



Newsletter

Spring 2022

A place for animal shelter, history, conservation and recreation.

Volume 22—Issue 1

Be Our Guest!



2021 was a record year here at the farm for building momentum around the vision and the mission of the organization. Committees have been hard at work making numerous improvements to our farm animal shelter, forestry & trails, and our historic initiatives. We invite you to experience the farm and see all the good work our dedicated staff and committee members have accomplished. We hope to share the feelings of community that revolve around the farm — a sense of place that draws you to the animals, the history and the natural surroundings.

We are a truly special place.

How to Experience the Farm

Self guided tours — are available daily. Maps are available in the Bunkhouse, Horse Barn or the Rabbit Sanctuary building.

Schedule a tour in advance of your visit — a trained Cracker Box Palace tour guide will walk you through the farmstead to learn about historic facts, the animals and their stories, and provide the experience of a working farm. To schedule a guided tour, please register online at www.crackerboxpalace.org.

Hike our 10 mile Trail System — Experience nature as you explore woodland and meadows through our trail network.

Befriend an animal or two — Bring treats to feed the animals while you visit. They really look forward to seeing our guests. A treat list can be found on our website.

Become a volunteer — If you have a passion for animals, nature or history, we always need volunteers to keep us going. They are the heart of our operations.



Coming Soon—New Welcome Center

We are working diligently to open our new Welcome Center in May which will be located in the historic Alasa Office building at the center of the farm. The Welcome Center will be a place to greet guests and educate visitors about the mission and vision of Cracker Box Palace and the historic nature of the property. The program will include an interactive experience of Historic Alasa Farms, a deeper dive into Cracker Box Palace's unique character, and guidance for enjoying our nature trail system. A gift shop with exclusive Cracker Box Palace swag is planned.

The 100 year old Alasa Office building is one of the most preserved buildings on the farm showcasing beautiful wainscoting, a large farm scale, a unique cash register and a grand double sided desk. This building was the heart of Alasa business during its era representing leading edge agriculture.

We are excited as this historic building will be brought back to life to serve the community and provide a snapshot in time of the farms extensive history. Alasa Farms had prized short horned milking cattle, including their prized bull Bessboro's Musician that won many national titles. Bessboro's Musician and his offspring's ribbons can still be seen in the Alasa Office today.

Volunteer Venue

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they simply have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew

Events and Fundraising



Pictured: Carolyn Rambo at Legends of Alasa Farms Trail Ride

Carolyn Rambo has been volunteering for Cracker Box Palace for almost five years. She was drawn to the farm because of her granddaughter's affinity for animals. Carolyn grew up in neighboring Williamson and lived many years in Sodus Point, only a few miles from the farm. Spending time at Alasa Days, with her husband, Lou Rambo, feeding her granddaughter's love for animals, wildlife and nature.

Carolyn can be found pouring samples of wine at our Annual Eq-Wine Trail Ride, as a Fox Sister on the front porch of the main house during the Legends of Alasa Farms Trail Ride or just checking in on the farm director and staff with fresh baked brownies.

Carolyn also donates hand made crafts, cards and other goods to the farm's events like the Golf Tournament, Gala Ball, the CBP Gift Shop and more to raise money for Cracker Box Palace!

Thank you, Grandma for all you do for the farm, the animals and for us!

Behind the Scenes – Strengthening Our Organization

Vision: *Cracker Box Palace at Historic Alasa Farms will strive to be a model farm in the community by embracing the values of compassion, respect, and perseverance.*

Mission: *To provide shelter and sanctuary to farm animals in need from within our region, promote the rich history of the area and utilize sound conservation and agricultural practices by engagement and education of the community.*



Pictured Above—L-R: Hank Stuart, Vice President, Jeffrey Apfel, Treasurer, Andrew Muldoon, Director and Development Committee Chair and Don Riling, facilitator.

Pictured Below: Janet Halasinski, Secretary of the Board, our facilitators-Laura West and Don Riling



Cracker Box Palace at Historic Alasa Farms has been incorporated as a not-for profit since 2006 and has been at Historic Alasa Farms since 2010. As an organization we have evolved from a farm animal shelter housed on a small farm to being fully homed at Alasa Farms: a National Historic Registry site with hundreds of acres of land that includes a conservation easement for woodlands overseen by Genesee Land Trust.

How does one identify as an organization with so many diverse opportunities?

