

Making Waves

The Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society

Serving Buckeye Lake, Hebron, Millersport and Thornville, Ohio Spring Issue 2017

Earthen Dam Construction 2017

How High is the Water Momma...

The water level on Buckeye Lake is rising and hopefully will be ready for some summer recreational activities. The reconstruction of the earthen dam began with an emergency situation. A 30 foot berm made of the bank run, was immediately placed in the front of the old steel wall, with a 45 foot seepage wall in the middle of the 30 foot berm. That completed the emergency situation.

It took all of last year (2016) for the plans for the completion of the reconstruction to be finalized. ODNR has now predicted that they are ahead of schedule, on budget and the date of completion has been moved ahead to 2018. Good news for everyone.

The plans include retaining the 30 foot berm permanently and having a rock border along the entire 4.1 mile dam. The original sidewalk in front the homes will be repaired and remain there for the residents to be able to move from house to house. There will be a new walking/ biking/ hiking path laid for visitors and tourists to walk along the entire length of the dam.

Docks will be floating and each home may have one. They will not be attached to the dam, but require a cat-walk from the wall to the dock for the residents to get to their docks. The entire surface, except for the visitors path will be grass. It is to be maintained by ODNR. It is clean and empty. No trees, no flowers, no docks, no tables or picnic area.



ODNR Shoreline Rendering

However, this can be looked at as starting over. Buckeye Lake has started over many times. The history in your museum proves that. We are strong and we are creative. Might be fun.

ODNR has made good on their promise to close the gates at the spillway by March 1st. It does look like some of the water is still leaking out, but the lake is to come up 1 ft. 7 in. That is a nice number, but might not be enough. Launching your boat is the problem. Fingers are crossed and HOPE is the current word.

Charting a New Course for Buckeye Lake



The Objective of Buckeye Lake 2030 is to unify efforts across existing political boundaries, marshal the unique assets of the Buckeye Lake Region and attract State and Federal resources to enhance the well-being and economic prosperity of our residents. A Tri-County Alliance with task forces is already up and running and holding monthly meetings. The idea for this project was initiated by Buckeye Lake resident Yaromir Steiner, the developer of Easton Town Center. To find out more information, or to get involved, visit the buckeyelake2030.org website.

www.buckeyelakehistory.org

Spring Issue 2017

The Buckeye Lake Museum

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The Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society is a non-profit organization preserving the history of the Greater Buckeye Lake Region.

Loss of Three of Our Very Dear Members

It is always with great sadness to write about the loss of our members. It has been a sorrowful year for us as we grieve for our founder and Secretary of 15 years, Ila Mason. Ila was just a "bit" of a thing, but so mighty in her beliefs. She assisted us with all of our fund raisers, recruited members and kept us informed with her immaculate minutes. She was a true community person.



Fred Bair, our President of the Society for over 8 years and our CPA for over 20 years, quietly slipped away surrounded by his family. Fred was responsible for many positive things for the Museum, but his most generous gift was \$10,000 for the purchase of the Queen of

the Lake II. This was our first tour boat that provided tours to over 45,000 visitors. Fred never wanted this to be known. Now that he has passed, we want to show our appreciation. He enabled us to become financially sound for many years. Captain Fred, thanks for the good times!!

Mary Jo Alexander was also a member of our Board for several years and helped the Society in its beginning years. She and her husband were the owners and operators of Alexander's Landing & Marina for many years. It is one of the oldest marinas on Buckeye Lake. She will be missed.

OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

Everywhere you go, people are looking at their phones, tablets or notebooks. The Museum has a fantastic website www.buckeyelakehistory.org, full of all our happenings. Our identity on Facebook is a must. Check out what is going on with the friends,



Kroger Community Rewards Program

Your Museum is now enrolled in the community rewards program through Kroger. This program allows you, as a shopper, to pick what charity you would like your money to go to. Use your Kroger Plus card and go on line to Kroger, Community Rewards Program and sign up.

www.kroger.com/community

You will need to fill out an application. This is outlined step by step. Once you do this, the Museum will receive a bi-monthly check.

You can also sign up by phone by calling 614-898-3520. Take this great opportunity to give to your neighborhood.

LOTS GOING ON THIS SUMMER

....SAVE THE DATES !!!

The Fundraising Committee has met and wants to make sure you pull out your calendar and mark "Save The Date" on as many as you can attend. Hope you can come to all of them!

April 29 Jim Matheny Kar Shoz - KOA - 11:00am

May 19 & 20 Vintage Trailers & Cars Show - KOA 1:00pm

June 22 Island Tour - Liebs' Island - Hupman Home 5:00pm

July 23 Concert in the Park -
Millersport festival grounds 4:00pm

September 29 - BOGTOBERFEST Paul Clark Band
5177 Walnut Rd Buckeye Lake, OH 5:00pm



MEMBERS GIVE THUMBS UP TO THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Recently, some of our members have been giving to the Historical Society through a group called Thrivent Financial. Thrivent is a group that offers a broad range of services. One of them is being able to give to your favorite non-profit. It will go directly to the Museum to strengthen our business and our community. If you want to find out more, go to www.thrivent.com or call 800-847-4836.

