



19th Century Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond & Newfield, Maine

372 Fields Pond Road, P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME
 70 Elm Street, P.O. Box 28, Newfield, ME
 207-205-4849 • 207-745-4426
 thecurranhomestead@gmail.com
 www.curranhomestead.org

Fall 2018

Member of the Greater Bangor Chamber of Commerce & Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce

2018 Season Endings & More

The Newfield campus is bustling with activities this fall and winter. The 2018 admissions are \$12 adult, \$10 seniors (62 & Over), Free for active military with ID & Children (18 and under). And a carousel ride is free with admission!

Museum open

Saturday & Sunday, September 1 & 2
 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

*Knife Making Class

Saturday & Sunday, September 22 & 23
 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Sign up now: 207-205-4849

Museum open

Saturday, September 22
 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

*Painted Pony Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, September 22
 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
 Register now: 207-205-4849, 207-745-4426

*Harvest Festival at Newfield

Sunday, October 7
 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

*Holiday Gathering at Newfield

Saturday, December 2
 3:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.
 at the Old Christmas Shop (Red Barn Building at 70 Elm Street)
 Potluck dinner. Come join the fun!

The Fields Pond campus will hold special events celebrating the upcoming seasons.

*Harvest Festival at Fields Pond

Saturday, September 29
 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

*Volunteer Days

October 11 & 12, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,
 October 13, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 October 16-18, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 October 20 & 21, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 October 23 & 25, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 October 27, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 October 30 & 31, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

* Holiday Gathering at Fields Pond

Saturday, December 8
 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
 At the Farmhouse with a potluck dinner

* Blacksmithing Class: Knife and Tomahawk Making

Saturday & Sunday, December 7-8
 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Saturday & Sunday, December 14 -15
 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Two-weekend intermediate level classes at Fields Pond. Contact us and sign up now!



* Details Included in newsletter

Painted Pony Fundraising Dinner

with Bluegrass at Newfield

**Saturday, September 22
 4:30-7:00 p.m.**

Our season end gala is back with Mary's cooking, including chicken cordon blue, baby glazed carrots, scalloped potatoes, cranberry compote, green salad, rolls w/butter, ribbons of zucchini, corn chowder with bacon, and apple crisp a la mode. Local Gneiss beer or wine served for an extra \$5 or \$3. Other beverages are available. One seating with dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy a five-piece band with dinner and a silent auction. This is a fundraiser focused on our school field trip program that served more than 20 schools and over 1,600 visitors. More trips are scheduled for the fall.

Ride the carousel at 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. with your reservation.

RSVP necessary by September 21.
 Cost: \$30 per person, \$55 a couple.
 Call 207-205-4849 or 207-745-4426.

Classes & Programs

Classes Include “Cutting Edge” Techniques

Fall Field Trips at Newfield

September 24-28, October 2-5, October 8-12 available. Contact us: 207-205-4849 or email: thecurranhomestead@gmail.com

On **September 8**, **Newfield** will be participating with a blacksmithing and other hands-on history demonstrations in the **100th anniversary camporee** on Mason Road in Limerick for local **Boy Scout Troop #329**.

Fall and Winter Workshops are ahead. We hope to offer workshops for children and adults at Newfield in the future and at our Fields Pond campus, with the promise of completing the Fields House and the Timber Frame Workshop. Stay tuned.

To initiate this at **Fields Pond**, and to satisfy all the requests from graduates of our ongoing blacksmithing classes at Fields Pond, we are offering a **Two-weekend Intermediate Blacksmithing Class: Knife and Tomahawk Making on December 8, 9, 15 and 16 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** Class includes forge welding. Start by welding strap hinges from mild steel flat stock. Graduate to a composite weld sandwiching two mild steel flat pieces with a piece of high carbon steel, drift handle eye for a traditional tomahawk and wood handle fitted to project. For Project Two choose knife profile, forge blade and tang using a propane burning

forge. You will file, grind, polish, oil quench, and temper; fit and epoxy handle scales and brass rivets. Learn methodology, materials, and equipment. Choices will be shared. There is a discount for returning students. This makes a great gift for someone. **Cost: \$375. Bring 2 lb. hammer. All other tools and materials provided. Class limit: 5.**

