



# Cobscook Currents

Fall/Winter 2011

News from the Cobscook Community Learning Center

## Heartwood Lodge an Economic Engine for Washington County

by Valerie Lawson



David Yates (left) and Harold Clossey (Sunrise County Economic Council)

At David Yates' sawmill in Lubec, a pile of freshly cut lumber waits to become the framework of the CCLC's Heartwood Lodge. This lumber serves as an example of the economic impact that the lodge is already having on the region — an impact that will ripple across the state and long into the future. The lumber came from logs that were harvested locally by the Bells of Tide Mill Farm in Edmunds. In spring of 2012, Jake Berry from East Machias will arrive at the CCLC with his crew to begin construction of the building. "This building will be made by local people from local materials," says CCLC Executive Director, Alan Furth. "That's our commitment." Beyond the construction phase, Heartwood Lodge will continue to generate revenue for local people. It will take at least the equivalent of 4.5 full-time employees to run and maintain the building, plus it will be heated with a Garn wood gasification system which will burn local timber.



Heartwood Lodge supports local businesses

The Heartwood Lodge will have a significant economic impact on the CCLC and the region. Construction of the building will require over 18,000 hours of labor. Those hours translate to local jobs and much-needed dollars being pumped into the local economy. According to Glen Mills at the Center for Workforce Research at the Maine Department of Labor, a project of this scope, using standard multipliers, will generate \$4.5 million dollars that will be injected into the state's economy. The addition of new staff at the Lodge will add another \$400,000 annually.



Locally harvested timber ready to be milled

"We need a diverse economic landscape in Washington County," says Harold Clossey, Executive Director of the Sunrise County Economic Council. Our asset-based economy builds on existing resources and develops untapped resources. Increased visitor participation at the CCLC and Heartwood Lodge will bring increased revenue to local businesses, restaurants, and retail shops. Clossey adds, "The Heartwood Lodge will intersect with tourism and be an education destination drawing more people to the region, people who eat lobster, buy gas, rent kayaks, and maybe buy property and move here." The extra dollars they spend while they are here get spent again as local shopkeepers and their employees spend money on rent, mortgages, groceries and other goods and services. The Lodge will pump new dollars into the economy, which increases capital in the region, and improves the economic outlook for everyone.

Other economic impacts are not easily quantified. Construction of the Heartwood Lodge will increase capacity for current programs at the CCLC like The Community Year (TCY), an alternative high school program for area students. The lodge will allow for this and other programs to create a residential component to their programs and services. Having a lodge also allows the CCLC to create longer, immersion-style programs that not only increase educational offerings, but create new revenue streams for the center. Additionally, the lodge will serve as a beautiful, desirable place for conferences, retreats, Road Scholar programs, and other uses that attract people and their dollars.

The Heartwood Lodge was named for the heart wood of a tree, the central core that provides strength and durability to new growth in all directions. The lodge is aptly named as it will provide new growth in a region that has suffered from the economic downturn and will stand as a sustainable model for other area organizations and businesses. For more information about the Heartwood Lodge, contact the CCLC at 207-733-2233 or visit the website: [www.thecccl.org](http://www.thecccl.org).



Lumber for Heartwood Lodge waiting for hammers and saws

## From the Board Room: Strategic Planning by Don Sprangers, Board President

In my two-year tenure as President of the CCLC Board of Directors, I believe the biggest and perhaps the most important accomplishment of our board is the completion of our strategic plan, a living document that will guide the CCLC into the future of continued growth and service in our community. The process used to move us forward in our planning involved guidance from Deb Burwell and Carol Carriuolo from Paddling the Rapids. Deb and Carol know the CCLC very well having worked with previous boards and staff members over the past 10 years. We celebrate the process of working together as a community in developing the strategic plan which involved input from our staff, board members, and community members. As we teased out the language of this document the voices of many were heard, processed, recorded, and included.

In the end, we have a document that reflects a vision of how the CCLC functions and a pathway to its future. We have carefully revised our mission, our vision, and values, and have crafted a broad set of short-term and long-term goals to direct the path of our staff and board as we all work together to serve the communities of the Cobscook Bay region. This document is currently being used to develop work plans for our staff and board, and with annual reviews of the strategic plan, the CCLC will continue to move in a direction that reflects the needs of the people in our area.

