

The Village Log

Volume 42, Issue 3

May 2018

Randy Conover

This May we lost a truly amazing soul and valued member of the Pioneer Village family. Randy Conover passed away on May 6th. Some people may not have gotten the chance to get to know Randy but some of us got to know him very well and had spent many hours talking with him at the School House or elsewhere around the Village. He was someone who was always willing to drop what he was doing and spend as much time as you needed just talking about whatever was on your mind. He truly understood one thing that many of us don't, that sometimes what you are working on can wait until tomorrow. Granted he did leave us with many things unfinished but that just means that some of us get to carry on his legacy finishing off those projects. He knew that spending an hour talking with someone was way more valuable than anything else that needed to be done.

Randy spent many years at the Village as our School Master and we can't even begin to count how many young and even older lives he influenced. He recruited many people to become members of the Village and he was also one of the first people to greet everyone as they came to visit us. He always greeted everyone with a big smile and a welcoming personality that pulled them in and let them know how welcome they truly were. He was always a favorite of our visitors during our events and during our days when schools came to visit. People would always go away remembering the great experience they had at the School House.

A tribute from one of our members: "Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village has lost one of its own this past week. Randy Conover has left us to go to a better place and in his own way, he left Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village a better place for his having been a part of us. A school teacher by profession, Mr. Conover loved to share his wide knowledge of early Ohio history with young and old alike. He especially enjoyed historical exchanges with guest and with other re-enactors around the grounds. He would pour himself into portrayals of Benjamin Franklin and as our Village School Master would demonstrate to our visitors the fine art of education in the early days of Ohio. Beyond the history, Mr. Conover had a keen interest in beautifying the village with flowers. He has left behind several beautiful flower beds planted with perennials and bulbs that will come back year after year to remind us of his love of beauty. We will miss Mr. Conover's quiet ways. He was always there in the background with a kind word of encouragement or a compliment for a job well done. Farewell Mr. Conover you will be missed..."

Randy is someone who will always be remembered by us and impossible to forget. We know that next year we will have to find someone to man the School House once again, but we know that we will never be able to find someone who can replace Randy. He will always be in our hearts and someone that we will never be able to forget. We know that his spirit will always remain with the Village and will always be looking over us.

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Upcoming Events:

June 9th – Village Unplugged – 12 noon to 6:00 pm

June 16th – Membership Meeting – 11:00 am (workday following meeting)

July 14th – Membership Meeting – 11:00 am (workday following meeting)

July 16th to July 20th – Pioneer Day Camp – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm daily

August 11th – Membership Meeting – 11:00 am (workday following meeting)

August 25th – Membership Meeting – 11:00 am (workday following meeting before the event)

August 25th – Cabins & Chrome – 3:30 pm to 9:00 pm

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Summer Events:

Village Unplugged: The sound of music will once again grace the grounds of the Pioneer Village. We will have five bands at the Village playing Old Time and Bluegrass music on the Stage including our favorite band the Dedication Band opening up the day of music. The festival will run from 12 noon to 6:00 pm. The following are the bands and the times they will be playing:

12:00 (noon) to 12:50 pm: Dedication Band

1:00 to 1:50 pm: Mark Whitt and the True Bluegrass

2:00 to 2:50 pm: Tailor Made

3:00 to 3:50 pm: Lafferty Pike

4:00 to 4:50 pm: Berachah Valley

Pioneer Day Camp: Our summer camp will once again happen the week of July 16th to July 20th. We have a few activities for kids but if anyone is available to help with the Day Camp and has an activity that they can do it would be great (something Pioneer related is always a preference and it can always be something as simple as making their own candles in the candle maker shop) . It doesn't even have to be for the whole week but could just be one or two days of the week if you can come in and do the activity with the kids. The camp runs 9am to 3pm every day.

If you have an idea for an activity you would like to do or you would like to volunteer to help out with the camp (we can also use people who are just there to help out and to keep everything organized), please contact Allie Jarvis.

Cabins & Chrome: Our car show will be back again this year and we are still working out all the details but as usual, all of the cabins are expected to be open and we will have the kitchen kicking out some great food (and there are rumors that someone may be cooking pulled pork for the event also). As usual we will have awards for different classes of cars, trucks and motorcycles. Registration of vehicles will begin at 3:30 pm and judging will occur at 8:00 pm with awards being given out at 8:30 pm. Registration for vehicles is \$10 per vehicle.

If you have a car, truck, or motorcycle, bring them out and enter them in the car show. We can also use help handing out flyers. If you attend any car shows or cruise-ins, please take some flyers with you and hand them out everywhere you can. If you need a copy of the flyer, they can be sent either electronically or we can give you flyers which are already printed out. Please talk with either Drew Browne or Allie Jarvis for details.

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Summer Weekends: It has been mulled over many times and this year some of us are going to put it into action that we will have parts of the Village open on Weekends that we do not have events going on during the Summer. One of the things that we hear the most from the public is why are we not open more often, and this is something that we need to start changing. Summer is one of the busiest times at Caesar Creek Lake and it is the time of year that we are open the least. Because of this fact, we also do not have any money coming into the Village and yet the bills still need to be paid (electric, trash, insurance, gas for the mower and tractor, etc....).

