



JEAN ENGLISH

Shana Hanson of 3 Streams Farm in Belfast holds hands-on demonstrations of goat care at a past Farm and Homestead Day at MOFGA. This year her workshops will cover using hay bags and making and using ladders to harvest tree fodder.

## MOFGA

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will have the opportunity to learn a variety of skills, including how to butcher rabbits and tan their hides, how to construct a cedar box for in-house humanure (human fecal matter) collection, how to sew a deerskin pouch and make a basket, how to press your own vegetable oil, and even how to find food and medicine from wild plants, among a variety of other hands-on workshops.

There will also be a special area for children with workshops about how to make a variety of things, including bread and butter, flower crowns, bird houses and herbal play dough.

The day will begin at 9 a.m. with tea and crumpets (and at 7 a.m. for those who want to mow with scythes)

followed by more than 40 skill-sharing workshops from 9:30 to 4:30. Volunteers and participants can also enjoy a potluck-style picnic lunch in between workshops, to which all are encouraged to contribute. Those interested can also participate in a plant exchange if they can bring in spare transplants, which should be labeled. It will take place rain or shine, and is free for anyone to enjoy.

Rosalie hopes to see a great turnout this year, with people excited to attend for a chance to learn useful skills.

“You can attend a lecture any time of year, but this one day you can come and actually learn to do these things hands-on,” she said.

For a full schedule of events at Farm and Homestead Day at MOFGA, visit [mofga.org/Default.aspx?tabid=302](http://mofga.org/Default.aspx?tabid=302).

## Museum

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I learned many things from Johnson, including the fact that in 1854 Bangor began to pay their firefighters a stipend of \$25 for the first time.

Johnson told the crowd of about a dozen people that Bangor had its worst fire, in terms of firefighter fatalities, at the Opera House fire on Jan. 14, 1914. Frigid temperatures, low water pressure and power lines made fighting the fire a challenge. Sadly, at some point a brick wall collapsed, killing two Bangor firefighters: Lt. Walter Morrill and Firefighter John Leonard. One of the rooms at the museum contains some of their old equipment, serving as a memorial of sorts for them, ensuring their sacrifice is never forgotten.

In 1946 the fire department took over the ambulance service, which previously was handled by the police. And in 1983, a Morse Covered Bridge burned near Harlow Street when an intoxicated man set it on fire.

But there were other milestones Johnson told us all about, as well, including the fact that in 1987 Cheryl Brown became Bangor’s first female firefighter.

Johnson also shared traditions shared by the brave men and women of the fire department, including the fact that “strombi,” a combination of onions, peppers, Velveeta cheese, hot sauce and ground beef, is a favorite meal at the Bangor firehouse. The tradition started in the 1950s, and new “probies” -- a probationary firefighter, or rookie -- are often served multiple meals of strombi.

Attendees had the opportunity to answer questions about each of these facts, making their best guesses in order to earn points. City Councilor Gibran Graham came in first place for the competition, and two others were awarded second and third place. I was content sitting back and observing before heading to the museum.

The museum itself is a



SHELBY HARTIN | BDN

Objects from the Bangor Fire Department’s past are displayed at the Hose 5 Fire Museum on State Street in Bangor.

testament to the fire department’s history, containing items that have been collected and preserved for many years. It was built as a fire station in 1897 and closed in 1993, when the station relocated. The building opened as a museum in 1994, thanks to a group of firefighters who wanted to preserve the history of the department.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays during the summer months, mainly because it is run by volunteers, but it’s certainly a Bangor gem and a testament to the history and bravery of Bangor’s firefighters. Other visits and group tours are also available by appointment.

Corriveau told me he knew he wanted to be a firefighter when he was a child. He never deviated from the plan, getting involved with his hometown fire department as a teenager and pursuing an education in fire science at Eastern Maine Community College before joining the Bangor Fire Department.

As he wandered the museum, it was easy to tell that the history of the department was a part of him. He even celebrated his 21st birthday in the museum’s basement, where the fire-

fighters sometimes hold gatherings. As a dedicated member of the department, along with all his co-workers, he said something I think probably speaks for many of them.

“This is in my blood,” he

said.

Shelby Hartin writes about arts, culture and food. Read more in her blog [Hartin Soul](http://HartinSoul), which can be found at [hartin.bangordailynews.com](http://hartin.bangordailynews.com).

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