We offer a large repertoire of classes. See our website, Facebook page, or blog for more information. We are willing to schedule a class with 5-10 individuals upon request or get your name on a list and we might consider organizing a class from our repertoire initiated by you. **Contact us at 207-205-4849.**

Newfield will also offer a **Knife Making Class on September 22 and 23 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** Make your first knife and start on the road to mastering this craft in a weekend. This is an opportunity for beginner and intermediate level knife makers. Students will be using propane fired forges to cut and shape a blade and tang from spring steel; use a combination of hand and power tools; oil quench and oven temper blade; create hardwood handle scales and brass rivets, epoxy handle to tang. All materials and tools provided. Tuition: \$225. There is a discount for returning students. Pay to register; first come, first serve. Limited to 5. Call: 207-205-4849.



19th Century Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond & Newfield

Museum Director
Robert Schmick, PhD

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Fields Pond Campus
P.O. Box 107
372 Fields Pond Road
Orrington, Maine 04474

Newfield Campus
P.O. Box 28
70 Elm Street
Newfield, Maine 04065

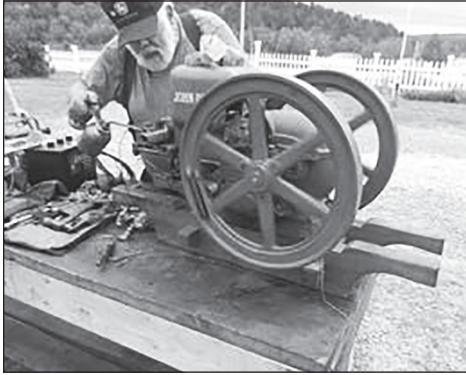
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Rex Harper of Limerick assists a scout from Troop #55 of Quakertown, PA with an electronic telegraph sounder/signaler building kit he designed and markets. Also, scouts did blacksmithing with Ron Pryor and Bob Schmick, and letterpress printing with Mark Matteau during their three-day overnight camp out at the Newfield museum. Contact us, if you would like to camp-out or do hands-on programming with scouts or kids groups you know!

Curran Homestead was filled with Activities during Orrington Old Home Week



Board member **Bill Wilkins** oils this 1925 John Deere Model E gas engine after resurrecting it from a long sleep. There was quite a mouse nest inside the engine. This ongoing repair demonstration, which included a **circa 1919 Little Jumbo engine repair, recently donated by Isaac Hughes of Penn Yan, NY**, got much attention at this event. Interest was so much so, that we are planning an **Antique Engine Repair and Maintenance Class** soon at Fields Pond. **Contact us** if you are interested.



A demonstration and walk-in class on **pickling** was given at this Fields Pond event. We made kimchi, a spicy Korean sauerkraut, traditional sauerkraut, a one-time staple on the farm in Maine, and salted dill pickles. The class was led by **Nate Coe of Old Town**.



Blacksmithing Round-Ups were held on July 14 and 21 during Old Home Week. We had returning students, including **John Hawkins of Clifton** (seen here) show up to demonstrate the art of forging steel objects on two consecutive Saturdays, including a required piece from each that will be used in the next **Make an Electric Lamp Class**, for ages 10-14, date to be announced.



In collaboration with **Bangor Home Depot**, who have repeatedly and generously donated and reduced prices for our current projects at both our campuses, we conducted woodworking workshops for kids ages 5-8 at our **July Old Home Week** event. We hope to offer this again soon! Thank you, **Bangor Home Depot**.



A Dedication

Long-time Curran Homestead Village contributor, **William Deering**, was honored at a ceremony on Sunday, July 23. In the foreground, **Board president Irv Marsters** shares a plaque to be hung in the newly renovated **Fields House Education Center** with **Mr. Deering**. A classroom space has been dedicated in Deering's and his late wife **Janice L. Deering's** name. Deering family members traveled from as far as California and New Jersey to attend this memorable event.



