

2024 Friends Annual Report

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The
Friends
of
Hopewell Furnace
National Historic Site

2024 Friends Annual Report

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President's Letter

December 11, 2024

Dear Friends

Introduction

It has been a privilege to serve as President and I have enjoyed working with a wonderful group of board members.

Our monthly Sunday Programs are very important to us, and many look forward to attending them. Edie Shean-Hammond has been finding many different kinds of interesting people to present their area of interest. The hope is that those who attend might have a desire to join the Friends, and frequently new members are found this way.

The Friends have supported Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (the Park) using the donations received from the members. We are most grateful for these donations, and we are always looking for ways to improve what we do.

Changes to our Board

Dave Steele who served as our Vice President this year did a marvelous job helping with our new Friends website providing much of the language on the site. He also did very good job managing our Work Plan.

Becky Hughes picked up the responsibility of maintaining the Friends Facebook page.

Nancy McClelland was able to return to the Board filling in as secretary when needed.

Going forward for the upcoming year Gene Delaplane is returning to serve as Vice President.

Recognition

Recognition needs to be given to all of the Officers and Board members who carry out their areas of responsibility. Each Board member's contributions help move forward the goals of the Friends and is much appreciated.

Special recognition to Edie Shean Hammond for finding interesting people who are able to provide the monthly Sunday Presentations.

Special recognition to Second Vice President Jenn Shelgren who did a fantastic job of organizing the 4th of July writing contest with the local public schools. At the 4th of July Celebration at the Park, the winners read their papers to the audience from the porch of the Iron Master's home. The Friends provided funds for the cash awards to winners of the contest.

Special recognition to Treasurer Peter Hammond who has been handling all aspects of the publication and sales of the various books and DVD. Peter also handles all of the Friends financial transactions and compiles a treasurer's report presented at each of our Board meetings.

Special recognition to Louise Griffiths who takes the Board minutes as well as handling the membership responsibilities.

James N. McClelland Jr,
President of Friends of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

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Mission Statement

As provided in the current Bylaws (August 20, 2020):

The Friends of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (hereinafter referred to as "Friends") is an organization whose mission is to support the preservation, maintenance, and activities of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, (hereinafter referred to as the "Park"). The Friends shall be a voluntary, non-profit, incorporated association and shall have the following objectives:

1. To create public support for an expanding park program.
2. To encourage gifts, endowments, and memorials for the park.
3. To intensify community awareness and use of the park.
4. To provide direct financial assistance by purchasing special and unusual items which would be of benefit but cannot be purchased from the budget of the park.
5. To sponsor programs designed to aid the mission of the park.
6. To encourage people to become park volunteers.
7. To sponsor educational seminars.
8. To author and publish pamphlets and books about the park's history.
9. To organize social events at local establishments.
10. To bring together individuals and groups at local, regional, and national levels.
11. To promote awareness of the programs and activities through social media.
12. To assist and/or advocate the protection of natural and cultural resources.
13. To comply with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to the laws of the United States of America pertaining to the Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3).

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Board Members

Officers

		Start of Service
1. President	Jim McClelland	January 2016
2. President Emeritus	Gene Delaplane	January 2016
3. Vice President	Dave Steele	January 2023
4. 2nd Vice President	Jenn Shelgren	January 2021
5. Treasurer/Publishing	Peter Hammond	June 2015
6. Secretary/Membership	Louise Griffiths	January 2014

Directors:

7. Programs/Public Relations	Edie Shean-Hammond	January 2015
8. Programs	Elissa Lewis	January 2015
9. Outdoor Activities	Davida Waters	January 2013
10. Hospitality	Clare Hammond	January 2016
11. History/Nominations	Joel Moore	June 2016
12. Bylaws	Stan Weinstein	June 2021
13. Programs	Nancy McClelland	January 2015
14. Park Activities/Facebook	Becky Hughes	January 2016
15. Archeology	Phil Diltz	January 2022

NPS Liaison

1. Park Manager	Jeff Jones	2021
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Board Meeting Minutes

The Board meeting monthly minutes are available either in print or in digital format upon request.

Friends Activities

2023 October 15 Dan Graham gave a presentation on his new book about the Cannon made in Pennsylvania for the defense during the American Revolution.

2023 October 25 Dave Steele and I made available to the public our completely newly developed Friends Website. Over the next several months we continued to make many improvements to the site. The site is full of interesting historical information relative to iron making in the 18th century. A major addition was to put on the site, reports created about the Hopewell Furnace account books not available on the NP Gallery Site.

2023 November 12 Charles Adams a popular local story teller gave a presentation on Myths and Legends. The attendance exceeded the capacity of the visitor center theater.

2023 December 10 Bill Lange a Hopewell Furnace park ranger gave a presentation on the history of the Belsnickel.

2023 December 11 The Friends released an updated version of the membership brochure.

2024 January 14 Danielle Guttman a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club gave a presentation on the Pennsylvania Highlands.

2024 February 11 Ben Carter a professor from Muhlenberg College gave a presentation on the African American settlements near Hopewell Furnace as well using LIDAR to identify 18th and 19th century charcoal hearths.

