Sands Ring Homestead Museum

Sands Ring News

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Special points of interest:

- Eagle Scout Service Projects benefit Museum
- New website
- Summer Colonial Workshops for Children
- Grant received
- Winter Damage
- Thanks to our members and volunteers
- Membership Application

Sands Ring

Homestead Museum

P.O. Box 226

Cornwall, NY 12518

845-534-4829

sandsringfriends@yahoo.com

www.sandsring.org

Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum is a non-profit organization organized exclusively for educational purposes under Section 501 c(3).

Scouts' Work Aids Sands Ring Homestead Museum

Last fall, Matthew Sweet and Denis O'Keeffe began their Eagle Scout Service-Projects at Sands Ring Homestead Museum. This spring their projects were finally completed. It's not easy working on an old house. They had to contend with burst pipes, raccoon alerts, and freezing temperatures.

Matthew and his crew of scouts installed a walkway leading from our driveway to our side door and to our front porch. The pavers compliment our brick pathway that was previously installed by another Eagle Scout.

For Matthew measuring, digging, and installing the pathway wasn't enough, so he painted the downstairs office, too.

Denis concentrated his efforts on patching and painting the Meeting Room, the upstairs kitchen, and the upstairs office. He meticulously patched the cracks and painted the floor, the walls, the cabinets, and the trim. In addition, he and his crew removed old carpeting from the upstairs rooms.

The Board of Trustees sincerely appreciates all of the hard work these scouts put in over the last few months. Both Matthew and Dennis far exceeded the Board's expectations. We'd also like to thank Mr. Ron Jurain, Scout Leader for Troop 118, the boys' families, friends, and scouts, who helped make these projects so successful.

Our Wish List

The Homestead has stood strong over the years. But as a 249 year old building, its needs are many.

- New boiler
- New chimney liner and hearth repair in the Meeting Room
- Reinforcing the back wall of the Old Kitchen fireplace
- Modern bathroom that is handicapped accessible
- Glass display cabinets for the upstairs exhibit room
- Renovations in the upstairs kitchen and bathroom to include flooring, counters, and sink
- New roof

www.sandsring.org

We have entered the 21st century! We have a website! Thanks to the hard work of our web developer Robin Hastey of RLH Websites along with the efforts of our website committee, we now have a virtual home.

On our website, you can find out more about Sands Ring Homestead Museum; learn about our upcoming events; view our program and workshop offerings; read our Newsletter; become a member, renew your membership, or make a donation; and much more.

Visit us at

www.sandsring.org

We're on Facebook, too!

Check us out, join our ever-growing number of fans

Summer Colonial Workshop for Kids

This summer Sands Ring Homestead Museum will be offering two workshops for children ages 9-12. These workshops, held in our living history museum will focus on everyday colonial life. Kids will participate in various activities just as children did over 200 years ago.

Workshop I: In the Keeping Room

Children will learn about and participate in open hearth cooking, brew herbal tea, make dried apple snacks, churn butter, learn about the uses of herbs, make pot pourri, create a corn-husk family, play colonial hoop games, and tour the museum. This workshop will be offered; July 6-9, and again August 10-13, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Workshop II: From Fleece to Fabric

Children will explore the textile process. They'll spin wool, dye yarn with natural dyes, weave on various types of looms, learn cross-stitch, play colonial games, and tour the museum. This workshop will be offered July 13-16, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The cost for each workshop is:

$110 for non-members

$100 for members of Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum

Space is limited. Sign up soon! Provide your child with this unique experience this summer.

More information and registration forms are available on our website.

www.sandsring.org

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that over 500 students have participated in our Colonial Learning and Activity Programs during the 2008 - 2009 school year.

Thanks to our Trustees and Friends:

Margaret and Doug Vatter for a table and file cabinets

Marge and Paul Krupa for a desk

Gail Parrinello, owner of the Cornwall Yarn Shop, for yarn

Floranne Moulton for candles

Thanks to our Volunteers!

Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum is very grateful for the support and assistance of our volunteers. As our season begins this spring, we will need volunteer assistance in many areas. These include hosting Open Houses, preparing supplies for our colonial education programs, and administrative assistance.

If you're on our current list of volunteers, Thank you! We will be contacting you.

If you would like to volunteer, call us at 845-534-4829 or e-mail us at sandsringfriends@yahoo.com.

We have a lot of ideas for the upcoming year and we'd love to have your help!

Difficult Winter at the Homestead
Boiler Breakdowns, Broken Pipes, and Raccoon Damage

This winter wasn't kind to Sands Ring Homestead Museum. Throughout the season, our boiler showed its age and broke down several times. Due to the building's lack of insulation, the pipes freeze and break quickly. The first couple of times the water proved to be mostly a nuisance with minor loss and damage. But the last time the boiler broke down, a large amount of water caused the ceiling to collapse and it damaged everything in its path. Neither our 1919 Homestead picture, nor our office furnishings were spared. This happened soon after the Building and Grounds crew discovered a raccoon had decided to "winter" in the Homestead. While there, she caused all sorts of damage including tearing apart an antique cloth doll. It appears she was collecting nesting material. Luckily, she was caught and relocated elsewhere.

The Board of Trustees wishes to thank Supervisor Kevin Quigley, Linda Marasco, and the Building and Grounds crew for their support and assistance during the winter of 2009.

FRIENDS OF SANDS RING HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

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Sands Ring Homestead is one of the oldest Dutch colonial houses still standing in the Hudson Valley. The Homestead is open to the community during our seasonal Open Houses and during other events held throughout the year. Since the early 1970's students have participated in the living history programs at Sands Ring Homestead Museum.

Our Mission:

To foster an understanding of the colonial period by sharing stories of the Sands and Ring Families showing how one family lived and prospered in the Hudson Valley.

To provide hands-on-workshops in an historical 1760 homestead using original artifacts and reproductions to illustrate life in colonial America.

Board of Trustees

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Upcoming Events

May 16 Open House 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Collaboration with the Greater Cornwall Art Walk

July 4 Open House 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

July 6-9 Colonial Workshop for Kids, *In the Keeping Room*

July 13-16 Colonial Workshop for Kids, *From Fleece to Fabric*

August 10-13 Colonial Workshop for Kids, *In the Keeping Room*

September 26 Open House 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participate in various colonial activities

Strategic Planning Grant Received

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the receipt of a GET SET grant of $3000 to retain the help of a museum specialist. Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum secured the services of Ms. Molly Penn to assist in developing a strategic plan for the Sands Ring Homestead Museum. The GET SET grant, from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, is administered by the Upstate History Alliance.

Ms. Penn has over 20 years experience in the nonprofit sector and has been consulting for over 9 years in the areas or strategic planning, organizational development, and fundraising. She holds a M.B.A. in Management from Fordham University and an M.F.A. in Arts Management from Columbia University. Molly's approach is to work with the planning team members to devise and administer a market study, analyze the results, and create the strategies for the museum's future based on the findings. Creating a strategic plan is the next step in supporting the mission of Friends of Sands Ring Homestead Museum. It will help meet the goal of generating new audiences for the museum, its community events, and educational programs.

Our Mini Wish List includes: desk lamp, wood tables (both small and medium-sized), bookcases

If you wish to donate any of these items, call us at 534-4829 or e-mail us at

sandsringfriends@yahoo.com