

**2020 Meeting Dates**

April 20  
May 18  
June 15  
September 21  
October 19

Our meetings are held at the Heritage Center, 2251 River Road,  
@ 7:00 pm.

All meetings are open to the public.

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

**2020 Important Dates**

Open House  
June 7<sup>th</sup>  
1pm – 5pm

The Center will also be open the following dates:

June 7 & 21  
July 12 & 26  
August 9 & 23  
Sept 13 & 27  
Oct 11  
1pm-4pm

Admission is free  
donation appreciated

**Heritage Day**  
Saturday Oct. 17  
9 am-4 pm

The Center is open by appt by large groups – please contact Charlie Douts at 684-9542 or [cdoutsjr@yahoo.com](mailto:cdoutsjr@yahoo.com)

The Board of Directors of Washington Boro Society for Susquehanna River Heritage is delighted to announce **Debbie Saylor** as Curator of Blue Rock Heritage Center.

Debbie Saylor's academic background includes: Masters and Bachelor of Science degrees in biology, laboratory & medical science, anthropology, & sociology, plus field experience in archaeology specializing in prehistoric cultures. She brings her skill set of networking and a wide range of academic knowledge necessary to promote the master plan for Blue Rock Heritage Center. Blue Rock Heritage Center will act as a community hub for preserving the cultural heritage of Native American & early settlers, plus showcase the inter-relationship of how peoples and the Susquehanna River influenced present development.

This season plan to attend workshops, lectures, craft events, archaeology excavations, native art and crafts, as Blue Rock Heritage Center reaches out to unite the community. Our goal is to restore the rich history and bring public awareness concerning the footprint of the land and its peoples starting from 16,000 years ago to present.

The theme of the exhibit area is: Footprints over Time! Timeline panels plus associated artifacts & interpretation will be highlighted, plus unique art and photos to celebrate how people developed throughout the land over time.

**Blue Rock Heritage Center  
Open House  
June 7<sup>th</sup> 1pm - 5pm**

Opening day is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> with opening remarks by Charles Douts, (President) followed by Debbie Saylor, (Curator) and a presentation of "Footprints over Time", showcasing the new exhibits. MaryAnn Robins (President of Circle Legacy) will be revealing onsite plans for a reconstructed Woodland Village. Plan on joining us on June 7<sup>th</sup> to see all the new exhibits and meet all the "people behind the scenes" helping to make Blue Rock Heritage Center a place to meet and celebrate life!





### Get Involved

We are in need some volunteers to help get things spruced up and ready for the public. Workday is scheduled for **Saturday April 4** 9:00 am 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 a tidying up inside the building.

If you plan to help with outdoor clean-up, 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.

Supervised children are welcome to participate. Consider helping us and teach the youngsters hands on community support.

### Pathway Installed

A new stone pathway was installed during the summer of 2019 connecting the Blue Rock river parking access to the Heritage Center. A six-foot stone dust path provides access to Witmer Run for fishing activities and better building access. Visitors to the Heritage Center are encouraged to park at the river access and use the path. LASA, with the supervision of Ed Lyle, constructed this path and a big thanks to both parties. Note – you can see the pathway below in the barn photos.

### Circle Legacy Program

Circle Legacy participated in Lancaster County's Extraordinary Give raising funds for the Indian village project. A wigwam is proposed along the other items such as 3 sisters garden (corn, beans, squash) food drying racks, and dugout canoe construction. The goal is to create an Indian campsite like those which dotted the Susquehanna river for thousands of years. These sites were used to raise crops and to hunt for migratory birds and fish. Volunteers are needed, so please see our website for updates. The wigwam will be located near Witmer Run on the north side of the stream. See page 4 for events by Circle Legacy.