Strategic planning can be a daunting process, but Deb and Carol pulled us together and guided the process as their company name reflects, "Paddling The Rapids." It's all about navigating your course. So if you're paddling the rapids or managing an organization, attention to the future is vital. The CCLC is now poised to continue the journey, so please consider joining us in the many activities and programs provided by the CCLC.

*It has been gratifying to work with the CCLC community on this strategic planning process. They made a substantial commitment of time, talent, and resources in an effort to gather broad input and wisdom. This translated into a compelling vision and strategic plan which was refined into a motivating, workable, well-thought out document that will provide direction for the board and staff into the future. Rarely do we see nonprofits carry the process all the way through to this degree of conclusion.*

*The best part is that the staff and board of the CCLC are using the document as a living tool and making changes when necessary. Bravo!*

*Deb Burwell and Carol Carriuolo  
Paddling the Rapids*

### Compass Rose: Board of Directors

*President*

**Donald Sprangers**, Machias

*Vice President*

**Rebecca McKenna**, East Machias

*Treasurer*

**Blaine Jones**, East Machias

**Kelli Bailey**, Indian Township

**Gary Cook**, Campobello

**Marilyn Hughes**, Trescott

**Wayne Newell**, Indian Township

**Madonna Soctomah**, Princeton

**Colby Soctomah-Lewey**, Pleasant Point

**Joe Wolfberg**, Portland

### CCLC Staff

**Carrie Callahan**, Director of Education and Programs

**Alan Furth**, Executive Director

**Penny Guisinger**, Development and Communications

*Director*

**Valerie Lawson**, Administrative Assistant to the

*Executive Team*

**Bonnie Lyons**, Custodial Services

**Pat Mallar**, Financial Manager

**Charley Martin-Berry**, Passages

*Teacher/Coordinator*

**Kara McCrimmon**, Teacher, The Community Year

**Mark Merrill**, Maintenance and Groundskeeper

**Michelle Reynolds**, Passages Teacher

**Annie Seegmiller**, Teacher, The Community Year

**Kevin Thompson**, Technology & Office Systems

*Director*

**Cora Townsend**, Passages Teacher

10 Commissary Point Road

Trescott, ME 04652

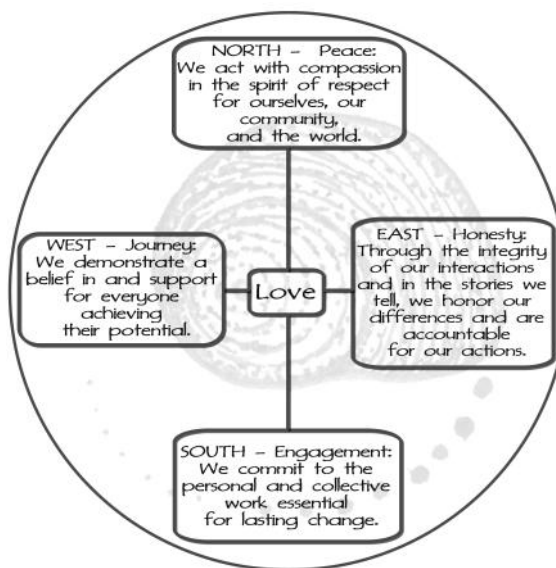
Phone: 207-733-2233

Email: [cclc@thecclc.org](mailto:cclc@thecclc.org)

Website: [www.thecclc.org](http://www.thecclc.org)

MISSION

To create responsive educational opportunities that strengthen personal, community, and global well-being.



VISION

A community that respects people and planet, and inspires, supports, and sustains people to achieve their greatest potential.

### VALUES

The Cobscook Community Learning Center is an intentionally created, sacred space committed to building bridges and being accessible to the people of the Cobscook Bay region and to social, economic, cultural, ecological, personal, and familial empowerment. It is operated in the spirit of love, respect, humor and creative, bold adventure.

## From the Desk of Alan Furth, CCLC Executive Director

Here's to...Butter with Onions...

Welcome to the Fall/Winter edition of Cobscook Currents, CCLC's bi-annual newsletter. The newsletter is one way for us to stay connected with you as we continue our journey into and through the day to day work of meeting our mission of *creating responsive educational opportunities that support personal, community, and global well-being*. This newsletter is dedicated to each and every individual who lives and acts with intention to help make this world a better place, and to those who recognize and accept the invitation to continually build and hone the skills, understanding, and awareness required to do that work well. One facet without the other will not carry us to our goal.

