

BGHS News—April 2017

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

NASA Scientist Visits Our Historic Landmarks



Dr. Joselito (Jojo) Sayson and his NASA scientist mentor, Dr. Alan Hargens, were guests of the BGHS from 9 am to 9 pm on Saturday April 22, 2017. Dr. Hargens was formerly Chief of the Space Physiology for the Space Station and Project Scientist at the NASA Ames Research Center. Dr. Hargens is a Fellow of the American College of Space Medicine and of the Aerospace Medical Association. This photograph collage depicts the day's activities. Going clockwise from upper left corner, Norma Meier offers genealogical insights at the French Heritage Museum; Jojo Sayson, Charles Balesi, Vic Johnson, and Alan Hargens pose in front of flowering redbud trees at the Kankakee County Museum campus; Charles Balesi talks about the significance of the French Heritage Museum; Fr. Richard Pighini presents the paintings in Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church's Heritage Rooms; Jim Paul stresses the importance of George Letourneau at the Letourneau Home/Museum; Vic Johnson explains artifacts at French Heritage Museum; Connie Licon teaches about the Taylor School; and (center image), going counter clockwise, Wal Schuller and Charles Balesi host dinner for Jojo Sayson, Alan Hargens, Vic Johnson, and Jim Paul. The day's activities also included a walk to the Indian Caves along the river and a stop at the Durham-Perry Farmstead. The BGHS would like to thank those involved who made this day a success.

Crocuses and Daffodils Welcome Members to Meeting on April 6



We will have our next meeting this upcoming Thursday April 6 at 7 pm at the Letourneau Home/Museum. Please come early at 6:45 to enjoy coffee, hot tea, and cookies. During the first 10-15 minutes of the meeting, Laurel Soper will provide an overview of her work on the BGHS website and BGHS Facebook. During the meeting that follows, these *action* items will be decided by the membership: 1) financial support and work request for Camp MOSH; 2) fund raising dinner (with French-Canadian cuisine) sometime this fall after Maternity BVM's Saturday September 9 French-Canadian Festival; 3) accepting bid to paint the interior of the home/museum; and 4) establishing a page on the BGHS website that contains links to organizations connected to the "Colonial French and Immigrant French-Canadian Waterway Corridor (from Michigan to Missouri)". Please read the attached minutes so that they can be approved at our meeting. **The minutes will not be read at the meeting.**

An important issue to resolve is finding volunteers to sit at the Letourneau Home/Museum on the following Sundays from 1-4 pm: May 7, July 2, October 1, November 5, and December 3. Other issues to be addressed are: the attic wiring, membership renewal, update on log school house fund raising, printing of walking tours, adopting a garden in the arboretum, offering guided tours to a visiting NASA official on April 22, and the Durham-Perry Farmstead Open House on Saturday May 6. **The historical presentation and business at the meeting will be over in one hour.**

Kudos to Our Volunteers

Kudos to Malette Trudeau-Stevenson, Jeff Stevenson, Gary Seiner, Steve Monts, and Daron Kinzinger for their special volunteer work at our historic landmark this past month. *Au Revoir,*
Jim