

Spring Hill Farm-Winter-2024

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**Don't Miss
An
Issue!**

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SHFtrust@yahoo.com
(include "Subscribe to Newsletter" in the subject line).
You will be added to our mailing list.

Ice at SHF

Some years it comes early, some years it comes late, but one thing that we know for sure is...ICE will come. Before a small pond can freeze over, its entire water column from top to bottom must reach the magical temperature of 39 degrees F. This natural cooling process is called "fall overturn". It is a gradual process as the surface water slowly cools until it is as dense as the bottom waters. Then, with the help of the wind, the water can be "turned over". Most ponds and lakes don't completely freeze because ice (and eventually snow) on the surface acts to insulate the water below.



SHF FUN FACT:

How did Miss Church start her hay and sleigh rides?

In 1947 Miss Church was teaching in Chester. Her students were very interested in visiting her farm and seeing her many horses. So, she brought the children to Spring Hill Farm from the school in her hay wagon and team of horses. Soon the hay rides became very popular. When the weather became too cold for horseback riding, Miss Church hitched up a sleigh to her team of horses so her riding club, the Chester Trailriders, could go on a sleigh ride. This was the beginning of what would become a revenue producing adventure for Spring Hill Farm. In the book *IN THOSE DAYS The Life and Times of Muriel Church* as told to Ronald Baptiste, Miss Church says “So the romance of the team bells ringing and the squeaking of the runners gliding over the cold and frozen snow on zero nights seems to have taken hold.”



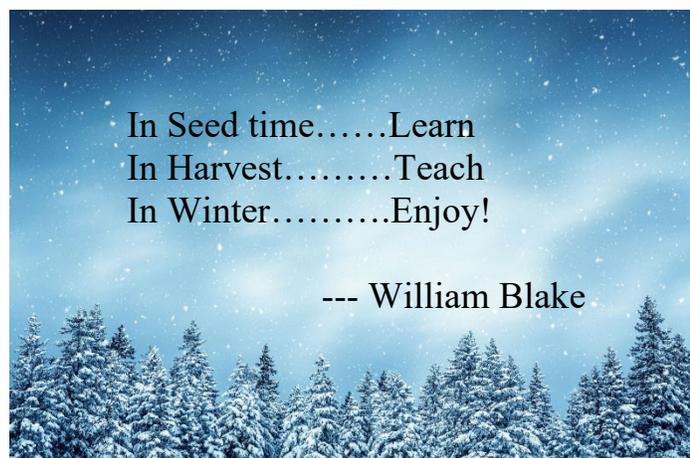
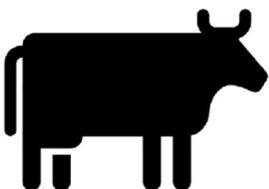
On the Horizon

Did you know?

Snowflakes fall at a rate of 1 to 6 feet per second.

Mark your Calendars...

Annual
Winter Festival
Sat Feb 24th
Noon-5PM



PROGRESS in the Farmhouse!!!!

Spring Hill Farm is edging closer and closer to receiving the final permitting which will allow the needed modifications to the farmhouse's first floor for ADA compliance. ADA compliance will allow the building to be opened up to the general public - a goal that has been in the works for a couple of years.

The project's biggest challenge is designing and constructing an ADA compliant bathroom. The bathroom renovation is taking place in the ell of the house which was constructed in 1912. This ell is an addition built off the rear of the original 1852 structure. An ell such as the one at Spring Hill Farm would have been added as a summer kitchen, additional working space, storage and possibly even a luxurious indoor privy.

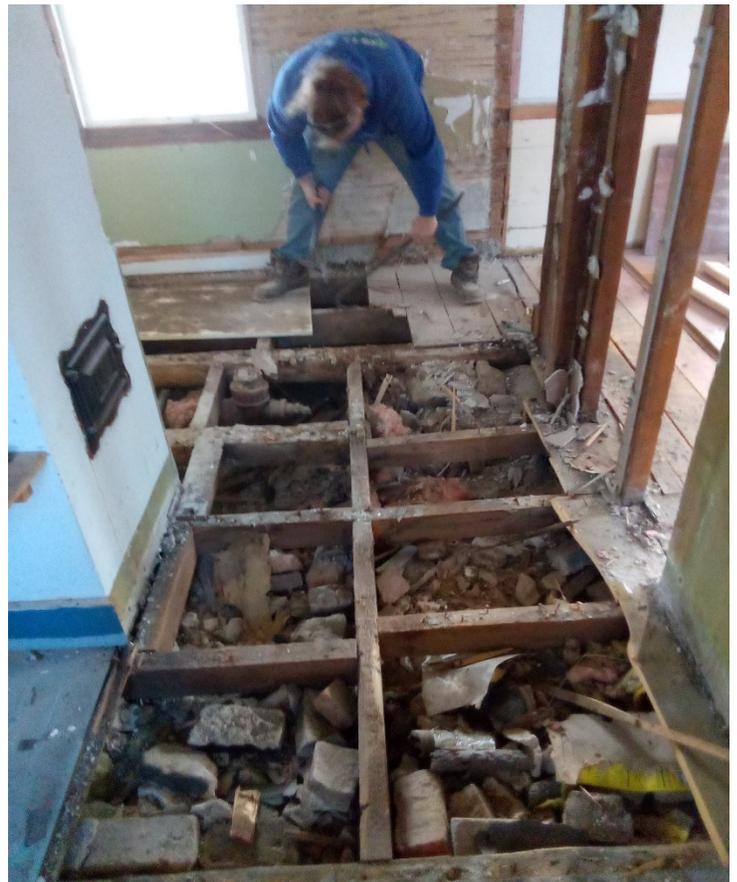
In an effort to get a head start on the modifications to the farm house prior to final permitting, three volunteers donated over 40 hours of time in January. They started by dismantling the existing bathroom and pantry and hauling away the debris. (These activities did not require a permit.)

