

COUNCIL PLANS SET FOR 2005**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY; CONTRIBUTIONS CRUCIAL**

Over 50 persons gathered at the Corning-Monroe Civic Center on December 15 where area citizens representing the Council, Sunday Creek Watershed Group and the Monday Creek Restoration Project celebrated 2004 and looked forward to 2005 with a potluck dinner, live dulcimer music from Jerry Rockwell and reports on accomplishments and plans from each of the organizations.

A 2005 draft plan for the Little Cities Council was presented and then further reviewed by volunteers at the Council office on January 12. From that meeting the 2005 Annual Plan for the organization has been adopted (see highlights below).

Important aspects of implementing the plan are fundraising through **membership** and advertising and the work of volunteers.

In this introductory issue of *The Black Diamond Press* you will find your 2005 membership form. Please join in supporting the important work of the Council by sending in



your membership contribution and/or volunteer pledge for 2005 on the card attached to this newsletter. We can not do our work without you!!!!

The financial goal for memberships in 2005 is to

increase membership contributions from the 2004 level of \$1,025 (29 contributors/members) in the non-advertising category to \$2,000 (60 citizen contributors). In the business advertising category we would like to grow from 24 to 30 businesses/organizations who advertise in the annual program book at a level of \$50 or more. This would be part of an overall goal of raising program book advertising revenue from \$2,780 in 2004 to \$3,250 in 2005. If these goals are met we would raise about 25% of the organization's annual budget in these two important categories. An additional 10% or \$2,100 will hopefully be raised through fundraising at events with the remaining 65% to be raised to support paid staff and entertainment at events from grant writing activities.

Contact the office for a full

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2005 LCBD COUNCIL PLAN

- ◆ The creation of an organizational newsletter named the "Black Diamond Press."
- ◆ Sponsor the second full season of the Little Cities Tour Service with the introduction of workshop experiences in addition to guided tours.
- ◆ Adoption of "labor history" as the theme for 2005 events with organizational support to playwright Ivars Balkits' Knights of Labor play currently being developed.
- ◆ The publication of a new introductory brochure to welcome visitors to the region and the council.
- ◆ Continued maintenance of a staffed office in Shawnee with the addition of an archival storage area.
- ◆ Continued growth of the LCBD Web Page.
- ◆ Continued sponsorship of the Appalachian Spring event in Eclipse; the Little Cities Chautauqua in Corning and the annual Little Cities of Black Diamonds Day at the Southern Local Schools campus.

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OUR MISSION

To keep alive the past stories and traditions of the Little Cities of Black Diamonds Region' and through our history, culture and natural environment help enrich the future quality of

CALENDAR**LITTLE CITIES COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING**

6PM, Tuesday, March 22 at the Company Store, Canaanville (Athens County). Potluck @ 6PM; Program featuring first reading of Ivars Balkits play on the Knights of Labor @ 7PM.

LITTLE CITIES APPALACHIAN SPRING

Saturday, May 7 at Eclipse Mining Town (Athens County). Music, art and service auction, tour, food.

LITTLE CITIES CHAUTAUQUA

Sunday, June 19 at John Altier Park in Corning (Perry County) 11AM-5PM. Dinner, music, exhibits, children's game, speakers.

FINAL FRIDAYS

Art, music, food, fun on final Friday evening of each month on the square in Nelsonville.

LITTLE CITIES TOUR SERVICE COMPLETES FIRST FULL SEASON TENTATIVE SCHEDULE SET FOR 2005

After a successful weekend tour in the Fall of 2003, the Little Cities Tour Service launched a full season of tours in 2004 with 15 tours planned around the themes of heritage, arts and environment. Sufficient bookings were made for seven of the fifteen tours through the region. These tours were a Little Cities Heritage Tour in April; a Primarily Plants Tour and an Appalachian Spring Tour in May; a Chautauqua Train Weekend Tour in June; a Little Cities Heritage Tour in July; and a Burr Oak Area Artisan Tour and an Environmental History Weekend Tour in August.

Tour groups ranged in size from 6-13. A modest number of bookings were made at participating bed and breakfasts and hotels in conjunction with the tours. Participating lodging sites included Hickory Hill B&B, Rose Cottage Inn, Fox Family Farm, Wildwood Llama Farm, Burr Oak Lodge and Ramada Inn Nelsonville. Food vendors and area artisans benefited from sales to the tour service and tour customers over the course of the season. Non-profit groups that served as sites benefited from small stipends from the tour service for their hosting activities.

