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Dear Friends,

We hope this email/letter finds you doing as well as you can during the global pandemic.

Attached is a notice about a homesteading apprentice opportunity with us. We will appreciate your forwarding this letter/posting far and wide to anyone who might be (even slightly) interested in pursuing this life-changing opportunity with us.

We are turning to our worldwide network of friends, former students, colleagues and assorted contacts in search of the right person or couple to apprentice on our homestead.

Thank you, in advance, for helping us however you can!

Alaine Christopher

Homesteading Apprentice(s) for Life-Changing Opportunity in Remote Maine

We are seeking a homesteading apprentice(s) willing to live and work with us in remote Maine as we take our homestead to the next level. We are located 2½ hours northeast of Bangor and 5 hours northeast of Portland. We are looking for a 5-month commitment from June through October 2021. A longer-term experience is a possibility. No experience in homesteading required, simply a deep interest, curiosity and a commitment to a different way of life. Housing, utilities and a small monthly stipend can be negotiated. This is not a money-making opportunity or a job. It should be seen as an educational/apprentice opportunity. Deadline to apply is March 15, 2021, but applications will be accepted until we find the right person or couple/people.

Who are we?

We are each 60 years old, married for 38 years, in excellent health and have lived in Maine since the fall of 2017, after retiring from 35 years of teaching in progressive, independent high schools. We are liberal democrats. Alaine is an artist and worked as an art teacher and Christopher was an administrator, American history, political science and ~~global issues teacher. He was also appointed as one of the first full-time sustainability directors in independent~~ schools. In 2016, Alaine inherited a cabin on Spednic Lake she helped build as a child, bordering New Brunswick, Canada, and after restoring it we decided to purchase 7 acres and a small home on the outskirts of the town of Vanceboro (population +/- 100 people) about 5 miles from the cabin and have been building an equipment barn, sheds, compost structures, raised garden beds, planting fruit trees and berries, and reviving a small apple orchard—all toward becoming increasingly self-sufficient. We hope to add chickens and goats within the next 1-2 years, in addition to building another barn, a greenhouse and a pond. We are very much in a design and building mode.

Who do we seek?

- Be at least 21. All sexual identities and races are welcome.
- Be curious and want to learn new practical skills, be physically coordinated and active, have common sense, and be in excellent health.
- Be interested and committed to reading, learning and discussing sustainability and other topics related to homesteading and self-sufficient living.
- Have a progressive ideology and open-mindedness are important for the right fit.
- Enjoy being and working in the out-of-doors, living in nature and willingness to live in a socially isolated and wilderness area. Hiking, exploring, camping, canoeing/kayaking and fishing opportunities exist in our area, in Canada, and throughout Maine.
- Be ready and able to work well with others and take direction, as we will teach you how to do everything you need to know to homestead, or at least how to live more self-sufficiently.
- Have hobbies, activities and interests that can keep you engaged while living in relative solitude is ~~important. We live in a very socially isolated area of the country.~~
- Have a current advanced first aid certificate, or a willingness to acquire one before joining us.

If interested in exploring this opportunity with us, please take the following next step:

Write us a letter or an e-mail expressing your interest in apprenticing with us as we build a sustainable, eco-friendly, permaculture centered homestead. Tell us about yourself/selves. It would be helpful if you elaborate on your goals or expectations for this experience.

Send to: Alaine Peaslee-Hinshaw and Christopher Hinshaw, P.O. Box 169, Vanceboro, Maine 04491
chrishinshaw15@gmail.com

If, after reading and reflecting on your letter(s), we believe you might be compatible and sense that you possess the character and life background we seek, we will send additional details about our homestead and ourselves. We will also request several references for you. We will offer references as well. We anticipate a couple of phone conversations. Finally, we will invite 2-3 people/couples to Maine in April/May 2021 (assuming it's safe for you to travel) for several days before we make our final selection.