



Fairly Speaking

September
2012

www.mainefairs.org

PO Box 786
Augusta, Maine 04432-0786

Things In General by Fairground Freddy

Fair season 2012 is almost over. It went by fast. Attendance held to about the same numbers as last year. The weather cooperated –or not.

The MAAF Time Capsule has traveled with the Department of Agriculture's display trailers. Thanks to Melissa it possible for fair committing the summer. You will also the Annual Meeting in Port- before it is sealed. As you are folks to know about your fair, be. DVD's probably will be will still work.



Hall, Fair Coordinator, for making tees to add their information dur- be able to add to the capsule at land January 24, 25, 26, 2013, be- deciding what you want future fair think about what the future might long gone, but the printed word

In June the MAAF presented four \$500 scholarships to seniors continuing their educa- tion in an agricultural related field. Your fair donations were very helpful and appreciated. The MAAF Board is working toward making this project bigger and better each year. With financial help from each fair, this project will continue. Any amount is helpful. Checks can be made out to MAAF Scholarship Project, hand delivered to any MAAF Board member or mailed to our PO Box.

There has been a major change at the State level this summer. The Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation have been combined into a single unit. A great deal of work went on and is still going on to make this happen. The MAAF has been there monitoring the progress. As of this writing, the combined unit will have one Commission- er, Walt Whitcomb and two deputy commissioners.

Federal and local political campaigns need to be followed to make sure those running and elected are fully aware of the fairs and our needs. Get to know your local candidates and make sure they know you. Explain the importance of the Stipend Funding to your fair. Let them know your feelings on legislative issues that effect fairs. Invite them to a fair meetings. You'll find that most are very supportive of local concerns, but it's up to you to let them know how an upcoming bill will effect the fair industry and you need their sup- port. If you speak to a candidate who is not supportive of fairs, harness racing, or agricul- ture, please let an MAAF Board member know. We will make contact.

President's Message

Fair Season is in full swing with fall right around the corner. When I became President, my goal was to visit all 25 fairs in the State of Maine. As I write this message, I have visited 14 with 11 to go. Thank you all for the hospitality you have shown me when I visit, and for taking time out of your busy day to show me around your fairgrounds pointing out the improvements you have made. The racino funds have surely had a great impact on fairs, large and small, and we need to continue to protect that fund in Augusta. You all should be very proud of your fairgrounds and the agricultural education opportunities you provide to the public, along with the quality family entertainment. Our fairs provide a venue to showcase agriculture at its best in the State of Maine.

The weather seems to be a very large factor in attendance at all of the fairs, along with the rising gas prices and poor economy. But even with all of these factors, many fairs attendance has been stable or up over previous years.

Many fairs have held events to benefit the MAAF Scholarship program for 2013. We were able to award 4 (four) \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors in 2011 and 2012, hopefully we can continue to award at least that amount. Pittston Fair has been very generous in the past and this year they are donating all of the proceeds from their flower auction, along with some other funds for a total of \$800 to benefit the scholarship fund. Other fairs are holding fundraisers and we will publish a complete list at the end of the fair season. Thank you for your support of the youth in agriculture in the State of Maine.

The Time Capsule, donated by Central Maine Pyrotechnics celebrating the MAAF 100th anniversary, has been traveling around the fair circuit. Some fairs have placed their items commemorating 2012 into the capsule, while others are putting together items to be placed at their Annual Meetings or at the MAAF Convention in Portland to be held January 24 – 26, 2013. If you would like the Capsule for your Fair Annual Meeting, please contact Fred or myself and we will get it to you or bring your items to the General Session in Portland.

As fair season goes into its final weeks, take time out of your busy schedules to visit other fairs around the State. This is a great way to get new ideas for your own fair, exchange information about “what works and what doesn’t work”, while showing support for others in our “Fair Family.” **See you at the Fairs!!!**



Hope



September and October Fair Dates, 2012

16-22 Farmington Fair—Farmington

Neal Yeaton
PO Box 652
Farmington, Maine
04938-0652

Tel: (207)778-6083

[http://
farmingtonfairmaine.cm](http://farmingtonfairmaine.cm)

21-23 Common Ground Fair—Unity

PO Box 170
Unity, Maine 04988-0170
Tel: (207) 568-4142

www.mofga.org

23-29 Cumberland Fair-Cumberland

39 Samuel Road
Portland, Maine 04103
Tel: (207) 797-2789

www.cumberlandfair.com

30-Oct 7 Fryeburg Fair—Fryeburg

June Hammond
Box 78
Fryeburg, Maine 04037
Tel: (207) 935-3268

www.fryeburgfair.org



Our apologies to the Fryeburg Fair for showing the wrong ending date of the Fair in the 2012 Fair Brochure. The closing date should read Oct 7, 2012.