2024 March 10 Dr Ilise Feitshans gave a presentation on preserving history using nanotechnology.

2024 April 6 The Friends supported Hopewell Furnace clean up day. Many local families came to help with the cleaning of the park.

2024 April 21 Devi Lockwood, Commentary and Ideas Editor, Philadelphia Inquirer gave a presentation based on her global travels gathering evidence from individuals of climate change.

2024 April 29 Released a final version of the updated Membership Brochure.

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2024 May 11 Several board members manned a table giving out snacks and cold water at the Hopewell Furnace Sheep Shearing and the lighting of the wood pile to make charcoal. We also provided historical related information about Hopewell Furnace to the many visitors.

2024 May 19 Jeff Jones Hopewell Furnace site manager gave a presentation about his time spent at Fort Monroe Virginia and its history.

2024 June 8 Several board members manned a table at the Birdsboro Fair. We met a lady whose father was a volunteer at Hopewell Furnace and we were able to sell many books as well.

2024 June 9 Jay Erb, a Chester County Park Ranger gave a presentation on the Eastern Coyotes found in Chester County.

2024 July 4 Several board members manned a table giving out snacks and cold water on the 4th of July celebration at Hopewell Furnace. We provided the award money to the participants for the youth writing contest winners. We also provided historical related information about Hopewell Furnace to the many visitors.

2024 July 14 Jim McClelland, President of the Friends of Hopewell Furnace presented a copy of the British Spy Map which covered all of Eastern Pennsylvania in the 18th century. Jim had colorized the places, roads, rivers and creeks which made it easier to understand how it compares to those same places today.

2024 July 20 The Friends sponsored a free yoga session led by Dragonfly Yoga and Fitness of Pottstown. The 6 pm session was held in the yard overlooking Hopewell Furnace village and was fully attended by over 20 people.

2024 August 3 Several board members manned a table giving out snacks and cold water on Hopewell Furnace's Establishment Annual Celebration. We also provided historical related information about Hopewell Furnace to the many visitors.

2024 August 11 Joel Moore an author of numerous books, gave a presentation about the Boys of the American Civil War.

2024 August 17 The Friends sponsored a free yoga session led by Wellspring on Main of Douglassville. The 6 pm session was held in the yard overlooking Hopewell Furnace village and was attended by 18 people.

2024 September 15 Adam Zurn, Founder of Uncharted Lancaster gave a presentation on the petroglyphs of Safe Harbor, Pennsylvania.

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Financial Summary and Member Count with dues collected

The monthly treasurer reports are included separately and are a part of this report. The following is an extraction from these monthly reports and gives a summary of the membership count, the dues collected, income received, expenses paid out and total funds available.

Notes: Comparing 2023 to 2024

There is a drop in dues collected of \$83.80

There is an increase in the number of members paying dues from 33 to 36.

Income received includes but are not limited to dues, miscellaneous donations and books sales etc.. There is a drop in income of \$440.52

Expenses paid out include but are not limited to support to the Park activities and publication expenses. There is an increase of expenses of \$1826.91.

Total funds held decreased by \$3071.35.

If you are interested in more information, see the treasurer's monthly reports.

Period Dates						
Start	End	# of members paying dues / period	Dues Collected / period	Total Income / period	Total Expenses/ period	Total Funds
9/18/2023	10/15/2023	2	\$61.00	\$277.44	\$0.00	\$13,110.51
10/16/2023	11/12/2023	7	\$370.00	\$435.00	\$396.76	\$13,440.88
11/13/2023	12/10/2023	1	\$25.00	\$248.22	\$194.69	\$13,412.34
12/11/2023	1/14/2024	0	\$0.00	\$18.71	\$84.00	\$13,363.00
1/15/2024	2/11/2024	5	\$141.10	\$157.72	\$100.00	\$13,399.62
2/11/2024	3/10/2024	3	\$146.62	\$505.42	\$5	\$13,920.04
3/11/2024	4/21/2024	1	\$96.62	\$332.69	\$704.00	\$14,169.00
4/22/2024	5/18/2024	3	\$123.79	\$268.45	\$0.00	\$13,837.78
5/19/2024	6/9/2024	6	\$210	\$375.00	\$3,482.33	\$10,620.45
6/10/2024	7/14/2024	2	\$45	\$290.00	1847.1	\$9,690.19
7/15/2024	8/11/2024	3	\$150.00	\$314.71	\$65.34	\$9,782.38
8/12/2024	9/15/2024	3	\$70.00	\$290.00	\$200.00	\$9,761.72
Totals		36	\$1,439.13	\$3,513.36	\$7,079.22	\$9,761.72

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Financial Audit

1. A monthly review of the financial reports is performed by the board and the outcome documented in the board minutes.
2. An annual review of the financial reports is performed by the board and the outcome documented in the board minutes.
3. Cash donations collected at various activities are not possible to trace to a donor and are deposited identifying the activity that collected the donation.

I certify that during my tenure as treasurer of the Friends of Hopewell Furnace NHS, the checking and savings accounts have been reconciled monthly and that any discrepancies or differences have been minor and were immediately corrected. The banking account statements are available for review.

Peter B. Hammond

Peter B. Hammond, Treasurer

James N McClelland, Jr

James N McClelland, Jr President of the Friends of Hopewell Furnace NHS