

ON THE LAZY BENCH

Penn Brad Oil Museum strives to preserve the history of the Bradford Oil Field and the unique culture that developed along with it. The Museum also honors the people and their families whose lives contributed to making Bradford the "Highgrade Oil Metropolis of the World."

A Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 9 – No. 2 – Spring 2023

Starting the Season Off with Some Ice Cream and a Tour

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

Our 2023 Opening Event was held Saturday, May 13, and featured an Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social, with free admission, popcorn, sloppy joes, and of course, ice cream sundaes.



An unexpected donation included cookies, candy, and a decorated sheet cake from Friends of Allegany State Park, delivered by President Paul Crawford.



Marsha & Isabelle ready to serve

There was also a visit by Rich Pawling from Sinking Springs, PA, who is a living history performer. He portrayed "Muley" Tubbs, a late 19th century oil region teamster, there to educate folks about the 'oil boom days'.



Rich Pawling entertaining the crowd

Two days before the Ice Cream Social, 36 visitors arrived at the museum as part of the annual Allegheny National Forest Visitor's Bureau deluxe motor coach tour of McKean County. The tour stopped at 8 sites this year, most of them museums: Penn Brad Oil, Marilyn Horne, Zippo - Case, Eldred WWII, and the Kinzua Bridge Visitors Center and Skywalk which included a catered lunch by 'Eddie's on Main' of Port Allegany.



The Backyard Tour, originally designed as a hospitality training technique but available to tourists and residents, also visited several wineries and distilleries and traveled the Longhouse Scenic Drive through the national forest.

While at the oil museum, visitors watched films in the theatre, explored the standard rig, and listened to the half-breed engine's distinctive chugging sounds.



Fran shares Bradford's oil story

PBOM
Collectible Pin
- Story on pg 3



PENN BRAD OIL MUSEUM

901 South Avenue - Bradford, PA 16701
Email: pennbrad.oilmuseum@yahoo.com
Website: penn-bradoilmuseum.org

Phone: 814-362-1955

Open:

Thurs. & Friday
9 AM to 4 PM
Saturday
9 AM to 2 PM

Admission Cost
Adults - \$5.00
Seniors - \$4.50

Children (under 12) - Free
Active Military / Family - Free



Fireside Pumpers Talks in April & May

by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary
with photos by Joyce Cline

The first Fireside Pumpers program of 2023 was Jim Zoschg, a conservation resource technician for the Cameron County Conservation District, speaking about **"Invasive Plant Species"** in our area.



Accompanied by many images of introduced plants such as Japanese stilt grass, mile-a-minute vine, and Oriental bittersweet, their negative effects and methods of spreading were emphasized. He pointed out that many of these plants were deliberately introduced, such as garlic mustard for erosion control, or periwinkle and pachysandra for landscaping. He also noted that the locally famous Bradford Pear is now on the Pennsylvania Noxious Weed List. Many questions were asked about the edibility of invasive plants, apple tree diseases, and non-invasive ground cover plants.

Generously supported by McCracken Energy Services,

May's program was **"The History of the Music Mountain Oil Field"** by long-time resident of Music Mountain, Tom Frair, a retired consulting forester and owner of Frair Haus Greenhouse and Gardens. He based his talk on, and distributed copies of, a document written by Neil Wilson, a field rep for several oil investors in the Music Mountain area south of Lewis Run, PA. A spectacular gusher was brought in on August 4, 1937, during the depths of the Great Depression, by wildcatter Ed Williams working for Niagara Oil Corporation. The prodigious flow (up to 50 barrels in just 6 minutes) was totally unexpected for the Sliverville Lease, and at this time, which last saw a free-flowing gusher 40 years before. The excitement led to hundreds of other wells drilled by several other oil companies, and the building of pipelines and storage tanks.



