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Notable Quotes

"Most important to me is the sense of belonging - a real home. I need the community as a safe harbor to come home to after a trying day." - *Niels Christian Andersen (resident of Mejdal, a Danish cohousing community)*

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June 5, 2009

Our Mayday celebration, complete with a bona fide Maypole Dance and a top-notch troupe of musician friends was a huge success. Twirling multi-colored ribbons around a thirty foot pole is



not only tons of fun, it also takes a bit of concentration and is a light-hearted exercise in group dynamics. Aerobic, too!. The wind was high, but the rain held off and the tent that John Lightner and crew erected "just in case" turned out to be unnecessary. It sure looked festive, though, John! Visit the [photos](#) section of our website to view a slideshow of this and other events. To see additional photos, check out our new Picasa page at <http://picasaweb.google.com/mainecohousing>.

Come and find yourself at our Open House Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, June 14, from 2-4 pm at the Cohousing Farmhouse at 45 Edgecomb Road, off Rt. 3, two miles west of downtown Belfast. Schematics for the community's Common House and preliminary home plans will be on display. Take a look at the plans, then get your Scavenger Hunt map and explore the area where the community will be built. Find the location of the future Common House and private homes, as well as the barn, shop, road, and soccer field. Collect a sticker from each location on the map and get a prize! The event is open to the public.



Project Update - Sanna McKim

We have two big pieces of news to share with you this month that we are pretty excited about. The renovation of the old farmhouse on the adjoining property is almost complete, and we have decided to rent it to serve as our



interim Common House during the development phase of building our community. So starting this month, it will be home to our office, all cohousing meetings, and Open House events. We'll use it to hang out, play badminton or scrabble or chess (Human Chess being the July 12th Open House theme), cook impromptu meals, and get to better know each other and the land at all times of day and in all weather and seasons. This space also has three bedrooms for putting up members coming from a distance, for taking an afternoon nap when members are in the area, for holding retreats, and more. So come visit us later this month once we've moved in!

Our other big news is that BBC America traveled from Washington, D.C. to Belfast last week to film a 4-minute segment on our growing ecovillage project. We'll let you know when it will air as soon as we get the word, but we're thrilled to know that it will air on PBS during prime time sometime in June. It will help us meet our very important goal for this summer of getting everyone WE know, to tell everyone THEY know, about the opportunity to be part of this community. Word-of-mouth is THE best way you can help us make this ecovillage happen. So thank you in advance for telling everyone YOU know (to spread the word)! We have half our homes spoken for, and hope to fill the other half this summer so we can start construction this fall. Any questions, always feel free to call me at 207-338-9200.

On The Land - Anne Hallee

Now that the May pole has been wrapped, it's time to put all of those fertility blessings to work!

This year I, with the help of my 13 year old neighbor, planted my first apple orchard - 17 trees so far. All of these trees I grafted and raised in nursery beds for 3 years, and now that they are planted, fertilized, and mulched, my vigilance becomes watering and pests.



Out of 11 trees I found over 20 apple borers. Ranging in size from 1/4" to 1 1/2", the borers' eggs are laid into the bark near the base of the tree and burrow through the cambium layers for up to three years before emerging from their larval phase. These white ribbed maggots have a reddish head equipped with adept munchers that leave small deposits of frass in their wake. Prime time for their profuse damage is May and September. Their presence is indicated by entry holes near the ground and up to 2" below ground, with round tubes of orange frass trailing out the holes. Get out your paper clips and pocket

knife and start digging! It is not unusual to find many borers in the base of one tree no more than 1" in radius.

This is our 3rd season raising spring piglets. If you'll remember, E.B. White's "Wilbur" was a spring pig. Our daughter Avaline, who will be three this summer, was insisting that this year we get a white pig and name him Wilbur. We told her that Wilbur was a special pig (indeed 'some pig'), and that we are raising these pigs to feed us through the winter. Seemingly convinced, we picked out three multicolored pigs which Ave named Orange, Cookie, and Milk. Lets hope the lesson sticks come Fall.

As baby chicks tweet and peep around their grain and water in their cozy but temporary home inside our constant temperature house, we prepare the older hens outside in the coop for the changing of the guard. Having enjoyed a liberal and free ranging way of life for four years, laying dozens and dozens of eggs, it is time for their ultimate sacrifice - to join the tailings of last year's berries and pesto in the freezer.

