



Skyline Farm Trustee John Sowles gives a tour of the museum to 60 eighth graders from Greely Middle School in Cumberland, Maine. Steven Hill photo

Down The Lane



SUMMER 2010

SKYLINE FARM

95 The Lane
North Yarmouth, Maine
(207) 829-9203

www.skylinefarm.org

Skyline Summer Celebration - 8th Annual Fundraiser - Saturday, July 10

JULY 10, 2010 Skyline Summer Celebration, Eighth Annual Fundraiser from 1 to 9 p.m.

- 1-4 p.m. Barn Sale, featuring carriages, antiques, kayaks, and collectibles from the public. (reserve your table for \$20); Pony Rides and "Black Beauty" activities for the children!
- 1-8:30 p.m. Silent Auction inside the museum
- 4-5 p.m. Social Hour (BYOB) with a Musical Introduction by Bagpiper Jeff Herbster
- 5-6 p.m. Lobster & Clam, Sirloin Steak, or BBQ Chicken Dinner by Finest Kind Caterers (\$50/person which includes a tax deductible donation to Skyline Farm)
- 6-9 p.m. Dessert Buffet & Wine Social inside the museum (for a freewill donation), surrounded by the Black Beauty exhibit. Live musical entertainment by Jeff Herbster on smallpipes, followed by Band Overboard (formerly Harmony Station)
- 8:45 p.m. Silent Auction winners announced. (Visa and MasterCard are accepted.)

All proceeds benefit Skyline Farm's operational expenses.

Come join Skyline Farm for its Eighth Annual summer fundraiser in the field with a slightly different and revamped 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 by selling carriages, antiques, kayaks,

and collectibles in a "Barn Sale" format in the afternoon. As an option, you can rent a table for \$20 to sell your wares by contacting Greg Cuffey at 207-239-5782, or you can have Skyline Farm sell your item(s) for a 15% commission.

For family entertainment, children can enjoy pony rides. Coordinated by Lynn Young, our offering of ponies and horses should provide what is many a young child's heart's delight. (Nominal fee charged.) Also Erin Bishop will offer age-appropriate educational activities related to "Black Beauty".

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.



Another new feature is the Dessert Buffet & Wine Social inside the museum (for a freewill donation). This provides an opportunity to flexibly fit your schedule by either extending your meal after the Lobster Bake or allowing you to just come to the Farm any time between 6 - 9 p.m. for an evening of socializing and conversation while showing your support for Skyline.

Skyline Summer Celebration is Skyline Farm's biggest event and an important fundraiser that helps us sustain our activities throughout the year.

(continued on page 2)

*JULY 10, 2010 Skyline Summer Celebration
(continued)*

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. Last year the bidding became quite competitive, and people watched their bids like a hawk. Be prepared to bid from 1 - 8:30 p.m. and hopefully take home those hotly-contested, desirable items at 9 p.m. *Please contact us if you can donate a product or service to the Silent Auction by e-mailing: info@skylinefarm.org.*



A gift basket donated by Cabot Creamery of Vermont will be one of the scores of tempting offerings in the Silent Auction.

At 1 p.m. come look over the wide variety of “must have” collectibles for sale, ranging from kayaks to dishes. 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!

Bring the whole family for a unique opportunity for children to ride on gentle ponies and horses in the shade of Skyline's Picnic Grove. (Nominal fee charged.) Join Program Developer Erin Bishop in working on creative, thought-provoking activity sheets related to

Anna Sewell's world famous story “Black Beauty”.

At 4 p.m. Jeff Herbster of Brunswick kicks off the Social Hour with a bagpipe performance to greet you as you wrap up your purchasing at the Barn Sale and join us for happy hour and a continuation of Silent Auction bidding. Please B(ring) Y(our) O(wn) B(everage).

At 5 p.m. enjoy your meal overlooking Skyline's sunlit fields - a perfect summer evening in Maine! Ginny Anderson's crew from Finest Kind Caterers will prepare a traditional Maine Lobster Bake, so you can see how it's done! If you don't prefer Lobster, you can reserve Sirloin Steak or BBQ Chicken. All meals include corn-on-the-cob, baked red potatoes, coleslaw, blueberry cake, lemonade, and coffee. Trustees will offer complimentary macaroni and cheese for the children.

