

# FOHB NEWSLETTER

## Letter from the President

Steve Litwiller - President

The Friends of Historic Boonville have had a packed schedule the past few months. We had a full house for a wonderful concert presented by the Boonville Community Chorus under the direction of Dr. Claude Westfall with the help of Nancy Ward, accompanist. The Boonville Historic Homes Tour was a smashing success. Lots of support and participation created a great opportunity for residents and tourists to see Boonville's beautiful residences.

The "Paint the Hall" event on February 8, featuring a gourmet dinner, and music by violinist David Halen and pianist, Brian Woods, to raise money to paint the exterior of Thespian Hall was a sell out. With the help of generous donations we are now able to start painting this summer. BRAVO to all that helped organize and fund this project!

Also on February 8, Artistic Director David Halen presented the lineup for the 50th Missouri River Festival of the Arts, August 21-23. We are proud to announce that three time Grammy Winner Leonard Slatkin will be conducting the Missouri River Festival Orchestra. Slatkin is Director Emeritus of the St. Louis Symphony, the Detroit Symphony, and most recently conducted the National Symphony in Washington D.C. The St. Louis Symphony Brass Section will present their own concert during the festival. Some of the best classical musicians in the world will be featured on stage at Thespian Hall. It is shaping up to be an outstanding 50th Season. Plans for the Art Show, Receptions, and more activities are well under way. Tickets go on sale July 16. Mark your calendars!

Don't forget to make plans for the Big Muddy Folk Festival and Barbecue on April 4 & 5. You'll find more information in this newsletter.

Spring is right around the corner (thank goodness!) and with that comes the need for preparing the Hain House Gardens and the Jail property for concerts, rentals, and visits. If you have a green thumb have we got a project for you. The Friends are always in need of help to make those sites beautiful. Contact the Friends Office by phone or email if you are interested in getting involved

Finally, thank you for supporting our concerts and activities with your attendance and financial assistance. Our Board and membership continue to focus on promoting the history, culture, and artistic climate that make Boonville a great place to live. That would not be possible without your help.

# Executive Director's Letter

Rayce Kendrick - Executive Director

As Steve mentioned, we've had more happening at our properties than we have in a long time. Since the writing of Steve's letter the Oasis Mennonite Choir performed at Thespian Hall on February 28th. The church called looking for a place to sing and they got one! They got a crowd too! The floor of Thespian Hall was packed. Word of mouth largely drove the attendance. KWRT helped us get the word out on the radio, and we put \$50 into a Facebook ad, and Boonville showed out. In talking to some of the performers that night, they also knew of Mennonites who had traveled as far as three hours both from the North and the South, so there were a lot of new faces in Thespian Hall for the first time. The performance received great reviews from everyone I spoke to. Many commented on how rare it is to find a church choir that layered and together these days. And everyone was talking about how you could hear every word they sang, even with the large choir being 100% acapella. Admission was free, though we did accept a free-will donation at the door towards the Hall. Attendees were very generous and we were able to net \$2,364.81 (enough cover nearly two winter heating bills for Thespian)!

I'd also like to thank our new members. Membership is growing as we expand our programming offerings and we want to keep that momentum going. It's a big part of our next phase and plays a huge role in solidifying our base as we grow, and helps us get through rockier times. I'll tell you the thing I hear our long-time members say more than anything else: "We need to get more young people involved!" The way you can help with that is inviting your kids, nieces, and nephews to one of our functions that you think will suit them **OR buy them a membership! (see last page of newsletter)**

One of our new board members, **Caleb Salyer's** mother, Cheryl, bought him a membership as a gift without his knowledge. He started getting involved with volunteer opportunities such as giving tours, as did his fiance, Maddie, and spear-headed the operations of the beer garden for the Brennen Leigh concert. Less than a year later, he's on the board! Caleb didn't waste any time, and he's already our newest member of the Big Muddy Folk Festival Committee and will be running lights this year!

