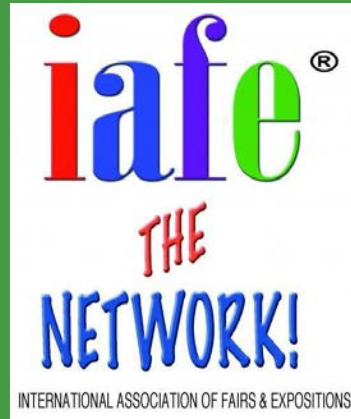




MAAF NEWSLETTER

July/August 2021

Issue #4



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MAAF Newsletter! New subscribers [CLICK HERE!](#)**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT by BARRY NORRIS



Photo of Barry Norris & Eliza Graustein at the Fryeburg Youth Show

HOORAY ! From mid-March 2020 until June 23, 2021, we have all waited for this moment. Our first agricultural fair of the season opened their gates right on schedule! Thank you Monmouth Fair, Diana Morgan and your hard working crew for a difficult job well done ! Thank you also to Missy Jordan for the countless hours put in over the past 15 months helping to walk Monmouth, and 20+ other fairs, through the maze of the ever changing CDC

guidelines. All of your planning was thorough and comprehensive ..and now the mandates are lifted. Whew!

The Sports Wagering bill has passed both the House and Senate of the Maine legislature as being engrossed. By the time you are reading this newsletter, the bill should have been enacted and sent to the governor's desk for her signature. Tremendous thanks go to Katie Damren, who sat for countless hours in the hallway of the Maine State House encouraging legislators to consider supporting Maine fairs through the passing of this bill. Thanks also go to the the many legislators - from all parties, across the state - who stepped forward to offer their support for this bill.

Three members of the MAAF board plus members of Cumberland and Litchfield Fairs attended the Zone #1 meeting in York, Pennsylvania. We were able to meet with fair folk from New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to share ideas, tell stories and plan for the future of our fairs. Thank you to the York State Fair for hosting this wonderful conference, and thank you to Kathryn Hunter for her leadership !

Bill McFarland has stepped down from his position on the Maine Harness Racing Commission. As the commission member representing agricultural fairs, this position is very important not only to our parimutuel fairs, but to all Maine agricultural fairs. Governor Janet Mills has nominated me to serve in this position. I will be attending the scheduled meeting with the Harness Racing Commission this week and in the future as we work together to chart the course of Maine harness racing.

I look forward to seeing you all at your fairs in the coming weeks as I travel across the state. Please remember to go to other fairs to support your fellow fair folks. Once again, HOORAY to all of you as we enter this exciting summer. Barry

REMINDERS

Trail of Terror from Union Fair. Already in the planning stages. Mark your calendars for this exciting Halloween event!

Rising Star Award Nominations - time to start thinking about young movers & shakers!

2021 Maine Fair Season (July-October)

Houlton Agricultural Fair - July 1-4
Ossipee Valley Fair - July 8-11
Waterford World's Fair - July 16-18
Pittston Fair - July 22-25
Northern Maine Fair - August 5-8
Topsham Fair - August 8-15
Skowhegan State Fair - August 12-21
Washington County Fair - August 21-22
Union Fair - August 21-28

Acton Fair - August 26-29
Piscataquis Valley Fair - August 26-29
Windsor Fair - August 29-September 6
Blue Hill Fair - September 2-6
Harmony Free Fair - September 3-6
Springfield Fair - September 4
Clinton Lions Agricultural Fair - September 9-12
Litchfield Fair - September 10-12
Oxford Fair - September 15-18
Farmington Fair - September 19-25
Common Ground Country Fair - September 24-26
Cumberland Fair - September 26-October 2
Fryeburg Fair - October 3-10

**MAAF BICENTENNIAL PROJECT
2021 MAAF AGRICULTURAL
AWARD CONTEST
"CREATING AN EXPERIENCE:
MAINE'S BICENTENNIAL"**

**FOR APPLICATIONS & INFO -
CONTACT JUNIA NORRIS**



Category 1 – Agricultural Experiences designed for children - These experiences will include information, demonstrations, and hands on activities which introduce children to Maine’s agricultural practices over the past two hundred years.

