

# The Bullard Memorial Farm Association Newsletter



7 Bullard Lane  
Holliston, MA 01746  
Since 1658



We are living in such surreal times these days. I hope this issue of the BMFA newsletter finds you all healthy and safe, and that you continue to be.

The purpose of sending this issue now is to try to bring a little joy to your day in these trying times, with coverage of fall and winter events that occurred since the last issue, as well as some photos of the Farm through the years. A special shout out to Chip Thurlow for providing several pieces of content for this issue.

As of publication of this newsletter, a decision whether to hold the June meeting has not yet been made, as things are in a state of flux. The Board hopes to make a decision by early May.

As always, I am looking for content to share, so please send me photos, stories, anecdotes, etc., you'd like see in future issues: (Jennifer MacDonald at [jhmac59@gmail.com](mailto:jhmac59@gmail.com) or [cemacd@maine.rr.com](mailto:cemacd@maine.rr.com)). Thanks so much, and please, please stay well.

## A Message From BMFA President, Jay McFarland

Whenever I think about reaching out to the BMFA membership, I feel compelled to try and think of something meaningful and centered around family and community. Well, it is now April, 2020, and we find ourselves in the midst of an unprecedented time in history that will, no doubt, be talked about for decades to come.

That said, I've had to shift my message a bit. I wish I had something wise to share that would make you all feel better about the world and your place in it, or perhaps something that inspires you to take on a new and heroic role in the crisis that surrounds us. But, I think the best I can do is to reiterate how important it is for all of us to do our part in keeping COVID-19 from spreading by staying home, and to echo what seems to be the prevailing message across humanity: **We are all in this together.**

My deepest hope is that all of you, and those closest to you, have been able to stay healthy and safe, and that you have found creative ways to grow, connect, and evolve.

Thank you so very much to those who donate and give their time and energy to keep our beloved farm going for all of us to enjoy now and for years to come! I am confident that by making the BMFA a bigger part of your life going forward, you will get so much more in return. Spread the word. 😊

## Fall Farm Cleanup—11/2/19

*Submitted by Chip Thurlow*

The work crew did an amazing job removing a 70' tall dead pine tree in the yard next to Central Street. Volunteers also cleared brush and brambles on both sides of the stone wall lining Central Street. Some rebuilding of the wall was attempted with renewed respect for original farmers who built those iconic structures lining farm fields and property lines! George brought his own tractor with his brush hog to mulch the cutup debris. Skip manned the wood chipper attached to the BMFA tractor to grind up the pine tree branches.

The crew removing the pine tree was led by George Fiske and John Hathaway. John is an arborist and we followed his instructions for all necessary safety protocols. The photos show the preparation work, the felling of the tree, and the mulching of the branches with the farm tractor and wood chipper.

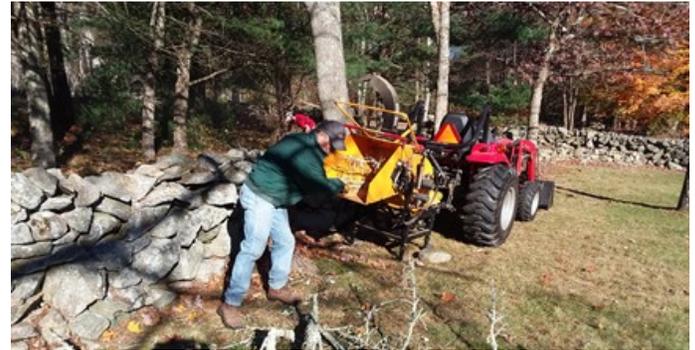
The hard-working volunteers were: George Fiske, John Hathaway, Skip Spurway, Jay McFarland, (Suzanne was in the house working on Artifacts and Collections Committee tasks), Phil, Melissa and Peter Audier, Joe Kingsbury, Peg Emslie and Chip Thurlow, with Steve Deal our Farm Caretaker. Megan and the newest resident of the Bullard Memorial Farm, the not-quite-three month old Emrys Deal, visited the workers to approve the work being completed.



