

# Seasons at the Farm



## Preservation Association

### News from the farm:

The Taylor-Bray Farm was originally settled in 1639. The farm property is owned by the Town of Yarmouth. The grounds are open daily, year-round, dawn to dusk. The farm offers picnic tables, short woodland walking trails, and beautiful views of Black Flats marsh, which was once harvested for its salt marsh hay to feed the farm animals. Farm buildings are not open to the public, but local publications feature announcements of seasonal farm events.

The Association, which maintains the Taylor-Bray Farm for historic preservation and conservation purposes, was founded in 2001 and is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

2022-2023 TBFA officers  
President - Marty Murphy  
Treasurer - Bob Clark  
Clerk - Ralph Grant

TBFA COMMITTEES  
Buildings  
Education  
Events  
Grounds and Livestock  
Nominating  
Publications  
Website

Fall/Winter 2023  
TAYLOR-BRAY FARM  
108 BRAY FARM ROAD NORTH  
YARMOUTH PORT, MA 02675  
[www.taylorbrayfarm.org](http://www.taylorbrayfarm.org)

This year we had a successful Sheep Festival despite the weather not being the best. We earned just over \$12,000. That would not have been possible without all our dedicated Volunteers, Sponsors, Donors, and Festival grants. We thank you for your hard work and look forward to your help in the future.

The Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday October 7, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There is a rain date scheduled for October 8th if needed. We are looking for volunteers for the following positions: Parking Assistants, Sale of Merchandise. Food Sales, Pumpkin Sales, (many of them grown at the farm), Old fashioned kids' games, Face painting, Hayrides and Farmhouse tours.

The Holiday Festival will be held on December 2nd and 3rd, 2023. Volunteers are needed the week before to make wreaths and swags for the festival. Christmas trees, wreaths and swags will be available for purchase along with baked goods. We could use donated baked goods for both days. If you make baked goods, be sure to include the ingredients for those people who have allergies. We will need volunteers to open the house, help with food items, take care of sales, and help with Hayrides. Let's hope for sunny days!

The second phase of the Barn renovation is out for bid. This phase of the renovation will include new windows, doors, siding, trim, electrical and finished office area with a bathroom and kitchen. We hope to have the building finished by the summer.

The Association will hold its annual meeting on 11/14/2023. Participation will be done through Zoom and at the barn. The meeting will begin at 07:00 PM. We are including a proxy form in this mailing for those members who will not be able to attend the meeting by Zoom or in person. An invitation will be emailed to current members with a copy of the link for the meeting. If you are not going to participate in the Zoom meeting then it is important for you to fill out the proxy and return it to TBFA P.O. Box 66, Yarmouth Port MA 02675. Those of you who have checked and signed authorization on your membership form to receive annual meeting and proxy via e-mail may file your proxy electronically rather than using the mailed form.

I would like to thank Cape Abilities and Petersons Market for their donations of fruit and vegetables. The donations are given daily to Chloe and the chickens to supplement their diets.

We are still receiving memberships renewals from members. If you know anyone who has not renewed their membership, please encourage them to do so. All our funds go directly to the care of the animals, maintaining the equipment and outbuildings. We are proud of the fact that we do not have any paid employees at the farm. All the work at the farm is done by our generous volunteers.

Marty Murphy  
President, TBFA

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# Seasonal Birding on the Farm:



Life on a farm is a living illustration of seasonal changes. Those that live in and around a farm, both domesticated and wild, tell a story about the passing of the days through their presence and behavior. The geography of Cape Cod provides an excellent location for avian migrants, whether they thrive by staying here for a few months or stopping by for a few days to fuel up while on migration. We are fortunate to have endless opportunities to observe and admire several bird species on the grounds of Taylor-Bray Farm. Here, and all over the Cape, the avian stars of the show are the Ospreys. They arrive around St. Patrick's Day and they leave us sometime typically in September, to migrate to warmer climates for ample food supply. They have been known to perch on fisherman's ships to rest at sea during those long coastal migrations that can take some to Florida, but others, as far south as Cuba and Venezuela. We get to see them, hear them, admire their grace and marvel at them raising their chicks on platforms and rooftops. They are so chill with a certain amount of human proximity! It seems an insult to not notice what they do and where they are. In summer on Cape Cod, if you're near the water, you are near Ospreys. It's just the deal. What a warm weather treat for us! Pro tip – if you have a sunroof on your car, KNOW where the roadside Osprey nest platforms are and act accordingly! I am always sad to see them go. I will also miss the feeling of needing to dodge the Barn Swallow aerial acrobatics in and around the farm buildings. They are fun to watch and listen to, and they are so fun to photograph! The lovely song and orange and black flash of the Baltimore Oriole fades as the days become shorter as well.

