



*Hall-Dale High School Senior Prom in the Garden Pavilion*

# connecting to place

nature . history . arts

FALL 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF VAUGHAN WOODS & HISTORIC HOMESTEAD



WE WERE TOGETHER. I FORGET THE REST.

-WALT WHITMAN

## Reunited . . .

*Coming Together In New Ways & Old at VWHH*

“May your celebration be as bright as the morning sun as it comes over the eastern hills of Chelsea; its course run as smoothly as our beloved Kennebec in the sunshine of summertime; its music, as sweet and melodious as the music of the ‘Cascade’ in the Vaughan brook . . .” So wrote Gorham D. Gilman to the “Hallowell Reunion” of 1899 for which a reception was held at Vaughan Homestead for some two hundred “sons and daughters of old Hallowell.” The guests returned to their “Mother Town” from far and wide, wrote historian Emma Huntington Nason, and “like happy children, wandered under the oaks and pines, lingered on the rustic bridges that span the stream, or sat upon the broad veranda, while at their feet, the beloved Kennebec, unchanged and

unchangeable, rolled on to the sea . . . and [they] forgot time and distance, and all else.”

A similar air of “reunion” and a feeling of deep joy in being together amidst the beauty of nature was palpable throughout 2021 at almost all of the small outdoor gatherings held on the grounds of the Homestead. After a year of isolation in 2020, it was not surprising that, come spring, people were looking to get together outdoors. From the Hall-Dale High School Senior Prom to the Gaslight Theater’s Production of “On the Air,” and all of the many meetings, rehearsals, teas, and garden tours in between, it was a delight to see the community come together in both new ways and old to utilize the outdoor resources surrounding the Homestead, perhaps more than ever before.

It is these happy memories that will carry us through the long winter. As the indoor season approaches, we urge all of you to continue to be safe, to take advantage of the outdoors as much as possible, and to take care of one another!

# Annual Report - 2021

## Programs & Exhibits

Senior College Virtual House Tour  
Senior College Garden & Grounds Tour  
Senior College Lecture on State Seal  
Senior College Historic Architecture House Visit  
August Garden Tours for the Public  
Bicentennial State Seal Contest Exhibit at Hubbard Library  
Bicentennial Historic Fashion Exhibit at Hubbard Library

## Community Service

UMaine Augusta Freshmen Orientation Service Project  
Hall-Dale 7th Grade Day of Caring  
Summit Utilities Staff Service Day

## Facility Use

Hall-Dale Senior Prom  
Gaslight Theatre Rehearsals & Performances  
Plein Air Painters in garden  
Misc. Community groups for meetings  
Granite Symposium artists stayed at Old Vaughan School/VWHH Annex Building

## Lands & Buildings Improvements

Garden paths & house-drive-around resurfaced for safety  
Chicken coop pergola yard added  
Relocation of vegetable gardens  
Sunhouse gazebo leveled and painted  
Plaster repairs to Music Room ceiling and walls

## Projects

Apple & Pear Harvest / Cider pressing  
Portrait Restoration - Joseph & Mary Priestly  
Establishment of Archives Research Room



*Gaslight Theatre in the Garden Pavilion*



*VWHH Archives Research Room*



*2021 Hall-Dale Senior Prom Ticket will be officially catalogued into the VWHH historic document archive*



# From The Field

*Science at VWHH*

## Brown Tail Moth Research

The University of Maine conducted a pilot study this summer at 12 sites to collect data on the use of experimental brown tail moth pheromone traps. Vaughan Homestead served as one of those test sites. The study is set to be expanded to more sites across the state next year.

## Water Quality Monitoring

This summer members of the Hallowell Conservation Commission began a preliminary project to begin collecting water quality information on Vaughan Brook. After being trained to use the equipment by the Volunteer River Monitoring Program, they began collecting data, such as dissolved oxygen levels, at 6-8 sites throughout the watershed. The information gets entered into a state-wide database. In 2020, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection identified Vaughan Brook as “threatened” on its list of Non-point Source Priority Watersheds. Collecting this data is critical in understanding how we might better care for our beloved Brook! The Commission’s hope is to target the best sites for next year’s monitoring efforts.

## Forest Plots - A.P. Environmental Science

*By Jeff Cleavland, Hall-Dale HS Science Teacher*

At the end of every summer when school begins, you can find about 18 Hall Dale juniors and seniors out in Vaughn Woods. Each group of three students is surrounded by a circle of small fluorescent flags which mark the boundary of a 1/10 acre FIG plot. A “Forest Inventory Growth (FIG)” plot is a standard technique used by Maine Foresters to measure tree growth and forest biodiversity and to catalog the overall health of a forest. Students measure the diameter of each tree (larger than 5”) and identify each species. They then catalog seven different indicators of forest health. This data is taken back to the classroom to be analyzed, then each student writes a lab report for their 1st quarter project.

For their second quarter, students write a Forest Stewardship Plan.

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*University of Maine graduate student Sadia Crosby demonstrates brown tail moth traps to VWHH Property Manager Dan Mitchell in the field uphill from the Homestead*



*Volunteers are trained on water quality equipment*



*Hall-Dale students measure tree diameter*





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for 50 acres of land in Maine. Traditionally, this is a plan foresters write for a landowner that helps guide them towards good forestry practices, generate income and achieve their desired goals for their property. Students each “get” 50 acres and act as both landowner and forester as they envision personal goals for their property. They then write a Stewardship Plan which considers both the forest and habitat preservation.

The final half of the year students do projects on mining and fossil fuels as well as agriculture and farming. For these two units, students design a small dwelling and create an edible landscape.



## Appreciation

Thank you Hall-Dale Middle School seventh grade class Day of Caring, the University of Maine Steven's Commons freshmen and the crew from Summit Utilities for their service work at the Homestead and in the Woods this fall!



**Vaughan Woods &  
Historic Homestead**

**2 Litchfield Road, Hallowell, ME | [vaughanhomestead.org](http://vaughanhomestead.org)**