Hop into History Overnights
Heirloom Plants and Vegetables
A Shocking History
Barre Table Comes Home
Beautiful, Bountiful Bonnets
Tantasqua Students Preserve History
Lessons from an 1830s Spring
A message from President and CEO Jim Donahue

As the ice and snow recede and the weather warms, we can almost taste the arrival of spring. Always so long awaited after a hard winter, spring is a season we yearn for, but one that often arrives by fits and starts.

We know too well that the progress of a January thaw can disappear in a March blizzard. And then there is always mud season…

Today people have an idealized and simplified vision of spring—thinking only of flower blossoms and spring lambs. But as I’ve learned from Village historians, spring in early New England was anything but easy.

They called the period from late April to June the Six Weeks of Want, and surviving it took a lot of hard work and planning. They were literally down to the “bottom of the barrel” in the root cellar, and were thankful for every turnip or parsnip to throw into the soup pot.

Most people think that once the weather is warm, food is plentiful, but in the 1830s, it was just the opposite. Nothing was up yet in the garden, and people had to rely on last year’s dwindling supplies of meat and vegetables—if any were left. It was so hard to get variety into the diet that people foraged for poke weed, dandelions, and fiddlehead ferns to eat.

The message was clear: To survive any season—even a warm and sunny spring—you had to plan ahead. And this is a message I carry with me each day as I plan budgets and chart the future course of Old Sturbridge Village.

For a living history museum like OSV, the first half of the year is always lean, as most of the visitors and revenue come during the last six months of the year. So when we’re seeing the summertime crowds in July and August, or the fall foliage fans in October, I’m planning next year’s cash flow to make sure we survive the leaner months ahead.

Happily, we had a record-breaking year in 2010, setting attendance records for July 4th, Redcoats & Rebels, Things That Go Bump in the Night, and Christmas by Candlelight. In addition, more than 11,000 people attended the August 13 Free Fun Friday, sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation, setting an all-time single-day attendance record at the Village. And most important of all, we balanced the operating budget for the second straight year.

But as we head into spring this year, I know that now, just as in early New England, we have to plan ahead and “earn” the renewal spring brings. And when we do, what a rewarding season it can be.

Volunteer and CEO Jim Donahue
President and CEO

Volume LI, No. 1
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On the Cover:
Discovery Camper Alexander Balnis of Stafford Springs, Connecticut.
PHOTO: WEBB CHAPPELL

Welcome

Old Sturbridge Village, a museum and learning resource of New England life, invites each visitor to find meaning, pleasure, relevance, and inspiration through the exploration of history.

To join, to subscribe, or to provide a change of address, write to the Membership Department, Old Sturbridge Village, P.O. Box 400, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076, or call 1-800-SEE-1830.

Members Enjoy:
• Periodic emails, newsletters, and event invitations.
• Annual members recognition event.
• Free members-only programs.
• Discounts at partner living history museums.
• 10% discount on purchase of gift memberships.
• 10% discount at Museum shops.
• 25% discount on guest admissions.
• Free, unlimited daytime admission for two adults, one guest, and children/grandchildren under 18.

Yearly Membership:
$80 for an Individual
$90 for a Family
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Family membership benefits are extended to two adults living at the same address and their children or grandchildren under the age of 18. Individuals Plus One includes a complimentary guest admission each year. Family Plus One includes two adults, one guest, and children/grandchildren under 18.

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Many years ago in the village of Sturbridge a very old woman lay dying…

So begins the story of The Shawl Ghost, told in the hushed and darkened District School to wide-eyed children during nighttime Lantern Tours—a special feature of the Village’s new “Hop into History Overnights.” And for recent Girl Scout participants from Maine, this tale was just spooky enough, but not too scary, and one of their favorite memories of their overnight visit.

“When choosing activities, I try to pick good memory-makers,” says Julia Selser, co-leader of Junior Troop 1528 of South Portland, Maine. “The OSV Overnight was definitely a memory-maker for us, and definitely worth the three-hour trip!”

