

# The Gunstock Post

By Trish Plummer

August 2008

The Gunstock Post has not gone out in quite sometime. Since we are sending out our renewal notices I decided to update everyone on the happenings around the Historical Society and Dr. William Robinson Plantation. We are open every 3rd Sunday of the month, unless it's a holiday. So stop in, come see what we have accomplished.

In August of 2007, Scott McCabe had become director of the Dr. Robinson Plantation and Museum. With help from Cub Scout Pack 145, Boy Scout Troop 145, and a Girl Scout Troop from Clark, in one weekend they cleaned the Plantation from top to bottom. Quite a few weekends were spent cleaning inside and out through September. We worked very hard on getting the museum up and running for Four Centuries in a Weekend. Four Centuries in a Weekend came, we had over 500 visitors for the weekend. We have heard from the Union County Cultural and Heritage Association that we were the biggest hit of the weekend! Which made us very proud.

December rolled around and we had a Holiday Celebration weekend. The house downstairs was decorated to period, and upstairs we had Santa and Mrs. Claus. Children had a picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. We had enlisted help of a professional storyteller who read to the children. Miele's Greenhouses provided gorgeous wreaths that lasted for months. Another successful weekend for the staff of the Dr. William Robinson Plantation & Museum and the Historical Society. We are trying hard to reach out to people to let them know that we are up and running.

We decided to close to the public for the winter. Unfortunately during the Holiday Celebration weekend we found that the basement stairs had pulled away from the wall, forcing us to close off the basement for a few months so that we could do the repairs. The basement is now open and the stairs are fully functional.

Spring had come and the Robinson Girls made the house come alive for spring. Flowers had been planted by Trish Plummer and her mom, Ruth Ricken, we spent a cool, sunny morning planting. Lisa-Jo Jennings spent time researching the Herb Garden, and finding a map of the garden from a few years ago, has tried to make the garden as close to that as possible. She had help from her mom, Grace Schadt who helped with a lot of consultation. Trish and Lisa-Jo continually weed the herb garden.

Miele's Greenhouses made significant donations to the flowerbeds and herb garden, and extra herbs and flowers were purchased by the Robinson Girls. So, members please stop by Miele's Greenhouses and support them as they have supported us.

We tried to spend a Saturday cleaning the house for spring re-opening, but unfortunately the resident squirrel had us scrambling upstairs. He or she had taken residence in the closet, which in turn wound up being almost an all day cleaning spree in the closet. The squirrel had contaminated items stored in there, ruined the shelving and made nesting out of craft items, Christmas ornaments and other papers stored in there. As of now he is no longer a resident, I think we finally scared him off.

Other new interesting things that are happening, we are now waiting on approval from the county for emergency grant funding. We need to replace the heating system, as it is old, outdated, and heats by oil. We are upgrading to a Gas HVAC system. As a major donation The Elizabethtown Gas Company ran a pipeline to the house and installed a gas meter at the back of the house. The gas heat will be more cost efficient to run than oil. Also with the grant money we will have a sump pump installed in the basement. Every time it rains we combat water down there, which is causing significant damage to our artifacts.

We have had screens made by Heinz Ricken. Every window in the museum now has a screen, so we can open the windows and let the fresh air in and keep bugs out. This helps at times to ventilate the upstairs, which can get very warm.

Our planting room has been undermined by the resident groundhog. He is causing more and more damage around the property. The planting room has been closed off to the public because of the holes. We are going to start working on the planting room, we need to replace the floor. The groundhog is here to stay, has been here a long time; but we have decided he needs to use his other exits and not through the planting room.

We have also opened our doors to school trips. We had a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class from Hehnly and over the summer we had a summer school class come for a tour. We have reached out to the Board of Education and asked them to please advise their teachers that we will be happy to do class trips for them.

Maintenance continues on a weekly basis at the house; yard maintenance is what we are working on now. The back of the property has become so overgrown that we are clearing it out now. The interior of the house just needs light dusting, and mopping, usually done right before our open houses. If you are interested in

helping out please call the house, and leave a message. We will get back to you. We are always looking for help, ideas, and your experience in the plantation. Four Centuries in a Weekend is coming up again, it will be held on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 pm until 5:00 pm. Please come out, we can use your knowledge. Let us know if you can come help, we always need hands especially for that weekend.

The weekend before, Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be doing a clean-up, inside and out, probably won't take too long as we try to keep up with the house. Will have more information with times for that by the September meeting.

We are also planning another holiday weekend, it will be the first weekend in December. We also need help for this. Even if you can't spend the day, just an hour or so, would help us out immensely. We will be doing the house decorating Thanksgiving weekend. Will have more information by October's meeting.

Fundraising, anyone have any ideas on fundraisers please call the house, come to a meeting, send us an e-mail at [dr.robinsonplantation@hotmail.com](mailto:dr.robinsonplantation@hotmail.com) or jot us a note, new ideas are always welcome.

Our meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm in town hall. We try to use the History Room, but if there is a conflict we usually post a note at the front door which room we are in.

Also if you are driving by the plantation, and see cars in the driveway, myself, Scott and Lisa-Jo are usually there on a daily basis. Feel free to stop in, poke around, offer suggestions, or lend a hand, we are always grateful.

Hoping you are all enjoying your summer. Hope to see you soon at one of our meetings.

Trish Plummer  
"One of the Robinson Girls"