This year we are encouraging all house parents to be at the Village more often on the weekends that we do not have events. There have been many weekends in the past that some of us have been working at the Village and have counted 200-300 people coming through the Village on a given day and most of them are leaving disappointed because they are not able to go into any of the buildings. This leads to them not coming back for our events. We have also talked with many people and they are only here on vacation and become disappointed when they cannot go into any of the buildings or the Village appears to be closed to them.

With us having at least a few houses open every weekend, we can keep people's spirits up and keep them having a positive opinion about the Village vs the negative experience they have been having when they have left disappointed. We have also been discussing the kitchen complex (kitchen, sweet shop, BBQ Shack, Outdoor Oven) possibly being open on some of the weekends also and selling food so we can continue to make money to cover the bills throughout the summer. These are weekends that you would not be expected to be in period dress and you don't have to just be sitting around in your cabin as a houseparent but instead can be working on your cabin and around your cabin. All we would ask is if you see visitors coming by, take a break in what you are doing and verbally embrace them and invite them in to explore your cabin and tell them a little about the history of the cabin and the village. Also, be sure to always have our schedule of events on hand and push Facebook and the Website which we keep updated on a regular basis.

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Infrastructure Updating

Kitchen: Upgrades continue in the kitchen. The inside of the kitchen has gone through a facelift and the facelift will continue through the summer. The walls will get their last coats of paint and the back wall inside of the kitchen will become a big blackboard (well technically it is an orange color), the floor will also be scrubbed down once again and receive one last coating of paint.

The outside of the building will be going through a few changes also. Currently it is being painted and repairs done to parts of the building that need to be fixed after years of abuse from the weather. The “storm windows” for the ordering area are also going to be redone and new more secure posts are being put in place to make sure there is no chance of the doors accidentally being knocked down. You will see these changes being completed over the next few weeks.

Rest Rooms: The plumbing in the Breeze Building is going to be completely redone in the month of June. All of the old copper plumbing on the men’s room is going to be replaced along with a new water heater installed for both sides, a new toilet installed in the men’s room and new shower hardware on both the men’s and women’s sides. The Men’s urinal is also going to be receiving new plumbing. On the outside of the building we have two new lights to install on the building for both ends (so we can replace the haunted one that is on the parking lot side now that randomly comes on and off) and we also have a water fountain to install for all those hikers that need a refill.

This is phase one of upgrading and improving the restrooms. The next stage will be working on the walls and ceilings in both sides and making upgrades, so the restrooms look a bit more modern.

This is the first and last impression of the Village often, so we want to be sure that the impression everyone is getting is a good one.

Gravel Driveway: The gravel driveway has once again been dug and reasonably leveled off. What is now needed is people to scoop up the excess that was dug out and fill in the holes around the driveway. Along with filling in the holes, they also need to be well packed by driving vehicles over them numerous times, so we won’t keep having issues with the pot holes reappearing. This can be a bit of hard work, but it is much appreciated by anyone who has to drive around the village (or walks around the Village and doesn’t notice the reverse speed bumps that we have regularly around the path). The driveway around the Lukens Barn has been graveled once again thanks to Brownie. It does need a little more, but he has said it will be completed as soon as he has the spare cash around to get more gravel.

Gravel Paths: All of the gravel paths around the Village leading off of the main gravel driveway will be once again receiving more gravel at some point this year. We cannot say when they will be filled in, but we are hoping by the end of the summer (dependent upon private donations to cover the cost of the gravel).

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Sugar Shack: Paint has been purchased for the roof of the Sugar Shack. The paint which was purchased will help prolong the life of the roof along with filling in the cracks and holes which have developed over the years (and make it very interesting picking the right place to stand when it is raining). If you are interested in helping with repainting the roof or any other work in the Sugar Shack, please talk with John and Lois Boyd.

Lukens Barn Floor: Originally, we had an Eagle Scout lined up to do the barn floor as a project, but he changed projects when he decided it was too large of an undertaking for him.

Upon hearing this news, we started working on obtaining private donations to build a new floor in the Lukens Barn. The efforts for this have been progressing favorably and we hope by the time that this newsletter reaches everyone that we will have secured the private funding to help pay for this floor along with funding from the Village. This will be a big boost for the Village as we have not had a functional floor in the Barn for a very long time and this will go a long way towards making the barn a functional part of the Village once again and we can start to allow people to explore the lower level of the barn once again (more work needs to be done before we can open up the second floor to anyone going on it let alone visitors).

A plan already exists for what we are going to do, and it will essentially be a floating deck which will be totally independent of the barn and not attached to it in any way. This allows us to establish a floor once again without having to tie it into any of the existing structure. Work has already begun for clearing out the barn, but more help is needed to get everything out of the barn so once funding comes through we can start constructing the new floor. If anyone needs any more information regarding how they can help, please contact Drew Browne.