At 6 p.m. step inside the museum to join other friends of the Farm for a Dessert Buffet and Wine Social. Advisory Trustees Sandy Green and Mark Heath are coordinating the baking of a fantastic selection of desserts. Mike Washo of Freeport Trading Company has generously helped us out with the wine selection. This is a great opportunity to introduce friends to the beauty and many benefits of Skyline and the organization. Live music will be provided by Jeff Herbster on smallpipes, followed by popular arrangements by Band Overboard as you continue to bid on the Silent Auction. Extend your evening and enjoy the conviviality of being with other like-minded supporters!

Place your dinner reservations before July 3rd by sending a check payable to “Skyline Farm” to Pamela Ames, 326 Gray Rd, North Yarmouth ME 04097. Please specify your dinner selection of Lobster, Steak, or Chicken. For more information, contact Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 or info@skylinefarm.org.

OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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PROGRAM DEVELOPER: (not a board position) Erin Bishop

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

The first of three carriage driving clinics was washed out, so instructors Patsy O'Brien and Judith Bean-Calhoun are encouraging students to enroll in the July 17 clinic at Snowfields in Pownal, ME and/or the third clinic on August 14 at Skyline Farm.

The clinics will give you instruction in basic driving skills. A cones course, a hazard or two and dressage training will be available

The clinics are fun and relaxed and will start at 9 am.

The fee is \$60 for the day.

Please complete the entry form available online at 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.

Black Beauty Exhibit Opens to Rave Reviews by Sheila Libby Alexander

Black Beauty Exhibit Opens to Rave Reviews
by Sheila Libby Alexander

Carriage Collection Committee members, Greg Cuffey, Ursula Baier, John Sowles, Cynn timer Henriques, Diana Logan and Sheila Alexander working with Program Developer Erin Bishop, Lisa Winfrey of Bound by Books, and Skyline Board President Pam Ames have put together a fascinating exhibit. Based on Anna Sewell's 1877 classic "autobiography" of the horse, *Black Beauty*, the exhibit starts with his early life showing carriages and artifacts and text from the story to highlight Sewell's concern for horses as the power that moved commerce. As one moves through the Museum, the carriages and scenes depict the congestion of the city, the terror of the fire at the livery stable, a carriage accident with the resultant wreckage to the horsepower involved, and finally the place where *Black Beauty* finds kind owners and a decent future.

We had a "soft opening" of the exhibit on May 15th for Plow Day while the finishing touches were being put in place. The Grand Opening with cake, coffee, and lemonade was on Sunday, May 16th. Between the two days, approximately 60 people viewed the *Black Beauty* exhibit and all seemed thoroughly impressed. Erin Bishop produced an excellent catalog that includes photos and descriptions of the carriages as well as information about Anna Sewell and the period in England when she wrote the book. We have unabridged copies of the book for sale in the Visitor Center.

The exhibit is open through August 22nd on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 - 4:00, except closed on July 4th. There will be a book discussion lead by Lisa Winfrey at 3:30 on August 15th. Please come to Skyline and see how we have captured the era when horses provided the power as told by a kind horse named *Black Beauty*.



A Carrier's Wagon circa 1890 is equipped with a foot brake to make it easier on the horse while descending long hills. Author Anna Sewell's concern for a horse's comfort level was pervasive in her book Black Beauty, which raised awareness of the treatment of horses.



A Fire Hose Wagon circa 1880 reminds Black Beauty readers of the fearful fire at the livery stable.
Patti Mikkelsen photos

Catalogue Driven Sales

by Gregory Cuffey

Mid-nineteenth century American subsistence farming was a harsh and isolated life. Farmers were spreading out across America and soon numbered 11 million, a majority of the US population in this burgeoning community. Add to that a little gold rush fever which moved even more of the population westward. Both groups needed large quantities of goods to survive.

With the advent of the Transcontinental Railway System and telegraph and mail service, business opportunities were ripe for the picking. Enter Richard Sears, a railroad telegraph operator who slowly began selling watches by mail-order. Business proved to be very good and he quit the telegraph job and recruited Alvah C. Roebuck, a maker and repairer of watches.

Thus Sears, Roebuck and Co. began in 1886. Both men realized rural America would buy more than watches and added other quality products delivered at the lowest possible cost. A few of these products included stoves, ice boxes, groceries, china, clothing, tombstones, medicines, jewelry, furniture, and sporting goods to name a few.