Launched in 2010 after two years of planning, OSV’s Overnight program is one of its fastest-growing visitor experiences, with 2011 bookings up more than 400% over last year. With a capacity of 80 people per night, Overnights are perfect for Scouts and school groups.

The Overnight program includes a two-day admission to the Village, plus two hands-on studio activities in the Museum Education Building, one of which is baking cookies by the hearth. After dark, groups take a one-hour Lantern Tour of the Village and enjoy their cookies as an evening snack before bedding down for the night. In the morning after breakfast, they enjoy another activity, and can explore the Village for another day.

To children, the whole experience seems like just plain fun, but in fact, OSV educators have meticulously planned this historical program to offer a rich and multilayered educational experience that makes the most of the Village’s unique setting.

For example, the popular Lantern Tour is much more than a simple stroll in the dark—it’s a carefully thought out inquiry-based tour. “We want our little Overnight visitors to be real history detectives,” says OSV Museum Education Coordinator Kathy Kime. “When we guide them to discover answers to their own questions, it’s much more memorable.”

During the Lantern Tour, Overnight guests visit several buildings, where they view different historical objects, learning new things from each one about life in the 1830s. “These fun facts really grab the children’s attention,” says Derek Heidemann, an OSV museum educator and interpreter.

Overnights are so popular that OSV educators are considering offering outdoor camp-outs and Scout Jamborees as well. And as for The Shawl Ghost? We suspect her story will entertain young visitors for a long time to come…

For Overnight reservations and information: www.osv.org; 800-SEE-1830; 800-733-1830.
Look at a seed catalog from the 19th century and you will see a multitude of varieties of what people today consider a single-variety crop. Take carrots – unless you shop at a farmers’ market, it’s likely the only kind of carrot you’ve seen is the pointy, orange kind. Did you know that there are yellow, purple, and red carrots? They come in all shapes and sizes, too. Long, short, wide, dull, pointy, and round. The variety is wonderful!

In an exciting trend sweeping the nation, more families are growing their own food. Some have been at it for generations, and others are just starting out. The reasons are many: Perhaps you want to reduce your carbon footprint, or want to be sure your food is grown organically. Some people like the exercise a garden provides, and the chance to experience nature. Still others want their children to know where food comes from.

At Old Sturbridge Village, we have another reason for growing heirloom vegetables: to preserve them for future generations. Hundreds of plant varieties have disappeared due to changes in style, taste, and the way we farm. Growing heirlooms ensures that their unique genetic properties will survive – and you get the added bonus of enjoying them at your dinner table!

Most modern vegetables were not chosen for flavor, but rather for traits that make them more convenient for factory farms. For example, modern tomato varieties bear and ripen all their fruits at once, so that an entire field can be machine-harvested. Most heirlooms, by contrast, will bear over a period of time, allowing the grower to use the produce at a reasonable rate.

Open-pollinated heirloom varieties are usually adapted to regional soil and climate variations. Examples are watermelons that will grow in short New England summers, and root vegetables that keep well during our long winters. These regional attributes make it easier to find heirlooms that will grow in your own yard. And you can select for size, color, and taste! Here are some varieties you can help preserve:

**The Boston Marrow Squash**

Once common in northeastern gardens, this was prized for its fine-grained, bright red-orange flesh that is excellent in pies and soups. An excellent keeping variety, it has a rich flavor, and is an impressive addition to the garden – its fruits weigh an average of 10–20 pounds, and the vines grow up to 15 feet or more. If you’ve got the space, they are definitely a show-stopper in your garden, as an Agricultural Fair entry, and on your table.

**Red Wethersfield Onions**

Developed in Wethersfield, Connecticut, in the 1800s, have been a New England staple ever since. Suited to our cooler climate and excellent for keeping, these purple-skinned onions have a good strong flavor and fine texture, making them wonderful for kitchen use, both raw and cooked. With flesh that is white with red rings, they make attractive salad displays and perfect hamburger onions. Once common in New England, they are increasingly hard to find. Rediscover this wonderful onion, and help save the variety by growing some yourself.

