



Summer
2012

Tree of Liberty

Official Newsletter of the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation

Visit us at <http://www.friendsoffortlaurens.org>

A Great Beginning

Tammi Mackey
Site Manager

The Fort Laurens Museum has started the year with a bang. Not only have we seen more community involvement but the attendance numbers have increased as well. Last May saw visitors number 385, whereas this May saw an increase in that number to 639. That is an increase of 60% over last year, and hopefully a trend that will follow for the rest of the season. Not only has the overall number increased but the number of visitors coming from the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath has greatly increased as well with 133 visitors stopping into the museum during their adventure along the canal. Another spike to the attendance came from visitors carrying an OHS membership. This increase will likely continue with the launch of the OHS Passport program (similar to the program from the National Park Service) which encourages visitors to visit all OHS sites and collect a stamp or sticker from each site. This increase in visitation is a wonderful way to start the year and will hopefully be an indicator of things to come.

PAY IT FORWARD

On Friday, April 20, 2012, Fort Laurens State Memorial held its annual Pay it Forward/Clean Up Day with the freshmen and sophomores from Tusky Valley High School coming to work at the Memorial.

This year, we had about 45 students with four teachers come and they accomplished a great deal - cleaning flower beds, picking up trash, mulching beds and The Fort outline, washing floors in Museum, etc. Three men from Lawrence Township came with trucks and tools to support and assist.

Our thanks to: Ron Pfouts - who had come down several days earlier and sprayed the outline for weeds; and then came down and re-laid the markers for the hospital site; Tom Pieper - who weeded and chopped sod off the parking lot edges. Meanwhile, our thanks also to: Marcia Zawacky, Marty Zawacky and Claude Custer who met on Friday with Constance to begin learning the details of working with the new web site.

Thank you to all. Well done!
Tom Pieper
F.F.L.F. President

Rebuilding of Fort Laurens Moving Forward

D.P. Angeloni & T. Mackey

On June 18 representatives met at the Old Zoar Schoolhouse to get planning underway for the reconstruction of Fort Laurens.

There were 20 people in attendance. Representing the Ohio Historical Society, who owns the Fort Laurens State Memorial, were George Kane, Brad Lepper, and Karen Hassel, the Tuscarawas County Convention and Visitors Bureau, who operates the site, executive director Dee Grossman, Traci Stevens, from the Tuscarawas Valley Heritage Association, Fort Laurens Museum site manager Tammi Mackey, assistant Beth Pamula & spouse and Katherine Parks, and representing the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation board trustees Tom Pieper, Doug Angeloni, Claude Custer, Ron Pfouts, Marci Zawacky and Marty Zawacky. Others taking part in the meeting were FFLF Retired Jacque and Scott Fisher, Jared Burks of Ohio Valley Archaeology, and Jon Baker from the Times Reporter.

Jared Burks of OVA gave an update on his electronic survey. He hopes to be done this July with his results and final report. Hired by the FFLF this past year Jared's work is essential in helping to determine where other possible historic or prehistoric features may be located on the grounds. His results will be a part of determining the best location to rebuild the fort. This in itself will be one of the major decisions faced by the group. Several locations have been suggested including building the fort on its original remaining footprint that would entail much more archaeological excavation and would also greatly increase the cost of the project.

Many views and ideas for the future Fort Laurens were discussed. A rebuilding committee was created to be chaired by Fort Laurens Museum site manager Tammi Mackey. Other on the steering committee are assistant site manager Beth Pamula, Eastern Region OHS site coordinator, Karen Hassel, executive director Dee Grossman of TCCVB, and president and vice-president of the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation, Tom Pieper and Doug Angeloni. The Rebuild Committee will

stay at six members. Other individuals will be brought in and consulted with for subcommittees and expert advice. The core six members will be known as the Steering Committee.

The steering committee began its work the following week with face to face and phone conference meetings. Their job is to come up with ideas and suggestions for the rebuilding of the fort. They will be working on, among other things, design and construction not only of the fort but park facilities as well, sustainability, operations and maintenance, staffing and educational interpretation and suggestions for the fort's location. Their reports and suggestions will be brought back to the main body for discussion, approval and ideas.

