



Summer 2011

View the Newsletter with color photos on the web!

www.farmsteads-ne.org



FNE's WoodsEdge Apartments Completed!

EVERYTHING'S IN BLOOM ON THE FARM AT FNE!



The Dog Days of Summer!

Greetings from a hot & humid northeast where Farmsteads of New England is adjusting beautifully with cookouts and picnics for lunch and afternoons at the lake for the farmers! Gathering under the beautiful ancient maples at the main farmhouse, mentors and farmers relaxed spinning stories and taking turns under fire from friendly sprinklers and hoses! Never too mature for a few childhood games!

Since our last newsletter the final phase has been completed in the building of our residential facilities and all units are occupied. The landscaping is being undertaken with shrubs and plantings around the units in place as this goes to press. What a joy and sense of accomplishment this is for Deborah for whom life's mission has been this moment! Now back to the drawing board and the upgrading of the farmhouse kitchens.

All of our event planning throughout the year, as you all know, is intended for the completion of those many items that need to be addressed and that are not funded by the state. Our Annual Appeal challenge does bring in needed additional revenues, and we thank you profusely for your continuing support and for grant awards. The generosity of you, our supporters enables FNE to provide a high quality of life to those we support.

Events of the Summer!

In June our 3rd Annual Golf Scramble was held at the Beaver Brook Golf Course in Concord. Many thanks go to Kevin & Pam Bartlett who chaired the event most successfully. Pam & Kevin are parents of one of our farmers and active board members of FNE. Having been involved with Farmsteads through the years, their experience and that of their loyal committee members is invaluable.

Following that event, we participated in Hillsborough's Annual Balloon Fest parade and Fair held each year by building a float featuring the "Community Pride Takes Flight" theme as we continue our outreach into the community by participating in town events.



That was a very busy week-end for the farm as we also had a Family Day Open House and Cookout planned for Sunday afternoon. It was fabulous as it gave all of our new farmers and families the opportunity to meet and greet the staff and one another. Many of those attending brought salads and desserts to add to our offerings of hot dogs and hamburgers plus the treat of pulled pork made by Jon, our Day Services Coordinator. It was truly a family-fest that will be added to our calendar of events!

SAVE THE DATE(s)

October 8th, 2011

- **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Residences at 10:00am**
- **2nd Annual Harvest Faire & Pumpkinhead Scarecrow Contest 11:00am to 3:00pm**

November 5th, 2011

10th Annual Benefit Auction & Clambake

WISH LIST

- Mulch/Manure/Compost
- Craft Room Supplies
- LCD Projector
- Hay, Shavings & Feed
- Ground Driven Manure Spreader
- All Wheel ATV
- Snow Thrower for Farm Tractor
- Rear Tine Walk-Behind Rototiller



A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST FOR FARMER'S MARKET



The Farmers Market is off and running for another season! Come visit us at Butler Park in Hillsborough NH Saturday mornings from 9am til noon and often running overtime. Amelia, our new garden manager, is also supplying bags of produce to Southern NH Services for the SFMNP (Senior Farmers Market Nutritional Program), delivering to designated drop off sites twice a month. Our Farm stand at the end of the drive is open daily, operating on the honor system where we sell fresh eggs, beautiful produce, handcrafts and cookies to the neighborhood.

Reflections of Farmer's Market by Farmer Dave S.

I went to my first Farmers Market Saturday, August 6th 2011. I helped bag produce for the customers. I also saw Butlers Park for my first time. I enjoy working with Amelia, Sherise and the farmhands. The weather for my first farmer's market was sunny and humid. Then before lunch at noon, the unexpected happened. A much need down pour happened! I had a blast. I bought a Hillsborough cookbook and a tie dyed T-shirt. I would love to do Farmer's Market again, I know how to take turns.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UPDATE

Despite the rainy summer, our athletes have remained active. Three athletes participated in the golf tournament once again and enjoyed competing in the regional and state tournaments. We also participated once again in the Irving Serve and Protect fundraiser at two local gas stations to raise some funds for the team. As a thank you, Irving Oil donated tickets and 15 of our athletes and mentors got to attend a Fisher cats game and Barbeque in Manchester. Our next event will be Bowling on October 29. Do you want to come watch and support the athletes? Email or call Chris



(chris@farmsteads-ne.org) 603-769-1483 for more info. Thank you as always for your constant



At the FisherCats Game

SPOT LIGHT ON STAFF

Jon Noble our new Day Program Coordinator, came to us in March from the Webster House in Manchester NH where he was employed for 12 years. He brings with him previous experience as Program Director at the Webster House, as well as his varied interests in cooking, baking and canning. When he is not at work at FNE, Jon makes sausage, bakes breads, decorates cakes and caterers for clients. He lives in Hillsborough NH with his wife Jennifer and children Liam, Natalie and Miles.



