

2023 Friends Annual Report

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The
Friends
of
Hopewell Furnace
National Historic Site

2023 Friends Annual Report

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President's Letter

October 15, 2023

Dear Friends

Introduction

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President and I have enjoyed working with a wonderful group of board members. Hopefully I will have an opportunity to continue to serve again next year.

Our monthly Sunday Programs are very important to us. Edie Shean-Hammond and Elissa Lewis have been planning and organizing these engaging presentations from all different kinds of interesting people, the hope is that those who attend might have a desire to join the Friends and this has happened numerous times.

The Friends have supported Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (the Park) using the donations received from the members. We are most grateful for these donations, and we are always looking for ways to improve what we do.

Changes to our Board

With sadness we will miss Butch Pfitzenmeyer who passed away in July. Butch started volunteering as a collier around 13 years ago. He enjoyed that until the smoke and dust got too bad for his lung condition. Then he was "Cart King" and drove visitors and volunteers up and down the hill as needed in the golf cart. He loved talking to visitors as he transported them. In 2017 he joined the Friends and was appointed as a director with the title of facilities liaison. He participated in costume at a Hopewell fashion show of historic clothing and helped repair the rail fence on Public Lands Day. He looked forward to his time at Hopewell and the fellowship with other volunteers until his cancer prevented him from participating. He lost his battle with cancer in July.

Becky Hughes, who served as our Vice President since 2016, decided it was time for her to step down in June due to other commitments. Becky remains a Director on the Board. The Board appointed David Steele to serve her remaining time as First Vice President and is being nominated to continue as Vice President next year.

1772 Mark Bird Stove

In 2008, the 1772 Mark Bird Stove was purchased by the Friends for \$40,000 from the Birdsboro Community Center. The Friends made a loan agreement with the Park to allow the stove to be housed and displayed at the visitor center. The stove has been on continuous display at the park since 1964. The last agreement ended in 2023. The Friends discussed making a permanent gift of the stove to the Park and our desire to ensure that the stove remained at the park on display. In response, Rosalyn Fennell, NPS Superintendent wrote a letter June 26, stating:

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“Its significance to the historic site is increased by the fact that it was made during the management of the furnace by Mark Bird, founder of Hopewell Furnace. The stove directly contributes to the understanding and interpretation of the park and meets the Hopewell Furnace “Scope of Collections” requirements for present and future museum collection holdings. It is a crowning jewel of the park collection.”

Rosalyn’s letter documents the importance of the stove to the Park’s presentation of the history of ironmaking at the Park. This letter was enclosed with the Deed of Gift form, which I signed on July 9, 2023 and Rosalyn signed in July 12, 2023.

Closing

Recognition needs to be given to all of the Officers and Board members who carry out their areas of responsibility. Each Board member’s contributions help move forward the goals of the Friends and is much appreciated.

A special recognition to Second Vice President Jenn Shelgren who did a fantastic job of organizing the 4th of July writing contest with the local public schools. At the 4th of July Celebration at the Park, the winners read their papers to the audience from the porch of the Iron Master’s home. The Friends provided funds for the cash awards to winners of the contest.

A special recognition to Treasurer Peter Hammond who has been handling all aspects of the publication and sales of the various books and DVD. David Steele has traveled to various historic places that might have an interest in selling these books. Peter also handles all of the Friends financial transactions and compiles a treasurer’s report presented at each of our Board meetings.

Last but not least is the contributions that Louise Griffiths provides each month keeping the Board minutes as well as handling the membership responsibilities.

James N. McClelland Jr,

President of Friends of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

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Mission Statement

As provided in the current Bylaws (February 10, 2019):

The Friends of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (hereinafter referred to as "Friends") is an organization whose mission is to support the preservation, maintenance, and activities of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, (hereinafter referred to as the "Park"). The Friends shall be a voluntary, non-profit, incorporated association and shall have the following objectives:

1. To create public support for an expanding park program.
2. To encourage gifts, endowments, and memorials for the park.
3. To intensify community awareness and use of the park.
4. To provide direct financial assistance by purchasing special and unusual items which would be of benefit but cannot be purchased from the budget of the park.
5. To sponsor programs designed to aid the mission of the park.
6. To encourage people to become park volunteers.
7. To sponsor educational seminars.
8. To author and publish pamphlets and books about the park's history.
9. To organize social events at local establishments.
10. To bring together individuals and groups at local, regional, and national levels.
11. To promote awareness of the programs and activities through social media.
12. To assist and/or advocate the protection of natural and cultural resources.
13. To comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to the laws of the United States of America pertaining to the Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3).

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Board Members

Officers

		Start of Service
1. President	Jim McClelland	January 2016
2. President Emeritus	Gene Delaplane	January 2016
3. Vice President	Becky Hughes	January 2016
4. 2nd Vice President	Jenn Shelgren	January 2021
5. 3 rd Vice President	Kevin Keifrider	February 2022
6. Treasurer	Peter Hammond	June 2015
7. Secretary	Louise Griffiths	January 2022

Directors:

8. Public Relations	Edie Shean-Hammond	January 2015
9. Programs	Elissa Lewis	January 2015
10. Membership	Louise Griffiths	January 2014
11. Outdoor Activities	David Waters	January 2013
12. Hospitality	Clare Hammond	January 2016
13. History (Nominations)	Joel Moore	June 2016
14. Facility Management	Butch Pfitzenmeyer	November 2016
15. Environmental Specialist	David Steele	September 2019
16. Bylaws	Stan Weinstein	June 2021

NPS Liaison

1. Park Manager	Jeff Jones	2021
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Friends Activities

2022 October 16 Author Robert Swift showcased the men and women, Native Americans, colonial agents, missionaries, fur traders, Indian captives and surveyors profiled in his book entitled "By Great Rivers: Lives on the Appalachian Frontier." The 18th Century was a period of rapid political and social change in the Appalachian region of the eastern United States.

