

# The SOCIETY PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Inside this month. . .

- ❖ **Volunteer Program at the Museum**
- ❖ **Dan Harrison – History under Your Keel Lecture**
- ❖ **Tashmoo Days Update**
- ❖ **Comedy Nights at the Snug Theater**
- ❖ **Buy A Brick Program**

## Historical Society Museum Volunteer Training

Starting the last weekend of May, Gary Grout will be conducting classes for anyone who wishes to volunteer as a museum guide. This is an important position as most people who come into the museum do not know about the exhibits.

Gary will explain what each exhibit represents and how it was donated. This class will help you set your mind at ease when taking visitors through the museum.

Please give Gary a call at 748-3320 or e-mail at [garygrout76@comcast.net](mailto:garygrout76@comcast.net).

You will find being a museum guide a most rewarding experience. Each class will take about an hour; bring a pad of paper for taking notes.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

## From the President

Dear Members,

Everything comes back to life in the spring and your Historical Society is doing just that. I reported last month that the cold has kept us indoors, but not idle. The winter planning for 2014 is now germinating and soon will see the buds of these ideas emerge into what we hope will be new and interesting educational, cultural and fun activities as they come to full bloom this summer.

The first flower budding is a change in venue for **Tashmoo Days 2014**. Now confirmed, it will be held at the original Tashmoo Park site...now **Tashmoo Marina**. The Society thanks **Susan and Bobby Bryson** for allowing this event to occur at their location.

Next we can look for is a new flower...probably not seen on the Island before this: The Society is in discussions with **Liam Collins** of the **Detroit Center for Public Archaeology** which is partnered with the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition. Your Board has reviewed and approved moving forward with Liam and his team who will conduct and fully document an Archeological Dig, at the Tashmoo Park site. Other sites on Harsens Island and the Flats may also be considered for future dig sites.

Initial surveys and planning is expected to occur in the upcoming weeks and the dig will continue thru Tashmoo Days and beyond. Liam and his team have committed to conducting an interpretive program during Tashmoo Days at the dig-site; and have educational materials for children and interested students including a managed/controlled 'dig-site' for kids.

This program is fully funded and is organized for the inclusion of local schools. Contact has been made with area schools and there is interest in the program. If any of our members have interest in archeology, participating in a dig or helping coordinate these activities, please contact us. The Society's role in this program is coordination with property owners and assisting with publicity and promotion. If you want to learn more, please send an e-mail or phone.

An overview of the plans for Tashmoo Days is included in this edition of *The Society Pages*. **We need each of you, our MEMBERS** to volunteer a few hours of your time to help with this program and make it a memorable occasion.

## The Society Pages

Volume 5 / Number 3 / May 2014

a publication of the Harsens Island/  
St. Clair Flats Historical Society

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 44  
Harsens Island MI 48028

**Museum Address:**  
3058 S. Channel Dr.  
Email@hiscfhs.org



www.HISCFHS.org

scan the code to go to the  
HISCFHS website

Editor: **Michele Komar**  
734-620-3769

### HISCFHS Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board

**Gary Grout** - 810-748-3320

President

**Bernard Licata** - 810-748-1825

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**John Chamberlain** - 810-748-3519

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**Bob Williams** - 248-388-0465

Treasurer

**Joyce Hassen** - 313-336-1735

Secretary

**Nancy Licata** - 810-748-1825

Directors

**Nancy Boulton** - 810-748-3802

**Kathy O'Connor** - 810-748-3113

**Larry Zelensky** - 586-206-0444



Join us on Facebook!

## From the President *continued*

Our friends and neighbors **Kathy and Tom Vertin**, owners of the **Snug Theatre** in Marine City have invited your Historical Society to sponsor **Comedy Nights at the Snug** for the upcoming season. Read more about this in an article in this issue. This is a revenue/fund raising opportunity for The Society and we thank Tom and Kathy for inviting us to participate. If you've not attended the Snug, it's a great little theatre located in downtown Marine City. The venue is small or 'snug'...as they say; and, the performances are great.

Our first in the 2014 Lecture Series **Know Your Ships, Shipping on the Great Lakes** by author & publisher, **Roger LeLievre**, attracted a SOLD-OUT audience the new Schoolhouse Grille venue. The Lecture was concurrent with the Spring Fling Wine Tasting conducted by the Grille. It was a wonderful afternoon.

Our next lecture scheduled for May 10 also at the Schoolhouse Grille is: **History under your Keel, Maritime Archaeology**, presented by **Dan Harrison**, maritime archaeologist.

