



*Skyline Farm Trustee Lynn Young takes over the reins at 2009 Plow Day.  
Howard Cederlund photo*

# Down The Lane



SKYLINE FARM  
95 The Lane  
North Yarmouth, Maine  
(207) 829-9203  
[www.skylinefarm.org](http://www.skylinefarm.org)

SPRING 2010

## Skyline Farm and 'Bound By Books' Interpret Anna Sewell's Black Beauty

### *Skyline Farm and Bound By Books*

#### *Interpret Anna Sewell's world famous story*

#### **Black Beauty**

*Spring/Summer Carriage Museum Exhibit - 1 to 4 pm  
Each Sunday, May 16 through August 22 (closed July 4)*

Following in the hoof prints of Skyline's terrific 2009 exhibit based on Edith Wharton's book, The Age of Innocence, the museum will again base the next exhibit on a book. Black Beauty, written by Anna Sewell and published in England in 1877, changed the way the world looked at the animals who provided the horse power to move people and goods in the era of horse drawn transportation. Depending on the owner, the driver, and the task at hand, the life of a horse could range from pleasant to downright horrible. Anna Sewell chronicles the life of the foal named Black Beauty from his early life with his mother and a good master through the rest of his life, which at times involved great pain and hardship.

Black Beauty himself, in an autobiography of sorts, tells the story which sold millions of copies world wide. Anna Sewell's keen observations of people and horses moves the story along as Black Beauty grows up and is sold, well trained to be ridden and driven, and then sold again and again as he ages and his jobs become more and more difficult. We meet his horse companions Ginger and Merrylegs and the many people who are responsible for their care, including the good and, very sadly, the bad.

The exhibit will cover several periods during Black Beauty's life showcasing our New England carriages similar to the ones mentioned in the book which was set in Old England.

Anna Sewell's intentions in writing the book were to highlight the plight of "dumb" animals in service to people. In addition to how horses were treated, she was very concerned about the use of a piece of harness which connected the horse's bridle to the saddle of the harness. This piece, called an overcheck or check rein, when tightened up cruelly forced the horse to carry his head and neck in an almost inverted position. In this checked-up position, the horse had diminished strength to do his work, tired easily, and was just plain worn out from never-ending work and discomfort.

There will be two book discussions, led by Lisa M. Winfrey of Bound By Books, Brunswick, Maine to delve into all aspects of Sewell's book. Set for June 13<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>, these discussions will take place in the Visitor Center at 3:30 pm giving participants time to view the exhibit before joining in the discussions.

If you have never read Black Beauty or if you can't remember if you've read it, please get a copy, preferably an unabridged copy, so that you don't miss any of Anna Sewell's observations about a time gone by. It's an amazing and heartfelt story of a dear horse who never forgot his mother's advice to "grow up gentle and good....to do your work with a good will, lift your feet up well when you trot, and never bite or kick even in play." Black Beauty lived his life according to this sage advice even when he had every reason to bite, kick, and even run away.

Please join us for this new exhibit opening Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Free admission, donations gratefully accepted. For more information, call Sheila Libby Alexander, 207-799-7614.

Read about the inspiration for this exhibit on page 5.

## **Maine Community Heritage Project (MCHP): Unveiling the New Community Website**

By Pamela Ames

On Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, come to Skyline Farm and celebrate our involvement in MCHP. See the results of the Maine Community Heritage Project team's work in which we created a website describing a synopsis of the history of two towns - North Yarmouth, including Skyline Farm, and Cumberland. However, it is just the tip of the iceberg! Long ago, Cumberland and North Yarmouth were part of one town, Ancient North Yarmouth. We separated in 1821, but our common roots remain. We're more alike than different and ... our history tells the tale.

During the evening we'll explain how the work was accomplished and introduce those who made it possible. We will describe our project goals, activities, and work with Greely Middle School's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. You will see a presentation of the new Cumberland/

North Yarmouth website which will be unveiled soon on Maine Memory Network

As a reminder, last summer Cumberland/North Yarmouth was awarded a grant from the Maine Historical Society, in collaboration with the Maine State Library, to create a series of electronic presentations on the rich history of our towns. In addition to Skyline Farm, participating organizations include North Yarmouth Historical Society, Cumberland Historical Society, Greely Middle School, Prince Memorial Library, and the Towns of North Yarmouth and Cumberland.

