



Fairly Speaking

PO Box 786
Augusta, Maine 04432-0786

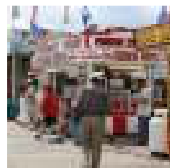
Maine Association
of Agricultural Fairs

September 2010

We Are off and running



It is the time of year when you can smell the fried onions, sausages and fries cooking as well as the sounds of carousel music on the Fairgrounds of Maine. Our fair season started in June this year with the Maine Fiber Frolic at the Windsor Fairgrounds. This is the first year of **the Fiber Frolic's** three year probation to become eligible to collect stipend. They had nothing but rain this year, but it did not seem to dampen their attendance. The second fair **Houlton** had an unusual gift from mother nature **NO RAIN**. **Ossipee** learned about a week before they were to open their gates that the midway was not coming, so they had to turn to plan B. They rented some jump houses and went about hosting an agricultural fair. To add insult to injury it poured on the Saturday of their fair. The weather has been mostly dry and sunny. Fair attendance has been good, but spending has been down a little. The racing handle is down at present, but the coin drop at Hollywood Slots is showing an increase over last year. **Remember, Hollywood Slots and Harness Racing are the sources of funding for our Stipend.**



Our Web Site www.maineairs.org

If you haven't visited the MAAF website yet, take a look. You'll find a copy of the latest newsletter, Fair listings, Board of Directors, Links to other site and a section called "News" where we will try to update information and events.

If you are not receiving this newsletter by e mail and want to, send your e mail address to fred.lunt@maine.gov. You'll save your Association postage, get the letter in color, and you won't have wait for it to arrive in the mail.

2010 Agricultural Fair

June

5-6 Maine Fiber Frolic

Windsor Fairgrounds-Windsor, ME

Nancy Williams

13 Robinson Rd.

Waldoboro, ME 04572

Tel: (207)832-5162

www.fiberfrolic.com

JULY

1-4 Houlton Fair—Houlton

Paul Cleary

PO Box 403

Houlton, Maine 04730

Tel: (207) 694-1298

www.houltonfair.com

8-11 Ossipee Valley Fair—So.

Hiram

Kathleen Haley

Box 548

Limington, Maine

Tel: (207) 793-8434

www.ossipeevalleyfair.com

16-18 Waterford World's Fair—

North Waterford

Lucille J. Millett

PO Box 174

North Waterford, Maine 04287

Tel: (207) 514-0333

22-25 Pittston Fair—Pittston

Debbie Truman

PO Box 351

Gardiner, Maine 04345-0351

Tel: (207) 582-7791 or

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28-31 Monmouth Fair—

Monmouth

Laura Foulke

PO Box 327

Monmouth, Maine 04259

Tel: (207) 933-2249

www.monmouthgrows.com/monmouthfair

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Bangor, Maine

Mike Dyer

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Tel: (207) 947-5555

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Tel: (207) 798-0892

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Tel: (207) 324-1250 or 636-2026

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The **Pittston Fair** enjoyed great weather and a very good turn out this year. This country fair offers everything anyone wants to see at an agriculture fair. There is plenty of good fair food, a midway supplied by D & L Amusements, animals, animal pulling and mechanical pulling. It is the home of the Strawberry Festival and Strawberry Queen. Over the past few years this fair committee has worked very hard to improve the fairgrounds. They give away a huge number of bikes to the children present and have a pig scramble that draws a big crowd. . They host barrel racing and horse shows during their fair. Pittston Fair is noted for their off fair season mud runs.



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Robert Eaton
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Tel: (207) 374-3701
www.bluehillfair.com

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Kirk Ritchie
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Lee, Maine 04455
Tel: (207) 738-2888
www.thespringfieldfair.com

3-6 Harmony Free Fair—Harmony

Mel Chadbourne
177 Chadbourne Road
Harmony, Maine 04942
Tel: (207) 683-5873
www.harmonyfreefair.org

9-12 Clinton Lions Fair—Clinton

Jon Whitten, Sr.
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Clinton, Maine 04729
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Charles Smith.
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Bangor State Fair's agricultural area had many animals on display this year. The barns were filled with activity and one could see the public was very interested in the exhibits. The 4-H members were very visible and were answering questions. On Thursday the Fair had a special visitor from the office of the President of the United States. Ambassador Ronald Kirk, United States Trade Representative, toured the Fair with Mike Dyer Fair Manager. The Ambassador toured the livestock area, the exhibit hall located in the Civic Center as well as the Fiesta Shows midway. He spent a great deal of time with 4-H members asking about their animals and displays. On the midway he sampled Maine French Fries from Stan's French Fry Stand and even played a midway game(he lost of one of his entourage).



