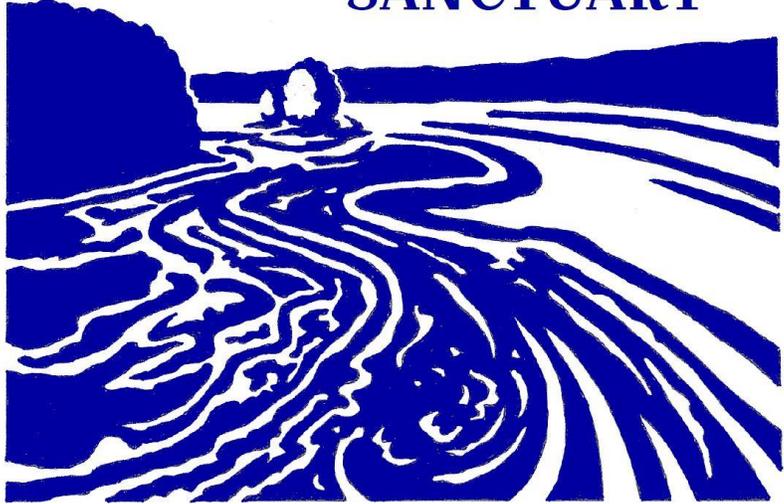


Ebb and Flow

*Reversing Falls
Sanctuary*

*February 2019
Newsletter*

REVERSING FALLS SANCTUARY



Building Community

Building community is one of the mission goals of Reversing Falls Sanctuary. A conversation with Fred Van Liew and others this week reminded me of an illuminating workshop experience I had 40 years ago. Lyle Schaller, the leading church leadership guru at the time, offered a workshop in Portland. Some 80 to 100 came, most of them clergy. Fifteen of us were selected, mostly because we were under forty and therefore less apt to have a heart attack, to lead small groups in one of the sessions. Each leader was given a task his or her group was to accomplish. There were groups of 4, of 6 and of 8.

We started, each explaining to those assigned to the leader's group what the task was that we were to achieve. The problem was that as soon as a leader finished explaining the task, a newcomer was placed in the group. Some groups grew in numbers, some got smaller, and some stayed the same. But in every case, there was a turnover in membership every minute or so.

When Schaller called a halt, there were several very annoyed leaders who never got a chance to get their work done. A friend of mine had, as I did, a group of 4 that was the same size at the end as at the beginning. His was the only group that finished the assigned task. But he had three very angry team members, because he decided the only way to get the job done was to exclude the stream of newcomers and do the job by himself. But in the far corner of the room there was a group of more than 20 who were having a grand party.

That group was led by Lynn Joselyn who is one of the most gifted administrators I have ever known. She did not try to complete the assignment. Instead she incorporated the newcomers into a community. Schaller said he had offered this workshop hundreds of times, and this was the first time anyone ever figured out what the actual objective was.

The exercise was about assimilating newcomers. It was not about accomplishing tasks, but about building community. At Reversing Falls Sanctuary, we have several very specific goals we are working to achieve just with regard to the building:

- To drill a well – done
- Bring water into the building – done
- Install a septic system and leach field – done
- Expand the parking lot – done
- Construct an indoor bathroom – underway
- Construct a new kitchen – underway
- Paint the front of the building – contracted
- Repair the steeple – planning and consulting underway



As of Jan. 19, the recent appeal had raised \$9,585 and RFS had received a gift of stock worth \$10,000 toward the completion of these projects. As we do this work, we are aware of what can be learned from the Schaller exercise described above: Building community is not just more important than completing a goal, it is essential if the goal is to be successfully met. Upgrading and maintaining the building is important to many in the RFS community. But each of you reading this newsletter is more important to us than the building.

Thank yous for a successful appeal are due to Bec Poole who authored the appeal letter and to Ralph Chapman who assisted her in mailing over 200 letters, to Karen Adamo, the RFS treasurer, who received, deposited and totaled the funds as they came in, and to all those who responded to the appeal including those who gave anonymously through the Maine Community Foundation and with the gift of stock. And lastly, a thank you I often overlook, and that is to Zuzonna Huot who sends thoughtful, fitting and imaginative thank you notes to those who contribute toward the work of RFS and who contributed to the fall appeal.



Art from Anything: exploring diverse materials

The current art exhibit at the *Gallery Within* opened Sunday, Feb. 3. There will be opportunity to view a truly remarkable collection on Sunday Feb. 10, Feb. 17, and Feb. 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. or by appointment (326-0631).

Contributing artists are: Maureen Block, Carol Leonard,

Michael Maynard, Gail Page, Swede Plaut, Rebecca Poole-Heyne, Leslie Ross, Warren Seelig, Patricia Wheeler and Daksha Baumann. Daksha Baumann curated the show with installation help from Patricia Wheeler, Michael Maynard, Gaye-Marie Rogers, Patrick Weirs and Ralph Chapman. Rebecca Poole-Heyne assisted in graphic design.



