President’s Letter

By Mark Wiley

It’s hard to believe it’s been five years! Jill Kincer, former BHS president, reached out looking for her replacement. My wife who was the Education Liaison at the time knew of my interest in American History and “recruited” me for the job. Here I am entering my sixth year as the Beavercreek Historical Society President and I’m writing my first letter to all of you. Our mission statement, “Preserve the Past for the Future”, is evidenced by the number of programs that have indeed stood the test of time. Below are some highlights of the programs we provide and initiatives that are current priorities.

The Beavercreek Historical Society is completely dependent on several key constituents without which none of our programs would be possible. Our all-volunteer executive board – Bobbie Carpenter (Vice President), Mary Jean Henry (Secretary), Rebecca Blaho (Secretary Elect), and Rodger Reedy (Treasurer) continue to provide leadership and skills to conduct our activities. The Beavercreek Schools and the education liaison, Sharma Nachlinger, help shape and enhance the Living History program. The City of Beavercreek and the Parks Department, represented by Kim Farrell, are the backbone of maintaining and upgrading the park as we see increasing interest in the park itself. These key elements have come together to provide a successful 2023.

Our Living History program hosts the Beavercreek and St. Luke third grade students at Wartinger Park during the Fall and Spring. Thanks to our incredible volunteers who consistently give their time and talents this educational program is a valuable component of the student’s local history requirement. The directors of this program – Amy Rohrback and Marsha DeWeese – conduct this well organized and detailed program with the highest degree of professionalism by recruiting volunteers, organizing materials and providing onsite support. The students, parent escorts and teachers are all engaged and excited to participate. I can tell you through my experience (if you’d like to join the volunteers) that everything that you need to be successful is provided. Interacting with the students in this setting is gratifying, please consider joining our team.

This month the city hosted the Winter Welcome program at Wartinger and it was a blockbuster. The activities included Santa in the Barn, Cookie Decorating (BHS Volunteer: Bobbie Carpenter), Outdoor Tree Decoration (BHS Volunteer: Amy Rohrback), Food Trucks, a cabin decorating competition, live reindeer and much more. The unofficial count was over 1,400 attendees enjoyed this evening at the park. These events and programs enrich our community and provide opportunities for family togetherness during the holidays.

For events of this magnitude at Wartinger as an activity hub, there is a key component missing. Currently the participants must walk to the adjacent fire house to find a restroom. One of the ways that we hope to improve and develop the functionality of the park is to add restroom facilities to the barn. This would accomplish two things, provide nearby restroom facilities and enhance the desirability of the barn for event rentals. We are currently raising funds for the restroom addition and hope to construct them during 2024. We have engaged an architect, Matt Fisher, NCARB certified, to develop a master plan for the park with even more enhancements in the future.

The Beavercreek Historical Society hopes to continue to play a vital role in the continued success of our Beavercreek community. I want to personally thank everyone involved who either volunteered or participated with us.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2024!
Mark Wiley
Diane Phillipps presented a historical site award for the stonehouse at 2399 Kemp Road at the barn dedication ceremony. Originally, Joe Koogler along with his two sons, Ben and Joe (nicknamed Junior) collected stones and stacked them behind their home until they had enough to start the building on Kemp Rd. If you’re interested and would like to read more about it … Dayton Daily News Archive: No Stone Unturned, September 2, 1989.
Winter Welcome at Wartinger Park
The Winter Welcome at Wartinger Park boasts record attendance!

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 area: Program Director. Contact bhsohio@gmail.com

New Volunteer: Rebecca Blaho (Secretary Elect)
Our new Secretary is Rebecca Blaho, of Waynesville. Rebecca’s ties to Beavercreek go back many generations as she is the 5x great granddaughter of Jacob Coy Sr. As a child she spent a lot of time in Beavercreek visiting her grandparents, Norman and Evelyn Coy, in the home they built in the 1930s on Dayton-Xenia Road. Rebecca enjoys history, genealogical research, knitting, and beekeeping. She currently works in educational publishing for K-12 textbooks and is looking forward to helping support the Beavercreek Historical Society and its mission.

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.)

Curious About Past Newsletter Editions?
Please check out our website: beavercreekhistoricalsociety.org

Welcome
New Members:
Larry Hutsell

Thank You Lifetime Business Sponsors:
IH Credit Union
TA O’Neal & Sons, LLC

Contact bhsohio@gmail.com to learn more about becoming a business sponsor
Monthly Board of Directors Meetings  
First Tuesdays, 4:30 P.M. 
Lofino Plaza Meeting Room

Log by Log Submissions Due February 9  
Do you know about Beavercreek history that would interest others? Please reach out to us. 
Submit to bhsohio@gmail.com

2024 Quarterly Meeting & Program Dates  
January 23, 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 Beavercreek historical items of interest: Beavercreek Historical Society.

The Greene County Records Center and Archives holds the records of long-term and historic value for Greene County offices—but what does that mean in practice for the community? Join the Beavercreek Historical Society and Archives staff member Mary McKinley to hear about the Archives’ mission and operations, their plans for America’s 250th anniversary in 2026, and the secrets and surprises Archives records can hold for the Beavercreek Community.

Mary McKinley is the Public Outreach Coordinator for the Greene County Records and Archives, responsible for the Archives’ Volunteer and Educational Outreach programs. Mary attained a Bachelor’s degree in History and Classical Languages from the College of Wooster, and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Maryland at College Park. In addition to her academic credentials, she has worked in libraries and archives of many sizes and kinds throughout the years—including working in local history and genealogy at two Carnegie libraries!