



Blue Rock Heritage Center

Washington Boro Pennsylvania

2022 Spring Newsletter

A Message From the President

Dear Members and Friends of the **Blue Rock Heritage Center**,

Many activities, programs, special events and building projects occurred in 2021. We did our best to return to normal activities which had to be postponed or delayed in the prior year. Participation and attendance were outstanding, showing support for the Blue Rock Heritage Center. The successful programs and attendance were very helpful in replenishing our financial reserves which are needed to operate the facility. Donations and memberships were also very strong and thank you for all who provided financial support.

We are hopeful for another successful year. As you read our newsletter, many programs are scheduled, and we look forward to good attendance. Several building projects were completed last year with a major emphasis on preserving and rehabilitating the Wittmer barn. This barn is a beautiful gem constructed in 1856 and fronting the Susquehanna River. It will provide us with an opportunity to showcase farm related equipment and to host large indoor events. Please join us this year as we continue with restoration efforts on this barn which are outlined in the newsletter.

Our networking partners have scheduled many educational programs for all age groups, and please support them as we make the Blue Rock Heritage Center a community focal point for various activities. These programs cover a variety of topics from native species of animals/birds to learning about traditional skills which were once common among the Native – American inhabitants of this area. We are very fortunate to have these individuals sharing their talents and knowledge with us. Please take advantage to participate, inviting your neighbors and family to join with you in attending one of these events.

Sincerely, Charlie Douts, President



Get Involved

We are in need of some volunteers to get things spruced up and ready for the public. We are scheduling a workday for Saturday

April 9 from 9am to noon.

A few hours from each family in the spring goes a long way to making this facet of our community a better place. Some basic outside cleanup is needed as well as tidying up inside the building. If you plan to help with outdoor cleanup, please bring gloves and weather appropriate clothing. Rakes, trimmers, pruning shears are needed for this task. Interior cleaning will include windows, floors, and exhibit space.



2022 Meeting Dates

April 18

May 16

June 20

September 19

October 17

Our meetings are held at the **Blue Rock Heritage Center** @ 7:00 pm
All meetings are open to the public.

Please use the **Blue Rock Heritage Center** Parking lot which is accessed from Blue Rock Road

2022 Important Dates

Open House

June 5th 1pm – 4pm

The **Blue Rock Heritage Center** will also be open the following dates:

May 15

June 5

July 17

August 21

Sept 18

Oct 23

1pm-4pm

Admission is free

Donation appreciated



Blue Rock Heritage Center is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and as such, we rely entirely on donations and fees from our members. **Blue Rock Heritage Center** is run by volunteers. After this unfortunate year of covid, we are in need of your support more than ever.

Please know that every dollar of your membership fee goes toward the upkeep of our grounds and buildings. If you know of anybody else that would like to become a member, visit our webpage and click the button at the bottom labeled "BECOME A MEMBER". Donations are always appreciated.

We need help with creating and maintaining displays and exhibits, volunteering to help with the annual Heritage Day, general maintenance and cleaning and miscellaneous other activities.

We desire to have the Center open on a regular schedule and docents are needed to serve.

Please visit our website, or contact Debbie Saylor, Curator Debbie.saylor1@verizon.net or Paul Hoffer 717-951-0089 or Charlie Douts 717-684-9542.

Blue Rock Heritage Center Open House June 5th 1pm to 4pm

The annual open house for the Blue Rock Heritage Center, 2251 River Rd, is scheduled for Sunday June 5th 1pm to 4pm. There are many exhibits, murals, and folks who want to talk about them all.

W. Fred Kinsey III will narrate a presentation of the excavation of the Murray Site, a stockaded Shenk's Ferry Indian village. This village was located south of the town of Washington Boro near Turkey Hill. Mr Kinsey was the former PA State Archaeologist, retired professor at Franklin and Marshall College, and former curator of the North Museum in Lancaster. The excavations occurred in 1968 & 1969 and documented one of the largest known stockaded Shenk's Ferry villages. Join us at **2:00pm** for this presentation by this recognized premier expert on the Shenk's Ferry culture.

