Happy New Year to all! Here at the Hay Creek Valley we welcome new challenges in 2016. For the Chinese it is the year of the monkey. For all of us involved with an iron and steel heritage site, it is the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the beginning of the iron and steel industry in Pennsylvania that started in 1716. A tricentennial committee was formed two years ago in Chester County and has been expanded to include Berks and Montgomery counties as well. There will be a kick-off presentation by most of the area iron and steel heritage sites at the Schuylkill Heritage Center in Phoenixville March 15th at 7 pm. Each site is asked to highlight events and special programs in 2016 at their site.

Joanna Furnace is on the schedule for the Town Talks and Village Walks program in August. Details of all events in the state can be found on the website www.ironandsteelheritage.org. This year is also the 40th Hay Creek Festival and it would be very suitable to include some special exhibits and demonstrations on the early iron industry.

On Tuesday, December 15, 2015 I met with Carla Cielo, our consultant and Joseph Jakubik, safety coordinator and a principal of the International Chimney Corporation based out of Buffalo, New York. Mr. Jakubik drove down from Buffalo to look at the Joanna Furnace Bosh. This firm has been around since 1927 and has seven or eight facilities up and down the east coast. They have restored and moved dozens of historic lighthouses as well as an entire amphitheater and other historic structures. With a complete engineering division and a specialized brick manufacturing facility, they are highly qualified to take on the task of stabilizing the Bosh. They are very interested in this challenging project and are presently working up detailed proposals. Phase I, which is a 3D...
HELP!!! Save the scarecrows! Currently we have no leader to take charge of this popular Apple Festival activity. If you have 2 or 3 hours to spare each month and would be interested in learning our procedures please contact the Hay Creek Office.

Membership Information

Membership Meeting

Sunday, March 20th marks the first membership meeting of the year for the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association. The meeting starts promptly at 7 pm and will be held in the Joanna Furnace Mule Stable. Members and guests are invited to attend this meeting to learn about the many programs and volunteer opportunities available by our organization. Please bring a dessert to share for the social time that will follow the meeting.

The evening will kick off with a special program by Mr. Keith Doms from the Newlin Grist Mill. This 160-acre park located in Glen Mills, PA is a place for exploration of both history and the environment. Built in 1704 the Newlin Grist Mill served the local community as a source for grinding grains and strengthened the economy by exporting products to international markets around the world. The program will not only highlight the Mill but also share information about their educational programs and nature trails. Please note the program is free to our membership and to guests.

Members will also hear the latest on the upcoming Bosh preservation project. This rare artifact from 1898 is the inner brick lining of the stone Joanna Furnace stack. It was this smelting chamber that held the molten iron that was tapped into the casting house to produce such things as 10-plate stoves, irons, sash weights, bake ovens, pots, pans, kettles, fire backs, and pig iron.

March / April

Calendar of Key Events & Activities

(Ongoing event . . . Volunteer Day EVERY Thursday 9 am to 3 pm)

March

2        Society of PA Archaeology Meeting — 7 pm
7        Christmas at Joanna Planning Meeting—7 pm
9        History Committee Meeting—7 pm
19       Irish Breakfast Buffet—7 to 11 am
20       General Membership Meeting — 7 pm
          Program by Newlin Grist Mill. Please bring a dessert to share.
23       Board Meeting — 6:30 pm
24       Orders due for Chicken Pot Pie & Ham and String Bean Soup Sale
29       History Training Class— Introduction to Joanna Furnace History — 7 pm
31       Chicken Pot Pie & Ham and String Bean Soup Sale
          Pick-up 10 am to 5 pm.

April

2        Clean-up Day (bring gloves, rakes, and/or other gardening supplies) — 9:00 am
6        Society of PA Archaeology Meeting — 7 pm
12       History Training Class — Introduction to the Office/Store — 7 pm
13       History Committee Meeting—7 pm
16       Presidential Breakfast Buffet—7 to 11 am
          Flea Market Opens — 7 am
26 - 27  History Training Class — Introduction to the Charcoal Barn — 7 pm
          Board Meeting — 6:30 pm
Moving Forward, continued from page 1

volunteers making these projects happen.

As part of the organization’s five-year plan and the continual development of the Joanna Furnace site, four capital projects are in the review phase by the Board for 2016. These major projects include the construction of a storage building in the Mechanical Technology Area, installation of a generator to assist with power outages, restoration of the massive stone wall behind the Apple Cider Building, and most importantly the restoration of the Joanna Furnace Bosh. Below is the background and detail on each of these projects.

