

# News from the Farm

Fall 2021



Special Edition ◦ 40th Annual Hallockville Country Fair



## 'Good Moo-ning' to the Cows And Making New Friendships

*Program Director Herb Strobel reflects on a summer of fun, learning and sunshine at Hallockville's Farm Camp.*

Summer is a busy time at Hallockville, especially when nearly 50 children are enjoying a fun-filled time at Farm Camp each weekday.

The museum farm once again served as an inspiring venue for campers during six weeks in July and August. Children enjoyed a wide range of activities including nature hikes, harvesting vegetables from the gardens, crafts and games, touring the historic buildings, and just being outside and playing on warm summer days. And of course, farm chores were a big hit. The cows, sheep and chickens were the beneficiaries of the campers' efforts.

The museum farm strives to see that the camp experience be accessible to children from different parts of the community. With this in mind, we extend sincere thanks to donors who contributed funds that provided tuition scholarships for campers from deserving families.

We also extend appreciation to Tia Fulford of the Butterfly Effect Project in Riverhead. She identified and facilitated the participation in the camp of scholarship recipients. BEP empowers local girls in ways that broaden their horizons by working on challenges related to cultural

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## From the Director's Desk

Welcome to autumn, a wonderful time to be on the North Fork and the end of a summer of successes for Hallockville.

Our 40th annual Country Fair attracted more than 1,000 guests over Saturday and Sunday, August 28th and 29th. The weather was perfect, although brutally hot and humid for our dedicated volunteers who helped set up on the days leading up to the event.

A story on the fair appears on page 2. As you will see further on, we also created a four-page center section of photos taken at the fair. You may spot yourself in one of them.

Speaking of successes, our six week summer camp was sold out and six children who otherwise would not have been able to attend were awarded full scholarships.

If you were driving by Hallockville during the spring and summer and saw large tents, floral arrangements and heard bands or DJs, you probably came upon a wedding in progress or about to happen. So far, ten couples have said their vows at Hallockville this year.

I should mention that in addition to weddings, we can also host baby showers, bridal showers, special birthday celebrations as well as wedding-vow renewals. If you are interested, please contact me at [roberta@Hallockville.org](mailto:roberta@Hallockville.org).

Our first barn dance in July proved to be a popular event. "Caller" Chart Guthrie had everyone up and out of their seats. I loved that so many of you came and sported your cowboy boots, hats and a fun-loving spirit.

Our second barn dance took place on Saturday, October 9th. A VIP dinner preceded it, catered by the Rolling in the Dough Pizza Truck, with the Treatery providing dessert.

*Trunk or Treat* will be a great afternoon of Halloween music, pumpkins and a costume parade on Saturday, October 30th, from 3 to 6 p.m.

A spooky magic show will be part of the festivities, spearheaded by members of our new Advisory Committee, Elizabeth Gay and Sara Phillips.

**I reflect on all the good that transpired despite what can only be described as trying times due to the pandemic.**

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## Director's Desk

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As I reach 18 months at Hallockville, it's time to reflect on all the good that has transpired during what can only be referred to as trying times due to the pandemic.

We created the *Hallockville Honeys* as well as bee education programs. Not only are we expanding our knowledge of bees but we're making honey, too. Classes in bee keeping are forming now for the fall and winter. Please check our website, [hallockville.com](http://hallockville.com), for the details.

Our Education Committee continues to provide us with materials across a wide range of topics. They are currently offering Saturday morning classes. You can find more information on our website.

Our Building and Grounds Committee had its plate full, too. The cow shed got necessary repairs and some upgrades were made just outside the pasture, with new sod thanks to the Delea family.

We have an incredible crew of volunteers and welcome more to join us. If you have the time and interest, I'm sure we can find something that you will enjoy doing. Please reach out. We need you! Which reminds me, fall clean-up is November 13th. Bring a rake and your smile.

What makes me happiest is how many of you stop by for a walk, a chat, to visit our animals or shop in Miss Ella's Gift Shop. And don't forget our *Country Parlor* event will take place in the Naugles Barn November 26th through 28th and on December 4th and 5th, a perfect time to shop for gifts for the holidays.

Enjoy the fine fall weather and all Hallockville offers.

*Roberta*



## Master Decoy Carver Jack Combs Dies at 86

A memorial service has been planned for October 10th in the Naugles Barn for Capt. Jack Combs, the decoy-carving maestro who died on August 30th at the age of 86,

Since 2004, Jack could be found plying his craft in his historic Decoy Shop, a building he restored and ultimately arranged to have moved to Hallockville.

Jack was an 18th generation Long Islander with direct ancestors dating to the Mayflower. His decoys and carvings have been shown at the Smithsonian Institute.

In 1975, Jack and his wife moved their family to Peconic, where they opened HomePort Bed & Breakfast, the North Fork's first B&B.

Predeceased by his son, Jack Jr., he is survived by Patricia, his wife of 64 years and their children Sharon, Jacqueline, Thomas, Jennifer and Michael.

## Fair Was Just Like the Good Old Days of 2019

The 40th Annual Hallockville Country Fair on August on 28th and 29th was like the good old days -- 2019, 2018, 2017 -- only better.

Laughter filled the air as children enjoyed a petting zoo, pony rides, potato sack races, washboard laundry, arts and crafts and more in an expanded children's activity area.

