

Making Waves

The Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society

Volume XIV, Issue 1

Serving Buckeye Lake, Hebron, Millersport and Thornville, Ohio

Winter 2012

Historical Society Receives Management of Cranberry Bog

Through the years, the Museum and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) have shared a partnership in the preservation of Historic Cranberry Bog. It has taken another step as the Historical Society will be handling the day to day operations. The agreement was reached late this season to allow the Historical Society control.



Historical Society Tour Guide, Rae LeCompte, points out some of the wonderful fauna on Historic Cranberry Bog - (right) aerial view 1940's.

The Museum has helped the ODNR to hold the annual Open Bog Day for the past 13 years. Visitors come from all over Ohio and several surrounding states on the 3rd Saturday in June to visit this unique floating sphagnum bog. It is reported to be the only one of its kind in the US. Our members supplied volunteer boats and drivers for this event taking thousands of visitors to this unusual island.

Museum volunteers along with a group of volunteers so named "Friends of the Bog" have worked under the guidance of ODNR Natural Area & Preserves guide, Greg Seymour, for several years. They have been learning how to "clean up" the Bog by stripping

it of weeds, trees in the wrong areas, sumac poisoning plants and cutting back growth so that the island can continue to flourish and produce healthy plants.

The ODNR has recognized our efforts and for that have turned over the rights to the island to the Museum. The Society is very proud of that. We have this chance to combine our efforts as a historical society with many other groups like garden clubs, bird watching groups and clubs, conservation groups along with "Lovers of the Bog" that want to see it survive for another 100 years.

With the privilege of running Cranberry Bog come additional responsibilities. We need to increase our volunteer base, look for funding to replace the boardwalk, explore new ways to decrease the deterioration of the island. The committee, "Friends of the Bog," will help to guide the Museum on this new venture.



We already have several knowledgeable Volunteer guides that know the Bog like the back of their hand. They have been guiding tours for several years. Among them is Rae LeCompte with over 68 tours logged in. Volunteers Lois Holler, Tom Tweedle, Sharon Sphar, Greg Mason, J-me Braig & Sally Howarth all deserve thanks for their years of service and for their knowledge of the Bog.

Cranberry Marsh, as all the old timers once knew it, is one of the lake's finest treasures. It is an honor for the GBLHS to be able to serve in keeping this historical island thriving and open to all Ohio residents and visitors so they can share in its beauty and wonder.

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 Rosa Clark
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

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

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www.designertothestars.com

The Museum Board made plans late in the 2010 season to hold an island tour fundraiser and in a matter of 6 weeks, it was set to go. The tour was to visit two islands, Circle Island and Compass Point mixing the “old” with the “new.” Circle Island had been kept in its original condition from the 1900’s (like no air conditioning) while the second island, Compass Point, had all the latest amenities. (Like yes, air conditioning).

We had our boat, the Queen of the Lake, that could transport 40 partiers on the tour at one time and this added so much to the fun. The first boat left the State Park at 4:30 and the last boat left at 6:00 and had nearly 100 total “Island Hoppers.” Member, Kaye Hartman, gave the history of the area as the warm breeze glided across the lake.



*ISLAND
TOUR
BIG
SUCCESS*

(additional photos on website-features)

First the guests were taken to Circle Island, owned by Pat and Deb Hennessy and built in 1902. The cottage was furnished with early period furniture that had been beautifully restored. Drinks along with light refreshments were served as visitors walked around the grounds and enjoyed the cottage and the fantastic view.

Guests again boarded the Queen to precede on to Compass Point. A beautiful new home that has three floors, three balconies and a pool. The guests enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by John Doneff of The Island House. They listened to the golden oldies by DJ “Foxy Coxy” who donated his time.

This island complex is owned by William Schottenstein and he was a most gracious host. He has been a friend of the Museum in many ways.

The cost of the tour was \$100 for singles or \$175 per couple. Thanks to all who attended, the Museum realized nearly \$10,000. Our fantastic volunteers and the kindness of the Hennessys and Bill Schottenstein made it the most talked about event of the Buckeye Lake 2010 season. Preparations for next year’s tour are already underway.