Storage Building – The Over-The-Hill Gang is currently ironing out plans for a 40’ x 60’ storage building in the Engine Area. This painted steel panel building would be placed at the far end of the property and house our International tractor, Massey tractor, cub tractor, zero turn mower, two John Deere riding mowers, trim mowers, leaf sucker, log splitter, fork lift, golf cart, Ford & GMC trucks, plus five work trailers and other maintenance equipment. The purpose of storing all of this equipment in this new building is to eliminate the potential liability of any of these pieces starting a fire in one of the Joanna Furnace historic buildings and the Mechanical Technology Building. In addition, as the site grows and the organization provides more educational programs it is important to keep these buildings “show-ready” for the public. Currently the organization is completing permits and acquiring an engineer to develop a water management plan for this storage building.

Generator – Those of you who were at last year’s Hay Creek Festival may recall the power outage on Friday at the event. This six-hour power outage resulted in loss of revenue from food sales as our in-house stands were not able to prepare food without water and electricity. Moreover a power outage at Joanna Furnace anytime during the year could cause the organization to lose thousands of dollars worth of food items stored in refrigerators and freezers. This could be catastrophic to Hay Creek if this happened prior to one of our main festivals. Discussion has been pushed around for several years to have a permanent hook-up for a generator but because of budgetary constraints the project never moved. Because of the outage last September the Board wants this acquisition to be a priority.

Quotes have been received to install a 48KW Generac model generator with a 400 amp automatic transfer switch and service disconnect. This would power the Mule Stable side of the furnace grounds (as opposed to the Furnace Complex & Mechanical Technology side since we have three meters). Installation would be on the north side of the Mule Stable next to the main electric feed and propane source. This may not be ideal visually for our main visitor throughway but suits the connection requirements needed. However, based on the construction of a visitors building in a few years and the additional power needs of the site this generator most likely will be relocated or repurposed near the Mechanical Technology Building.

Stone Wall – The massive stone wall situated behind the Cider Mill was originally the supporting wall of the barn yard to the Bank Barn that once stood next to Furnace Road. Today this wall is unstable and has collapsed in several locations. Not only is it an eye sore on the property but also is a liability to visitors who may stroll around our site. Quotes have been received to restore this 6’ x 200” wall that is 4” thick at the bottom and 20” thick at the top. A complete restoration to this wall would make this structure safe and secure for another 100 years.

Joanna Furnace Bosh – A quote has been received for 3D documentation and modeling of the Bosh. As you are aware this one-of-a-kind artifact at Joanna Furnace has greatly deteriorated over the years and is in need of preservation. The fire-bricks of the Bosh continue to drop in and around the furnace hearth. The engineering firm entrusted with this project has quoted $25,000 for their services. However, the firm will give the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association a fifty percent discount if we grant the company permission to discuss and use images of the project on their website and utilize this information with their company marketing materials. To make this kick-off even nicer the organization received a $10,000 donation for this project two years ago that will basically cover the discounted rate.

The organization is still waiting for the quote on the actual Bosh preservation process. International Chimney Corporation out of New York State has agreed to do the work. Engineers and contractors since 1927, they have an extensive repertoire that includes historical restoration and preservation to several brick lighthouses and structures in the United States. This couldn’t be a better fit for our historic Bosh! The organization hopes to work with grant agencies for the funding of this project.

Stay tuned as the organization plans to move forward with these exciting projects. Remember we need your help and support to make all of this happen. To be a part of this historic volunteer season at Joanna Furnace please contact the Hay Creek office at 610-286-0388 or stop by on our Volunteer Thursday. Volunteers arrive around 9 am and leave around 3
2016 Summer Camp Program

Packets promoting our 2016 summer “camp” offerings will be sent out shortly. Due to the success of our new early American cooking program last year, we have a number of half-day programs available for this audience. Packets will go out primarily to day camp operations. In order to make our time and prep investments effective, our goal is to have the kids on site for a full day offering a general ‘Day at Joanna’ program overview in the morning and after lunch offering a limited pre-selected menu of programs for the attendees.

As of this date, we already have our first group of almost 60 kids from York County scheduled for a day-long visit in June.