I am mindful, these days, of what it takes to do things well, and of the liabilities at all scales of society when the other option holds sway. We are blessed that CCLC's diverse undertakings are so well supported and sustained by people with such diverse and important – essential — skills. These include: being part of the team that is building Cobscook Bay Company into a vibrant business; collaborating with our partners to deliver two outstanding high school programs; designing and raising funds for Heartwood Lodge; working with CCLC's outstanding staff, board, community members and consultants to create a lean and utilitarian strategic plan; and, running this organization with a board and staff and community of extraordinary talent. This newsletter offers snapshots and updates into those facets of outstanding activity, undertaking and achievement. If you are receiving this newsletter, it is because you are linked with this Center and these achievements. If this edition of Cobscook Currents is your first introduction to CCLC, please accept it as an invitation to get involved. There are countless ways to do that – as a teacher and/or learner, through volunteering, and through your generous contributions.

I traveled recently with my wife, Katie MacGregor, one of the leading handmade paper artisans in the country, to Boston to attend the Guild of Book Makers Conference. People of extraordinary talent, passion and skill within that field converged from around the planet. A silent auction featuring offerings from many of those artists helps sustain the organization and, in support of that goal, I placed a single bid for a poster which I won. It is titled "*8 Deadly Social Sins*" and footnoted, "*with apologies to Mahatma Gandhi.*" If I could send a copy to each one of you, I would. This is the next best thing. The poster features a photo of onions, beautiful onions, with the words of the deadly social sins scrolled down across the image. They read:

*Politics without principle  
Wealth without work  
Commerce without morality  
Pleasure without conscience  
Knowledge without character  
Science without humanity  
Worship without sacrifice  
Butter without onions*

Here's to working together, with skill and conviction, for the time that we are blessed to be here, to create a world where we all can enjoy ... butter with onions.

With thanks and joy,



Alan Furth  
Executive Director, CCLC



Alan (left) with CCLC Board President Don Sprangers

## Passages Update

By Charley Martin-Berry  
Passages Coordinator/Teacher



Passages graduates prepare to take the stage

CCLC welcomed Michelle Reynolds to the Passages team this spring. Michelle, who lives in Machias and is the mother of three children, comes with a background in science education. She taught at Lubec High School for five years before its closure. In addition to teaching full-time with Passages, Michelle is pursuing a degree in Psychology at UMM. With a lifelong love for learning, experience as a mother, and first-hand knowledge of growing up and living in Washington County, Michelle is a wonderful role model for the young parents in our program. Welcome Michelle!

In June, we were delighted to congratulate nine young parents who earned their high school diplomas through Passages at the CCLC. Passages Director, Martha Kempe, from The Community Schools at Opportunity Farm and Camden was present to award diplomas. Across

the board, Passages graduates expressed sincere gratitude for the program and acknowledged that without it they would not have completed high school. Graduates shared the day with Community Year students who also completed a successful year. CCLC graduations are truly outstanding events. Not only can we applaud the accomplishments of our students, but we can also celebrate the strong collaborations with partnering schools that make high school programming possible at the CCLC.

Shortly after graduation, Charley Martin-Berry, Passages Teacher/Coordinator, went on maternity leave. On July 9, 2011, she and her family welcomed a baby daughter, Raven Pearl. Michelle served as temporary coordinator through the summer and continues working with Charley's former students. Michelle and Cora Townsend are working throughout Washington County to deliver the Passages program to young moms and dads this fall, and Charley has returned to work as Passages coordinator. Raven looks forward to meeting some Passages babies at upcoming workshops.

Passages is currently taking applications. If you are a young parent in Washington County, between the ages of fourteen and twenty, who needs a way to finish high school, where school comes right to your home, or if you know someone is, call Charley at 733-2233 or email [passages@theccclc.org](mailto:passages@theccclc.org)



Financial aid workshop for Passages students

### Attention Parents and Teachers!!

The CCLC offers fun, educational programs for schools and families.

School Vacation Art & Activity Camps — Do your kids need something to do during school breaks? Send them to us for arts and fun, physical activities!

