



# Whitefield News

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Volume 6, Issue 2

Published Monthly

August 2018

## CMVFD Annual Benefit Auction Donation Collection

by Robin Huntley

The Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Department announces that donation collection has begun in preparation for its annual benefit auction, held this year on Saturday, August 18th at 10am. The annual auction has been Coopers Mills' premier summer community event for over 50 years, and raises several thousand dollars annually to be used in support of the local fire service.

The auction inventory includes used tools, power equipment, furniture, wood stoves, building materials, lawn and garden items, appliances, sporting goods, toys, games, firewood, antiques, dishes,



*Items for sale last year at the CMVFD auction! Come see what they have this year!*

and seasonal items alongside many brand new items and a host of gift certificates to local businesses.

The department is currently soliciting donated items for the auction. No items are too large or too small, and the department is willing to pick up donations within a 15-mile radius of Coopers Mills. CMVFD will not collect books, clothing, tires, mattresses, televisions, computers, or obsolete electronics. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

To arrange pick-up, or for other donation questions, please contact either Norman Best (215-6600) or Jeff Read (458-3459).

## A Call For Volunteers At The Whitefield School

by Sue McKeen

In a time when June Cleaver, of the 1950's TV show *Leave it to Beaver* fame, wore dresses, pearls and an apron all day, women were the mainstay for volunteering in their children's classrooms. June shopped, cleaned the house, prepared meals, maybe played a little bridge and waited for Ward, her stalwart spouse, to arrive home from work for dinner/supper

(depending on where you're from). This was a meal everyone participated in and was eaten at a long table, in something called a dining room. Fast forward a couple of decades.

Almost all moms and dads are working at least one job, sometimes two. If they are a stay-at-home parent they travel all day in their minivan or SUV running children from one activity to another. The last person I

saw wear an apron for any length of time was my mother, she had hundreds of aprons. The last time I heard of a man coming home expecting dinner on the table, resulted in assault charges.

This of course is all leading up to the problem of who has time to volunteer in our children's schools? Although much has changed, really very

little has changed. Kids still like their parents involved, it's good for them and good for your relationship with the school and the teachers. And you don't need to give hours of your time, there's always something you can offer the school, even given your limited time and schedule.

Volunteering at the school is not just for parents. In the oldest town in

*Continued on Pg. 2*



## Master Gardener Brightens Whitefield Spaces

(story and photos by Kit Pfeiffer)

If you've ever admired the gardens around Sheepscot Links or by the entry to Sheepscot General Store, you know the hand of Master Gardener Brigid Gibson-Griffin. She came to Whitefield 10 years ago intending to retire. In fact, she's been busier than ever before.

Soon after arriving, she teamed up with Maryann Hall at Sheepscot Links to care for and refurbish their existing plantings. "We've changed a lot in the 10 years. Maryann has a vision for what she wants, and I add extra know-how." There is only one formal garden—the others are what Brigid calls "small pockets of interest." An especially fun touch is petunias in tree-trunks, which golfers often comment on. On her first drive around the golf course to survey the plantings, Brigid remembers "it felt like wonderland! Remember, I came up from New Jersey."

New Jersey? Her clipped English accent certainly doesn't sound like it. Brigid was born and raised in the United Kingdom. She

learned a love of the land and its benefits during World War II, when her father sought safety for his family from London to the English countryside.

They were part of a self-sustaining community, growing food and sharing chores. She first came to the states to live with a family in

New Jersey when she was 18. Ultimately she settled there, raised her own family, and ran a boarding stable for horses. "After 48 years, I packed up three barns, a house, gave away many things, and came to Maine."

*Continued on Pg. 2*



*Tucked-away geraniums in tree stump at Sheepscot Links*



**Volunteer from Pg. 1** Lincoln County, let's not forget the largely untapped resource of retired folks in our community. With a wealth of knowledge, talent, and time these folks are a virtual treasure trove of energy waiting to be tapped.

