

will offer a spring concert
o.m. Saturday on the col-
standish campus.
ree concert will include
y Simon and Garfunkel and
ttles, pieces by Mozart and
ns from "Phantom of the

the "Save Seafood Tour" is
resented from 7 to 9 p.m.
y on the Standish campus.
r is a joint project of Seafod
a Monterey Bay Aquarium
n, and Bon Appétit food ser-
mpany.

h how the dramatic increase
od demand is placing enor-
ress on the world's oceans
v fishing practices can
y damage the environment
mpromise seafood quality.
e will be a 30-minute film
ing of "Can the Oceans Keep
the Hunt?" and a talk
ustainability by Stuart Leck-
ral manager of Bon Appétit
rvices at the college.

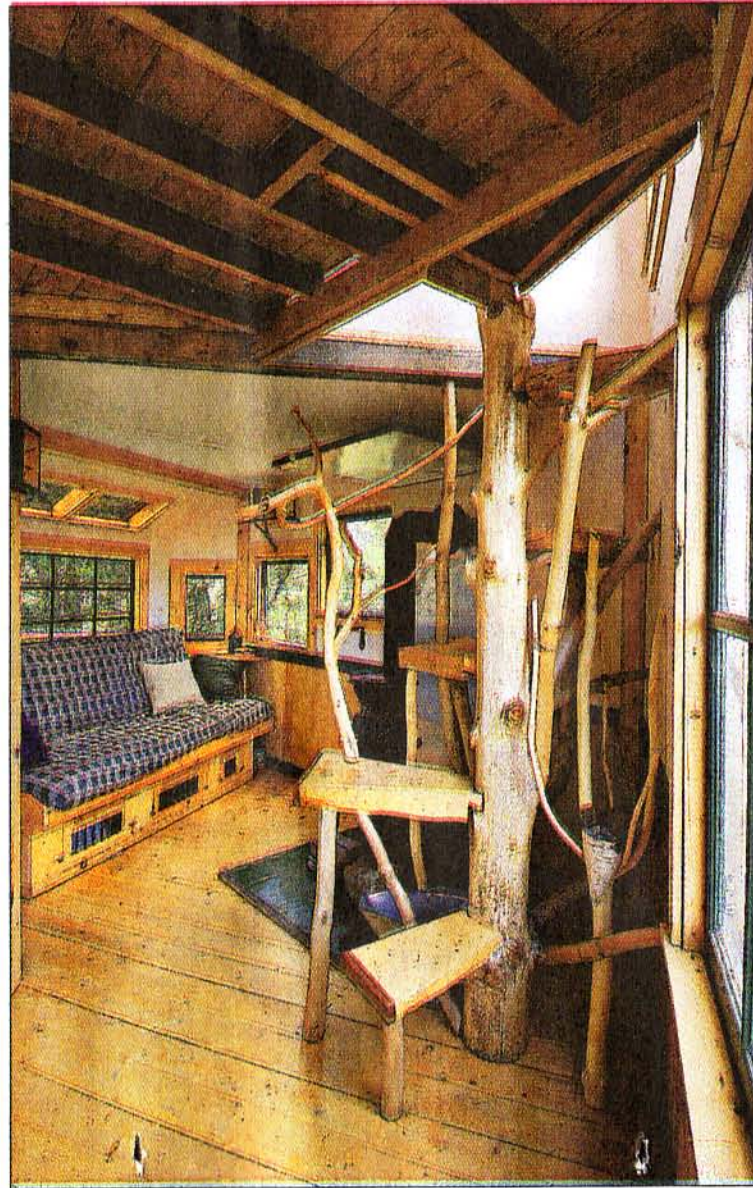
oétit will also host a recep-
h a variety of sustainable
ncluding dessert.
events are free and take
the Viola George Audito-
Harold Alford Hall.
ore information, call 893-



Staff photos by John Ewing

S. Peter Lewis collaborated with artist T.B.R. Walsh to create "Treehouse Chronicles: One Man's Dream of Life Aloft," a journal of his experience building the treehouse shown in the background.

A sitting area with a wood stove occupies the first floor, where a unique stairway spirals to the second floor chess room.



Dream house is height of wonder

Peter Lewis' treehouse is a place of refuge and delight - 40 feet above the ground.

By **PAUL LIVINGSTONE**
News Assistant

S. Peter Lewis has squirrel trouble. One in particular, "Vinnie," has haunted him since he started building his new house. He always finds a way inside and leaves a mess of chewed wood and scat.

"He's like a favorite uncle who visits too often, leaves the refrigerator door open, burns holes in the couch with his cigars but tells great stories," Lewis wrote in a recent book about the building. Wildlife is to be expected, he said, and it's a small price to pay when you are defying gravity.

Currently a publisher with TMC Books in North Conway, N.H., Lewis was taken by the idea of recreating a childhood pleasure - the treehouse - in an adult-sized package. Returning to New England after running a nonprofit in

Colorado, he found a large, forked white pine on the grounds of his Bridgton farmhouse. He mentioned the concept to his father in 2001, who quickly had a solution - hang the treehouse. Four years and untold work hours later, the so-called "Uppermost House" still causes passing motorists to slam on the brakes.