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Birding in chillier months is equally entertaining though. Common Eiders can be seen on the marsh and I always am quite pleased to spot my first Brant of the fall in October or November. Before you know it, American Robins will be flocking all over the field, a behavior they typically do not display during mating season. The Blue Jays will continue to make their familiar calls and songs along with their corvid cousins. There is a large family of American Crows who live on the farm property, though I have also observed Fish Crows there too, but they don't seem to stick around. Naturally, bird nerds, like myself, get excited when spotting a life bird – a species they've never seen before. We can't help it, it's just a moment. All bird sightings are a gift though, because they give you moments or minutes that keep you present. That's good for anyone. There will always be bird species around the farm, year-round. They are an excellent barometer for a supportive ecosystem. The birds know healthy habitats when they've found one, because they thrive. Taylor-Bray Farm in Yarmouth Port is a local treasure for the residents, the migrants, and the native wildlife. What birds are your favorite each season at the farm?!

Gretchen Moran Towers  
Cape Cod Bird Nerd  
capecodbirdnerd@gmail.com

## Ewe won our hearts! ❤️

The Spring kicked off lambing season for our first-time mothers at TBF and we had two lambs born the last weekend in April. "Olive" our single birth, was immediately accepted and cared for by her mom. However, with "Sweet Pea" that was not the case. She was born at 4.5 lbs. and would require quite a bit of additional help to ensure her survival. Our wonderful group of farm volunteers made formula, signed up for round-the-clock bottle feedings, provided cuddle and exercise time and bonded with our little bundle of fluff. As the weather warmed up and Sweet Pea was a little over a month old, she was moved into the barn with the rest of the sheep. She continued her bottle feedings, raced and hopped around the pasture, learned to graze on grass and supplement with grain.. all with the help of her surrogate "moms and dads". In late August, she reached 40lbs and was weaned off her milk replacer just about the same time Olive stopped nursing. They have both become more independent. Grazing and playing with each other and finding their place in the flock. Sweet Pea, however, is very bonded to people. Many days you will still find her following one of us around, enjoying a nice brush down, working one of us over for an extra treat, or crying for some time outside the sheep pen for her daily "meet and greets". She has truly won over the hearts of our volunteers and visitors alike. We will be saying goodbye to Olive and Sweet Pea in mid-September. They will be cared for and enjoyed by our farm friends at Coonamesett Farm in East Falmouth!



## 2023 Samuel Taylor Open House Tours

After a few years of inactivity due to Covid, the Samuel Taylor House is now open for tours. Tours began in March this year with a steadfast group of five volunteers and TBFPA support. For the upcoming tours, check out the Taylor-Bray Farm Website @ [www.taylorbrayfarm.org](http://www.taylorbrayfarm.org) and please consider joining our group. There are usually three docents for each tour with background information on each part of the house for you to follow. Docents choose from the scheduled dates. You'll find this a positive and rewarding volunteer experience! For more information on becoming a TBFPA docent, please contact Betsy Grant at [betsygrant63@gmail.com](mailto:betsygrant63@gmail.com)

### Remaining Tour Dates for 2023

September 17	1-3pm
October 7	11-3 pm
November 19	1-3 pm
December 2 & 3	11-3 pm

## 2024 Calendars

Our 2024 calendars will be available at our Holiday Open House December 2 & 3. Photos from many of our Volunteers and Visitors are included. They make great holiday gifts!!  
Price continues to be \$15 and all profits go to the farm.  
Copies can also be ordered and mailed on request with shipping cost added.  
Call or text (774)251-1869 to order.

### TBF Website

Check out the colorful and informative website for Taylor-Bray Farm. Learn more about farm history, our animals, the archeology program, events, volunteer opportunities and more!!

[www.taylorbrayfarm.org](http://www.taylorbrayfarm.org)

# Save the Date for our Fall and Holiday Festivals!!

Join us on **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** and **3<sup>rd</sup>** from **10am-4pm** as we celebrate the holiday season!! There will be hayrides, sales of Christmas trees, wreaths, centerpieces and of course our ever-popular baked goods and crafts!!



## Farmhouse Open House

Sunday, September 17	1-3pm
Saturday, October 7	11-3pm
Sunday, November 19	1-3pm
Saturday, December 2	11-3 pm
Sunday, December 3	11-3 pm



DATE: Saturday, October 7, 2023  
 TIME: 10am - 4pm  
 RAINDATE: Sunday, October 8, 2023

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Hay wagon rides, Olde time games, Face painting, Free raffle for a giant pumpkin (kids only) and Guess how many candy corn in the jar and win the jar

**FARMHOUSE:** The Farmhouse will be open for tours including an archaeology display

**SALES:** Painted pumpkins, Pumpkins including our own farm grown, Calendars, Hats, T-shirts and Activity Books

**REFRESHMENTS:** Hotdogs, Apple Cider, Apple Cider Donut Holes, Candy Corn and Rice Krispie Treats

*Come join us for an old fashioned fun-filled day on this unique 384 year old historic farm.*

Visit with all our animals, including the Miniature donkeys "Nester and Sam", Nubian goats "George and Henry", our Highland cow "Chloe", "Caraway" the Ram, our sheep "Jasper" the rooster and our many hens!!

Suggested Parking Donation: \$5.00

All Proceeds and donations go towards feeding and maintaining of the animals and maintenance of the grounds, educational programs and outbuildings.

Please **NO DOGS** on the day of the festival!! Thank You!

Sponsored in part by the Town of Yarmouth's Tourism Revenue Preservation Fund



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