



“The Rooster” that caused a ruckus at the State Capitol on History Matters Day, March 10th, 2014. Read more in the letter from the Friends’ President on page two.

Legislative Update

We need your help.

The Kelley Farm is in desperate need of improved and expanded facilities. The Farm’s outdated buildings lack space to serve our growing number of visitors. Current space in the visitor center, which includes an exhibit created 30 years ago, serves as a classroom and lunchroom where kids and teachers, learning the important story of how our food moves from farm to table, sit on the floor to learn and eat. The Farm turns away 4,000 student field trips each year due to space and facilities limitations.

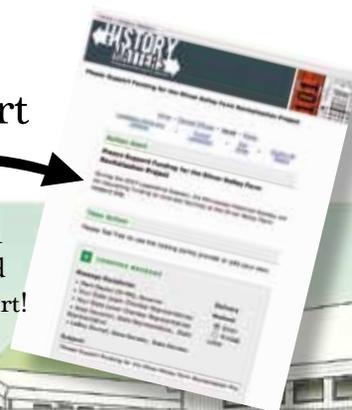
The Minnesota Historical Society is asking the Legislature to support a \$10.5 million capital budget request to expand our visitor center and

help build programs to accommodate the growing number of people visiting the farm. The House Capital Investment Committee Chair, Alice Houseman, introduced her Capital Investment Bill on March 20th, 2014 - which included the full \$10.5 million asked for the Farm. This is the first of many steps on this long journey. The bill will need to move through the Capital Investment Committee for adjustment and approval before heading to the House.

We need your help promoting the Kelley Farm and the revitalization project so that when the bill is adjusted in this process the Kelley Farm remains in it!

Show your support for the Farm!

Visit <http://bit.ly/kelleyfarm>
Complete the short form to send word to legislators of your support!



33rd Annual Seed Savers Exchange

Collecting, learning and creating with seeds was the focus of the Sunday, March 9th event at the Farm. Participants enjoyed a program by Tiny Fields Garden Project, a seed exchange, and seed art. Our Food to Table programming highlights the importance of agriculture in Minnesota and beyond.



Citizens of All Feathers Voice Support for Bonding Bill

John Kuester, Friends Board President

At this writing in mid-March one lives in hope that Spring will come soon and bring with it the promise of great things to come: warm weather, fresh sweet corn and a winning Twins season. Our hope list expands exponentially the closer we actually get to the new season. For the Friends of the Kelley Farm our Spring priority hope is that the \$10.5 million bonding request by the Minnesota Historical Society to revitalize the Kelley Farm site will be included in the 2014 bonding bill and passed by the Minnesota Legislature. Our additional hope is that Governor Dayton will sign a bonding bill that includes the Kelley Farm portion.



March 10th was History Day at the Capitol, a day that brought hundreds of citizens to lobby on behalf of history-related legislation. The Friends and the Farm were well represented by citizen lobbyists button-holing legislators and making the case for revitalization plan funding. Bob Quist and his daughter Ellen actively made the case as did Donna Champion, Nancy Kunkel and myself. Friends Vice Chair Cheri Singleton led a three generation brigade to the Capitol. Kelley Farm staff had a booth in the Capitol rotunda complete with a rooster that

crowed approximately every 6 minutes. You could hear the rooster two floors away, adding yet another voice calling attention to the Farm. The Farm had great citizen and bird representation at the Capitol on History Day.

Even with this great showing it is still not too late to contact area legislators and request that they lend assistance to the Kelley Farm bonding request. The Kelley Farm and the Minnesota Historical Society will need our help in the weeks to come, so don't be shy about contacting your local representative and senator. If you don't know who these people are, contact the MN Senate Information Office at 651-296-0504 and the House Information Office at 651-296-2146 for assistance in identifying your legislators.

Visit <http://bit.ly/kelleyfarm> to complete a short online form to show your support!

This request has the support of our local legislators: Senator Mary Kiffmeyer (Big Lake) and Representative Nick Zerwas (Elk River). Both have been working hard in St. Paul to get the Kelley Farm allocation included. Those who attended the Friends Annual Meeting last November will recall that Senator Kiffmeyer and Representative Zerwas stressed that the best way to get the request passed was constituent support. Most effective is a personal visit with a legislator. Letters, e-mails and phone calls, are also excellent methods. While elected officials hear a great deal from professional lobbyists, what often is lacking are "real people" making the personal case for community priorities.

Support Minnesota's history, education and tourism

Help the **Oliver H. Kelley Farm** expand and share the story of "Farm to Table."

The Kelley Farm - a National Historic Landmark and Minnesota jewel - is ready to serve more schoolchildren and tourists with a solid plan for expansion and revitalization.

- **Expanded story** of "Farm to Table - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"
- **Heirloom and modern gardens**
- **Updated, larger visitor center** with exhibits and technology
- **Modern restrooms, classrooms and meeting rooms**
- **New teaching kitchen**
- **Farm machinery** from yesterday and today
- **Multi-purpose shelter** for programming, rentals and school group lunches
- **Demonstration crop lands**
- **Guest animal shelter** to introduce visitors to farm animals

Contact your legislator to support the Kelley Farm at mnhs.org/historymatters



**Thank You!
Dictionary
Project
Supporters**

Fall 3rd Grade Dictionary Deliveries:

- Otsego Elementary (Otsego) 130
- Clearview Elementary (Clear Lake) 104
- Westwood Elementary (Zimmerman) 195

Read more about our Dictionary Project at:
<http://www.FriendsoftheKelleyFarm.org>

Upcoming Special Events

For more information or reservations for these events CALL 763.441.6896.



