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** Sign-up coupon page 2**

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Introduces NEW Teacher Resource Guide
“Finding the Food & Clothing Around You”

One of the most common requests the MAITCA office receives is a way for teachers to connect to local agriculture. Most teachers just don't have the time to research the facts and find contacts for the Ag. topics that they are teaching already in their curriculum. Who to call, what season is best, what age group and the cost are all included in this guide, that is complete with correlation to lessons that are already aligned to the Maine Learning Results. Does that sound too good to be true?

“Teachers will really appreciate the time that has gone into preparing this booklet”, says Doug Robertson from the Maine Department of Education, “I know this will make it much easier for them to connect to local agricultural resources.”

At this time of soaring fuel costs it will now be easier for teachers to schedule meaningful field trips in their own towns and counties or presentations right in their classrooms. With the use of the Food, Land & People lessons that are correlated to the visits, the alignment to the MLR has been done for you.

In August at the MAITCA 4-day Summer Institute in Farmington this new tool for teachers will be released. Farm tours will be linked to lessons that teachers can do themselves in the classroom to support the field trip. Topics will include the local food system, alternative energy sources, economics, trees, seasons, food processing, history and more!

A visit from a native American Elder, who

is an entry in the guide is planned. He will share customs, traditions, Indian contributions to society today, and a bibliography to current books with accurate information on Maine Native American culture.

Each Summer Institute participant will receive the nationally acclaimed Project FLP Resource for Learning and The Wild Blueberry Curriculum as well as the resource guide and many more materials on Maine Agriculture. Each participant will also receive the NEW interactive CD from USDA called “Growing a Nation - The History of American Agriculture”. This is an excellent tool for use in middle school classrooms where students all use their own laptops. Imbedded links can take students to web sites and online activities that reinforce the information on the CD.

For more information and to register for the conference see page 3.



Inside this issue:

Nominate the 2006 MAITCA Teacher of the Year	Page 2
Sign-up for your Ag. Plate!	Page 2
Summer Teacher's Institute in Farmington, August 8-11	Page 3

NEWS FLASH!

Swinging for Ag. Education
GOLF OUTING

With a \$10,000 Hole in One Contest

September 14th

(see page 4)

Teachers Visit Atlantic City



Jon & Neil holding Rhode Island White Cap corn which was originally traded to the natives in Maine by John Howland (pilgrim).

Neil Lash and Jon Thurston, MAITCA Teachers of the Year 2005, will be attending the AITC National Conference in Atlantic City later this month. This teaching team was selected to represent Maine and confer with other state winners from across the country.

Their 6-day expense paid trip was made possible by New England Ag and Feed Alliance. During the conference they will attend

a special reception for state award winners, workshops, and a full day of visits to New Jersey agricultural sites.

Neil and Jon were chosen for their extensive program involving high school students in heritage seed saving and gardening. For more information on their program or an Heirloom Seed Project Catalog write to them at Medomak Valley High School, 320 Manktown Road, Waldoboro, ME 04572.

MAITCA is now accepting nominations for the 2006 Teacher of the Year. A one -page application can be found on our new website or mailed to you from the office. The 2006 award winning teacher's will be eligible for a trip to New Orleans in June 2007.

Belfast Teacher Named Scott's Classroom Gardener of the Year

Steve Tanguay of Troy Howard Middle School in Belfast was named Scott's Classroom Gardener of the Year and is the national winner in the 6th Annual Scott's "Give Back to Grow" Award. This is awarded to a teacher whose gardening efforts have helped grow a better world and have incorporated gardening into their curriculum. Mr. Tanguay received \$5,000 and an all expenses paid trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show from The Scott's Miracle-Gro Company. Steve and Don White were also named National and Maine AITC Teachers of the Year in 2004 for their excellence in teaching about agriculture.

Tanguay has brought economics, history and agriculture lessons to life with the creation of the Troy Howard Middle School Garden/Greenhouse Project. Tanguay developed a curriculum that integrates middle school academic concepts with sustainable agricultural production practices in a garden, orchard and greenhouse setting. Students develop and run businesses while learning the economics of producing their own food.

Specifically, students manage the garden and greenhouse, save heirloom seeds, produce natural fertilizers and grow foods that are distributed at the school cafeteria and farm stand, the Belfast Coop and local soup kitchens. The goal is to engage all students in discovery through gardening projects that address learning objectives and produce nutritious food and research for sustainability.

The project requires the students' participation through planting, harvesting, and seed-saving for future plantings," explains Tanguay. "Students are taught the quality and health benefits of locally produced food."

Sign-up for YOUR Maine Agricultural License Plate!