Voluntary tour coordinators were essential to the tour service's success. Thanks to Cynthia Myers (Burr Oak Area Artisan Tour) Lyda Gunter (Primarily Plants Tour), Lil Winnenberg & Jo Frasure (Heritage Day and Weekend Tours), Troy Mellott (Forest Treasures), Emily Van Doren Bush (Healing and Restoration Tour) and Sue Mingus (Pre-Holiday Shopping Tour). Troy Mellott and Diane Rightmer were drivers on the tours. Chad Seurkamp provided outstanding graphics and printed materials for the season;

Margaret Thompson organized tour registration systems and provided a web page presence for the tours; Cheryl Blosser managed tour registrations and confirmations; and John Winnenberg coordinated the tour service and served as a guide on most of the tours in 2004. An ambassadors program was begun in

Circle, Wayne National Forest and Aaron Smith in Nelsonville; the Haydenville Preservation Committee and Haydenville United Methodist Church in Haydenville; the New Straitsville History Group, Karen's Kitchen and Monday Creek Restoration Project in New Straitsville; the Tecumseh Theater, the Southern Perry County Rail Museum, Community Exchange Gift Shop and Shawnee Coal Museum in Shawnee; the Corning-Monroe Civic Center, Country Hills Greenhouse; Adams Street Artisans (The Old Convent); and St. Bernard's Church in Corning; the Village of Rendville and Rendville Art Works in Rendville; Burr Oak Marina; Rural Action Mural Project, Sunday Creek Watershed Group, the Glouster Project, Rural Action Forestry and Dovetail Solar in Glouster, Burr Oak Lodge, Shale Valley Baskets and Angels Crossing in Bishopville; the Eclipse Mining Town, Ltd. in Eclipse; the Ohio EPA Water Quality Office in Logan and the ODNR Division of Urban Forestry in Athens.

LITTLE CITIES TOURS & WORKSHOPS 2005 SEASON

(Tentative Schedule-Subject To Change)

Little Cities Artisan Tour

Friday, May 27 (Final Friday)-Saturday, May 28

Little Cities Heritage Weekend Tour

Saturday, June 18

Sunday, June 19 (LC Chautauqua)

Creation Vacation Art Workshops

Thurs, July 28-Sun., July 31

(Series of Make & Take Art Workshops)

Little Cities Industrial Labor Heritage Tour

Saturday, August 6

From Forest to Furniture Workshop & Tour

Saturday, September 10

LC Environmental History/Fall Foliage Tour

Sat., October 8-Sun., October 9

2004 to promote word of mouth marketing for the tour service. It kicked off with a luncheon in May that armed volunteers with tour catalogs and information on the tours. We hope to see this program grow in 2005. Nearly 50% of those who filled out evaluations for the tours in 2004 expressed a willingness to help recruit other patrons for the 2005 season. We believe that word of mouth advertising will be an important component of the success of the tour service in the future.

Site hosts for tour visitors were an essential part of the season. They include Fullbrook Café, Stuarts's Opera House, Starbrick Clay, Hocking Valley Scenic Railroad, Majestic Gallery, Busy Bobbins, the City of Nelsonville, Paper

Funding support for the season came from our tour patrons, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (2003 Grant); the AORIC Yellow Root Fund, the Community Development Finance Fund, the Ohio Arts Council Appalachian Arts Initiatives and the Athens County CONVENTION AND Visitor's Bureau.



Planning is now underway for the 2005 Tour Season (see box this page). Workshop opportunities are being added to this year's offerings.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!!

JOIN US IN 2005 BY FILLING OUT THE ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP CARD & RETURNING IT TODAY

LITTLE CITIES OF BLACK
DIAMONDS COUNCIL

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www.littlecitiesofblackdiamonds.org



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SPIRIT AWARDS (CONT.)

ber of the Coming Monroe History Group and volunteered regularly to help with Little Cities of Black Diamonds Council events. However the main gift Bertha gave to her home community was a sense of history. Bertha was a prolific writer and wrote quantities of short stories, essays and poetry, sharing her pride and love for her community. Her poems and stories about the past, present, and future of this region left a legacy never to be forgotten by any who read them.

Connie Dunkle was born in Gore in Hocking County, the daughter of Samuel and Icely Nixon. She married Warren Dun-

kle during World War II and after the war, they settled in New Straitsville, raising three children. Connie immediately became involved in community projects and has continued to be a volunteer to this day. Connie volunteered at the school, serves on the Methodist Church Board, the New Straitsville Library Board, the Christmas Lighting Committee, the Veterans Monument Committee, and the Eastern Stars. Connie has helped map the cemeteries, helped organize erection of two war monuments, and as one of the founders of the New Straitsville History Group, has helped acquire Robinson's Cave, restore

the old town firehouse and jail, and establish the New Straitsville History Museum. Connie is very modest and always says that these projects could not be done without community involvement. But, as most people in New Straitsville know without people like Connie showing the way, these projects would not have happened.

If you meet these special people, take the time to tell Ida Mae, Connie, and Bertha, "Congratulations!" for their hard work. The Little Cities need more people like them. They truly represent the spirit of the region!