



The Woodstock Foundation, Inc.  
Billings Farm & Museum

~ 2008 Report ~





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❧ 2008 Report ❧

# Woodstock Foundation

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## MISSION AND PURPOSE

The Woodstock Foundation, Inc. promotes conservation, sustainable land use, and heritage as values that are essential to culture, community, and the human spirit.



The Woodstock Foundation explores the integration of conservation, heritage, and human values, while advancing programs, projects, and collaborations for the benefit of the general public within the State of Vermont and nationally. Recognizing that an appreciation of nature, beauty, and heritage are essential to our sense of culture and community and to lift and inspire the human spirit, the Foundation reflects the broad-based philosophy and vision of its founders, Laurance S. and Mary F. Rockefeller.

## Chairman's & President's Message

The year 2008 was an important milestone for the Woodstock Foundation, the Billings Farm & Museum, and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. All three celebrated significant anniversaries: 40 years for the Foundation, 25 years for the Farm & Museum, and 10 years for the National Historical Park.

These institutions are pivotal elements of Laurance S. Rockefeller's vision and legacy for Woodstock, helping to anchor the preservation, conservation, and cultural significance of the village. He understood that places like Woodstock that combine natural beauty, heritage, cultural and recreational opportunities, and civic vitality could lift the human spirit of their visitors and residents.

In a major bequest from the estate of Mr. Rockefeller, ownership of the Woodstock Inn & Resort was gifted to the Foundation in 2008. The Resort continues to be operated by a separate for-profit corporation with its own management and board, but the ownership of the Resort and its future profits are to benefit the Foundation and its mission. With this structure, the Inn will be able to continue in its role as an anchor for the preservation of Woodstock village, as well as an anchor for Woodstock's economic vitality and its significance as a cultural heritage tourism destination.

On July 20, 2008, the Billings Farm & Museum celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a lively day-long event. The crowd was large and enthusiastic even though the weather was terrible — hot and humid with severe thunderstorms that cancelled any hope of festivities in a large tent set up for the occasion. Making the best of the situation, we crowded into the barn and did our best to become “neighborly.” Nobody seemed to mind the steamy atmosphere, and the crowd kept up its enthusiasm through performances of the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra and the Robert Resnik Trio, as well as storytelling by renowned writer Willem Lange, and a keynote address by Governor James Douglas.

Governor Douglas recalled his visit to the farm on a sunnier day in 2003, when he enjoyed a quiet lunch with Laurance Rockefeller before keynoting our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He had congratulated the Farm & Museum on its role as a gateway to the rural Vermont experience and

named a newborn calf — Buttermilk. For our 25<sup>th</sup>, he offered new words of congratulation:

The transfer of ownership of the Woodstock Resort Corporation from Laurance Rockefeller's Estate to the Woodstock Foundation represents yet another inestimable contribution by the Rockefeller family to the community of Woodstock and the State of Vermont.

Woodstock and the surrounding area's future are made vastly more secure as this magnificent and economically crucial part of the village will continue to operate. The combination of the Inn, the National Historical Park, and the Billings Farm form a solid foundation upon which the Woodstock community can build a vibrant future.

The Billings Farm & Museum helps to ensure that Vermont's agricultural legacy will be passed on to future generations. What is so unique and powerful about the experience, and what has contributed to the success of the Farm & Museum for the past 25 years is the combination of both a museum and a working dairy farm.

Here in Vermont our rural and agricultural roots run deep, but each of us can find that spirit renewed by re-connecting with the land at a place like the Billings Farm & Museum.

It is programs like the Billings Farm & Museum, that will help ensure that visitors and Vermonters alike never forget the importance of farmers to our state, and never lose our connection to this mystic land.

Congratulations on 25 years of success, and best wishes for the next quarter-century.

During a brief lull in the storm following his speech, the governor made good his promise of a reunion with the cow he named five years earlier. Buttermilk, a Jersey with an “excellent” rating and a pedigree to match, seemed to sense the significance of the moment as she politely nuzzled Vermont's chief executive, lifting his arm into a kind of a hug. The governor, who lives on a dairy farm in Middlebury, was visibly pleased.

*Clayton W. Frye, Jr.*  
Chairman

*David A. Donath*  
President

## Partnerships

### **Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park**

*The Woodstock Foundation operates in partnership with Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, which was created by a gift to the American people by Laurance S. and Mary F. Rockefeller. The Billings Farm & Museum facilitates visitation to the Park by providing an information desk in the Farm & Museum Visitor Center, as well as public and staff parking and other facilities. The Foundation also holds and manages an ongoing fund for preservation and conservation of the Park's historic resources.*

The year 2008 saw the conclusion of two major projects — one in Vermont and the other in Wyoming — that culminated Laurance S. Rockefeller's lifetime partnership with America's National Parks, a mission that is now carried forward by the Woodstock Foundation. The projects bore remarkable similarities. Both created new educational facilities in buildings linked organically to their surroundings. Both buildings attained LEED-Platinum certification for their environmental appropriateness, becoming the first in the National Park system to achieve such a rating. Both projects were a result of the generous legacy of Laurance Rockefeller, combining private capital and public funding in achievements that could not have been accomplished by government alone.