It brought back many memories of the first museum island tour in 1998. That tour was hosted by Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy’s. He opened his home, Rownd Island, along with Journal Island, owned by the Wolfes, of the Dispatch Printing Company. Past founding member Mac Wood was responsible for the organization of that first island hop. With his organizational skills and the list of folks that owed Mac a favor, he began to build the foundation of our museum.

News Around the Museum

Catfish Charlie's Pizza restaurant was recently sold to Donatos. It had been owned by Adam and Carol High, who were great friends of the Museum and helped with donations and volunteering. We hope they will continue their interest in us.



Carol High, shown above, and her husband, Adam, are very good friends of the museum. Our hope is that they continue their interest in our activities.



Brick sales are going well. We are now placing the memorial bricks on the new patio at the front of the building. They look great there. The cost of a small brick is \$50, with the larger

selling for \$250. This is a great source of income for the museum. You can go to our website to order your brick. Give a memory gift brick in honor of someone this year.

"We love a parade" and we showed our Rocket Ship again at the Millersport Sweet Corn Festival Parade. Our top parade is the Memorial Day Parade here at the Lake. The parade ends at the State Park where we hold our Little Miss Buckeye Lake Contest and offer free refreshments. Over 200 people enjoyed the activities. The parade takes place the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and starts at 11:00 am.



Dr. Robert Zollinger

Want to read some local history? We have two autobiographies of local folks who wrote of their lives here at the lake. One was written by Dr. Robert Zollinger, who grew up in Millersport in the 1920's and he titled his story, *Country*

Boy. He became a prominent surgeon in Columbus. Our other autobiography was written by Dillon Myer. He tells of growing up in Buckeye Lake and selling milk and vegetables to newcomers. People who were coming to the lake at the time of the Interurban and building cottages in the Myer Addition. Dillon was well known in Washington D.C. as head of Indian Affairs, but was most known for being Director of the Evacuation and displacement of the Japanese during WWII in California.

Everyone is well aware that the late **Chance Brockway** had a great photo collection. His daughter, Sondra Gartner, is now in charge of the collection and she gave us some wonderful framed photos to hang in the Museum. They are now proudly displayed in our new addition.

Planning an event or a wedding where you would need lights, decorative screens, white chair covers, colored tablecloths, vases or other items? Call the Museum as now we have these items for rent thanks to a donation from our director. She recently planned a wedding!!!



There is no better way to show off beautiful Buckeye Lake than our **Summer Island Tours**. This year's event was spectacular, as the above photo demonstrates. Boarding the Queen II began a magical journey. Refreshments and drinks were served on the first island and dinner with live entertainment on the second island. Plan on attending next year's tour.



J-me Braig presents a Historic Site Plaque to the Bill Taylor family.

A star studded evening would describe the Buckeye Lake Historical Society's 2011 Annual Awards Dinner, held at the historic Buckeye Lake Yacht Club. Seventy members attended the gala event participating in the wonderfully themed "A Night at the Oscars."

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER HONORS "STARS" OF THE SOCIETY



Upon arrival, members were photographed on the red carpet in all the glory of a Hollywood setting. The many awards and plaques handed out were the Historic Site Cottage Awards, the Bronze Thumbs Up Awards for outstanding volunteers and the Golden Oscars for special recognition of member's service.

The Historic Site honors went to Joan Hein and Bill Taylor for their homes that are original cottages on North Bank. They both received a plaque that they will hang on the outside of the cottage and another plaque hangs in the museum.



New life members were recognized as well. Chuck & Charla Bortz, along with Tim & Dianne Ryan, donated \$500 for the lifetime membership.

Museum Director, J-me Braig, opened the event thanking members for attending and for all of their hard work during the past year. Following dinner, President Fred Bair, gave a Historical Society update. Board member, Charlene Hayden, then made the presentations of the Historic Cottage Plaques.

J-me, with the assistance of Kaye Hartman, then presented dozens of Thumbs Up awards and treasured



Charlotte Bassnet

Oscars. Several members spoke about volunteer activities and future plans.

The evening drew to a close with Charlotte Bassnet reading a poem about geese. She explained how their arrow shaped flights relate to outstanding teamwork, a model for our society to follow.

