

Winslow Junior High students visit Shaker Village

Winslow Junior High School seventh grade class members went on a field trip to the Shaker Village located at Sabbathday Lake in New Gloucester last week. The group of about 50 was given tours of the Shaker Meeting House, Store and Museum.



by Dan Cassidy

Inside the OUTSIDE

The United Society of Believers, also known as Shakers, was founded in Manchester, England in 1747.

“There used to be 20 of them. They were called Shakers because of their shaking and violent body movements when they came in to the religious worships here at the Meeting House,” Brooks said. The Meeting House was built in 1783, when the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Community was founded. It is the only active one in the country, according to Brooks.

He said that in 1774 the Shakers moved from England to New York, and spread out to upstate New York, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and other eastern

states, including Maine. There were as many as 5,000 Shakers prior to the Civil War.

“The Shakers are a religious community. They were pacifists. They were radical Christians,” said Brooks. “The Shakers have a balance between men and women. They are all celibate. They do not marry. Their life is eternal salvation,” he said.

The community of 18 buildings sits on about 1,700 acres of land located on Sabbathday Lake, and volunteers and society members maintain apple orchards, grow vegetables, hay fields, and tend to sheep and other livestock. They also sell goods made by the religious community and are well known for the manufacturing of furniture, basket making, foods and knit wear.



Lenny Brooks, standing at right at podium, speaks to seventh grade students of Winslow Junior High School in the Meeting House during a tour of the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village. Photo by Dan Cassidy

Foxes hanging around? better to let them relocate than to trap them

Spring has sprung! Wildlife babies are being born and the phone rings non-stop with questions about these babies.

The number one concern at this time is for the foxes. Callers tell us about female foxes with babies roaming on their property and about their fears regarding these animals. They want the foxes removed because of their concerns over the mother fox attacking their children, dogs or cats. Many describe the foxes they've seen as about the size of a dog. In fact, an adult weighs approximately ten pounds.

Their main diet consists mostly of small rodents, berries and bird eggs. With babies to care for, a mother fox might raid a chicken coop if the opportunity arises.

The need to hunt for food increases when there are many



CRITTER CHATTER

by Carleen Cote

young to feed. Some litters can be as large as six.

When we receive calls about foxes lingering around homes, the first piece of advice that my husband, Donald, gives is for the caller to consider not doing anything about trapping and relocating the family. If the female is harassed enough, she usually will

move her brood to another den.

Several den sites are usually available to a fox if it considers a move is necessary. Donald does assist in trying to encourage a move by placing the feces of another animal that could be viewed as a predator, such as a coyote. If all attempts to encourage the family to relocate fail, he will set a Have-a-Heart trap. If one pup is trapped, that usually will be the incident that precipitates the move.

If the mother has become the victim of an untimely death, Donald will set traps to rescue the babies. Five red fox babies are now at the Center because their mother died.

Many callers are concerned about foxes being out during the

day. Babies do not know "nocturnal." They move about on a whim. The mother is with them, sometimes hidden nearby watch-



A fox peeks from a log at the Center. Photo by Donald Cote

Because of the loss of habitat, wildlife are moving into unexpected areas. Raccoons, deer, moose, bear, as well as foxes, have moved into cities and other populated areas. Wildlife has learned to tolerate humans. Unfortunately, humans have not learned how to live with wildlife.

Carleen and Donald Cote operate the Duck Pond Wildlife Care Center on Rt. 3 in Vassalboro, a nonprofit facility, supported entirely by the Cotes' own resources and outside donations. Call them at 445-4326 or write to 1787 N. Belfast Ave., Vassalboro, ME 04989.

ing the babies at play, ready to defend them if necessary.

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Page 15