

# FIRELANDS

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY • 1857

### We're Back

It's been a while, but I'm happy to say we are back and open for business.

First, I want to post the hours that we're open for this season.

**Monday-Wednesday we are closed.**

**Thursday thru Sunday our hours are 11—3.**

**Starting September thru October we will only be open on weekends 11-3.**

**You can also call to schedule an appointment.**

We will be following all safety precautions:

6 feet social distancing—Masks are encouraged but optional for guests.

All areas will be wiped and sanitized throughout the day.

Throughout these passed months, our board has been meeting by way of ZOOM. We've had a number of board meetings held through internet. Several of our members took advantage of the safety of online meetings. Now that Ohio is allowing us to open up, we continue to practice social distancing for our safety.



Please check our Facebook page or website to see updates on our hours and days that we're open.



Firelands Historical Society is looking for individuals who would like to volunteer to work at the museum. This is a great opportunity to help share the rich history of the "Firelands".

You will be trained by our staff and choose the days that work for you. We have 4 hour days, 4 days a week: Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Sometimes you will be asked to help out at some of our annual and special events.

So if you have some free times or retired and need to be involved please consider helping us out at Firelands Museum.

We're sure you will find it very fulfilling.

[Curator@FirelandsMuseum.com](mailto:Curator@FirelandsMuseum.com)

The trustees of the Firelands Historical Society have begun the process of developing a five-year plan to revitalize the organization and its programming. For some time we have struggled to come up with a strategy to increase interest in the museum and instill the importance of history in our youth. Some of the goals and needs being discussed are:

- Additional space to expand our displays and move artifacts from storage.
- Bring related organizations (such as DAR and the Genealogical Society) under one umbrella.
- Making a promotional video for presentation to the public, social organizations, and businesses.
- Develop educational programs, exhibits and workshops for the public. An archeological dig on our grounds has been discussed.
- Increase social activities. We have had a car show for the past two years, and had planned a German Heritage Fest for September until COVID-19 messed things up.
- Secure outside funding from local businesses through sponsorships.
- Consolidating local museums throughout the area into the FHS.
- Involve teachers in planning programs for their students.
- Searching out grants as a source of funding.
- Increasing funding outside of memberships so that a part-time curator can be hired.

The board fully realizes that our continued existence relies on getting our youth interested in history and our museum. In our discussions, we are assessing where we are now and what we need to do to survive, with a focus on becoming an active, educational and exciting resource for the Firelands area. Recently, we were able to secure realistic life forms of a giant ground sloth and several Indians that were native to this area. However, we were only able to do this through generous donations from Richard and Midge Black, who have been instrumental in helping us build our native artifacts displays.

We are facing the same difficulties that all other museums do. Funding, of course, is the main problem. But more importantly, we need to come up with programs and exhibits that make people want to come in the doors. That is our goal, and we want our members to know where we stand.

Please let us know your thoughts. And, of course, we welcome your support either financially or by becoming a volunteer.

*Chris Hipp  
1st Vice-President*

It is with regret that we announce there will not be a Norwalk Area Garden Tour this year.

There will be an added feature in 2021. Do you have garden ornamentation that you are, quite frankly, tired of it? Me, too.

The Master Gardeners may have a fall plant sale. If they do, we will be accepting your unwanted garden decor to be sold during the garden tour. We will also accept items during their spring 2021 plant sale.

Items must be clean and in good condition. We won't be taking heavy, bulky items, such as bird baths and large pots, as there is no storage space for them (and, I am only so strong).

*Anna Bristol*

## New Arrivals

### FIRELANDS GROUND SLOTH

Also known as *Megalonyx jeffersonii* or Jefferson's Ground Sloth, this animal lived throughout most of North America from about 150,000 years ago until it went extinct about 11,000 years ago. It lived in forests primarily made up of spruce and hardwood trees. Thomas Jefferson first studied bones from this species of giant ground sloth in 1797 and in 1822, it was named in his honor.

The bones of this giant ground sloth were found in Norwich Township in Huron County prior to 1915 by Roe Niver when a bog on the family's farm was being drained. With it were several bones belonging to an Ice Age bison. The sloth's femur bone shows cut marks indicating that this animal was butchered by prehistoric Paleoindian people during the last Ice Age. Carbon 14 dating puts the age of this animal at just under 14,000 years ago, making it the earliest evidence of human activity within the state of Ohio. It is also the only evidence that humans were utilizing this animal as a food source.

Our Firelands Ground Sloth is a fully grown adult standing between 8 and 9 feet tall. It weighed about 2,000 pounds and had a diet of leaves and roots. Its large claws were used for pulling down branches and for digging.

*These displays were made possible through the generosity of Richard and Marjorie Black.*

### WAR OF 1812 WYANDOT WARRIOR

The Wyandot people, sometimes called the Hurons, originated in the area around Ontario, Canada, but were driven south into Michigan and Ohio by the Iroquois in the 1600's. They centered their villages around the present-day city of Upper Sandusky in Wyandot County, but their villages could also be found across Northern Ohio.

The Wyandots sided with the French during the French And Indian War (1754-1763), and fought the British during Pontiac's Rebellion (1764). During the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), the Wyandots fought alongside the British against the Americans. For the most part, the Wyandots remained friendly with the Americans during the War of 1812, but some chose to join the Shawnee chief Tecumseh and fight alongside the British. These Wyandots were under the leadership of Chief Roundhead.

Tecumseh's warriors, including the Wyandots, participated in battles and skirmishes across northwest Ohio, including the running battle on the Marblehead Peninsula, the siege of Fort Meigs near present-day Perrysburg, and the battle of Fort Stephenson at Fremont.

Our Wyandot warrior represents one of Tecumseh's proud and fearless warriors. He wears the "raccoon mask" warpaint and carries a French Model 1728 St. Etienne flintlock musket obtained in the fur trade in the years following the American Revolution.

*Matt Burr*





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Norwalk, OH 44857-0572

Firelands Historical Society Officers:

Dan Rood, President  
Chris Hipp, 1st Vice President  
Diane Meyer, 2nd Vice President  
Sally Jenkins, Secretary  
Kathleen Schaffer, Treasurer

Annual Membership Dues:

Individual - \$20  
Husband and Wife - \$35  
Business - \$100

Life Membership Dues:

Individual - \$500 (or \$50 annually for 10 years)  
Business - \$1000 (or \$100 annually for 10 years)

Send Correspondence to:

Firelands Historical Society  
P.O. Box 572  
Norwalk, OH 44857-0572  
Museum phone: 419.668.6038  
Research Center phone: 419.663.0392  
E-mail: [curator@firelandsmuseum.com](mailto:curator@firelandsmuseum.com)

Museum Hours

May, September and October - Saturday and Sunday 11-3.

June thru August - Thursday thru Sunday 11-3.

Closed Monday—Wednesday

For group tours and other special arrangements, call 419.668.6038  
or E-mail: [curator@firelandsmuseum.com](mailto:curator@firelandsmuseum.com).