*Dec. 28, 29, and 30 (last days of winter break)*

*Jan. 16 (MLK day), Feb. 20 - 24 (spring break)*

*May 28 (Memorial day)*

School field trips are available year-round in a variety of themes: pottery, music, outdoor fun, and more.

**May 24 -25, 2012 We'll be organizing field trips as part of the Downeast Spring Bird Festival.**

For details, call (207) 733-2233 or visit [www.theccclc.org](http://www.theccclc.org)

### Welcome Raven Pearl!

Everyone at the CCLC is so happy to welcome little Raven to our community.

We're looking forward to teaching you where the commas go, where the polls are, how to skip a stone, and other things that really matter.

Congratulations to Charley, Jake, and Taylor.



## Community Year Offers Unique Educational Opportunities for High School Students

by Kara McCrimmon, Community Year Teacher



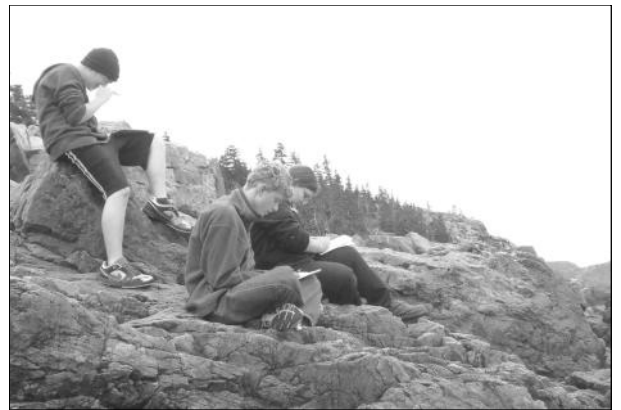
The group atop a summit after a great hike

CCLC's Community Year High School Program, offered in partnership with Calais High School, is available once again as an option for high school students in our region. The Community Year is a true reflection of the CCLC's mission, which is to create responsive educational opportunities that strengthen personal, community, and global well-being. The Community Year responds to the need for diverse learning options for our area high school students by offering a unique option for part of their high school career. The Community Year features a small learning community; regular individualized instruction for those who need it; up to four multi-night trips throughout the school year; regular community field trips; and several hands-on, interdisciplinary projects.

So far this year, Community Year students:

- Learned outdoor and leadership skills on a 5-night wilderness canoe trip in Northern Maine.
- Participated in 4-H's National Science Day Experiment – Wired for Wind (which will be an ongoing project for the Community Year group).
- Visited WQDY radio in Calais and learned about radio production while recording a 60 second ad for CCLC's annual RiceFest celebration.
- Studied geology and intertidal zones during a three night camping trip to Acadia National Park. The group also hiked to the top of Cadillac Mountain *in the rain!*
- Visited The Commons in Eastport as a kickoff to a year-long project called *Making and Marketing*.
- Met with rangers at Saint Croix Island International Historic Site.
- Visited many of Washington County's exemplary natural areas as part of a study of local ecosystems. West Quoddy Head State Park, Shackford Head State Park, Cobscook Bay State Park, Rocky Lake Ecological Reserve, Mowry Beach, and the Pike Lands have all served as outdoor classrooms for the group's explorations this fall.
- Served as field trip guides for the approximately 300 students who visited the CCLC over two days to enjoy traditional arts demonstrations as part of RiceFest and nationally celebrated American Craft Week.

While the year is already underway, applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. Students and their families are invited to contact the CCLC to discuss options for enrolling during the school year. Program information, including an application, brochure, and course descriptions, can be found online at [www.theccclc.org/tcy](http://www.theccclc.org/tcy).



Doing some writing in the biggest classroom ever



Etta Abrahams, of Jonesport —  
October Slam winner!

### Calling All Poets and Poetry Fans!

Poetry SLAM has come to Trescott! On Wednesday, October 12, The CCLC hosted its first poetry slam. The evening featured an open mic, where everyone in the audience was invited to read an original poem. After a brief break for refreshment and fellowship, the slam began. Poetry slam is a competition started by Marc Smith in Chicago in the mid-eighties. Since then poetry slam has spread throughout the world. In a poetry slam, poets read a work of their own authorship. They may use no props, costumes or musical accompaniment. The poem and performance are then judged Olympic-style by members of the audience.