**The Citron Melon**

This is a curiosity – a watermelon grown not for fresh eating, but for preserving. It is most often candied and used in baked goods, like fruitcake. It produces many small, round fruits per vine and is a good keeper, so you can process it on your own schedule. The white flesh is bitter, so the rind is the part most often used for candying. It is a fun melon to grow and experiment with – why not try it this year?

**Exhibit Your Harvest at OSV Sept. 24–25**

Show off your gardening success by entering your heirloom vegetables (and flowers!) in our annual Agricultural Fair Exhibition. In the 19th century spirit, we have open judging, so you can hear what the judges say as they evaluate each entry.

Unlike modern fairs, where growers keep secret their “tricks of the trade,” our entrants share their experiences so we can all learn about growing heirlooms. A highlight is our “Talk with the Experts,” in which entrants exchange tips and tricks for improving your garden.

Some tips if you decide to enter: Pick up an entry form before you plant to be sure your variety is eligible. Mail your entry before the deadline, and be sure to present your entry as requested. For instance, if the call for parsnips says “three roots, with top,” make sure you have exactly three roots with the tops still attached, or they will be disqualified – even if they are the best-looking parsnips there!

There are both youth (ages 5–12) and adult (ages 13+) divisions – enter as many categories as you like. Download an entry form at www.osv.org or pick one up at the Village. If you need an entry form mailed to you, email rrobinson@osv.org. See you at the Fair!
Almanac.

his popular book promoting the use of lightning rods in force, and by the mid-1700s, electrical demonstrations were regularly presented to the curious public as edifying entertainment. Many diarists mention being “electrified.”

In 1751, Benjamin Franklin gained international fame with his Experiments and Observations on Electricity in London in 1779 where, for hefty fees, patients were treated with his “medico-electrical apparatus” and such medications as “Electrical Aether” and “Nervous Aetherial Balsam.”

In 1753, he was promoting the use of lightning rods in his popular Poor Richard’s Almanac.

by Tom Kelleher, Curator of Historic Trades, Mills, and Mechanical Arts

Others followed in Graham’s footsteps, with varying degrees of sincerity and effectiveness. In the 1790s, Dr. Elisha Perkins of Connecticut sold iron and brass rods called “metallic tractors” intended to draw off pain by passing them over the body. George Washington desperately bought a set to ease his chronic dental pain. A visitor to Boston or other cities in the 1830s could find at least a handful of “electricians.” These were not tradesman installing wires, but doctors using electricity as treatment. Through its ability to stimulate the body, electricity was seen as more beneficial and elemental than chemical medicines.

This “elemental fire” was used to treat fevers, impotence, hemorrhoids, bruises, measles, asthma, rickets, drowning, diabetes, hysterics, consumption, and, of course, madness.

In 1831, Michael Faraday demonstrated electromagnetic induction, the principle behind the electric motor and generator, and in 1837, Samuel Morse patented the electric telegraph, capable of instantaneous communication over long distances.

But this statement is not entirely accurate. While New Englanders in the 1830s certainly did not have electric current conveniently flowing from their walls to power lights, televisions, PCs, and microwave ovens and to charge iPhones, they were well aware of electricity.

Electricity might be generated by rubbing a glass tube or disk with wool, rotating wire coils in a magnet, or through chemical reaction in a galvanic pile. Treatments were more than just a good jolt, but usually consisted of a carefully prescribed number of shocks of the right intensity delivered to the affected area over a number of days. Indeed, not all electrical treatments were shocks. Some conditions required “insulation” instead, in which the patient sat on a chair with insulating glass legs. He held electrodes in his hands but since there was no ground, the current passed harmlessly through his body or sometimes the patient was grounded and experienced a continuous tingling sensation.

Many sincerely believed in the efficacy of electrical medicine, although some contemporaries lamented the amount of quackery. Experiments in electric medicine continued throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, electroconvulsive therapy remains an established, if somewhat controversial, treatment for such mental disorders as depression, catatonia, and mania.

“T hey didn’t have electricity back then,” parents often knowingly inform their children when visiting Old Sturbridge Village. But this statement is not entirely accurate. While New Englanders in the 1830s certainly did not have electric current conveniently flowing from their walls to power lights, televisions, PCs, and microwave ovens and to charge iPhones, they were well aware of electricity.

