



Newsletter

July 2015

Issue #5

The Quest for the *Griffon*

For the past several years, the search for the French trading vessel *Griffon* in western Lake Michigan has been in the news, spearheaded by Charlevoix resident Steve Libert. The boat was built by French explorer and fur trader Rene-Robert Cavelier, sieur de LaSalle, near Niagara Falls and sailed to Lake Michigan. In September, 1679 it left Green Bay loaded with furs and was never seen again. Thought to be the first European sailing vessel to ply the waters of the upper Great Lakes, the remains of the *Griffon* are now referred to as the "holy grail" of Great Lakes shipwrecks. Intrigue over its fate and location has never ceased, and the quest to discover the ill-fated *Griffon* continues. Steve Libert has pinpointed a wreck near Wisconsin west of Charlevoix and hopes to determine its provenance soon.

Join us as State of Michigan Archaeologist Dean Anderson, of the State Historic Preservation Office, presents a program titled "The Ongoing Quest for the Wreck of the *Griffon*."

**When: Tuesday, August 4
@ 7:00 p.m.**

Where: Charlevoix Public Library, Community Room A

Dr. Anderson received his Ph.D. from MSU in 1992, held the position of Michigan Historical Archaeologist through 2010, and became State Archaeologist in 2011.

SUMMER MUSEUM HOURS

The museum at the Harsha House will be open Mon. - Sat. 12-4 p.m. through September 5. The rear double doors or the side office door facing the bank parking lot are open 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. for those who need to conduct Society business, do research, or purchase a store item.

WELCOME TO JACOB THOMAS

The Society would like to extend a warm welcome to Jacob Thomas of Shelby Township, MI as the new Curator of Collections. He began his position at the Society on June 29. The position of co-director has been changed, and your editor has assumed the title of Curator/Archivist responsible for photo digitization and preservation and the document archives.

Jacob completed his undergraduate education from Western Michigan University in public history, then went on to receive his master's degree in museum studies and methodology at Appalachian State University located in Boone, North Carolina. Jacob interned for one year at the Henry Ford Museum, and just completed a fellowship at the Stark Museum of Art in Orange, Texas. His duties at the Harsha House will include accessioning and cataloging all incoming artifacts, with a long range project of reorganizing and updating the cataloging of the entire Society collection.

We encourage all members to come down and meet Jacob.

VENETIAN FIREWORKS POTLUCK REMINDER

All area members are reminded that on Friday, July 24 the annual Society Venetian Fireworks Potluck Picnic will take place at the Depot, Depot Beach at 7:00 p.m. You are more than welcome to invite guests. Bring a dish to pass, serving utensil(s), your own tableware, blankets, and favorite folding chairs (we supply metal chairs). We provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, and lemonade. BYOB if you want something stronger. Tables will be set up in the Heritage Gardens area. Come one and all for a congenial social evening and a ringside seat for the most spectacular fireworks of the year set off on a barge just offshore. Get there on time because parking will be at a premium not long after.

This event will also be that time of year for our volunteer recognition and appreciation.

"WIZARD OF BOULDER PARK" PREMIERE A SMASH SUCCESS

The Society recently partnered with Bon Ami Filmworks three-time Emmy-award-winning producers Brian and Anne Belanger on the creation of their documentary "The Wizard of Boulder Park," an exploration of the life and influence of Earl Young, our internationally known master builder in stone. The documentary contains invaluable film footage from the Young family archives that has never been seen by the public before, and contributes enormously to an understanding of how Earl Young created and worked

The June 8 red carpet premiere at the local Cinema III was a complete sellout, with over 130 attending the gala sponsor reception beforehand at the Weathervane Restaurant, and a total of over 400 at the four screenings (one screening held at 9:30 to accommodate increased demand). The Society netted around \$14,200 from this fundraising gala.

The showing was followed by a most interesting Q & A panel discussion in front of the screen of the gala auditorium that included the producers and four of the "talking heads" in the film.

We are now pleased to report that we have been able to obtain theater time for **five** more showings, thanks to the generosity and encouragement of

theater owners Luther and Mary Kurtz: Friday, August 7; Saturday, August 8 (Waterfront Art Fair day); Friday, August 14; and Saturday, August 15, all at **11:30 a.m.** at Cinema III on Antrim Street. The fifth showing is scheduled for Monday, September 21 at **4:00 p.m.** precisely on the 100th anniversary of the marriage of Earl and Irene Harsha Young. Irene, an artist and art teacher in her own right, was the unacknowledged silent partner and underlying influence behind many of Earl's creations. The feedback from the premiere experience has been resoundingly positive as to the film's quality. Broadcast day and time on CMU-PBS to be announced. DVD availability is scheduled for mid August.

