



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

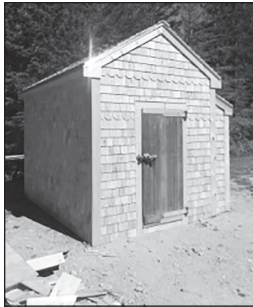
372 Fields Pond Road, P.O. Box 107, Orrington, ME
 70 Elm Street, P.O. Box 28, Newfield, ME
 207-205-4849 • 207-745-4426
 thecurranhomestead@gmail.com
 curranhomestead.org

Winter 2018-2019

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

'Tis the Season for Ice Harvesting!

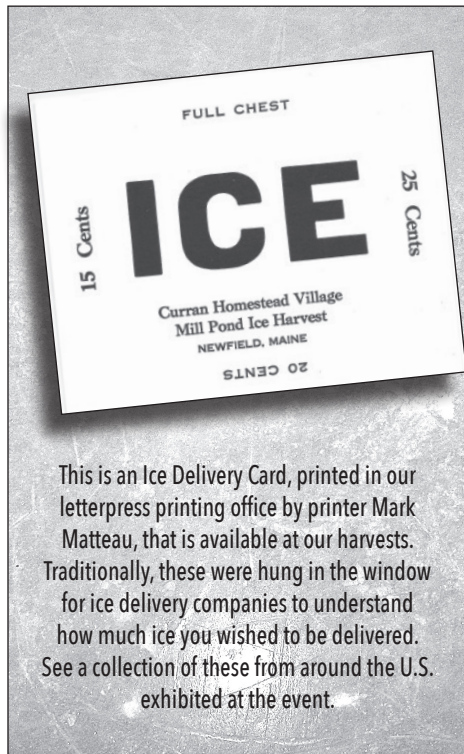
NEWFIELD— The Ice Harvest on the Mill Pond will take place on Saturday, February 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year,



Newly constructed ice house at Newfield. This will store this February's ice harvest.

the ice harvested will be stored in our newly constructed ice house thanks, in part, to a 2017 Narragansett Number One Foundation grant.

This public participation event involves cutting cakes of ice from a pond and transporting them via horse drawn bobsled to the ice house. Guests will use vintage tools to cut and shape ice. A warming center will be available with savories and sweets for sale. Blacksmithing demonstrations will enhance the experience.



This is an Ice Delivery Card, printed in our letterpress printing office by printer Mark Matteau, that is available at our harvests. Traditionally, these were hung in the window for ice delivery companies to understand how much ice you wished to be delivered. See a collection of these from around the U.S. exhibited at the event.

FIELDS POND— The Ice Harvest on Fields Pond comes to life on Saturday, February 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year

we hope to run our 1920s Novo Ice Saw. Board member Bill Wilkins and others will be working on the engine in the coming weeks. This is a gas engine with a chain-driven 28-



Novo ice saw

inch radial blade mounted on a metal sled. This was used largely by commercial harvesters to make the initial grid pattern cut into the ice surface but was not to the depth of the underlying water.

Hand tools finished cutting cakes from the prepared grid. We hope to demonstrate this with public participation.

In addition, there will soup and fresh bread for sale in the farmhouse kitchen. See our John Deere Model 50 with half-tracks pulling a traditional log scoot fitted to carry ice from the pond. John Boyce of Lee, Maine will have his team of Belgian draft horses pulling our 17-foot bobsled with bench seating. Rides are \$5. Be sure to catch the blacksmithing demonstrations. Admission is free.



Our bobsled, with John Boyce's matched Belgians, will be at the Fields Pond harvest. As a museum fundraiser, rides will be \$5.

Volunteers Needed

for Newfield Ice Harvest Preparation
 January 31 & February 1 • 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 for Fields Pond Ice Harvest Preparation
 February 7 & 8 • 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Fields Pond News

New Schedule includes Blacksmithing Class

Sign up for our workshops and classes
by calling 207-205-4849 or emailing
thecurranhomestead@gmail.com

19th Century Curran Homestead Village at Fields Pond & Newfield

Museum Director
Robert Schmick, PhD

CORPORATE OFFICERS

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Brian Higgins

Clerk of the Corporation
Nathan Dane III, Esq.