Category 2 – Agricultural experiences for ALL fairgoers that educate fairgoers about Maine’s agricultural practices of the past two hundred years. A one day event or daily programs throughout your fair, this “bicentennial Moment” will include information, demonstrations and interactive activities.

Division 1 : Fairs operating for four concurrent days or less. Division 2: Fairs operating for five concurrent days or more.

Contact Junia Norris for application. Deadline November 6, 2021.

Your award application should include these five sections:

1. A brief description of the event(s) and their connection to Maine’s Bicentennial;
2. Who was involved in the planning process – i.e. individuals, community organizations, agencies, sponsors, etc. – and the roles that they played.
3. What challenges did you face? Strategies used to overcome them.
4. How did the public react to your event? – i.e. hits on your website, survey monkey results, personal feedback, photos of interactions during your event
5. How did you promote your event? – i.e. newspapers, media, posters, promotional programs prior to your event, etc.

2020 MAAF Agricultural Award judges are:

Mary Castonguay, Dairy Farmer - Mary is a dairy farmer with a passion for history, She is the vice president of the board of trustees , Washburn-Norlands Living History Center, Livermore, Maine.

David R . Cheever, Maine State Archivist - David serves as the vice chairman of the Maine Bicentennial Commission. He has also served as the deputy secretary of state for public outreach and civic engagement. David has served as the state archivist for over twelve years.

Robert Spear, Former Maine Commissioner of Agriculture - Bob is a third generation farmer

MAAF BOARD MEMBER PROFILES



MAAF BOARD MEMBER HOPE RICKER

Hope Ricker MAAF board clerk and her sister began going to Pittston Fair with her Grandfather Blodgett . He would sit on the banking behind what is now the Pittston Fair exhibition hall to watch pulling, give her some money and send her off to ride the rides. In those days there were only a couple of rides. But she and her sister were told to stay away from the girlie show! Fast forward a few years, and Hope met Bruce Alexander. Soon she became the secretary of the Farmers Draft Horse, Mule and Pony Club in 1996. The club soon began doing logging classes at Pittston Fair. Next Hope spent a few years as secretary for Pittston Fair. When Hope was voted in as a member of the MAAF board, she chose to direct her efforts on Maine's agricultural fairs, serving as the MAAF president from 2012 to 2014. During her time as president, Hope made sure to visit each

of the (then) 24 Maine fairs. When asked about what keeps her involved in Maine fairs, Hope replied: " Maine fairs showcase our Maine agriculture and offer family-oriented entertainment. My focus is to work to keep agriculture in our agricultural fairs." Hope recently spent her day off volunteering at the Monmouth Fair where she was able to peel potatoes for home fries, clean off tables, and sell tickets at the back gate.

MAAF BOARD MEMBER RAYMA ASHBY

Rayma Ashby is our MAAF treasurer and lives in Litchfield. She reminisces about traveling to Maine fairs as a little girl with her grandfather and sister. More recently Rayma has taken an active role in the Litchfield Fair, initially in the role of secretary which included ordering trophies, ribbons, and the fair paperwork. More recently Rayma has been the designer and overseer of Wheeler's Wee Farm (see photo below). Modeled after hands-on programs for children that she observed in other fairs, Rayma created an agricultural adventure guaranteed to delight and educate fairgoers of all ages. The apple orchard welcomes you and hands you a small basket, then you are introduced to the "seacoast" of Maine where a touch tank of sea stars, cucumbers, etc awaits.



Next, walk to the lobster man who shares stories of traps and buoys. Chickens are on the pathway, planting your own vegetables, grains, a cow with milk, logging, etc. Each stop includes an item for the wee farmer to place in the basket. It is very similar to the children's agricultural walk at Northern Maine Fair. Payment to the wee farmer for all the produce is a special coin (wooden nickel) that can be exchanged for your choice of delicious treat. Originally funded through monies donated in memory of Alice Wheeler to be used to create an agricultural program for children, Wheeler's Wee Farm is staffed by volunteers young and old and the treats are donated by local businesses. What does Rayma like the most about fairs? "Maine's agricultural fairs give families a chance to come together and enjoy agriculture. The fair experience can be a showcase of agriculture that a lot of people don't get now.....like it once was."



