

Pentwater Historical Society

Annual Report

2023

Mission Statement

Pentwater Historical Society seeks to connect people to the history of Pentwater by collecting, preserving, and sharing information and artifacts.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Pentwater Historical Society is to enrich lives through access to local history, engaging members, residents, and visitors alike.

Goal

Our goal for the Museum is to establish and maintain a place and institution that:

- Is a welcoming place where people are drawn together to share their passion and interest in our history and sense of community.
- Creates and maintains educational programs and exhibits that are professionally presented and inspiring
- Has collections that provide a continuing source of inspiration and learning

2023 Overview

The past year proved to be a busy time for the museum and our patrons. We focused our efforts this year on improving the museum, our museum disciplines, and our programs.

If you had time to visit the museum, you noticed a significant section devoted to Mears State Park, with unique artifacts, photos, and signage, all of which brought back memories from the decades of camping, swimming, and sunsets.

We hosted our annual spring and summer dinners; this time at the AgBio Research Center on Oceana Drive. Both programs presented at the dinners were enthusiastically received; Manny Valdez gave a history of Mears State Park at the Spring Dinner, while Diana Stampfler discussed ghostly stories at Lake Michigan lighthouses for the summer dinner.

The spring dinner also featured the unveiling of an illustrated map of Pentwater, and several of the panels in the Building Stories exhibit. The maps and panels are displayed in buildings throughout Pentwater's downtown area and have been well received by members and tourists alike. Copies of the map were "sellin' like hotcakes" at the museum.

The June garage sale was manned by many volunteers and raised a significant amount of funds for the museum.

Behind the scenes, work and learning continued on museum disciplines. Three museum board members/volunteers attended classes offered by the American Association of State and Local History regarding better management of our artifacts and the documentation detailing those artifacts. An intern worked at the museum throughout the summer months, using a loaned scanner and laptop from the Library of Michigan. He loaded our donation records, previously only available on paper, into a museum database. He also scanned and transcribed paper artifacts in our Charles Mears collection, even transcribing some that were

handwritten. Those that were typewritten were scanned and digitized into a searchable format using that loaned laptop and its software. Additional volunteers began the process of scanning and digitizing more paper artifacts, starting with school-related documents, until the loan period ended. Funding was requested to gain our own scanning and digitizing equipment, and more volunteers have come forward to assist in the effort of archiving our document artifacts. The work will continue in 2024.

Another development, behind the scenes, is progress on the scale model of the USS Sequoia. You may recall that the Sequoia, the presidential yacht from 1933 to 1977, visited Pentwater in 1984 to great fanfare. (See our newsletter article, Fall of 2020.) An unfinished model of the Sequoia was donated to the museum and stayed in storage for several years. A model builder was found with the help of member Tave Reser and contracted to complete the model of the Sequoia. At the end of 2023 the work is in progress and expected to be completed in time for exhibition in the museum in the summer of 2024.

An expansion of the museum is still in the planning stages, with early fundraising reaching over \$400,000. Other work is underway to make the museum a vibrant place, with something for everyone to see from Pentwater's history.

2024 promises to be an eventful year for the museum. We look forward to making new history with our members and friends. Thank you to our members, sponsors, volunteers, and donors for their support of the museum throughout our history, and the years to come.

Sincerely, The PHS Board

Board Members

President -- Richard Warner

Vice President -- Bart Zachrich

Secretary -- Dan Girvan

Treasurer -- Mike Waidelich

Director of Membership Services -- Sylvia Warner

Museum Director -- Dan Hoekstra

Director of Marketing -- Jim Lambrix

Trustees -- Karen Way, Norm Shotwell, Beth Russell

Newsletter Committee -- Amy Vander Zwart

Volunteers

Thank you so much to our faithful volunteers of 2023! We could not do what we do for the community without all of you!

4 History Cruise Volunteers

2 Pirate Cruise Docents

1 Audio Tour voice volunteer

30 Museum Docents

20 Garage Sale Assistants

Number of Visitors

Museum: 1,432

Audio History on Hancock Tour: 211

Architectural Tour: 25

Spring Dinner and program: 110

Summer Dinner and program: 112

History Cruises: 251

Number of Members

271: active memberships

14: new members

Events

Community Wide Garage Sale

Guide By Cell

Water Taxi History Cruise

Architectural walking tours

History on Hancock

History on the Green

Spring and Summer Dinners

History Tour on Your Boat

Pirate Cruise

Building Stories Exhibit

Donations:

Tribute Donations, In Honor Of or In Memory Of: 60 donations totaling \$5,535

Artifact Donations: 16

Statements of Financial Positions and Financial Activities

INCOME	\$ 48,711
EXPENSES	\$ 30,616
NET INCOME	\$ 18,095

INCOME SOURCES:

Donations by Individuals	\$ 19,618
Grants	\$ 10,950
Corporate Sponsorships	\$ 2,500
Memberships	\$ 5,396
Garage Sale	\$ 3,511
Dinners	\$ (96)
Merchandise Sales	\$ 5,002
Investment Income	\$ 1,699
Other	\$ 131

ACCOUNT BALANCES:

Checking	\$ 10,469
Savings	\$ 71,512
Community Foundation	
Endowment Fund	\$ 51,040
Building Expansion Fund	\$ 423,397
	(including \$133,369 in contributions during 2023)