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Granite Hill Estates to host annual Taste of Chocolate event Feb. 12

To commemorate Valentine's Day, **Granite Hill Estates** (GHE) will host its Annual Taste of Chocolate on Friday, Feb.12, from 1-3 p.m. The event will be held in the Maine Lodge Dining Room. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

"We look forward to sharing this taste of sweet living at Valentine's Day," said Jennifer Fleck, GHE's executive director. "(Chef Joe Thornton) goes unsung most of the year. So, since chocolate is one of his favorite things to work with, we relish the opportunity to share his treats with the community."

The Taste of Chocolate will feature an array of Thornton's desserts and other chocolate treats.

Thornton — known affectionately as Chef Joey — has been at Granite Hill Estates for more than seven years. After getting his start selling hot dogs in Freeport, Thornton received formal training in the U.S. Army as a food service specialist with the 101st Airborne Division.

After tours in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm — and in Homestead, Florida, in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew — Thornton left the Army to earn in a culinary arts degree from the Florida Culinary Institute in West Palm Beach.

For more information about the Taste of Chocolate, please call Steve Roy at 626-7786.