



Patten Lumbermen's Museum
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Lumbermans Museum

2018 - News from The Patten Lumbermen's Museum - 2019

As another season approaches us at the Patten Lumbermen's Museum, our first order of business is to express sincere gratitude to our friends and families for the volunteer support, the financial support, and the belief in our mission statement of preservation and education. Many volunteers work quietly behind the scenes, tending to the Museum buildings, exhibits, and grounds. Some work on planning fundraising events, coordinating the "who and how" to make events happen seamlessly. Some put their muscles into action digging bean holes, cutting firewood, and moving machines and equipment into place. Some elicited members of their families to help with unexpected last minute tasks during events. Even with our amazing volunteers, however, the day-to-day operations of the Museum could not be accomplished without the financial support of the friends and families who faithfully renew memberships and donate funds. Funds are also gained through Museum admission fees and our annual fundraising events. As with any business, the Museum carries expenses such as staff, insurance, maintenance, heat, and lights (just to name a few) while also maintaining our operating budget, which is directly impacted by our income, and building our endowment fund for the future. The Patten Lumbermen's Museum continues to thrive because we put all of our financial backing to optimal use.

Events Roundup:

The 2017 Fiddlers and Fiddlehead Fest, recognizing National Fiddle Day, once again provided great fun and entertainment! Musicians, crafters, non-profit groups, food vendors, and demonstrations were well received by a crowd of more than 300 friends and their families. The 2018 Festival will be held May 19 and will feature many repeat performances such as Gus LaCasse, along with newcomers "Muddy March Ramblers."

The Museum hosted the Patten Academy Alumni Dinner in July, 2017 with attendees arriving from throughout the United States. Alumni presented Patten Academy Scholarships to 5 graduating students from Katahdin high School. We will once again welcome Patten Academy Alumni for their dinner and reunion on June 30, 2018 4:00-7:00

Saturday, July 7, 2018: Founders Day- A musical presentation by "From Away Downeast" performing traditional songs of the woods, rivers and sea 2:00-4:00



The **Bean Hole Bean Dinner** was held Saturday August 12, 2017 and saw more than 600 guests enjoying hearty plates of bean hole beans, reflector oven biscuits, Maine's famous red hot dogs, coleslaw, and locally baked gingerbread, all washed down by "river drivers" coffee. The day's festivities also included music, crafts, and wagon rides, which were enjoyed by children and adults alike! Always held on the second Saturday in August, the 2018 bean dinner will be held on August 11 with Patten Days.

Northern Maine Quilt Trail

Have you seen the "Sawtooth" quilt block that's now is a focal point on the Equipment Shed? Most people associate quilt blocks (also called "quilt squares") with lovely patterns of cloth that are sewn together to make warm, colorful covers for beds, but quilt blocks can also be made of wood and found adorning barns and buildings on a much larger scale. The Museum's quilt block is part of the Northern Maine Quilt Barn Trail, a project organized and carried out by the "Friends and Needles Quilt Guild" of Houlton. The collection of quilt blocks throughout the country is an effort to honor the women who worked in logging camps, on farms, and in the home. The "sawtooth" block represents the sawmill history that is so significant to our region.



Tugboat Kennebec

Coming to the Museum in the spring of 2018! Built in 1956, *Kennebec* spent most of her life in the logging industry, towing enormous floating fields of logs from Wyman Lake in western Maine to coastal mills. *Kennebec* worked for twenty years, until the final historic log drive in 1976. During her career, she was known to tow two acres of logs (nearly the size of one and a half football fields!) at a time. After being formally retired from Lake Wyman duty, *Kennebec* continued to work in the logging industry, this time towing barges loaded with logs to Rockland. Years later, the Maine Maritime Academy in Castine took note of the 40-foot tug and put her to work in their training program. In 2003, she began a brief stint as a recreational vessel, but she is now ready to retire from life in the water. She is currently out of the water at Journey's End Marina in Rockland, awaiting her transport north to her new life as a historic display at the Patten Lumbermen's Museum. Additional information on *Kennebec* can be obtained in the book, "The Kennebec Wilderness Awakens," by Mary R. Calvert, or on the DVD, "The Last Log Drive down the Kennebec," by Northeast Historic Film available at the Patten Lumbermen's Museum Gift Shop.



Museum Buildings

With the Equipment Shed exhibit space nearing completion, we are now looking forward to working on other buildings, some of which are in desperate need of repair or replacement. While the 1820 Camp, Double Camp, and Blacksmith Shop should remain rustic and authentic to their times, other buildings need to be updated to provide protected space for exhibits. The East Shed (which holds the gas Lombard, 1932 Caterpillar tractor, water cart, etc.) and the West Shed (which holds the horse-drawn equipment) currently do not provide adequate protection for the equipment inside them and have therefore become the focus of the Board of Directors. Because these buildings were built directly on the ground in the 1960's, the Board is considering replacement rather than repair. Both sheds' dirt floors will be replaced with concrete foundations, while the open-air walls will be replaced by fully-enclosed spaces to both protect the exhibits from the elements and enhance the visitor experience. Additional upgrades will include brighter, energy-efficient lighting and windows to provide more natural light. The Board is currently reviewing building plans and estimated costs, and we will begin fundraising through a "capital campaign" effort, guided by outside expertise, later this year.



Lombard Log Hauler: Our steam-powered Lombard Log Hauler, one of only 83 manufactured, was moved to a new home in 2017; it is now preserved in its own shelter across the road from the main Museum campus. It is protected from the winter snow by removable plexiglass walls, which will give summertime visitors full access. As situated, much attention and understanding has been given to this awe-inspiring invention and the role played in logging history.

The Museum was honored to receive this portrait of the St. Croix River Drive by artist Foss Henry Longfellow, which was donated by Stephen Pine and family in loving memory of Milton and June Pine. Milton Pine is featured in the artwork in the lower right corner. Many of the Pine relatives currently reside in the Patten area.



The Patten Lumbermen's Museum has so very much history to share; please consider renewing your membership or making a donation with the enclosed form to reflect your belief in our mission of preserve the lumbering and logging history of the Katahdin region and the ability to safeguard and grow our collection into the future. Thank you!