(additional photos on website-features)

Thanks to Our Board Members

Members of the Museum can be very proud of the time and effort put forth by your Board Members.

Fred Bair serves as President and works very hard at this position. Fred is a C.P.A. living on the south shore on Bateson's Beach. Mike Cassidy serves as our Vice-President and is always around the Museum helping in any way he can. He is one of boat captains and spends much of his free time on the Lake.

Our Secretary is a special lady. She is Ila Mason of Hebron where her son is Mayor. Ila has been on the Board since the very beginning for the building of the Museum. She is a real charter member. Our Treasurer for the past 13 years has been Rosa Clark of Fairfield Beach. Rosa has a background of working with finance and she has been an outstanding Treasurer. Her treasurer reports are a work of art!

Other members include our Trustees John Hoermle, Donna Braig, Charlene Hayden, Zenna Sayre, Rae LeCompte and Josh Fisher. Rounding out the board are Cindy Heimerl, Chair of Membership, Dave George, Chair of Finance, Charlotte Bassnet, Chair of Acquisitions, Rob Klinger, Chair of Ways & Means. Member J-me Braig is the Director of the Museum.

If you see any of these dedicated volunteers tell 'em.... Thanks.

ALGAE NEWS STORY HURTS SUMMER TOURISM AT THE LAKE

Concern hit Buckeye Lake at peak season this year as there were reports from Ohio newspapers that toxins were found in Buckeye Lake. This toxin is in the form of a green algae produced by farm crop fertilizer run-off. Beaches were closed and boaters decided to trailer off to another lake. This all hit right before the 4th of July, our biggest weekend of the year.

Museum Director J-me Braig saw this as a real issue for our lake and searched for public relations help.

The BL Civic Association and Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow has had their own water testers in place for the last two years. Their tests were not showing what the newspapers were reporting. J-me then contacted, Susan Fryer Director of the Licking County Visitors and Convention Bureau and she offered to help us.

A press conference was set up at the Buckeye Lake North Shore State Park. The Civic Association, Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow, State officials and several local residents attended. They provided correct and positive information on the situation. The press coverage for the lake then explained that the algae scare was highly exaggerated and posed no danger.

This proves the power of people when they decide to fight back. Special thanks go out to Park Officials, the Civic Association, BL for Tomorrow and to Susan Fryer. There were no other warnings about the toxins the rest of the summer.

The initial report did hurt all the businesses around the Lake and the Museum saw three tour buses cancelled because of the story. Our residents and businesses are a resilient bunch and through the balance of the summer we kept afloat. Our water is clean and beautiful and we are going to keep it that way!

Queen Has Another Great Season

The income success story of the Queen of the Lake continues to keep the museum in the red. Our tours were wonderful for the 2010 season. The Queen took in \$30,000 for our society and continues to draw visitors from all over.

There were 36 Cranberry Bog Tours, 63 Lake Tours and 13 museum tours associated with the Queen. That is a total of 112 private tours in a 90 day period. Needless to say, the Queen was going out everyday. She transported 2,107 private passengers, with another 699 in public tours, for a total of 2,806 passengers.



Since 2008, when she started her first full season, the Queen of the Lake has taken out 14,807 passengers. It is mind blowing that so many people love to come out here and tour our lake and relive its history.

Of course none of this would be remotely possible without the fantastic core of volunteers. We have an active roster of 40 volunteers that help on the Queen. Some do it once a month and many of the volunteers do it every day or as often as they can. The volunteers were honored at the volunteer banquet on Wednesday, November 30th.

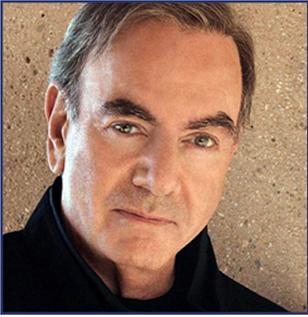
Top honors went to Lois Holler for volunteering for 34 tours. Charlotte Basnett took 2nd with 29 tours. Top Bog Guide was Lois again with Rae LeCompte 2nd.