IAFE ZONE 1 CONFERENCE

Thank you to the York State Fair for hosting our wonderful Zone 1 Conference. We had 35 fair folks from PA, 35 from NY, 10 from ME, 2 from MA, 1 from NJ, and the rest were guest speakers from CA, IA, MO, VA, and WV. The hotel was comfortable, the meals were delicious, the meetings were informative, and the activities were fun! So much laughter and hello's to our Zone 1 friends that we hadn't seen in ages. It was so great to finally get together! We will be joining Zone 2 in Naples, FL on May 12-15, 2022, then NY in 2023, then MA in 2024, then back to Maine in 2025. Lots of Zone 1 fun on the horizon ! We hope you can join us! Kathryn R Hunter, IAFE Zone 1 Director





*IAFE Zone 1 Conference
 Front row (l-r): Becca Page-Litchfield Fair,
 Jo-Ann Merrifield-Cumberland Fair, Rayma Ashby-Litchfield Fair
 Back row (l-r): Gene Cassidy-CFE-IAFE Chair, Hope Ricker-MAAF Clerk,
 Junia Norris-MAAF, Barry Norris-MAAF Executive Director,
 David Byras-Litchfield Fair, Liz Tarantino-Cumberland Fair,
 Kathryn Hunter-IAFE Zone 1 Director, Lyle Merrifield-President Cumberland Fair,
 Marla Calico-CFE, IAFE President & CEO*



Becca Page-Litchfield Fair, and Liz Tarantino-Cumberland Fair,

FRYEBURG YOUTH SHOW

Ninety youth and their families came from all across New England to attend the Fryeburg Youth Show held at Fryeburg fairgrounds. They brought 90 heifers, 71 steers, but most of all they brought their SMILES! They wore jeans and plaid, boots and buckles. They had lead ropes and show halters. Show boxes were open, and parents were ready with cameras to capture the best angles in the show ring. Belties and Herefords, Angus and Simmentals, Maine Anjou, Chianina and Beef Shorthorns joined other breeds who walked the show ring and were judged by some of the finest. Judges were Darin Wiley & Casey Buzzard. Darin Wiley is from College Station, TX. He is the general manager of RPX Farms in Somerville, TX and has worked with all breeds of cattle in and out of the show ring, helping breeders and junior exhibitors be successful all across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Casey Buzzard is from Victoria, TX, and is the managing partner of the Southern Jewel Cattle Company located in the heart of South Central Texas. Casey works with Simmental and Brangus cattle, focusing on his work while supporting junior exhibitors across the country. Twist of Fate Spinnery, llp was on hand. The Fryeburg Youth Show is supported by generous sponsors.



Donna Flint & Diane Gushee organize and manage the Fryeburg Youth Show

Vendors included The Showtimes and Top Of The Hill Farm/Biozyme (animal health and nutrition) from Wolfeboro, NH. Food and beverages were available thanks to the Fryeburg Police Department. Lovell Lumber provided all the sawdust and Dustin James with Benchmark Graphic Company printed colorful, outstanding banners for all classes and more. A special thanks to all the very generous donors who helped to make this event possible.

Most of all, thanks were offered many times over to **Diane Gushee** and **Donna Flint** for their hard work in making sure that, in 2021, the 30th Fryeburg Youth

Show was such an overwhelming success. "And We Survived The Pandemic!"



*Grand Champion Youth Steer, M5 Cattle Company, Houlton, ME
Isabella McCarthy*



*Reserve Champion Youth Steer, M5 Cattle Company, Houlton, ME
Olivia McCarthy*



Isabella and Olivia McCarthy, twin daughters of Houlton Fair vice-president Jeff McCarthy, display their winning banners at the Fryeburg Youth Show



Scot and Chris Adams, Moonshadow Farm, Starks, ME



Sadie Olmsted, Washington Maine



Izzy Baker and Elizabeth Eaton with Belted Galloway White Galloway cross Cookies N Cream



Morgan Gavett and Matt Thurston



Pedicure Time!



Donna Flint & Roy Andrews-President of Fryeburg Fair



Alexis Comeau and her proud dad



Thank you Fryeburg Police Department for running the food booth

MAAF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED!