Indeed, electricity has been known for thousands of years. The word “electricity” is derived from the Greek word for amber, elektron, since that substance, when rubbed, generates static electricity. Electricity was long known as a life force, and by the mid-1700s, electrical demonstrations were regularly presented to the curious public as edifying entertainment. Many diarists mention being “electrified.”

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(While Franklin did write about flying a kite in a thunderstorm, it is unclear if he ever really did it, or if he only meant it as a joke.)

The 1830s, the decade of change that we portray here at Old Sturbridge Village, saw the dawning of both modern electric power and electronic communication. In 1837, Michael Faraday demonstrated electromagnetic induction, the principle behind the electric motor and generator, and in 1837, Samuel Morse patented the electric telegraph, capable of instantaneous communication over long distances.

But it was in medicine that electricity was most widely used in the early 19th century. Dr. James Graham was among the first to capitalize on the use of electricity as a medical treatment. He established a “Temple of Health” in London in 1779 where, for hefty fees, patients were treated with his “medico-electrical apparatus” and such medications as “Electrical Aether” and “Nervous Aetherial Balsam.”

In fact, such was the mysterious allure of the word “electric” that well into the 1800s many products that had nothing to do with electricity still incorporated the word to boost sales.

Enthusiastic practitioners had faith in their “ethereal fire,” but admitted that it would not cure everything. “Electrical shock cannot remove a cataract,” stated one practitioner, who then related the poor results he had gotten trying to cure cataracts with electricity.

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Long Journey Home: Historic John Smith card table comes to OSV

Convinced the card table was a Connecticut piece, Florene Maine sold it to prominent collectors Frederick K. and Margaret R. Barbour, of Norwalk, Connecticut, who donated the table to the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) in 1965.

After assuming the table was Connecticut-made for 45 years, CHS furniture scholar Dr. Thomas Kugleman realized its true origins after viewing the OSV exhibit, Convenient & Fashionable: The Furniture of Inland Massachusetts, 1790–1840, which included the John Smith chest. The Connecticut Historical Society then offered the table to OSV, but the price was beyond the OSV budget, and it went to public auction.

Enter Ron Bourgeault, owner of Northeast Auctions of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. When bids for the Smith card table did not meet the reserve, Bourgeault purchased the table from the CHS, and offered it to the Village for the purchase price, with no mark-up.

“I always keep an eye peeled for artifacts that belong at Old Sturbridge Village,” Bourgeault said. “I was happy to facilitate getting the table from one museum, CHS, where it wasn’t appropriate, to another museum, OSV, where it was very appropriate.”

Still, the price was a stretch for the OSV budget. Enter the OSV overseers, who “passed the hat” at their annual meeting and raised $500 on the spot toward the table’s purchase. Overseer Ralph Bloom pledged another $500, and another overseer, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated the rest of the table’s purchase price.

The last leg of the table’s journey from Bourgeault’s office in Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Sturbridge was the easiest part of the table’s travels. According to OSV’s Hood, “It was almost like a victory lap.”

Where John Smith made the table back in 1795, he probably hoped it would last for generations, but could never have predicted it would end up in a museum. Today, we are fortunate that his furniture – and his legacy – lives on.

Once was fashioned a diminutive cherry card table with a beautiful oval inlay he may have carved himself. The 27-year-old John Smith (1768–1834) likely made the table for his family, as he did with a chest of drawers he finished two years earlier. He crafted both pieces from warm-hued cherrywood and gave both distinctive curved serpentine forms.

Separated for more than 150 years, the table and chest are now together again as part of the Old Sturbridge Village collection. The chest came to the museum in 1988, but the card table had a longer and far more circuitous route to the Village.

Finally, after 215 years and eight owners in three states, the John Smith card table has come home to OSV, joining one of the country’s most important collections of artifacts documenting life in early rural New England.

The acquisition was spearheaded by the Village’s Vice President for Museum Programs Ed Hood and was made possible by a diverse group of people who felt strongly that the table “belongs at Old Sturbridge Village.”

