“Water Has A Memory” and a Sea Level Rise Initiative Update

Did you visit during the 2021 Historic House season? If so, you might have been one of the 16,000 visitors to explore the “Water Has a Memory: Preserving Strawbery Banke and the City of Portsmouth from Sea Level Rise” exhibit in the Rowland Gallery. The exhibit, which will be modified over the course of three years, is a model to tell the story of Sea Level Rise and teach the public about the number of factors contributing to increased flooding events from surface water and groundwater. The City of Portsmouth is a key partner for both the exhibit and as Strawbery Banke continues to research and discuss solutions to protect the Museum’s historic houses.

In the coming year, Strawbery Banke, the City of Portsmouth, and other key partners move forward with research, mitigation, and educational efforts. An advisory committee including Rodney Rowland, Director of Facilities and Environmental Sustainability at Strawbery Banke, Peter Britz, Sustainability Coordinator from the City of Portsmouth, and other key partners join consultants from Horsley Witten Group and PlaceWork in a three-phase study. These sensors measure relative humidity and better understand this impact as well. This effort will be joined by the City of Portsmouth so a greater understanding of how groundwater is moving can be achieved. The “Water Has a Memory: Preserving Strawbery Banke and the City of Portsmouth from Sea Level Rise” exhibit reopens for the historic house season on Sunday, May 1, 2022. For more information, visit StrawberyBanke.org/collections/exhibits.cfm.

Save the Date!
2022 Historic House Season
SUNDAY, MAY 1–MONDAY, OCT. 31, 2022, 10 AM–5 PM
Strawbery Banke Museum’s 10-acre campus, including the historic buildings and historical gardens, is open daily, 10 am–5 pm. Strawbery Banke members enjoy free museum admission, which includes access to the “Water Has A Memory: Preserving Strawbery Banke and Portsmouth from Sea Level Rise” exhibit in the Rowland Gallery in the Carter Collections Center.

Lawrence J. Yerdon
President & CEO

With spring on the horizon, it’s time to wrap up another successful winter of outdoor ice skating at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond and turn attention to programming and plans for the upcoming season. After two challenging years of postponed and canceled events, it’s with much excitement that Strawbery Banke announces the return of Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke, an event beloved by multiple generations. In just a few short weeks, Puddle Dock will be transformed and the lambs, calves, piglets, and other heritage-bred baby animals will take up their temporary spring residence under the big tent.

On May 1st, the doors to the historic houses will open once more to welcome visitors as they step back in time and learn about local history through the stories and objects of residences in the neighborhood. Also reopening is the “Water Has A Memory: Preserving Strawbery Banke & Portsmouth from Sea Level Rise” exhibit in the Rowland Gallery in the Carter Collections Center. The exhibit, which opened in August 2021, is not to be missed and will be modified over the next few years to illustrate how both the Museum and the City of Portsmouth have adapted to address the rising waters.

This month we are also approaching the end of the fiscal year. I ask that you consider making a gift to the Strawbery Banke Fund. The Decatur Foundation is matching donations, doubling each gift, up to $25,000 to help realize the vision of Strawbery Banke.

Your gift ensures Strawbery Banke remains a place to learn, a place to gather, and a place to preserve. Thank you for joining me in making a March Match gift and for your continued support.

Lawrence J. Yerdon
President & CEO
C O M E  A N D  M E E T  heirloom breed baby barnyard animals (and their moms) at Strawbery Banke’s Spring signature family-friendly event. Learn more about domestic livestock typical on coastal Northern New England farms from the 17th century to the present day.

Peter Cook curates the event, securing breeders from greater New England farms who are experts in heritage animals including lambs, kids, calves, piglets, bunnies, chicks, and ducklings. Breeders answer questions, explaining the developmental needs of the babies, the various aspects of husbandry, and why they have chosen to preserve these sometimes-endangered domestic animals for future generations.

Tickets are limited and are only available online.

The emphasis of Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke is on educational information. All of the animals are rare heritage breeds, many of which are on the verge of extinction. For the health and safety of both the animals and visitors, petting is not allowed.