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

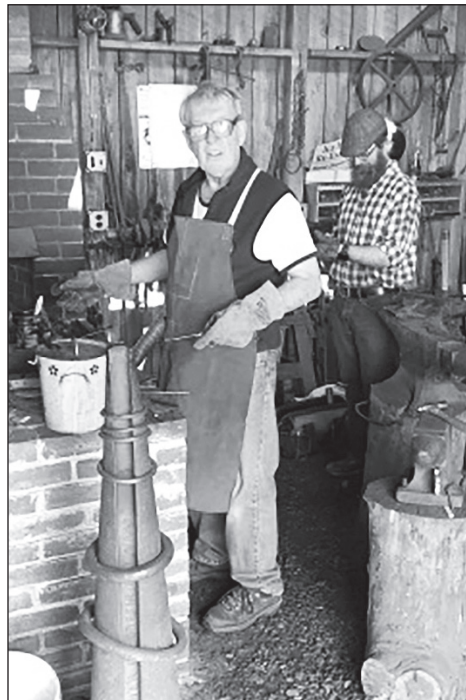
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curranhomestead.org

Beginning Blacksmithing Class

Two consecutive weekends, Saturday
& Sunday, January 5-6 & 12-13, 2019
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuition- \$325 per person
**Registration is first come, first serve
by cash, check payable to "The Curran
Homestead" or credit card (MasterCard &
Visa only)**

Class covers the basics of coal fired forging including safety, tools, materials, and technique. Blacksmithing instructor Dwight King engages students in foundational skills to meet ever greater challenges through forging metal objects with a coal fire to complete projects. Building on developed skills projects, completed items may include hooks, a nail, spoon, strap hinges, tools, and fire poker. Students will then graduate to forge welding and receive the text *Backyard Blacksmithing*. Bring your own hammer. Additional tools and materials provided. Safety glasses required. For more information or to register, please call Robert Schmick at 207-205-4849 or email thecurranhomestead@gmail.com.



2019 Schedule of Events

Ice Harvest Preparation

Thursday, February 7 & Friday, February 8
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Volunteers needed!

Ice Harvest

Saturday, February 9; 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Maple Sugaring & Irish Celebration

Saturday, March 23; 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Open Day

Wednesday, May 15; 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Open Day

Wednesday, May 29; 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Open Day

Wednesday, June 5; 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Open Day

Wednesday, June 19; 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Old Home Week

Friday, July 12-Sunday, July 21

Open Day

Wednesday, August 28; 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Open Day

Saturday, September 14; 10:00-3:00 p.m.
National Deaf Awareness Month Exhibit

Harvest Festival

Saturday, September 21; 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Open Day

Wednesday, September 25; 10:00-3:00 p.m.



ABOVE: Hinges are among the possible projects in our Beginning Blacksmithing class. These examples were recently completed.

LEFT: Long-time blacksmithing enthusiast Rick McGuckin took the opportunity at several recent Blacksmithing Round-Ups at Fields Pond to complete some tools for using black powder rifles.

Hone Your Skills in Traditional Classes and Workshops

Letterpress Printing & Bookbinding Class

Saturday & Sunday, January 12-13, 2019

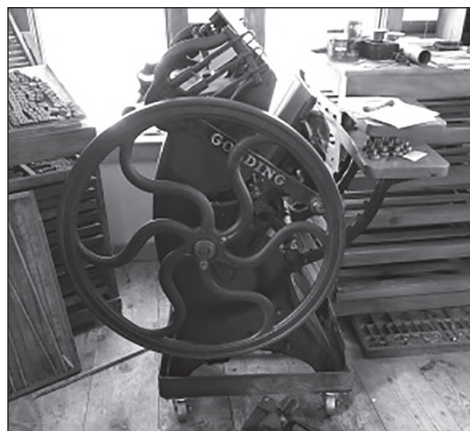
9:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Instructors: Mark Matteau, Letterpress;

Anastasia Weigle, Bookbinding

Tuition: \$175

This class will include typesetting in a 11 x 14 format. A linoleum block cut prepared by you will be included with typeset material for printing. Students will share their work to add to the hand chain-stitched pages of a completed volume by each student. Activity will also include treatment of paper to create a beautiful cover that emulates leather.



An 11 X 14 Golding printing press will be used in conjunction with a new workshop.

