

At Sanborn Mills Farm, preserving the past and planning for the future go hand in hand!

## Sanborn Mills Farm

### January 2018 eNews



[www.sanbornmills.org](http://www.sanbornmills.org)

## Logging in winter - then & now . . .

For much of its history, Sanborn Mills Farm was a place of intense activity - year round. Work was seasonal and winters were when most of the logging took place. Winter snow makes it easier to haul logs out of the woods and the spring melt provides water to power the sawmill.

In Ruth Sanborn King's memoir "*Listen to the Crickets - A Memoir on Rural Life in New Hampshire in the early Twentieth Century*" she recounts winter logging and the Sanborn family's approach to forest management:

"When snow lay deep in the fields and rolled down solid on the roads, it was time for the men to be off to the woods for the winter work of logging. Lumbering was the chief source of income on our farm. On the three hundred acres, there were stands of white pine in different stages of growth. In the first stage, there would be a seed tree, possibly misshapen or



*Winter scene at Sanborn Mills Farm.*

otherwise defective, and pine seedlings growing in the midst of the hardwoods that came up first in a cleared lot: maples, oaks, and birch. My father and his helper would cut down the hardwood trees for firewood. Removing them left room for a forest of white pine to grow straight and tall with little undergrowth. There was a steady market for firewood at a time when most of the homes in the country and villages were heated by wood-burning stoves. My father had regular customers."

"According to my mother, an area of white pine will mature to a marketable size in thirty or more years with proper care. The sawmill was small and could be operated only in the spring months when there was enough water to run it. It might take several years on one lumber lot before it was time to move on to the next one in the order of rotation. In this way, my ancestors would sustain a growing wood lot from generation to generation."

Today, we still carry out logging in the winter using our oxen & draft horses.



*Teamster Tyler Allen hooks up firewood to the forecart pulled by Bill & Ben, our new Milking Shorthorn steers.*



*Tyler, Ben & Bill haul firewood out of the woods.*



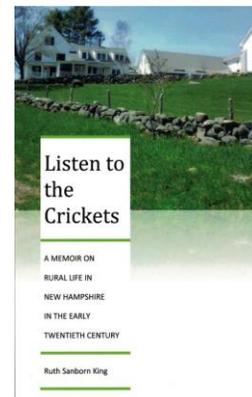
*Teamsters Ray & John hitch firewood onto the forecart pulled by our Percheron draft horses Willie (left) & Rose (right).*



*Ray, John, Willie, & Rose drop off firewood at the landing.*

Interested in learning more about how to use oxen on your woodlot or farm? [Click here](#) to explore our 2018 Oxen workshops.

*Listen to the Crickets* by Ruth Sanborn King was published by [Lulu.com](#) in 2009. It is available for sale by contacting the office at 603-435-7314 weekdays 9 am to 3 pm.



## Winter shelter . . .

When the thermometer dips down to minus 20, you may wonder "Do the oxen mind being outside?" The answer is that cattle grow a nice thick winter coat so as long as they have some shelter to get out of the wind, freezing rain, and blinding snow, they benefit from the fresh air.

A three-sided run-in shelter is the ideal solution for both winter and summer shelter and here are some important

considerations and building tips from Farm Manger Tim Huppe:



*Ben & Bill looking for their next bale of hay.*

- When providing shelter for horses or cattle, a three-sided shed 12' wide by 16' deep will provide adequate space for up to three mature large animals. The depth of the building reduces the invasion of horseflies, deerflies, houseflies, horn flies, mosquitoes, and blackflies in that space.
- Build on dry ground and if possible, locate the shed on a knoll or hill.
- It is very important to face the opening to the south, particularly in the case of a year-around use plan.
- If the soil type within the shed area does not drain well, remove at least a foot of topsoil and replace with coarse sand.
- Build it strong so that the snow loads do not become an issue and so that no damage will be done to the structure when heavy animals rub against it.
- Metal roofs work well for shedding the snow.
- Window openings can be built into the shed design. Avoid using glass sashes, particularly when housing horned animals. Hinged shutters or slide panels work well to close up the window space during the cold winter months.
- Hitching rings, wall-mounted salt block holders, bucket hooks, and hay racks can be mounted in the shed.
- Like any building project, a thorough inspection of the inside and the outside of the shed is advisable following construction. Make sure no nails, nail tips, screws, and screw tips are protruding from the walls. Animals are always rubbing against solid objects so reduce the chance of injury (and a call to the Vet!).



*One of six run-in sheds on the farm.*

## Are you already thinking about making something this summer?

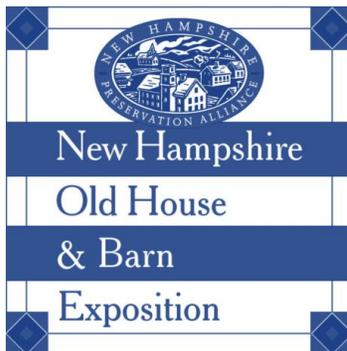
We've got some specialty blacksmithing workshops in 2018 that are a great opportunity to expand your forging skills. Check out these workshops!

- [Garden Tools](#), June 8 - 10
- [Camp Frying Pan & Open Fire Trivet](#), June 15 - 17
- [Kitchen Utensils](#), July 20 - 21
- [Woodworking Hand Tools](#), Aug 10 - 12

If your interest is in fibers, spend June 30 with Wendy Jensen and make a [round market basket](#). If you are interested in traditional New England floor coverings, our two-day [Traditional Painted Floor Cloth](#) workshop July 14 & 15 is a unique opportunity.



## Join us at the Old House & Barn Expo . . .



Mark March 24 & 25 on your calendar for the [Old House & Barn Expo](#) sponsored by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

Sanborn Mills Farm will be among the 60 or more exhibitors and the event also features a wide range of lectures and workshops.

For more information visit the NHPA website : [www.nhpreservation.org/](http://www.nhpreservation.org/)

## How to visit the farm . . .

Though we are not open for visitors on a daily basis, group tours can be scheduled from spring to fall. [Click here](#) for more information on how to arrange for a tour.

The best time to see the farm is during the annual [Open House & Water-Powered Mill Demonstration Day](#).



## Photographs for this eNews:

Winter scene at Sanborn Mills Farm by Robert Braun.  
All other photos by Lynn Martin Graton.



Sanborn Mills Inc. | 603-435-7314 | [info@sanbornmills.org](mailto:info@sanbornmills.org) | [www.sanbornmills.org](http://www.sanbornmills.org)

A traditional New Hampshire farm and nonprofit organization dedicated to sustainability, creativity, and preserving folklife skills and agricultural knowledge so that the best of the past can help shape our future.

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