



Donna Thurston of North Yarmouth, Maine drives Ben while chauffeuring a passenger at Skyline Farm's Sleigh Day. Diana Logan photo

Down The Lane



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

SPRING 2008

"Summer Fair" Museum Exhibit



"Peytona and Fashion"
Currier & Ives

Skyline Farm's new museum exhibit starting May 4 is titled "Summer Fair". The exhibit portrays a snapshot of a typical day at the fair in the early 1900's. Once, every Maine town proudly met at their local sandy oval to show off agricultural products, latest horse drawn vehicles and livestock. Winning blue ribbons and the bragging rights attached to them for the following year were the prizes of the day.

Carriages and people of every description would crowd the grassy infields to watch various horse-drawn competitions whether it was a horse race, pulling competition or carriage show. Betting added to the festive atmosphere. The social gatherings often included a tailgate picnic. It was not unlike today's "parking lot" barbeque tailgate picnics before a sports event.

Exhibit is open Sundays 12 to 3 p.m. from May 4th through Aug. 24th, or by appointment.

For more information, please contact:
Greg Cuffey, (207) 239-5782 or info@skylinefarm.org

National Carriage & Driving Month

Come celebrate Horses & Carriage Driving on May 17 from 1-4 p.m. at Skyline Farm (rain date: May 18).

Maine Driving Club and Skyline Farm invite you to join them to celebrate the first National Carriage & Driving Month: May 2008! Celebrating our horse-drawn heritage is the creative idea of Carriage Association of America (CAA); both the Maine Driving Club and Skyline Farm are excited to be taking part!

Spend a spring afternoon at beautiful and historic Skyline Farm to learn the basics of carriage driving. Enjoy a "hands-on" learning experience with both Maine Driving Club members and Skyline Farm volunteers. See a live driving demonstration in the outdoor arena, try your hand at "driving" a reinboard "horse", explore the Skyline Farm Carriage Museum, and learn how to harness a horse!

Take a horse-drawn wagon ride down The Lane for \$5 per person (free for kids 5 and under).

This event is designed to be educational and informative for anyone who loves horses and carriages, equine enthusiasts, and beginner drivers alike!

Admission is \$5 per car or \$3 per person.

For more information, please contact:

Elizabeth Tewksbury, Maine Driving Club President
(207) 625-4616 or

Pam Ames, Skyline Farm President (207) 829-5708 or
info@skylinefarm.org

Why were people snowshoeing through the woods at Skyline Farm? ..at night! ..in the sleet! On February 27, thirteen people participated in the "Owl Prowl" put on by the Royal River Conservation Trust and Maine Audubon Society.

Bill Hancock, who is involved with both organizations, presented a slideshow in the farm's Visitor Center which introduced Maine's owls and their habits. Then the group bundled up against the elements and snowshoed on the farm's trails to call for owls. Bill played a recording of specific owls, and the small crowd grew silent when they thought they heard a great horned owl ... or was it just the wind whistling through the trees during the sleet storm?

After the night walk was over, the participants were filled with excitement over what they had just experienced. Maine Audubon Staff Naturalist Judy Walker of Freeport and June LaCombe of Pownal agreed that it was "a great program! It was lovely to be outside at night in the winter". June continued, "I was waiting with anxious anticipation, waiting to see if we saw any owls. I get the same feeling when I'm fishing."

Bill Hancock said, "Skyline Farm is a beautiful site for a night walk. It has a nice forest." He and Amanda Devine, RRCT Stewardship Coordinator, both hope to work with Skyline's trustees to bring more events like this to the Farm.

GoodSearch.com/GoodShop.com Fundraiser

A fundraiser for Skyline Farm was publicized in the last issue of this newspaper: GoodSearch.com. A penny is earned for every web search that is done. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and click on the button labeled as such to add GoodSearch to your IE, Firefox or Mac toolbar. Please use it for all your searches, after naming "Skyline Farm (Yarmouth, ME)" as beneficiary. Let's get going; to date we've only raised \$9.00.

A related fundraiser involves GoodShop.com, which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop.

Every time you place an order, you'll also be supporting Skyline Farm.

We are especially grateful for our Annual Business Sponsors' contributions toward our general operating support. Please consider contacting them for your business needs.

