



Dear Members and Friends of the Blue Rock Heritage Center...

Covid-19 has certainly impacted our lives and events and most activities for 2020. Despite the cancellation of programs, many behind-the-scene activities have occurred for our group.

First and foremost, our name is now, officially, the Blue Rock Heritage Center. Coupled with the name change is our official logo is an updated website, and Facebook page, all designed by Jerry King Musser. Many thanks to the Directors, Debbie Saylor, and Jerry Musser for their guidance with these changes.

Debbie Saylor has been appointed as our first professional curator. Debbie has brought her energy and expertise to guide us with new exhibits and programming suggestions. She has presented a vision for the Heritage Center as a community center for local groups to utilize as a meeting space coupled with a renewed emphasis upon local Native American heritage as the focus of the new exhibits.



Larry Saylor (kneeling) and his good friend, Dudley, make needed repairs to artifact cabinets.

Debbie and her husband Larry have worked hard to put together new exhibits which follow the first introductions of Native Americans to the area 12,000 – 14,000 years ago to the contact period with Europeans.

Additionally, Debbie is promoting networking with local groups which share our vision for the Heritage Center. A renewed effort to partner with Circle Legacy to share their educational programs is one example. Another new partner is Raven Ridge, a Washington Boro nonprofit which specializes in the rehabilitation of raptors.

We look forward to these partners working with us to enhance our presence in the local community.

Finally, Debbie and Jerry have produced two short educational videos which present the timeline of Native Americans in our area. These videos provide an overview of local Native American presence and settlements. Jerry has also posted many photos on our Facebook page coupled with interesting historic facts. Jerry researched the local founding of Washington Boro and prepared a short video which shows how the town boundaries were shaped and surrounding hamlets such as Fairview and Blue Rock.

We all look forward to 2021 and a new normal which includes gatherings and activities. Please stay safe and be on the lookout for our March 2021 Newsletter listing activities and programs for the year.

We need you as a volunteer and due-paying member to help us implement our mission.

Sincerely,
Charlie Douts
President, BRHC

Teamwork

Board of Directors:

Charlie Douts / *President*
Ed Lyle / *Vice President*
Paul Hoffer / *Secretary-Treasurer*
Larry Douts
Doug Kramer
Mike Landis
Bob Wertz

Curator:

Debbie Saylor

Design Director:

Jerry King Musser

Communications Support:

PJ Landis
Becky Robinson

Exhibits & Reproductions:

Larry Saylor

We Need Your Help

The Blue Rock Heritage Center is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and, as such, we rely entirely on donations and fees from our members. BRHC is run by volunteers who love their heritage and consider it a privilege to do so. After this unfortunate year of COVID, we are in need of your support more than ever.

Please consider becoming a member and know that every dollar of your membership fee goes toward the upkeep of our grounds and buildings. Visit our website and click the button at the bottom right of any page:

www.bluerockheritage.org

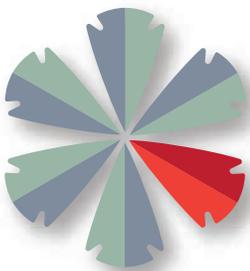


Symbol-ism

Setting out to develop a logo for an organization is not to be taken lightly. The challenge is to create something meaningful yet, distinctive and easy to recognize.

Among the concepts which influenced the outcome of the design:

1. 'Arrowheads' make reference to the deep archaeological vernacular of the Washington Boro area.
2. The symbol suggests the shape of a 'flower'— a tribute to our diverse natural flora and fauna we enjoy.
3. The 'red arrowhead' is a reference to the Susquehannocks who were absorbed into the Five Nations, represented by the 'green/blue arrowheads.'
4. The configuration of the arrowheads create a hex—a rich historic and cultural symbol of Lancaster County.
5. All the arrowheads point toward the center, a symbolic gesture of people coming together for a single goal.
6. The symbol appears as an 'asterisk'— our own footnote to history.



Our Education Network Partners

The Circle Legacy Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and empowering Native Americans through a variety of cultural events, projects, and business assistance.

The CLC honors and supports the First Nations Peoples of the Americas, regionally and nationally. They invite you to explore the rich cultural traditions of Native Americans by attending workshops and lectures offered at the Blue Rock Heritage Center throughout 2021.



Your financial support will continue to support their efforts of bringing Native American educational programs, workshops, lectures, and building projects to the public.

A late-Woodland village will be developed at the Blue Rock Heritage Center site starting with the construction of a wigwam, fish racks, fire pits for firing pottery, and other structures which demonstrate the indigenous way of everyday activities.

For information about upcoming programs and volunteer opportunities, contact MaryAnn Robins at maryannrobins@comcast.net or, visit their website:

www.circlelegacycenter.com

The Raven Ridge Wildlife Center was founded in 2015 by Tracie Young who continues to serve as director and rehabilitator. Ms Young holds permits from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service which allows them to provide wildlife rehabilitation services and wildlife educational programs.

