



Summer on the Farm

Ann Olson Bercher, Program Supervisor, Oliver Kelley Farm

It was a very hot and very dry summer. We began with the birth of several sets of twin lambs, and the arrival of a pair of calves. Planting fields and gardens commenced with 6,000 able bodied school students helping us. Five new staff members began honing their skills as Kelley Farm Interpreters.

As the summer progressed, school groups were replaced by 2,400 kids in summer day cares and summer camp groups. The sheep got sheared in early June. The calves, named Bright and Blaze, began their training to become an oxen team. The garden and field crops grew.

Then the rain stopped and the temperatures hovered above 90 degrees for over 35 days. Nearly 10,000 visitors joined us this summer and will forever appreciate the struggles of farmers, both past and present from their experience on the farm in such heat. The staff gallantly persuaded our visitors to water everything in sight. The well got a good work out this summer. The gardeners appreciated all the help they could get, and were able to

offer samples of the finest Nutmeg and Jenny Lind Melons that we have produced in years. A massive Mango Melon crop also offered the house staff opportunities to stuff the tasteless melons with chopped vegetables and turn them into exquisite pickles. But the heat took its toll on other parts of the garden.

Early horse cultivation and some slick "modern" weeding have helped produce a marginal corn crop, one that is



Jenny Lind melon.

desperately needed in order to save seed. Our field of Improved King Philip Corn is the largest in North America. We produced enough oats to thresh over our Pioneer Threshing Weekend. Those

oats provide feed for the animals during the winter. The barn is currently about half full of hay. That won't be enough to last all winter. Unfortunately, other farmers across Minnesota are facing the same dilemma.

The livestock managed to get through the heat and draught. The chickens gave up laying

eggs. The cattle and horses ran out of grass to graze on. The pigs were confined to their pens because they kept trying to wallow near the well. Visitors were carrying bucket after bucket of water to their pens. Jim and Jack, the Percheron Trolley Horses, fortunately provided a break from the farm chores for many weekend visitors.

The staff has survived as well, and moved into fall school programs. New fall activities like shocking corn, processing sorghum, digging potatoes, and baking gingerbread have replaced summer weeding and watering, watering, watering!



Horses on the treadmill power the threshing machine.

President's Column

John Kuester, Friends Board President

Fall has arrived and with it harvest time as well. Over the Labor Day Weekend more than 500 guests attended Threshing Days at the Farm, and watched with amazement as horses and men threshed the grain that will feed the Farm's livestock over the winter. Many of those attending helped out with the threshing process, gaining no doubt a personal understanding that what was state of the art harvest equipment in the 1860's is greatly removed from our computerized world of today.

Although not as old as the Kelley Farm's threshing machine, it is noteworthy that the Friends of the Kelley Farm will celebrate ten years of advocating for the Farm in 2013. What we do today as an organization has changed dramatically since our inception in 2003. Then, we organized as a grassroots response to the threatened permanent closure of the Farm. Today, we partner with the Minnesota Historical Society in supporting the Farm in a number of ways. In my view, perhaps the most important support the Friends provide is raising public interest about the importance of the Farm as a significant local, statewide and national community asset. With increased public awareness comes increased visitation to the Farm. During the month

of September the world's greatest collection of Kelley Farm related art was featured in what is becoming our annual "Paint the Farm" event. The participating artists captured intimate glimpses of life in the 1860's and the unique sense of place it provided then, and continues to provide today. The Friends of the Kelley Farm organization greatly appreciates the work of these artists interpreting the many and varied farm on-site experiences. We are especially appreciative of the hard work of Friends Vice President Mark Haglund for making possible the Paint the Farm event.

The Friends of the Kelley Farm Annual Meeting will take place November 10th right here on the Farm. This year will again feature a program created by Kelley Farm staff, "Preparing the Farm for Winter." The event also features a pork chop dinner from Those Pork Chops. Please mark your calendar so you can attend this fun and informative event.

I close by saying that the Kelley Farm has it all: fun, pork chops, interesting programs, a highly talented staff, and Floyd, the iconic feline ambassador to a growing and grateful public. Aren't we lucky to have all of this right in our neighborhood?

