



Quarterly Newsletter

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2020

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Wawasee Yacht Club By Mary Hursh

Wawasee Yacht Club History in Pictures Highlighted This Summer

Years ago in 1985, Paul E. Hess wrote a 61-page book which he dedicated to the memory of two wonderful friends, Edward Dodez and Joseph Plasket, whose efforts in the early years of the Wawasee Yacht Club made it possible for today's existence. The book was printed in Fort Wayne and has no copyright but only personal observations and opinions. Hess said the book was the first and the last edition.



I now have that book on loan from my fellow WYC members, Brad and Daphne Wagnon, and I read it from cover to cover several times as I prepared the museum display commemorating the 85th summer of the club.

The beginnings of this sailing club were indeed austere. In 1935, four sailors, Joseph Plasket, Ed Dodez, Byron McCammon, and Henry Wahl, approached Charles Bishop at

his boat livery and asked if they could use his porch as a headquarters for their sailing group. He said yes and the start of a love affair with sailing at Lake Wawasee began.

Then 1938 was the first milestone for the club as they hosted the three-day Snipe Class International Regatta. Eli Lilly paid for all rooms and meals for the sailors headquartered at the Spink Wawasee Hotel.

In May 1939, club members, with the help of Eli Lilly, were able to buy a clubhouse from the D.J. Brunjes estate located east of the Tavern Hotel. The purchase price was \$1,500. Within a few years, club members gutted the bedrooms on the main level to create a large living room space with a fireplace for club meetings. They added a sleeping area, an outdoor grill, and a well. In 1950, club members purchased and assembled a prefabricated building from Sears-Roebuck to serve as a dormitory for men and women staying overnight during the racing season.

Eli Lilly presented the Wawasee Yacht Club with its most prestigious trophy, and today's most coveted award, in 1949 to keep and award yearly to the skipper winning the highest number of points in the regatta series.

When the Tavern Hotel burned down and the land was put up for sale in 1955, the club was able to buy 50 feet of lakefront, giving them a boat yard space to keep and prepare their boats for weekly races.

Today, Lightning, E-Scow, Sunfish, and I-20 classes race weekly. Many regattas are

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Wawasee Yacht Club...Continued

held during the summer, along with monthly parties. This September, the club will host the Sunfish U.S. Masters Championship.



Active memberships at the club are \$550; junior memberships, \$275; social memberships, \$200. Junior sailing instruction is offered each summer through the month of July for ages 8-13 in basic sailing classes and for sailors ages 13-16 in advanced sailing classes. The cost for junior sailing classes are \$145 for club members and \$160 for non-members. Registration is available on the Wawasee Yacht Club website.

The mission of the club is to foster, promote, and encourage the sport of sailboat racing and the science of seamanship.

Upcoming Events

- **Archaeology Month Programs**—Indiana is designated as Archaeology Month. This year we will again be offering a 3-day event.
 - *September 3—Dugout canoes with Erik Vosteen
 - *September 4—Artifact identification with Jim Bickel and Michelle Edington
 - *September 5—Legends, Lore, and Legacies with Trevor Tipton and Jeff Mesaros
- **Second Saturdays, 10a.m.-2p.m.**—New, hands-on family activities focused on historical crafts and the community. Each month's activity will take place on the second Saturday of the month inside the museum.



- *September 12—Archaeology Month continues with learning about Native American and settler homes, including building a settler home from Lincoln Logs.
- *October 10—Board Games
- *November 14—Thanksgiving craft



Recent Donations

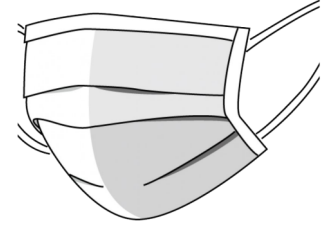
- **Sue Kraft**—"Grand Rapids" sweeper, SHS sweater, 1978 Blizzard local news articles, 1940 Charles Miller diploma, matchbooks, 1887 *Kosciusko County Biographical and Historical Record*, 1953 Syracuse map.
- **Lynette Zolman**—Green and white wagon used for Wawasee women's basketball games.
- **Nancy Mishler**—Wawasee Electric patch, bowling patches, and a 1890s photo.
- **Kevin Stanley**—Millard D. Hire navy whites and *Memories of Millard D. Hire*.
- **Ervin Beck**—Betty Appenzeller painting *Chinese Gardens*.
- **Joan and JT Stoelting**—Steamer trunk

THANK YOU

Summer Recap:

How is the museum doing during these trying times?