In looking to the future, we encourage you to use the website and welcome your help with ideas and information as we add more exhibits detailing our towns' interesting histories, especially as they relate to Skyline Farm. Spread the word!

Light supper fare will be provided. To RSVP, please call (207) 829-2215 or email nyhs@maine.rr.com

Come join us, neighbors - All together now!

## Sincerest Thanks to Annual Appeal Donors!

The Board of Trustees would like to publicly thank these donors who recently sent contributions to Skyline Farm in response to the Annual Appeal, which now totals \$7,700 or 25% of our total annual expenses. *Thank you!*

### \$100 or more:

Ann and Greg Cuffey  
Cathy and Dick Dolloff  
Maureen Gorman  
Heidi and David Kleban  
unum Matching Gifts Program-Heidi Kleban  
Margaret and Richard Totten

### Less than \$100:

Bunny Andrews  
Steve Aylward  
Fred Burk, Burk's Buggy Repair Shop  
Beth Carlson  
Barbara and Barry Corriveau  
Mary Gertrude Keech  
Kathy and David Stager

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**Plow Day 2 - Saturday, May 8 (rain date May 15)**

9:00 am into afternoon; Free and open to the public.

On Saturday, May 8, teams of draft horses – some weighing nearly a ton – are to plow and harrow several acres of Skyline Farm’s southwestern pasture in preparation for the 2010 growing season. After watching these masses of muscle turn the earth, spectators should gain a new appreciation of horsepower.

Justin Deri of Deri Farm, which is located at Skyline Farm, will plant the beds in vegetables, flowers and grain crops for his Community Supported Agriculture business.

Skyline Farm, Deri Farm and the Farmers Draft Horse, Mule and Pony Club of Maine are sponsoring the demonstration, which is free and open to the public. The teams and teamsters will begin at 9 a.m. and finish sometime in the afternoon. Refreshments will be for sale. Horse drawn wagons will carry spectators to the demonstration area. The teamsters will describe the proceedings and answer questions. In case of rain, the event will occur on Saturday, May 15.

Deri said he is happy to be working with the teamsters as using horses is a perfect fit with the CSA model and experience. One goal of a CSA is to better connect people with the land that the food grows on. Watching horses work the ground helps people to understand that connection.

Farmers have been using draft animals to farm for centuries, said Luther Gray, one of the teamsters who will be participating in the event with a team of draft horses. They are bred to be strong, solid and hard-working and a willing partner with the farmer.

“These hosses were born to work,” said Gray. “They love it.”

There are several different breeds of draft horses. Perhaps the most well-known breed is the Clydesdale with its feathery white fetlocks and made famous by Budweiser commercials. The most common working

draft horses are the black or dapple gray Percherons and the sorrel brown Belgians, both which can stand more than 5 feet tall and weight up to a ton.

The Farmers Draft Horse, Mule and Pony Club promotes the enjoyment and use of draft horses throughout northern New England by organizing draft horse related events including

sleigh rides, wagon drives, and plowing days.

Deri is an organic farmer who operates a Community Supported Agriculture model at Skyline Farm. A CSA consists of a community of shareholders who purchase a farm share in advance, and in turn receive a weekly farm share distributed throughout the growing season.

Skyline Farm is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, community-based organization providing educational and recreational programs based on the role of horse-drawn transportation in the cultural, social, and economic development of New England.

Directions: From the junction of Routes 9 and 115 (Walnut Hill), turn at the “Ames Farm Center” sign onto The Lane. Drive 0.5 mile and Skyline Farm will be on your right. Parking is available here and along the roadside where permitted.

For more information, call (207) 829-3624 or refer to <http://derifarm.com>.



