

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Membership Zoom meeting on Thursday July 11 at 7 pm

Our next membership meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday July 11 at 7 pm (meeting agenda is below). The Zoom meeting connections are: Passcode 712362, meeting ID 89327792437, and Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89327792437?pwd=Cal2xnc61oJTj3ptSeY5xryzDM4taP.1>.

A *fleur-de-lis* paradigm shift is taking place in Bourbonnais

Everywhere one looks these days in the Village of Bourbonnais, the *fleur-de-lis* is prominently displayed on street signs and location markers. This re-emphasis on the French-Canadian heritage of the village is evident in the new Community Campus with the south entrance across the street from the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse on the Adrien M. Richard Heritage Preserve. The Community Campus features a Village Green, Picnic Pavilion, *Fleur-de-Lis* Splash Pad, View/Sled Hill, Skate Park, Picnic Pavilion, Festival Street entrance archways (north and south), Main Stage, Festival Street Stage, Café, Restrooms with showers and changing Rooms, Grove Seating with Fire Pits, and Parking.



Left photograph: looking north from Letourneau Home/Museum at the south Community Campus's Festival Street entrance. Right photograph: looking south from the paving stone Festival Street toward the Letourneau Home/Museum.

Volunteers prepared gardens for festival and Community Campus opening

BGHS members and Master Gardeners volunteered on eight June days to beautify the gardens before the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival (June 26-30) and opening of the Community Campus

Grand Opening (July 1). The following photographs show the volunteers working on the following work session dates and times: Thursday June 6 from 9-10:30 am, Friday June 7 from 9-11 am, Saturday June 8 from 9-11 am; Saturday June 15 from 9-11 am; Monday June 17 from 9-11 am; Tuesday June 18 from 9-11 am; and Friday June 21 from 9-11 am.



Top left: Pam and Russ Perkins. Top right: Mary Ann Lambert and Steve Monts. Bottom left: Max Michels. Bottom right: Ellen Liehr.



Top left: Mary Ann Lambert. Top right, l-r: Pam Adams and Judy Smead. Bottom left, l-r: Mary Ann Lambert and Steve Liehr. Bottom right: Mary Ann Lambert.

Kudos to all our other volunteers

A big BGHS “thank you” to Ken Lewellen who volunteered as open house chaperone on June 2 and July 7, Doris O’Connor who volunteered on June 16 and July 7, and Doris, Gary Seiner, and Daron Kinzinger who volunteered on June 29. Kudos also go to Ken Ponton for repainting the horse head hitching posts in front of the Letourneau Home/Museum. Deep appreciation goes to the volunteers who represented the BGHS at the July 4 *Les Artisans Arts*

and Craft fair in addition to myself: Patrick McGinnis, Steve Monts, Bonnie and Dick Bergeron, Christine and Max Michels, Doris O'Connor, Ken Lewellen, Ken Ponton, and Gary Seiner. More kudos go to: Josue Savoie for updating the BGHS website postings; Daron Kinzinger for picking up our mail and chairing our Board of Directors; Cindy McBarnes for chairing the log schoolhouse Education Committee; Christine Michels for her ongoing Corresponding Secretary work; Steve Monts for his ongoing detailed treasurer's work; Gary Seiner and Mary Ann Lambert for their expert and detailed work as curator and assistant curator respectively; Ken Ponton for his oversight as executive vice-president and initiating the June 15 "History Day" as a resolution for passage in the Illinois state legislature; Ellen Stringer for organizing the craft show fundraisers; Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee members Mayor Paul Schore, Laurie Cyr, Ken Ponton, Gary Seiner, Charles Balesi, Frank Koehler, Cindy McBarnes, Norm Strasma, Daron Kinzinger, and myself; Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee members: Mack Brza, Daron Kinzinger, Ken Lewellen, Max Michels, Rodney Miller, Doris O'Connor, Gary Seiner, Jorie Walters, and myself; Charles Bales and Wal Schuller for arranging the menu for the September 24 *Fleurs-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner; and Doris O'Connor for chairing the Membership Committee.

Several volunteer slots remain open vacant for upcoming museum campus open houses and craft show

The open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse continue on the first and third Sundays of every month from 1-4 pm, **but the BGHS needs volunteers for both sites.** Chaperons greet visitors, hand out self-guided tour information at the door, and oversee artifacts. **If you have not volunteered before as an open house chaperon, no worries, a mentor will be present to train you—as well as open and close the sites—on the date you sign up for. By clicking on one or more of the links below, you may then click "Sign Up" for the date(s) you prefer. If both slots are filled for your site and date choice, just send me an email, and you can still come on your preferred date.**

Log schoolhouse open house volunteer chaperon link:

Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society: Chaperoning Log Schoolhouse Open House--Meet and Greet, Hand Out Self-Guided Tours, Oversee Artifacts (signupgenius.com).

Letourneau Home/Museum open house volunteer chaperon link:

Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society: Chaperoning Letourneau Home/Museum Open House--Meet and Greet, Hand Out Self-Guided Tours, Oversee Artifacts (signupgenius.com).

Also, if you would like to volunteer as a BGHS table greeter at one of our *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fairs on December 7, please open this link for dates and times:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAE2BABFCC43-chaperoning1>.

Save the date *September 24* for Seventh Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner

Please save the date Tuesday September 24 from 5:30 – 9 pm for our Seventh Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner at the Kankakee Country Club. The price for *hors d'ouvres*, wine, and French dinner this year will be \$65 each for members and \$75 each for non-members.

