



# Log by Log



**Beavercreek  
Historical Society**

**Fall 2011  
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A Publication of the Beavercreek Historical Society. Affiliated with the City of Beavercreek.

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

## IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER!

**2011 Harvest Dinner | October 21, 22, 23**

It's great to report as we go to press with this newsletter that reservations for the 2011 Harvest Dinners scheduled for October 21, 22, and 23 are filling quickly. There are some openings for Sunday dinner, and a recent cancellation opened four slots for Saturday night; but Friday is sold out. Reservations may be made by sending your check (\$25 donation per person payable to Beavercreek Historical Society) to Lynn Hickman-Long, 1311 Canary Court, Beavercreek, OH 45434.

New chairperson Helen Haun and committee members Nancy Wagner, Becky Jarvi, Lynn Hickman-Long and Jill Kincer have been planning the event and are very pleased to report that the membership response has once again been very supportive of this popular annual event. Special thanks to Helen for stepping forward to lead the event this year.

The menu will feature a main entrée of Brunswick Stew (with

pork and chicken) along with the traditional appetizer of homemade applesauce prepared personally by past chairperson Bob Zimmer. A salad, homemade bread and sweet potato pie dessert are also included in the meal. The Master Gardeners will once again be providing autumn décor to dress up the log homes for the event and their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are coming forward to help with table setting, serving, dish washing, cabin preparations and clean-up. Additional help is always appreciated, so if you are...  
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## It's Membership Renewal Time!

Please check your mailing label to see if your membership expired on Sept. 30, 2011. If so, there is a renewal form on page 7 for you to fill out and mail in or better yet, bring it with you when you attend the October Quarterly Meeting (see back for more info), along with your check for the 2011-2012 year.

If we haven't received your renewal by the end of December you will no longer receive the Log by Log.

**Hurry! We don't want  
to lose you!**

Membership Chairman  
Zelma Robinson, 426-2850



**Photos from last year's Harvest Dinner**

# HERITAGE AND HERB DAYS

September 22, 2011 | Deborah L. Sasser

The skies may have been cloudy, but that did not stop local residents from enjoying Heritage and Herb Days at Wartinger Park in Beaver Creek recently. Heritage and Herb Days is an annual event that is jointly sponsored by the Beaver Creek Historical Society and the Flower Trail Garden Club.

During the event visitors enjoyed watching traditional artisans in action. Around the park there were demonstrations of traditional rug hooking, tatting, quilting and basket weaving. There were also displays of handmade soaps and candles, fall decorations, and homemade baked goods for sale. On Saturday, visitors had an opportunity to have an appraisal done by Garth's Auction, Inc. of Delaware, Ohio. The cost was only \$5 per item for a verbal appraisal.



**George Jarusiewicz's Cabin served as the general store**

The first stop for many visitors was the laundry line by the old wringer washer where the children lined

up to try their hand at some old fashioned clothes washing. There were many hands-on activities for the kids, including bead stringing and toy making. Each child was given a list of activities and once completed, each child was treated to a cookie for their accomplishment.



**Children in line to try some old fashioned clothes washing**

For those who were hungry there was a delicious menu that included the ever popular ham and bean soup, hotdogs and pickles on a stick. Many visitors topped off their meal with an old-fashioned Sasparilla and a piece of homemade pie. On Sunday, lunch was served up by Beaver Creek City Mayor, Scott Hadley, Vice Mayor, Brian Jarvis and Council Member, Vicki Giambone. They worked alongside the many volunteers who make this event so successful.

In addition to the artisan booths, each of the historic homes was open to visitors. Woodcarvers

demonstrated their craft in the Samuel Ankeney House, while the George Jarusiewicz's Cabin served as the general store. Outside the cabin visitors strolled through the wonderful herb garden. In the Peter Tobias-Zimmer Barn, children could experience cutting wood with old fashioned tools.

When it was time to stop and rest, visitors could grab a bag of freshly popped kettle corn, pull up a hay bale to sit on, and listen to the delightful sounds of the Mountain Dulcimer Society of Dayton.

Heritage and Herb Days was the perfect way to spend the day and experience the history of Beaver Creek. For more information about Wartinger Park and other historical programs and events, please visit [www.beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org).



**Heritage and Herb Days Menu**

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We want to give a **very special thank you** to those society members who responded to our requests for pie and/or cookie donations to sell in the food tent during the recent Heritage Days activities at Wartinger Park.

