This is the time of year that Strawbery Banke is in ‘readiness mode.’ With Daylight Savings Time in effect and the Baby Animals event coming up at the end of April there’s a sense of anticipation in the air.

That anticipation caps a very good year for the museum. Strawbery Banke has achieved record attendance, solid financial growth and increased membership. The campus has never looked better as the Heritage House Program gets closer to completing the remaining buildings scheduled for restoration and rehabilitation. The education department led 10,000 schoolchildren—20 percent of them receiving full tuition and transportation from the History Within Reach scholarship program—on adventures discovering the fun of the past.

Looking forward, the new Long-Range Interpretive Plan, funded by the Institute for Museum & Library Services, has the Strawbery Banke team focused on the future, testing new programs and approaches to interpret the rich history of the Puddle Dock neighborhood.

On the immediate horizon is March 31st and the end of the museum’s Fiscal Year. The Annual Fund, a key component of the funding program for Strawbery Banke, is now underway. And thanks to the March Match—a commitment of $25,500 by past and present Trustees and National Council
WICKIE ROWLAND ADDS BABY ANIMALS TO HER STRAWBERRY BANKE PORTFOLIO

The 2018 Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds on the Banke event (April 21–29; daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) has a new identity: a selection of charming illustrations (pictured) by Wickie Rowland of New Castle, NH.

Wickie Rowland is the author and illustrator of two books about “JD” the black cat that became the unofficial mascot of Strawberry Banke. Interested in drawing since she was old enough to hold a pencil, she worked as an interpreter at Strawberry Banke while in college and remains engaged in multiple aspects of the museum. She is Landscape Designer & Creative Director for Labrie Associates, Inc., in North Hampton; and in 2017 received the Association of Professional Landscape Designers Silver Award.

When asked about her drawings that are being used in materials for the 2018 Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds on the Banke, she said, “How could anyone say no when asked to draw baby animals? It sounded like a really fun project. I had been to the Strawberry Banke Baby Animals Exhibit and it’s such a wonderful happy, low stress outing. As it turns out, drawing baby animals is happy and low stress, too!”

LABRIE FAMILY SKATE AT PUDDLE DOCK POND MEANS SO MUCH MORE

Over its first four seasons, Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond has provided priceless memories: of tots learning to skate, teenagers enjoying fresh air and friends, romantic skates under the stars, professional ice dancers against a backdrop of historic houses and the Seacoast community celebrating this winter addition to the quality of life that brings them together in this place at this time.

Recently, unimagined benefits have been added to the list. Vision impaired skaters from Future In Sight and elementary school children joining Doug Webster, artistic director and the other professional skaters who donated their time for Ice Dance International skating clinics. (In addition to those complimentary sessions, each of those children and every Learn To Skate child received a free ticket to the ice show). Northeast Passage coaches, with support from Living Innovations, bring adaptive equipment and Portsmouth Rotary and The Rusty Hammer sponsor free skating sessions each week to make the ice accessible to all who want to skate.

Several sponsors hosted skating parties for other non-profits, in addition to providing financial support. R.M. Davis welcomed the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of NH (with River House providing refreshments) and Bank of New Hampshire hosted kids from Arts In Reach, Zebra Crossings and Fair Trade. UNH brought their men’s and women’s hockey teams (and mascot) for a skating clinic; and NHPBS Kids Club brought Clifford The Big Red Dog. As Bangor Savings Bank — who provided two different free skating sessions as part of a community-building campaign — notes it’s all about “Surprise and Delight.”

Case in point: a group of Chase Home teenagers. Anne Weidman, Strawberry Banke Trustee, avid skater and skating rink volunteer/advocate is on the ice to welcome the kids from Chase Home each week. Sometimes six boys and six girls skate together. Sometimes just the boys or just the girls, depending on the dynamics of the day. “The kids are so kind!” she commented. In every case, the residents form a continuum with the children who lived in Strawberry Banke’s Chase House starting in 1881 when railroad magnate and Boston philanthropist George Chase donated the private residence as the first Chase Home for Orphaned Children.
NEW PROGRAMS FROM THE BOATSHOP AT STRAWBERRY BANKE!

