



Inside
Can Maine grow more fruit with smaller trees? **C3**



MICKY BEDELL | BDN

Annie Woodbury tills the ground on a hillside next to her Verona Island farmhouse to prepare the soil for rice seedlings. She and her husband, Eric, met two and a half years ago while working at a special needs teachers college in Ethiopia. Now, they are revitalizing an old farm, where they will plant New England root vegetables, herbs and flowers, and Asian specialty produce such as rice, taro, kamote and others.

East-West Farm

World work and travel lead couple to sow exotic crops in Maine

BY ABIGAIL CURTIS
BDN STAFF

Eric and Annie Woodbury have an international love story that matches the harvest they're planning at the new East-West Farm on Verona Island. They're busily putting down roots in Maine, while also planting such exotic seedlings as rice, taro, bitter gourds, hot peppers and sweet potatoes.

"Land is life for us," said Annie Woodbury, a native of the Philippines. "We value the land. It's what settles you."

Watch the video
bangordailynews.com

Eric Woodbury, a lawyer and writing teacher who lived and worked for years in the Boston area, agreed.

"It grounds you. It's what connects you," he said recently at their home, an old farmhouse with glimpses of the Penobscot River far below. "It's your source of life."

The Woodburys were taking a break from the work of renovating their antique farmhouse and tending to their fields while they recounted the tale of how they met. Annie Woodbury brewed



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Annie Woodbury passes her husband, Eric, a rice seedling to plant in the hillside next to their farmhouse on Verona Island.

strong, fragrant coffee that her mother had sent her in a care package from home, and they spoke of their different pasts and their shared dreams for East-West Farm.

The couple met in Ethiopia in 2013 when they were both volunteering at a teachers college. Eric, who had joined the Peace Corps after years working as a corporate attorney in Boston, was instructing students in how to teach English to special needs students. Annie, an engineer by training, was working in the school's information technologies department and volunteering for the British-based organization VSO International. They became friends, and shortly before they were both due to go home, Eric told Annie that he would like to be more than friends.

"It was not love at first sight, it was love at last sight," joked Annie, a petite,

bubbly woman with a quick smile. "I said, 'Come to the Philippines, and let's see what happens.' I wanted him to know who I am."

As it happens, where she is from is a large part of her identity. Annie Woodbury is part of the Kalinga tribe of Luzon Island, located in the northern part of the Philippines archipelago. Her home is in a mountainous, indigenous region, known for its dances, music and traditional clothing, and her people have their own government and educational systems. Where she comes from, the villagers need to share and protect their natural resources of water, forests and fields and so have been using sustainable farming techniques for millennia.

"You call it 'sustainable development.' Well, we've been practicing it that way forever," Annie said.

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MICKY BEDELL | BDN

Eric and Annie Woodbury hold hands while discussing their revitalization of an old farm on Verona Island.

Teen with autism turns love of gardening into greenhouse business

BY JULIA BAYLY
BDN STAFF

ST. JOHN PLANTATION — At 13 years old, Adam Jandreau may well be among Maine's youngest entrepreneurs.

The St. John Plantation seventh-grader, who was diagnosed with autism when he was 18 months old, is already an experienced business owner after starting his Adam's Lunch Box and Greenhouse four years ago with some help from his parents, Lisa Morine and Jeff Jandreau.

According to his mother, when Adam was younger the autism made it difficult for him to make any decisions about what he'd like for his lunch or snacks while at school. And, if he did not like it, she feared the food could go uneaten.

"So I would overdo it with an array of items, so hopefully when he looked at it he could make a choice for himself," Morine said. "The teachers and ed techs loved investigating Adam's lunch box in wonder of



JULIA BAYLY | BDN

Adam Jandreau spends a few moments with some of his chickens at his St. John Plantation home.

what they might find. The rest of the students started noticing how much he'd bring to school, and all of a sudden his lunch box was famous."

About four years ago, Adam became interested in his own nutrition. *See Teen, Page C2*

Family revives Bailey Island landmarks

BY KATHLEEN PIERCE
BDN STAFF

BAILEY ISLAND — Cook's Lobster House on Bailey Island, which opened in 1955, had grown from a small takeout shack to an institution featured in a national ad campaign.

