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BLOG: LOOKING FOR A SECOND FAMILY... EAST HILL FARM

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by GSA Rose Shajenko, St. Mary's Bank - America's Credit Union Museum Class of 2008

You found your family once you go to the Mid - Week Getaway for Adults at [The Inn at East Hill Farm](#) in Troy, NH.

The adventure begins on Sunday. I was asked if I would be arriving for Lunch or Dinner. My plans were to hike beautiful Mount Monadnock. It was a sunny glorious day for the hike up the mountain. Arrived at the Inn before dinner and was given my schedule with activities for the week.



My first impression was how do all these people know each other. Everyone was sitting at the family style long table were chatting away. After dinner, everyone moved to the comfortable living room to catch up with each other.

Starting on Monday, activities were twice a day at 10:00 and 2:00. During our crafting session with Jane, I layered fudge brownie mix ingredients in a mason jar, decorate the jar, and then attached the recipe card.

Everyone at the getaway had been coming for years. Some had been coming to the Inn with their families for 44, 46 years, and someone new this would be there third year. I was the newbie of the group being my first time except for my one day Granite State Ambassador tour I participated in.

There is so much to do or if you like then just rest and relaxation. You partake in activities as much as you like. On my second day I fell into the routine, breakfast from 8-9. But before breakfast I'd like to hang out in the dining room to check my emails for the day.

Fresh coffee is always waiting for you. There is no way to explain how good the food is. My first morning I served myself from the cart / table that's set up every morning with oatmeal, cereal, yogurt, fruit etc. After I was full from this I found out it was now time to order from the specials for breakfast. Then I ordered one of the specials, then tried one of their freshly baked muffins. By the second day you realize you don't need to order a special because this Inn is so accommodating you order whatever you like, eggs, toast and I had bacon every day. At the end of breakfast, after hearing your lunch choices, then you place your order. Always there is desert after lunch & dinner, with one choice being locally homemade ice cream. You never go hungry during the day either. There are two huge cookie jars filled with homemade treats, like cookies or muffins. Many of the meals are family style, served on platters that you take as much as you like and pass it down. Near the end of the week I would already be planning what I'd order for breakfast the next day.



The weather for the three days of the week was rainy but that didn't dampen our moods. One morning at 9:00 I went out to the barn to milk a goat. Then went to the chicken coop to look for eggs. Only found one that time. I don't know any other vacation that you leave with eggs. By the end of the week I had a half dozen to take home.

I can't say enough about the staff at the Inn. Everyone had worked there for years, I never in my life felt the warmth like I did there. The farm has been passed to the second generation to run. But the staff feel like part of that family. Since so many of our group have been going here so long, the staff make the extra effort, knowing their names, asking about families so much caring. You can tell it isn't just a job. I loved hanging out in the dining room between meals to be part of the

interactions that were taking place. Even the handyman introduced himself to me because I didn't look familiar but he knew everyone else and wanted to be of service to me during my stay if I needed anything.

There were a lot of laughs and silliness during my stay. Two nights we broke up into teams and played Family Feud. My team won the first night. Our prize was cozies to keep your soda cold in. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much that Nora found more questions and there was a rematch the second night. Our team ended up losing. I participated in yoga with Cindy, book club with Connie, intuitive readings and domino games.



Our last night our Gretchen came to the Inn, to have the group share travel tales. My only regret is that I hadn't brought a pen & paper to write down travel destinations and helpful hints.



Friday morning, Maribeth and I had a trail ride. Perry led us around. A few of the group came out to watch us. Hadn't been on a horse in decades. Some were staying on for lunch, I said my goodbyes and headed home.

When I got home, I set on the table my Fudge Brownie Mix, 3-d Felt Reggae man I made instead of the Nome, Two Monadnock Oils, I purchased, Cinnamon Raisin Bead I made, half dozen eggs, pictures I colored, book I finished reading and finds from local antiquing. I have met some wonderful men and women, shared so many laughs and told many stories. I'm left with the sadness of saying goodbye. Thursday night our last evening, everyone was talking about when they planned to come to the Inn again, many are coming for the April Get-a- way.

The next day after my vacation, I made French toast with the bread and eggs. Still have the farm in my head, until we meet again.

photos: East Hill Farm

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