

# THE FELS BUNCHBERRY THYMES

FALL/WINTER 23/24



## Our Mission

Our Mission is to welcome people of all ages to the John Hay Estate at The Fells, making each visit an enriching experience with opportunities to explore and learn from our natural lakeside setting, our renowned historic buildings and gardens, and the historic achievements of three generations of Hay family visionaries.

## Our Vision

Our Vision is a restored and preserved John Hay Estate at The Fells on Lake Sunapee that:

- Draws people together to share interests in history, gardens, our natural setting, and the protection of the lake;
- Stimulates further their pursuit of those interests by offering enriching educational programs and events that feature three generations of Hay family visionaries;
- Provides access that lets visitors enjoy their John Hay Estate experience within a safe, tranquil environment.

## The Mission Moment is Moving:

We are deeply grateful for the generous support at our summer Gala Benefit Auction where the Mission Moment contributions made a significant impact and raised an impressive amount for the beautification of our entry, upper parking, and gatehouse area; converting the old parking lot to a Fell; and landscaping around the pavilion.

With these funds we will be able to transform these areas into welcoming and beautiful spaces that everyone can enjoy. Your investment will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

*Our vision for the project... You drive through the new entry defined by two horseshoe boulder walls – a variation of the old entry stone pillars and curved walls. On each side there is a row of matching crab apples. The parking area and the atmosphere have improved. The scattered boulders that were along the sloping edge have been replaced with a gentle earthen berm that is planted with a mix of native shrubs and small trees to provide cover and food for birds and small mammals. You get glimpses of wildflower meadows that clothe the previously raw slope.*

*By the Gatehouse, under the old oak tree, there are informal clusters of Rhododendrons that echo the plantings near the end of the drive to the Main House. The ground is carpeted in a mix of various flowers and plantings, including our beloved Bunchberry.*

*Beyond the Gatehouse you see that the old north parking area has been returned to a Fell. There are a few protruding outcrops of granite and a mown path through the wildflowers and native ground covers. You realize that the new entry now speaks to both the ecological theme of the Fells' natural areas, while also providing an appropriate taste of the horticultural heritage at the Main House.*

We presented our plans to four contractors to get input and cost quotes. After many reviews and discussions, we decided to move forward with two contractors who have worked together in the past. One will implement the excavation and hardscape; the other will implement the plantings and design. Details are now being finalized and work is scheduled for this spring once the snow clears and weather permits.

Thank you for believing in our vision and for being part of this important endeavor. Your support not only contributes to the physical transformation but also strengthens the sense of community and pride that we all share.

We look forward to sharing the progress with you as we embark on this exciting project. Together, we are creating a more vibrant and inviting environment for all who visit the John Hay Estate at The Fells.





## A Perspective From Paige

The John Hay Estate at The Fells is more than just a historic property. It is a living legacy of three generations of Hay family visionaries, who shaped the history, culture, and environment of New Hampshire and beyond. It is also a testament to the dedication and passion of our volunteers and members, who work tirelessly to preserve, restore, and share this remarkable estate with the public.

Our volunteers and members are the heart and soul of The Fells. The Fells thrives on its dedicated volunteers and members. They warmly welcome visitors at the main house, guide tours of the house and gardens, upkeep trails and grounds, coordinate events and programs, engage in research and education, and actively contribute to fundraising and mission awareness. Above all, they relish the beauty and tranquility of The Fells, recognizing its historical significance while cherishing its natural setting.

Our volunteers and members come from all walks of life, backgrounds, and interests. They are united by a common love for The Fells and a desire to contribute to its future. They are also lifelong learners, who constantly discover new aspects of The Fells and its history, gardens, ecology, and art. They are always eager to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with others, whether they are fellow volunteers, members, visitors, or students.

Our volunteers and members are the reason why The Fells is one of New England's finest early 20th-century summer estates. They are also the reason why The Fells is a vibrant and dynamic place that offers enriching experiences for people of all ages. Without them, The Fells would not be what it is today: a historic treasure, a horticultural gem, an ecological sanctuary, and a cultural hub.

