



Morgan County Historic Preservation Society  
2008  
P. O. Box 1377  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
<http://www.mchps.org>

Winter 2009

# PRESERVATION NEWS

## UPCOMING WORKSHOP

### How to Research the History of Your House or Building

Sunday, March 22, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Joanne Stuttgen

Morgan County Public Library, 110 S. Jefferson St., Martinsville

Reservations required by March 20. Call Joanne at 349-1537 or email [jstuttgen@comcast.net](mailto:jstuttgen@comcast.net).

## Message from the President

Joanne Stuttgen (765) 349-1537  
[jstuttgen@comcast.net](mailto:jstuttgen@comcast.net)

Another spring has chased away the gray grime of winter. Like the first robin that brings the promise of warm weather and sunshine, our annual Cabin Fever Yard Sale and Antique Alley held on March 7 brightened the prospects of 2009. More than 30 vendors filled the Armory, selling everything from primitives, vintage linens, books, guns, and antiques and collectibles to beauty care products and baked goods. WCBK's live remote kept people coming by all day, with a flurry of last-minute deal-grabbers that pretty much cleared off MCHPS tables of donated goods in the \$2-a-bag sale. What little was left over was taken to the Wilbur schoolhouse for the Wilbur Community Center's flea market to be held March 21.

The yard sale netted MCHPS about \$700, but perhaps more importantly, it reminded people of our existence and mission. I heard one woman tell her friends, "They're the ones buying Grassyfork."

Grassyfork is certainly our most important current project. Read more about our progress below. But there are plenty of other things keeping us busy. We continue to rent out the Old Jail to Water to Wine Catering, while working with two different parties exploring the rehabilitation and reuse of the building. They are making visits with contractors, crunching numbers, and letting their imaginations soar with the possibilities.

Many of MCHPS Board members are now doing double

duty with the new Martinsville Main Street organization, which is going by the working name Rediscover Historic Martinsville. Read more below.

2009 is already shaping up to be an exciting year, and I for one am ready for both the challenges and the surprises that lay in store.

## Grassyfork Heritage

Joanne Stuttgen (765) 349-1537  
[jstuttgen@comcast.net](mailto:jstuttgen@comcast.net)



On February 26, the Martinsville Plan Commission approved the replat of Ozark Fisheries, Farm No. 1 into three lots. MCHPS will be acquiring Lot 1, which consists of 3.09 acres, and Lot 2, consisting of 1.81 acres. Lot 1 contains the building, while Lot 2 is the former rock garden site. Lot 3 will be retained by Ozark Fisheries. It consists of a 30-foot right of way between Lots 1 and 2 intended for a future roadway and all of the fish ponds and acreage beyond the historic stone pillars that in part define the west boundary of Lot 1.

Showing commitment to MCHPS's efforts to protect and preserve the historic Grassyfork building and garden site, Holloway Engineering provided professional services to MCHPS at no charge. Please thank Ross Holloway and his staff if you get the opportunity to do so.

As of this writing, a closing date on the property has been set for Thursday, March 26. We are now arranging for insurance, completing paperwork, and satisfying other minor details to meet that date. Once we have secured title to the building, we will pursue removal of the asbestos.

On March 13, Board members met at the 4-H Building to look at an illuminated Grassyfork sign that would be auctioned the next day. We agreed to try to get it for the Grassyfork building and its next owner and decided that \$200 would be our maximum bid. The next day, Del and Tina Chafey were ready, bid number in hand. Bids opened at \$100, and as Tina says, "went to \$500 within about five seconds. Del didn't even get a chance to raise his number!" The sign sold for an amazing \$1,150! That's money saved on our part, and money that will be well-spent on the building. The next owner will have to get his or her own sign!

In other news, our application for a grant from the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors was not accepted. We had hoped to use grant funds to develop a rehabilitation plan and hire a professional to guide us through the process of finding a new owner. It is our current plan to issue a request for proposals from parties interested in adapting the building to new use. These proposals will be reviewed by a committee comprised of various community members and professionals.

A second grant that we had been seeking from the Efrogmson Fund to begin restoration work on the rock garden site has been indefinitely postponed due to what we presume is the poor economy.

## Rediscover Historic Martinsville

Del Chafey (765) 342-6082  
[chafey@usa.com](mailto:chafey@usa.com)

In the planning and early implementation stages for several months, the new Main Street program in Martinsville received its official designation on December 18 at the Indiana State House. According to Shae Young, director of Indiana Main Street, this was the largest group of inductees in a single year.

