



Plowmen and muscular teams of draft horses turn over row after row of earth at Plow Day in early May.
 Photo by Ed Morin of Portland, Maine

Down The Lane



SKYLINE FARM
 95 The Lane
 North Yarmouth, Maine
 (207) 829-9203
 www.skylinefarm.org

SUMMER 2011

Skyline Summer Celebration, 9th Annual Fundraiser in the Field - July 9

Skyline Summer Celebration, 9th Annual Fundraiser in the Field

Saturday, July 9, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.

- 9-1 Barn Sale under the tent, where members of the public sell a variety of items, including collectibles, antiques, carriages, and sleighs.

If you'd like to rent your own table for \$20, to sell your items, please contact:
 Lisa Peck, 829-6899 or Greg Cuffey, 239-5782.

- 9-1 Silent Auction inside the Visitor Center
- 10-12 Pony Rides (\$5/child), Face-painting, and old-fashioned Children's Activities

****BREAK****

- 5:30-7 Lobster & Clam, Steak, or BBQ Chicken Dinner by Bill Young of Young's Clambakes (\$50 per person includes a tax deductible donation to Skyline Farm)

- 7:00-8 Dessert (free) inside the carriage museum, surrounded by the "Summer Delivery Vehicles" exhibit. Live musical entertainment by Diana Hansen, Bill Hansen, and George Maxwell, a talented trio from Yarmouth.

- 5:30-8 Silent Auction inside the Visitor Center, culminating with the winning bidders being announced at 8 p.m.
 (Visa and MasterCard are accepted.)

All proceeds benefit Skyline Farm's operational expenses.

Join in the fun at Skyline Farm's 9th Annual Summer Celebration, one of our most important fundraisers!

To kick off the day, we will offer a "Barn Sale" where people who rent tables under a large tent will sell an assortment of items, ranging from household items to tack to baked goods. Skyline representatives will be selling consigned items from the public such as collectibles, antiques, carriages, and sleighs. You don't have to wait for your coveted item to be put up on the auction block; you can buy it on the spot!

Once again Trustee Diana Logan and President Kristi Wright will spearhead gathering appealing Silent Auction items from local businesses and Skyline supporters that will generate lots of attention, guaranteed.

Because we want to attract families to the farm and have horses present whenever possible, we'll offer Pony Rides for a nominal fee and free Children's Activities in the morning. *(continued on page 3)*



The crowd at the 2008 Lobster Bake enjoys perfect weather and the convivial atmosphere while dining in Skyline's field.
 Photo by Patti Mikkelsen

President's Column by Kristi Wright

Swallows and blue birds are diving and swooping across the fields. Woodpeckers are drilling through the old rotten logs of the forest. The wooded trails are – mostly -- dry and the fields mowed.

Jeanne Chadbourne and, dog, Tim , are keeping the grass trimmed and the grounds immaculate. Pam Ames, Cynn timeriques, Shelia Alexandar and other Sunday docents have weeded the flower gardens and welcomed our guests.

Deri Farm's vegetables are poking out of the soaked soil. In no time the pick your own flower fields will burst with blooms. Horses and riders and drivers are trotting down The Lane and circling the arena.

NEWSLETTER NOTES

Due to rising costs and environmental reasons, please let us know if you do not want to receive our newsletter by USPS mail. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail, send a request to info@skylinefarm.org. We appreciate the savings, and the bonus for you is that the electronic version is in full color!

Please note that the Fall issue, covering events from September through December, has a deadline of August 28 for a mailing on September 7. Articles and photos are welcome.

*Patti Mikkelsen, editor
E-mail: mikks@maine.rr.com*

I know that I say this EVERY season, but truly Summer *IS* my favorite time of year at Skyline Farm. From Plow Day, through Summer Celebration (July 9th) until the Harvest Festival in early fall, my family and I will spend many happy hours at the Farm. The great thing about Skyline is that your family can, too.

