

STONE LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3 NOVEMBER, 2009

2008 – 2009 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



THE STONE LAKE CABOOSE AND DEPOT/
MUSEUM

OUR CABOOSE ARRIVES

Phase II of our museum project is completed now. It began with the arrival of our caboose from the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin, on June 3rd, and was completed just prior to the Cranberry Fest on October 3rd. We had a big crowd at the museum watching the caboose arrive on its recessed bay truck, with its trucks (its wheels) on another truck. Just minutes after it arrived, a 70 ton crane pulled in the parking lot, and as the crane lifted the trucks and set them in place, they called for a welder to weld stops on the rail line so the caboose could never roll on the

line. Within 15 minutes, Dan Woods came to our rescue, welding stops on the line, and within two hours, the caboose was sitting perfectly on the rail line John Paine had built for us.



Soo Line Caboose No. 593, in its new home

CABOOSE BENEFACTOR'S FUND

We're happy to tell you the museum and caboose are 100% free of debt, all thanks to the generosity of you, our supporters. The Caboose Benefactor's Fund brought in \$18,050 and the money raised paid all the bills plus gave us enough to build a float for the Cranberry Festival parade. Our many outstanding benefactors are being honored on several beautiful plaques which have arrived and will be displayed in the caboose for all time. They have our sincere gratitude for making this phase of our project a success!

CRANBERRY FESTIVAL PARADE

The Cranberry Festival parade float was a replica of our Soo Line caboose and was built by Marlo Schield, Jim Young, and Tom McDonnell. We had a very special crew in our caboose for the parade, namely: Katelyn Philbrook, Sophia Trude, Ben Trude, Maria Shield, and Tim Trude. They did a great job of blowing their train whistles and were appropriately dressed in their railroad shirts and engineer's caps. A very special "thank you" to our super crew!



The Stone Lake Area Historical Society float for the 2009 Stone Lake Cranberry Festival

FIRST YEAR MUSEUM GUESTS SURPRISE US!

We were very surprised when we took a count of all of those visitors who toured the museum this year, and we found that 751 people were accounted for in our guest book! We know that many folks missed signing in, and think this number may be many more than larger town museums see in the short four summer

months. We thank all of you for bringing your friends and neighbors to tour. We hope we are becoming a special "point of interest" when folks visit Stone Lake.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Stone Lake Area Historical Society was the recipient of two wonderful memorial gifts this year. The first was in honor of Norman Skille and the other in honor of Cliff Baldrige. The historical society has purchased a beautiful photo display unit that begins with a tribute to Norman and his family and then goes on to display photos and history of many of the cranberry marsh operations in our area.



With financial gifts in memory of Cliff Baldrige, a similar display is being purchased and prepared in honor of Cliff and will be a tribute to Cliff and his

family and will go on to display photos and history of Stone Lake and its pioneer families.

We thank the families of these two outstanding Stone Lake citizens for thinking of us in their time of grief.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS (DOCENTS)

The Stone Lake Area Historical Museum will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday next season, beginning in late May. We have a wonderful group of volunteers who have already told us they are willing to keep it open from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on those days. We send our thanks to our 2009 docents Sandi Oates, Betty Helwig, Connie and Marlo Schield, Sharon Wiek, Rob and Betty Lester, Jack and Barb Coddington, George and Mousie Virnich, Jack Sheffield, Ron Bekta, Boots Bono, Rose Rhea, Jerry and Mary Grade, Sharon Svejda, and Tom and Carol McDonnell. Next season we have several more willing to help: Mary Byrkit, Judy Jones, Gloria Boomsta, Connie Zurawski, Bruce Gillette, and Jim Young. If we have forgotten to thank anyone, please accept our apologies. We sincerely appreciate all of you and would love to add more folks to our list! (Note: between May and October we are willing to open for you on other days and times to accommodate special groups who may wish to tour the museum.)

NEW WEBSITE WILL OPEN SOON

Woody Glass will be working on our new website over this winter season. Its domain name is www.stonelakeareahistoricalociety.com. Eventually you will be able to receive our newsletter via regular mail or from the website, your choice. So we can be ready for those of you that have email addresses once the website is up and running, please forward your email addresses to either Woody Glass at GGlassMN@aol.com or Carol McDonnell at tncmed@aol.com.

MUSEUM HONORED IN NATIONAL MAGAZINES

In September, a full page article written about our caboos restoration project appeared in "The Journal," the quarterly magazine of the Lake Superior Railroad Museum. This article resulted in several railroad enthusiasts coming to Stone Lake to tour our caboos and museum. In just a few months, the Soo Line Historical and Technical Society will carry an article on our depot restoration and our caboos purchase, transportation, and restoration project. Apparently this type of activity is one that does not happen often, so they are doing a feature article on it. This article will be many pages in length and have lots of photos and we are eagerly looking forward to seeing that. We will let you know which issue of "The SOO" it will be in.

NEW MUSEUM SIGN

We now have a special new sign for our museum facing highway 70. This sign is in honor of Tim Clements and was purchased by Bill and Laurie Cook in his memory. There will be a plaque placed on the sign in May, 2010, in Tim's honor. Thanks you, Bill and Laurie.

