

Helga & Vernon LeCount

204 Twitchell Hill Rd. , Montville



We have a beautiful view from our wind- and-sun- powered home on top of a high ridge overlooking the Sheepscot watershed. The exposed location creates gardening challenges. The nearly constant winds erode soil down to rock ledge, bend seedlings, and cause some plants to grow at an angle. To overcome the problem of growing on rock, we are using raised beds of composted manure and kitchen scraps. This system, perfected at Findhorn Institute in Scotland, permits one to grow gardens on bedrock, taking advantage of the bedrock's natural heat in spring and autumn to extend yields. After the sun warms the soil, the beds are mulched in hay as in the Ruth Stout method. The gardens surround our passive-solar, off-grid house, which we constructed in 1999. A combination of solar-voltaic panels and three small wind generators provide the electric power, which is stored in a battery bank. The house also employs extra south-facing, low-infiltration windows to provide solar heat. A fireplace stove provides supplemental heat, while a hydronic system on top of the concrete slab supplies heat if the house is vacant during a long, cold, cloudy period. Living at the edge of 15 acres of MOFGA-certified organic blueberries, on the land of the Twitchell Hill Community, we often can see both Mt. Washington and Katahdin as well as land protected by SWLA.

Rowland Garden

Dan & Wendy Rowland

325 Morrill Rd. , Montville



Rowland Garden: Set in the rolling hills of Montville on the shoulder of Frye Mountain, this garden is a testament to survival. Only the hardiest plants are still here, though many species have come and gone. Day lilies, Siberian iris, roses, hollyhocks, and asters spread themselves around the skirts of the house. Our view includes hayfields, a small pond, and the pine woods beyond. The stream and springs that feed the pond all contribute to the beginnings of the Georges River. The garden was started in 1972 when the owners lived here year-round and were lucky enough to buy perennial seedlings from Alda Stich the first year that she sold them. The orchard also was started then. It originally had a mix of nut and fruit trees. Now it has reduced itself to apple trees, also survivors. This, in case you don't recognize it, is the desert of Montville; Frye Mountain diverts the rain and sends it over to Freedom.

Contributors

SWLA thanks the following supporters for their generous help bringing you the 2009 Headwaters Home & Garden Tour:



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Ticket Information

Available at Branch Pond Flowers & Gifts (Palermo), Cross Trax (Unity), Flo's Flowers Cart (Waterville), Green Store (Belfast), Half Moon Gardens (Thorndike), Heirloom Gardens (Montville), Hoboken Gardens (Rockport) or from Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance (see below)

Prices: Adults, \$20

Students, \$10

Children under 12 years old, free



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Painting courtesy of Wendy Newcomb



The Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance presents:

2009 Headwaters Home & Garden Tour

July 18, 2009

10:00 A.M.~5:00 P.M.

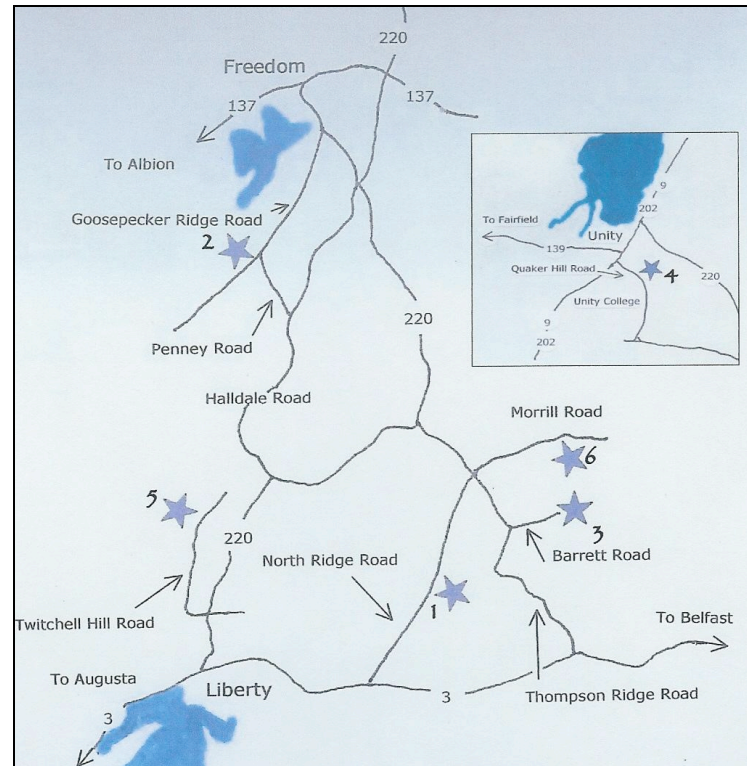
"The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway."

-Michael Pollan

Welcome to the first Headwaters Home & Garden Tour, presented by the Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance.

