

Affiliated with the City of Beavercreek

THE BEAVERCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Log by Log

Our objectives as an organization are to preserve structures of historical significance, develop and present community education programs, and operate the History Center for educational outreach and historical research.

A Quarterly
Newsletter from



Summer 2023
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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org



Beavercreek
FLORIST®

When the Hamilton family of eight built their "forever home" on Banyon Dr. in Beavercreek in 1968, little did they know what the next 55 years would bring.

by Phillis Hamilton, Member

THOSE WERE THE DAYS MY FRIENDS...

...When we opened Beavercreek Florist in 1975, at 2173 N. Fairfield Rd., "way out in the country," and North Fairfield Rd. was only a two-lane road. Most of the retail businesses in Beavercreek were "downtown."

...When North Fairfield Rd. was closed for widening from June 1979 until the fall of 1980, business was slower than slow, BUT

...When the road reopened, business tripled!

...When our business motto was "Affordable Flowers for Priceless Feelings."



...When job applicants wanted to work there thinking it would be "fun working in a flower shop"... that is until they worked through a Valentine's Day and Mother's Day and watched over 150 arrangements go out the door!!

...When we had fun contests like "Ugliest Plant," "Count the Snoopys," "Super Mom," and "Guess whose picture is on the side of the building." It was a huge picture of Merlin Olsen, a defensive tackle with the LA Rams and spokesperson for FTD (Florists' Transworld Delivery). The first prize was a dozen roses, and roses at that time were \$0.50 each.

YES, THOSE WERE THE DAYS MY FRIENDS...

...When my husband Bob Hamilton wrote a weekly garden article, "Beavercreek Gardens," for the *Beavercreek News* from 1978 until 1982, on a typewriter no less, because he didn't have a word processor in those days.



...When I taught a flower arranging class at Beavercreek High School at night. One of my students was Nancy Clark who later became the White House Floral Director under Ronald Reagan. She invited me to DC to help decorate the White House in 1985 and while there, Tom and I visited (then) Congressman Michael DeWine.

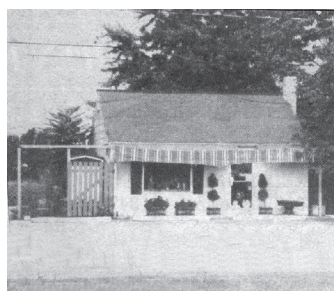
...When Beavercreek Florist won first place in many Fourth of July parades including the one featuring a life-size Statue of Liberty.

...When we provided flowers for three generations of weddings, new babies, and funerals for our friends and neighbors.

...When for many years, Beavercreek Florist arranged 600 white roses for the Beavercreek High School classes at graduation. In 1988, the roses were red. Each graduate was given a rose upon receiving their diploma.

...When my son Tom Hamilton bought the florist shop in 1994 and upgraded the sales area and made other modernizations. He brought the business into the electronic era through the internet and created a Web address for online purchases.

YES, THOSE WERE THE DAYS MY FRIENDS. WE THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER END...



...But end they did in 2021 with the sale of the Beavercreek Florist. The new owner moved the business to Stroop Rd. near the Greene, keeping the name, phone number, and Web address. Kettering Health Network bought all the other lots in that row, north of the business complex.

BUT TODAY...

...The original home of the Beavercreek Florist for 45 years is vacant.

The end of an era.



When Lt Col Bob Hamilton returned from 100 missions over N. Vietnam in 1967, all he wanted to do was to garden. So, retiring from the USAF and moving to Beaver Creek in 1968, he got a lot of experience in gardening on his six acres and enlisted the aid of his six children. His youngest son, Jim was heard by the neighbors as he sang while planting corn seeds, "Mmmmm, mmmmm. I LOVE corn!!!" And while he truly loved corn, he would rather eat it than plant it!! Jim is in his late 50s today and still would rather eat than plant corn.

So, after attending several Ohio State University classes during the '70s, Bob began to share his experience in a Thursday weekly article, called "Beaver Creek Gardens" in the *Beaver Creek Daily News*...later the *News-Current*.

One such article follows, written in Bob's inimitable style, giving some great summer gardening tips.

Reprinted from the *Beaver Creek News*, July 7, 1981
By Bob Hamilton

PINCH OFF TOMATOES. This suggestion will go against the grain for most of us, but to get earlier and bigger fruit, such as tomatoes, you should pinch off many of the little tomatoes as they are forming, leaving only a couple of the bigger ones. Tomatoes form in a cluster or hand, and the more little fruits that set and are allowed to remain, the slower the individual development. The amount of food each plant can make is determined by its total leaf area, and the developing fruit are actually "food sinks" for the plant. Thus, if "X amount" of food is available to make fruit and if it is divided by only two ways instead of six, the result is earlier and larger fruit. Of course, all this thinning effort is only worthwhile for the first few tomatoes.

For some types of fruit, you may want to continue the thinning all season, as for example, with yellow crookneck squash. We like large succulent ones, but by the time they get really large, they are tough. By allowing only one squash per plant to mature at one time, you can really get a nice large and tender produce that you could never buy at the store. And that is the name of this game . . . to grow better products than we can buy.

VOLUNTEERS. It is a little late in the season to suggest this, but have you looked for volunteer seedlings from last year's plants? For instance, portulaca (Moss Rose flower) is one of the most generous producers of volunteers. This year, besides the portulaca, I've found chive, petunia, tomato, snapdragon, and celosia volunteers. It is said that parsley volunteers easily, but it hasn't for me. Of course, in this day of hybrids you don't always get the best variety for a volunteer . . . but they are free.