NAMES, SIGNATURES, CURRENT PLATE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SUPPORTERS WHO INTEND TO PURCHASE THE AGRICULTURAL SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE

I understand by signing this form that I agree to purchase the agricultural specialty license plate.
No money must be sent at this time. A notice will be mailed to you when the plate is issued.

PRINT NAME: _____ MAILING ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ TOWN, ZIP: _____

CURRENT PLATE NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

(check one)

_____ I am enclosing payment now (\$20 per set of plates) so that I will receive my voucher as soon as the plates are available.
(Make check or money order payable to MAITCA)

_____ Please bill me later and I will send payment when the plates become available.

Please mail to the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Association (MAITCA)
28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333. For more information call the MAITCA office at
(207) 287-5522 or e-mail maitca@maine.gov

For current updates and information go to www.MaineAgTag.com

MAITCA Summer Institute - August 8 - 11, 2006 University of Maine at Farmington

Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Association (MAITCA) is proud to announce its 2006 Summer Institute, introducing "Finding the Food and Clothing Around You - A Teacher Resource Guide to Maine Agriculture". Focus will include Aquaculture, Dairy, Alternative Energy Sources, and Native American Culture. Programming will include visits to an organic Grain producer, Maine Smelt Hatchery, Dairy farm, Agricultural Museum and more...

At this Educator's workshop, participants will receive **36 contact hours** for re-certification credits.

Thanks to grants issued by the ME Potato Board, and The US Department of Agriculture, the cost of this training will be only **\$75** per participant (a \$350 value), which includes lodging, travel and meals for up to 25 educators.

All participants will also receive the 55 lesson Food, Land and People Resources for Learning, and The Wild Blueberry Curriculum as well as training in these hands-on materials and exposure to Maine Agriculture.

All the lessons in the FLP curriculum supplement have been correlated with the ME Learning Results.

All participants will receive the NEW interactive CD "Growing a Nation—The Story of American Agriculture"

- Registration Tuesday, August 8 at 10:00 AM - University of Maine at Farmington, Scott Hall
- Special Guest Speakers including Producers, Processors, A Maine Tribal Elder, The Commissioner of Agriculture and more...
- Tours will focus on entries from the NEW MAITCA Teacher Resource Guide. Lessons will accompany the tours that are aligned to the Maine Learning Results. Maine Native American Bibliography will be included.
- The Institute will finish on Friday afternoon.

Registration Deadline July 27, 2006. For further info. and registration, please contact: Ms. Willie Sawyer Grenier, MAITCA, Maine Department of Agriculture, 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, Tel: (207) 287-5522 Email: maitca@maine.gov

2006 Maine Ag. In the Classroom Summer Institute Registration Form

Deadline July 27, 2006

Conference Fee \$75.00 - Make checks payable to Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Assn. (MAITCA)

NAME _____ SCHOOL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ SCHOOL PHONE _____

GRADE LEVEL _____ SUBJECT(S) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

WILL YOU BE STAYING OVERNIGHT? YES NO

DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS? (DIETARY OR OTHERWISE) YES NO

Explain _____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY USING AGRICULTURE IN YOUR CURRICULUM? YES NO

HOW MANY STUDENTS WILL YOU HAVE IN 2006/2007? _____

Conference registration deadline July 27, 2006. Mail to: MAITCA, 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333 For information and brochures call (207)287-5522 or E-mail maitca@maine.gov Registration includes overnight accommodations, transportation during the conference, and meals. Materials including Project FLP Resource for Learning, The Wild Blueberry Curriculum, New MAITCA Teacher Resource Guide, Native American Bibliography will be supplied to participants.

MAITCA OFFICE
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Augusta, ME 04333

Return Service Requested

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MAITCA Calendar of Events

June 17 - "Dairy to Doorstep" Kick-off Event offering *Free Admission* to the Maine State Museum. Booths open 11:00 - 3:00. For more information call the museum at 287-6603.

June 21 - 24 - National AITC Conference in Atlantic City, NJ.

July 23—Open Farm Day, Many Maine Farms open their arms to the public. Call the Dept. of Ag. At 287-3871 for info.

August 8 - 11 - MAITCA Summer Teacher's Institute at the University of Maine in Farmington. Registration pg 3.

August 22 & 23 - Maine Farm Days The Wright Place, Clinton, ME for more information call (207) 622-4111

September 14 - "Swing into Agriculture Education" Golf Outing, Sable Oaks Golf Club, South Portland. \$10,000 hole in one contest. For information contact Countryway Insurance at 800-472-4368

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"Swinging for Agriculture Education" Golf Outing

Sponsored by Countryway Insurance Company

September 14, 2006
Sable Oaks Golf Club
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With a \$10,000 Hole in One Contest

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www.maineagintheclassroom.org