



Down The Lane



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

This picture is from a 1894 stereo-view titled "Happy Childhood Days" from Gregory Cuffey's collection. The new exhibit will highlight vehicles children might have used drawn by various animals.

WINTER 2010 - Special Edition

11th Annual "Sleigh Day" and "Sleighs, Sleds and Sounds" Museum Exhibit

11th Annual Sleigh Day coming right up!

On Saturday, February 6th from 12 - 3 pm, Skyline Farm will host its 11th Annual Sleigh Day. Come to Skyline Farm and enjoy a crisp winter day while taking a step back in time.

This year Skyline is bringing back the Sleigh Rally where single sleighs drawn by horses and ponies will compete in a variety of classes, including spectator favorites – the Currier and Ives class which involves period costumes, and the cones course in which participants must maneuver through an obstacle course as fast as possible without disturbing the cones.

Enjoy your own peaceful sleigh ride through Skyline's fields in a sleigh pulled by Luther Gray's team of Percherons.

Before or after your sleigh ride, come into the Visitor Center for a bite to eat. We are thrilled that the Junior Driving Club will be back to provide another delicious selection of hot foods and drinks for the day.

Sleigh Day is the perfect opportunity to get out of the house and celebrate winter. Admission is \$8 per person which includes one sleigh ride; free for Skyline Farm members, competitors and children under 6.

In case of snow, Sleigh Day and the opening of the Sleighs, Sleds and Sounds exhibit will be held on Sunday, February 7th. For more information, please refer to www.skylinefarm.org, call Lynn at (207) 829-5838 or e-mail: info@skylinefarm.org.

Museum Exhibit- Sleighs, Sleds and Sounds- a season of wonder through a child's eye

Bring the family to view Skyline Farm Carriage and Sleigh Museum's winter exhibit. The exhibit will highlight vehicles children might have driven, put to various animals, including but not limited to dogs, steer and of course horses. Children will be able to try on various antique winter apparel, ring many different types of sleigh bells, try their hand at assembling a harness and draw a horse/sleigh winter scene to be displayed during the exhibit. As in years past we will set up a sleigh that children and adults alike can sit in and grab weighted reins to feel what it would be like to drive a real horse.

Exhibit will feature sleighs including: single & double seat sleighs, school bus sleigh, sidewalk snow roller, and various types of sleigh heaters will be on display. Skyline Farm's "core" collection will also be on display.

Exhibit hours will continue to run from 12-3 p.m. on Sundays during February and March through March 21st. The museum will also be open on Saturday, Feb. 6 running concurrently with Sleigh Day from 12-3 p.m.

Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted. Dress warmly. For more information about the museum exhibit, call Greg Cuffey (207) 793-8569.

In case of a storm, Sleigh Day and the exhibit opening will be held on Sunday, February 7. For directions to Skyline Farm, please check www.skylinefarm.org.



Erin Bishop, Skyline Farm's new Program Developer
courtesy photo

Note from the editor:

I have received so many entertaining and informative articles and terrific photos for this issue that four bonus pages are being added.

Many thanks to all of the gifted writers and talented photographers for their contributions.

Hope you readers enjoy perusing the pages of this expanded special edition.

- Patti Mikkelsen

New Skyline Farm Program Developer: Erin Bishop

Preface by President Pamela Ames within a Dec. 23 correspondence to the Skyline Farm board:

"We have good news to share! After interviewing four top candidates, we have offered the part-time Program Developer position to Erin Bishop. Her skills and experience are tailor-made for our job posting which is being generously funded by a one-year grant from the Davis Family Foundation."

Erin Bishop is the former Director of Education for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, a position she held for the past four years.

The Library and Museum opened its doors in 2005 and has since welcomed over 2 million visitors. As a member of the senior staff, Erin's work there involved setting up the Education Division, overseeing school tours (approximately 97,000 students per year), creating teacher education workshops, organizing special events and public programs, creating exhibitions and developing teaching materials for classroom educators.

