

Fort Recovery State Museum Newsletter - March 2014

Looking Forward to 2014 - We hope you too are looking forward to a great Season 2014 at the Fort Recovery Museum. Over the past months we have been busy with emails, phone calls (including middle of the night "Your alarm is going off" calls), meetings, planning and visits concerning our museum, history and events! The Fort Recovery State Museum is alive and well!

1. Financial Statement

Included in the envelope to patrons is our financial statement. This provides information about our sources of income and expenditures. Our expenses were high last year, but that was not an accident. We had been saving income with the intention of renovating our upstairs, the museum's prehistoric area. The \$10,000 Bulp donation not only gave us the financial backing to take that on, but also to design it with their input. So that renovation is a large expenditure the likes of which you will probably not see again. Another long-time goal was to replace the sidewalks around the museum so they would allow for handicapped accessibility and would make walking safer for all. That too was a major 2013 expenditure. Finally, we installed a curb along the front of the museum/fort, a necessity to stop floods from invading the museum! What a year of major accomplishments. Expensive, but done for a long, long time. Thank YOU!

2. So What's Happening to the Museum Now?

One of our final building goals was to update our restroom/storage areas in the basement. We had considered doing one or the other at this time, but they are so inter-connected that it was decided it was most prudent to do it all at once. So we hired: Tom Siegrist to scrape/patch/refinish the concrete walls and floor; Westgerdes Flooring to put down linoleum (replacing the loose, cracked floor tiles); and Ron May Plumbing to replace the old bathroom toilets and sinks. Total estimates for the work was approximately \$9,000. It is nearly finished, and we are pleased. The storage areas previously nearly unusable, are now inviting places for storage of valuable and/or necessary artifacts, books, papers, equipment, chairs etc. AND we no longer have to worry about whether our restrooms will work efficiently for field trips and tours, not to mention the negative impression created by such poor restrooms in such a great museum. Hopefully, you will be as happy to take visitors there as we.

3. Mark Your Calendars!! Events and Sunday Speakers for 2014

There is a significant Native American initiative taking place in Ohio and across many states. Through this program shakers and movers of this initiative (like the Ohio Historical Society) are hoping to raise awareness that Native Americans are not people from the past, but involved active Americans living among us. At the same time, it is important to understand who they were two hundred years ago (and more), what happened to them, and where they are now. In keeping with that quest, our speaker series has been developed around that theme. It should be a fascinating summer! Mark your calendars now!

Sunday, May 4, 12:00-4:00 pm - Grand Re-opening for 2014 - Hal Sherman Painting Exhibition, Outdoor Artifact Show, Ball State University Anthropology and Applied Anthropology Laboratories Research Display

Sunday, June 8, 3:00 pm - Ben Barnes, Shawnee Native from Miami, Oklahoma; "**Shawnee** Tribal History; Leaders (Blue Jacket, Tecumseh, The Prophet); Wabash Battles; Post Treaty of Greenville History; *Where are They Now?*"

Saturday, June 21, 8:30 am - St. Clair 5K Run/Walk, Fort Recovery Jubilee

Sunday, July 27, 3:00 pm - George Ironstrack, Miami Native from Miami University, Oxford: "**Miami** Tribal History; Chief Little Turtle; Battles on the Wabash; Post Treaty of Greenville History; *Where are They Now?*"

Sunday, August 17, 3:00 pm - Jeremy Turner, Native American from Indianapolis, "**Delaware** Tribal History; Chief Buckongahelas; Battles on the Wabash; Post Treaty of Greenville History; *Where are They Now?*"

Sunday, Sept. 21, 3:00 pm - Steve Littleton, from Sidney, Ottawa Researcher/Expert; "**Ottawa** Tribal History; Leadership; Battles on the Wabash; Post Treaty of Greenville History; *Where are They Now?*"

Sunday, October 19 - Fort Recovery Historical Society's *One-of-a Kind Auction*

4. Future Newsletters and Bits of History

Can't wait to share some of the articles I have been saving over the winter. Watch for them to come! Herewith one shared by Hal Sherman - our faithful patron who keeps me on my toes and abreast (AND a wonderful artist who will be featured on our opening Sunday- May 4.) "Did you know the saying "**God willing and the creek don't rise**" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water."

Looking Forward to a Fantastic Season 2014 at the Fort Recovery Museum! nk