The Steering Committee has also decided to create a survey to address how the public feels about the rebuilding of Fort Laurens. The survey will also include questions of where the fort should go, and what the public would like to see at Fort Laurens. This survey will be available for approximately thirty days between July and August and will be handed out in the museum and given online through the organizations websites, Facebook and through email.

Other tasks: Karen Hassel will work with the architects at the Ohio Historical Society to begin pricing the hardscape work that may need to be done with the rebuild. George Kane is working on agreement to be signed by the Ohio Historical Society, Tuscarawas County CVB and the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation. There will be a meeting coordinated between the Volunteer Coordinator, Anna May, of the Ohio Historical Society and the Fort Laurens Museum Staff and the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation. A bulletin board or slide show will be put on display in the museum so that the public is aware of and can see the progress towards the rebuild.

There is much yet to do and it may be several years before ground-breaking takes place. However, after many years of hard work, dedication, and persistence the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation is happy to say there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

The Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation, Inc. Endowment Fund

T. Pieper

The Friends of Ft. Laurens Foundation, Inc. Endowment Fund was created to support the Agency's mission to promote the general awareness and educational importance of Fort Laurens, its role in both Ohio's and America's history and to raise public and private contributions for the reconstruction of Fort Laurens.

Agency Endowment Funds are created for the benefit of charitable organizations or agencies that prefer to establish funds within the Foundation rather than manage their own funds. They are a practical and administratively efficient way for nonprofit groups to ensure sustained, future funding. Agency Endowment Funds allow a charitable organization to take advantage of the community foundation characteristics of permanence, of pooling funds for better investment return and of reduced administrative costs. The organization thus places its endowment within the community foundation and each year receives income from the fund.

At the end of 2010, Stark Community Foundation had Agency Endowment Funds totaling \$26,381,034. Stark Community Foundation was established in 1963 to serve donors, award grants, and conduct community development to enrich the quality of life in Stark County. The Community Foundation currently administers over 500 funds and has issued more than \$106 million in grants and scholarships since its inception.

To donate to The Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation, Inc. Endowment Fund, please send tax-deductible donations to; Stark Community Foundation, 400 Market Ave. N., Canton, OH 44702.

Mansfield Trade Show

Beth Pamula

Ft. Laurens Museum was represented at the Mansfield Civil War Trade Show this past May. This show not only attracts exhibitors and consumers of the Civil War hobby but also Revolutionary War through World War II.

The Ft. Laurens table, full of brochures, event flyers, and museum wares, was greatly received at the show. Many patrons took interest in the programs the museum has to offer. And, of course, many people asked about the process of the fort rebuild. People were excited to hear that the project was moving forward and offered their volunteer services.

Let Them Eat Cake

Tammi Mackey

Fort Laurens Museum recently held its third annual cake and tea tasting event, 'Let Them Eat Cake!' While geared towards Women's History this is an event for everyone to learn of the culture surrounding the American Revolution. Visitors were treated to a tea and treat from each of the Original Thirteen Colonies. Each treat had a historical significance from the colony or a Revolutionary wife, daughter or mother from that particular region. A presentation followed the tasting focusing on women who fought in the Revolution or were involved through spy work or support. Women featured included Abigail Adams, Deborah Franklin and Mary Hayes (Molly Pitcher). Plans are already being made for next year's event where the theme will take visitors on a culinary trip around the Colonial World.



"Let Them Eat Cake", Host, Left to Right...
Kathanne Parks, Tammi Mackey, Beth Pamula



Fort Laurens Billboard Hits the Streets

D.P. Angeloni

Promotion of Fort Laurens in Bolivar, Ohio has always been one of the missions of the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation. Its members have, year after year, given their time doing programs for numerous groups and organizations to promote the site and inform people of the important role of Fort Laurens in our local, state and national history.

More visual signage has always been part of the discussions to promote the site and thanks to trustees Marcia and Martin Zawacky, who did the legwork investigating signage companies and cost, the foundation now has a professional billboard to promote Ohio's only Continental Revolutionary War Fort.

The billboard will be moved to different sites periodically throughout the region and will be stored at other times. The sign is presently located near the intersection of Rt. 77 and 62, in Canton.