Prior to that she served as a Historic Programs Specialist for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Sites Division where she conducted research and developed interpretive programming for many of the state's twenty-eight historic sites, visitor centers and house museums, including serving as chief historian for the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center in Hartford, Illinois.

She obtained her M.A. and Ph.D. in history from University College Dublin, Ireland, where she explored the lives of 19th-century women. Her research there led to the publication of two books on the life of Mary O'Connell.

She currently resides in Falmouth, Maine with her husband, Andrew Cadigan, a pharmacist with CVS, and their two young sons, Ivan (age 8) and Rhys (age 5).

Excerpt from Erin's cover letter:

"I believe my expertise, particularly in regards to museum education and securing funding could be a real asset to your burgeoning facility."

- Erin I. Bishop, Ph.D.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: (not a board position) Patti Mikkelsen, mikks@seurespeed.us (207) 926-5660

Upcoming Maine Junior Driving Club activities at Skyline Farm

The Maine Junior Driving Club plans to continue utilizing Skyline's facility for both indoor and outdoor activities through 2010.

Of particular note for early on in the year is a January driving apron making afternoon, a tour of the museum in early April and weather permitting, lessons in the outdoor ring starting in April.

Black Beauty by Lisa Winfrey

Return to Your Childhood Memories of Reading Black Beauty

Do you remember reading *Black Beauty* as a child or young adult? Well, now is your chance to read it again, and have the book come alive for you!

Skyline Farm and Bound By Books are partnering together to bring you an exhibit featuring the carriages from this wonderful, historical, ageless piece of literary genius from author Anna Sewell.

Although this book is read by children everywhere it was actually published as an educational tool for horse owners back in 1877. This book outsold Charles Dickens in England and broke publishing records in America in 1890! - (from the jacket of *Dark Horse, A Life of Anna Sewell*).

We invite you to come see the beautiful carriages from the book on Sundays from May 16 through August 22, except July 4. See the April newsletter for more information.

Skyline's 10th Anniversary Celebration by Pamela Ames

More than 30 people helped celebrate Skyline Farm's 10th Anniversary on November 13, complete with beautifully decorated cupcakes, tasty apple pie squares, fudgy brownies, and bubbly champagne.

Greg Cuffey unveiled the "Significant Difference Award" plaque, which lists the names of people who played a pivotal role in turning Ken Sowles' dream of establishing a carriage museum into a reality. This award is intended to have names added to it in future years, too. Pam presented a brief synopsis of each person's role in the formation of Skyline Farm as a thriving organization. Les Peters told the story of how Mrs. Lloyd became involved in supporting the project.

Greg also unveiled a "Presidents" plaque which lists each of our leaders to date along with their terms. All four presidents were there to see the culmination of their hard work and leadership over these past ten years: Cynthia Henriques, Paul Lones, Gregory Cuffey and Pamela Ames.

Besides Board members, we invited "super-volunteers" who are essential in maintaining Skyline Farm's positive public image. Many thanks go to Patti Mikkelsen, Jeanne Chadbourne, Justin Deri and Vivian Page.

A hearty thank you to Greg Cuffey and Sheila Alexander for working so hard to make this recognition event possible. It has been ten years in the making, and they did a superb job!

Congratulations to these people for making a "significant difference" to Skyline Farm! We would not be where we are today if it were not for each person:

Ken and Maggie Sowles & family

Ursula Baier

Maureen and James Gorman

Mary Gray

Cynn timer and Dick Henriques

Mrs. Virginia B. Lloyd

Patsy O'Brien

Lynn Young



Volunteer Jeanne Chadbourne and Treasurer Jennifer Kimball share a laugh at Skyline's anniversary party. Pamela Ames photo



Advisory Trustees Donna Thurston and Becky Totten enjoy themselves at the 10th anniversary party. Pamela Ames photo

Henry Fest at Skyline Farm, planned again for 2010

Skyline Farm was the host site for Henry Fest on Sept. 20, 2009. This popular event is presented by 317 Main Street, Community Music Center of Yarmouth, Maine. 2009 was their 5th season and the second year at Skyline Farm. This event of outdoor fun, friends, families, food and lots of music was enjoyed by over 500 people. Skyline Farm will be pleased to welcome back 317 Main Street and Henry Fest on Sept. 11, 2010. Please

watch 317 Main Street's web site (www.317mainst.org) for information as we get closer to the date.

