

Winter Meetings Fill Calendars!

Mark your calendar now—two popular AHS events are coming up fast! Our traditional Soup and Pie Supper will be held on October 31, at 6:30. The Annual Membership Meeting and covered dish dinner will be on March 16, at 7:00.

Molly Weston (362.1436) is coordinating the Soup and Pie Supper. If you're willing to contribute an item, please call her and let her know what you can bring. **Shirley Beasley** will handle set-up for the dinner. The Telephone Committee will be in force to get an approximate number for the supper—and to remind you of the event.

While the Soup and Pie Supper is a purely social event, the Annual Meeting is the most important business meeting of the year. Besides getting updates on the Society as a whole, the membership will vote on three board members to replace those whose three-year terms are expiring—**Diane Long**, **Brian McCullough**, and **John Messler**.

A nominating committee is in place to bring nominees to the membership. Further nominations will be accepted from the floor; however, nominees must have agreed to serve prior to nomination. Once all nominations are presented, the members in attendance will vote for trustees by secret ballot. The votes will be counted and the new trustees announced. The complete board will then retire to another room and elect officers for the coming year. As is our custom, the Annual Meeting will be preceded by a covered dish supper. The society will furnish a meat dish and beverages. As a special treat, "The Mellotones," a Town of Apex Parks and Recreation group of singers, will entertain. We look forward to seeing you all at this meeting.

Member Meeting

Recognizing that there are very few Apex natives left in the area, **Molly Weston** has developed a program, "Apex Buildings and Personalities," which she will present at the February 28 membership meeting. The program contains photos of many historic buildings in Apex, and Weston will facilitate a discussion about the folks who populated them. This program will be at the C. C. Jones Building on Holleman Street at 7:30. Refreshments will be served.

New Membership Year

Since annual dues are payable on or before the March member meeting, invoices for 2006 were in your mail this month. Along with the statement is a questionnaire regarding volunteer activities. The Society needs many more hands to fulfill its agenda. Please take the time to go over the list and check one or two activities you enjoy doing. Return the form with your 2006 dues. A Board member will contact you to schedule assignments.

AHS on the Web

Have you visited our web site lately? Do you even know we *have* a web site? Well, we have a great site, and our webmaster, **John Pearson**, keeps it updated regularly. If you've lost your last copy of *The Dispatch* you can download a copy right from the site. If you're not sure when a meeting is, look on our web site at <http://apexhisoc.freesevers.com>.

We've had folks from out of town send in questions about Apex—and some have even offered Apex memorabilia for our collection.

Don't be in the dark about the activities of your Society. Visit our web site!

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.
Shirley Fiorentino, Sec.
Marion Smith, Treas.

Board Members

Shirley Fiorentino
Buddy Holland
Diane Long
Brian McCullough
John Messler
John Pearson
Marion Smith
Molly Weston
Ann Yeaman

<http://apexhisoc.freesevers.com>

Stock Donations to MPH Trust

It is now possible to donate securities to the Maynard-Pearson House Trust. An account has been established with Edward Jones Co. that will allow donors to gift stocks, bonds, etc. to the trust. Giving stock to a charitable organization is an excellent way to expand the amount you can afford to donate. You get a tax deduction for the gift, and the organization puts it to good—and often untaxed—use.

There are some significant potential tax advantages for making a gift of stock to a favorite charity. Generally, a donor can:

- Receive an immediate tax deduction for the value of the donated stock at the time you donate it.
- Avoid paying huge capital gains taxes on stock that has appreciated significantly in value since you purchased it.
- Reduce your taxable estate by donating stock to a charity. If you have a sizable estate, that can divert the money in that stock away from the IRS and into the coffers of your charity.

Please remember, the rules governing these donations and applicable tax benefits can be quite complex, so you should consult with your accountant or financial adviser about your personal situation before taking any action.

Membership News

We're always glad to extend a warm welcome to new members in our newsletter and in person. Please make an effort to meet our newest members:

Lora, Ewan, and Kira Prichard
Margo Knepp
Cathy Dyer

Our faithful telephone group consists of Jim Shirley, leader and the following members: Dorothy Andrews, Laraine Behnke, Margaret Ferry, Edna Earl Friddle, Elva Maynard, Carolyn Ramsey, and Helen Robertson. We also have an e-mail group. If you are not already on the email list and wish to be, send a note to **Shirley Fiorentino** at frankfiorentino@aol.com.

AHS Calendar of Events

January 31 **Soup & Pie Supper***
February 16 **Board Meeting***
February 28 **Membership Meeting**
..... **Apex Personalities & Buildings**
..... **Jones Community Center**
March 16 **Annual Meeting***
April 20 **Board Meeting***
May 5 **Peak Festival**
May 18 **Board Meeting***
May 20 **Garden Tour**

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Class of Membership

Senior \$10 (70+) _____ Individual \$15 _____ Family \$25 _____

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

President's Message

A new year has begun. 2005 was a very active year for the Apex Historical Society with some important firsts and many memorable events. We had our first ever Garden Tour this past spring. Based on the turnout and visitors comments, it was a great success. The Society's membership came out in force to let our commissioners know their feelings on preserving the Seagroves Farm. Hopefully, we have helped save a part of Apex history through those efforts. We hosted a meeting of the Wake County Historical Society at the Maynard-Pearson House and shared some of our town's history with them. Our old-fashioned plant sale was an excellent fund raiser and demonstrated how much a small group of dedicated volunteers can accomplish for an organization. It was my pleasure to present **Harry Beasley** with the Preservationist of the Year award. It was with sadness that we marked the passing of **Rachel Lewter**, one of our oldest members.

