

Bois Blanc Island Historical Society

NEWSLETTER 2022

Season 2022 at the Museum

By Lynn Turner

Round up [not] all the usual suspects!

A tremendous job was undertaken and expertly spearheaded by Linda Alaniz and Phil Radala (sister and brother) during the week of June 18, 2022. Linda, pictured below, volunteered her time, talent, and materials to refinish the museum floor. That was an amazing gift for the museum and a huge job in and of itself. But, can you imagine? In order to redo this floor, all of the exhibit cases, artifacts, anything and everything residing on the floor had to be moved out of the building. One of the exhibit cases that use to reside in the old Pines Hotel was so heavy it took six men to lift it! This strength came from: Phil Radala, Mike Radala, Scott Kruszynski, Caleb Kruszynski, Brent Sharp & Chris Roper.



Linda Alaniz

The floor had so many years of foot traffic, shifting ground with winter freezing temperatures, and many dust storms from the county road. The end result of those years left the floor in a condition that was quite non-welcoming.

The clock was ticking. It was two weeks before the museum would officially open on Saturday, July 2, 2022.

After all of the items had been carried out, the next step of replacing the floor was to repair those cracks and crumbings through the ages, including the cement knee wall in all the rooms

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet – Summer 2023

All the volunteers are invited to an appreciation banquet in 2023 to thank you for your donated time and talent. You make it all happen! The Historical Society appreciates all that you have done. A scheduled date during the Summer 2023 season is yet to be determined. Watch for notices on social media next year.

in the museum. Brian Alaniz, Scott Kruszynski and his son, Caleb Kruszynski, along with the Crawford family joined in to prepare the floor. On June 19, 2022 the epoxy with multicolored flakes flooring was laid. Then a non-skid coating was placed over that.



Scott Kruszynski



Brian Alaniz

Scott Kruszynski along with two friends, Al Fowler and Claude Jones, provided the work to repair the concrete. Cement mix was brought over from Cheboygan. The cement, once placed, had to dry before applying the contrasting wall paint.

The clock is still ticking...it is now June 28th. We should be done at this point. The floor is completed and the cement at the floor edge and above had been patched or replaced. Are we done? OH NO! The walls were now a drab stark contrast to the beautiful new floor. Everyone agreed, the walls needed fresh paint. What does that entail? Oh my! It entailed another major volunteer effort that went on for days.

Phil Radala, having the foresight to see a project through to completion, had the mindfulness to take pictures of everything on the walls throughout the whole museum. Why? Because he and the volunteer crew were now going to tackle repainting every room in the museum. Therefore, everything had to come down off the walls --- and be put back after the paint had dried. Do you have any idea how many items are on those walls? Next time you come in for a visit, consider that concept! Many hours of work continued in order to get the

whole place painted. Major painting effort was made by Dan Craton, Scott Kruszynski, and Mike Radala.

By the way, if you were wondering what happened to the island quilts that hung on either side of the wall where the library is located, they have a new home. Lynn Turner formally asked the BBI Township to take them and put them up in the Wagner Room. That request was denied. Instead, the Township board accepted them to be placed in their meeting room. They have found a secure home – a room that is always monitored or in use for official business. And a home that many of the islanders may see throughout the year during various township meetings.

A small volunteer crew worked long days on the last aspect of the project and managed to get all the walls and wall cabinets fresh paint and all the items back up in place. The task was completed around 8 pm the night before the grand opening on Saturday, July 2nd.

What a team! What an amazing effort! What a beautiful job! Another completely volunteer effort dedicated to our beloved island history and museum.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

July 2nd through September 3rd, 2022

The museum is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (from 10 am to 2 pm) through the summer. Once again, our very special museum volunteers stepped up to greet the many visitors. Some of the volunteers actually took time out from their summer holiday on the island to help others see and explore the museum. **Here is our list of our Museum Stars from 2022. Thank you!**



Patti Babler	Megan Hawyer	B.E. Neumann
Kathy Brown	Lee Keller	Susie & Steve Nystrom
Phyllis Brown	Polly Keller	Joyce Peccon
Carol Church	Penny Kimmey	Suzette Sanborn
Mary & Kevin Deery	Vicky & Jerre Lewis	Lynn Turner
Brandi Dunn	Chris & Bruce McAfee	Jane Weber
Carol Frazier	Leigh McCandless	Lani White
Melissa & Doug Freye	Nancy & Kathy Miller	Peggy & Tom Wybranowski
Linda Gekle	Marianne Miller	Suzette Cooley
Joyce Harmon	Judy Munro	

If I missed your name, please forgive me. I created the list from the names listed on the volunteer calendar that was located in the museum office. But if I missed your name, please let us know so we can include you.