Established almost 30 years ago by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Main Street program is a community-driven, preservation-based economic development initiative for historic downtowns in more than 1200 communities nationwide. National statistics show that a ten-year Main Street program reinvests an average of \$12 million in the downtown area, launches 70 new businesses, and creates 250 new jobs.

Board member Del Chafey is serving as chair of Rediscover Historic Martinsville's Organization Committee and is also Interim President. This committee is working to develop the structure of the new organization, including writing a mission statement and bylaws, working on papers of incorporation, and nominating the founding Board of Directors.

Board member John Badger is serving as chair of the Promotions Committee, which is currently at work laying out a schedule of events for 2009. First up is Easter on the Square, with an egg hunt and other special promotions.

Members of the Promotion Committee are also working with Julane Beetham of Purdue Cooperative Extension to develop and implement a downtown farmers market. An advisory council is now at work, with hopes of opening by May 1. If you have farm or garden products you'd like to sell, or if you know someone who does, please contact Julane at (765) 342-1010.

MCHPS member Karen Melaniphy is serving as chair of the Design Committee, which works on enhancing the overall appearance of downtown. This committee has joined with the Economic Restructuring Committee in pursuit of a Community Focus Fund planning grant from the Indiana Office of Rural Affairs to develop a revitalization plan for downtown. This plan will include economic development/marketing and design strategies. The City of Martinsville will be the grant applicant, but a steering committee comprised of local volunteers will direct the project. A consulting firm will be hired to conduct research and resource surveys and write the plan with input from community residents.

For more information or to get involved, contact Joanne Stuttgen at (765) 349-1537 or [jstuttgen@comcast.net](mailto:jstuttgen@comcast.net).

## MCHPS Board Member Goes to Washington

*from an article by Scott Roberts in the Reporter-Times, February 1, 2009*

A valued and contributing MCHPS board member for the past year, John Zody joined us as a representative of Grassyfork Heritage. As Senator Baron Hill's District Manager, John served MCHPS and his home community of Morgan County from his home in Bloomington. He has now moved on to Washington, D. C., where he is Hill's Chief of Staff. John will continue to serve as a Board member, consulting for us and providing input from afar until the Grassyfork building has a new owner.

"I'm honored to be [Hill's Chief of Staff]," John says. "It's a lot of confidence he's placed in me, and I hope I can prove to him he didn't make the wrong decision."

Zody has been involved in Indiana politics for about ten years. He majored in public affairs at Indiana University and learned about Hill and his platform while at IU. He inquired about a job with Hill's staff and now has become one of Hill's most trusted advisers.

Zody said he loves serving the area he grew up in, which is one of the reasons he got into politics in the first place.

"It's nice to be able to localize issues and meet people you know who you're trying to help. And I'll be right there where the rubber meets the road. That's what I like about it, helping the place where you live."

In his job as Hill's District Manager, John oversaw portions of Hill's campaign and made sure things were running smoothly—and that's more or less what he will be doing in Washington as Hill's Chief of Staff, just on a grander scale.

"I'll be in charge of management of his offices," John says. "I think he has 17 people on his staff, and I just have to help make sure we keep components of his office running smoothly, constituent services, the press. I'll work with the staff individually associated with those things."

John's new position will obviously mean he will have to move from his Bloomington home and Martinsville roots, but he said he will still keep in touch as much as he possibly can.

"That's one of Baron's major things, to stay connected with people back home. He's home most weekends, and I'll be back home as much as he wants me to be."

## News Briefs

Board of Directors

### Downtown Rezoning Ordinance (Joanne Stuttgen) •

The ordinance to make downtown Martinsville a protected district was approved by the Martinsville Plan Commission on December 2 and sent to the City Council for action. However, upon the advice of the City Attorney, it was returned to the Plan Commission for minor revisions. It will be discussed at the meeting on March 31. Once the Plan Commission comes to an agreement on any changes, the ordinance will be reviewed and discussed by the City Council, which must approve it.

Once the ordinance is approved and put into effect, an application for the Community Focus Fund grant discussed above will be made.