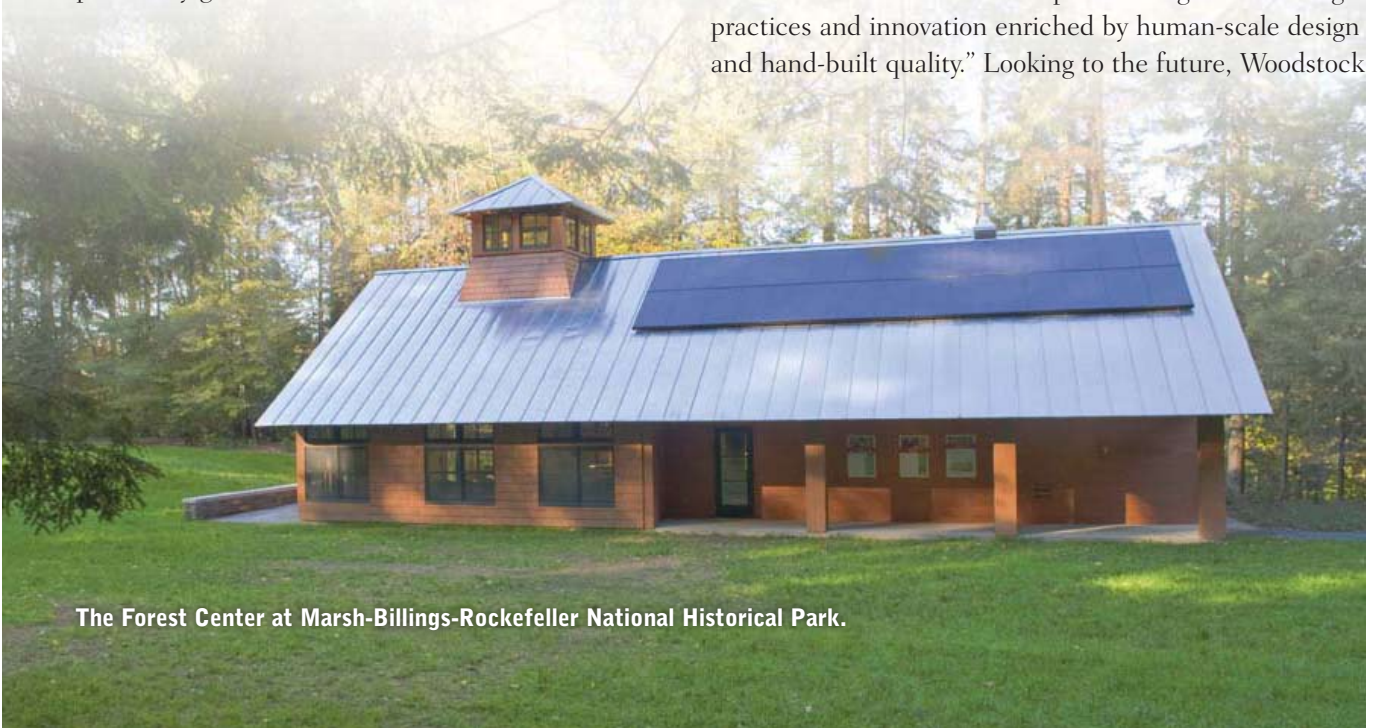
### **The Forest Center at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park**

In late June 2008, First Lady Laura Bush previewed the virtually completed Forest Center, which includes the historic 1876 Wood Barn and an adjacent new education building. In her remarks, she celebrated the public-private partnership that made the Forest Center a reality.

Between 2005 and 2008, the Park combined support from the Woodstock Foundation with a Federal appropriation to complete the facility. The Foundation ultimately provided more than half of the \$1.6 million cost of the project. Equally important, the Foundation's role enabled coordination of the design and construction in unified contracts, assuring an exceptionally high-quality product. The project architect was Steve Smith of Smith-Alvarez-Sienkiewicz of Burlington, Vermont; construction was by H. P. Cummings of Woodsville, New Hampshire.

Coinciding with the Park's celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the opening of the Forest Center provides much needed classroom and meeting space. It was constructed almost entirely with wood harvested from the Park's Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified Mount Tom forest. The project's LEED-Platinum certification ranks it among the highest environmental ratings for any building in the State of Vermont as well as the Park system.