Among those who helped were curators from the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS); Brock Jobe, Winterthur professor of decorative arts; New Hampshire antiques auctioneer Ron Bourgeault; Bruce Mor, head of the OSV Collections committee; and a loyal group of OSV overseers, who literally “passed the hat” to bring this special table home to the Village.

According to Museum and Decorative Arts Consultant Nan Wolverton, John Smith card tables like the one featured in this article were used for more than just card playing. They served a variety of functions, such as tea tables, small dining tables, or as serving tables during a meal. When placed against a wall in folded position, they could be used to display objects in the parlor.

The wood of choice for rural cabinet makers was cherry because its warm, reddish color made it desirable and fashionable for Federal-style furniture.

Cherry could also be stained to resemble mahogany, which was more costly and used by cabinetmakers in wealthy seaports.

In past, cherry pieces were often attributed to Connecticut, but we now know that it was often used by cabinetmakers of rural Massachusetts, as well.

Learn more about Convenient & Fashionable: The Furniture of Inland Massachusetts 1790–1830: www.osv/org/tinefurniture

Did you know...
Any people associate spring with Easter, and Easter with bonnets. And although Easter was not widely celebrated in the early New England time period portrayed by Old Sturbridge Village, fancy bonnets for women were at the height of fashion during this era.

Trimmed with frills, feathers, flowers, and ribbons, wide-brimmed bonnets were a “must-have” fashion accessory for women in the 1830s, even in rural towns like Sturbridge. Bonnets were usually made by milliners, women who were trained to make bonnets professionally. Women in the countryside learned of the latest bonnet fashions through local milliners, who brought back the newest styles from Boston and New York, as well as from fashion plates in ladies’ magazines.

The Old Sturbridge Village collection contains many bonnets dating to the early 1800s, and although their fragility means they cannot often be displayed, the reproduction bonnets worn by our historians in costume are based on these fashion artifacts.

Some of the original bonnets can be traced to specific owners and makers. A tan silk bonnet in the OSV Collection was purchased in 1835 from a milliner, Mrs. P. Hinkley (see bonnet at right) whose Hartford, Connecticut, shop was located “12 rods south of the Episcopal Church,” in 1825, and later listed at 87 Main St. in 1828, and at 240 Main St. in 1838, according to Hartford city directories.

Although many of the basic bonnet shapes stayed in vogue for a decade or more, women changed the trimmings nearly every season, adding new linings, ribbons, and flowers to their old bonnet frames. The wide bonnet brims protected a woman’s face from the sun, and in the days before make-up, soft pink linings were sometimes used to add a reflective glow to the wearer’s complexion.

While straw bonnets were imported from Italy in large numbers, New England women and girls mastered straw braiding themselves and became so adept that OSV historians say it is often impossible to distinguish between a New England-made straw hat and one imported from Europe. Rye straw grown on local farms was split into thin strips using a straw splitter, and then braided. The lengths of braided straw were made into hats and bonnets by hat manufacturers.

In addition to Italian imports, bonnet styles from New York apparently set the tone, as OSV historians discovered in this piece of advice on bonnets from the inventor of the telegraph, Samuel F.B. Morse, to his new bride, Lucetta Walker Moree:

“I have talked with Aunt Bartlett about getting you a bonnet. She says that it is no time to get a fashionable winter bonnet in Boston now & that it would be much better to get it in New York as the Bostonians get their fashions from New York…. She thinks if you cannot wait for the new fashion that your black plumes would be as tasty & fashionable as any you could procure.”

“The intricate workmanship in these bonnets is quite impressive, and it’s even more impressive that they have survived nearly 200 years,” notes Jean Continne, coordinator of households and women’s crafts at Old Sturbridge Village. And even though we cannot display the originals often, we showcase period bonnet fashions every day in the Village with our historically accurate reproductions.

With such fancy bonnets, why did women wear caps underneath?

Caps protected the silk lining of the bonnet, which was not washable, from the natural oils of a woman’s hair, and they were easier to launder than washing your hair, especially in February! They were good to camouflage white or graying hair, too.
The art of bringing the 19th century to life for 250,000 visitors each year is keeping over 50 historical buildings in good repair. That responsibility falls to Director of Facilities & Grounds Brad King, and some of the things he watches carefully are the roofs. As his colleague Curator Tom Kelleher points out, “If the roof goes, the building will not last long.”