- Abbott's Premium Ice Cream
- Ames Farm Center
- Anderson Landscaping, Inc.
- Averill Insurance Agency
- Bath Savings Institution
- Blue Seal Feeds, Inc.
- Cumberland Animal Clinic
- Glacial Lakes Financial
- Gray-New Gloucester Animal Hospital
- Law Offices of Thaddeus V. Day, PLLC
- North Yarmouth Automotive Service Excellence
- Scott Kerr, Broker, RE/MAX By The Bay
- The Notes, A Free Weekly Magazine
- Toddy Brook Golf Course & Café

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

The 2nd Annual Sledding Party was held at Skyline Farm on Saturday, March 1, 2008. The weather that day was very snowy and wet. Many of us had doubts that anyone would show up, but how could we cancel a sledding party because of snow?? Happily, about twelve families braved the elements to join in the fun. In addition to sledding, a few people did some snowshoeing and a couple of kids snowboarded.

After about an hour, the party moved inside for snacks and hot chocolate. Thankfully, we have a nice Visitor's Center to warm up and dry off in!

Most of the families toured the carriage and sleigh museum, and all of the children enjoyed "driving" Dylan and the Skyline Express.

"Good Sledding" indeed!

In Review: 9th Annual Sleigh Day

Skyline Farm held its 9th Annual Sleigh Day on February 2 under bright blue skies. Unfortunately, the warmish weather conditions led to rendering the snow-pack to slush. This made for less than ideal conditions drastically lowering the number of entrants to just one: Donna Thurston, a Skyline Farm Trustee. She drove an antique sleigh drawn by her rugged steed named Ben, coping very well with the challenging snow conditions.

Approximately 150 visitors streamed to the Farm to revel in the sparking winter weather. A steady line of excited attendees anxiously awaited their turn to take a ride in Luther Gray's sleigh drawn by his two hardy Percherons.

Rave reviews were given by those who tasted the delicious homemade fare supplied by Equisine Caterers. Another highlight was great press coverage provided by the Portland Press Herald.

Skyline Farm President Pamela Ames remarked, "Our Board's vision was to get the word out to the southern Maine community that we are a valuable resource not to be missed, and today might have put us on the map!"

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped make the event such a success!

Skyline Farm Facilities Update by Paul Lones

We are finally seeing some bare ground at Skyline Farm, and the South slopes of the fields are even showing signs of greening up a bit. It has been a long winter, with much of our volunteer efforts focused on removing snow. Thanks to those who helped with this seemingly never-ending chore.

One important project was completed over the course of the winter. Margaret Totten kindly refinished the front door of the farmhouse. This door had many coats of paint and required repair as well as new paint. It is nice to be able to continue to use this original door, where it has hung for over 120 years! The door will be re-hung in late April or early May, depending on weather. Thank you, Margaret.

This spring and summer hold a wide range of indoor and outdoor projects being planned. Many improvement projects are suitable for volunteers: interior and exterior painting, landscaping and gardening, light carpentry and trail work.

A few examples of these job assignments include:

- Painting any of several downstairs rooms in the farmhouse
- Cleaning up the garden beds from their winter rest
- Grading around the farmhouse to improve drainage
- Painting the North side of the barn that received new clapboards late last autumn.
- Painting the South side of the farm house.
- Mulching part of the trail to prevent erosion
- Cleaning up fallen tree limbs on the trails

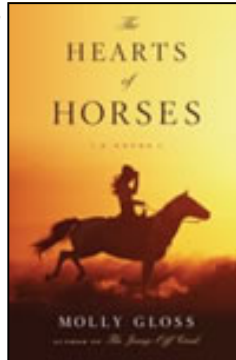
There are other similar volunteer job opportunities as well. Many projects can be broken down into smaller sub-categories, and Skyline Farm will provide the materials.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Paul Lones at paul.lones@skylinefarm.org or (207) 829-4171.

The Hearts of Horses: A Novel by Molly Gloss, Houghton Mifflin Co., 2007

I heard an intriguing interview on NPR's "Morning Edition" which sent me off to the Portland Public Library to get *The Hearts of Horses*. Molly Gloss sounded so honest in her knowledge of and interest in 1917-18 Oregon. A time when young men were off fighting the "war to end all wars" and those left at home in the high dry valleys of Eastern Oregon struggled on remote farms and ranches.

Nineteen year old Martha Lessen with her three horse string leave a sad home life to try her hand at breaking horses over the Ipsoot Pass into Elwha County. With the help of the first rancher she meets and his wife, she sets up a 15-mile "circle ride" from ranch to ranch, and back every day, gentling and riding the young broncos in ways that are far different than the often cruel methods of the broncobusters.



Martha in her quiet way becomes important in the lives of all the circle ranches bringing mail, supplies, and a kind face to talk to where sometimes there is only loneliness, injury and illness. Molly Gloss gets the horse aspects of the book just right.

