

BULLETIN

40th Season

June 8, 2022 - Part B



Our Historic Base Ball team is recruiting once again! This will be our sixth season of fun-filled ball games.



We play ye olde Base Ball by the rules of 1860. Our ground, aka the playing field, is built among the crops down the hill from the Apple Orchard and is constructed of wood shaving baselines, canvas bags filled the straw, and metal home and pitcher plates. We wield reproduction ash bats and lob reproduction horsehides, aka the baseball for ya cranks. Gloves are a thing of the Present; our 1860 play does not use gloves. Friendly Matches will be held on:

Sunday, June 19th, *Father's Day*

Monday, July 4th, *Old Vermont 4th*

The matches will begin at 2:00 and generally are done by 3:30.

Whoever wants to play is welcome, though be warned; ladies (such as myself) pretend to be gents for the couple of hours we play. We are looking for players from our staff to split up between two teams and have visitors join us. You don't have to be "good" at throwing or playing base ball; you do need to be ready for a fun time interacting with visitors of all ages.

The uniform for the team is white (with or without stripes) long sleeve button shirts, dark pants of denim (black or brown, blue jeans came about in the 1870s) or wool, dark boots,

if you have them, sneakers if you don't (black or brown), suspenders, and wool hats. Uniforms are provided; shirts and pants can be found among the costume clothing in the Farm Manager's House, along with suspenders. You are welcome to put together a costume of your clothing if you have the articles. The hats are provided at game time. Best to wear your own shoes, if you do not have a dark pair, that is alright. Below is a picture of what I wear as a uniform for reference.



If you have an interest in playing or know someone that would like to be a volunteer and play, please let me know: ekoetsier@billingsfarm.org

Those who wish to be a part of our Vintage Base Ball will receive rules and facts before our first game on Sunday, June 19th.

See you on the grounds!

Sharing the Billings Farm Story from PR
Social Media news from Brooke:

It's halfway through 2022 (if you can believe it) and social media updates are in order. Since December of 2021, our Instagram in particular has grown remarkably. We've seen a 154.2% increase in reach, totaling over 86,000 people, and our followers have increased by 151%, translating to over 1,000 new followers. Some of our biggest jumps were around Christmas—people love a Vermont Christmas! We should all pat ourselves on the back for creating a place that people want to stay connected with.

Billings Farm in the News

[Our Vermont](#) - an e-mag in partnership with the Vermont Country Store and published by Yankee Magazine, featured the Sunflower House in the Summer 2022 issue. The article on **page 15** highlights the history of the Sunflower House, the different types of sunflower varieties, the Farmstead Gardens, Kelly Way Gardens, and interviews with **Christine Scales** and **Ben Pauly**.

[Boston Globe: 31 Outdoor Events Including Farm to Ballet](#)

[NewEnglandWithLove.com 15 Best Things to do in Woodstock VT](#)

[Travel Awaits: Our 14 Favorite U.S. Small Towns to Visit During the Holidays](#)





Announcing the 36th Annual Quilt Exhibition

Juror & Staff Choice Awards at Billings Farm & Museum

WOODSTOCK, VT... **Billings Farm & Museum is pleased to announce the Jurors Choice and Staff Choice Award for the 36th Annual Quilt Exhibition.** The awards were presented at the opening reception on Friday, June 3.

Each quilt submitted for the exhibition was juried by quilting experts in the region, including Colleen O'Neill from Cornish, NH, Froncie Quinn from New London, NH, and Jen Daly from Grantham, NH. Each juror selected one quilt to receive a Juror's Award.

Juror Colleen O'Neill selected "My Blue Heaven" by Erma Hastings of Hartford, VT. Inspired by an intriguing layout variation for the "Hunter's Star," a traditional quilting design, Hastings used an array of fabrics from her collection to create this "scrappy quilt." The artful juxtaposition of the dark blue and white fabrics creates the sense of stargazing on a clear night. At first glance, the eye is drawn to the biggest, brightest stars. On further inspection, the viewer is invited to explore deeper to discover countless stars twinkling from galaxies away. The evocative composition challenges the viewer's imagination and illudes to a sneak peek into what may lie beyond the first impression.

