

NEWS, NOTES 'n SUCH

June 2009

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Visit us at: www.shacksboromuseum.com

It's Peony Time!

If this is June, it must be peony time! Saturday, June 13th, marks the 7th annual Peony Fest at the Museum. This is a full 10 am to 5 pm day of blooms, plant sales, bake sales, artisan booths, musicians and a community flower show.

Those who have attended the festivities in the past will immediately notice the greatly expanded peony beds. Many of the historic plants, previously residing in undisclosed Van Buren locations, have been replanted in new beds on the museum grounds. Doris Cross and her gardening crew have been very, very busy completing their mission. *A well done* to this hardworking group!

As Doris, and friends, check out the plants, some can be divided and will be made available for purchase. Members only will have first pick--beginning Sunday June 7th and continuing June 10 through 12. Public sales will commence at the *Peony Fest* on the 13th.

Other highlights of the day will be the community flower show. (See entry notes elsewhere in this issue). Barb Donaghey has assembled a wonderful variety of mercantile, fine artists and artisans to expand upon the widely applauded selections of last year's *fest*. For the non-green-thumbed set we have a sale of home baked goodies to consume on premises or to take home and savor.

And for the enjoyment of all, acclaimed musician Kay Miracle-Burke will provide the entertainment. So, come on over to the Museum and appreciate a great day!

The Museum Shop will be open as will the current exhibit.



All Kinds of *Stuff* You Should Know-----

- Riverview cemetery records have been entered on the computer at the Museum and are **searchable!** Great news for genealogists.
- Approximately 700 of the articles Anthony Christopher wrote for the Messenger are available in loose-leaf form at the Museum. Here's the really good news--an index of the topics is on the computer and is searchable by patrons.
- Many thanks to Joy Swensen, who took the photographs of the *Irish Roots* program which appeared in our last newsletter and are currently on display at www.shacksboromuseum.com.
- *Baldwinsville Book Talk* on April 26th was a hit. Eight authors took part representing several genres. They were most generous with their time and in their remarks.
- The Questers, a group of adult students of history and preservation, visited the Museum in April. They will visit again next year and they sent a nice donation as a *thank you!*
- Many thanks to Joy Swensen, Nancy Loveland and Carol Antwine who worked in the garden and generally *spruced up* the grounds!
- New item in the Museum Shop? Socks! Check them out. Very colorful and just plain fun.



*Joe Virkler (L) and
Bob Stockdale at
Baldwinsville Book
Talk*

- *Shacksboro Summer Days* will be held July 7, 8 & 9, 2009. This fun program runs in the mornings and is for those ages 9 - 14. Registration required-- Sign up now by calling 638-2452 as a *go, no-go* decision is made well in advance!
- The Museum is running out of storage space! Look for enlargement of storage shed to happen this year!
- *Spartle* anyone? They are for sale in the Museum Shop! What are they? Ask Bill Weston!



Shown at left is Joy Swensen, proud co-winner of the 2008 Community Peony Show! Joy has been very active in all things peony and is expected to be on hand to defend her crown June 13th!

There were a record number of entries last year and they were absolutely breathtaking! The peony is a real *show-off*, which makes for a spectacular show.

Community gardeners are urged to enter their most prized offerings for judging.

2009 Peony Show Rules

1. You must enter your own peonies! No fair showing blooms grown by others!
2. Show Categories
 - A) Cut Stems - Each participant may enter up to five (5) stems
Each stem must be between 8" and 12" in length.
 - B) Special Presentation - arrangements and creative staging
3. Each entry must be accompanied by completed 3' x 5' entry card.
4. Questions beyond these rules will be determined by Peony Show Staff and will become the "rule of the day."
5. Entries may be submitted between 9 am and 1 pm on day of show.

Entry Card should contain the following information

- Grower's name, address and phone number
- A description of the peony and its name if known
- There will be entry cards available at the Show

At registration, each stem will be assigned a number for voting purposes.
Balloting for People's Choice Award will be ongoing until 4 pm.

This 'n That-----

McHarrie's Legacy took part in the First Volunteer Opportunity Fair held at Baker High School April 30th. Attendance was very heartening--a goodly number of folks interested in volunteering for local organizations. Good news indeed!

Several indicated their interest in working with the Museum on up-coming programs. We certainly welcome them as McHarrie's Legacy, Inc is a 100% volunteer-run organization. In keeping with the theme of volunteerism, we heartily thank those who have helped us with:

- The Book Sale
- The Volunteer Opportunities Fair
- *Peony Fest*
- Docent Duty
- *Remembering Baldwinsville* Programs
- Filming events for PAC-B
- *Baldwinsville Book Talk*
- *Irish Roots*
- Historic Peony Plant Committee
- Preservation Committee Work
- Board Membership
- Event Refreshments
- Bake Sales
- Hosting *Fourth Night* & Much, more more!

McHarrie's Legacy, Inc. Membership Application

Name _____ **Phone #** _____

Address _____

Membership Level:

Individual \$18 _____ **Family \$25** _____ **Senior (Age 62+)** _____

Make Checks payable to McHarrie's Legacy, Inc and mail to
PO Box 481, Baldwinsville NY 13027

How It All Began---

Many years ago, 107 to be precise, a man named H.B. Williams planted his first crop of asters. Williams planned to enter the cut flower market. Not only was this first planting a success, it far exceeded his ability to harvest it!

He abandoned the cut flower plan and regrouped as a producer of aster seed. The flower heads were left to ripen and the seed was winnowed. Hybridization became a specialty and Williams became acclaimed nationally.

His aster fields were planted along village access roads and were a great attraction each fall. In 1915, Williams partnered with local leaders in promoting an *Aster Day*. This was a huge event, as many as 30,000 people showed up to see the glorious aster fields and toured the rest of Baldwinsville. A volunteer auto fleet met visitors at the trolley and train stations and drove them around to see the sights. Among the visitors was a certain Frederick A. Goodrich.

A successful industrialist from the Midwest, Goodrich immediately saw the potential for a flourishing flower farm enterprise. He returned to Baldwinsville and purchased farm property just to the west of the village including the handsome Greek revival home still known as "Indian Springs Farms." He planted general agricultural crops in 1918, including 12 peony plants. By 1921, peony culture had become the focus. He began with 100 varieties and by 1925 there were over 200 acres of flowers and 700+ varieties of peonies. More than 50 men were on the payroll and Goodrich's investment hit \$200,000.

Indiana grower Harry F. Little was an extraordinarily talented hybridizer who joined forces with Goodrich in 1926. Together they developed the largest peony farm in the U.S. The death of founder Goodrich and the national depression brought an end to the glory days which had seen brilliant blooms beautifying almost an entire mile beside the Syracuse-Rochester highway.



McHarrie's Legacy Calendar

JUN 13 - *Peony Fest*

10 am to 5 pm
Flowers, Garden Talks
Select Mercantile
Music, Bake Sale
On Museum Grounds

JUL 7-9 *Shacksboro Summer Days*

9-11:30 am each day
Ages 9-14 eligible
Registration Required
Fee charged. 638-2452 for more info

**Look for More
Summer Programming
Details to Come**

Clean, Used Books
Being Accepted for Book Sale
PLEASE no magazines, textbooks,
Reader's Digest Condensed Books
Bring during Museum Hours
Wed - Sunday Noon to 4 pm

Plan Ahead! Gigantic Used Book Sale September 10-14, 2009!