Reflecting on the building's beauty, efficiency, and simplicity, Park Superintendent Rolf Diamant described the Forest Center as "an example of thoughtful building practices and innovation enriched by human-scale design and hand-built quality." Looking to the future, Woodstock



**The Forest Center at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.**



**The Interpretive Center  
at the Laurance S.  
Rockefeller Preserve,  
Grand Teton National Park.**

Foundation President David Donath said, “We are pleased to join with the Park in creating this wonderful space that encourages reflection, dialogue, and lifelong learning around forward-thinking stewardship.”

The Forest Center is located near the former site of a 19<sup>th</sup> century sawmill, which is adjacent to the 1876 Wood Barn. As part of the project the Wood Barn received needed repair and stabilization work, including a new foundation, roof, and fire suppression. The lower level of the Wood Barn will be used to store cordwood cut from the forest as it was in earlier times, now used to provide heat with a super-efficient wood-fired boiler system. On the Wood Barn’s Upper Level, a new permanent exhibit, *The Mount Tom Forest: A Legacy of Stewardship* tells the story of sustainable forestry and orients visitors to Mount Tom’s network of carriage roads and trails. For the first time since the opening of the Park in 1998, the historic carriages and sleds that traversed the Park’s carriage roads will be on public display.

### **The Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve at Grand Teton National Park**

About the same time that the First Lady was pre-viewing the Forest Center in Woodstock, Grand Teton National Park marked the grand opening of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve. Its new interpretive center is also a platinum-level LEED-certified building, the first such building constructed in the National Park system, edging out the Forest Center for this distinction by only weeks.

The Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve includes woodlands, meadows, glacial moraines, and a mountain

lake. The Preserve commands awe-inspiring vistas of the Grand Teton range from the site of the former JY Ranch, a longtime retreat for the Rockefeller family. John D. Rockefeller Jr. bought the JY in the 1920s as he was acquiring much of Jackson Hole for the purpose of donating it to the United States for creation of the National Park. When the Park was created, it included the JY within its boundaries, and Mr. Rockefeller pledged ultimately to give the ranch to the Park. In 2006 his son, Laurance S. Rockefeller, made good on that promise. Between July 2004 and May 2007, the buildings were relocated and roads, utilities, and other structures were removed. The developed areas were then reclaimed as natural areas, blended with the natural landscape.

The primary visitor experience at the Preserve is an eight-mile network of trails that wind throughout the 1,106-acre Preserve, offering views of Phelps Lake, Death Canyon, and the Teton Range, as well as other scenic and ecological features. This experience is introduced by the newly opened Interpretive Center, which orients visitors with a series of sensory exhibits designed to heighten their awareness and appreciation of nature.

The Preserve reflects Laurance Rockefeller’s life-long commitment to making areas of natural scenic beauty accessible to the public. He believed that nature has the power to restore and sustain the human spirit; he and his wife Mary had experienced this power in their many years in Wyoming and Vermont. He hoped that by experiencing this kind of spiritual renewal, visitors would gain awareness of the importance of nature in their own lives and be inspired to act as good stewards of the land.

## In the National Spotlight

In 2008 the Billings Farm & Museum applied for and received a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for revitalization of its major Farm Life Exhibit. The grant was awarded under NEH's Interpreting America's Historic Places program, which "supports public humanities projects that exploit the evocative power of historic places to explore stories, ideas, and beliefs that deepen our understanding of our lives and our world." The \$40,000 grant will help underwrite the cost of planning the new exhibit, involving nationally known scholars and designers.

The NEH granting process is rigorous and highly competitive. In 2008, NEH was able to fund fewer than twenty percent of applicants under the program. It is worth noting that despite Vermont's small size, a number of Vermont institutions have successfully competed for federal support in recent years. These include nearby Windsor's American Precision Museum, Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburg, and the Vermont Council on the Humanities. In 2007, the Vermont Historical Society received a National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the nation's most prestigious award for museum public service. This recognition testifies to the high quality of work being done by Vermont's modest-sized museums and historical institutions.

The Billings Farm & Museum's project aims to revitalize the exhibit by adding authentic voices and stories from Vermont's past, bringing the exhibition alive, and making it a gateway experience that will inspire visitors to explore the Vermont countryside beyond their visit to the Farm & Museum. This is part of a larger "gateway initiative" that seeks to enhance the museum's mission to be a "gateway to Vermont's rural heritage." As a cultural gateway for the region, the Farm & Museum offers engaging experiences for tourists and residents alike, helping them to appreciate the cultural and natural richness of Vermont and inspiring them to be stewards of their own places, whether in Vermont or elsewhere.



