learning about bees and beekeeping by reading many texts, researching online, and talking to other people who were also interested in bees. I took an introductory class this past Spring at **Spicer Bees**, right here in Whitefield! I have also joined some beekeeping groups and plan to take more courses to further my experience with bees.

What did you have to do to prepare for your bees' arrival?

My plan was to take the class at **Spicer Bees** and then decide whether or not I REALLY wanted to get into beekeeping. As I suspected, I was hooked after the first class. I got all of my equipment, including my package of bees, right through **Spicer's**. I purchased the boxes and frames needed to establish my hive, as well as a protective jacket, smoker, hive tool, feeder, and brush. To set up my hive, I looked around our property and took note of what areas were a bit wet, where the sun rises and sets, possible shade from trees, and any walking paths that might



Brandi Grady

Photo by Brandi Grady

interfere with the flight of the bees. I picked a spot where they would get morning sun and also some shade in the afternoon. I laid down a few wheelbarrow loads of wood chips to prevent tall grass and weeds from growing in front of the hive, and then laid down a wooden pallet. On top of the pallet I placed two cinder blocks to put the hive stand on. Having the hive off the ground helps prevent against predators. I had my hive situated about a week before the bees arrived.

...and when they arrived?

Unfortunately, I was out of town the day the bees arrived. At first, when I found out the bees were arriving on April 18th my heart sank. I knew I would be in North Carolina and figured I would miss my opportunity to keep bees this year, but luckily I have some great friends who were also becoming new beekeepers who offered to install my hive for me. I ordered a package of Italian Bees

through **Spicer's**. Originally, I wanted to begin with two

hives, but the initial investment was too much for me to afford this time around. The report from my friends who installed my hive was positive; nobody got stung! They picked up the bees the day they arrived, brought them to the hive, shook them out into their new home, placed the queen package in the hive, fed them some medicine and a sugar water mixture, and that was it! They came back a few days later to make sure the queen had made it out of her holding tank and to take a peek at the bees to make sure everything looked okay.

Continued on Page 2



Whitefield School's new greenhouse ("learning through growing") is nearly complete (photo by Sally Allen)

Greenhouse Project at Whitefield School

by Sally Allen

(Lead Teacher Middle School ABLE Program - Whitefield Elementary)

The ABLE program (Aquaponics-Based Learning and Education) at Whitefield School is adding curricula that emphasizes hands-on learning through hydroponics and aquaponics. To that end, we wrote a grant request to the Perloff Family Foundation which enabled us to build a 10' by 24' greenhouse out behind the gym at Whitefield School. The greenhouse has been built with all-volunteer crew consisting of Josh McNaughton, James Willigar, Sally Allen, and Stacey Sutter. At this point it is ready for the steel roof to be installed. Our students have also been heavily involved with researching, building raised beds, and



Greenhouse construction (photo courtesy Sally Allen)

growing lettuce hydroponically in a pool, as well as growing herbs and vegetables in a window garden in our classroom. Our ultimate goal is to encourage learning through growing; as well as to supplement our food pantry and weekend backpack program with healthy and fresh vegetables during the school year. You can follow our progress on our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ABLEAquaponics>.

Bees From Pg. 1

Bee sightings?

The first time I saw a bee in our yard was on a dandelion. It was the coolest thing to see that little bee from my hive gathering pollen to bring back to its home. As summer progressed, I saw bees everywhere! They seemed to be partial to my cucumber and squash plants, though.

Feeding your bees?

I fed my bees a sugar/water mixture until the dandelions began to bloom. It is now September, and I haven't fed them since. I will monitor their honey stores as we get into Fall and feed when necessary; in hopes that they will make it through the winter! My fingers are crossed!

Did you "get into" the hive this summer?

The first time I checked my hive, I was incredibly nervous, but super excited all at the same time. I had two friends join me for the hive inspection who were also first time beekeepers. I don't know how, but we spotted the queen right away! My queen is not marked, but she was clearly larger than the others and a beautiful caramel color, so she stuck right out. We checked to make sure she was laying and to see how the progress was going as the bees began to draw their comb. The hive was buzzing and the bees were so busy. They moved right along and didn't seem to take notice of us. They crawled on our hands, clung to our jackets, and buzzed through the air, but even with all of the commotion, I felt incredibly calm. There's something about being in the midst of thousands of bees that puts you at ease. I'm guessing it's their steady hum.

Throughout the summer I continued to check the hive every other week. When inspecting the hive alone, I made sure my husband kept an eye on me since I wasn't sure how I would react to a sting. Luckily, I made it through the summer with no stings thus far! Let's hope my luck continues! As summer set in, the supers began to get increasingly heavy! The bees were filling the comb with beautiful honey and this made it very heavy to lift by myself, so I enlisted some helpers again. In late July, I harvested about 20 pounds of honey. I wasn't sure if I would be harvesting any honey my first season with the new hive, but they worked steadily and I was able to gather my bounty. As mid-September approaches, I will be taking the supers off, treating for mites, and possibly harvesting some more honey if the hive is well-stocked for themselves.

Any swarm activity?

