

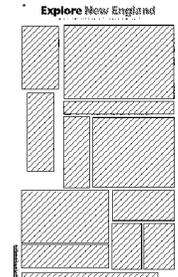
10

THINGS NOT TO MISS

BY ETHAN GILSDORE
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

SEPTEMBER

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BOY, OH BOY, OH BOATS Most boat shows display watercraft inside massive convention centers. Not so Newport's. Over 800 exhibitors plop their vessels in the water right off America's Cup Avenue and Thames Street, near waterfront shops and restaurants. "It's along the nooks and crannies of the harbor," said Nancy Piffard, show director. Free water taxis shuttle visitors from site to site. The event is one of the biggest in-water shows in the Northeast, Piffard said, with 750-plus power boats, sailboats, trawlers, multi-hull craft, downeast-style boats, and luxury yachts. What also distinguishes Newport are "first time ever seen" debuts of 40 hot boats and 10 products, from new hull designs to navigation systems. All of which, Piffard said, "attendees can touch, feel, see, walk around." And play captain, if only for a day.

37th annual Newport International Boat Show, 401-846-1115, newportboatshow.com. Sept. 13-16. Adults \$16-\$18.

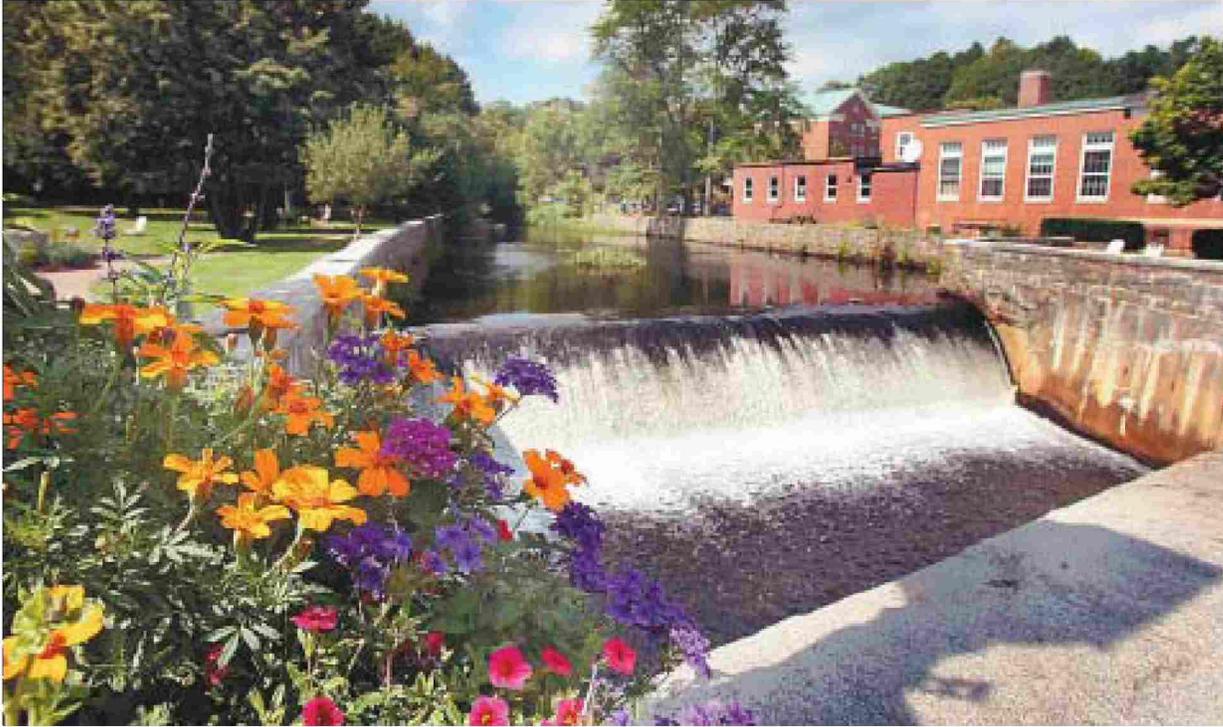
FARMERS' BOUNTY

2 The early autumn harvest season adds corn, tomatoes, squash, peaches, apples, and flowers to a movable feast of salad greens, cheese, eggs, meat, baked goods, maple syrup, and berries. "[We give] agricultural producers a place to sell their crops," said David Schoales, manager of the Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market. "Vegetables and fruits don't wait. They have to be sold when they're ripe." Brattleboro's mix of 45 vendors includes food stalls, craftspeople such as woodworkers and potters, musicians, and a sandbox for kids, lending the twice-weekly market a country fair-like atmosphere. Other top markets are Waitsfield's Mad River Green Farmers' Market and Montpelier's Capital City Farmers' Market. Vermont's 60 markets rake in \$3.5 million annually, but could play a larger role. "If residents spent 10 percent of their food budget on local products," said Schoales, "it would add \$100 million to the state economy." That's a lot of beans.