College Interns

Internship program packets for summer 2016 and school year 2016/17 have gone out to Alvernia University, Kutztown University, Albright College, RACC and Millersville University. It is our goal to attract talented, focused college students who can bring their expertise to the site. Interns in this format are unpaid but have the potential to receive college credit for their work. In this situation, both the students and the Association are in a win-win situation.

Duties of the participating intern will be determined by the needs of the site and to some degree interests and strengths of the intern. Areas may include:

- Creation and maintenance of Association and historic site social media sites.
- Office duties including database upkeep, answering requests for membership, email and postal mailings, creation of meeting and event materials.
- Assist in press release creation, newsletter creation.
- Public school program scheduling and program information, school program interpreter/volunteer scheduling, program site preparation.
- Support the planning and implementing of special events.
- Assist with grant research and development.
- Assist in development of procedures manuals for site activities and historic building interpretation guides.

SafeSite

The education team has developed a background check program for our educators and interpreters as required by the State of Pennsylvania for any organization that works with youngsters.

Detailed information will be forthcoming in the near future.

TV 5th Grade Discover, Learn and Grow Program

The Twin Valley School will again be bringing their entire 5th grade (300 students) to spend the day of Tuesday, May 17 taking part in many different programs all focused on the lives and work of the inhabitants of the Joanna Furnace community as well as iron production, mechanical technology and products of the furnace in the late 19th century.

Home School Day at Joanna

Running in tandem with the Twin Valley event, on Wednesday, May 18 we will be offering the same program, only on a smaller scale, to area homeschoolers. Information on that program will be finalized soon and sent to our large homeschool email list.

During the Early Foods Summer Camp Program, Caroline Lee shows students various early kitchen tools. Youngsters pick & make mint tea, churn butter, make corn cakes, mix & roll dough, prepare fruit for seasonal pies. All foods are made over open fires on period griddles and dutch ovens.
Volunteer Interpreter Training Sessions

Coming this spring the History and Education Committees will be teaming up to bring our members special interpreter training classes. These classes are designed to give our history-based members a chance to learn about the Joanna Furnace iron complex and then take this information to interpret it to the public at upcoming Hay Creek events.

Three workshops will be held – Introduction to Joanna Furnace History, Office/Store and Charcoal Barn Museum. All classes will take place on Tuesday evenings and last approximately 2 hours. There is NO CHARGE for members to participate; however, registration is required to attend.

The upcoming training sessions are as follows:

- March 29—Introduction of Joanna Furnace History. Designed for volunteers to interact with the general public during events and welcome them to the Joanna Furnace Site. Class includes watching and discussing the History of Joanna Furnace video, overview of period garb for volunteers, and review of training guide to assist at events. The goal is to have a general understanding of the significance of the Joanna Furnace site and to be able to communicate with guests from that perspective.

- April 12—Office/Store Training. Overview of the Office/Store as it relates to our site. Details will be shared about the store, its relevance to the community, its goods and its people.

- April 26—Charcoal House Museum Training. Here participants will learn about the museum, its artifacts, displays and the entire illustrated story of iron production from raw materials, to charcoal making to the product line history of the furnace.

To register for the class please email mzerr@haycreek.org or call the Hay Creek office at 610-286-0388. Volunteers can sign up for one or all three classes. Remember these classes are for those individuals who want to help with interpretation of the Joanna Furnace buildings at the Hay Creek Festival, Apple Festival, monthly events and/or educational programs. Classes begin at 7 pm each evening and last approximately 2 hours.

Restoration Report

Now that winter is halfway over, the restoration team is in the planning stage again. Last year we met our goal to have the Office Store porch completed by the Fall Festival. There has been much brainstorming as to what to do with the cellar of the Office/Store. This has been discussed with members of the Board and the HAR committee over the years. There is 2,688 cubic feet of space in the cellar that could be used for more display and storage area. We are getting a lot of larger items donated for the store that would make a nice display. Since there has been no archaeology done, it is very important that the existing floor not be disturbed. Whatever we cover the floor with must be reversible in the future. The moisture is not coming through the walls anymore because of the installation of a rain gutter, down spouting and the rerouting of the water on the North side of the building. A dehumidifier was installed five years ago and the floors and walls are not damp. A moisture barrier will be put down on the gravel floor and a board floor will be laid on pressure treated 2 x 4’s suitable for ground contact. There will be a four inch air space under oak floor boards obtained from our sawmill. We will need 336 square feet of lumber that we will not have to buy.

Other projects will resume on the historic buildings when it is warm enough to repair and paint rotted windows. Most of the Historic buildings have not been painted since 2007.