### Historic 1856 Witmer Barn Restoration

A group of volunteers installed new cedar siding and windows on the west side of the historic Witmer bank barn this past summer. This is the second year in which volunteers are methodically replacing the siding and installing new windows. In 2018, the south side of the barn had its siding replaced. Volunteers removed the siding and spent a week installing the new siding and windows. Materials including lumber, windows, paint, and lift rental were supplied by LASA. Please thank LASA for stepping up and providing the stewardship for preserving these historic properties which they own in our local community. The 1832 Witmer Mill and 1856 Witmer barn are part of the history of our community and important assets which define our sense of place.

The next phase is to replace the siding on the north side of the barn during the summer of 2020, followed up by the final siding replacement in 2021. We are hopeful electric will be added to this building as we will be able to realize its full potential in showcasing and storing equipment related to early farming practices of the period in which it was constructed. We anticipate the barn will continue to be utilized for indoor vendor and display space during special events held at this site.



## Circle Legacy Events for 2020



### **March 7 1-5PM Eastern Woodland Moccasins \$50**

Heiland Benedict, Mohawk Nation, Artist, Craftsman and Musician

**Registration Required.** \$25 Deposit Class Minimum 5, Maximum 10. All supplies included.

Deadline: February 28, 2020

Contact Heiland Benedict 717-723-7122

### **March 21 1-4PM Eastern Woodland Games \$2**

Tina Mark, Conoy/Seneca Nation, Educator and Historian

Learn the games of skill and have plenty of fun. A Bean game will be given to take along to play at home.

**Registration Required.**

Contact Tina Mark Conoyindian3@yahoo.com or call 717-426-2166

### **April 11 1-4PM Finger weaving \$10**

MaryAnn Robins, Onondaga Nation, Craftswomen, Educator

How did we make those bags and belts without a loom? Come and learn this old art form still used today.

**Registration Required.** Class Minimum 5, Maximum 10.

Bring 2 Skeins of rug yarn or medium weight yarn. Pack a lunch. Snacks will be provided.

Contact MaryAnn Robins maryannrobins@comcast.net or call 717-435-5729

### **May 16 6-7:30PM Stories around the Campfire Free**

Uhma Ruth Py, Lenape Tribal elder, Wolf Clan, Story Teller, Craftswomen, Educator

Ruth will present artifact, history and stories of the native American past as well as discuss the present and future.

Bring a blanket!

### **June 6 10-2PM Soapstone Carving \$8**

Randy Whitlock, Carver and Educator

Soapstone was used by natives for ornaments, such as beads and pendants. You will learn how we made these with few tools.

This class is outdoors around the fire. You can cook marshmallows so bring a stick along. Bring a carving knife and a rasp file. Soapstone will be provided

**Registration Required.**

Contact Randy Whitlock randywhitlock@gmail.com or call 717-435-5729

>Circle Legacy events continued on next page<

## Circle Legacy Events for 2020 continued



### **July 11 1-4PM Porcupine Quillwork \$10**

MaryAnn Robins, Onondaga Nation, Craftswomen, Educator

Porcupines provided food and a source for jewelry and embroidery. You will see some of the work done by natives on clothing, knife sheaths and more.

You then will have a choice of making a necklace or pair of earrings.

**Registration Required.** Class Minimum 5, Maximum 15.

**Contact MaryAnn Robins [maryannrobins@comcast.net](mailto:maryannrobins@comcast.net) or call 717-435-5729**

### **August 15 7-9PM Show and Tell-Crafts made from Wood, Plants and Animals \$5 per family**

See the crafts made from nature. Nothing was wasted.

### **September 19 10-12PM Medicine Bag \$10**

Learn the history of the types of medicine bags used by Native American's and then make one personal to you.

**Registration Required.** Class Minimum 5, Maximum 15. Supplies included.

**Contact MaryAnn Robins [maryannrobins@comcast.net](mailto:maryannrobins@comcast.net) or call 717-435-5729**

### **October 10 11-4PM Twined Corn Husk \$10**

Shucks! There's more to corn than tasty nibble's. Native corn farmers used the husks too. They made dolls, cordage, mats, masks, moccasins, and containers.

Join MaryAnn in making a twined basket out of this versatile material.

