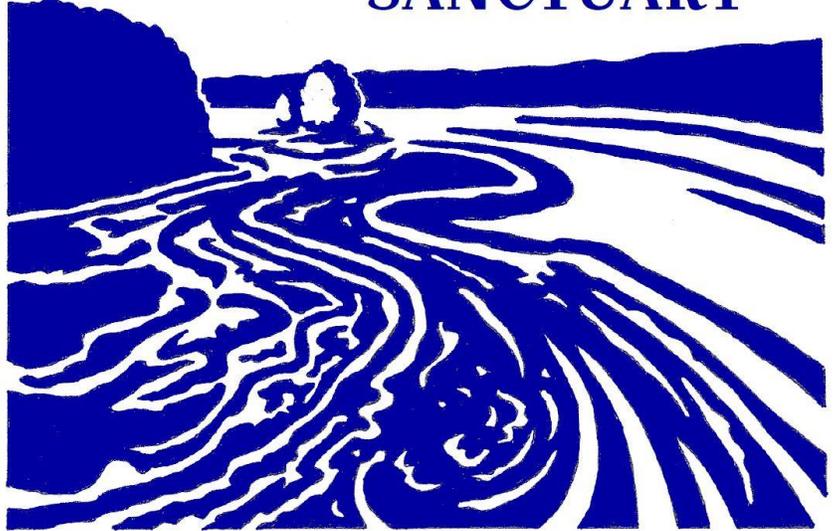


Ebb and Flow

*Reversing Falls
Sanctuary
Newsletter*

June 2019

REVERSING FALLS SANCTUARY



Reflections on “Dancing with the Cannibal Giant”

March, April and May at Reversing Falls Sanctuary featured a series of programs about water that were as delightful as they were filled with information and insight. Then on Friday, May 19 members of the community gathered to view the film, “Dancing with the Cannibal Giant.” Portions of the film were of Sherri Mitchell speaking at Reversing Falls Sanctuary to a way beyond capacity crowd of about 125. It added to the pleasure of the evening to see ourselves in such a significant film. Chuck Boothby, one of the community’s discerning cultural critics sent some reflections on the evening from which I print some selections.



Chris Wood came from Vermont to show his film, “Dancing with the Cannibal Giant,” and to hear our responding stories. Chris’s nonprofit is BALE, Building a Local Economy. A core ingredient of this film is segments of Sherri Mitchell sharing her urgent message about healing our planet through time tested indigenous ways.

Someone needs to rise and coordinate a list of the necessary books we should all be reading with short descriptions about their importance and where local copies are available.

The first book might be Antonio Iturbe's The Librarian of Auschwitz, the account of young Dita Kraus who guarded eight books with her life yet circulated them daily with community assistance directly under the eyes of the Nazi guards and thus survived the horrors of Auschwitz. Books will be important for our survival. A similar list could be made of films and their locations. [The Boothbys are willing to share their copy of "Dancing with the Cannibal Giant. RFS also has a copy for that very purpose.]

Rob Shetterly in his introduction mentioned the need to explore cooperative local investments. Our community is participating in the cooperative investment of building a new food coop. As it nears completion our community should explore the next steps in cooperative investments. . . . Returning to the concept of Building a Local Economy, local might include regional thus making the question how to unify New England as a political, economic, river-centered, geographic entity? Local might include a section updating our continuing battle with corporations where Monsanto has disappeared into Dow-Dupont-Bayer but is still doing nasty things, where Walmart has become our best place to buy car batteries and pads of paper, and where our rivers urgently need legal personhood to represent themselves in court against corporations with their legal personhoods. Local economy, as in the film, might explore local farming. . . .

It might be argued that retreating to our small farms on this lovely peninsula is retreating from the vastness of this global cannibal monster. Indeed, it is urgent that we promote viable local leaders and keep them engaged with our agendas before corporate lobbyists swallow them. Our gurus remain the Nearings: grow your own food, keep sane, spread your insights globally. Nevertheless, global corporations and countries like China and India are huge and formidable. Friday's discussion hardly scratched the surface of the vastness of this crisis. . . . The planet will survive but will human beings?

[Chuck lists some books, films and other resources. Dick Gregor frequently alerts some in the community to books we might profitably read individually or together. I am reading, at the moment, Wendell Berry's new book, *The Art of Loading Brush: New Agrarian Essays*, which explores and illuminates the necessity for and the challenges of creating a local economy in a national economy dominated by corporations and the profit motive. I heartily recommend the book. Of course, Berry has written about this before, but every new essay or poem he writes brings new insight and perspective.]

Climate Convergence Update

Tony Ferrara sends this progress report: *We have received sufficient grants from a number of sponsors to be able to cover the costs of convening this large conference Sat. July 20 at George Stevens Academy. A lovely conference brochure and poster are ready for distribution. Several community organizations have agreed to staff information tables and/or briefly describe some of their activities and successes. A number of students, passionate about the impending crisis, have been scheduled as speakers.*

[Register for the conference at www.reversingfalls.org]



Bathroom Remodeling & Work Project Update

Stalls, shower, closet & vanity framed in.