RAIN. Last Tuesday night the National Weather Bureau said we had 1.59 inches of rain, but my rain gauge measured 2.25 inches. We need about an inch of rain each week. I say "about" because

when our plants are just seedlings we don't need that much, and when we have a complete canopy of green in our garden we need a little more. Too much rain is worse than not enough. If we have too little we can irrigate of course, but if we have too much . . . like earlier this year when the soil was constantly saturated . . . instead of normal roots forming, we get water roots. (Anaerobic roots if you want to be technical.) This type of root is very inefficient at taking up water and nutrients for plant growth. So, if your garden is doing poorly . . . blame it on the heavy spring rains!

FALL LIVING HISTORY PLANS ARE UNDERWAY

Program directors Amy Rohrback and Marsha De Weese are already planning and preparing for a fantastic fall Living History Program and the dates have been set. Main, Trebein, St. Luke, and Valley third-graders will be visiting Wartinger Park during the weeks of September 11-October 6, 2023. The Living History Program provides valuable early Ohio education for the students and even their parents and grandparents who chaperone for the day. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the program. Volunteers present one of six chores to the students and do not need prior knowledge of the subject matter to help with the program—just the desire to have fun while giving back to our community. Training will be available in person or by video. If you are interested in helping with the program, contact Amy Rohrback at (937) 477-1007 or email livinghistorybhs@gmail.com.

THE POTATO GARDEN IS THRIVING



The Living History Program has an upgraded potato garden! The Beaver Creek Historical Society funded the installation of four 4ft x16ft raised gardening beds behind the barn. Beaver Creek Parks and Recreation filled the beds with enriched soil. Third-grade students from Fairbrook, Parkwood, and Shaw schools planted the seed potatoes during the April and May program as part of their activities demonstrating early Ohio farming. Students attending the fall program will dig up the potatoes and the cycle will be complete. Hopefully, we will have a bumper crop! Stop by Wartinger Park and check out the new beds.

You can be a part of it! Park visitors are invited to pitch in by pulling weeds to help maintain the beds over the summer as described in this sign posted in the beds.

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**Beavercreek Township Liaison,
Vacant**
– consider volunteering

Welcome New Board Members

Sharma Nachlinger will be replacing Ruth Wiley as the Beavercreek Schools Liaison. Sharma was the former principal of Main Elementary and has just assumed the role of Elementary Curriculum Supervisor for Beavercreek City Schools. She will be instrumental in coordinating our Living History Program for Beavercreek third-graders.

Ruth Wiley has volunteered to take on the role of Log x Log newsletter editor. Ruth recently retired from the role of Elementary Curriculum Supervisor for Beavercreek City Schools and previously served as the liaison for the Living History Program.

Thank you to these wonderful volunteers! We'll tell you more about them in the next newsletter issue.

We Need You!

If you have an appreciation for the unique and colorful history of Beavercreek and a willingness to work with others, you are a prime candidate to join our team! Volunteers are the backbone of our organization! We need help in several areas to make our team complete and share the workload. You will not work alone—existing board members are ready to provide support. Please consider helping in the following areas: Board Secretary, Program Director, and Publicity Director. Contact bhsohio@gmail.com

Not getting our emails?

BHS sends out periodic, time-sensitive email announcements. Send your address to bhsohio@gmail.com to make sure you are on the list. (We do not share emails.)

Help grow our membership!

Our members are the key to our success and membership income is critical in helping us preserve and share Beavercreek history through the History Center and annual educational programs and events. In addition to keeping your own membership current, please encourage friends and family to join our group. Membership forms are available on our website: <https://beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org>

Welcome New Members:

*Mike Austria
Bradley & Julia Bey
Cheryl, Jenna, & Ryan Coy
Kathy Knall
Peg Ross
Ralph & Janice Speelman
Karen Wightman
Donald and Angela Rose*

Thank You Lifetime Business Sponsors:

*IH Credit Union
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**Contact bhsohio@gmail.com to
learn more about becoming a
business sponsor**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Board of Directors Meetings

First Tuesdays, 4:30 P.M.

Lofino Plaza Meeting Room

Log by Log Submissions Due September 8

Submit to bhsohio@gmail.com

2023 Quarterly Meeting & Program Dates

July 23, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Community Ice Cream Social
and Barn Dedication**

Tobias-Zimmer Barn at Wartinger Park
3080 Kemp Rd.

October 24, 7:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
3530 Dayton-Xenia Rd.

*Join us on Facebook to keep updated on Society news
and activities and to post your Beaver Creek historical
items of interest: Beaver Creek Historical Society.*



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BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

Thank You for Your Support

Please join us for the **Tobias-Zimmer Barn Dedication** and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 23rd

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Wartinger Park, 3080 Kemp Rd.

Special needs parking adjacent to the barn.

**Public parking at the Beaver Creek Board of Education,
8040 Kemp Rd.**

The newly rebuilt barn will be dedicated to the Beaver Creek Community at 5:00 p.m., with a special announcement kicking off the fundraising campaign for the restroom addition.

Bring your family and friends out to enjoy an evening in the park, including a free ice cream social and historical cabin tours.

Presented by Beaver Creek Historical Society