RRWC currently rehabilitates nearly 2,000 animals each year. They also provide a home to several non-releasable animals.

All services are funded by the community. As an all-volunteer organization, they receive no local, state, or federal funding. They rely entirely on donations which go directly to the care and rehabilitation of their wild patients and non-releasable educational programs.



In 2021, Raven Ridge will offer workshops, live raptor and wildlife demonstrations, as well as, wildlife programs for adults and children—all to take place at the Blue Rock Heritage Center.

To signup for events, lectures, or live wildlife educational programs, contact Tracie Young at tracie@ravenridgewildlifecenter.com or, visit their website:

www.ravenridgewildlifecenter.com



Archaeology Corner: The Susquehannock Face Effigy

An effigy is a representation, or likeness, of a person or symbolic prototypical figure created by various cultures throughout time. Symbols communicate a message to a tribe, nation, or culture—just as they do today. Effigies are found on many historic and prehistoric items such as pottery, soft stone carvings, pipes, amulets, wooden masks, or carved into trees.

The Washington Boro village site (36LA8) produced beautiful pottery between 1600 and 1630 AD. This period also corresponds to when Captain John Smith, in 1608, met sixty mighty Susquehannock warriors at the head of the Chesapeake Bay on Claybourne’s Island (now known as Garrett Island). These warriors came to trade items such as beaver skins, pottery, and food in exchange for English items such as axes, glass beads, and brass cooking pots.

Distinctive pottery formed by the Susquehannock women included pots which were coiled with high collars, rounded bottoms, and molded faces called human effigies.

The face was incorporated into the molded large band at the outer top of the vessel decoration. The effigies on Washington Boro pottery consisted of two or four evenly-spaced effigies around the top band.

What exactly the faces meant to this culture is lost to history. Some speculate it represents a shaman or other authority figure. Interestingly, on some pots, the negative space above the effigy contains deep notches which may represent a stylized head dress composed of feathers or bones.

Susquehannock women would pride themselves in creating beautiful pottery and openly expressed themselves artistically, with each pot distinctly crafted. The pottery was displayed within the long house near the fire pit where guests could examine the personalized details. These vessels would be used as storage for foodstuff or even a grave offering for the departed.



The Blue Rock Heritage Center maintains several such authentic vessels and other created vessels unearthed from Susquehannock sites along the Susquehanna River.

I invite you to visit us at our Open House in 2021 to learn more of the details and history surrounding these fascinating vessels.

Debbie Saylor
Curator, BRHC

Our Curator

Debbie Saylor brings a diverse and practical academic expertise. She holds a Master and Bachelor of Science degree in biology, laboratory and medical science, anthropology, and sociology, in addition to, rich archaeology field experience with a specialization in prehistoric cultures.

Ms Saylor was also curator for Indian Steps Museum in Airville, Pennsylvania.

Debbie has interned at the Smithsonian Environmental Center; is a certified Archaeology Technician in Maryland; was a biologist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources; and is president of Chesapeake Birds of Prey.

As BRHC’s curator, Debbie offers a networking skillset necessary to promote a master plan for the advancement of the Center.





In the News

Below is an excerpt of an article from the November 4, 2020 issue of the Millerville Advertiser:

To top off the barn, BRHC board member Mike Landis crafted a weathervane from copper sheeting and tubing. It stands about 4-feet tall and is just over a yard wide. It can be viewed from River Road, as well as, by boaters on the river. “Most farmsteads would use weathervanes to assist the farmer in predicting the weather. Typically, the tallest building, such as a barn, would host the weathervane,” Charlie Douts said. “We are uncertain if the Witmer barn ever had a weathervane, but Mike offered to make one for us at no cost and erect it on the barn.”

While Landis did not pattern his project after a specific historic weathervane, he noted that they would have been similar, with one difference. “They used a different type of solder with more lead. And, of course, they had a lot of tools I don’t have.” Most weathervanes feature an image of an animal. The BRHC device bears an American shad, which were once plentiful migratory fish in the Susquehanna River.

Shad were a significant food for the Susquehannock people who lived in, what later became, Washington Boro, and they spawned a fishing industry that flourished into the early 20th century.

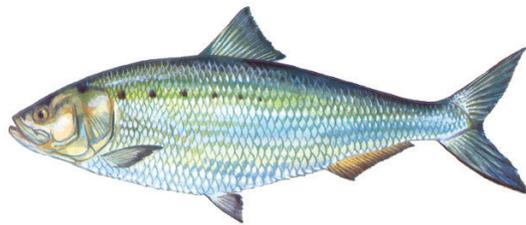
Landis estimates that within a few seasons, a patina will begin to form on the copper. The new color will be appropriate, as the BRHC website describes American shad as having a ‘metallic blue-green back.’



Mike Landis makes some final adjustments to his American shad weathervane.



Charlie Douts assists Mike Landis during the precarious weathervane installation.



From the mid-19th century and into the 20th, shad was an important food industry in the area.

