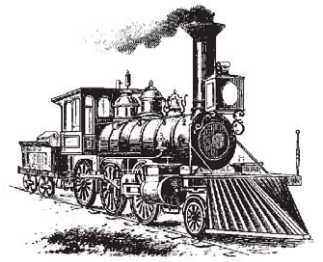


# the DISPATCH

Spring-Summer 2013

Vol. XXV, No. 2



## Spring Brings Garden Events

Once again, the Apex Historical Society (AHS) will host a springtime garden tour. The tour will take place on Saturday, April 27 between the hours of 1:00–5:00 PM. The tour will be held rain or shine. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 at The Rusty Bucket and the Apex Chamber of Commerce. The following individuals have graciously agreed to show their Apex gardens for the tour:

### Rita Mercer

103 Beechtree Court

*When Rita Mercer saw the house at the top of a hill surrounded by trees, she was drawn to it with an urgency to have a beautiful yard. Rita's garden contains everything from pass-along plants, like crinum lilies, to rare and unique weeping specimen trees. Small ground cover abounds under massive oaks. A pallet of soft pastel flowering plants adorns the front garden. The landscape has become so much more than envisioned—it is, in fact, a continuing work of art.*

### Rosalyn and Bobby Cox

1616 Highway 64 West

*The goal for the Cox garden is for it to be a place of refuge for birds, squirrels, and any person who needs a place to relax. Inspired by her mother, Rosalyn has*

*transplanted many plants from her mother's home. Bobby, an inspired woodworker, built the gazebo and a waterfall in 1992. The Coxes work with nature, to keep their landscaping a work in progress.*

### Annie and Billy Stroup

1924 Old us 1 South

*Earlier in life, Annie and*

*Billy worked at their vocations. Gardening has been therapeutic for both of them. Annie has received plants from her grandmother, mother, and friends. Now she and Billy enjoy gardening as a full-time hobby and a work in progress.*

### Nancy and Dave Bamberger

7625 Humie Olive Road

*Envy of other gardens inspired Dave and Nancy to create 16 gardens, some for every season. Honey Brook Gardens is filled with perennial flowers, shrubs and a few trees. It includes paths for walking, Honey Brook, which bubbles over four little falls, and the stunning Aqua lens fountain.*

### Nancy and James Herndon

800 Cash Street

*John Harris, with Tarheel Gardener drew up the basic plans for planting when the house was built in 1979. John Leach amended the basic plan and a brick patio was added in 2007. Nelsa Cox, at The Garden Hut, replaced and recommended plants in January 2013.*

We are currently looking for volunteers to host for two-hour shifts during the tour—either 1:00–3:00 pm or 3:00–5:00 pm. If you are willing to act as a host please contact **DiAne Benzie** at [Diane.Benzie@grifols.com](mailto:Diane.Benzie@grifols.com) or 919.931.7378.

## Plant sale

Just two weeks after the garden tour, on Saturday, May 18, AHS will hold its annual plant sale at the Maynard Pearson House (MPH). The sale will run from 8:00 AM until noon—rain or shine. The plant sale is a great way to pick up some bargain-priced plants—both annuals and perennials—for your spring planting.

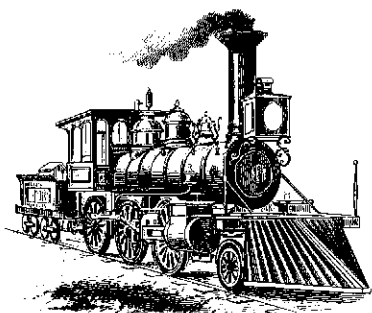
# A note from the prez...

Spring is finally here, and to celebrate the season the Historical Society is hosting both a garden tour and a plant sale. We hope you'll support these events by volunteering, offering plants, and attending. It would be great if you'd invite neighbors and friends to participate, too.

At the Society's Annual General Meeting in March two new board members were elected. Please join me in welcoming Karen Reed and Diane Long onto the board. A special thank you goes to outgoing board members Mack Thorpe, Pat Pullen, and LaVerne Seagroves.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support of the Historical Society. Please remember to participate in our upcoming activities of the garden tour and plant sale. You'll be glad you did!!!

- Mary Petersen



## Officers & Board

To Be Named, President

To Be Named, Vice President

To Be Named, Secretary

John Messler, Treasurer  
919.362.4123  
jmessler@nc.rr.com

DiAne Benzie  
919.303.5667  
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Karen Reed  
919.303.8504  
karreed04@yahoo.com



Board members DiAne Benzie, Shirley Fiorentino, John Messler, Karen Reed, John Pearson. Not pictured, Margo Knepp and Diane Long.

## Re-Members

Dorothy Andrews

**Mary Lou & William Booth\***

Jacquelyn Burgess

Lib Covington

Rosalyn Cox

Shirley & Frank Fiorentino

Margaret Francis

Bill & Dot Goodwin

Jeanne Hack

Stephen & Eleanor Hennessey

Hugh & Rebecca McKinley

Coleen Newman

Mary & Mike Petersen

Patricia Pullen

**The Stuart Pullen & Sherry Clough Family\***

Bill & Claire Rousseau

Rob & Courtney Rousseau  
& Sons

\* New Members



Dot Goodwin, Caley Petersen, and Jacque Burgess obviously enjoyed "The Secret Language of Love" program.