We are always looking for more help for our projects.

Road Show

The Hay Creek Road Show is alive and doing well. If you never heard of it, you are missing out on a very informative program about the iron making industry in the 18th and 19th century, Joanna Furnace and the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association.

The program consists of a 22-minute video plus a 30-minute question-and-answer period about iron, Joanna Furnace, and the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association.

The program is designed to show to service groups, retirement communities, senior citizen centers, church groups and whoever else is interested.

We come to your location for a donation of $75 to Hay Creek.

The program is usually conducted by Joe Stabler and Emory Ritchie and sometimes other members take part. Joe and Emory have a total of 79 years between them as Hay Creek members.

For more information Call Joe Stabler at 610-286-6508.
Meet Our New Board

At the annual meeting on Sunday, November 15th the Association elected its new Board for 2016. As a Board of 17, each year we elect five officers and three directors. Board meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Our new Board is as follows: Charles Jacob, President; Jim Molleca, 1st Vice President; Alan Harris, 2nd Vice President; Jen Sparr, Treasurer; Catherine Spohn, Secretary; and Sylvia Loughery, Membership. New directors included Luke DiBerardinis, Jack Woods and Jeremiah Wright.

Below are short bios from our newest Board members:

Luke DiBerardinis, Director — Blacksmith, Mason, Carpenter. Being raised in a historic mill I was acquainted with these trades at a young age. In seventh grade metal shop I forged my first thumb latch. I have been in the business of hand-forging hardware for more than 10 years. I've also been demonstrating blacksmithing at Joanna Furnace festivals over the past few years.

When I was approached with the opportunity to join the board of directors, I enthusiastically accepted. This was a quick and easy decision because Joanna Furnace is part of my blood. My blacksmith shop is located on the same creek that flows past the furnace. Our local culture is directly descended from our iron-making past. We are fortunate to live in such an iron-rich area where nowhere else in the country can you visit and experience the heritage which is Joanna Furnace.

Come out and support your local “jewel”. There are many volunteer opportunities for those who would like to help. Stop by the blacksmith shop and say hello and I’ll see you at the festivals!

Jack Woods, Director — I was born and raised in Franklin Furnace, Sussex County, New Jersey, fluorescent mineral capital of the world. I did have the sense to leave NJ, and Judi and I lived in the area between the Finger Lakes of NY State and Lake Ontario for 31 years. We raised our four kids there, and two daughters and one son still live there. One son lives in Lancaster County, and he encouraged us to move here. We’ve been here for 21 years.

I had been doing some family research and found that two grandfathers were blacksmiths, and another relative owned Hard Bargain Forge! Another owned an iron mine in the adjoining county. While on that search, I came across a list of iron furnaces – Joanna was one of those. I found the website which encouraged a visit, so one Sunday afternoon in 2012 we drove up to take a look. None of the buildings were open, and of all things, there was a dog show in progress. I thought ‘What kind of a place is this?’ I picked up a flyer, and after reading it, I drove up for the Thursday workday. I’ve been here ever since.

Jeremiah Wright, Director — I grew up in Geigertown, right down the road from Joanna Furnace. As a kid I always enjoyed coming to the fall festivals, and as I’ve grown up its been nice to see how the association and the Furnace grounds are growing as well. I was homeschooled, and in 2001 my junior year started working with a stonemason as his apprentice. I have stayed with the trade and recently this past year opened my own masonry company.

In 2005 I married my wife Joanna, and we bought a house in Shillington and we have lived there since. We had a daughter, Isabella, in 2006. As she has grown up she has made many memories of her own here at Joanna Furnace, and this past Christmas at Joanna enjoyed volunteering as a dancer in the mule stable. The past few years I’ve been helping to coordinate the entertainment at the fall festival and look forward to continuing to do this and more. I appreciate the opportunity to be on the board and hope that I can help this association to further realize the vision that so many before me have already started and brought so far.

Sylvia Loughery, Membership Secretary — I have been a life member of the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association since 1993. I have been married to George B. Loughery IV for 26 years. We have three daughters. We live in Denver, PA.

I am an active part of my church. I am also a volunteer with the Veteran’s Hospital in Lebanon, PA. I enjoy traveling and scrapbooking. I also enjoy working in the garden and going on hikes during the summer months.

