



HISTORIC  
NEW ENGLAND

*Defining the past. Shaping the future.*

# Looking Forward

*News from Historic New England*

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## ***From the President: It's Our Time of Opportunity***

With season opening on June 4 we have the best opportunities of the year to share our buildings, landscapes, collections, and stories of New England's past with the public. It makes the efforts that take place all year long worthwhile and validates our work to fulfill our mission of preserving and presenting New England heritage. The summer months offer opportunities that we need to seize to ensure that our work is sustainable for the future—giving us time to interact with travelers, friends, donors, and members to help them understand how Historic New England serves their interests and benefits their communities. Encouraging membership must be on our minds at every turn, for it is only through a large and diverse group of members that our efforts will succeed. This year we must again focus on securing contributions needed to match our Preservation Maintenance Fund grant. We need to raise an additional \$500,000 by year end. There is nothing like seeing the work in progress to encourage donors, who see their dollars being put to good use. Financial support and membership are important, but most important is providing engaging, informative, and enjoyable experiences for every one of our guests. Ultimately, that will ensure that Historic New England is respected and appreciated, and make us sustainable for our second century. —Carl

## **Visibility and Access**

- Historic New England has been mentioned in three recent "A Tank Away" columns in the *Boston Globe* 'g' section. The South Berwick, Maine, article had information on the Sarah Orne Jewett and Hamilton Houses; the Lincoln, R.I, article mentioned Arnold House; and the Woodstock, Conn., article featured a large picture of Roseland Cottage. President and CEO Carl R. Nold's recent op-ed on history museums for today ran in the *Providence Journal* and will be in next week's *Lincoln Journal*. An NBC 10/Providence "Coffee Cup Salute" (a very popular feature) is secured for June 3 to promote Historic New England's June 4 and 5 Open House across Rhode Island.
- On Saturday, forty-five people attended a Historic New England members' reception at the Groton School in Groton, Mass., to view the exhibition *White on White: Churches of Rural New England*, featuring photographs by Steve Rosenthal. Guests enjoyed remarks by Rosenthal and Carl Nold, as well as the opportunity to mix and mingle with Historic New England staff.
- Carl Nold led nineteen Appleton Circle members on a connoisseurs' trip to Pittsburgh, Penna., May 11 to 14. The group visited the Carnegie Museum of Art, Frick Art and Historical Center, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, which celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary this year. Travelers were also welcomed at three private residences and saw private collections not typically available to the public.
- Senior Curator of Library and Archives Lorna Condon, Systems Librarian/Archivist David Duggins, and Team Leader for Collection Services Julie Solz presented a session on Historic New England's Collections Access Project to a national audience at the 2011 American Association of Museums Annual Conference in Houston, Texas, on May 23. The program, *Putting 100 Years of Collecting Online: A Case Study from Historic New England*, shared the process of implementing an electronic collection management system and making it accessible to the public online. In addition to presenting the national

award for distinguished service to museums to Bonnie Pitmann, Dallas Museum of Art, President Carl Nold was part of an AAM session on financial models for museums.

- Lorna Condon presented *The Life and Legacy of William Sumner Appleton* to forty people at the Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester, Mass., on May 14. The event was co-sponsored by Historic New England, Cape Ann Museum, and Sargent House Museum.
- Manager of Community Engagement and Exhibitions Ken Turino chaired the American Association for State and Local History's Leadership in History Awards committee in Nashville, Tenn. The awards, the most prestigious national recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local, state, and regional history, will be presented at the AASLH annual meeting in Richmond, Va., in September.
- Registration for our *Program in New England Studies (PINES)*, June 20 to 25, is full. Twenty-four people, including three scholarship recipients, are attending from as far away as London, California, New Mexico, and Wisconsin. *PINES* alumni are invited to attend a lecture and reception on June 20 at Otis House Museum, Boston, where Ken Turino will speak on revitalizing historic house museums.
- Beauport Site Manager Pilar Garro presented *Beauport: Henry Davis Sleeper's Eclectic Showpiece* at this year's Newport (R.I.) Symposium, May 1 to 4, for an audience of seventy-five.
- The invitation to Historic New England's "Good Things Are Worth Preserving" Gala won second place in the American Association of Museums' 2011 Museum Publication Design Competition in the category of Invitations to Events, Museums with Budgets Greater Than \$750,000. Grossman Marketing of Somerville, Mass., designed the invitation for us.

