

Brownstone

WASHBURN
LEGACY CONSORTIUM

ISSUE 6
JUNE 2019



Painting by Rabbett Before Horses Strickland



Artwork by Washburn students, pre-K through H.S.



Betty Sitbon's artwork in the 'Whimsy' show

The Cultural Center's Galleries Host Art Shows

By Steve Cotherman

Every year the Cultural Center partners with the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council to present two special art exhibits in the Center galleries, in the Spring and Fall. The March show is always an open exhibit focused on a theme; this past March local artists were invited to interpret the theme "Art Heals: The Healing Power of the Arts." The "Art Heals" theme got me thinking about our year-round gallery program and how these shows help our visitors understand and explore their worlds. Just looking at art connects the viewer to a world of creative possibilities. Whether sophisticated or primitive, serious or whimsical, art opens us up to insights we may not have considered and experiences we've never had.

Art as therapy is now an officially recognized tool in the psychologist's bag of treatment options. Ask an artist and he or she will tell you that they've always known that art was therapeutic, that art heals. So, I am very glad to work with local artists and CBAC to present a wide range of art shows, all of which have the potential to illuminate, to inspire, to educate, to entertain, and to heal.

Just this year alone, we've already presented the amazing paintings and drawings of Rabbett Before Horses Strickland, the inspiring response to CBAC's "Art Heals" theme, the awesome works of Washburn's students, grades pre-K through high school, and the amusing and heart-warming pieces in our annual "Whimsy" show.

In the months to come we'll host an amazing exhibit of birch bark artworks from around the world (June) and beautiful paintings and ceramics by our local Superior Artists Group of Royanne Goossen, Wendy Deerly Resse, Dora Kling, Sara Balbin, Amy Kalmon, Kerry Shadbolt, Jason Terry and Jonathan Walburg (July). "Atmospheres: Cloudscapes and Calligraphy" by Peter Fraterdeus, a new addition to Washburn's growing community of artists, will debut in August. A special show follows in September: "Color Chequamegon Bay," made up of 40 dynamic illustrations of special Bay area places and landmarks by Patricia Hawkenson and Jeff Holvick. We'll finish our year with the annual "CBAC Member Fall Exhibit" in October.

Whether our art shows inspire you to express yourself or think differently about the world, are a treat for the senses, or just plain fun, there's a lot of healing going on at the Center, with more coming your way in the months ahead.

I hope you'll be a frequent visitor, coming in to see all of our shows. If you haven't yet participated in a CBAC show or our open "Whimsy" exhibit, please do so. And if you are an artist new to the area looking for an exhibit opportunity, please contact me here at the Center. ■

(715) 373-5447

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WASHBURN LEGACY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS:

WASHBURN CULTURAL CENTER (WCC) + WASHBURN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (WAHS)
WASHBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (WHA) + WASHBURN BEAUTIFICATION FOUNDATION (WBF)
HISTORIC CIVIC CENTER FOUNDATION (HCCF)

Kiosk Project

By Patra Holter

One of Washburn's best assets is its history. The Washburn Heritage Association (WHA) is currently exploring the possibility of developing several kiosks throughout the city that would demonstrate the treasure we have here. Displays within the kiosks would transmit information about Washburn history as well as publicize city events. In addition, the kiosks would beautify the city, engage visitors and residents, and create unifying visual markers for the town.

A committee is researching all aspects of the proposed project and currently consists of members of WHA and the Washburn Beautification Foundation. We hope eventually to engage other individuals and organizations. The information displayed in the kiosks could actually be an extension of the museum and might encourage visitors to visit there for more information. We would like to have two or more kiosks along the main street and eventually more around town. Visitors could travel from one kiosk to another in a continuing adventure.

A design for the kiosks is still in the works. The photo in this article is a kiosk



located in Decorah, IA, where kiosks have added considerable charm and interest to their downtown. The structure has four display panels. We visualize

that three of the displays would pertain to history and one to current events. While our kiosks might be a simpler design than the one pictured, the idea is still in the development stage.

