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Mission statement of Spring Hill Farm: to preserve and promote the legacy of Muriel Church through the continuance of agricultural operations and the stewardship of both open land and forests, while providing educational and recreational opportunities to the public.

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**ONE**



Quarterly newsletter published by the Muriel C. Church Spring Hill Farm Trust, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, which supports the town-owned Spring Hill Farm in Chester,

## Spring Hill Farm - FALL 2021

### Welcome to our very first SHF Newsletter !!!!!

The Muriel C. Church Spring Hill Farm Trust and the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee thought it would be fun to try our hands at putting out a newsletter to keep our SHF fan base in the loop as to what is going on at the farm. In addition to social media, a newsletter will allow for more substantial articles and briefing on future project plans. And we promise to keep it fun!

### The year in review: from COVID til now.

2021 has been a slow, but optimistic return to normalcy for Spring Hill Farm after the forced respite due to COVID. In the spring, Buddy Menard and Alex Bartels brought over young calves to graze and mature on the some of the hay fields. It was obvious that people were delighted in seeing calves frolicking and snoozing (OK...mostly snoozing!). Christy and Nick Ortins leased the high tunnel and had a great year with their Hungry Caterpillar food truck. In June, SHF held a very successful "Work Day" where friends, old and new, gave SHF a much needed deep clean. The grounds were spruced up, the barn cleaned out, and debris was removed. The weather cooperated and all had a fun time. September rolled around and the farm was busy with involvement in the Town Fair and our very own " Fall Fest". (Both of which were canceled in 2020 due to COVID). We saw large crowds, smiling faces and received positive feed back about the events. Raffles, t-shirts, maple syrup and more were successful fund-raising activities. Also in September, Derry Trail Riders held an inaugural SHF benefit trail ride for equestrians out of the Lane Road SHF fields. 82 horses pounded the earth that fun day.



In addition to activities, the Muriel C. Church Spring Hill Farm Trust and the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee have started the process of fund raising to upgrade access to the farmhouse to comply with ADA requirements and to perform much need repairs on the barn foundation. It is the goal of both of these groups to enable the first floor of the farmhouse to be open in the future for small events such as agricultural workshops, nature clinics, or even warming the hot cocoa for sledding or snowshoe events. The physical upgrades to the farmhouse and barn will require funds that are being considered through grant applications and future fundraisers. In 2021 Eversource generously donated \$2500 towards the farmhouse ADA ramp. Additionally, the town funded a much-needed new roof on the barn....so things are moving in the right direction. Please help and continue to support Spring Hill Farm in its effort to provide the community a place to celebrate Chester's rural heritage.

The farm properties are always open for town residents to enjoy. The farmhouse contains miles of trails which are great for hiking, trail riding, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing. A map of these trails can be found at the Town of Chester website. The Lane Road property has been a popular spot for sledding in the winter. Please note that no ATV's or snowmobiles are allowed to operate on the properties.

**Haying, Town Fair, Fall Fest, and private donations are SHF's primary source of Fundraising for the farm**

**SHF FUN FACT:**  
Did you know that long time Chester residents Bob and Leslie Packard had their very first date on a haywagon driven by Miss Church and her team of draft horses . The year was 1963!!!!



October Sunshine!

## On the Horizon

Keep your eyes and ears open. Spring Hill Farm is teaming up with the 300<sup>th</sup> Committee and the Rec Dept for planning a bonfire/ winter carnival at SHF. Think: sledding, skating, bonfire...fun. The current plan is looking at sometime during school winter vacation.

For more information go to [www.chesternh.org](http://www.chesternh.org)

*"Adopt the pace of nature. Her secret is patience".*  
----Ralph Waldo Emerson

Did you know?..... Don't throw away pumpkins. Find woods near you and smash open for wild life to eat. Pumpkin is safe for wildlife and the seeds are a natural dewormer. Recycling plus food source. Win Win.



Are you a photographer? Nowadays just about anyone with a smartphone can be. SHF is planning on creating a 2023 (yes, 2023) calendar that features the beauty of the farm in all 12 months. Snow season is just around the corner, so snap some winter pics of the farm and submit them for inclusion in the calendar. Photos selected will get your name on your entry and a special SHF momento.

## Need Holiday Gift Ideas?

Spring Hill Farm has some practical and delicious gift ideas. How about a cotton t-shirt with the Spring Hill farm logo?

Available colors are grey, blue and green. Want something for the sweet tooth? How about a bottle of SHF maple syrup? It is a SHF special edition, 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, bottled by Ryan's Sugar Shack. Both items are \$20.00 and can be purchased, while they last, thru email at [SHFTrust@yahoo.com](mailto:SHFTrust@yahoo.com)



## SHF Pollinator Project

In an effort to continually improve and allow Spring Hill Farm to benefit our town, we began focusing on restoring an area of the Towle Road property to support multiple pollinators. If you walked the trails this summer or fall, you might have noticed the “Pollinator Area” signs in the large sandy field behind the pond. With the help of a few Chester Conservation Commission members, milkweed and bee balm seedlings were planted here in order to help attract monarchs and other pollinators. While some of them took root and are still growing, more research has been done and advice from local experts sought out, and we will be continuing to transform this area of the farm in to a thriving multi-pollinator habitat.



Did you know that New Hampshire is home to over 200 species of native bees, 4,000+ species of moths, over 130 species of butterflies and thousands of beetles, flies and wasps\*? All of these creatures help assist the pollination of our flowering plants. If you enjoy the abundance of produce produced in NH that results from properly pollinated plants and trees, then all of these pollinators are your friends! Unfortunately, their diminishing nesting areas and food sources, along with increased pesticides and non-native invasive plants, have made their population diminish.

It isn't hard to help give them a happier home, and in turn, allow us to have a wicked apple, peach, cherry, berry, or summer garden season! This fall we will be spreading seeds that need to overwinter and then adding more plants in the spring in hopes to create a thriving pollinator habitat! As you go exploring the fun trails that SHF has to offer, keep a look out and try to stick to the trails in these areas while these new native plants take root!

\*Andreozzi, Haley, and Heidi Holman. *Pollinators in New Hampshire*, UNH Cooperative Extension, Durham, NH, 2020.

Get involved! We hope you fall in love with Spring Hill Farm as much as we have.

Visit the farm: 84 Towle Road, Chester, NH 03036

Contact us: [SHFTrust@yahoo.com](mailto:SHFTrust@yahoo.com)