Last year, we came together to consider that question, and others, in a strategic planning session. Looking at our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, the dedicated supporters and enthusiasts of CBP discussed sustainability, achievability, development and perseverance within the organization. Together, we developed next steps to grow in support of our mission and vision

Thank you to our attendees; Hank Stuart, Jeffrey Apfel, Janet Halasinski, Andrew Muldoon, Randy Bond, Derek Poole, Don Lessord, Donna Johnson, Angela VanDeWalle, Sam VanAcker, Diana Johnson, Sara Buys, Cody Frank, Tammy and Ken Stauffer, Domenic Argentieri and Barb DeRoo. An extra special thank you to Don Riling and Laura West for facilitating our meeting.

We are so excited for the organization to grow, improve and continue with our mission! 2022 is the year to build capacity for the ground work we laid in developing our growth strategy, turning these ideas into reality.

Would you like to be part of our organization? We have active committees that work to execute our strategy. Please contact: Janet Halasinski—jhalasinski@rochester.rr.com for additional information.



Youth Volunteers in Action

"You are never too young to change the world!"



McKenna with her hen, Lay-a

Bringing Cracker Box Palace Home

McKenna has been volunteering at Cracker Box Palace for almost a year. Her deep love for animals drew her and her mom, Nichole, to CBP.

When we asked McKenna what motivates her to come to CBP, she said, "I really love all of the animals, and it's been fun getting to know all of them and their different personalities. It's a really great learning experience because I get to learn how to take care of all the animals."

McKenna is very passionate about all the animals here. She jumps in to any task and can be found feeding the rabbits, watering the cows, and cleaning the horse stalls.

One day this fall, a flock of chickens was rescued and brought to the farm. Lay-a, an adorable little red hen, was the runt of the flock and became separated from them when a scuffle occurred after the move. Pecking order is a real thing with chickens and she had to be separated from them due to her small size.

When McKenna saw Lay-a she quickly fell in love with her, setting her heart on taking her home. Today Lay-a is happily adopted by McKenna and is living in her forever home.

The story of McKenna and Lay-a reminds us why we do what we do here on the farm. We are so grateful for McKenna and our other youth volunteers who share the values of compassion, respect and perseverance for the animals they serve.

Tireless Dedication

On December 31st, as the staff rang in the new year, Miss Ellie Mae, our 32 year old resident Hackney Pony began showing signs of distress not being able to eliminate her food. Officially called an impaction colic, the issue did not improve overnight. Early morning on January 1st, our Veterinarian (Heart of Gold Vet Care) Dr. Gulvin, advised and recommended that Ellie Mae go to Cornell for evaluation.

Ellie's issue was a problem that could not be solved with normal diuretic flushes and she needed to undergo colic surgery to alleviate the impaction. Thankfully Ellie made it successfully through her surgery and remained at Cornell for two weeks to recover. Upon her return she needed special care to heal and could not immediately go to the pasture with her herd.



Rachel Goddard, one of our youth volunteers, became an essential part of Ellie's rehabilitation.

Rachel has been a volunteer at Cracker Box since April 2021. She lives a few miles down the road in Alton and started off visiting because of her interest in horses and farm animals. After learning about orientation she quickly became a regular volunteer, coming once a week to help with the animals.

Rachel's compassionate care over these last 2 months of Ellie's stall rest has been essential to her recovery. Rachel is very dedicated and comes to the farm multiple times a week to make sure that Ellie's needs are met—hand walking her to assure she exercises, cleaning her stall, feeding her lunch and making sure she has her special hay. Her tireless efforts will assure that Ellie will be ready to join the herd this spring.



If you are interested in joining our volunteer team, visit our Volunteer Page on our website.

At crackerboxpalace.org/volunteer, you can register for orientation and fill out an application online.

All Volunteers must attend an orientation prior to starting at Cracker Box Palace.

Orientation is the 2nd Saturday, 10:30am-12pm and the 4th Thursday, 6pm-7:30pm of each month.

Orientation is required to review all necessary paperwork, learn all about CBP, and the variety of jobs associated with the farm.

Please consider joining us today!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

YOUR MEMORIES LIVE ON FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS!