Luckily, I have not had any swarm activity with my hive. I did have a rookie scare, though, in mid-June. It was a Sunday evening around 7:30 pm, and a friend came over to visit. He asked how the bees were and as we chatted he looked over at the hive. He noticed a large clump of bees on the side of the hive, and I immediately panicked. The temperature had been cool and it was early evening, so I didn't think they were just cooling themselves off. Of course, I jumped to the worst case scenario: SWARM! I frantically ran into the house and grabbed a super and threw it on the hive in hopes that giving them more room would convince them to stay. Shortly after the super was put on, the bees began to filter back into the hive. After reading blogs online and talking with experienced beekeepers, they ensured me that the bees were not intending to swarm, but thought I made a good move by putting on that super. Phew!

How did you harvest honey?

Harvesting honey seems impossible if you don't have the right equipment. Luckily, my friend purchased a honey extractor on eBay and was kind enough to let me use it. To harvest the honey, we set up in my basement. We had a long table, a sharp knife, a bucket with a honey gate, strainers, a pot with hot water (to rinse the knife and heat it up), and plenty of towels! The most difficult part was cutting the cappings off the frame since we didn't have a fancy uncapping knife, but our bread knife worked well enough. The extractor held two frames at a time and you had to spin it by hand. It was fun and so exciting seeing the honey whip out of the frames, but it was a bit time consuming. That didn't bother me at all, though, because I knew I would be more than thrilled to taste that fresh honey. Once we had spun all of the frames (we had 6) we poured the honey from the



Harvesting the honey!
(photo by Brandi Grady)

extractor into the bucket. I let the bucket sit for a few days allowing some of the air bubbles to float to the top. Then I filled about 20 one-pound jars and licked the bucket clean!

Advice for other new beekeepers?

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Beekeepers are always willing to share their experiences with "newbies". I have learned a lot this summer and know there is still much more to learn! Before you take the plunge and purchase your first package of bees, make sure you are prepared. Take a class, read books, join a beekeeping club, ask local beekeepers how they manage their hives, and, most importantly, don't be afraid! Know that eventually you will be stung, no matter how careful you are. The reward of seeing your bees in action, tasting honey right from your backyard, and educating yourself on the importance of bees, is worth every minute you spend in your hive.

Has this been a good experience for you? (Brandi's answer is obvious!)

This experience has been so rewarding. I feel like I am doing something good for myself and for the environment.

...and your future in beekeeping?

Eventually, I would like to add more hives to my apiary. I don't think I would want any more than 4, but you never know! I plan to continue learning about bees and how they work and how I can manage them more effectively. I teach kindergarten and would love to incorporate beekeeping into my classroom. I think it is incredibly important to expose kids to as much as possible; especially at a young age. Who knows, I may inspire a student to be a beekeeper some day!

Whitefield School's playground addition completed



(photo courtesy Whitefield School)

Whitefield School's playground addition is complete and being thoroughly enjoyed by

the students. New climbing bars and walls, balance walkways, spiral slides, 50 yards of new wood chips, new fencing, and more... makes it so exciting for our young students' return to school. Much appreciation goes to Mr. McNaughton, Louis Shorey, Sue Peaslee, Todd Cook, and Josh Shorey for their efforts to construct the new structure.



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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Masquerade Ball held at the Union Hall in the early 1950's. Do you recognize anyone? (courtesy Lawrence Felt Collection)

A Roads Update

by Whitefield Roads Committee

As this is written in mid-September with summer slipping into fall, a number of road improvement projects are in various stages.

Roadside vegetation is a continuing project. The Town's annual roadside mowing has been completed. A contract for clearing brush along Heath, Hunts Meadow South, Hunts Meadow Center and Hunts Meadow North Roads has been awarded. This latter work will involve cutting of trees, limbs and bushes up to 4 inches in diameter within 10 feet of the road and some 15 feet high. The contract was awarded to Spicer Tree of Whitefield with the work to be done by November 1. We hope that removal of brush will "open up" roadways to provide better clearance and visibility.

In the Coopers Mills area, Road Commissioner David Boynton has worked to replace culverts and dig ditches to improve drainage. This work includes Windsor Road as well as Main Street. With the drainage addressed this year, the plan is to repave these roads next year, leaving the area with upgraded roads.

To evaluate the condition of several paved roads, a geo-technical engineering firm has made borings to determine the soil conditions under the pavement and recommend ways to best address problems. About 60 borings were made on Townhouse, Hunts Meadow Center, Hunts Meadow North, Vigue Road, and Balltown Lane (the road leading to the Recycling Center). This work has shown that the roadbeds are generally pretty good, although sections of Townhouse Road will need to be improved. Knowing what is under the pavement is important to decide where rehabilitation of a section is needed or if the existing surface can be repaved as is.

On three roads – northern Vigue, Hilton and Devine – cracks are to be sealed. Crack sealing is being tried for the first time in at least recent history as a way to "keep good roads good". If relatively small cracks are sealed, water penetrating into the pavement can be reduced to retard damage from freezing and extend the life of the pavement.

Vigue Road from Route 126 to Howe Road and Balltown Lane are being scheduled for paving this fall. This work will include building up some low spots, repair of broken pavement, and then applying a finish coat of new pavement. If all goes well, this work should be done by the end of October.

