

# STONE LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2  
JUNE, 2010

## 2009 – 2010 OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: Rose Rhea (715) 865-3922  
VICE PRES.: Betty Lester (715) 766-3407  
TREASURER: Joan Rainville (715) 558-8013  
SECRETARY: Betty Helwig (715) 865-5500

Historical Society E-mail address:  
[tncmcd@aol.com](mailto:tncmcd@aol.com)



THE STONE LAKE DEPOT/MUSEUM AND SOO  
LINE CABOOSE

## YOUR HELP IS DESPERATELY NEEDED!!

Today we must seriously ask for help. First, we want to thank the many generous donors who responded to our December "Save the First Town Hall" fund-raising request! You have given this project a great start and we are very grateful.

If you do plan to donate to the fund to "Save Our First Town Hall" and not have done so yet, **please do it now!** As of June 18, 2010, our moving and restoration costs have totaled \$13,000 and we can now continue only with those repairs that do not require materials as our funds are depleted. This means that the

construction of Preservation Hall must wait until enough donations have come in to purchase the balance of building materials that are needed to build this special addition that will join our two museum buildings. We estimate that an additional \$11,000 will be needed. We feel very fortunate to have two major volunteers, Jim Young and Tom McDonnell, who are willing to give their time almost daily to our restoration project, and we must keep these valuable men and their helpers supplied with building materials!

Also, if you have any extra time at all, please offer your physical help. There are several very important jobs to be done on this old building to make it the treasure it will be to the museum complex, and a few hours a week working with new friends is a very nice experience.



Preservation Hall will be located in this area, joining the Depot/Museum to the 1926 Stone Lake Town Hall. Construction will begin when funds are available to purchase materials. We hope to complete the project by Labor Day Weekend with your help.

## GARDEN CLUB CREATES MUSEUM GARDEN

The Stone Lake Garden Club has planted a beautiful garden at the museum and all the plants seem to be doing very well. Just the right amount of rain has fallen since the plants went in. Thank you, ladies. We are very appreciative of what you have given to the Stone Lake Area Historical Museum.



This lovely garden is a gift from the Stone Lake Garden Club

## SOO LINE MAGAZINE ARTICLES BRING RAIL FANS TO STONE LAKE

We have had several rail fans come and visit the museum since the articles on our depot/museum renovation and the caboose acquisition and restoration were featured in the SOO Technical and Historical Society Magazine. These folks tell us that we have truly wonderful railroad artifacts and displays, and each has promised to come back and bring his or her friends. Many of them have already brought us valuable railroad items to add to our collection.

## MORSE CODE COMES TO OUR MUSEUM

Bob Branchaud, well known railway telegrapher, is coming to Stone Lake to set up a telegraph system as it once was, when operating in our railroad depot. He has also sent our museum two CDs, the first a Morse Code CD of a dispatcher sending train orders and the second CD is a very historic one. It is the Morse code message that was sent as the Titanic was sinking.

By mid-summer, our museum will be one of the few in the country to have an in-house operational telegraph system which will be a hands on experience for our visitors.

## PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

We hope you will have Sunday, July 11, 2010, on your calendar so you don't forget to come to the Stone Lake Lion's Park between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM to enjoy the historical society's Pie and Ice Cream Social with your neighbors. This is always a very enjoyable time, and the live music is enjoyed by everyone there.

## MONSTER FIRE AT MINONG

On Friday, July 16, 2010, the Stone Lake Area Historical Society and the Stone Lake Volunteer Fire Department will co-sponsor a 45 minute presentation about one of the largest forest fires in Wisconsin history.

The Five Mile Tower Fire of April 30, 1977, was ignited by a single match and ultimately destroyed 13,000 acres and sixty-three buildings. Citizens from Minong, Chicog, Webster, Gordon, Wascott, Hayward, Spooner, Solon Springs, and other

communities came to help. More than 900 people came in the first four hours of the fire. Trucks, bulldozers, tanker trucks, dump trucks, fuel trucks, and school buses came to the open field which became the headquarters where the DNR coordinated the citizens. 1,600 people fought the blaze, including a group of teenagers from a local high school. Bill Matthias, author of Monster Fire, will describe his experiences during the fire and will present an in-depth look (based on dozens of interviews and other eyewitness accounts) at the Five Mile Tower Fire and the courageous people who helped to fight it. He will also explain the important changes to firefighting laws and procedures in the aftermath of this fire.

Bill Matthias became the Superintendent of the Northwood School District in 1975. While in this position, he launched the teenage fighting crews at Northwood High School and battled the Five Mile Tower Fire of 1977 for fifty hours.

This 45 minute power point presentation will start at 7:00 PM on Friday, July 16, 2010 in the Stone Lake Fire Hall. Refreshments will be served and admission is free.

### STONE LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

Please visit our website at [www.stonelakeareahistoricalsociety.com](http://www.stonelakeareahistoricalsociety.com). We believe you will enjoy it, and we plan to add many photos of our exhibits soon. You may also view all of our newsletters on the website.

The Stone Lake Area Historical Society is a 501 © (3) charitable organization; gifts are tax deductible.

### CRANBERRY FESTIVAL FLEA MART COMES TO THE MUSEUM

This year, during the Cranberry Festival, on Saturday, October 2, 2010, the big flea market usually located in the area of the Stone Lake Medical Clinic will now be found in the parking lot of the museum. The town is bursting at its seams during the festival so this will help by moving a major event a little farther north. Shuttles will be available to transport folks back and forth.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 11, 2010 (Sunday):** The Stone Lake Area Historical Society Pie & Ice Cream Social will be held at the Lion's Club Park Pavilion.

**July 16, 2010 (Friday):** Monster Fire Presentation by Bill Matthias, 7:00 PM at the Stone Lake Fire Hall.

If you wish to donate to the Town Hall Fund, please use the enclosed envelope. We sincerely appreciate any amount you are able to donate to this project and with your help we WILL have the project completed and open by Labor Day Weekend!

We hope that you will want to become a member of our historical society.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

|                          |            |            |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LIFETIME   | \$100.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FAMILY     | 10.00/year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | INDIVIDUAL | 5.00/year  |

Mail with your check to:  
 Stone Lake Area Historical Society  
 PO Box 68, Stone Lake, WI 54876