President’s Message

Lawrence J. Verdon, President & CEO

The museum is looking wonderful these days, as two LCHIP projects – the rehabilitation of the Thales Yeaton House and the re-clapboarding of Lowd House make the campus both more attractive and more welcoming to visitors. The new “Port of Portsmouth” exhibit in Yeaton showcases much of the interior detail now preserved (as well as the fabulous models and artifacts collected by Joe Sawtelle).

With this backdrop, it is a pleasure to read the reviews and comments posted on Facebook and TripAdvisor. Who would have believed that a history museum would be the #1 attraction in a vibrant place like Portsmouth? Yet that’s where Strawbery Banke ranks, thanks to comments like this one, titled, “Pretty cool!”

“I didn’t know what to expect and found a whole historic neighborhood, with homes and buildings restored to different eras. Many are open to be seen, with guides inside explaining things. A nice way to see how people lived 100 years ago and 200 years ago, etc. Very friendly folks working there. Thumbs up. Many nice gardens, too.”

When you have a moment, check out all the nice things visitors say. Go to TripAdvisor.com and search reviews of Strawbery Banke.

The final compliment I’m delighted to share comes from a colleague at REACH Advisors, a NY-based strategy and research firm that includes a Museums R+D initiative. One of their senior consultants

Vintage & Vine

Vintage & Vine fine wine and food festival and silent auction is the main annual fund-raiser for Strawbery Banke Museum. Advanced by the Board of Trustees, Vintage & Vine takes place when the museum is at its finest, burnished to perfection by the season and the thousands of visitors who’ve put Strawbery Banke at the top of the TripAdvisor list of ‘things to do.’

Purchase your tickets now to take full advantage of the Vintage & Vine experience:
• Stroll the historic neighborhood when the gardens are at their high-summer peak
• Sample and purchase wonderful wines
• Savor the culinary delights of the Star Chefs and restaurant partners
• Shop the products and services showcased by raffle and silent auction donors

Help ensure the continued success of Strawbery Banke for schoolchildren and daily visitors, the skaters who enjoy the outdoor rink, and all who benefit from the Heritage House Program, bringing life and energy back to the Puddle Dock neighborhood.

Tickets are available online: StrawberyBanke.org/Tickets

General admission, 5-7:30 pm: $65 (designated driver $20)
VIP admission, 4-7:30 pm: $120 (designated driver $30)
Member discount: $20 per ticket.

Artifact of the Month

Block-printed, roller-printed, even hand-painted!
Wallpaper at Strawbery Banke

by Strawbery Banke Assistant Curator Amanda Santoriello

Strawbery Banke Museum has a significant collection of wallpaper which spans from the early 18th century to mid-twentieth century modern prints. Over the course of her Collections internship this summer, 2016 Merrilee Posner Decorative Arts Intern Andrea Puskas has catalogued, accessioned and re-housed over 500 wallpaper fragments. The papers came from museum buildings, homes in Portsmouth’s South End and some that are excellent examples of design from unknown structures. One important example is this flocked paper from Sparhawk Hall, the c.1765 Kittery Point estate that was razed in the 1960s.

Strawbery Banke MEMBERSHIP

SUSTAINS THE MUSEUM AS YOUR PLACE TO LEARN, PLACE TO GATHER AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE FOR THE COMMUNITY. JOIN OR RENEW AT WWW.STRAWBERYBANKE.ORG
Penhallow House Field School

Sixteen Archaeology Field School students joined the archaeology volunteer crew for four weeks of an archaeological dig on the north and west sides of the Penhallow House. The excavation was directed by museum archaeologist Alexandra Martin, with assistance from intern Ana Opishinski who begins historical archaeology graduate studies at UMass in the fall. With excavating done for the year, Alix now leads the volunteers in washing artifacts, which range from shards and pipe stems to an interesting cobble stone feature. Further study of the site will help inform the history of the Penhallow House.

Montrone Family Gallery

The new Montrone Family Gallery opened on July 1st with the help of family representatives Michelle Montrone-Cogan (right) and her daughter.

Donor Recognition

FOR THE 2016 SEASON,
EXPERIMAC IN PORTSMOUTH.

THE FRENCH FOUNDATION, for the exterior preservation of Jones House
COGSWELL BENEVOLENT TRUST, for SBM’s educational outreach initiative; History Within Reach
CABOT FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST, for experiential learning programs in the new Horticulture Center
EASTERN BANK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, for History Within Reach
W. BRADFORD INCALLS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, for History Within Reach

In memory of

Lori Thayer, a seasonal employee who worked at the ticket desk, greeted thousands of visitors over the course of more than 15 years’ service to Strawbery Banke. Even as her life grew busy with family and a grandchild, she came in to assist with major events, offering a welcoming helping hand. Her good humor and dedication to museum visitors will be missed. She is being remembered by the contributions to Strawbery Banke, “one of the places she loved best” that her family arranged.

Polly Brown joined Strawbery Banke in 1988, working on research projects, programs and events, and giving countless tours of the historic houses and Puddle Dock. She took her stewardship of the museum seriously and always did a wonderful job with guests.

Both Lori and Polly are deeply missed by the Strawbery Banke family.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

All the special events listed in this newsletter use volunteers to ensure their success. Be a part of the activities, make new friends and support a great museum!

Please contact Alena Shellenbean, Manager, Volunteers and Special Events, ashellenbean@strawberybanke.org, (603) 828-2979

Tuesdays through August 30

TUESDAYS ON THE TERRACE – the summer music concert series sponsored by Kennebunk Savings Bank continues through August 30. Members enjoy free admission ($5 for non-members) and a 10 percent discount on food and beverages from Figgerty Kitchen Café. Performers for the balance of the season include:

AUGUST 9  CUPPA JOE
AUGUST 16  GARY FAGIN
AUGUST 23  TOM RICHTER AND THE SIDEWALK BOYS
AUGUST 30  JEFF WARNER

August 7 – October 11

DON GORVETT celebrates his 25th anniversary with a Strawbery Banke exhibition of his woodcuts and drawings, Portrait of a New England Port, Don Gorvett: 25 Years in Portsmouth, NH. Woodcut Prints and Drawings, 1991–2016 in the TYCO Visitors Center, free and open to the public. Many of the original woodcuts and drawings on display are available for purchase. Don Gorvett 25 years of illuminating Portsmouth and her waterfront as only he can with several special exhibitions. Over the past two and a half decades his impressive body of work recording Portsmouth’s iconic sea-going vessels, architecture and maritime landscapes has become familiar to both the city’s residents and visitors alike. This exhibition of Gorvett’s celebrated woodcuts and drawings gives the seacoast community a chance to view the stages of the elaborate printmaking process while showcasing rare woodcuts, woodblocks, color states, and drawings.

Summer Camps at Strawbery Banke!

See what’s new at strawberybanke.org/schools/camps