**The general store exhibit.**

The exhibit will place the rural Vermont experience in the context of larger themes in American history. Among these themes are the interplay of tradition and change in the face of successive waves of modernization. Although appearing timeless and traditional, Vermont's working landscape itself has shaped and reshaped waves of agricultural boom and bust, and most recently a "neo-rural" revival. The Vermont traditions of independence and interdependence that are reflected in its motto, "Freedom and Unity," reflect important national traditions and crystallize them in a distinctive rural agrarian culture. These forces animate

Vermont's traditional values of stewardship and sustainability and the commitment to making a living on this land even in the face of periodic adversity and change.

Rural Vermont's story is truly a great American story. Our goal is to bring this story to life, inspiring visitors to explore Vermont more deeply following their visit to the Billings Farm & Museum.

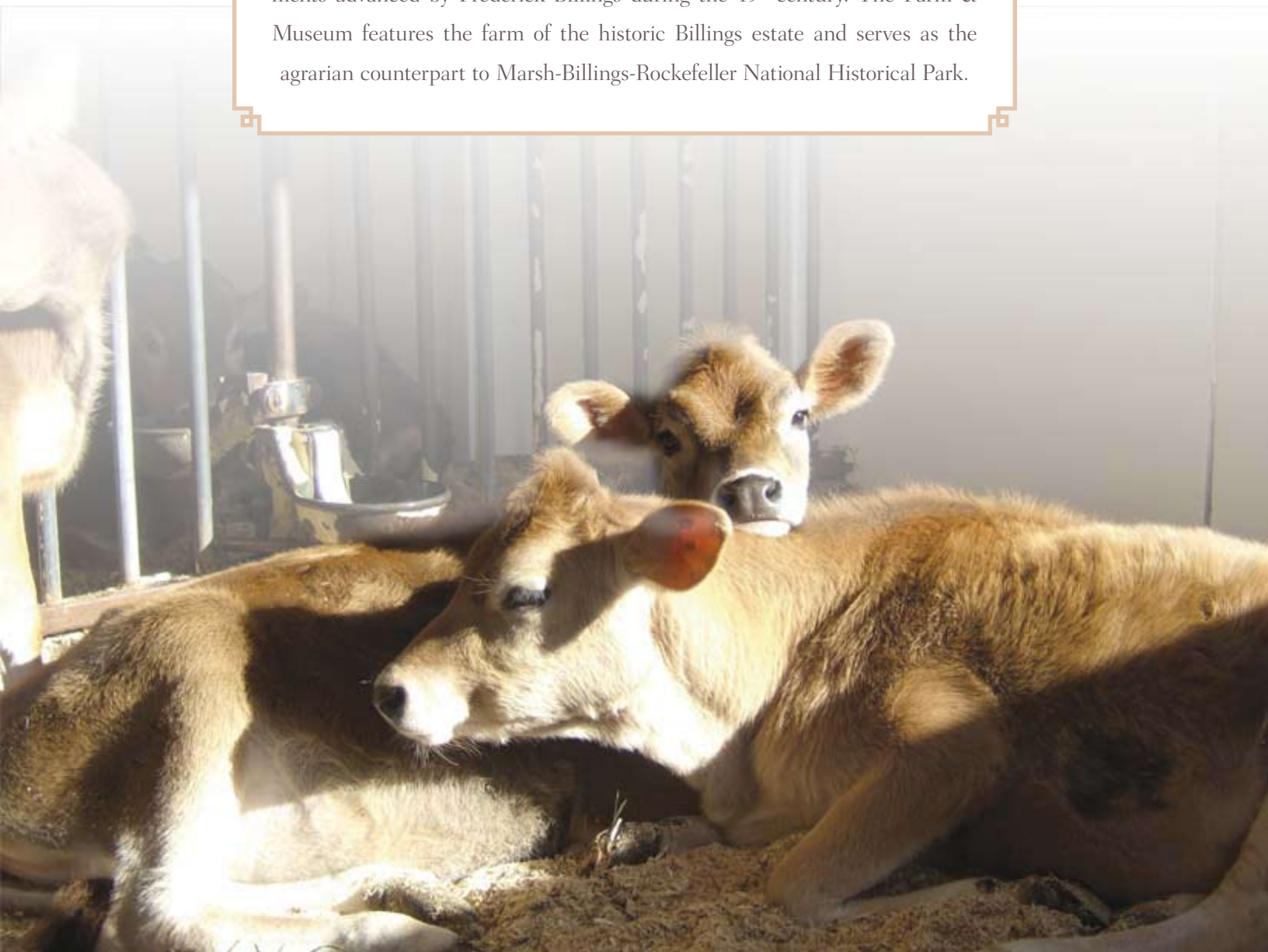


Woodstock Foundation president David Donath is also in the national spotlight. In September he took office as Chair of the American Association for State and Local History, which is the national association that represents history organizations of all kinds as well as the professionals and volunteers that staff them. Headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH represents 6,200 individual and institutional members ranging from local historical societies to large institutions such as Colonial Williamsburg and the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian. The Billings Farm & Museum, the Woodstock Historical Society, and the Vermont Historical Society all are long-time AASLH members. Over the past twenty years, Donath has held numerous volunteer positions of responsibility in AASLH, including committee chairmanships and service on the National Council.