The MAAF Scholarship Committee received four applications from graduating high school seniors who intend to pursue studies in agriculture. After reviewing the applications, the committee awarded two \$1,000 scholarships.

The first to **Ashton Caron**, from Corinna, ME, a graduate of Nokomis Regional High School. Ashton will be attending the UMaine Orono. He is a member of their Honors College and will study Animal Science and Botany.

The second scholarship was awarded to **Benjamin Retberg**, from Penobscot, ME, a graduate of the Blue Hill Harbor School who will be attending Sterling College in Craftsbury, VT. Sterling is one of eight colleges in the Work College Consortium, and its curriculum is focused on ecological thinking and action through many diverse programs including Draft Horse Management. Sterling is the first college in the nation to offer a minor course of study in Draft Horse Management. Ben is



Ashton Caron

specifically studying renewable energy using horse power.

As in the past years, letters were sent to all applicants thanking them for their interest in the MAAF scholarship program.



Benjamin Retberg

MONMOUTH FAIR A LITTLE FAIR WITH A LOTTA PULL

Over 2,300 Facebook followers and countless others across Maine and New England watched and waited for the Monmouth Fair to open. The FIRST fair of the season!! Wednesday, June 23, 2021 the gates opened, and the 110th Cochnewagon Agricultural Fair welcomed fairgoers with a smile ! Having prepared to hold a fair following the many CDC guidelines, it was a relief for the many volunteers and board members to be able to offer the fair as folks remembered it. Senior Citizens' Day was a huge success, followed by Thursday's Farmers' Steer and Oxen Pull, Friday's Open Steer and Oxen Pulling and Saturday's offerings of Woodsman's Day, Open Horse Pulling and RedNeck Truck Pull. Sunshine and blue skies were present during the four day event, and families poured through the gates each day! "We are glad to have the fair back this year. Thank You!" wrote one fairgoer, while another wrote, "We had an absolutely wonderful time with our family on Wednesday. Our kids begged to go back to the animal barn over and over...thank you for a great day!" Monmouth Fair can credit their success and popularity to the generations of local families who have painted, mowed, raked, answered the phone and so much more. A few were "volun-told" to help out, but found that after a while they were looking forward to adding their time and effort to a cause that they had become a part of. One volunteer had to pause for a moment to remember all the "hats" that he had worn over the years. 'Pulling superintendent, livestock superintendent, midway, motor sports, scraper and painter, bean baker,



president (a few times)' were all that he could remember as he headed out the door to answer more questions. Another volunteer began as the co-host, with her father, of the very popular exhibition hall. She has always enjoyed reconnecting with friends at the fair, answering many questions every day and then slipping away to cook in the Fair food booth. Traveling around the grounds you can find her daughter filling in where there's a need. 'We are all so proud of the fact that we are open and are having the Monmouth Fair - despite all the challenges!' Quite a variety of opportunities to help out and become a part of this fair! In Cochnewagon Hall, sporting a new coat of paint, one could find the 4-H clubs, Little Hands 4-H and The Creators, both from Litchfield. These two clubs somehow managed to put together a colorful variety of projects during the months of social distancing in the pandemic. 2 clubs=115 blue ribbons=6 red ribbons=23 clover buds ! Hungry folks had many flavors of delicious fudge to taste as well as various commercial exhibitors to shop. The Fair Museum continues to be amazing, and sets the bar high for other fairs who offer a museum. In the Livestock Barn, children stood quietly, and patiently, for their turn to hold a duckling or a rabbit. A volunteer explaining all about baby animals and how important it was to be gentle. Another indelible memory made at a Maine fair for a child who is learning about agriculture - one duckling at a time! Final comment posted on social media? "We LOVE Monmouth Fair!" Was this first fair of the season a success? ABSOLUTELY!!

Photos from Monmouth Fair





IN MEMORIAM



Mike Wilson

March 13, 1942 ~ June 5, 2021

Obituary



Lincoln Orff

December 19, 1930 - June 8, 2021

Obituary



Gaylen Flewelling

June 24, 1937 - June 8, 2021

Obituary

Thank you to contributing photographers Missy Jordan & Barbara Hill .



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