President’s Message

Lawrence J. Yerdon, President & CEO

Surprisingly enough for a history museum, Strawbery Banke spends more time looking ahead than to the past. Yes, the museum welcomed nearly 100,000 visitors and concluded one of the most successful Annual Fund campaigns in recent memory. Still, Strawbery Banke works hard every day to earn the sort of reviews that bring us TripAdvisor Excellence Awards. And each day brings its rewards along with opportunities to share the story with an ever-wider audience.

In recent weeks museum professionals and media from France, Japan and the UK have toured the campus, remarking on the preservation efforts, the beautiful gardens and—always!—the costumed role-players who so vividly animate the experience. Seeing the museum through their eyes and the eyes of online reviewers provides exactly the insight needed to keep it fresh and evolving, to serve visitors and members in ever better ways.

I welcome your comments and thank you for your continued support.

Heritage Breed Chickens come home to roost

In May, Strawbery Banke re-introduced a dozen hens to Puddle Dock, next to the Victory Garden, close to where Leslie Clough kept chickens and ducks in the 1940s and 50s. The hens are comfortably housed in a reproduction 1940s chicken coop and fenced yard filled with sunshine and shade.

The flock is made up of two very popular heritage breeds of chickens, common to American farms, the Rhode Island Red and the Australorp. Introduced to America in the late 19th century, both are reported to be excellent egg layers and complement the Museum’s story of the Victory Garden and how families “on the homefront” kept themselves fed and conserved resources for the war effort.

To welcome the chickens, the museum invited children under 12 to suggest names for them, that were appropriate to the Puddle Dock neighborhood and the families who lived there in the 1940s. Each of the winners received a family membership to Strawbery Banke. Thank you to Scammans’s Home & Garden Showplace in Stratham NH for helping Strawbery Banke to maintain the flock.

Artifact of the Month

by Strawberry Banke Assistant Curator Amanda Breen

A diorama recently acquired by the Strawbery Banke Museum Collection. The diorama is the “Launch of the Frigate Raleigh” by William Hitchcock. In 1776, the 32-gun frigate, the Raleigh, was built in Portsmouth as the first of thirteen ships sponsored by the Continental Congress to create an American Navy. The diorama depicts the fully constructed hull of the vessel as well as an historic interpretation of the way the ship was launched into the harbor. The diorama also includes the various buildings and shops that were critical in the construction of the vessel. Today the Raleigh is featured on the Seal of New Hampshire.
Eldred Wheeler Extends Special Discount

Patrick Healey presents

Patrick Healey presents Painting Strawberry Banke 1991–2015

Well-known Seacoast painter Patrick Healey presents 16-week exhibition of his oil paintings on linen of Strawberry Banke through July 31 in The Muriel Gurdon Strawbery Howells Lecture Hall in the TYCO Visitors Center. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular museum hours, 7 days a week, 10 am to 5 pm. Many of the original paintings on display are available for purchase.

Patrick Healey is a colorist and landscape painter living and working in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. His art career began while studying at the Loyola Rome Center in Italy in 1978–79 and his first solo exhibit was at the University of Massachusetts O’Leary Library in 1987, followed by an exhibit in the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston in 1988. After exploring the images and mulls of Lowell in several exhibits he started painting Portsmouth with his “Sign Series” in 1990. This is Patrick’s second exhibit at Strawberry Banke Museum, a favorite subject. Nationally known, with solo or group exhibitions in the Time Life Building in Chicago, Whistler House Museum in Lowell, Elliot House Gallery at Harvard and the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, he hosted a retrospective at The Music Hall, “Patrick Healey: Painting and Drawing Twenty-Five Years” in 2004. For more information and a gallery of painting images, visit www.pathaley.com.

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT!

MEMBERS – SHOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT IN THE CAFÉ.