It has been my privilege to serve as your president through 2005, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help and support. I particularly want to thank that group of volunteers who always support the Society and give so much of their time to the Maynard-Pearson House.

Going forward, my biggest concern for the Apex Historical Society is lack of membership growth. The population of Apex has roughly tripled since the society was founded. However, our membership has not significantly increased.

Can it be that none of these new people have an interest in the history of Apex or in preserving that history? I don't think so. "Small town atmosphere" and the "history" are the reasons many of these new residents cite when asked why they chose to live in Apex. Is it that they don't know that a historical society exists? I don't know. We participate to some level at most town events. Clearly, we don't have one of the big booths on Salem Street for the Peak Festival and other events, but we are there. Many people bring their children (big kids too!) past our booth to visit the caboose. Somehow our

message is not compelling many of these people to join us. Perhaps people know we're there but don't have any idea what we do or how they could fit in our group? I know at this year's Fourth of July festival one lady asked me very specifically, what exactly does the historical society do?

Finding answers to these questions will impact the future of the Apex historical Society as a viable organization. We need people to come forward with ideas and a willingness to help in turning this situation around.

John Messler

MPH Trust Financial Report

Income

Donations	\$25
Total Income	\$25

Expenses

MPH Maintenance	\$238.87
Total Expenses	\$238.87

Bank Balance 1/1/05	\$2158.09
Bank Balance 1/1/06	\$1944.22

Christmas Home Tour Blessed with Good Weather

As beautiful weather dawned on Sunday, December 4, tour co-chairs **Ann Yeaman** and **Molly Weston** breathed collective sighs of relief. The final element was in place for a successful AHS Christmas Home Tour. Committee members had been working hard since fall to secure homes, workers, permits—all the foreseeable things necessary to a good event. Mother Nature, however, always plays a critical part of a home tour.

Diane Long enlisted homeowners to open four homes new to the tour and one repeat homeowner. With the addition of the Maynard-Pearson House, the tour was set with six great offerings. Homeowners were

Nancy & Henry Brown
Marcie & Craig Courie
Kim Crenshaw & Larry Henson
Shannon Fussell
Shirley & Cloy Wells

We extend to all these folks our hearty thanks for opening their homes to our tour.

Teresa and Beth Stern, Shirley and Harry Beasley, and Buddy Holland outdid themselves in decorating the MPH, both inside and out. Volunteers taking tickets at the front door heard chatter about the outstanding decorations long before the awed visitors came to the door.

Harry and Shirley Beasley and Buddy Holland set up the sandwich board signs in front of all the houses and all the stores that sold tickets. They also retrieved them afterwards—in nasty, pouring rain.

Marion Smith enlisted local florists to furnish arrangements for each house.

Betty Williams and Ann Yeaman coordinated docents for each house. They extend their warm appreciation to everyone who served. We regret that space prohibits naming each participant here.

Teresa Stern proved that familiarity with a job makes it more productive. She was able to get photos and stories in *The Apex Herald*, *The News and Observer*, and *Cary Magazine*. As a result of the wide publicity, we had visitors from all over the state.

Our fine Society cooks played an important role in the success of the tour. Sweet Shoppe coordinators **Judy Miles and Shirley Beasley** did a booming business with the homemade candy donated by many members. Other members donated refreshments for the tour.

Shirley Fiorentino coordinated ticket sales, including pre-sales. She made sure all the businesses had plenty of tickets before and during the tour. Businesses were

Antiques on Salem Street
Apex Chamber of Commerce
The Pineapple Tea Room
Victorian Seasons

Usually, printing the home tour brochure is one of the biggest expenses of the event. This year, the brochure was reduced to a one-page flier and docents in each home were given talking points. Saving the Society even more money, **John Pearson** printed all the brochures from his home computer.

Tour-goers were thrilled to see spinners working in the upstairs bedroom. **Judy Miles** also invited a mother and daughter team to demonstrate their craft.

To make the tour seem seasonally festive, refreshments were served in the dining room. Ann Yeaman's antique crocheted tablecloth overlay deep burgundy. Serving dishes were crystal and silver. **Helen Robertson** poured golden punch which was accented by **Teresa Stern's** gorgeous yellow and white centerpiece.

Thankfully, as the co-chairs were running out of steam, **Betty and Sarah Williams** appeared in the kitchen and took over dish washing duties. Then, **Buddy Holland** helped with final clean-up.

The Apex Historical Society's Christmas Home Tour is a pivotal point in our community's holiday season. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who worked to make it a success!

Garden Tour Planned for May 20

When talking about garden tours, **Diane Long** becomes animated. “I want us to have them at a different point each spring so that different plants can be highlighted,” she said when explaining the dates. “We don’t want to see the same things every year.” Long has already begun securing homes for this year’s tour, but she still has room for more. “If anyone will volunteer their own garden—or will let me know someone to ask, please call me .”

The tour will be on the third Saturday in May. Times will be announced later. Volunteers will be needed to make this event successful. Please call Diane (362.8097) if you can help or if you have ideas for the tour.

Apex Historical Society
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