We are immensely grateful for our volunteers and members for their time, talent, energy, generosity, and passion. They are not only our supporters, but also our friends and family. They are the ones who make The Fells a place where history comes alive, gardens flourish, nature inspires, and people connect. They are the ones who make The Fells a place we can all call home.



## 2024 Board of Directors

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Moyra Byrne, Hay Family Direct Descendent  
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Katherine "Kitty" Hay, Hay Family Direct Descendent  
Thelma Hewitt, North American Rock Garden Society  
Tamara Hindle, NH Public Television  
Dennis Pavlicek, Town of Newbury  
George Pellettieri, Pellettieri Associates, Inc.  
Steve Agius, US Fish and Wildlife



## Welcome New Board Members



### Brian Drew

Brian Drew and his wife, Karyl, are longtime residents of the Dartmouth-Lake Sunapee area. Brian grew up in Vermont and has lived for 30 years in Hanover. They moved to Sunapee in 2020 and love both the town and lake; they are touched by the sense of community spirit. Brian has been

part of the Sunapee Restorative Justice team for a few years and is looking for more ways to contribute to the greater Lake Sunapee area.

He has a Master's degree in engineering from Georgia Tech. He started his career in the space industry at Hamilton Standard, where he worked on rocket engines and the shuttle space suit. Following that, he spent a few years at Creare as an analytical engineer, developing advanced heat transfer devices. He also worked with Fluent software in various capacities including sales, VP, and leading worldwide teams. It was a deliberate move to a laid-back Vermont company. In 2016 he served as a private investor and business advisor to start-up companies ranging from a craft brewery to mental health software.

He enjoys working with young adults and leading volunteer organizations that support youth activities. He also likes business development and technology advancement. He has a strong interest in serving as a coach/mentor in both athletic and business settings. Recently he has felt a pull toward helping steward our environment so that his children, and even more so his grandchildren, will be able to enjoy outdoor recreation throughout their lives.

His prior community volunteer efforts include: board member and president of the Hampshire Cooperative Nursery School; board member and president of the Hanover Hockey Association; coach at all levels of the Hanover Hockey Association; coach with the Hanover High School girls hockey team; sponsor of numerous internships while serving as a mentor for high school students interested in technical careers (math, science, software).



### Jim Prevo

Jim Prevo was born and raised in Windsor, Vermont and spent every summer on Lake Sunapee. While growing up, Jim worked for his father in the family business (appliance sales & service, propane, HVAC, rental property, custom kitchens).

Jim attended UVM (where he met his wife Dianne) and graduated with a degree in business administration and an unofficial minor in "mathematics of computation".

After graduation Jim started Vermont Computer Services, Inc., performing programming, statistical reporting and systems design consulting for the Vermont Council of Community Mental Health Centers while continuing to work for UPS (college job) as a part-time manager in their logistics center. Jim joined Digital Equipment Corporation in 1979 at their S. Burlington manufacturing plant where he held roles as a software engineer, manager of automated product testing, new product startup project manager, manufacturing program manager and operations manager for a mission critical rapid deployment service. Preferring to raise his two children in Vermont, Jim joined Green Mountain Coffee Roasters as their CIO when Digital wound down operations in 1993. It was deliberate move to a laid back Vermont company...so he thought. In 1993, GMCR was a \$15 million private company with five people in the IT department in Waterbury, VT. Twenty years later when Jim retired as CIO, GMCR was a \$4.5 billion public company.

Jim is currently serving on the board of directors and is the treasurer of the New London Barn Playhouse, Inc. Jim & Dianne enjoy time on the lake, travel, volunteer work and downhill skiing.



## Welcome New Landscape Director



Hello, it's a pleasure to introduce myself. My name is Adam Premo, a horticulturist of 22 years. I have an extensive background in public, private, nonprofit, and university gardens, and I look forward to sharing and bringing that knowledge here to the community at The Fells.

I am originally from Maine, where I spent 22 years of my life enjoying Vacationland and still to this day call it home. Growing up in Maine connected me deeply with the natural world and has created a passion for New England flora and fauna. I spend most of my time outside of work enjoying nature, visiting state parks and learning more about the plants and animals that make up our environments. I am also very passionate about conservation and restoration of public lands and would love to share my knowledge and experiences with you. Native plants and biodiversity are two important topics I wish to focus on at The Fells.