Morning walks, weekend trail rides, evening picnics, afternoon play-time --- the Farm is a wonderful place to enjoy the great outdoors. It's interesting what children will do to entertain themselves when traditional playground equipment or organized games and activities don't dictate the fun. At my daughter's birthday party, which was held at Skyline in May, I gave pony rides, while my husband "let the children run."

"Don't even take the hula-hoops out of the truck," he told me. The children, an assortment of ages from two to nine, played tag and chase and Ring-Around-The-Rosy. They raced to the King's Truss Bridge and back to the picnic grove. My favorite scene was the Little-House-On-The-Prairie-run down a hill through the tall grass – the children with their arms out wide and their faces turned up to the sun.

"This is the best place," said one parent. "How did you ever find it? What is this place?"

When people learn about Skyline Farm they usually want to know more. They usually want to do more.

And so, I encourage everyone to experience Skyline Farm in the summer. Enjoy Skyline among friends and supporters at our annual Summer Celebration, July 9th, or any of our other wonderful events. Set aside a Sunday afternoon to tour Summer Delivery (open 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) or just stop by for a walk or a picnic anytime. Skyline Farm is yours. Enjoy.

Kristi

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PROGRAM DEVELOPER: (not a board position) Erin Bishop

The Skyline vehicle collection continues to grow in numbers and quality. In the first six months of this year the collection committee has added eight vehicles, for a new total of 107. New vehicles include our first three seat sleigh, a finely made Portland Cutter (possibly attributed to Brewster Co.), and a large unique wheeled lumber/log carrier all gifted by Margaret and Sut Marshall. Others include a J.C. Safford, Exeter, New Hampshire Boston Chaise, lovely Concord Wagon, Downing & Abbott Pleasure Wagon, four wheel Racing Cart gifted by Deborah Plenney, and most recently, an ornate Democrat wagon gifted by Lorna and Donald Dorsey.

The newest exhibit "Horse-Drawn Summer Delivery Vehicles" is receiving rave reviews and visitor traffic is up over prior years. Vehicles on loan to Skyline for this exhibit- a West Falmouth, Maine Milk Wagon from the Falmouth Historical Society and a common New England pole sided Hay Wagon from Kennebec Mor-

gan Horse Farm. Be sure not to miss the Hitching Post, Sanford Mills/Chase Lap Robe, and Kimball Bros. Carriage Company history exhibits. These three exhibits will be coming down at the end of August.



Four wheel racing cart, similar to the one acquired for Skyline's collection Currier & Ives print, Trotting Horse Flora Temple

Skyline Summer Celebration - July 9th (continued)

Skyline Summer Celebration (continued)

Back by popular demand will be the traditional Maine Lobster Bake at 5:30 p.m., set out in the field where guests can enjoy the farm's beautiful vistas. A complete lobster, steak, or chicken feast, prepared by Bill Young of Young's Clambakes in North Yarmouth, costs only \$50 per person, which includes a tax-deductible donation to Skyline Farm.

After dinner, mingle with other Skyline supporters inside the museum while being surrounded by the "Summer Delivery Vehicles" exhibit, a truly unique venue. Enjoy delectable desserts and live acoustic jazz, blues, and rock'n'roll from Yarmouth's own singer-songwriter Diana Hansen on acoustic guitar; Bill Hansen on bass; and George Maxwell on electric guitar.

This accomplished trio is currently recording a CD of thirteen originals in George's 24 Track Recording Studio, Quick Riff Music in Yarmouth. Diana also teaches voice at 317 Main and General Music K-2 in the Falmouth schools. She has been playing for 30 years, including seven years in Germany (where she plans to return next June for a two week tour). Bill and Diana, who have played together for more than ten years, are regular performers at the Portland Museum of Art's

Sunday brunch and will be playing with a 6-piece band, The Blue Willow Band, for the concert series at Royal River Park, Yarmouth, ME, 6:15 pm, June 29th.