The Road Commissioner will be working on other improvement projects. Some sections on Doyle Road will be built up in areas that historically have springtime drainage and mud problems. He also plans to improve ditches on sections of Doyle and Townhouse Roads. A grader will be contracted to improve the shoulders on selected roads to allow water to more easily drain off the road to prevent damage to the surface. This will also address places where erosion has begun to undermine edges of the pavement.

If you are interested in learning more about this or other road work, please feel free to contact the Town Office; copies of the Road Committee's report done last fall are available. People interested in participating in the Roads Committee are always welcome and can also contact the Office.

A Farmer's Update -Fall report-

(courtesy of Ben at Sheepscot General)

Planting?

By October I'm not really planting anything anymore, except for garlic. Plant your garlic before the ground freezes. You want your garlic to put on some root growth before winter, but you don't want it to sprout out of the ground. Usually the middle of October is a good time to plant garlic.

I try to pack as much spinach into my greenhouses as possible. That's my favorite fresh winter crop. You have to get it well-established before the middle of November. This is the time when we get less than 10 hours of sunlight (the Persephone period), which lasts until the middle of February. Plants stop growing from the lack of light, but some plants, like spinach, will stay alive, even through deep freeze. I had spinach overwinter in an unheated greenhouse last winter. It stops growing in November, but it'll put on new growth in February.

Harvesting?

Everything! I'm always focused on getting the frost-sensitive things harvested first (squash, tomatoes, peppers, corn, potatoes). I like to let my carrots and cabbage get a couple frosts to sweeten them up. Cold hardy crops often produce sugars when it gets cold. It's a natural form of anti-freeze, so I'll leave the leeks, brussel sprouts, kale and spinach well into November in most years.

Soil Prep?

October, and prior to that, is a good time to amend your soil with minerals and fertilizer/compost. Get your soil tested, most soils around here need at least calcium and phosphorus, and a most gardens would benefit from some micro-nutrients, but the most important element in any soil is the biology (the living component). Plan your fertilizer program to benefit your soil biology. Get a cover crop planted. If you haven't planted anything by now, winter rye is about the only thing that will establish this late in the season. It will germinate and overwinter and continue to grow next spring. Be careful, especially if you want to grow a garden next year, that you don't let the rye grow too much before tilling the ground. By now, I have finished my soil preparations; I have a well-established stand of oats and peas that will winter-kill and leave a nice mulch that is easily worked into next years strawberry ground. I have planted rye wherever I plan to fallow next year.

Storage?

I have climate-control storage (big coolers), but that isn't necessary for everyone. Root cellars worked for a long time. The most economical walk-in cooler technology that I know about is called the Coolbot, a lot of small farms use it. It's basically just a simple circuit board that works with a regular air-conditioner and tricks it to run longer but keeps it from freezing up. I run one of those and pack a 6x12 room with storage crops (carrots, beets, potatoes, apples, cabbage, etc.) I end up having to run a little space heater when it gets really cold outside.



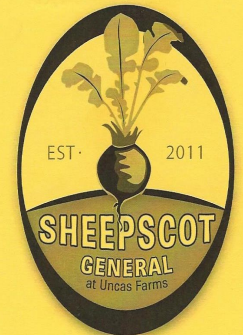
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OCTOBER 2015 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 2nd **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
Music & Nature Benefit Concert for SVCA, 7:00 pm at the Sheepscot General
- 3rd **Newell Family Band- Traditional Folk at Sheepscot General, 6:00 pm**
- 5th **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 6th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
Laughing Yoga with Karen Stultz Join us and discover the fast and easy way to reduce stress, and have fun doing it. Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
Kings Mills Union Hall board meeting, public welcome, 7 pm
- 7th **Arlington Grange Meeting**, Potluck Dinner 6 pm, meeting 7 pm - All are welcome
Whitefield Historical Society meeting 6:30 pm
- 8th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 9th-12th **Timber Frame Construction Workshop**, A Timber Frame Construction Workshop on Columbus Day Weekend, Friday to Monday, Hidden Valley Nature Center
- 10th **Open House at Country Manor** — On Saturday October 10 Country Manor will hold an Open House from 9 am until 3 pm to include light refreshments, tours and free blood pressure clinics. Thank you so much, and we hope to see you there.
- 11th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 12th **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 13th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 15th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 16th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 17th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm, Open to the public, all ages
- 19th **Woodlot Management Workshop for Women at Hidden Valley Nature Center**, The program cost is \$45 (\$40 for HVNC & MOFGA members). Some scholarships are available thanks to support from Maine Farmland Trust and Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
- 20th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 21st **Planning Board**, Fire Station, The Planning Board will be meeting at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, Oct.21 in the Whitefield Fire Station meeting room for a one-hour work session with members of the Select Board to begin drafting a Floodplain Management Ordinance for the Town of Whitefield. The regularly scheduled, monthly meeting of the Planning Board will follow at 7:00 pm.
- 22nd **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 27th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 29th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 30th **Children's Halloween Event- book reading and pumpkin carving** at Sheepscot General, 5:00 pm
- 31st **HALLOWEEN**



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October 8, 1925 - View of Kings Mills taken from the "upper switch" (Rt. 218) by the WWF Station Crossing. (courtesy of the Westbye Collection)

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You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at www.townofwhitefield.com/Newsletter.html