Mercer/Cox Concert

Shawn and Maizey Mercer and Gray Cox will present a concert at Reversing Falls Sanctuary Saturday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Shawn and Maizey are a father/daughter duo from Orland. Maizey is a student at Kents Hill School. Shawn is the Land Steward for the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust. They are off grid homesteaders and environmental activists who were among those who went to stand in solidarity with the Lakota people at Standing Rock. Their music is a blend of a wide range of genres with upbeat rhythms and empowering messages that carry the audience into the realm of possibilities where listeners are introduced to their roles in dreaming a better future into being. Shawn and Maizey performed at the Kelsey Juliana program in the spring. Juliana commented about their music, “It’s like I have a soundtrack.” They performed again when Chis Hedges spoke this summer. He said, “Every revolution needs its artists and musicians, and these two are some of the best.”



Gray Cox is a singer/songwriter who blends country, folk, jazz, Celtic, Hawaiian slack key, blues, Buddhist chant, bluegrass and Latin American elements in poetic songs of love and in stirring songs of peace, justice and environmental stewardship. He is professor in philosophy, peace studies and language learning at College of the Atlantic. He plays guitar and bones and also does songs in compelling, high energy a capella styles. Cox is the author of *The Ways of Peace: A Philosophy of Peace as Action*.

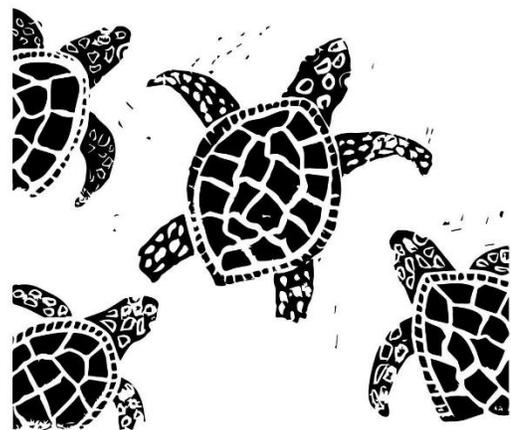
Hugh Curran on Deep Ecology



On Sunday, Feb. 17 Hugh Curran will present a slide show and talk on the subject of Deep Ecology. Curran was born in Donegal, Ireland in a Gaelic speaking family. He lived for five years as a Zen monastic and as an assistant to Philip Kapleau, the author of *The Three Pillars of Zen*. After an extensive pilgrimage to India and Japan, Curran moved to Maine and did graduate studies in Irish Literature at the University of Maine. He is a founding member of the *Morgan Bay Zendo* where he is on the board of directors and guides

retreats. He also founded the *Friends of Morgan Bay* which oversees five nature preserves. Curran is a lecturer in the *Peace and Reconciliation Studies Program* at the University of Maine where he teaches courses on: “Buddhism, Peace and Contemplative Tradition”; “Ecology and Spirituality”; and “Nonviolence.” His publications include a student text: “Excerpts from Classical and Modern Writers on Nonviolence.”

Deep Ecology is an environmental philosophy and social movement based in the belief that humans must radically change their relationship to nature from one that values nature solely for its usefulness to human beings to one that recognizes nature’s inherent value. The Deep Ecology world view sees human beings as being on an equal level with other species, as opposed to being superior to them.



Hannah Bailev. *Turtle Island*. 2017

Clothing and Supplies for the Border with Mexico

The Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine reports that a shipping pallet worth of clothing and supplies is headed to border organizations for distribution to asylum seekers there. Their newsletter also notes that Dawn Neptune Adams and her daughter are going to the border to help the Corrizo Comecrudo tribe stop the bulldozers that are posed to dig a trench for the wall through a sacred burial ground. Thank you to Connie Jenkins for calling this opportunity to contribute to this effort to our attention and to all who brought clothing, bedding, and other supplies. We sent at least two carloads.

Coming Events

Saturday, 2/9, 6 p.m. Shawn and Maizey Mercer with Gray Cox in Concert

Sunday, 2/10, 1-4 p.m. The Gallery Within is open for public viewing of the current exhibition, ***Art from Anything: exploring diverse materials***

Monday, 2/11, No AL-anon 12 Step Recovery meeting this week

Wednesday, 2/13, 4:30 p.m. Program Team meets

Saturday, 2/16, 3 p.m. Board of Directors meets

Sunday, 2/17, 1-4 p.m. ***Art from Anything*** open at the Gallery Within

4 p.m. Hugh Curran slide show and talk on Deep Ecology

Monday, 2/18 6:30-7:30 p.m. Al-anon 12 Step meeting

Sunday, 2/24, 1-4 p.m. ***Art from Anything*** open at the Gallery Within

Monday, 2/25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Al-anon 12 Step meeting

Sunday 3/3, 4 p.m. Women's Circle

March — our annual Spring series will focus on water. As we work to bring water to a functioning kitchen and bathroom, we will explore in various ways our relationship to the waters around us throughout the coming year. Suggestions welcome.

Photos of submission for the ***Art from Anything*** exhibit by Pat Wheeler

Information: www.reversingfalls.org