With the privilege throughout my career working with so many talented and passionate horticulturists, I hope to share their experiences with you if you would let me. It is my ultimate goal to spread the message of conservation and to work with many of the already existing organizations in the area to further that goal.

At The Fells, I hope to revitalize the gardens with new ideas and projects while honoring the rich history of the Hay's family legacy. I would love it if you joined me in the new garden tours, and the many planned workshops starting this winter! Connecting with the community and learning all about each other's passions is very important to me, and I hope to learn about all of the fascinating things our community has to offer.



## Main House Review

The Main House is a center for education here at the Hay Estate— it is a place where people from around the world come to visit and learn about this nationally significant historic property on Lake Sunapee.

Our Greeters and Docents play an integral role in educating, elevating and prioritizing our guests who visit the Main House. They serve as facilitators for learning here at the Main House, along with the contributions of our Landscape Staff. In addition to giving tours, our Docents help to mentor our Teen Docents, high school students who took advantage of a community service opportunity to delve into the history of this historic site and its family. We hope that through this experience they will be inspired to learn about the importance of the past, as well as to become aware of and appreciate the role of volunteerism in their community.

We are also grateful for our volunteers who are dedicated to the care and preservation of the historic Fells Main House. Achieving a period appearance in all of the rooms to the early 20th century, in a historic house that sees over 2,000 visitors a season, is not easy work. We sincerely appreciate the gifts of historical items and objects to help us with this continual process. Thank you also to the Crack Maintenance team, whose collective efforts have helped with ample building and infrastructure improvements this year, while also maintaining the historic qualities of the Hay Estate.



## Hay Seeds from Simon



*Simon Parsons, Education Director and House Manager*

It has been a lively and exciting season, full of activity with many options to explore and discover here at the John Hay Estate.

Starting off in June, we held our annual 4th grade “Watershed Day” for students from local elementary schools. Students cycled through a series of outdoor activities designed to engage them

in hands-on learning about aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

These included student-centered simulations, nature journaling, small group investigations in Beech Brook, and playing games on the lawn. This program depends on the collaboration between the John Hay Estate and the Lake Sunapee Protective Association, as well as parent chaperones and classroom teachers.



*Nature Explorers in the forest.*

Next, our Speaker Series provided opportunities to celebrate important days in our calendar. The Newbury Cut historical talk in April was on “National Trains Day”; the talk about the Civil War and Lincoln’s views on slavery was held on June 19th, “Juneteenth” (Emancipation Day); and the “Women of the Fells” talk was on the 175th anniversary of the first women’s rights convention held in Seneca Falls, NY. We also welcomed Theodore Roosevelt and Edith in late August to remember the significant date of the President’s visit in our Fells history. And on the next afternoon, forty people gathered in front of the Veranda to hear Eliot Cohen, a political scientist, author, historian, and former Counselor for the State Department. Cohen shared his scholarship on the interplay between John Hay and Theodore Roosevelt in the



*Left: Theodore Roosevelt*

*Right Presentation on the Veranda*



*Artist Molly Leith exhibiting her work at the Artists Weekend Wet Paint Sale*

shaping of US foreign policy. The Arts have also come to life this summer at the Hay Estate. We have the Poetry Walk, the outdoor sculpture exhibit, the 1st and 2nd floor art galleries for local artists, the Art in Bloom event with Lynn Merrill (what a treat, and so well done by our floral arrangers!), Artists Weekend, and Watercolor Camp for ages 10 and up. We have been able to accomplish so much this year to support the Arts! For our Artists Weekend on July 8-9, the rains and thunderstorms fortunately held off. We welcomed 17 participating artists and over 150 guests over both days of the event.

Fairy Festival, another of our favorite “big events,” did not fare as well this year. We were forced to cancel due to the weather. We did hold a successful Hay Day on August 6, which drew many families and children to enjoy this unique summer festival experience at the Hay Estate. We are indebted to the many volunteers who helped to support Hay Day.