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com



Happy Thanksgiving

Whitefield News

FREE Thanks to our advertisers



Volume 3, Issue 5

Published Monthly

November 2015

Holiday Happenings

Christmas Craft Fair
Kings Mills Union Hall
Sat. Nov. 7th, 10-3 pm

Sheepscot General Holiday Bazaar
Dec. 4, 5-8 pm

SVCA Annual Holiday Potluck and Silent Auction Saturday, December 5, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
SVCA Office, Newcastle

Christmas Program with a visit from Santa
Kings Mills Union Hall
Dec. 6, 3-5 pm

Whitefield Food Pantry
Friday Nov. 6, 1-3 pm
Friday Dec. 4, 1-3 pm

Third Whitefield Trail Under Construction

by Kit Pfeiffer

Weaving down from Rte. 17 to the bridge on the Howe Road by the Salmon Preserve in Whitefield, the West Branch of the Sheepscot River is a beautiful waterway well known to local fishermen. Soon a part of it will be accessible to the general public as a hiking trail. A strip of land that runs along the West Branch, going north from the Howe Road bridge for about a half mile, is under conservation easement with the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association. Landowner Ellis Percy has cooperated enthusiastically with the Whitefield Trails group to

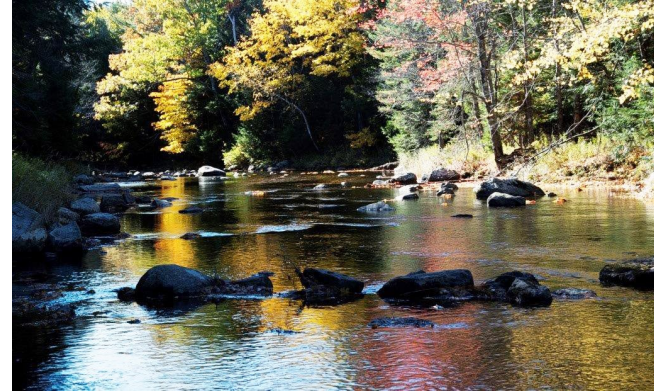


Photo by Tony Marple

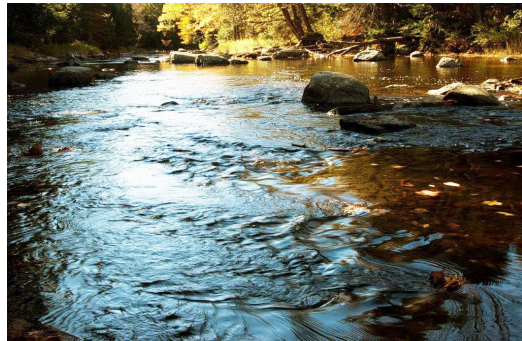


Photo by Tony Marple

develop the informal fisherman's trail and extend it along the full length of the easement and into the interior of his property for all to enjoy. The pathway wends its way along

the river, with overlooks of several oxbows and small waterfall areas over the ledge river bottom. Fall is an ideal time to check out this trail, for the bugs are gone and the colors are brilliant. Watch for an announcement of the grand opening of this new trail next spring, and if you wish, check it out now while it is still under construction. Better yet, why not volunteer to do some of the final trail work needed to finish the project. To contact the Whitefield Trails Committee: kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com or 207-446-9768.

And in case you missed it, Whitefield's own Marr's Ridge Trail was featured in John Christie's outdoors column in the Maine Sunday Telegram on September 20, 2015, <http://www.pressherald.com/2015/09/20/its-worth-the-trip-multiple-treats-make-for-an-excellent-day/>. Yes, it is worth the trip!

COOPERS MILLS DAM COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

By Herb Hartman

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (SVCA) have proposed funding the removal of the town-owned Coopers Mills Dam. In response, the Coopers Mills Dam Committee*, established by Whitefield's Select Board, has been meeting monthly since March to gather information on the dam's deteriorating and leaking condition and inoperable open gates that prevent it from completely holding back water. This condition, in summer low-water situations, negatively affects the fire department's ability to use its dry hydrant located in the impoundment behind the dam and it impedes, and in some cases prevents, migratory fish passage. Eventual, complete failure of the dam would prevent use of this important dry hydrant altogether.



Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

The committee is charged to consider options to address these issues and report its recommendations to the Select Board. The subjects being considered are: enhancement of the current hydrant's use for firefighting by dam repair, or upstream siting of a new hydrant if the dam were eliminated; the return of fish passage to what it was when the river was in its natural state; interpretation, and educational opportunities based on the site's historical significance; small scale hydro-power generation potential; recreational improvements; long term maintenance responsibilities and costs; and funding for any of the options for the dam. ASF and SVCA are funding studies and ongoing engineering needed for the committee's deliberations.

In addition to reviewing the work of previous dam committees (especially the report of 2007 and visits to the dam site and the Basin), **Continued on Page 2**

Dam Cont. from Page 1 members of the committee have heard presentations from and questioned fishery biologists from Maine's Department of Marine Resources, the principal author of the State's recent report on small scale hydro-power potential, a hydrogeologist, dam engineers, and dry hydrant specialists. The ASF, which is involved in the same process with Alna for the Head Tide dam, has explained its interest in the entire watershed and the successes of its river restoration program in Maine. Because of the committee's desire to consider all options, and with the committee's approval, an experienced dam engineer was hired by ASF to scope out the extent of minimal dam repair needed and its estimated cost, which would not be funded by ASF. In addition to specialists able to assess dry hydrant relocation potentials and secondary water sources, ASF has engaged a landscape design/ historical research team to work with the committee, as part of a removal option, on possible site enhancements providing historical interpretation of the dam and former mills, and development of recreational access to the river. The removal option would be entirely funded by ASF and SVCA.



Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

The committee hopes to have finished its work and be able to report



Photo from the Whitefield Historical Society

its findings and recommendation to the Select Board for a vote at town meeting in March. Public meetings will be held later this fall to discuss the committee's work and receive additional citizen input. The public is welcome to attend committee meetings that take place at the Whitefield Fire and Rescue Station. The dates and times of the meetings are posted at the Town Office, the Superette, Sheepscot General Store, and appear in the KJ and LCN.

*Voting members: Leslie McCormick (Chairperson), Chuck Vaughn, Jane Chase, Barry Tibbetts, Herb Hartman, Louis Sell, Scott Higgins, Tony Marple. Non-voting members: Andy Goode, ASF; Steve Patton, SVCA.



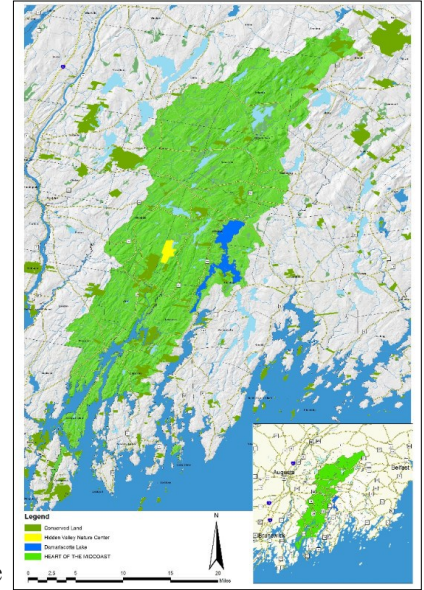
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SHEEPSCOT VALLEY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION • SHEEPSCOT WELLSPRING LAND ALLIANCE

Meet Midcoast Conservancy!

Our new name is just the beginning of an exciting period of transition

We listened to your input. We asked our supporters to weigh in on the new name of our merged organization and we received over 50 suggested names, nearly 400 responses to our survey, and nearly 200 helpful comments. Thank you! In addition we sought out help from marketing experts. All this pointed us back to Midcoast Conservancy!

The name combines many of the attributes that our members and supporters suggested: it is short, easy to say and remember, and it says what we do and where we do it. If the name leaves you wanting for more, just wait! In coming months our board of directors, staff, and you the community will be working together to create logos, taglines, and all the other pieces of the puzzle that will become our identity.



Meet Your New Staff:

Executive Director:	Jody Jones
Transition Coordinator:	Steve Patton
Director of Land & Water Conservation:	Anna Fiedler
Lakes & Rivers Manager:	Garrison Beck
Forest Stewardship & Recreation Manager:	Andy McEvoy
Stewardship & Education Manager:	Lynne Flaccus
Communications & Marketing Manager:	Ali Stevenson
Office & Finance Manager:	Kristin Pennock

St. Denis Whitefield Food Pantry Cookbook!

The Whitefield Food Pantry is excited to announce their new cookbook. The book will be available the first week in December and offers 525 recipes from area homes.

All proceeds for the cookbook will benefit the Food Pantry.

Each hardcover 3 ring style book will cost \$20 and can be purchased at area stores. You may also preorder by contacting:

Becky Morton 549-0007
Mary Lemieux 582-2684





Photo of Horace Kennedy on his farm digging potatoes for winter storage in 1962. Horace was born on the Kennedy farm in 1904. The farm has since burned and now is the site of Rufus and Alice Percy's Treble Ridge Farm. (photo from the Glendon Jackson collection-courtesy of WHS)

Recent Select Board Activity


- The Select Board voted to approve a tax commitment that results in a mil rate of 14.7; which would result in an annual tax bill of \$1470 on a property valued at \$100,000. The mil rate of 14.7 is a slight increase over last year's rate of 14.25 which would result in a \$45 increase on that \$100,000 house. It's worth noting that while there have been mil rate ups and downs in recent years, our 2016 mil rate is the same as that of 2013.
- The Board voted to propose a three-year term for the elected Road Commissioner which will be voted on at the 2016 March Town Meeting. The purpose of the proposed term lengthening is to be consistent with the long range planning approach of the Board and the road committee and to allow the Commissioner to plan for equipment upgrades. If approved, the increased term would begin in 2017.
- The budget process will begin this fall and the Budget Committee meetings will begin in January. The board will be recruiting a limited number of new members for the committee. If you are interested in being a Budget Committee member, please contact Aaron Miller at the Town Office.
- The Select Board sent a letter to the DEP, Attorney General's office, and Inland Fisheries, urging them to move forward on the long-delayed water level enforcement for Clary Lake. A similar letter was sent by Representative Deb Sanderson and Senator Chris Hall. On September 28th, the DEP issued a notice of violation to Pleasant Pond LLC, its former manager, Paul Kelly, and to Aquafortis Associates LLC and its sole member, Richard Smith.
- The board arranged for the placement of a chain link fence surrounding the plastic recycling bins to limit the blowing of plastic onto properties surrounding the recycling Center. (Notes extracted from Approved Select Board Meeting Minutes courtesy of Tony Marple (Select Board Member). More complete information can be obtained online at: <http://www.townofwhitefield.com/SB%20Minutes%202015.html#>, or by request of the Approved Minutes at the town Office.)