WE NEED YOUR HELP.
Please make a charitable tax donation to our CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND or RURAL HERITAGE ENDOWMENT FUND
See page 7. Thank you!

Car Culture Curated at the Curran

Curran Homestead Village was the beneficiary of some entirely restored “tin lizzies” as well as six hit and miss engines and five additional Model T engines and transmissions in recent weeks. We had long known about the donation but only recently were we able to make two trips from Maine to Penn Yan, New York to retrieve this benchmark donation.

Isaac Hughes of Fayetteville, New York, outside of Syracuse, has made a trip with his late sister Doris, who passed away in recent months, for the last eight summers to the museum in Newfield under its former name and includes new while staying in the Kennebunk area.



The retired mechanical engineer, who had an engineering firm in Syracuse, has been particularly interested in museum villages focused on late 19th and early 20th century agricultural communities. He tentatively plans on creating something similar in his own hometown of Penn Yan, NY in the Finger Lakes region where he maintains the Hughes family farm.

Several out buildings and the farmhouse Hughes grew up in as well as a more recently Mennonite-built steel building which houses



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Robert Schmick



his car restoration projects define the farm. He has restored particularly Model Ts and Model As for many years. The main barn to the farm burned down in the 1960s.

“There is no one to take over the family farm after I’m gone”, related Isaac Hughes. The farm is lush with green hay fields this time of year; in fact, the beauty of area farms is something to behold as these farms of hundreds and sometimes thousands of acres attracted many Mennonite farmers many years ago and subsequently high demand for every tillable acre so that land often sells for \$10,000 an acre, according to Hughes. Homes and farm buildings are well maintained exemplifying prosperity that you don’t see in other nearby regions.

Large machinery tends these farms with few stone walls surviving having long ago been removed or buried to inhibit them. Rows of corn and alfalfa seem infinite. In addition to grain production and dairies, this is wine country where a field of grape vines are often situated between other crops.

Mr. Hughes has kept active in his support of the museum since the change in ownership. He has been particularly interested in the idea of our development of a “car culture” theme. A past collections loan from the **Sanford-Springvale Historical Society** consisting of enlarged historical photographs of area transportation and including images of a Ford Model T assembly plant in Springvale circa 1915 was one inspiration for wanting to tell the story of how rural Mainers contributed to the national phenomena of auto manufacturing and assembly lines, and consequently car ownership in the early 20th century.

The relatively inexpensive Model T transformed rural lives with greater accessibility to distant places. The Model T also served as the raw material for many examples of Yankee ingenuity which resulted in machines to better accomplish work on the farm. Among the eleven engines in this

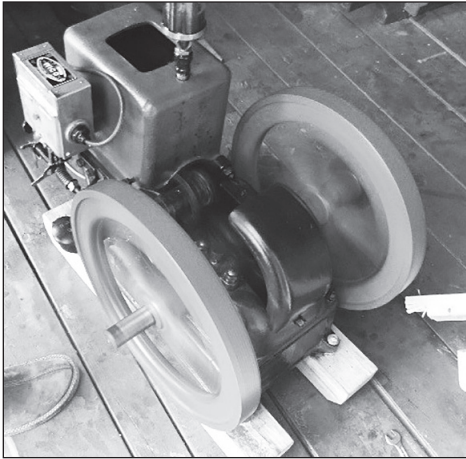
donation are Model T engines that served as power stations with the addition of a flat belt pulley to run things like saw mills and water pumps. One exception is an engine that powered a boat at one time. These new additions to the collection complement the Curran’s ten year collecting theme of doodlebugs/ jitterbugs, homemade tractors, and conversion kits produced by Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery & Ward married to Model Ts and Model As which once served the humble farmer as a mechanical workhorse.

We are not interested in developing this car culture theme for static exhibition; the tentative plan is to develop both living history and visitor excursions with the donated cars. For our younger audience, we wish to create some Model T assembly line simulations and car maintenance activities at the museum that will add to our hands-on history learning program. This too was inspired by connection with another museum---the **Paul Tsongas Industrial History Center in Lowell, Massachusetts**, where an early version of assembly line production connected with the textile industry is offered in a simulated visitor experience.