For the Society to continue to serve our mission it takes time and money. In these hard times, without the dedication of these individuals, we would be hard pressed to stay open all year long. Just listing their names does not seem to be enough, because they are the lifeline of this museum. Of course I have to mention that they have a "boatload" of fun.

Special thanks to these fine volunteers. Monty Haynes, Charlotte Basnett, Charlene Hayden, Fred Bair, Mike Cassidy, Chuck Wadley, John Hoermle, Ralph Davis, Doug Hymrod, Sharon Sphar, Marilyn Cassidy, Kaye Hartman, Lois Holler, Rob Klinger, Gloria Lombardi, Rae LeCompte, Greg Mason, Beth Vipperman, Joy Pratt, Chuck Gilech, Dave Lawernee, Dave George, Fran George, Pat Miller, Norman Rolle, Jim Walters, Ann Walters, Carolyn Jahnes, Ron Van Atta, Fran Baughman, Donna Braig, Ila Mason, Ann Oliver, Doug Clay and Tom James.

Queen tour highlights: Just to name a few!

- Full Boat of Amish from Berlin, Ohio
- Nurse and Doctor group discussing new mental disorders for 2011
- State Officials assessing Buckeye Lake
- Retirement Center with 21 wheelchairs and 12 walkers
- Nine motorcoaches from out of state
- Ohio Carnivorous Plant Society
- Newark High School Class of 1959
- The famous "Silver Sneakers" group 3 times
- Congressman Steve Austria
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Lakewood class of 1969
- Students from Lakewood, Sheridan & Morgan Schools
- Red Hatters
- Goodwill Employees



Neil Diamond Sings Aboard the Queen

It has become a tradition on the Queen of the Lake to finish up the tour with

a song. About three years ago, volunteer and board member Rae LeCompte brought a Neil Diamond CD on board and mentioned that we should sing one of his songs. Now this is the Lake and Jimmy Buffet seems to be the norm, but Rae insisted that we try “Sweet Caroline.” Well, we did and it has become the theme song for the Queen of the Lake.



It is amazing to see this. Passengers of all ages know the words and they wave their arms in the air and sing, “Good times never seemed so good”..... all together. Sometimes we arrive at the dock with the music blasting and the people singing and laughing. It makes for a great ending. So if you hear Sweet Caroline ripping across the water from the Queen you will know the story of why we do that..... Thanks Rae. That is one thing that will never change.

MEMBERS RON & EMMA LOU VAN ATTA MOVE TO ARIZONA

Former President of the Museum and a great member has moved to Tucson. Before leaving he donated several items to us. Ron donated mowing equipment accessories for the museum to use or sell. He gave a very valuable World War I savings stamp book. In previous years Ron donated an “Antique Bicycle” that hangs proudly in the Museum and is valued at over \$5,000. Ron’s generosity has helped the society for several years. This year he gave the Ice Cream Boat a dock all season long. They will be missed here at the museum and as neighbors on North Bank. If I know Ron, he would be happy to have you stop by and visit him and Emma, in Tucson, if you are out that way.

It is truly a blessing that we have so many wonderful members, 450 to be exact. When something has to be done, there is always someone to help supply anything they can. Here around the Lake many business owners know the needs of keeping our Queen of the Lake looking good and running smoothly. She has many needs.

Many Thanks to Lake Business Owners

Buckeye Lake Marina owner, Dave Levacy and his great staff took care of our docking this year. After losing our dock space in the fall of 2010, Dave supplied a space at his marina all summer long. He also takes her in and out of the water and provides dry dock space at the marina.

Board Member, Josh Fisher, of Fisher’s Marina watches over her engine. He does all engine checks and changes the prop all summer long. We have a fantastic engine, Evinrude E-Tec that has served us well. Fisher’s helped to get half of the cost of the engine donated.

Jimmy Carter, of Carter’s Marina, helped with cushions and provided the Ice Cream Boat to us 2 seasons ago. Tom Sieffert, of Buckeye Lake Hardware, supplies the paint for her spring “fix-up” every season. Tom donates the paint and any supplies or hardware we need.

Charlie Prince of the Buckeye Lake Beacon helps with our advertisement and keeps our name in the paper so visitors to the lake know when and where the tours are.