2012 MOCCASIN ROAST AND SILENT AUCTION

D.P. Angeloni

It's never too early to send in your reservation for this year's 2012 FFLF Annual Moccasin Roast which will be held this year on **Saturday, September 22**.

The Roast is the biggest revenue making event held by the Foundation for the future building of Fort Laurens and operations of the foundation. Your public support is always appreciated.

One of the main reasons for the financial successes of the event is the silent auction. This success is thanks to its committee head, trustee Marcia Zawacky. Her organization, time and

dedication setting up and running the auction over the years has been a great asset to the foundation.

There are many others to thank for their work assisting Marcia and you too can help by donation items to help make the auction even bigger and better.

You can donate an item for this years auction by contacting Marcia Zawacky at (330) 492- 5918.

The foundation is always looking for members who would like to assist in other ways such as helping at the Moccasin Roast, assisting at work days at the fort, or manning our promotional booth at other events. Take an active role in your foundation to help us meet our goals of supporting, promoting, educating the public, improving and rebuilding Fort Laurens.

Don't forget Upcoming Events

July 4 at 1pm - Independence Ceremony

July 13th from 9-12 - History Camp

July 14 and 15- Brigade of the American Revolution encampment and re-enactment

July 20 from 9-3 -- History Camp

July 21 at 9am - Guided Hike on the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath and Fort Laurens Grounds

July 28 at 11 am- Sons of the American Revolution Ceremony.

August 26- Dress for battle

September 21- War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration

September 22- FFLF Moccasin Roast & Silent Auction

October-Archaeology Day (TBA)

October 26-27 Trick or Treat

For more information call Fort Laurens State Memorial at (330) 874-2059.

FFLF Seasonal Rotating Display Case

This season the FFLF pays tribute to the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War with a display of items and relics of those two eras. 1812 American and British buttons, original newspaper account of the siege at Fort Meigs, U.S. Civil War cartridge box, and Civil War camp and battlefield relics are some of the items to be viewed.

American Chestnut Tree Regains Its Place In History

D.P. Angeloni

A rare site today, the American chestnut tree once dominated the Eastern Appalachian landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries. Its range extended from the state of Maine to the Mississippi River. For pioneers it was a major source of building material on the frontier and the nut itself was consumed by man and animal alike.

Around 1904, a fungus on trees imported from Asia started a blight that began killing off the American Eastern Woodland Chestnut at a rate of about fifty miles a year. By the mid 1900's an estimate of over 4 billion trees, about ¼ of the hardwood forest, were gone and continued to die.

An article this past year (2011) in the "American Profile" elaborated on the rebirth of the chestnut tree in the eastern United States. The article praised the work and research being done to develop new blight-resistant trees in some cases by cross-breeding the American chestnut with the Chinese equivalent that has a greater ability to resist the blight. Much of this work is being coordinated by the "American Chestnut Foundation", a non-profit organization based in Asheville, North Carolina. Great thanks goes out to all those who are involved with re-introducing this tree to the eastern United States and restoring an almost lost natural resource in our nation.

The chestnut tree would have been abundant here in 1778 when McIntosh arrived with his army. Many of the logs used in the construction of Fort Laurens may very well have been of chestnut.

The Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation is a step ahead re-introducing the chestnut

tree at Fort Laurens. In 2006, some six years ago, the foundation planted 25 to 30 American blight resistant chestnut trees on the grounds along the 1000 foot stretch along the main road in front of the park. When mature they will help isolate the modern surroundings from view of the 18th century site and restore a common site of what was once here in abundance.



Some of the American chestnut trees planted at Fort Laurens by the Foundation.

With the permission of the Ohio Historical Society, Scot Fisher, then president of the FFLF, obtained and stored the trees while final coordination for planting was arranged. OHS archaeologist Bill Pickard and Linda Pansing were on hand to oversee the planting to assure no historic or prehistoric features would accidentally be disturbed.

As young seedlings when planted a few of the trees did not survive and several others, unfortunately, were run over by mowers. However, most of the trees planted by the foundation have survived, are doing well and growing like they should for all to enjoy.

Foundation trustee Ron Pfouts has played a major role in the success of their survival. Ron, on his own, has continually checked on their progress and cared for the trees, spraying for insects when needed. Thanks Ron for a job well done.