From May through October 2018, HANDS ON BOATS will continue construction of a replica Piscataqua River Wherry based on the lines taken from an historic vessel, which is part of the Strawbery Banke Museum collection. The project is broken into phases focused on a particular aspect of construction, with multiple session days offered during each phase. Sessions are full- or half-day (morning only) programs and are limited to six participants to ensure ample opportunity for one-on-one interaction and guidance. 2017 participants documented the historic vessel, lofted the new boat and created the patterns and molds. 2018 participants will have the opportunity to work alongside a master boat builder to construct the stem and transom, plank, build the bottom and thwart risers, install the thwarts and rails, and complete the finish work.

2018 HANDS ON BOATS SESSION DATES
MAY 4, 5, 6, 18, 19 & 20 (STEM, TRANSOM AND PLANKING)
JUNE 7, 8, 9, 17 (FATHER’S DAY!) & 18 (PLANKING)
JULY 13, 14, 16 & 27 (PLANKING)
AUGUST 24, 25 & 26 (PLANKING)
SEPTEMBER 9, 10, 11 (BOTTOM & THWART RISERS)
OCTOBER 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28 (THWARTS, RAILS, FINISH AND PAINTING)

To register for a program, please visit BoatshopAtStrawberyBanke.org/handsonboats.html.

CELESTIAL NAVIGATION COURSE
MAY 5 & 6 IN THE TYCO VISITORS CENTER

This concise two-day course in the theory and practice of practical celestial navigation will be led by Nate Hazen, engineer sailor and National Chapman Award Winning Instructor for US Power Squadrons. The course teaches participants the basic principles, timekeeping, almanac usage, sight reduction methods and position plotting, and training and observation with a marine sextant as well as alternative reduction by scientific hand calculator and a PC-based programmed calculator emulator. At the conclusion, participants will be able to take sights, reduce them and plot positions from daily observations of the sun. Morning twilight observations of the moon and planets may be offered, all dependent on weather conditions. Tuition is $195 for Strawbery Banke Museum members (please contact us at boatshop@strawberybanke.org for the discount code); $215 for non-members.

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members—every additional dollar raised will be matched, doubling each gift.

Your Annual Fund gift supports new interpretive programs and educational initiatives that serve thousands each year and ensures Strawbery Banke is a place to learn, a place to gather and a sustainable resource for the community long into the future.

Your ongoing support makes all the difference. Please consider a March Match gift to help us begin the new fiscal year with a spring in our step.

—TCYeXvendy
We welcome your comments about this issue of Banke Notes and encourage your ideas. Please contact us at 603-433-1100 or info@strawberybanke.org.

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH — ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

SBM OFFERS THE MUSEUM’S 22ND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

The Archaeological Field School will continue to focus on preserving archaeological resources surrounding the historic Penhallow House in advance of the house’s rehabilitation as part of the Heritage House Program. During the Field Session (June 4–15), students are trained in archaeological field techniques and learn to identify historic artifacts. This year, by popular request, the museum also offers a Lab Session (June 18–29), inviting students to work in the Carter Collections Center laboratory to gain experience in processing, identifying, and cataloging artifacts recovered from the Penhallow site. Learn about past Field School discoveries and follow the 2018 Field School on the blog, Dig Strawbery Banke! (digsstrawberybanke.blogspot.com) For more information, visit StrawberyBanke.org/fieldschool.cfm

The 2018 Archaeology Field School scholarships are sponsored by Lynch Pellet Stove Services.

Shovel head found in the 19th century layer of the Penhallow investigation.

FIGTREE KITCHEN CAFÉ IS NOW CLOSED

THE CAFÉ REOPENS ON APRIL 21 FOR BABY ANIMALS: HERITAGE BREEDS AT THE BANKE.