Many thanks to everyone for helping us have a wonderful 2010 season.



Local Historian Publishing Another Book

Author and local historian, Donna Braig, is ready to send another wonderful book all about her memories

Donna Braig of Buckeye Lake off to the

publisher. Her first book, in its third printing, recalls the glory days of Buckeye Lake Park along with the entire history of this remarkable area. Donna has lived in Buckeye Lake her entire life and is a founding member of the Buckeye Lake Historical Society.

Her ease in recalling her memories and putting them on paper, makes this new book very readable. It’s full of stories, people and anecdotes that will amuse you while learning the history of Buckeye Lake.

As soon as this book hits the shelves you will be notified. Watch the website for more details.

NAME YOUR COTTAGE PROJECT UNDER WAY

Back in the very early years of Buckeye Lake, from the 1920's and forward, owners had names for their cottages that somehow signified the feeling of their cottage. Most cottages had their names painted on the building or on a sign they hung up in the front. If you came to Buckeye Lake you found your friends by the name of the cottage.

Some of the more notable names were: Seldom Inn, Bone Head, Park View, Sunny Side Villa, Smug Harbor, H2O View, Rest a While and Kozy Kottage. The Museum has a book listing hundreds of these names and some locations.

Member and volunteer, Lois Holler, of the North Bank is working hard to find out all the names she can and publish this information at the museum. Besides having this valuable information in the archives for residents to see, it is to become a fund raiser for the Society. The names will be engraved on wooden signs for the homeowner to purchase and proudly display.

This is not an easy project (what project is really) as most of the cottages through the ages have been re-numbered or torn down so the home is hard to locate. If you have any information that will help Lois in her project, let us know.

HISTORY COMES ALIVE AS "FLETCH & PAPPY'S" GRANDDAUGHTER VISITS MUSEUM

Running the Crystal pool for many, many years were Mr. & Mrs. Florian Fletcher better known to all the swimmers as "Fletch & Pappy." Most of us never knew that they had any children. In fact, if you were to ask local swimmers, "Did Fletch have any children?" The answer would probably be "No."



Florian Fletcher watching over Crystal Pool

We told you before of Mr. Robert Fletcher stopping in the Museum last year and surprising J-me as he looked exactly like his father, Pappy!

This week we had another chapter in the continuing

saga of the Fletchers. Stephanie Abbott Kamm and her husband Paul, arrived at the museum anxious to meet with Donna and J-me and find out about her famous grandparents.

She and husband Paul live in Centerville, Ohio and she recalls coming to the Park and visiting her grandparents on a few occasions. She was so happy to find out information about her grandparents. Many pictures and small items were brought out of the showcases and passed around the table. She did not know them very well and was so anxious for any information. Fletch had given our Director several

items from the famous Crystal Pool several years ago and they now reside in their own showcase at the museum.

Most of the old timers recall a story that Mrs. Fletcher's grandson had drowned in Crystal Pool one morning before the pool opened. The information was scarce and no one really knew if this was true. Stephanie recalled to us that yes, her older brother did drown at the pool in the summer of 1948 from a possible epileptic attack. She wasn't sure of much of the story as her family didn't speak of it very often. It is hard to imagine the pain and heartache Fletch must have endured from this family tragedy. She ran the pool with a heavy hand & probably saved 100's of other kids from the deep end when they jumped in over their heads, but could not save her grandson. I am sure it was a heavy burden.

Stephanie was wearing a beautiful sapphire with diamonds all around it. This had been her grandmother's ring. Looking at the old photographs in the archives we found a picture of Fletch wearing the ring. Stephanie returned home from her visit here and looked through many of her mother's items and found several articles and documents about Fletch & Pappy. Many of them now made more sense to her as she had the background of her family. She sent copies to us for our archives. Many thanks for that.

Following her retirement from the pool business, Fletch started painting and Stephanie presented the Museum with a beautiful painting that her grandmother had done. It will be hung in the museum honoring this woman who had for many years, "raised hundreds of kids in Crystal Pool."



Wishing You the Best of Holidays this Season



From the Board of the Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society