# Billings Farm & Museum

~ 2008 Report ~

The centerpiece of the Woodstock Foundation is the Billings Farm & Museum, an operating dairy farm that continues a 138-year tradition of agricultural excellence. As Vermont's premier gateway for interpreting its rural culture and agrarian heritage, Billings Farm offers diverse, interactive programs which focus on rural life, work, and land stewardship as reflected in the traditions and values of 19<sup>th</sup> century farm families and as revealed in Vermont's rural history. They showcase the progressive improvements advanced by Frederick Billings during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Farm & Museum features the farm of the historic Billings estate and serves as the agrarian counterpart to Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.



## Special Programs

### ATTENDANCE

Visitation numbers in 2008 were remarkably similar to the previous year. School group attendance was especially strong, contributing to a 7% increase in May figures, with June up slightly. July's attendance — which featured our joyous but soggy 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event — was even with 2007. The end of summer began a two-month decline: August was down 2% and September was down 19% from a year ago. Attendance rebounded in October, with 11,621 visitors enjoying fall foliage and seven special events. Visitation during November and December — busiest during the holiday periods — was somewhat soft, contributing to an overall decline in attendance of 3% for the year.

**School groups.** The number of students attending on-site programs increased by 6%; just under 400 students participated in outreach programs — a dramatic increase over 2007.

**Combination tickets.** Admission to the Farm & Museum and a guided tour of the Billings Rockefeller mansion may be purchased in a combination ticket. 2008 sales were especially strong — up nearly 19% over the previous year — with over 3,000 tickets sold between Memorial Day Weekend and October 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### Woodstock Inn & Resort.

Admission to the Farm & Museum is included for guests staying at the Woodstock Inn; 3,189 guests visited the Farm & Museum in 2008.

**Group Tours.** Motorcoach visitation was impacted by the economic downturn, with cancellations and smaller groups, resulting in a 17% decrease.

- 🌿 **Canon Envirothon** — Ninety students participated in this statewide training session for the Envirothon, an environmental problem-solving competition for high school students in North America. *Co-hosted with Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP.*
- 🌿 **Smithsonian Museum Day** — The Farm & Museum has participated in Museum Day since it began five years ago. *Smithsonian* readers and website visitors are entitled to complimentary admission at participating museums.
- 🌿 **Vermont Folk Art** — Jane Beck, founding director of the Vermont Folklife Center and a recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts was the featured speaker at the opening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Quilt Exhibition.
- 🌿 **Manure Management Education Project** — The farm hosted a regional workshop to assist small farmers in adopting the best management practices for manure handling. *Offered in conjunction with the Ottauquechee Natural Resource Conservation District and the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District.*
- 🌿 **The Frost Trail** — This “poetry path” featured a selection of Frost poems, including locations at Billings Farm. Developed by Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP, the path was offered June through November, 2008 and will continue in 2009.
- 🌿 **Frost at Billings Celebration** — An evening of song, stories, and words based on the life and work of America's poet Robert Frost. *Presented in conjunction with Vermont Reads 2008 and The Vermont Humanities Council.*

### WALKING PATH



Visitors can now experience a different perspective of the farm from the Walking Path, which opened in the fall of 2008. The walk is a gentle, one-mile path along the cropland and river, with benches along the trail's shaded edges. Expansive views of the valley's upland pastures and managed forests feature some of the oldest reforested plantations in the country — set out under the direction of Frederick Billings in the 1880s. The walking path is open to Farm & Museum visitors and members during operating hours.

# Educational Programs

**B**illings Farm & Museum presents Vermont farm life as history, science, traditional culture, and human interaction with the environment for students in kindergarten through high school. In 2008, 4,967 students in grades kindergarten through high school were introduced to their heritage at the Farm & Museum. A total of 27 education programs were offered throughout the year, including five new programs. Vermont's Framework of Standards are addressed in the Farm & Museum's educational programs in both vital results and fields of knowledge.

**Homeschools.** Several new hands-on programs designed especially for homeschoolers were offered in 2008, including: *The A"maizing" Corn Crop*, *Christmas Preparations*, *1890-Style*, *Daisy Turner: An Introduction to Oral History*, *Warp and Weft*, and *Spring on the Farm*.

**Outreach.** *Food for Thought*, a new program which investigates how preservation, transportation, and technology have changed our diets was presented to grades kindergarten through 8 in the Hartland Elementary School.

**Summer Programs.** Interactive farm programs continue to be an important resource for summer schools, camps, and recreation departments in the region. In July and August, 691 children and young adults participated in Farm & Museum programs.