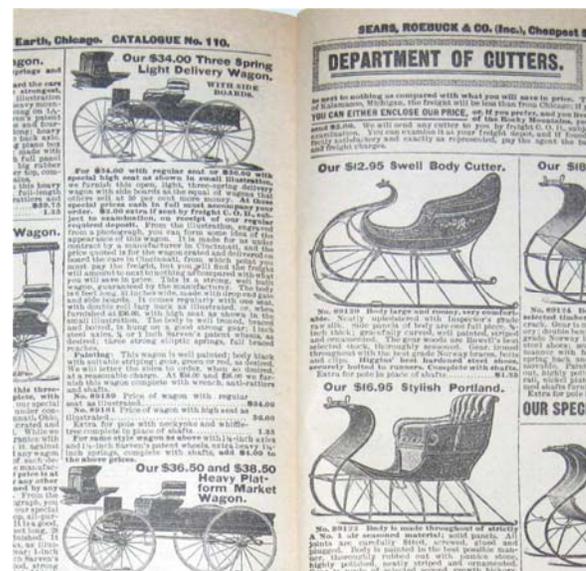
The catalogue business grew into their new centrally located 40 acre headquarters based in Chicago with branch warehouses located throughout the country. Chicago was picked because of the major railroad terminal already in place. In a continuing effort to control costs Sears, Roebuck and Co. started their own railroad. In 1913 the U.S. Postal Service initiated the Parcel Post system (still in use today). Its purpose was to set up a "special" lower rate structure for specific weight packages.

The company had few boundaries and in 1893 started selling a utilitarian line of buggies and a limited line of sleighs. Many were made by other companies for Sears, Roebuck and Co. One of the better known companies was Hercules Buggy Co. of Evansville, IN which was, for all intents and

purposes, owned by Sears, Roebuck and Co. Eventually, two large buggy factories were set up in Kalamazoo, MI and Brighton, OH to mass produce hundreds of thousands of horse-drawn vehicles. Both factories were located in areas where large quantities of hard wood trees flourished. Factory workers in 1900 averaged 22 cents an hour and the average sleigh sold for \$19.00, four wheeled buggy for \$50.00.

In 1905, the "Solid Comfort" line was introduced to fill America's hunger for semi-fine carriages. This carriage cost \$105.00 and was fitted with Springfield rubber tires, leather, velvet carpet and brass accessories. Soon after, the popular German style "American Beauty" wagon was designed. It was billed to be sturdy and light-weight and could travel well over rough roads.

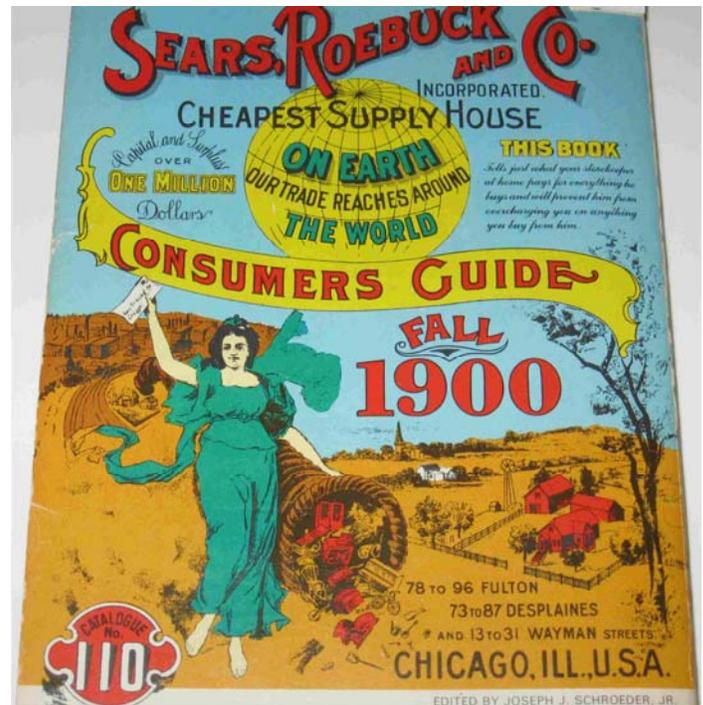
With the 1906 advent of Henry Ford's model N, Sears, Roebuck and Co. needed to change with the times. While still advertising a smaller & smaller line of horse-drawn vehicles into the 1930's, the 1908 Sears Auto-buggy or Motor-buggy line was introduced. Sears took their best selling two person buggy, refitted it with a rear mount 14 h.p. 2 cylinder motor, steering tiller and solid tires and sold it for \$400.00. Many of these still exist today and can be seen at auto shows and museums. (continued pg. 5)