Vermont farmers' markets, vermontagriculture.com/farmmkt.htm, nofa.vt.org/markets, brattleborofarmersmarket.com. Brattleboro market Wednesdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Co-op Plaza/Wheatstone Pathway; Saturdays 9-2 on Route 9, exit 2 off Interstate 91.



AMY TOENING/FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE/FILE



TOM HERDE/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

3 MONADNOCK REIGNS Few areas combine small-town life, culture, and nature as well as New Hampshire's Monadnock Region, home to Dublin, Peterborough, Jaffrey, and countless back roads, country inns, and antiques shops in between. Part of the artistic draw has been The MacDowell Colony, the nation's oldest artist colony, celebrating its 100th year with events like "In Residence," an exhibit of work by former residents (at nearby Keene State College), a "MacDowell Downtown" series of lectures, films, and performances, and the Peterborough Players premiering an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House." Peterborough is the area's dining and shopping hub, with boutiques and galleries; a packed indie bookshop, The Toadstool; a pub, Harlow's, for live music; and the circa 1949 Peterborough Diner. For hikers, just south in Jaffrey is the oft-summitted 3,165-foot Mount Monadnock.

Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, 10 Wilton Road on Route 101, Peterborough, 603-924-7234, peterboroughchamber.com. The Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough, 603-924-3543, toadbooks.com. Monadnock State Park, Route 124, Jaffrey, 603-532-8862, nhparks.state.nh.us/ParksPages/Monadnock/Monadnock.html. The MacDowell Colony, macdowellcolony.org. Sharon Arts Center, 30 Grove St., Peterborough, 603-924-7676, sharonarts.org.



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

4 SHEAR MADNESS

“Anything fiber” was how organizer Olga Boshart Moriarty described her Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival, one of the “smaller and quaint and personable” such events in New England. Some 60 vendors sell yarn and fleece, artists display their knitted and woven products, and workshops teach spinning and felting. Visitors can talk to sheep cheese makers, see shearing and sheepdog herding demonstrations, and purchase fresh lamb. Nearly every breed of sheep can be found in the barns. “Goats are a part of this too,” she said. Not to mention llamas, alpacas, and angora rabbits. “If you’re coming up to Vermont, it’s a quintessential fall Vermont thing to do.”

19th annual Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival, Champlain Valley Expo, Essex Junction, Vt., 802-434-5646, vermontsheepandgoat.org/festival. Sept. 8-9. Adults \$5, seniors \$3, children under age 12 \$1.

5 AWWW . . . SHUCKS!

Norwalk, Conn., has traditionally been the Northeast’s top oyster-producing center. In 1978, Urban Mulvehill and others started the Norwalk Oyster Festival to draw attention to maritime history. Thirty years later, the event has “very much become a community focal point,” said Mulvehill. The three-day celebration of all things oyster now attracts 80,000 visitors and encompasses arts and crafts booths, sky divers, children’s activities, harbor cruises, big-name musical acts (including, this year, the Village People), and Scuba Tour, where newbies try out scuba diving in a pool. Civic groups run the food stalls. As for the feted bivalve, that has not been neglected, Mulvehill said. “You can absolutely get oysters.”

Norwalk Seaport Association Oyster Festival, Norwalk, Conn., seaport.org/oyster_festival.htm. Sept. 7-9. Adults \$12, seniors \$10, children ages 5-12 \$3, under 5 free.

6 APPLE OF EVERY EYE Every New England state has its share of apple growers, and September marks the beginning of the harvest. Shelburne (Vt.) Orchards hosts its annual Pie Fest & Cider House Run, including a two- to four-mile road race (or walk) and a baked pie contest. The Southington (Conn.) Apple Harvest Festival includes autumn classics like a carnival, “OktoberFest,” apple fritters, and a pie-eating competition. Likewise, the 20th Annual Apple Festival in Johnston, R.I., has music, cooking demos and on-theme contests. One of New Hampshire’s most diverse apple growers is Poverty Lane Orchards in Lebanon, where Steve Wood raises Macs and Cortlands, but also more than 100 other varieties, including “oddballs” like Ashmead’s Kernel, Pomme Grise, and Thomas Jefferson’s (and Wood’s) favorite, the versatile Esopus Spitzenberg. The shop sells hard cider, and hayrides take you into the fields. “People bring a picnic and wander around,” Wood said. But which to take home? “Make sure you’re picking what you like,” said Wood. Luckily, Poverty Lane lets you taste-test your way through the orchard.

