



*The Rufus Porter Museum™ and
Cultural Heritage Center*
67 North High Street - PO Box 544
Bridgton, Maine 04009
207-647-2828



NEWSLETTER - SPRING, 2009

2009 EXHIBIT

The Rufus Porter Museum will open for its fifth season on June 24 featuring an exhibit of over 50 original works of art by self-taught New England artist Tasha Tudor (1915-2008). Although Tasha illustrated over 100 books, she is as well known for her lifestyle, having raised her children on a New Hampshire farm with no electricity or running water. She incorporated her c.1830 era home into her art, and has inspired fans worldwide to follow their own dreams for a simple, fulfilling life.

Her career began in 1938 with "Pumpkin Moonshine," a small book for children, and continued into the 21st century. Generations of children have enjoyed her delightful illustrations filled with humor and imagination. Books, videos, prints, cards and collectibles will be offered for sale in the house adjoining the Museum.

STEPHEN & TABITHA KING FOUNDATION GRANT

As the result of a grant request, the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation has awarded the Museum \$5,000 for new equipment and exhibit show cases to improve the appearance and protection of artwork and books on display.

This is a milestone for the Museum in its efforts to provide increasing opportunities for the public to experience and witness the sweep and depth of regional material culture available through our multi-faceted collections and programs. We are grateful for this support.

MEMBERS ONLY RECEPTION - JUNE 24

Please plan to join us on Wednesday, June 24th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM for our second annual Members Only reception. This is a wonderful opportunity to view this year's Tasha Tudor Exhibit. As parking is limited, overflow vehicles are welcome to park at the town hall lot close by.



Photo Copyright Richard Brown

HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR - JULY 12TH

Eight historic buildings are included in this tour and all promise to delight and educate. Each was built before 1880 and has its own story. From ghosts to murals, well-known authors to silkworms, organ pipes lined with tin to a "temperance" barn, the guide book has the stories.

Tickets are \$25 per person and include admission to the Artisans & Craftsmen Show at Narramissic. Tickets are available at the Museum from June 24th to July 11 or on the day of the tour at the Bridgton Town Hall on North High St (Route 302).

On the day of the tour, you will find 3 white tents set up in the driveway of the Town Hall. One will be labeled CASH & CHECKS, the 2nd, CREDIT CARDS and the 3rd, PRE-PURCHASED TICKETS. As the Town Hall has a U-shaped driveway, this should be an easy drive-through experience. Tour houses are open 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM. You must have a guide book to enter the houses on tour.

For those of you who would like to "host" or "hostess" one of the homes on the tour for a 3-hour shift, you will receive one ticket for the tour. Please call Nancy - 647-2828 to sign up.

CULTURAL HERITAGE SERIES

Our increasingly popular week-long series will begin on July 7 in 2009, with an offering of 30 classes. A newly designed catalog was mailed in January - if you need a copy, just give us a call. A list of the 2009 classes is on the back page.

We heartily thank our local restaurants, shops and hotels for underwriting the cost of the catalog.

Our Keynote Speaker this year will be Deborah M. Child, a Portsmouth, NH art historian and Museum consultant. She will present "The Other Side of the Easel: Rufus Porter and his New England Sitters" on Wednesday, July 8th (7 PM) at the Magic Lantern Theatre. The focus of her presentation will be Rufus Porter's early years from 1815 to the 1830's - the time period that Porter traveled about New England creating miniature portraits and silhouettes.

Our opening reception is the same evening from 6-7 PM at the Tannery Pub within the Magic Lantern. We hope you will join us for complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

VOLUNTEER DOCENTS NEEDED

The response has been wonderful from our docents to our letter and questionnaire seeking their return for another season volunteering at the Museum. We provide training and ask for only two 3-hour shifts a month. Our heaviest need will be late August through closing in October.

The Museum is very grateful for the ongoing support from our docents, as we could not continue without them. Particularly with the economic downturn which has so affected cultural institutions, our need for volunteers has become greater than ever.

If you would like to join our docent program, please call Bob Boggs at 207-647-2828.