The alliance was formed by a group of concerned Montville residents in 1990 in response to the impending development of 47 acres surrounding a marsh. The Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance (SWLA) is a local, grassroots non-profit land trust—one of nearly 90 in Maine—committed to identifying and protecting lands along the upper Sheepscot River that have ecological and aesthetic significance through conservation, land acquisition, environmental advocacy, and education.

This year's tour of homes and gardens in the upper Sheepscot River headwaters region is SWLA's acknowledgement that nature can be found in "developed" areas too, since our homes and gardens are forms of development. Because each homeowner relates to nature and the land in his or her own unique way, some of the gardens in our tour are closer to "wild" and others are more structured or classical. Each one offers tour participants an exploration of the ways that homeowners in the upper Sheepscot River watershed seek to, as Michael Pollan suggests, "meet nature halfway."



Ellie Daniels & Donna Broderick

355 North Ridge Rd.

Montville



The house is set back on five acres, three in woods and two in field. It is a modified cape, built in 1989, with an addition of a 2.1-kilowatt grid intertie system to the south roof, as well as a solar hot-water collector. These systems provide 90% of summer and a majority of winter energy needs. The main heat source is wood, with oil hot-water-baseboard backup that is currently burning BioFuel. All of the recent renovations to the house have been done with green materials. Recently the floor of the second story over the garage was insulated with "green" castor-oil-based foam. The small garage apartment has a "SunTube" and a high-efficiency, direct-vent propane heater. A wood-fired wet sauna with a Norwegian Nippa sauna stove sits in the back field. Our gardens are organic—mostly vegetables for our own use as well as some perennials. We keep chickens. We're not fancy, but we are resourceful!

Goosepecker Ridge Gardens 

Annie & Bill Pickford

132 Goosepecker Ridge Rd., Freedom



The gardens, stone walls, fences, and garden house were all started by the Pickford family to provide summer work for their boys, nephew, and friends. In the beginning there was a house built by Bill and friends but no yard. Throughout the years—from 1982 on—plants and gardens developed. Many of the early perennials were bought at fund-raisers through the boys' school. Later we began trading with friends. Today the gardens contain many perennials obtained from local gardeners. Annuals are either purchased or sown from seeds. The gardens now spread out over about seven acres. What is not garden is currently lawn—some of it planted and some reclaimed field. Come enjoy the peace of walking around, examine the many perennials and get a look at the windmills on Beaver Ridge. Lunch will be served from 11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M. Picnic around the gardens or pick up your bag lunch to go.

Ravenwood Collective 

150 Barrett Rd., Searsmont



The 175-acre Ravenwood Collective is home to a diversity of plants and animals, fields, a riparian corridor, forest, and a small group of people focused on education and sustainable practices. Ravenwood hosts a fall undergraduate semester focused on sustainable agriculture and simple

living. In addition to growing grains, vegetables, and fruit, Ravenwood's infrastructure includes a composting toilet facility, straw bale meeting room, outdoor wood oven, 5,000-gallon water storage system for garden irrigation, greenhouse, and off-the-grid hot water and electricity for students. Hank Colletto, a Ravenwood "land mate," will describe his farming methods and explain support systems at 10:30 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.

Unity House at Unity College

90 Quaker Hill Rd., Unity



The Unity House serves as the college president's residence on the bucolic Unity College campus, which spreads across rolling farmland that was the site of a chicken hatchery. This summer marks the beginning of an active landscaping project that uses native drought-tolerant plants. The project includes gardens to supplement the college's food needs in an effort to move the campus to full sustainability. The Unity House serves as a laboratory and model for sustainable practices in building design, energy efficiency, and connection with nature and wellness.

The Unity House is a groundbreaking Open-Prototype Initiative designed and constructed by Bensonwood Homes. It received LEED Platinum designation, the U.S. Green Building Council's highest rating for environmentally sustainable construction. This dwelling is an energy-independent home designed to connect its occupants to the outdoors. Large glass doors allow for solar gain in the winter and provide a simulated screened-porch effect in the summer. Movable walls can separate the main living area from private areas, resulting in dynamic spaces that feel both cozy and spacious.

Garden Tour Tips

- ◆ Gourmet bagged lunches can be purchased for \$7 at Goosepecker Ridge Garden—lunch pick-up is between 11:30 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. You may eat your lunch there or take it with you.
- ◆ Tour the gardens in any order. Staggering starting points will reduce congestion and make for a pleasant tour.
- ◆ SWLA encourages you to rideshare with others touring the gardens.
- ◆ Those needing extra assistance may be dropped off and picked up at the garden entrances, but all vehicles must be parked in the designated areas.
- ◆ Portable toilets are available at Ravenwood Collective and Goosepecker Ridge Gardens.
- ◆ Pets and smoking are not permitted in any of the gardens.
- ◆ SWLA recommends use of a good road map in addition to the map in this brochure.