Floor received initial coat of primer.

Water line continued from well to building.

Electricity in place to permit more carpentry work.

Interior insulation complete.

Heat pump contractor being researched.

Rough plumbing in place.

Windows ordered.

Pressure tank installed & connected.

Utility sink plumbed.

Area under back room ready for insulation.

Water line trench filled in.

Volunteer Remodeling Work Projects to be completed:

Sheath walls.

Build shelves in closet.

Build vanity counter.

Install grab bars.

Remove & resize window opening in kitchen.

Rework window frame for smaller windows.

Install kitchen sink cabinet.

Install wood paneling on ceiling and walls.

Install interior doors.

Remove old exterior door & install new unit.

Install shower stall.

After interior carpentry is done, install plumbing fixtures.

General Work Projects:

Garden improvements and maintenance.

General stick pick up.

Continue wood chip distribution.

Thanks to Daksha for organizing this ongoing work and to David Zachow and his crew for their amazing work. Next time you are at RFS, be sure to go and look at the transformation taking place in the old kitchen space.



Reversing Falls Sanctuary Mission

- Build strong community bonds
- Support local artists and musicians
- Care for our earth
- Welcome people on diverse spiritual paths

June Events

Sun, June 2, 4 p.m. Women's Circle

Mon. June 3, 6:30 p.m. 12 Step Recovery Program

Thu. June 6, 6 p.m. Meditation in the Tibetan Buddhist Tradition

Sat. June 8, 4 – 6 p.m. *Rock Stacks*, art exhibition and demonstration with Alex Turanski. Alex Turanski is an emerging artist who works with natural found rock and the unseen force of gravity in a state of meditation. His art is a practice of focused awareness, a way to enter the ever changing 'now' moment.

Mon. June 10, 6:30 p.m. 12 Step Recovery Program

Wed. June 12, 4:30 p.m. Program Team meeting

Thu. June 13, 6 p.m. Meditation in the Tibetan Buddhist Tradition

Fri. June 14, Film: *Far Away*. Captain LeCain Smith and first mate Sheila Moir host a showing of their inspirational documentary, which showcases the adventures filmed during their six-year voyage around the world on the good ship *Perelandria*, their custom-designed, forty-four foot ketch. Info: www.windroseaway.com

Sat. June 15, 4-6 p.m. *Rock Stacks* exhibition and demonstration

Mon. June 17, 9 a.m. Board of Directors meets
6:30 p.m. 12 Step Recovery Program



Thu. June 20, 6 p.m. Meditation in the Tibetan Buddhist Tradition

Fri. June 21, 4 p.m. Summer Solstice Celebration

Sat. June 22, 4- 6 p.m. *Rock Stacks* exhibition and demonstration

Sun. June 23, 4 p.m. Isy Abraham-Raveson presents a workshop entitled *Beyond "Check Your Privilege."* Do we talk about 'privilege' in ways that lead to greater understanding? This workshop provides an opportunity to think intersectionally about a variety of unearned privileges. Participants will examine a multitude of privilege categories, determine how these privileges affect people, recognize how each system of privilege hurts the privilege holder, and walk away with strategies for dismantling these systems in daily life and professional practice.

Mon. June 24, 6:30 p.m. 12 Step Recovery Program

Tue. June 25, 7 p.m. Robin Hadlock Seeley
Program: *Ecology: The Key Roles of Rockweed
and the Intertidal Zone*. Dr. Seeley will
provide a multimedia presentation
addressing the ongoing controversy over
commercial rockweed harvesting, the
importance of rockweed in the nearshore
ecosystems and the sustainability of
harvesting practices.



Thur. June 27, 6 p.m. Meditation in the Tibetan Buddhist Tradition

Sat. June 29, 4-6 p.m. *Rock Stacks* exhibition and demonstration

7 p.m. **Reggie Harris in Concert** for benefit of a new film, *Robert Shetterly: An American Who Tells the Truth* at the Blue Hill Town Hall. Reggie Harris, a singer/social activist, is part of Shetterly's Americans Who Tell the Truth portrait series. These are the words from Harris that appear scratched into his portrait: ". . . though our history remains, it's our actions we must change . . . if we hope to heal our planet we must stand . . . in the shelter of each other." The film, by Richard Kane, tells Shetterly's own story. Reversing Falls is a cosponsor of this event.

Sat. July 20, Climate Convergence Conference at GSA.

Photo credits: Sherri Mitchell [photographer uncertain]

Passion of the Earth by artist Nancy Earle. Photo by Anne Ferrara

David Zachow and Peter Weirs at work in the new bathroom.

Photo by Daksha Baumann

Richard Paget and Tony Ferrara launching a boat on the solstice at the

Reversing Falls of the Bagaduce. Photo by Pat Wheeler

Waterfront. Photo by Pat Wheeler

The description of *Beyond "Check Your Privilege"* is from Abraham-Raveson's website.

Thanks to Chuck Boothby for sharing his reflections. It is important for the community to know what we think as well as what we do.

Information: www.reversingfalls.org