SUMMER INTERNS

We are pleased to announce that the Leonard C. and Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation has provided the RPM with a grant underwriting the Summer Internship Program for 2009. This support is vital to us in our efforts to provide an educational experience for students entering the Museum field. We welcome our 2009 Interns for a ten-week program from June 15 through August 22.



Miranda Peters is a 2007 graduate of the University of North Carolina with a degree in History. A Dean's List student, she was also nominated for a Prime-time Emmy for her role in the History Channel program on the War of 1812. She has led and developed educational programs for school groups, adults, teachers and special needs visitors. She will bring strengths in writing and computer skills to our summer program, and has been a Rufus Porter fan since before her college days. Miranda will begin her master's program this August at the Bard Graduate Center for Decorative Arts in New York City. Her thesis on the transformations of table equipage between 1810-1850 has been published and she has presented her paper to several Museum groups.

Anne Rutherford graduated in 2008 from Salem College in North Carolina with a degree in Historic Preservation and 19th Century American history, and is a Salem Honors Scholar. Previous internships with the Winston-Salem Planning Board and the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, plus being president of the Campus Activities Board and her Equestrian Team Captain, have helped her hone unique skills. Anne



has begun studies for a Certificate in Museum Studies in North Carolina.

We look forward to having Miranda and Anne with us, and know you will all enjoy meeting and working with these talented ladies.

BOB BOGGS, EDUCATION DIRECTOR



As programs offered by the Museum have expanded, we are pleased to announce that Bob Boggs has joined the staff this winter as our first Education Director. This position has been funded by grants from the Leonard C. and Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation and Carl M. Lindberg

Family Foundation. His primary responsibilities will include creating curriculum materials for local schools designed to teach the contributions of Rufus Porter to the artistic, industrial and scientific worlds during the 19th century. He will train our docents, oversee our summer intern program, plan their projects, help create new exhibits on display and plan enrichment programs for children and adults.

Bob is a South Bridgton resident who retired in 2008 from the Gray-New Gloucester school system after teaching history for over 30 years. He created a Shaker Studies course, and was a docent at the Sabbathday Lake Museum for over 20 years as well as on the Friends of the Shakers Board of Directors. Bob earned a Master's Degree in New England Studies in 1990 from the University of Southern Maine, and we are fortunate to have his talents available to us. His wife, Sally, is a teacher in the Bridgton school system.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

We welcome Deborah Fitts, a long time docent with the Museum, to the RPM Board of Directors. Deb has an extensive background of working in the non-profit sector. She was the Executive Director of the Senior Center in Kennebunk and also Development Director for People Plus in Brunswick. We know Deb will be a positive asset and addition to our Board.



Our Board members are Carolyn Stanhope, President; Beth Cossey, Vice President; Laurel Cebra, Secretary; Steve Munger, Treasurer; and Herb Moulton. This hard working group deserves thanks for the year round effort it takes to support and establish this new Museum.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

Membership Level:

Individual (\$45) _____ Sustaining (\$600) _____ Gold Leaf (\$5000) _____
Family (\$60) _____ Bronze Leaf (\$1200) _____
Supporting (\$300) _____ Silver Leaf (\$3000) _____

Make checks payable to THE RUFUS PORTER MUSEUM, PO Box 544, Bridgton, ME 04009

MasterCard _____ Visa _____

Card # _____ Exp Date _____ CVV # _____

Signature _____

Cardholder's name (printed as it appears on the card) _____

The Rufus Porter Museum is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our membership year is July 1 - June 30.

MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS: Our new membership year begins on July 1. Your invitations will soon be in the mail. As the Rufus Porter Museum is facing the same loss of revenue this year as all cultural institutions, we are counting on as much support from our members as possible. Every dollar we receive goes directly to our programs. We are trying to increase our other revenues through fundraisers, store sales and grants, but our members provide us with a major portion of our income.

MURAL DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM

When the Museum opened in 2005, we had no thought of how important we would become in documenting and preserving Rufus Porter School murals in New England. With the visibility our web site provided, we began to field questions immediately from homeowners about their murals. This led to a page on our website with recommendations for care and preservation and finally to our new program in 2008 on the Documentation of Wall Murals throughout New England.