An open house of the log schoolhouse from 4-5:15 pm will precede the *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner. To make a reservation for the celebration dinner online, you may use the following link to “Make a Reservation” [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org). After making your reservation, please email bourbonnais.grove@gmail.com with the names of all your dinner party guests and who you would like to sit with at the dinner (tables of eight persons). See below for reservations by mail. All proceeds go toward the preservation of Bourbonnais Grove’s first log schoolhouse (1837-48). The BGHS is a 501c3 organization.

4:00-5:15 pm—Log schoolhouse open house

5:30-6:30 pm—Arrival at Kankakee Country Club, pick up name place cards with table number at welcome table; and enjoy social time with *hors d’œuvres*, cash bar, or complimentary wine at your table;

**6:30 pm--Welcome, Dr. Jim Paul, President Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society;
Presentation of Sixth Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence;**

6:45 pm—Blessing, French-Canadian dinner cuisine, Reserve *Perrin Côtes-du-Rhône* wine, non-alcoholic drink, and French dessert;

7:45 pm—Entertainment—Josue Savoie’s French Midwest Music ensemble; and

8:30-9:00 pm—Concluding Remarks.

If making reservation by mail, please print, cut and return the information below.

Please send check (payable to “BGHS”) with information below to Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society, PO Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL, 60914 **by August 30, 2024.**

- ☐ Name: _____ Member: Yes No
- ☐ Postal address: _____
- ☐ Telephone number: _____
- ☐ Email: _____
- ☐ ___ I will attend with a party of ___ and would like to sit with _____
- ☐ Find enclosed my check of \$ _____
- ☐ ___ I am unable to attend but find enclosed my donation of \$ _____

A block of rooms will be reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn (455 Riverstone Parkway, Kankakee, IL 60901, 815 932-4444) under the name “Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society” for overnight guests on October September 24th. Please make your own independent reservations.

Who am I?

Noel LeVasseur and I had dreams that were self-serving. I told LeVasseur that I had a dream that he gave me his black horse as a sign of friendship. LeVasseur gave me his horse in order to honor my dream. Later he told me that he had a dream in which I gave him 300 acres of sugar maples. Well, I did so, but asked that neither one of us dream anymore. Who am I?

2024 BGHS membership dues deadline was July 1

Thank you for paying the annual BGHS dues. If you have not paid the 2024 membership dues (individual--\$20, senior--\$10, family--\$30, business--\$50, business lifetime--\$500, and individual lifetime--\$300), please do so ASAP. Individuals can pay at this link [Pay Dues \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://bourbonnaishistory.org) or mail checks to BGHS, PO Box 311, Bourbonnais, IL 60914.

Thursday July 11 Zoom meeting agenda

- 7pm—Pledge of allegiance;
- Presentation based on July/August 2024 news eletter item “Who are We?”
- Approval of June 6, 2024 membership minutes (*attached*);
- Treasurer’s report;
- Corresponding Secretary report;
- Executive Vice-President report;
- Curator report;
- Membership report;
- Ways and Means:
 - Website update;
 - Remnant log pieces—we need a committee to pursue this issue
 - Log schoolhouse history booklet; and
 - Chaperons and “openers/closers” needed for open houses of the Letourneau Home/Museum and log schoolhouse and craft show. At the Letourneau Home/Museum, Ken Lewellen has volunteered for 6/2; and Judy Smead has volunteered for 8/4 and 10/6. Ken Lewellen has volunteered for the log schoolhouse open house on 8/4.
 - **Chaperon(s) needed for July 21.**
- Building and Grounds:
 - Levi Lawson’s Eagle Scout garden structure plan has been tabled;
 - Native Garden expansion proposal:



- Work session date.
- Old Business
 - Restructuring of BGHS update.
- New Business
 - **Next meeting date suggestion August 8 at 7 pm—Zoom only;**
 - Special BGHS 2024 dates with links—**save the dates:**
 - Thursday July 25 at 3:30 pm—BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee meeting
 - Thursday August 15 at 7 pm—Perry Farm Living History Advisory Committee meeting;
 - Sunday July 14—Bastille Day Brunch fundraiser at Kankakee County Museum;
 - August 1—deadline for nomination for annual Fleur-de-Lis Award of Excellence [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://bourbonnaishistory.org)
 - August 30—reservation deadline for annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](https://bourbonnaishistory.org)

- Tuesday September 24, beginning at 5:30pm—*Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://Fleur-de-Lis Celebration (bourbonnaishistory.org))
- Saturday December 7 from 9am – 3 pm—*Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair [Les Artisans Fair \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://Les Artisans Fair (bourbonnaishistory.org))

August 1—deadline for nomination for annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence

Please make your nomination for this year’s *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence by clicking [Fleur-de-Lis Celebration \(bourbonnaishistory.org\)](http://Fleur-de-Lis Celebration (bourbonnaishistory.org)). The deadline for nominations is August 1.

Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee next meeting date changed

The next meeting of the BGHS Log Schoolhouse Advisory Committee was originally scheduled for Tuesday July 23 at 3:30 pm. The meeting has been rescheduled to **Thursday July 25 at 3:30 pm** due to my schedule conflict with a family reunion.

More photographs from July activities



At left, Curator Gary Seiner shows the “pie shelf” he created in the Letourneau Home/Museum pantry. At right, Ellen Stringer and Patrick McGinnis are ready to great customers at the July 4th *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair.



Left to right: BGHS volunteers serve at the *Les Artisans* Arts and Craft Fair greeting table: Steve Monts, Christine and Max Michels, Doris O'Connor, Bonnie and Dick Bergeron.



Gary and I pose with my family on a tour of the museum campus gardens on June 30—oh wait, someone else is back there on the arbor—a red-tailed hawk!!!

Enjoy this great summer! Best wishes,

Jim Paul, President of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society