Locals honored at awards banquet

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District holds its Annual Awards Banquet on November 4 at the North Nobleboro Community Hall. A homemade dinner (beef or vegetarian entrée) and a limitless assortment of homemade pie will be followed by awards and a guest speaker. Among this year's awards: Patti and Chris Hamilton of Hamilton Farm & Barred Owl Creamery (Whitefield) will be recognized as the Conservation Farm of the Year, and Barry Tibbetts (Whitefield) will receive Lifetime Membership on the Conservation District Board for his many years of service. The guest speaker is Sally Allen, lead teacher of the ABLE (Aquaponics-and-Gardening-Based Education) at Whitefield Elementary. If you would like to attend, please call 596-2040 or visit www.knox-lincoln.org/annual-

Please Tell Us

The Whitefield News group welcomes suggestions for topics to include in the monthly newsletter. If you have an interesting idea for a topic to share with the community, we would like to hear from you. Please contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or call Debbie at 549-3491




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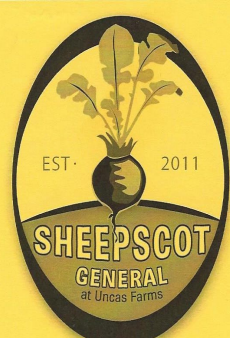
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NOVEMBER 2015 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Daylight Savings Time Ends**
- 2nd **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome.
No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 3rd **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
Laughing Yoga with Karen Stultz Join us and discover the fast and easy way to reduce stress, and have fun doing it. Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm
Kings Mills Union Hall board meeting, public welcome, 7 pm
- 4th **Arlington Grange Meeting**, Potluck Dinner 6 pm, meeting 7 pm -
All are welcome
Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Awards Banquet
A homemade dinner followed by awards and a guest speaker. FMI 596-2040, 6pm
Whitefield Historical Society meeting 6:30 pm
- 5th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 6th **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 7th **Christmas Craft Fair**, Kings Mills Union Hall, 10 am—3 pm
K of C Famous Pork Roast Dinner—St. Denis Hall, Rt. 126, starting at 5 pm. Free will donations. 50/50 drawing
- 8th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 9th **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 10th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 11th **Veterans Day**
- 12th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 15th **Nature Writing workshop HVNC**, 10am-3pm. Beginning and experienced writers are encouraged to participate. Members Free, \$15 non-members.
- 17th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 18th **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 19th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 20th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscoot General, 7-9 pm
- 21st **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 24th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 26th **Thanksgiving Day**



Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

3rd Annual Arlington Grange Calendar

The 3rd Annual Arlington Grange calendar is now available (or will be very soon). This year's calendar highlights the many farm families and wonderful products in our area, a gift that gives all year round. Proceeds benefit the Arlington Grange.

The calendar is available at the following stores: Sheepscoot General, No. Whitefield Superette, Hussy's General and the Alna Store.

We appreciate your continued support.

∞ Arlington Grange ∞



The Many
Wonderful Farms
In Our Area
2016 Calendar



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89 Western Ave Augusta Me
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Whitefield Trash Service
Dana Rogers
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You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at www.townofwhitefield.com/Newsletter.html



Whitefield News

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Volume 3, Issue 6

Published Monthly

December 2015

Holiday Happenings

Mt. View Chamber Singers "Carols in the Round" St. Denis Church, Dec. 2nd 7 pm sharp

Sheepscot General Holiday Bazaar Dec. 4, 5-8 pm

SVCA Annual Holiday Potluck and Silent Auction Saturday, December 5, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. SVCA Office, Newcastle

Christmas Program with a visit from Santa Kings Mills Union Hall Dec. 6, 3-5 pm

Whitefield Food Pantry Friday Dec. 4, 1-3 pm

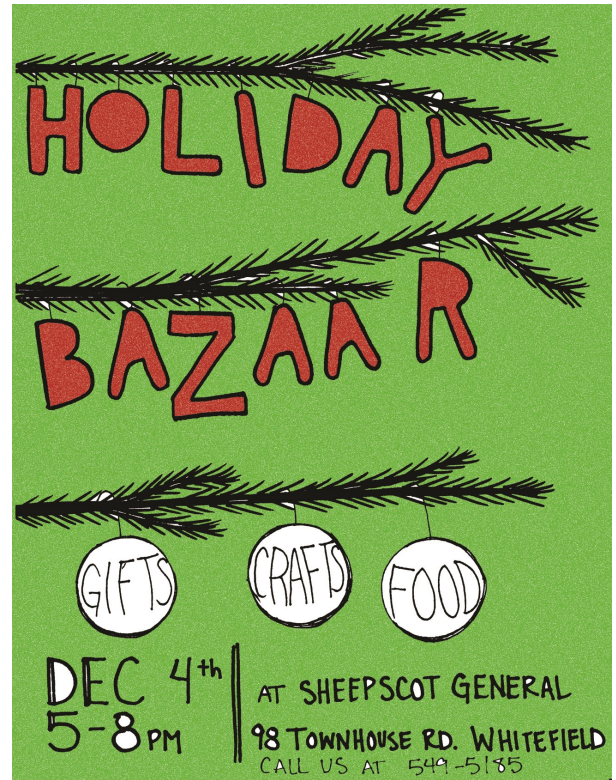
Shop Local: why and how

by Kit Pfeiffer

In this season of gift-giving, you can do your part to boost our local economy, and our sense of community, by looking to our own Whitefield and nearby store-keepers, artisans, farmers and practitioners. Why?