Whenever you take on a remodeling project in an old building it's almost a guarantee that you will find some construction surprises and this farmhouse was no exception. Rotted subflooring, unconventional framing techniques, makeshift materials just to name a few.

Removing the old bathroom and pantry proved to be a great place to get a head start on this project as it provided much needed insight into the existing construction details and condition of the impacted area.

As expected, the new plumbing needed for the ADA compliant bathroom will be the biggest challenge. Only a shallow crawl space exists under the new bathroom area which is also true for the entire ell. There's no nice basement that you can stand up in to do the needed plumbing work.

Opening up the farmhouse to the public in 2024 is the number one priority of the Committee and the Trust. We are going to make it happen this year!



“Your photos”



This photo, taken at SHF by Kristina Snyder, shows the remnants of a red squirrel’s pine cone snack. Although the squirrel was not in sight, this evidence is commonly seen around the base of pine trees. The squirrels chew the scales off the cones in a manner similar to a person eating corn on the cob. They begin chewing at the stem end and as each scale falls away, a pair of seeds is exposed. Repeat, repeat, repeat!



Proof positive. You are never too young to enjoy the cows at SHF!

Want to share your photo from Spring Hill Farm?

We would love to see them and include them in the SHF Newsletter. Show us how you enjoy the farm. It is the town of Chester’s jewel, so let’s spread the love. Include your name and what activity you were enjoying.

Just send your photo to:

SHFtrust@yahoo.com

More of “Your Photos”



Alex Bartels captured this quintessential winter photo of the FIRST tap at SHF on Feb 4, 2024.

Love the bluebird sky, Alex!



Deb Munson saw the magic in the ice formations at SHF and is sharing it with us.

Geary Farms is offering tasty treats at SHF

Order some today!



Geary Farms is now delivering sourdough bread and farm fresh eggs every Sunday! Bread offerings include: Artisan Sourdough, Cinnamon Raisin, Sourdough Sandwich Bread, Sourdough Bagels, and more!

Sourdough bread can also be ordered for pickup in our farm stand at Spring Hill Farm any day of the week!

Orders can be placed at:
gearyfarmsnh.squarespace.com/new-products

Or by scanning the QR Code.



WINTER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 12-5 PM
SPRING HILL FARM - 96 TOWLE ROAD



WINTER ACTIVITIES 12-5 PM

Hot Cocoa Bar - Outdoor Games - Wagon Rides
Sled Dog Demo - Snowshoeing - Kiddie Sledding

CHILI COOK OFF 2-3 PM

Beans or No Beans? Spicy or Sweet?
All ages encouraged to participate
Anyone can enter - Anyone can judge

BONFIRE & S'MORES 3-5 PM

Community Bonfire with Friends and Family
Let's all come together for S'mores & more
SNOW MUCH FUN!

Sled Dogs are back !!!!

The Murphy's will be returning to **SPRING HILL FARM** for the 3rd Annual Winter Festival on **Sat Feb 24th**.

They will be bringing their dogs and all equipment needed to run small teams on snow or on wheels. Over the past 15 years they have trained and raced 1-4 dog teams on sled, skis, wheels, and on foot (canicross), and are excited to share their knowledge and love of the sport with others!

Come and meet the dogs, watch them run, and bring a whole bunch of questions about the many different types of sled dog activities growing in popularity across the country (with all breeds of dogs!) You may also find out how you can get started to participate with your own best canine friend.

Tentative schedule of activities:

12:30 - Sled dog demos in the field:

Come and watch as we run a few of our dogs - either on wheels (bike or rig), kick sled, or skis. We will also be available to answer any questions you may have.

1:00 - Meet the sled dogs:

Come and meet a few of our Alaskan Huskies and learn about how the changing look and breeds of the sled dog over the years

2:00 - Sled dog demos in the field

2:30 - Getting started in dog powered activities:

Does your dog want to be a sled dog too? We will answer questions about how to get started in the various dog powered activities - from equipment needs, teaching your dog, and training yourself for canicross, bikejor, skijor, or kick sledding. (But are available to answer any questions throughout the whole day!)

3:15 - Sled dog demos in the field

4:00 - Meet the sled dogs



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Chester Through the Seasons

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Winter Ecology at Spring Hill Farm

In conjunction with Spring Hill Farm Winter Festival

February 24, 2024

Noon – 2pm

Let's Explore Spring Hill Farm's Biodiversity!

Mammal Tracks and Other Sign

Winter Plant Identification

Winter Birds Activity

And More....

Sponsored by

Chester Conservation Commission

The Chester Conservation Commission, in partnership with Moosewood Ecological LLC, is hosting a series of seasonal nature walks in 2024 as part of its Natural Resources Inventory and Open Space Conservation Plan. These walks are free and open to the public. Please join us to learn about Chester's biodiversity and wildlife habitats. Keep a look out for other opportunities to participate in this exciting project to better understand Chester's natural resources and biodiversity.

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For more information contact:

Victor Chouinard

ConservationCommission@chesternh.org

Pictures top to bottom:
Common raccoon tracks
Winterberry holly
American black bear sign
Black-capped chickadee
Winter bud of red oak



Moosewood Ecological LLC

*Innovative Conservation Solutions
for New England*



Remember last year?
See you there
THIS year....Sat Feb. 24th