Ambassador Kirk with 4-H members and enjoying Maine Fries at the Bangor State Fair.

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Tel: (207) 743-9594
www.oxfordcountyfair.com

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www.cumberlandfair.com

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June Hammond
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Fryeburg, Maine 04037
Tel: (207) 935-3268
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- Amazing Lou
- Atlantic Music
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- Audio Service Co., Inc
- Black Bear Entertain-
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- Brown Family Farm
- Cornish Preservation &
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- Central Maine
Pyrotechnics
- Cuzin Richard Entertain-
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- Dan Grady Productions
- Don Campbell Music
- Flute Notes
- Fox 23
- Half Moon Jug Band
- Higgins Office Products

When entering Presque Isle this year the first thing one sees is a new sign giving directions to the **Northern Maine Fair**. Once on the grounds everyone could see the new location of the farm equipment an impressive display indeed. This move allowed changes in the independent area as well as more room for the potato farming equipment. This Fair has one of the largest displays of farm equipment of any of the Maine Fairs. Next to all this new equipment is an ice cream stand selling home made ice cream. The ice cream maker is powered by an antique John Deere tractor. Just a short distance away is a display of antique tractors in front of The Agricultural Museum full of old farming equipment. A DVD shows scenes of the fall potato harvests of yesteryear. As folks enter the agricultural area, the first thing you see is the 4-H diner with a new deck around two sides. Anyone can sit on the deck and enjoy the activities in the show ring. The petting zoo also has moved back into it's old spot after some changes to the building. Presque Isle's hard working committee members continue to make positive changes to Northern Maine Fair every year.



This has been a transition year at the **Athens Fair**. A new committee has assumed responsibility and is learning as they move into the fair season. Athens has not had rides for many years and rely on bounce houses for their children's entertainment. They have a nice exhibit hall for a small fair. They have mechanical pulling as well as a steer and oxen show and pig scramble, The fair grounds is owned by the Town of Athens, but the Fair Committee has paid for many upgrades to the facility over the past years.

**Associate Members
2010**

- Jessica Prouty Band
- Lighthouse Jubilees
- MacKay Entertainment
- Maine Antique
Tractor Club
- Maine Draft Horse
&
Ox Assoc.
- Maine Farm Bureau
- Maine State Fire
Marshal's Office
- Maine Harness
Horse men's Assoc.
- Maine Harness Rac-
ing Promotion
Board
- Maine Pulling Sled
Owners Assoc.
- Maine Standardbred
Breeders &
Owners
- Maine State Grange
- Maine's Lost Trot-
ting Parks
- Maine State Truck
& Tractor Pullers

**Associate Members
2010**

- Neorvca
- Norogala Show Ribbons
- NWA on Fire Pro Wrestling
- One Sharp Marriage
- PDK Pyro, Inc.
- Edwin H Pert-- Consultant
- Regional Activities Guide Of Maine
- Road Ranger Band
- Rosie's Racing Pigs
- Smokey's Greater Shows
- Sound by Rich Entertainment
- Stackwire Sam
- T-Bar-T Rodeo Co.
- The Debbie Myers Show
- The Kayla Wass Show
- The Magic of Conjuring Carroll

Athens Fair Continued:



The **Topsham Fair** had a full week of activities in their agricultural area. There was a draft horse show, steer and ox show, 4-H horseshow, and animal pulling. There was a large petting zoo area where both children and adults could get close to farm animals. Their exhibit hall was full of hand work, 4-H exhibits, garden club exhibits and even a working model train layout. There was harness racing most days. The midway is provided by Rockwell Amusements. Topsham also has a large commercial exhibit area as well as a museum located under the grandstand.