**70' Dead Pine Tree**



**Tree trimmed for mulching**



**Skip operating the wood chipper**

## Fall & Winter Program/Event Recaps

### **Living with Coyotes: The Most Misunderstood and Remarkable Animal in North America**

— Presented by John Maguranis, Project Coyote, 11/7/19

*Summary submitted by Chip Thurlow*



Topics covered in John Maguranis's presentation were: natural behavior; identification; myths and facts; great photography; habits; pet and human safety; diet, origin, and history.

The Eastern Coyote (John pronounced it with a silent "e" on the end) migrated from the western United States, due to human intolerance and predation, as they were seen as a threat to cattle, horses and other livestock. Other species seen as threats are bears and mountain lions.

The Eastern Coyote is genetically a combination of other species: Western Coyote - 60%; Wolf - 30% and Dog - 10%. They are slightly bigger than the Red Fox. Coyotes do not weigh more than 35 pounds, as compared to wolves



**John ready to cut**



**Timber!!!!**

that can weigh over 60 pounds. Coyotes can run up to 45 miles per hour and are now seen as an apex predator on the east coast, greater than the fox. [Editor's note: an Apex predator is a species of animal on the top of their food chain with no natural predators within its ecosystem preying upon healthy, adult individuals of that species. Humans are only direct threat to them. Other apex predators are Orcas, polar bears, and African lions.] The females are the enforcer of the pack. The last wolf in the east coast was killed over 180 years ago, primarily by humans who saw the wolf as a threat to humans and their livestock and pets, which allowed coyotes to thrive.

Coyotes can be identified by their pointy ears, yellow eyes, and long tails that hang down. They have a creamy white patch of fur on their chin and throat. Their fur can be various colors.



Coyotes can be tracked by scat and their paw print is oval with two pointed toes. Usually their back foot falls into the front footprint. Their

direction is usually straight and purposeful.

Coyotes will eat just about anything: rabbits, rodents, fish, frogs, woodchucks, birds, berries, deer and even your unsupervised pets. Also insects, snakes, fruit and grass. About 75% of their diet are rodents.



They can eat alone or in groups. They can even climb trees to eat fruit!

Coyotes are prone to a variety of diseases such as mange, distemper and rabies. Just like all mammals, they can be infested with lice, mites, fleas and ticks. They also can contract intestinal parasites such as round worms, tape worms, heart worms and whipworms. **If you find an ill coyote, do not take it to a vet, but contact your local animal control officer.**



Coyotes pair for life and the pups are cared for by both parents. Coyotes breed only once yearly, compared to dogs that can breed twice a year.

Coyotes mate in January and February, and the pups are born in April and May. A typical litter size is five pups. The pups usually leave the den at 6-8

weeks and disperse during November and December. Pup morbidity is between 50% to 70% and a coyote's life span is about 4-5 years. Coyote dens are usually located on hills to take advantage of thermal updrafts, which carry the smell of predators and prey, and to have a visual advantage over both groups.

Coyotes are easy to scare away, and hazing is the preferred response. If you encounter a coyote, first observe it to determine its condition and health. If the coyote appears ill, **contact animal control**. If it appears healthy and is observing you, walk slowly toward it in a calm and determined manner. This shows dominance, which they understand and will respect. **DO NOT WAVE ARMS OR BRANDISH POTS AND PANS.** Continue to walk slowly toward them until they run away.



Coyotes are territorially aggressive. They see dogs as a threat to their territory, so dog owners should supervise their dogs in areas where coyotes are present.

They hunt both day and night. Again, coyotes are afraid of humans and will avoid us whenever possible. **Attacks on people are rare unless they have been trained by people to providing a source of food. DO NOT FEED COYOTES!!!** There have been 12 reported coyote bites of humans in the past 65 years and four of those coyotes had rabies.

Because of state and federal laws, wildlife cannot be relocated to new territory. As a result, about 400,000 coyotes are killed each year by federal, state and local government officials.

**About John Maguranis:** John served as a United States Army veterinary technician for more than 20 years, caring for a wide range of animals from bald eagles to bison. Upon retiring from the Army, and following his love of animals, John became an Animal Control Officer in Belmont, MA, where he has been able to put his veterinary skills to work for wildlife. John quickly recognized the unfair press regarding coyotes and started a campaign to educate the community about why coyotes matter ecologically and why they deserve respect and appreciation.