2022 November 13 Hopewell park ranger Bill Lange presented a program, " The Making of a Park: The French Creek RDA". Bill explained how Hopewell Furnace came back to life after operations halted in 1883 when Ironmaster, Clement Brooke's granddaughter, sold the submarginal land parcel to the United States on August 13, 1935, as part of a federal program known as Recreational Demonstration Areas.

2022 December 11 Chester County History Center Curator Ellen Endsloew explored "The Formative Years: Childhood 1830-1910".

2023 January 8 Genealogist Kristine Parkes, principal of Skeleton Key Genealogy, explored Mark Bird, Hopewell's Founder, Iron Master and Patriot. As indicated on the Skeleton Key website, Are you ready to "Locate The Dead?"

2023 February 12 The Hopewell Quilters explained the history of the Fabric Yoyos then invited the audience to participate in quilting.

2023 March 12 Hopewell Furnace Collier Rick Brouse explored how the Colliers worked and lived making the charcoal that fueled America's Industrial Revolution.

2023 April 23 Justin Schiffler, a seasoned hobbyist beekeeper who operates Hat Trick Honeybee Yard, to discuss nonnative agricultural livestock honey bees and the art of making local raw honey and other healthy hive products. French Creek State Park features seven beehives in the park.

2023 May 21 Valley Forge Audubon's Rick Wolf explored the birds of Hopewell Furnace and has compiled a comprehensive list of birds at the park. A walking tour was included to see some of the birds.

2023 Jun 11 Penn State Chester County Master Gardener Phoebe Robb and Penn State Berks County Master Gardener Margaret Mary Yevics as well as other Hopewell Furnace gardeners lead a walking tour of the award-winning gardens of Hopewell Furnace.

2023 July 2 At Morlatton Village outside of the White Horse Tavern was a celebration including music and Edie Shean-Hammond gave a talk about the Declaration of Independence.

2023 July 4 Jenn Shelgren 2nd Vice President of the Friends along with Crystal Williams the Acting Park Manger organized the celebration held at Hopewell Furnace NHS

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which included many activities including: the presentation of the awards to the winners of the essay (award money was funded by the Friends), the reading of the essays by the authors and lastly a reading of the Declaration of Independence by members of the audience that had been invited to do so.

2023 July 9 Hopewell Veteran Becky Hughes accompanied by a member of Penn State Berks County Master Gardeners demonstrated colonial fabric dyeing and lead a walking tour of the Dye Gardens.

2023 August 13 Hopewell Furnace Park Staff Allisa Kane and Patti Shenk gave a walking tour of the apple orchard.

2023 September 17 Historic Site Supervisor of Pottsgrove Manor Justin B. Clement explored the lives of African American ironworkers of the Potts-family iron industry.

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Financial Summary and Member Count with dues collected

The monthly treasurer reports are included separately and are a part of this report. The following is an extraction from these monthly reports and gives a summary of the membership count, the dues collected, income received, expenses paid out and total funds available.

Notes:

Comparing annual dues collected from 2022 to 2023 there is a \$703.99 drop.
(In 2022 annual dues collected \$2226.92, in 2023 annual dues collected \$1522.93)

Income received includes but not limited to dues, miscellaneous donations and books sales etc.

Expenses paid out includes but not limited to support to the Park activities and publication expenses.

If interested in more information see the treasurer's monthly reports.

Period Dates						
Start	End	# of members paying dues / period	Dues Collected / period	Total Income / period	Total Expenses/ period	Total Funds
9/19/2022	10/16/2022	1	\$100.00	\$341.00	\$465.34	\$12,827.43
10/17/2022	11/13/2022	2	\$75.00	\$444.03	\$102.91	\$13,118.58
11/14/2022	12/11/2022	7	\$50.00	\$206.19	\$439.52	\$12,865.26
12/12/2022	1/8/2023	1	\$25.00	\$192.97	\$450.00	\$12,658.23
1/9/2023	2/12/2023	4	\$113.81	\$346.67	\$300.00	\$12,793.31
2/13/2023	3/12/2023	2	\$48.64	\$141.12	\$112	\$12,751.02
3/13/2023	4/23/2023	1	\$96.02	\$314.33	\$500.00	\$12,507.11
4/24/2023	5/21/2023	5	\$271.70	\$292.26	\$0.00	\$12,799.37
5/22/2023	6/11/2023	1	\$50	\$76.42	\$543.32	\$12,239.15
6/12/2023	7/9/2023	0	\$0	\$258.00	473.02	\$12,261.45
7/10/2023	8/13/2023	5	\$467.76	\$947.64	\$190.96	\$12,759.32
8/14/2023	9/17/2023	4	\$225.00	\$966.67	\$1,675.00	\$12,833.07
Totals		33	\$ 1,522.93	\$ 4,527.30	\$ 5,252.31	\$12,833.07

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Financial Audit

1. A monthly review of the financial reports is performed by the board and the outcome documented in the board minutes.
2. An annual review of the financial reports is performed by the board and the outcome documented in the board minutes.
3. Cash donations collected at various activities are not possible to trace to a donor and are deposited identifying the activity that collected the donation.

I certify that during my tenure as treasurer of the Friends of Hopewell Furnace NHS, the checking and savings accounts have been reconciled monthly and that any discrepancies or differences have been minor and were immediately corrected. The banking account statements are available for review.

Peter B. Hammond

Peter B. Hammond, Treasurer

James N McClelland, Jr

James N McClelland, Jr President of the Friends of Hopewell Furnace NHS