**Associate Members
2010**

- Telstar Display Fireworks
- Thompson Printing
- Walker Brothers Circus
- Witch Mountain Service
- Blue Ribbon Shows
- Chuck Noe - Talent Management
- NAWA Pro Wrestling
- Rick Adam—A Clown for all Seasons
- SRCS—Dino Dig
- Jillian Cardarelli—Country Singer
- Balloon Genius—Royal Sorell
- Ernie Wheeler—Sound Company
- Carousel Organ Music
- Randy Cook Adventure Climbing
- Contact Katie Dampen for more information about our Associate Members**

From the Table of the President

“Wow,” what a wonderful summer of great fair weather we have been having so far and we can only hope that it continues for everyone’s events. As I write this we are approaching the mid way part of our season. As always we find that no matter how hard we try and plan there are always those little things that slip through the crack.

On behalf of the MAAF Board I want to thank Ossipee Valley and Clinton Lions for hosting our meetings during their fair. We enjoyed visiting with you and seeing first hand your fair in full operation.

It was mentioned in the June newsletter that the legislative committee on Legal and Veteran Affairs (LVA) would be requesting and reviewing the expenditure and use of the racino funds that each fair received for the past five years. This will be accomplished through Fred’s office in the Department of Agriculture. Each fair received a letter from Fred outlining the information that he needs to have before reporting to this committee. It is very important as that time approaches that each fair provide this information on where their organization spent the funds. We have many supporters statewide in the legislative bodies and we all need to keep them informed and aware of the importance of this financial funding to support our agricultural events and activities. This additional revenue has allowed every fair to increase premiums, improve buildings, maintain and upgrade infrastructure just to name a few items.

All of the funds that each fair receives annually from the Department of Agriculture are derived directly or indirectly from the efforts of the harness racing industry. The Board voted unanimously this past March to continue our support of this industry. It is essential to our existence that we continue this relationship and partner with the other players that support the agricultural environment.

I have attended most of the fairs with a short trip in between to Colorado. I hope and look forward to visiting some fairs this year that I’ve not seen before. Fred and Katie are always there for you and welcome your call. See you soon.

President Bill

Message from the 1st Vice-president – Hope Ricker

As I write this the Fair season is in full swing and the weather is cooperating much better than last year. I have had the opportunity to visit with many of you at your fairs and you should all be very proud of all of your efforts and hard work in promoting and displaying agriculture. Our fairs are the one place many people “get up close to” and see what agriculture is all about. That makes it ever so important for us to continue educating the public about their food source and the chain of events “from the farm to their plates.” Attending an agricultural fair should be **fun** and **educational**. Many fairgoers return year after year to see their favorite traditional displays and events like the biggest pumpkin contest or the horse pulling and 4-H shows. It is also important to add new events or put a twist on a display to encourage new fair attendees and keep the interest of our faithful visitors. Take a step back and look at your fair schedule of events. When was the last time you added something new? Maybe it is time to change things around and try something new. Sometimes we have to think outside the box. Have a fun and safe fair season.

Hope

LEGISLATIVE INDUSTRY UPDATES**DON MAREAN**[\(lindonfarm@sacoriver.net\)](mailto:lindonfarm@sacoriver.net)**(207) 727 5527**

The primary elections to select the Republican and Democrat for Maine's next Governor are over. The work now begins for our industry to select the candidate that would most likely support harness racing and agriculture. The field consists of five candidates: Republican Paul LePage, Democrat Elizabeth "Libby" Mitchell and Independents Shawn Moody, Eliot Cutler and Kevin Scott. I am in the process of meeting with all the candidates on behalf of the industry to see if we can get an idea on how they see us as an industry. During these meetings we will also be educating them about our economic impact as well as the agricultural benefits we provide. I have already met with independent Shawn Moody and am happy to report that he is supportive of harness racing and appreciated the visit and the briefing about the industry. As I continue to talk with the candidates I will update with reports on their understanding and support of harness racing. As we move toward the elections in the fall (Nov 2nd 2010) not only do we need to choose our Governor, but we also will be choosing our State Representatives and State Senators. We all should make an effort to contact our legislative candidates and talk with them about the importance of our industry and educate them on the benefits we all provide to the State and to agriculture. If you aren't sure how and who to contact, please feel free to contact Chandler or myself and we will get you the necessary information to contact them. We could also provide you with material to discuss and questions to ask. The upcoming fall elections are extremely important and we must make the effort to do everything we can to elect candidates that support us. With a new Governor and several newly elected legislators it will be necessary for us to try and educate as many of them as we can. After the election, we will publish the list of legislators and their contact information so it will be easier to contact them about the issues facing us.