Skyline Farm is a wonderful venue for outdoor events of all kinds, including weddings, receptions and family reunions. If you would like to rent Skyline Farm for your event, please contact Pam Ames at (207) 829-5708 for date availability and pricing. We are also happy to work on special arrangements with non-profit organizations with complementary missions.

“Maine Harvest: Land and Sea” Arts and Crafts Show Wrap-Up by Pamela Ames***“Maine Harvest: Land and Sea” Art and Crafts Show Wrap-Up***

“Maine Harvest: Land and Sea,” Skyline’s benefit sale of fine art and crafts inspired by Maine’s farmland and ocean, offered a very popular, new feature this year. Fine crafts handmade by talented artisans were attractively offered for sale in the Visitor Center and part of the Exhibit Hall, expanding the assortment of items to suit every taste and budget. This change in format was very well received by supporters and first-time visitors alike!

For six weeks we showcased talented Maine artists and artisans whose paintings, photographs, sculptures, and fine crafts were inspired by the cornucopia of Maine’s bountiful harvest - both from the land and the ocean.

Many thanks to Kathi Peters and Karen Pettengill for once again curating the show, which included painters Beth Carlson, Diana Johnson, Caren-Marie Michel, Petrea Noyes, Kathi Peters, Karen Pettengill, Lois Strickland, Wade Zahares; photographers Bernard C. Meyers, Fred Michel; sculptors Clinton Jones, James Miller, Jordan Smith; and artisans of fine crafts, including fiber, jewelry, wood, glass and metal - Peter Asselyn, Jodi Clayton, Benjamin Coombs,

Kim Dubay, Pamela Harwood, Valerie & Gerald Hoff, A C (Tony) Kulik, Mike Mason, Lynda McCann-Olson, Susan Mills, Deborah Peters, Eric Pettengill, and Victoria Varga.

Two crafts were featured during consecutive Sunday afternoon demonstrations: jewelry making by Lynda McCann-Olson and rug hooking by Kim Dubay and three other hooking artists from her guild. People who were interested in learning these skills as well as people who wanted to brush up on their craft had an opportunity to speak with these artisans one on one. There was a buzz in the air as people shared information and enjoyed being surrounded by folks who were also interested in their craft.

A portion of each sale and 100% of the proceeds from the Silent Auction, featuring pieces donated by the artists and artisans, benefited Skyline Farm. It was a win-win situation for all, including the museum visitors who were able to shop for the holidays in a relaxed setting.

This high caliber show continues to be one of Skyline’s most significant fund raisers, and we hope that you’ll return next year to buy some very special, unique items for yourself or gift-giving!



Lynda McCann-Olson shows samples of her jewelry to Skyline Farm Secretary Sheila Alexander and other visitors at a craft demo last fall. Pamela Ames photo



At a craft demo, rug hooking artist Kim Dubay creates a new piece modeled after a drawing she did as a child. Pamela Ames photo

Sledding Party—March 6

Skyline Farm has an antidote for Cabin Fever! Bundle up in your winter play clothes, grab your sleds, pack a snack and bring your family to the 4th Annual Sledding Party on Saturday, March 6 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. (or a little bit later).

The snow-covered field will come alive with laughter as children and adults in colorful garb zoom down the hills on sleds of all shapes and sizes. If the snow has the right consistency, maybe a snowperson village, complete with snow-animals, will emerge on top of a ridge.

This free event is a great opportunity for families and friends to get out, play, socialize and maybe even meet some new friends!

Light snacks and hot chocolate will be served in the Visitor Center or you can

bring your own refreshments. Allow time to head into the museum to check out this year's winter exhibit, "Sleighs, Sleds and Sounds"- with a focus on children. Of course, the black "Skyline Express" will be available for those who want to climb aboard and "practice" their driving skills!