Witmer Barn Update

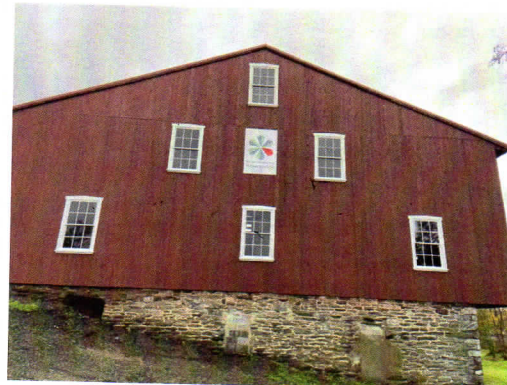
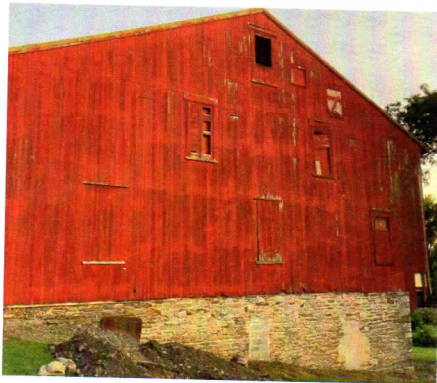
In 2021 the north side of the historic 1856 German style bank barn had new siding and windows installed. The Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (LASA) provided the materials including the replacement windows. Volunteers removed the siding, installed the new siding and windows, plus painted the siding.

LASA installed new electric service to the barn and coated the roof. A new vent cap was installed and the roof no longer leaks, damaging the floor. Big thanks to LASA for their support.

The new logo was installed on the north and south side of the barn. Circle Legacy has agreed to pay for one half of the sign cost. Sensenig Roofing installed the logo signs while they had their equipment coating the roof. Another big thanks to Jerry Musser of Columbia for creating our logo and providing professional guidance to identify our structures.

Work proposed for 2022 includes additional wiring and lighting in the barn. Replacement siding is proposed for the east side. This represents the final side needing windows and new siding. Masonry repairs to the foundation walls and flooring are also proposed. We will be seeking volunteers to assist with these projects. Please contact us if you have a skill you would like to share with these projects.

The barn hosted its first major event this past fall, the Boro Bazaar, which is a craft show benefiting local charities. This year the proceeds were earmarked for an Afghan family which recently relocated to Lancaster County. This is proposed to be an annual event at the barn sponsored by local residents.





Archaeology Center: Brass Ornaments of the Susquehannocks

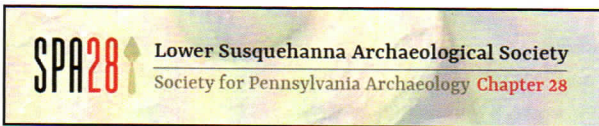
By Debbie Saylor, Curator, **Blue Rock Heritage Center**

Brass kettles were in high demand by the native population but not for the European end-use such as cooking, they still used their clay pots for storage and cooking. The brass kettles were cut up and repurposed. Brass kettles from European trade were the primary source that supplied the material for the Susquehannocks to cut up the kettles and create ornaments in the form of necklaces, earrings, jinglers (brass rolled cones) and other sheet metal objects.



The Susquehannocks settled at their Schultz site village (ca.1557) and brass scraps and brass ornaments were uncovered in early excavations. Excavations at Washington Boro village site (ca. 1600) revealed a large increase in brass and added triangular arrow points, cut out shapes and rolled tubular brass beads.

On display at the Blue Rock Heritage Center is a necklace recovered from the Ibaugh Site (36La54) of Washington Boro, this brass necklace composed of cut spirals and cone jinglers (rolled cut brass sewn onto clothing to produce a tinkling sound) was used as an adornment and wearing it represented a high social status



Join Paul Nevin, Chapter 28 President, for an informative slide presentation on the Petroglyphs of the Three Rivers, New Mexico.

April 24 4:00 at the **Blue Rock Heritage Center**

One of the most spectacular occurrences of rock art in the American Southwest is in a place not far from White Sands National Park in New Mexico. More than 21,000 glyphs of birds, humans, animals, fish, insects, plants, as well as geometric and abstract designs create an awe-inspiring display across the 50-acre Three Rivers Petroglyph Site. This event is free, so please invite your friends who are interested in archaeology to attend.