**Winter Vacation Programs.** *A Day at the Farm* and *Winter Warmth on the Farm* were offered during February vacation week. Geared to elementary school students, the programs feature interactive experiences in the farmhouse and the livestock barns.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Student Art Show.** Second grade students in the five towns comprising the Windsor County School District visit the farm each spring for a special program, which provides the inspiration for artwork. One drawing is selected for the spring commemorative button, distributed during Sheep Shearing Weekend in May. The 2008 button was made from a drawing by Barnard Academy's Annabelle Lessard.



# Participating schools and organizations

## Vermont

4 Corners Children's Center  
 Abacus Preschool  
 Barnard Academy  
 Barre City Elementary School  
 Barre Town Elementary School  
 Berlin Elementary School  
 Bethel Elementary School  
 Bishop Marshall School  
 Blue Mountain Union School  
 Braintree School  
 Bridgewater Village School  
 Bristol Elementary School  
 Brookfield Elementary School  
 Brookhaven  
 Brookline Elementary School  
 Calais Elementary  
 Camp Timberlake  
 Cavendish Town Elementary  
 Chelsea Public School  
 Christ The King  
 Clarendon Elementary  
 Community House  
 Currier Memorial Union School  
 Dothan Brook School  
 Easter Seals Independent School  
 Farm & Wilderness  
 Fisher Elementary School  
 Girl Scout Troop 11  
 Grafton Elementary School  
 Green Mountain Children's Center  
 Hartford Recreation & Parks  
 Hartland 4 Corners Children's Center  
 Hartland Elementary  
 Hilltop Montessori School  
 Kid Watch  
 Leicester Central School  
 Little Lambs  
 Manchester Elementary  
 Marion W. Cross School  
 Mid Vermont Christian School  
 Milton Elementary School  
 Montpelier Recreation Dept.  
 Neshobe School  
 Newbury Elementary  
 Northeast Elementary School  
 Northfield Elementary  
 Northwest Elementary School  
 Orange Center School  
 Ottauquechee School  
 Park Street School  
 Plymouth Elementary School  
 Pomfret School  
 Pownal Elementary School

Randolph Tech Career Center  
 Richmond Elementary School  
 Ripton Elementary School  
 Rochester School  
 Rock Point School  
 Rutland Area Christian School  
 Rutland Recreation Center  
 Rutland Town School  
 Sharon School Summer Program  
 Sherburne Elementary  
 South Royalton Elementary  
 So. Royalton Recreation  
 One Planet Program  
 St. Michael's Elementary  
 Sterling College  
 Success School  
 The Blue House  
 The Mountain School at Winhall  
 Thomas Fleming School  
 U32  
 Union Baptist Christian School  
 Union Street School  
 United Christian Academy  
 Vermont Achievement Center  
 Westminster Center School  
 White Pine Community Learning  
 White River School  
 Windsor State Street School  
 Woodstock Elementary School  
 Woodstock Nursery School  
 Woodstock Union Middle School

## New Hampshire

Ashland Elementary School  
 Bernice A. Ray School  
 Calvary Christian School  
 Canaan Elementary School  
 Claremont School District – Camp  
 E.N.E.R.G.Y.  
 Connecticut Valley Child Care  
 Cornish Elementary School  
 Crossroads Academy  
 Enfield Elementary School  
 Franklin Elementary School  
 Fuller Elementary School  
 Girl Scouts of the Green and  
 White Mountains  
 Hanover Street School  
 Haverhill Cooperative Middle School  
 After-school Program  
 Kearsage Regional Elementary  
 Lisbon Regional Elementary  
 Lyme Elementary School  
 Mascoma Cooperative Preschool  
 Mt. Lebanon School  
 Newport School District Summer Program  
 Plainfield Elementary School  
 Sacred Heart Public School  
 Sarah Porter School  
 School Street School  
 St. Mary's School  
 Stevens High School  
 Student Conservation Association  
 Symonds Elementary School  
 Thornton Central School  
 Woodsville Elementary

## Massachusetts

Bement School  
 Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts

## Connecticut

Jolly Ranchers 4-H  
 Windham Tolland 4H Camp

## New York

Christian Academy

## Pennsylvania

Shavers Creek Nature Center  
 (Penn State group)



# Billings Farm

*Billings Farm continues to operate in the spirit that Frederick Billings set forth when he established the farm in 1871 — combining responsible farm practices with productivity, rooted in agricultural science and economics. These concepts define our educational mission, which features daily programming, in-depth school experiences, and special events.*

## All American Bounty

**W**hen two-year old *Billings Remake Bounty* stepped into the winner's circle as Premier Performance Cow at the 56<sup>th</sup> All American Jersey Show in 2008, she brought with her a rich heritage in Jersey breeding excellence that spans 138 years at the Billings Farm.