We need to have funding in place first and are looking for individuals, businesses, or groups who would like to sponsor a kiosk. If you are interested, please contact Patra at (715) 373-2404 or Carla at (715) 292-0024. ■

Back to the Future

By Coke Lindsey

It has been an interesting five months for me as the new President of the Historic Civic Center Foundation (HCCF) Board. Almost immediately, people would stop me on the street and ask me what's going on with the Old DuPont Club building (which the HCCF owns), is it going to be the Club again, is the gym going to be a gym again, and on and on. It became very obvious that the overwhelming desire of this community was to make it a community recreation center again. So, guess what? That is exactly the new mission of the Historic Civic Center Foundation: to enhance the quality of life in the Washburn community by offering and supporting programs and projects that serve area youth, senior citizens, and the public at large.

First a little history

The DuPont Company built this amazing building in 1918 as a place where their employees could recreate and commune. Originally known as the DuPont Club, as the years went on it became known simply and affectionately as "The Club."

The Club was a huge part of Washburn's community—the city's social center. DuPont sold the building to the city in 1961. The city summer recreation program was run out of the building, senior meals were served here, it was a place for meetings, playing pool, basketball, foosball, or just hanging out. A common phrase was "I'll meet you at the Club." In early 2000, the city discontinued programs and eventually the doors were closed.

The building was slated for demolition in 2008, but a petition with over 800 signatures saved it. We believe this speaks to the wishes of our community.

If you grew up in Washburn and you are under 30 years old, you probably have no memory of this building being open to the public. If you moved here in the last 20 years, you likely have never been inside. Maybe you have even wondered why anyone would want to save this old building. As an engineer, I marvel at how well this 100-year-old building was constructed. The sheer size of the timbers and steel beams is



(Top) The Historic Civic Center. (Above) View of the west side shows the new handicap accessible entrance as well as new windows, insulation, and siding. The west side foundation was replaced when the bowling alley addition was taken off. The fireplace room and front office have been totally restored. This represents a nearly \$200,000 investment into this beloved building. We have a great start to bringing this building back on line.

not typical of how buildings are built today. This building is structurally sound.

The HCCF's mission is to bring it back—make it a hub of our community again. Some things will be the same, some different, but the bottom line is that this amazing building will once again be a place to recreate and commune.

As more and more young families move to Washburn, there seems to be a resurgence of all the reasons we choose to live here. Healthy living, outdoor recreation, fixing up old buildings instead of demolishing them, recycling, re-using, protecting our natural resources, and, above all, recreation opportunities for all. The success of the Jackie's Field Moms is a testament to this. An interesting aside: did you know Jackie Peterson, namesake of Jackie's field was employed by DuPont as their recreation director? He was in charge of all activities at Jackie's field and the Club.

Our first goal at HCCF is to get the building open, and we believe we can

make this happen. We need to repair, add new, and update a few things before we can get an occupancy permit. Some of these are: an ADA bathroom, hand railings, basement steps, exit signs, and general maintenance and repair.

Frequently asked questions:

- Is the club going to be the club again? YES
- Is the gym going to be a gym again? YES
- Can I rent the fire place room for an art show? YES
- Can we have the prom there? THAT'D BE AMAZING
- Is the brownstone porch going back on? HOPEFULLY

What can you do? Of course, we need money, but we also want active participation from the community. We will be looking for volunteers to paint, scrape, clean, staff open houses and numerous other tasks. If you have fund-raising or business planning experience, we can use your expertise. If you want to help or have suggestions or ideas, contact our group at seeyouattheclub1918@gmail.com.

We also have a Facebook page: The Old DuPont Club. Join it for the latest happenings and updates. ■

Garden Tour on July 26

By Kitty Wilson



Washburn Beautification is preparing for our annual self-guided Garden Tour featuring five gardens on Friday, July 26, from 1-4 p.m., during Brownstone weekend. Maps can be picked up at the Washburn Library and the Chamber office.

Over the years we have showcased simple backyard wild-life gardens and potted plants to fully landscaped and professionally maintained spaces. Because we are hardy Northerners, the garden tour will proceed despite any inclement weather.

