

National Solar Tour, Central Maine
October 4, 2008
10am - 4pm

Tour Contact:

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Building #1:

Curry Caputo and Andrea Lani, 317 S. Hunts Meadow Rd., Whitefield

Directions: Take RT 126 toward N. Whitefield, then take right (if coming from Gardiner/Pittston), or left (if coming from N. Whitefield) onto S. Hunts Meadow Rd. Go 1.5 miles to a dirt driveway on right, with white mailbox, yellow sun and #317. Follow drive to end. There will be event signs at road.

Description: Owner-design and built 1400 sq. ft. salt box with passive solar gain, daylight basement, metal roof, radiant floor heating, all natural wood and floor finishes, minimized northern exposure--no northern glazing; roof-mounted 1.9 kW photovoltaic array; 8 kW Kohler propane-fired generator; high-efficiency fridge (Conserv), washer (Kenmore front-loading), heating system (Propane-fired Polaris); high-density spray urethane foam insulation throughout.

Building #2

Bill and Rosey Guest, 68 Bluebird Hill Road, Jefferson

Directions: from Caputo house, return to RT 126, and head east (right turn) towards Jefferson. Pass intersection with RT 218, and continue another 4 miles. Take a left onto RT 215 North. Follow for 2. miles to the stop sign and take a right onto RT 32 South. The Guest's home is on the left, about 1.2 miles—Bluebird Hill Road.

Description: This is a cape style home with passive solar design and is situated on a mountaintop. The Gust family has been using solar power for over 21 years. The home is off-th-grid, and is powered by a medium size photovoltaic system (16 Kyocera 53 watt modules @ 24VDC) and AIR 303 wind turbine. They also utilize a sun time solar water heater with a closed loop freon system.

Building #3:

Lester Sheaffer, 71 Pine Crest Lane, Whitefield

Directions: From Gardiner: Cross the bridge, take a right (south on Rt.9), take left on Rt. 194. Follow through Pittston village into Whitefield. Take a left at the church onto the Townhouse Rd. Driveway will be on the left and carries up through the field. From Rt. 17: Turn onto the Cooper Rd. at Mazie's Restaurant. At next intersection, take a left onto 126 (at St. Denis church) then first right onto

Townhouse Rd. Driveway is on right just beyond the golf shack. From Wiscasset: take Rt. 218 toward Alna and continue into Whitefield. Continue on Rt. 194, turn right at the church onto Townhouse Rd., then take first left up through the field.

Description: Home is a 32 x 48, 1, 3/4 story cape. It is a stand alone 48 volt system. I have 12 panels and 32 trojan t105 batteries with a generator backup.

Building #4:

Fred Todd and Ann Pistell, Kelley Rd., Pittston

Directions: Take RT 194 to the Kelley Road. Follow Kelley Road for 1.3 miles. The Todd/Pistell road (South Tyler Road) is on the right immediately after a small white cape with shingles and red trim. Look for Solar Tour signs at end of road. Follow South Tyler Road for 6/10 mile. White house sits up on hill with barn below.

Description: cape style home; about 2600 sq. ft. of living space; 9" walls, with a combination of fiberglass and foam board insulation; 1650W solar array installed in 1999; some very efficient appliances; propane heat, hot water and stove; radiant floor heat.

Building #5:

Dave and Marylin Tilton, 2 Hagar St., Richmond

Directions: Take I-295 to Richmond, exit 43, three miles to town via Rt 197 which becomes Main St in town. From Gardiner or Topsham by Route 24 which becomes Front St in town. From the intersection of Main St (Rt 197) and Front St. (Rt 24) go S. on Front Street past Fort Richmond Park about 0.4 miles. Turn right on Hagar St., home is on the corner of Hagar and Front Streets on the left, with green steel roof, gray "stucco-like" plaster, and yellow trim. It is across the street from a "gothic Victorian."

Description: Home is a timberframe, strawbale, passive and active solar (PV with net metering, and H2O), full radiant floor including 2-bay garage, heated by a Baxi-luna propane-fired condensing boiler, and wood stove back-ups. Thermotech triple-glazed windows are used in main part of house; all spaces are handicap-accessible (principal doors are 3 ft wide with lever handles, no thresholds, all differences in elevation between levels from garage to living space ramped.) Home is on a town sewer and water systems, yet Sun-mar compact composting toilets are used. Two bedrooms, two baths, two lofts, with open concept kitchen, dining, living and growing space within a fully revealed timberframe. Windows are inset in 18-inch thick strawbale and plaster walls with curves above.

Building #6:

Christopher and Karin Kroot 55 Cold Creek Drive, West Gardiner

Directions: From downtown Gardiner, take High Street (Highland Ave.--between the Irving Station and TW Dick), go 5 miles then turn right on Cold Creek Drive (big rock with a subdivision sign "Cold Creek"), on the right at end of road. This is a new road and is not on internet searches.

Description: Owner designed and built, 2,200 sq. ft., modified post-and-beam, straw bale home with Lime plaster over bales. Solar slab (not a radiant slab), with 1,200 concrete blocks forming a radiator beneath a 4" concrete slab--heated by room temperature air. Interior cob (75% sand 25 % clay and a bit of chopped straw) walls. Our home is designed to be heated by the sun by storing heat in the cob

walls and the solar slab. This home includes a 525 sq. ft. dance and yoga studio. House cost excluding land and outside infrastructure (septic, well, driveway) \$75 sq foot.

Building #7:

Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast, Owner: Scott Cowger, Innkeeper & Former State Representative, 11 Inn Road, Hallowell

Directions: from either Central Street in downtown Hallowell or the Whitten Road in Augusta, follow the signs for Maple Hill Farm B&B. Take Central Street over the hill (approx. 2 miles). Pass through blinking yellow light, soon road bears hard to the left, in another half-mile, the road bears sharp to the right and up a hill (dangerous intersection) this is the Outlet Road. Continue for approx. one mile. Maple Hill B&B on right. Directions are available on our website www.MapleBB.com.

Description: A full service inn and conference center with a heavy demand for energy. As the first DEP certified "Environmental Leader" green lodging establishment in Maine, in 2003 the owners decided to decrease energy costs as well as their carbon footprint by installing a large 10 kW Bergey wind turbine atop a 100 foot tubular steel tower on the high point of their land, 1000 feet from the buildings. In 2006, they added extensive solar electric and solar hot water systems to the property. The largest solar power array in the state, it has 15 kW of electrical generating capacity, and there are 202 vacuum tubes for domestic hot water production with 320 gallons of hot water storage in the basement. As a grid-intertied system, any power generated and not used immediately goes out to the grid and a credit is recorded for use at a later date under Maine's "net metering" law. Their system saves a tremendous amount of fuel oil (for hot water production) and offsets about half the electrical needs of the facility. You can monitor the output of the solar electric system, as well as view details of all the system components, on their web site at www.MapleBB.com.