Bidding on the Silent Auction of enticing items will end at 8 p.m. when the winners will be announced. Free admission to this portion of the evening.

Please place your dinner reservations before July 1st with Pamela Ames, e-mail info@skylinefarm.org or telephone: (207) 829-5708.



A traditional lobster bake fire pit built by Young's Clambakes for the 2006 Skyline Farm dinner.

Photo by Patti Mikkelsen

"I Love Plow Day" by Sheila Libby Alexander

What a wonderful day we had at Skyline celebrating Plow Day with Deri Farm and the teamsters plus their terrific horses. Skyline was Spring green and looked lovingly cared for.

Great publicity brought people from far and wide to Skyline for a most enjoyable day.

Kudos to all who helped.

Parking Staff was very attentive.

The pony rides were over the top successful with *Pony*, *Peanut Butter* and *Mesa* and their handlers hoofing it around the ring for hours. Happy kids everywhere!



Adoring children lavish the draft horses with well-deserved attention.

Photo by Michelle Hardy of North Yarmouth, Maine

The wagon rides to the fields were full with some folks taking several rides behind the lovely draft horses. The draft pairs turning the soil was a sight to behold.

The food tent was busy from start to finish with coffee, delicious homemade sweets, hot dogs & hamburgers.

The antique forge was fired up. The blacksmith entertained interested spectators for the entire day.

The Carriage Museum was open and "mobbed" with first time and repeat visitors viewing the almost complete exhibition of "Horse Drawn Summer Delivery Vehicles."

Needless to say, *I love Plow Day*.

Cheerio, Sheila Alexander

"Blacksmith to the Rescue at Plow Day"

The beginning of Spring on a Turn-of-the-Century farm meant readying the land for planting. Horses needed to be muscled-up for the backbreaking work ahead and the plowing equipment needed to be dusted off, inspected and sharpened.

The cool early morning scene of steam rising up over the backs of muscular teams of draft horses, turning over row after row of earth, must have been quite a sight. The work was hard and the teamsters generally halted their horses at the end of each row so the horses could catch their breath and let their heart rates return to normal. During these halts, teamsters checked over their horses' leather harness and metal plowing equipment for broken parts. A broken metal part might mean a possible injury to a horse and/or loss of valuable work time. If a metal part was found to be broken, the farm forge would need to be fired up or a trip to the nearest blacksmith to make the necessary repair.

This is precisely what happened at the 21st century Skyline Farm/Deri Farm, Plow Day this year. One of the teamsters, plowing in the field, discovered a broken metal plow control arm. He thought he was done for the day and unhitched his team. As luck would have it, Tim Greene was giving blacksmithing chain making and metal twisting demonstrations using Skyline's old forge. Tim said he could fix the broken metal arm in much the same manner as it would have been done in bygone days. Tim made the "on the spot" metal weld with the addition of Borax and melted brass. To the fascination of the many spectators, the part was reinstalled and the idle draft team put right back into service!



At a Plow Day demonstration, blacksmith Tim Greene is fabricating a figure 8 link to connect chain.

Photo by Ed Morin of Portland, Maine

Skyline Farm is pleased to host its first official nature walk on Sunday, September 4th. The slow-paced stroll, led by knowledgeable naturalists, is perfect for children and adults of all ages.

The event is open to the public. Bring your drink and binoculars (if you have any), and we'll supply the gorp trail mix.

Doors at the Skyline Farm Visitor Center open at 1:00 pm, and we'll saunter out on the walk at about 1:15.

The suggested donation is \$5.00 for those 18 and over; free for those under 18. There's no pre-registration. Just show up.

Although dogs are normally allowed on the premises, please don't bring them on the walk.

There's no rain date, so if the weather features more than a sprinkle, please call organizer Patti Mikkelsen, (207) 926-5660 to find out if the nature walk is still on.