Though ostensibly competitive, poetry slams are designed for fun. Hosts Valerie Lawson and Michael Brown are veteran slammasters and have been emceeing poetry events for years. The event was such a hit it has been added as an ongoing program and will continue on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM.

## Maine Fresh Chef Sam Hayward, a Winner (again)!

Sam Hayward, the culinary mind behind Maine Fresh seafood pies, has been awarded yet another award. (Honestly. Where does he keep them all?) Hayward was named “Best Chef — Northeast” in 2004 by the James Beard Foundation. (The Beard Foundation awards are often referred to as the Oscars of the food world.) He has also been nominated twice for Outstanding Chef, the Foundation’s top, national-level award. His Portland restaurant, Fore Street, has been nominated for Outstanding Restaurant, also a national-level award, three times and was a finalist once.

In October 2011, Sam was named “Sustainer of the Year” at the Chefs Collaborative (CC) third-annual national summit in New Orleans. The Collaborative is a national network of chefs who are changing the sustainable food landscape by educating culinary professionals (including farmers, fishers, chefs, and writers) about the places where food and sustainability intersect. “Sam has very quietly been doing this for a long time and has trained generations of chefs,” said chef Michael Leviton, chair of the CC Board.

Sam also recently accepted a role as the spokesperson for Delhaize’s (Hannaford’s parent company) new sustainable seafood campaign. You can find Sam talking about fresh, sustainable seafood (and how to cook it!) on the Hannaford website. (Click on *food love*, then *departments*, then *seafood*. He’s there.)

Sam’s work with the Cobscook Bay Company and the CCLC in the creation and marketing of Maine Fresh pies speaks directly to his commitment to high-quality, local food and to making a difference here in Maine. Congratulations, Sam!



*Sam Hayward (left) adjusts seasonings with Chief Operating Officer, John Phinney*

---

### Maine Fresh Pie Updates!

- Since the pies appeared in store freezer cases, shoppers have consumed more than 30,000 pies.
- Maine Fresh pies are available at every Hannaford store, Whole Foods New England, Associated Buyers, Associated Grocers, and the Crown of Maine Co-op.
- Whole Foods in New York and New Jersey are now carrying lobster and scallop pies.
- Hannaford donated a two-page spread to Maine Fresh pies in their upcoming December issue of Natural and Organic magazine.
- The Cobscook Bay Company (maker of Maine Fresh pies) just implemented new employee policies that feature more benefits for employees, including an IRA plan, more vacation days, and a wellness program.

---

### Look Who’s Eating Maine Fresh Pies! (and now a few words from our fans...)

“Not only are Maine Fresh pies good for your taste buds, they’re also good for a beautiful part of Maine and the people who live and work there.”

*Anne Dinsmore, Executive Director, Great Bay Foundation*

“It’s amazing that meaningful economic development, forward-thinking educational opportunities, and great taste all fit in those little pie boxes! We love them.”

*Former Maine Governor Angus King and First Lady Mary Herman*

“I joined Weight Watchers and didn’t think this could even be a part of my diet. But the scallop pie is definitely point-worthy! Comfort food without the guilt! I love the idea of buying local products and helping a Washington County nonprofit.”

*Janet Henry, President, Maine Philanthropy Center*

“I sent my husband Dale to the store to pick up some Maine Fresh pies so we could serve them to guests. He bought all four – one of each variety. Our guests weren’t able to come, so we ate them all ourselves. Dale ate three, and wanted the fourth one, but I had already eaten it. We loved them!”

*Meredith Jones, President and CEO, Maine Community Foundation*

## Bringing People and Knowledge Together

by Carrie Callahan, Director of Education and Programs



Carrie Callahan

Let me introduce myself: Since August, I have been serving as the CCLC's new Director of Education and Programs. Prior to that, I was working at the CCLC with the development department, assisting on a wide variety of tasks. The move to my new job, though not necessarily a long one (perhaps eight or nine feet in distance), was great in depth, breadth, and scope. I am both honored and excited to be a part of what I hope will be a serious growth spurt in CCLC's overall educational programming. I want to tell you what we are working on.