Make A Propane Burning Forge

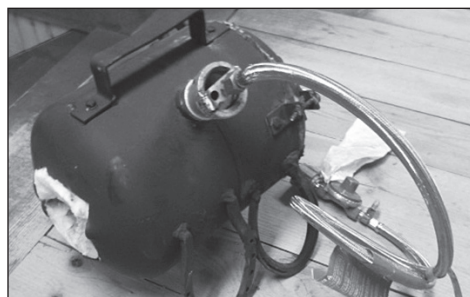
Saturday, January 12, 2019

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Instructors: Frank Vivier, Robert Schmick

Tuition: \$300

This popular class is often taken by graduates of our knife making and blacksmithing class. Metal fabrication of handle and other parts and mold making for refractory cement involved. We use a helium tank that has been prepared with welded horseshoe legs and lugs that allow the top of the tank to be removable.



Propane forge.

Sign up for our workshops and classes by calling 207-205-4849 or emailing thecurranhomestead@gmail.com

Dovetail Joinery:

Make a Heirloom Blanket Chest

Saturday & Sunday, January 26-27, 2019

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Douglas Dolan

Tuition: \$225

Create a 27"(L) x 16"(W) x 18"(H) seven board box construction with dovetail joinery. This class involves learning to hand cut dovetail joints. You will produce 24 dovetail joints (6 on each side) of a wooden chest and a dado cut for its bottom over two days. All materials, including hinges and handles, provided. Tools provided.



Blanket chest

February School Break Camp STEM Workshops Week

For ages 9-12

February 18-22; All classes 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Monday, February 18, 2019

Foot-Treadle Sewing Machine and Hand Sewing Class (\$30)

Letterpress Printing a Poster Class (\$40)

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Make an Old School Electric Lamp (\$40)

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Build a Crystal Radio Set (\$45)

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Catapult Building (\$35)

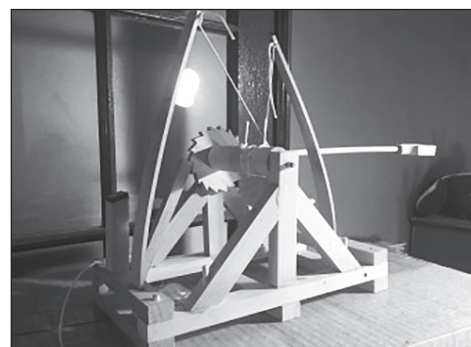
Friday, February 22, 2019

Fiber Arts: Card, Spin, Dye and Weave Wool (\$40).

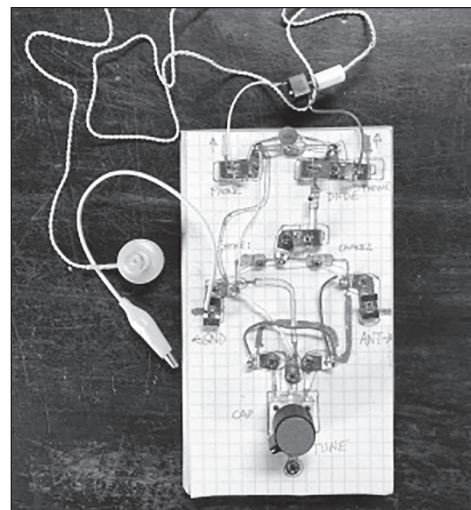
Take one, two, three, four or all five workshops. Discount if you sign up for the whole week: \$175. Reserve your spaces!



Cold weather workshops again this February in Newfield.



Catapult workshop.



Crystal radio set that you create from scratch and use by the end of class.

2019 Timber Framing Class

Two weeks: February 19-22; 25-29; March 1

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Sean Perry, master timber-framer,
Lebanon, Maine

Tuition: \$475

Build a 16'(L) x 14'(W) x 12'(H) building framework with mortise & tenon joinery using hand tools. Instruction

Continued on back page >

Grants, Donations and Volunteers Help Us Reach Our Goals

It is imperative that the museum accelerate its efforts to develop our Fields Pond infrastructure for the purposes of ongoing educational resources and opportunities in 2019. Construction, in addition to maintaining our campuses, requires funds beyond our current annual donations. We appeal to your generosity. Ideally, we would like to build and maintain the principal of our **Rural Heritage Endowment Fund** so that interest alone would serve our needs, but we are far from this. Our endowment needs to grow substantially this coming year.

