



FIELD NOTES FROM THE FARM APRIL 2022

Love is true when you don't see eye to eye,
but can still walk hand in hand.
Author Unknown

HELLO APRIL!
LET SPRING BEGIN!

SEASONS ON A FARM

Spring – a time for planting and growing



It is officially spring! We are all on high alert watching for the first flowers of the season! Winter has done its work of resting and preparing for the new season. Now the spring flowers are all around us – some in bloom and some just starting to come through the soil.

Here at Inn Along the Way, we, too, are preparing for a new season and there are all sorts of things 'growing'...and not just things in the gardens!

- ✓ Our gardens have been resting all winter, getting ready to show us what they can do! Soon you will see volunteers working in them, planting new things and caring for the things that don't need to be planted – like this asparagus.



- ✓ The 2nd ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) room has been completed and is called Mary's Place. This room is named after Mary Chapman – whose family owned the farm, and Mary Irvine – whose bequest helped make Inn Along the Way's purchase possible.
- ✓ There are also three bedrooms upstairs that are nearly completed – the work doesn't stop!!
- ✓ Occupancy permits have been received from both the state and town. This means that we can officially welcome guests into the rooms that have been completed!
- ✓ The weekend of April 30th has both the barn and the inn fully booked. We will be hosting a memorial service for a dear friend...and it will be such an honor for us to serve them as we begin meeting our deeper mission of hospitality in this vital way.
- ✓ The roof over the porch has been finished – providing both shade in the summer and protection from the elements in all seasons. This will provide an inviting place to enjoy some down time and meditate on the beauty around us.
- ✓ Also, beginning with this issue, we will be publishing Field Notes monthly in order to keep you better informed and up to date with what's happening at IAW.
- ✓ And be sure to check out our updated website! www.innalongtheway.org

Inn Along the Way

Summer – a time for growing and enjoying the warm days
Soon, thanks to the work of the volunteers, our gardens will be showing signs of growth.

Fall – a time for harvesting
Beautiful flowers and yummy veggies will continue to be available at the farmstand.

Winter – a time for the fields to rest and prepare for the new year
...and the cycle continues...

Special Thanks

To Claudia Steele-Roos and the naming of the Lake Elizabeth Room,
Also to Chris, Steve and Andrew of JF Scott's crew who took such pride in building the Inn's porch roof,
And to Mike, Tracy, John and Rachel who are doing such good work in moving us along!

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Information & Dates – Mark your calendars!
June 4th – our first yard sale of the year
June 11th – our first Open Mic of the season

Our updated website is now live! You can find information about who we are, what we do and our hopes and dreams, in addition to our schedule of events. Check it out at: <https://www.innalongtheway.org>.

WAYS OF GIVING

There are numerous ways to make financial donations. All gifts – large and small – make a difference. For more information, go to: <https://www.innalongtheway.org/contribute>
There are also numerous volunteer opportunities for anyone with some free time who would like to contribute to this amazing mission. You can contact us at the email address and/or phone number below.

Remember, if you've lost a loved one and are grieving; are a caregiver, in need of support; if you are at a point of transition and in need of a sounding board or friendly companionship, you are not alone. We are continuing to host grief and caregivers support groups. For more information or to sign up, call Sherry, at 207-751-6261, or contact us at info@innalongtheway.org.

Meet & Greet

Brian Wilcox

I met Brian shortly after I started volunteering at IAW. One thing that struck me was his peaceful demeanor. After talking with him, I now understand where that came from!



Brian has a very broad education and work history, including a Master's in counseling and religious studies, a Ph.D. in religious studies and certification in clinical chaplaincy. He's worked as a minister to youth, pastor, corrections and hospice chaplain and professor of religion. He's

also worked on a farm, in a nursery, and in fast food, among other things. This diverse experience helps him to relate to persons of varied backgrounds. He's learned that everything he does is sacred, when done with gratitude. Writing articles or washing dishes are equal blessings.

Brian arrived in Maine in October of 2018 after deciding to 'have an adventure.' He came for the winter and is still here! He ended up at Inn Along the Way because of its mission. Everything seemed to fit well with his personal religious mission. He feels that he will be able to integrate solitude and service, being apart and being a part of a group. He wanted to be where people are treated equally and with the respect due everyone.

Brian actually lives at IAW and has a job description! He is the Night Host – a resource person at night, as needs might arise. He's on call evening to morning, then opens the house at 6 AM, makes coffee and gets foods out. He volunteers at least 5 hours each week and does touch-up cleaning at the end of the day.

When asked about a special time he would like to share, he told me this..."Not long ago, after meeting a friend in Brunswick, afterward, she said, 'You're the only person I can share anything I want with.' To be trusted like that, well, priceless. Now, I had an experience at age 9 which has served to anchor my life since. That is a teaser for anyone who might like to know more. I welcome the sharing."

I encourage you to introduce yourself to Brian – you'll be glad you did! He might even tell you about that experience at age nine that has shaped his life!

If you would like to make a suggestion about content for an upcoming newsletter or have a comment you'd like to share, you can contact us at: newsletter@innalongtheway.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted.
MaryAnn Look