

**2017 Meeting Dates**

April 17  
 May 15  
 June 19  
 September 18  
 October 23

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

**2017 Important Dates****Open House**

Sunday June 4  
 1pm – 4pm

The Center will also be open the following dates:

July 9  
 August 13  
 Sept 10  
 Oct 15  
 1pm-3pm

Admission is free donation appreciated

**Heritage Day**

Saturday Oct. 21  
 9 am-4 pm

The Center is open by appt by large groups – please contact Charlie Douts at 684-9542 or cdoutsjr@yahoo.com

**Native American wigwam to be built**

Volunteers are needed to help construct an authentic Native-American wigwam at the Blue Rock Heritage Center. A wigwam will be constructed along Witmer Run, on the north side of the Heritage Center. A wigwam is a temporary shelter constructed of tree saplings covered with grasses (cattails and bull rushes). A typical wigwam averaging about 12-16 feet in diameter would serve as a summer dwelling during fish and bird migration.

During the summer of 2016 cattails were harvested and dried. The cattails will be woven into mats to be used to cover the exterior.

A tree sapling harvest is planned for **Saturday, April 1**. Volunteers are to gather at the Blue Rock access parking area and meet at the Witmer Barn.

### Blue Rock Heritage Center Annual Open House

The annual open house for the Blue Rock Heritage Center, 2251 River Rd, is scheduled for Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 4pm.

The open house will feature the newly constructed wigwam located along the bank of the Susquehanna River between the Heritage Center and Witmer Barn.

The wigwam will depict a typical dwelling used as a temporary summer living quarters for Native Americas.

In addition, a new exhibit within the Heritage Center will showcase murals on loan from the North Museum, plus local artifacts found within the area.

Please join us for this family event.

We will proceed to cut saplings in a nearby meadow and bring them back to the site.

**Saturday April 15**, volunteers will meet at the Witmer barn to help prepare the saplings and erect the framework of the wigwam. Sharp axes are needed for this activity.

The hours will be from 9:00 am to noon on each of the work days. Rain dates will be the following Saturday.

The work parties are intended to be family activities and children need to be supervised and are welcome to participate. Please bring drinks, snacks, gloves and appropriate outdoor work clothing.

>>Wigwam continued on page 2

**Inside stories**

*Washington Boro  
 Willie*



*Native American  
 Murals on loan from  
 North Museum*

*Clean-up Day*

*Railroad Signal  
 restored*

*Heritage Day*



### Get Involved

We are in need some volunteers to help get things spruced up and ready for the public. Workdays are scheduled for Saturday **April 1** in conjunction with the tree sapling harvest 9:00 a.m. to noon (Rain date April 15)

Some basic outside cleanup is needed as well as a tidying up inside the building. A few hours from each family in the spring goes a long way to making this facet of our community a better place.

Mark your calendar, pack some sandwiches, in the morning pitch in and help together as a family. Then spread a picnic blanket and enjoy the quiet peace of the grounds before returning to your own busy life.

Consider helping us and teach the youngsters hands on community support.

## Washington Boro Society for Susquehanna River Heritage

### *Wigwam, continued from page 1*

The final date to complete the wigwam by adding the cattail coverings will be announced at a later date.

Following the completion of the wigwam, a fire pit, fish drying racks and other amenities associated with a wigwam will be added.

Ultimately a large log will be provided to demonstrate the creation of a dug-out canoe. A dug-out canoe is created from carving out a large tree in the shape of a canoe. This was type of canoe used by local Native-Americans.

For additional information, please contact Charlie Douts, at 717-684-9542, or email [cdoutsjr@yahoo.com](mailto:cdoutsjr@yahoo.com).

### *“Willie’s the smart one”*

We realize Ground Hog Day is far in the past, but Washington Boro Willie needs to gloat.

Willie predicted SPRING and that other rodent went the other way.

This picture was taken 2/19



Granted that might be TOO early but Willie rocks anyway!



