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1112 WATERVILLE ROAD • SKOWHEGAN, MAINE 04976 • (207) 474-2254 • 1-800-339-2254
Serving our members for 57 years ~ 1953 – 2010

Editor: Lynn McClure,
Marketing Officer

Summer 2010

From the President's Desk

Happy Summer,

The last several months have been very busy. As you will see in this newsletter, we had our first Annual "Trek To Success." I would like to thank everyone that was involved in this huge undertaking. This could not have been done without our sponsors:

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- JC Penney
- Pleau's Market & Deli
- Winslow Fire Department
- McCormack Building Supply, Inc.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Denis

Karen M. Denis, *President/CEO*



Congratulations to Our Trek Winner and Finalists

Left to right: Cody Lachance, fourth place; Francis Flisuik, third place; Karen Denis, Taconnet FCU President/CEO; Forest Franzose, second place; and winner Jordan Taylor.

Complete Trek story on the inside.

Office Hours

Main Office

The **main office** at 316 Benton Avenue, Winslow, Maine is open:

8:00 am to 4:30 pm*
Monday – Friday

with the exception of federal holidays.

Telephone numbers are toll free 1-800-339-7909, or from the local calling area (207) 872-7909.

Branch Office

The **branch office** at 1112 Waterville Road, Skowhegan, Maine is open:

8:00 am to 4:30 pm*
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
CLOSED Tuesday

with the exception of federal holidays.

Telephone numbers are toll free 1-800-339-2254 or from the local calling area (207) 474-2254.

*Both offices are open until 6:00 pm on Thursdays.

Mail

Please address all mail to 316 Benton Ave., Winslow, ME. 04901-6712
Visit us on the web for a list of our services at www.taconnet.com

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Holiday Closings

Please be sure to watch the postings at the main and branch offices for holiday, or other closings.

The scheduled holiday closings before the receipt of your next quarterly newsletter are as follows:

Independence Day
Monday, July 5, 2010 (observed)

Labor Day
Monday, September 6, 2010

Taconnet's Trek To Success

by Lynn McClure



Trek to Success Teams

Top: Rebekah Kallgren, MCI; Cody Lachance, Winslow High School; Francis Flisuik, Eskine Academy; and Melissa Freeman, Winslow High School.

Second photo: Sam Seekins, Eskine Academy; Gus Moen, Home Student; Chandler Smith, Gardiner High School; and Naomi Miller, Cony High School.

Third photo: Evert Fowle, Erskine Academy; Ashley Jacobsen, Messalonskee High School; Dylan Atkins, Winslow High School; and Jamie Constanzer, Erskine Academy.

Bottom: Forest Franzose, Winslow High School; Kasandra Gilbert, Kennebec Valley High School; Stephen Morse, Erskine Academy, and Jordan Taylor, Skowhegan High School.

This summer's newsletter is devoted to our scholarship competition, Taconnet's Trek To Success. We want to share with you what a success it was and the great opportunity for scholarship money it offered to high school students in our field of membership. You will be seeing a lot about Taconnet's Trek To Success in the future, as it's going to be an annual event. It excites us to be unique in creating an opportunity to make a considerable financial contribution toward a student's education or to help open a door to a qualified student who otherwise felt the cost of college in today's economy was out of reach.

Let me take you back to late summer of 2009. Our president, Karen Denis, asked staff members who were interested in participating in a scholarship event to meet in her office after work one day. She proceeded to share with us her vision of this event.

It would be a mini *The Amazing Race* with many challenges that the students would have. This would involve transportation from challenge to challenge and she also threw in that we would have to come up with questions for the students as they were transported just like on *Cash Cab*. Feeling overwhelmed with the task we all kind of silently thought... what is she thinking? It was obvious with the look on our faces that we clearly thought she had lost it. As she started explaining how we would go about it, and that we would all have our own tasks and responsibilities, she won us over in true Karen style. The "Trek" became infectious.