I am excited to be part of the Board this year. I look forward to the upcoming year of events that have been planned for Hay Creek.
40th Anniversary Festival Celebration

With the 40th anniversary Hay Creek Festival scheduled for September 9–11, 2016 the organization is looking for new exhibits and attractions to add to this year’s event. Since 1976 the festival has been about the heritage of the Hay Creek Valley where we focus on the organization’s mission of “promoting within our community an appreciation for our heritage by maintaining and instructing in those crafts, skills, and artifacts that represent our local history.” To add to this focus the festival greatly benefited by the 1980 acquisition of the historic Joanna Furnace site.

Today we are seeking out people who have an interest in learning a new craft or have a craft they would like to share at this year’s festival in September. Here are a few crafts that we are hoping to add to our heritage event:

- Butchering (pig, cow, chicken, etc.)
- Laundress (Hay Creek now has items to help with this impression.)
- Period clothing and sewing impressions (consider a fashion show as part of the exhibit.)
- Tanning and leather products
- Windsor chair making
- Early American games (Hay Creek can assist with games.)
- Quilting
- Schoolmaster
- Beer / Wine making
- Tavern Sign Painting
- Wheelwright

When Hay Creek started 40 years ago our members and the community that came together to share their skills. It’s time again for new people to step forward to show what their parents and grandparents have taught them.

Please contact the Hay Creek office at 610-286-0388 or email info@haycreek.org if you can help with any of these or other period crafts.

Monthly Events

The third Saturday of the month events will once again take place at Joanna Furnace from March to July. Each month will offer various activities, a flea market, and feature our homemade breakfast buffet. Please talk up these monthly events and share the dates below.

- **March 19th — Irish Breakfast Buffet** — 7 to 11 am. Celebrate the Irish with homemade corned beef hash, baked oatmeal and 8 other delicious breakfast foods made by Hay Creek volunteers. Live music included!
- **April 16th — Flea Market Grand Opening and “new” Presidential Breakfast** — 7 to 11 am. Come out and caucus with us as we honor the presidents from years gone by.
- **May 21st—Joanna Furnace Iron Works Day and Plant Sale** — 7 am to 12 noon. Joanna Furnace comes to life this day with live casting and blacksmithing demonstrations; the Joanna Furnace buildings will be open for tours and interpretation. Members please remember this is our annual plant sale day. Donated potted flowers, vegetables, herbs, shrubs, etc. from your garden will be needed for this event.
- **June 18th — Hay Creek Classic & Veterans Celebration** — 7 am to 6 pm. This event will feature a car cruise with motor cycles, veterans displays & reenactors, music, a pork barbecue dinner, and more! Stay tuned as details are still being worked out for this growing event.
- **July 16th — Archaeology Day** — 7 to 11 am. Hay Creek archaeologists will highlight the Joanna Furnace archaeology program at the Wheelwright Shop.

As in the past, each month starting in April we will offer a flea market at our themed events in which members are entitled to sell for free. Yes, you heard that correctly... members can have a FREE flea market table each month to sell things from their home! Non-members pay $10 per booth. For more information or to reserve a special spot in the monthly market please contact Kathleen Rhode at 610-914-8152.
Help us save printing and postage!
Email info@haycreek.org to receive this newsletter on your computer.

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**Become a Part of History ... Join our Volunteer Program!**

Select one of the following membership categories:

- [ ] FAMILY MEMBERSHIP $30
- [ ] INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP $20
- [ ] INDIVIDUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP $250

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**Pot Pie and Soup Sale — March 31st!**

Name (Print Clearly) ______________________________________________________________

Telephone Number ______________________________________________________________

Please Indicate the number of quarts you would like to order:

- Chicken Pot Pie  ___________ @ $8.00 per quart = $_________
- Ham & String Beans  ___________ @ $8.00 per quart = $_________

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED  ____________ $_________

Please make checks payable to HCVHA and mail with the attached form to HCVHA, PO Box 36, Geigertown, PA 19523.

Order Deadline: Thursday, March 24th.

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Back by popular demand the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association will be cooking up homemade Chicken Pot Pie and Ham & String Beans (with potato) for this year’s Soup Sale on Thursday, March 31st. All soups are sold by the quart and made fresh by our own volunteers.

To order simply complete and mail the attached order form or call the Hay Creek office at 610-286-0388. Note: Orders of 10 quarts or more can be delivered to you or your company office.

Order deadline: Saturday, March 24th.

Orders pick-up Thursday, March 31st from 10 am to 5 pm.

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March 2016