

Message from the President

Ask a farmer why they farm; given their economic adversities on top of the frustrations and difficulties normal to farming? Moreover, always the answer is: "Love. They must do it for love." Farmers farm for the love of farming. They love to watch and nurture the growth of plants. They love to work outdoors. They love the weather, maybe even when it is making them miserable. They love the measure of independence that farm life can still provide. They get satisfaction by teaching us how to be self-sustaining.

Farming is contagious and I get caught up in the mystic of farming and am energized and excited to see that our 2017 growing season is off to a terrific start. Mike and Emily and many volunteers have spent countless hours working the land, pruning, rock picking, mowing, spraying, weeding, and planting. The crops are in the ground and looking fantastic. I might add that this is in spite of the many setbacks such as mud, rabbits, and rocks. The apples, raspberries, blueberries, and peach crops look promising as well.

I am thrilled to welcome our newest team member, Cindy LaFleur. She has eagerly rolled up her sleeves and is learning the farming end of the business from the ground up; pruning, weeding, rock picking etc. In addition, she is reaching out to the volunteers and is seeking ways to increase our presence in the community and on social media.

We also welcome two new board members; Joe LeBlanc and Gail Sullivan. They have been involved with the farm for many years and we look forward to their new leadership roles in the years ahead.

My message is the same as I offer to anyone who will listen. Sholan Farms needs the help of the entire community. We need volunteers to help with planning, development, help with festivals, fund raising, maintain trails, prune trees, help with planting, weeding, general maintenance, summer pruning, and maintain gardens. The rewards are great—you too will fall in love with farming and reap the satisfaction of knowing you have done your part. It is fun and rewarding to work with so many wonderful caring people.

Sholan Farms is a unique property that, while it is owned by the City, it is operated by the Friends of Sholan Farms. We are a 501c3, non-profit entity and are separate from the City. We encourage you to visit the farm and enjoy the beauty and tranquility that is Sholan Farms. While you are strolling around the farm, ask yourself what you can do to keep this legacy alive.

Joanne DiNardo, President

Board of Directors

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Special thanks to the Friends' Board of Directors who volunteer their time throughout the year to make Sholan Farms succeed. A sincere thanks goes to family members who have also given of their time and support the board members which enabled them to make such a commitment to Sholan Farms.

Thank You All

What's happening around the farm...

Work continues around the farm to keep everything looking great. This year we've repaired several broken posts around the apiary. A lot of time was spent preparing the farm and farm stand for the Apple Blossom Festival. The crosswalk was moved by the DPW to improve safety. Bark mulch was spread, and areas were filled in after winter plowing. Mowing the grass around the farm stand and in the orchard is an ongoing effort. Vern Holman Construction has been working in block 2 to repair the drainage problems. Our farm equipment is being repaired and kept in shape for the upcoming season.

We have more projects that need to be completed. If your looking for something to do we can use the help. Some of the out buildings need painting, picnic tables need repair and painting, we need to build and install seating for the second tour wagon, a trellis built for the blackberry patch, and irrigation needs to be set up for the blueberries. We also want to install an outdoor sink for washing vegetables with a fence to shield area from view. This will be on the side of the stand at the current faucet. The large green water tank needs painting so we can add our Sholan Farms logo to it. Contact Steve Smith at 978-870-2797 if your interested in any of these jobs.

Cindy LaFleur is asking for some help with some late pruning in the orchard. She also needs help with weeding in our vegetable fields and flower gardens. Give her a call at 978-840-3276.

Apple Blossom Festival 2017

Wow, what a festival! After the weather we had this spring I was really worried that it was going to be a wash out (or a Mud Fest!). It rained the week before the festival but the skies cleared, the ground dried out and once again we had a perfect day.

It seems like the crowds get larger every year. So many people look forward to our festival and travel from all over to enjoy the day. I talked to folks from western Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. And of course all of the local people that comeback every year. We always worry that we won't have a good turn out especially with so many other things going on around town on the same day. We worried for nothing because the parking lot was full all day and the trolley was busy.

We always try to improve our festival each year. With the help of 76 volunteers we brought in so many new things.

We finally seemed to coordinate the Butterfly Parade with the Pipe and Drummers, and could hear Janice Gaudet perfectly as she read her American Indian Prayer. The sun was warm with a nice breeze and the butterflies flew. It was perfect. The entertainment finally seems to have found it's new spot in front of the farm stand and was heard and enjoyed by all. Singers, magicians, balloon art kept us entertained all day.

We had seven food trucks this year and they all did really well, two even sold out. They brought in Lobster Rolls, Hot Turkey Sandwiches, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chili, Chicken Fingers and Fries, Pizza, BBQ, Ice Cream, Cotton Candy and Pop Corn. The Bake Sale sold out as did the coffee

and donuts. Kids and adults enjoyed decorating their own cookies.

I want to give a big thank you to the Johnny Appleseed Home Crafters who were instrumental this year in organizing and participating in our craft show. We had 56 spots filled. We were turning crafters away the week before because we ran out of room.

The Silent Auction was a hit again. We had 32 amazing items this year valued between \$50 and \$250. This part of the festival takes 3-4 months to put together with a lot of coordination and planning. The 50/50 Raffle was a hit once again with a very happy winner.

The kids enjoyed the bounce houses all day that were monitored by Samoset Schools Youth Venture Group and their Student Council. A new addition this year were two beautiful Alpacas from Alpaca Lipps Farm in Rutland. Everyone seemed to enjoy feeding and petting them.

We had a few minor glitches, as usual, with parking, tractors that won't start, and a dead battery on the golf cart but we pulled it off once again.

A huge thank you to everyone that helped with this event. It would not be possible to pull this off without you. I want to give a special thank you to Joanne, my friend and mentor, you are always there for all of us with an open ear, guidance, wisdom, and plain old hard work. What would Sholan Farms do without you?

—Patti LaGrassa, Board Member, ABF Chair

You are invited to
The Friends of Sholan Farms
Annual Volunteer Welcome Back BBQ



Wednesday, August 16, 2017
6 pm at the farm

We'll supply the burgers, hot dogs and beverages you bring the sides.

Bring your favorite summer side dish. We can use potato salad, pasta salad, cole slaw, tossed salad, baked beans, casseroles, chips, pickles, olives, and of course desserts.

Please call Cindy LaFleur at the farm 978-840-3276 and let her know if you can come and what you will bring.



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Sholan Farms®

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About Our Organization

The Friends of Sholan Farms is a non-profit corporation that relies solely on the support of its members, sponsors and volunteers. We are formed under the 501(c)3 statutes and all donations are a tax write-off. Founded in 2001.



Calendar Notes

- July** Blueberry and Raspberry U-Pick
- August** Volunteer Welcome Back BBQ - August 16
Opening Weekend - August 26-27
- September** Johnny Appleseed Home Crafters Show
September 16-17
- October** Harvest Weekend - October 7-8-9
- November** Christmas Tree Shop - November 25

Sholan Farms Staff

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Emily Watkevich, Assistant Farm Manager:

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**Cindy LaFleur, Farm Stand Manager, Volunteer
Coordinator:**

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