"People are always stopping. It's incongruous. It's a house in a tree, and it doesn't look right," said Lewis, who is often asked why he built it and what happens if it falls down. "You can see this funny look on their faces. Lots of people tell me sternly that I have a wood stove in a tree. Then you get them up in it and they change and they get quiet and their eyes get big. Then they start to get it."

A complex drawbridge mechanism links the stairway to the two-story retreat. Wood floors, a couch, a stove, a spiral staircase, and even branches growing through the walls conspire to impress

Please see **TREEHOUSE**, Page 16

UNITY ERS

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aturday, North
emorial
North Street and Route 114,
a. Adults: \$6; children: \$7;
der 6: free.



TREEHOUSE

Continued from Page F1

visitors. No bolts are in the tree – cables are draped over the fork, suspending the 6,000-pound tongue-and-groove framework 40 feet above the ground.

"It's too high for ladders. Everything was done by hanging from ropes," said the former climbing instructor with Eastern Mountain Sports. Lewis and his teenage son Jeremiah were comfortable among the birds and squirrels, but "actually doing work was difficult. I was forever dropping things. By the end of the summer I got smart and stuck a bunch of pencils under my hat," he said. Lewis also fell once, but his rope experience saved him.

He was also aided by his friend and business partner T.B.R. Walsh, who conceived a number of engineering solutions and illustrated their book, "Treehouse Chronicles: One Man's Dream of Life Aloft."

"When the weather's nice, I'm up there almost every day. It would be better as an office if I hadn't put in a couch. I go up with a laptop and would get more done if that wasn't such a good sleeping spot," he said.

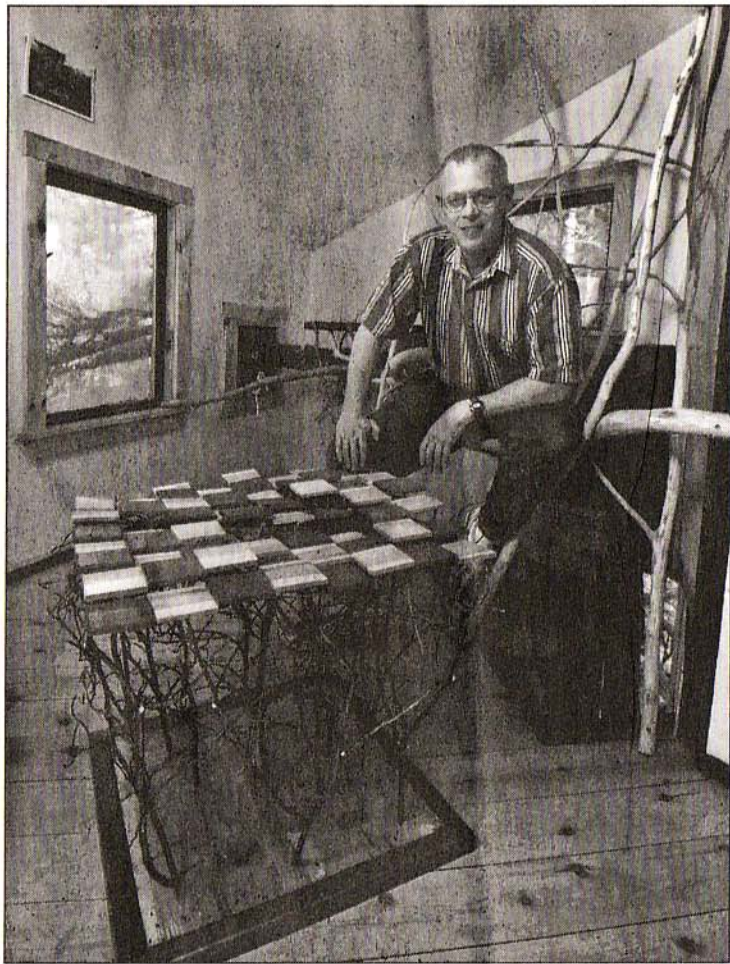
News Assistant Paul Livingstone can be contacted at 791-6308 or at:

plivingstone@pressherald.com

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

"TREEHOUSE Chronicles: One Man's Dream of Life Aloft" by S. Peter Lewis and T.B.R. Lewis is available in major bookstores and through Web sites such as Amazon.com. It's also available through Lewis' publisher, TMC Books, at www.tmcbooks.com. **LEWIS BUILT** his treehouse on his own, he said, but has since connected with several experts, including some at the TreeHouse Workshop in Washington state. To see more treehouses, visit www.treehouseworkshop.com.

LEWIS SAID his new office space, just north of town on Route 93, never fails to generate a reaction. "Initially I was very leery of publicizing where we were," said Lewis. But most people are just curious, he said, and he's open to giving tours. He encourages people to contact him first at 603-447-5589.



Staff photo by John Ewing

S. Peter Lewis with a whimsical chess board created by his friend T.B.R. Walsh, who collaborated with him on "Treehouse Chronicles: One Man's Dream of Life Aloft."