

Making Waves

The Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society

Serving Buckeye Lake, Hebron, Millersport and Thornville, Ohio Winter Issue 2013

Buckeye Lake Area Residents Support Museum Fundraiser

John and Joetta Holt of Rownd Island hosted the Annual Summer Island Tour of 2012 in July. They opened up their home to over 100 guests, with the proceeds benefiting the Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society. The island is one of the most discussed on Buckeye Lake, as the Wendy's square hamburger king, Dave Thomas, once owned it.



The Tour Greeting Committee, in 1940's garb, were Dave Lawrence, Luellen Deeds and J-me "Bended Knee" Braig.

The sounds of the Jack Gorham Band drifted across the waters of Buckeye Lake during a perfect sunset. The theme of the evening, "Stepping Back in Time" made you believe that you were in the 1940's swinging to the Big Band sound. Buckeye Lake Park boasted over 50,000 visitors a day, to hear bands like Harry James or Gene Krupa.

John Doneff, Island House proprietor, provided all the delicious hors d'oeuvres along with Rum Runner, a themed punch. A great big thanks to his excellent staff and to John. The evening meal was provided by the host's brother, Rodney. He prepared a fish buffet with all the sides donated by the hosts.



The Splendor of Rownd Island during the Summer Island Tour of 2012

Museum Director J-me Braig stated that the evening was a total success. "We met our goal," she said. "The members and friends of the society were very generous. The Museum can continue its work in bringing tourists to our beautiful lake for recreation."

Society President, Fred Bair, thanked the 20 volunteers that gave of their time to make sure the evening was a success. "They worked for several days on the island, setting up and taking down," Bair said. Fred noted, "Without these dedicated volunteers the museum would not be able to operate."



As the band played on, guests enjoyed the pre-dinner cocktail hour during an enchanted evening on Rownd Island.

The Museum is looking for another host island for the summer tour of 2013. Should you be interested in hosting this fundraiser for the upcoming season, contact J-me at the Museum 740-929-1998.

www.buckeyelakehistory.org

Winter Issue 2013

The Buckeye Lake Museum

4729 Walnut Road
P. O. Box 1
Buckeye Lake, Oh 43008
Located next to the
Post Office on St. Rt. 79

Hours are 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday – Sunday
Closed Mondays & the month of February.

Donations:

Historical Society Members Free
Non-members \$3 • Children \$1
Special Tour Groups can be Arranged.

740-929-1998

Officers of the Museum

President Fred Bair
V-President Mike Cassidy
Secretary Ila Mason
Treasurer Jim Layton
Director J-me Braig

Trustees

Donna Braig
Zenna Sayre
Raye LeCompte
Josh Fisher
Dave George

Board Members

Cindy Heimerl
Charlene Hayden
John Hoermle
Charlotte Basnett
Rob Klinger

www.buckeyelakehistory.org

Email the Director at

j-me@buckeyelakehistory.org

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

This Newsletter is published by Society Member Philip Vaughn.
www.designertothestars.com

Queen of the Lake Gets New Look

Our famous tour boat, The Queen of the Lake II, went through extensive renovation this past summer. The boat purchased in 2007, needed lots of work done on the structure, just to get her ready for tours. It was in rough shape and needed paint, carpet, engine and general repairs. Volunteers pitched in and she was ready for tours in the spring of 2008.

Last fall, it was clear that the roof was in desperate need of repairs. Once again, architect Emil Bogden (J-me's husband) donated his talents and knowledge to fix the roof. Emil has been called on many times to assist the Museum with construction and repair needs. He designed the new roof and signs for the Queen. He painted the inside of the roof with clouds and then cut all the new plywood in his barn workshop. Emil was the lead architect for the new addition in 2010.



Volunteer Lois Holler stated, "Now you can really see the Queen coming down the lake, she is so colorful and bright."

The Queen has always been stored, in the winter, at Buckeye Lake Marina in Millersport. The past two seasons, she has docked there thanks to Dave Levacy and his staff. It is not easy to find a dock for a 50 ft. boat. Dave has donated many things for the Queen since she came to our shores in 2007. His kindness and generosity provided new canvas for the roof, along with custom-made flags. The new rubber roof will last for another 10 years or more. It is fair to say **"Our Queen is a happy boat,"** and will keep our passengers dry and shaded.