In addition, many members of the Historical Society as well as members of the City Council and the Township Trustees willingly helped with serving in the food tent. We are especially grateful for all their help.

Nancy Makley & Laura Bader

## Come Join the Fun and Fellowship!

The Beavercreek Historical Society is sponsoring “*My Life: One Story at a Time*” on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 3:00 – 4:30 beginning September 12 and ending December 12. This class is free and open to all (donations to the Beavercreek Historical Society accepted). The sessions will be held at the Coy House in Phillips Park at 1981 Dayton-Xenia Road.

Bob Wagley has been leading “*My Life: One Story at a Time*” for over 10 years. The class is not one of formal instruction. Each person writes a story outside of class and then reads it in class. You could say this is more a gathering of people who enjoy sharing stories about their life, their family and their ancestors. Reading the stories in class helps other members recall similar occasions in their life. We have a great time,

laughing often and occasionally shedding a tear. Some of the students have been attending these sessions for almost the full 10 years and still haven’t run out of stories to tell. It is great fun to think about the good things that have happened in your life, and it is therapeutic to recall the time when things weren’t so pleasant! Experiences that seem ordinary to you may be very interesting to your children or grandchildren.

In a recent “Dear Abby” column (November 16, 2010), a man wrote to Abby about a special gift he had requested from his mother. He asked her to write her life story — things she did as a child, her experiences about growing up and all of the experiences of her life. His mom wrote it and he had her story bound. He was able to give this wonderful gift to his children

and grandchildren. While this was a “Dear Abby” story, you can do the same thing for your loved ones.

Writing your family history is not difficult when you use your own words. It is made even easier when you do it “one story at a time.” Please don’t worry about making mistakes in spelling or grammar. If they bother you, you or someone else can edit your stories. The important thing is that only you know as much about your life; and if you don’t write about it, your children, grandchildren and others will miss out on the richness of your experiences.

*For more information or to sign up please contact Bob Wagley, robertwagley@att.net or 426-8325. The class will be limited to 12 students so contact Bob as soon as possible.*



# Master Gardeners at Wartinger Park

By Laura Bader

At this time 18 persons are volunteering in the capacity of Master Gardener at Wartinger Park. We are indeed grateful for the work that they do, keeping various flower plots in tip top condition, come rain or shine. This includes primarily the flower beds located around both the Harshman and Ankeney log houses. Specific areas in the flower beds are assigned to the various volunteers.

Alaire Turner is the coordinator of this group. Other members are Sue Agle, Lynn Cafaro, Donna

Chrisinger, Mary Ebert, Judi Engle, Debbie Erickson, Jan Fix, Debbie Frederick, Helen Haun, Judi Hill, Bonnie Freund, Connie O'Brien, Sarma Orłowski, Cathy Plum, Robert Quakenbush, Dianne Remmers, and Marirose Sindoni.

The Master Gardener Association for Greene County is currently headed by Jerry Haun, who is President of this group, and Jerry is also a member of the Beaver Creek Historical Society.

The association currently includes 130 members.

The Greene County Master Gardener program is a not-for-profit volunteer organization affiliated with the Ohio State University Extension-Greene County. Their most visible project of the area includes the demonstration garden beds located at James Ranch located on Fairground Road in Xenia. Display gardens there include perennials, biblical, butterfly, prairie, ornamental grasses, herb, and everlastings.

*(Photos are courtesy of Donna Chrisinger.)*



**Master Gardeners Plant Flower Beds at Ankeney House**



**Coordinator Alaire Turner, Judi Engle and Deborah Fredrick, and Others, Host a Meeting of the Greene County Master Gardener Association at Wartinger Park**



**Pictured left to right: Dianne Remmers, Debbie Erickson, Cathy Plum, Judi Hill, Sue Agle, Jan Fix, Lynn Cafaro, Donna Chrisinger**

**Check out the Ohio Historical Society's electronic newsletter!**

*Get your subscription by going to [www.ohiohistory.org/e-news](http://www.ohiohistory.org/e-news)*

# Saluting Our Volunteers: Bob Zimmer

*(Note: This is the second in a series of articles that focus personally on the many volunteers that together make the Beaver Creek Historical Society a vital part of our Beaver Creek community. We thank and salute ALL who in any way contribute to the Society's mission of preserving the past for the future.)*

As a young boy growing up on a farm in Beaver Creek, Bob Zimmer was always interested in old things and always wished he could've lived in the 1800s. As it was, he was born in the 1900s, but he most certainly has been instrumental in preserving and honoring those by-gone times he dreamed about in his youth. Bob found time to focus on his historical interests as an active volunteer for the Beaver Creek Historical Society following the death of his wife who had been in poor health. And he did it with vigor, as he seemingly approaches all things in life!