Lastly, a few words about our youth educational programming. Our Summer “Kids in Nature” Camps have now wrapped up – Watercolor Camp, Nature Photography, and Nature Explorers Camp. Each one provides summer enrichment opportunities for young people from across New Hampshire. These camps are supported by the Wellborn Ecology Fund, which helps place-based education programs in the Upper Valley. We also just received approval notification for a grant from the NH Council on the Arts to support our Children’s Arts Series, including five programs to be held here from August-October.



## 2023 Interns Perspective

Written by Amanda Thibodeau.

In the heart of nature's gentle embrace,  
Where verdant rolling knolls meet the sky,  
There lies a place of timeless grace,  
The John Hay Estate, nearby.

Amidst the whispering beech, birch, and pine so tall,  
The melodies of the purple finch songs take flight,  
A storied mansions stands in thrall,  
A beacon of light to us all.

Majestic gardens, a painter's dream,  
With vibrant colors traversing the scene,  
Where flowers bloom and dance, it seems,  
The Fells, a sanctuary, calm and serene.

With every step, family stories come alive,  
Through stately halls and wooded glen,  
History's tale, so richly told by those who truly care,  
Their voices shall come to resound with echoes, time and again.

The soul of nature and history find its place,  
In this estate, tranquil and grand,  
A cherished haven for the Hays, now belongs in our endless embrace,  
Dreams and memories intertwine coming to a stand.

So let us walk through history's gate,  
To make the memories and legacy last,  
As it is those who grace her landscape that make this place great,  
She knows no bounds as her past, present, and future shall be vast.



*Docent David Click with our 2023 interns: Shira Goldman, Anna McGrath, Amanda Thibodeau, and Amanda Rutha.*



*Intern Amanda Thibodeau helps a budding young artist during Nature Watercolor Camp*

## Educational Programming Partners

- Society for the Protection of NH Forests
- Lake Sunapee Protective Association
- Ausbon Sargent
- Colby-Sawyer College
- Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital
- Newbury Library
- Sunapee Public Schools
- Garden Conservancy
- NH Public Radio
- US Fish & Wildlife
- Center for the Arts
- New London Historical Society
- New London Hospital
- Newbury Beautification Committee
- Kearsarge Public Schools
- North American Rock Garden Society
- NH Public Television
- WMUR Cable News



*Tracy Wood and Sue Elliot*





# Snapshots of The Fells



Artist Liane Whitlum capturing the entrance from the Veranda during Artists Weekend



Volunteer Appreciation Ladies at the fireplace



New Hampshire Chronicle Visits The Fells

## Thank you to our 2023 Community Partners

### Gold



### Silver



### Bronze:



Marc and Linda Houle, supporters of the Christmas at The Fells Preview Party



### Bunchberry:



### Alpine:



Summer Music Associates



Bartenders Don Elliott, Carmelo Giaccotto, & David Law

Dr. Donna Reed, PLLC & Apple Tree Opticians



## 2024 Volunteer Opportunities at The Fells

The Fells is looking for Volunteers who can help us this season with a variety of options and opportunities. Whether you have a few hours or a few days, we would love to have you on our team!

Please join us on **Tuesday, March 12 at 10AM** at the Gatehouse for an informative session to learn more about these opportunities. (Snow date Wednesday, March 13)

### Landscape Opportunities:

- General Crew for Spring Clean up
- Entryway Improvement Project Crew
- Perennial Boarder Crew
- Rock Garden Crew
- Nursery Crew

### Administrative & Program Coordinators:

- Sculpture Garden Exhibit
- Volunteer Appreciation Trips
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner & Recognition Committee Chair
- Docents & Greeters at the Main House
- Office Volunteers
- Visitor Services Crew
- Events
- Educational Programing
- Photographer

### Christmas at The Fells Committee Chairs for:

- Family Night
- Boutique Manager
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Hospitality Room Coordinator
- Private Tour Coordinator

## Join The Fells this spring for a Volunteer Trip to Blithewold in Bristol, RI.

We're planning our visit for **April 18th**, during Daffodil Days, Blithewold's breathtaking Daffodil festival. You won't want to miss your chance to attend, so keep your eyes peeled for our email blast with more details!