16. Attendance is down by 58% over last summer, and overall physical and monetary donations have hit an all-time low. Our director has put in extra hours to make sure that our patrons can visit a safe environment and that all local, state, and federal mandates are being adhered to. We have hand sanitizer available at the door and the museum has been using sanitizing products on surfaces as needed. We do ask that when you visit, you continue to wear a face covering and refrain from touching the displays to help in our efforts. So far, the general public has been extremely understanding and cooperative in our efforts to keep everyone safe.



The museum is open year-round, except during Christmas break; this equals to being open a minimum of 250 days, not including special event days. The daily cost to run the museum is approximately \$100. This cost did not change through the mandated shut down. We are not the only ones suffering, and we have, thankfully, been able to apply for grants to help fill some of the gaps in our monetary donations, but these grants do not fill the gaps completely. It is for this reason that the museum decided to proceed with its yearly Sponsorship Drive. Donations are accepted year-round and, when you donate, you will receive a thank you letter to use for your taxes. All monetary donations are fully tax deductible, according to the law. To date, donations through the Sponsorship Drive have been promising.

If you have visited the museum recently, you may have noticed a bit of a change along one of the walls. Through a grant from the Kosciusko County Community Foundation, the museum was able to purchase a large storage cabinet that sets inside the museum. The interior is still a work in progress, as is usually the case when adding storage cases, but it promises to be a useful piece of furniture once everything is settled. Many of our paintings, yearbooks, cleaning supplies, office supplies, Youth History Club supplies, and rarely-used research materials are able to be stored in it and allows us easy access to these items. We have also been able to incorporate a work space that will be used to photograph collection items and short-term storage for newly donated items.



Attendance at events held by the museum have been attended well, despite the restrictions. The Centennial Homes programs offered, for the first time in July, a Zoom option for viewing. We continued this trend for the August program, and have YouTube links for both programs on our website. Currently, we have a Zoom scheduled for each of our Archaeology Month programs and for the Women's Suffrage program. All of these programs will be placed on our website during the week following the programs. We encourage you to visit our website to access these programs to enjoy again.

Youth History Club was well attended with an average of 25 kids participating each of the 10 weeks. The kids learned about:

- Recycling with milk jugs—Participants learned about why recycling is important to the ecology of our lakes, how to keep recyclables out of the landfills, where the local recycling receptacles are, and painted milk jugs for planters.

Grandfather Clock



The museum has long been the proud caretaker of a 1709 “long case” clock. The clock has an “eight-day” movement, which requires winding only once per week. The current face and internal mechanism were made by the famous Quaker clockmaker Thomas Wagstaffe in the later half of the 18th century. Wagstaffe was known to supply his movements to American Quakers in Philadelphia and Newport. Benjamin Franklin owned a pocket watch that Wagstaffe crafted.

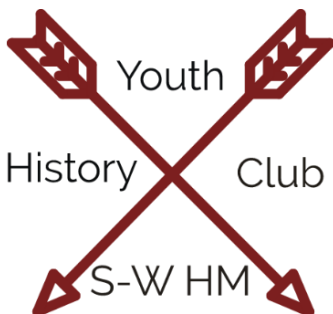
A record of cleanings is recorded on the back wall behind the clock’s pendulum. The most recent maintenance was completed and installed on August 26, 2020 by Brian and Jewel Leatherman, owners of Vintage Historians in Albion, IN. Brian did a full breakdown and cleaning of the clock works, performed repairs to the works and the case, and ensured everything was in working order upon reinstallation. The clock now chimes quite loudly on the hour, which is something this director has never heard in the over five years of service to the museum.

The clock was originally given to the Syracuse Library on May 15, 1947 in memory of Benjamin A. and Mary V. Holton, the original owners of the clock.



- Games—We actually spent a total of three weeks on this topic in order to better explore inside and outside games, both old and new (but mostly old).
- Kites—Participants learned about the history of kites, made simple kites from paper, and (since it was a beautiful day) flew their kites outside.
- Knots—Participants mastered two important knots that can be used on a daily basis.
- Locally farmed grains—Participants learned about the abundant varieties of grains that are grown in our region.