The Maine Farm Bureau, The Maine Standardbred Breeders & Owners, The Maine Harness Horsemen and the Maine Agricultural Fairs have been working on a questionnaire to mail to all legislative candidates. It is almost finished and it will provide us with information on how the candidates feel about agriculture and related Industries. Once the questionnaires have been returned we will put together the results and publish them in this newsletter to help you better understand how your candidates feel. If you have questions or suggestions please contact me or your board director.

The MAAF would like to thank the advertisers of our annual Maine & New Hampshire brochure

Hollywood Slots of Bangor, Maine — Central Maine Pyrotechnics of Hallowell, Maine

Farm Family of Glenmont, New York, Thomas Foster Senior Agent, Augusta, Maine

A Salute To Our Associate Members

I want to express my joy at seeing so many of our Associate Members working at the Maine Agricultural Fairs this season. I have visited as many of the fairs as possible and it is really great when I see your names listed as performers in the programs and to have you speak to me and call me by name.

Some of the remarks that I have heard from the fair officers or members have been really gratifying. One small fair told me that they secure most of their acts in January when they are at our annual conference in Portland. That same fair listed five of their top presentations from our growing list of Associates.

Almost every week I have had inquiries about our meeting next January. We already have new members who have joined this summer.

The exposure they get in our "Marketplace" held in the Casco Bay Room during our annual meeting at the Holiday Inn by the Bay is a reason for our Associate Members to come back year after year. They make connections with the people from your fairs that do the hiring and where else can they promote their programs for two days for a membership fee of \$100 per year. That fee entitles them to a display area and we try to be on hand to answer questions, introduce them to other vendors, provide some presentations during each day and include them in all our other activities.

In return, many of these Associate Members have assisted us with repairs or loaning of equipment when we have needed help with problems that arise unexpectedly.

Let us take the time to thank the vendors for all they do for the Maine Agricultural Fairs and invite them to become part of our annual meeting by joining our Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs as an Associate Member. We truly appreciate all they do to make our fairs such a success each year.

The Maine Fairs are having a wonderful season and I will be looking forward to seeing you all in January if not before. **Katie**

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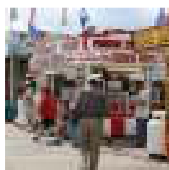
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- Flute Notes
- Fox 23
- Half Moon Jug Band
- Higgins Office Products

When entering Presque Isle this year the first thing one sees is a new sign giving directions to the **Northern Maine Fair**. Once on the grounds everyone could see the new location of the farm equipment an impressive display indeed. This move allowed changes in the independent area as well as more room for the potato farming equipment. This Fair has one of the largest displays of farm equipment of any of the Maine Fairs. Next to all this new equipment is an ice cream stand selling home made ice cream. The ice cream maker is powered by an antique John Deere tractor. Just a short distance away is a display of antique tractors in front of The Agricultural Museum full of old farming equipment. A DVD shows scenes of the fall potato harvests of yesteryear. As folks enter the agricultural area, the first thing you see is the 4-H diner with a new deck around two sides. Anyone can sit on the deck and enjoy the activities in the show ring. The petting zoo also has moved back into it's old spot after some changes to the building. Presque Isle's hard working committee members continue to make positive changes to Northern Maine Fair every year.



This has been a transition year at the **Athens Fair**. A new committee has assumed responsibility and is learning as they move into the fair season. Athens has not had rides for many years and rely on bounce houses for their children's entertainment. They have a nice exhibit hall for a small fair. They have mechanical pulling as well as a steer and oxen show and pig scramble, The fair grounds is owned by the Town of Athens, but the Fair Committee has paid for many upgrades to the facility over the past years.