A portion of the Sears, Roebuck & Co. Catalogue No. 110

Sears, Roebuck and Co. gobbled up many competitors and integrated them into their system. In time, they owned foundries, furniture, paint, shoe, camera, gun, washing machine, piano, plumbing, and wallpaper factories to name a few. Like the Sam's Club, Wal-Mart, and Target stores of today, central warehouses, direct distribution, and tight inventory control was/is key to large profits. Today's catalog companies including L.L. Bean, continue the tradition, printing over 200 million catalogues yearly and sending them all around the world.

Times haven't changed all that much in the last 120 years of mail-order catalogues except reading one is a little more pleasant with the dawn of indoor plumbing!



Plow Day 2 - May 15, 2010

Plow Day held on the event's rain date of May 15th dawned bright and windy. Several teams of plowmen and draft horses prepared the ground at Deri Farm, the Community Supported Agriculture enterprise residing at Skyline Farm, for planting. The Farmers Draft Horse, Mule and Pony Club of Maine sponsored the demonstration with Deri Farm.

Gary Kinney gave spectators wagon rides from Skyline Farm Carriage Museum to the demonstration area with his lovely pair of Percherons. At least 40 of the Plow Day spectators came through the carriage museum to preview the Black Beauty exhibit as the finishing touches were put in place for the exhibit's official Opening Day on May 16th, 2010.



Mollycokett Pony Club provided the refreshments for Plow Day. Heidi Perkins grills breakfast sandwiches made of fresh eggs provided by Deri Farm.

Patti Mikkelsen photo



One of the plowing teams cuts through the sod in the southwestern pasture in preparation for spring planting.

Patti Mikkelsen photo

*Maine Community Heritage Project (MCHP):
New Community Website Unveiled*
by Pamela Ames

On Wednesday, June 9, 2010 approximately 60 people came to Skyline Farm to celebrate the unveiling of the MCHP project team's new website:

<http://cny.mainememory.net>

that gives a synopsis of the history of two towns: North Yarmouth, including Skyline Farm, and Cumberland, Maine.

Upon arrival, folks enjoyed a sumptuous buffet prepared by Skyline trustee Mark Heath of Victory D Caterers and MCHP team members.



Wonderful buffet selections await people who came to see the new Cumberland/North Yarmouth website on Maine Memory Network.

Pamela Ames photo

We then adjourned to the museum where we heard about the importance of this work, how it was accomplished and met those who made it possible. Steve Hill, 8th grade history teacher at Greely Middle School, told the audience about the impact that this project had on his students. They especially enjoyed a recent field trip to Cumberland Historical Society's headquarters, the Old Town House owned by the North Yarmouth Historical Society, and Skyline Farm where students learned more about the carriages from trustee John Sowles (photo on cover).

Steve Bromage and Larissa Vigue Picard, both from the Maine Historical Society, shared their perspectives on the project's results. Steve cited "an increase in access to local history" as one of the main goals that was achieved through the MCHP project. Larissa reported that the team exceeded their projected goal by digitizing over 200 items.

After a brief dessert break, Thomas Bennett, Prince Memorial Library Director and MCHP Team Leader, hit the highlights of the new Cumberland and North Yarmouth website and then the audience broke into small groups at laptop stations set up around the room.



Elizabeth Tarasevich (on left), reference librarian at Prince Memorial Library in Cumberland, Maine, works beside Marie Peck who performed much of the library's scanning work for the MCHP Team. Elsie Moreau, a North Yarmouth resident, prepares to check out the new website.

Patti Mikkelsen photo

Celebration attendees were surrounded by antique carriages, while viewing historical images on laptops, a perfect backdrop for the new on-line exhibit, "Skyline Farm - Making and Preserving History". Maine Community Heritage Project provides benefits to Skyline Farm in many areas. Besides being able to share our history with the world, Skyline Farm now owns a MacBook laptop computer, similar to that used by area middle school students, and a wireless network for internet access. Carriage resources are now available at our fingertips!

