



MAAF NEWSLETTER

2021 - ISSUE #3

MAY 2021



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Barry W. Norris

Good day all, hope you are all well and safe. As we mention last time, Missy has completed and distributed the Covid-19 templates and associated materials to all of the fairs. We continue to have weekly meetings with members of your boards to keep them updated as much as possible. Please remember that the Covid-19 requirements are a moving target and change rapidly.

On the legislative side we continue to work on the Sports Wagering bill. By the time you receive the newsletter I will have testified in front of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee in support of LD 1405. This bill gives the MAAF a percentage of the income from Sports Wagering.

Members of the MAAF will be traveling to York, PA for the Zone 1 meeting to support our own Kathryn Hunter, the Zone 1 Director to the IAFE.

On a happy note, all of our fairs are a go at this point, in some way or another. Monmouth had to change dates to June 23rd -26th to accommodate their carnival. Houlton is going for a two day fair July 3rd and 4th with no carnival. Northern Maine will be Aug. 5th – Aug.8th and they will not have Harness racing or a carnival. Even though some fairs may not look the same, everyone is excited to have fairs this year. Please keep these date changes in mind and go and support our fairs. Hats off to all for making the 2021 fair season a reality.

I'd be remiss in not saying a BIG thank you to Dick Hall for all of his years of service to the MAAF and the Pulling Commission. Dick recently stepped down from the Commission after many years of service. The MAAF Board has forwarded the name of Ed Wilkey from Fryeburg fair to be the fair representative on the Commission.



Randy Hall and his father, Dick

Additionally Mike Timmons and Bill McFarland have both stepped down from the Harness Racing Commission to pursue other exciting adventures. Thank you both for your many years of representing the fairs on the Commission.



Thank you Dick Hall!

Thanks to the newsletter crew for always creating an informative and enlightening newsletter.

As always, stay safe and see you at the fair.

MAAF BOARD MEMBERS



Neal Yeaton, (MAAF board member, representing Farmington Fair) started his position as fair secretary in 1982. Actually he was the assistant to the fair secretary for two years, then took over the reins in 1984...with guidance from his wife ! Neal's wife had worked with the previous fair secretary for many years – ordering the ribbons, making sure the trophies were in order – so it was a very smooth transition. For the past two years, Neal has added more responsibilities and has been working alongside Tom White overseeing grounds repair. It looks like this will be his role again in 2021. Neal's favorite part of being involved with the Farmington Fair, "Once a year I look forward to reconnecting with folks that I only see once a year. It's something like a huge class reunion."



Jeff Chadbourne (MAAF board member, representing Harmony Free Fair) remembers going to the fair all his life, however he didn't get involved until he was a teenager. At age 14, he started riding his bike down to the fairgrounds, and sometimes going with his dad after supper to help set up the fair with the other volunteers and members of the Patriarchs Club. Not an easy task. At that time the food booths, stage, beano tent and fencing still had to be moved across the street to the school yard to be set up. Currently Jeff is president of the Patriarchs Club and president of Harmony Free Fair. His favorite parts, "Working with a bunch of great volunteers to make the fair possible and greeting all the happy faces walking onto the fairgrounds."



EVENTS - OSSISPEE VALLEY FAIR

JULY 8-11



Submitted by: Carol Doughty, OVAS

At the April meeting of the Ossipee Valley Agricultural Society, the members overwhelmingly voted to hold our 4-day Annual Fair in July. We are going to be postponing a few of our regular events as there are concerns about social distance guidelines. With that being said, our pig scramble, pig calling, pie eating contest, watermelon seed spitting contest and the cribbage tourney will not be taking place. We are however adding

a few things that will help folks social distance and still have fun. We have scheduled the Axe Women of Maine to perform two or three shows on Thursday. We will also be doing a Frisbee toss competition and thanks to some great information from William McFarland of the Windsor Fair, we are hosting our first annual Corn Hole Tourney. Thank you William. We also have a dunk tank coming in and we have a local "well known" that has volunteered to sit in the tank for a couple of hours. Of course our Landscaping Challenge is well underway and we have had four new people/families join us this spring. That brings the total to 17 newly beautified areas within our fairground boundaries. With safety first and foremost we will of course be following all CDC Guidelines. We plan to double up on all hand washing stations and have extra signage with guidelines for reminders to the public. We are discussing the idea of passing individual hand sanitizer packets out at the entry. We're not sure whether we will have a midway or not but the general consensus from asking the area folks is that they are "happy that they will have a great fair to go to, midway or not." We have a couple of new signs for our Fairground entrance. These outline our rules and regulations as well as our "Home of" announcements. Clean up has begun. Pine cones are being gathered, buildings will begin to get a colorful touch-up as soon as the weather is consistently a bit warmer and we will bust our buns to be ready. Our Hawley Building bathrooms will get an inside face lift, thanks to a lumber donation from Limington Lumber and our grounds will be ready come the second week of July.

