

2019 Meeting Dates

April 15
 May 20
 June 17
 September 16
 October 22

Our meetings are held at the Heritage Center, 2251 River Road,
 @ 7:00 pm.
 All meetings are open to the public.

Please use the Heritage Center Parking lot which is accessed from Blue Rock Road

2019 Important Dates

Open House and Native American Festival
 June 8th
 10am – 4pm

The Center will also be open the following dates:
 July 7
 August 11
 Sept 8
 Oct 13
 1pm-3pm
 Admission is free donation appreciated

Heritage Day
 Saturday Oct. 19
 9 am-4 pm

The Center is open by appt by large groups – please contact Charlie Douts at 684-9542 or cdoutsjr@yahoo.com

Blue Rock Heritage Center Open House
To include a Native American Festival
June 8th 10am - 5pm

Circle Legacy is planning a Native American Festival to be held at the Blue Rock Heritage Center.

This event will feature Native American crafts and demonstrations along with Native American food.

Craft vendors, children's activities, demonstrations and dancing are planned. A wigwam is currently under construction and hopefully it will be nearly complete for all to see. For additional information about this event, please contact Mary Ann Robins at 717-808-8060.

The Blue Rock Heritage Center located at 2251 River Road will be open during these dates and times and all are welcome to view the exhibits and displays. The Dinkel Butcher Shop exhibit is new and admission is free. Please park at the Blue Rock River Access.

Wampum Belts of Pennsylvania

Please join us at the Blue Rock Heritage Center on April 19 at 7 pm to hear a presentation on Wampum Belts of Pennsylvania presented by Barry Lee. Doors will be open 6 pm with light refreshments.

Barry will discuss Wampum Belts presented to the Penns and others as part of the rich history and early interactions between the local Native Americans and early settlers, traders and public officials.

Members/Volunteers needed

The Blue Rock Heritage Center is a non-profit organization consisting of volunteers with a passion for the local area.

We need help with creating and maintaining displays and exhibits, volunteering to help with the annual Heritage Day, general maintenance and cleaning and miscellaneous other activities. We desire to have the Center open on a regular schedule and docents are needed to serve.

Please visit our website, or contact Paul Hoffer 717-951-0089 or Charlie Douts 717-684-9542.

Witmer Barn Preservation



Get Involved

We are in need some volunteers to help get things spruced up and ready for the public.

Workday is scheduled for Saturday **April 6**
9:00 am to noon

A few hours from each family in the spring goes a long way to making this facet of our community a better place.

Some basic outside cleanup is needed as well as a tidying up inside the building.

If you plan to help with outdoor clean-up, please bring gloves and weather appropriate clothing. Rakes, trimmers, pruning shears are needed for this task.

Interior cleaning will include windows, floors, and exhibit space.

Supervised children are welcome to participate. Consider helping us and teach the youngsters hands on community support.

Volunteers led by Paul Hoffer replaced the siding and windows on the south side of the Witmer barn which was originally constructed in 1856. The large German bank barn is located at the Blue Rock river access and stores antique farm equipment and supplies. The siding and windows needed replaced and volunteers decided they would undertake the task.

The volunteers removed the siding on a Saturday morning in July and showed up on Monday to start installing the new cedar siding. It took labors consisting of 4-6 members working a total of 5 days to replace the siding and windows on the south side of the building. The siding and windows were also painted within this time frame.

LASA (Lancaster Area Sewer Authority) owns the barn, and leases it to the Blue Rock Heritage Center. LASA purchased all materials and supplies including renting a lift.

Volunteers are ready to replace the siding on the west side and possibly the north side this year. We will post a sign at the site with the anticipated start dates and welcome volunteers to assist.

Barns such as this were once very common in Lancaster County, but due to several factors many are disappearing from our landscape. The German bank barn was a very efficient barn for early farming practices. The bank barn style was brought along with the early Swiss and German settlers. Animals were located on the ground floor and since three sides were surrounded by dirt, the area stayed warm during the winter months. The main floor stored hay, grain and farm equipment. The large doors allowed for access to the center floor which was known as the threshing floor. Large equipment would thresh the grain in the fall, separating the grain from the chaff. Doors on the main floor overlooked the forebay allowing farmers to toss feed to animals on the ground.

We are thankful to all who helped to make this preservation effort a success and for the partnership with LASA as they exhibit stewardship toward the historic buildings under their ownership.



When was the last time you were at the Mill?

Check out these photos and stop by in person during the Open House or any of the dates during the summer which are listed on page 1.



Heritage Day 2019

October 19th 9am-4pm

The weather cooperated for an outstanding Heritage Day event in 2018 so mark your calendars for the 18th annual Heritage Day. The event is held with the Penn Manor FFA annual tractor pull competition.

Both events are located at the Washington Boro Community Park, located at the intersection of Route 999 and 441.

Kiddie pedal tractor pull occurs at 11:00 am.

Barry Lee will return with his bluegrass/county music beginning at 11:00 am.

Jesse and the Reptile Sanctuary will return with a presentation scheduled for 1:00 pm.

Children's crafts and activities include hayrides and barrel train rides throughout the day.

We also have craft/flea market vendors and displays.

Circle Legacy Native American Center will have demonstrations and crafts.

There is plenty of food all day and proceeds benefit the Blue Rock Heritage Center.

The event is free which is made possible by our sponsors. We wish to thank the 2018 sponsors who include, Arcing Rod and Gas, RETTEW, Turkey Hill Dairy, Interiors, R.S Hollinger and Sons, Slaymaker Electric, R&B Line Opening Services, and LASA.

Want to Reserve Free Exhibit Space?

Plenty of room has been reserved for anyone wishing to display antique equipment, or other items of interest.

To reserve a space, free of charge, contact:

Doug Kramer 808-4413 or doug.kramer@pennmanor.net.

Artisans, Craft Vendors and Flea Market Stands

We're pleased that popular artisans, craft vendors and Flea Market stands will be available offering a wide selection of gift items, trinkets and services.

To reserve a stand please contact:

Charles Douts 684-9542 or cdoutsjr@yahoo.com

