

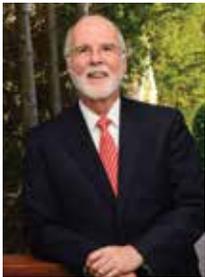
STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM

Banke Notes

APRIL 2017

President's Message

Lawrence J. Yerdon, President & CEO



April at Strawberry Banke gives Spring a whole new dimension, as it brings the start of a new fiscal year and a time for looking back over the past year's accomplishments and to the opportunities ahead.

So it is a delight to open the season, once again, with Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds on the Banke, an event in only its second year but already eagerly-anticipated and growing in stature among those who care deeply about the future of heritage breeds. Guest curator Peter Cook recently commented that this corner of New England seems to be a nexus for some of the rarest breeds in existence and that the breeders he has attracted to this initiative are especially passionate about and dedicated to their work. For the farmers and their families, these baby animals are treasures; and we are proud to bring them to Strawberry Banke.

Like the heritage breeds, the elements Strawberry Banke preserves (and husbands for future generations) are treasures the team here delights in sharing. So when the metrics used to measure each year's progress point in as positive a direction, there's an opportunity to share the deep satisfaction that comes from such substantial results.

And to thank all of you who helped accomplish those results.

Strawberry Banke is doing well. The Annual Fund came in 9 percent over budget, thanks to the Founders March Match and to the fact that many who participated in the fund drive decided to make their gifts larger this year. The income was more than 10 percent greater than FY16—that means each donor decided their investment in Strawberry Banke was worthwhile; and we thank you for that vote of confidence.

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Welcome Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke!

APRIL 22 THROUGH APRIL 30



Some New England farmers make their lives' work the preservation of heritage breeds of animals once familiar to regional barnyards. They and their animals are the stars of Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke, returning to Strawberry Banke for the second year, April 22nd through 30th.

Highlights include the Large Black piglets from Vermont, famous for the racecourse they made of their pen last year; Gloucester Old Spot from Bittersweet Farm in Lyndeborough NH and—new this year—the unusual Mulefoot piglets from Dogpatch Farm in Maine. Lambs include Soay sheep from Hermit Thrush Hill in Fonda NY, Clun Forest sheep from Riverbank Farm in Salisbury NH and Jacob sheep from Hogwash Farm in Norwich VT. Along with bunnies from the aptly-named Kerfluffle Fiber Farm in Lebanon, Maine; Nigerian goat kids from Tiny Hill Farm in Milton Mills, NH; and newly-hatched chicks and ducklings from heritage breed hatcheries.

Honorary curator for Baby Animals is New Hampshire's Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Dr. Stephen Crawford who will assist guest curator Peter Cook and Strawberry Banke trustees open the exhibition tents on Saturday, April 22nd.

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President's Message

Continued from page 1...

Our membership numbers also exceeded budget, by 18 percent, with many new members prompted by the desire to “Keep Portsmouth Skating” by joining during the season for Labrie Family Skate. The enhancements made to the guest amenities surrounding the rink this year should encourage those who have experienced Strawbery Banke during the historic houses season to come see what it’s like “the rest of the year.”

Corporate sponsorship has also increased, year on year; and there are several new sponsors for Baby Animals and the many other events and programs, all measures that the greater Seacoast community is supportive of what Strawbery Banke is doing.

Congratulations are due to many of Portsmouth’s institutions who celebrate major anniversaries this year: The Portsmouth Athenaeum’s 200th, the Portsmouth Historical Society’s and Greater Portsmouth Chamber’s 100, the 25th for Seacoast Science Center, the 20th for the Shapiro House here at Strawbery Banke. It will be a year of looking back to look forward. Here’s to filling the record books with more good news!

Laurence Jordan

Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke

Continued from page 1...

In addition to the animals tents and hands-on “Heritage Breeds at the Banke Fiber Arts” presented by Harrisville Designs, with Nancy Cook and members of the Strawbery Banke Education Department, open daily 10 am to 5 pm, there are two new programs this year:

BABY ANIMALS LECTURE LUNCHES

SUNDAY APRIL 23RD AND SUNDAY APRIL 30TH FROM 11 TO 2 PM

Each program includes a guided visit with the expert to the Baby Animals tent, a Figtree Kitchen buffet lunch and an illustrated talk in the TYCO Visitors Center lecture hall. Tickets: \$35 (\$25 for members). \$10 for lecture-only (\$5 for members).

- **SUNDAY APRIL 23:** In Quest of Survival: Preserving Heritage Breeds in New England, presented by Peter W. Cook, Curator of Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke. Peter and his wife, Nancy own Tare Shirt Farm, dedicated to craft interpretation and raising early breeds of domestic livestock.
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 30:** Heritage Poultry: Legacy and Creativity, presented by Joseph Marquette, poultry historian, owner of Yellow House Farm in Barrington NH and member of the Society for the Preservation of Poultry Antiquities.

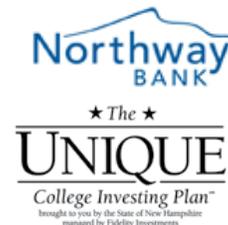
MEET THE ANIMALS BREAKFASTS FOR KIDS

MONDAY APRIL 24TH THROUGH THURSDAY APRIL 27TH, 9 TO 10 AM

Heritage animal breeder/educators give children age 4 to 8 an opportunity to meet the baby lambs, kids, chicks and other animals, up close. Participants will learn about milking, feed the animals and create a fiber craft gift to take home. Ticket includes a breakfast snack and all-day admission to the Baby Animals event. Tickets are \$25 per child (must be accompanied by a responsible adult, at no additional cost). Program is limited to 12 children per day.