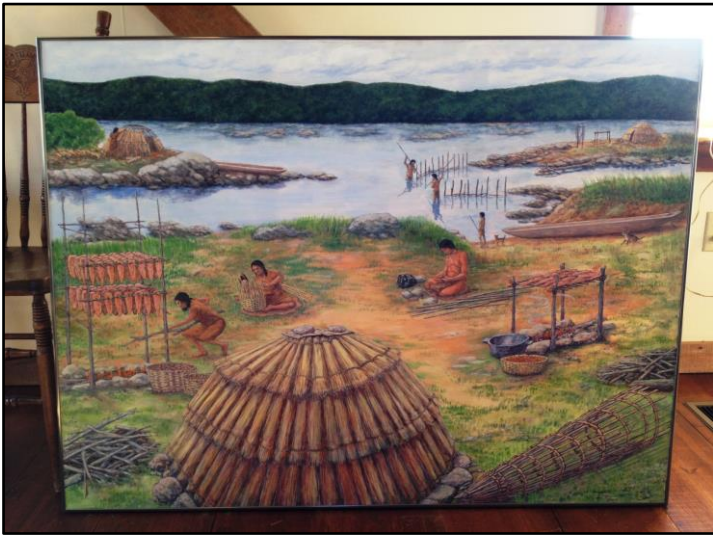
## Native American Murals on loan from the North Museum

The North Museum in Lancaster has loaned three murals which depict local Native American life. Two murals show wigwams along the Susquehanna River. One shows wigwams under construction, another shows completed wigwams and Natives drying fish and fishing along the river.

The third large mural shows a Susquehannock Village, the Strickler site based upon actual archeological evidence. In addition to the stockade village dating 1635-1665, the remains of the adjacent Shultz site can be seen as well as clearing of forest for the construction of future villages on the York County side of the river. The murals are on display at the Blue Rock Heritage Center and are envisioned as part of a new exhibit.

Members are working to create a new exhibit to display of local Native American artifacts. We are hopeful the display will be completed for the June Open House.

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We left the chairs in the photo to give you an idea on the size of the 2 bigger murals. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is a bit smaller as evidenced by the salt & pepper shakers.



## Our railroad signal has been restored

An electric railroad signal was donated by Norfolk Southern several years ago and stored in the Witmer Barn. The signal was originally installed by the Pennsylvania Railroad, most likely in the 1950's. The signals were eventually replaced by Norfolk-Southern who purchased the lines with new modern signals which we see along the tracks today.

This type of signal is called a position light signal, which replaced the semaphore signal. The semaphore signal had arms which would indicate instructions to the engineer such as stop or go.

The position light signal used yellow lenses specifically developed by corning glass in 1915 and were known as fog penetrating lenses.

The position and configuration of the lights indicated to the engineer how the train should proceed. As an example, if the three light signals were oriented straight on top of one another it meant the track was clear and the train should proceed. If three lights were oriented straight across it meant stop. If the lights were oriented at an angle it meant proceed with reduced speed. Various other types of configuration of the lights indicated other instructions to the engineers.

*Railroad Signal continued on page 4*



# Heritage Day 2017

October 21st 9am-4pm

The 2016 Heritage Day was a beautiful fall day, mild temperatures and a very good attendance. Fun was had by all with the free rides and family events. Despite all the negativity about clowns, Mr. B. Looney was a hit with the children as he created balloon creations per their request. Zoo America's presentation of local wildlife including hawks, owls and black snakes was educational and entertaining. Antique farm tractors, craft vendors, classic cars also provided opportunities for all to enjoy the day.

Burgers, hot dogs, corn soup and pies rounded out the day for hungry families. The shuttle hayride to the tractor pull was ran continuously with many happy riders.

### 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 681-9832** 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)



### *Railroad Signal continued from page 3*

Thanks to the vision of Glenn to acquire the railroad signal donation from Norfolk Southern we now have a traveling exhibit. Mike Landis spent a great deal of time restoring the signal with his labor of love. It was disassembled, sandblasted and painted. Ed Lyle donated the boat trailer and Larry Douts supplied wire and helped to rewire. Mike refurbished the trailer, new paint and deck, wheel bearings greased, etc. Mounted the signal on the trailer with a donated piece of pipe and now it is ready to show off. We need to purchase a 12-volt battery to complete the project. The electrical wizards installed toggle switches allowing us to change the light pattern.

Great job team and a big thanks to our team captain Mike for making Glenn's dream a reality.

We'd also like to send a shout-out to Sahd Recycling for donating parts.

Please plan on attending the June Open House at the Blue Rock Heritage Center or Heritage Day to view the signal.

