

Quick Looks

Mark Your Calendar

Exhibition XVI

July 31 to Oct. 24

Friday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Aidron Duckworth Art Museum, 21 Bean Road, Meriden, N.H.

The museum presents exhibitions that honor art as “an attempt to express values beyond tangible realities.” In Gallery I, visitors will see acrylic, pastel and charcoal figurative works (1980-1992) by Aidron Duckworth. Guest artists in this time frame include James McGarrell, Penelope Bennett and Roy Shifrin.

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: Grace Harde, director, (603) 469-3444

Web: www.aidronduckworthmuseum.org

Sunday Craft Fairs

Sunday, Aug. 1

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Norwich Farmers' Market, Route 5 South, Norwich, Vt.

Come enjoy the selection of fine arts and crafts from the region while listening to local musicians perform and tasting some of the wonderful prepared foods available.

Cost: Free

Web: www.norwichcrafts.org

Fairlee Feed Supplies the Ways and Means of Self-Sustainability

By DIANE TAYLOR

Photography by JIM MAUCHLY



Fairlee Feed & Saddlery's Mother and Father are suddenly called away to corral some loose goats.

Who are Mother and Father? If you are new to Fairlee Feed & Saddlery, Inc., located on Route 5 in Fairlee, Vt., that might be one of the first things you ask.

Who are these fictional characters, whose antics entertain radio listeners every other Friday morning at 7:15 on WYKR (FM 101.3)? The DJs place a telephone call to Mother and Father, and what ensues is a few minutes of gentle hilarity. Mother and Father banter back and forth about everything from chickens to sap buckets, their words thick with the New England accent and country dialect indigenous to the area.

“Everyone wants to know who Mother and Father are,” says Fairlee Feed Owner Phil Oman. “We have people come into the store hoping Mother and Father will be here.”

But neither Oman nor store manager, John Ditcheos, will reveal the secret.

“Nothing I could tell you about Mother and Father would improve on the idea of them you already have in your imagination,” says Ditcheos. “In a way, everyone already knows who Mother and Father are.”

Ditcheos certainly knows. He writes Mother and Father's material and proudly displays the award his work won from the State of Vermont. A Mother and Father radio ad titled “Snow Shovels” was deemed the funniest commercial of 2009.



Fairlee Feed & Saddlery's Store Manager John Ditcheos and Owner Phil Oman

Funny business aside, Oman and Ditcheos run a store with a history in Fairlee that stretches back 175 years. Despite recent economic difficulties that Oman says “are challenging for our customers as well as for us,” both men remain enthusiastic about the future.

Describing his business as a “feed, farm, garden and supply store with friendly and knowledgeable people,” Oman says that Fairlee Feed & Saddlery provides all the tools, equipment and expertise people need in order to succeed in small scale agricultural endeavors. If you want to raise a few chickens, tend a vegetable garden, tap your own maple trees, press your own cider, or stock your pond with trout, Fairlee Feed can help — not just by offering material goods, but by providing intellectual assistance as well.

Oman does not have an extensive farming background. But following a lengthy career in retail electronics, Oman purchased Fairlee Feed six years ago in part because he wanted to learn more. And learn he does, from his employees — most of whom engage in small scale farming — to old-time farmers who walk in the door with valuable knowledge of their own.

“Every day is an education around here, for customers and employees alike,” Oman says. “The last thing I want is for people to come here and feel like any of their questions are stupid questions. Our job is to provide solutions to our customers as they try to become more self-sustaining. In that way, Fairlee Feed is almost like a form of community service.”

“People want to grow their own, even if it may not be less expensive to do so,” adds Ditcheos. “But you can’t put a price tag on the satisfaction you get from producing your own food. It’s like you’re raising satisfaction in your own backyard.”

Learn more at www.fairleefeedvt.com

Geobarns

Vermont Craftsmanship since 1991



George Abetti, President & General Manager
Geobarns, LLC + Tel: (603) 359-1912
White River Junction, VT

Homes + Garages + Horse Barns + Studios
Residential / Commercial / Agricultural

www.Geobarns.com



Crossroads Academy

Accepting applications • Please come for a visit!

An independent school serving grades K–8 in Lyme, NH
603.795.3111 • betsy.warren@crossroadsacademy.org
www.crossroadsacademy.org