The sledding party will only be held if favorable snow conditions exist. The first and third years were warm and sunny, and we had a snowstorm in the second year...what will it be this year?

In general, you are welcome to park in the lot and use the hills for sledding any day - you don't have to wait until this event! For more information, please call Pamela Ames (207) 829-5708 or refer to www.skylinefarm.org.



Whittier twins race Donnie Strawbridge



Andrew Richter's family at work

Bit and Bridle 4-H Club by Pamela Ames

Back in the 1960's, the Crop and Canter 4-H Club met at Skyline Farm, so we are doubly thrilled to be the host site for the newly formed Bit and Bridle 4-H Club for horse enthusiasts age 9 and older.

These young people, under the leadership of Tracy Dahlgren with advisory assistance from Donna Thurston, have planned some very interesting meetings for 2010, ranging from horse hair jewelry and equine photography to a tour of New England Equine Medical and Surgical Center.

4-H is the youth development program of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and is a learning-by-doing program for kids.

Currently, more than 20,000 Maine youth participate in 4-H activities. 4-H offers a wide variety of programs and

projects in these categories:

- Youth in Governance (Citizenship & Leadership)
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Science, Engineering & Technology (including a wide variety of animal science programs)
- Earth Connections & Sustainable Living

The four H's target Life Skills:

- HeadPlanning & Organizing Problem Solving & Decision Making
- HeartCommunication & Cooperation Showing Concern for Others
- Hands Community Service & Volunteering with Others
- Healthy Lifestyles Stress Management & Disease Prevention Character Education



Nick Buck's Wonderful "Find" by John Sowles

One lovely summer day last year, long-time Skyline friend, supporter, raconteur, and researcher, Nick Buck, was driving Route 1 to a Dave Bromberg concert in Camden. Somewhere along that historical road, an alarm went off. As he tells it, he actually didn't see it, but rather a light illuminated in his head, "STOP! Item of Interest." You see, Nick's subconscious is hardwired to spotting not just unusual, but unusual items of historical importance.

What he found was an old, disheveled, and dusty, four wheel wagon to be auctioned off that night. He'd never seen one like it. "Gotta have it! But I've got tickets to Dave Bromberg and I want to be there! I can't stick around!" So Nick, ever creative, gave the auctioneer a whimsical absentee bid and drove on to Camden, not thinking again of this odd item.

Bromberg provided a predictably wonderful evening of music. The following morning, Nick's phone rang. It was the auction company notifying him he needed to remove his new worm eaten wagon,...and that he needed to do it NOW. So Nick and comical sidekick terrier named Olive collected it, took it home to Harpswell and there it sat. "What the heck (cleaned up) am I going to do with this?" Then that light bulb flashed again. "Skyline's gotta have this." Nick called Skyline's Collections Committee Chair, Greg Cuffey, and that's the end of the story. Or was it...?

The story continued when Nick and little Olive delivered an early 19th century Pleasure Wagon to Skyline



Skyline friend, Nick Buck, is clearly pleased with his discovery of what was to become Skyline Farm's new Pleasure Wagon.
John Sowles photo



Nick, in a near holy moment, reads from "the carriage bible." He has even captured the attention of Olive (dog). What resides in this little animated head?
John Sowles photo

where it came under the scrutiny of historian Ursula Baier and others from the Collections Committee.

Ursula believes this vehicle is perhaps our oldest. As rough as it looks, with powder post beetle damage and some broken wood, it is in amazingly good shape for being perhaps 200 years old. Its original yellowish-green paint with black striping is remarkably vibrant. This vehicle makes a striking appearance regardless of its age.

Nick shared his extensive knowledge of woodworking and concluded that the springing of the seat is not as one might conclude at first glance. The hickory cantilever may be obvious, but the base of the seat mechanism also cushions the ride. He also pointed to some of the fine handiwork of the craftsman who constructed the vehicle, including the panel frame detail, wood pinning, and mortise and tenon joinery.