Bloodlines play a role in the highly competitive judging formula. *Bounty's* grandmother was a member of the Billings Farm herd in the early 1990s and her ten-year old mother as well as her two sisters, are still on the farm. Her older sister — named *Buttermilk* by Vermont Governor Jim Douglas in 2003 — is also a high producer, in the range of 19,000 lbs. of milk per year. An average Jersey cow produces 16,000 to 17,000 lbs., with an average butterfat content of 4.5%. *Bounty*, who gave birth to her first calf in April 2008, is projected to produce 20,000 lbs. of milk this year, with a 5.5% butterfat content.

“Milk production and butterfat content are important measures of the quality of a Jersey herd as a whole, as well as the quality of an individual cow in that herd,” explains farm manager B.J. Hanfield. “We maintain a herd size of 40 to 45 head, feed them well, and breed very carefully to achieve a herd average of 17,000 lbs. of rBST-free milk per year.”

In September 2008, an appraiser from the American Jersey Cattle Association visited Billings Farm to assess the herd on 14 confirmation points. Of the 39 cows appraised, 22 were rated “excellent” (90 points or higher), rating the herd average “excellent” — which would have pleased the farm's founder, Frederick Billings.



From the start, Billings' goal was to improve the quality of the Jersey cow as a mainstay of Vermont agriculture and to develop the quintessential Jersey herd at Billings Farm. His efforts were formally recognized in 1872, when he was elected as the 109<sup>th</sup> member of The American Jersey Cattle Club. By 1894, Jerseys from the Billings' herd had won top international honors at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

As the years progressed, a thoughtful strategy of selective breeding and additional purebred Jersey acquisitions, earned Billings Farm a steady stream of awards, validating Frederick Billings' vision throughout his lifetime and for generations beyond.

Today, Billings Farm raises exceptional Jerseys and produces some of the highest quality milk in the state. Its milk commands premium prices and is sought after by award-winning producers such as Grafton Village Cheese. In the coming years, Billings Farm will explore the potential of producing its own dairy products once again, echoing the achievements of Frederick Billings' 19<sup>th</sup> century farm and building on its excellence.



## Community programs

As part of our commitment to the greater Woodstock community and our colleagues in the museum field, we hosted and/or participated in the following meetings, tours, and programs in 2008:

- Ameri corps
- Cabot Creamery
- Chattahoochee National Recreation Area \*
- Elderhostel
- Flow of History
- Hartland Farm to Schools Program
- Historic Deerfield
- National Park Service of Italy \*
- Orange Southwest Supervisory Union Step-up Challenge
- Phillipsburg Manor
- Special Olympics Vermont
- VT Dept. of Agriculture's Taste of Place Initiative
- Vermont History Expo
- White River Elementary School's 100th Birthday Celebration
- Woodstock Business Forum on Economic Development
- Windsor Central Supervisory Union — Second Grade Art Show Reception
- Woodstock Garden Club Winter Program Series
- Zack's Place Wheelchair Chain

\*Co-hosted with Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP

## Media / Publicity

Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year generated significant media coverage in 2008 — within our region and across the country. Highlights include:

- **House & Garden TV** — *America Celebrates: Woodstock's Wassail Weekend and the Billings Farm.*
- **Vermont Public TV** — *Across the Fence: "Billings Farm & Museum's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year."*
- **WCVB-TV Boston TV Channel 5** — *Chronicle Magazine* feature.

### Features

- **Antiques & Fine Arts** — *The Marsh Billings Rockefeller Mansion & National Historical Park.*
- **The Bergen Record** — *Vermont Off the Slopes.*
- **Boston Globe** — *Lovin' and Learnin' Your Cows.*
- **Boston Globe** — full page feature on Woodstock.
- **Cornell Small Farm Programs** — *Women in Agriculture*, a living history feature on Billings Farm.
- **Group Tour Magazine** — *Dairy Delight: the Billings Farm.*
- **Lancaster Farming** — *Plowing Match Showcases Vermont's Heritage.*
- **Spirit of Saratoga Magazine** — *Colorful, Country Charm.*
- **Times Union** — *Glory of Nature: The Connecticut River Valley Beckons Leaf-Peepers to Vermont and New Hampshire.*
- **Travel & Leisure** — *Mountain Magic in Central Vermont.*
- **USA Today** — *Woodstock/Quechee, Vermont: "Live Like a Rockefeller in this Quaint Hamlet."*
- **Woman's Day** — *Halloween Around the Country: A Family Halloween at Billings Farm.*
- **Yankee Magazine** — *O Little Towns of Vermont.*

