

# IN New Hampshire

APRIL 2020

Your Guide to What's Happening in the Granite State



*Photo courtesy of Squam  
Lakes Natural Science Center*

*Photo courtesy of  
NH Renaissance Faire*

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# Be ready for bears this spring: use electric fencing

## Bring in Birdfeeders and Protect Poultry with Electric Fencing

Concord, NH – The Granite State's black bears will soon be emerging from their winter dens and be actively searching for any available food sources. While there is an abundance of hard mast crops such as acorns that remain from last fall, bears will also be easily enticed by a wide variety of human-generated food sources.

Because of the early spring-like conditions, officials are asking the New Hampshire public to be both proactive and responsible by taking down bird feeders no later than April 1 in the North Country, and immediately in central and southern parts of the state.

Backyard farmers should protect poultry, livestock, and bees with electric fencing, and be sure to remember fencing needs when picking up your chicks this spring. Additionally, residents can help prevent attracting bears by securing dumpsters and garbage cans, and storing grills, pet food, and animal feed indoors. The easiest way to solve a bear-human conflict is to prevent it in the first place. Please do your part to help protect New Hampshire's bears!

"Due to the mild winter and abundance of fall foods such as acorns, bears have been more active in some areas during this past winter," said Andrew Timmins, Bear Project Leader for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. "This is not particularly uncommon and a sure sign that bears will likely become active during March. This year's mild winter has resulted in a request for the public to suspend the bird-feeding season two weeks earlier than normal."

Building good bear-human relationships is far more successful when people are preemptive, and it is easier to avoid a conflict than resolve



one. "Bears have an extremely acute sense of smell, long memories, and high intelligence," said Timmins. "We really need the help of residents this spring to prevent emerging bears from returning to locations where they have been previously successful in finding backyard food sources. It is harmful for bears to become conditioned to forage around homes and in residential areas because they will lose some of their natural aversion to humans. Bears are much better off in the wild relying on natural food sources."

Reports of bear activity and sightings are already beginning in the southern regions of New Hampshire. By taking action now, you can prevent attracting a hungry bear to your home this spring. Do not wait for a bear to discover the bird feeder, accessible garbage, or other residential food attractant and then respond.

Despite continued pleas asking homeowners not to feed birds during the non-winter months, bird feeders typically are the direct cause of 25% of annual bear-human encounters. There is abundant food for birds in the spring and summer, so consider a bird bath or flowering plants that attract birds instead. In

addition to bird feeders, other attractants include unprotected chickens and other poultry (23%) and unsecured garbage cans/dumpsters (38%).

"If the public would be willing to address these three common attractants, we could quickly reduce annual bear-human encounters by more than 80%, which would be tremendous," said Timmins.

### Help build respectful relationships with bears:

Stop feeding wild birds by April 1 or at the onset of spring-like weather conditions, whichever comes

first since conditions fluctuate throughout the state.

Clean up any spilled birdseed and dispose of it in a secured trash container.

Secure all garbage in airtight containers inside a garage or adequate storage area, and put garbage out on the morning of pickup, not the night before. If using a dumpster, inform your dumpster company that you need a dumpster with metal locking tops and doors that are inaccessible to bears and other wildlife.

Never put meat scraps in your compost pile. Don't leave pet food dishes outside overnight.

Clean and store outdoor grills after each use.

Never deliberately feed bears. You will be encouraging these animals to rely on human-related foods which will affect their wild behavior and reduce their chance of survival.

If you have questions regarding bear-related issues, you can get advice by calling a toll-free number coordinated jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department: 1-888-749-2327 (1-888-SHY-BEAR).

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 246 West Main St.,  
 Hillsborough, NH 03244  
 Phone: 603-464-3388  
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## NHBM announces unique, hands-on summer programs in 2020

This summer, New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) will offer a half-dozen programs for kids of all ages.

According to NHBM Executive Director Martha Cummings, the opportunity for kids and youth to experience the water will not be restricted to just New Hampshire's lakes.

"We are thrilled to offer youth the chance to try sailing the ocean on a big sailboat and get to explore some of the islands off of Penobscot Bay in Maine," she said.

Offered free of charge, the Penobscot Sailing Trip is made possible by "a generous donor" who has long advocated for and enjoyed boating culture. "There is an application process, so we encourage young sailors to apply now," said Cummings. "We are so thankful for this opportunity."

In addition to this trip, NHBM will offer everything from Adult & Family Boat Building, Youth Boat Building and Model Yacht Building Workshop to Lake Discovery Camp.

In Community Sailing, held in partnership with Wolfeboro Parks and Recreation, youth (9 to 15) can learn to how to sail.

"Kids can essentially age through our programs," explained Cummings, who said NHBM summer programs have expanded in recent years. "We don't want to just talk about the water. We want kids and all ages to experience it."

Registration for most of these programs is now open, while those interested in the Penobscot Sailing Trip are encouraged to apply now.

