



Whitefield News

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More River Along Happy Farm River Trail

Story and pictures by Kit Pfeiffer

Just in time for summer hiking and swimming, the Whitefield Trails Committee has opened a new section of river frontage connecting the two stretches of the original Happy Farm River Trail. You can now walk along the river for close to a mile, enjoying the vistas and, if you're lucky, spotting a mink or a beaver, a Bald Eagle or a Great Blue Heron.



Looking down the Sheepscot River from the original trail

In case you haven't walked it yet, Happy Farm River Trail starts at the Recycling Center behind the Town Office on Townhouse Road, crosses several hay fields, and then cuts down through mixed woods to the Sheepscot River. This part of the river contains spawning and nursery habitat for Atlantic Salmon as designated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The woods are home to small mammals, deer and an abundance of songbirds, as well as mosses, lichens, ferns and some very large White Pine and Eastern Hemlock near the river.

The Happy Farm River Trail has some gentle ups and downs and is well suited to families. There are two wooden benches for resting to overlook the river, as well as a cleared picnic area. No fires are allowed. Dogs under owner's command are welcomed. Please respect landowner wishes and stay on the trail marked by the blue blazes.

Trail maps and directions for all three Whitefield Trails can be downloaded on the Midcoast Conservancy website: midcoastconservancy.org/preserve/sheepscot-valley/. With the cooperation of generous private landowners and assistance of the Midcoast Conservancy, the all-volunteer Whitefield Trails Committee continues its work to maintain these trails and develop others for the enjoyment of the public. Volunteers are always welcomed. Please contact David Elliott, dcel12@myfairpoint.net or 207-549-7572 if you wish to join in the fun!



New section of trail, looking upriver to the floodplain at the oxbow

Junkyards: Taking them on

by Sue McKeen

When I was growing up in the 50's, I remember my father. I particularly remember my father on Saturdays. He got up early. He was joyful. He was going to the dump. In those days, we threw away couches, refrigerators, stoves, tires, car parts, electronics...you name it. There was nothing you couldn't bring to the dump. It was a virtual cornucopia of cast-offs, and we threw our previous "treasures" with wild abandon. My father was there front and center, making small talk with Jimmy, the dump man, waiting for the first load of treasures to arrive. He was a real estate man during the week, but on weekends, he was heart and soul, a picker.

I recently sat down with Whitefield's Code Enforcement Officer, Arthur Strout, at his office in Windsor. We discussed the accelerating problem of uncontrolled junkyards. I asked him if he thought the problem had gotten worse. Without hesitation, he said, "Absolutely, much worse". He never even scratched his head when he replied, "It's because people can't just go to the dump anymore. They don't want to pay someone to haul their trash away. Inevitably, it gets thrown in their yards, fields, any place accessible." We both agreed, people have more "stuff". We are, after all, a society of consumers - we consume



Photo courtesy of Google images

everything, then we throw it away. Some recycle, many don't. Some pay to have their trash/junk hauled away, while others don't, can't, or won't.

I asked Arthur how he handles complaints. He told me when he gets a call, he goes out to the property to see

if it does meet the state definition of a junkyard. If it does, he informs the property owner that they must go to the town to apply for a permit. If they don't want to do that, they are told to clean up the property within a certain time frame. If the property owner does not comply, they may be subject to fines and legal action.

The Board of Selectmen has been tasked with enforcing the existing state law. Whitefield does not have its own junkyard/automobile graveyard ordinance. In the past couple of months, there have been increased rumblings from the public about the state of our town, the proliferation of junk along roads, in yards and fields. The Board has agreed, as a starting *Continued on Pg. 2*

Junk from Pg. 1 point, to take legal action if necessary in pursuing the several complaints currently on CEO Strout's desk.

In order to further understand the problem, it is important to know the statutory definitions of an "automobile grave-

yard", "automobile recycling business" and "junkyard". The purpose of such definitions are to identify and provide adequate controls to ensure that junkyards, automobile graveyards, and automobile recycling businesses do not have a harmful impact on the public health, safety and general welfare or on the natural environment.

Automobile Graveyard: A yard, field, or other outdoor area used to store 3 or more unregistered or undisputed motor vehicles or parts of the vehicles. Automobile graveyard includes an area used for automobile dismantling, salvage, and recycling operations. Section 29-A, section 101, subsection 42.

Automobile Recycling Business: The business premises of a dealer or a recycler licensed under Title 29-A, sections 851-1112, who purchases or acquires salvage vehicles for the purpose of reselling the vehicles or component parts of the vehicles or rebuilding or repairing salvage vehicles for the purpose of resale or for selling the basic materials in the salvage vehicles, as long as 80% of the business premises specified in the site plan in section 3755-A, subsection 1, paragraph C is used for automobile recycling operations.