- ◆ Donna Neufeglise remembers **Scott Young**
- ◆ Rosemary VanSlyke remembers **Maureen Kenney**
- ◆ Eric & Tracy Matteson, Judy & Robert Russo, Alex Hrabko, Gregory Czerniak, Welsey & Lauren Perry, Carroll Michaels, Anneliese Bopp, Tom Sears, Bridget Elizabeth & Christopher Marsh remember **Natalie Jean Matteson**
- ◆ Daniel & Marcia Bilancini, Robert Dorman, Shelley Hares remember **Josh Buerman**
- ◆ Nancy Youngs remembers **John and Angel**
- ◆ Hank & Karen Ester, Roland & Georgia Stevens, Paul Monachino, & Laurel Wilcox remember **Dr. David Scoville DVM**
- ◆ Gale Kordzikowski remembers **Doreen Kordzikowski**
- ◆ Bridget Elizanbeth & Christopher Marsh remember **Ann Welderly**
- ◆ Hilary Tantillo remembers **Dave Croop**
- ◆ Karen Merritt remembers **Devyn Merritt** an amazing horse woman!
- ◆ Bruce Peachey, Patricia Demming, Betsy & John Carver, Judith Watt, Ann & David Still, Betsy & John Carver, Sue Bassage, Margaret Forbes, Judith Watt, Bill & Cheryl Kline, Douglas & Marianne Taylor, Hank & Karen Ester, Barbara DeRoo, William & Doris Deming, James & Cynthia Cerquone, Lauren Frank, Patricia Culver, Steve & Jody Waite, Anne Farnham, and William & Kathryn Woodard remember **Mary Fisher, Esq.**
- ◆ Mary Novick remembers **Mrs. Ida Turan**
- ◆ Richard Hazen remembers **Nancy Hazen**
- ◆ Kathryn Disbrow remembers **Joan Rose**
- ◆ Jon Renault remembers **Terry Vittore**
- ◆ Charles & Cheryl Gordnier, Cathy Roussey, Charles & Carol Muzin, Timothy & Bonnie Huff, Barb DeRoo remember **Arla Bardo**
- ◆ Robert & Mary Barker and David Dezutter remember **Betty Warren**
- ◆ Mindy Kannard remembers **David Winterman**
- ◆ Gale Kordzikowski remembers **Doreen Kordzikowski**
- ◆ Yonca Sarigedik, Maya Grosz, Xan Raskin, Kathleen McCrone, Diane Peters, Jennifer & Greg Pollack, Bethany Surgan, Mary Costella, Robin Versh, Samda & Guled Adam, Kathleen Whelehan, Becky Dill, Mary Novick, Eben Krim, Andrew Haywood remember **Jane Kiernan**
- ◆ Cynthia Showman remembers **Jim Showman**
- ◆ Friends of Sodus Community Library remember **Elinor Phoenix Weldgen**
- ◆ Joan Genthner remembers **Chelsea**
- ◆ Karen Welmer remembers **Desi**
- ◆ Marya Vande-Doyle and Michele & Neal Rosenberg remember **Mibb Brown**

Cracker Box Palace Remembers

Mary Fisher

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, LOVE leaves a memory no one can steal. ~ Unknown

Mary Fisher was a dedicated board member, volunteer and benefactor to the farm. She assisted with many fundraising events and grant opportunities. She is greatly missed by all who knew her. We know she's together again with Sweetie the sheep, her favorite farm animal of all time.



Thank you to everyone who donated in memory of **Betty White!**

**Thank
Ewe!**

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all our donors, supporters and friends of the farm for their generous love and support over the last quarter and throughout the year. We couldn't do this without you!

Thank you to **United Horse Coalition** for the horses' spring shot grant!

Thank you to **Gonsenhauser Foundation** for the grant for the animals!

Thank you to the **United Way of Rochester** for **Roc the Day!**

Hank and Karen Ester, much appreciation for the support of Riley and the rest of the herd.

A huge thank you to **Mary Kay Genthner** for your contributions for horses: Knickers, Judy, and Ellie Mae.

Thank you **Home For Every Horse and Purina Horse Feed** for the free feed coupons to assist with our horse food.

Our deepest gratitude to **Philip and Elizabeth Robinson** for the grant for medical supplies for the animals!

The **Peter C. and Mabel Browne Family Charitable Fund** for the continued support of our bunnies and the Mibb and Beryl Rabbit Sanctuary.

Thank you to **Apple Blossom Dental and Phil's Automotive** for the sponsorship of our 2022 Calendars!

Thank you to the **William G. Pomeroy Foundation and the Klos Fund** for the grants towards the main house.