### Community Focus

- The Women's League of the Unitarian Universalist Church, a prominent fixture in Newburyport, Mass., visited the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm on May 11. Several women in the group had served in the League of Women Voters with Amelia Little and visited the house as guests in the 1960s.
- Manager of Historic Preservation Services Sally Zimmerman presented a lecture, *Hot Preservation, Inside and Out*, to forty-five people during Newburyport Preservation Week on May 17. As part of the week's events, the Newburyport Preservation Trust presented Sally with a Preservation Leadership Award. Sally also presented *Historically Appropriate Paint Colors* at Phillips House in Salem, Mass., on May 21.
- Manager of Community Engagement and Exhibitions Ken Turino and *100 Years, 100 Communities* partner Scott Strainge spoke about community engagement and the film *At the River's Edge* at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, to forty graduate students and museum professionals.
- Event Coordinator Demi Beetar attended a kick-off meeting for Les Dames d'Escoffier at the Harvard-Radcliffe Schlesinger Library in Cambridge, Mass. Les Dames members discussed upcoming events for the year, including the major annual farm-to-table event at Verrill Farm in Concord, Mass., in September. Proceeds provide financial support to organizations such as The Food Project and Kids Can Cook.
- One hundred and one Woodstock (Conn.) Elementary School third graders visited Roseland Cottage on May 6 for their annual tour and program. Education Coordinator Gail White led students on a walking tour of the Woodstock Burying Ground, Henry Bowen's birthplace, the Common (site of Bowen's first July 4 celebrations), and Woodstock Academy while Lead Teacher Herb Loughery gave a tour of Roseland Cottage that focused on Bowen's role in history. Roseland's nineteenth-century bowling alley was a tour highlight.
- Central School in South Berwick, Maine, held its annual Hike Through History on May 13. The hike is a collaborative effort between the Central School, the Old Berwick Historical Society, Historic New England, and local volunteers in which the town's elementary students visit historic locations in the downtown area. At Jewett House, students learned about Sarah Orne Jewett's work as an author and tried their hand at writing with pen and ink.

## **Regional Focus**

- Two large-scale programs took place on May 7 at Historic New England's Rhode Island farms. Watson Farm attracted 1,184 people to experience Sheep Shearing Day, where the resident flock was shorn in front of crowds of enthralled children. In addition, the Rhode Island Spinners Guild presented an interactive spinning and weaving demonstration. Across Narragansett Bay at Casey Farm, gardeners enjoyed the annual Mother's Day weekend plant sale, where vegetable and flower plants grown at Casey Farm were offered. With near-perfect weather, 1,664 visitors attended the sale over two days. Thirty-two memberships were sold at the two events.
- On May 14, eight members of the Young Friends membership group visited the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Guests participated in a guided tour of the Naval War College Museum, followed by special access to parts of the college usually off-limits to non-military personnel.

## **Heritage Preservation**

- Collection services, conservation, and property care staff removed wallpaper from the parlor and kitchen of the Stekionis wing of the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm. The wallpaper will be conserved and reapplied by the conservation team after property care repairs the plaster walls this summer.
- Registrar Megan MacNeil assisted Robin Neely, a stained glass conservator, with research on construction techniques of seventeenth-century leaded glass windows. Robin is traveling to New England museums to compile a list of these windows in various collections. She recently recreated a reproduction leaded glass window for the Brown Pearl period room at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
- Historic New England leadership is presenting Community Preservation Grant program award checks to institutions in each of the six New England states during Preservation Month in May. Boston.com featured the grant to Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford, Mass., for the restoration of two previously unseen artifacts on display in a permanent exhibition, *Learning from the Landscape*.

## **Financial Sustainability**

- A grant of \$15,000 was secured from the Felicia Fund to support Arts and Crafts-style landscape restoration of the front gardens at Beauport, Sleeper-McCann House, in Gloucester, Mass. Following intensive cultivation by our staff, the 1772 Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to support the Project CHICK education program at Casey Farm in Saunderstown, R.I.
- Thirty-four paid events are booked at Codman Estate, Lincoln, Mass., for 2011 and eight are booked for 2012. Eight events are booked at the Lyman Estate in Waltham, Mass., for 2012. Lyman Estate showings continue to be strong despite the facility being closed for the weatherization project. Functions Manager Nancy Cahill reports that Codman Estate hosted another open house for event professionals on May 6. Eighty-two guests enjoyed a themed-stations dinner, floral designs, and wedding cake tasting.
- Codman Estate served as a beautiful setting for a bar mitzvah on May 14. The celebration included a rare service held in the Italian Garden. The event was extra special for the family, as the parents of the young teen were married at Codman.
- The Spring Herb Sale on the weekends of May 7 and 14 attracted 1,376 people to the Lyman Greenhouses and brought in \$13,211 in sales, which was nine percent higher than the budgeted income.
- Executive Vice President and COO Diane Viera was the keynote speaker at the Harvard Business School Community Action Partners' (CAP) annual reception on May 18. Diane highlighted Historic New England's long and successful partnership with CAP alumni, which spans fourteen years, six projects, and tens of thousands of dollars' worth of volunteer consulting services.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

- Manager of Historic Preservation Services Sally Zimmerman, Stewardship Manager Caitlin Corkins, and Phillips and Gedney Houses Site Manager Julie Arrison staffed a booth at the Fourth Annual Salem

Living Green and Renewable Energy Fair on May 21. They discussed Historic New England's sustainability initiatives, including the weatherization project at the Lyman Estate.

