

# ◆ Boone Co. Historical Society ◆

Editor: Betsy R. Conrad

May—June 2006

## *Book signing May 31: Meet local authors Michael Rouse, Tim Moore, Robert Schrage*

In recent years, several books have been published about Boone County History. Robert Schrage's *Boone County: Then & Now* compares images from the County's past to how it looks today. Michael Rouse and Tim Moore's *Florence, Kentucky* details the history of this Boone County city.

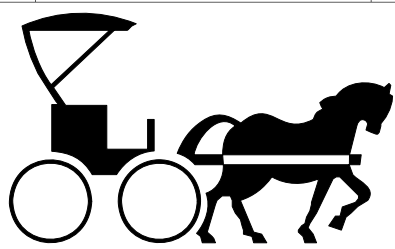
Join these three authors for a presentation, Q&A session and book signing at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 31, at the Scheben Branch of the Boone County Public Library.

Incidentally, these same three authors will be receiving awards from the Historic Preservation Board on May 18 (see article on page 2).

## *Split Rock Open House May 20*

Open House at Split Rock Conservation Park will be Saturday, May 20, 11 am to 4 pm. Located at 4503 Bellevue Road (between Petersburg and Bellevue), this 165-acre outdoor learning center showcases the county's natural biodiversity, including the spectacular geologic formation. Local experts will be on hand to interpret the geology, archaeology, botany and ecology of this important landmark. Admission \$4 for adults, \$2 for children. Visit online at [www.splitrockpark.org](http://www.splitrockpark.org).

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE TO DEVELOP AWARENESS AND PROMOTE APPRECIATION OF THE HISTORY OF BOONE COUNTY.



COPIES OF *BOONE COUNTY: FROM MASTODONS TO THE MILLENNIUM*, THE LIBRARY-QUALITY HARD-BOUND VOLUME FULL OF FASCINATING STORIES AND PICTURES OF BOONE COUNTY'S HISTORY, ARE AVAILABLE DURING BUSINESS HOURS AT FLORENCE GOVERNMENT CENTER FOR \$20. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

## *Tom Utz to speak May 11 (date change)*

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE MAY MEETING — IT WILL BE MAY 11.**

According to *Boone County: From Mastodons to the Millennium*, "Consolidated Telephone Company operated in Boone County until Bell acquired it in 1967."

Boone Countian Tom Utz was an employee of the Consolidated Telephone Company for many years. Tom will make an interesting presentation about the early phone system at the **Thursday, May 11 meeting** of the Boone County Historical Society — **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE**. The meeting, which begins at 7 pm, will be held at the Florence Government Center in Community Room C (lower level).



*Consolidated Telephone Company switchboard operators worked upstairs in the old Myers Building at the corner of Main and Shelby when Steve & Betsy Conrad were in grade school during the early 1950s!!*

## Thanks to Granville Griffith for March presentation

Northern Kentucky Beekeeper Granville Griffith presented a fascinating program at the March meeting of the Boone County Historical Society. He brought along a lot of items including a frame of beeswax with live bees!

Mr. Griffith explained how Boone County's early settlers kept hives.



VCR copies of Granville's presentation will soon be available for check-out at the Boone County Public Library. Be sure to see this if you missed the meeting!

## Living Legacy Program at Walton Library

Learn the basics of preserving your photographs and mementos and how to document your family's history for future generations!

The Boone County Public Library is presenting a program entitled "Living Legacy" to teach this subject. The program will be held at 10

a.m. Friday, May 19, at the Walton Branch of the Library.

Participants are to bring up to five photos to the class to be scanned. The \$15 registration fee includes legacy workbook, photo CD and family tree worksheets.

Space is limited, so call 485-6777 to register right away.



## 2006 Historic Preservation Awards announced

The Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board will present the following awards at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 18, in the 2nd floor courtroom of the Old Courthouse in Burlington:

**Local Government:** *Boone Co. Planning Commission, Planning Services Division*

**Building Adaptive Reuse:** *Pam & Duane Doyle*

**Building Preservation:** *Tom & Lynne Lubrecht; KY Parks Dept.*

**Preservation Stewardship:**

*Gina Holt and Karen Meiman*

**Preservation Project:** *Boone Co. Oral History Project; Robert Schrage; Michael D. Rouse and Tim Moore*

**Cemetery Preservation:** *Alice Manchikes*

**Preservation Craftsmanship:** *Terry Sawyer; Don Marksberry and the K-9 Crew*

**2006 Shirley Mann Memorial Heritage Education Award:** *Kiger Trial Reenactment*

**2006 Bruce Ferguson Award for Sustained Excellence in Historic Preservation:** *Margaret Warminski*

**2006 William Conrad Preservation Excellence Award:** *Pat Lense*

**2006 Anne W. Fitzgerald Research Award:** *David Beasley*

Everyone is encouraged to attend this awards celebration and applaud the winners.

## Memorial Day Observances in Walton & Florence

Members of the Walton community gather every Memorial Day at Walton Cemetery to hold services honoring our fallen heroes. You are invited to join us at 9:00 a.m. on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29. The Cemetery is located on Church Street, just behind City Hall.

The City of Florence celebrates Memorial Day with a Parade immediately followed by a service honoring veterans at the Boone County Veterans



Memorial on the campus of the Florence Government Center. The parade begins at 10 a.m. Monday, May 29, at Boone County High School. It then proceeds along KY 18 to Ewing

Boulevard and on to the Government Center campus.