We are so grateful for the **Hallowell Fund** for their continued support of Operations and Capital Expenses

To **everyone** who donated to our Horse Stall Campaign through our fall newsletter, **Thank You!**

With sincere gratitude for the many donations we receive each month that help us fulfill our mission:

To provide shelter and sanctuary to farm animals in need from within our region, promote the rich history of the area and utilize sound conservation and agricultural practices by engagement and education of the community.

To donate online visit our website: www.crackerboxpalace.org



Cracker Box Palace at Historic Alasa Farms is working with **Marion Central School District Agriculture Program** to provide an opportunity for students with interest in Agriculture Education and Animal Science to gain experience in this field. In November, Marion Ag Program participants visited the farm to explore and earn about why we serve farm animals across Wayne County. After touring the farm, the group decided to fostered Cleetus, the rabbit. Cleetus will be living at Marion High School giving the student an opportunity to learn about rabbit care and rabbit behavior. We are so thankful for our partnership with Marion Ag Program and the happy ending for Cleetus.



Looking ahead to summer fun

Summer quickly approaches here at CBP. Fall, Winter and Spring pass by with a blink of the eye.

This means our Annual Summer Horse Camp preparations start early! Sometimes as early as the last camper leaves.

Our Horse Camp counselors want to bring new, fun obstacles for those who attend our 2022 Horse Camps. Pictured below are our counselors Olivia, Katrina and Bella. They were busy prepping our brand new poles which sport the iconic "Alasa colors". These poles were donated thanks to **Finger Lakes Trellis Supply** located in Williamson, NY.



Registration is now open!!

Early birds can sign up now for our Annual Summer Horse Camp, check our events page on our website to find our online registration form!

Save the Dates:

July 11th–15th July 18th–22nd August 15th–19th

We can't wait to see you all this summer!



Opportunities for Giving

Find more details about the following opportunities on our enclosed envelope:

An annual animal sponsorship— help with animal care expenses for one or all of our 200 animals.

Recurring monthly donation—your consistent gift helps with operational expenses on the farm.

One-time gift—every financial gift, no matter the size, supports our mission at Cracker Box Palace.

In Honor of gift— consider giving a gift in honor of someone's birthday or just because you care.

In Memory of gift— invest in the legacy of a loved one with a gift in their memory.

Learn more on our Donate Page at crackerboxpalace.org



THE HOOFBEAT

The Farm Animal Shelter at Cracker Box Palace



Pictured Above: Tender the Quarter Horse

Horse Barn Happenings

As Spring sets in, this is a friendly reminder that mud is soon to follow! With mud, comes the importance of hoof care to prevent diseases or infections that may happen to your horse. Things like thrush, white line disease, or deep central sulcus can be easily treated if caught early. If you suspect one of these infections in your horses foot. Contact your Farrier.

No hoof = No Horse!

Adoption: Apples the paint horse

Admissions: Flash the Welsh Pony, Ember, Reigna, Socks, Tiny Tim, and Aquinnah the Morgans. Returning is Tender the Quarter Horse, Misty the Mini. Dannie and Merribelle the donkeys!

Cow Barn Communications

Rabbits have nails that constantly grow! Pet rabbits have a hard time wearing down their nails. Wild bunnies wear down their nails by digging burrows. Rabbits also do not use scratching posts like cats. Allowing nails to get too long will change the angle in which they stand, causing stress on joints and ligaments!

Admissions: Ivy, Emily, Bobinsky, Cloud, Buttercup, Sugarbaby, Oogie Boogie, Lock, Barrel, Jack, Sally, Marshmallow, Blanco, Foxy, Chester the Rabbits, Mama and Papa the geese, Zoomie the Duck, Rocky, Jumper and Peanut Butter the goats and 75 chickens and roosters! Zoey the Cat was also an added addition to the cow barn.

Adoptions: Cleetus the Rabbit and Lay-a the Hen



Above: Cleetus , thankful for his new home, thanks to MCS Ag Program

Animal Care Spotlight: The 5 Morgans

Whether animals are owned for pleasure, business or as a food source, they deserve to live in a humane environment and have appropriate care, to be free from exploitation, cruelty, neglect, and abuse. (paraphrased from the Animal Bill of Rights)



Pictured Above: Socks and Reigna upon arrival at the farm

The 5 Morgans were part of a herd of eleven left behind after the owner recently passed. They are mostly feral in nature due to neglect and inattention. For most of their lives they lived independently off the land - unattended. They were left to breed amongst themselves with no vet care or human interaction.