## Memorials

In memory of Dr. Oscar & Mrs. Elizabeth Goodwin  
given by Bill & Dot Goodwin

In memory of Charlie Brooks, Carl Holleman &  
Ruthie Hodson given by the Rousseau Family

In memory of Margaret Benton Ferry by  
Margaret Francis

In memory of Edna Earle Stephens Friddle by  
Margaret Francis

In memory of Clarence Edwards by  
William & Mary Lou Booth

In memory of Margaret Ferry by  
Jacquelyn Burgess



John Messler and DiAne Benzie await customers for the Society's tote bags and railroad caps. J. C. Knowles is in the background.

# Speaker Series Continues

by Pat Pullen & Claire Rousseau

Interest in the monthly AHS speaker series at the Halle Cultural Arts Center continues to bring out members and non-members alike.

The “Apex Buildings and Personalities” program by Molly Weston on Tuesday, January 22 was very well attended, probably due to Molly’s extremely relaxed way in talking about a subject she obviously knows a great deal about and loves very much. Once the audience warmed up and started to participate, it was more like a gathering of old friends discussing old times and past memories. The slides and related stories certainly jogged many old memories as folks shared anecdotes about old neighbors, friends, school teachers, and store keepers.

For those of us who were not fortunate enough to have grown up here, but who have come to love the place we now live in, it was enlightening to hear how things have changed, such as that the building we were all sat in was once the town hall, theater, and even local cinema! We all came away with a taste of what it had been like to grow up in the Town of Apex.

After the presentation the AHS held our annual pie social (I am sure this had no bearing on the number of people attending, it did however have a good effect on the number of pies!). The pies were really good! There were so many, with great variety, making which one to try a difficult choice, but seconds were always an option and even a few “take alwasy at the end. All in all a great night with friends and a *sweet* ending.

—Pullen



Valentine-themed refreshments await while Ann Yeaman and Claire Rousseau talk about their high school autograph books.



“The Language of Love” lecture on Tuesday, February 12 featured decorative artist Melissa Linebeck. Melissa led the group in passing on the tradition of signature diaries to a young member. Many members remembered this custom was especially popular when they were in high school. After instruction from Melissa, we all enjoyed flirting with our fans and practicing fan moves to speak silently to our loved one. Melissa really enjoys her passion for Victorian traditions. Everyone agreed—it was an enjoyable evening.

—Rousseau

Pat Pullen, Shirley Fiorentino, Jan Brooks, and Caley Petersen arrange pies for the January social.



The scale model of Downtown Apex fashioned by members of the North Raleigh Model Railroad Club.

“The World’s Greatest Hobby” was presented on Tuesday, March 12 by John Wallis, a member of the North Raleigh Model Railroad Club (NRMRC). Wallis explained exactly what it is about model railroading that makes it a great hobby—not just a group of men trying to relive their childhood! The NRMRC deal mainly with N-scale modeling, but he explained the variety of sizes available and the room required for a running a layout. Even if you only have a studio apartment you could still have a personal layout on a 3’ x 4’ board that can be stored under a bed, in the smallest T-scale trains.

The club provides a meeting of like-minded people who can share the variety of talents required to build and maintain a model railroad layout. He explained the types of layouts from a single line running a train back and forth,

to a room-size detailed scenic design, plus a modular system that enables the construction of pieces that could be linked together in various ways to make smaller and larger layouts as time and space allowed.

He explained the diversity of talents required in participation of this hobby so that no matter what one’s interest, skills or background (such as engineering in building the trains, construction of buildings, landscapes, etc. or painting, design, replication, history, electronics and now computer controls), there could be something that would interest you.

Club members brought along a modular layout displaying various different scenic pieces, plus a layout of the Apex Downtown area as it existed in the mid-to-late 1970’s, featuring the tracks of the Seaboard and the Durham & Southern Railroads, along with appropriate railroad buildings, industries, and stores along Salem Street. Although the event was attended by only a small group of people, but we did out number the NRMRC members present (obviously everyone else was too busy playing with their own train set at home!), but it was appreciated by those of us there, especially being able to see the trains and a tram, working and recognize the skills, work and effort that had gone into the overall construction. Thanks, guys, well done!

—Pullen



# Annual Meeting Update

by Claire Rousseau

A full house of Society members gathered to celebrate Charter Night at the Maynard Pearson House March 21, 2013. In keeping with our annual meetings, we ate, reminisced, and elected our Apex Historical Society Board for the coming year.

Members were delighted to find tables set with colorful Society 25th Anniversary place mats on the tables. A pictorial of preserving, protecting and promoting our Apex history reflected a very meaningful contribution to the lifestyle of today's Apex.