National studies have shown that for \$100 that you spend at locally-owned businesses, \$68 remains in our local economy. However, spending on line or at chain businesses such as the big box stores, only \$43 of your \$100 will stay in our community. (Statistics from www.localfirst.com). Local businesses also donate more to community charities than non-local businesses. Also, getting a gift right here in Whitefield means less travel (and time!), no shipping charges, and therefore less of a carbon footprint. As Michael H. Shuman says in his book Going Local, "It means becoming more self-sufficient and less dependent on imports. Control moves ... back into the community where it belongs."

When we shop locally, we build a sense of community in several important ways. We get to know each other, deepening relationships and creating a sense of pride in our town. We build connections with our neighbors that can lead to ideas of what we might do to make this an even better place to live.



Poster by Hannah George

How?

- Here are just a few ideas for shopping locally:
- *Patronize the advertisers in the Whitefield News and thank them for making this newspaper possible!
- *Seek out local holiday fairs and craft shows. (See Calendar on last page.)
- *Look at labels on food products to find locally-made goods. (Hannaford's has "Close to Home" signs directing you to Maine products; Sheepscot General features dozens of Whitefield products such as cheeses, yogurts, vegetables and many hand-made crafts.)
- *Give a gift certificate for local services-- a hairdresser, a car mechanic, a music or art teacher, a share in a CSA farm. Be creative. The local list is long!
- *Give a gift membership in a local non-profit such as the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association, which holds the conservation easements on the properties where the new Whitefield Trails are now open to the public.
- *Make a donation in someone's name to our local food pantry, volunteer fire department, or other local service organization.

Have fun shopping locally. We will all reap the benefits.

Santa to visit Whitefield

by Cheryle Joslyn

The big fella is...well, we all know he is Santa, of course, and the young fella, Finn Maldovan (son of Kacie and Tobin Maldovan) has a lot to say to him. Santa has been told many tales over the years, but one that really makes him chuckle was from a little "blondie" who pushed her way to the front. She snuggled up to Santa's ear and exclaimed, "Santa, you are the only boy I have ever loved". That made Santa's trip to Whitefield worth the flight. He will make his appearance again this year at the Kings Mills Hall, Sunday, Dec.6 from 4:00-4:30. All are welcome; please join the fun.



Photo Courtesy of Cheryle Joslyn



Need help this holiday season?

by Debbie Rogers

The holidays are upon us again, and for many, it is a very stressful time of year as we try to provide necessities and niceties for our family. There are many organizations out there that may be able to help. Here are a few:

- **Whitefield Food Bank**, 1st Friday of the month 1-3 pm (Dec. 4th) Mary Lemieux at the St. Denis food bank: 582-2684
- **Town of Whitefield**, The town office administers General Assistance, whether it be for fuel assistance, personal supplies, medications, etc. This requires an application and income screening: 549-5175.
- **United Methodist Church Clothes Closet** - Judy Harriman 582-4359, Dot Weeks 582-3749, Bette Seymour at the **Randolph Church** 582-5188.
- **Wiscasset Food Pantry** 882-9088
- **Help Yourself Shelf** 882-7184.
- **Department of Health and Human Services** 287-3707
- **Salvation Army** 623-3752
- **Goodwill** 623-1774
- **Catholic Charities** 621-8520
- **Senior Spectrum** 626-7777
- **211** - One number - thousands of services. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember number that connects people who want to give help or get help with a full range of health and human services in their community
- **Maine State Housing Authority** 626-4600
- **LIHEAP** 800-542-8227
- **KVCAP** - 800-542-8227
- **Lincoln County Family Holiday Wishes** will be providing their familiar pink and blue Wish Tags to any program requesting them. Each Wish Tag represents the holiday wish of a local child and will begin appearing on Wish Trees soon. Shoppers can select a tag, purchase the gift, and then return it to the Wish Tree location - fulfilling that child's holiday wish. Once established, a list of Wish Tree locations will be published in The Lincoln County News. Whitefield residents may contact Lincoln County Family Holiday Wishes at 350-7799. Volunteers are needed to help with Family Holiday Wishes, as are businesses and churches to host Wish Tree locations. To find out more about Lincoln County Family Holiday Wishes, call 350-7799.
- **Friends Helping Friends** There is a group of concerned citizens in town who are spearheading an effort to assist Whitefield seniors. Its aim is to help people remain in their homes independently as long as possible. Needs might include help getting to appointments, or the grocery store, or town events, etc. We are looking for volunteers to provide these services as well as folks who need them. Below is a list of those currently in the group who have committed help when possible:
 - Wes Keep - 549-3635 kphenranch@roadrunner.com
 - Avery Dunn - 549-3000 storehouse@roadrunner.com
 - Sister Juanita Robichaud 549-3945 juanitapfm@aol.com
 - Al & Nancy Legere 549-5543 MaineLegeres@gmail.com
 - Marie Patfoort 549-7358 None
 - Rosemary Sanborn 549-6035 krsanborn@roadrunner.com
- Also, check out your local church, school and civic organizations.

