



LEONARD'S MILLS GAZETTE

A PUBLICATION OF THE
MAINE FOREST AND LOGGING MUSEUM



A Note from the President Herb Crosby

A special thanks to our wonderful Executive Director, Sherry Davis, and dozens of dedicated volunteers for making 2017 an outstanding year at the museum.

In March, our display at the Eastern Maine Sportsmen's Show won the 'Best in Show Award,' a great start for the year! Our Lombard steam log hauler was featured on a television episode of 'Impossible Engineering.' Maine inventor Alvin Lombard was recognized for his ingenious invention of the continuous lagged track. Filmmakers were impressed with our beautiful location.

Hundreds of school children visited Leonard's Mills in May to learn how our ancestors lived 200 years ago in seemingly simpler times. Self-sufficiency skills were essential. Students also enjoyed seeing thousands of alewives returning to Blackman Stream.

Our Alewife Cross Country Run was held in May in the Penobscot Experimental Forest. July Heavy Metal Day featured four Lombard log haulers. They included 2 steam Lombards, a rare gas Lombard loaned by the Breton family, and an amazing 1/12 size live steam working model of our Lombard built by Chris

Rueby. We also ran the sawmills and Grady Machine Shop. Visitors of all ages were able to work at one of the portable forges set up and get a feel for blacksmithing.

The Tuesday volunteer crew worked during the summer restoring our water-powered sawmill. It must be one of the most scenic sawmills in the county. Several weddings were held there this summer.

Living History Days were our most popular event, with dozens of volunteers operating every display at the museum. Volunteers also conducted Thursdays in the Woods programs in the summer and fall.

A major windstorm struck the museum in October, felling dozens of old growth pines and destroying 2 small buildings. Volunteers started a major cleanup on the grounds. Trees are still being skidded out of the woods, some for sale and some to be sawn at the museum. We hope to rebuild the lost buildings.

Funding is a challenge for our nonprofit museum. A special thanks to our members, corporate sponsors, and generous donors who have left bequests to our museum. Our 58- year-old museum continues only with your generous support. Help us get ready for a grand 60th celebration in 2020!

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 23-25 – Children's Days 9 AM – 1 PM

Historical hands-on activities & wagon rides, fish swimming upstream! Reservations required
\$5 per person

May 26 – Alewife Day 10 AM – 1 PM

See the alewives swim upstream!
Smoked fish & kid's games!
\$3 per person ages 12+

June 16 – On the Run!

8:30 - Blackman Stream Alewife Cross Country Run
10 AM - 4 PM
Lombard Log Hauler, Sawmills and More on the run!
\$10 adults/\$5 children under 12

July 28 – Heavy Metal 10 AM – 4 PM

Heavy machinery and blacksmithing exhibits for the whole family! Bean hole beans, biscuits, sawmills and Lombards Running!
\$10 adults/\$5 children under 12

October 6-7 – Living History Days 10 AM – 4 PM

Reenactors showcasing livestock, historic demonstrations. Fresh pressed cider, bean hole beans & biscuits, and soup. Lombard and sawmills running!
\$10 adults/\$5 children under 12

Buildings are open every Thursday!
Bring a picnic and spend the day.

The water-powered sawmill is ready to get to work!



New roof, foundation work, saw sharpening. A new sluice for pond drainage to keep water from leaking into the mill foundation. New cribwork for the ramp in the pond--every time Rod Stanhope brings his backhoe to the grounds the guys have fun--you find out just how muddy the bottom of the pond really is. The mill is in good shape for the coming season. Many thanks to the crew on the mill project: Charlie, Ed, Bob, Byron,



Lew and Rod (pictured), the rest of the Tuesday crew, and UM students. Funding from the Davis Family Foundation, Dow Shingle and many other donations!



Thanks to our Davis grant, we were able to get a new roof on the old Lombard shed. UM Construction Management Technology students put the funds to use, did some rafter work (some had been cut to allow the Lombard space!), and the metal roof went on very quickly. Trim and paint are on the list for this summer.



