



# On The Veranda

Autumn 2005

News from the Park-McCullough House Association

## Collaboration: The Big Picture

*One of the big challenges facing an organization like Park-McCullough is encouraging the visitors who come to the downtown Bennington area to take advantage of local attractions to also head outside of town and visit other sites.*

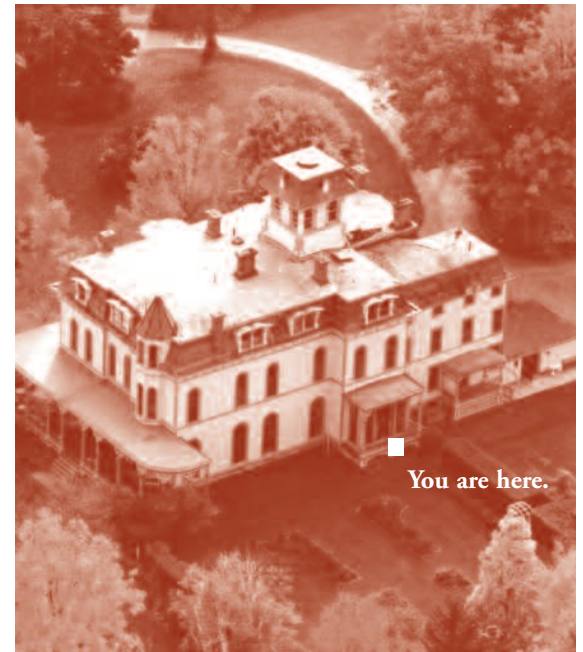
In the past, that has meant placing ads in local and regional media and distributing brochures—an expensive strategy which yields mixed results. In addition, local attractions also run the risk of competing with each other for the time and money of visitors instead of encouraging visits to all of the sites in the Bennington area.

However, things are changing. The directors of area attractions have recognized that there is strength in numbers, and that collaboration in the promotion of all of Bennington's places of interest will encourage tourists to spend more time in the area. For the past few years the Bennington Museum, the Covered Bridge Museum, the Bennington Monument and Park-McCullough have offered discounted admission fees to visitors who bought the joint Bennington Passport ticket. This program has given way to another initiative that promotes the area's covered bridges, while highlighting the Big House and the two museums as nearby destinations.

For many area attractions, bus tours are an important revenue stream. This year Park-McCullough has joined with 16 other attractions and businesses to promote Bennington to bus tour operators. With this promotion, operators will see that they can visit numerous points of interest in close proximity to one another, rather than driving long distances between stops.

To encourage and continue this collaboration, Park-McCullough and the Bennington Museum are planning a joint New Years Eve Party in the Carriage Barn on Saturday, December 31st. The Big House and the Museum have a large, overlapping membership, and this event will underscore the commonality between the two organizations. It will also be an opportunity to celebrate the inauguration of the Carriage Barn as a year-round venue for events.

As part of a move towards regional, perhaps national collaboration, Park-McCullough may develop a stronger relationship with the internationally recog-



nized organization, Historic New England (HNE), formerly Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA). Historic New England currently owns and operates 35 house museums in the other five New England states, but surprisingly has no presence in Vermont. Director Schulte met with HNE Director Carl Nold to discuss the possibility of membership affiliation, whereby membership in one organization would bring certain benefits with the other. Park-McCullough would benefit by being included in HNE publicity, and HNE would gain an affiliation with a facility in a state where they previously had none.

On a very local note, the Noland farm property adjacent to Park-McCullough has been purchased by Bob and Nan Lowary, who plan to open as the "Taraden Bed and Breakfast." Events in our Carriage Barn will draw guests to the area, and the presence of nearby accommodations is a positive development for the Big House. In addition, there is a tentative agreement between the two organizations that involves storage of Park-McCullough's Carriage Collection in one of Taraden's barns during renovations.

This new era of collaboration is necessary step for all area attractions and is one to which Park-McCullough looks forward. Not only will we strengthen our ties with the community, but we will also increase the visibility of the Bennington area and offer an enhanced experience to members and visitors.

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## Thank You

### Many Thanks to...

**Hiland Hall Turner** for donating architectural tubes to properly house Park-McCullough's collection of maps, blueprints, and drawings.

### Marty-Moore Greenhouses

**Bartlett Tree Service** and **Jeromy Gardner**

**Trenor Scott** for the donation of family memorabilia.

**Allen and Randolyn McCullough** for the donation of a pen used by Gov. John G. McCullough to sign his oath of office and a political button used by McCullough for the election.

**Tony and Jackie Marro** for planting over 500 bulbs and for helping with the coordination of work on the grounds and gardens. The long-term goal is to fully restore the gardens to their original state, but in the meantime they are looking quite wonderful.

### NITE AT THE RACES

We apologize for any omissions.

Allen McCullough and Randolyn Zinn

Angus McCullough

Barslet Upholstery

Battenkill Stichery

Blue Benn Diner

Cathy and Bob Brawer

Charles Turner

Clear Brook Farm

Dan and Susan Robbins

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Maurice and Peggy Kahn

Millys Lee

Nancy Coleman and Dick Frantz

Nichols Hall

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Spice N' Nice

Stephen Schmidt

Susanne and Jim Warren

The Equinox Hotel and Resort

The Photographer's Eye

Thyme Tables Catering

Tony and Jackie Marro

Vicky Printz

## Carriage Barn Renovation: It's Happening!

The Carriage Barn renovations, which have been written up in previous newsletters, are currently underway. The underground electric service, supporting all new improvements, was completed during the last two weeks of September and the schedule calls for heating to be in place by December, with all other upgrades, such as cooling, roof repairs, storm windows, and restrooms to be in place by next summer. A New Years Eve party, co-hosted by Park-McCullough and the Bennington Museum, will be the inaugural event for the Carriage Barn. It is anticipated that revenues from rentals will greatly increase when the facility can be used year-round, rather than just 5 months of the year.



