



# Whitefield News

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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**

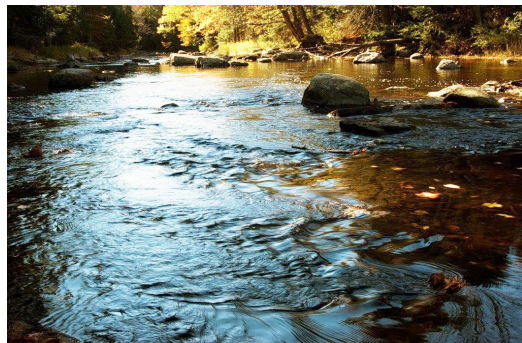
**Christmas Program**  
**with a visit from Santa**  
**Kings Mills Union Hall**  
**Dec. 6, 3-5 pm**

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

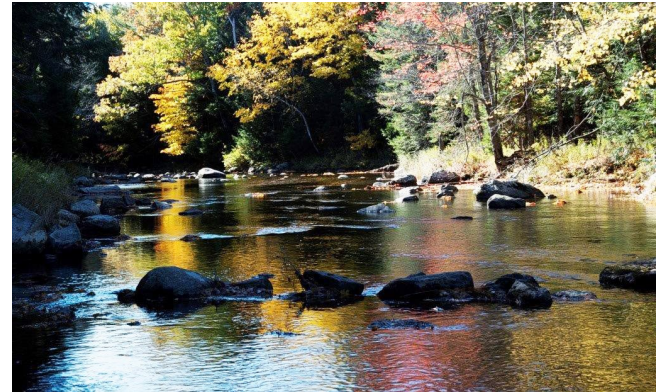
## Third Whitefield Trail Under Construction

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* 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 *Photo by Tony Marple* 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](mailto: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



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.



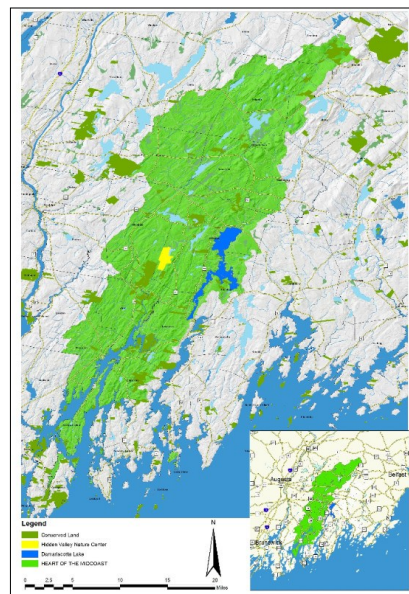
DAMARISCOTTA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION • HIDDEN VALLEY NATURE CENTER  
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## Meet Midcoast Conservancy!

*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





## Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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-](http://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](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com) or call Debbie at 549-3491



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[www.sheepscotgeneral.com](http://www.sheepscotgeneral.com)

## 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. Sheepscot 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**, Sheepscot 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**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 11th **Veterans Day**
- 12th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot 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**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 20th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 21st **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 24th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 26th **Thanksgiving Day**



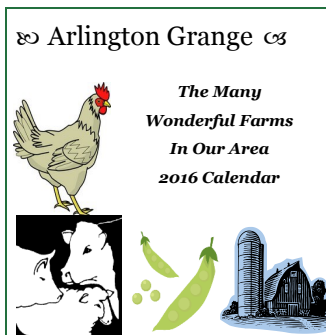
*Do you have an event?* Contact [whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com)  
We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

### 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: Sheepscot General, No. Whitefield Superette, Hussy's General and the Alna Store.

We appreciate your continued support.



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15th of the month. Email  
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