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#### Notable Quotes

"...a stroll back toward the common house is certain to result in an encounter with the smiling face of a friend or the chatter of a child. I find myself stepping out the front door often, just to see who's there." - Jane, a resident of [Muir Commons](#), quoted in [Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach To Housing Ourselves](#) by Kathryn McCamant & Charles Durrett)

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## Thursday, July 23, 2009

#### In This Issue:

- [Draft Horse Workshop](#)
- [Food, Friends & Conversation - Susan Shea](#)
- [Member Profile - Audrey Lightner](#)
- [Membership Information](#)

**Join us on August 9th, noon - 4 pm** at the farmhouse at 45 Edgecomb Road in Belfast for an Open House & Yard Sale (14 households worth of stuff!) and a free workshop, **Introduction to working with draft horses** (see details below).



#### **A warm welcome to our newest Exploring Members!**

- Susie Shea and Dan Capwell
- Doug Malcolm
- Jeffrey Mabee and Judith Grace
- Mitch Henrion and Elena, 7
- James Pierson, Emily Gable and Parula, 2 and Sorrel, 1

### **Draft Horse Workshop**

Kids are encouraged to sign up, and all are invited to try their hand at harnessing and driving single or possibly a team of well-trained older Norwegian Fjord horses. This breed is much smaller than many of the draft horses you see typically around here, so it's a great way to get started! Depending on the interest (space is limited so please do let us know if you want to participate rather than just watch), we may get to try a little obstacle course with a small log as well.

Steve Ackeley, equine dentist and teamster who owns 10 Norwegian Fjord horses, will lead the workshop. Don't miss this hands-on opportunity! And if you are curious about the breed in general, here is a link to some excellent info and nice photos of Norwegian Fjord horses. (we'll have some good shots of Steve and his team after the workshop).

<http://www.willowsedgefarm.com/norwegianfjords.html>

Call 338-9200 or email [info@mainecohousing.org](mailto:info@mainecohousing.org) to reserve a space.



### **Food, Friends & Conversation - Susan Shea**

There's always something a bit magical about how a meal comes together at a pot-luck. It seems like no matter how many people arrive, there's always the right amount of food. There may be too much pasta salad and not quite enough hot dog buns, but somehow it all works out. Not that long ago, my partner Dan and I were at one of these potlucks at the Keene Farm with a handful of other cohousers. As people outside fired up and grilled, indoors a proliferation of salads and side dishes adorned the table. Someone had a bottle of red wine, and someone else had olives and cashews to set out for appetizers. Unsurprisingly, it turns out my fellow cohousers are excellent cooks.

For me, however, the best part of all this wasn't the food (although that was pretty great). It was conversation. As anyone who knows me for more than about 10 minutes can tell you, I am definitely a conversationalist. I enjoy intelligent discussion with an almost visceral pleasure and revel in the opportunity to spend social time in discourse. That evening, as we passed salad and sausages, some fantastic conversations ebbed and flowed, covering topics ranging from the wet weather, sailing, dog training and child rearing to songbirds, gardening, home ownership and island living. As part of a young couple who hasn't yet owned a home, I listened in avid fascination as people shared (and groaned over, and laughed about) their experiences rehabbing old farmhouses. We had serious discussions on the state of public education and compared my experience teaching high schoolers with another member who had taught kindergarten. Over chocolate chip cookies, one of the teenage members of the community told me about the

horse she rides at the barn just down the road.

As I sat in the kitchen of the farmhouse munching on lemon cake, listening and talking with people from a myriad of backgrounds and ages, I imagined how stimulating conversation during common meals will be, and how great it will be to swing by the common house porch on a quiet afternoon to have some tea and chat with whichever of my neighbors might be there. I'm eager to see the community built. Looking around that room, however, it became clear that I didn't have to wait until the common house is built or until we move in - our community is already here and thriving, engaging in the kind of everyday and meaningful conversations that I find so exciting.

### **Member Profile - Audrey Lightner**

I am twelve, almost thirteen. This fall I will be going into seventh grade at Troy Howard Middle School (THMS) in Belfast. My favorite subject is Art. When I'm not in school, I like to go to the barn and ride my horse, Napoleon. I also like to play piano, read, cook, swim, and play with my dog, Nilla. In the winter I like to ski and skate.



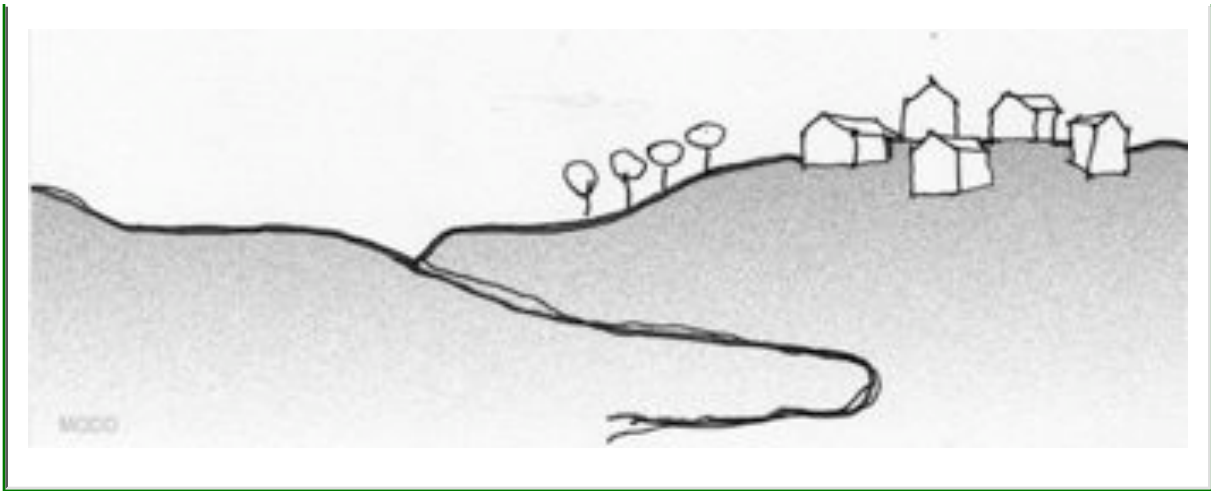
What I'm looking forward to in cohousing is meeting new people, making new friends, having horses to ride and young kids to babysit. I am looking forward to having a new house that's warm and sunny, and having a new bedroom to decorate.

### **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-six 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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