## Brick-A-Bracket

### Attendance on the Rise at Park-McCullough

Attendance at cultural and tourist attractions has fallen off across New England over the past several summers, so it is with pride that Park-McCullough can announce that its attendance numbers have defied this trend. In fact, admissions have been up 20% over last year! This is truly an amazing figure and Director Schulte and the staff are to be commended for the hard work that made this happen.

### Victorian Holiday Volunteers

If you would like to be on the committee for PMHA's Victorian Holiday celebrations, please contact Laura at 802-442-5441. Help will be needed for docenting, gift shop, decorating, Victorian Teas, set-up for events, and packing up in January.

### Looking for Wicker

As our members know, the veranda with its comfortable wicker furniture is a popular spot in the summer months. Due to constant use, more wicker is needed to help keep the Veranda in top shape. Please contact Director Matthew Schulte if you can donate some wicker furniture.

### Help the Big House Recycle!

With our increase in special events, especially in the summer months, Park-McCullough is looking for a volunteer to help with recycling cans and bottles. It would require picking up bottles and cans once a week and returning them to the grocery or liquor store. Please let Laura or Mark know if you can help out next season.

### Desperately Seeking Sheets!

As Park-McCullough moves ahead with work in the Collections, especially during the coming season, we are seeking sheets to protect some of the larger pieces of furniture on the third floor. We need clean sheets in any and all shapes and sizes. Please contact Laura at 802-442-5441.

### Have You Contributed?



Did you remember to support Park McCullough with your annual fund contribution? If not, please contact us today!

# Golf Outing: Views From the Links



## New Staff Member



**Mark Sekora**

In October, Mark Sekora was hired full-time as Park-McCullough's Operations Manager. His responsibilities will be to aid in the day-to-day operations of the estate and special events. "I am excited for the opportunity to work with this dedicated staff and to use my abilities to help the organization move swiftly towards its goals," Sekora said. He comes to the Big House after two years as Assistant Director of the Better Bennington Corporation, where he was responsible for volunteer recruitment and special events, such as Mayfest, Midnight Madness, and the Holiday Tree Lighting.

With the increase in rentals of the Carriage Barn, in addition to the responsibility of operating with a liquor license, Mark's experience with operations and event management will be valuable. Welcome Mark!

### ■ Thank You! GOLF OUTING • We apologize for any omissions.

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Crossman, Jr., Doug  
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Frost, Randy  
Gardner, Michael  
Gilbert, Clint

Gourd, Ramsay  
Hammond, Jason  
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Herrington, Todd  
Jurgiewich, Dan  
Keneally, Gerald  
Lyons, John  
Lyons, Tom  
McCullough, Allen  
McGovern, Joe  
Mears, Corey  
Miller, Don  
Minikes, Jon  
Morin, Curt  
Patterson, Barry  
Pepin, David  
Perrott, Tom  
Plunkett, Bob  
Rodger, John  
Rodgers, Todd  
Rusin, Jordan  
Ryan, Kary  
Schulte, Fredric  
Schulte, Matthew  
Seely, Mike  
Shaw, Corey  
Smith, Ron  
Snow, Dave  
Stratt, Kent  
Stuart, Harry  
Tripp, Robin  
Turner, Hiland Hall  
Watherspoon, Ryan (Spoon)

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# Please help us!

## Support our Park-McCullough Annual Fund 2005-2006

Your support makes possible the ongoing revitalization of the house, grounds, and collections. It allows us to expand educational opportunities and programs. Most important, it allows us to continue to grow and serve the community in which we are an integral part.

Gifts to the Annual Fund are separate from membership dues. A portion of your gift may be tax deductible.

Questions on membership, or about including us in your will?  
Please contact us at 802-442-5441.

Please visit [parkmccullough.org](http://parkmccullough.org)

### Gift Levels

___ Governor's Circle	\$5,000
___ Mariposa Circle	\$1,000
___ Mansion Circle	\$500
___ Victorian Group	\$250
___ Veranda Group	\$100
___ Friends \$_____	to \$100

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail your check payable to:

Park-McCullough House Association

1 Park Street, P.O. Box 388,

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We accept MC & VISA! Call 442-5441



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## Upcoming Events

### Volunteer Reception

Thursday, November 10th @3:30pm

### Community Open House

Saturday, December 3rd @  
2-4pm

Santa Arrives from the North Pole! Free open house for the community. See Park-McCullough decorated for the holidays! Bring a camera and take a photo with Santa. Refreshments.

### Victorian Tea

Sunday, December 4th

Victorian Tea with Lizzie McCullough @ 1pm and 3pm (Reservations Recommended) \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members

### Bennington Children's Chorus

Saturday, December 10th  
Bennington Children's Chorus  
@ 2pm

### Victorian Tea

Sunday, December 11th  
Victorian Tea with Lizzie  
McCullough @ 1pm and 3pm  
(Reservations Recommended)  
\$10 for members, \$15 for  
non-members

### Victorian Christmas Tours

Saturday, December 17th  
A Victorian Christmas: Special  
Tours @ 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

### Victorian Tea

Sunday, December 18th  
Victorian Tea with Lizzie  
McCullough @ 1pm and 3pm  
(Reservations Recommended)  
\$10 for members, \$15 for non-  
members

### New Year's Eve Party

Saturday, December 31st  
In Park-McCullough's Carriage  
Barn, in conjunction with the  
Bennington Museum

