

Ridgetop Runner

Connecting the Farm School Community

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Edited by Patrick Farmer (farmerfive@yahoo.com)

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On the Road

As you are reading this newsletter, the student farmers are making their way north on a three day fieldtrip to farms in New Hampshire and Vermont. The first stop is Parsell Farm in Rochester, NH, the multi-generation family farm where current student farmer Lisa grew up. After a tour of the vegetable and haying operations, led of course by Lisa's dad, the voyage continues to Sandwich Creamery. Although only a few cows are milked on this small-scale dairy farm, the creamery is known throughout New England for its famous cheeses and decadent ice cream. From there, the trip continues across the border to the Intervale Center, a farm incubator in Burlington, VT, and across the lake to a full-food CSA in New York. It is a lot to see, but of course it will be a blast!



Nate
by Perry Holmes

This is Nate's second year working at the Maggie's Farm program. He found out about this place from Patrick Connors, the director at the Farm School, who worked with his partner in Santa Cruz. Growing up in Weston, Massachusetts, Nate's father had a flower garden. Nate became interested in gardening when, after college, he worked on a farm for two summers. He loves to harvest and he is excited to teach the new students. He also likes to work hard. "It's cool to connect all the elements of the farm."

The Return of the Royalston Shakespeare Company

Once more into the breach! What's past is prologue, and for the 5th straight year the Royalston Shakespeare Company will cudgel its brains and strive mightily this summer to see what happens when thirty-plus kids combine with a great script to bring the Bard to the boards of the Royalston Town Hall in only two weeks. What fools these mortals be! Combined with community support and a lot of whirlwind energy, this theater workshop makes the North Quabbin summers even more glorious.

In the RSC, kids ages 8 and up learn the plots, times, and language of Shakespeare as well as the camaraderie and work of participating in a workshop theater production. The script is announced only two weeks before the performance, and the young actors dive into three-and-a-half hour rehearsals every morning until the evening of the show. Not merely players with entrances and exits, they run lights, work on sets, create props, choose music and modify costumes as well as act.

A number of the Chicken Coop students, including Kelsey Savoy and Lily Moore, will once again be representing the Farm School on stage this year. If you missed their star-studded performances in *The Muffin Man* earlier in the year (because, for example, your van was stuck in a ditch the size of the Grand Canyon . . .), then make it a point to see them this time. The sole performance will be next Wednesday, July 2, at 7 p.m. in the Royalston Town Hall. The show is free, although the audience is welcome to contribute by buying a T-shirt or making a donation at the door.

The text of this article comes almost entirely from the website of the Phineas S. Newton Library, <http://www.roylstonlibrary.org>.