

NEWSLETTER OF THE RURAL LIFE ASSOCIATION

September 1984

* Membership in the Rural Life Association is \$5.00/
* household/year. That gets you on the mailing list *
* for the quarterly newsletter and on the phone tree *
* to be notified of programs, meetings, and special *
* events. All memberships run from January to *
* December. Please send dues and address changes *
* to Jane Plastino, Route 3, Box 42, Canton 13617. *

Material for this newsletter was, as you can see, scanty... and that's OK. While we like big, solid, newsy newsletters, we also recognize that the needs and the energies of members for the organization ebb and flow, and much of that dynamic is related to the cycle of the seasons. So, we're not going to bemoan the lack of material or go to extremes to create what's not really there, but we do hope that folks will be more communicative by the time the next newsletter is due to come out in late November.

Meanwhile, the most important and immediate message of this issue (and why it is put together rather hastily) is to let you know of the upcoming general meeting/work day at the Scott-Adams' and to encourage you to participate. Ross Kostin elaborates...

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

At the last steering committee meeting, it was suggested that, because we have had a poor turnout at fall meetings, we try something new this year (I have never had time to attend a fall meeting, for instance). The idea is to give an opportunity for the membership to have a working experience while helping out people in need. We approached several people and one organization that we knew to be in the throes of a major project and in need of a lot of help. For our first try, our proposal seemed best to fit Bob and Vicki Scott-Adams' situation. They need to finish a temporary building, get in their firewood, and finish several other projects in order to be settled in their new home by winter.

Doug Welch, Ginger Storey, Bill Sutkus, and I met Bob on the site and discussed what needs to be done, how to organize people and tools, and the best date and rain date. The date was set for September 30 with a rain date of September 29 if rain seems imminent for Sunday the 30th (most people seemed to like to shoot for a Sunday). This event is sponsored by the weekly work group in order to guarantee a minimum turnout and to help organize the project for teamwork and productiveness. The meal will be a cold potluck or anything that can be cooked on an open fire. Hammers, tape measures, nail aprons, shovels, chain saws, and splitting mauls are a tentative tools list.

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It is important that we know who is going to come so that we can better organize the day. If you have questions, suggestions, and especially if you think you can come, please call Doug Welch at 379-9564, Bill Sutkus at 287-3759, Ross Kostin at 344-7066, or Valerie Summer at 386-4393 as soon as possible. Besides being a worthwhile project, it should be fun!

GENERAL MEETING/WORK PARTY

Where: At the Scott-Adams property on the Pink Schoolhouse Road in Canton. There'll be a sign.

When: Sept. 30 (or Sept. 29 rain date), 8:30 A.M.

Food: Cold pot-luck or something to be cooked on an open fire. Bring your own dishes, etc.

Tools: Hammers, tape measures, nail aprons, levels, shovels, chain saws, etc.

Call with your questions, suggestions, and to say that you are coming.



SHARE YOUR GARDENING SECRETS



Over the past few months of attending work days and other social events, I have indulged in one of my favorite pastimes: touring people's gardens. I find that everyone has at least a few good ideas that no one else has thought of but that no one else is likely to find out about unless they happened along at the right time. As a service to the community, I decided to put together a compendium of people's gardening ideas in the RLA Newsletter. Thus I would get to drive around and visit more gardens. But alas, the summer is fast slipping away and my travel time is limited. So now I must ask a favor of all you expert gardeners, even those who don't think they are experts: The next rainy morning, while waiting for your coffee to perk, please take a few minutes to scribble down your best gardening ideas and send them to me (Box 57, Route 1, Hermon, 13652). This modest effort will be rewarded many times over. A few ideas: Do you plant anything with unusual spacings? Why? Do you plant certain crops next to each other? Have you found any novel way to control potato bugs? What crop rotations do you use? Do you mulch, compost, green manure? Do you save seed? How? What varieties work well for you? What do you use for potting mix in the spring? Do you have a favorite tool? How do you store food for the winter? Etc., Etc.

Spelling, grammar, and writing style don't matter; sentence fragments are acceptable. Thanks in advance,

- David Katz