For more information and to reserve tickets for these events, visit StrawberyBanke.org/tickets.

With sponsors Jo Lamprey and Little Sister Foundation.



2017 EXHIBIT

BEHIND THE MASK: MY CAMBODIA EXHIBIT BY PHOTOGRAPHER BARBARA BICKFORD

FRIDAY, MAY 5 THROUGH FRIDAY, JULY 28 2017

Portsmouth photographer Barbara Bickford brings her impressions from years of travel in Southeast Asia to Strawbery Banke. Her exhibition, Behind the Mask, presents images from Cambodia, which she describes as “a land awakening from a nightmare and finding its place in the world.” Opening Reception & Gallery Talk on Friday, May 5th at 5:30 pm in TYCO Visitors Center: Howells Lecture Gallery.

The Painted Past: Unseen Objects from the Strawberry Banke Collection



Strawbery Banke has collected objects since the early 1960s and has often had to keep them safely stored because their story was not yet ready to be told. As paint can be applied to nearly any surface—furniture, architectural elements, ceramics and other artworks—there are many painted items from the past, some rarely or never seen, in the museum collection. The Painted Past exhibit, opening May 1st, puts some of the best examples of those items on display in the Strawberry Banke Rowland Gallery.

Painted objects from the past in this exhibit include

- a Federal period secretary, owned by Portsmouth merchant Elisha Hill, with gilded flower baskets painted on the glass doors
- an early 1900s maple and pine chair from Portsmouth furniture maker John Gaines III, painted to mimic the graining of a dark exotic wood
- a leather fire bucket, painted by John Blunt, that belonged to Leonard Cotton, a member of Portsmouth's Mechanic Fire Society
- painted items from the Thomas Bailey Aldrich Memorial, collected by his widow Lillian, including a leather helmet from the Portsmouth Fire Department and a cast iron child's bank



The Rowland Gallery exhibit space will also contain a working artist's studio, bringing the painted past into the present as Patrick Healey takes up an artist-in-residence spot.

The Painted Past is included with regular museum admission from May 1 through October 31, 2017. Information on programs and events focusing on decorative painting will be posted to the website calendar.



Oracle House gifted to Strawberry Banke



Strawbery Banke Museum is the grateful recipient of the bequest by Elisabeth Bartlett Sturges of the Oracle House (pictured) on the corner of the museum campus at Court and Marcy Streets.

The Oracle House was built c. 1709 behind the old North Church on "Glebe Land," owned by Richard Wibird, an officer in The British Royal Navy, wealthy merchant, member of The King's Council and benefactor of Harvard College. During the 1700s, Charles Pierce published the first daily newspaper in New Hampshire, *Portsmouth Oracle* from this building, starting in 1793, hence the name. In 1800 the house was moved to Haymarket Square (the intersection of Court and Middle Street now) and was moved again to its current Marcy Street location in 1935.

Examination suggests that the original building was a frame of three bays with posts and rails that held vertical boarding. This frame was later extended by one bay and the house covered with a steep roof. The gambrel roof and gambrel-roofed el were added later, perhaps in 1730. Additional remaining features from this era include an enclosed staircase and at least one door in the attic.

Oracle House is now part of the Heritage House Program.

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



Strawbery Banke Museum, PO Box 300
14 Hancock Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Strawbery Banke celebrates NH Archaeology Month



April is New Hampshire Archaeology Month and Strawbery Banke is an annual sponsor as, since its creation, Strawbery Banke archaeologists have conducted some of the most extensive urban archaeology projects on the East Coast. This sherd of blue shell-edged pearlware was collected in 2015 during the museum's Archaeological Field School at the Yeaton Walsh House. This year marks the 21st annual Archaeological Field School, which continues work at the Penhallow House (for more information visit StrawberyBanke.org/archaeology).

In addition, Strawbery Banke is offering a week-long Archaeology Workshop, July 10–14, focusing on the intensive laboratory work that helps interpret the rich urban history of the Puddle Dock neighborhood.



FEATURED SPONSOR



"The Labrie Family supports Strawbery Banke because it represents a crucial link to our past as a community. It connects us communally and as individuals to a simpler time and a slower pace when human interactions were a key part of our daily lives. If we lose sight of our past, we cannot take good measure of our path ahead. Strawbery Banke is an integral part of the magic that makes Portsmouth the cultural beacon that it is," notes Michael Labrie, owner of The River House.

Donor Recognition

Strawbery Banke congratulates Ellie Sanderson as one of three "local heroes with untold stories" honored by the 3rd Annual PPMtv Inspiration Awards. The award ceremony is April 27th. Elinor and David Sanderson are loyal and dedicated supporters of Strawbery Banke Museum donating time and talent (including Ellie's piano performances during Candlelight Stroll) as well as funds to the ongoing mission. In the words of PPMtv Ellie is assuredly one of "those individuals who make Portsmouth stronger and more vibrant."

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS:

FRENCH FOUNDATION for the exterior preservation of Jones House

STANNARD AND DOROTHY DUNN CHARITABLE TRUST for operating funds

ANONYMOUS FOUNDATION (NH) for History Within Reach

R.M.DAVIS for a Families First "night out" with dinner and skating at Labrie Family Skate