

2022 ARCH Annual Meeting Education Committee report

COVID continued to impact ARCH programming during the past year, particularly during the winter months. Our annual holiday open house was reworked into an outdoor Yuletide Bonfire with storytelling and a Yule log ceremony, but unfortunately some popular programs had to be cancelled yet again (the cribbage tournament, Harmon's Snowshoe Rangers). Fortunately our summer and fall living history events were well-attended (the 2021 Colonial Market Fair and Militia Muster was our biggest ever in terms of both participants and visitors), and we have high hopes for a successful season of living history events this year.

Programming for the 2022 season has a special focus on the fiber arts, especially spinning. Throughout the spring, the Wentworth House was the host site for the Granite Web Makers, a team of spinners and knitters competing in the 2022 International Back to Back Wool Challenge, culminating in a day-long sheep to sweater event on June 5. A new exhibit, *Wheels of Industry: New England Spinning Wheels* just opened, along with an associated exhibit of sewing accessories. We are now hosting monthly Spinning Sundays with learn to spin and spin-in sessions which have brought new visitors to the Wentworth House, and will host a pocket workshop on June 19.

Because the garden concert at last year's annual meeting was so well-attended, ARCH decided to host a free monthly garden concert series, which is being generously sponsored by Janco Electronics:

- June 16 – June and the Honey Badgers
- July 14 – French Canadian music with La Madeleine
- Aug 18 – Banjos, Bones and Ballads with Jeff Warner
- Sept 15 – Eric Andrews Jazz Quartet

ARCH continues to work cooperatively with groups such as the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society and the NH Black Heritage Trail to bring interesting and meaningful programs to the community, and welcomes inquiries from similar organizations.

Respectfully submitted by Julia Roberts, Education Committee chair