Karen had already set a goal so we knew it was important to get sponsors to get on board with us. Also, our Board of Directors had confidence in the vision, and approved a substantial part of the scholarship money. It was decided that our winner would be given \$5,000, second place \$2,500, third place \$1,000 and fourth place \$500. The first thing to do was to get letters out to all of the high schools within our field of membership, which is all of Kennebec and Somerset Counties. To apply, the students were asked to write an essay about the individual that they felt had been the most influential in their lives. We were looking for four teams of four and got many applications from a variety of schools. Karen asked a panel of professional area business people to serve as the judges. They were given the essays without knowing the student's name or the name of the school they attended. They picked the perfect students that had many strengths that all complimented each other and worked well together. There would be three consecutive Saturdays: April 17, April 24, and May 1. They were not told what the different challenges would be, only that they would be both mental and physical. The first Saturday they were broken up into teams.



Colby College Library Challenge

They were driven to Colby Library for a very difficult library challenge with the help of enthusiastic Colby librarians. Then they were off to three different locations which was literally the luck of which location they drew as a team. Marden's, Pleau's Market, Kmart, and JC Penney. They had to sell resin bracelets, like the Lance Armstrong Be Strong bracelet for cancer. The money they raised with their bracelets went to the Kidney Foundation, Children's Cancer, Special Olympics, and Ending Hunger. They learned how difficult a "cold sale" can be but were done in record time. They had to sell \$200 worth in less than two hours. All the volunteers were shocked when each team piled into their cars and were on their way in under an hour. Then they were off to Granite Leisure Time in Oakland where they had to maneuver



Charity Selling Challenge



Granite Leisure Time Physical Challenge

remote cars on a difficult course and then went outside to real physical challenges. To give you an idea, each team member had to get into full fire gear and holding a fully charged heavy fire hose, knock over a target. Not an easy task for a tiny girl working hard next to a football player but they all did it. Whew, the first week was done and everyone survived. We all looked forward to the next Saturday.

The next Saturday we met in the parking lot for a hieroglyphics puzzle challenge. The teams had to find bags of large pieces of puzzle that were hidden around the building and find the phrase within the puzzle "Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it." As the phrase came together they left to go to Winslow Library for a math challenge and then on to the Winslow Rec Center for a spelling and geography challenge. At this point two teams were eliminated and we were down to four individuals, Cody Lachance, Jordan Taylor, Forest Franzose, and Francis Flisuik. We knew the next week we would know who would be the winner of the \$5,000.



Granite Leisure Time Physical Challenge

The last and final Saturday the final four were whisked off to Fortin's Home Furnishings for a memory challenge. They were assigned a color, and the items in the store that were flagged with that color they had to remember and run to a table in the parking lot to write down their items. When the first student was done it was off to the Point Afta for a food challenge. Blindfolded, they had to taste an array of food samples that all had been pureed to the same consistency... pureed hot dog... AWFUL! Once they had guessed ten out of twelve foods correctly they were driven to the last and final challenge. At the Winslow fire station (very appropriate) they had to light a flame with flint, ignite twine held between two poles until the fire broke through

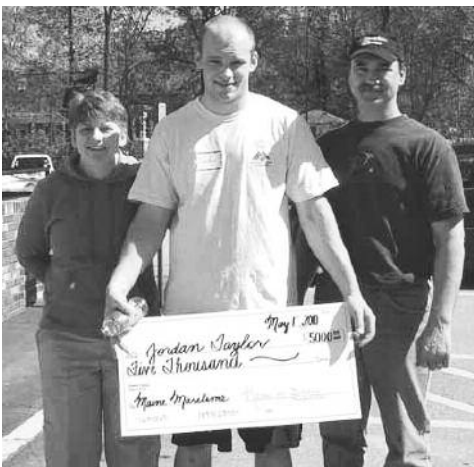


Point Afta Food Challenge

the twine. They then had to run on foot, about a quarter of a mile up the street to Tacconnet and break through the finish line ribbon. **Jordan Taylor** from Skowhegan High School was the \$5,000 winner. Jordan will be attending Maine Maritime Academy. Second place was **Forest Franzose** from Winslow High School, who won \$2,500. He will be attending Northeastern. **Francis Flisuik** of Erskine Academy, won \$1,000. Francis will be attending UNE. **Cody Lachance** of Winslow High School won \$500 and will be attending UMO. Congratulations to all of them, and to every Trek team member. You were all troopers.



Winslow Fire Station Challenge



Winner Jordan Taylor with his parents Carol and James

Well, this gives our members an overview of a great scholarship opportunity that we feel is an especially good fit in the midst of the current economic conditions. This doesn't give you the full picture though. You had to be there to see how a group of high school students came together, didn't know each other, but worked so well together. They experienced a lot of growing through this, and the sportsmanship was outstanding and remarkable to see. Very different then all the negative we read about.

