

Stow - Info

News of The Stow Historical Society

March 2007



Heritage Landscape--Upper Village Common

Heritage Landscape Show Open to Artists, Photo Buffs At Springfest on May 18-19

Stow area artists and photographers are invited to submit entries in an art show on "The Stow I Love" to be held during Springfest, Stow's annual community celebration, on Saturday, May 19, at 10 a.m. at Stow Town Hall. An evening reception open to the public will precede the show on Friday, May 18, at 7 p.m.

"We want the focus of each entry--paintings or photographs--to be of those special places in our community that we all love--so-called Heritage Landscapes that contribute to the shape of our community character. These landscapes reflect the past and present history of this community and provide a sense of place," says Barbara Sipler, president of the Stow Historical Society. Sponsors of the show will be the Historical Society, Stow Historical Commission and Studio 380 of the Council on Aging.

Heritage landscapes include bridges, buildings, cemeteries, churches, commons, farms, golf courses, houses, mill sites, neighborhoods, scenic roads, stonewalls, village centers, and natural sites such as rivers, lakes and forests. "Many times we pass by these sites without giving them much thought, until we see them from the artist's perspective or through a camera lens," Sipler adds.

Old paintings or photographs from treasured collections of local residents also will be welcomed, and archival works from the Town Vault will be displayed.

Tony Todesco of One Main Street will provide flowers, and Dorothy Sonnichsen, harpist, will play at the reception. Art Show committee members are: Karen Gray, Patti Selin, Phoebe Haberkorn, Karen Green, Lew Halprin, Bob Walrath, Bill Byron, Dorothy MacDonald, Ann and Dick Luxner, Bill Clack, Janet Derby, Nancy Grant, Loretta Sagar, Shirley Grigas, Jody Newman, Linda Peters, Joyce Gray, Elaine Algeo and Daisy Dearborn.

How to enter

1. **Artists** are asked to submit paintings or drawings of Stow scenes in any medium, either matted or framed, with hangers.
2. **Photographers** may submit up to three scenes of Stow as color or black and white prints, preferably 8"x10" or 8"x12" but no larger. No frames or mats.
3. All entries must be identified with the name of the artist or photographer, address, and phone number. Each entry must have a title and identify the location of the subject. Townspeople will be asked to vote for their favorite entries.
4. Entry Deadline: Saturday, May 12, 12:30 to 4 p.m. at Stow Town Hall. For more information: Call Barbara Sipler, 978-897-5996 or Cynthia Durost, 978-263-3959

What is a Heritage Landscape? Why are These Sites Important?

Last year Stow was one of 22 communities selected for a Heritage Landscape Inventory Project, conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Freedom's Way Heritage Association.

At a public meeting last April these questions were answered by state consultants who helped local residents identify heritage sites in Stow--an enthusiastic crowd selected 78 places that make Stow special and shape the character of the town.

In addition, the group identified five priority landscapes that are highly valued and not permanently protected or preserved. These sites are the Assabet River, Gleasondale, Lower Village, Blacksmith Shop, and Lake Boon and Cottage Neighborhoods.

The Stow Reconnaissance Report has been completed by the state, detailing these heritage sites and ways for communities to plan for the preservation of sites threatened by community growth. A copy of the report is on file at Randall Library and the Town Clerk's office or at www.stow-ma.gov.

Flags, Flags, Flags

One of the highlights of the Stow Art Show at Springfest on May 18-19 will be a colorful display of 16 flags tracing the history of this nation. This flag collection has been donated to the Historical Society by Barbara Henley Hill, former leader of Girl Scout Cadette Troop 384 which sewed the flags for the Stow Tercentenary Parade in 1983. The flags were carried in the parade by a mounted patrol.

Members of the troop at that time were: Suzy Siewierski, Liz Crowell, Karen Bernklow, Lindsay Gibson, Lianne Mulcahy, Linda Claire Hill, Jackie Belknap, Claire Sylvia, Chris Woolley, and Joan Ledgard. The Equestrian Team was coached by Bob Billups and Mary Lou McCarthy.

Schools, libraries, parade or town event organizers in Stow or surrounding towns are invited to borrow the flags. Poles for each flag, a display stand, and historical information on each flag also can be borrowed.

Lemon Squares to "Die For"

A recipe for Lemon Squares from Stow's legendary Thistle Farm is one of the features of a new cookbook of heritage recipes published by the Freedom's Way Heritage Association. The delightfully illustrated cookbook includes recipes from the 1600's through the present day, each one from a different town in our area.

Thistle Farm on West Acton Rd. was a bustling little restaurant in the 1960's started by two retired schoolteachers who loved to cook. They named their home Thistle Farm honoring their Scottish ancestors and began serving lunches and teas. They were known especially for their desserts, which were so delicious they were often called immoral. The restaurant operated for several years, and the beautiful house has been in private hands since that time.

The two cooks put together their recipes in a Thistle Farm Recipe Box. The SHS seeks to add one of these boxes to its heirloom collection.

The cookbook, "A Taste of Freedom's Way", may be purchased from Freedom's Way, 100 Sherman Ave., Devens, MA 01434; 978-772-3654; mail@freedomsway.org. Freedom's Way works with 45 cities and towns in this state and New Hampshire to encourage a deeper understanding of the region's unique heritage and to inspire a sense of stewardship in children and adults by promoting cultural sites, open space resources and historical events.