## The John M. Hay Society



### Ensuring that the John Hay Estate Will Remain a Treasure In The Community Forever

The greatest reward for leaving a gift through your estate planning to the John M. Hay Endowment Fund is the assurance that the John Hay Estate at the Fells will be preserved forever on the shore of Lake Sunapee to be enjoyed by future generations.

If you have considered remembering the John Hay Estate in your will or trust and would like to receive a copy of our John M. Hay Society brochure, please call or Email Paige Kingsley Law, Executive Director (603-763-4789/pkingsley@thefells.org).

We hope you will consider joining this special group of friends.



## The Fells Volunteer Update

### Volunteerism at The Fells:

When you volunteer, you are making a commitment to share the most precious of resources, your time, which make visits to the Fells even more special. The fruits of your labors make a tangible impact. But perhaps it is the fact that you are willing to share your time and talent to lend a helping hand and to show kindness and caring which makes the greatest difference in the lives of the individuals who are touched by your generosity.

Your dedication is appreciated. Whether you are a long-time volunteer or if your involvement is more recent, and regardless of how many hours you choose to give, it's important for you to know that what you do makes a difference. Your volunteerism is recognized, appreciated, valued, and cherished. We thank you and look forward to continuing to work together with you.

### Volunteer Extraordinaire: Wally Borgen Retires From Hospitality

#### Friendly Reflections

*Wally and I have been partners these past several years in making the Fells Fairy Festival a magical afternoon. Wally, dressed up as a cupcake, puts on a deliciously, sweet and colorful tea party along with her kitchen wenches, and many volunteer bakers. She knows just what the festival needs to make the afternoon a happy and memorable event.*

*It is such a joy to work with Wally; she is funny and witty—she's a no-nonsense kind of a person. She has a great deep laugh, which you can hear from a mile away. She always puts her heart in whatever she does. Thank you Wally. You have made life just that much brighter and sweeter!*

-- Marianne Bickford

*Fun, laughter, and a sense of great reward is what happens when you volunteer to work with Wally Borgen. She makes every task a life lesson on how to mix work with play. When she is hired to cater, it is serious business for Wally. Her appetizers are delicious and she takes special care in how they are presented. It is a pleasure working with Wally as you are sure to have fun and at the same time feel a sense of pride with what she creates for you to serve. So, when you hear lots of laughter along with the buzz of people at work, you know that Wally is in charge of serving the guests at The Fells!*

-Sue Elliott

#### Expert Docent

*When seated on the veranda as a greeter during and after COVID, I would frequently volunteer on the same days as Wally. An enthusiastic tour leader, I could hear her commanding voice impart so many interesting facts about John Milton Hay, his home on Lake Sunapee, and his descendants. I always was aware when Wally and her group had reached the Panel Room as there would be a resounding piano heard playing the beginning of Beethoven's 5th! Wally was at the keyboard!*

--Susan Giaccotto



### Spotlight on Jack Adams:



There's one volunteer I think deserves special recognition: John "Jack" Adams. I was fortunate enough to be teamed up with him on the window restoration project.

I knew nothing about this sort of work when I started this year. I learned what I do know from Jack, augmented via Google and YouTube.

He brings a great attitude and patience to the work and is our Master Glazer. Jack was there working extra days and hours in the push prior to The Fells' first wedding this year.

All of this and he turned 96 this month! He's there whenever there's work to be done. (written by David Blohm)



## A Visit with Kitty Hay

I had the distinct pleasure of spending a couple of days with Kitty Hay this past week and look forward to another visit soon.

Our evening started at a fundraiser for the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, and a tribute to her father John Hay who was the co-founder and president until 1980.

Afterwards, we headed to her home where we took to the roof top to watch the remanent of the Geminid meteor shower. It was magical and as it was time for bed, Kitty handed me a copy of “The Run,” written by her father.

The next morning, we were walking the trails at Wing Island just as her father did years ago. We drove over to the banks of Stony Brook in Brewster to see firsthand the exact location of the annual run of the alewife.

