

News&Views

from the

Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum

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Yard and Crafts Sale Will Benefit the Entire Museum

On Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11, we will host an event to benefit all aspects of the Museum: the Boal Mansion, Columbus Chapel and Exhibit Room, Boal Barn Playhouse, American Life and Transportation Exhibit, and all 48+ acres of lawns, beautiful gardens, and trails. The sale will be open from 10 am to 4 pm both Saturday and Sunday. Included in the sale will be:

- » A dozen quality crafters' tents and food trucks on the lawn between the Barn and the Mansion
- » Museum tents containing \$2 and \$5 items, also on the lawn
- » A massive used-book sale upstairs in the Playhouse (entry on the upper level), including hardcover and paperback editions of history, fiction, science, gardening, cooking, and many other topics
- » Antiques and collectibles for sale downstairs (entry on the lower level)



A view from the hill, showing the Boal Barn on the right and the broad lawn (below the amphitheater), where tents will be set up for the sale on October 10 and 11.

Photo by Mary Szmolko

Masks and **social distancing** will be required for all visitors, salespeople, and Museum staff. Tents will be spaced to enable distancing. Inside the Barn, the number of visitors will be **limited to five** or fewer at a time.

No entry or parking fee is requested, although donations will be cheerfully accepted at the Museum's tents.

The following two photo-essays should help readers understand the scope of work undertaken this summer.

Achievements This Season: Indoors

Thanks to the endless energy of Museum Director Bob Cameron and a remarkable number of volunteers who worked at the Museum throughout the spring and summer—in spite of the pandemic—ours was the only museum in Centre County open for tours. Bob wisely limited tour groups to friends or family members and required masks and distancing. He took reservations for two tours a day, 7 days a week. By early August, tours were booked well into September. Most of our regular docents were available to give tours and we even added a new docent this summer.

Between tours, Bob and volunteers have worked almost daily to complete and extended many of our exhibits:

- » The Armory Extension on the second floor of the Boal Mansion (photos below and on next page)
- » Colonel Theodore Davis Boal's suite, also on the Mansion's second floor
- » The American Life and Transportation exhibit, adding an annex to display additional restored carriages

One of numerous displays in the Armory Extension, this one showing a WWI commemorative medal awarded to Pierre Boal, along with letters he wrote home.

Photo by Mary Szmolko





One cabinet in the Armory Extension displays medals awarded to Theodore Boal and his son Pierre Boal during WWI. Because his mother was French, Pierre was able to join the fighting first as a French soldier and then as a captain in the Lafayette Flying Corps; when the United States entered the war, he joined the US Army Air Service.

A military desk is arranged with some of then-Captain Theodore Boal's books and clothing. He was the Aide-de-Camp to General John "Black Jack" Pershing, who was Commander of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe.



The room has an extensive display of American, French, and German maps, posters, letters, and photographs from Terry and Pierre's WWI experiences.

Photos by Mary Szmolko

Accomplishments This Season: Outdoors

Growing Gardens

In September, the Bellefonte Garden Club held their monthly meeting on the Museum grounds and kindly donated a variety of plants for our gardens. Bob and various garden volunteers have planted those, plus over 500 trees and shrubs this year—a massive undertaking! And Bob completed the living roof atop the Columbus Exhibit building, where a couple of tomatoes were still growing in early October.



The formal gardens are taking shape. At left, Bill and Gabriella Henning restored and installed a wrought iron fence around the fountain in the Sensory Garden. Below is a close-up of the living roof on top of the Columbus Exhibit building, with the Visitor Center's patio on the right.

Photos by Bob Cameron



Bridge to Blue Spring Park, Trail Management

The bridge to Blue Spring Park is now complete! It is the final link in the approximately 3 miles of trails throughout the marsh and woodlands that make up the bulk of the Museum property. On the next page you see the bridge, designed by long-time Boalsburg resident Gert Aron, at various stages in its construction. In addition to working on the bridge, volunteers have mulched and otherwise upgraded all the trails, which are used frequently by Museum visitors from out of town as well as Boalsburgians.



West Main Trail head, ending at the bridge



Volunteers holding first bridge section made



Above, bridge building's hard work, but worth a smile!