Barbara Williams has joined the staff in the office filling the Administrative Assistant position. The voice you will most likely hear when calling the office will be Barbara's happy tone. As she has already determined, each day may mean another hat to wear but this keeps life at the farm very interesting. Barbara is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and has worked in office administration so her background brings many special talents to the forefront. She is married to David and is mother to Katlyn, Juliana and Michael, and has been a resident of Antrim NH. for 24 years.



Verdant Pastures Vision

When they wrote about the lazy days of summer they were obviously not thinking about Farmsteads here in Epping We have been very busy this summer! Our garden grew to twice the size it was last year, and that meant twice as many rows to till, twice as many plants to plant, and now twice as many vegetables to harvest.

We also had a bumper crop of raspberries. Our farm stand is brimming with fresh fruits, and veggies, and the cooks in



our kitchen are putting up pickles and sauces for later. Our chicks have grown and should begin producing eggs any day now. The lambs are nearly sheep, and they and the goats keep us entertained with their antics. We've been swimming and bowling, hiking and fishing, and when we have spare time we volunteer for the Epping Soup Kitchen and Lucky's Legacy horse rescue. On rainy days we have been working on crafts to sell at our table at the annual auction. We need to



send out special thanks to Jess Mueller and the Community Service groups from Beckett Family Services for all of their help this summer. They have

been coming every week, and they have done an amazing amount of work for us, from keeping the weeds from overtaking the garden to clearing debris from the sheep pasture. Thanks to all of you!!!

All of our farmers and mentors are looking forward to enjoying the rest of the summer. We still have apples and grapes to harvest, and fall crops to put in. Hopefully, a few more trips to the lake as well!

WEAVING-FNE is the recent recipient of a grant from the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund to develop a Fiber Arts Program at Rosewald Farm. This new vocational program is being taught by professional weaving instructor Connie Gray. Connie meets with FNE farmers every week as part of the scheduled day program. This coming fall we intend to

offer a weaving class to the local community at our FNE studio, with plans for adding workshops on spinning, dyeing and felting. We would like to thank the many people who have donated supplies and looms to our program.



Congratulations to Deborah DeScenza for being chosen for the Autism Society of America's 2011 Audrey I. Horne Memorial Award. This award is given each year by the national Autism Society in partnership with the South Carolina Autism Society, of which Audrey Horne was a member of the Board for several years. The award is given in Audrey's memory "to an individual or organization that has made an enduring contribution to improving adult services and the quality of life for those individuals living on the autism spectrum."

Deborah was nominated for the Horne Award by FNE grant writer, Amy Lowell, who wrote in the nomination application, "I have never seen a woman more determined to make her dream become a reality than Deborah DeScenza. She is the most dedicated, hard-working woman I have ever met. I don't know where she gets the energy to do all that she does with so much enthusiasm. I want to share her story because I feel she deserves recognition."

As Craig Stoxen, President and CEO of the South Carolina Autism Society, explained in his congratulatory letter to Deborah, "Reading over your nomination reminded me of Audrey. She too was a teacher and when she was searching for an appropriate program for her son, she ended up working to change the system...Audrey was a moving force. When she saw holes and obstacles, she worked to remove or at least get around them. I am guessing from your nomination application that you are cut from the same cloth... Congratulations again and keep up the great work!"

It is quite an honor for Deborah to receive the Audrey Horne Award and those of us at FNE are very proud of her. The Autism Society is the nation's leading grassroots autism organization. It exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. It does this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the autism spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

Congratulations, Deborah! Your recognition is well deserved.



**FARMSTEADS OF
NEW ENGLAND, INC.**

213 Center Road

Hillsborough, NH 03244

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter by Email?

Please send your email address to Barbara@farmsteads-ne.org

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Mission Statement

Farmsteads of New England, Inc. (FNE) was created to provide a farming environment that is conducive to a meaningful and satisfying life for people who have autism and other developmental disabilities and who are seeking a holistic lifestyle that supports their vocational, recreational, and residential needs.

FNE is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.