For Fields Pond, we wish to replicate the thriving and growing program model for school field trips and seasonal visitation exemplified at the Newfield campus. We had more than 1,800 school visitors in 2018. There were 1,400 in 2017. This promises increased visitation at Fields Pond and much needed revenues on a campus that is currently generating little and requiring much towards new construction and maintenance of the old.



Several schools visited us for Fall field trips this year.

Restrooms and heated classroom space will make a world of difference at Fields Pond. Peruse our winter schedule of workshops for Newfield. This could be happening at Fields Pond too. During the cold months, most of our workshops and classes at Newfield are accomplished in one heated building that has programming space as well as two restrooms. Bringing our Fields Pond campus up to this standard would allow us to serve the Greater Bangor area and insure greater financial stability as a result of increased visitation and subsequently new financial support.

Seasonal events, group visits, and

FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Robert Schmick

ongoing blacksmithing classes have largely characterized activity at the Fields Pond location for its history. But increased interest from local schools and homeschoolers about the programming we currently only offer at Newfield has motivated a need to develop Fields Pond more than ever. Our community warrants such a resource and will undoubtedly utilize it.



Homeschoolers enjoyed their field trip.

In order to do this, we need funding. We need people who entertain the idea of making the museum part of their legacy and who can help support our ongoing efforts. Our progress at Fields Pond has been a series of stops and starts because we can only designate a portion of the donations we receive towards construction as there is significant cost in maintaining our campuses each season.

Grants have been helpful, but in order to qualify for these we must muster up matching funds. This can be in the form of pledged materials and volunteer in-kind hours. Unfortunately, the generosity of a small group of much appreciated donors and contributors alone cannot satisfy the demands of the projects we have in play. We simply need more expressed interest through volunteerism and increased giving.

We have stepped up our efforts towards seeking grant funding. The focus of much of these is creating facilities and navigation through a series of costumed interpreter

led, hands-on, experiential learning stations. These are focused on the evolving technology and science of late 19th century and early 20th century rural Maine. We have nearly completed two structures for this purpose, through the generosity of private donations and contributions as well as two Davis Family Foundation grants.



Work continues on the clapboard siding of the Fields House.

The Timber Frame Building and Fields House Education Center are not completed and will need additional private contributions to our Capital Fund to meet our obligation of matching funds. Contact us if you are interested in making a donation. A significant restricted donation like the Henry and Gloria Waldron Living Trust (\$50,000) or the Bill & Deedee Bullock Donation (\$40,000), to our Endowment could be an opportunity for naming rights towards any structure at Fields Pond that could take the form of memorializing someone of your choice. Contact us, if you are interested.

It will take \$40,000 to complete the Fields House with electric fixtures, insulation, flooring, sheet rock, moldings, doors, heating, and plumbing still to be completed. It will take \$10,000 to complete the Timber Frame Building with electric and heating.

We completed some renovations to our main barn and carriage ell anticipating further work. By repairing and repurposing existing structures, we can better serve our mission of providing educational programming. A current round of grant submissions seeks funding to ensure the longevity of the main Curran barn and attached ell structure and make

use of it for programming.

Funding is specifically sought for the removal of the old asphalt shingle barn roof and the professional installation of a metal roof. Given the barn's location overlooking Fields Pond, each year severe winter weather destroys sections of the asphalt shingles requiring repeated and expensive maintenance. A metal roof would insure greater safety and permanence for the structure.

Our history has been characterized by **volunteerism** including repairs and construction at the Fields Pond site, but given concerns for safety, we must defer this roof replacement to hired professionals which makes this endeavor cost prohibitive for us alone.



Moving collection into temporary storage.

Recently, the **Maine Preservation Commission** evaluated the main barn, determining that significant renovations were necessitated to correct structural deterioration. The first recommendation was to empty the barn of its collections in order for structural repair to proceed. Towards this end we have been granted use of two large trailers by **Maine Trailers of Hampden** for temporary storage. We have secured heavy equipment to proceed. Towards the end of structural repair, we have had wood harvested from our property and processed into lumber. This is stacked and awaits use. Under the instruction of **Mark Savage, Brewer High School's Forestry Program** will harvest more trees on our property for processing into lumber this winter.

