

## Annual Membership Meeting

The AHS annual membership meeting is March 17. The meeting will start at 6:30 with a potluck supper. The Society will provide drinks and fried chicken, so bring your favorite vegetable, salad or dessert.

The Nominating Committee has met and will present three names for three Board of Trustees positions: **John Pearson**, **Molly Weston**, and **Ann Yeaman**. These are all three-year positions. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the meeting. Obviously, persons nominated must be members of the Society and in addition, they must be willing to serve if elected.

The members in attendance will then vote for trustees by secret ballot. Those votes will be counted and the new board members announced. Once established, the board will retire to another room and elect officers for the coming year.

## AHS Fights Developers

On Monday afternoon, February 14, the Apex Historical Society and neighborhood residents attended the Apex Town Planning Board meeting to protest planned development of Seagroves Farm. Over 100 Apex residents attended the meeting, including more than 14 AHS members.

The developers, MacGregor Development Corporation, acting on behalf of the Seagroves Farm Foundation, LLC, were represented by Priest, Craven and Associates, in the person of Mr. Craven.

June Cowles, a Town of Apex planner told the Board that the developers had met with Apex Parks and Recreation, but had failed to meet the most basic requirements of that body, that a park be set aside within any new development. Instead the developers want to pay a minimal penalty and build more residences. She said that the Planning Department had concerns and requirement for this development, and that so far, the developers had not answered those issues to the Town's satisfaction.

Mr. Craven then presented his plans for the development. These include widening Center Street in the area of Seagroves Farm, effectively adding two turning lanes to the existing two-lane street. This widening would increase the right of way by 100 feet, and the street by 75 feet. From these measurements, several of the existing properties along Center Street will lose their front yards, and possibly even their houses.

During his presentation Craven mentioned that the existing house, that interests both the Apex Historical Society and the neighborhood residents, would be left in place, although the road widening would come very close to the front porch, perhaps even crossing it. They

will, however, leave 10 feet behind the house to help preserve the historic nature of the site.

Following other presentations, members of the public were given approximately three minutes to make statements regarding this projected development. All of these statements were opposed to the development and ranged from representatives from the homeowners associations of the three communities around the projected development, members of those communities, to **Diane Long**, representing the Apex Historical Society. Diane presented a plea for the preservation of the historic site, including house, outbuildings and land at least equivalent to that required by the Apex Parks and Recreation Department, to create a historical learning environment for the children of Apex and the surrounding areas, a sort of "Living History Museum."

Throughout the meeting, the Chairman, Terry Rowe, was very tolerant and flexible, allowing as much discussion as was needed to present the issues at hand, to the extent that this one item on the more than eight item agenda extended for almost two and a half hours.

Finally, at the end of this marathon session, the Planning Board voted unanimously to reject the planned development and to recommend to the Town Commissioners that they do the same. [Editor's Note: At time of this publication, no date has been set to consider updated plans.]

—Brian McCullough

# Holiday Home Tour

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Homes Tour held on Sunday, December 5, 2004 was a rousing success! We are indebted to the wonderful owners who shared their homes with us this year. The tour featured the following:

Olive-Seymour House circa 1917, home of Billy and Susan Seymour Mills, at 107 South Salem Street.

Cash House, owned by the Apex Baptist Church, at 112 South Salem Street. The house is furnished and now serves as a home for missionaries and their families who are on leave in this country.

Penny-Yeaman House, home of **Ann Yeaman** at 400 Center Street. Ann displayed many lovely items of antique clothing that she has now donated to the society.

Maynard-Pearson House circa 1870, home of the Apex Historical Society, at 1101 Olive Chapel Road. The MPH was tastefully decorated.

The Sweet Shoppe was a favorite for those visiting the MPH. A new item was added this year to accompany the traditional homemade candies. Small muslin bags of mulling spices for making mulled cider or mulled wine were a success.

Our very generous contributors of money, flowers and cider were: **Jordan Oaks Retirement Living**, 10820 Penny Rd., Raleigh; **Lowe's Foods**, 5400 Apex Peakway; **Lowe's Foods**, 1405 West Williams St.; **Victorian Seasons**, 221 North Salem St; **Daniels Florist**, 2829 Jones Franklin Rd., Swift Creek Shopping Center; **The Flower Basket**, 5444 Apex Peakway; **A Bloom'n Garden**, 818 E. Williams St.

Pre-sale tickets were very good this year thanks to the **Apex Chamber of Commerce**, **Antiques on Salem St.**, **Pineapple Tea Room**, and **Victorian Seasons**. When you visit one of these businesses, be sure to thank them for their help and support of our tour.