TICKETS: Member ticket sales begin Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 10 am. Public ticket sales begin Monday, March 28, 2022, at 10 am. Members: Free or 50% off depending on membership level

Adult: $10 • Children (ages 3 - 17): $5.00 • Children (under 3): free

Members: Free or 50% off depending on membership level for the health and safety of both the animals and visitors, petting is not allowed.

NH Archeology Month
April is New Hampshire Archeology Month! This spring, celebrate with a copy of the latest volume of Northeast Historical Archaeology, the publication of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology. Volume 49 was guest-edited by Alix Martin, Museum Archaeologist, and features articles by the archaeologists of Strawbery Banke, along with a special retrospective commentary by Marley R. Brown III, the former Director of Archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg. These articles trace the history and development of the museum’s archaeological program, highlighting the many important contributions of archaeological research to the museum’s interpretation. The journal is hot off the press and copies will be available for purchase in the Museum Store in the TYCO Visitors Center.

Mary and Storer Goodwin Decatur Foundation leads the March Match Challenge

Mary and Storer Goodwin Decatur and the Foundation Mary created have supported the Museum generously throughout the years including capital projects such as the upkeep of the Goodwin Mansion and Garden, and contributed to the creation of the Horticulture Learning Center. Additionally, the Decatur Foundation donated items associated with the Goodwin family to the Collections including a mirror that George Washington gave to Mrs. Lear (his secretary’s mother).

Due to the pandemic, the Museum has seen dramatic decreases in revenue from ticket sales, heightening the importance of philanthropic support. Will you join the Mary and Storer Goodwin Decatur Foundation and invest in Strawbery Banke?

Between March 1 and March 31, every dollar given will be matched, up to $25,000.

Making a donation is easy:

Send a check or credit card information using the enclosed envelope.

Visit StrawberyBanke.org/donate.cfm to make a donation online.

Call Megan McNutt, Membership and Stewardship Manager, at 603.422.7508 for assistance.

Thank you, Grantors!

Many thanks to the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation for a generous grant to support History Within Reach, which covers admission and transportation costs for school trips to the Museum for economically underserved K-12 schools.

Thanks to the Rosamond Thaxter Foundation for a generous grant to pay musicians who will perform in this summer’s Tuesdays on the Terrace outdoor concert series.

Thank you, Grantors!

Many thanks to the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation for a generous grant to support History Within Reach, which covers admission and transportation costs for school trips to the Museum for economically underserved K-12 schools.

Thanks to the Rosamond Thaxter Foundation for a generous grant to pay musicians who will perform in this summer’s Tuesdays on the Terrace outdoor concert series.

Thank you for Helping to Keep Skating Accessible!

Thanks to your support, Strawbery Banke raised $13,421 including matching funds from Rink Services Group, to increase the size of the accessible patio and make it a permanent feature.

The outdoor rinkside patio, currently a temporary structure that is reinstalled every winter, helps to enable skaters of all ages and abilities to experience outdoor ice skating at Strawbery Banke.

For more information on the Puddle Dock Society and how to join, visit StrawberyBanke.org/
PuddleDockSociety.cfm or contact Joe April, Director of Development: japril@sbmuseum.org / 603.422.753.

Thank you, Grantors!

Many thanks to the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation for a generous grant to support History Within Reach, which covers admission and transportation costs for school trips to the Museum for economically underserved K-12 schools.

Thanks to the Rosamond Thaxter Foundation for a generous grant to pay musicians who will perform in this summer’s Tuesdays on the Terrace outdoor concert series.

Thank you for Helping to Keep Skating Accessible!

Thanks to your support, Strawbery Banke raised $13,421 including matching funds from Rink Services Group, to increase the size of the accessible patio and make it a permanent feature.

The outdoor rinkside patio, currently a temporary structure that is reinstalled every season, serves as a place to gather outdoors when visitors take a break from skating or watch a child participate in Learn-to-Skate lessons. Additionally, the patio is accessible, helping to enable skaters of all ages and abilities to experience outdoor ice skating at Strawbery Banke.