6th annual Pie Fest & Cider House Run, Shelburne Orchards, 216 Orchard Road, Shelburne, Vt., 802-985-2753, shelburneorchards.com/htm/festivals.htm, Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 39th annual Apple Harvest Festival, (Downtown) Southington, Conn., 860-276-8461, appleharvestfestival.com/events.htm, Sept. 28-30 and Oct. 5-7. 20th annual Apple Festival, Johnston Memorial Park, Johnston, R.I., nrichamber.com, Sept. 22-23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Poverty Lane Orchards, Poverty Lane, Lebanon, N.H., 603-448-1511, povertylaneorchards.com. Pick-Your-Own: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Labor Day Weekend through early October.

7 SCULPTED PARADISE Sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907) made the remote town of Cornish, N.H., his summer home, converting a hilltop inn and a hay barn into his residence and studio. Today, visitors can wander the landscaped grounds and trails, tour the buildings, and see over 100 examples of his monumental and miniature work, from heroic public monuments like the Shaw Memorial to tiny stone cameos and gold coins. On Sept. 29, at a free daylong “Sculptural Visions” event, on-site artists will demonstrate sculptural techniques, from clay modeling to gilding to wood and stone carving. “It’s not every day you get to see a work of art being cast in bronze,” said historic site superintendent B.J. Dunn. “[It’s] a unique and wonderful opportunity for people . . . to interact with many sculptors working in different mediums.” Through Sept. 23, an exhibit to mark the centennial year of the sculptor’s death features art and personal objects from the Saint-Gaudens family.

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, 139 Saint Gaudens Road (off Route 12A), Cornish, N.H., 603-675-2175, nps.gov/saga. Daily Memorial Day to Halloween.

8 COLLEGIATE DREAMS Back to school is a fine time to visit the Pioneer Valley, a.k.a. “The Happy Valley,” home to the bucolic Five Colleges. Amherst, Hampshire, Smith, Mount Holyoke, and UMass’s critical mass are together a popular hunting ground for high school seniors. Home to Smith, Northampton is known for shopping, cafes, and leftie attitude. More collegiate in vibe is downtown Amherst, with its central green and bookshops. The Emily Dickinson Museum lets visitors explore one of the country’s great poets (its annual Poetry Marathon is Sept. 29). The once “earthy crunchy” Amherst has



ETHAN GILSDORF FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

changed, said Tony Maroulis, project coordinator for Museums10. "Now there's a much more urban hip feel." Museums10 is a consortium including Smith's world-class "little Met" collection and, on the Hampshire campus, the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art and the National Yiddish Book Center. Beginning this month, Museums10 kicks off "BookMarks," a four-month "Celebration of the Art of the Book."

Five Colleges, fivecolleges.edu. Museums10 and BookMarks, museums10.org.

9 URBAN WILDS Get wild near Boston? You bet. Two parks at the city's edge let hikers, mountain bikers, runners, and walkers congregate amid hemlocks, birches, and bodies of water. The 2,500-acre Middlesex Fells Reservation, which includes areas in Medford, Winchester, Stoneham, Melrose, and Malden, is especially popular with artists, photographers, and fishers. "The Fells is an important birding area, designated by Mass Audubon, where birds stop on migration routes. It's rare to find such a habitat so close to urban areas," said Mike Ryan, executive director of Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation. Rambles are easy. "At every entrance there is a kiosk with a trail map," Ryan said. Lynn Woods Reservation is a jumble of geologic features with names like Dungeon Rock. "It's much younger on the north side, [with] much higher cliff and rocks, way more challenging," said ranger Dan Small. The 2,200 acres are peppered with glacial erratics, small ponds, even 17th-century wolf traps.

*Friends of Middlesex Fells Reservation, 781-662-2340, fells.org.
Friends of Lynn Woods, 781-593-7773, flw.org.*

10 **ANTIQUES HEAVEN** The thrice-yearly Brimfield Antique Show bills itself as North America's largest seasonal, outdoor event of its kind, selling baskets, books, bottles, brass, bronze, buttons, and breweriana (and that's just the B's). This month more than 4,000 dealers hawk their wares in tents spread for a mile along both sides of Route 20.

"During the week the majority of visitors are other antique dealers or very avid antique enthusiasts," said David Lamberto, 20-year owner of Hertan's Antique Shows, one of 22 "shows" that open on a staggered schedule over the five days. "On weekends . . . there are more casual or retail buyers who might be buying to decorate their homes." Lamberto's survival advice? "Wear comfortable shoes." And come early — the fanatics arrive at dawn to catch new stuff being unloaded from the trucks. *Brimfield Antique Show, Route 20, Brimfield, brimfieldshow.com, brimfieldexchange.com. Sept. 4-9. Each show \$1-\$3 or free. Hertan's Antique Shows, hertansbrimfield.com, 860-763-3760. Free.*

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SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER It's time for antiques, cycling, schooling, or apple-frittering your time away at explorenewengland.com