It is a time when horses and carriages/wagons are coming to the end of their useful life in the West. A few ranchers have automobiles which, although useless in the winters and mud season, are soon to replace horses as a way of life.

Martha's story ends entirely too soon. The people she meets, the horses she rides, and the time almost 100 years ago are so beautifully presented to the reader that you savor each chapter knowing that all too soon Martha Lessen will become one of your all-time favorite fictional characters. Her story will be one to highly recommend to a friend. I just did.

Carriage & Antique Auction - July 12

Skyline Farm hosts its Sixth Annual Carriage & Antique Auction on Saturday, July 12 at 10 a.m. Plan to come bid on a wide array of items, including horse-drawn carriages, sleighs, driving & riding appointments, carriage & wagon parts, miscellaneous horse related items, antiques and collectibles. There is something for everyone!

Once again the benefit auctioneer is knowledgeable and energetic Phil Stanton from Falmouth, Mass.

\$15 to register for a bidder's package for 2 adults, including the catalog.

Contact Greg Cuffey now for consignment contracts at (207) 239-5782, or email sphomaine@hotmail.com.

6th Annual Lobster Bake, Concert, and Silent Auction - July 12

Once again, Skyline hosts this crowd pleaser! Mark your calendar now for Saturday, July 12, 2008, 5 p.m. Silent auction tables chock full of fascinating items will be available to bid on throughout the evening.

Come see old friends and meet new ones while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, soft drinks and a fully catered meal on the beautiful Skyline Farm grounds. There will also be food options for people who prefer their fare to come from the turf, not the surf. For entertainment, Skyline will host a band and the kids will be offered entertainment, so bring the whole family!

In addition to the music and children's entertainment, the museum will be open for visitors to tour the "Summer Fair" exhibit, and carriage rides will be offered for those who want to experience the thrill of being driven around in the fields.

Don't miss this opportunity to spend a summer evening enjoying and supporting one of the most unique and valuable assets in the Portland area.

Please look for additional details in the summer newsletter or contact Greg Wiessner for more information at (207) 400-7809 or gaw20@columbia.edu.

We all have our stories of interesting horse-drawn vehicle "finds". This is one of ours.

Prologue

Many years ago my family went on vacation from Braintree, Massachusetts, to Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and visited a local antique auto museum. Among the many cars on display was one horse-drawn vehicle: a beautiful surrey; complete with the original leather fenders, upholstery and lamps! Fortunately the maker's plate was still in place in the usual spot on the rear axle: Folger and Drummond, Amesbury, Massachusetts.

After corresponding with the museum owner we learned that he would consider selling the vehicle and a short time later, on a September weekend trip with a U-Haul trailer, we all returned and brought the vehicle back to the USA.

Full Circle

The museum owner said that he had purchased the surrey at a local antique shop and the following summer we went there and learned that it had been purchased from a family who lived nearby. Family members remembered the vehicle well and told us that an elderly uncle, who had worked as a chauffeur in Milton, Massachusetts, had been given the vehicle many years earlier when the family for whom he had worked switched from horse-drawn transportation to an automobile. The surrey was shipped by train to Nova Scotia where it was used for many, many years.

A check of the telephone book revealed that the same family was still living in the same house in Milton! The

gentleman who answered the telephone remembered the elderly chauffeur well and spoke highly of him; remembering that he had passed away, in 1941 as I recall. We visited the barn where the surrey had been kept completing the full circle on this vehicle.

We always considered it such a happy coincidence that this vehicle, made in the great carriage center of Amesbury, Massachusetts, and originally sold to a family in Milton, had returned, after so many years, and so many miles, to a family living just a few miles away from Milton, in Braintree!

Epilogue

The individual history of each horse-drawn vehicle can be so very interesting! It truly gives each vehicle its own personality and indeed, its "life". In the case of this beautiful surrey, knowing that it came from the carriage factory of Folger and Drummond places it in its city, building and time of origin.

We have since located original advertising material on this interesting company, as well as photographs of the two gentlemen for whom the firm was named. To know right to the street address where the vehicle was used for regular transportation for so many years also makes it special.

Every vehicle has its story. Please write them down and preserve them! They are interesting now; will be even more fascinating in the future; and only we in the present can preserve them for all time.

Happy collecting and driving to all who enjoy the historic exhibits and the beauties of Skyline Farm and best wishes to all for a marvelous summer!

Henry Fest, an Acoustic Music Festival - August 23

For the first time in its 4-year history, Henry Fest is movin' down the road to Skyline Farm to afford the acoustic music festival more space. The event to be held on Saturday, August 23 from morning to late evening combines outdoor fun, friends, families, food, and lots of music. Visit the event's web site www.henryfest.com for all the details.