Assuming the care of eleven feral horses was something the family was not equipped to handle, so they reached out to Woof2Hoof rescue for assistance with the horses' care and support. Woof2Hoof collaborated with Cracker Box Palace to provide interim action for medical attention, proper feeding and compassionate care while a plan was devised to relocate the horses.

Happy Endings — Finding a special home at CBP were the Five Morgans: Reigna, Socks, Ember, Aquinnah and Tiny Tim. All are learning to trust humans in their new environment, which will take patience and time. We are already seeing wonderful results.

Prentice, Luca and Bailey all found private homes and Pepper, Goose and Yellow found their place together with the family. We are thankful that these horses received a safe landing, and we look forward to consistently providing the love, compassion and care they deserve!

Cracker Box Palace is thankful that we are able to be part of their next chapter.

Horses need compassion and proper training to succeed in their new homes. Please make sure you have a qualified trainer who is able to assist with helping you and your new horse adapt to new changes.

Animals that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge...

Feona the Quarter Horse Debbie the sheep Miley, Mocha, and Rosie the Goats Nick & Brian the rabbits
Tiger the Sheep Barn Cat 6 of our older hens Tamara our 20 yr old Bunkhouse kitty

Rest in peace until we meet again

PEN PALS

Thank you to **Mary Kay Genther** for her continued support of Knickers, Judy and Ellie Mae the horses! Because of you, Knickers, Judy, and Ellie Mae know love and compassion

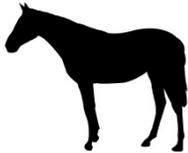
Thank you to **Gwen Hoffman** for your support of Buttercup and her rabbit friends, the rabbits are so grateful for your support and hard work.

Hank and Karen Ester for your sponsorship of Riley, the Thoroughbred and the rest of the herd here at CBP! The horses are so appreciative for your commitment to their wellbeing!

Peggy Ann Joslin for your support of Sorceress, the Arabian.

Thank you to **Bill and Mykel Whitney** for their support of Buddy the horse!

A heartfelt **thank you** to everyone that sponsored a Christmas Angel for our Christmas with the animals event.



Our Pen Pal sponsorship program is changing for 2022 ~ Please see our website for details!

Farm Director's Memo:

Over the last year, I found myself lost in the Director side of my role. Recently, I have been finding my farm roots back out in the pastures. There, I discovered five new friends who have helped me find my path back to why I love what I do. I spent the last few months learning my new friend's love languages and they have learned mine. Communication is Sock's love language. Ember's is words of affirmation and physical touch. Aquinnah's is receiving gifts (and lots of them!) Tiny Tim's is quality time and Reigna's is acts of service. If you don't think horses have love languages, then you've never hung out with a group of feral Morgans that are going through a healing process. They have helped heal me, too, and have re-grounded me in the farm side of my role.



Sara Buys – Farm Director

Events in Review

🍏 September 🍏

We love September on the farm. Summer comes to an end, kids go back to school, and the leaves start to change. This brings a different atmosphere to farm as we reflect on all our hard work through the summer and also enjoy some Alasa Apples thanks to our partnership with **Cherry Lawn Fruit Farm!**



Pictured Above: Alasa Apples



In **October** we hosted a series of Halloween related events throughout the month. Starting with **Legends of Alasa Farms** trail ride. 50 riders and their horses in costume, experienced the legend and lore of Alasa Farms along our 10 mile trail system. **Fright Night at the Farm** conjured scary spirits in the woods to frighten participants along their journey. Although rain dampened the evening, it did not dampen our spirits. Our evening **Psychic** kept participants engaged with her insights. **Trick or Treat** with the animals gave kids the opportunity to walk through our



“haunted barns” and receive candy from our gruesome volunteers.

Screams, laughs and sugar rushes were had as we spent the month telling scary stories, spooking people in the forest and eating too much candy!

Going...

Going...

Gone!

8th Annual Art Auction



Our art auction was a huge success this year! Thanks to all those artist who donated beautiful art work and to those who participated in the bidding. We raised close to \$2,000 for the care of our animals.

Christmas with the Animals

A heartfelt thank you from all the animals at Cracker Box Palace for the many presents we received for this campaign. We are humbled by your generosity.

