



# Waupaca County Historical Messenger

## Fremont

The Fremont Area Historical Society held nine regular meetings in 2010 and had many interesting speakers. In March, John Smith brought a large display of hand-carved duck decoys and spoke of the many duck carvers in the Fremont area.

May Day was celebrated with May Baskets, a May Pole and a potted plant sale. Elsie Mae Yohr served cake and ice cream honoring birthdays in May.

A beautiful display of rocks was presented by Mel and Caroline Maierhafer which were collected by them on their travels throughout the United States and Brazil. They answered many questions and each member was given a rock to take home.

In August, Elsie Mae Yohr, presented a program on the history of the Waupaca County Fair dating back to 1873. She actually put on a mini County Fair, including 4-H exhibits and entries such as flower arrangements, vegetables, pictures, woven baskets, crocheting, tatting, and even two live animals, a goose and a banty rooster. These entries were judged and awarded ribbons by an experienced County Fair judge, Jane Ritchie. Members also enjoyed food associated with fairs such as cotton candy, hot dogs, ice cream bars, popcorn, caramel corn

and root beer floats.

In September, Dan Mayville displayed his large collection of bottle openers and log driver buttons, and spoke of the history of log drives in Fremont.

The October meeting included a history of aprons which were displayed around the room and also worn by those attending, including a man's apron.

In 2010 the Fremont Area Historical Society purchased a two sided outdoor display case and it was erected in the Historical Wolf River Crossing Park on the banks of the Wolf River. The first pictures to be displayed will be of steamboating on the Wolf River. The sign is located near a bench which the Society had previously purchased. Future plans include purchasing a picnic table for the area.

Also in 2010, a bench was purchased and placed near the post office, making that a total of four benches throughout the village.

*Wanda Harrison*

## Iola

During 2010, the Iola Historical Society began restoring the 1894 Iola and Northern Railroad depot to its original design. Our goal is to have it eventually listed on the National Registry.

We received a \$10,000 donation specified for the restoration of our caboose that sits next to

the depot. Restoration will include the installation of exterior car siding and the interior. Work on this project is expected to begin sometime in 2012.

We launched a new project last year: a Historic Iola marker program. One that will be ongoing for the next several years.

Our goal is to develop a self-guided walking tour that will create interest in the history of Iola. The first historical marker was unveiled in February 2010 at the Norseman Ski Hill, acknowledging "100 Years of the Iola Winter Sports Club" and "100 Years of Ski Jumping in Iola".

The second marker commemorates the "1999 Father's Day Fire," which destroyed half a block of businesses on Iola's Main Street.

The third marker, "Birthplace of Numismatic News," is located in front of the Chet Krause house where he created the newspaper which eventually grew into the Krause Publications empire.

This year we will dedicate three more markers. In addition to the marker project, a full-color brochure will be created to highlight the markers and to promote a walking tour of the community.

In October the Iola Historical Society offered a new fundraiser called "Lost Arts Fair and Taste of Norway." It was a great success and will be continued as an

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## Winners of Passport To History Program

Upon visiting each of the historical sites, attendees have their passport stamped with a "visa" indicating they visited the site. Once a person has acquired all the visas, a random drawing is conducted from all the entries to determine the winners of a \$100 U. S. Savings Bond and a one-year free membership to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Mickayla George won the \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, winner of the Wisconsin Historical Society membership was Wayne A. Laux of Marion, Wisconsin.



*Tom Fucik, treasurer of the Iola Historical Society presents Mickayla George with the \$100 U. S. Savings Bond she won with her entry in the "Passport to History" program.*

### Iola

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annual event to be held on the first Saturday of October.

Artisans gave demonstrations on post and beam construction, rug weaving, candle making, weaving, blacksmithing and other arts. Area organizations were invited to participate, including the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce, with its annual craft and gift show; Northland Lutheran Church, Central Wisconsin Tractor Club, Iola Lions Club and the Iola Leos Club.

Another project currently under construction is a 6' by 24' display cabinet. This was made possible because of a \$2,000 grant from the Waupaca Area Community Foundation. An additional \$3,500 donation was received from Maynard Stromberg. The cabinets will house a display of Engebret "Bert" Stromberg handcrafted violins from the 1940s. It will feature parts of violins he made up ahead of time to create his violins, and show the sequence of making a violin. His tools, books and other material will also be on display.

The Iola Historical Society was very fortunate to receive a large donation that allowed us to secure all historical artifacts from the Iola Mills, except those kept for display at the mill.