After researching the history of his homestead, the Tobias-Zimmer property, he tried to get it registered in the U.S. National Historic Inventory, but discovered that was a very difficult task. So he undertook the challenge along with fellow committee members (Laura Bader, Izzy Caro and Bob Wagley) with support from the city and township to create a Beaver Creek Historical Inventory with similar rules and regulations to Ohio's Inventory without the dictatorial restrictions. That became a reality in 2001, and

there are now 34 structures and 9 sites officially designated in the Beaver Creek Historical Inventory.

The Society for a time offered Yesteryear Dinners in the log homes of Wartinger Park in December. But icy December weather and cabins with only fireplaces to provide warmth gave new meaning to the term frozen dinners. So in 2003, Bob volunteered along with Sarah Haller to revive the idea as an October event to be known as Harvest Dinners. Bob served as main chef of this event through 2010, with good support from others, and it continues to be the major fundraiser of the Society.

Bob took a leadership role in negotiating a lease with the township trustees for the historic Coy House, located behind Beaver Cemetery, to serve as headquarters for the Society where historic records could be safely stored and made available for research, meetings could be held, etc. An official open house was held in January of 2009.

His most memorable moment as a Society member was August 26, 1996, the day the Tobias-Zimmer barn was moved from his property to Wartinger Park. The barn has become a unique facility with many uses. It houses old tools and other items of interest from the past, but is also a wonderful gathering place. The barn was the site of the Quilt Show held in May 2011, (displaying many of the 22 beautiful quilts Bob himself has hand-made) and is now available for groups to rent through the City Parks office.

We thank Bob for his many contributions to the Beaver Creek Historical Society. There are so many ways he continues to serve that it is simply not possible to enumerate them here in this space. We thank all our volunteers, as we could not do what we do in our community without the willingness to serve that is modeled by so many of you.



# HOW DID WARTINGER PARK GET ITS NAME

In 1975 Mr. Charles Lofino developed a sub-division on the northeast corner of Kemp and North Fairfield Roads. At the time, as now, the Beaver creek building code stipulated that a builder must set aside "green space" for a park when laying out a development.

Approximately five acres of this land was set aside for a park. Later on, one corner of this space was designated for a new fire station on the west side, which then left about 4.3 acres for the park itself. At that time, the parks department was under the jurisdiction of the Greene County Parks and Recreation; this particular space was undeveloped and unnamed. Only one small

structure was already located here - the Jarusiewicz Log Cabin - which had been relocated to this area and designated for use by the Flower Trail Garden Club of Beaver creek.

John Wartinger, the oldest son of Ken and Marie Wartinger of Beaver creek, had suffered a fatal heart attack. John had worked for the Greene County Parks and Recreation during his college years and later at the Greene County YMCA located in Xenia. He had also worked as a Safety Director for the City of Kettering and had developed the Safety Patrol Program for the Kettering School System. John refereed 5th grade basketball and was a teacher at Prass Elementary School, so he dedicated most of his young life to

the development of children.

At the request of the Greene County Commissioners, Wartinger Park was named and dedicated as the "John H. Wartinger Park" on December 6, 1975. Prominent Beaver creek residents were asked to donate a tree for the park; the row of pines now standing behind the Jarusiewicz Cabin site were planted on the day of dedication.

In 1976 the Flower Trail Garden Club assumed care of the park as a bicentennial project, the deed for the property was turned over to the City of Beaver creek in 1983. Wartinger Park then became under the jurisdiction of the Beaver creek Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department.

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## THE ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER!

*(continued on pg. 6)*

...willing to help in any of those efforts, please call Jill Kincer at 429-0291. If you have sent in a donation and reservation, you should have received (or will soon receive) a written acknowledgment of the date and log home location for your dinner. If you did not get your reservations submitted before the dining slots filled, you may call Helen Haun at 427-0741 to place

your name on a waiting list should any cancellations be received.

This is the major fund raiser of the year for the Beaver creek Historical Society, and we are so thankful to all who attend and especially to those of you who volunteer to help in any way. We look forward to seeing you at the 2011 Harvest Dinners.

