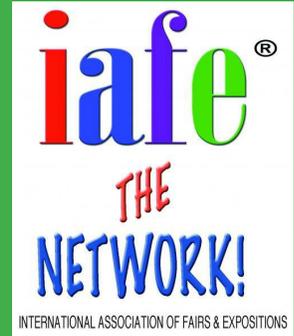




MAAF NEWSLETTER

2021 - ISSUE #2

MARCH 2021



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Barry W. Norris

Hello all and welcome to another fair season !

With our annual meeting behind us, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Darcie Winslow back as your board representative from a non-pari-mutuel fair and newly elected Garrett Lambert as your board representative from a pari-mutuel fair. Congratulations to Vincent Osgood, Fryeburg Fair, selected as recipient of the MAAF 2020 Rising Star award. In looking ahead to this year's fair season, I will be working with Missy Jordan, MDACF, in preparing some COVID-19 templates for fairs to follow as they make decisions on holding a fair in 2021. These guidelines will be a work in progress and will be discussed during our monthly presidents' video conferences. These presidents' meetings are recorded and will be available on the MAAF website in the near future as reference material to all who wish to view them. In keeping everyone up to date as often as we can, we have linked the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry website on the MAAF website. Click here - www.maine-fair.org - scroll to the bottom and click on the "alert update". Stay safe and healthy.....and YES, we WILL have fairs in 2021!! Barry

MAAF Board Member - Darcy Winslow, from Harrison, Maine, and Waterford World's Fair is celebrating this year. She has spent the past 25 years helping out with Maine fairs. Darcy started helping at the Oxford Fair in 1996, where she managed the Oxford Fair food booth. Along with her husband, Bill, she also ran the draft horse show. In 2000, Darcy and Bill joined with Waterford World's Fair and Darcy ran the draft horse show. She also worked in the WWF food booth, eventually being in charge of the booth. You may remember her smiles at Fryeburg Fair where WWF operated a very popular fish and chips food booth. (Once again, she was the lady in charge.) Currently, Darcy is the secretary of Waterford World's Fair, still managing the food booth, and helping with the off-season fair fundraising monthly suppers. Look for Darcy at the WWF pie eating contest – open to adults and children.



Darcy has been an invaluable member of the MAAF IT team, and traveled in November of 2019 to San Antonio with other Maine MAAF members to attend the IAFE National Convention and Trade Show. Darcy says, "My favorite part of fairs is visiting with my fair friends and observing how they run their fairs."

MAAF Board Member - Garrett Lambert, from Norridgewock, has been a fixture at the Skowhegan Fair for over a decade. It seems a logical place for a man who spends the rest of his time working on his family dairy farm. The Lambert family has a history of community involvement and caring for a wide variety of animals. Currently he serves as the assistant livestock superintendent for Skowhegan Fair, with responsibilities for the dairy and beef departments. Garrett Lambert also serves on the board of the Maine Association of Livestock Exhibitors. Garrett says, "My favorite part of the fairs is working with the exhibitors, making sure they are having a good time. Running the shows for them is very enjoyable. I watch all the help that they get and am glad when they have a winning outcome with the livestock that they bring to show off. I am looking forward to working with the MAAF to help bring a great future to our fairs. Young people coming up through our fairs need to become a part of agriculture, and the fairs are the way for this to happen."



Garrett can also be found through Sandy River Aussies. Raising and breeding AKC Australian Shepherds fulfilled a lifelong dream for the Lambert family. Families throughout New England have welcomed these beautiful dogs into their homes and farms.

AWARDS - 2020 MAAF RISING STAR

The Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs with 26 member fairs has awarded their 2020 Rising Star Award to Vincent Osgood of Fryeburg, ME. The plaque was presented to Vincent by Barry Norris, Executive Director of the MAAF & Steve Graustein, Board Member, at the MAAF annual meeting. The award is designed to recognize a young person who is an agricultural fair contributor and leader and deemed a well-rounded outstanding individual.

Vincent has worked in the ticket department of Fryeburg Fair for many years, as his grandfather Jim Osgood Sr. was superintendent from 1984-2015. Vincent became superintendent in 2015 and now manages more than 48 staff members during the fair. Vincent and his team were an integral part of establishing the Fair's new online ticketing system.



Vincent grew up in Fryeburg and his family has been a part of Fryeburg Fair for many generations. He works at Norway Savings Bank as an AVP, Commercial Loan Officer in their Fryeburg Branch. He serves on the loan committee for the Mt. Washington Valley Economic Council, and has been a past board member of the Fryeburg Recreation Department, Rufus Porter Museum, Lakes Region Community Health Board at Bridgton Hospital, Bridgton Economic Development Corporation, and Mt. Washington Valley Housing Coalition. Vincent and wife, Hillary, have two children, Asa, 3, & Raelynn, 1.

Fryeburg Fair's Camping Superintendent Arthur Adams received the MAAF Rising Star Award in 2017.