**Associate Members
2010**

- Jessica Prouty Band
- Lighthouse Jubilees
- MacKay Entertainment
- Maine Antique
Tractor Club
- Maine Draft Horse
&
Ox Assoc.
- Maine Farm Bureau
- Maine State Fire
Marshal's Office
- Maine Harness
Horse men's Assoc.
- Maine Harness Rac-
ing Promotion
Board
- Maine Pulling Sled
Owners Assoc.
- Maine Standardbred
Breeders &
Owners
- Maine State Grange
- Maine's Lost Trot-
ting Parks
- Maine State Truck
& Tractor Pullers

**Associate Members
2010**

- Neorvca
- Norogala Show Ribbons
- NWA on Fire Pro Wrestling
- One Sharp Marriage
- PDK Pyro, Inc.
- Edwin H Pert--Consultant
- Regional Activities Guide Of Maine
- Road Ranger Band
- Rosie's Racing Pigs
- Smokey's Greater Shows
- Sound by Rich Entertainment
- Stackwire Sam
- T-Bar-T Rodeo Co.
- The Debbie Myers Show
- The Kayla Wass Show
- The Magic of Conjuring Carroll

Athens Fair Continued:



The **Topsham Fair** had a full week of activities in their agricultural area. There was a draft horse show, steer and ox show, 4-H horseshow, and animal pulling. There was a large petting zoo area where both children and adults could get close to farm animals. Their exhibit hall was full of hand work, 4-H exhibits, garden club exhibits and even a working model train layout. There was harness racing most days. The midway is provided by Rockwell Amusements. Topsham also has a large commercial exhibit area as well as a museum located under the grandstand.



**Associate Members
2010**

- Telstar Display Fireworks
- Thompson Printing
- Walker Brothers Circus
- Witch Mountain Service
- Blue Ribbon Shows
- Chuck Noe - Talent Management
- NAWA Pro Wrestling
- Rick Adam—A Clown for all Seasons
- SRCS—Dino Dig
- Jillian Cardarelli—Country Singer
- Balloon Genius—Royal Sorell
- Ernie Wheeler—Sound Company
- Carousel Organ Music
- Randy Cook Adventure Climbing
- Contact Katie Damer for more information about our Associate Members**

From the Table of the President

“Wow,” what a wonderful summer of great fair weather we have been having so far and we can only hope that it continues for everyone’s events. As I write this we are approaching the mid way part of our season. As always we find that no matter how hard we try and plan there are always those little things that slip through the crack.

On behalf of the MAAF Board I want to thank Ossipee Valley and Clinton Lions for hosting our meetings during their fair. We enjoyed visiting with you and seeing first hand your fair in full operation.

It was mentioned in the June newsletter that the legislative committee on Legal and Veteran Affairs (LVA) would be requesting and reviewing the expenditure and use of the racino funds that each fair received for the past five years. This will be accomplished through Fred’s office in the Department of Agriculture. Each fair received a letter from Fred outlining the information that he needs to have before reporting to this committee. It is very important as that time approaches that each fair provide this information on where their organization spent the funds. We have many supporters statewide in the legislative bodies and we all need to keep them informed and aware of the importance of this financial funding to support our agricultural events and activities. This additional revenue has allowed every fair to increase premiums, improve buildings, maintain and upgrade infrastructure just to name a few items.

All of the funds that each fair receives annually from the Department of Agriculture are derived directly or indirectly from the efforts of the harness racing industry. The Board voted unanimously this past March to continue our support of this industry. It is essential to our existence that we continue this relationship and partner with the other players that support the agricultural environment.

I have attended most of the fairs with a short trip in between to Colorado. I hope and look forward to visiting some fairs this year that I’ve not seen before. Fred and Katie are always there for you and welcome your call. See you soon.

President Bill

Message from the 1st Vice-president – Hope Ricker

As I write this the Fair season is in full swing and the weather is cooperating much better than last year. I have had the opportunity to visit with many of you at your fairs and you should all be very proud of all of your efforts and hard work in promoting and displaying agriculture. Our fairs are the one place many people “get up close to” and see what agriculture is all about. That makes it ever so important for us to continue educating the public about their food source and the chain of events “from the farm to their plates.” Attending an agricultural fair should be **fun** and **educational**. Many fairgoers return year after year to see their favorite traditional displays and events like the biggest pumpkin contest or the horse pulling and 4-H shows. It is also important to add new events or put a twist on a display to encourage new fair attendees and keep the interest of our faithful visitors. Take a step back and look at your fair schedule of events. When was the last time you added something new? Maybe it is time to change things around and try something new. Sometimes we have to think outside the box. Have a fun and safe fair season.