Juror Froncie Quinn selected "Joyful Seasons" by Kathy Devlin McManus of Springfield, VT. McManus commented that, "being an artist and loving our four seasons, I decided to design a wall quilt that would represent the beauty and joy of those four seasons." Over the course of two years, McManus hand-sewed minuscule hexagons for the quilt top to create

complex layers of detail and sophisticated geometry to depict the heart of each season and the ever-evolving transition of time.

Truly a beauty to behold, the bottom is laced with snow covered trees and playful snowmen. The transition is nearly imperceptible as snowflakes melt to form new life. The spring buds transition from full bloom and bounty of summer into the last hurrah of autumn colors. The top brings the seasons full circle with snow crested Balsam evergreens against a full sky of stars.

Juror Jen Daly selected “Martha” by Linda Diak, of Chester, VT. Diak explained that “from her curly forehead locks to her shaggy coat, from her big, steady eyes, to her elegant nose and knowing smile, *Martha* is a composite of all the cows I have admired over the years.”

Diak brings her subject matter to life through incredible skill, creativity, and vision. She uses fabric and thread as if they were viscous paint applied with a brush rather than pieced together and sewn. Diak explains that the “quilting was done on a sit-down machine and is all freehand, or free-motion, quilting. Just as *Martha* is a blend of tradition and fun, the quilting incorporates traditional feathers and stippling with lighter, more fanciful elements in the locks, the fur, and the sunflowers.” The painting-like quilt is truly a treasure with subject matter so fitting at Billings Farm.

The Billings Farm & Museum Staff Choice was awarded to “Stories” by Kathleen Geagan of Brownsville, VT. Her journey began in 1984, with cross-country trips, vacations and visits to U.S. and Canadian National Parks and Monuments, The New Zealand Great Walks, and Australia’s Heron Island. Using 61 patches collected from her travels, Geagan crafted a beautiful quilt. Each National Park patch is centered in its own quilt square with fabric that captures the essence of the park. Geagan commented that, “the fabric from each square was specifically chosen as part of the story.” The sense of adventure and idea that each square contains countless stories resonated significantly with the Billings Farm & Museum staff.

The Activity Barn at Billings Farm & Museum has been transformed by the incredible display of color and design of the 44 artfully crafted quilts in the 36th Annual Quilt Exhibition. The exhibition features contemporary quilts made by Windsor County Quilters, challenge quilts using neckties by the *Delectable Mountain Quilters*, and historical quilts with optical illusion patterns from the museum’s collection. The exhibition can be viewed daily through July 10 from 10AM to 5PM and is included in the price of admission.



What do Dad Jokes & Farms Have in Common?

Find out on Father's Day at Billings Farm & Museum

WOODSTOCK, VERMONT... And dad says, “What did the dada cow say to the baby cow...it’s pasture bedtime!” Wait, wait, one more, “What does the farmer talk about when milking the cows...udder nonsense!” Stifle the eye rolling and embarrassed groaning because it is time to acknowledge all the joke-telling, wonderful dads for **Father’s Day at the Farm on June 19th**. At Billings Farm & Museum, from 10AM – 5PM, there will be fun for the whole family and free admission for that special dad.

Families can participate in lawn games, three-legged races, and the novelty egg-and-spoon race. There will be a rousing game of historic *base ball* starting at 2PM. Visitors of all ages can join the team or grab a snack from the Farmhouse Café and cheer from the bleachers. There will be close animal encounters all over the farm with goats, sheep, and calves led by Animal Ambassadors and Farm Educators. Guests can say hello to the farm’s newest baby animals, including a lamb born in May and calves born in June. Youngsters can make a paper plate ram or rooster crafts and follow the StoryWalk featuring “*Juneteenth for Mazie*” by Floyd Cooper as page by page, the story unfolds on signs along the pasture fence.

Admission to Billings Farm & Museum includes the Animal Barns, Vermont Farm Life Exhibits, the Walking Trail and the 1890 Farm Manager’s House. The 1890 Farm Manager’s House features the creamery, the kitchen and in-home innovations that were considered state-of-the-art for the time. Visitors can meet the farm’s cows, draft horses, sheep, goats, and chickens in the barns and scenic pastures, and stop by the Farmhouse Café for a root beer float, delicious Vermont-made Wilcox ice cream and other snacks from 11AM -5PM.

Billings Farm’s Social Media, Marketing and Press

<https://billingsfarm.org/billings-farm-at-home/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BillingsFarmMuseum/>

<https://www.instagram.com/billingsfarm/>