

THE RED RIVER CAMPS

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March 1, 2010

Dear Friends and Family,

As we prepare for our 2010 season (Joe's and my second season, my family's 31st, and Red River's 124th!), I wanted to give you an update on where we ended up last year, and what we have planned for this summer. And boy, do we have plans!

The lodge is again fully-functional, although we have a few finishing touches to put on it before we can call the project complete. Once we get in to Camp this spring, we'll finish some shingling on the gables, install porch and deck railings, and finish the exterior chinking. We'll also work on the landscaping- putting an herb garden near the front porch again and adding window boxes and lots of flowers. And, of course, we'll add the final touch- the bell, which survived the fire intact.



In the dining room, we're pretty close to finished! The new room is much larger than the old one, and it's absolutely full of windows and light. We'll add slate from the local quarry beneath the wood stove (the only other piece that survived the fire) and stone facing on the wall between the upright beams. We covered the floor with red oak, and I'd also like to add some beams of darker wood to the ceiling- we found out that our ceiling is a HUGE expanse of pine. After that, we'll build bookshelves for our sitting/reading/chatting area.

In the kitchen, we put candy-apple red linoleum on the floor right before we left for the winter. The new island is quite a bit larger than the old one, and the stove is very similar to the original (with many thanks to Libby's Camps!) The tankless water heater has been working like a charm, and we're excited to see how much propane it saves.

So that's where things stand with the new lodge at Red River. Although the fire two years ago will always be a dark day in Red River history, it ended up catapulting me back into the woods where I belong, and I'm so excited to share the new lodge with you. (So are Joe, who learns more about life in rural Maine every day; Gloria, who will be back to cook for us again this summer; and Mike, who is enjoying his first winter of retirement!)

The lodge isn't the only thing we'll be working on this year, though. We have big plans for the rest of Camp as well. (In fact, we probably have enough plans to keep us busy for the next decade!) We have a sizable pile of logs left over from the lodge, and we intend to use them to rebuild Denny, the cabin up on the left-hand corner of the hill. We haven't been able to use Denny for the past several years, so this is a perfect opportunity to both use the surplus logs and get our ninth cabin back. We'll make minor refurbishments to the rest of the cabins, too- refinishing some of the floors and ceilings, re-hanging several doors and windows that have started to stick due to age, and generally making sure they're weathering the years in style.

We'll also reintroduce the garden this year with heirloom tomatoes, beans, carrots, peppers, and the rest of the staples. I'm hoping to try our hand at growing asparagus and garlic, as well, and I'd like to update the landscaping with lots of native wildflowers, a few more shade trees in the yard, and maybe a fire pit for those nice starry nights.



As I come to the end of this letter, I wanted to point out a couple of items related to Red River's presence in the electronic world. We have an updated webpage (we're still at www.redrivercamps.com), and we now also have a presence on Facebook and a blog (both available from links on our website). Please also note that, for the near future, our telephone number will be 207-554-0420, and our e-mail is jen@redrivercamps.com.

Thank you so much for your continued support, especially through these last two tough years, and we hope to see you for many years to come!

Sincerely,
The Red River Family

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jen & Joe".

Jen and Joe Brophy-Price