The Pleasure Wagon was developed in the first quarter of the 19th century in New England to carry both cargo and passengers. They generally had a rockered (curved) paneled body held together with wooden pins. Its seat is on cantilevered hickory springs to ease the ride and its axles were wooden, lacking an axle nut. Instead wheels were secured by a simple lynch pin. The Pleasure Wagon was the predecessor to the lighter Concord wagon that became so common throughout the rural east.

Our deepest thanks to Nick for saving this vehicle from becoming a rotting lawn ornament and thinking enough of Skyline to give us the call.



Nick, Skyline's historian Ursula Baier, and Nick's terrier Olive examining the wooden axle construction.



Close-up of axle showing Lynch Pin (a simple vertical pin through axle) holding wheel on axle.



Early 19th Century "Pleasure Wagon" now part of Skyline Farm's carriage collection.

Carriages in Motion Wrap-Up by Pamela Ames

"Carriages in Motion" Wrap-Up by Pamela Ames

Mary Fowler, Lisa Peck, and Lynn Young did an incredible amount of work preparing for Skyline Farm's new event "Carriages in Motion" in a relatively short amount of time. Mary and Lynn had just recovered from putting on Maine Carriage Day earlier that month, and then jumped right into this project. Lisa hadn't even yet convened an equine event committee meeting, but she snapped into action by getting the grounds looking beautiful with an array of pumpkins, corn stalks, and mums tastefully put around. She also made some delicious chili for the drivers.

Ursula Baier, Sheila Alexander & John Sowles worked behind the scenes to select vehicles that would be suitable for use at the event. David Fowler provided technical assistance both with the vehicles and the sound system.

Sheila gave informative commentary that was appreciated by all, from the experienced listener to the novice spectator. The following is Sheila's post-event summary:

"Those of you who did not come to Skyline Farm yesterday would have been pleased to see the vehicles put into use. The ring was mowed, the sky was blue, and the trees along the Lane were a full color backdrop.

Margaret Bailey drove her black Kennebec Morgan mare put to the two seat phaeton (aka wedding carriage) which looked lovely. Mary Boutin's Elias to the Meadowbrook, Donna Thurston's Ben to the Rally Car, and Lynn's grey Pony to the governess cart. Olivia Fowler drove the Henriques' Park Gate Gig. Lisa Oakes drove her Morgan to the black Lewiston-made four wheeler that she bought two years ago at the auction. Our final entry was a 2 wheel modern vehicle kit that David Fowler sized for Susan Zimmerman's 38" mini which fit the mini nicely.

We conducted a morning session and an afternoon session with interested spectators--quality over quantity--but everyone went home happy."

All in all, it was an informative day that related directly to Skyline's purpose of having a "living museum."



*Susan Zimmerman and mini
Pamela Ames photo*



*Skyline Farm Trustee Lynn Young and Pony
Yoko Aoshima photo*

As outdoor projects wound down this past autumn at Skyline Farm, we took some time to assess potential facilities related projects that could be tackled this winter or when the warmer weather returns. Some of our plans include:

Carriage Shed repairs: Most of Skyline Farm's carriage collection is stored in the three (3) sheds behind the museum, when vehicles are not on display in the current exhibit. These sheds require some repairs and improvements. Top on our list is to replace the roof on shed #3 and to install ventilation fans in all three sheds to reduce excessive heat in the summer. We have a contractor prepared to do this work, but need funding. *Please consider a new or increased gift to Skyline Farm this year to help protect and preserve Skyline Farm's carriage collection through these important projects.*

Painting: With our many buildings, painting is

an important annual task to keep the buildings protected. In 2010, our goal is to complete the re-painting of the farm house. This is a perfect project for a small group of volunteers. Skyline Farm will provide the needed materials.

Trail work: Skyline's trails require maintenance too. Trail projects can be designed to fit your interests and time available. Small and large projects alike are possible. These are perfect for organizations looking for community service projects.