On Sunday June 26 we will be holding our 27th Annual Strawberry Fest and Appraisal Fair.

We will be hosting the Waupaca County Historical Think Tank on May 23, and on July 23 we'll host the 2011 Wisconsin Historical Society regional meeting. *Lyle Mork*

## New London HS

We had our chili supper in March at the VFW hall.

A group of senior citizens from Appleton took a tour. Numerous schools, day cares, and scouts toured the buildings and grounds. This is a service we offer to the school district and surrounding area for free.

Our Triangle school had new windows and siding installed and the school woodshed was painted.

Our big event on the last day

of July and first day of August, called Heritage Days and Railfest had the wild West Revue with stunt performers, 1840's Buckskinners, local music, church service in the church, face painting and pony rides for the kids, old time tractors, and ice cream made with a John Deere hit and miss engine. We had a good turnout.

The Soo Line Technical and Historical Society consisting of 110 people from all over the United States and a few foreign countries toured the village and especially enjoyed the depot and train cars. They took many pictures.

In October we hosted the Fall Think Tank meeting of the Waupaca County Historical Societies at our village with coffee and introductions and a tour of the buildings. Then we drove a few miles to the Thern farm for lunch, a program and tour of the house that was built for the New London County Fairs of 1891 to 1912. This was provided by Sandra Thern, who grew up there.

Plans for our big event on the first of August this year are not completed yet. We are planning something different from the last two years and still have a few things to work out. I wish I could tell you more. Vendors are welcome to come and visit us. The vendors are not charged.

*Sylvia Stern*

## New London PM

Every year the Wisconsin Federation of Museums celebrates Wisconsin Museums Week and International Museum Day, sponsored by the International Council of Museums. This year, the New London Public Museum (NLPM) opens a new temporary exhibit

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## New London PM *Continued from page 2*

to honor both of these celebrations. "Best of the Best 2011" showcasing local history opens March 8 and runs through May 28. NLPM invited area historical societies and museums to participate in this new showcase exhibit. Each organization contributed three artifacts they felt best represented their community. These artifacts, along with information provided by the organization, are on display at the New London Public Museum.

The NLPM also celebrates International Migratory Bird Day for the first time on May 14. In collaboration with Mosquito Hill Nature Center and the City of New London Parks and Recreation Department, the celebration will be the kick-off event for New London's new Bird City, Wisconsin designation. Events take place throughout the day at Hatten Park, Mosquito Hill Nature Center and New London Public Museum, check our website [www.birdcitywisconsin.org](http://www.birdcitywisconsin.org) for more information.

Building on the success of the 2010 Curiosity Series, the New London Public Museum welcomes a variety of speakers and demonstrators again this year. On April 9, Michael Seeliger will lead us through the history of glass bottles. He will also help people to identify bottles they own and figure out values. On July 9, experts from the Weis Earth Science Museum will be here at the museum to identify rocks, minerals and fossils. The cost is \$8 for up to three items identified.

Play Ball! The summer exhibit at NLPM focuses on the history of baseball and basketball in the community. Photos, uniforms, equipment and stories will make up the exhibit. Join us for some summer fun as we honor the history of sports in our area. The exhibit runs June 16

through October 29, 2011.

The New London Public Museum is a gathering place to explore history and discover a wider world. Exhibits include artifacts focusing on natural, local, Native American and multi-cultural history. The museum is located in the lower level of the New London Public Library, 406 S. Pearl St. and is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Saturday. The New London Public Museum can be reached at 920-982-8520 or [museum@newlondonwi.org](mailto:museum@newlondonwi.org).

Come explore with us!

*Christine Cross*

## Rural

For the Rural Historical Society 2010 was a year of ups and down.

In terms of "ups" we put "up" a new sign. Who would have thought it would require so many meetings, writing and rewriting, measuring and placing. But we think we finally arrived at something which would be both informative and attractive. It is in front of our headquarters on Main Street in Rural and tells some basic facts about the origin of the village and its earl settlers. Come take a look!

In June we celebrated the second annual Margaret Ashmun Day. Margaret was quite a well known author in the 1920s and 30s. Connie Haack-Hurlbut has researched her life and presented more of her life and times for the public. It was done in conjunction with our Sundaes on Saturday Strawberry Fest celebration.

We had some deep "downs" with the loss of three of our most important members. Lois Sorenson was one of the founders of our group and the

person with ideas, organizing and motivating skills dedicated to preserving our history. Meda Radley and Eddie Huntoon were a couple of our real links to the past. The knew and remembered and shared their knowledge of history. Meda and her husband, Forrest, were both original members of the Society.