The old gate house was a welcome site--you finally made it down the road and found the museum! Some changes come suddenly and are a bit painful! Unfortunately, the big November blowdown

hit the museum very hard. The gatehouse and trapper's cabin were crushed, trees down all over the grounds (all 400+ acres!) and a general major clean-up necessary. As of March, the beautiful pine logs in the woods behind the main grounds are being skidded out, and we will be able to sell some wood. The Tuesday crew really did a great job clearing around the parking lot and village-- Ford or Dodge for towing?

Ruth Weymouth has done an amazing job figuring out a SKU system for the gift shop to work with our Square. More volunteers are welcome to learn her streamlined system and help us keep the shop open!



Jay Perry brought his pole setter to get telephone poles set for a new building over the Donnell clapboard mill. Jay has done lots of tree work for us and is now part of the crew running the Lombard at events, but he got his start at the museum years ago working with his dad clearing the woods for the site of the museum. He was here when they built a water wheel right at the dam. It didn't turn out to be the best option, so the sawmill was built down stream. Every fall we get crew of UM freshmen to do a service project.

This year, with Jay Perry and Sean Hutchinson bringing their equipment, the students were able to clear an amazing amount of brush. You can see the dam! (The big blowdown helped, too!)



Jay donated lots of safety equipment as well--hard hats all around! We have lots of projects if you have a group (adults or students) that would like to help us out with a service project. Contact the office!



It has taken many volunteers to get the Grady Machine Shop ready to run!



Last spring, Brian Barker and his son Tim helped Tom Christensen with a major overhaul of the machinery. Lew Crosby got involved in

getting lights set up. Generators are good things--being off the grid, we get creative with powering machinery. We have solar power for the gift shop and aim for a bit more here and there.

The Grady shop can be seen in action at events--the belts connected to the shaft overhead mean one motor can run as many machines as you like at once. Takes you back to the 1930s and 40s, before CNC machines.



Children's Days! We have many hands-on, historic activities and demonstrations at the three days set aside for school children in May, but the introduction of alewives has added an element of exciting, wet fun. Staff from NOAA have been helping us out with information and dip nets--they help the students catch fish trying unsuccessfully to make it up the dam itself. They get to take buckets full of alewives over to the fish ladder and send them on their way.

Hands-on activities, games and demonstrations take many hands and offer opportunities for new volunteers to get involved. A natural fit for homeschooling families! If you are available during the week, we can use you to help make Children's Days a great experience for students.



A new outhouse!



It takes many volunteers to put on events--join the group that has all the fun! The Lombard runs at major events, and it is a process to fill the water tank, load wood and stoke it up, and maybe get to drive it! Paul Breton brought his gas Lombard up last summer to share at events, and got to try his hand at the throttle of the steam machine.



Brothers Lew and Herb Crosby are part of all the Lombard action that happens. Every demonstration you see at the spring, summer and fall events takes many volunteers hands. Maintenance of the machinery and buildings is a year-round activity for volunteers, but we can use your help just for events as well.



The museum grounds have been the setting for many lovely weddings.



Tory has been helping the Tuesday crew during the summers with his grandfather Rod. Byron brings his granddaughter Emily to help out at events. Tory and Emily go to school together in Hampden. New drivers, they were both eager to drive the golf cart to take people around the grounds at events at a safe speed.



Everyone loves hot metal!

We had a mishap in the blacksmith shop--a piece of the clinker breaker broke, necessitating a forge rebuild. That is still in the works--the old wooden frame will be replaced with a fireproof brick hearth. Larry Littlefield and Charlie Green came to the rescue by refurbishing the portable bellows Bill Lynch built for reenacting events many years ago. Byron Aubrey got it up and running so visitors were able to see some great demonstrations last fall.

Try hammering on hot metal yourself--come to our July event and work at one of the forges we set up.