An even greater contribution to our construction efforts has been the helping hands of **Penobscot Job Corps** under instructor **Luke LaChance** who have

completed much work on the Fields House and timber frame structure. There have been many other volunteers and contributors to these projects, and we are greatly appreciative of all of them.

In addition, a number of supporting piers of the barn have to be either repositioned or replaced. The floor of the ell especially needs replacement. There are second floor joists that need replacement as well as further reinforcement to the current framing of the barn. All this work is towards the end of making the barn safe and functional for visitation and utilization.

The circa 1890s gambrel roof barn is iconic for our community. This renovation will allow this structure to be re-purposed from almost exclusive use as collections storage to an integral role in our hands-on educational programming, especially for school field trip programming — **Help Us Save the Barn.**

We also seek funding to meet some of the costs of re-constructing the 1920s North Castine Post Office. It was moved to an approved building site located directly behind the main barn at our Fields Pond campus in December, 2017. This modest 16' x 18' will serve the theme of historical communication. It would initially feature letterpress printing, magneto telephones and telegraphs, and historical rural postal services. Given the modest cost of this structure, there is an opportunity through

donation to name it.

Lastly, we are seeking funding to complete the re-purposing of an existing attached open shed at the back of the main barn that has exclusively been used for collections storage. It will now serve the evolving theme of "car culture" at the museum with hands-on activity, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops with early gas power.

In addition to hands-on programming, tried and tested at Newfield that we will replicate for use at Fields Pond, we have sought additional funding from other grant providers to complete three new hands-on learning activities to add to existing programming. These activities connect with a collection of fully restored Model T Fords recently donated to the museum. These highly kinesthetic and tactile learning activities for ages 5-18 connect with Maine's early foray into modern manufacturing practices like an auto assembly line in a Springvale, Maine Ford plant in 1915.

We wish to explore the themes of car ownership and maintenance as they relate to Ford Model Ts as well as alteration and utilization of this car for farming and logging. Our learning objectives include understanding Yankee ingenuity among rural Mainers with the hope of nurturing it anew among new generations for new challenges requiring thought, planning, and hands on fabrication— invention.

New Additions to the Collections



This Chandler & Price letterpress and much type and other printing equipment was donated by Deborah & Ron Priest of Gouldsboro, Maine. The press was once used to print the "Catholic Worker."



A barn loom donated through efforts on the part of Chris Mitchell and Nancy B. Tracy from a barn loft in Lamoine, Maine.

Artist/Craftsman Joins Our Board of Directors

Nate Coe is the newest addition to our board of directors. Originally from the Connecticut, Nate came to Maine initially to complete a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art at the University of Maine at Orono and subsequently fell in love with the Bangor area settling here after graduation.

His experience includes sculpture, printmaking and ceramics, which, combined with his love of science fiction and fantasy novels have developed an ongoing interest in anachronistic production methods.

Nate especially enjoys the opportunity to experience life as it once was using that to inspire new art production.

He has spent time forging in the blacksmith shop and sawing ice on Fields Pond in February, among many other experiences, but he is keen on assisting in



Nate Coe

the development of greater traditional arts programming like pottery and weaving at the museum in the near future.

For more than 10 years, Nate has

worked at Shaw House, a youth homeless shelter in Bangor, where he currently works with the Transitional Living Program. He has been especially contributive to the recent relationship between the museum and teens in the Carleton Project, an alternative high school housed at Shaw House, as well as residents of the shelter.

It has been a pleasure for Nate to be able to share the unique experiences offered by Curran Homestead with his clients at Shaw House and hopes to help grow the museum's audience. In addition to his art, home renovation, and building things, Nate is a frequent hiker and camper.

Nate lives with his wife Katie, a frequent Curran volunteer, and 2 pugs, Hope and Grace, in a 19th century Victorian House with a Mansard roof in Bangor, Maine.

Our Mission

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.