All ticket prices again are \$15 per person, available at the theater box office or by phone at 231-547-2661 during operating hours. Proceeds from the ticket sales will go to support of the Society.

Late note: Our repeat presentation of "The Coming of the Resorts" program at the Charlevoix Public Library on July 14 may have set an attendance record in the Community Room. It has a seating capacity of 150 and around 225 showed up, with many having to be turned away.

SPONSOR PATRONS AND PREMIERE SUPPORTERS OF THE "WIZARD OF BOULDER PARK"

The Society would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for helping to underwrite the premiere: Leo S. Guthman Family Foundation/Lynne and Mason Rosenthal,

Charlevoix Cinema III, Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant,
Charlevoix Country Club, North Bay Design Group, Petals

Sponsor Patrons: Burton D. and Suzy Farbman, George Haggard,
Paul and Sally Hoelderle, Craig and Deborah Mann, Lore Silberman

Premiere Supporters: Stefanie Appleton, Tom Bickersteth,
Lowell and Sharon Blossom, Steve and Marsha Braun, Deborah Buchanan and Gary Foster, Norton Bretz, Christine Brey and Tom Mueller, Jennifer Harsha Carroll, Virginia Cash, Vince and Mary Ann Chew, Chuck and Nancy Cleland, Mike and Rhea Dow, Gary and Denise Fate, Sidney and Beth Feldman, Shirley Gibson,
Bill and Pam Gnodtke, Julie Greenwalt, Tom and Ann Hanna,
Ralph and Mary Lynn Heid, Don and Kay Heise, Alison Hubbard,
Daniel Kantor and Emmaline Weidman, Bill Lovett,
Jack and Carolyn MacKenzie, Bernard Mindell,
Ed O'Neill and Susan Kroll, Sandra Moers, Gretchen Olsen,
Ken and Shirley Polakowski, Jeff and Nancy Porter,
Roger and Cynthia Postmus, Alvin and Patsy Ranger,
Dave and Joan Robinson, Jerome and Connie Rogers,
Mason and Lynn Rosenthal, Julee and Janet Roth, Karl and Pat Sessler,
Bill Sherman, Park and Lynn Smith, Karen Stankevich, Mary Ann Throop,
Paul and Linda Weston, Ken Winter, Drew and Pauline Young,
Ronald Zimmerman and Sue Livingston

Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers

The annual business meeting and election of officers took place on Tuesday, July 4 at the Depot. Kay Heise was re-elected to the officer position of Secretary for a three-year term. Amanda Wilkin of the Charlevoix Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and Charlevoix resident Edward O'Neill were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors ending in 2018.

Changes to the by-laws as noted in the June newsletter were approved.

A Message from the President

Dear Members:

What an exciting summer this has been so far, with two major accomplishments under our belt! First of all, the premiere of the "The Wizard of Boulder Park" documentary and gala event was wildly successful. I haven't heard that much buzz in town about any event since the Earl Young home tour of 2010. Earl's legacy continues to bedazzle people. We were sold out at the cinema by mid-day on June 8, and it was decided to add another showing at 9:30. In total, over 400 people attended. We are so thankful for all of our generous supporters.

Secondly, our new Curator of Collections, Jacob Thomas, started at the end of June. We are thrilled to have him on board with his museum training, tech savvy, and enthusiasm. His educational achievements are described on page one. Please stop by the museum and meet him. Jacob is at the museum Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join me in welcoming him as well as our new board members Amanda Wilkin and Ed O'Neill.

We are also pleased to report that the front porch and railings of the Harsha House are looking much better after having been stripped, stained, and painted.

Denise

The Society welcomes new Patrons: *Jessa van Guilder, Lisa Miller*

The Society welcomes new members: *Leanne Ackert, Amanda Wilkin, Ron Czar, Thomas & Kathryn Papiernik,*

Donations in memory of Virginia Million received from: *Virginia Cash, David Baker, Varina and Jeffrey Buntin*

Donation received from: *The Knights of Columbus to support on-going maintenance of our buildings*

The Society deeply regrets the recent passing of life members:
Virginia Emrey, Clayton Smith