Local Artists Capturing Local History

Mark Haglund, Artist and Friends Board Member

The Friends of the Kelley Farm held their fourth annual "Paint the Farm" Art Show and Sale at the Oliver H. Kelley Farm during weekends in September. This is one of many fund-raising events we Board members run during the year.

There are two reasons for the show. One is to raise funds and the other to raise awareness of the Farm, the Friends, and the Artists. As organizer of "Paint The Farm" and author of this article, I believe art and history are the backbone of any great community. It is an honor to paint on the Farm and my privilege to organize this show. Conversations with people strolling through the show were as plentiful and interesting as ever.

The Elk River Star News recently featured the event, printing my quote, "We come together to raise funds for the worthy cause of the Friends of the Kelley Farm," and stating that the artists donated 40 percent of the proceeds to the Friends.

This year several of the artists started Art For Kids. This would be an excellent opportunity for Friends members to volunteer. The youngsters loved getting a chance to try their hand at their own paintings, with help from the participating artists. This was a big hit.



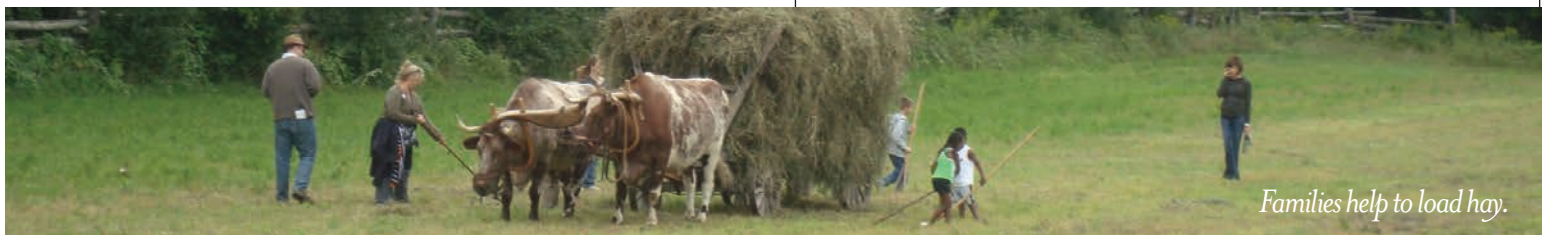
Painting by Sue Wipf

Finally, I would like to thank the Kelley Farm staff for their support and help with this show, and to let our members know that the show will run next year at the same time.

Participating artists were Frieda Bruck, Mary Jo Burk, Roxanne Current, Linda Croteau, Mark Haglund, Mary Olson, Jan Oxendale, Joan Ruprecht, Marilyn Schroeder, and Sue Wipf.



If you want to view the paintings online, go to www.elkriverartshow.wordpress.com



Families help to load hay.

Fall Special Events

For more information or reservations for these events CALL 763.441.6896.



Prairie Sugar Weekend

*Saturday & Sunday,
October 6 - 7, 2012*

Join the Kelley Farm hands as they make prairie sugar, also known as sorghum molasses. Help strip the sorghum leaves, press the canes through horse-powered press and stir the juicer as it boils down to make sweet, syrupy molasses. Enjoy a sweet treat of molasses confections such as gingerbread and molasses candy.

Harvest Days

*Saturday & Sunday,
October 18-19, 2012*

Join the Kelley Farm staff as they prepare the farm for winter. Visitors will help finish quilts, husk corn, bring in the last of the harvest and help put food away.

Readers Theatre: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

*Saturday, October 27, 2012
Time: 7:00 and 8:30 p.m.
Reservations Required
Call 763.441.6896*

Step inside the rustic barn at the Kelley Farm for a Reader's Theatre performance of Washington Irving's classic "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Performances last approximately 1 hour. Refreshments will be served following the program. Due to the program length and the subject matter, this event is

not recommended for children under age 10. Attendees are advised to dress for the weather.

Friends of the Kelley Farm Annual Meeting

*Saturday, November 10, 2012
Time: 10:00 a.m.*

Join us for a special on-site program by Kelley Farm staff entitled "Preparing the Farm for Winter", followed by a luncheon and short Annual Meeting. See Back Page for additional details.