Other possible projects: In addition to the painting and trail work described above, your ideas and suggestions for volunteer projects are always welcome. Maybe during one of your visits to Skyline Farm you noticed something you could help with! For facilities related projects, please contact Paul Lones at (207) 829-4171 if you have questions or would like to help.

Skyline Farm Eatery by Gordon Corbett



A student in Gordon's class asks a question about a science experiment. Pamela Ames photo



Instructor Gordon Corbett shows his class how to electrocute a hotdog. Pamela Ames photo

Wednesday, Dec. 30, was a beautiful sunshiny day in North Yarmouth, Maine. It was a perfect day for a visit to Skyline Farm by a group of girls being taught their science lesson by Gordon Corbett. The girls were members of a home-school organization that has been meeting with Gordon for the past several years.

Our usual meeting place was not available for our last class of the year so Gordon contacted Pam Ames about the possibility of opening up the Visitor Center at Skyline Farm. Gordon was pleased and the girls were excited to know that they were finally going to Skyline. They, as well as their parents, had heard about SF on several occasions as I talked about the museum collection during our unit on "Simple Machines" and for an up-coming visit to go stargazing.

Our lessons on the 30th, however, involved the study of "Electricity and Magnetism". We electrocuted hotdogs and hamburgers with a couple of homemade devices made from

nails, wire, gallon paint lids, a piece of pine wood and some basket weaving material. It was a great deal of fun as the girls learned that hotdogs and hamburger meat are excellent conductors of electricity. We even electrocuted a large pickle that lit up like a green neon sign. That was really impressive!

After we "electrocuted" the hotdogs and hamburgers we put them in buns and found them to be hot, juicy and very good with a garnish of mustard and ketchup. Even the hot pickle was a hit. A call was sent forth by all for seconds which were readily consumed with smiles all the way around. The girls all agreed that SF made a pretty good eatery!

The parents and girls all agreed that a return to SF would be on our agenda when we look at our new unit of study—"Flight". Will we be able to make a connection between Skyline Farm and flight? You betcha! Stay tuned.

The 4th Annual Skyline Benefit Ride/Drive on Nov. 8, 2009 at Kennebec Morgan Horse Farm was a huge success! This event has steadily gained in popularity and was filled to capacity.

The day of the event was a beautiful warm sunny day for all 52 entries, consisting of 58 riders/drivers and passengers to enjoy Miss Gardiner's beautiful water view trails.

This perfect fall day not only provided great weather for those on the trails but also great basking in the sun opportunities for those helping hands waiting back at the trailers.

If you want to join in the fun for 2010 bookmark your calendar and get your entries in early if you want to ensure a spot. Happy Trails! - *Becky*



Riders enjoying scenic water views. Yoko Aoshima photo

Skyline Farm Riders' Reunion by Sheila Libby Alexander

The January Riders' Reunion was undertaken with two goals in mind. The first was to gather as many former riders together to reminisce about the "bygone era" when Skyline was a riding stable run by Abby and Carl Semmes through the 1950's to about 1969. The second goal was to gather photos and memorabilia to scan and include in the Maine Community Heritage Project. Considering that Jan. 3 was the last day of a multi-day much hyped snowstorm, we did pretty well attaining the gathering folks together goal. There was much reminiscing with many happy memories recounted of the dear horses, the Semmes family, and especially of turning "down The Lane" to go riding at Skyline.

Achieving goal number two was much more difficult because almost to each person, memories were vivid but photos were non-existent. Because the day was so snowy and the weather predictions before the event so dire, we realize that many people who had planned to come were unable to attend. We will call the January 3rd event the preparation for the next Skyline Farm Riders' Reunion where we will hopefully be inundated with photos and memorabilia for the Maine Memory Network's fabulous "digital Museum" (www.mainememory.net).

The Visitor Center was decorated with a large "Welcome Back to Skyline Farm" banner. One of the grey plywood horse cut-outs was covered with the names of the Skyline horses. There were cookies and brownies baked by Board members and friends, coffee and tea, and Board members to welcome the former Skyline Riders.