Volunteer Lois Holler stated, "Now you can really see the Queen coming down the lake, she is so colorful and bright."

Fisher's Marina has keep her motor in top shape. The lake was very low this year due to lack of rain and we hit a few items. Board Member, Josh Fisher, is always willing to come to our rescue, so we do not have any interruptions in the tour schedule.

The Board sends many thanks to Emil, Dave and Josh for their commitment to the Historical Society and participating in the Queen's success.

News Around the Museum

Welcome New Board Members

At the Annual Dinner this past October, The Historical Society voted in two new board members. They are Rob Klinger and Jim Layton. Rob has been a volunteer for the Museum for the past 3 summers. He worked on the Ice Cream boat and the much needed effort of maintaining Cranberry Bog. He is the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for the Society. Rob works for Park-Shay Real Estate and was a past member of The Licking County Convention Bureau, working with The Economic Development Director for several years.

Jim Layton is the General Manager of the National Trails Raceway. He also served as the Treasurer for The Licking County Convention Bureau and is the Chairman of the Hebron Veteran's Memorial. He is a Hebron native and has been active in many community projects through the years. Jim is our new Society Treasurer. His knowledge of the Buckeye Lake area is exceptional.

The Society welcomes both men to the board and thanks them for their time and energy providing support to the organization.

Rosa Clark's Dedication Served Us Well



Thank you Rosa!

January of 2012 brought about the resignation of our beloved Treasurer Rosa Clark. Rosa has been a staple on the Board of the Museum for over 10 years. She served as the guiding force to help keep our finances running smoothly. Her monthly reports were the finest the Society ever had. There is so much behind the scenes work to running the finances

of the museum. "Rosa taught me so much," said Director J-me Braig. "There were so many questions and issues and I could always count on her to help me out. She will be missed."

Rosa is spending time with her husband of over 60 years, Howard, at their lake home in Fairfield Beach. Rosa says that she misses the "action at the museum" but is enjoying her extra time. The Society cannot possibly give her all the thanks she deserves for her hours of dedication to us. Her positive attitude and expertise served us well.

Who is Watching the Store?

When the season is in full swing the Director is very much involved getting the Queen loaded or even driving the boat, so who is at the museum? There are a very dedicated group of members, called Docents, which show up every day to open, greet the visitors, count the money and then close up.



Visiting the Buckeye Lake Historical Museum is a wonderful experience for those of all ages. There is something exciting for everyone to see.

Mondays we are closed, but on Tuesday and Sunday volunteer Sonny Rollee is the to go-to person. He has been working for us for 3 years and also is the narrator on the Queen. Wednesday brings us Marianne Perine. Marianne is local and volunteers for many community projects. However, Wednesday is all ours!

Come on a Thursday and you will be greeted by Jim & Ann Walters, members for 15 years. They come out here from Columbus no matter what the weather to pitch in. Jim can fix anything and Ann will do all the odd jobs that the director can't find time to finish. Friday brings us Carolyn Jahnes and Brenda Bellis. Both ladies work all the time to update our archives and keep our history in order. As you can see, without these great volunteers we would not be able to keep our doors open 6 days a week. **Thanks a bunch.....**



Memorial Dedications for Members

The Museum has been remembered by families that have lost loved ones this year. Members have asked that instead of flowers, donations in the memory of their loved one are sent to the Historical Society. A memorial brick will then be made for the family member and placed in our Memorial Garden. It is a wonderful way to honor someone who lived at or loved Buckeye Lake.

Society Management of Cranberry Bog had a Terrific First Year

Historic Cranberry Bog has seen some major improvements for the 2012 season. Since the signing of the 5 year management agreement with ODNR, the Friends of Cranberry Bog committee and volunteers have been extremely busy. The FOCB Committee members include Chairman George O'Donnell, Secretary K Fell, Ways & Means Chair Rob Klinger, Volunteer Chairwoman Lois Holler, Kaye Hartman and Museum Director J-me Braig.



