



## 40th Season

June 8, 2022 - Part A

BF&M Mission: Inspiring and engaging generations through shared stories of Vermont's rural culture and our continued practice of responsible agriculture.

### A Note from Michelle

Things are growing quickly! The grass is growing (thank you to Ben, Per and Curt for keeping it tidy and beautiful), programs are growing in numbers, seen by the almost 90 people in attendance for the Quilt Exhibition Reception on Friday and the solar project and garden projects continue to move towards completion. It is true that where you put your energy things will grow and prosper. The last few years we have made strides in expanding the programs, adding more energy to our promotional materials, and working towards creating a foundation for success. We have welcomed new team members as well as have many valuable team members that continue to stay, or return each season, and provide wonderful experiences for our guests. I am so grateful to be a part of this growth. I am so looking forward to watching us and the site grow this season.

If you want to be a part of the garden farmstead project, we would love to have you join in. No experience necessary. Please reach out to Christine if you would like to assist (this is paid time). If you know of anyone that would like to volunteer in the gardens, please reach out to Alec. Very flexible hours and times available. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

### Education & Interpretation News

We are in the thick of our short but busy school group season! Thanks so much to the educators who have been working hard to deliver great programming to the 500+ students who have visited the site so far. I'm very grateful to be a part of such a dedicated and talented team.



Welcome to August, our Education & Interpretation Intern who began work this Monday! August is a student at the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Cooperstown, NY, where he is pursuing a master's degree in Museum Studies. Growing up in Austin, TX, he developed a love for museums as a volunteer for the LBJ Presidential Library and Elisabet Ney Museum. His favorite experience as an educator was teaching 5th graders scenes from Shakespeare through the University of Texas' Shakespeare Outreach Program. As an Education and Interpretation intern, August will help out with camp programs, exhibits and other exciting projects this summer. We are thrilled to have August on the team for the summer!

We are also excited to announce that Margaret Dwyer has signed on to be our Artist-in-Residence for the season (June-October). Margaret will be on-site demonstrating frequently and will lead several educational programs and workshops in the next months. Her residency will culminate with an exhibition of her work. Look for an introduction to Margaret in next week's newsletter—in the meantime, check out her work at <https://www.margaretdwyerartist.com/>.



A few of the paintings Margaret has made, inspired by Baby Farm Animal Celebration.

## Facilities Update

Sun Common is installing solar panels on the roof of the Heifer Barn, and our team has been helping Black and Tan Construction dig the trench for the electric. It has been a big job but is almost complete as of Thursday 6/9; hope to the finish on Friday after the major rainstorm moves through the region. We have most of the garden path installed and our team is preparing to finish grading from the event site to the garden next week. We have been mulching as time permits and Curt has been cutting some invasive plants out of the Apple Orchard. The last picture is of the compost process. Every week we pick up the green compost containers from the RBH and the VC Staff room and transport it to the composter at the National Park.











## Operations Update

### New to the Gift Shop

The Clothing, Games, and Health/Beauty sections have been rotated in the gift shop to make room for more puzzles and children's clothes coming soon! The Health/Beauty products are now located on the back wall and the clothing and Games/ children's books now have their own featured tables. Backstock for clothing can still be found in the basement sorted by size. The backstock for children's books is in closet 1 (right hand closet of the Learning Kitchen). Games/ activity boxes backstock is in closet 2 (left hand closet of the Learning Kitchen). Always feel free to go to Maddy or Anna with any questions regarding the gift shop!





## Farm to Table News

I had the joy of catering the opening reception for the Quilt Show last week. Guests and quilters were able to enjoy the simple pleasures of Billings Farm cheese, fruit, crackers, and cookies made by our friends at the Woodstock Inn. The peach ginger punch was also a big hit of the evening, although not as big of a hit as the beautiful quilts in the show. I'm amazed at the talent of all the quilters in the local area!





## Barn Brief by the Deome Family

Hay season is officially underway here on the farm! This weekend we were able to get a good chunk of the hay here at home knocked down and baled up with the small window of weather we had available. This is some of the thickest 1<sup>st</sup> cut we have seen with yields so far almost double what they were last year at this time. In other news the cows went out last week and have been enjoying the fresh green grass!



## Archive and Curatorial News

And just like that, the 36<sup>th</sup> Quilt Exhibition is open! Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, we had a full theater of quilters, quilt admirers, and quilt aficionados. With great pleasure, we announced and presented the three Juror Choice awards and the Staff Choice award to the creators of such fine artistry. If you walk through the Quilt Hall, be sure to check out the ribbon winners as well as the other 40 amazing quilts.

Juror Jen Daly selected Martha by Linda Diak  
Juror Froncie Quinn selected Joyful Seasons by Kathy Devlin McManus  
Juror Colleen O'Neill selected My Blue Heaven by Erma Hastings  
The Billings Farm & Museum Staff selected Stories by Kathleen Geagan