Hope

LEGISLATIVE INDUSTRY UPDATES**DON MAREAN**[\(lindonfarm@sacoriver.net\)](mailto:lindonfarm@sacoriver.net)**(207) 727 5527**

The primary elections to select the Republican and Democrat for Maine's next Governor are over. The work now begins for our industry to select the candidate that would most likely support harness racing and agriculture. The field consists of five candidates: Republican Paul LePage, Democrat Elizabeth "Libby" Mitchell and Independents Shawn Moody, Eliot Cutler and Kevin Scott. I am in the process of meeting with all the candidates on behalf of the industry to see if we can get an idea on how they see us as an industry. During these meetings we will also be educating them about our economic impact as well as the agricultural benefits we provide. I have already met with independent Shawn Moody and am happy to report that he is supportive of harness racing and appreciated the visit and the briefing about the industry. As I continue to talk with the candidates I will update with reports on their understanding and support of harness racing. As we move toward the elections in the fall (Nov 2nd 2010) not only do we need to choose our Governor, but we also will be choosing our State Representatives and State Senators. We all should make an effort to contact our legislative candidates and talk with them about the importance of our industry and educate them on the benefits we all provide to the State and to agriculture. If you aren't sure how and who to contact, please feel free to contact Chandler or myself and we will get you the necessary information to contact them. We could also provide you with material to discuss and questions to ask. The upcoming fall elections are extremely important and we must make the effort to do everything we can to elect candidates that support us. With a new Governor and several newly elected legislators it will be necessary for us to try and educate as many of them as we can. After the election, we will publish the list of legislators and their contact information so it will be easier to contact them about the issues facing us.

The Maine Farm Bureau, The Maine Standardbred Breeders & Owners, The Maine Harness Horsemen and the Maine Agricultural Fairs have been working on a questionnaire to mail to all legislative candidates. It is almost finished and it will provide us with information on how the candidates feel about agriculture and related Industries. Once the questionnaires have been returned we will put together the results and publish them in this newsletter to help you better understand how your candidates feel. If you have questions or suggestions please contact me or your board director.

The MAAF would like to thank the advertisers of our annual Maine & New Hampshire brochure

Hollywood Slots of Bangor, Maine — Central Maine Pyrotechnics of Hallowell, Maine

Farm Family of Glenmont, New York, Thomas Foster Senior Agent, Augusta, Maine

A Salute To Our Associate Members

I want to express my joy at seeing so many of our Associate Members working at the Maine Agricultural Fairs this season. I have visited as many of the fairs as possible and it is really great when I see your names listed as performers in the programs and to have you speak to me and call me by name.

Some of the remarks that I have heard from the fair officers or members have been really gratifying. One small fair told me that they secure most of their acts in January when they are at our annual conference in Portland. That same fair listed five of their top presentations from our growing list of Associates.

Almost every week I have had inquiries about our meeting next January. We already have new members who have joined this summer.

The exposure they get in our "Marketplace" held in the Casco Bay Room during our annual meeting at the Holiday Inn by the Bay is a reason for our Associate Members to come back year after year. They make connections with the people from your fairs that do the hiring and where else can they promote their programs for two days for a membership fee of \$100 per year. That fee entitles them to a display area and we try to be on hand to answer questions, introduce them to other vendors, provide some presentations during each day and include them in all our other activities.

In return, many of these Associate Members have assisted us with repairs or loaning of equipment when we have needed help with problems that arise unexpectedly.

Let us take the time to thank the vendors for all they do for the Maine Agricultural Fairs and invite them to become part of our annual meeting by joining our Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs as an Associate Member. We truly appreciate all they do to make our fairs such a success each year.

The Maine Fairs are having a wonderful season and I will be looking forward to seeing you all in January if not before. **Katie**

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