



FIELD NOTES FROM THE FARM DECEMBER 2022

How did it get so late so soon?
It's night before it's afternoon.
December is here before it's June
My goodness how the time has flown.
How did it get so late so soon?
Dr. Seuss

WELCOME DECEMBER

The holiday season is here...so much hustle and bustle. Seems like we look forward to this time of year in the months leading up to it, but are so glad when we can get back to our regular routine and settle into watching snowflakes drifting down by the windows and logs crackling in the fireplace.

While you're settling in 'for a long winter's nap' here's some amazing information regarding this year's progress at Inn Along the Way...

- * We completed our first guest room in January and named it 'The Norland' as a tribute to one of our very faithful supporters



- * We brought on a new 'teller of tales' to give Alida Zimmerman a much deserved break.
- * We established our first annual 'John Gallagher' award for someone who goes above and beyond...and gave the award to John Gallagher for his incomparable service!
- * In March, we completed 'Mary's Place' – our second ADA guest room. This room was named for Mary (Chapman) Gallagher (whose family owned the farm) and Mary Irvine (whose bequest helped make our purchase of the farm possible) – two beautiful souls.



- * Our Night Host, Brian Wilcox, was introduced to everyone in April – even though he started working in November – how time flies!
- * During the spring and summer months, we completed our five (5) guest rooms (including the Lake Elizabeth Room shown in the header of this newsletter) and opened the Inn to the public.
- * In April, we welcomed our first guests for a memorial service – a wonderful opportunity to honor a dear friend.
- * In addition to the memorial service, we hosted a family reunion that brought some rave reviews!
- * Several times we were obliged to hang the “NO VACANCY” sign!
- * We got a new roof completed over the porch, too.
- * Jason Anthony put up birdhouses to attract Tree Swallows and Bluebirds – and the birds did come!
- * We also got a new deck on the back of the barn to accommodate the many events happening here
- * On May 21st we had our first open house since Covid – we will be having another one on December 6th
- * We had two successful barn/yard sales this year – thanks to Tracy and her crew!
- * Our Open Mic and Singing Circle events started in June and ended in October. They were enjoyed by many.



- * Dr. Steven Kress shared his avian expertise with all who attended his early morning bird walk and his presentation of “Summer Birds of Midcoast Maine.”

- * We had several creative art workshops through the summer – three were decoupage and there was one on Eastern Calligraphy.
- * The improved weather in July meant that Lunches with the Bunches could start back up by meeting outside – they are continuing inside now that the weather has gotten colder again.
- * We had a series of Conversation Circles discussing the many facets of retirement.
- * August brought a Beauty Walk – if you want to know what this is, you’ll have to wait and join us next year!
- * From early spring to late fall, the gardeners worked tirelessly in our gardens growing flowers and veggies to sell in our little yellow cart.
- * October brought us a workshop on “Essential Work: Making Your Life What You Mean” – we have a plan to repeat this workshop in 2023!
- * We also hosted a Mindfulness Retreat – “Do you feel more like a human DO-ing than a human BE-ing?” I’m sure many can relate.
- * As we’ve done in previous years, we put together Thanksgiving baskets for some of our neighbors. There were 25 people that received a dinner – no cooking required, just reheating. Recipients were VERY grateful.
- * And finally, let’s not forget the ongoing grief, caregivers and support groups that are beneficial to so many.

PHEW! It has truly been a busy year!!

Here’s where we’ll be going next:

We created a Capital Campaign Committee this year to work towards the affordable housing phase of this amazing project.

In addition to all the happenings above, some new people have joined our board of directors and volunteer staff:

- * Cory Ethridge is our new treasurer
- * Jim Hush is our new Finance Chair
- * Bill Burleson has joined our BOD

And we can't complete this end of year newsletter without thanking the myriad of people who volunteer with Inn Along the Way. Very special thanks go to:

- * Tim Kimpton who has been our treasurer almost from the beginning and who will be continuing to serve on our BOD
- * Sharon Abair and her band of gardeners!



- * Jan John and Cindi Hasty for all the work they do with the new (and old) volunteers
- * Tracy Verney and the hard-working group that assists her in putting on our barn/yard sales
- * Steve Harvey for maintaining the grounds
- * All the people working in the background, for their unending support.

Here's what's happening at IAW in December:

- ◇ Wednesdays from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM – LUNCHES WITH THE BUNCHES
- ◇ Tuesday, December 6th from 10 AM to 2 PM – OPEN HOUSE

NOTE: Next month's newsletter will come to you a bit later than normal. We want to share information from our annual business meeting, so you'll have the latest and greatest updates!!

We encourage you to check our website for dates and times of activities at Inn Along the Way.

Go to: www.innalongtheway.org/, then click on "UPDATES," then select "Calendar."

As always, everyone is invited to join in and participate in any or all of the activities here!

WAYS OF GIVING

If you would like to make a financial donation, there are numerous ways to accomplish that. All gifts – large and small – make a difference. For more information, go to:

www.innalongtheway.org/contribute

OPPORTUNITIES – AKA “HELP!”

Here at Inn Along the Way, there is always a need for someone to share their talents. It may be cooking, hosting, preparing, cleaning or helping in some other way. Contact [Jan John](#) or [Cindi Hasty](#) for more information about how you can join in the fun!

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.

For more information about who we are, what we do and our hopes and dreams, please check out our website: www.innalongtheway.org.

NOTE: If any of the links don't work for you, simply copy them from this newsletter and paste them into your browser.

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: info@innalongtheway.org.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,
MaryAnn Look