This spring we helped host the eighth annual Memorial Day weekend Spring Downeast Birding Festival. We are ever-grateful to our festival partners, the Road Scholars and Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, and continue to strengthen our relationships with them. Summer saw a series of fun enrichment courses, including ice cream and soap making, Bollywood dance and yoga, polymer clay, plant and tree identification walks, and herbs for wellness and winter. We held two week-long art and activity camps in July, each culminating in Friday afternoon exhibits showcasing the artwork created by the K-12 students. The camps included a portion

of the Regional Medical Center in Lubec's sixty summer rec participants; currently we are discussing a joint effort for all of summer 2012, as well as coordinating after-school programs. With generous sponsorship and volunteer effort, we featured local musicians on each Sunday in August at afternoon concerts in our outdoor bandstand and amphitheater; plans are already being made for our 2012 season. Summer was capped with our third annual Beautiful Day celebration.

We are currently in the midst of several fall courses, among them pottery, computer skills, belly dancing, and gentle yoga. Winter courses will offer more pottery, traditional drawing methods, enhanced computer skills, healthy cooking, reading music, wildlife tracking, a variety of fiber workshops, and . . . handmade chocolate Valentines! Based on feedback from parents, we are now planning camps for every school holiday and vacation. In addition to Monday music and our signature pizza & music night, we have added two more recurring gigs - an open mic and poetry *SLAM* on each second Wednesday and Thursday evening yoga. And, we are in the early planning stages for holding regular monthly coffeehouses. If you are already looking to spring and beyond, you may add scythe and mushrooming workshops to your list. In fact, you might want to bookmark [www.theccclc.org](http://www.theccclc.org) so you can check in to see what new things are being added!

This year's RiceFest (see page 9 for pictures!) brought great feedback and has sparked interest in more custom programs and field trips for schools. So much so, that we are planning two school field trip days prior to 2012's BirdFest, to take advantage of the convergence of a terrific group of outdoor and wildlife experts. My vision for the near future includes strengthening our major spring and fall events, as well as establishing two new ones – perhaps a huge celebration of local art and craft in the summer, and something warm and yummy in midwinter.

This report would not be complete without accolades for the Community Year's first successful year on the ground, and our life-changing Passages alternative high school program. Both are bright stars of CCLC's educational programming and are written about elsewhere in this newsletter by the terrific coordinators and teachers who run them.

Our mission is to *create responsive educational opportunities that strengthen personal, community, and global well-being*. To that end the CCLC has created meaningful relationships with other organizations whose mission and vision are a good match with ours – providing education for true, deep, and lasting social change. Serious conversations with the University of New England are laying the framework for accredited coursework and rural rotations for medical interns. In partnership with Washington County Community College, we are exploring the development of joint programs, and we are having similar talks with the University of Maine System. Farther afield, our involvement in the Association for World Education is bringing us into contact with many esteemed educators and their programs. The importance of Heartwood Lodge in light of this growth cannot be understated. All of this inspires us to broaden our scope and more widely open hearts – to do all that we possibly can to bring people and knowledge, as well as light and enlightenment, together.

## Emiley Lockhart Joins CCLC's Heartwood Lodge Capital Campaign



The CCLC is pleased to welcome Emiley Lockhart to the Heartwood Lodge Capital Campaign committee. Lockhart, a former Assistant Attorney General in Massachusetts, is now a consultant at Discovering Justice, a classroom and courthouse-based educational program that teaches civic engagement and advocacy, particularly to young people in underserved communities. Lockhart is married to Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart.

The Lockharts have been visiting the area for many years and own a summer home in Cutler. "I enjoy this place so much and felt it incumbent on me to give something back," Emiley said during a recent phone conversation. "Washington County has one of the highest poverty rates in the country. It is striking and tragic in this most beautiful place where fantastic people live."

The addition of Emiley Lockhart will add to the reach of the capital campaign. Besides her law career, Emiley has a background in development and fundraising. She will help the capital campaign committee hone strategies for donor cultivation events and introduce philanthropists from the Boston area to the CCLC's unique programs and mission.

---

### If These (Dry Stone) Walls Could Talk

by Nancy Leavitt, CCLC Participant

At a dinner celebrating the completion of my 100<sup>th</sup> hand-lettered book, *Dry Stone Walls*, Katie MacGregor revealed a remarkable synchronicity. The middle chapter of the book was the lyrics to the song, "These Dry Stone Walls" by David Goulder. "Dave is coming to the Cobscook Community Learning Center next weekend," Katie said, "why don't you join us?" The synchronicity was staggering so I signed up for the Dry Stone Masonry class facilitated by Goulder and John Viselli, both stone masons and musicians.

