

July 31, 2008  
Year 3, Issue 4

# Jockey Hill Journal

News of Landaff, New Hampshire  
[newsletter@landaffnh.org](mailto:newsletter@landaffnh.org)



## Inside the Jockey Hill Journal:

- Friends of Landaff information
- Little Landaff stuff
- Births at Foggy Bottom Farm

## Young entrepreneur has busy summer

Fifteen year-old Courtney Heath is not having the typical summer vacation from school. Courtney has chosen to get her hands dirty, and, as it turns out, her feet muddy, in her huge garden on King Hill Road. The idea started small a couple of years ago and has grown (pun intended) into a giant success.

The 2008 Heath garden is bigger than ever with a wide variety of vegetables. The cash crop of pumpkins is what she started with, but now she has over 100 hills of that along with other squash, green beans and tomatoes. The unassuming teen is quite knowledgeable when it comes to gardening. "My grampa got me an old book about gardening. I think he picked it up at the dump," she says with a smile. "But it has a lot of good stuff in it. When my peppers were looking bad, I stuck a matchstick in the ground next to them. The book says they like sulfur. It worked. They perked right up."

Courtney is also fencing up her cucumbers to make them easier to pick. She is doing the opposite with the tomatoes by not tying them up. The book says the plants will be more prolific if left on their own. The avid reader has combined the wisdom of the book with the experience of her grandparents, Esther and Norman.

She thinks they may have started a trend with plastic bags to scare off the birds. In a drive around Landaff, a few people have done the same. She says, "I don't have that much trouble with critters eating the stuff, but sometimes the bugs are pretty bad." The ones in the potatoes keep her the busiest.

August and September will be hectic. Stop by and have a chat with this interesting young woman, and get some vegetables too!

## Send news and information to:

Mary Beaudin  
997 Jockey Hill Rd  
Landaff, NH 03585

Or email  
[newsletter@landaffnh.org](mailto:newsletter@landaffnh.org)

### Old Home Day events

**When:** Saturday, August 16, 2008 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Where:** The Town Center

#### What's happening?

Auction      Concession stand      Raffle  
Grange exhibit      Quilt display      Hat, t-shirt, slate sale  
Parker Hill Road Band 2pm      Supper 5 and 6 pm

## The alpacas of Foggy Bottom Ranch

The Landaff alpaca population doubled in May. It now stands at six. Of that group, five are female. The hopes are that the number may continue to increase. Tracey Upton and Kathy Parsons of Merrill Mountain Road uncovered a love for the peaceful creatures while inn hopping in Vermont three years ago. The pair took a day trip to an alpaca farm and knew that this was for them.

Tracey and Kathy researched on the internet, visited other alpaca farms and attended seminars in order to gain knowledge on the South American animals. When Corona, Grace and Sophie gave birth on three consecutive days, Tracey nearly wore out a path to the barn. Everything went smoothly though and Elmo, Honor and Sophie's Choice were born eleven and one half months after their mothers were bred.

Tracey states, "Alpacas can no longer be imported to the United States." This makes the population explosion even more exciting. With the long gestation period, alpacas do not multiply quickly. They are interested in having more. "We could have 30 to 40, if even that. Forty is really beyond comprehension." Certainly to have that many is way down the road for these two, if ever.

The animals are bred for their fiber, which is much softer than its bigger more aggressive relative, the llama. Alpaca actually have padded feet and toenails that occasionally need tending. They are somewhat nervous but they don't make much noise unless they feel threatened. Tracey states that the girls raised a ruckus when some turkeys pecked around in their field. The farm, Foggy Bottom Ranch, is named for Tracey's grandad's cattle ranch in Tallahassee, Florida. The former medical secretary comes by the farming inclination naturally.

Kathy did much of the legwork to find the land in Landaff. So far they have been happy with their choice.



## A request from the Eagle Scout

My fellow community members, as some of you may know, I have been working on an Eagle project for scouting for over a year now and have finally gotten to a point where I can start working on the project itself.

My plan is to replace the existing flag pole with a brand new one, and install some new raised garden beds for the school. There will also be some major gardening done for the school including putting in hedges around the foundation facing the road and planting bulbs and other plants. I am planning on doing the majority of this project during the week of, 8/17/08 - 8/23/08. Please let me know, a.s.a.p., if you are able to help and I will contact you to set up a more firm time. Thank you so much and I hope to see you in August.

838-5066

Justinmiller91@Yahoo.com

Items desired: plants, shrubs, bulbs, fertilizer, lumber, warm bodies!

## Little Landaff stuff

Selectman minutes and planning board minutes are posted on the Landaff website. Check out [www.landaffnh.org](http://www.landaffnh.org).

Jody Gagnon and Deb Erb, both with the Lisbon Life Squad, gave a demonstration to Mt. Hope Grange members at the June meeting on how to use the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). The device, which is hung outside the wall outside the Town Clerk's Office can restart and stabilize a person's heart after a cardiac episode.

Due to medical concerns, John Rice, has had to step down from two of the town positions he held. Jim LaGrassa was appointed to be the Code Enforcement Officer, checking on building permits and such; and Florence Webb was appointed Moderator, responsible for overseeing elections and running the Town Meeting in March.

At this year's Town Meeting, Landaff voters approved spending \$15,000 to evaluate the lot purchased last year (next to the fire house) for suitability as a site for a new fire station.

The Select Board named Harry McGovern (Fire Chief); Ron Howard (well known local builder and musician); Wendell Jesseman (local industrialist), and Pat Webb (Emergency Management Director) to serve as a Steering Committee for the work. Doug Erb was designated the Select Board's Representative.

A Request for Qualifications was prepared to solicit qualified engineering firms to do the project and a statewide ad was published. Over a dozen firms expressed interest and seven actually submitted proposals. Five firms were chosen to go forward to view the site and then submit a competitive bid.

The site visit for all firms took place June 24th, and Steering Committee members presented their concerns and concepts about the location. The firm selected was Jesseman Associates PC of New London, who have developed several similar fire station concepts. Steve Jesseman and his crew have already begun surveying and collecting data. They will be done by the end of August, and the Steering Committee will have a public hearing on September 16th to inform the townspeople of their findings.

## Friends of Landaff information

The Friends of Landaff meet at the Landaff Town Hall every first and third Wednesday of the month now at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome! The Friends of Landaff are excited to announce the arrival of our new Landaff tee shirts and hats in an assortment of colors and designs, including that special Old Home Day pie.

These items will be for sale at Old Home Day, in addition to painted and blank slates (historic slate roof tiles from the Landaff Town Hall) and Landaff note cards. As the tee shirts and hats are already selling fast, anyone wishing to purchase them prior to Old Home Day may do so by calling Claudia at 838-5257 or Jaye at 838-6640.

A sock hop is planned for October 18. Details later.

## Explore your town

Woodland Stewards, the Landaff-based conservation organization is inviting neighbors for an easy hike Saturday, August 9 2008 at 10:00 AM through the Scotland Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Landaff, NH. This piece of conservation land is managed by the NH Audubon Society and is a wonderful area to take a walk and see some beautiful flora and fauna. Heidi Sagar, Carol Wharton, Marilyn Booth and others will be there to point out birdsong, plant life and other interesting features of what is truly a jewel of the town.

After the walk, all are invited to have a picnic lunch at the home of Carol and Don Wharton. They ask that participants wear appropriate footwear, pack a field guide, take a camera, bring a picnic lunch and have a great time with neighbors! Wear boots that can handle getting wet.

Rain date is Sunday, August 10. Please contact Lindsay Coyle at 838-6560 if you'll be participating so he can plan for the size of the group.