

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

## Sanborn Mills Farm

### December 2016 eNews



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

#### A holiday message from Toby . . .

*For those of you who love hearing about the farm we thought for our holiday newsletter we'd include the following unsolicited submission from somebody who loves visitors at any time, who is grateful to everyone who works on the farm, who loves animals, plants, and the local flora and fauna without qualification, and, most of all, who is happy to eat anything he finds in his path. We have transcribed his original manuscript (which suffered from a terminal case of drool and mastication) into legible English for ease of reading. Here is what Toby, the chocolate lab, has to say in gratitude for the life he leads at Sanborn Mills Farm:*



"While it may seem unusual for a dog to wish to publish his view of things, you should know that I have long been picking up the slack as far as Paula and Colin Cabot's communication with the world is concerned. Years ago I inherited the responsibility of penning the obligatory family holiday message and have subsequently managed to curb my tendency to over-enthusiastic tail wagging, imploring looks, and shameless begging for scraps as I have learned this job is not rewarded directly by exercise, or food or even belly rubs. Instead it is rewarded by response from the readers of my missives. I hope you will be kind and let everyone at Sanborn Mills Farm know whether this year's effort meets your approval.

Did you know that Colin and Paula owned the farm for well over a century in dog years? They bought it from the Sanborn family in 1996 and gave it away exactly twenty years later to the non-profit that will be its steward from now on: Sanborn Mills, Inc.



Colin and Paula are still on the board of directors (along with a super group of volunteers) so all this means for me is that I have had free reign of the place and will continue to enjoy the privileges associated with my office for as long as I want: no change at all for me or anyone else.



*Elaina & John with Willie & Rose.*

I will continue rising before dawn to greet **John Schlang** as he draws up to the horse barn to harness Willie and Rose for their working day in the fields or the woods (Always eager for a handout, I learned that Colin forbade giving me treats when he put me on a diet - Unfair!).

Then checking on the crew that never stops building around the farm, the most important of which are my friends Zip and Reba who accompany **Kevin Schurman** and **Steve Fifield** to work most days

(Let's not forget **Caleb Clark** and **Jake Farmer** who show up with Steve and **Betty Fifield** who brings that cute Corgi Caesar for a visit during coffee break and fixes meals for our hungry workshop participants).



*Kevin Schurman.*



*Caleb Clark.*



*Steve Fifield.*



*Jake Farmer.*



*Betty Fifield.*

And of course **Ken Magoon** with his amazing digging machines spends most of his time at the farm but resolutely forbids me from the cookies he's got in his pockets whenever Colin is around.



*Kenny is in the excavator!*

If the saw mill is running, I'll say hello to Lucky who makes sure **Brian Clough** is hard at work.



*Brian Grimaldi (left) & Brian Clough (right).*

And then I'll circle back to the main house to see if anyone is gullible or fed up enough with me to give me some nutritive sustenance. **Mary Witschonke** and **Lynn Martin Graton** usually oblige if Colin isn't around.



*Lynn Martin Graton.*



*Mary Witschonke.*

Then it's off to the Red House to check on the pigs, and the chickens (I wish **Elaina Enzien** had a dog I could check in with, but she doesn't, and vegetables aren't really my thing anyway.)



Most days I can visit the boys [editor's note: Toby refers to the oxen (Mike, Jake, Huck & Finn) as "boys" but they don't seem to mind) in the Grano Barn as they get ready with the help of **Tyler Allen** and **Tim Huppe** for their day.



*Tyler Allen (left) & Tim Huppe (right).*

While everyone is busy in the woods, harvesting crops, sawing lumber, erecting edifices, cooking the books, and promoting folklife and agricultural crafts, I usually spend my day sacked out on the porch waiting for **Michelle Smith**, **Jenn Merrill**, **Hailey Clough**, or **Jordan Pinto** to tempt me into the display gardens for a surreptitious treat. (Colin pretends he doesn't know what's going on.)



*Hailey Clough (left) & Jenn Merrill (center) & Michelle Smith (left).*

Sometimes I visit **Ben Carbonneau** when he is weed whacking or **Ron Howe** who volunteers in the gardens.

On the weekends, I can cast my spell on **Ann Crowley** when she comes by to take care of the animals.



*Anne Crowley.*



*Ben Carbonneau.*

The dogless shall not go unnamed because the team is truly good to me whether or not they are represented by their canine collaborators; especially the very flexible **Sonny Locke**, the safety-minded **Brian Grimaldi**, and **Ray St. Pierre** who has recently joined **Kevin Schurman Jr**, **Joe Poisson**, and **Brian Bozak** on the carpentry team.



*Joe Poisson.*



*Brian Bozak.*



*Kevin Schurman, Jr.*



*Ray St Pierre.*

Even Maggie occasionally visits because her master **Scott Carbonneau** is building the furniture for the new carriage barn's bedrooms at his shop down the road. The important thing to note in all of this is that Sanborn Mills Farm is evolving into something that has a lot of potential for dogs and dog lovers.

While exactly what it will become isn't always clear, it is clear that that food of all kinds will be cooked in its kitchens, having been planted in its fields, and harvested by its residents, both animal and human, with minimal petrochemical inputs, and that more and more people will come visit the workshops given by blacksmith **Garry Kalajian** and others as studio spaces and accommodations are brought on line.



*Garry Kalajian.*

For me Sanborn Mills Farm will always remain a paradise for a dog with an infinite appetite for anything edible. I love it there!



*Me going for a swim in the pond - one of my favorite pastimes at the farm.*

Oh, and Colin and Paula are thankful for everyone's hard work during the first twenty years, and hoping the second twenty will be just as much fun (and nutritious...)



*Tyler & Elaina with Mike.*

Happy Holidays to all.  
Toby  
(aka Toblerone, the chocolate lab)

## Give an experience this Christmas . . .

If you are looking for a unique gift, why not consider expressing your generosity to someone important in your life by giving the gift of a workshop at Sanborn Mills Farm.

If you know the workshop you'd like to gift, just click on the [registration page](#), check the box indicating that you are purchasing a gift, and fill out the information. We'll send you the gift certificate in the mail or you can drop by the farm to pick it up before or even after Christmas.

If you'd like your special someone to pick out their own workshop, just give us a call and we can provide an "open ended" gift certificate along with a 2017 workshop brochure. [Click here](#) to download it.



For more info, visit our website: [www.sanbornmills.org](http://www.sanbornmills.org)

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**We wish all our friends a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!  
Thank you for supporting Sanborn Mills Farm.**



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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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