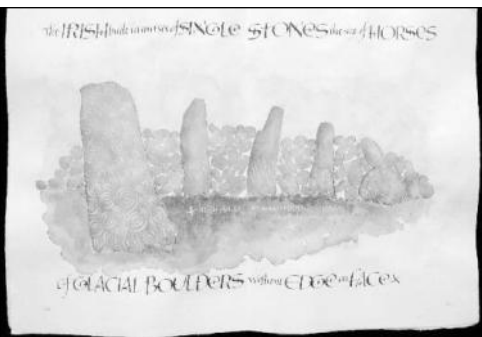
Our goal for the two-day workshop was to create an entrance by building two 4-foot high by 20-foot long curving dry stone walls. We looked forlornly at a large pile of irregular shaped rubble. Dave said it was clearly the most difficult stone for constructing walls, but that it was important to use building materials native to the surroundings. We marked out the length and width of the walls and digging trenches. We compacted the earth, laid the foundation stones, sorted stones to size and shape, and began building the first course. Dave and John came around often to give instruction and encouragement. We enjoyed getting to know each other through the heavy and satisfying work and by the second day we were working together as a team.



*The group poses with their beautiful wall*

None of the other workshop participants had heard Dave's music. With encouragement Dave ended the class by singing *These Dry Stones Walls*. John Viselli and Alan Furth shared a few more tunes on the fiddle and banjo. It was a grand weekend.

It was an honor to meet Dave and Mary Goulder, John Viselli, and my wonderful classmates. Thank you to the staff at Cobscook Community Learning Center for their work and kind help. It was a wonderful educational experience and I look forward to taking another class at CCLC but in the meantime, I am constructing my own dry stone wall.



*A page from Nancy's beautiful book*

Nancy Leavitt is a calligrapher specializing in hand-lettered, painted, and bound books, which you may view at [www.nancyleavitt.com](http://www.nancyleavitt.com) and [www.nancyruthleavitt.wordpress.com](http://www.nancyruthleavitt.wordpress.com).



## New Employee Spotlight: Michelle Reynolds Passages Teacher

Michelle joined the CCLC in April 2011, and brought her thirteen years of experience working in education with her. Michelle holds a B.S. in Environmental Science, and is working on a B.A. in Psychology and Community Studies. She loves working with Passages students and her co-workers. "I love the way that the CCLC supports and celebrates education and peoples' personal journeys," she says. "Learning is very important to me. I love teaching and being a student. I live for those 'wow' moments — both when I have them and when my students have them."

Botany is one of Michelle's passions, and she loves all the greenery around campus. She works to put things in the context of our collective relationship to nature when she works with her students. Michelle is a mom to three wonderful children, and is on the verge of being a grandparent. Everyone at the CCLC is also excited to note that Michelle is an incredible maker of beautiful, gourmet cakes! (Staff birthday parties have not been the same since she got here!) Welcome Michelle!



*Smiling Michelle Reynolds*



*Patrick Hatch fills up the cider press.*



*Jeremy Frey demonstrates Passamaquoddy ash basket making.*



*Tim Beal showing students the basics of timber frame construction.*

## RiceFest 2011



*Gal Frey-Tomah and Stewart Tomah making moccasins and creating beadwork*

RiceFest 2011 was a fantastic success. Over 300 area students visited the CCLC to learn about traditional arts from demonstrating artisans. Community members were also treated to music, food, and fun. Thanks to everyone who pitched in their time and talent to make this happen, and special thanks to the Rice family.

RiceFest is an annual celebration of Wayne and Lorraine Rice, who volunteered and worked tirelessly at the CCLC for many years. Arts, music, and access for everyone were very important to Wayne and Lorraine, and the CCLC is proud to embody these values. This event coincides with the nationwide Week of American Craft, which is a celebration of traditional arts. We were thrilled to welcome local artisans and to support their participation with a grant from the Belvedere Fund of the Maine Community Foundation.



