

Founded 1974

Hello members and friends:

The year 2010 had some exciting times. As was mentioned last year, we are still working on the organization of the office. Many thanks to those who try to work on a regular basis as this is a neverending project.

Programming and Events for 2010:

The Annual Meeting was held on the lower level of the Barn, as the upstairs was having its floor boards replaced and kitchen work was in progress. The program was a presentation of the 1975 film "Cobblestones and Memories" that was made about the restoration work on the Farm House.

The Barn Dance was held in March. Thanks to both John Freeman and Audrey Barkel (board members).

Spring Cleaning was the next event. Rugs and bedding were taken from the house, aired out, and pounded to clean them. There was cooking the the kitchen and chores were done inside and out.

Log Cabin Day soon followed. We had tours of the Log Cabin and an explanation of life in a Michigan log cabin in the 1830s.

Again this year the largest event was Hallow-Harvest. We had cider and donuts, pumpkin decorating, and even a milking cow (provided by Greenstone Farm Credit of Ann Arbor). The horse-drawn hearse was again in front of the house (courtesy of John and Marcia McCrary). There was a costume parade and music was provided by John Freeman and friend. There were donuts on a string that required only your mouth to eat. The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation by children's author Gordon Fredrickson of Minnesota. He writes children's books on farm life in the 1920s. Mr. Fredrickson signed copies of his books after his presentation. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with this event.

Country Christmas was our last event of the year. The house was decorated by three local florists – Saline Flower Land, Lili's Garden, and Enchanted Florist. They decorated the house for a Victorian Christmas. Music was provided by David West and Donna Baird with the help of John Freeman. There was cooking in the kitchen and the smells were great. A Merry time was had by all!

## Projects for the year:

One of the largest projects for the year was the installation of the Apple Orchard. This has been in the works for the past 6 years. Thanks to one of our interns, we secured the help of Robert Dulzen of Petersburg, Michigan. He volunteered to help us lay out the orchard and order appropriate trees. With the help of Mr. Dulzen and volunteers from the Board, we planted 2 Ben Davis, 2 Northern Spies, 2 Yellow Transparent and 2 Baldwins. We lost 2 trees – however, one was replanted last fall and the other will be replaced this spring. Watch for their growth this spring.

The next large project for this year was the replacement of the west porch. The project called for the replacement of the deck. When the deck was removed, water damage was found on the supporting members of the porch. This doubled the cost of the project. The Cobblestone Farm Association paid for the labor and the City of Ann Arbor paid for the materials. It is hoped that with proper maintenance the porch will last 20 years. Much thanks to the City and Ypsilanti Restoration for their work.

I want to thank the Master Gardeners for a wonderful year – Candi Sorenson, Graciela Rubalcava, Marion Spencer, Sue Walters and Eric Jenson. They were fantastic and we are looking forward to their return in the spring.

Preservation Eastern has taken on some projects. They organized the woodshed, stripped post-historic paint in the kitchen pantry, and will paint both porches in the spring. Many thanks to this group for their hard work and ongoing support..

On the agenda for this year:

Deaccessioning artifacts for the collection (already started) An exhibit of the diplomatic voyages of Dr. Ticknor Work in the office Digitizing the collections records

Please come and join us in the coming year. There are many things to do in and around the House and grounds. Many hands make light work. We hope to see you in 2011 at one of Ann Arbor's great historic places.

Thank you for you continued support,

George Taylor President

January 2011