

**Letter from the Director:**

Hello Friends,

I have had the pleasure of serving as the director of the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum for the past 8 years and I never expected to love this job so much! I have had the privilege of not only sharing, but also learning, about the great history of Syracuse. During that time, I have been able to share that knowledge with the people that visit the museum, and with schools and organizations outside of the museum. Because we do these programs outside of the museum, it has allowed us to expand our educational services for both adults and children.

Our board of directors currently consists of 10 volunteer members. The board works with me to make improvements, develop displays, develop and run programs, and helps me with daily operations. The board also consists of many members that grew up in the community and help pass on those historical significance to me since I am a transplant to Indiana.

Just as past summers have been our busiest season, we are anticipating Summer 2023 to be just as busy. Mary Hursh and I work together to bring you our June Open House and try to consistently change up our temporary displays year-round. Ann Garceau and I work together to bring you our summer Centennial Homes programs in July and August. This year, both programs will feature the fish hatchery and the areas surrounding the fish hatchery. Mike Mock and I work together at all events to make sure all of the technical aspects of the programming are taken care of, that speakers sound good, and all programs are recorded, when possible. Mark Knecht (Chautauqua-Wawasee), Ann Garceau, and I work together to plan and bring the annual Archaeology Program to the community. All of these programs require months of planning and could not be done without everyone working together.

Winters are busy with grant writing, special projects, and improvements. Throughout the past year, the museum has worked with Frey Furniture Restoration to give a facelift to four of our vintage display cabinets. This upcoming winter, we are planning to paint the walls and shampoo (or replace) the carpet, which will require us to shut down for a short time. This would be a great time to volunteer as we are currently planning to do the work ourselves. We also participate in most programs with the community center such as the Harvest Festival, Breakfast With Santa, and Easter Egg Hunt, as well as being open for special hours during other community programs.

I would like to thank each of you for everything you do to help the museum. Everything from visits to donations of all kinds. Without you, we would cease to exist and there would be no single place to go to learn about the rich history of the town of Syracuse. It costs approximately \$100 per day to stay open year-round, and we have been extremely fortunate to not have to charge an admission fee. If you are in a position to help offset our daily costs, please consider donating. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, monetary donations will receive a thank you letter and are tax deductible.

*Jamie L. Clemons*

Jamie L. Clemons  
Director



*Board Members:*

- Peggy Genshaw — President**
- Patrick Appenzeller — Vice President**
- Mary Hursh — Secretary/Treasurer**
- Michael Mock**
- Garry Ringler**
- Ann Garceau**
- John Heckaman**
- Kip Schumm**
- Martha Stoelting**
- Mike Smith**

[syracusemuseum.org](http://syracusemuseum.org)

*Mission:*

Our mission is to preserve objects from families and businesses of the Syracuse-Wawasee area. By making these historical items, pictures, and documents available for viewing, it is hoped that visitors to the museum may have a better understanding of the people and events that have made our community what it is today.

The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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**Offering a glimpse back in time  
for northeastern Kosciusko  
County since 1987.**



**1013 North Long Drive, Syracuse | 574.457.3599**

## Upcoming Events:

### June 1—August 3—Youth History Club, Thursdays, 10:30 am.

Youth History Club is a hands-on learning experience primarily for grade-school children. Children learn about a variety of topics, their history, and historical significance to our area. Youth History Club is fully sponsored by the Dekko Foundation and is free to all participants.

### June 17—Open House, 10:00 am-2:00 pm

The Open House is an opportunity for the public to visit the museum, learn about short- and long-term plans, discuss past and future projects and programs, and talk with board members.

### July 8—Centennial Homes, 10:30 pm, “Fish Hatchery” Part 1

The 2023 summer marks the 8th year for our Centennial Homes programs. This year’s programs will focus on the Fish Hatchery and the community surrounding the area.

### July 22—Walk Down Memory Lane, 2:00-3:30 pm

In cooperation with Chautauqua-Wawasee, we are happy to bring a viewing of “The Wawasee Film Collection.” This collection features the Weaver/Fick Travelogue Film, the Spink-Wawasee Promotional Film, and the Spink-Wawasee Vacation Film. All films are from the 1930s and run approximately 45 minutes in total.

### August 12—Centennial Homes, 10:30 am, “Fish Hatchery” Part 2

The 2023 summer marks the 8th year for our Centennial Homes programs. This year’s programs will focus on the Fish Hatchery and the community surrounding the area.

### August 31—Archaeology Month Program, 6:30-7:30 pm

T.J. Honeycutt will be speaking on the Treaty of Paradise Spring, also known as the Treaty of Mississinewa.

### September 1—Archaeology Month Program, 6:30-7:30 pm

Lynn MacKaben Brown will be speaking about Dominique Rousseau, the first permanent white resident of Kosciusko County.