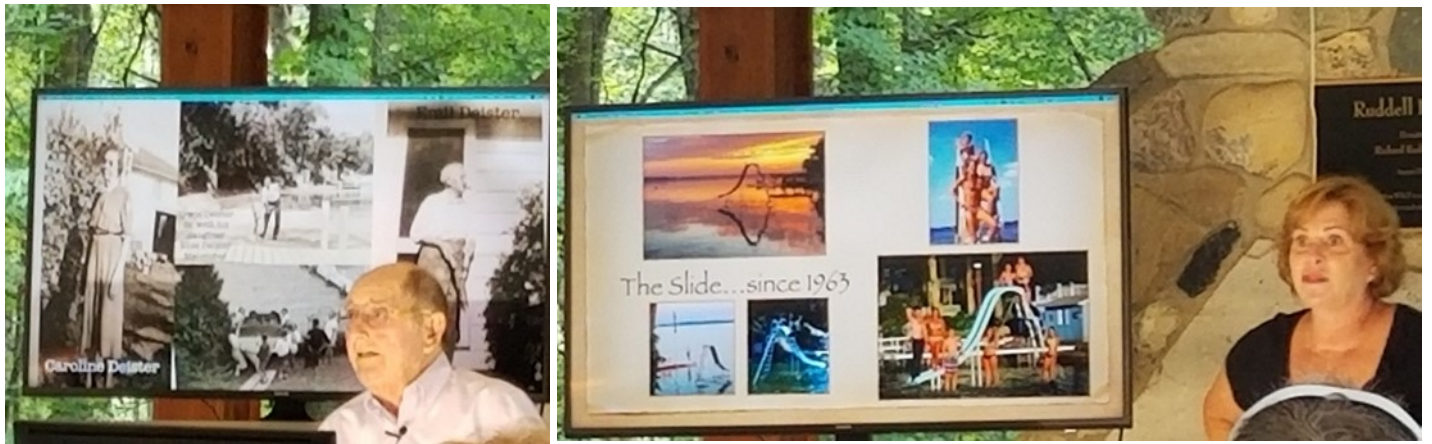
Curator’s Corner....Continued



- Breads—Participants learned what it takes to make yeast bread, including kneading a portion of bread dough, learned about wild yeast (sourdough), and received a personal sized loaf of banana bread.
- Ceramics of the Native Americans and settlers—Participants made coil and pinch pots using air-dry clay
- Homes used by the Native Americans and settlers—Participants built a settler home using Lincoln Logs

Program topics for 2021 Centennial Homes, Youth History Club, and Archaeology Month are being developed, so stay tuned for those!

2020 Centennial Homes By Ann Garceau



Pictured above are Irv Deister, Jr. and the Adams family historian Marianne Lanman Salaymeh

This summer's first Centennial Homes program was blessed with beautiful weather as a good-sized crowd gathered in the Ruddell Pavilion at the Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation. The audience was captivated by the many memories of two families connected by marriage enjoying life's ups and downs in their Lake Wawasee centennial homes. The presentations are on the museum website thanks to Bill Ruddell, who masterfully videoed the program.



The August program, "Along Ogden Point Road," was held inside the Syracuse Community Center while still practicing social distancing. We found out the island really was surrounded by water at various times during the year and was owned by Charles Ogden. At the Spink Condos, when you turn onto Seth Ward Road, you'll notice the century old home of Thom Combs on your left which has a varied history from being an eating establishment to a riding stable. Further down Ogden Island, Sue Wildman Rush and her brother, Bob, shared the history of their family home built in 1911. The old Anglers' Cove property, pictured above, is also in their family, so its story was shared along with other small groceries/eating establishments around Lake Wawasee.

Our museum director, Jamie Clemons, videotaped these presentations, and they are also available for viewing on the museum website.



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Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Have you seen our online “Donate” button?



This link allows you to securely donate using your credit card or PayPal account.



Gone But Not Forgotten By Ann Garceau

Over the years, numerous small groceries/restaurants dotted the shoreline around Lake Wawasee. Even though they are all gone, Ann Vanderford Garceau is determined to see they are not forgotten! In addition to a current museum display featuring pictures and objects from these memorable locations, Ann took the August Centennial Homes’ audience on a “tour” around Lake Wawasee via Power Point. From the comfort and safety of your own home, you can view the presentation on the museum website.



Emmerson’s Grocery photo courtesy of Garry Ringler

Beacon Restaurant Cheese Spread

- 16 oz. Velveeta cheese, room temperature
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 10 oz. jar cheddar cheese spread, room temp.
- 8 oz. sour cream
- 5 T. horseradish
- 1 tsp. garlic
- ½ c. beer

Facebook post 9-8-2018