Volunteering at the museum is very rewarding. So many people come in and share their own amazing history on the Island. Between conversing with the visitors, and having access to all of the items in the museum, it is an all-around pleasant learning experience. If you haven't volunteered at the museum before and would like to, please let us know via the form on the last page of this newsletter. Training is available prior to taking on a two-hour or four-hour shift. We would like to have more people experience this opportunity. It really is a great island history learning experience.

Valuable Resource on Our Island

We have many valuable resources here. We also have so many amazing and valuable people here. However, there is one person who has dedicated so much of his time to maintaining our rich island history. That person would be Mike White. And he is not keeping this knowledge to himself. Mike has made himself available to anyone who would like to meet with him to research island history.

Did you know? One couple flew to the island from Chicago this summer for just one day just to meet with Mike White. They were relatives of the late Mildred Bible. Even though they could only be here for part of one day, they came specifically to meet with Mike to get his guidance on researching people and places here on the island. Mike was also able to guide them in the use of the museum's database, the 'Pastperfect' program. This program has archived information on thousands of island topics, artifacts, and people. And this great program is also available to the public.

The interest in the island is strong and heartfelt. Mike White has continued to offer his knowledge to all who seek this information. We who live on the island, or who visit in the summer, are particularly fortunate since this offer is readily available to us. You don't have to fly in from Chicago, just call Mike White to help you research island topics of interest. It is very quiet here in the winter. A great time to give him a call. His number: 231.420.9932.

VOLUNTEER AMBASSADORS

All of our volunteers are really 'volunteer ambassadors' for the historical society, museum and library. The following individuals took on special tasks for the organization for which we are very grateful.

Tom Bach – Website development and management

Kathy Brown – Speaker series coordinator

Emilie Helmbold – Volunteer coordinator

Dan Reynolds – Social media manager

Mike Radala – IT manager

DOCUMENTING ISLAND HISTORY



So many people have been involved with this endeavor in one form or another, but two people deserve special mention for their focused research here and resultant prolific writings. The two people would be Janet Weber and her late husband, William Rutledge.

It was my pleasure to meet Janet for the first time this summer. As we sat and talked in the museum office, some of her articles were for sale right behind her on the office closet door. She did not know if the museum still had these articles and was very happy to find out that indeed they did, and were for sale for a nominal fee.

How prolific were their writings you ask? How about at least eight different articles of various aspects of the island history?

- Public Education on Bois Blanc Island (1894-1931)
- The Bois Blanc Island Fire Tower
- The Bois Blanc Island Country Store/Hawk's Landing

- Bois Blanc Island Bar
- Boats to Bob-lo
- A Bridge over Bob-lo? The Mackinaw Bridge Authority Surveyor's Marker on Bois Blanc Island
- Bois Blanc Island Deer Enclosures
- Bois Blanc Island Maple Syrup Making

They also edited the list of birds found by friends and birding experts Bill Bishop and Julie Moore.

- Birds of Bob-lo

They covered quite a variety of topics. A number of the articles track the early history of entities that still exist today. For example, 'Public Education on Bois Blanc Island 1894-1931.' And of course, the country store and the bar continue to exist, but has continued to change with new ownership. And that is not a "typo" when you read one of the titles, "Bois Blanc Island Deer Enclosures." It is an area that has been fenced off to keep the deer out of the enclosures. Hence the name, 'enclosures.'

Mike White handed me a document previously written by Janet's late husband this summer. Mike said, "I think you might find this of interest." The document was written by William M. Rutledge, Attorney at Law. It was entitled, "Guide to being President of the BBI Historical Society. Lessons Learned, ranked in order of importance, more or less." My personal favorite point was that if someone has an idea for a project or purchase, have that person make a 'move'. That is, that person is to say, "I move that..." Then if it passes, it is the 'movers' responsibility to head up the project. We had an abundance of 'movers' and shakers this year at the museum. We are so very fortunate for that.

After meeting Janet for the first time, I asked if she would mind being a feature article for this year's newsletter. She graciously agreed.

