

MapleStone News

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2016



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Upcoming Events:

- February Vacation, 2/16-2/19
- April 1—3rd Quarter closes

Environmental Science/Carpentry by the Group

This quarter we have done a lot of interesting and exciting things such as finishing building and installing the trail map for a local hiking club. We also restored an old apple cider press that was patented in the year 1874 and was kindly donated to the school from Mr. Hammond. We built all new parts for the press and sand blasted all the cast iron parts that we were able to remove. The whole class has been learning about apples and the different varieties and we are also able to describe the taste and color of about a dozen different types of apples. We went to Hammond Farms and spent the whole day picking apples, We started collecting pallets so we can build Mr. Hammond three apple bins in trade for the old one hundred year old cider press. Each bin weighs 1 ton otherwise known as 2000 pounds. Mr. Hammond has 95 apple trees but we only picked from 6 of them. They were covered with apples.

Before we could use the press, we had to do a lot of work on it. We rebuilt the wooden parts that were worn out and had to make sure it was very clean before we used it. We came up with a process to double wash the apples to make sure they were clean. After we washed them, we put them in the grinder and then squashed them. In the end we had apple cider and pomace. The pomace is mostly skins and seeds. We fed it to the livestock. We shared some of the cider to the other students and teachers and everyone in the group got some to take home.

We've been looking for a good source for some decent pallets. We talked to three businesses that were willing to give us some left over pallets that we could use. We have to take all the good parts and put them together so we can make four complete apple bins. One bin will be for us to put all the apples we collect next year. The other three bins we traded to Mr. Hammond for the cider press. I'm excited to make the apple bins so we make some more apple cider for my group and our friends.

We learned how to make out a bill on the computer for the trail map that the hiking club was very thankful for. Next quarter should be interesting because we are going to make a set of barn doors for a previous student of Scott's and another project will be to estimate the price of a desk for another previous student of his then in the spring time go into production of building Mr. Hammond's apple bins and planting new trees.

This quarter, we made a picture frame for a large map. The map frame was
(con't on page 3)



Veterinary Assistant Program

This year for my science grade, I went to Maplestone for a vet tech program. There I learned how to care for horses, use an ultrasound machine, and how to test blood. At first I was reluctant to try these things, and I watched them from afar, but eventually I started to participate. My favorite part of this experience was being able to use the ultrasound machine. I had never even seen one before that, so it was exciting to actually use one. My only regret is that I didn't start to participate earlier. I also shouldn't have been so scared to clean a horse's foot (which I did eventually). Overall this has been a wonderful experience, and I will miss it when it is over. ~ Hannah

(VAP con't on page 4)



Forestry by the Group

This group is full of excitement and adventure. One excitement is we cut down trees and you always gotta keep your eyes open. It's pretty exciting. The adventure is we rock climb, and do the ropes course and take intense hikes.

After every logging job we do, we gain more experience and knowledge about the woods and land conservation. The Land Trust hired a forester to go in and mark all the trees that will be cut and sold for firewood. We are also cultivating a tree farm, helping the forest grow for future cuts.



Every once in a while, we decide to go on an adventure, either rock climbing or an intense hike. The day we hiked Mount Major, it was cold and sleeting. The cold wind made it hard to breathe. There were 50-60 mph wind gusts. There were tough parts but it was a wonderful day for a hike.

Next quarter, we need to learn about tractor driving skills like safe operation and tractor maintenance. We need a little work on the chainsaws and some better maintenance skills. It's been a pretty good



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Mechanical Science by the Group

Welcome to the mechanical science group. In mechanical science we do a bunch of things, from indoor stuff to outdoor stuff. Currently, we are working on rebuilding a dump trailer. We also poured a cement slab for the grain silo this quarter, and we relocated two sheds on the school's property. We also rebuilt the floorboard and the fender on the orange Kubota. We also installed new plywood on the soffit on the outside of our shop.

Those who truly know something can teach it, and this quarter, we taught several welding classes with teachers and students from other schools. It even helped jumpstart some of the Mechanical Science students to connect with welding more. We really liked teaching welding because we got to teach people what we had learned.

We have a couple of projects to finish, i.e. the dump trailer and the yellow truck. Once the weather gets better, we are going to fix the concrete foundation of the upper garage. We also have another trailer coming for us to fix, and possibly a couple of oil barrel barbecues.





Animal Science by the Group

We have had a busy 2nd quarter. We removed several hundred feet of a three-rail vinyl fence from Springvale and transported via trailer back to school to store for future pasture fence project: test in teamwork, perseverance, and patience.