*The sign marking the trail-head on Sweetser Road.
Photo by Patti Mikkelsen*

Bird Sightings on the Property of Skyline Farm

Bird Sightings by Bill Ambrose

May 26, 2011 - Walking around the farm today I saw many bobolinks lighting on the taller grasses in the field preparatory to making their nests. They are in the blackbird family and migrate here all the way from Brazil and Argentina. They seem to love Skyline farm fields and are adept flyers catching any number of insects. They are a beautiful bird with a large buffy white patch on the nape of neck. These birds are in decline in N. America because of early cutting of hay which is their preferred nesting, so we are lucky to have ours at the farm. Their offspring have fledged on or before July 4th so it is safe to cut the field then.

I saw also at least two pair of bluebirds searching for the right birdhouse to raise their brood. One pair was seen on top of the new birdhouse on the tree next to the ell's entrance. A second pair was seen on top of the birdhouse at the edge of the woods straight down from the parking lot. An old story goes that the male bluebird comes north every spring and picks out two or three possible houses. The female follows, takes a look at all three and doesn't like any of them! She picks one out for herself.

For several weeks now there has been a pair of tree swallows going in and out of the birdhouse in the middle of the field directly below the parking lot.

There is a yellow warbler singing her heart out in the brambles on the other side of the road opposite the "swamp" at the entrance to the fields. A Common Yellowthroat is in evidence there, too, as well as plenty of Killdeer and redwing blackbirds.

Comments from other Skyline Farm trustees

Great report, Bill. I too have seen bobolinks recently when walking the dogs. We always had lots of bobolinks in the fields at the Greely Road farm, and an older lady whose husband had farmed on North Road told me, when I took her for a carriage ride in June one year, that they never cut hay until after June 29th, when she said the bobolinks had fledged. Also I've seen swallows at Skyline Farm and trust they are reducing the black fly population. Great to hear about the other birds.

- Cynn timeriques

We also have many bobolinks at Snowfields in Pownal and try not to hay until the first week of July. It is so nice to know that people keep their dandelions for the birds.

- Patsy O'Brien

Thank you, Bill, for this great report. I wondered what those bobolinks were as I saw them in the fields. I'm going to take a walk in the field and see if I can see any of those bluebirds. The birds that come to Skyline are such a delight – it is my favorite sign of spring when the mallard pair comes to the little wet area bordering The Lane.

- Lisa Peck

Wonderful report. I'll look for all of these feathered friends when I'm at Skyline on Sunday.

Thanks for your observations,

- Sheila Libby Alexander



The Skyline Farm Carriage Museum was transformed into a stunning venue for a wedding in 2009.

Photo by Patti Mikkelsen

As we transition from Spring to Summer, there are volunteer opportunities for many small and medium sized projects at the farm, including gardening and landscaping, light carpentry, painting and trail maintenance. If you are interested in helping, please contact Paul Lones to discuss possible projects [telephone: (207) 829-4171, or e-mail: paul.lones@skylinefarm.org]. Skyline Farm will provide materials and supplies. This is a great opportunity for a student or anyone else interested in community service in a beautiful setting.

Speaking of beautiful settings, Skyline Farm is the perfect location for events and celebrations. Skyline has been the site of weddings, receptions and family reunions. For rental information and availability, please contact Paul Lones (see contact info above) or Pamela Ames, telephone: (207) 829-5708.

A Preview of Upcoming Events; More details to Come in the Fall Issue

7th Annual HenryFest - September 11

Skyline Farm is pleased to welcome back 317 Main St. Community Music Center for their 7th Annual HenryFest, a community music event. Come join us for an afternoon of fun, food and music on Sunday, September 11th from noon to 7 pm. The details are still coming together and more information will be available at 317 Main Street's website, www.317mainst.org.

Dog Day 4: "Kids and Dogs" - September 17

Dog Day is returning to Skyline Farm on Saturday, September 17th (rain date Sunday the 18th) from 10-3. Admission is \$10 per adult; \$5 for kids 16 and under. Dog Day offers a day full of activities, including agility, games, demos, tricks, presentations, training consultations, vendors, and more! For more information, e-mail dogday@petconnectionmaine.com.