### Do you have something to submit?

The next issue of Log By Log will mail on January 3, 2012. If you have something to include, please send it to the editor by the December 22nd, 2011 deadline. Submissions can be sent to:

**[sbaldwin@baldwincreates.com](mailto:sbaldwin@baldwincreates.com)**

# Seeking Your Stories ...

The goal of the Log by Log Newsletter is to keep our readers abreast of what is happening currently with the Beavercreek Historical Society and to share historical information about Beavercreek's past – be it a century past or the more recent past. After all, our organization's official purpose is preserving the past for the future. We very much appreciate those of you who have been contributing articles and hope you will continue to do so; but we also seek to broaden our input, hearing from others who also have interesting stories to share with our readers. If you have an interest in writing, particularly

articles regarding happenings from the past, please let us hear from you. Because we now publish quarterly rather than monthly, we ask that each article be self-contained with the start and finish of the story contained in one issue on one page. The recommended length is within 640 words without a picture, or 500 words or less if there is an accompanying picture or pictures. You may submit your article by email to our Log by Log editor, Steve Baldwin at sbaldwin@baldwincreates.com. Call Steve at 937-912-0230 if you have questions. We'd love to hear from you!

## OFFICERS FOR 2011 - 2012:

**Lynn Hickman-Long**

President  
426-1522

**Bob Wagley**

VP, Internal Operations  
426-8325

**Nancy Wagner**

VP, External Operations  
426-1272

**Jill Kincer**

Secretary  
429-0291

**Wendy Kirchoff**

Treasurer  
426-4871

Contact us at bhsOhio@gmail.com

## Yes, I'm Interested.

### I'd like to join!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Annual Memberships (check one):

- \$5 Student (age 18 and below)
- \$15 Individual
- \$20 Family
- \$50 Club/Organization
- \$100 - \$499 Patriot

#### Or Lifetime Memberships (check one):

- \$500 - \$999 Preservationist
- \$1000 (and above) Historian

### How can I help?

#### Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Developing oral history of Beavercreek
- Writing or editing for monthly newsletter
- Tours and historical programs at the park
- Craft demonstrations
- Acquisitions committee
- Publicity committee
- Working on barn or house preservation
- Creative fundraising opportunities
- Membership committee
- Educational committee
- Hospitality committee

Send checks (payable to Beavercreek Historical Society) and this form to:  
1368 Research Park Drive, Beavercreek, Ohio 45432



## Upcoming Events:

### **Board Meeting, October 13**

Coy House – 4:00 PM

### **Harvest Dinner, October 21 – 23**

Wartinger Park

### **Quarterly Meeting, October 25**

Beavercreek Board of Education  
3040 Kemp Road – 7:00 PM

### **Board Meeting, November 10**

Coy House – 4:00 PM

### **Newsletter Submission Deadline**

December 23 – 5:00 PM

### **Quarterly Meeting, January 24**

Beavercreek Board of Education  
3040 Kemp Road – 7:00 PM

*Fourteen Months in the Union Artillery:  
The Diary of Private Wallace Byrd, 16th  
Ohio Battery presented by Larry Marple*



1368 Research Park Drive  
Beavercreek, Ohio 45432

"The objectives of the organization are to preserve structures of historical significance, to develop and present community education programs, and to create a learning center for historic education."

## **Beavercreek Historical Society Quarterly Meeting**

*October 25, 2011 | 7:00PM | Beavercreek Board of Education*

## **The Life of Dr. Edwards**

Rosalie Yoakam, history columnist for the Dayton Daily News will present a biographical sketch of J. Darwin Edwards. Dr. Edwards was a very interesting person! In addition to being a medical doctor, at various times in his life he was a teacher, a miner, ran a drug store, was a bank president and a sculptor. To say he was multitalented would truly be an understatement!

He was born in Clermont County in 1820. His parents came to Ohio in 1806 and were able to clear their land for farming. He left the farm at 15 to become a tailor but changed his mind to become a teacher. In 1850 he left Ohio to seek his fortune in the gold fields of California but returned to Ohio in 1859 to set up his Xenia medical practice in 1860.

During his time in Xenia he helped organize the Citizen's National Bank in 1881 and later served as its president. His obituary in 1896 stated he was an upright and honorable gentleman who enjoyed telling a good story. With the life he led, story telling must have come easy for him!

## **Join Us!**



**History Columnist: Rosalie Yoakam**



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