Advance tickets are available at 317 Main Street, Yarmouth or Ames Farm Center, North Yarmouth. Admission fees are: Family \$40, Individual \$20, Student \$10. There is a \$5 discount if tickets are purchased by July 4th. For more info or to order through the mail, call (207) 846-9559 or e-mail frontdesk@317mainst.org.

In review: "Good Sledding" Exhibit

Skyline Farm's third winter exhibit, which ran from February 2 through March 23, was well-received by the many visitors who came to learn the variety of ways in which nineteenth century folks handled driving conditions on snow and ice.

The name of the exhibit was derived by a phrase used in that era. The people would note "good sledding" in their diaries when conditions that day were optimum for visiting their neighbors.

The carriage and sleigh museum exhibit portrayed examples of snowshoes, skis, and nineteenth century sleighs to give visitors a sense of how people back then took advantage of the snow-pack to revel in recreational pursuits.

The display drew much praise from first-timers as well as from returning visitors. Thanks to all of the many docents who brought the museum to life by interpreting the exhibit for the appreciative guests.

Stormy Weather School Bus Sleigh



(L to R) Bonnie Van Damm, along with Annika and Ksenia Smart pose in front of this antique school bus. Patti Mikkelsen photo

One of the most popular displays of the "Good Sledding" exhibit, admired by children and adults alike, was the Stormy Weather School Bus Sleigh. It was generously on loan from the Knight Family of Smiling Hill Farm located in Westbrook, Maine.

This charming sleigh is believed to be over 100 years old. Its first use was likely by Roger Knight's aunt, Vesta Knight, as a winter service ve-

hicle on her rounds to deliver milk and farm items to customers in Portland's East End.

As a school bus, it was probably put into service in the mid 1920's to go to the Valentine Street School in Westbrook. Being enclosed, it offered protection from the bad weather. This sleigh was used into the early 1930's and has been stored at Smiling Hill Farm since then.

"Fertile Ground" Art Exhibit and Sale with Silent Auction

Skyline Farm will host its 3rd annual invitational art exhibit & sale "Fertile Ground", one of its significant fund raisers. The show opens with an artists' reception from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, September 12th and runs through Sunday, October 19, 2008. A Silent Auction that also benefits the Farm will run concurrently with the art show. Admission is free.

"Fertile Ground" will be an exhibit of contemporary Maine artists whose paintings, photographs and sculptures are inspired by the rural farm landscapes and open spaces of Maine, "the way life should be".

The artworks will be featured in the carriage museum where a selection of carriages and sleighs will be on display to complement the art show's theme.

The art show is being held in conjunction with other Skyline Farm annual events to take advantage of the throngs of animal lovers who attend these events.

As in the past, artists will also donate items to the Silent Auction, which will run the duration of the show. 100% of the funds raised from the Silent Auction will benefit Skyline Farm and its programs and exhibits. Final bids for silent auction items end at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19.

Artists are generously sharing a portion of each artwork's sale with Skyline Farm and all of the proceeds from the sale of their silent auction donations. Hopefully, you can visit the Farm and find that special piece of art from these talented artists!



"Thompson Ridge Lupine" by artist Kathi Peters of Morrill, ME

2008 SKYLINE FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS *(continued from page 8)*

Sept. 13 **Dog Day, "Celebrate Dog"** *2nd annual, 10-3*
 Canines and their handlers strut their stuff in a variety of dog hobbies, including agility, fly-ball, and "freestyle"
Sept. 14 doggie dancing. Professional trainers conduct clinics and answer your dog-related questions. Admission fee.
 Info: Diana Logan, (207) 829-3187

Sept. 20 **Antique Appraisals** *10-2*
 Learn what your antiques are worth! \$10 / item, or 3 / \$25.
 Info: Greg Cuffey, (207) 239-5782

Oct. 12 **Maine Carriage Day** *31st annual, 9:30 am*
 A Country Drive, Picnic, and Sporting Afternoon; an old fashioned day of carriage driving. Spectators can view the horse-drawn vehicles as they are driven in the ring and down country roads. Spectator admission: \$5 per person. Free for Skyline Farm members and children 5 & under.
 Info: e-mail us at info@skylinefarm.org

Oct. 18 **Pumpkin Fest** *9th annual, 3 - 5 pm*
 A wonderful event for the whole family, featuring traditional Halloween party festivities. \$10 per carload. Free for Skyline Farm members. Wagon rides (add'l fee).
 Info: Jennifer Kimball, (207) 829-6278

Nov. 9 **Pleasure Trail Ride/Drive** *3rd annual, 10 am*
 Kennebec Morgan Farm in Woolwich, Maine, offers beautiful vistas. \$20 per entry.
 Info: Becky Totten, (207) 522-9668



**This is a perfect time of year to join Skyline Farm,
 as your membership would extend until April 30, 2009!**

Skyline Farm Membership Form

Name _____ Street _____
 Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Would you help reduce our postage costs by receiving the following via e-mail?