Junkyard: A yard, field, or other outside area used to store, dismantle or otherwise handle: (a) discarded, worn out or junked plumbing, heating supplies, electronic or industrial equipment, household appliances or furniture; (b) discarded, scrap and junked lumber; and (c) old or scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper trash, rubber debris, waste and all scrap iron, steel and other scrap ferrous or nonferrous material.

In the Town of Whitefield, we have two businesses which are licensed under one or more of these categories. This may be a startling revelation, considering what we can view during a Sunday drive around town.

To the point, if you fall in any of the categories named above, you may require a permit. You don't have to be in the business of selling in order to require a permit. You may also be required to meet certain standards as conditioned by your permit.

Junkyards: Are they subjective or objective? You may think they are subjective, but the reality lies in the law. Laws govern our nation. Laws are enforceable through the courts. Laws were established, in the main, to enable us to live together and for the benefit of the whole. Not just for a few. Now ask yourselves, do my habits impact my neighbor?

Personally, I miss the days of the open dump. I know for sure my father couldn't countenance a world without Saturdays at the dump. However, today I go to the Recycling Center where I can rifle through unwanted items, talk to my neighbors, and cut down on the amount of trash I have to pay to have hauled away. There is always a bright side.



Photo courtesy of Google images

Half-Off Maine fruits and vegetables program at Sheepscot General

by Taryn Marcus



Sheepscot General Store and Farm is working with Maine Farmland Trust this summer and Fall to help low-income shoppers stretch their food budgets through the Maine Harvest Bucks program. This is an incentive program that provides monetary bonuses to low-income shoppers to buy additional local fruits and vegetables. Customers with EBT/SNAP cards will receive half-off local fruits and vegetables. Fruit and vegetable seeds and seedlings also qualify. This program supports our local farmers, increases access to healthy food for low-income shoppers, and builds community connections. A brief one time survey needs to be filled out before discounts can be applied. Sheepscot General will run this program through December, and hopefully, if successful, again next year.



Photo by submitted by Sheepscot General

Summer Library

Where: Arlington Grange
When: Beginning July 12, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10:00 - 12:00



The Whitefield School has donated books on loan for the summer, but we need many more. We'd love donations of gently used, appropriate children's and adult books; 2 easy chairs, bean bag chairs, scatter rugs, small round table, craft items, lamps, shelving. FMI please call Martha Tait, 549-5123, Margaret Ferguson 549-5991 or Sue McKen 446-7473.

The Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit 12 budget heads to voters

Tuesday, June 13th, the citizens of Whitefield, along with the other RSU 12 towns, are asked to vote on the 2017-2018 budget referendum. This year's budget is posted on the district website for review (www.svrsu.org). There is specific information about Whitefield School's budget proposals on that website. Whitefield's local contribution in the 2017-2018 budget proposal is \$2,269,629, an increase of \$107,331.70 or 4.96 percent. The budget was finalized and recommended to the citizens of RSU 12 by the RSU 12 Board of Directors, and on May 18 voters approved the \$21.46 million budget at the annual budget validation meeting. The final step in the budget process is for voters in each town to validate through the referendum process the whole budget that was approved at the May 18 meeting. Please contact the Town Office to learn more about the time and location of voting on this referendum on June 13th.



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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"

Whitefield's oldest map is featured in USM's Osher Map Library website. Creator: Eliakim Scammon (born 1816 in Whitefield, and a career officer serving as a brigadier general in the Union Army during the American Civil War.



(contributed by David Chase, Friends of Whitefield, Facebook)



Our appreciation goes out to the students in Whitefield School's National Junior Honor Society for placing 220 flags at the Whitefield Cemetery in Kings Mills. This was one of many civic responsibilities Ms McCormick's group enthusiastically took on this year, and we will highlight more in our next edition.

IRS Notices - Settlements - Late Filers

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Dayze with her favorite critter

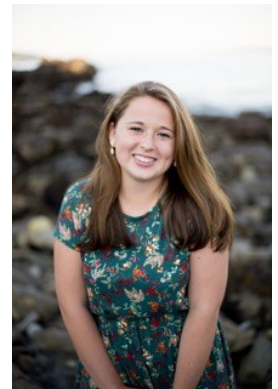
We are very proud and excited to announce that our granddaughter, Dayze Gaulin has graduated from Cornell University, Ithaca NY, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Sciences. Dayze specialized in Dairy Science and is planning to apply to Veterinarian School this fall. Her goal is to practice veterinary medicine for farm animals (primarily cattle), in Maine and of course Whitefield! Part of how we're celebrating Dayze's achievement is with a pair of Brown Swiss bull calves that we'll be training up together to work on the farm. Dayze has worked incredibly hard and she inspires us every day.