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: Community Service Groups Pitch In!

Spring at Skyline Farm is time to get the farm in shape for summer, and this spring has been no exception. Most of the work this spring has been done by community service groups from surrounding schools. On May 12th and 13th, teachers Janice Seabury, Claire Evrard, Erica Corbett and Melissa Noack, with their 47 students from Yarmouth High School, maintained garden beds, weeded mulch rings, raked, pruned, cleared brush, pulled stumps, and cleaned the Museum in preparation for the 'Black Beauty' carriage exhibit opening. With the group's help on the 13th, we were also able to run a cable to facilitate installation of a new router to establish internet access in the museum.

On May 20, a group of 12 students came from North Yarmouth Academy and focused on three areas: replacing bark mulch with rich compost in two flower beds, removing and stacking invasive plants to be burned, and helping rejuvenate the flower beds beside the farmhouse. The grounds looked beautiful after this work was accomplished!

We are grateful to these organizations and their teachers for their help. If you have a group looking for a community service project for your group or organization, please contact Pamela

Ames (207-829-5708) or Paul Lones (207-829-4171).

Another longer term project begun this spring is to improve access to the fields and trails on the South end of the farm. Justin Deri, who operates his CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) organic farm, Deri Farm, at Skyline, is working on this project as time allows with his busy spring plowing and planting season. When completed, this will improve year round access to this part of the trail as well as help with Justin's farm work.

Lastly, Skyline Farm is working to improve its carriage sheds, which are directly behind the Museum. These sheds provide storage for the many vehicles that are not on exhibit in the museum at any given time. Carriage Shed #3 had a new roof and other improvements completed early this spring. Now our attention turns to Carriage Shed #2, which needs 58' of the existing concrete block wall replaced with a wooden wall system covered with metal industrial siding along with drainage and other frost prevention methods. If you are interested in helping to support this important project, please contact Kristi Wright (207-829-2167).



A group of Yarmouth High School students groom Skyline's grounds on May 12. Photos by Pamela Ames



A second group of Yarmouth High School students pose at the truss bridge after their chores on May 13.



North Yarmouth Academy students clear saplings and invasive plants.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

No need to register on Facebook! Click on the link on www.skylinefarm.org to go to:



BARN SALE

1-4 p.m., Saturday, July 10
(part of the Skyline Summer Celebration)

Rent a table for \$20 to sell your wares, or have Skyline sell your item(s) for a 15% commission. A shoppers delight! Contact Greg Cuffey at 207-239-5782.

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).

May 16 thru Aug. 22 **Skyline Farm and Bound By Books Interpret Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*, a Carriage Museum Exhibit** *Sundays, 1-4 pm (closed July 4)*
This exhibit covers 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 3)

July 10 **Skyline Summer Celebration: 8th Annual**
Come join Skyline Farm for its annual summer fundraiser in the field with a revamped format.
1-4 pm Barn Sale (replaces the morning auction)
Pony Rides and other children's activities
1-8:30 pm Silent Auction of a wide array of items
4-5 pm Social Hour (BYOB)
5-6 pm Lobster & Clam, Steak or BBQ Chicken
6-9 pm Dessert Buffet, Wine Social w/ live music
8:45 pm Silent Auction winners announced.
All proceeds benefit Skyline Farm's operational expenses.
Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 (see pages 1-2)

July 17 **Carriage Driving Clinic at Snowfields** 9 am
Instruction in basic driving skills at Snowfields.
Info: Patsy O'Brien, (207) 688-4748 (see page 3)

Aug. 14 **Carriage Driving Clinic at Skyline Farm** 9 am
Instruction in basic driving skills at Skyline Farm.
Info: Patsy O'Brien, (207) 688-4748 (see page 3)

Aug. 15 **Book Discussion #2** 3:30 pm
A book discussion of Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty* 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 3)

Sept. 11 Henry Fest 2010 Music Festival (Sept. 12 rain date)

Sept. 18 Dog Day 4 (Sept. 19 rain date)

Oct. 15* Artists' Reception for Fine Art & Crafts Show

Oct. 16* Fine Art & Crafts Show & Silent Auction thru Dec. 4

Oct. 16* Harvest Day, with local foods and hay rides

Oct. 30* Pumpkin Fest (Oct. 31 rain date)

Nov. 7 Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive in Woolwich, ME

* indicates a tentative date