So, I asked, how did you begin writing history? Janet stated that she was always interested in history. She wanted to know what happened. Besides the BBI articles, Janet has written her Weber family history going back to the mid-1700s, a 25-page timeline for the Eastside Handweavers Guild, a 130-page history of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church and a history of the Friends of Art and Flowers, a support group for the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) consisting of 82 pages, well padded, she says, with lots of pictures of flower arrangements.

Both she and her husband have done a great service in preserving some of the Island's unique history. We are all grateful for her contribution. Janet encourages others to document their island history and add to the museum's collection.

THE BELOVED ICE CREAM SOCIAL & BOOK SALE

July 16, 2022



The annual ice cream social and book sale at the museum was quite a success in 2022. Dennis, the owner of the Island Diner and Tavern, graciously provided the ice cream again this year. There was just the right amount of ice cream to make every tastebud happy. Butter pecan seemed to be the crowd favorite. This was followed closely by chocolate, then strawberry, and vanilla.

The ice cream ‘scoopers’ this year were Emilie Helmbold. Emilie is a professional in ice cream scooping since she worked at the Island Diner all summer. Lynn was her apprentice in the scooping endeavors.

The very last of the vanilla ice cream was scooped out at 4 pm. It was a perfect afternoon – sunshine, warmth and a gentle breeze. Great for ice cream consuming and browsing a great collection of books.

Bruce and Chris McAfee orchestrated the book sale again this year. It too was a success. Many people mentioned that it is a great venue to meet up and socialize with island friends.

The event is the Historical Society’s major fundraiser. The ice cream and books are offered to the community via donation. The generous crowd donated a total of \$421.00 for the ice cream. The book sale brought in \$531.16. What a great way to celebrate a beautiful summer day. The museum is open from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays. The social is held from 2 pm to 4 pm on a Saturday. Therefore, in addition to the outdoor activities, the ice cream social

allows an additional two hours for people to tour the museum. (Note: no ice cream allowed in the museum!)

What a wonderful day! Thank you all who helped set up for the event, and for those who were volunteers throughout the event day. And thank you all for being there. It was great to see you.

SUCCESS IN A DIFFERENT WAY

Not all events go as planned, but a fun and informative time was had by all who attended the Bois Blanc Island Trivia contest on August 19th.

Historical Society Proudly Presents:
Bois Blanc Island Trivia Contest
Mike White Night
How much do you really know about the island's
history & people?
Team Competition -- Fabulous Prizes!
Where: Wagner Room
When: Friday, August 19th
Time: 7:30 pm

The man with the vast amount of island history knowledge was on hand for the event. Yes, that would be Mike White. However, he brought along some of the permanent records of island history that he has compiled over the years. Before the contest ensued, Mike demonstrated how anyone could use this database in the museum to research topics or people related to the island. Actually, the hidden agenda of the event was to teach everyone how to use this system. So, with that in mind, part of the contest involved a person sitting at the computer to look up answers.

Two teams were randomly selected from the audience. [Note to participants for the next year's contest: you can't select your team.] The contest was set up similar to the TV game show, 'Family Feud.' Each team had the opportunity to answer island trivia questions. But if they got three wrong answers the other team could steal and win.

Oh yes, by the way, when you live on an island you have to be resourceful. Since we didn't have buzzers for each team to ring in for the fastest reply, we used a couple of dog squeak toys to serve the purpose. The teams were also given a 'Mike White card' that they could only use once. Since Mike was present, they could use that card to ask him the question if the team couldn't come up with the answer.

The whole group had a happy consensus about the rules since we were sort of making them up as we went along. It got competitive in a serious and playful way. The event would have been more of a success with better trivia questions. The real success that night was people gaining appreciation for other people's knowledge, learning more about the island, and learning how to use the database.

At the time of writing the advertisement about this event, there were no 'fabulous prizes.' However, after asking around, fabulous prizes were generously donated by our island community. And fabulous they were. If you don't stay on the island, you would never consider this a fabulous prize, but this was one of the favorite ones: BBI trash bags. They were donated by private individuals. Other wonderful prizes were: Plaunt transportation passenger tickets, BBI fleece sweatshirts from the Island Diner, and T-shirts from The Hideaway. Since we ended up with a tie between the two teams, all the participants went home with a prize.

More help from the community is needed in developing the set of island trivia questions for next year. Yet, the overall enthusiastic conclusion from the attendees was that we should absolutely hold another island trivia contest next year.