STONE LAKE GARDEN CLUB ADOPTS MUSEUM

In May, 2010, ladies from the Stone Lake Garden Club will be seen planting a new garden at the entrance to the museum. These ladies are so talented it will be exciting to see this garden take shape and blossom over this coming season. We will be very grateful for this new garden, as we know it is a great deal of work to plant and tend to a garden away from your home. Thank you so much! We expect this to be a great partnership!

SOME VERY EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE!!

As those of you know who have visited the museum, we are receiving new and wonderful items to display every week. We have many displays we wish to set up, and are slowly running short of space. We knew this would happen, but never dreamed it would happen so quickly. We are thrilled, and thank everyone who is sharing their beautiful artifacts and family treasures with us.

As though in answer to a prayer, someone has come to us and asked us if we would consider saving our first Stone Lake Town Hall. It was built in 1926 and has been located west of town, off of Highway A on Slayton Road...all these years. It was also the site of the Stone Lake Area Historical Society's first museum. Well, our group traveled to the building, got expert advice on whether or not it could be successfully moved, and voted to accept this building onto our museum property. It will be located at the west end of the depot/museum, north of the caboose, and will face Stone Lake Road.



The original Stone Lake Town Hall built in 1926

We plan to have the building sit about twelve feet west of the museum and be joined to the museum by a large hallway...ten feet wide and eighteen feet long. It will be an enclosed hallway so visitors will be able to walk directly into the second building without going outside. There will still be just one entrance and exit in use at the front entry near the handicapped ramp but there will be several emergency exit doors. We feel

it will provide much needed expansion for the museum.

PRESERVATION HALL

As we enter the final phase of our museum project, we will again be asking for financial help. Saving the old town hall and first museum will be the least expensive of our three projects, as we have no building to purchase. The building already belonged to the Stone Lake Area Historical Society. We have received a \$6,500 bid on moving the building and have our volunteers standing ready to restore it. We will have the cost of footings for the building, the new hallway, and have the cost of clearing the trees from the land and hauling them away prior to leveling the site. This has already begun. We anticipate this project can be completed for approximately \$15,000, perhaps a little less. The building has already been moved to a location near the museum, and may be on its permanent site yet this year...weather permitting. Jim Young has been working hard to make the necessary repairs to the underside of the building, braving the cold, wind, and rain. THANK YOU Jim!

Since this project begins with a town hall building, we feel it is only fitting that the ten foot by eighteen foot hallway between the two buildings be called "Preservation Hall" and that it contain our "Wall of Honor," a special area where we honor everyone who contributes to the Town Hall project as well as all those who contributed to the museum and caboose projects. This "Wall of Honor" will never

be removed and will be completed by late summer, 2010.

A portion of the town hall building will be used for the purpose of honoring our two town governments. We plan to go back to our first town boards in both Sand Lake Township and Stone Lake Township and honor each person who served on each of our town boards. At the same time we will display artifacts from our earlier days such as voter tally sheets, which are fascinating, billings and invoices paid by our early town boards, photographs of our town board members, artifacts from early pioneer families, and many other interesting items too numerous to mention here.

Since our expenses have already begun, we are going to begin our fund raiser in this newsletter. If you are willing to help, you need only to let us know which category you would like to be honored in and send your check to Stone Lake Area Historical Society, PO Box 68, Stone Lake, WI 54876. We will acknowledge your tax deductible gift, as we are a 501 © (3) charitable organization. If you would like further information, you may email tncmcd@aol.com and we will respond at once. It is our hope that you will think this latest project is a very worthy finish to our restoration project!

You will find more details on the following page, and a coupon which you may complete and return to Stone Lake Area Historical Society, PO Box 68, Stone Lake, WI 54876

PRESERVATION HALL DONORS

“Wall of Honor”

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	\$2,000 or over
TOWN CHAIRMAN	1,000
TOWN SUPERVISOR	500
TOWN CLERK	250
TOWN TREASURER	100
MAINTENANCE CREW	75
POLL WORKERS	50
CARING CITIZENS	25

Whichever category you choose, you may make your donations “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” anyone you wish. Perhaps there is someone important in Stone Lake’s history that you wish to honor. It is our hope that you will find our “Wall of Honor” a suitable tribute to everyone who has made our wonderful museum possible. A sincere thank you for considering our request, and for your past support!

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We wish to donate to the Town Hall Fund. Please use the following wording:

Our tax deductible donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

To receive future newsletters by email, here is my email address:

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

**STONE LAKE AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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- LIFETIME** **\$100.00**
- FAMILY** **10.00/year**
- INDIVIDUAL** **5.00/year**

Mail with your check to:

**Stone Lake Area Historical Society
PO Box 68, Stone Lake, WI 54876**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

November 21, 2009: Stone Lake Scholarship Fund’s Chili Feed at the Lion’s Center, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. These proceeds benefit the students of the Stone Lake area. This event will include a cake walk, raffle, and silent auction.

December 5, 2009: Stone Lake Lion’s Club Kid’s Christmas Party, 10:00 AM, at the Lion’s Center.

April 18, 2010: Stone Lake Area Historical Society Spaghetti Feed, 11:00

AM to 4:00 PM at the Fire Hall. This event is held each spring to pay the yearly operating expenses of the historical society.