Cranberry Bog Day, in June 2012, proved to be a great partnership for The Buckeye Lake Historical Society and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. There were 53 Historical Society volunteers that assisted over 650 visitors to see the exotic and rare plants on the floating sphagnum moss island. The bog is the only one of its kind in this hemisphere.

The committee has worked out a 5-year plan to help with the preservation and conservation of the precious floating treasure. This season there were 9 work days on the island. The volunteer groups of 4 to 12 would bring out their tools needed to rid the island of the invasive plants that are inhibiting the growth of the rare flowers, along with the cranberries, ferns and pitcher plants.

It has to be noted the cooperation between ODNR and our representative Hal Harper, Director of Parks and Recreation here at our lake has been fantastic. Hal has been instrumental in meeting with the committee and helping the project move forward.

The committee has also been working very hard on raising awareness and funds. To keep this project going, they are speaking to area groups such as The Buckeye Lake Civic association, Cranberry Bay Homeowners Association and others. The Harbor Hills Woman's Club, a local group, had director J-me Braig speak at one of their meetings and they donated \$100 toward the repair of the boardwalk. The Franklin County Garden Club donated \$500 last year as our first donor. The Merry Ritter Garden Club followed with another \$100.

The committee is applying for several grants to assist in the monetary issues that plague Cranberry Bog. The committee is also seeking ideas and funding from garden clubs, bird watchers, local businesses, charitable organizations and private donors that have a special connection to this one of a kind floating treasure.



An instructional tour taking place on Bog Day.

It takes considerable amounts of energy and resources to tackle a project the size of our 13-acre Bog. It needs so much to help preserve it for many more years to come. **Should you have an interest in assisting** on this project or know of any groups or clubs that might want to help, please contact the museum. Local expert Jim McCormick stated on a recent visit to the bog, "Cranberry Bog is a 13-acre floating museum that looks at our 10,000 year past."

Fred's drawing was a great design

Fred Wright, of Harbor Hills, joined the Society very soon into the planning of a Museum and volunteered his architectural services. How valuable he was to the program. Our first idea for a museum building was a "floating museum" to be tied up at the State park. It was to be a two deck boat, like the original Queen of the Lake and Fred drew up a great design. This idea met with many problems with the State, the freezing of the Lake, etc. and the idea was dropped.

Next, was our idea of a two story museum, with the center of the room to be open so that we could put in a sailboat. The second floor was to be a balcony all around the huge middle room. Costs of this were too much for the struggling board. Finally, the present layout came from Fred's drawing board and it was a great design. He also drew plans for an addition on the back of the building. All of his work was donated. He served as our second President and his presence on the Board for many years was invaluable. Fred passed away at his home in June. He is survived by his wife Ruth and two children.



New Winery Opening at Buckeye Lake.

Coming this spring to the south shore of Buckeye Lake will be the Buckeye Lake Winery. The building is under construction now and they put in several new docks this past fall. The Museum is thrilled as they called and asked the length of the Queen so that they could build a dock that will accommodate our boat.



Tracy & Laura Higginbotham, Proprietors

Buckeye Lake Winery is committed to producing great wine by bringing the Napa Valley experience home and creating an atmosphere of relaxation and recreation on the waters at Buckeye Lake.

Their vision for Buckeye Lake Winery is to create a casual, but elegant restaurant and winery that pairs simple foods with great wines. The Tasting Room will be open to the public where you can enjoy a glass or bottle of Buckeye Lake Winery's premium wines.

Buckeye Lake Winery will be the perfect setting for your group getaway, wedding reception or family gathering. Their banquet facilities can serve groups between 12 and 250 of your guests. They will be able to fully accommodate your corporate meetings including all audio visual needs.

Order their wines now at: www.buckeyelakewinery.com
Contact them at: info@buckeyelakewinery.com

A tour has already been booked with Ohio Travel Treasures to take them on a lake tour and then off to the winery. This is a very welcome addition to the lake.

Donated Items for Sale

The Society has been very lucky to receive donated items from members and non-members that are not able to go into the museum. When a person donates large items, they receive a tax deduction and give permission for the Society to sell the items to raise money for day to day operations. Currently, there are several boats for sale. Two of them are a Sea-Ray outboard and a Raven Sailboat #8. Both of them need repairs.