# Staff

Robert Benz, *Curator*  
 Michael Birkett, *Farm Worker*  
 Megan Campbell, *Museum Assistant*  
 David Donath, *President*  
 David Ferrero, *Facilities Manager*  
 Darlyne Franzen, *Vice President*  
 William Hanfield Jr., *Farm Manager*  
 Rebecca Helland, *Registrar*  
 Grettie Howe, *Merchandising Manager*  
 Marian Koetsier, *Administrative Officer*  
 Sarah Littlefield, *Farm Assistant*  
 David Miles, *Director of Interpretation and Education*  
 Tina Morgan, *Business Assistant*  
 Susan Plump, *Public Relations Coordinator*  
 Randall Robar, *Education Assistant*  
 Corwin Sharp, *Director of Program Development*  
 Keith Tift, *Farm Worker*  
 Marjorie Wakefield, *Secretary/Information Specialist*  
 Shaun Yeatts, *Assistant Farm Manager*



## Seasonal Staff

Mark Alloway	Marian Levasseur
Sally Alloway	Michael Levensgood
Pam Arel	Claire Lincoln
Catie Baumgartner	Leland Mahood
Gail Bernard	Marissa Marton
Julie Boyd	James McCarthy
Eileen Camp	Kate McGovern
Stu Campbell	Melanie McGovern
Rick Carbin	Ben McLean
Anita Clark	Peggy McLean
Laura Coppock	Donna Miles
Suzanne Coté	Eric Miles
Ann D'Anna	Debbie Pelkey
James Donath	Marilyn Peterson
Kathleen Foltz	Colin Phillips
Alma Gironda	Penny Powers
Tod Guilford	Sue Reed
Jim Hasson	Rebecca Rice-Robinson
Norine Hopewell	Susan Rose
Kyle Huck	Bob Sird
Janet Hughes	Sandra Stearns
Peter Hughes	Mary Jane Van Ord
Jim Ide	Karen Weinstein
Britney Koetsier	Marc Weinstein
Jennifer Kopf	Hilde Weisse
Fran Lancaster	Wendy Yohe
Ralph Lancaster	

## Part Time, Farm

Matthew Avery	Alex Greer
Michelle Bersaw	Vern Harris
Harvey Bumps	Brian North
Charles Dana	Abby Patch
Charlie Ferrero	

## Casual

Zachary Benz	Emily Koetsier
Rachel Cadwallader- Staub	Tomas Littlefield
Jason Devino	Michael McGovern
Ashley Koetsier	Peter Otavsky
	Adrienne Trahnstrom

# In service...

## Board, Committee, and Program Participation

### National

American Association for State and Local History  
 Association of Living Historical Farms and  
 Agricultural Museums  
 Institute for Museum and Library Services  
 Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc.  
 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation  
 National Endowment for the Humanities  
 Outdoor History Museum Forum  
 Western Heritage Center

### Regional

Eastern States Exposition  
 New England Jersey Breeders Association  
 New England Museum Association

### State

American Precision Museum  
 Center for Research on Vermont  
 Champlain Valley Exposition  
 East Central Vermont Heritage Sites  
 Tunbridge World's Fair  
 University of Vermont Extension, Dairy Advisory Group  
 Vermont Advisory Council for Historic Preservation  
 Vermont Agriculture in the Classroom  
 Vermont Attractions Association  
 Vermont Chamber of Commerce  
 Vermont Council on the Humanities  
 Vermont Cultural Heritage Advisory Council  
 Vermont Dairy Day  
 Vermont Farm Show  
 Vermont Farms Association  
 Vermont 4-H  
 Vermont History Expo  
 Vermont Historical Society  
 Vermont Jersey Breeders Association  
 Vermont Jersey Breeders Sale  
 Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance  
 Vermont State Sale  
 Vermont Travel Industry Conference

### Local

Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce  
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The Farm & Museum's 18 adult and junior volunteers serve as spirited participants in our year-round calendar of special events, playing an important role in our school education programs, and assisting with the coordination and installation of the annual Quilt Exhibition.

We thank them for their wisdom, exceptional talent, and endless enthusiasm.

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First Lady Laura Bush is greeted by visitors during her tour of the farm on June 23, 2008.

## Billings Farm & Museum

### Jersey Dairy Farm

- Cow barn
- Calf nursery
- Trophy room
- Milk house
- Horse barn
- Chicken barn
- Wagon barn

### Films and Audio

- *Ben's Water Tub*  
Farm Workshop Exhibit
- Early Ice Cutting Films  
Ice Cutting Exhibit
- Maple Sugaring Reminiscing  
Sugaring Exhibit

### Vermont Farm Life Exhibits

- Cycle of Growth
- Grain Harvest
- Machine Threshing
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- Farm Home & Community
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- Apple Orchard

### Upon This Land Introductory Exhibit

- Family Album Wall
- Evolution of the Billings Farm

### 1890 Farm House

- Farm office
- Family living quarters
- Creamery
- Ice house

### Theater

*A Place in the Land*, our 30-minute Academy Award®-nominee film.



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