Newspaper clippings describing

the economic boom were displayed along with maps and the museum's sample of Sliverville Sand, an unusual formation 4 miles long but only about 800 feet wide. Several members of the large audience related their own relationships to Music Mountain, including Mike Nenno whose attorney father helped to liquidate the excessive and expensive purchases of the Williams family which had, like many sudden millionaires, ended bankrupt.



This is a photo of a Music Mountain gusher, drilled by Minard Run Oil on a lease close by the original strike. Minard Run Oil is credited with managing their output to conserve as much gas as possible and to not flood the market with too much oil. This photo is from the museum's Music Mountain display.



PBOM on Collectible Pin Trail

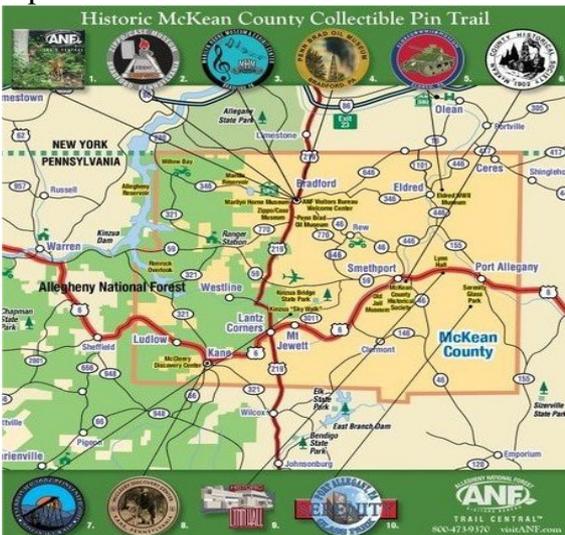
by Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary

This is an update to an article that was written by our former museum manager Sam Slocum and published in our Fall 2019 newsletter.

As briefly explained before, the trail is a route drivable by car or motorcycle that was developed in 2019 by the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau. The trail connects 10 sites, each of which offers a colorful metal pin that can only be purchased at that location. The ANFVB website urges travelers to “explore the region’s rich history as you visit the sites along the trail! McKean County, PA, was created in 1804. Its fascinating history is founded on the early lumber and oil industries and its story is told in iconic American events from the Underground Railroad and the Civil War to the invention of the Zippo lighter in Bradford. McKean County is home to the world’s oldest operating refinery and is the birthplace of the American endangered species movement.”

The updated news is that in 2020 Linda Devlin, the Executive Director of the ANFVB, received the PA Museum’s Special Achievement Award for the McKean County Collectible Pin Program. Then in 2021, the Heritage Partnership Award was given by the PA Route 6 Alliance in recognition of the Pin Trail as a unique way to link local county heritage sites while promoting traveling.

Here at the Penn Brad Oil Museum, our pins are such popular souvenirs with young and old alike that we have had to re-order more. Come visit us to obtain one, and also a pocket map, at the museum’s gift shop.



St. Patrick's Day Dinner Event

by Isabelle Champlin

An Irish evening was enjoyed by all who attended the fundraising dinner held on March 18th at the Bradford Club. The event was held to raise money for the Exhibition Hall expansion at the museum.

Tables were festively decorated with green flowers and shamrock plants that were then raffled off to the evening’s guests. Guests received coin-shaped chocolates by Niagara’s Honeymoon Sweets, Inc, and handheld green stress balls, both with the Penn Brad Oil Museum logo on them.

We want to thank our sponsors and those who made donations:

- Entrée Sponsors - McCracken Energy Services and American Refining Group
- Appetizer Sponsors - Howard Drilling, Inc. and Minard Run Oil Co.
- Music Sponsor - Joyce Cline
- Flowers Sponsor - Isabelle Champlin
- Dessert Sponsors - MSL Oil & Gas and Skaggs Enterprises
- Donations - Dean Bauer and Kessel Construction



Derrick Day Festival

Saturday July 29, 2023

10 am - 4 pm

Free Admission

Engine Exhibits
Demonstrations
Entertainment
Food Vendors

Bring the Family
&
Enjoy the Day!