We had excellent publicity before the event with an article by Don Perkins in the Portland Press Herald on 12/23/09 highlighted by the photo of the three young girls riding at Skyline in 1959. News reporter Ann S. Kim covered the Reunion and wrote a most enthusiastic article complete with two pictures by staff photographer Derek Davis for the Portland Press Herald January 4th edition.

The riders and the instructors who taught them, all shared a great love for Skyline Farm. Indeed, they will be invited to come back again for another Riders' Reunion. We'll keep the big "Welcome Back" banner in a safe place until that next time!

- *Sheila Libby Alexander, Skyline rider 1958-65, Instructor 1961-65*



Bonnie Robertson Smith, instructor at Skyline in the 1960s, is being interviewed by Portland Press Herald reporter Ann S. Kim. Vivian Page photo



Sheila Libby Alexander (left) leads the group discussion. Also pictured: Donna Thurston and Ronda Rogers. Patti Mikkelsen photo



Lisa Oakes and Wisper enjoy a delightful foliage ride at "Carriages in Motion."
Yoko Aoshima photo



An assortment of delectable baked goods was created by board members for the Riders' Reunion. Vivian Page photo



Riders, small and large, participated in the Skyline Farm Benefit Ride/Drive.
Margaret Totten photo

Maine Carriage Days Wrap-Up by Mary Fowler

"Maine Carriage Days" by Mary Fowler

Not wanting to be left out of the trend that plagued the entire northeast's driving competitions this year, the 32nd annual Maine Carriage Days was really wet! Fun, but wet. The poor weather kept away the spectators and most of the vendors, and some of the competitors, but those that chose to see what it was all about enjoyed the spaciousness of the new location at Topsham Fairgrounds which had some lovely amenities and was decorated beautifully.

Maine Carriage Days is the second longest running pleasure driving show in the country and was founded in 1977. It also is the only ADS (American Driving Society) recognized event held in Maine. This show was very, very close to being extinct, mostly due to a venue that was too small and lack of support from the driving community. The support and enthusiasm I witnessed during the actual event makes it clear that this event will continue and grow again into a destination event that has name recognition in the driving community.

What the event offered its competitors this year was some wonderful judges (John Greenall from VT and Susan Koso from MA), two pleasure rings, dressage classes, overnight stabling (on grounds), camping hookup, modern bathrooms, bleacher seating, covered storage for carriages, easy access from the highway,

many new special awards, a professional photographer, several cones and obstacle classes and a marathon pace. All this in a roomy and spacious setting where there's plenty of room to warm up & for parking.



Dan Steinke competing his pair of Morgan mares at the rainy 2009 Maine Carriage Days. The driver is Dan Steinke and groom is Beth Steinke.
Diane Harriman photo

The dressage classes were able to be completed before the rain started; then it began raining. Some people went home and others stayed. Some never showed up. Then it rained some more and more people went home, but still.... some stayed. Going into the show there were 27 pre-entries and by the last class there were two competitors left and they were *still* having a good time. John Greenall and Susan Koso sure did an amazing job keeping everything running smoothly and keeping everyone

upbeat throughout the day. So although everyone got to test their rain gear, all the competitors said they would come back next year and try it again. Plans are underway for next year to be a 2-day event and even more changes are being made to improve competitor comfort.

Thanks to the 35 manufacturers or businesses who donated resources, products or expertise to help in the rebirth of this show. Their efforts are appreciated more than can be imagined. Without all their assistance, it would not have been possible to produce the 32nd Annual Maine Carriage Days.

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If you have a specific bequest, e.g. Endowment Fund, please indicate it in the check's memo field.

Please make check payable to Skyline Farm and send to: Skyline Farm, P.O. Box 144, Yarmouth, ME 04096.
Skyline Farm is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you for your gift.

Your support of Skyline Farm is sincerely appreciated!

We needn't look far from home to see how financial support and dedication to a local organization can make a genuine difference at both an individual and community level. Ensuring the health of an asset like Skyline Farm contributes to the area's vitality and guarantees a high return on investment. Skyline Farm relies on proceeds from our Annual Appeal to support our carefully-managed operating budget. The farm and its museum, invaluable assets to the region, require approximately \$30,000 per year to operate as a successful educational and recreational community resource.