Build a Birdhouse Workshop

Saturday, April 5, 2014
1 to 3 pm • \$10 materials fee.
Reservations required 763.441.6896

In the warmth of the visitor center, workshop participants will build a birdhouse to take home. All tools and equipment are provided. This program is ideal for families, grandparents and grandchildren and other groups such as Scouts. The workshop does not include a tour of the farm.

The Mighty Ox Team Driving Workshop

Saturdays April 26 & Sept. 20, 2014
9 am to 4 pm
\$50/\$45 for MNHS members.
Reservations required 763.441.6896

Learn how to yoke, properly command and drive the team. Guests will use various pieces of equipment including a harrow, plow and wagon, and then feed a generous ration of hay to the team at the end of the day. Participants must be 16 years or older. Wear sturdy shoes, clothing for variable weather and bring a bag lunch.

Opening Weekend

May 3 & 4, 2014
10 am to 5 pm Sat., Noon to 5 pm Sun.
\$9 adults, \$7 seniors and college students
\$6 children ages 6-17; free for children age 5 and under and MNHS members.

See this year's baby animals, help with the spring planting in the garden, cook up the last of the root cellar produce and travel the nature trails by foot or on the horse drawn trolley.

Mother's Day Weekend

May 10 & 11, 2014
10 am to 5 pm Sat., noon to 5 pm Sun.
\$9 adults, \$7 seniors and college students
\$6 ages 6-17; free for ages 5 and under, mothers, and MNHS members.

MOMS GET IN FREE! Help plant seeds in the garden, harvest the first greens and meet the new baby animals as they try out their young legs. Mothers are admitted free when accompanied by a child. Parents, children and grandparents are encouraged to enjoy this event together.

Farm Animal Weekend

June 7 & 8, 2014
10 am to 5 pm Sat.; noon to 5 pm Sun.
\$9 adults, \$7 seniors and college age,
\$6 children ages 6-17;
free for children age 5 and under and MNHS members.

Join the Kelley farmers as they turn their attention to the livestock. June means time to shear the sheep. Experience the challenges of hand-sheering or helping to get the sheep out of their "winter coats." Toby and Coulter, the farm's oxen, will be finishing up field work. Meet the spring newborns, and discover how farm animals have been used in the past and the different ways they are used today. Take time to explore the nature trails.

Father's Day Weekend

June 14 & 15, 2014
10 am to 5 pm Sat.; noon to 5 pm Sun.
\$9 adults, \$7 seniors and college students, \$6 ages 6-17; free for ages 5 and under, fathers and MNHS members.

This Father's Day join the Kelley Farm staff as they work on typical 19th-century "fancy chores" like building feed boxes, repairing equipment and fences, and caring for the livestock. Guests can also bake treats in the farm house and help water and weed in the garden. Fathers are admitted free when accompanied by a child.

Working on the Farm

Wed., June 25 & Thurs., Aug. 7, 2014
10 am to 5 pm
\$9 adults, \$7 seniors and college students
\$6 children ages 6-17; free for children age 5 and under and MNHS members.

Children of all ages can join in the chores that kids did on farms more than 100 years ago. Help load hay into a wagon pulled by Coulter and Toby, the farm's oxen, and then help unload it into the barn. Kids can also try to get the laundry clean using a scrub board without the calves eating the soap, haul baskets of weeds out of the garden, and play Cat's Cradle or Grandmother's Footsteps and other 19th century games.

CONNECT WITH THE FRIENDS ONLINE!

Find out more about the Friends of the Kelley Farm, join conversations about current events and happenings - and share your photos of the farm online!



FriendsOfTheKelleyFarm.org



Like Friends of the Kelley Farm on facebook!



www.flickr.com/groups/kelleyfarm/

Visit the MNHS website for a complete list of events at The Farm!

<http://sites.mnhs.org/historic-sites/oliver-h-kelley-farm>



FRIENDS OF THE KELLEY FARM

Oliver H. Kelley Farm
15788 Kelley Farm Road
Elk River, MN 55330

Phone: 763.441.6896
Email: kellyfarm@mnhs.org
www.FriendsoftheKelleyFarm.org

Rockwoods Grill
COMMUNITY MONDAY
• APRIL 21st •

Please support The Friends by dining at Rockwoods Grill Monday, April 21st between 6pm and 10pm Rockwoods will donate up to 30% of the gross profit from your bill to The Friends!

9100 Quaday Ave. NE Otsego, MN 55330
763-441-6322

Support Rockwoods!! They have been a generous supporter of The Friends' Raffle.

Come See What's Happening at The Farm!

Opening Weekend
• MAY 3rd & 4th •

Mother's Day Weekend
• MAY 10th & 11th •
MOMS GET IN FREE!!!

Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following Raffle winners selected at our Annual Meeting in November.

First winning tickets was Kris Blumenfeld, who bought the ticket because of the quilt hanging up, so needless to say she chose the quilt.

Second ticket drawn was Jim Grafton from Ohio, who was here for the National Grange event. Jim very graciously asked

us to draw another winner, as neither the pig nor the water-park tickets could be used (or were too expensive to ship to him) thanks Jim!

Tina Peterson was the next ticket drawn, she chose the pig.

Yvonne Curran of Ramsey was the final winner chosen, she got the water park tickets.

Enjoy, all!

Thank You
to all of our contributors,
ticket buyers and sellers!