CHARITABLE DONATION FORM • 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. Be aware that credit card charges for Curran Homestead Village are processed by the **Bangor Letter Shop** as a savings to the museum.*

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

VISA MC DISCOVER # _____

Name on Card _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV _____

Signature: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO:

(Please indicate choices)

RURAL HERITAGE ENDOWMENT FUND

\$1000 \$100

\$500 \$50

\$250 Other amount

\$ _____

THE CAPITAL FUND

\$1000 \$100

\$500 \$50

\$250 Other amount

\$ _____

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

Yes! I want to help!

Please Join or Renew Your Annual Membership Today!

Your membership helps us preserve our Maine and New England rural heritage as well as perpetuate an invaluable community educational service. Membership also comes with the benefits of free admission and carousel rides for the season, discounts on programs and our frequent newsletter. Treat yourself or someone else to a step back into time! Visit us on Facebook or our website.

2019 Membership Levels & Benefits

- All members get free access to events and open days and the horse carousel in Newfield.
- Consult our calendar for open days at the Fields Pond and Newfield campuses. The number of open days has increased.
- Some memberships have guest privileges. This will be stated on your membership card.
- Children (0-18): Free
- Dual (2 adults): \$50- 10% discount on workshops
- Family (up to 3 adults): \$75- 1 guest pass, 10% discount on workshops
- Historian (up to 3 adults): \$100- 2 guest passes, 10% discount on workshops
- Business: \$300- Free admission for any employee's family of four each day event or opening; business advertisement in each newsletter and website; 2 free guest passes. For \$350- Get a business advertisement in each of our 2019 newsletters
- NEW Historical Society, Museum, Library: \$150- We will issue a pass for a family of four. You can reproduce two of these passes and share with your members (and their family) for each day we are open at either campus for free admission, including a carousel ride. Our regular admission is \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, free for children 18 and under and active military with ID.
- 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.

2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM • CUT OUT, FILL OUT & MAIL OUT

Please print legibly:

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

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VISA MC DISCOVER # _____

Name on Card _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV _____

Signature: _____

MY MEMBERSHIP CHOICE IS:

___ Individual: \$50

___ Family: \$75

___ Historian: \$100

___ Historical Society, Museum, Library: \$150

___ Business: \$300

___ Business Plus: \$350

___ Sustaining: \$300

___ Benefactor: \$500

___ Homesteader: \$1000

___ Other Amount: \$ _____

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

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



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



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

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includes hand tool maintenance and the straight rule method of measuring and fitting timbers. Your class work will result in a framework that will eventually result in a museum building. The plan is to harvest white pine from the Newfield campus, cut it up with a portable band saw on site, and work the timbers both inside in a warm workshop and outside during the course of the two weeks. This is a very rare offering given the commitment of a professional like Mr. Perry who works regularly restoring historic timber frames during warmer weather; he wishes to share his knowledge with a limited group of 5 students. Tools provided. Recommendations, if you wish to bring your own tools.

Knife Making

Saturday & Sunday, February 23 & 24, 2019
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$225

Join us for this popular class and start on the road to mastering this craft with your first knife. This is for beginners and intermediate level students alike. Use propane fired forges to cut and shape a blade and tang from spring steel. Use both hand and power tools



Our first timber framing class resulted in a building partially completed in Newfield and finished at Fields Pond.

to form your knife, oil quench and oven temper. All materials and tools are provided.

Tomahawk Making *

Saturday & Sunday, March 2-3, 2019

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$225

This is an intermediate level class as it requires a forge weld. Start by forging your blade from spring steel. You will fold and

weld a handle eye. Further drifting of this eye will be necessary. File, sand and polish your blade. Create a wooden handle on a shaving horse or bench vise. Oil quench and temper your blade. Embellish handle with burn pen.

**The tomahawk class scheduled for December at Fields Pond has been canceled as preparation of the new workshop space for the class has not proceeded as quickly as planned. Volunteers for this project are welcome. Call 207-205-4849 to help.*

Make a Shaving Horse

Saturday & Sunday, March 16-17, 2019

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Robert Schmick

Tuition: \$175

Create a traditional shaving horse for your woodworking projects from a white ash log. This involves splitting a log with wedges, then using a bark spud, hatchet and draw knife to shape it. Students will use a bit and brace and wood chisels to create a dumkopf (traditional name, this tool has medieval German origin, "dumb head"), the vertical piece which includes a head or vise top and a dowel pedal at the bottom for applying downward pressure to that head. Tools and materials provided.