We would like to invite all of you to please join us. Our fair runs from July 8-11!



MAAF BICENTENNIAL PROJECT

2021 MAAF AGRICULTURAL AWARD CONTEST

“CREATING AN EXPERIENCE: MAINE’S BICENTENNIAL”



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. Applications for these awards will be available on the MAAF website. Deadline for submitting all applications will be 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.

Mail applications to MAAF, P.O. Box 3, Union, Maine 04862 - must be received by November 6, 2021. For further information, contact Junia Norris: junianorris@gmail.com

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 from Nobleboro who served as Agriculture Commissioner under Governor John Baldacci. He is treasurer of Spear Farms, Inc, and serves as the secretary of the board of trustees, The Eastern States Exposition, Springfield , Massachusetts.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS & NEWS!

The MAAF Newsletter comes out every two months. Everyone wants to hear about your Fair!

CONTACTS:

Junia Norris (junianorris@gmail.com) or Rachel Andrews Damon (rdamon@roadrunner.com)

SCHOLARSHIPS

All applications were due postmarked by April 29th. Winners will be listed in the July-August MAAF newsletter.

A TRIBUTE TO DONNIE MERRILL THESE SHOES WILL BE HARD TO FILL



Maine fairs are fortunate to have many hardworking, dedicated volunteers, some who have been around for several years. This issue we are highlighting a long-time volunteer from Piscataquis Valley Fair – **Donald “Donnie” Merrill**.

Donnie Merrill’s involvement in the Piscataquis Valley Fair began in the late 1970s, when his close friend Charlie Huff, knowing how much Donnie loved horses, asked if Donnie would be available to help out in the pulling ring. From then on, Donnie was hooked. He returned year after year, not only helping with the horse pulling but with cooking fair dinners, working on the camp grounds and with the many off-season events held at the fairgrounds. Over the years, Donnie served as VP and President of the fair, as well as a member of the board of directors. Most recently, over the past “25 years,” Donnie has helped with or spearheaded several major building projects including, but not limited to, moving and building the new pulling and horse show rings, as well as expanding the establishment of the

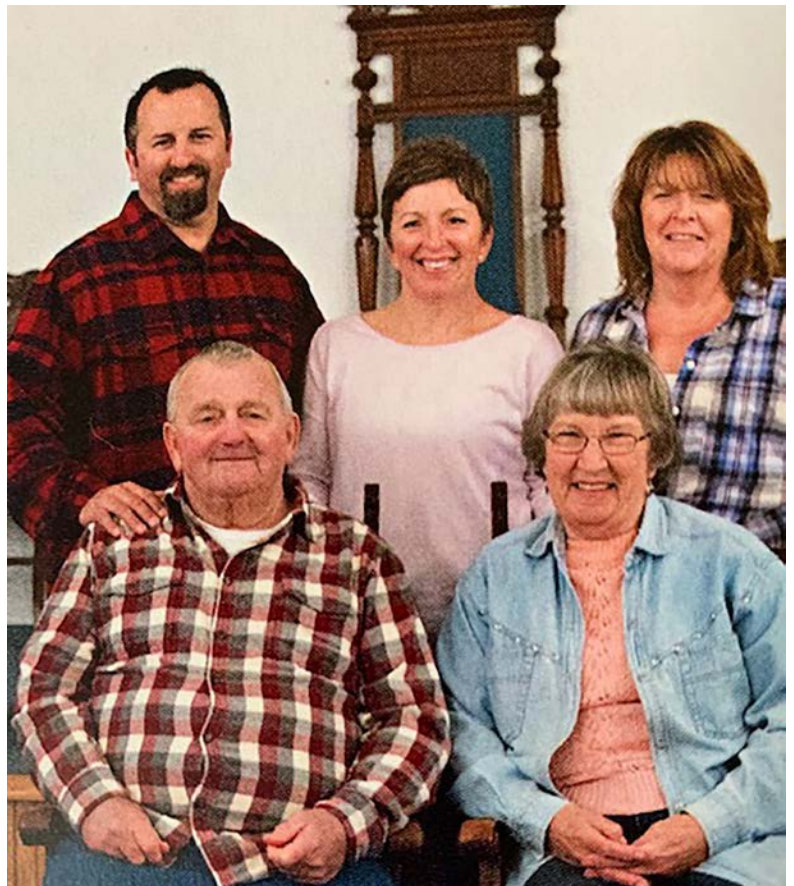
new covered outdoor stage. Many chuckle as they share the words that Donnie utters on the last day of EVERY fair, “I’m done!” So far this has not proven true!