Penn Brad Oil Museum 901 South Ave, Bradford, PA

Friends of Penn Brad Oil Museum

We at the Museum would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the following people and businesses for their support. If you would like to become a Friend of the Penn Brad Oil Museum, please download the Membership Form on our website.

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Fireside Pumper's Breakfast

The Fireside Pumpers of the Penn Brad Oil Museum meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for a breakfast buffet with a guest speaker, at Togi's Banquet Room, 412-422 East Main St, Bradford. The buffet begins at 7:30. A portion of the cost of the buffet goes toward museum improvements. The public is invited to attend. Announcements are published the Monday before each meeting in the Bradford Era and the Olean Times Herald. If you or your business would like to sponsor a breakfast, please complete the form on our website or call the Treasurer at 814-368-6824.

June 14, 2023

Steve Appleby
25 Years of the Eldred WWII Museum

July 12, 2023

Dr. Katie Zapel
The Zippo Museum and Car

August 9, 2023

Ben Porkolab
Elk Hunting & the Elk County Viewing Center

September 13, 2023

Steve Teachman
Olean's Historic Treasures

October 11, 2023

Stan Pecora
Review of Empire Oil

November 8, 2023

Fran Bottone
PBOM - The Year in Review

NYSOPA Inducts Six Honorees to Wall of Fame

summarized from pioneeroilmuseum.com by Joyce Cline, Treasurer

The New York State Oil Producers' Association (NYSOPA) "Wall of Fame" was established in 2005 to honor those individuals who labored so intensively to build the local oil and gas industry. Working in conjunction with NYSOPA, the Pioneer Oil Museum of New York provides the facility, organization, and labor to permanently house this exhibit. With this year's class included, there will be 70 members of this Wall of Fame. This year there are six inductees.

Al Fenner was employed as a nitroglycerin "shooter" for many years in the Bolivar area. He worked for the Otto Torpedo Co. of Bolivar and Duke Center, PA, for 25 years as well as for the Bolwell Torpedo Company.

Bob Keller spent his entire life in the oil business and, in 1923, became partners with Bill Hughes of Bolivar and Nat Hill of Portville, purchasing the Waid Oil Co. located on Daggett Hollow. They later changed the name to the Hill, Hughes, and Keller Oil Co. He operated the Keller family lease on Daggett Hollow and, in the 1950s, he bought the Gowdy Lease on Ford's Brook with Sepp Hendrix.

A life-long Bolivar resident, **Dave ("Red Beard") Hollister** was employed as an independent oil field contractor for many years. He was the owner/producer of several small oil companies including Moore Producing, Inc. on Salt Rising Road, CHW Oil and Gas on Daggett Hollow, Empty Tank Oil, and Hopewell Oil Co.

After serving in the U.S. Navy

during WWII, **Willard "Bill" Cline** returned to his hometown of Bradford, PA, to fulfill his lifelong dream of having his own oil production company. He operated wells throughout the Bradford oil field and several in New York. He served as president of the Bradford District Pennsylvania Oil Producers' Association and as a member of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Independent Petroleum Producers. He was instrumental in forming the original Petroleum Production Training class at Bradford Area High School in the 1970s. In 2014, he received the Colonel Edwin L. Drake Legendary Oilman Award from the Petroleum History Institute, the highlight of his career.

Wellsville native **David Haskins** began his career in the oil business at Custer Oil Co. He held positions with Wellsville-based Haskins Oil Co. and Ebenezer Oil Co. working at various Alma Hill and Whitesville leases. He was a board member, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer for Ebenezer. He was instrumental in an experimental water flooding program known as Maraflood, working with Marathon Oil Co. of Ohio on local Ebenezer properties. He was a member, director, and officer of NYSOPA as well as a life member of the Penn Grade Crude Oil Association.

At age 17, **Bob Benson** joined the Merchant Marines during World War II and later served during the Korean Conflict. He was employed for many years by Joyce Western in Andover, NY, as

a superintendent. Eventually he began a long career as an independent oil and gas producer. He was a longtime member and director of the NYSOPA.