"It was a joy seeing so many children, their parents and grandparents enjoying the activities. It was simple, old-fashioned fun," said Donna Albano of Hallockville's newly formed Advisory Committee.

The fair offered plenty of entertainment for the adults, too, including watercolor painting lessons in Naugles Barn with local artist Melissa Hyatt, music by Hallockville's *Old Time Jam* at the front gate and more bands performing on the orchard area stage.

There were Jamesport Sourdough bread-making demos historic home tours, and weaving, basket-making, quilting and wood-working demonstrations by local artisans.

Vendors showcasing their wares offered plenty for browsing and buying.

And when hunger set-in, fairgoers could avail themselves of a bounty of treats at the Hallockville bake sale, partake in heartier fare from one of the food trucks and even purchase libations from a bar cart.

With a nod to tradition, the fair hosted its first jam and honey contest, with blue ribbons awarded to Helen Mecagni of Bee Hollow Farms, Baiting Hollow, for her Early Summer Harvest Honey, and Laura Klahre of Blossom Meadow Farm, Cutchogue, for her Black Raspberry Jam.

"We were so excited to bring back the fair and refresh it with new activities," said Christine Killorin, fair committee chair.

"It was a joyous celebration of 40 years of Country Fair tradition and the resiliency of our North Fork community."

# 40th Annual Hallockville Country Fair











Stephanie Trubisz poses with her tractor at her farm in 1941.



Donated F-12 tractor, soon to be on display at Hallockville.

## We're Given a Tractor. But Is It the One in Photo?

Karen and Mark Heppner have donated to Hallockville Museum Farm a 1930s F-12 McCormick-Deering Farmall tractor that looks very much like — and could very well be — the tractor in an iconic photograph on display in the Trubisz Little House at Hallockville.

The photo, which was taken in 1941, shows Karen's grandmother, Stephanie Andruszkiewicz Trubisz, posing jauntily beside a tractor on a farm next to the Hallock Homestead. It was the farm she had begun running herself in 1934 when her husband, Charles Trubisz, a Polish immigrant,

was institutionalized after a mental breakdown, likely from overwork.

Karen and Mark had been driving past the tractor for years when it was at the Elak Farm in Mattituck, commenting to each other how much it resembled the tractor in the photo. The tractor was then purchased by Rev. Tom McCloud, pastor of the United Methodist

Church in Cutchogue, who displayed it at his parsonage as a lawn decoration.

As it happened, Mark ran into the pastor at a funeral and told him that if he ever wanted to sell the tractor, he would buy it. And when the pastor retired two years ago, the sale was made.

"My husband was always interested in finding a tractor just like the one my grandmother is posing next to in that famous photograph. His aim was part of his continuing quest to honor the farmers of the North Fork," Karen told us.

But could it be the very same tractor that appears in the photo? Tractors back then tended to be sold at auction when a farmer died, so it could be anywhere.

Karen said she would continue to research the history of the tractor. Meanwhile, local historian Richard Wines, a member of Hallockville's Board of Directors, has also become involved in the investigation.

He has learned that the F-12 model was built by International Harvester under its McCormick-Deering trademark between 1932 and 1938.

"We're still trying to determine when this particular tractor was built," he says. "The serial number indicates it was built in 1935, but the tractor still sports the original color, red, which the company did not start using until late 1936. So the date is a bit of a mystery."

He also learned that it was the company's smallest and cheapest tractor, costing about \$800 when new. "It was rated at 10 horsepower at the drawbar, enough to pull a two-bottom plow in Long Island's relatively light soil and ideal for cultivating potatoes." Richard says.

"It was probably the only tractor on Stephanie's farm at the time, although she did purchase a larger tractor a few years later," he noted.

The tractor is not in operating condition and would be set up as a permanent exhibit under a shelter for outdoor display. The Heppners, who operate funeral homes in Cutchogue and Riverhead, have offered to pay for a concrete platform or perhaps large concrete pavers under the wheels to keep it off the grass.

A dedication ceremony for the still mystery tractor will be scheduled for next spring after a shelter for it is built.

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## Farm Camp

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differences, finances and transportation.

The six weeks went by quickly and the end of camp is always somewhat bittersweet. There are lots of great memories of running through the water sprinkler on hot days, saying 'good moo-rning' to the Hallockville cows, and the making of new friendships.

But even though autumn has just started, the 2022 camp season will be here before we know it. And we will soon start planning for next season.



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**Website** [hallockville.org](http://hallockville.org)

**Hallockville's Mission** To take Long Island back to its family-farming roots and explore their relevance today.

**Our Vision** To create a vibrant, active and inclusive Hallockville community rooted in history and focused on the future.

### Advisory Committee

Donna Albano  
Rich Cato  
Joan Cear  
Elizabeth Gay  
Sara Phillips  
Mina Vescera

### Upcoming Events

#### Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 30th  
3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

#### Beekeeping 101

Begins Sunday, October 30th  
See website for other class dates

#### Beekeeping 201

Begins Sunday, October 30th  
See website for other class dates

#### Hallockville Members Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 7th  
3:00 p.m.

#### Fall Clean-Up at Hallockville

Saturday, November 13th  
9:00 a.m. to Noon

#### Christmas Rooster Basket Class

November 13th  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### Rug Hooked Snowman Ornament Class

Saturday, November 20th  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

#### Country Parlor Holiday Folk Art and Gift Show

November 26th, 27th and 28th  
December 4th and 5th  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.