- Site managers coordinated a bulk paper goods order that consists of either renewable plant-based materials or one hundred percent recycled materials and between sixty and eighty percent PCW (post-consumer waste) paper products. After use, the paper products are recyclable and/or bio-degradable. The bulk order saved ten percent from a comparable retail purchase.

### **Staff Updates**

- Please welcome several new staff members to Historic New England. Cam Waterhouse joined us on May 16 as preservation project manager, based at the Lyman Estate. Cam returns after a ten-year hiatus; he previously served as historic preservation assistant. IT Specialist Peg Kearney also joined our team on May 16, based at the Collections and Conservation Center in Haverhill, Mass. This new position serves as a key resource person for all IT systems, providing technical assistance to staff throughout the organization. John Bradley began work on May 16 as senior membership manager. John comes to us from The Trustees of Reservations, where he served as director of membership. John also worked for the Massachusetts Audubon Society as director of membership.

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## **Staff Shout Outs**

### **Colleen Chapin and Josh Wright**

Nicole Carelli thanks Colleen for attempting to fix the broken filing cabinet. Despite using a paper clip, letter opener, and "Josh's secret Otis House tools," the cabinet still would not open. However, Nicole appreciates your valiant effort. Josh, Nicole Carelli thanks you for actually fixing the broken development filing cabinet.

### **Gretchen Guidess**

Michaela Neiro shouts out to Gretchen, Historic New England's Mellon Conservation Fellow, for her insight, hard work, and stamina treating and preparing several large delicate textiles for installation before opening day.

### **Joanne Flaherty, Laura Johnson, Adam Osgood, and Julie Solz**

Megan MacNeil would like to thank the fabulous team of collections staff who helped wash and pack the remaining dishes in the Lyman Estate pantry. Your help was greatly appreciated.

### **Michaela Neiro**

Julie Solz sends a shout out for your hard work and dedication in taking on the management and coordination of the sometimes overwhelming number of treatment and collection issues that need to be addressed prior to opening. In the absence of a lead conservator, you have not only ensured that projects are being completed on time but also with a great positive attitude.

### **Lisa Centola, Ashley Coerdt, Pilar Garro, Laura Johnson, Heather Minto, Dan Santos, Diane Viera, Leah Walczak, and Rob Watson**

Peter Gittleman sends a sincere thank you to all the staff who presented sessions at our two institutional guide training days in May. Based on the evaluations, you were all terrific. He appreciates your enthusiastically working another weekend for Historic New England.

### **Julie Arrison, Lisa Centola, Lindsay Hines, Wendy Hubbard, and Kristen Weiss**

Peter Gittleman says thanks for coming to ITD and IPD staff training sessions early to help set up and staying late to clean up the Codman Carriage House. You all made preparation for the programs much easier.

**Peter Gittleman**

Diane Viera shouts out to you for leading another year of fabulous ITD and IPD training programs. Your continued enthusiasm and commitment are infectious and greatly appreciated.

**Jeanne Gamble and Justin Goodstein-Aue**

Peter Gittleman thanks you for your assistance with unplanned high-res image downloads on May 19.

**Anthony DeAngelis**

Lisa Centola and Amanda Manso send a big thank you for delivering and assembling Roseland Cottage's new garden tiller. Thanks to you, the beds of the formal parterre garden will soon be soft and ready for planting.

**Lisa Centola, Susanna Crampton, Jenny Gilbert, Shira Gladstone, Wendy Hubbard, Blair Lustig, Katy Matsuzaki, Jen Pustz, Leah Walczak, and Rob Watson**

Margaret LaForest says thank you for participating in the festivals jury, helping to select artists for the 2011 Fine Arts and Crafts Festivals at Roseland Cottage and Codman Estate.

**Ellen Mackey**

Wendy Hubbard sends a shout out for your sold-out landscape tour on May 7 at Codman Estate. You were a real hit!

**Blair Lustig**

Lynn Ackerman thanks you for your fantastic creative eye and initiative in revamping and creating new promotional flyers and ads for the Lyman Estate Greenhouses. It is great to work with someone so professional and enthusiastic.

**Bethany Groff**

Pilar Garro sends a big thank you for lending her the "mom van" so she could take the Beauport guides on a driving history tour of Cape Ann. It was a wonderful and educational day.

**Ed Cambron**

Pilar Garro thanks you for narrating the Cape Ann driving tour. We learned a great deal of information that will help us put Beauport in better context.

**Marlane Bottino, Kathleen Corcoran, and Carol Grosky**

Peggy Wishart sends a shout out for your educational know-how in planning and executing excellent programming for nearly three hundred students at Jewett House during this year's Hike Through History.

**Peter Gittleman**

Don and Heather Minto give you a huge thanks for staffing the membership table at Sheep Shearing Day on May 7. You sold seven memberships and offered a tremendous representation for Historic New England at the event.

**Herb Loughery**

Gail White thanks you for all your work on the excellent May *Power of the Press* program.

**Joanne Flaherty**

Ken Turino sends congratulations on receiving a master's degree in American and New England Studies from the University of Southern Maine.

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