The Homes Tour requires the work of many people. It is the cooperation and work of these fine folks who make the tour a success. The following people made up our Home Tour Committee:

Chairperson	Judy Miles
Publicity	Teresa Stern
Hosts/Hostesses	Helen Lawrence
Florist Liaison	Marion Smith
Tickets	Shirley Fiorentino
Home Histories	Ann Yeaman
Photos	Bill Stern
Brochure	Molly Weston
MPH Decorating	Teresa Stern, Shirley Beasley, Buddy Holland, Beth Stern
Reception	Helen Robertson, Judy Miles
Sweet Shoppe	Members of the society

Each of these people had others working with them. To all who helped in any way, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

—Judy Miles

## *The Dispatch...*

...is a publication of the Apex Historical Society. Distribution is to all members of the Society.  
Editor Shirley Fiorentino

Articles may be submitted to the editor via e-mail to **mysteryheel@mac.com**.

### Apex Historical Society Officers

John Messler, Pres.  
Molly Weston, V. Pres.  
Diane Long, Sec.  
Marion Smith, Treas.

Board Members  
Shirley Fiorentino  
Buddy Holland  
Diane Long  
Brian McCullough  
John Messler  
Judy A. Miles  
Marion Smith  
Molly Weston  
Larry Williams

# Volunteers Needed

The Apex Historical Society calendar for 2005 has been set. As most members know, we have traditionally participated in the Peak Festival, the 4<sup>TH</sup> of July Celebration, and the Today & Yesteryear Festival which are sponsored by the Town of Apex. In order to continue our participation, we need volunteers for all of these events. For each of these, we need a member to come forward to coordinate the event and solicit other volunteers to help.

The Garden Tour is a new fund-raising event for us this year. We will be showing eight or nine gardens located in the Apex area. We are hoping for beautiful weather on Saturday, April 16 and early blooms from the plants. We will need several volunteers to help with this effort. Please help make this new venture a success.

We have scheduled programs for May and November. These will likely be held at the C.C. Jones Center so we can have adequate seating in a single room. As yet, no subjects have been finalized for these programs yet. If you have an interest in a certain topic or speaker let us know, and we will try to arrange something along those lines.

Our biggest need right now is a coordinator for the Holiday Home Tour. As you know, this is our biggest event of the year. The Home Tour requires advance planning and it is important that this position be filled soon.

—John Messler

## AHS Calendar of Events

March 17	.....	AHS Annual Membership Meeting
April 16	.....	Garden Tour
April 21	.....	AHS Board Meeting
April 30	.....	Plant Sale
May 7	.....	Peak Festival
May (TBA)	.....	Program to be announced
May 19	.....	AHS Board Meeting
June 16	.....	AHS Board Meeting
July 4	.....	Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration
July 21	.....	AHS Board Meeting
August 7	.....	Ice Cream Social
August 18	.....	AHS Board Meeting
September 15	.....	AHS Board Meeting
September 24	.....	Today & Yesteryear Festival
October 8	.....	Picnic
October 20	.....	AHS Board Meeting
November (TBA)	.....	Program to be announced
November 17	.....	AHS Board Meeting
December 2	.....	Christmas on Salem Street
December 3	.....	Christmas Parade
December 4	.....	Holiday Home Tour
December 15	.....	AHS Board Meeting

Yes, I want to be part of Apex's History!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Class of Membership

Senior \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Contributing \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$50 and up \_\_\_\_\_



## A Word, or Two, from the President

March will mark the beginning of another membership year for the Apex Historical Society. It has been my privilege to be president for the last year and I truly appreciate the support and help I have been given. Soon we will be having our annual membership meeting, electing new Trustees and new officers.

2004 was an active year for the Society although much of the activity was focused on the Maynard-Pearson House. The roof was repaired and the house painted and the leak in the sunroom hopefully defeated. The contents of the house were photographed and inventoried. Several workdays were well attended to get the house and grounds into shape. As always, I need to thank those members who always seem to be working at the house; mowing the grass, cleaning, painting and everything else that needs doing.

We've had the opportunity in the past year to welcome new members to the Society and welcome back some lapsed members who have rejoined. We appreciate all of you.

One member recently expressed the concern that the Historical Society has become a social club and lost sight of its mission "to preserve, protect and promote an awareness of the heritage of Apex and the surrounding area." I must admit, I sometimes worry about this question myself. My concerns were at least for the moment relieved to see the number of Society members who attended a recent planning board meeting to express their opposition to the destruction of the historic Seagroves farm on Ten-Ten Road. To me, this is what it means to preserve and protect the heritage of Apex and what this Society is really about. I'm suspect this battle is not over and that it will take a great effort on the part of many people to find a way to save this little farm. I appreciate everyone's participation in this area also and I'm sure the results will be worth the effort.