Gone, but not forgotten, is Jo Yeager who was a guiding beam of the early years. Jo is now in LaCrosse near her family.

But we look to the future. We want to begin a project to photograph and get some history of the remaining barns in the Town of Dayton. They are disappearing at an alarming rate. We also have to do an inventory of the items in our collection—what a hodgepodge!

Inquiries are always coming about when we will be conducting another House Walk. It does not seem that it will be this year. A leader is needed! But we hope to find another project. We plan to be open again this summer—Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from 1-3, after Memorial Day. And we always plan on some new and refurbished exhibits. Please come visit us.

*Helen Robinson*

## Scandinavia

Before looking back at what took place in 2010, let's see what has happened so far in 2011. FOSH is in the process of becoming affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society. The first two hurdles, incorporating, and becoming a non-profit organization, have been accomplished. The third hurdle, creating a set of bylaws in which to govern FOSH, has become somewhat of a conundrum. However, we will meet the challenge.

With that said, let's now

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## Scandinavia

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take a look at 2010 and what has been accomplished.

Work continued on our Historic Street throughout the summer, with our Eliason cabin getting closer and closer to being finished. It would be nice to say fully restored, but over the 160 years of its existence it was remodeled so many times we really don't know what the original structure looked like. No one of course will be able to challenge us as to whether or not it is restored to the original.

New windows have been installed, and once a door is in place, the cabin will be completely enclosed. Trim at the base of the porch posts was also added. Inside the plaster and lath had previously been removed from the log walls. It then became necessary to pressure wash the logs to remove the historic dirt, and chip out the old chinking.

This year a new "old" ceiling will be installed in the cabin. Unlike the remodeled interior which was removed, the ceiling boards will be placed above the beams, giving the room a more historic look. Other interior projects include replacing floorboards near the walls, and chinking the openings between the logs. A nice historic touch to "finish off" the cabin would be the addition of a stone chimney.

Jergenson's service station will now become our major focus. The building was moved on site in 2009 but most of our labor has been channeled towards the Eliason cabin. Now that that project is nearing completion, more time can be devoted to restoring the station.

Fortunately for FOSH, the prior owners, who used the building as a guesthouse on their farm, took excellent care of it, especially maintaining the roof.

One of the major projects will be replacing a couple of the

windows so they are more like the original ones. The exterior siding is in relatively good condition with a few pieces of siding needing to be replaced, some boards scraped and primed, and a fresh coat of paint applied. The plasterboard on one of the interior walls has been removed and the other three walls will require the same work. Once this is done, a partition wall with doors will be constructed on the south end of the building where there was a stairway to the basement.

It is not inconceivable that the Knopf cabin and Jole barber-ship will be relocated from their present location in the park to the Historic Street this year.

Visit our website at:  
[www.friendsofscandinaviainhistory.org](http://www.friendsofscandinaviainhistory.org)

*Doug Watson*

## Waupaca

Review of the Events of the Waupaca Historical Society for 2010.

During June through August The Holly History Center offered a special exhibit wherein Julie Hintz displayed vintage wedding gowns and wedding photographs.

The Family Bible project was completed by Joyce Woldt, Jerry Chappell, and Darlene Ryan as they placed historic data into family folders.

On August 21 and 22 WHS participated in the Art on the Square and Art at the Depot with five different artists showing their works. At the Hutchinson House there were hand crafted needlepoint and cross-stitch items on display.

Hutchinson House Museum was open summer weekends and for the Strawberry Festival, June 19; The Fourth of July; and The Rod and Classic Car Show, August 28; as well as the Fourth Grade Tours Sept 27, 29,30 and Oct 5, 6, and 8.

The Waupaca Depot was open for tours for the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Lutheran OWLS Group, Lioness Club, Soo Line Historical and Technical Society, and the Old Car Club. The Ice Age Trail Group had a meeting and quarry tour. There were about 20 high school students for a community service work day. The depot was also open for "Trick or Treat". Hundreds of hours of restoration work was completed during the year.

An old fashioned pie social was held in the lobby of the Waupaca Area Public Library on September 11 in conjunction with the Library's Lincoln Memorial exhibit, and the Old Abe Camp # 8 Civil War encampment.

Culvers Restaurant acknowledged our society by giving us ten percent of their evening sales of September 21st.

