



The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

Sonnenberg Village becoming a reality

It was nice, in the middle of winter, to see so many people come together for the “Sonnenberg: Sharing the Dream” program. Perhaps it is a bit difficult to be excited when we see two feet of snow covering the ground where the Sonnenberg Village will be built this summer, but planning and progress continue.

The KCHS board of trustees have hired Aden Mast to move the Lehman House and build its foundation. The building itself will be moved this fall after crops are harvested. We will try to give everyone notice, if possible, because seeing the Lehman House coming over the hill to its new home will be an event we can share with our grandchildren.

The Tschantz/Schantz family has hired Abe Troyer to guide them as the family dismantles the Tschantz House at the end of May. The foundation will be laid, site preparation will continue and replacement parts will be found during the summer, with the goal of erecting the house in October 2008.

The biology students of Central Christian High School have completed the study, design and application for funding from the Ohio Clean Water Fund. They are only waiting for word that the fund is open for applications. The governor is still working on the new budget and has not decided how much will be available, but we appear to have a good chance for funding of

See Sonnenberg page 2

2008 Members Banquet: It's not too late!

Just a reminder that the Members Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. Members will receive invitations by early April; if you do not receive an invitation and wish to attend, you still have time to become a member for 2008 and RSVP for the banquet. Please contact Leora Gerber at 330-857-9111 with any questions or concerns. Also, be sure to browse the partial list of auction items on page 2.

CommuniTree through the curator's eyes

By Allyson Leisy

Probably not many of you know that I am a fanatic about recycling; just ask my husband about the times he's had to stop me from going through trash containers! Keep that in mind when you view the upcoming exhibit “CommuniTree.” Talk about recycling at its best!

During a storm in 2006 that downed many wonderful trees in our area, the thought occurred to me that something with such negativity attached to it could be turned into something very positive, besides firewood. Why not use the wood from some of these trees and have creative woodworkers make items that could be auctioned off, at a later date, for the benefit of the Society? With a little help from Wayne Liechty, the idea has come into fruition. Wayne has twisted many an arm in his day (including mine) and has rounded up some very talented craftsmen to participate in this exhibit.

Being a city girl and very “wood-challenged,” I thought we should at least have a display of the different types of wood. I don't think I could tell the difference between maple and hickory! With that said, there will be a quiz to see if you can guess the different types of wood. To the untrained eye, seeing wood in raw form versus finished is a whole different ball game.

The display will also include some tools of the trade including old wood planes and chisels, which to me are a work of art in themselves. We will also display old photos of logging operations

See CommuniTree on page 3



Three of the newly-created items donated for CommuniTree: a rooster by Tony Biggio, a Jesus wall plaque by Delvin Nussbaum and an inlaid box by Glenford Gerber. After the display closes, they will be auctioned.

Leisy entertains with wildcats and rogues at 2008 annual meeting

After being snowed out on February 26, KCHS held the 2008 annual meeting on March 11. President Wayne Liechty welcomed the 29 attenders and led the business portion of the meeting.

Liechty announced the board of directors' action to create the first Director Emeritus position in honor of Paul Neuenschwander's work. Glenn Gerber was affirmed to serve the remainder of Neuenschwander's term. Gloria Kaufmann, currently serving as board secretary, and Richard Nussbaum, the current treasurer, each agreed to serve another term and were also affirmed by the members present.

Treasurer Richard Nussbaum reported that KCHS had a good year, with an operating income increase, an endowment fund increase of \$2000, and a year-end balance of more than \$115,000 in the Sonnenberg Village fund. Liechty commended both Nussbaum and his predecessor, Clayton Steiner, saying KCHS has been "blessed with good treasurers" and noting that the board "always knows where we're at."

The evening's program by Ray Leisy was based on his book about the early days of banking in Wayne County. After Leisy inherited his father's collection of old bank notes and stories about the institutions that issued them, he discovered that "the people who ran the banks were more colorful" than the notes the banks issued.

The first bank in Wayne County was the German Bank of Wooster, opened in 1815 by the Larwill brothers. It was opened without a charter, earning it the description of "wildcat" bank. It was later chartered and failed. From there, the journey Leisy described leading up to stable, FDIC-insured institutions was an up-and-down half-century wild ride. Leisy's presentation was peppered with characters whose importance is commemorated by street names for those familiar with the downtown Wooster areas: Bever, Larwill, Quinby.

Following Leisy's presentation, attenders were able to view bank notes issued by some of the institutions featured in the presentation and enjoy refreshments.

Leisy's book, *Wildcat Banks and Broken Banks of the Wayne County Frontier*, is available at the giftshop for \$35 or by calling 330-857-9111.

Sonnenberg continued

the pond in Sonnenberg Village that will be linked to a wetlands on the grounds of Central Christian, both to be managed by the biology class.

Last, but certainly not least, we have begun to apply for funding from foundations which we expect will want to support Sonnenberg Village. Also, a public event for the Village is planned for September. So, keep watching the field and be ready for the building of Sonnenberg Village.

KCHS welcomes donations to the Sonnenberg Village Fund at any time. Please call 330-857-9111 for more information.



Ray Leisy with Wayne County bank notes from his collection.

2008 Members Banquet Auction Items

- Jim Spires pottery
- Lynn Sommer Fraktur
- Isaac Lehman family tree
- KCHS gift basket
- Cheryl Myers pottery
- Rudeen Kratzer painting
- Kidron Vinyl single glider



Lynn Sommer's fraktur, "My life flows on in endless song." The piece is also beautifully framed.

Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

- First National Bank, Kidron Office – Kidron
- Rick and Annette Harnish – Flanagan, Illinois
- Bonnie Neuenschwander – Kidron
- Marcia Hofstetter – Omaha, Nebraska
- Judy Pagniano – Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Rosa Peter – Kidron
- Joanna Pinkerton – Wichita, Kansas
- Howard Worthen – Smithville

It's a great time to
start or renew your
2008
membership!

CommuniTree continued

and early construction sites.

Splint, taken from logs, was used to make functional baskets. A display of handmade baskets dyed in walnut hulls will also be featured.

Wonderfully designed furniture from yesterday mixed with items made today (from our fallen treasures) will be featured throughout the display.

As people tour the exhibit, I hope that they recognize and appreciate the quality craftsmen that make this community so rich in its heritage.

I'd like to thank all of the talented craftsmen for donating their items, as well as Prudy Steiner, Leora Gerber, Ray Leisy, and Wayne Liechty for their unfailing support. Oh, and I'd like to thank our Creator who made the trees to begin with!

The grand opening of the display will be April 29 after the Members Banquet.

The display features newly-created items and never-before displayed items from the past. The newly-designed pieces will be auctioned in 2009 with proceeds benefitting the endowment fund.

Join the club

KCHS has an extensive mailing list for the *Bit o' Vit*, our quarterly newsletter which is also our primary tool for communicating with our members. The mailing list contains 1250 names and addresses of people from 36 U.S. states and Canada. As you can imagine, keeping in touch with this many people in that many places can be expensive.

One way you can help is by becoming a member if you are receiving the *Bit o' Vit* but have not joined KCHS. A portion of the dues goes toward publishing and mailing the *Bit o' Vit*. We're proud of the work of KCHS and want to let all our friends and supporters know what we've been doing. Help us keep the past alive and relevant by joining.



Kidron Korner by Celia Lehman

A few years ago, my sister Ruth Gerber loaned a museum three stuffed animals our grandmother Barbara Amstutz had made for her. She had no idea of the value that the museum would place on the satin dove with paper wings and the two horses that she loaned them. Needless to say, she was quite surprised at the estimated value of her treasured keepsakes.

Ruth's toys were part of the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Quilt and Textile Museum's display, "Gentle Companions: A Collection of Amish and Mennonite Stuffed Animals."

Curator Anne Lewis said, "These simple toys, made by hand for their children and grandchildren, flourished between 1900 and 1930. The women expressed in their work the timeless values: frugality, humility, the importance of work and family, and a lack of emphasis on worldly goods."

What other things do we possess that we take for granted? Memories are worth much more than money.

Unacknowledged Treasures



Ruth and Celia's grandparents, Peter and Barbara (Schneck) Amstutz. Barbara, who lived from 1872-1960, had eight children before she fell through a hayhole in the barn in mid-life, permanently injuring her back. She sewed prolifically from that time forward, using her treadle sewing machine.

Got old photos? Send them to us

The Kidon-Sonnenberg Heritage Center, owned and staffed by KCHS, is a treasure-trove of information about the area's past. One particularly rich source is old photographs. KCHS would like to expand its collection of photos and needs the help of its members.

Three different types of photos are of particular interest:

1. Photos of buildings at various stages of development, such as when an addition was added. A date attached to the photo makes the photo even more valuable.
2. Photos of celebrations and special events in the community, again espe-

cially if dated.

3. Photos of people if at least some of the people are identified. For example, the photo with "Kidron Korner" is valuable because we know who it depicts and their connection with the Kidron community. Unfortunately, the collection already contains scores of photos of unidentified people, making them far less valuable.

If you have some wonderful old photos that you would like to send to a safe place, to be preserved and shared, we would love to hear from you. Call Prudy Steiner at 330-857-9111 to make arrangements.

Kidron Community Historical Society
P.O. Box 234
Kidron, Ohio 44636

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April 2008



Board Members

President Wayne Liechty
 Vice President
 Treasurer Richard Nussbaum
 Secretary Gloria Kaufmann
 Membership Chairperson Leora Gerber
 Board Members Glenn Gerber, Fritz Sprunger, J. Augspurger
 Director Prudy Steiner
Bit O' Vit Editor Kris Nussbaum

Membership Fees

Individual Annual Member \$15
 Husband and Wife Annual Member \$25
 Organization Annual Member \$35
 Individual Life Member \$250
 Heritage Club Member \$1000 or more

**Annual memberships are due every January.
 Thank You!**

The Kidron Community Historical Society of Kidron, Ohio, founded in 1977, operates under the nonprofit charter granted by the State of Ohio. Your tax deductible gifts will help secure the future of the Historical Society and give you a part in preserving the heritage of this unique community. A reminder will be sent when annual memberships become due each January.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Type of Membership _____
 General Donation _____

Send your check to: Kidron Community Historical Society • Box 234 • Kidron, OH 44636 • Phone 330-857-9111

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Upcoming Events</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 3 Heritage Center opens</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, April 29 6:30 p.m. at Kidron Mennonite Fellowship Building Members Banquet, Auction and Grand Opening of display</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, May 3 SAGA/OMII genealogy meeting at Muddy Creek Farm Library in Ephrata, Pennsylvania</p> 

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio</p> <p style="margin: 0;">HOURS</p> <p style="margin: 0;">APRIL–MAY, OCTOBER–DECEMBER</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Thursday and Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">JUNE–SEPTEMBER</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>CLOSED JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">Call 330-857-9111 for group tours or special arrangements</p>
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