IN MEMORIAM

Arthur M. Kennedy 1931 - January 16, 2021



Arthur Kennedy was one of a kind. Raised in Union, Maine, Arthur started helping his dad (George) and older brother, Melvin, at the Union Fairgrounds when he was just a youngster. When Arthur was in his early twenties, Melvin gave up working on the racetrack. Arthur, at the age of 24, began a career stretching close to seven decades (66 years to be exact) of making sure that the Union Fair race track continued its reputation as one of the best small fair tracks in the state. Several others worked alongside Arthur keeping the track in really great shape. Gideon Winchenbach helped out until 1974. Arthur's son, Dana, joined after Gideon stepped down and continues to this day. James Gilligan, Arthur's son-in-law, was well known for being the man behind the wheel of the race track water truck. A few years back, Union Fair celebrated Arthur Kennedy's 50 years of being track superintendent with a special lobster roll feed. Following the last race of the day, horsemen, drivers, trainers, owners, and track and fair officials gathered to swap stories about their days at the Union Fair race track while offering their congratulations and thanks to Arthur for his many years of hard work. In June of 2013, the fair board once again honored Arthur with a large sign officially naming the racetrack the Arthur Kennedy Race Track. Joining him on that special day were many members of Arthur's family including

Arthur's wife of 65 years, Priscilla; son, Dana Kennedy Sr.; daughters, Ramona Irving, Darlene Gilligan and Jacqueline Martin; 11 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. During his many years at the fair, Arthur saw many changes come to the fair and had many special friends come and go. A few years ago, Arthur was recovering from hip surgery and, not a man to be held down during his recovery, Arthur assessed the track conditions daily while using his walker. A celebration of Arthur's life will be held at the fairgrounds this year, and more information will become available at info@unionfair.org.



Clayton Higgins Smith July 9, 1921 – January 25, 2021

It is with deep regrets that Cumberland Farmers Club shares the news of the passing of Clayton H. Smith, lifetime member of the Cumberland Farmers Club. Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, Clayton's family moved to Portland where he attended Portland schools, graduating from Deering High School in 1939. It was while attending Deering that Clayton met his future wife, Marjorie. After WWII, Clayton joined the staff at Deering, teaching English, coaching basketball and baseball and helping with the school drama productions. Having purchased a farm in Yarmouth, it was only natural that Clayton would become interested in horses. Partnering with his good friend Donnie Richards, Clayton owned several harness racing horses. Clayton became a member of the Cumberland Farmers Club in 1950, and had deep connections and a rich history with the Cumberland Fair harness racing program. Upon his retirement from teaching in the early 1960's, Clayton became a fulltime harness racing official at tracks along the east coast. He was a well-known fixture at the Maine tracks of Lewiston, Bangor and Scarborough Downs to name a few. Highly regarded by horse owners, drivers and track management, Clayton was inducted into the New England Harness Writers Hall of Fame in 2000. Upon retiring from full-time officiating in 1986, Clayton continued to work summers at several Maine fairs, finishing out his career as Director of Racing at the Skowhegan State Fair in 2018 at the age of 97. Clayton Smith will be remembered for his cheerful presence, listening ear, helping hand and his generous advice to all who knew him.





Hello Maine Fair Friends!!! Our annual IAFE Zone 1 meeting will be held this year in York, Pennsylvania, on May 13-15. It is being hosted by the wonderful folks at the York State Fair. They have all kinds of great topics, guest speakers, and events planned. We are delighted that several of the IAFE Board of Directors are planning on attending as well. If there EVER was a time to rekindle our love of fairs, dive into some lively discussions, learn some new fair ideas, kick up our heels, and laugh with some old fair friends..... 2021 is the year!!! Please join us! You can find the registration and hotel information on the IAFE website under our Zone 1 section. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely, Kathryn R. Hunter, IAFE Zone 1 Director

A FEW PHOTOS - IAFE ZONE 1 - 2020 CONFERENCE





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 - SOMERSET SNOWFEST BRINGS SKIJORING TO THE SKOWHEGAN FAIRGROUNDS

Outdoor fun was the theme of the Somerset SnowFest, February 21 – 28 in the Skowhegan area. Highlighting a weekend chock-full of outdoor activities was the 3rd annual Skijor Skowhegan competition. (Skijoring means “ski driving” in Norwegian.) Skijor Skowhegan is a team time-trial race where a horse and rider pull a snowboarder or alpine skier down a 1,000-foot track of gates and jumps. This event continues as Maine’s first and New England’s only equestrian skijoring race. Due to COVID-19, this event was closed to the general public for spectating, however the SnowFest organizers live streamed it for viewing on Facebook. 37 teams competed for \$1,500+ in prizes, underwritten by Franklin Savings Bank.



Skijor Skowhegan was presented by Baxter Brewing and coordinated by Maine Street Skowhegan. Other partners in this event were Sugarloaf, Hemphill’s Horses, Feed and Saddlery, and New Gen Powerline Construction. Some of the many family-friendly events held during the weekend included downhill kayak racing, winter biathlon, kids’ box sled race, a snowshoe headlamp hike under the full moon, an ice fishing derby and much more. Many thanks to lead sponsor High Family of Dealerships, and event organizers Main Street Skowhegan and Lake George Regional Park. Save this weekend for February 2022, and make sure you are at the Somerset SnowFest in Skowhegan. (For amazing videos of this event, look at the many Facebook videos of Skijor Skowhegan.)

Photos by Jonathan Wheaton Photography



REMINDER - MAAF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE BY APRIL 29TH



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL FAIRS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

The Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs (MAAF) will be granting at least (2) \$1000 scholarships to Graduating High School Seniors. Our purpose and intention is to give recognition and financial assistance to the recipient in their quest in pursuing a post-secondary education in an Agricultural Related Field.

The MAAF scholarship committee will choose the recipients of these scholarships. The committee will make a decision based on the information provided from this application. The recipients will be announced in June. The monetary awards will be given after successful completion of the first semester of post-secondary education and proof of enrollment in a second semester.

Please provide the Scholarship Committee with the following information:

1. Briefly describe your post-secondary educational plans.
2. List all School, Community and Work Activities.
3. Briefly describe your connection or affiliation with a Maine Agricultural Fair
4. Attach a copy of your High School Transcript.
5. Mention any National Awards or High School Class Standings
6. Please use this Application as your Cover Page

Applicants Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

High School: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

Please Mail by April 29th, 2021 to:
MAAF Scholarship Application Committee Chair
Hope Ricker
8 Caston RD.
Pittston, ME 04047
or Email to hersec96@aol.com