Build a Bird Feeder Workshop

*Saturday, November 10, 2012
Time: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Reservations Required,
Call 763.441.6896*

The Kelley Farm has hundreds of bird species that pass through on migration or that live here year round. The nature trails attract woodpeckers, orioles, blue

birds and more. Participants will make a bird feeder to take home, complete with directions for mounting. All materials and tools are provided.

Yankee Thanksgiving

*Sunday, November 18, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Reservations Required
Call 763.441.6896*

Oliver H. Kelley was from Boston and like many Yankees had migrated west as soon as he turned twenty-one, ultimately settling in Minnesota in 1849. In 1863 Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the first day of Thanksgiving. Visit the Kelley Farm today to explore what Thanksgiving was like on a "Yankee" farm in the 1860s. Visitors can hike along the nature trails to the farmstead and historic house and discover how Minnesotans prepared for winter and celebrated the harvest. Participants will have the chance to explore the barn and root cellar, meet the

animals and enjoy the aromas of a hearty Thanksgiving meal. Be sure to dress for the weather. Warm refreshments will be provided.

Toy Making Workshop

*Saturday, December 1, 2012
Time: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Reservations Required
Call 763.441.6896*

Visit the Kelley Farm just in time to make homemade toys to give as gifts for the holidays. In the visitor center, guests will choose between making several 19th Century toys, including a ball-and-cup game, buzz saw, pick-up sticks and corn husk doll. All tools and materials will be provided.

Christmas on the Farm

*Saturday & Sunday,
December 8 - 9, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Reservations Required
Call 763.441.6896*

Join a guide for a 75-minute tour of the Kelley Farm including a hike along the nature trail, a stop inside the historic farmhouse and a visit to the livestock pens. Discover how farm families and their animals coped with shorter days, colder temperatures and the upcoming holidays 150 years ago. Enjoy a horse or oxen-drawn bobsled or wagon ride. Dress for outdoor weather. Warm refreshments follow in the Visitor's Center.



Interpreter Maureen Plashewski cutting bite-sized samples of pickles.



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

You could win half a pig, a quilt, or an overnight family getaway!

Raffle!

This year the Friends is again conducting a raffle to support the great work of the Oliver Kelley Farm. This year's raffle prizes are:

- 1/2 of a Kelley Farm raised pig
- A colorful, hand-made twin-sized quilt
- A one-night stay and four passes to the Holiday Inn/Wildwood Water Park just across the river in Otsego.



You could win this quilt!

Tickets are \$2/each and can be sold in packets of 10. Last year we raised \$556 dollars through the raffle. Our goal this year is \$600.

The deadline for mail order tickets is November 2. The drawing will be held at the Annual Meeting on November 10, 2012 at 1:00 pm. You need not be present to win.

Get Tickets Now!

To purchase tickets make a check payable to: The Friends of the Kelley Farm with a note on memo line "Raffle Tickets" and mail to:

Friends of the Kelley Farm, 15788
Kelley Farm Road, Elk River, MN
55330

For more information contact Kurt Kragness at kkragness@gmail.com or call 763.241.9348.

Nov. 10th Annual Meeting

Members of the Friends of the Kelley Farm, family members and interested friends, participating artists in the "Paint the Farm" event and financial donors are invited to attend the following events related to the November 10th Annual Meeting:

10:30 am-noon:
Special on-site program by Kelley Farm staff entitled "Preparing the Farm for Winter." This event promises fun and excitement for all ages.

Noon-12:45 pm:
Lunch provided by Those Pork Chops

12:45-1:45 pm:
Annual Meeting
Agenda includes: honoring "Paint the Farm" Artists, thanking financial donors, raffle drawing, financial reports, 2012 highlights, 2013 National Grange Celebration at the Farm, election of officers, election of new Board Members.

The event is free. Pork Chop diners are welcome to make a free will donation for the meal.

For additional information feel free to contact John Kuester, Board Chair at 651.503.8018, or jlkuester@aol.com, or any other Board Member.