What resonated the most with me were the experiences that student visitors who participated in that history museum’s simulation, albeit momentarily, shared as part of the learning activity. These same feelings were undoubtedly experienced by teenage Lowell girls who were incentivized by wages to meet quotas. There was daily competition to not only match but outperform their fellow workers to maintain their jobs. There was a necessity to keep pace with their supervisor’s expectations, simulated by a costumed museum interpreter, and the expectations of the assembly belt machinery.

Assembly line work necessitated developing a mechanical rhythm by individuals who were unaccustomed to it. These were farm girls in 1840s rural New England who had experienced little mechanization at home and the farm. By the 1910s, machines had come to farms, but they were almost exclusively powered

by horses, dogs, foot and hand power, not water powered line shaft pulleys or pulleys powered by uninterrupted electric current as was the case with the machinery that ran assembly line equipment in industrial cities like Lowell. Much of rural New England wasn't completely electrified until the first half of the 20th century.



This running Nelson Brothers "Little Jumbo" was a project demonstration at our recent Old Home Week at Fields Pond; it's one of the portable engines donated. Volunteer Cal McGraw brought this back to life replacing a head gasket compromised by sitting for some time. Mr. Hughes restored this and two others among the six hit and miss engines donated.

Students related what they felt in response to the simulated experience rather than what they saw or read, and this is unique to the museum experience; this is what the three conceptualized hands-on learning activities in our future "Car Culture" exhibit will hope to achieve with our school field trip program. We hope to continue to build upon the more than 1600 visitors from 20 Maine and New Hampshire schools this past May and June continuing to engage students in relevant learning experiences.

Hughes contacted me in response to a recent newsletter that shared this "Car Culture" theme and a "Wish List" that included a request for "Model T stuff", which he asked for more details about. I responded to him that I was looking for parts, a head lamp, a dashboard, a wheel, ...perhaps some advertisements. "What about some complete Model Ts?" Hughes responded.

Of course, that was the goal, but a donation of that magnitude was not anticipated any time soon. Hughes generously obliged offering three Model Ts he had painstakingly restored as well as

a 1918 Model TT stake truck he purchased at an estate sale anticipating completing the partial mechanical restoration underway.



Model Ts were packed into a tractor trailer for transport to Newfield from New York State.

What was made clear after the first trip to retrieve the collection of eleven engines, which included Tom Bragg, a longtime volunteer, and Irv Marsters, board president, was that the eighty-seven-year-old Hughes was not bringing closure to his car restoration projects as he had several projects in play in his workshop and now more space to work! Thank you.

Corey Recycling of Orrington Generously Donates Antique Tractor Collection



The donation includes a 1938 JD Model B, 1949 JD Model MT, & 1953 JD Model 40 with additional parts and accessories.

Cheryl Gray Joins the Curran Board

Cheryl was born in Pennsylvania and grew up on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Her father was a career Navy Seabee. The family moved to Maine in 1988 and she has one son born and raised in Maine. Cheryl has lived in Orrington for 12 years since her marriage to Kurt Gray whose family has deep roots here. She attended school in Pass Christian, MS and graduated from Middletown High School, Rhode Island in 1985.



Cheryl Gray

in Bangor, Cheryl has worked in the financial field for 30 years. She enjoys her job and the people she meets every day. "It is very rewarding to help people obtain their life dreams, like purchasing a home or expanding their business. I love history and old buildings and any time they can be preserved and shared with the community, it's special".

Attracted by their passion for "living history", Cheryl became involved with volunteers at the Curran Homestead Village in 2017.

Employed by **People's United Bank**

New Projects and Hands-On History Building Take Shape

Curran Homestead Village has moved nearer to completing both the **Timber Frame Workshop** and the **Fields House Education Center** with the assistance of Penobscot Job Corps and other volunteers this season. The award of a **2018 Davis Family Foundation Grant** will contribute to completing these buildings, although additional funding is sought through donations to our **Capital Fund**.