Outgoing President Mary Petersen opened the meeting to report a successful year with funds in the bank, thanks to a well attended holiday home tour. She thanked all members for their help and the homeowners for opening their homes for the downtown tour. Next year's tour will be on Sunday, December 8, the day after the annual Saturday Christmas Parade.

Mary acknowledged the contributions of the 25th anniversary committee, cochaired by our first Society President Jan Brooks and board member Shirley Fiorentino. She announced the Garden Tour Saturday April 27 chaired by Diane Long and the upcoming Plant Sale on May 11 at the Maynard Pearson House.

Peak Fest participation will be at the Apex Caboose site on Saturday, May 4. Please go to our Apex Historical web site, [www.ApexHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.ApexHistoricalSociety.com), for further information on these events.

President Emeritus Jan Brooks presents the Mayoral Proclamation to the Society.



Jan Brooks surprised Bill & Claire Rousseau by designating them head conductors of the 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Jan Brooks, our first Society president, proudly read Keith H. Weatherly's Mayoral Proclamation, that he presented at our October Founders' Day Event. The framed document thanked the Society for all our contributions to historical Apex, including the research for the 1914 Depot Historic register, the placing of plaques on the 1912 Old Town Hall and the Depot, bringing the Caboose to the town, helping achieve Historic District Status for downtown, our annual home tours which have spotlighted old homes and renewed interest in saving them, preserving the Maynard Pearson House as a town museum and the walking tours and garden tours to enjoy the beauty of our southern spring.

Jan thanked the Society for honoring her with a Lifetime Appreciation Membership Award at our Founders' Day Event. She also surprised founding members, Bill and Claire Rousseau with a 25th Anniversary Award as "head conductors" for their contributions and support working with her over the last 25 years. She also lovingly remembered the support of her departed husband, Charlie Brooks, for his encouragement forming the Apex Historical Society.

We thank Jan, the founding members and Charter Members, for their saying "yes" to caring and working to preserve Historic Apex. We, as a Society, can be proud to hear Apex called one of the best preserved railroad town in North Carolina.

# What It Means to Me

by Claire Rousseau

After twenty-five years, I sometimes take for granted all our Apex Historical Society has accomplished until I hear a new member comment, "I don't know how it used to be since I've only been here a short time." With that thought in mind I'm presenting the first seven years of our society's annual pot luck supper and meeting place mats for future discussion. Our beginnings, first activities, happy days of planning, dreaming and working to give us the pictures on "Happy 25th Anniversary Apex Historical Society" place mat used at our Charter night Annual meeting March 21, 2013.

We looked at the pictures together that night and wondered what might the 50th Anniversary place mat contain as we think big, plan, dream, and work together to preserve, protect, and promote our Apex History. With our past society history I'm sure it will be something memorable!

It's been an enjoyable train ride on the Apex Express with so many happy travelers on board. A thank you to all our members and appreciation to Mary Petersen for leading our society on our 25th year adventure.

Best to all, Claire

Mary Petersen organizes our 25th Anniversary picture wall at the Maynard Pearson House.

# Monthly Home Tours

by Shirley Fiorentino

Since April of last year, the Maynard Pearson House has been open on the third Sunday of every month from 2:00–4:00 pm. Several people who have been involved since the onset need to be thanked for their time and knowledge shared. They include John and June Pearson, John Messler, Molly Weston, DiAne Benzie, Bill and Claire Rousseau, Jane Spanton, and Susan Mills. If I have missed anyone, please accept apologies. While we enjoyed sharing the home's history with several groups, the numbers have not been great enough to continue on a regular basis. We will be happy to open it for private groups upon request in the future and will reconsider regular openings at a later time. Again, my personal thanks to each of you who willingly gave your time to this project.



## Apex Historical Society

PO BOX 506 • Apex NC 27502

2012 Membership Application/Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Class - Please Circle

Individual \$15 • Senior (70+) \$10 • Family \$25 • Contributing \$35 • Sustaining \$50 • Patron \$100

2-Year Business \$100

# Presentations

by Claire Rousseau

**B**ill and Claire Rousseau, founding members from 1987, were on hand to enjoy our 25th Charter Celebration. Claire made four presentations, while Bill



did what Bill likes to do best, take the pictures.

The first item was a framed print of our first board, as seen in a previous Dispatch. The second was a framed Founders Day Program with our society presidents from 1987 to 2013. These will be placed with the

25th Anniversary Proclamation as a reminder of our beginnings.

The next item presented was a book by Kelly Lally, *Historic Architecture of Wake County*, given by founding members Harvey and Pat Shankle.

The last item given to the Society by Claire and Bill, as part of our 25th celebration, was a commemorative plate, found in Greg's Antique Store downtown, of the Apex Baptist Church, which was moved to its present site in 1912, the same year as the building of the Town Hall (The Halle Cultural Arts Center). What an exciting time this must have been for the Town of Apex established in 1873. Claire encouraged members to donate other church plates for our Maynard Pearson House memory church room. The Maynard Pearson House Museum preserves a visual history of old Apex.

**Apex Historical Society**

PO Box 506

Apex NC 27502