Benefit Snowfields Trail Ride by Gregory Cuffey

Skyline Farm held a successful early June benefit trail ride out of board member Patsy O'Brien's Snowfields Farm in Pownal, Maine.



Elisa Trepanier of Raymond, Maine and her steed embark on the June 5 trail ride. Photo by Patti Mikkelsen

The ride went off without a hitch, as it was for riders only. Cooler temperatures, sun and few winged insects created favorable conditions for a pleasant ride!

The preceding two weeks of rain made trail reconfiguring necessary around slippery wet land and areas recently logged off. Many thanks to Patsy for creating a safe loop meandering through an uncut hay field, mature forests and a dirt road. One surprise attraction along the trail was a new sturdy multi-use bridge linking Pineland Farms' trails to Tryon Mountain to Bradbury Mountain State Park.

The eighteen participants thought the ride was wonderful. Riders ages ranged from four to sixty something. We raised \$ 380 for the day. Many thanks go out to the Mollyockett Pony Club for providing wonderful bag lunches.

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.

This quarter's donors: Your support of Skyline Farm is sincerely appreciated!

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Richard and Risa Moon, Gray, Maine are just about to leave the parking area for a trail ride through the Skyline fields and woods on a beautiful May day.

Photo by Sheila Libby Alexander

2011 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, info@skylinefarm.org, or (207) 829-9203 (leave message).

May 15 through Aug. 21

"Horse-Drawn Summer Delivery Vehicles" Museum Exhibit *Sundays, 1-4 pm*

Explore delivery vehicles that were commonly seen on Maine's roads in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Free admission; donations welcome. Info: Greg Cuffey, (207) 239-5782 *(see page 3)*

July 9

Skyline Summer Celebration: 9th Annual

Have fun at this annual fundraiser in the field! Barn Sale, Silent Auction, Pony Rides & Children's Activities; Traditional Maine Lobster Bake & Dessert. Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 *(see pages 1, 3)*

Sept. 4

Skyline Farm Nature Walk *1 pm*

Join us on Labor Day weekend for this slow-paced stroll, which is perfect for children and adults of all ages, led by knowledgeable naturalists. Info: Patti Mikkelsen, (207) 926-5660 *(see page 5)*

Sept. 11

HenryFest Music Festival *12-7 pm*

317 Main Street Community Music Center is hosting its 7th Annual HenryFest, a community music event. Come for an afternoon of fun, food and music. Volunteers to help with the festival are being sought; each will receive a free admission ticket. Info: The Front Desk at 317 Main St., 207-846-9559 or e-mail frontdesk@317mainst.org *(see page 6)*

Sept. 17 (rain date Sept. 18)

Dog Day 4: "Kids and Dogs" *10 am-3 pm*

Dog Day is returning to Skyline Farm! "Kids and Dogs" - they are a perfect combo. Or are they? Come to this year's Dog Day and learn about how to ensure the kid/dog relationship is a good one. Dog Day offers a day full of activities, including agility, games, demos, tricks, freestyle, head-to-head training competitions, presentations, training consultations, vendors, and more! Admission: \$10 per adult; \$5 for kids 16 and under. This event benefits Skyline Farm. Volunteers needed! Info: Diana Logan, (207) 252-9352 or e-mail dogday@petconnectionmaine.com *(see page 6)*

Aug. 14* Pony Rides, 1-3 pm

Sept. 24* "Harvest Day": Tractor Rides to Hansel's Orchard, Kids' Activities, Antique Tractors; Harvest Dinner

Nov. 6 Skyline Benefit Ride/Drive in Woolwich, ME., 10 am

Nov. 18 Artists' Reception for Fine Art & Crafts Show, 5-7

Nov. 19 Fine Art & Crafts Show, Silent Auction thru Dec. 11, Weekends, 1-4 pm

* indicates a tentative date