Rising Star Award

This is a reminder to send a letter to The MAAF Board nominating a young fair member (40 yrs. and under) who has gone that extra mile to help your fair. Your letter should outline what this individual has done for your fair. The MAAF Board will consider all letters received and will recognize one person for outstanding accomplishment at our Annual Meeting in Portland. We must have your input to make the award.



2011 winners Jeff McCarthy & Mark Crane, Houlton Fair Randy Hall presenting award. (left photo)

Jessica Blackstone, Northern Maine Fair 2012 winner presented by Ellen Lunt. (right photo)



The following is a listing of facts that can be used when explaining the importance of Maine Fairs and Harness Racing

1. Maine has 25 Licensed Agricultural Fairs.
2. Fairs and Harness Racing have been partners for many years and Fairs provide 9 Harness racing tracks in Maine.
3. In addition to the 9 Fair Harness Racing Tracks, Maine has 2 Commercial Harness Racing tracks and 4 Off Track Betting parlors.
4. Without Fair race tracks, harness racing would have 9 less places to race in Maine and Maine Horse owners would be forced to leave the State to race their horses.
5. Maine Fairs are the last showcase of Agriculture and Agricultural Education which certainly includes Harness racing.
6. Maine Fairs receive stipend and support funding from the Maine Harness Racing handle and from the Maine casinos. Without the support money received at least 20% of Maine Fairs as we know them now would not be able to continue to exist and the remaining fairs would have to increase their admission price.
7. There are over 800,000 people who pay to attend our Fairs. Include the Fair Harness Racing attendance and there are nearly 1 million people.
8. Over 80% of the money bet on horses in Maine is returned to the bettor. Maine Fairs pay back over 1 million dollars in premiums and purses to exhibitors, which includes 4H members, granges and cooperative extensions, along with livestock exhibitors and other craft people.
9. Maine Fairs spend over 1 million dollars each year in capital improvements with most of the money spent locally to contractors and building material dealers
10. The 25 Maine Fairs & Maine Harness Racing community hope you can continue to support our efforts to showcase agriculture in Maine and provide Maine families with inexpensive recreational and educational experience.
11. The Maine economy would feel a negative impact without Fairs and Harness Racing. Fairs buy locally for capital improvements and supplies while operating, they pay out premiums and purses to exhibitors. Harness Racing trickledown effect on the economy is major. They buy horse supplies, feed, horse trailers, trucks, and provide the need for open farm land in Maine. We also can't forget the thousands of Maine people that have a job because of Maine Fairs and Harness Racing.

**Associate Members
2012**

- Maine State Fire
Marshal's Office
+++++
- Maine Harness Racing
Promotion Board
+++++
- Maine Pulling Sled
Owners Assoc.
+++++
- Maine State Truck &
Tractor Pullers Assoc.
+++++
- Maine State Grange
+++++
- Maine VOAD
+++++
- MP Mower Sport
+++++
- Mark Bell Presents
+++++
- Northeast Trophy/
Norogala
+++++
- North Pole Productions
+++++
- One Sharp Marriage
+++++
- PDK Pyro, Inc.
+++++
- Pembroke Trotting
Assoc.
+++++
- Rave X
+++++
- Rosie's Racing Pigs



This picture supplied by MAAF Director Kathryn Hunter shows the Topsham Fair Committee putting material in the MAAF time capsule.

A Change on the MAAF Board

David Byras, Sr. of Litchfield submitted a letter of resignation at the July MAAF Board Meeting. The MAAF By-laws state that the MAAF President can appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting, whereby a person will be elected to fill the vacated position. President Hope Ricker, has appointed David Byras, Jr. , Litchfield Fair to fill the vacancy.



G. David Byras, Sr.



David Byras, Jr.

Please

send your e mail address to Fred Lunt at febel@roadrunner.com. You'll save your Association postage, receive the letter in color, and not wait for it to arrive in the mail.