I'd also like to highlight our other new board member, **Megan Thieman**. Megan has been on the Festival of the Arts committee for a few years and has quickly become an invaluable piece of that team. Her work along with Cathy Bail on the festival parties has been stellar, and they've been able to create the atmosphere for some very enjoyable evenings for our Patrons and festival attendees.

We're so excited about the energy, ideas, and enthusiasm both Megan and Caleb bring to our board!

# The 33rd Big Muddy Folk Festival & BBQ

Dave Para - Artistic Director

## Tentative Festival Schedule

**Friday evening's concert** will feature Ellie Grace, Spencer and Rains and the Lost Keys, Todd Day Wait, and Alan Munde Trio.

**Saturday sessions** will be held at Presbyterian and Christ Episcopal churches and Thespian Hall in the morning and afternoon, and will feature workshops in banjo, fiddle, dulcimer, ukulele, songs and other topics still to be determined, including a dance. Passes for the workshop sessions are free to festival series ticket holders but can also be purchased for \$10. **The evening concert** will feature Dirk and Amelia Powell, 3 Trails West, Bing Futch and Cheap Shots.

We have long included a contra dance as our activities, but found over the years that starting it Friday evening after the concert ended was too late. The past few years it has successfully moved to Saturday afternoon at Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Music is done by open band for other performers and participants, and this year Kaw Creek - Alice Boyle and Robert Rosenberg - will lead the band.

Festival Tickets are \$35 per night or \$60 for both nights. Youth price is \$10, available by calling the office. To purchase online, visit [www.friendsofhistoricboonvillemo.org](http://www.friendsofhistoricboonvillemo.org) or call our friendly office at 660-882-7977.

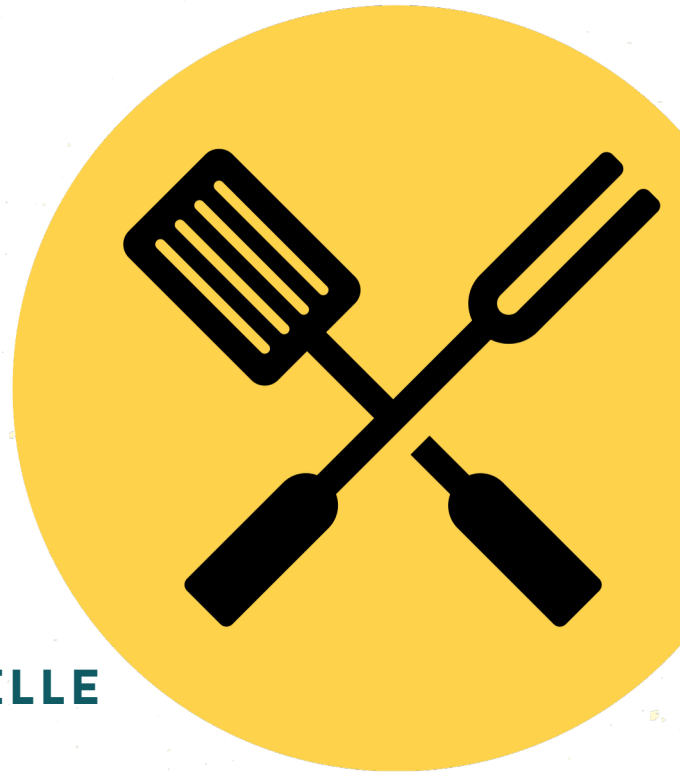
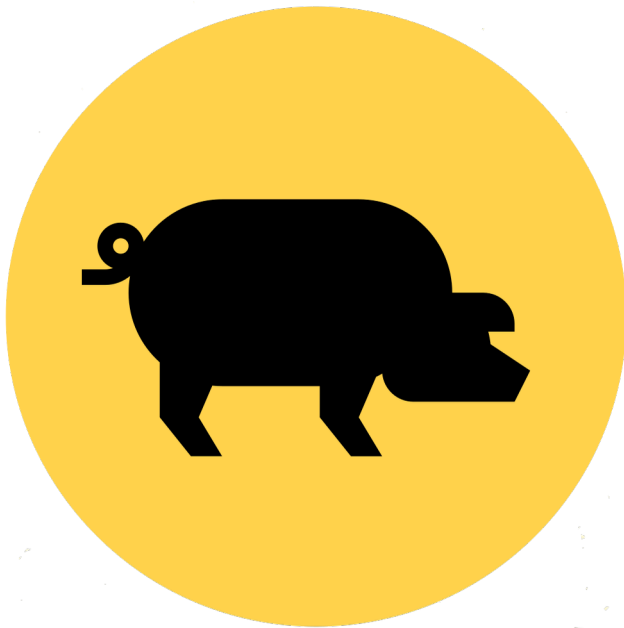
## In Memoriam