Because the Schoolhouse venue for our last lecture was SOLD OUT, we are implementing a new policy so we hopefully will not have to turn anyone away. *Reservation Check-in will be open 45 minutes before the 3:00 PM start.* (Come early, check-in, enjoy the patio or spend a few minutes socializing with friends.) Those with unpaid reservations must check-in no later than 15 minutes prior to start. At 15 minutes prior to start unpaid reserved seats will be sold from the walk-in list which will be on a first-come first-served basis. Advance donation will 'guarantee your seat'.

Memorial Day weekend is **Open House** at the Museum and we are **Celebrating Three Full Years** since our Grand Opening in May 2011, 2012, 2013 and now May 2014. **Congratulate yourself for achieving three years in the Museum and four years since the Founding of The Society.**

You will find changes in the Museum this year. I'll not reveal what they are...you'll need to visit and look for yourself to see the new exhibits and improvements.

A commemorative **Recognition Wall** has been incorporated into the Museum. The **Buy a Brick Program** is launching this month which will allow individuals to buy a Permanent Brick Sized Remembrance or Recognition. Read more detail in this edition.

We are still planning a couple days of 'clean-up', 'paint-up', 'fix-up' at the museum, stand by for an e-mail on this...and come lend a hand.

If you have not renewed your Membership for 2014, please do so to continue receiving *The Society Pages* Newsletter. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Museum in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you,  
bernard

## 2014 LECTURE SERIES

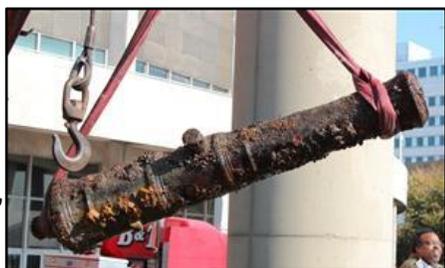


**Dan Harrison**

The title of our May 10 program is: ***History under your Keel: Maritime Archaeology of the Detroit Area*** by Dan Harrison

With centuries of Native American, colonial, and modern navigation, the Great Lakes are a veritable “drowned museum” of artifacts of all kinds. Archaeologist Dan Harrison will take us on a brief tour of our local maritime heritage, with cases showing how the preservation and understanding of our past enhances our appreciation and enjoyment of our unique environment.

Dan Harrison has been sailing the Great Lakes for over three decades, mostly as foredecker on the Santana 35 Ben Jammin’ (GLYC). Between races, he is a librarian and historian at Henry Ford Community College, a consulting archaeologist for the Detroit Historical Society, and a doctoral student in Anthropology/Archaeology at Wayne State University.



Please make your reservations for this event, as seating is limited, by contacting Nancy Licata at: 810-748-1825 or via e-mail at: [nlicata@comcast.net](mailto:nlicata@comcast.net).

**Saturday, May 10 at 3pm at the Schoolhouse Grille. Suggested donation \$10.**

The Schoolhouse Grille will be open for refreshments. You may also wish to make a day of it....come early for lunch, or stay late for dinner.

## Roger LeLievre Lecture from April 26, 2014



The Lecture with Roger LeLievre of *Know Your Ships* was well attended with 70 filling the room, most of who were not Historical Society members and many who traveled from Port Huron & St. Clair to see Roger.

The event held at the Schoolhouse Grille, where owner Kristin Bane also held a wine tasting that day was great fun for all.

Roger’s presentation was well received and he would like to return with another presentation sometime in the future. The new presentation will focus on the ‘interior of the freighters from accommodation to views from the bridge, etc.

We thank Roger for supporting the Harsens Island St Clair Flats Historical Society.



“A flower between the two franks”  
Left to right: ‘Freighter Frank’ Frisk, Arlene Earl  
‘The Flower Lady’, and Frank Schoonover

## Tashmoo Days 2014

The Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society is producing Tashmoo Days 2014, Saturday July 19 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. This year the event will be held at the Historic Tashmoo Park (now the Tashmoo Marina.)

### **TO BE SUCCESSFUL, WE NEED MEMBERS TO SIGN-UP AND VOLUNTEER TO HELP.**

This Second Annual Tashmoo Days, is again, envisioned to replicate a portion of the experience of 'visiting Harsens Island and the St. Clair Flats' as visitors and tourists would have experienced it over 100 years ago. In the early 1900's visitors came by boat, primarily the Tashmoo Steamer, from Detroit on a daily basis to enjoy the attractions that existed on the Island.