Founded in 1992 by antique and classic boating enthusiasts, NHBM is committed to inspire people of all ages with an understanding of, and appreciation for, the boating heritage of New Hampshire's fresh waterways.

To register for NHBM summer programs, apply for the Penobscot Sailing Trip, or inquire about scholarships and/or financial assistance, visit [nhbm.org](http://nhbm.org).



STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM  
PORTSMOUTH, NH

# BABY ANIMALS



**EVENT CANCELLED**  
See their story on page 5

## HERITAGE BREEDS AT THE BANKE

APRIL 25 – MAY 3, 2020

For tickets and information,  
visit [StrawberryBanke.org](http://StrawberryBanke.org)

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  - Learn about milking
  - Feed the animals
- Create a fiber craft take-home gift

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\$25 per child (must be accompanied by a responsible adult, at no additional cost.)

Tickets: [StrawberryBanke.org](http://StrawberryBanke.org)



14 Hancock Street  
Portsmouth NH 03801  
[StrawberryBanke.org](http://StrawberryBanke.org)

# New Hampshire Renaissance Faire May 9, 10, 16 & 17

*In light of the current global events regarding the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, and the ever-growing public concern, the folks at The Three Maples Renaissance Corporation and The New Hampshire Renaissance Faire would like to communicate with you, their loyal friends, family, and supporters. Currently they are planning on holding this wonderful event, but they are monitoring the situation closely and will make adjustments as needed when they get updates from the state and federal authorities. Please check thier Facebook page for updates.*

## New Hampshire Renaissance Faire Introducing NHRF Theme Days!

Not sure what to wear when you come to faire? Should you dress up as nobility, a wizard, a warrior, or perhaps a traveler from the future?! Let us help you a little!

- May 9th: Celtic Day
- May 10th: Wizard and Fae Day
- May 16th: Pirates and Barbarians day. Time to play dirty!
- May 17th: Myths and Legends Day

Interested in helping at the faire? Check out our Volunteer page!

The NH Renaissance Faire is a family friendly, educational, visual, theatrical and fantastical event held in gorgeous, (and central), Fremont, NH. From historical knights to fantastical fairies, NHRF brings together education and fun for the whole family. Our merchants are mainly local artisans with an emphasis on hand made items including costumes, jewelry, pottery, herbals, weaponry, and more. Some will even demonstrate their craft live for your enjoyment.

NH Ren Faire's mission is to help our neighbors in need. We are able to donate to charity because of the dedication and help of all the faire volunteers, performers and participants who give of their time and talents as well as the patrons who attend and show their support!



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16th Annual

## New Hampshire Renaissance Faire



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[www.NHRenFaire.com](http://www.NHRenFaire.com)

# A message from Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth, NH

Dear Friends:

The enduring message of Strawberry Banke is that community matters, and that the museum exists to tell the story of 300 years of community.

We write to you today, watching the coronavirus march across the globe, to let you know that the museum is taking active steps to prepare. The museum staff and Trustees will continue to monitor and follow the guidance of the CDC, the NH Department of Health and Human Services and Portsmouth's Health Officer.

Because of that responsibility, we have agreed on the following actions:

The museum is currently closed to the public, as is usual in March, preparing for the 2020 summer season. Staff remain on the job, some in the office and others working remotely from home. All-staff training, originally scheduled for April 16 & 17 is being postponed until May; and internal regular staff meetings are suspended until further notice. For the time being, the May 1 opening day for the regular season will take place as scheduled, with the museum offering guided tours to visitors.

The museum is in close conversation with school groups from Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts regarding their planned visits. Field trips will continue to take place as scheduled, at the discretion of the school. However, the museum and the schools are monitoring the situation and we anticipate there will



be cancellations but leave that for the schools to decide.

The Hearth Cooking Program on Saturday, March 14 WILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED due to the small (8 people) size of the group.

All other scheduled workshops and meetings are CANCELLED as of March 15, 2020.

Unfortunately, we are also compelled to CANCEL this year's Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds on the Banke and the Children's Breakfasts originally scheduled for April 25 through May 3. This is an important event for us, as it has traditionally kicked off the season; but out of an abundance of caution and concern for the children, parents and grandparents who attend, the farmers from all over New England -- as well as the baby animals -- we must make this difficult decision now.

Through more than three centuries of war, disease, strife and disruption to their daily lives, the families who lived in the houses at Puddle Dock ultimately supported each other. They looked out for their neighbors. They visited across back fences and around kitchen tables. They shared the news.

It's true that the world has not faced a crisis quite like this in our lifetimes. But at Strawberry Banke the evidence stands that whatever comes to this neighborhood, it is resilient.

Be safe. Be healthy. We look forward to seeing you at Strawberry Banke again, soon.

If you have any questions, please give either of us a call.

Sincerely yours,  
Lawrence J. Yerdon  
President & CEO  
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Zach Slater  
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