Well, with all the garden, orchard and animal care, it's amazing the laundry, vacuuming and dishes get done at all!

Can't wait to do all of this with all our neighbors, at the beautiful cohousing farm!



Member Profile Coleen O'Connell

I live in North Searsmont, Maine (on the Montville town line so I feel more Montvillian) with the Ravenwood Collective - a small intentional community on 178 acres which I founded with Audubon Expedition Institute colleagues 14 years ago. Having recently completed the formation of a home owners

association, my farmhouse home is now part of a 6 household ecovillage. Ravenwood is the site for Lesley University's undergraduate curriculum Practices for Sustainability each fall semester where students camp on the land, eat from our huge gardens, and work on appropriate technology and agriculture projects. Last year's group erected a beautiful large greenhouse.

I have been engaged in some form of community living since the age of 19 - a commune in college, an intentional community with my husband when we were first married, and then graduate school which changed my life. Traveling with the Audubon Expedition Institute (AEI) in the early 80's as a graduate student solidified my belief in the power of community living as an anecdote to the cultural malaise that I had succumbed to - even though my husband and I were part of the "back-

to-the-land" movement of the 70's. Sanna McKim, Project Manager for the Belfast Cohousing, and I were AEI graduate students together and one of our courses was to design a hypothetical intentional community on the acreage we were camping on. Sanna was excited then - 1985 - about the Danish co-housing movement. 23 years later we are engaging in a real process - no longer hypothetical and it is quite exciting to me.

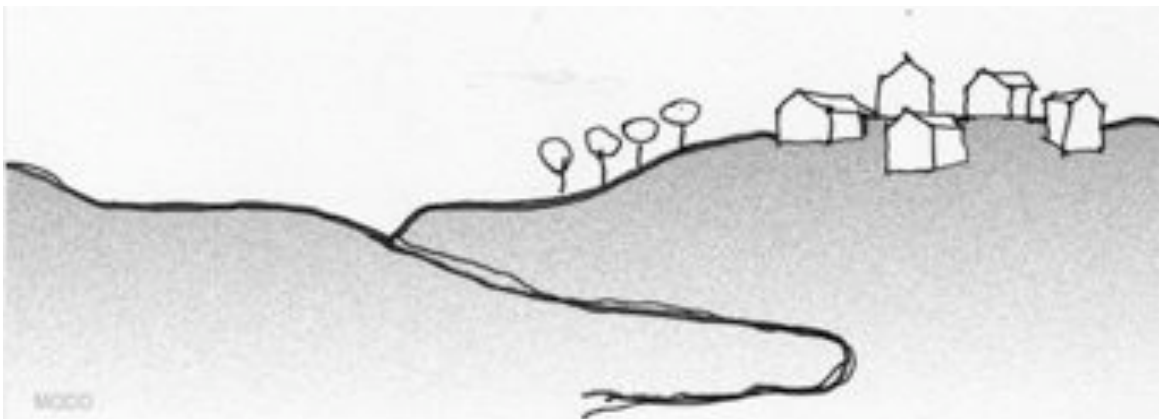
Reducing my ecological footprint is my goal. I am more than ready to live close to town, in a super energy efficient home, to share a car and to bike or walk whenever I can. I love the idea of shared meals, collaborative gardening, mentoring children, having few tools, delighting in stories on the porch. I fantasize about working side by side with fellow cohousers in the Common House that we designed and own together. I want to look out and see the landscape that has been preserved for farming - for growing the food that our community needs - while savoring the little village that we created on the knoll above the fields. Can we break ground today?

Membership Information

Equity Members are those households who have already committed to purchasing a home in the community. There are currently fourteen of a projected thirty Equity members. Exploring Members are those households who have an interest in becoming Equity Members, but are not yet ready to fully commit. There are currently sixteen Exploring members. Friends are those who are interested in our project, but are not members. See the [Membership](#) section of our website for further details.

Our Mission

To be a model environmentally sustainable, affordable, multi-generational cohousing community that is easily accessible to Belfast, includes land for agricultural use and open space, and is an innovative housing development option for rural Maine.



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