**Registration Required.** Bring scissors and Needle nose pliers. Pack a bag lunch. Snacks provided.

**Contact MaryAnn Robins [maryannrobins@comcast.net](mailto:maryannrobins@comcast.net) or call 717-435-5729**

### **November 21 7-9PM Who, What Where did Thanksgiving Come from?**

What did they really have? Who came to the dinner table? How long did it last? What did the pilgrims write?

It is fascinating to learn what the Pilgrims wrote about their first meal with the Wampanoag. Then, from a Natives Perspective.

## Members/Volunteers needed

The Blue Rock Heritage Center is a non-profit organization consisting of volunteers with a passion for the local area.

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](mailto:Debbie.saylor1@verizon.net) or Paul Hoffer 717-951-0089 or Charlie Douts 717-684-9542.

## Archeological Investigation Proposed

An archeological educational program is proposed for the former Witmer plantation home which was located opposite of the mill along Witmer Run. A large stone farmhouse built in the mid 1800's was torn down in the late 1950's (see the Witmer stone house photo below).

One of the first excavations proposed is to locate the privy (outhouse) and foundation of the house and other potential outbuildings. Privy excavations typically yield a tremendous understanding of the inhabitants. Privies were abandoned and filled with household items such as medicine bottles, broken dishes, plates, cups, etc. Occasionally, coins which were accidently discarded are found.

In addition, this area was first inhabited by Native Americans and we expect some artifacts from their occupation will be found.

Please stay tuned to our website- [bluerockheritage.com](http://bluerockheritage.com) to determine how you can sign up and join the excavation. Please note this project is in the early planning stages and it is uncertain if the excavation activities will be planned for 2020 or 2021.



## River Heritage Day

The 2019 River Heritage was a successful fundraiser which supports the operation of the Heritage Center. Heritage Day focuses on fun free family activities. The event is held at the Washington Boro Community Park and the weather cooperated with everyone enjoying the mild sunny fall day along the river. Jesse from the Reptile Sanctuary provided a very educational program and will return in 2020. Kids enjoyed the free barrel train, hayride and pedal tractor competition and reptile presentation. Plenty of good food including chicken corn soup and homemade pies rounded out the day. Craft vendors had a variety of items and many restored tractors and cars were on display. Please mark your calendars for October 17, 2020 and support our organization. See the flyer on the last page. We would like to thank all who donated their time and baked goods. Special thanks to our official sponsors for their financial contributions. We would not be able to provide the free activities without their support. We wish to thank the 2019 sponsors who include, Arcing Rod and Gas, RETTEW, Turkey Hill Dairy, Interiors, R.S Hollinger and Sons, Slaymaker Electric, R&B Line Opening Services, Quality Machine Repair, and LASA.



# Heritage Day 2020

October 17th 9am-4pm

The weather cooperated for an outstanding Heritage Day event in 2019 so mark your calendars for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Heritage Day. The event is held with the Penn Manor FFA annual tractor pull competition.

Both events are located at the Washington Boro Community Park, located at the intersection of Route 999 and 441.

Kiddie pedal tractor pull occurs at 11:00 am.

Barry Lee will return with his bluegrass/county music beginning at 11:00 am.

Jesse and the Reptile Sanctuary will return with a presentation scheduled for 1:00 pm.

Mr. Balloony is back and scheduled for ???

Children's crafts and activities include hayrides and barrel train rides throughout the day.

We also have craft/flea market vendors and displays.

Circle Legacy Native American Center will have demonstrations and crafts.

There is plenty of food all day and proceeds benefit the Blue Rock Heritage Center.

The event is free which is made possible by our sponsors. We wish to thank the 2019 sponsors who include, Arcing Rod and Gas, RETTEW, Turkey Hill Dairy, Interiors, R.S Hollinger and Sons, Slaymaker Electric, R&B Line Opening Services, Quality Machine Repair, and LASA.

## 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 808-4413** or [doug.kramer@pennmanor.net](mailto: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](mailto:cdoutsjr@yahoo.com)