We hope to have another round of activity on the exterior of the buildings completing the clapboard on both buildings now that Job Corps has completed installation of windows on the **Timber Frame Workshop**. This will allow us to complete the interiors of both buildings. Before the Timber Frame Workshop is completed we will start classes in the structure in December with a **Knife and Tomahawk Making Class** (see details). A recently donated contemporary wood burning stove will heat the space.

The building pad prepared for the Timber Frame Workshop will also serve as the site for two additional structures. These include the 12 x 16 **North Castine Post Office**, a re-located structure, that will be re-constructed atop a steel reinforced concrete slab or, more simply, a floating concrete pad and sill work depending on available funds.

Preliminary site approval has also been granted for a 40 x 50 structure. This will be a one-story post and beam structure that will serve as our **Hands-On History Building (HOH)** that was introduced last year in a newsletter. Grant funding is sought for both structures, but we have lumber to satisfy the need for sills, sheathing, and framing that was recently milled for the purpose as well as more than 2600 square feet of insulation donated by **Cotton Inc.'s Bonded Logic Blue Jeans Go Green Program**. Funds are needed towards the end of completing these projects to offer school field trip programming like our growing Newfield program. A donation of \$40,000 by **Bill and Dede Bullock** is the beginning of a round of fundraising specifically for the HOH Building. In a world where challenges for fundraising are frequently unveiled we offer this **Bullock Challenge** with the initial goal of raising an additional \$40,000 towards



Artist rendering of planned Hands-On History Building

the construction of the **Hands-On History Building (HOH)**.

The HOH Building will not only house learning activities like those established at Newfield but some new offerings including activities connected with the aforementioned **“Car Culture”** theme. Here we will offer the assembly line simulation and Model T maintenance activities for younger visitors in addition to an early kitchen scenario, telegraphs, telephones and magnetos, letterpress printing, and more...

At the end of this month we anticipate the loan of two tractor trailers which we plan on parking behind the main Curran barn. The barn will be emptied of its contents into these trailers for temporary storage, as it has become imperative that we address some obvious structural issues with the main barn. To amend, we will need to examine the series of piers under the flooring, according to Maine Preservation's Chris Closs.

As always, these monumental tasks will fall on a few stalwarts that have met these challenges for decades.

There will be a need for materials and equipment as well as experienced assistance. The organization has little budget for something, in this case, as iconic and as important as the Curran Barn. As you may know barns of this era are disappearing from the landscape from disuse and disrepair; this barn is integral to our museum programming and collections.

We need people to volunteer their expert services for this task, and we need contributions to our **Capital Fund** to meet the costs of the foreseen work ahead. This is our community, and it was existing because of a long tradition of agriculture,



Penobscot Job Corps under instructor Luke LaChance install clapboard on the Fields House at Orrington.

we want to preserve some of the tangible evidence of this agricultural past at a time of transition when farms are becoming residential communities and buildings like the Curran's own gambrel roofed barn built by farmers and not engineers are threatened by time and weather. This is a new chapter in our institutional history, and greater utilization of this main barn as a stage for our educational programming is the future of the site.

Wish List

- Volunteers to assist in ongoing facilities and collections projects
- Silent auction items for our upcoming Painted Pony Fundraising Dinner such as gift certificates, antiques and goods
- “Ford Model T stuff” and early auto-related objects and ephemera
- Vintage photographs (1850s-1920s) of rural Maine and New England life. Images of domestic activity, machinery, autos, and livestock welcome.
- WWI ephemera: posters, documents, and militaria related to Maine and New England
- Antique candle molds
- Early medical/dentistry ephemera including quack medicine items, pharmaceuticals, scientific and measuring devices. Veterinarian related objects and ephemera.

Yes! I want to help the Curran Homestead Village!

Mission Statement

19th Century Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond and Newfield is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that collects, preserves and utilizes historic artifacts and buildings for exhibition, living history, traditional arts programming and hands-on education. The villages serve as classrooms to not only raise awareness and appreciation of life in rural Maine and New England during the emerging Industrial Age of the 19th and early 20th centuries but to empower new generations through sharing the lessons of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from that time to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Our goal is to help to nurture future inventors, scientists, mechanics and agriculturists through individual awareness and discovery.