John has since provided over 150 public and private presentations about living with coyotes, empowering communities and Animal Control Officers (ACOs) with the tools, informa-

tion , and resources they need to coexist with coyotes. John's love for the environment, wildlife, and ecology has driven him to become a strong advocate for America's Song Dog and conservation issues.



**Project Coyote** is a national non-profit organization promoting coexistence between people and wildlife through education advocacy and technology.



**The National Animal Care and Control Association** is committed to setting the standard of professionalism in animal welfare and public safety through training, networking and advocacy.

## Holiday Centerpiece Workshop December 12, 2019



24 people participated in the fifth annual Holiday Centerpiece Workshop on December 12, 2019—the largest group yet, despite the cold weather! Once again led by Bev Carney, participants, including Durinda Wood's college roommate (small world stuff!), created lovely ever-



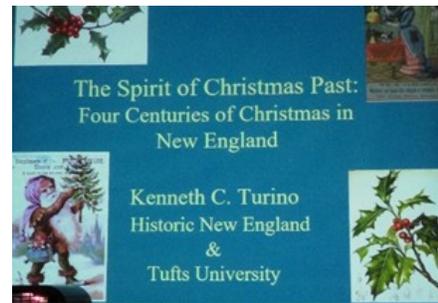
green centerpieces for their holiday tables. As Tara Hathaway, Program Director for the BMFA, stated, "Everyone had a fun time in the barn creating the masterpieces, and the

snow started just as we wrapped up. And, it was really nice to have the new building for bathrooms, kitchen, and heat!"



## The Spirit of Christmas Past: Four Centuries of Christmas in New England with Kenneth Turino

Submitted by Chip Thurlow



On Thursday, December 12, 2019, Ken Turino presented "The Spirit of Christmas Past: Four Centuries of Christmas in New England" in the main room of the Bullard Memoria Farmhouse. Ken treated guests to a wonderful, comprehensive summary of New England Christmas traditions as they evolved over time.

**Puritan Traditions:** The Puritans avoided celebrating; in fact, it was forbidden, as it was not respectful to Christian values. The Bible did not mention a celebration for the birth of Christ. The Roman Saturnalia was a winter solstice celebration that predates Christmas by many centuries and spread throughout Europe. When the Roman Empire converted to Christianity it became the basis for a Christian celebration on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Puritans viewed the Catholic Church Christmas holiday celebrations as excessive. Reveling was believed to be offensive. In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts ruled that "observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labor, feasting, or any other way" would result in a five-shilling fine, as doing so was deemed by the Puritans to be a time of seasonal excess. That ruling was repealed by the Massachusetts General Court in 1689.

### The Evolution of Traditions in New England:

Traditions changed after the mid-1700s. The two best celebrated holidays in America became Independence Day on July 4<sup>th</sup> and Washington's Birthday on February 21<sup>st</sup>. In the 1800s, decorating churches, not houses, with greenery became the tradition. The first image of a Christmas tree was displayed in the Winterthur Museum in northern Delaware. Gradually Evergreen trees began to be displayed at church fairs and parks. In 1836, the first printed image of a Christmas tree in America was distributed by a German publisher. The first ever-

green trees—spruces, pines, firs, etc.—were small and placed on tables with various decorations. The first ornaments were homemade. By the 1860s glass ornaments began to be distributed.

**Poems and Stories:** Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" was published in 1843 and was first read at the Parker House in Boston in 1867. In 1859, Harper's Weekly published a Christmas image portraying Santa Claus in a sleigh. Subsequently they published other images of Christmas trees and Christmas celebrations. St. Nicholas was popularized in the 1840s and 1850s. The Santa Claus/St. Nicholas poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" was first published in 1823, reportedly written by Clement C. Moore, although some scholars believe it was written by Henry Livingston, Jr. It became one of the most popular Christmas stories as St. Nicholas/Santa Claus visited children with gifts for good behavior during



the previous year. Kris Kringle became the German variation in Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic States. In the 1880s the tradition began of celebrating Christmas as a non-

working holiday. Previously adults were expected to work on Christmas day.



Images from Harper's Weekly by Winslow Homer and Thomas Nast

**Meal Preparation:** Over the years various main courses were served. Turkey became a tradition in the 1800s, with roasted root vegetables as a side dish, mashed potatoes and gravy. New England featured mainly English meal traditions, with other cultures adding their traditional preferences. The Swedes and Danes came to America favoring whole roasted or stewed cod, while Germans served carp.