### September 2—Archaeology Month Program, 10:00 am-Noon

Saturday’s event is held at the Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation and features several presenters giving historical talks and demonstrations. This year’s topics are “Bring Your Own Artifact,” “Five Medals Living History,” “1750s French Marine,” “Hands-on Flint Knap-ping,” “Atlant Weapon Demonstration,” and “Metal Detecting in Archaeology.”

## Gifts:

Gifts to the museum come in many forms: Time, money, information, and items. Gift your time by volunteering! Volunteering at the museum takes on many forms and wants to utilize your strengths. A gift of money is always appreciated and goes toward helping the museum operate on a free admission basis. All monetary donations receive a thank you letter and qualify as a tax deduction. Gifts of information and items increase the knowledge that the museum holds and is able to help the public with research projects.

## Memorial Donations:

The museum is happy to accept memorial donations in honor of loved ones. Names of all persons honored by memorial donations are added to our Honorarium & Memorial plaque.

## Grants:

**Ken and Lela Harkless Foundation**—Funds daily operation costs.

### Kosciusko County Community

**Foundation**—Funds some daily operation costs and special projects. The special projects for 2023 include purchasing new program equipment (projector, projector screen), restoration services of two vintage display cases, adult programming, painting the museum, and cleaning or replacing the museum carpet.

**Dekko Foundation**—Funds from the Dekko Foundation allow us to offer all of our hands-on children’s programming free of charge.

# Garry Ringler hopes to inspire interest in the museum

By Mary Hursh



When Garry Ringler joined the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum board in 2012, the group not only got a new working member, but they also acquired access to his many historical collections.

“Dave Sheets encouraged me to join the board. We collected postcards together and he thought I would enjoy working with history. I went to a meeting and joined,” said Ringler.

Over the years, Ringler has contributed items to many displays. “I have done a fishing lure display,

a pencil and matchbook display, and I worked on our large arrowhead display cases with Ann Garceau,” said Ringler.

Being a board member allows him the opportunity to discover new information about the Syracuse area. “I have a lot of interests. I collect all types of Syracuse memorabilia and Indian artifacts. Charlie Garner has given me some of his World War II collection and I plan to enlarge that collection as I buy items.”

One of the big goals Ringler has for the museum is to inspire and instill community interest in the museum.

After high school graduation, Ringler joined the Army and was stationed in Viet Nam. After his service, he got married and decided to go to college. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in speech pathology from Indiana State. He went on to get his Masters in Speech Pathology as well as his Certificate of Clinical Competency. Over the years, he worked for private agencies in speech pathology. He held various positions at Whitko School including assistant principal, athletic director, speech pathologist, and guidance counselor. He earned his counseling license from IUPUI in Fort Wayne as well as his administrator’s license. After five years as an assistant principal, Ringler became the Dean of Students at Wawasee High School. He held that position for four years.

Currently, Ringler works with Sherman Keirn cleaning and restoring cemetery headstones at the Syracuse Cemetery. “We have done a huge amount of stones and we have discovered stones that were buried. This is the third summer I have worked on the project.”

# WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

The museum is always looking for volunteers! Everything from cleaning to filing to display development needs to be done on a regular basis. The best part about volunteering is that there is no set time limit... Volunteer as much or as little as you would like. Call Jamie Clemons at the museum to arrange your time and discuss what you would like to help out with.



## Museum volunteer Bob Kennedy scans recently loaned postcards of Lake Wawasee

By Ann Garceau



Volunteers are essential to the success of any non-profit organization. Bob Kennedy, his wife, Jean, and daughters, Sarah and Rebekah, have a strong love of history. In the mid-1980s, Bob Kennedy and his family moved to the area from Anchorage, Alaska, where he had been working on the Alaska Pipeline project. Purchasing a large, American Foursquare home built in 1905, they opened a bed and breakfast in 1986 adjoining South Shore Golf Course. The Anchor Inn Bed & Breakfast welcomed visitors from as far away as Germany and England and from all parts of the United States for thirty years. The family’s love of history was

exemplified in the way Jean displayed her collections artistically throughout the house, several of which have been displayed at the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum. Their outstanding cottage-style gardens were even edged with blocks salvaged from a laundry building on the property. Daughter Rebekah wrote an essay on her home’s history for the Kosciusko County Historical Society. Bob worked full time at PM Ag Products in Syracuse, as well as maintaining their 100-year-old house. After retirement and downsizing, Bob has volunteered at the museum scanning postcards and pictures to be included in the Syracuse-Wawasee Digital Archives, an internet site that contains thousands of images of the area. Museum volunteers like Bob enable us to offer so much more to the community.