



## ***EBB AND FLOW:***

**The Newsletter of Reversing Falls Sanctuary    March, 2014**

*"Lent is a call to weep for what we could have been and are not. Lent is the grace to grieve for what we could have been and are not. Lent is the opportunity to change what we ought to change but have not. Lent is about becoming, doing, and changing whatever it is that is blocking the fullness of life in us right now." (Joan Chittister, OSB)*

Each year, as the season of Spring beckons us to new life and new possibilities, the community at Reversing Falls Sanctuary has explored the myriad ways open to us to discover what it is that is blocking the fullness of life in us, in our community, in our nation and on our Earth. Some of the themes we have explored over the years are Peacemaking, Life Transitions, Forgiveness, Spiritual Traditions and Ecology, the Universe Story, and Spirituality and the Arts. This year our focus will be the Spirituality of the Earth. This is in conjunction with our Farm/Arts Exchange, a project which is bringing together local farmers, artists and children during the 2014 growing season. This Exchange will culminate in an art exhibit at the sanctuary on August 24th, several farm-to-table events in September, and an evening of author readings that have been born of the writers' time spent on the farm and with the farmers.

Sundays at 4 p.m. at the sanctuary these programs will explore and develop our theme:

**3/9, Pat Wheeler**, Deer Isle artist, drawing on the work of Wendell Berry, will present a slide show and talk about the origins of the **Farm/Arts Exchange**.

**3/16, Zoe Robbins Tenney**, a family nurse practitioner and mother of two, will share her experience **Farming for Families and Children**.

**3/23, Sara Husijen**, Brooksville resident and pastor of the Unitarian Church in Ellsworth, will lead our **Celebration of the Spring Equinox**. With Reversing Falls collaborators, Sara will help us honor Earth's rhythms by bidding good-bye to Winter and all that is frozen within us and welcoming Spring and all the new life and new possibilities seeking to be born in us and in our community.

**3/30, Bill Moyers interviews Wendell Berry**, a DVD presentation. During their conversation, Berry remarks that life is either sacred or it is desecrated. Is too late to reverse the damage we have inflicted on Mother Earth? Berry answers that our only concern is to take the next right action to honor and celebrate the gift of this Creation.

**4/6, Anneli Sunqvist and Dennis Carter** from the Deer Isle Hostel, named one of six Homesteaders of the Year by Mother Earth News, will speak on **Positive Impact/Sustainable Living**.

**4/13, Richard Kane, Melody Lewis-Kane, and friends** will lead us in a **Seder Supper** honoring Passover and the land ethic of our Jewish ancestors. We plan to prepare as much of this potluck as possible using locally grown ingredients.

If you cannot join us each Sunday, we hope you will use this Holy season to journey with us, exploring how we might restore our precious and primal relationship to the natural world where we may once again experience beauty, wonder and delight. The meadows, the fields, the woodlands, the seas...are all places of Divine Presence and Intimacy. May we come to know our place in the precious creation which gives us life.

*Other Coming Events:*

**3/9, Richard Paget and the Tobins, Palestine Visit Report**, 7 p.m., St. Brendans

**3/12, Climate Solution Expo**, 9 a.m. -5 p.m., Augusta Civic Center

**3/14, LOVE 2.0 film series** continues at Reversing Falls Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.

**3/22, Creating & Sustaining Vibrant Local Economies in Maine**, 9-4, UMA

**4/6, "Go, Granny D"**, presented by Barbara Bates-Smith, 7 p.m. Bay School

**7/11-12, Downeast Spiritual Life Conference** at MMA features **J. Philip Newell**, Iona Community Celtic theologian. In May, 6 week study with St. Francis Episcopal Church, Blue Hill, of Newell's most recent book, *A New Harmony: The Spirit, The Earth, and The Human Soul*. Register now for the conference at [www.downeastspirituallife.org](http://www.downeastspirituallife.org)  
Chris Farrow-Noble and Sally Clinton are among workshop presenters.

**Introducing the 2014 Reversing Falls Sanctuary Farm/Arts Exchange:**  
Viewing our local Farm/Art communities as vibrant and central to the sense of place that Reversing Falls Sanctuary fosters.



A unique farm inspired art project pairing 14 area artists, writers and children with local farms. The ultimate goal is an investigation of a concept: How humans' connection to the land is central to the restoration of the health of the earth and for our own survival. We plan to observe those who plant, grow and harvest within our *local* communities and who seem to understand the language of reciprocity between humans and the natural world, mining the stories of the farms to inform our work, believing that a close study of place will reveal broader truths that go beyond that place.

We ask the questions: How can the local foods movement transform relationships between people, food and farms? What is our part in this process? Artists can use their voices with farmers to effect social change. What might this look like?

### **Team Reports:**

*Finance:* Under the leadership and with the initiative of Daksha Baumann, a grant has been written and submitted to help pay for a new lighting system in the sanctuary that will enhance the upcoming exhibition of art from the Farm/Arts Exchange.

*Building:* Ralph Chapman and Dan Huisjen have overseen the operation of an ozonator to clear the mold from the cellar and the main room of the sanctuary. Tony Ferrara and Gail Vencill then bleached the floor. Subsequently, the sanctuary received extensive cleaning as furnishings were placed back in the room.

*Program:* The work of the program team is reflected in the articles in this newsletter and in the calendar of events.

### **Creating Community at Reversing Falls Sanctuary:**

The Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration this year focused on the theme of "The Beloved Community." The conversation was informed in part by M. Scott Peck's discussion of the "Stages of Community-Making" in *The Different Drum: Community Making and Peace* ~

Pseudocommunity  
Chaos  
Emptiness  
Community

We have, in these past months, developed an organization to nurture and sustain a community at Reversing Falls. But we recognize the necessity of fostering a community that continues to grow and evolve if the organization is to have any sustaining purpose. We have held a potluck, community building dinner for the three teams. That was a lovely evening packed with good food and good stories.

In these past years we moved quickly beyond pseudocommunity. We've known chaos, emptiness, and more than a few moments of true community. We recognize that it is time to move more intentionally through the inevitable fears, conflicts and obstacles that stand in the way of true community. We welcome the ideas and the participation of all the friends of Reversing Falls on this continuing journey.



The RFS community extends our deepest sympathy to Beverly Kelley as you grieve the death of her husband, Richard.

Articles ~ Introduction to the Lenten Series, Anne Ferrara  
Description of the Farm/Arts Exchange is by Pat Wheeler

Photos by Pat Wheeler:

- [1] Pat in her studio
- [2] Lalena Dolby speaks with Eliot Coleman about building soil
- [3] Tony Ferrara and Lalena Dolby discuss the Green House Project

*Ebb and Flow* editors: Chris Farrow-Noble & Gary Vencill

Visit us at [www.reversingfalls.org](http://www.reversingfalls.org)