Much has been written and discussed in the community about all the problems at the Whitefield School. As a member of the Collaborative Project, I can tell you there are good things happening and efforts being made to include your collective voices.

As a result of the forum last November, one top item was to establish a volunteer presence at the school. To that end, beginning in September a volunteer coordinator will work with teachers and community members in a coordinated effort to not only assist teachers where they can use the help, but to engage the community in our school. In order to proceed, a list of prospective volunteers must be established prior to the beginning of the school year in September. Each and every one of you has something to give. Please consider volunteering. If you are interested in being part of a positive move forward for our school, please contact Sue McKeen at 446-7473 or [smckeen66@gmail.com](mailto:smckeen66@gmail.com) or Cheryle Joslyn at 549-7305 [cheryle\\_joslyn@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryle_joslyn@yahoo.com). I guarantee you will feel good about the

**Master Gardner Continued from Pg. 1** Brigid has a strong interest in managing gardens naturally. When Ben and Taryn Marcus started up Sheepscot General as an organic farm, she wanted to be a part of it. For 5 years now, she has helped with the planning for flower seedlings to be grown in the Sheepscot General greenhouses. In spring and summer, she plants and tends the showcase entry flower gardens and the seedlings for sale.



At home, she likes to grow specialty plants such as container vegetables, take cuttings, and introduce them to Sheepscot General customers. (Look for chocolate mint, pizza thyme, or scented geraniums on the seedling stands.) Best of all, she enjoys sharing what she knows as a Master Gardener (she went through the Rutgers University program in New Jersey years ago). And she likes to listen and learn from others. It's all about having a fun, creative conversation, so be sure to talk plants with Brigid next time you see her!

## FREE Litterrarium Make-and-Take workshop

By Robin Huntley

Local community-based education network Dirigo Learning announces a FREE Litterrarium Make-and-Take workshop at the Whitefield Library! Held on Saturday, August 4th at 10:30am, the workshop is open to all ages, and offers participants the opportunity to learn about the science of terrariums and the art of re-creating favorite moments from stories.

A combination of the words "literature" and "terrarium," a litterrarium is a literature-inspired, self-contained natural environment. In this case, the terrariums will be crafted in large jars and will house live moss and small plants native to the Maine landscape. Materials will be provided for participants to use in creating a depiction of a favorite character or scene from a book, which can then be added to the terrarium to make it a true litterrarium! If given the proper home, the plants inside of litterrariums can flourish for years, and terrarium creation offers a rich hands-on learning experience highlighting topics of botany, soil science, lifecycles, and more.

All of the materials for the workshop are recycled, upcycled, or found, allowing the event to be offered free of cost. Participants are encouraged to brainstorm ideas for their litterrarium before the event, and are welcome to bring any materials of their own that they would like to use in creating their characters and/or scene.

Registration is required for the workshop, as space is limited. To register, contact Dirigo Learning director Robin Huntley at [dirigolearning@gmail.com](mailto:dirigolearning@gmail.com) or 441-7501. The Whitefield Library is located in the Arlington Grange at 1 Arlington Lane in Whitefield.

(Dirigo Learning is a community-based education network for Mid-coast and Central Maine, and is a local affiliate of the Community-Based Education Network™ (CBEdU), a national initiative for deepening sense of place and utilizing local resources as catalysts for learning. Launched in 2017, Dirigo Learning offers workshops, community events, community-based curriculum, and educational consulting services.)



Photo: A young reader gazes into a litterrarium she created for author Jack Gantos' *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*.

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Contact Joni Miller on RT 218 (across from what was "Lori Ford's place") if you are interested in knowing more about these sheds. Late afternoon/evening might be the best time to catch him home. Joni and Anna Miller recently moved to Whitefield from New York where he learned to build these unusual designs

## Coopers Mills Dam Project Update

The many pieces of the Coopers Mills Dam Project continue to fall into place. The funding has been secured, the contractor has been hired, the permitting is complete and the Project has begun. As anticipated, the permitting process was exhaustive with numerous agency consultations and permits required at the local, state, and federal level. The longest part of this process has been the required Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation for Atlantic salmon. Fortunately on June 19th, NOAA Fisheries issued its ESA Biological Opinion (BO) recognizing the project's long term benefits for Atlantic salmon and other migratory fish in the river. This BO includes a list of practices designed to minimize harm to fish during the construction period.