IN THE COMMUNITY

In **February** Cracker Box Palace participated in **Animal Week at the Rochester Museum & Science Center.**

This event allowed us to showcase our farm animals with kids who do not have the opportunity to experience animals outside the city. Volunteers and staff Barb DeRoo, [pictured left] Sara Buys, Tammy Stauffer, and Katrina Buys [pictured right] along with our animal ambassadors; goats- Izzy and Peanut Butter, rabbits- Buttercup and Bobinsky, and chickens- Rosalinda and Evie interacted with children to help them learn about farm animals and farm life.





FEBRUARY—TAILS, TALES, TRAILS

Our 2nd Annual Tails, Tales and Trails was a huge success. Local yacht clubs rendezvoused at Cracker Box Palace to visit our animals, hear stories of the farm and enjoy our trail system. It was beautiful weather for a February afternoon for people to utilize our trail system for hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. We even had the pleasure of experiencing a pair of skijoring dogs that were excited to get out on the trails!

Upcoming Events — Please visit our website for details

- ◆ Annual Great Easter Egg Hunt — April 9th *Starts Promptly at Noon!
- ◆ Volunteer Appreciation — May 7th
- ◆ Day of Caring — May 19th
- ◆ Blessing of the Farm — May 21st
- ◆ Unveiling of the Historical Marker Ceremony — May 21st
- ◆ Celebrating National Trail Day — June 4th

Earth Day Celebrations

Want to do something nice for the earth but stay close to home?

On **Sunday, April 24th (1-3 PM)** join partners Climate Solutions Accelerator, Cracker Box Palace, Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, and Genesee Land Trust for an afternoon volunteer event at historic Alasa Farms on Sodus Bay.

Volunteers will be working on projects including invasive plant removal, trail maintenance, and more. All ages and abilities are welcome. Please wear long pants, sturdy footwear that can get wet, and bring work gloves if you have them. Extra work gloves and tools will be available to volunteers.

On **June 4th**, we are celebrating World Environment Day and National Trails day! Volunteers of Cracker Box Palace join together to clean up our trail system to provide safe, outdoor recreation to our community.

Join us for both events as we give back to help our earth and fulfill our mission to “utilize sound conservation and agricultural practices by engagement and education of the community.”

[Visit our Trails Page at crackerboxpalace.org to learn more about our trails and events!](http://crackerboxpalace.org)

HISTORIC

Celebrating almost 200 years of Alasa Farm History

HISTORIC COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS

Harrison VanDeWalle grew up overlooking Alasa Farms from VanDeWalle Fruit Farm, a neighbor to our property. Harrison developed an affinity for the farm due to its picturesque landscape and the rich history of agriculture that has spanned over hundreds of years. His interests in Alasa history and knowledge of agriculture have made him an asset to the farm and our historic committee.

Initially, Cody Frank was drawn to the farm through his love of animals and history. After becoming an Alasa Farm resident, his passions for historic preservation and curating grew even stronger. When the historic committee was formed, Cody eagerly became involved.

Archeology, exploring, curating and photography are shared passions of Cody and Harrison. Their curiosities in exploring the farmstead have brought interesting new artifacts and unearthed archives from centuries of history. These artifacts help tell the story of Alasa Farms and assist the committee in developing the timeline and story of the farm.

Harrison and Cody are working together, utilizing technology, to preserve and develop historic archives, curate artifacts, and create stories that helped shape the area. They are industrious in carefully choosing and thoughtfully organizing digitized archives that bring a modern approach to our historic document preservation. These efforts will allow greater accessibility to anyone who is curious about this history of Alasa Farms.



Cody Frank and Harrison VanDeWalle

FROM THE ARCHIVES



About 200 years ago, the first house was built on the “Shaker Tract Farm” in the 1800’s. The Shaker Dwelling House, which is also known as the Main House or First House is one of three remaining buildings from the Shaker period.

Because of the rich history and historic architecture, we were granted a New York State Historical Marker through the **William G. Pomeroy Foundation** to proudly display in the front of the Main House.

We will be hosting a dedication ceremony and unveiling of the marker on **May 21st from 10:30am to 12pm**. We invite you to attend and learn more about our history and future historic endeavors at Historic Alasa Farms.

The Landmark Society annually publishes a **Five to Revive** list that calls attention to five properties in Western New York that are in need of investment. Whether buildings, landscapes, or structures, they are significant historic aspects of our shared built environment whose redevelopment can become catalytic projects for the neighborhoods and communities that surround them.