**Associate Members
2012**

- RS Fireworks
+++++
- The Fair Publishing
House
+++++
- The Jador Co.
Jim Gallant
+++++
- The Maranacook String
Band.
Stan Keach
+++++
- The Staff
Len Higgins
+++++
- The Wildwoods Band
Rod Carr
+++++
- Interactive Entertainment
Tim Humphrey
+++++
- Vacationland Music
+++++
- Waterless Company
Richard A. Lewis
+++++
- Wes Booth, Magician
+++++
- Wingnut The Clown
+++++
- Witch Mountain Service

**For More information
about these Associate
Member contact Fred
Lunt.**

**Associate Members
2012**

A One Man Parade
Rick Adams
+++++++
Allied Specialty Insurance
Carol Serra
+++++++
Atlantic Music
Production
Diana Ammon
+++++++
Audio Service Co., Inc.
Eric Cobb
+++++++
Avery Weigh-Tonix
Gary Richardson
+++++++
Bearcom Wireless
Scott Cruikshank
+++++++
Brooks Park Boosters
+++++++
Brown Family Farm
Pony Rides
+++++++
Carousel Organ Music,
Roger Weigand
+++++++
Central Maine
Pyrotechnics
Steve Marson
+++++++
Championship Wrestling
+++++++
Circus Fans of America
+++++++
Cornish Horsemen Day

ODDS and ENDS:

The Annual Meeting of the MAAF is Thursday January 24, 2013 to Saturday January 26, 2013. We will be meeting in the Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine as in the past years. Our next newsletter will include forms needed to register. Each Fair will be receiving a housing list to be completed and returned to Fred Lunt. The Schedule for the weekend will also be included in our next newsletter and will be posted in our web site.

A reminder to each Fair Treasurer, that you will have to report the use of the Racino Stipend Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation as they are required to present a report to the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

Each Maine Fair will be required to submit an application for a license this spring even though there is one more year left on your present license. State Statute says there must be a fair date hearing by mid March and an announcement of dates awarded to each fair for 2014, 2015, 2016 by April of 2013.

The Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs will be hosting the IAFE Zone I meeting in Portland, Maine , April 18,19, 20, 2013. Your MAAF Board members will be reaching out for help in making this a successful meeting. Zone I includes Fairs from Pennsylvania, New York, New England States, and New Brunswick, Canada. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Is Your Fair a member of the IAFE?? Why Not

Nearly half of the Maine Fairs belong to The International Association of Fairs and Expositions. Contact Fred Lunt for more information at febel@roadrunner.com or (207)314-8042.

**Associate Members
2012**

Cuzin Richard
Entertainment
Richard Smith
+++++++
Dan Grady Productions
+++++++
Dana Perkins
Puppets
+++++++
Doug Morgan
+++++++
Edwin N. Pert
Consultant
+++++++
Event Services
Ernie Wheeler
+++++++
Goodwin O. Gilman
+++++++
Jessica Prouty Band
+++++++
Joe Howard
+++++++
Lighthouse Jubilees
+++++++
MacKay Entertainment
+++++++
Magician Conjuring
Carroll & Mainly
Balloons
+++++++
Maine Draft Horse
And Ox Assoc.
+++++++
Maine Farm Bureau

The MAAF would like to thank the advertisers of our 2012 Maine Fair Brochure

Central Maine Pyrotechnics

**Farm Family of Glenmont , New York,
And the Thomas Foster Agency,**

McGee Construction

Smokey's Greater Shows, Inc.

Scholarship Donations

For the last two years, the MAAF has been able to award scholarships to graduating seniors that are pursuing further education in a agricultural related program. The person must successfully completed their first semester of study before receiving the scholarship. Money for the scholarships have been made available from the selling of 50/50 raffle tickets at the Annual Meeting in Portland (note that twice the winner has given the money back to the scholarship fund) and donations from member fairs. This year money has been raised by the MAAF Board members selling 50/50 tickets at Windsor Fair harness racing, donations from the Pittston Fair, Topsham Fair, Piscataquis Valley Fair. To date eight (8) scholarships of \$500.00 each have been awarded. I hope more Maine Fairs can donate to the fund. Thank You from the MAAF Board



Roger Hoffses MAAF Director is shown here presenting Garrett Hemphill with a MAAF scholarship at graduation ceremony in Presque Isle.

Dates to Remember

- October 13, 2012, MAAF Board Meeting, Maine Farm Bureau, Augusta, Me., 9:00AM
- November 17, 2012, MAAF Board Meeting, Maine Motor Transport, Augusta, Me. 9:00AM
- December 1, 2012, MAAF Board Meeting, Maine Farm Bureau, Augusta, Me. 9:00AM
- January 24,25, 26, 2013 MAAF Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn By the Bay, Portland, Me
- April 18, 19, 20, 2013 IAFE Zone I Meeting, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine

The Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs would like to thank the following sponsors for their support

Grand Champion Sponsors:

Smokey's Greatest Shows

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Hannaford Food Stores

Red Ribbon Sponsors

Allied Specialty Insurance

Countryway Insurance

Cushing Amusements

Fiesta Shows

Maine Harness Horsemen's Association

Maine Standard bred Breeders and Owners Assoc.

Rockwell Amusement and Promotions, Inc..