Recent grants allowed King to address several aging roofs on the Village campus – including that of the Cooper Shop. With the Village’s educational focus in mind and knowing that he had to make every grant dollar count, he entered into a partnership with Tantasqua Regional High School and created a win/win situation for both the students and the Village.

Students from Tantasqua had recently built a shed on the property of one of the Museum’s neighbors. King was inspired and met with one of the school’s carpentry instructors, Steve Mucha, about the possibility of collaborating on a project at the Village. So, nine juniors from the school’s carpentry program spent several weeks at OSV last October and November stripping away the old roof and applying new red cedar shingles on the Cooper Shop. In addition to saving money for OSV, the project benefited the students on multiple levels. “We were delighted to provide this educational opportunity to these ‘carpenters in training,’ as the endeavor fit well with what the Village is all about!” King said.

The students learned the history of the building and how the roof would have been applied in the early 19th century. The Cooper Shop was built in 1840 in Waldoboro, Maine, and belonged to James Nash – a farmer who did most of his barrel-making during the winter months. Kelleher showed the young carpenters the tools they would have been using 150 years ago to complete the job. While the students on this project used three separate tools for measuring the shingles, cutting them, and hammering the nails, a single shingling hatchet would have been used for all of those tasks in the 1800s.

In addition to learning about history, students were also gaining practical skills and getting real-world applications for things learned in the classroom. Cedar shingle roofing is considerably less common than modern asphalt shingles, but is not relegated exclusively to antique buildings – and many people do not know how to do it. Historical roofing with wooden shingles requires far greater talent and precision than installing modern shingles. Having this skill on their resumes will be a future asset to the students. The students were also able to gain a better sense of what a real construction site is like, complete with all the safety precautions that they learn about in school.

In order to best protect the antique building, modern weatherproofing materials were used. After stripping off the old shingles, the students put down a waterproof underlayment to protect against the weather. Though not a historic application, it will not be visible to visitors, who will see a roof consistent with the period. Modern products like the underlayment and pressure-treated shingles will ensure that the roof lasts over 30 years.

Many of the student carpenters have fond memories of coming to Old Sturbridge Village when they were younger, with their parents or schools. Thanks to their hard work, they will be able to return someday with their own children and see their roof still protecting the Cooper Shop.

This SHINGLING HATCHET from the 1830s was a handy all-in-one carpenter’s tool for splitting new shingles and hammering them in place. FROM THE OSV COLLECTION.
OSV Garden Gazebo Makes Weddings Memorable

In their wedding day, Marie Donovan and Anthony Bellofatto said “I do” in the charming garden gazebo at Old Sturbridge Village, surrounded by more than 400 historical varieties of heirloom flowers and plants. But is the very first couple to get married in the new Herb Garden gazebo, Marie and Anthony had to use a little creative thinking when first touring the site in April prior to their June 2010 wedding. “We had to use our imaginations,” Marie remembers. “The gazebo was unpainted and the garden was not yet in bloom. We had to visualize what it would look like in June.”

As it turned out, the blossoms didn’t disappoint. “It was absolutely beautiful,” Marie said. “Everything was in place – we wouldn’t change a thing.”

The couple used OSV Justice of the Peace Chip Leis and musician Walter Bucking-ham. The menu, created by Oliver Wight Tavern chefs, including coconut fried shrimp, carved roast sirloin, and pan-roasted sage chicken, was “the best wedding food ever” according to Marie.

Everything was done for us – we didn’t have to make a lot of decisions,” Marie said. “I would be Bridezilla if I had to plan a big wedding!”

Marie Donovan and Anthony Bellofatto planned their OSV wedding in just six weeks. Here are 5 tips for planning a last-minute wedding:

1. Have fun, don’t fret, and don’t try to please everyone.
2. Use reception packages – they cover everything and are often cheaper.
3. Pare down the guest list.
4. Give assignments to your family and friends – people love to help.
5. Consider Friday or Sunday dates as alternatives.