Right center, designer Gert Aron at partially completed bridge; right, the final bridge, looking toward Blue Spring Park.

Photos by Bob Cameron



Boy Scout Activities

Our local Boy Scout troop continues to contribute wonderful projects to the Museum! The most recent of these include 3 wood duck nesting boxes with educational signage, a blue bird trail, and a bird observation platform—the latter still in the planning stage.



Above and top right, Scouts install wood duck nesting boxes near the trails and the bridge; at right, a sign near the bridge provides details about wood ducks' lives and habitats.

Photos by Bob Cameron

In all, a considerable amount of work—upgrades, construction, and maintenance—was achieved both indoors and out this summer with the help of many volunteers. Thank you so much, everyone! You really make the Museum a delight for the eyes.

Annual Membership Drive

During the late autumn we will send details of our first Annual Membership Drive. While the Boal Museum was open this summer for tours (as described in the next article), we were not able to welcome the usual number of visitors due to the pandemic. Through our Membership Drive, we hope to involve more regional visitors in our year-round events and encourage more distant friends to plan trips to Boalsburg and Centre County. Details of the drive will come separately by email.

Possible Holiday Event

We will not be able to repeat last year's Kristkindl Market or the Christmas Tea and Candlelight tour due to pandemic restrictions. But we are considering an outdoor event: a drive-through, illuminated Twelve Days of Christmas along the Museum's driveway. If local businesses and schools can participate, we would schedule it for the first 2 weekends in December, Friday and Saturday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, at a cost of \$5 per car. More details will come in the next newsletter or by email blast.



Last winter's Kristkindl Market in the Boal Barn was very popular; some vendors sold out completely, all wanted to return. We hope to repeat it in 2021.

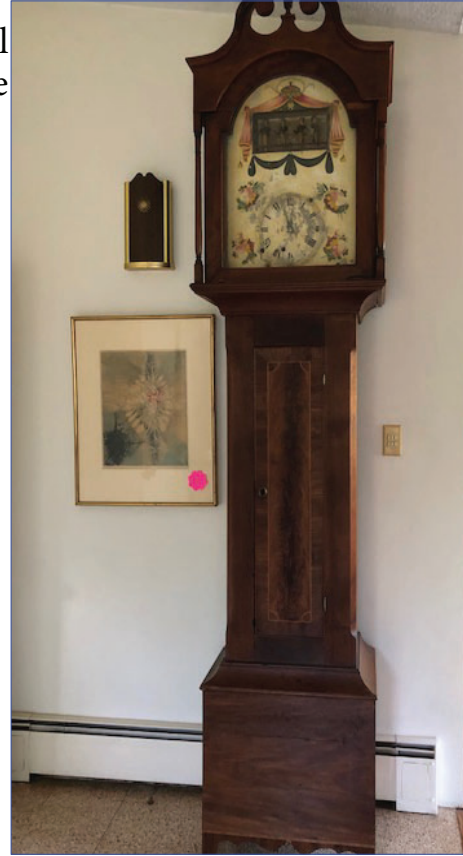
Photo by Cindy Shaler

Notable Donation

The Museum so needs and appreciates donations of cash and appropriate items, especially as our seasonal income was reduced significantly from years past due to the pandemic.

On particular donation we received in September is a handsome and historic 11-foot-tall Black Forest grandfather clock, donated by the Fedon family. (The clock was originally owned by Mr. Saxon, who lived on the diamond in Boalsburg; the Fedons acquired the clock from Mr. Saxon.) Daughter Lorie Lynch and her sisters coordinated the donation and sent us the photo at right. We are extremely grateful for the family's generosity!

Once it is reassembled and in working order again, the clock will be displayed and operated as part of a "Museum of the Boal Barn Theater" on the first floor of the Playhouse.



Join us!

When we are able to return to full opening and access, we encourage you to visit the Museum. Meanwhile, you can still participate in the growth and development of the Museum as a volunteer, a member, a donor, or a sponsor for a special event. Walk, run, or jog the Museum trails during the daylight hours, schedule a wedding or reunion on the grounds or in the Boal Barn, or just admire all the lush gardens. Please keep in touch: call Museum Director Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 or leave a message on the Visitor Center phone, 814-466-6210.

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