Lower Susquehanna Archaeological Society, Chapter 28, of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology (S.P.A.) is a volunteer organization that promotes the advancement of scientific research, investigation, collection, and preserva-

tion of archaeological remains and materials in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a focus on the Lower Susquehanna water basin.

Our chapter emphasizes the importance of public education as to the prehistoric and historic landscapes and archaeological importance of the lower Susquehanna River valley. We encourage joining a community which actively engages the member to assist in archaeological research, excavations, cataloging/recording of artifacts, sharing ideas and networking with other professionals in the field.

For more information contact:

info@spa28.org or

www.spa28.org





2022 Programs by Circle Legacy
at the **Blue Rock Heritage Center**

June 5 Sun 1:00-4:00 Blue Rock Open House Demonstrations

MaryAnn Robins, President of Circle Legacy, will demonstrate various Native American handicrafts. No fee.

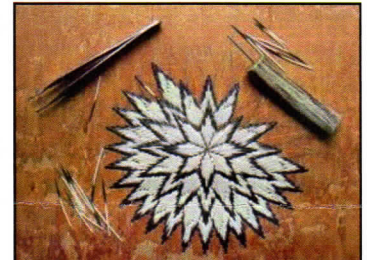
July 9 Sat 10:00-12:00 Porcupine Quill Work Fee: \$10.00

MaryAnn Robins, Onondaga Nation, Craftswoman & Educator

Porcupines provided food and a source for jewelry and embroidery. Examples of quillwork will be discussed and displayed. You will have a choice of creating a necklace or a pair of earrings.

Registration Required. Class Minimum 5, Maximum 15

Contact MaryAnn Robins: maryannrobins@comcast.net or phone (717) 435-5729.



July 17 Sun 1:00-4:00 The Meaning of Wampum Belts

Barry Lee will present and display the various Wampum Belts and the meaning of each. Were the wampum belts used to record treaties, used as currency, or a remembrance of peace negotiations.? Join the discussion to find out the backstory on Wampum Belts. No fee.

August 13 Sat 10:00-12:00 Medicine Bag Fee: \$10.00

Learn the history of the types of medicine bags used by Native American and then make a personal medicine bag for yourself. All supplies are included.

Registration Required. Class Minimum 5, Maximum 15

Contact MaryAnn Robins: maryannrobins@comcast.net or phone (717) 435-5729.



September 18 Sun 1:00-4:00 Finger Weaving Demonstration

Admire the fine craftsmanship of Mark Warful, (Lenape) as he demonstrates the art of finger weaving. No fee.

October 22 Sat 11:00-1:00 Create a Twined Corn Husk Basket. Fee: \$10:00

Native corn farmers used all part of the corn plant, even the husks. Join MaryAnn Robins in making a twined basket out of this versatile material.

Registration Required. Bring scissors and needle nose pliers.

Contact MaryAnn Robins: maryannrobins@comcast.net or phone (717) 435-5729.





Glenn Henry, Founding member will be missed.

In July of 2021, the Blue Rock Heritage Center lost one of our founding members, Glenn Henry of Washington Boro, who died at the age of 70. Glenn worked tirelessly to help create a heritage center to recognize the significance of the archaeological heritage of the area and the small town of Washington Boro.

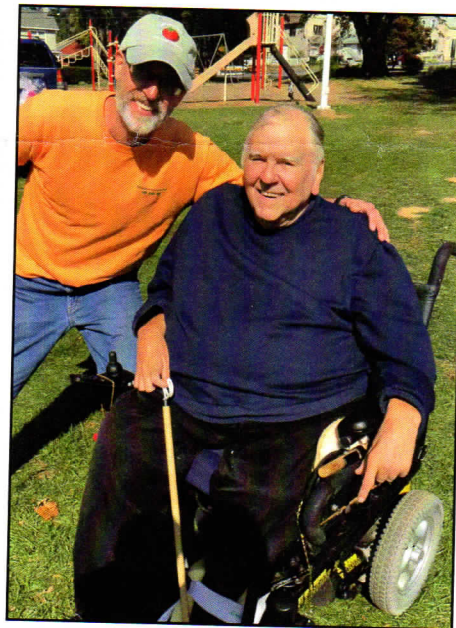
Glenn was a visionary and created many of the original exhibits, newsletters, photo inventory, historic photo calendars and the first website for our organization. His energy and enthusiasm coupled with his wife Patricia, were champions for the early success of our organization. His effort to create an exhibit and recognize local artist Caroline Peart is one of the outstanding examples of his work. He also teamed with Elizabethtown College to conduct summer field schools, excavating portions of the Susquehannock village (1600-1625) located on his property.