Linseed Oil: Last year it was started that the buildings were being coated in Linseed Oil to protect the logs. It had been many years since this had been done and it was never completed last year. This still lingers as a task that needs to be completed with the top half of all the cabins needing to be coated. We have the Linseed Oil mixture and now just need people to do it. It does have to be applied by hand, so it is a time-consuming task but not exactly a very hard one. This is something that we will probably need to do a few times over the next few years as the logs had been neglected for many years and haven't been coated. This is one task that needs to be done as soon as possible so we don't fall too far behind when the bottom half of the buildings were done last year.

Additional Notes regarding the grounds: We need to keep with minimizing our abuse to the grounds and keep from parking and driving in the grassy areas as much as possible. This is especially true for any time that we have events. When people need to drop off items either at their cabins or elsewhere in the Village, they need to remain on the gravel driveway, unload their vehicles and move their vehicles to one of the parking lots. The grounds took a lot of abuse and we need to be sure to not keep abusing them. This also creates many headaches for the grounds crew especially when mowing when there are a lot of unexpected ruts in the grounds.

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Getting back to how we used to be

Sweet Shop: Starting with the Village Unplugged event, the Sweet Shop will once again be open for business. Riley Browne has said that she wants to take a crack at running the Sweet Shop, so she will be the one doing all the selling. We are currently working on the Sweet Shop to get it back up to par where everything can be safely sold out of the building (including installing ways to make sure she can keep items cool that need to be kept cool).

We do ask that our Village members who are able to, if they can make items that we can sell in the Sweet Shop. This would be any kind of sweets that you can imagine and are homemade and you would be willing to donate to the Village to be sold in the Sweet Shop. If you would like to make items, feel free to make them and just make sure that they are at the event at least 30 minutes before the event starts so she will be able to set up the shop appropriately.

BBQ Shack: The BBQ shack will also be getting a facelift and will be fired up from time to time for events. The first event that we will probably have the BBQ Shack going will be for Cabins & Chrome. The details of what we will be cooking over the open pit is still to be decided but there is a good chance it will include Pork Shoulders and Chicken for Pulled Pork Sandwiches and BBQ Chicken Sandwiches.

Outdoor Oven: The Outdoor Oven will be used more frequently as Lois finds the time to get out of the kitchen and be able to devote more time to using the Outdoor Oven. Aside from events she may also start using the oven on the weekends between events that we want to have the Village open for the adoring public that comes out to wander through the Village on those perfect Summer Weekends.

The Food Court: All of the above items are all geared to getting us back to having a functional food court that will open up the options of what people will want to order. The kitchen this year has proven to be a very profitable area for the Village and we want to take advantage of this and attract more people to the area by having more items available for them to buy and making the area look a lot more inviting by improving the look of the buildings. People are eager to once again taste the home cooking prowess of our Village Members and we are wanting to take advantage of this by providing quality food for them.

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Eagle Scout Projects

The Kiln: The Scout who was going to work on this project has decided it is too large of a task for him to take on and he has passed on the opportunity. What this means is that once again we have a project available for any Scouts who are looking for a challenging Eagle Scout Project.

Meeting House Cemetery: Cleanup has begun on the Cemetery and will be continuing. The original scout we had lined up for this task has decided he didn't want to do the task so the one who was going to work on the Lukens Barn Floor has elected to take on the task in his place.

Kiosk for Caesar Creek: The Scout who said he was going to work on the Kiosk is still planning on building the kiosk for Caesar Creek and hopefully we will soon see it erected just outside of the exit gate between the gate and the dumpster. This was selected as an ideal location as the Perimeter Trail passes through there and that is the main reason for the kiosk being built is to be an information hub for the Hikers doing the Perimeter Trail around Caesar Creek Lake.

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2018 Meeting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Time</u>
June 16 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	11:00 am
July 14 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	11:00 am
August 11 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	11:00 am
August 25 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	11:00 am
October 13 th	Membership Meeting – Bullskin Inn	11:00 am
November 10 th	Annual Meeting	TBD

2018 Work Weekend Schedule

<u>Date</u>
June 16 th
July 14 th
August 11 th
August 25 th
October 13 th

These are the Planned Dates and they coincide with the Membership Meetings. There will be other days added during the year, but this are definite. Everyone needs to keep an eye on Facebook for other dates.

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2018 Schedule of Events

Date	Event	Date	Event
01/26	Polar Bear Public Paranormal Investigation 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM	07/16 – 07/20	Pioneer Day Camp 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Daily
01/27	Polar Bear Public Paranormal Investigation 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM	08/25	Cabins & Chrome Car Show 3:30 PM to 9:00 PM
03/17 & 03/18	Maple Syrup & Pancake Brunch 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	09/08 & 09/09	Civil War at the Village 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
04/07 & 04/08	Civil War Union Training Camp 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	10/20 & 10/21	Harvest Festival & Gathering 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
04/13 & 04/14	Public Paranormal Investigation 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM	10/27	Village Trick or Treat 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
04/21	Habitat for History 8:00 AM to 5:00 pm	11/17	Fireside Chat 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
05/05 & 05/06	Vintage Base Ball Festival 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM	12/01	Candlelight Walk 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
05/26 & 05/27	Spring Gathering 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM		
06/09	Village Unplugged Music Festival Noon to 6:00 PM		

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Contact Information

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Contact</u>
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