Everyone is invited to participate by walking in or watching the parade, and by attending the service at the Veterans Memorial. (Call 647-5439 if you plan to walk.) The service typically begins at 11 a.m. All service personnel and veterans will be recognized and honored.

## Changes in July Program featuring Pat Scott

Some changes have been made in the plans for the July 2006 program of the Boone County Historical Society. We will be celebrating Pat's accomplishments as she throws out the first pitch at Champion Windows Field, home of the Florence Freedom Baseball Team, on Saturday, July 8. The game begins at 7:05. (Pat won't be speaking there, nor will there be a meal.)

**Tickets to the game are \$7 and are to be purchased in advance. Contact Laurie Wilcox at 859/384-5550 to order your tickets.** The BCHS Executive Board is planning another event with Pat — watch for all the details in the July newsletter.

Just in case you don't know who "our" Pat Scott is, we've included the section about her that appears in *Boone County: From Mastodons to the Millennium*.

"Walton native Pat Scott compiled a 48-26 record pitching in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League in 1951-53. In Scott's first year, 1948, the league drew a million fans.

"At eight or ten years old, she played sandlot baseball with the boys in Burlington. Her parents, Irene and Wilfred Scott, bought a dairy farm, then managed Dr. Sperti's dairy farm on North Bend Road for 22 years. The farm they bought included a baseball field they fixed up and brought semi-pro teams in to play there on weekends.

"The fellows would let me warm up with them, catching grounders and shagging flies. Sometimes, I would warm up the pitcher until the catcher was ready.

They taught me a lot about baseball, which was a great advantage since most girls only had played softball.

The baseball field was like the one in the movie, 'Field of Dreams' except that tobacco rather than corn grew around ours.'



"A fast-pitch softball player in Cincinnati, in 1948, Pat's father read a newspaper article about tryouts for the Women's Professional League in Chicago. Although she thought he was kidding, they went to Chicago for the weekend. 'When I got in that big ball field and saw all those people, I was scared to death, but I wasn't going to let that stand in the way of a lifetime dream to play real baseball,' Pat says.

"Baseball gave me a chance to travel, meet people from all walks of life, and see what life was like outside a small rural community,' she says. Her younger sisters, Gloria Parker, Mary Alice Luce, and Frances W. Staten all became great catchers helping Pat practice.

"Pat was one of very few players who pitched overhand. The All-American Girls Professional League was inducted in the Baseball Hall of Fame in July 1988. She left baseball

in 1954 to spend five months living on family farms in Austria as an International Farm Youth Exchange Student in 1954.

"After earning a degree in zoology at the University of Kentucky, she worked as a medical technologist for 32 1/2 years. At her farm near Walton, she raised and trained Appaloosa horses where she still lives.

"Pat spent three days on the set in Evansville, Ind., during filming of the movie, 'A League of Our Own' in 1991. The managers never would have been allowed to act like Tom Hanks does in the movie, she says. Every two years the League gathers for a reunion. Pat now photographs wildlife, paints with oils, plays the mountain dulcimer and volunteers full-time."

The preceding text was quoted from *Boone County: From Mastodons to the Millennium*, copies of which are available for sale from the BCHS.

And, as you may have read in the last newsletter, Pat Scott was the first woman to be inducted into the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame in January!

So be sure to order your ticket to the July 8 Freedom game by calling Laurie Wilcox at 384-5550.

## Upcoming Programs

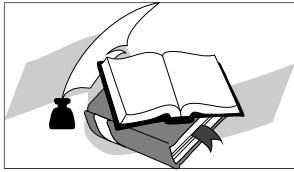
September 21: **Bridget Striker**, the Local History Librarian of the Boone County Public Library will talk about the Library's local history department and its most exciting collection, the **Fitzgerald pa-**

**pers**, a treasure trove of documents from the estates of William and Anne Fitzgerald.

November 16: **Matt Becher and Lori McEntee** will present a pro-

gram on **architect George Nicholson of Walton**. They have done a lot of research on his life and work in Boone County.



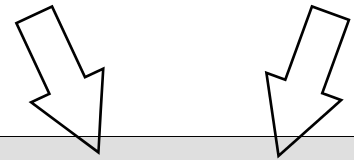


Boone Co. Historical Society  
P.O. Box 23  
Florence, KY 41022-0023

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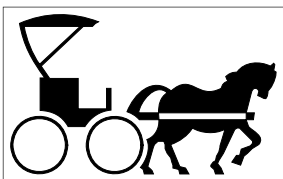
Websites of local interest:

BooneCountyKy.org.  
BooneCountyHeritage.org  
Kenton.Lib.Ky.US/~histoc  
DinsmoreFarm.org  
SaveAmericasTreasures.org  
Nkyviews.com  
Splitrockpark.org



***NOTICE: MEETING DATE CHANGE . . . MAY 11***

*The Boone County  
Historical Society pro-  
vides program meet-  
ings on the third  
Thursday evenings of  
January, March, May,  
July, September and  
November (with occa-  
sional exceptions).  
Unless otherwise  
announced, the  
meetings will be held  
at the Florence  
Government Center,  
8100 Ewing*



*BCHS Membership Privileges*

**Annual Membership Fee** is only \$15 per household, **due every January**. This modest fee covers the cost of our newsletter mailings. We appreciate all who have joined the Boone County Historical Society to help us preserve and make known some of the history of our County. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join and attend our meetings. Membership fees can be sent to:

**BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. BOX 23  
FLORENCE, KY 41022-0023**

The Boone County Historical Society has received **tax-exempt status**. This means that all gifts to the Society are tax deductible.