Box Tops and labels for education

by Cheryle Joslyn

Whitefield School continues its Box Tops and Labels for Education Program again this year. Last year the Whitefield PTA and K-8 classrooms were able to contribute funds earned through the Box Tops

Program to help support the renovating of the school's new playground and the construction of the outdoor classroom. This year's funds will be used to support a variety of classroom projects throughout the year. Friendly competition amongst classes to redeem the most points has already begun. Last year a total of 10,000 box tops and labels was collected and Mrs. Beck's Kindergarten and Mr. Cullenburg's 5th grade were the winners of the challenge.



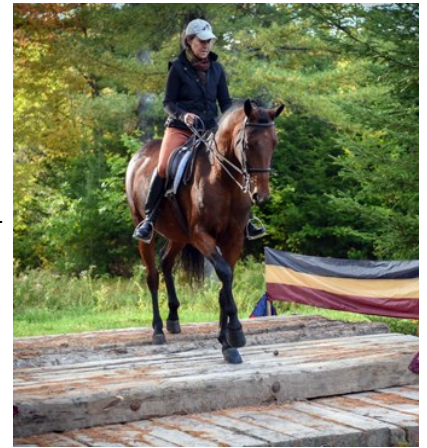
For more information and a complete list of participating products visit LabelsForEducation.com

Please don't throw away your boxes or containers without checking and cutting first. These can be sent in to school with your child, or dropped off in the main lobby of the school. It's crazy how they add up! Every little bit helps!

Acorn Hill Farm

by Jennifer Grady

Acorn Hill Farm, a horse facility owned by Steve and Jennifer Grady in Kings Mills, has been hosting trail rides for many years. The proceeds go to different charities. We have a large network of trails for horseback riding that we maintain year round. (in the Winter they are part of the snowmobile trail network) We also offer an obstacle course area for horse training and activities. We hosted four group rides in 2015 with proceeds going to the Kings Mills Union Hall, the Make A Wish Foundation and the Friesian Events Association (a New England based charitable horse group). Our rides are typically 7 to 12 miles in length at which riders will ride at their own rate on the marked trail, with the obstacle course offered for fun or as a



Photos provided by Acorn Hill Farm



judged portion of the ride. You may contact Jennifer at 549-3170 or email acornhill@aol.com for more information.

*Whitefield Historical Society
"Just Yesterday"*



(photo courtesy of the Chester Gillis Collection and the Whitefield Historical Society)

This Christmas tree wagon photo of Willis Boynton and Ann Gillis was taken in circa 1947 in Kings Mills. Willis's granddaughter, Helen Rines, remembers visiting her grandfather at his home on Boynton Lane. The home (known as the Benjamin Larrabee house built before 1825) still stands at the end of the lane, and the remaining trees have grown quite tall.

Whitefield 8th grade wreath project

courtesy Whitefield School

Please help the 8th grade by purchasing wreaths for the holiday season (made by Juanita Peaslee). The cost of 1 wreath is \$12, and each wreath comes with a bow and pine cones to get your home decorating started. You may order by calling Doris at school (549-7691).



Juanita Peaslee Photo by Tony Marple

Delivery to be expected by Friday, December 4th. Thank you for your support, and have a wonderful holiday season!

St. Denis Whitefield food pantry cookbook!

The Whitefield Food Pantry is excited to announce their new cookbook. The book will be available the first week in December and offers 525 recipes from area homes.

All proceeds for the cookbook will benefit the Food Pantry.

Each hardcover 3 ring style book will cost \$20 and can be purchased at area stores. You may also preorder by contacting:

Becky Morton 549-0007
Mary Lemieux 582-2684



In Fond Memory
of
DOT HOWELL

The committee members for the Whitefield Newsletter wish you all a Merry Christmas and Holiday Season!!



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DECEMBER 2015 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
Laughing Yoga with Karen Stultz Join us and discover the fast and easy way to reduce stress, and have fun doing it. Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
- 2nd **Whitefield Historical Society** meeting 6:30 pm
Mt. View Chamber Singers "Carols in the Round, St. Denis Church, 7 pm sharp
- 3rd **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 4th **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
Holiday Bazaar, Sheepscot General, 5-8 pm
- 5th **SVCA Annual Holiday Potluck and Silent Auction**. 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
SVCA Office Newcastle
- 6th **Nature Journaling Workshop**, Beginning and experienced writers are encouraged to participate. Members Free, \$15 non-members. 10am-3pm, Registration is required. Visit ww.hvnc.org/registration/ for details
Christmas Program with Visit from SANTA, Kings Mills Union Hall, 3-5 pm
- 7th **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 8th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
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- 15th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
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- 17th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 18th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 19th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 22nd **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 24th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 29th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 31st **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am



*Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.*

3rd Annual Arlington Grange Calendar

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We appreciate your continued support.

Arlington Grange

The Many Wonderful Farms In Our Area 2016 Calendar

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Register year round
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