Wedding:

5 tips for planning a last-minute wedding in just six weeks. Here are planned their OSV Bellofatto. Marie Donovan and Anthony as alternatives. Consider Friday or Sunday dates love to help.

Pare down the guest list.

Use reception packages – they cheaper.

Have fun, don’t fret, and don’t try to please everyone.

Consider Friday or Sunday dates as alternatives.

Winslow Farm’s Debra White

Early OSV visits inspire animal rescuer

ld Sturbridge Village Member Debra White’s earliest memories include childhood visits with her engineer father, who was replicating the Grist Mill waterwheel for a client. While his attention was on the waterwheel, hers was on the animals.

White, the founder of Winslow Farm Animal Sanctuary in Norton, Massachusetts, traces her connection to animals to those early OSV visits. “I had to stay by his side while he sketched, but I really just wanted to be with the animals – the chickens, oxen, and sheep.”

Because of her father’s subsequent illness and early death from Parkinson’s disease, White cherishes her memories of OSV. “It was an uplifting place that gave us happiness as a family.”

Today, White saves neglected and abandoned animals and others slated to be slaughtered or sent to factory farms. Her Winslow Farm is a “rescue and stay-for-life” sanctuary, home to 350 rescued animals, including horses, sheep, llamas, alpacas, goats, peacocks, chickens, ducks, geese, donkeys, mules, phrasants, cats, dogs, and even eruns.

The animals are free to mingle, roam, trot, prance, and waddle about. Ponies and goats wander up to greet visitors, and it’s all quite a contrast to the abuse, neglect, and “cage stress” the animals have experienced.

“Rabbits should live on the ground and not sit in a stupid hutch all day,” White says. “They love to burrow and dig, and being little rabbits, they love to hop and play – even with the cats.”

White’s rescue efforts have attracted national attention. The Associated Press featured Winslow Farm in 2004, and the September 2010 issue of Ladies’ Home Journal ran a story on the close friendship between “Waterford the pig” and two farm cats who play tug-of-war with the pig.

In addition to its day-to-day mission of saving animals, Winslow Farm also hosts tours, monthly special events, and visits by some 3,000 visitors a year. Now with a staff of six and 35 volunteers, running the farm commands White’s full-time attention, and she describes herself as “CEO, bottle washer, and stall mucker.”

White brings other Old Sturbridge Village influences to her farm, including wool dyeing demonstrations, post-and-beam architecture, split rail fences, and period gardening methods she learned at OSV.

“People visit and say ‘This is like Old Sturbridge Village’, and that’s the best compliment anyone could give me. I am so thankful that OSV has been in my life.”

Learn more about Winslow Farm: www.winslowfarm.com; 508-285-6451.
Field of Flags

Welcome to those who visited the Village from July 4th through our annual flags were donated, raising $40,550 to sponsor field trips to the Village for disadvantaged children.

Sarah Allen, in memory of Harold Albert D. and M. Joyce Allard
David J. and Kristen M. Albright
Charles and Jane Accatino
George B. Arnold, Jr. and Justin L. Ankerman
James L. and Elizabeth Ammon
American Legion
Donald E. Allison and Alison D. Snyder

To all who gave a flag, you have our deepest thanks. Based on last year’s success, we are planning for this year’s visual result was stunning. Lining the entrance to OSV, the flags, fluttering in the breeze, made for a particularly heartwarming and stirring experience.

We are honored to announce that 628 people answered the call, many giving flags in memory of loved ones and military veterans. In all, 1,622 flags were donated, raising $40,550 to sponsor field trips to the Village for disadvantaged children.

Just before Flag Day last June 14, Old Sturbridge Village reached out to Members and supporters to help launch a very special Field of Flags. In honor of the country’s birth on Independence Day, each additional flag we sponsor will fund a field trip to the Village for underprivileged children.

Field of Flags

for Independence Day. In addition, each $25 flag sponsorship will also fund a special trip for one underprivileged child under for Independence Day. In addition, each $25 flag sponsorship will also fund a special trip for one underprivileged child under

Thanks! To all who gave a flag, you have our deepest thanks on last year’s success, we are planning for this year’s Field of Flags to launch most appropriately, on Memorial Day.

