

Falmouth Holds Annual Pumpkin Day

By Charlie Bickham

Bourne Farm and Salt Pond Sanctuaries held their annual Pumpkin Day despite difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a day filled with pumpkin picking, hayrides, bouncy castles, and food.

In Falmouth, Massachusetts, this means fall is back, but the leaves aren't the only thing changing this year. The pandemic has slowed down and life has sped back up but our fall celebrations may never be the same.

Bourne Farm has been hosting Pumpkin Day for 36 years, but for the past two years, it has felt very different.

“The pandemic changed the vendors, some of our tried-and-true vendors that we had for years, and years and years were not able to survive the pandemic,” said Barrie Murray, President of Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries. “This is so family oriented, so it was really sad to see, and heartbreaking for them, to not be able to come back.”

According to families from around Bourne Farm, last year there were no vendors available and very few attendees, so the scene was very different.

Brendan Uniack, a 7-year-old from California who visits Falmouth every year, remarked the difference between this and last year's Pumpkin Day, “There's been so much more stuff at Pumpkin Day, the only thing I remember [from last year] is the pumpkin patch. This year is way better because only like 14 people came last year.”

Jesse Hamilton, who lives in Falmouth, visited Pumpkin Day with his wife and 19-month-old daughter. During COVID, Jesse Hamilton worried about the social interaction that his daughter got, but now, with the leaves changing and the pandemic subsiding, they got a normal fall weekend.

“We get to do activities like this, whereas earlier we would find excuses to go elsewhere or find an excuse to work. I get to spend a lot more family time, which is great, I get to mosey around and pick pumpkins, and the weekends are centered around [Addilyn] now,” said Mr. Hamilton.

Pumpkin day had numerous vendors this year, a high level of attendance, beautiful weather, and tons of activities for the family.

“I think what's really nice, like today, is that you feel like you're back to normal. I think that's the biggest thing, you're kind of starting to forget, which is really nice, you don't want to remember being stuck at home,” said Barbara Skowronski, who brought her 7-year-old granddaughter.

Salt Pond Sanctuaries, despite a few missing vendors, helped people to have a fun post-pandemic day. The event r and was full of children, parents, grandparents, vendors, and volunteers.

With local items, coffee, ice cream, and food being sold; along with music and animal shows, there was plenty for both parents and kids to enjoy.

“This is our first year [back] we have a lot of vendors, we have two bouncy houses, the draft horses are going to be coming in about 10 minutes for the hayride. We’ve had a lot of help from people signing up, and the vendors, and now we have a gorgeous sunny day,” said Mrs. Murray.

According to Katy Taylor, executive director of Salt Ponds, Pumpkin Day looked very different before she started working there 25 years ago, but it has always been a trustworthy annual event.

“In that year when I started, right away, there was a Pumpkin Day in October! Many, many years ago, it started off being called a farm day, and they would sell farm products and produce. They would have a big yard sale and pick your own pumpkin. Then it's kind of evolved over the years, we have a family festival with hayrides and different activities for kids and vendors”

Now, people from all over come to Bourne Farm to enjoy this event. Brendan Uniack enjoyed his seventh birthday picking pumpkins and doing hayrides, while his younger brother, Colin looked in glee at the pumpkin patch.

“I like pumpkin picking, I got the biggest pumpkin just now!” as 4-year-old Colin said.