**Christmas Cards:**

John C. Horsley printed the first Christmas card in 1843 for his friend, Sir Henry Cole, a wealthy British



businessman, who wanted a card he could proudly send to friends and professional acquaintances to wish them a "Merry Christmas."

Here are some examples American Christmas cards, the first of which were published in Boston in 1851:



**Letters to Santa:** In the 1870s children began to write letters to Santa asking for gifts. The focus was on "naughty or nice" children and whether they would receive gifts or a "lump of coal"!



**Poinsettias:** While Poinsettias are native to Central American countries like Guatemala and Mexico, they were revered in England because of their bright red floral star shaped foliage in late fall. Between 1825 and 1829, Poinsettias were brought to California, and spread across America from there, eventually arriving in the 1870s on the east coast where they became a Christmas tradition, especially in New England.

**Gift Wrapping:** During the Victorian Period (1837-1901), wrapping paper was decorated similarly to the Christmas cards of the era, with flowers, cherubs, and birds among the most popular designs, and were intricately printed then ornamented with lace and ribbon. Decorated boxes, loose bags, and coronets bore cutout illustrations of Father Christmas, robins, angels, and other seasonal decorations.



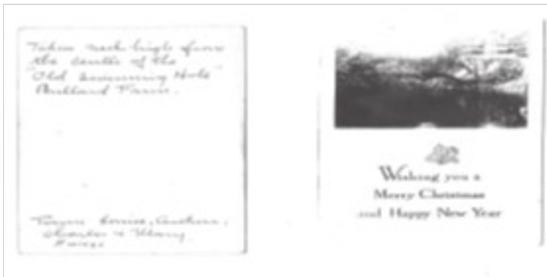
**Transition from Candles to Electric Lights:** In England and Germany during the early 1800s, trees were decorated with wax candles attached to branches. The extreme risk of fire was an obvious concern and was the motivation behind a move toward a safer way to illuminate indoor Christmas trees. Thomas Edison was responsible for displaying electric lights on

a Christmas tree in 1880 from his laboratory compound near a railway, where people in the passing train cars could see it. In 1895, President Grover Cleveland had the White House decorated in lights and, in 1923, Calvin Coolidge lit the first National Christmas tree in Washington D. C. The lighting the Rockefeller Christmas Tree in New York City began in 1931.

**Bullard Memorial Farm Christmas Traditions:**

Bullard Bulletin, April, 1928, Volume II Number 5: Reported by Harriet H. Ellis in about 1870: "At Christmas we always hung stockings by the large fireplace in the Dining Room and happy as larks were we with an orange in the toe of our stocking, a stick of striped candy and some game or a book."

A Christmas card from Louise and Arthur and Charlie and Mary Ewing: "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" with a picture taken neck high from the center of the "old swimming hole" at the Bullard Farm.



Centerpiece by Melissa Audier



Centerpiece by Megan Miller

**About Ken Turino:** Ken has been working and consulting with museum organizations for almost 40 years. Currently he serves as the Manager of Community Partnerships and Resource Development at Historic New England in Boston, MA and is on the faculty at Tufts University. Ken has been consulting with the Bullard Memorial Farm Association since 2008, when the Directors were considering transitioning from a private organization to an IRS approved non-profit.

**Daphne Stevens** sent a few items to share with the membership.

(1) Daphne sent this "small world" story back on September 4, 2019: *The short version is that Brenda, who works for the company that does the landscaping at Lathrop where I live, has a brother who just happens to be the caretaker of BMF! Brenda is the liaison for the residents and the owner here. This morning, I asked her how her vacation was and she said she went to the Cape and Holliston. I said, "I used to live there." She said "Have you heard of the Bullard Memorial Farm?" I said, "That's my family." She said, "What?"; very puzzled. I said, "I am a family member of the farm. Mike and I were farm managers there for 11 years." Well, you know now that her brother, Steve, is the caretaker now. Then I remembered the baby, and asked her if he had been born. She showed me pictures of him at 3 weeks and he is so cute, actually beautiful. Next time I see him he will be 6 weeks. She loves the farm and said they are so happy there.*

