



The Silo

“The Northern Neck Farm Museum tells the story of the region’s agricultural heritage”

Northern Neck Farm Museum

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Model Maker, Bob Butler, Presents Replica at Farmer’s Day Celebration

Bob Butler, a master model builder has created a detailed model of the proposed Northern Neck Farm Museum. Mr. Butler presented it to the public at the Rice’s Hotel/Hughlett’s Tavern Farmer’s Market on April 21.

The farmer’s market featured a salute to the farming community and the Northern Neck Farm Museum had several displays. Among the sites were the replica of the museum, a large display of farm equipment, including tractors and combines, a hay ride wagon, and a tractor pull featuring pedal powered tractors for children.

Mr. Butler is a retired engineer and developer from California. He and his wife Marge have long been involved in activities in the Northern Neck. His wife is a fifth generation Northern Neck, whose family home is “Holly Hurst,” near Bluff Point in Northumberland County. Currently, they reside at Rappahannock Westminster Canterbury in Irvington.

The models that Butler makes are small pieces of art, each lovingly detailed. The Northern Neck Farm Museum, de-

signed by architect, Will Gwilliam, shows a couple of trucks in the parking lot, the complete building, and even cows grazing in the field next to the museum site.

Mr. Butler has designed numerous models for different organizations throughout the Northern Neck. The Northern Neck Farm Museum model now joins those of Historic Christ Church, the Richmond County Courthouse, Rice’s Hotel/Hughlett’s Tavern, the Steamboat Era Museum, and the Reedville Fishermen’s Museum.

The model will be displayed at various events this summer.



Upcoming Events

- 6/28- NNFM Board
- 7/4 - Reedville parade
- 7/4 - Irvington parade
- 7/28 - Cow Patty Contest
- 7/29 - Oral History - Meet the Farm Agent

Inside this issue:

Model by Bob Butler ¹

Building Coming ¹

Down on the Farm ²

We have been busy ³

NNFM Board Members ⁴

Equipment Building Coming!

It was a long time coming, but due to our generous members and donors, the NNFM board approved the purchase of the first major building on the NNFM site. To be built this summer, the equipment building will hold the first exhibit of farm equipment and tools.

The building will be done by National Barn and will feature a large open area for the displays and a cupola with a tractor weathervane on top.

The generosity of the community will allow for the purchase of the building and VDOT costs. The next round of fundraising will be for the construction of the main museum. A large open house is planned for the new equipment building this summer.



Down on the Farm Tour



Down on the Farm Tour A Huge Success

This year's Down on the Farm tour featured two local farms, a modern grain farm and oyster production. Bearcroft Farms, owned and operated by Monte Swann, is a modern grain farm that has been in the Swann family since 1865. Currently, the family farms approximately 1,500 acres of corn, wheat, and soybeans using the latest in farming equipment and techniques, including satellite guidance and environmental best management practices.

The Cowart family has been involved in canning and oyster production and processing since 1908. Tomatoes were the mainstay of the canning operation for many years until competition and other economic forces made it unprofitable. Lake Packing Company, Inc. still cans Manning's Hominy and Tidewater Herring Roe. Cowart Seafood Corporation is a vertically integrated oyster growing and processing company that shucks and packs fresh and frozen oysters year round.

Visitors to the farms toured the oyster production site at Cowarts, and at Bearcroft Farms saw livestock, a large modern equipment exhibit, a Northern Neck Farm Museum display, conservation and forestry demonstrations, hayrides, wood charcoal processing, and a portable sawmill demonstration.

The large crowds enjoyed hot dogs cooked by the Cub Scouts and a wonderful weather day with not a cloud in sight.



We Are Everywhere

Director News

The Northern Neck Farm Museum board of directors have been very busy taking farm displays to many different venues. Recently, we took the display and our new exhibit to the Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern Farmer's market, the Irvington Farmer's Market, and the Down on the Farm Day.

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NNFM General News

Two of our NNFM board members have been a little under the weather. LaVander Toulson and Francene Barber have had setbacks in health. We wish them both a speedy recovery. (Below, some of the board at the site.)



Farm Hands Program

The Northern Neck Farm Museum has a new program called "Farm Hands." The program is designed to allow local folks an opportunity to assist in the building of our museum and assist on projects.

Among the most recent events was the raising of the windmill. Donated by James Garland of the Allen Haydon farm in Callao, the windmill was then cleaned and painted by a number of "farm hands." Among the helpers were James Garland, Wiatt Garland, Haydon Garland, heavy equipment doners-Goodman's Tree Service, Ronnie Mothershead, Doug Goodman, Angel Rosado, Angel's Tree Service, Tommy Saunders, and Sylvia Saunders. Many board members and friends also assisted. We are very grateful to all who helped make this a special day and the fact that the Windmill withstood the recent storms, attests to the craftsmanship of all who helped.

Farm Hand Positions

If you want to be a farmhand, contact 804-333-1919. We have lots of festivals and events this summer and can use the help.

Positions Open: exhibitors, shop personnel, gardeners, host or hostess at the new equipment building, assist with marketing, grant writer, general farm hand.

Behind the Farmer - The County Agent

The next oral history program will feature the folks behind the farmer - the County Agent. Most folks do not have any idea what a county agent does. The Northern Neck Farm Museum thought it would be fun to have the agents together to discuss the many facets of being an agent and what exactly occurs during their workdays.

The program will feature current and past agents. Mark your calendars for this great event: Sunday, July 29 from 2-5 pm.





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Northern Neck Farm Museum
The Luther Welch Agriculture Center
P.O. Box 365
Heathsville, Virginia 22473



NNFM Newsletter editor
Patty Long, NNTC
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Builder Recognized for Donation to NNFM

At its monthly meeting in January, the NNFM board of directors recognized the recent contribution of \$20,000 from builder Richard E. Ward, II. Ward, of Ellis Denning Construction and Development, Rockville, MD, gave the donation on behalf of and in memory of W. Blake Wilkins, Troy A. Peery, Sr., and Stephen S. Berry. He wanted to honor these men for their contributions to the farming community and their efforts to preserve local culture.

“I think it is important to recognize the contributions these people have made to this area and the farming industry. Even though I am a developer, I have a deep respect and appreciation for the way of life here. Although times change, it is important to recognize the heritage and evolution of farming,” Ward noted. He challenged others in the community to support and contribute to the Northern Neck Farm Museum.

“It is such a worthwhile cause, so generation after generation can see and learn the evolution of farming in the Northern Neck.”

Ward also made a donation on behalf of his own company, Ellis Denning Construction and Development. Ward’s project will soon break ground in Colonial Beach. His company is also giving a ballpark to the youth of Westmoreland County.