We were involved in the Waupaca Book Festival by hosting authors Arthur and Ursula Rathburn's participation on October 2 at the Holly History Center.

On October 9th three of our members attended the 2010 Fall Think Tank hosted by the New London Historical Society. Following introductions, we toured their Heritage Historical Village and visited the Thern Farm for lunch, and a program. We also toured the historic home and barns where the New London Fairs were held from 1891 to 1912.

Five issues of *The Reporter* were published during the year. In addition, seven Indian history articles were submitted to the *Waupaca County Post West's* "Prime Time Section." The fall issue article was "Milestones in the Early History of the Waupaca Area Public Library."

On September 14th we re-

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## Waupaca

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elected the Executive Committee: Dick Bidwell, president, Mike Kirk, vice-president; Bob Kessler, treasurer; and Betty Stewart, secretary. Also elected were two new members of the Board of Directors, Don Writt and Tracy Behrendt.

During October 19-22 the Collection Committee gathered and filed hospital records that had been donated.

WHS was a recipient of three funding awards toward the restoration of the Waupaca train depot. A total of \$8,500 was received.

A grant application was also submitted to Oberstadt Landscaping for a \$10,000 depot landscaping grant. This grant, however, was awarded to a non-profit organization in Appleton.

*Gerald Chappell*

## Weyauwega

The membership of the Weyauwega Area Historical society remains at about the same level of 12 members. Bi-monthly meetings were held during 2010 with an extra meeting added if a project needed to be worked on. The officers elected in January for the coming year were: President, James Taylor; Vice-President, Marietta Paap; Secretary, Pat Ritchie; Treasurer, Betty Larson; Historian, Florence Oehlke.

The first project that the Weyauwega Area Historical Society (WAHS) took on was to act as docents for the Little Red School House, a historical school house that was moved into Weyauwega City Park about 40 years ago. Through working with the City of Weyauwega we were able to open the building each Sunday afternoon during June, July and August to present a little bit of Weyauwega History to

the public. We will continue the same hours this year, and additional times if people would like tours. Members of the Society take turns being in the building and answering questions. We are looking for help in how to organize and better display all of the artifacts that are in the museum.

The most ambitious project last year was a Cemetery Walk at Oakwood Cemetery in Weyauwega. Members of the WAHS choose prominent people and pioneer families from Weyauwega and portrayed their family history by taking on the persona of an individual from that family. Because the group is quite small, we asked for help from people in the community. Members of the high school drama department were asked to act as guides for the groups going between the different grave sites in the cemetery. They were dressed in period costumes, as were the presenters. An individual in this group also recorded the presentations and they were put on a DVD.

The Cemetery Walk was held the same weekend as Horse and Buggy Days in September. On Friday afternoon all of the students in grades 4-8 from the public and parochial schools were invited to view the Walk. This was also a dress rehearsal for the presenters and the guides. Seven families were portrayed and a brief history of the Cemetery given. On Saturday afternoon from 1-4 the Cemetery Walk was open to the public. A horse drawn wagon picked people up downtown and transported them to the cemetery. From there they could re-board the wagon and continue on to the Little Red School House Museum that was open that day.

To promote the Cemetery Walk, and WAHS, the participating members road on the horse drawn wagon in the Horse and Buggy Days parade.

The microfilming of all the issues of the Weyauwega Chronicle has been completed. This project was done in cooperation with the Fremont Historical Society and the Waupaca Genealogy Society.

WAHS is trying to get the younger generation in the area more involved in history and make it come alive for them. To this goal we included high school students in the Cemetery Walk. Hopefully some of our members will be invited to the schools to present programs on history. We would also like the students to come to our Little Red School House for a lesson in history.

Our newest project for the coming year is an "Identify Your Historic Picture" days. This will take place April, 4, 5 at the Weyauwega Public Library basement meeting room from 9 am to 7 pm both days. WAHS has acquired a lot of old pictures from the now closed Weyauwega Chronicle and from other sources. We need help identifying people and places in these images. The public is also invited to bring any pictures that they cannot identify and hopefully we will be able to provide identities.

WAHS provided an article for the Waupaca County Visitor's Guide.

We participated in the county-wide historical program "Passport to History."

When visitors came to the Little Red School House they were given a passport folder if they didn't have one, or their passport was stamped as having visited the museum.

*Pat Ritchie*

The *Messenger* is published two times each year to provide a vehicle for Waupaca County historical societies to share information with one another. Hopefully in the upcoming Fall issue we will have feed-back from all the organizations.