(2) And this one, sent last month, is an entry from her journal, written in 1973, just before her 30th birthday, when she and Mike arrived at the Bullard Memorial Farm as caretakers: *June 23: We are here! We are really here! The farm looks lovely. The unpacking of the truck went quickly and, when the others went swimming, I savored the peace, the quiet. I feel my ancestors watching me to see if I can contribute to the farm the way they had in the past. I promised myself to really dig in and help maintain the marvelous legacy for others who will be world weary when they arrive. Everyone should leave here full of peace and with a mental image of serene beauty to carry home until able to return again.*

(3) And, lastly, in honor of spring and Earth Month, Daphne shared this: *The Farm has two certified vernal pools. I just watched this video, sent to me by my friend, Molly Hale. It is fantastic and perfect for educating members who are unable to get into the woods—[the video is a good way to virtually connect to nature!].*

[Enjoy the video by clicking here.](#)

**Visit the BMF website**

[www.bullardmemorialfarm.org](http://www.bullardmemorialfarm.org). Please send Ken Wood any news items, photos, etc., for the website, to: [woodk@norwalkps.org](mailto:woodk@norwalkps.org)

## Farm scenes from yesterday—we need your help!

The top two photos, below, were sent by Durinda Wood. With assistance from Andy Alison, we are able to identify some of the folks in the photo on the left taken, we believe, during Thanksgiving in the late 1920s. If anyone can assist in identifying others in the photo, please let me (Jennifer MacDonald) know.

The other two photos were sent by my brother, Scott Hills, and are from our grandmother Florence Bullard's collection. Thanks to Al and Peter Hood for helping to identify family members in the photo on the right!!



**Bullard Family members, Thanksgiving, late 1920s (photo found among Durinda's grandmother Helen Ellis Rice's belongings). Some names were handwritten on the back of the photo by Helen (question marks next to names indicate uncertainty of to which person she is referring), while others were identified by Durinda and Andy Alison. Here's what we've got — please help, if you can! Back Row: Harriett Ellis 2nd from left, Dr. Edward H. Ellis far right, James Hovey Bullard 2nd from right, Louise Ewing (?). Center row, from far right: John A. Bullard (kneeling), Lucile Bullard (holding baby John A. Bullard), Helen Ellis Rice. Also written in , Willis Kingsbury 3rd right (?), Constance Kingsbury (?), JMK (?), Lucile Bullard . Front row J.E. Rice 2nd from left, Arthur Ewing 4th left. [Editor's note: I'm wondering if the man 5th over from the left is my grandfather, Alvan H. Bullard, holding his son, Alvan, Jr. Can anyone confirm?]**



**Bullards circa ~1889, unknown location, also sent by Durinda. The names are written on the back of the photo. Back row, from left: "Annie Ford, Hattie Ellis, Lizzie Adams, Lizzie's son Henry, Judge Kingsbury, Fanny Kingsbury, Mr. Cass, Katie Cassidy. Children: Willis Kingsbury, Louise and Alice Kingsbury, Helen Ellis, Francis Kingsbury in front, Esther Kingsbury in carriage."**



**Same day as the photo to the right. From left to right: my uncles Alvan and Bob Bullard, my mom, Joanna Bullard, their cousins John and Albert Hood.**



**Farm meeting/picnic, 1930s. Back row, left to right: Arthur Colby, Molly Brooks, my uncles Alvan H. Bullard, Jr. and Robert Bullard, Harold Hood holding son Albert Hood, Mary Elizabeth Brooks, Wilmot Brooks, Clifton Bullard. Front row, left to right: my grandmother Florence Bullard, Priscilla Colby, John Hood, Mary Colby, John Brooks, my grandfather Alvan H. Bullard, Sr. holding my mom Joanna Bullard.**

We will continue to include older photos in future issues of the newsletter, so if you have any you'd like to share, please send them (with names, if possible) to me at [jhmac59@gmail.com](mailto:jhmac59@gmail.com). Thank you!

## Quiet Farm Scenes of Today

*Before the COVID-19 crisis deepened, my husband, Peter, and I spent a lovely weekend at the Farm on February 28-March 1. My brother, Scott, his wife Leslie, their daughter, Lindsay, and their dog, Layla, joined us for dinner on Saturday night, along with two of Peter's siblings who live in Massachusetts. It was so nice to feel that deep connection to our ancestors and legacy during quiet moments at the Farm.*