The construction will take 2-3 months and includes new fire hydrants, a fire lane, dam removal, and enhancements to the site including a viewing platform, stabilization of old mill walls, and education signage on the history and fisheries of the river. There will be temporary closures of Basin Lane during the part of the construction associated with the new underground piping for the hydrants.

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) is working with upstream landowners to minimize any inconvenience.

A citizen site committee, including members of the Whitefield Historical Society, is working closely with ASF and the graphic arts designer on the language and appearance of the signage. Regular project updates will be posted to the Town's website beginning in the late July. We anticipate a dedication event for the project will take place later this fall.

*Continued on right*



Photo by Tony Marple

## A Place We All Call Home

(by David Chase)

Dan was sitting under the old maples that my grandfather had set out in the 1950's at Happy Farm. He was filleting a pail of white perch they'd caught at Clary. He had come down from Easton, Maine to help out his daughter and son-in-law for a few days.

The Troyers, Eli and Anna, are the new owners of our beloved homestead, Happy Farm. Eli and Anna have arrived from Sonora in Kentucky, with their three children, Melinda (4), Verna (2), and Henry (9 months). Eli's mother and sister are living with Eli and Anna – they will have the original house when the youngsters and their children move into the new large addition.

Anna is a hat and basket maker. Eli had manufactured wooden packing in Kentucky. You've probably noticed how they produce all manner of foods and crafts for sale out under the old Locus tree. Mose and Ada Swartzentruber are also staying in the little place up by the pond while they find their own Whitefield place.

My brother Steve and his wife, Carrell, had come to meet the Troyers and to see the evolution of our old home, first hand. Steve had jokingly wondered if they had found the toy tractor he'd dropped down the outhouse hole in the shed when they tore down it down to make room for the addition ( we didn't get "indoor plumbing" until the early 50's).

As Anna enthusiastically explained their plans – barns, workshop, woodshed, and industry, Steve put his hand on her shoulder and with tears in his eyes (we Chases are criers) said, "I can see our mother in you, Anna – coming to this new place nearly 80 years ago with Dad, a new baby and more on the way – full of dreams - a new barn, a cow and chickens and a warm and happy home for us kids...". Anna gently cocked her bonneted head and gave a warm sympathetic smile.

You see, Happy Farm to us represents what we feel is the best of Whitefield. It's a place where dreams can come true; a place where the future comes into focus to the sounds of happy children and busy adults. It appears to us that when Gramp came to plant those maples, he was adding to the energy of this place just like Dan did as he whittled those fish into a meal for his grandchildren in their new home – Happy Farm.

No one has dibs on Whitefield. After all, in two years we Chases will have only been here for 100 years. Scores of other families have been here far, far longer! Like other new-comers, our Amish neighbors can also see their future come into focus here. And, like all previous Whitefielders, they will add their own color and texture to this place we all call home.

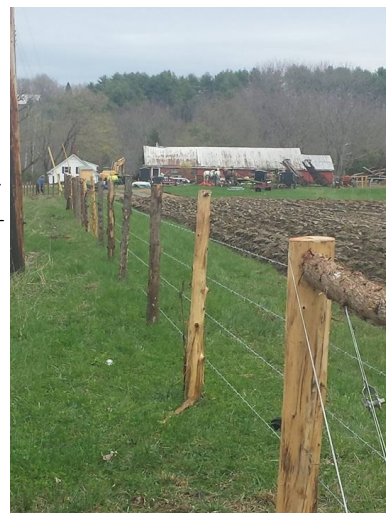


Photo by David Chase

**Dam continued** Across the state, river flows are less than half of historical norms for this time of year. At Coopers Mills, the low water combined with leaks in the dam dewatered the fishway and made the existing dry hydrant inoperable for most of June before some rains in July brought the water back up temporarily in early July before dropping again. Fortunately, most of the alewife run made it up into Long Pond to spawn before the fishway became inoperable. The raise of water in early July allowed post spawn adults trapped above the dam to get back out to the ocean. The project is intended to resolve these fish passage issues at the dam while also providing water for the new upstream hydrant intakes.

