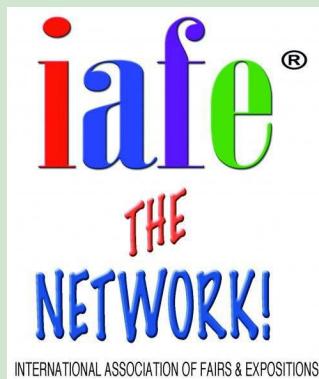




MAAF NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

Issue #2



**IMPORTANT - FORWARD TO OTHERS! SO THEY CAN SUBSCRIBE TO THIS
VERY AWESOME MAAF NEWSLETTER**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I would like to begin my message with some very important “thank you” comments -

Thank you to the MAAF Conference Committee (Chairperson Darcy Winslow, Garrett Lambert, Erik Fitch, Jeff Chadbourne, Dan Foster, Steve Graustein, Alyssa of Axe Women Loggers of Maine and Missy Jordan), the many fair volunteers and board members for their commitment to making our conference the success it was.

Thank you to Rachel Andrews Damon for her idea of fair photos with a special backdrop. Rachel’s hard work and skill can be enjoyed in this issue and throughout the upcoming issues.

Thank you also to Junia and Rayma for their hard work on displays for the Maine ag challenge and the forestry/logging/woodsmen display. Thank you to Hope Ricker for her commitment and perseverance in making sure that all our conference attendees were aware of the new 501c3 status for the MAAF Foundation.

Thank you to Jean Andrews and Jen Coen (Fryeburg Fair) for designing, organizing, and coordinating our unique and elegant banquet centerpiece project. Bravo!

Thank you to our vendor partners. Their positive energy and welcoming manner lit up the Trade Show during the day and provided many highlights during the Friday evening Variety Show.

Thank you to all the fairs who provided posters for the Hospitality Room, items for the

auction and decorated tables in the Trade Show. Lots of hard work and very well received!

Thank you to those who had breakfast ready and waiting for us, hung posters, served us a delicious banquet meal, and answered all our questions. Catherine Smith, Vanessa, Margaret, Emily and Chef Chris Merriam – you all took care of us inside, while Pinky D’s and Fat Guys took care of us outside.

The survey results and comments from the fair presidents all point to an overall positive response to the meals, topics, speakers, entertainment, and venue. Our banquet speaker, Jeremy Parson, offered those gathered some wisdom and practical advice as they begin planning for the 2023 fair season. Marla Calico, from the IAFE, has signed on as our 2024 banquet speaker and is very much looking forward to her return to Maine.

2023 saw the MAAF conference attendance reach a new high. As one of a handful of fair conferences in the United States that has a “zero” cost for registration, we have seen our numbers steadily increase year after year. In 2023 we welcomed attendees from across New England. This steady growth has been made possible through the generosity of our sponsors who steadfastly support us year after year.

In closing, remember that we are now, more than ever, Fairs Helping Fairs. Our 2023 MAAF theme of Fairs United will lead us throughout the upcoming summer as we continue to lean on each other for advice and support.

Legislative Update:

LD 731 is proposed legislation that would change the recently adopted ADW law. It is an important piece of legislation that would negatively affect our Ag stipend monies account, resulting in as much as a \$19,000 drop. All industry players are against this proposal. As of this date, I am unaware of any other proposed legislation that would affect the Maine agricultural fairs.

Harness Racing Update:

I was recently reappointed to the Maine Harness Racing Commission and look forward to working together with Executive Director Shane Bacon and the other commissioners for the next three years.

**TOM FOSTER, WINDSOR FAIR
RECEIVES
CATHERINE L. DAMREN AWARD**



Tom Foster, the President of Windsor Fair since 1992, was presented with the Catherine L. Damren Distinguished Service Award by the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs at their Annual Conference held this past weekend in Portland. The Damren Award is given to a person in the Maine agricultural community who has gone above and beyond in support and promotion of Maine's agricultural fairs. Tom in photo with his wife of 55 years, Karen.