(continued on back)

Introducing the Credit Union Service Centers Call Center

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CU SERVICE CENTERS

The Member-Friendly Financial Network

Voice of the People Column from the Morning Sentinel

Morning Sentinel

May 29

Taconnet's Trek to Success fun way to earn scholarship

Our son had the opportunity to compete for a \$5,000 scholarship through Taconnet Federal Credit Union, called Taconnet's Trek to Success. This was a three-day competition that was a blend of the "Amazing Race" and "Cash Cab."

All 16 contestants who began the race had chances to win cash while being driven to their next challenge. The four students remaining on the final day competed for four different scholarships.

This completion required a tremendous amount of organization and effort from Taconnet's employees and sponsors. The friends and volunteers made it obvious that they were there to encourage everyone.

We would like to thank Taconnet Federal Credit Union and their generous sponsors who made this Taconnet's Trek To Success an exciting and fun way to earn a scholarship.

Their commitment to education and the community students were really appreciated.

Carol and Jim Taylor

Taconnet Staff

Karen Denis, *President / CEO*

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Vice President

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Ronald Soule, *Credit Com.*

Armand Caron, *Credit Com.*

Karen Denis, *President / CEO*

Taconnet's Trek to Success (continued from page 3)

We can't leave out what nice young people they were, polite, and grateful to have been chosen even though some were eliminated right away.

Not to toot our own horn, but I've included Carol and Jim Taylor's letter in the Voice of the People's May 29 *Morning Sentinel* column. They are Jordan Taylor's parents. In talking to Jim, even though Jordan did end up winning, they fully intended on writing the letter after the first Saturday of the Trek. We are truly grateful for the Taylor's letter and it has given us even more encouragement to go forward in making the Trek an annual event.

Please keep your eyes peeled for future ads about Taconnet's Trek to Success, and next spring when we begin with a brand new Trek challenge think about volunteering. You will have a great time with staff and students. We have hot dog get togethers after each one as well as a great banquet at the end. We enjoyed photos and shared what a fun experience it had been for all of us. We couldn't have done it without our generous sponsors who truly showed faith in us. Also, the great sports Taconnet's Board members were in feeding the masses when they returned at the end of each Trek Saturday hungry and tired. We had some random members who helped and we appreciated everything you did. You all made Taconnet's Trek to Success a true **Success**.

Say Hello to SURF Dude and Say Goodbye to ATM Fees!

The surcharge free ATM network that you have come to rely on has a new look! Now, when you see SURF Dude, you know that you're in the SURF Zone— and that means no ATM fees!



Because Taconnet FCU is part of the SURF ATM Network, you can save at least an average of \$300 a year on surcharge fees at over 200 ATM locations throughout Maine, one of the largest ATM networks in the state. With the SURF network, 'no fees' means just that—not only will you see no fees at your ATM, there are no hidden fees anywhere else! In addition, a number of SURF ATM locations give thousands of Maine credit union members the ability to not only access cash but to also make deposits, surcharge free.

The SURF ATM Network now includes over 90% of the state's 67 credit unions, meaning a SURF Zone is never far away!

For a complete listing of the SURF ATM locations in Maine where you can find SURF Dude, visit www.mainecreditunions.org and click on "Find an ATM".

Summer Entertaining on a Budget

Lean economic times don't have to put a damper on having fun. In fact, gatherings with family and friends can help us keep a healthy perspective and stay on budget at the same time. Here are some ways to keep things affordable.

Throw a potluck party. Invite family or friends over and ask everyone to bring their favorite dish to share, or have a theme -- appetizers and desserts, ethnic foods, make your own pizza or a wine and cheese tasting come to mind.

Have a BYO Barbecue. Fire up the grill and let your guests bring their own food for the evening. If you don't own a grill, you might be able to borrow one from a friend or neighbor.

Host a movie or game night. People love to laugh! Watch a funny movie or play charades or a board game with a group of friends or family. Make popcorn for your guests to snack on or have each guest bring a snack to share.

Have friends over to cook together. Plan a meal with a small group of friends and cook it together. You can split the group in half and have one group do the cooking and the other do the clean up.

Picnic in the park. Get out of the house and enjoy the summer weather. Gather friends for a picnic and games in a nearby park.