- event reminders newsletters no e-mails, please

*** Regular Membership Levels:**

- Student \$25
 Individual \$35
 Family \$50
 Participating \$100
 Supporting \$500
 Benefactor \$1,000

**** Equine Membership Levels:**

- Student \$40
 Individual \$50
 Family \$90
 Other Gift: \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

*** Regular Membership entitles you to:**

Free spectator admission to Sleigh Day, Maine Carriage Day and Pumpkin Fest. Skyline Farm newsletters and event calendar.
 15% discount on Skyline Farm logo items.
 Invitation to members only interpretive tour of the Skyline Farm Carriage Collection.

**** Equine Membership Benefits:**

Trailer Parking.
 Use of riding ring.
 Use of driving hazards.
 Use of trail system for riding and driving.

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

Your membership is effective through
 April 30, 2009.
Look for your membership card in the mail!

For Skyline Farm office use only

date received: _____ date membership card sent: _____ check number: _____

2008 SKYLINE FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS (continued on page 7)

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: Contact the event chairperson, go to www.skylinefarm.org, write to info@skylinefarm.org, or leave a message at (207) 829-9203.

**May 4
through
Aug. 24**

“Summer Fair” Carriage Exhibit *Sundays, 12-3, or by appointment*
Skyline Farm Carriage Museum portrays a snapshot of a typical day at the fair in the early 1900’s, even a tailgate picnic. Free admission, donations gratefully accepted.
Info: Greg Cuffey, (207) 239-5782 (see page 1)

**May 17
(rain date:
May 18)**

Celebrate Horses & Carriage Driving *1 - 4 pm*
Maine Driving Club and Skyline Farm co-host a celebration for the 1st Annual National Carriage & Driving Month. Visit various “stations” to learn about carriages and driving horses. Admission \$5 / car or \$3 pp. Wagon ride \$5 pp.
Info: Elizabeth Tewksbury, (207) 625-4616 (see page 1)

June 20

Antique Cars Stop at Skyline Farm *10-11:30 am*
Vintage automobiles (1935-1983) take a pit stop at Skyline Farm while traveling around Maine as part of the Veteran Motor Car Club of America’s National 2008 Chrome Glidden Tour. Come admire these classics!
Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708

July 12

Carriage & Antique Auction *6th annual, 10 am*
Welcome back, Phil Stanton, auctioneer from Falmouth, Massachusetts. Come find that carriage, sleigh, antique or collectible to add to your collection or get you in the driver’s seat! Donated and consignment items needed. \$15 for catalog & registration for 2 bidders.
Info: Greg Cuffey, (207) 239-5782 (see page 4)

July 12

Lobster Bake, Concert & Silent Auction
6th annual, 5 pm

A summer evening of enjoying Maine’s favorite shellfish (turf option) and the sounds of live music. Bid on an eclectic array of Silent Auction items. Carriage ride (fee).
Info: Greg Wiessner, (207) 400-7809 (see page 4)

Aug. 23

Henry Fest 2008 *morning to late evening*
317 Main Street, a community music center, and Skyline Farm are teaming up to present this collaborative, community festival featuring acoustic music. Food available. Carriage rides available (separate fee).
Info: (207) 846-9559 (see page 5)

Sept. 12

Opening of “Fertile Ground” Art Exhibit and Sale with Silent Auction *Friday 5-7 pm*
Meet the Maine artists who are participating in the third invitational art show and sale; start bidding on the silent auction. Free admission.
Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 (see page 6)

**Sept. 13
through
Oct. 19**

“Fertile Ground” Art Exhibit and Sale with Silent Auction *Saturdays/Sundays, 12–3 pm or by appt.*
Artworks by Maine painters, photographers, and sculptors are complemented by carriages and sleighs.
Info: Pamela Ames, (207) 829-5708 (see page 6)



PO BOX 144
YARMOUTH, ME 04096



*Skyline Farm’s Concord Buggy is on loan to the Saco Museum for its exhibition about Mary Bean, The Factory Girl, 1850s. The Saco Museum is located on Route 1, Saco, Maine.
Pamela Ames photo*

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