*Tim Christensen amazes students with his magic on the potter's wheel.*



*Fiber artist Beth Roy talking about wool.*

## CCLC Winter 2012 Classes

**Learn to Knit** Sat, Jan 7, 10 am—2 pm  
**Poetry Workshop** Sat, Jan 7, 10 am—12 pm, 4 weeks  
**Snowshoe Making** Fri—Sun, Jan 13—15 (*must register and include materials fee by January 2nd*)  
**Wildlife Tracking** Sat, Jan 14, 10 am—1 pm  
**Mitten Knitting** Sat, Jan 14, 10 am—2 pm, 2 weeks  
**Cooking for Good Nutrition & Good Economics** Tues, Jan 17, 10 am—Noon, 6 weeks  
**Belly Dancing** Tues, Jan 17, 5:30—6:30 pm, 4 weeks  
**Pottery** Tues, Jan 17, 6—9 pm, 8 weeks  
**Learn to Read Music** Wed, Jan 18, 5:30—7 pm, 8 weeks  
**Fitting In Fitness** Wed, Jan 18, 6—7 pm, 4 weeks  
**Computer Skills** Thurs, Jan 19, 5:30—7:30 pm, 8 weeks  
**Women and Art in Plains Indian Society** Sat, Jan 21, 9—11 am, 6 weeks  
**Bread 101** Sat, Jan 21, 9 am—1 pm  
**Art Studio: Drawing & Painting** Sat, Jan 21, 11 am—2 pm, 8 weeks  
**Sock Knitting** Sat, Jan 28, 10 am—2 pm  
**Fancy Stitches** Sat, Feb 4, 10 am—2 pm  
**Wildlife Tracking** Sat, Feb 11, 10 am—1 pm  
**Chocolate!!!** Sat, Feb 11, 10 am—2 pm  
**Punch Needle Rug Hooking** Sat, Feb 11, 10 am—2 pm  
**B.Y.O.B [Body] Fitness** Wed, Feb 15, 6—7 pm, 4 weeks  
**Bread 102** Sat, Feb 18, 9 am—1 pm  
**Belly Dancing** Tues, Feb. 14, 5:30—6:30 pm, 4 weeks  
**Bread 103** Sat, Mar 17, 9 am—1 pm

**Coming in Spring!** *Scythe & Mushroom Workshops*  
**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Down East Spring Birding Festival**  
*Memorial Day Weekend, May 25—28, 2012*

## Ongoing CCLC Activities

**Monday Music** 2nd, 4th & 5th Mondays, 7 pm  
**Monday Knitters** 2nd, 4th & 5th Mondays, 7 pm  
**'Dances w/ Wools' Fiber Arts** Wednesdays, 11 am—2 pm  
**Poetry SLAM & Open Mic** 2nd Wednesdays, 7 pm  
**Yoga** Thursdays, 5:30—7 pm  
**Pizza & Music** 1st Friday, 6—8 pm  
**Coffeehouse & Open Mic** 3rd Fridays, 7 pm, *starts Jan 20*

Please visit [www.theccclc.org](http://www.theccclc.org) or call (207) 733-2233 for detailed information, fees, and to register.  
New classes are being added all the time!

[theccclc.org](http://theccclc.org) ★ 733-2233

## New Employee Spotlight: Valerie Lawson Administrative Assistant to the Executive Team



Valerie comes to the CCLC directly from her former position as Executive Director of the Eastport Arts Center. An active poet for over twenty years, Valerie lives in Robbinston with her partner, poet and teacher Michael Brown. "When we first moved here, the CCLC appealed to us immediately. We participated in a canoe-building workshop with David Moses Bridges, which was an extraordinary introduction to this place," she says. "The CCLC is an expansive place of possibility. I'm having fun working here with these great, positive people."

Valerie and Michael are editors of the four-year-old, quarterly, literary journal *Off the Coast*, which publishes poetry from around the world. When she isn't writing poetry, she is doing photography and graphic design or working in her garden. "We have fourteen acres, and we're doing everything we can to craft a sustainable plot." This year's crops included raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, and vegetables.

We're so excited to welcome Valerie and her extensive writing, editing, and artistic experience to our team!

Thanks for reading this edition of Cobscook Currents

To keep up to date on all the goings on at the CCLC, join our email list at:

[www.theccclc.org](http://www.theccclc.org)



10 Commissary Point Road  
Trescott, ME 04652