2023 RISING STAR BRITTANY MOON, CUMBERLAND FAIR



Brittany Moon from Cumberland Fair was selected as the 2022 MAAF Rising Star. Introduced by Union Fair's Ryan Soule (2021 MAAF Rising Star with Brittany in photo above) at the MAAF annual banquet, Brittany has been an important part of her home fair

from a very young age. As a 4-H member, Brittany moved from a young girl eager to help at her fair (regardless of the task) into a seasoned mentor educating youth and adults alike about the origins of their food.

Brittany Moon received a MAAF Scholarship as a 2012 high school senior which helped her graduate from UNH. Currently she is employed in the Education Department at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester . This year-round program engages visitors of all ages in the areas of local natural history and agriculture. Additionally, Brittany and her family are well known exhibitors at a number of Maine fairs, including Cumberland as well as Windsor, Fryeburg, Ossipee, Topsham and Skowhegan.

A recommendation written on her behalf states: “Brittany Moon grew up in 4H and has always been an inspiration to be admired. As an adult, she has continued to be inspiring as a leader. An amazing young person who will brighten everyone’s day !” Congratulations to Brittany Moon !

AG AWARD WINNERS

The 2022 MAAF “Creating an Experience: Maine GROWS” agricultural education challenge brought some very exciting applications from fairs across the state.

These three high scoring fairs received a recognition plaque and a cash award.

Fairs that were also recognized for their projects for children, and fairgoers of all ages, are: Monmouth Fair, Washington County Fair, Acton Fair and Harmony. These fairs received a 2 cu. feet bag of Bar Harbor Blend Organic Potting Soil and a cash award. Thank you to the judges and many sponsors of our challenge, especially to Coast of Maine for their generous donation of organic potting soil.



Congratulations to Blue Hill Fair who collaborated with the family of beloved children’s author E.B. White and welcomed fairgoers of all ages to come through the doorway of Zuckerman’s Farm to meet Wilbur and Charlotte. Throughout their fair, reminders of the theme for the fair were quite evident. Especially unique was the involvement of the Ellsworth Grand Theater players as they brought this story to life with their offering of two specially written shows a day.



Congratulations to Litchfield Fair for their delightful Wheeler's Wee Farm project. In place for several years, Wheeler's Wee Farm introduces children to the many aspects of Maine farming. From the apple orchard through the lobster boat and chicken house to the "milking" cow, all were opportunities to become farmers for a moment.



Congratulations to Northern Maine Fair and their project Lil' Loggers at the Fair. They were recognized for their outstanding forestry project involving children in a hands-on lesson about the importance of forestry in our northern Maine woods.

**THANK YOU TO OUR
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS!**



Bill Ogg, "Let's Be Champions of Agriculture"
Bill in photo with Darcy Winslow, MAAF 2023 Conference Director & Board Member



Orvel Ronk, "Active Shooter: Is Your Fair Prepared for the Unthinkable"



Jeremy Parsons, IAFE President 2022
Banquet and Guest Speaker

CONFERENCE PHOTOS
CLICK [HERE](#) TO SEE THEM ALL!

What a great time we had at our MAAF Photo Backdrop, designed by Dustin James & printed right here in Maine by his company [Benchmark Graphics!](#)

Please enjoy all the photos and use them as you wish.

Love the Fair comraderie - exemplified by Harmony Fair & Litchfield Fair below!

All my best - [Rachel](#)







**IAFE ZONE 1 MEETING
ALBANY, NY
MAY 4-6, 2023
JOIN US!**

All the details are [here!](#)

**2023 MAAF AGRICULTURAL
AWARD CONTEST**

"CREATING AN EXPERIENCE: MAINE ON MY PLATE"

Here is the [application](#) for this yummy contest!

REMINDERS

Monmouth Fair begins on June 21 - 24

Demolition Derby pictures and contact info
Send them to us if you have them.

Licenses - Fairs need to apply for all licenses - such as pulling, pig scramble, any motorized event where a license is necessary, bingo.

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