*Skilled plowman J. Luther Gray and his team demonstrate how to cut deep grass to prepare the ground for planting. Skyline Farm appears in the background.*

*Leah Mahoney photo*

The first of three carriage driving clinics to be taught by Patsy O'Brien and Judith Bean-Calhoun will take place at Skyline Farm on Saturday, June 5. The second will take place on July 17 at Snowfields in Pownal, ME and the third on August 14 back at Skyline Farm.

The clinics will give you instruction in basic driving skills, dressage and some exercises with cones and obstacles to make it fun for you and your horse.

The day will start 9:00 am, and each driver will be assigned a specific hour. Helmets, gloves and a whip will be required. The format will be 45 minutes with Judith

in the ring and 45 with Patsy doing cones and maybe some hazards if the footing permits. The fee is \$60 for the day.

Please complete the entry form available online at [www.skylinefarm.org](http://www.skylinefarm.org) and send it with a check made payable to "Skyline Farm" plus copies of Coggins and vaccination records. Mail to: Patsy O'Brien, 450 Lawrence Rd, Pownal ME 04069.

If you have any questions, please contact Patsy O'Brien (207) 688-4748, Judith Bean-Calhoun (207) 375-4461, or [info@skylinefarm.org](mailto:info@skylinefarm.org).

## Sleigh Day - 11<sup>th</sup> Annual - February 6 by Pamela Ames



*J. Luther Gray helps some of the Red Hat Society ladies disembark the sleigh.*

*Patti Mikkelsen photo*



*A team of Percherons being skillfully driven around the scantily snow-covered field at Sleigh Day.*

*John Bald photo, johnbald.net*

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, February 6<sup>th</sup>, Skyline Farm hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Sleigh Day concurrent with giving rides in a large sleigh drawn by a handsome pair of Percherons driven by J. Luther Gray of Monmouth.

Although the snow cover was sparse, the outdoor arena was groomed well enough for five sleighs to glide through these classes: Open Horse, Open Pony, Obstacles, and Currier & Ives. Five drivers demonstrated their talent, navigating their horses and sleighs around cones and driving their sleighs by an appreciative audience, including two Red Hat Society groups from Maine.

Lynn Young organized the event and had support from fellow Skyline trustees Judith Bean-Calhoun who was the judge and Les Peters who was the announcer. Skyline volunteer Annie Craig was the Ringmaster. This sleigh driving demonstration provided a unique opportunity to get a firsthand glimpse of the glorious days of the horse-drawn transportation age and see three sleighs from Skyline's sleigh and carriage collection come alive!

Skyline Farm Carriage Museum's "Sleighs, Sleds, & Sounds" exhibit depicted winter in the 1800's from a child's perspective. Visitors saw vehicles that children might have driven, put to various animals, such as dogs, steer and horses.

As part of Erin Bishop's newly-developed education program, children tried on various antique winter apparel, rang various sleigh bells, assembled a harness on a model pony, and worked on activity sheets that were displayed during the exhibit. As in years past, there was a sleigh that people could sit in and grab weighted reins to simulate driving a real horse.

The exhibit featured single and double seat sleighs, a school bus sleigh, a sidewalk snow roller, and various types of sleigh heaters and "third seats". Vehicles from Skyline's core collection were also on display.

Two days before Sleigh Day, 41 people from the area recreation departments visited Skyline to enjoy a sleigh ride around the field and tour of the museum. Their enthusiastic reactions boded well for the success of Sleigh Day and winter exhibit.

*When books meet horses...*

After seeing a flyer at work one day last year, I decided to go to Skyline Farm to see their exhibit on The Age of Innocence, Edith Wharton's famous novel and featured book of The National Endowment for the Arts' "Big Read." I was intrigued because reading and horses are two of my great loves. The exhibit had carriages displayed in vignettes with quotes directly from the book. I couldn't resist. One rainy Sunday I made the drive and had the whole place to myself with the two trustees on duty.

I was completely blown away by the exhibit; it was so well put together, interesting and informative. As I was led through by the two docents, I chatted incessantly and contemplated another book the museum could use as a base for a future exhibition. Anna Sewell's Black Beauty immediately came to mind. The docents encouraged me to present my idea to Skyline's president.