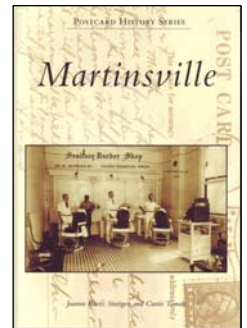
**Wilbur Community Corporation, Inc.** • How many of you caught the Wilbur Schoolhouse and the Wilbur Community Center in the January-February issue of *Indiana Preservationist*, the newsletter of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana? The issue is devoted to historic school buildings and their preservation. "The Wilbur School in Morgan County, constructed in 1885 and listed in the National Register in 1993, is another example of adaptive reuse of an old school," writes author Connie

Ziegler. "According to community activist Randy Marsh, this one-room school closed at the end of the school year in 1947. In the post-World War II era, school consolidation rang the death knell for the state's last remaining one-room schoolhouses, including the Wilbur School. The residents of Gregg Township re-opened the building as a community center in 1952, adding a kitchen and restrooms.

"After 40 or so years the original leaders of the community center were aging and decided to close it. But some local residents reopened the building a few years back and have been renting it to a church group on Sundays, to other groups as occasions arise, and to the community at large when needed. Although Marsh says, 'the building is a work in progress,' it continues to be a revered and relevant building in the service of the local residents."

The Wilbur Community Center will hold a flea market "awareness raiser" at the schoolhouse on Saturday, March 21, from 8:00 to 4:00. Explains WCC Treasurer Donna Clymer, "We're only charging \$5 to vendors, so it's not really a fund raiser. We want mostly to get some community involvement going." The schoolhouse is located on Wilbur Road, about three-fourths of a mile south of State Road 142.

**Fundraising** (Tina Chafey) • The **Martinsville history book** based on vintage postcards by Joanne Stuttgen and Curtis Tomak is available at the Martinsville Candy Kitchen. Cost is \$20.00/\$16.00 members, no tax. The book is also available at most downtown retailers. Proceeds will be shared with the new Martinsville Main Street organization. MCHPS must buy the book at the Candy Kitchen if they are using their 20% discount.



The 2008 Special Edition Cat's Meow piece is the **Homelawn Sanitarium**. It is now available at the Martinsville Candy Kitchen for \$21.95/\$17.56 members, plus tax.

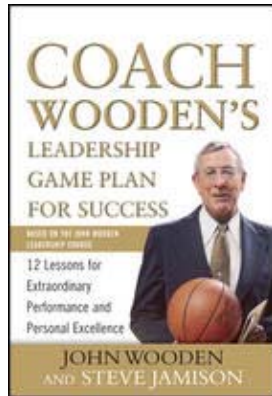


Our supply of books by Martinsville High School grad and legendary basketball coach John Wooden has seriously dwindled. Orders have been placed for more—including Coach's hot-off-the-press book, **Coach Wooden's Leadership Game Plan for Success**. This book came out from McGraw-Hill in mid-February.

Coach Wooden was released from a Los Angeles-area hospital on March 10 and returned to his home after suffering from pneumonia.

The 98-year-old Wooden had been hospitalized since February 13. "He is settling in and is happy to be back in his own home," Wooden's daughter Nan Muehlhausen said. "Dad is doing well, but he still needs plenty of rest. The family is asking that people not call or come to visit at this time."

Earlier this month, Wooden's family requested that fans no longer mail or ship items to him to be autographed. This means that MCHPS will no longer receive autographed bookplates to include in the books it sells. However, we have about 225 still in stock. When these are gone, they're gone, so get yours before that sad day comes.



**NEW BOOK! Available soon!**  
\$26.95/\$21.56 MCHPS members, plus tax

**We are online at [mchps.org](http://mchps.org)**

### Heroes Wanted

Nominations are now being sought for the 2009 Preservationist of the Year. Do you know someone deserving recognition? Submit their name, contact information, and a brief description as to why they deserve this award. Photos and other supporting material are welcome. Please mail this by April 15 to MCHPS, P. O. box 1377, Martinsville, IN 46151. Questions? Contact Joanne Stuttgen at (765) 349-1537 or [jstuttgen@comcast.net](mailto:jstuttgen@comcast.net).

### 2008-09 Board of Directors

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**Secretary pro tem:** Joanne Stuttgen, Martinsville (765) 349-1537  
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*vacant*

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Student	Free	<b>Thank you for your support.</b> Memberships expire December 31. Memberships received after October 1 will be extended through the following year. Please mail completed form to: MCHPS P. O. Box 1377 Martinsville, IN 46151 For more information call (765) 342-0391 or (765) 349-1949 or see our website at <a href="http://www.mchps.org">http://www.mchps.org</a>	
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