As the local oil and gas industry crossed the border between NY and PA, many of these inductees worked in both states. The Pioneer Oil Museum invites the public from Pennsylvania and New York to attend the induction ceremony on June 23 at 6:00 at the Pioneer Oil Museum's location on Boss Street in Bolivar, NY.

Membership Drive

The 2023 membership drive is underway. A letter and renewal form were mailed out in April.

This year's form was changed to provide a line for donations to the fund raising effort for erecting an Exhibition Hall. However, this new format has caused some confusion.

As in the past, the museum does not have a set "membership" fee. This allows you to donate according to your ability. The same is true this year except this year's form also provides an additional space for a donation to the building fund if you want to do this.

Responding to this first mailing is appreciated by the treasurer as it saves time and money sending second and third reminders.

Thank you to all who have responded with their 2023 membership fee and a special thank you to everyone who also found it in their budget to add an additional donation to the building fund.

Board Of Directors

The Penn Brad Oil Museum Board of Directors is as follows:

- Thomas Miller, President
- Fred Fesenmyer, Vice President
- Susan Gould, Secretary
- Joyce Cline, Treasurer
- Isabelle Champlin, Corresponding Secretary
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- Stanley Pecora
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- Paul Phillips
- Matt Kropf
- Steve Pratt
- Chip McCracken
- Sherri Schulze
- Marsha McCracken
- Dale Smith
- William Pantuso
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In Memory Of: Thomas J Morris, Sr. ... McCracken Energy Services
 Mila Howard McCracken Energy Services
 Donna Griesbaum McCracken Energy Services
 Willard M Cline McCracken Energy Services
 Elaine Fesenmyer Northrup Micheal & Martha
 Nenno

Engraved personalized paving bricks can be purchased to surround the base of the new flag pole. The bricks can honor people who have been involved in the oil industry or be used as a memorial to a deceased person. Bricks can also be purchased personally to show your support for the museum.

Memorial & Honoring Bricks

In Memory Of: Phil & Marcia Gallina Rev. Leo J Gallina
 Ron Kloss Molly & Alan Kloss
 Stephen J Kloss, G.E.M. Oil Molly Kloss
 Myron S Levin, MSL Oil & Gas Corp MSL Oil & Gas
 Edward L Peabody Barbara Snively
 Dan Stoneking, Forest Oil Corp Richard Stoneking



Remember or Honor a Loved One with a Gift to the Penn Brad Oil Museum

Memorials received after May 17 will appear in the next newsletter. Memorials are available by calling 814-368-6824, or by mailing the coupon below to: Penn Brad Oil Museum, P.O. Box 163, Bradford, PA 16701. If ordering a brick, please call the number for more details or print out the order form available on our website. A notice will be sent to the recipient. Penn Brad Oil Museum is a 501(c)(3) entity and all donations are tax deductible. **Clip and Mail Coupon**

(PLEASE CHOOSE IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF)	Memorial/Honoring Gifts	(PLEASE PRINT)
IN MEMORY OF	IN HONOR OF	
SEND CARD TO	FROM	
STREET	STREET	
CITY/STATE/ZIP	CITY/STATE/ZIP	

Recently, Penn Brad board member and treasurer Joyce Cline made a very generous donation to us here at the museum of a shiny red late model Troy Bilt tractor mower, to update our aging fleet. Joyce makes lots of donations to us large and small, as do all of our board members in one way or another. Thank you, Joyce. We appreciate it very much. I have to add that it mows great, and has been getting plenty of use this spring. -- Fran Bottone, Manager

Museum Logo Chocolates



The museum has purchased custom made chocolates from Niagara’s Honeymoon Sweets of Buffalo. They are 2 inches in diameter with an edible museum logo and are available in the gift shop.



Visit our Facebook page for more articles, photos, and updates. User name: Penn Brad Oil Museum.

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