About two months later I sent an e-mail to President Pamela Ames asking if I could make a presentation to the board of trustees regarding my idea for a Black Beauty exhibit. Pam agreed. I read three versions of the book and made notes about which carriages were mentioned. I read Anna Sewell's biography as well.

As the Executive Administrator of Bound by Books, my newly formed book discussion organization, I took my presentation to the board and was told that they were interested.

From there I communicated by e-mail with the board members until we met again in March to begin the detailed planning for the opening.

I feel this will be a wonderful partnership with a book that appeals to all ages. Bound By Books hopes to continue the relationship with Skyline Farm and bring more exhibits to the public which pair reading with museum exhibitions.

**Collection Corner: ONE HUNDRED!** by Gregory Cuffey**ONE HUNDRED!**

When Skyline was conceived, its horse-drawn vehicle collection numbered approximately 40. Today the number of diverse carriages and sleighs has blossomed to 100. This exciting milestone has been achieved through several recent acquisitions and donations.

We thank recent contributors, including Sut and Margaret Marshall of Conway, New Hampshire, who donated six vehicles including the Snow Roller and Oil Delivery Wagon (pictured). Also, The Maine State Museum for deaccessioning a wicker Governess Cart with vintage photos. The cart was owned/used by George Blanchard of Cumberland Foreside. Many of the recent additions strengthen our sleigh and commercial vehicle collections. In addition to vehicles, several equine related accoutrements have also been added: a harness makers bench, sleigh robes, and a vintage life-size harness

makers model horse.

Each year the museum presents several new exhibits. We strive to showcase as many "unseen" vehicles from the collection as possible, as well as borrow select vehicles from Skyline supporters' collections. This is as much fun for the Collection Committee as for the viewing public! With so many vehicles to choose from, the exhibits will always stay fresh for many years to come.

In other recent collection news, our 2010 winter exhibit and each new exhibit will continue on because of school lesson plans created and implemented by Erin Bishop. Storage building climates have been improved and a four year project completed - top quality photos taken of the entire vehicle collection. In the coming months look for them on our website. We hope this new online resource will be helpful to researchers around the globe.



*A snow roller, circa 1920, was donated by the Marshall family and rebuilt by Gregory Cuffey. Patti Mikkelsen photo*



*An Oil Delivery Wagon donated by the Marshall family adds to the diversity of Skyline Farm's collection.*

*John Sowles photo*

**JULY 10, 2010 - SAVE THE DATE!*****Skyline Summer Celebration, 8th Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, July 10, 2010, 1-9 p.m.***

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- 1-4 p.m. Barn Sale, featuring carriages, sleighs, antiques, and collectibles from the public.
- 1-8:30 Silent Auction, featuring tasteful items such as a Cabot Cheese Gift Basket (\$75 value), donated by Cabot Creamery.
- 4-6 Benefit dinner, \$50/person, includes a Musical Introduction by Bagpiper Jeff Herbster, includes Social Hour, and Lobster Bake (or sirloin steak or BBQ chicken dinner) served by Finest Kind Caterers at 5 p.m.
- 6-9 Dessert Buffet (for a separate donation) will be held inside the museum surrounded by the Black Beauty exhibit. Live musical entertainment.
- 7-8 Horse-drawn Carriage Rides for \$10/person or \$20/family. A photo opportunity!
- 8:45 Silent Auction winners announced. (Visa and MasterCard are accepted.)

*All proceeds benefit Skyline Farm's operational expenses.*

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Come join Skyline Farm for its Eighth Annual summer fundraiser in the field with a slightly different, and hopefully much improved, format. You can still find some of your favorite aspects of the day continuing ...

Instead of an auction in the morning, we've closed the gap in the day and will sell carriages, sleighs, antiques, and collectibles that we have received from the public in a "Barn Sale" format in the afternoon.

Back by popular demand will be the Lobster Bake, set out in the field where guests can enjoy the farm's beautiful vistas. A complete lobster, steak, or chicken feast, presented by Finest Kind Caterers of North Yarmouth, costs only \$50 per person (which includes a tax-deductible donation to Skyline Farm).