Andy Goode

Atlantic Salmon Federation

**Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email [whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com) Whitefield Newsletter Committee: Cheryle Joslyn, Kit Pfeiffer, Sue McKeen and Debbie Rogers.**



## AUGUST 2018 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 1st** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS** Whitefield Salmon Preserve & Sheepscot West Branch Trails, North Howe Road, Whitefield, ME. Led by Richard Lownes, sawyers@tidewater.net, 207-785-2028  
**WHITEFIELD LIBRARY AT THE ARLINGTON GRANGE 10-12 PM**  
**ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING** 6:30 pm call Debbie at 549-3491 fmi
- 2nd** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 3rd** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 4th** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY AT THE ARLINGTON GRANGE 10-12 PM**  
**LITERRARIUM MAKE-AND-TAKE WORKSHOP** at the Whitefield Library  
 10:30 am. Create a terrarium with a literary theme. To register, contact Dirigo Learning director Robin Huntley at [dirigolearning@gmail.com](mailto:dirigolearning@gmail.com) or 441-7501
- 6th** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.** All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm  
**KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, 7 pm
- 7th** **LITTLE DYER ADVENTURE CLUB** Aug 7-9, 9-1pm, Ages 8-11 20\$ Scholarships available please contact Andy B to inquire (207) 389-5150  
**SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm  
**YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL**, 6:30-8:00 pm  
**KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING** - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 8th** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY AT THE ARLINGTON GRANGE 10-12 PM**
- 9th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 11th** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY AT THE ARLINGTON GRANGE 10-12 PM**
- 12th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm  
**WOMEN'S CHAINSAW SAFETY AT HVNC** This two day course is designed for women. Most participants have little or no experience with a chainsaw, though this course is also an effective refresher for more experienced individuals who have developed some bad habits with a saw. This is the gateway course to learning more advanced practices. To inquire (207) 389-5150
- 13th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 14th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL**, 6:30-8:00  
**SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 15th** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY AT THE ARLINGTON GRANGE 10-12 PM**  
**SNACK & CHAT: RESTORING FISH** The removal of the dam at Coopers Mills is the first project to near completion. Come see what is happening at this important site. 4-6 pm (207) 389-5153 at the Coopers Mills Dam  
**PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 16th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 17th** **OUTDOOR CONCERT AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL** 7-9pm The second of the season. \$10 (at the door only) for Adults, kids free. We will have local beer and, of course, pizza. Aarondippity is composed of musicians with both professional and street Performance experience, they embrace a wide variety of styles.
- 18th** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AUCTION - CMVFD 10 AM**  
**WHITEFIELD LIBRARY AT THE ARLINGTON GRANGE 10-12 PM**  
**DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 19th** **LIVE EDGE MUSIC FESTIVAL AT HVNC** Tickets are only \$20 and the first 500 come with a voucher good for up to \$20 for a second entree at one of 12 amazing restaurants...like getting your ticket for free! For more info call (207) 389-5150
- 21st** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm  
**YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL**, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 22nd** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY AT THE ARLINGTON GRANGE 10-12 PM**  
**YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS GROUP MEETING**, at the Whitefield Lions club Coopers Mills, bring a dish to share ( A Salad, Casserole or dessert ) Time 12pm. Come and join the fun. Presidents Pat Moody and Debbie Gray. Contact number 549-5666 or 445-4930
- 23rd** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 25th** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY AT THE ARLINGTON GRANGE 10-12 PM**
- 28th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm  
**YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL**, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 29th** **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY AT THE ARLINGTON GRANGE 10-12 PM**
- 30th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am

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