Field of Flags
State Visit to OSV

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick Visits Old Sturbridge Village

When Governor Patrick called and asked where in my district I’d like to have him visit, I didn’t think twice, recalled State Senator Stephen M. Berry (Barre). “My answer was immediate: Let’s go to Old Sturbridge Village.”

The governor’s Feb. 4 visit to the village was especially timely because OSV has experienced a surge in visitors for the third straight year. In addition, as one of the state’s top tourist destinations, the village saw strong increases from out-of-state and international visitors last year.

According to OSV President and CEO Jim Donahue, foreign visitors increased by 6%, Connecticut visitors increased 26%, and visitors from New York were up 10% compared to the previous year.

The good news that the governor would visit just four days before the event, leaving little time to plan. Nevertheless, Governor Patrick showed a deep interest in Old Sturbridge Village throughout his visit, Governor Patrick showed a deep interest in Old Sturbridge Village throughout his visit.
U p c o m i n g  E v e n t s

Spring comes alive in the Village

Day Camps for ages 6–17
April 18–24
June 27–August 19

Give your children a history lesson they’ll never forget. OSV offers one-day, three-day, and five-day sessions and extended day care. Discovery campers dress in 1830’s costumes; Exploration Camps offer non-costumed adventures. Themes include archaeology: I Dig History, Militia Camp, Native American Traditions, Yankee Ingenuity, From Garden to Table, Stitch in Time, Yankee Doodle, and many more.

For times and details on all upcoming events at OSV, please call 1-800-SEE-1830 or visit www.osv.org.

So You Want to Have a Vegetable Garden…
March 19: Planning the Vegetable Garden; Tips for Success
Participants may attend a series of follow-up workshops on Planning and Preparing the Garden, and on Managing Crops.

Learn environmentally sound techniques for growing common vegetables – how much space each variety needs, when and how to plant, and tips on fertilizing, mulching, staking, insect and disease control, and more. Join OSV Garden Researcher Christie Higginbottom for a daylong program on March 19, with a series of follow-up sessions throughout the growing season.

Maple Days
Weekends in March

Tapping maple trees and gathering sap for maple sugar – it was a necessary (and aromatic) ritual of spring in the 19th century. See the process for yourself throughout the month of March.

Dog Days for Members
April 2 & 3

What would your dog have thought of 19th-century life? There’s no way to tell for sure, but take advantage of this special Member-only benefit and give your dog a taste of the Village.

School Vacation Week
April 16–24

Kids will love the hands-on activities, newborn animals, and special performances scheduled throughout the week during school vacation. On Patriots Day (April 18), visitors can enjoy fife and drum music, and children can learn military marching and drilling.

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Organic Gardens
March 20–21

This weekend, OSV’s garden researcher will open the Garden to the public and offer demonstrations on planting and planting organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

Quilts in New England: Collectors’ Forum, will take place on April 30, 2011. To learn more, go to www.osv.org/collectors.

Mother’s Day
May 8

OSV offers all mothers FREE admission on Mother’s Day and offers a brunch at the Oliver Wight Tavern (reservations recommended).

Muster Day
June 11

Watch as the Village Common is transformed into the site of drilling practice and musket firing. Kids can join in and practice marching along with the Village militia members.

Music & Art Weekend
June 18–19

Dozens of singers, dancers, musicians, and artists re-create 19th-century music and art. Throughout the weekend, see performances and demonstrations and join in the fun by learning dances, paper marbling techniques, and how to play the tin whistle.

For times and details on all upcoming events at OSV, please call 1-800-SEE-1830 or visit www.osv.org.

Take a Closer Look

March 12: A.B. Wells and the Early Old Sturbridge Village Collection
April 9: Make Do: Early forms of recycling and reusing
May 14: Even More Beautiful Than Any Other: A closer look at the new installation of the quilt exhibit
June 11: Early Musical Instruments

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Visit the OSV gift shop this spring!

Don’t forget… Members get 10% discounts on everything in the store!

www.shoposv.org