There is also an old wooden canoe to be restored. If you have special talents to take on the restoration of this canoe that would be wonderful. **The Society is in need of** an outboard motor for our small pontoon boat which was donated by Jimmy Carter Marina. The motor needs to be at least 50hp. If you have one to donate or know of one, please let us know.



Award Winning Volunteers 2012

There are never enough words to say how grateful we are for our fine volunteers. We have an active roster of over 50 volunteers that serve in a variety of different capacities. They give hours of time making sure that the society gets enough money to keep its doors open all year long. If we had to hire all the volunteers to do all the jobs around here then we would not be successful.

Top honors went to several people this year for the giving of their talents, knowledge, gas and time at the Annual Dinner in October.

They are as follows:

Top Docent – Sonny Rollee – 384 volunteer hours

Top Cranberry Bog Workers – Rob Klinger & George O'Donnell – 52 Volunteer hours

Top Captain – Charlotte Basnett – 31 Private Tours with Monty Hayes 2nd – 14 tours

Top Crew - - Brenda Bellis with 14 - Private tours & Dave Lawrence with 13 tours

Top Bog Guide – Lois Holler with 34 Bog Tours

Top Gas Tank Filler – HANDS DOWN - Our own John Hoermle

Many, many thanks to everyone that steps up to the plate and gives of their time. It is truly a group effort with wonderful people that love Buckeye Lake and its history.



"Captain" Monty

Annual Dinner & Volunteer Banquet 2012

The Buckeye Lake Historical Society Annual Dinner and Volunteer Banquet took place in October at the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club with over 90 members in attendance. The theme this year was Hats and History. The members enjoyed the social hour with a trivia game about historic hats. Each table held an unusual hat that the members had to identify. The winner was member Doug Clay and his wife Judy.



The Annual Dinner for Members and Volunteers took place at the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club. The theme was Hats and History.

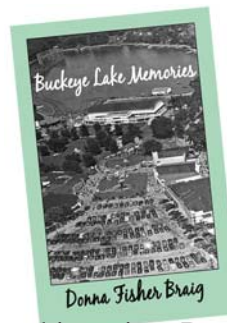


Dr. Brown's Historic Hebron, Ohio office.

The 2012 Historic Site honored this year was the oldest building in Hebron, Dr. Brown's office. It is located on Main Street, right beside Park National Bank. This structure is the oldest building in Hebron and was built in the 1890's. It is now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Suhr. They were awarded a plaque that will be placed on the building.

Volunteer honors went to Charlotte Basnett as Captain of the Year, Lois Holler as Guide of the Year and Brenda Bellis as Rookie of the Year. The Queen of the Lake did over 172 tours for the 2012 season.

There are over 50 active volunteers that help make the Queen of the Lake II a success. Special honors went to Bill and Mary Muryn as they became Life Members of the Society.



Author Donna Braig

Coming this spring, Donna Braig will have another look at Buckeye Lake and its enduring memories in the form of her second book, titled My Buckeye Lake Memories. She has been compiling humorous stories about many of the residents and local legends here at the Lake.

She has been working on this second book for over 2 years. Her recollections of famous families, park employees, landowners and other memorable lake residents are a joy to read. Donna's bright wit and easy writing style keeps the reader involved all the way to the end.

Local Author Writes 2nd Buckeye Lake Book

Her first book, My Buckeye Lake Story is in its third printing. It was first sold in 1997 where she held her book signing, at the old Buckeye Lake Bus Station on the corner of St. Rt. 79 and the entrance to the old amusement park. Since that time, Donna's book has become the historian's bible at the museum. Whenever a question arises about this area and the staff does not know off hand, you just pull out Donna's book and you will find the answer.

Donna was the original founder of the Historical Society and at 85 years of age, she still holds a seat on the Board as a Trustee. Her insights and knowledge of this small village, she has called home all her life, still delight and astonish our visitors.

Many thanks go out to Donna for her years of continued service to her community. There would not be a museum, as we know it today without her vision and hard work. It is for people such as her that our history can continue to be told for years to come.

Her book will be on the market in late April of 2013. There will be an unveiling of the book, along with a signing party scheduled in May. Details of the event will be forthcoming.