Queen III Update

What can we say about this fantastic donation? It was truly a gift from Heaven and a generous couple, **Dr. Ron and Cindy Downing!** This boat will support the museum for many years to come. She will have the capacity to give 60 people a grand tour of the historic shores of Buckeye Lake, along with a dinner cruise, a wedding, a family reunion or maybe just a public tour on a warm and breezy Buckeye Lake day. Our Queen III is so sweet that she only drafts 1 1/2 feet of water. It's a true sternwheeler with a gang-plank and all!! Just like Mark Twain, Swamy River and All That Jazz. She can cruise up to any dock, any shoreline, anchor down and gather her passengers. How cool is that?

A partnership between Buckeye Lake Yacht Club and the Museum has made it possible to have her in dry dock at their boatyard to restore her. This kind of cooperation makes such a positive difference in moving forward.

You can donate several ways. Website, Check, online with PayPal, Gofundme.com, or Facebook.

You might have access to items like lumber, wiring, windows, fixtures, nautical themed items or know of someone or a company that would donate. It would accelerate our restoration of the Queen III, to meet our launch date of Spring 2018. Join us in "Quietly Making Noise" at your museum. Let's see this dream come alive.



Yes, I don't want to say this, but this gift of gold came to us at a time when the river was dry. She needs some restoration. Her engine is perfect. Her paddlewheel is perfect, but her "belly" needs a scraping then covered with a protective coating. What she really needs, are funds for her interior and the upper deck: seating, tables, bar, restroom, portable catering kitchen. You get the picture. Seeking \$60,000. Won't you help us?

BLISS Series

Buckeye Lake Interesting Speaker Series

The second season of this unique series will begin with a 50 year old murder mystery, the Sam Sheppard case, presented by our own friend and board member, Luann Cooperrider.

The BLISS committee is chaired by our hard working Joy Pratt, along with Brenda Bellis, Lois Holler and Susan Wasmund. A special thanks goes out to Philip Vaughn of designertothestars.com, for all his wonderful work on our flyers, posters, newsletters, website and photographs. He loves us and we love him as well. Also thanks to Joyce, his fantastic wife, company editor and driver. The BLISS series is on Saturdays from 1:30 to 3:30PM.

Dr. Sam Sheppard and his Attorney, F. Lee Baily. After ten years in prison, Sam was acquitted at a second trial.



May 13 – The Sam Sheppard Case – Luann Cooperrider

June 10 – Turtles, Dragons & Toads Nancy Lockart

July 8 – Backyard Conservation – Suzan Jervey

Aug 12 – Monarch Mania – Sarah Dalton

September – Orchids Everywhere – Cincinnati Orchid Society

October - The Fisher King – Doug Stewart

Museum makes WOSU TV Debut

The Buckeye Lake Museum will be featured in a small documentary on WOSU on April 13th. Two days of filming and interviews took place with Donna Braig,



Donna Braig being interviewed by Mary Rankle of WOSU.

Norman "Sonny" Roelle and Ohio Canal expert and Thornville native, Andy Hite.

The episode will highlight the history of Buckeye Lake including: the canal, the amusement park

and the Museum. Make sure to mark your calendar and check for times on the station for April 13th.

This is very exciting for us.

A New Historic District

Our 4.1 mile long earthen dam is going to become a "historic district." There will be a protective process to go through to tear down a recognized historic place. This will provide a business or home owner grant money to restore a historic site. It will enable residents to be proud of the historic value of the place where they live.

Membership **KEEPS GROWING**

The most important source of income that the Museum has is its members. The membership keeps the doors open and is so essential. We have close to 300 members right now. The membership is growing. One of the reasons being our Board Member, Mary Muryn. She took over the membership 3 years ago. If you know Mary, you know how organized and hardworking she is. For her efforts, she won the "Ila Mason Volunteer Award" this year.



Director J-me Braig presenting the Ila Mason Award to Secretary Mary Muryn.

As a member of the museum, your yearly membership gives you access to the Museum, discounts in the gift shop, invitations to private functions and rides on the tour boat.

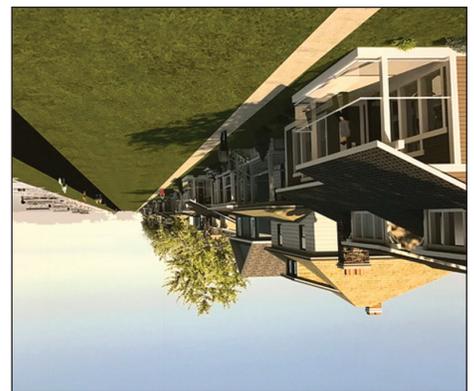
If you are not sure about your current membership, just email

or call the museum and Mary will take care of it. Your membership is needed to keep us going.



Black Diamond Canal Boat Discovery

Many of you know the story of the Black Diamond Canal Boat or should I say, the legend. The legend became real over a year ago. While closely tracking the destruction and cleaning of the lake for the placement of the 30 foot berm, J-me, our director, with the assistance of ASI construction, was able to locate over 400 pieces of the 1850 sunken canal boat. This immediately became one of the best finds in years. It is of major historic significance. The process has been carefully monitored by OHC, SHIPPO and ODNR and your Museum. There is a 4ft. model being made of the canal boat that will be housed at the Buckeye Lake Museum. Some of the larger pieces will be restored and returned to its home, Buckeye Lake Historical Society.



The Museum
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