How to Donate an Item to the Museum

Did you know that there is a form to fill out when you submit an item? This is for all items – anything from a large artifact to a small newspaper article. It identifies the person who donated the item. It also directs the historical society board members as to the life of the item. That is, whether the item is on temporary loan or permanent loan, and gives permission to the board as to how the item can be handled in the future. Ask any of the museum volunteers on duty. They can supply you with this "Temporary Custody Receipt" at the museum.

NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS IN 2022

Individual	Family
Mike Dyer	Josh Collesano
Louise Edwards	Kevin & Mary Deery
Pauline (Polly) Keller	Tom Frazier & Dr. Carol VanRandwyk
Lori & Scott Melville	Mike Goodin
	Mark Horn
	Penny & Ron Kimmey
	Lou Mitchell
	B.E. Neumann
	Chris & Deirdre Pifer
	Brian & Meg Shaker Rarey

Friend	Patron	Benefactor
Robin & Jack Lees	Bill & Diane Akright	Sarah & Thomas Bodor
Janet Weber		Peggy Feeley

Thank you so much for your support!

STORY HOUR RETURNS IN 2022

Thanks to the coordination and supervision of JoAnna Duncan, the Historical Society could once again offer this program to the island community. JoAnna is a second-grade teacher at the Utica Community School. On her vacation from school, here on the island, she generously offers her teaching skills in this island tradition. She coordinated this year's story hour presenters and also was present for all of the activities. The schedule and topics were as follows.





Date	Presenter	Topic/Theme	Craft
July 6	Lysa Conaton Fischer	Kindness	Dream Catchers
July 13	JoAnna Duncan	Seeds in Garden	Planting sunflower seeds
July 20	Kristen & Olivia Schoenborn	Friendship	Friendship bracelets
July 27	Meg Shaker Rarey	Spiders	Make spiders for BBI rocks

This program has always been held on the museum grounds. This year we moved the program to the Hoover Building per JoAnna’s suggestion. The Hoover building has indoor running water & flushing toilets! Each story hour has an accompanying craft that the children make. Having a sink to wash up after making crafts is a real advantage.

Story Hour was well attended. For example, on July 20th there were 15-18 children and 10 adults. On July 27th there were 18 children and 10 adults.

Story Hour is for children of all ages. It is also for the “child within” the adults. JoAnna is planning a schedule for next year that might extend into August in 2023. Be sure to be a part of the next series. It will also be held at the Hoover Building.



UPGRADED SELF-GUIDED TOUR MAP

The Historical Society developed the tour many years ago. The numbered sign posts around the island are described in a handout that had been copied year after year. This year, like the museum floor, the tour map and descriptions got a facelift.

Mike White pointed out several errors in the descriptions that were corrected. Two additional sites of interest for inland fishing were added. Photos were taken of each site and placed next to each description.

The map that accompanies the descriptions was changed. Three separate routes were detailed and added. How many times have you encountered people who come over for the day who had never been here before and do not know anyone here? They ask for guidance of where to go and what to see on the island. It seems like this is happening more frequently these last few years. These folks don't realize that you can't see the whole island in one day...and still make it to the last boat. So, the inclusion of three routes on the map was a helpful concept. Each site along the route included the mileage to that site from the township dock. It gives people an idea of how long their trip would take them. This was even more helpful for those who come over on bicycles for the day.

The 'Westerly Route' goes from the dock to Bible Road and the north shore. The 'Central Route' goes from the dock up Fire Tower Road. And the 'Easterly Route' goes from the dock to Lake Mary. There is a suggested donation for the map and descriptions. They were made available at the Plaunt ticket office, the Island Diner, Island Bar, and the museum. It will also be offered on-line.