2018 Membership Levels & Benefits

All members get free admission on open days and some events, and receive a membership card before opening weekend. Some members will receive free guest passes. For memberships \$100 or more, you get free admittance to our annual gathering and recognition dinner.

- **Children** (Ages 18 and under): **Free**
- **Individual: \$50**- 10% discount on workshops
- **Family** (2 Adults): **\$75**- 1 guest pass, 10% discount on workshops
- **Historian** (2 Adults): **\$100**- 2 guest passes, 10% discount on workshops, & special exclusive about our collections: curranhomesteadvillagehistorians.blogspot.com
- **Business: \$200**- Free admission for any employee's family of four on open days and some events with pass provided; business advertisement on website
- **Business Plus: \$350**- All the benefits of Business membership plus get a business advertisement in our frequent inprint newsletter.
- **Sustaining: \$300**- One additional membership, 4 free guest passes; 20% discount on workshops
- **Benefactor: \$500**- Two additional Individual memberships, 6 free guest passes, 20% discount on workshops
- **Homesteader: \$1000**; Four additional Individual memberships, annual contribution recognized as a co-sponsor of an event of your choice, 8 free guest passes, 20% discount on workshops.

Help Fund the Future

By contributing to the Rural Heritage Endowment Fund and/or Capital Fund, you will help prepare a new generation for the challenges of the 21st century with lessons from the past. The funds to insure Curran Homestead Villages immediate needs and long-term sustainability.

CUT OUT, FILL OUT & MAIL OUT

Please print legibly:

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Your contact information is used only to inform you of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and membership offers. It is not released to others.

Please make checks payable to **"The Curran Homestead"**

VISA MC DISCOVER # _____

Name on Card _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV _____

Signature: _____

*Please fill out forms and return with payment to:
Curran Homestead, P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME 04474*

MY MEMBERSHIP CHOICE IS:

- ___ Individual: \$50
- ___ Family: \$75
- ___ Historian: \$100
- ___ Business: \$200
- ___ Business Plus: \$350
- ___ Sustaining: \$300
- ___ Benefactor: \$500
- ___ Homesteader: \$1000

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE
___ **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**
___ **RURAL HERITAGE ENDOWMENT FUND**

IN THE AMOUNT OF:

- ___ \$1000 ___ \$100
- ___ \$500 ___ \$50
- ___ \$250 ___ Other \$ _____

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Orrington, Maine 04474



P.O. Box 28
70 Elm Street
Newfield, Maine 04065

Construction is Ongoing in Orrington

Construction and building renovations continue at the **Fields House Education Center** and the **Timber Frame Workshop** by a much-appreciated group of twelve **Penobscot Job Corp** trainees under the instruction of **Luke LaChance**. We continue to appreciate the generosity of **Home Depot's** assistance with materials. The Job Corps trainees are between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four and receive both vocational and academic training through this government program. Electrical work has also been completed recently by long time Curran Homestead contributor **Ed Pederaf**.

For the next phase of work on the Fields House Curran Homestead

Village received a **2018 Davis Family Foundation of Yarmouth, ME grant for \$15,000**, we are seeking other grant funding, but we also seek donations towards our Capital Fund from the public.

We are greatly appreciative of the immense generosity of donors towards our **Rural Maine Endowment Fund**, but, more



Penobscot Job Corps most recently installed four windows in the Timber Frame Workshop, which is nearing completion for imminent traditional arts classes.

importantly, for our more immediate future, we need to get our infrastructure completed so that we might fulfill our current educational objectives and serve families at the Fields Pond site on a greater and more consistent level.

This trailer contains the **North Castine**



Post Office. The circa 1920s structure was disassembled at **Penobscot** and brought to the Fields Pond site where it has been awaiting further work. We have started preparing the site and work on the project begins August 20. **If you would to assist in this project, we're looking for a few good volunteers.** Initially, we plan on doing letterpress printing in it, but telephones and telegraphy will eventually be included. Give us a call at 207-205-4849.