Glenn played a significant role in establishing the annual Heritage Day Celebration. Glenn promoted the event as a family-oriented program. He would say, "if you can get the kids you can get the parents.". This remains a theme of Heritage Day which promotes free family programs and activities which are sponsored by local businesses and organizations.

Glenn had a very unfortunate life changing event at the age of 15. He became paralyzed as result of a neck injury at a swimming pool. Glenn did not allow this to define him, and through his faith, community support and sheer personal determination, created a professional career and successful business. Glenn would always have a smile as he struggled through the impacts of his health setbacks and usually a story of local personalities to share. He would recall stories about local characters of his youth or of those who once lived in the town of Washington Boro.

I would like to share a humorous story about Glenn. His wheelchair accessible van broke down, and Glenn was stranded from home. One of his buddies, Dick Schock, heard of his distress and took his two- wheel trailer and SUV to rescue Glenn. Glenn, sitting in his wheelchair which was strapped securely to the trailer, was towed home behind the SUV. Glenn thought he made a surprising sight for motorists as he was traveling down the road.

I am certain many others have fond memories of Glenn and his love for his church and community. Glenn witnessed daily as he persevered with his life struggles and shared his blessing. In Glenn's words, "Lord, you helped me go through what I needed to go through, and through it all, the honor and glory was yours".





20th Annual

River Heritage Day Celebration

October 15, 2022 | 9am-4pm | Washington Boro Community Park

Intersection Rt 999 & Rt 441 (River Rd) in Washington Boro

Free Admission

FFA Tractor Pull.... **Craft Vendors....** Native American demonstrations by Circle Legacy....

Hayrides.... Antique Cars.... **Antique Tractors....** Antique Equipment... **AND FOOD**

Kids Activities to include; barrel train ride, **kids tractor pull at 11am,** crafts



Bluegrass Music
throughout the day
with **Barry Lee** starting
at 11am



Mr Balloony entertains
at Noon

Want to Reserve Free Exhibit Space?

Plenty of room has been reserved for anyone wishing to display antique equipment, or other items of interest. To reserve a space, free of charge, contact:

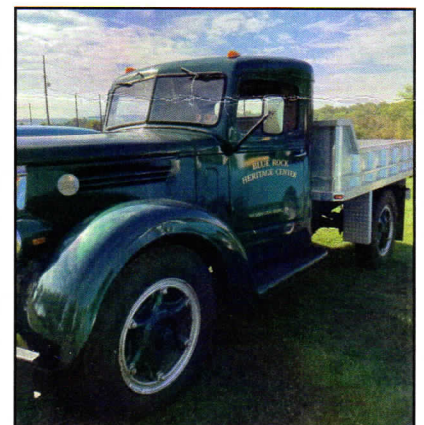
Doug Kramer 717-808-4413 or
doug.kramer@pennmanor.net

Artisans, Craft Vendors and Flea Market Stands

We're pleased that popular artisans, craft vendors and Flea Market stands will be available offering a wide selection of gift items, trinkets and services.

To reserve a stand please contact:

Charles Douts 684-9542 or cdoutsjr@yahoo.com



Proceeds from the event benefit the **Blue Rock Heritage Center** and the Tractor Pull proceeds benefit the Penn Manor FFA.

The event is free which is made possible by our sponsors. We wish to thank the 2021 sponsors who include, Arcing Rod and Gas, RETTEW, Turkey Hill Dairy, R.S Hollinger and Sons, Slaymaker Electric, R&B Line Opening Services, Quality Machine Repair, and LASA.