Again, thank you all for your support and help in the past year. I look forward to an exciting 2005.

—John Messler



## Christmas Wrap-Up

The AHS was well represented in the town's annual Christmas parade during the holiday season. Several hundred spectators lined both sides of the main street early to get a good view. It was the largest crowd ever to watch a parade in the downtown. Bryan Farrar, a member of the Model A Club, graciously furnished and drove his completely restored 1928 Model A. We send a big thank you to Bryan for doing this for us the second year in a row. Bryan, of course, was the driver, and Buddy Holland was the co-pilot. Jane Hunter, Bryan's girlfriend, occupied the back seat. She was suitably hatted in a 102 year-old bonnet. We called her Granny Jane!

At the end of the holiday season, the Society purchased three artificial Christmas trees, two clear plastic containers with dividers for our tree ornaments, and a new card table with four matching chairs. All items were very much needed and will be put to good use.

We're looking forward to Christmas 2005! Many thanks to everyone who helped!

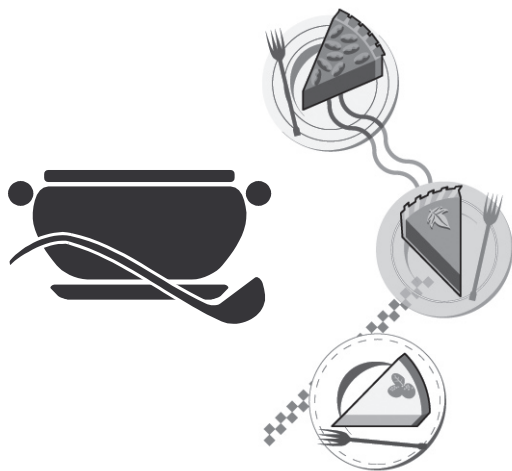
—Buddy Holland

# Plant Sale

April 30, 8:00–2:00

In the spring of 2003 **Shirley Beasley** and **Judy Miles** held a plant sale at the Maynard-Pearson House. The plants came from the gardens of society members and friends. Although it was chilly out, it was a fun and successful day. Many of the visitors urged us to have sales more often. The 2005 plant sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the MP-H. If you have plants to donate, we would like to have them. If you have extra pots, we could use those also. If you have any questions or offers of help, please call Judy at 363-3268.

—Judy Miles



## A Tale of Two Sisters

Before Lise and Joe Zublena rescued the house at 317 North Salem Street from sitting empty for several years, it was the home of Mary Schaub and her sister Corrine Phillips and her family. Mary owned and operated the Gingham Girl Beauty Shop downtown, and Corrine was a homemaker.

Corrine was a wonderful cook, and she took pride in the meals she prepared for the extended family. Mary would often brag on her sister's cooking, but would sometimes observe in a woeful manner, "You know Corrine just can't be satisfied with her cooking. If we don't eat it all, she says, 'It wasn't good'; and, if we eat it all, she says, 'I didn't make enough!'"

Molly Weston

## Soup & Pie Supper

The annual soup and pie supper was an even bigger success than usual! The turnout on January 20 was the largest yet, and, based on the scraped crock pots and empty pie plates, the food was absolutely wonderful! [See sidebar story at right.] Thanks to all the great cooks who shared their favorite dishes with us! The cooks included people who hadn't even been asked to bring something—just because they wanted to help. Panera Bread Company even donated the bread. A phrase from many old newspapers completely sums up the soup and pie supper experience, "...and a good time was had by all!"

—Marion Smith

# AHS to Sponsor Garden Tour

The Apex Historical Society will sponsor the first Apex Garden Tour on April 16, 2005, from 10:00 to 4:00. Local homeowners will open their gardens to tour-goers to kick off the bloom season:

Joe & Lise Zublena, 317 N. Salem Street  
George & Marion Smith, 307 Tunstall Street  
Mr. & Mrs. Denny Mercer, 103 Beechtree Court  
Mr. & Mrs. John Simmons, 104 Shady Lane Circle  
Bobby & Rosalyn Cox, 1616 U.S. Hwy, 64  
Allen & Diane Long, 1308 Salem Church Road  
Lawrence & Helen Long, 1304 Salem Church Road



In the event of rain (bite your tongue!), the tour will be rescheduled for April 23, also from 10:00 to 4:00.

Tickets to the event will be on sale at the Apex Chamber of Commerce, Antiques on Salem Street, and Pineapple Tea Room. Tickets may also be purchased at the individual homes on the day of the tour.

Society members will be needed to assist at the homes on the day of the tour. Sign-up sheets will be available at the annual meeting on March 17.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about this event. We need everyone's participation to help make this a success.

Apex Historical Society  
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