Donnie has never been one to miss the MAAF annual January conference in Portland, and for years could be found telling stories and swapping recipes with Steve Marson and his pyrotechnic crew on the 13th floor in the “Firecracker Room.” As Donnie reflects on his years at the fair, he treasures the many friendships he has made. He has special memories of his times with Charlie Huff, Bill Richardson, Carl “Pete” Boutelier and Fireman Fred Parsons. Donnie shared that he can feel the “pull of the fair” as summer time rolls around.

Donnie’s family also plays many roles in the fair community. When the kids were small, they would all pile into the car and head for Children’s Day at the Skowhegan Fair. Later, their home fair became Piscataquis Valley. Darcy, his daughter and an RN from Dover-Foxcroft, is in charge of First Aid. Donnie’s wife, Deanne has a favorite spot, “behind the scenes,” often becoming the “go to” person when a challenge arose or something was missing and needed to be found. Along with Darcy, Donnie & Deanne have a son, Donnie, who lives in Florida and daughter, Dina, who lives in S. Portland.

It’s been over 50 years that these well worn shoes have been walking across the fairgrounds, and the time has come to offer our thanks for all you have done for all of us.

Thank You, Donnie Merrill!



A SNEAK PEAK AT OUR EARLY SEASON FAIRS

MONMOUTH FAIR - First Fair of the Season! June 23–26. Keep your eyes open for the always popular Farmers Pull. Horse and oxen pulling. Live band playing every night. Two pig scrambles. Smokey's Greater Shows carnival. Walk through their amazing Exhibition Hall, and enjoy your first cotton candy of the season.

HOULTON AGRICULTURAL FAIR July 3-4. This Independence Day Fair promises to offer a return to a Maine Fair from the past. Lots of agricultural and livestock displays and demonstrations. Plenty of hot dogs to sample as you walk around their fairgrounds.

OSSIPEE VALLEY FAIR July 8 - 11. Volunteers have spent many hours beautifying their fairgrounds and you will be dazzled! Meet up with your New Hampshire friends (this fair is right on the state line!) and enjoy one of the best fairs Maine has to offer.



NEWS FROM ZONE 1 DIRECTOR KATHRYN HUNTER



The IAFE Zone 1 annual conference will be held May 13-16, in York, Pennsylvania. All IAFE upper level management level personnel will be attending. Several folks from Maine will represent the MAAF, among them are Kathryn Hunter, Zone 1 president, and past MAAF president. Pictures and in depth reporting will be available in the July-August newsletter.



SEND US YOUR PHOTOS & NEWS!

The MAAF Newsletter comes out every two months. Everyone wants to hear about your Fair! CONTACTS: Junia Norris (junianorris@gmail.com) or Rachel Andrews Damon (rdamon@roadrunner.com)

UPCOMING THIS FALL

The Maine Whoopie Pie Festival will be held on the Piscataquis-Valley fairgrounds the weekend of October 2nd. Check on the festival website for updates throughout the summer.

EVENTS: OSSIPEE VALLEY FAIRGROUNDS

James H. Day Memorial
Git-R-Done 5k race

Sunday July 11th
Registration 7:30 AM - Race 8:30 AM

EVENTS: WATERFORD WORLDS FAIR

Saturday, May 8 5-6pm
Drive Thru Baked Haddock Dinner
with all the fixins \$15

Saturday & Sunday, July 10-11
An evening dance
A special event looked forward to by many

MAINE'S OFFICIAL STATE SONG by TERRY SWETT OF WATERFORD WORLDS FAIR



Congratulations to singer/songwriter Terry Swett of Bridgton on his original “My Sweet Maine” being named Maine’s official “Song of the 21st Century!” He wrote the song in honor of Maine’s 200th birthday. Terry is a board member at the Waterford Worlds Fair. Thank you Terry for sharing the lyrics with us!