From there we visited her childhood home and the incredible writing studio where her father would spend hours working on his writing. It was such a special visit and one I will never forget.

The meaning of new friends and making connections is to enrich our lives with love, laughter, and learning. We certainly did that this weekend. Thank you Kitty!



## SAVE THE DATE - June 7th

### John Hay and the Panama Canal: How did the United States get the right to build a canal in another country—and keep it in perpetuity?

By Ralph Nurnberger



### Don't miss this amazing presentation at the John Hay Estate at The Fells



Ralph Nurnberger is an acclaimed speaker who brings humor, historical background, and current political insights to his presentations. He has appeared on radio and television programs as an analyst on political and international issues. Ralph earned his PhD in History from Georgetown University and subsequently taught as an adjunct at Georgetown for 38 years.

Ralph has spoken at universities and other venues throughout the U.S and Europe. In addition to his public speaking and academic careers, Ralph held positions in and related to the U.S. government, as a fellow at a prominent “think tank”, and as senior partner in a government relations firm.

**Mark June 7th on your calendar and be sure to join us for this special evening to hear about John Hay and the Panama Canal.**

*This program has been made possible by the thoughtful and generous support of Jim and Barbara Sadowsky.*



## 2024 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

**Join us for great music in a wonderful atmosphere! Bring your own picnic and drinks, and enjoy the comfort of a table with friends or family in our Pavilion – a ‘beautiful outdoor, natural setting.’**

### **Sunday, June 9- Albannach**

Albannach is a Scottish band from Glasgow, Scotland. Their traditional music is heavily percussive, driven by bass drums, bodhráns, and a single bagpipe. They frequently perform music at the Highland games, Scottish festivals, and Celtic cultural events across North America and the United Kingdom. Many of their songs are sung in Scottish Gaelic; and the passion, the fire, and fierceness of the Scottish warrior comes through.

**Albannach Pre-Sale For Members Opens April 1st**



### **Wednesday, June 12 – Dominique Dodge**

### **Wednesday, July 10 – Hot Skillet Club**

The Hot Skillet Club brings their audience into another time and place, swooning their three part harmonies, sock rhythm, and walking bass lines with sweet violin fills, and ripping solos. You will be laughing and swaying, dancing to juke box music that is Swing, Western Swing, and songs from the Great American song book.



### **Sunday, July 14 – New Legacy Swing Band**

### **Wednesday, July 24 – Brooks Hubbard (6-8pm)**

Brooks Hubbard is a national touring independent artist from the mountains of rural New England. Since the age of three, his connection with music has led him on a path of continuous growth, both as an artist and human being. From writing songs about the Iraq war at age fifteen to recording with members of Jackson Browne & James Taylors bands, countless house shows and concert venues, to opening for artists like KT Tunstall, Robert Cray, Reckless Kelly, Matt Mays, and Stephen Kellogg.



### **Sunday, July 28 – John Murelle Concert- Gershwin**

### **Sunday, August 11 – Deep Blue C**

### **Sunday, August 18 – Grace (Crummer) Wallace**

### **Sunday, September 22 – Peabody’s Coal Train**



**Tickets may be purchased online in the Spring. [www.thefells.org/concerts](http://www.thefells.org/concerts)**

## SAVE THESE DATES

### **Mother's Day Tea** **Sunday, May 12, 10am–2pm**



Join us for an afternoon of elegance and charm on the sunlit veranda of The Fells.

Let's celebrate the timeless beauty of motherhood with a cup of tea, delicate treats, and joyful company.

Dress Code: Vintage Chic

Tickets and reservations online at [www.thefells.org](http://www.thefells.org)

### **The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride** **Sunday, May 19, 11am–3pm**

Experience the elegance of yesteryear at The Fells, where a stunning collection of classic and vintage motorcycles will make a grand entrance. Admire these timeless beauties arrayed along the Veranda, and explore the Pebble Court, where vintage British cars await your perusal.

Join dapperly dressed gentlemen in a noble ride to support men's mental health and prostate cancer research.

Admission is complimentary for members, while non-members can purchase tickets at the Kiosk. Don't miss this chance to journey back in time while contributing to a vital cause.