While we cannot fully replicate the hotel or full Tashmoo Park experience that existed 100 years ago the events and attractions planned are:

- Live Music Venue.
- Entertainment
- Gaming and Bingo
- Beer Tent
- Special Museum Exhibit: Diving
- Special Museum Exhibit: **Message-in-the-Bottle** from 1915
- An **Archeological Dig**, at Tashmoo Park, being conducted by Liam Collins of the Detroit Center for Public Archaeology which is partnered with the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition and sponsored by the Harsens Island Historical Society.
- Lectures and Interpretive Programs on Historic and current events.
  - Civil War and Harsens Island
  - Prohibition
  - DNR Wildlife & more
- First Nations/Native American arts & crafts....and perhaps singers, drummers and dancers.
- Local arts & craft vendors
- Horseshoe Tournament
- An organized walking tour of the most notable 'Victorian Homes' on South Channel.
- Museum tours.
- Civil War Re-enactors Encampment: 15th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Company B
  - With Cannon
- We have more attractions being worked with the possibility of:
  - A 5K run at 8:00 AM  
(**WE NEED 6 Volunteers for ~2 hours to make this happen.**)
  - An opportunity to take a 2 hour charter fishing trip on the river
  - and more.
  - While these are not confirmed, they are being discussed.

### **Members, WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS.**

*Please contact us to VOLUNTEER if you are interested in helping to work the event or be involved in planning. (Tasks are available for all individuals able to donate a few hours of their time.)*

**T-Shirts will be provided to ALL VOLUNTEERS working the event.**

**Phone: Bernard @ 586-530-7100 cell, or e-mail: [licata@comcast.net](mailto:licata@comcast.net).**

*This will be a fun day on Harsens Island and an opportunity to help grow your Historical Society....call today!*

## HISCFHS Sponsors Comedy Nights Series at the Snug

The **Snug Theatre**'s Kathy Vertin invited The Society to sponsor **Comedy Nights** for the series this year starting on April 11 and 12, with future programs scheduled for August 8 & 9 and November 7 & 8. The Snug is talking up local businesses in Marine City. Kathy does *Snug Plugs* for the various eating and drinking establishments in Marine City.

Kathy stated: "Tom and I are residents of Harsens Island doing business in Marine City but we promote and support the entire Blue Water area and believe that if the region is strong, it's good for all businesses and residents within the county."

**Kathy and Tom Vertin**, are friends and neighbors here on Harsens Island and we are pleased that they and the Snug have invited the Historical Society to sponsor Comedy Nights.

Nancy Boulton and Barbara Persyn helped host the first program on April 11; and Cheryl and Mike Balan along with Peggy and Denne Osgood hosted the program on April 12...the night of the 'Big Storm' that knocked out power. The comedian on stage did the last half hour of his performance with only 'emergency lighting'. It was a great evening and fun was had by all, in spite of the power outage. Stay tuned for more details on the comedians who will perform for these events.

We encourage our members to attend the Snug Theatre for upcoming performances as well as Comedy Nights which will directly benefit The Society. If you've not been there, schedule yourself; it's great entertainment.

**HARSENS ISLAND ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**BUY-A-BRICK PROGRAM**

**Become a Permanent Part of Island History Today!**

Historical Society members and friends can show their support, and ensure the continuance of the museum, by paying one of the 200 monthly \$350 land contract payments for the Historical Society Museum Building. Donors will be recognized on - or may designate as a memorial - one of the bricks inside the museum. Of course, they may remain anonymous if they wish.

Make checks payable to **HISCFHS** with "BRICK" in the memo line, and mail to:  
**HISCFHS • P.O. Box 44 • Harsens Island, MI 48028**

Please provide your phone number so we can contact you about the exact wording you want on **YOUR** brick.

For more information about the program, or to sign up, contact Bob Williams at 248-388-0465 or [xharpshah@aol.com](mailto:xharpshah@aol.com).

The Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society is a 501-(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.



PO Box 44  
Harsens Island MI 48028

## Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society 2014 Calendar of Events

*subject to change*

Members are welcome to attend any Board / Membership Meeting to keep apprised of Society activities and to bring issues before the Board.

### Museum Hours

**May** – Saturdays – 10 AM – 3 PM

**June through September** – Saturdays – 10 AM – 3 PM and Sundays – Noon – 4 PM

- May**
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – Lecture Series - **Dan Harrison**, maritime archaeologist, *History under your Keel.*
  - 10<sup>th</sup> – Saturday - 11:30 AM – Board/membership meeting at Museum  
(with final call for nominations for board election)
  - 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, Sunday, Monday - Memorial Day Open House (special open times 11am – 4pm)
  - 31<sup>st</sup> – Flea Market at the Museum
- June**
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM
  - 14<sup>th</sup> – Saturday - 10:00 AM – Board/membership meeting at Museum
- July**
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Museum open special for the holiday
  - 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM
  - 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - 10:00 AM – Board/membership meeting at Museum
- August**
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Social hour – 6 to 8 PM
  - 9<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - 10:00 AM – Board/membership meeting at Museum
  - 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – 5 to 7 PM Annual meeting followed by spaghetti dinner
  - 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> & Sept. 1 – Saturday, Sunday, & Monday – Labor Day Weekend – Museum open