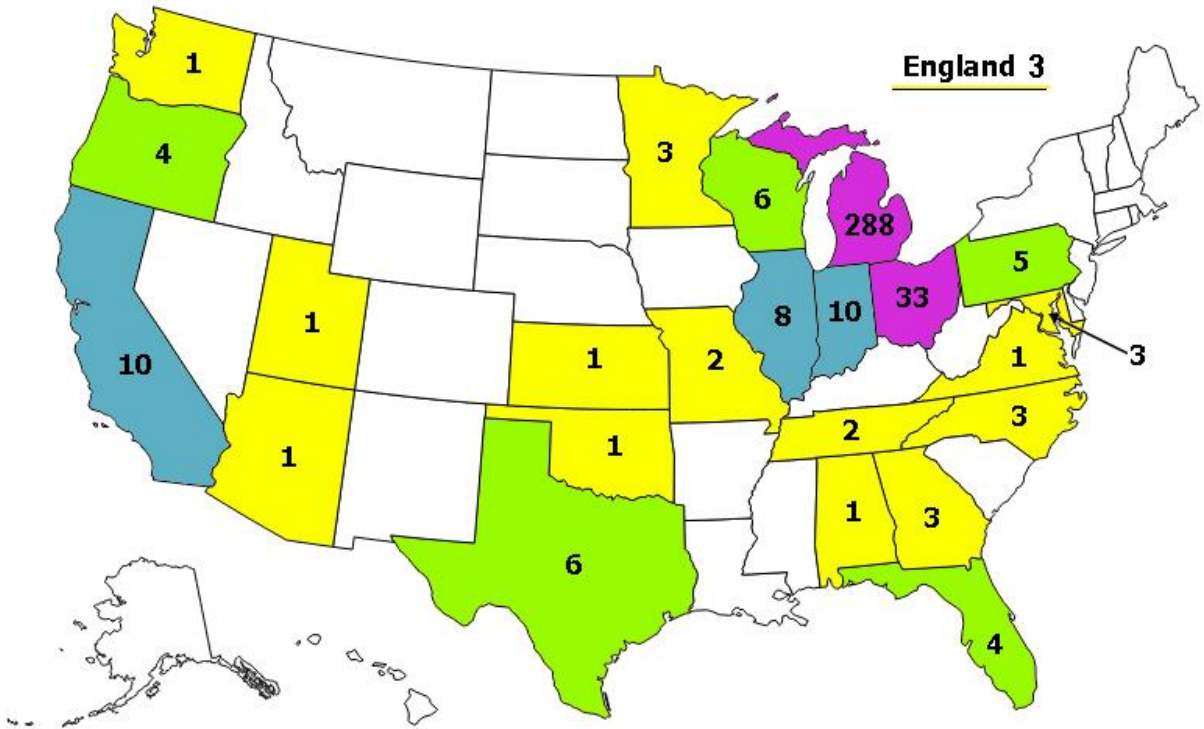
GRANT PROPOSAL AWARD

Last year the Bois Blanc Island Community Foundation granted the Historical Society \$2,118.98. It was put to good use and this year museum goers benefitted greatly from the grant. People really enjoyed the new large TV monitor to broadcast historical pictures. Mike White painstakingly annotated and labeled 800 images for viewing. In addition, the grant afforded the museum security cameras for the protection of the museum's holdings, and a new computer to merge into the website.

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM

The museum opened its doors on Saturday, July 2nd for the 2022 season.

Last year, in 2021, there were 350 people who signed the guest book. This year there were 419 people who signed in. Therefore, we know that at least that many people entered the museum. Of course, this number is an underestimation of visitor activity since a number of people chose not to sign, or forgot to sign the book.



Visitors to the Museum 2022: This year, the Buckeyes outdid themselves. The most frequent listings were Ohio (33), followed by California (10), Indiana (10) Illinois (8), Texas (6) and Wisconsin (6). But there were folks here from all over the United States.

Just like last year, Michigan residents were twice as likely to visit the museum than those from other states. Of those who signed in, 288 were from Michigan, 108 from out-of-state, 20 with no city or location listed, and 3 from England. This year there were 108 different

Michigan cities listed, compared to 70 last year. Oh yes, and there were three who visited from another country. Canada you say? No, they were from Oxford, England.

Last year the most frequent listing from Michigan cities was from Grand Rapids (9), but this year the top number goes to Traverse City (15), followed by Fremont (10), Ann Arbor (8), Davison (8), and Grand Rapids (8). The local island residents tend to forget to sign the guest book, but this year there were 8 who did. And this year we actually had record of people from Cheboygan (5) who visited us.

The guest book is the source of this information. There were many more who visited but didn't sign the book. The volunteers working at the museum encourage people to sign in but some may be reluctant to do so because they don't want to share their contact information. But for next year, just know that putting your name and the city and state where you are from is sufficient. That is all we need to know in order to determine the museum's draw.

The museum opened its doors as a museum in 1987. Happy 35th Anniversary!



See you next year!

Bois Blanc Island Historical Society

P.O. Box 933

Pointe Aux Pins, MI 49775

Membership Form / Donation Form

Make checks payable to: Bois Blanc Island Historical Society

Membership Type:

Individual \$10 ____

Family \$15 ____

Friend \$25 ____

Patron \$50 ____

Benefactor \$100 ____

Donation \$_____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Would you like to volunteer as a museum/library attendant?

Yes ____