



HERITAGE BRAZOS

The Newsletter of the Brazos Heritage Society



Volume 2, Issue 2

May 2012

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President's Message

I would like to begin this newsletter by thanking Linda Roberts, Tamara Garza, and Glynis Gore for all the work they did for the Brazos Heritage Society in their roles as members of the Executive Committee last year. We would not have had the successful year we did without all their support and hard work. Thank you ladies for a job well done!

If you were unable to attend our annual membership meeting – held at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History on February 26 – you missed a great meeting! During the meeting the following officers were elected for one year terms:

Nat Hilliard, President
Dan Beto, Vice President
Kyle Kovel, Secretary
Beverly Myers, Treasurer

Blaine Brezina and his father Dennis were there to provide a slide show presentation on the project Blaine would like to do for the Heritage Park as a means of meeting the requirement for becoming an Eagle Scout. He has some really great ideas for the Park and has also presented them to members of the Bryan Parks and Recreation Board, who were also impressed and approved a majority of his ideas.

If anyone is interested in donating a tree for the park, please let us know. On the list of approved trees are the following: Burr Oak, Lacebark Elm, Live Oak, Vitex, Crepe Myrtle, American Elm, and Redbud. Feel free to contact me at nathilliard@verizon.net if you are interested in making a tree donation.

Sheila Fields gave us an update on the Boonville Jail community marker: she and Tom McDonald are moving right along with the project and we should have the marker in place in the not to distant future.

Our Treasurer, Beverly Myers, provided us with an up-to-date financial statement, which reflects the organization continues to be in good financial order.

President's Message Continued

Dan Beto brought us up to date on our electronic newsletter – *Heritage Brazos* – and mentioned a new monthly contest – Where in Brazos County? Please visit our electronic newsletter at <http://heritagebrazos.blogspot.com>.

Fran Lamb made a presentation about our first fundraiser for the year – Antique Side-show. She will be contacting experts in many fields of antiquity to arrange for them to evaluate the items brought in for the show. Additional information about this event may be found elsewhere on this newsletter.

After the meeting we enjoyed refreshments in the staff meeting area of the Museum. Debra Cowman, the Museum Director, had the Museum open for us and answered many questions about upcoming projects and events.

The new Executive Committee had our first meeting for the year on March 12, 2012, at the home of Elizabeth and Kyle Kovel – the old Cavitt House. They very graciously agreed to have the meeting there.

We set some new goals for this year, one of which is to consolidate all of the Society's records and any other property in one place. We now have acquired adequate storage and Homer and Beverly Myers have donated a four drawer metal filing cabinet for our records. It seems that the Society's records and legal papers are scattered throughout the membership, and each time new officers are elected there are box loads of papers transferred to them. Since I took office, I have had several people bring different things to me that they had been storing somewhere, in one instance, up to several years. Tom McDonald has agreed to serve as Of Counsel for the Society and to facilitate this coordination effort.

And while on the subject of Society property, I recall some really great bunting that we used to put on the Gazebo in Heritage Park for the Independence Day festivities. Does anyone know that happened to it? Perhaps it is in a box in someone's garage? We would love to have it for the 4th of July this year.

Please mark your calendar for our annual Independence Day celebration in Heritage Park on July 4, 2012. We have a number of great activities planned. You will be receiving additional information in the not too distant future.

Once again we have dedicated and energetic members of the Executive Committee who I feel will make this an even more successful year.

Nat Hilliard, President

Treasurer's Report

Greetings from the desk of the Treasurer. The following is an overview of our finance condition as of April 15, 2012.

Prosperity Bank Certificate of Deposit	\$ 8,363.50
Prosperity Bank Checking Account Balance	\$ 6,768.57
Total	\$ 15,132.07

For more detailed information about the Society's financial condition, please do not hesitate to contact me at 979-229-9414 or by email at mycobra@suddenlink.net.

If you have not done so, please send in your annual membership fee with the 2012 Membership Application Form, which is included in this mailing.

Beverly Myers, Treasurer

Plan to Attend the Antique Sideshow

The 2012 Antiques Sideshow – the Brazos Valley's version of the *Antiques Roadshow* – will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the library of Fannin Elementary School, located at Baker Street and 29th Street in Bryan.

Doors will open at 9:45 AM with reviews beginning at 10:00 AM. Doors will close at 1:30 PM to allow for all who have entered to visit with a reviewer. A \$10 donation per consultation will admit visitors to meet with a reviewer. Five reviewers will cover the following categories: art, vintage jewelry, china and glassware, dolls and toys, linens and quilts, books, and political ephemera. No furniture will be allowed due to space constraints.

Parking is allowed on the street and in areas reserved for PTO members and school staff. Signs will be posted to direct people to the event.

So dust off your attic treasures and Grandma's hand-me-downs and join us on May 19th for an exciting day at the 2012 Antiques Sideshow!

For additional information, contact Fran Lamb at fran1020@yahoo.com.

Fran Lamb, Events Chair

Electronic Newsletter Update

Heritage Brazos, the electronic newsletter of the Brazos Heritage Society, had its inception in May 2011. After a year in existence, the Society's newsletter has had 2,310 online visits.

While the vast majority of those visits were from within the United States, the newsletter's website was also viewed by people in the following countries (listed in alphabetical order): Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Namibia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and Vietnam. In decreasing order, the ten countries with the most visits are:

Country	Number
United States	2,025
Russia	73
United Arab Emirates	50
Canada	24
France	19
United Kingdom	18
Germany	17
Thailand	16
Poland	8
Egypt	5

For a more timely access of news about the Society and Brazos County's history, visit: <http://heritagebrazos.blogspot.com>.

On a somewhat related matter, in an attempt to reduce costs and to be more environmentally friendly, we are asking members with Internet capabilities to consider opting out of receiving our newsletter – *Heritage Brazos* – by conventional mail. The Society's online newsletter contains all the information as the one mailed to members, and much more, including photographs, contests, and time sensitive announcements.

If you are willing to forego receiving a paper edition of the newsletter, please email me at dan.beto@gmail.com.

Dan Beto, Vice President

The Brazos Heritage Society

2012 Membership Application

The Brazos Heritage Society is “dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of Brazos County” through efforts to: identify, document, and preserve the architecture and historical context of Brazos County; promote the community’s appreciation of its history through advocacy and educational programs; and combat the deterioration of older parts of our community through education, advocacy, and special projects.

Type of Annual Membership

Membership dues and charitable contributions are tax deductible. The Society’s fiscal year begins on March 1.

- | | | | |
|---|----------|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Individual | \$ 10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$ 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$ 15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Club | \$100.00 |

Volunteer Opportunities

The strength of the society is through the volunteer efforts of its members, Please check all activities that appeal to you.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as an officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Docent for Historical Homes Tour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Ticket sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work with archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Host a social event in your home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Address envelopes | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer home for a custom tour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with High Tea | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare refreshments for custom tour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research restoration projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Make presentation on Brazos County history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership development | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 4 th Celebration activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact me for special events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Children’s Tea | <input type="checkbox"/> Inform me of other options |

Membership Information

Please list your name as you want it to appear on the membership roll and on correspondence.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (Work) _____ (Home) _____

Email: _____

Please mail the completed form and your check to the following address:

The Brazos Heritage Society

P. O. Box 1776

Bryan, Texas 77806