Pat McKenzie and Eric Meyer

Congratulations to three Whitefield graduates from Erskine Academy in the Top 10



Audrey Jordan #2
Salutatorian



Hannah Burns #3



Keeley Gomes #9


JUNE 2017 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **SHEEPSHOT GENERAL PLANT SALE MAY 15TH THROUGH JULY 1ST**
SENIOR MEN'S GROUP, Sheepscot General, 10 am
WHITEFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 4 pm Sheepscot General
BIRD FRIENDLY GARDENING, No matter whether you have a small yard or acres of property, you can garden and landscape to entice many of your favorite birds to your home. Through slides, discussion and handouts, the first of two classes will explore the elements and issues in creating habitat that supports the diverse needs of a variety of bird species, as well as the importance of native plants and insects in developing healthy ecosystems for wildlife. Held in Wiscasset by Midcoast Conservancy-FMI: call (207) 389-5150
 Thursday June 1 & Thursday June 8 6pm-8pm \$35 members, \$40 non-members for both classes
- 2nd** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 3rd** **HOOKED ON FISHING**, Bring the kids to Damariscotta Lake for a free day of fishing!
 Equipment is provided and experienced anglers will take children ages 5-15 out on the lake to give fishing a try. Lunch will be provided by the Whitefield Lions Club and families are welcome to enjoy a day at the Park. - FMI: call (207) 389-5150
- 4th** **FUZZY UDDER CREAMERY'S 4TH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE** Fuzzy Udder Creamery's 4th Annual Open House, taste cheese, snuggle lambs and kids and celebrate another year with us in Whitefield!
- 5th** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT. ANNUAL MEETING**. All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 6th** **WILD FLOWER WALK** Join Midcoast Conservancy Land Steward Hannah Chamberlain for a hike through Hidden Valley Nature Center, including the bog, to observe and discuss local wildflowers. Meet at the Barn; wear boots and bring water, snack. Optional: wildflower guide, hand lens, hiking pole/walking stick. \$5 donation suggested. Please, no dogs on this walk! FMI: call (207) 389-5150
WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 1:00 pm
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 7th** **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, Call 549-3491 for more information.
- 8th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 11th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 12th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 13th** **JUNE 13 RSU 12 BUDGET REFERENDUM VOTE** (contact our Town Office for time and location)
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**, featuring Raskell Fray Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 17th** **SUMMER NATURE JOURNALING-WILDFLOWERS** Please bring a blank book, notebook, or journal and your preferred writing and drawing tools (pencil, pen, colored pencils), as well as water and snacks. We will spend time both indoors and outdoors and will walk up to a mile or more in search of flowers, so please dress accordingly and consider wearing a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and whatever tick-proof clothing you prefer. FMI: call (207) 389-5150 \$20 members, \$25 non-members
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 20th** **MISUNDERSTOOD BATS** Join Midcoast Conservancy on Tuesday June 20 at 6 pm for an introduction to one of the planet's most fascinating creatures – the bat! Bats are likely the most misunderstood and under-appreciated creatures on the planet. They are also among the most unique, playing an essential role in the ecology of our planet and saving US agriculture billions of dollars each year. FMI: call (207) 389-5150
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 21st** **PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 22nd** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 23rd** **ICE CREAM SOLSTICE** 5-7pm Sheepscot General's 7th Annual ICE CREAM SOLSTICE come celebrate with free ice cream! Bring your neighbor and a topping to share.
- 24th** **MAINE SUMMER ADVENTURE RACE** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Midcoast Conservancy and Strong Arm Racing are joining forces again to host the 2nd Maine Summer Adventure Race on June 24th, 2017 at Hidden Valley Nature Center. FMI: call (207) 389-5150
- 27th** **STAND UP PADDLE BOARD & CANOE CAMP** Tue, Jun 27 - Thu, Jun 29, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Camp will run from 8am-1:00pm each day, and we will meet at 38 Lake Farm Circle, Jefferson, ME 04348 on Damariscotta Lake. Price – FREE This camp is open to all Maine youth ages 9-14. Previous experience in these activities is not required. Participants should be prepared to be physically active during camp.
WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 28th** **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS**, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm fini call
 Mary at (549-5041) or Arlene (549-7937)
- 29th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 30th** **HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF LINCOLN COUNTY GENERAL STORES** at Sheepscot General. 6-8pm

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

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

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