We are excited and honored that Alasa Farms has been named 2021’s Five to Revive through the Landmark Society! This recognition comes as we focus our attention saving the Main House. The house is in need of a permanent roof structure due to a fire in 2010. This would be the first step to stabilization of the structure. The importance of this project has also been recognized by the **William G. Pomeroy Foundation and The Klos Fund** through the **Vitality Grant**, which granted us gifts for the Main House roof project. We appreciate our grantors for making it possible to get started on the stabilization and redevelop of this important historical icon on Alasa Farms. Our forward momentum is made possible by our steadfast historic committee and their efforts.

Derek Poole, Historic Committee Chair

Receives “Five to Revive” award on behalf of CBP



RESTORE, RENOVATE AND REVAMP

Highlighting Our Facilities Committee's Efforts

The bunkhouse is our hub for meetings and our administration offices. During this past year several volunteers have given the interior a fresh face lift. Showcased here are the refinished meeting room table and chairs. These were meticulously restored by Jack Pulsifer. Every Friday Jack would bring her grand-daughter, Noelle, to volunteer at the farm for animal care as part of her homeschool recreation. Over the course of a few months, Jack not only finished the tables and chairs, but also managed to paint the two bathrooms and refinish a countertop. Jack loves to do crafty things and has a booth at Sodus Needs and Feeds Artist Co-op.

Other contributors to the interior transformation are David Chamberlain and Janet Halasinski who installed new wainscot in the meeting room and assisted with painting walls and ceilings along with Sara Buys. Thanks to this collaborative effort, the meeting space and offices are a welcoming place to meet and work.



Master Gardeners Wanted!!

Volunteers with green thumbs are invited to join our Garden Club! Our grounds can be an oasis to those that find solace in nature and feel that dirt is healthy for the skin and soul.



TRAILS AND CONSERVATION

Utilizing Sound Conservation Practices

One of our 2022 initiatives is Forest Revitalization. January, February and March have been our target months to start the removal process for invasive species. Thanks to trail committee members, Cody Frank, Sara Buys and Mike Cliffl, we were able to work along second creek and red trail removing multi-flora rose, grapevines, and brambleberries, to name a few. We are excited to continue our hard work through the spring with our partners Genesee Land Trust and Trail Works!



Winter Trail Recreation

Our trails are perfect for enjoying the outdoors in the winter. This year, many people have taken advantage of our 10 mile trail system to cross country ski and snowshoe. Mark DeCracker, from Trailworks shared this about his experience:

"I have been back to ski three times since Wednesday! You have a gold mine here. The terrain is perfect for a ski center and the views are stunning. I love the trails at Cracker Box Palace—they are like Wayne County's Adirondacks." - Mark DeCracker



Cracker Box Palace at Historic Alasa Farms
6420 Shaker Rd, North Rose, NY 14516
Mailing: P.O. Box 174 Alton, NY 14433

Non Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Mailed From Wolcott, NY 14590
Permit No. 8

Newsletter published quarterly by Cracker Box Palace, est. 2000.
NYS Tax ID#223956 EIN 16-1600471 NYS Charities Reg 40-91-90



Pictured: *Jeremy the Turkey*

Newsletter

Volume 22– Issue 1 Spring 2022

For more information visit our new web site at www.crackerboxpalace.org, Facebook and Instagram [@Crackerboxpalace11](https://www.instagram.com/Crackerboxpalace11), or Twitter [@Crackerbpalace](https://twitter.com/Crackerbpalace).

Visit the farm– Daily 9am-3:30pm , Office hours– Tuesday through Saturday 10am-3pm

Grab a self-guided tour map at the barns and visit the farm at your leisure anytime during the week!

To schedule a guided tour, visit our Plan a Visit page on our website.

When visiting our trails, sign in at our kiosk at the Welcome Center or download Strava or All Trails App and connect with Cracker Box Palace.

Horseback riders, call ahead for parking availability.

For adoptions, visit our Admission and Adoption page on our website for more information.

For admissions, please contact the farm's office at (315) 483-2493 or contact us at info@crackerboxpalace.org .

If you have an animal emergency, call 911, LART or your Veterinarian.

Board Members:

Hank Stuart — Vice President

Jeff Apfel — Treasurer

Janet Halasinski — Secretary

Randy Bond

Andrew Muldoon



Pictured: *Cylus one of our resident goats*