We are encouraging all homeowners to register their walls with us. Part of the registration for the walls is updated photos and condition reports through a form which can be downloaded from the website, rufusportermuseum.org. Over ten murals have already been documented by our newly appointed Advisory Committee, Jane Radcliffe and Linda Lefko, who designed the forms and preservation suggestions. In return, we will provide each registered home with a certificate authenticating the walls as being from the School of Rufus Porter. We hope this program will give future generations more information on these historic artistic works, and give more public visibility to their importance.

Jane Radcliffe is an independent Museum consultant, and when formerly with the Maine State Museum documented the majority of known murals in Maine. Linda Lefko is an artist, restorer and student of Rufus Porter for over 20 years, who has seen and documented hundreds of murals in New England.

All submitted information will be available to researchers in our Museum during the open season.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Carolyn Stanhope

Greetings to all our members and friends of the Rufus Porter Museum. I can hardly wait for our season to get underway. We have so many new and exciting things to look forward to. Our staff has changed and grown considerably. Julie Lindberg has become the Acting Director of the Museum and continues her curatorial responsibilities. Nancy Smoak has arranged an outstanding Cultural Heritage Series and Historic House Tour, and continues to monitor all the financial aspects of the Museum. We look forward to working with Bob Boggs, who will train our docents, and work with our two new summer interns, Miranda Peters and Anne Rutherford.



We will have a fantastic Tasha Tudor exhibit with an expanded gift shop. We have a new DVD available on the Life and Work of Rufus Porter produced by Bill Severance and Lakes Region Television.

“Curious Arts” written by Rufus Porter in 1826 will be made available in soft cover and our new trademark has been finalized. Even though we are a seasonal Museum, lots of groundwork has been laid to insure our success in 2009.

We appreciate the hard work of all our supporters. Your time, money and talents have been, and continue to be, gratefully received.



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CULTURAL HERITAGE SERIES

Here is a list of classes to be offered:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Length</u>
<i>Tuesday, July 7, 2009</i>	
Rufus Porter Murals Lecture	½ day
Floor Cloths, Beginning	3-½ days
Tin Smithing	2 day
Vinegar Grain Painting	1 day
Chair Caning	1 day
Waddle Fence Building	1 day
Fly Tying	½ day
Creating Rufus Porter Paints	½ day
<i>Wednesday, July 8, 2009</i>	
Rufus Porter Mural Painting	3 days - Full
Stroke Painting on Tin	2 days
Stencil Cutting	½ day
Genealogy, Census & Deeds	1 day
Barns of Western Maine	½ day
Dry Stack Stone Walls	1 day
Soap Making	½ day
<i>Thursday, July 9, 2009</i>	
Bronze Powder Stenciling	1 day
Antique Furniture Restoration	½ day
Boat Houses of Highland Lake	½ day
Floor Cloths, Advanced	1½ days
Maine Narrow Gauge RR	½ day
Making Fresh Milk Cheese	½ day

Friday, July 10, 2009

Bride's Box - Folk Painting	2 days
E. American Brush Stroke Wall Painting	1 day
Penny Rugs	½ day
Rug Hooking	1 ½ day
Historic Plaster Repair	1 day

Saturday, July 11, 2009

Theorem Painting	½ day
Gourd Art	½ day
Researching Your Old House	½ day

New this year, Museum members receive a discount on classes.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 18 or 25	10 AM - 12 noon Docent Training
June 24	Museum opens for the summer 5 PM - 7 PM Members Only Reception
July 7-11	Cultural Heritage Series Classes
July 8	CHS Opening Reception & Keynote
July 12	Historic Home & Garden Tour

MUSEUM HOURS

June 24 - Labor Day, Wed-Sat, 12-5pm (last entrance 4pm)
Labor Day - Oct 11, Fri & Sat, 12-5pm (last entrance 4pm)

ANNEX - WALES & HAMBLÉN

Same days as Museum, 1-4pm