If you haven't yet contributed, please consider donating a tax-deductible gift to our 2010 Annual Appeal as you make your charitable plan for the year. 100% of your donation directly benefits this all-volunteer organization. We sincerely appreciate your support because we realize that there is so much competition for your charitable dollars and that each dollar is valuable in this struggling economy.

The Board of Trustees would like to publicly thank the following donors who have recently sent contributions to Skyline Farm in response to the Annual Appeal.

\$100 or more:

Sheila Libby Alexander
 Priscilla and William Ambrose
 Beth and John Ames
 Pamela Ames
 Rachel and Tom Armstrong
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 Lillian and Ronald Dolloff
 Lauren and Dan Emery
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John Sowles
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John Kauffmann
 Jennifer Kimball
 Dale King
 Los and Jim Knight
 Kelly Libby
 Ruth and Jonathan Matt
 M. Phyllis Shook and Charles McAleer
 Kim and Lincoln Merrill
 Kim and Mike Mitchell
 Risa and Richard Moon
 Steve Morrison
 Shana Cook Mueller
 Ann and John Parker
 Melanie Paul
 David Perkins
 Joan and Tim Porta
 Pam Peters
 Ann Pierce
 Laurie Raymond
 Ann Beatty and Daniel Rose
 Margaret Soule
 Bonnie Studdiford
 Evelyn and David Thurston
 Gregory Wiessner
 Ann W. Williamson
 Rick Wortley



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Driver Luther Gray and his team of Percherons guide the big sleigh filled with excited passengers around the fields of Skyline Farm. Sleigh Day is set for Feb. 6, 2010. Don Perkins 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, info@skylinefarm.org, or (207) 829-9203 (leave message).

Feb. 6 thru Mar. 21 **"Sleighs, Sleds and Sounds" Sleigh Exhibit**
Sundays, 12-3 pm or by appt.
Explore a season of wonder as seen through a child's eye. Free admission, donations welcome.
Info: Greg Cuffey (207) 793-8569 (see page 1)

Feb. 6 **Sleigh Day & Sleigh Rides** 11th annual
Saturday, 12-3 pm (Storm date: Feb. 7)
Skyline is bringing back the Sleigh Rally where single sleighs drawn by horses and ponies will compete in a variety of classes including the Currier and Ives. \$8 per spectator includes one sleigh ride. Free for Skyline Farm members and children under 6. Maine Junior Driving Club will sell refreshments.
Info: Lynn Young (207) 829-5838 (see page 1)

Mar. 6 **Sledding Party**
Saturday 10 am-12 noon
A great opportunity for families with young children to get together for a morning of sliding down the gentle, snow-covered rolling hills of Skyline Farm. Warm up with hot chocolate and goodies. Free.
Info: Pamela Ames (207) 829-5708

Winter **Winter Outdoor Fun**
Anytime during daylight hours
Go sliding in the fields or snowshoeing in the woods!

May 8* Plow Day 2 with Deri Farm (May 15 rain date)
May 16 "Black Beauty" Carriage Exhibit through Aug. 22
May 23* "Black Beauty" Book Discussion
June 5* Carriage driving clinic
July 10 Carriage, Sleigh and Antiques Auction
July 10 Benefit Dinner, Concert & Silent Auction
July 17 and Aug 14* Carriage driving clinics
Sept. 10 Artists' Reception for Fine Art & Crafts Show
Sept. 11 Fine Art & Crafts Show, Silent Auction thru Dec. 4
Sept. 11 Henry Fest 2010 Music Festival (Sept. 12 rain date)
Sept. 18* Dog Day 4 (Sept. 19 rain date)
Oct. 9* Harvest Day, "Carriages in Motion" and Hay Rides
Oct. 30* Pumpkin Fest (Oct. 31 rain date)
Nov. 7 Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive in Woolwich, Maine

* indicates a tentative date