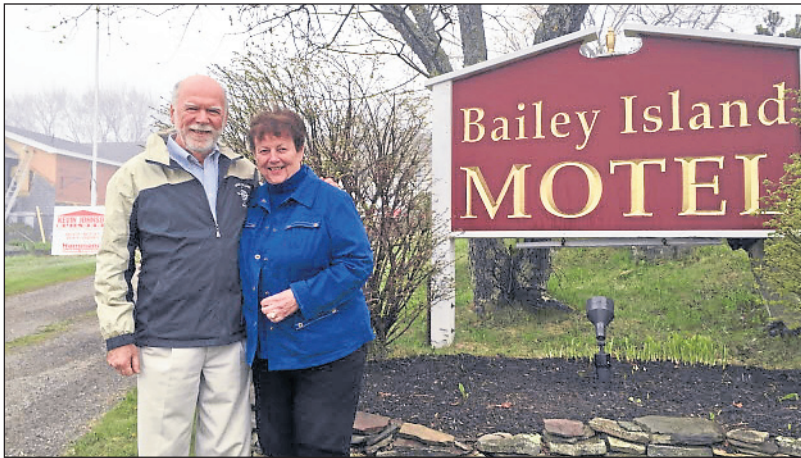
But a decade after that Visa commercial in the '90s thrust its stunning location and famous crustaceans onto the tourist radar, the seasonal attraction began sinking into disrepair. The roof had holes, the interior needed an update and the staff was glum. Some say the food had suffered too.

A quarter-mile away, the Bailey Island Motel was in similar straits. The oceanside, two-story inn facing the Cribstone Bridge needed a new deck, new lobby, updated rooms and an infusion of tender loving care.

Now, one family from Lewiston is pouring that care (and cash) into these island icons and sharing a dream.

It began last July when Jennifer Charboneau and her husband, Nick, took over Cook's.

"Walking in there, my childhood flashbacks came back. It's just Maine to me," said Jennifer Charboneau, who grew up boating through Casco Bay, including



KATHLEEN PIERCE | BDN

Paul and Rita Dube moved to the island recently to take over the Bailey Island Motel.

nearby Garrison Cove, with her father, Paul Dube.

Though settled in Vermont, where she and her husband were raising their two daughters, she longed to return to the Pine Tree State. Then her parents unknowingly helped her realize that dream.

"We got a flier in the mail from the Chamber of Commerce with all Maine restaurants for sale," recalled Charboneau's mother, Rita Dube, a Lewiston native. As an off-hand joke, they sent it to their daughter.

"A week later she called and said, 'We are coming to Maine to look at Cook's,'" Rita Dube said. "They fell in love with it right away."

Still, the Dubes didn't have high hopes. Their son-in-law ran a Mexican restaurant in Williston, Vermont, and Cook's was listed for a staggering \$1.8 million.

"We never, ever thought it would happen. It was too big a place, too big a dream for us. It didn't seem like reality," said Rita Dube, a former executive director. *See Island, Page C2*

How Maine kids can join the chicken coop craze

Maine Poultry Connection holding children's contest

BY ABIGAIL CURTIS
BDN STAFF

BRADFORD — Maddie DeMoranville, 13, knows an awful lot about chickens.

For years now, the teen has been pulling her weight and then some at 4D's Farm in Bradford, where her family raises thousands of chickens and other birds. And Maddie thinks that more kids should have the chance to raise their own poultry, which is why she's so excited about the Maine Poultry Connection's chicken coop giveaway happening this month.

In that contest, two Maine kids each will win a new coop, six pullets, a feeder, a year's worth of chicken feed and more.

"I want the winner to be someone that doesn't have a lot of experience with chickens. Someone [for whom] this coop is their very first. That way, they can learn from it," Maddie said. "It teaches them responsibility and collecting eggs and that kind of thing. It teaches them where their food comes from."

Her father, Scott DeMoranville, has been raising chickens for more than 40 years and enjoys helping people get started with the backyard hobby or business. He started Maine Poultry Connection on Facebook four years ago, with the intention of creating a family-friendly resource for Mainers interested in buying and selling poultry and poultry-related items. It now boasts almost 4,300 members, who really came through when he had the idea to give a chicken coop to some kids. They raised more than \$4,000 this winter in an online auction, with all the proceeds going to the coop giveaway.

"I want the winner to be someone that doesn't have a lot of experience with chickens. That way, they can learn from it."

MADDIE DEMORANVILLE

"When you've got that many like-minded people, you've got a power," Scott DeMoranville said. "We pooled that power together."

Thanks to the generosity of all those poultry fans, Maine Poultry Connection has purchased the chicken coops and the other gear that will help the winners get off to a good start. Bangor Blue Seal Feeds has agreed to donate a 50-pound bag of grain per month for the first year to each winner, he said. The contest is open to all Maine children who are 12 years old and under, and so far about 30 kids from all over the state have sent in the application form, complete with a short essay explaining why they want chickens, how they would care for them and what it would mean to be selected. A team of readers will look at the essays and pick one boy and one girl to be the winners.

Getting something as simple as a chicken coop and six pullets can really make a difference in someone's life, Scott DeMoranville thinks. He sees that with his own children, who help care for the birds and teach other people about raising poultry. And he saw how it changed *See Coops, Page C3*