Another new feature is the Dessert Buffet and Wine Social inside the museum (for a separate donation). Skyline Summer Celebration is Skyline Farm's biggest event and an important fundraiser that helps us sustain our activities throughout the year.

Once again Trustees Diana Logan and Kristi Wright will spearhead gathering interesting Silent Auction items from local businesses and Skyline supporters that will generate lots of attention from the crowd.

Come at 1 p.m. and look over the assortment of donated items for sale. You no longer have to wait for your coveted item to be put up on the auction block; you can now buy it on the spot! There will be a wide variety of "must have" collectibles at this Barn Sale.

At 4 p.m. Jeff Herbster of Brunswick will kickoff the Social Hour with a bagpipe performance to greet you. Please bring your own beverage and join us for a Social Hour, during which we'll continue the Silent Auction of enticing items from Skyline's supporters. Then be prepared to enjoy your meal overlooking Skyline's sunlit fields while enjoying a perfect summer evening in Maine.

Ginny Anderson's crew of Finest Kind Caterers will be preparing a traditional Maine Lobster Bake, so you can see how it's done! The lobster option will offer lobsters and clams. In addition, we will have a sirloin steak or BBQ chicken option for those who'd like to have a change of pace (or combine with a partner for a surf 'n turf!). In any case, your meal includes corn-on-the-cob, baked red potatoes, coleslaw, blueberry cake, lemonade, and coffee. We will have available macaroni and cheese for the kids.

After dinner, join other friends of the Farm and soak up the sounds of local musicians as you continue to bid on the Silent Auction. A Dessert Buffet will be offered on a donation basis, so you can extend your evening and enjoy the conviviality of being with other like-minded supporters!

Also offered for a modest fee, Trustees will offer carriage rides around Skyline's property. Photo opportunities of people in antique carriages will abound!

Don't wait - Please place your dinner reservations anytime now, but definitely by July 5<sup>th</sup>, with Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 or [info@skylinefarm.org](mailto:info@skylinefarm.org).



## Skyline Farm Membership Form

Your membership is effective through April 30 of next year, so join now!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership Levels:     \$25 Student     \$35 Individual     \$50 Family     \$100 Participating  
Equine Membership Levels:     \$40 Student     \$50 Individual     \$90 Family     Other gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to 'Skyline Farm' and send to: Skyline Farm, PO Box 144, Yarmouth, ME 04096

Skyline Farm is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your membership support is appreciated.

**New Opportunity!** I'd also like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help with building improvements to Skyline's three carriage bays.

## Facilities Update: Bay Reconstruction

Three bays located behind the carriage and sleigh museum lodge the vehicles that are not appearing in a current exhibit. It is essential that these treasures are protected from the weather for their preservation.

To that end, contractor and Skyline Farm Trustee Gregory Cuffey, assisted by Dave Libby, performed much-needed improvements to Bay #3, including reconstructing its roof system to ensure that it is leak-proof.

Also, automatic gable vent fans, ready

to blow out the summer heat, were installed in all three bays. The carpenters added a new shelf in Bay #3 to hold seven more pony carriages or sleighs and created a double wall system to reflect heat upward.

If you agree that these building improvements are important in preserving Skyline's collection, please send a gift using the above form. So far, we have raised half of the \$26,000 necessary to continue this important work.



*The first section of Bay #3's roof being replaced by Gregory Cuffey and Dave Libby.*

*Pamela Ames photo*

## Survival of Maine Carriage Days Depends on YOU! by Mary Fowler

### ***Survival of Maine Carriage Days depends on YOU!***

Hello, Maine Carriage Days 2010 is fast approaching. The 2010 date will be September 18 & 19<sup>th</sup> at Topsham Fairgrounds. This new and earlier date will provide far less conflicts than the October date had and should provide a better opportunity for nice weather to boot!

As the event organizer, I have assembled a good start of a volunteer base for this event, but much more manpower will be needed. There is a huge variety of ways to help both in advance of the show, during the show, and after the show.

Your assistance can be as deeply involved or as little as you want. There is something for EVERYONE. Even if you have just one or two hours sometime between now and September, it will make a difference.