Beautification meets on the second Monday of the month between October and May, generally in the basement of the Washburn Library. The club currently meets at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

Our meetings generally begin with a short presentation by a member of our community. We invite civic and business leaders, artists, thinkers, and dreamers to come and share their knowledge or talk about the role they play in our community. After our presentation, we enjoy a sweet or savory small plate shared by our hostess of the month, and proceed with our business meeting. We often have people come for the presentation and leave afterwards. Look for our announcement in the Ashland Daily Press to see if our speaker interests you.

All donations that we receive go directly to the beautification of the city of Washburn. We have practically no overhead or club bills. If you have suggestions for how you would like to see our city beautified, find us on Facebook and leave a message, or come to a meeting. We will be glad to see you. ■

Join today! Receive discounted membership when you join three or more of the following groups working to preserve Washburn's heritage and history!

1 For each organization you wish to join or contribute to, please check the box that corresponds to the membership level and amount you choose.

<p>Washburn Cultural Center</p> <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000...Lifetime <input type="checkbox"/> \$500Benefactor <input type="checkbox"/> \$75Business <input type="checkbox"/> \$40Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$25Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$20Senior/Student <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of: _____	<p>Washburn Area Historical Society</p> <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.....Business/Professional <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.....Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.....Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ Additional Contribution	<p>Washburn Heritage Association</p> <input type="checkbox"/> \$500Benefactor <input type="checkbox"/> \$100Business <input type="checkbox"/> \$50Patron <input type="checkbox"/> \$35Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$20Individual	<p>Washburn Beautification Foundation</p> <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make a contribution in the amount of: \$ _____	<p>Historic Civic Center Foundation</p> <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make a contribution to help fund the next phase of restoration of the Civic Center in the amount of: \$ _____
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2 Tally the amounts you've chosen for each group.

3 If you've given to three or more groups, subtract \$10.

4 Mail your check made payable to: Washburn Cultural Center, P.O. Box 725, Washburn WI 54891. Funds will be distributed by WCC to each group indicated.

WCC\$ _____
 WAHS...\$ _____
 WHA\$ _____
 WBF\$ _____
 HCCF\$ _____
 Subtotal\$ _____
 Multi-group discount: -\$10.00
TOTAL\$ _____

Name _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____



WASHBURN LEGACY CONSORTIUM

Washburn Cultural Center
P. O. Box 725
Washburn, WI 54891

Visit WCC's new website and...

- Become a WCC member online
 - Read about the "Antique of the Week"
 - Get news and info about WCC's programs
- washburnculturalcenter.com**

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Washburn Heritage Association

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Washburn Beautification Foundation

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Historic Civic Center Foundation

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Calendar—June 1 to November 1

Washburn Cultural Center

June—"Celebrate Birch!"

July—Annual Show of Superior Artists Group: Royanne Goossen, Wendy Deerly Resse, Dora Kling and Sara Balbin, Amy Kalmon, Kerry Shadbolt, Jason Terry, and Jonathan Walburg

August—"Making Mindful Marks: Cloudscapes, Calligraphy, and Carving." Works by Peter Fraterdeus

September—"Color Chequamegon Bay," made up of 40 dynamic illustrations of special Bay area places and landmarks by Patricia Hawkenson and Jeff Holvick

October—The Gathering: CBAC Member Fall Exhibit

Washburn Heritage Association

July 27—Historic Washburn City Tours. Guided tours of Washburn's historic buildings and sites on the trolley. 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. Depart from sidewalk in front of Hansen's IGA.

Washburn Heritage Association & Washburn Area Historical Society

Tony Woiak History Festival At Harbor View Event Center, Washburn. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

June 18—Last Soldier Project. The Bayfield County Historical Society is joining with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of WI (SUV) to honor and mark the final resting place of Bayfield County's last Civil War Veteran, David Monroe.

July 2—Fish, Furs and Missions: The Archaeology of Chequamegon Bay and Islands—1600's to 1850.

Former WI State Archaeologist Dr. Robert Birmingham. Music by Steve Cotherman.

July 16—History of the DuPont Club—The First 100 Years Have Gone Fast! Beta Bodin, Jeff Anderson and Coke Lindsey have collaborated to research and present the history of the DuPont Club. Music: John Peterson.

July 30—The Washburn Coal Dock. Presentation by Gary Holman with help from John Garland and the Michela family. Music TBA.

Special thanks to these generous 2019 supporters of the Washburn Cultural Center:

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