We delivered a tractor on the flatbed to the woodlot for the Forestry Group and observed the relocation of our new giant duck coop by the mechanic's group using a similar trailer that we borrowed from York.

Along the way we toured Perkins Cove & fishing village, Marginal Way (paved trail along the rocks overlooking the ocean), took a walking path over the Wiggly Bridge to historic Hancock Wharf where we visited the original building of the general store and an in-house art museum for local artisans of York. We enjoyed seeing muscle cars on the lift in the garage where we picked up the trailer.

Another interesting visit we had was to walk the Mary Grant Land Preserve in Acton where we discovered a historic map concerning trails leading to the silver mining locations. A discussion about geology resulted in collecting some samples in the field to identify, & investigated an old rock culvert on the road to the mine.

While we worked on our portfolios the annual school celebration of trash-can turkey was devoured leaving little to eat for those of us arriving late. The group bought books to read at the bookstore for giving an oral report.

We also visited Commercial Wharf and the historic Portland waterfront, along with the Delorme Map Company with the largest globe. At Cabela's we saw an extensive taxidermy display of North American fish and wildlife.

Noting the absence of ice fishing due to the open water, we debated about the unusually warm temperatures; observed the checkerboard pattern of chem -trails in the sky, and watched a documentary film called "Why in the World are they Spraying".



The long delay in significant snowfall until the 13th of January facilitated the completion of many Animal Science Group responsibilities that require using farm machinery. We were able to unload two tons of grain, clear culverts & tree limbs, install driveway markers on freshly spread gravel, and to assist in purchasing cement during December for the installation of a much appreciated grain silo donated by the Wayne Davis family.

At the close of the quarter as we scrambled to thaw animal waters, to secure sheep pens and to check for signs of parturition (the act of giving birth to offspring), windy sub-zero temperatures brought the delivery of the first 2 ram lambs of the new year.



Environmental Science/Carpentry (con't from page 1)

made with oak. We made it for a hiking group who was willing to pay us for the work. We used some oak flooring we had in storage. We had to cut, shape, sand and put two coats of finish on it. We also had to cut a piece of Lexan to protect the map. After that we glued all the pieces together, we took the frame up to Sacopee Valley and installed it near the trail. We went out to lunch that day too!

In the spring, we are going to receive three new apple trees we ordered before Christmas, to plant at Hobb's farm. We plan to prune all the wild apple trees we found there this winter.



Carpentry by the Group

We are the Carpentry/Sawmill class at Maplestone School. There are five students in our group. One of us is taking a firefighting class at SRTC, and is only with us for half a day. We completed a lot of projects this fall such as:

- Hauled more logs from Hobbs Farm
- Built wood storage boxes
- Installed a new door at Cherrystone
- Built walls and installed a window at the sawmill building

Nils had inquired about getting some of the sheds moved here on campus and Justin and his grandfather, who move sheds for people, offered the use of their shed moving trailer. In the process of moving one of sheds, we damaged the trailer. So working with the welding group, we replaced the trailer which involved welding reinforcements on the steel frame and installing a new wood deck. Justin's grandfather was very appreciative of the repair work and upgrades, and we were pleased with the result.

We also did individual projects. Everyone made a wood lock box. We used pine and everyone's box was 10x14 inches with mitered corners but different depths. Almost everyone installed a cover with a lock and hasp and hinges. One person stained their box. We will continue working in the shop during the winter months making Adirondack chairs to sell and we hope to make a few slab tables. We are also excited to build a shed for a customer who inquired about one.



Veterinary Assistant Program (con't from page 1)

I'm finishing off a productive year at Maplestone Farm. After the first year I felt more comfortable in the environment. In the Veterinary class we learn the basic husbandry it takes to raise animals or livestock. I gained new experience in blood analysis when our clinic featured its new QBC Vet Autoreader (chemical content) CVC machine (blood cell count). We began practicing urinalysis with our new refractometer (urine density). I've been practicing sonography with several different ultrasound machines in order to monitor the next coming generation of goats. I could potentially supplement my income as a sonographer. Now into the second year I've been thinking about what I want to do after this program to further myself. I began reading through my new veterinary technician handbook because I thought I might want to at some point further my veterinary skills to earn the vet tech degree in college. I also began to think about my vocational placement after I leave. We toured Puddleby a boarding kennel close to the school as a potential job placement or volunteer work.

- I started to do book work on a veterinary technician handbook
- I began thinking about what work I can find after this program
- I toured a boarding kennel as a potential vocation
- I began practicing using blood scanning technology
- Practiced basic husbandry of the livestock
- I began practicing sound sonography
- I began to practice urinalysis refractometer