Crazy Hat Award: Kaye Hartman, Bill Muryn and J-me Braig.

Board Attends LCVCB Dinner

The Board of the Society attended the annual dinner of the Licking County Visitors and Convention Bureau. The dinner was held at the recently renovated Metropolitan Hotel in downtown Newark. This dinner honors the members and presents its 2012 awards.

The Society took first place in the Diamond Awards area of a partnership category this year. This award is presented to a group that partners with another entity for the sole purpose of providing opportunities for tourism in our area. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Buckeye Lake Historical Society won for the partnership of Cranberry Bog.

Buckeye Lake Historical Society has been working in partnership with the State since 1990 when the first Open Bog day was established. It is held annually on the 3rd Saturday in June. This daylong event allows anyone who wants to visit the island the ability to do so. This event has been able to transport over 10,000 visitors to Cranberry Bog. This long-standing partnership made the Buckeye Lake Museum the perfect fit for the saving and caring of Cranberry Bog.



r-l Zenna Sayre, Marilyn Cassidy, Mike Cassidy, Charlene Hayden, Fred Bair, Judy Bair, J-me Braig, Kaye Hartman & Luellen Deeds.

This partnership has created a seven member board called Friends of Cranberry Bog. A volunteer group is aptly called "Bog Buddies" with over 50 members and growing. The Museum is a perfect venue to be able to apply for federal, state and local grants for funding.

This historic partnership will show that working together for the common goal can help save a national treasure for hundreds of visitors or residents living in the state of Ohio. The Museum has taken over 15,000 visitors on the waters of Buckeye Lake since 2008 including coaches from Canada to Texas. The Cranberry Bog has brought them here. This partnership will keep them coming.



WILL YOU HELP

Provide a Buckeye Lake Child's Christmas this Year?

The Buckeye Lake Museum is helping to provide area children with a jolly Christmas again this year and we are asking our members if they would be willing to help.

For the past 6 years, the Museum was very active in providing a Community Christmas for all the area children and families. The Community Christmas Committee hosted several events through the year to raise the much needed funds to be able to supply each child in Buckeye Lake with a coat, hat and gloves along with a visit from Santa and a toy.

This year we are doing it a bit differently.

We are not sponsoring the Community Christmas, but are continuing to adopt local families and provide for the children with clothing and a food basket.

The families are referred to us by the Salvation Army. Last year we adopted 21 families.

We are asking for \$75 per child. This will provide them with some clothes and one or two toys that they have asked for from a "wish list." You can adopt as many children as you like.

If you would like to shop for the child with your donation, then the Museum will provide you with their list. You can also send your donation and there are volunteers that will do the shopping for you. Be a secret Santa for our kids this Christmas. It is a true blessing.

If you need more information contact J-me at the Museum.



740-929-1998

2013 is the 15-year anniversary of the Buckeye Lake Museum

This is going to be a wonderful year for the Buckeye Lake Museum as we begin to celebrate 15 years since the museum opened its doors. There are several events in the planning stages. Director J-me is searching for 5 members to help chair the committee for the events. If you are interested, give her a call or email.

The committee will meet for the first time in January of 2013. One event will be a dinner. There will be a ceremony at the Museum to acknowledge our success and a special Queen tour. Ideas are welcome.



The Buckeye Lake Historical Society Museum opened in 1998 and a front addition was added in 2009 to house the Historic Rocket Ship ride.



Do You Recognise This Photo?

When someone reads our Newsletter, visits the Buckeye Lake Museum or pulls up our Website, they always remark about the historical photos they see.

Nothing jars the memory like seeing a photo of Buckeye Lake's famous bygone era. Everyone has a personal story, about something wonderful that happened to them, at Buckeye Lake.

My favorite was seeing bandleader Spike Jones and his City Slickers at the Pier Ballroom. A tiny, little, man climbed out of a trap door from the back of the orchestra's bass fiddle.

The Amusement Park, that noisy wooden Roller Coaster, Scouts Island, boating at Harbor Hills, or a Company Picnic all added to unforgettable memories.

All one needs, to return to those carefree times, is to gaze at a faded, slightly curled, photo. Philip Vaughn

Answer: Summerland Beach Dock on the South Shore