MY SWEET MAINE LYRICS

Where the pines hold up the northern sky
It's the home of the chickadee
And the rocky coast, old and strong
Is holdin' back the sea

She sits northeastern most
Of the lower 48
And it was March of 1820
When she became a state

My sweet Maine
You kinda' made me who I am
And if I wind up gone tomorrow
I'm gonna come back home again
My sweet Maine
I know January's cold
But I was born on the edge of summertime
And it's where I'm growin' old
My sweet Maine

Lighthouses bring the sailors home
From out on Casco Bay
And from Portland up to Bangor
You can drive right through L-A

Between the western hills and the whipporwills
And Longfellow on the square
It's a little bit like Heaven
You can feel it when you're there

My sweet Maine
You kinda' made me who I am
And if I wind up gone tomorrow

I'm gonna come back home again
My sweet Maine
I know January's cold
But I was born on the edge of summertime
And it's where I'm growin' old
My sweet Maine

It's springtime on the Allagash
When fishin' comes to call
With summers on Sebago
And Fryeburg in the fall

You can drive around the world here
From Denmark to Peru
It's the way that life should be
From Kittery up to Caribou

My sweet Maine
You kinda' made me who I am
And if I wind up gone tomorrow
I'm gonna come back home again
My sweet Maine
I know January's cold
But I was born on the edge of summertime
And it's where I'm growin' old
My sweet Maine

Repeat chorus

My sweet Maine, My sweet Maine, My sweet Maine

Terry Swett © 2020 Patch Mountain Music

IN MEMORIAM

Piscataquis Valley Fair - **Andrew “Andy” Libby**, of Charleston, died unexpectedly at home Sunday, April 11, 2021 at the age of 68. He was born in 1952, the son of Arthur and Florence Libby. He graduated a top athlete at Higgins Classical Institute. Andy worked at and ran the chip mill in Milo for over 40 years but his passion was horses and farming. He was a hard worker and spent much of his free time working on his brother’s dairy farm. Together they began horse pulling as a hobby and exercising horses became this favorite form of ‘relaxation’. He was known for being able to do and fix anything. In his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, working with Justin at JCB and he put over 2000 miles on his new snowmobile sledding with his friends and family. Andy is survived by his wife, Jodi, their daughter, Yolanda and husband, Henry Burrill, daughter Renee and husband, Marc Swimm; grandchildren, David and Taran Curtis, Kaidy and Kooper Swimm and step grandchildren, Kirsten, Kira, Korbin and Cassidy; two sisters, one brother and many beloved cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by one brother. The family requests donations be made in his memory to the Maine Draft Horse and Ox Association, c/o Sandra Dickey, 301 Fahi Pond Road, N. Anson, ME 04958. Messages and memories may also be shared with his family at kileyandfoley.com.



Steve Smith, Andy Libby, Allen, Justin Libby, CJ Rideout, Will Libby & Gordon Libby in the Pulling Ring at Fryeburg Fair

Waterford Worlds Fair - **Duncan Bartlett MacPhie**, 66, passed on Monday, April 12, 2021, at Maine Medical Center in Portland after a brief illness. Duncan was born in Boston, Sept. 17, 1954, a son of Rodney P. and Nancy (Farley) MacPhie, Sr., and graduated from Pelham High Technical School in NY. Duncan worked as a printer in the reprographics department for L.L.Bean for 29 years. He was a long-time firefighter with the Kennebunk Fire Department and more recently was active on both the Harrison and Bridgton fire departments. During his years living in the Kennebunk area, he was a dedicated member of the Washington Hose Fire Co., along with his sons. Duncan is remembered by the Harrison Fire Department for his generous equipment donations and the food and snacks he often brought to meetings and trainings. Duncan was known for his charm and generosity. He grew up in the “Red House” at Kennebunk Beach and played golf at Webhannet Golf Club from the time he could walk. It is known that he had the nicest swing of his siblings. Duncan loved the outdoors, whether that was fishing with his sons on the ocean or working outside at Sally’s and his horse farm, Wild Run Farm, in Lyman. He loved creating and building things, ranging from their beautiful farm to tinkering with his truck. He truly loved caring for his animals whether they were horses, goats, pigs, dogs, cats or chickens – Duncan loved them all. He was a loving and caring person. His friends remember him as honest and friendly, with a great sense of humor, and above all else a loyal friend. He loved his family and was so very proud of his Scottish heritage and family golfing history. Duncan will be remembered at the first tee, on the ocean, at the fire department, and with his animals. He was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his sons, Justin B. MacPhie of Bethel, Maine, and Tyler D. MacPhie of Jackson Hole, Wyoming; his grandson, Conner MacPhie of Windham; his brother, Rodney P. MacPhie, Jr. of Scarborough, (wife, Adrienne); his sister Caren MacPhie Lederer of Kennebunk (husband, Tom); former wife Sally Gantt MacPhie of Bethel. Memorial visiting hours will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on Friday, July 30, 2021, at Bibber Memorial Chapel, 67 Summer St., Kennebunk, www.bibberfuneral.com.