Vicki and Tom Ketchum have been seeing the country in their Airstream RV home. The great way they are doing it is by volunteering as

RVworkcampers. They have helped out at many state and national parks, using the time to learn some new history, see a new area and give of their time and talents wherever they stay. We were fortunate to have them as our first workcampers.. They went right to work: Vicki is a one-person paint crew who is driven!. Tom was working in multiple areas--building shelves in the Visitor Center mezzanine and building a storage closet. Moving artifacts, pickling walls, it was a long list! We hope they return after their stay in Alaska this summer (Florida Keys right now).



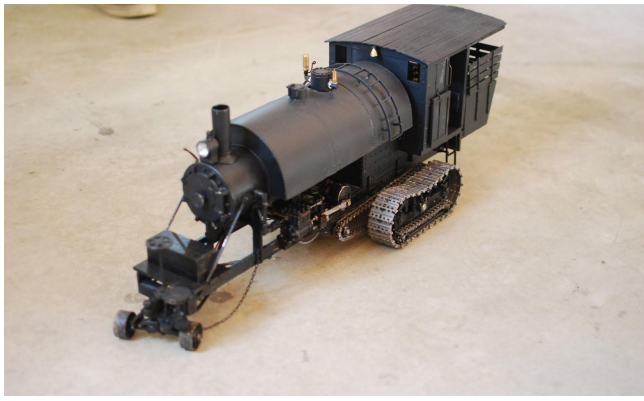
B.J. and Mike Maybury have been our main batteau crew for many years, but low water levels and windy conditions have made it difficult to offer the rides. The batteau needs some repair work, but we hope to get it in the water this season. Watch for another crew training session--we need more



Living History Days is like Old Home Week for volunteers. They enjoy sharing knowledge and skills they have with visitors, and then some enjoy camping over. Some of the volunteers who camp for the event have been coming since they were babies and are bringing their own children now.

As the museum's largest event, the need for volunteers is greatest. We need people to participate in many ways--work a shift and enjoy the rest of the day checking out all the interesting demonstrations. Learn how to bake biscuits over the open fire, make bean hole beans, help with parking, etc.

Historically, camp food always tastes great!



Chris Rueby, who lives in New York, contacted the museum more than a year ago for more information about the Lombard log hauler. Many email exchanges with Herb Crosby and a visit by Chris to crawl all over the real machine, resulted in an amazing working steam-powered model of the Lombard. Hard to tell you can pick this up! Chris brought it up with his Shay train model to show it to all of us and we all want one!

QCD? Museum supporters who have reached the age of 70 ½ are able to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution. If you direct any portion of your required withdrawal from your IRA to come to the Maine Forest and Logging Museum (a 501c3 charitable organization) , you will avoid paying income tax on those funds. Benefit the museum while saving taxes!

Donations of every size (and shape) made things happen in 2017!

Philip Andrews, Thomas & Rachel Armstrong, Byron & Jackie Aubrey, Susan Aygarn, Bob & Candy Bachorik, Mida Ballard, Susan Chase, James Barrett, Mark & Sherrill Barrows, Beth Beaulieu, Tim & Clara Beaulieu, Marc Berlin & Edith Richardson, Pete Bernier, Ed Berry, James & Mary Bird, Joan & Delwin Blackwell, Joel Bolshaw, Bruce Bowden, John Bradbury, Fred & Betty Briehl, Adrian & Celine Brochu, Larry & Brenda Bryant, Edward V. Buck Jr., Steve Bumps, Ben & Sarah Carlisle, Allen & Sharon Caron, Tiffany Carr, Jeff Bouchard, Terri & Roger Coolong, Peter Crockett, Carol Crosby, Herbert & Judith Crosby, Lewis Crosby, Matthew Davis, Alice Dyer, Melissa Doane, Jack & Elizabeth Donovan, Richard Dort, Louis & Margaret Dougherty, Anthony Dowler,

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Thanks to you, 2017 was a wonderful year! Please join in making 2018 great!