We need many volunteers for activities that need to take place well in advance of the show: mailings, phone calls, program and graphic work, poster distribution, etc. Even grounds prep is an advance activity.

To volunteer to help with this prestigious event, now in its 33rd year, please call Mary Fowler (207) 865-2047.



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The lack of snow doesn't faze Donnie Strawbridge and Ellie Whittier who enjoy working on their activity sheets at the "Sledding (or not) Party". Linda Whittier photo

**2010 SKYLINE FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS - All are open to the public.**

All event proceeds benefit Skyline Farm, a nonprofit organization, which owns an historic farmstead, including a carriage and sleigh museum, and offers trails through its woods and fields for public use. FMI: Call event chair, go to [www.skylinefarm.org](http://www.skylinefarm.org), [info@skylinefarm.org](mailto:info@skylinefarm.org), or (207) 829-9203 (leave message).

<p><b>May 8</b> (rain date May 15)</p>	<p><b>Plow Day 2 with Deri Farm</b> 9 am-afternoon A demonstration of how teams of draft horses pull various plows and harrows through the fields. Free. Refreshments available for purchase. Info: Justin Deri, (207) 829-3624 (see page 3)</p>	<p><b>July 10</b></p>	<p><b>Skyline Summer Celebration: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual</b> Come join Skyline Farm for its annual summer fundraiser in the field with a much-improved format. 1-4 pm Barn Sale (replaces the morning auction) 1-8:30 pm Silent Auction of a wide array of items 4-6 pm Traditional Maine Lobster Bake 6-9 pm Dessert Buffet with live music 7-8 pm Horse-drawn Carriage Rides 8:45 pm Silent Auction winners announced. All proceeds benefit Skyline Farm's operational expenses. Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 (see page 6)</p>
<p><b>May 16</b> thru <b>Aug. 22</b></p>	<p><b>Skyline Farm and Bound By Books Interpret Anna Sewell's <u>Black Beauty</u>, a Carriage Museum Exhibit</b> Sundays, 1-4 pm (closed July 4) The exhibit will cover several periods during Black Beauty's life showcasing our New England carriages similar to the ones mentioned in the book which was set in Old England. Free admission; donations gratefully accepted. Info: Sheila Alexander, (207) 799-7614 (see page 1)</p>	<p>July 17</p>	<p>Carriage Driving Clinic at Snowfields, Pownal, ME</p>
<p><b>June 5</b></p>	<p><b>Carriage Driving Clinic</b> 9 am Instruction in basic driving skills at Skyline Farm. Info: Patsy O'Brien, (207) 688-4748 (see page 4)</p>	<p>Aug. 14</p>	<p>Carriage Driving Clinic at Skyline Farm</p>
<p><b>June 9</b></p>	<p><b>Unveiling of New Website</b> 6 pm Maine Community Heritage Project unveils a new community website, which involves Skyline Farm. Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 (see page 2)</p>	<p>Aug. 15</p>	<p>Book Discussion #2: <u>Black Beauty</u> by Anna Sewell</p>
<p><b>June 13</b></p>	<p><b>Book Discussion #1</b> 3:30 pm A book discussion of Anna Sewell's <u>Black Beauty</u> led by Lisa M. Winfrey of Bound By Books, Brunswick, Maine to delve into all aspects of Sewell's book. Info: Sheila Alexander, (207) 799-7614 (see page 1)</p>	<p>Sept. 10</p>	<p>Artists' Reception for Fine Art &amp; Crafts Show</p>
		<p>Sept. 11</p>	<p>Fine Art &amp; Crafts Show, Silent Auction thru Dec. 4</p>
		<p>Sept. 11</p>	<p>Henry Fest 2010 Music Festival (Sept. 12 rain date)</p>
		<p>Sept. 18</p>	<p>Dog Day 4 (Sept. 19 rain date)</p>
		<p>Oct. 16</p>	<p>Harvest Day, "Carriages in Motion" and Hay Rides</p>
		<p>Oct. 30*</p>	<p>Pumpkin Fest (Oct. 31 rain date)</p>
		<p>Nov. 7</p>	<p>Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive in Woolwich, ME</p>
			<p>* indicates a tentative date</p>