**Linda Askren's** name has been on every Big Muddy program as a member of our committee since the festival began. She and her husband, Ken, have been a great part of our festival's success. It's impossible to say how important such dedicated and consistent volunteer help is, and there are plenty of other organizations in our community that know the same about her. Linda passed away in October, and our hearts are with Ken and their daughters, Jennie and Elizabeth.

## BBQ

Always a favorite at the festival, **Terry Smith and the Big Muddy Barbecue** will be serving at Turner Hall with smokers drawing folks from blocks away. The barbecue is sponsored and operated by the Friends of Historic Boonville board of directors and is one the organization's major fundraisers. Plates, sandwiches, and take-home packs will be available.

The BBQ will be open from 11am to 7pm both days. **Please contact the office for volunteer opportunities at (660) 882-7977!**



FRIENDS OF HISTORIC BOONVILLE  
PRESENTS

# BIG MUDDY BBQ

Tickets on sale beginning March 3rd,  
may be purchased at the Old Cooper  
County Jail

April 4-5, 2025

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM both days

Turner Hall 518 Vine St. Boonville, MO



Big Muddy BBQ Delivery  
April 4th & 5th, 2025  
Turner Hall

Please complete a form for each order. We need the forms by 3 PM on Wednesday, April 2nd. There are three options to return forms:

Email [bigmuddybbq20@gmail.com](mailto:bigmuddybbq20@gmail.com)

Call 660-621-2931 to have them picked up

Drop-off at the Friend's office: 614 E Morgan St.

Delivery is available from 11am – 2pm on **Friday ONLY**, but dine in and carry-outs are available 11am – 7pm both days.

Schools will have priority from 11am – noon due to their rigid lunch schedules. If you are able to, please consider requesting a delivery time after noon.

**Thank you for supporting the Friends of Historic Boonville!**

# Big Muddy BBQ - Delivery Order Form

April 4th, 2025 11am - 2pm

Turner Hall

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Friday Lunch Special (Choice of meat & 1 side)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$18 Full Meal  
(Choice of meat, 2 sides, dessert & bottled water)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Full Slab of Ribs - Hot or Cold (Circle Choice)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (per lb) Pulled Pork

**CALL 660-621-2931 FOR DELIVERY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_

Add ress \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Deliver Time \_\_\_\_\_

## Menu (circle choices)

Country Style Ribs

Pulled Pork Sandwich

Brat -1 w/ lunch special,  
2 w/ full meal

Sides:

Baked Beans Cole Slaw

Sauerkraut Macaroni Salad

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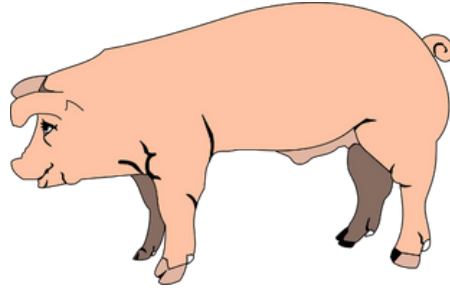
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# 2025 Friends of Historic Boonville

## Big Muddy BBQ



Terry Smith and the Big Muddy BBQ crew, along with the Friends of Historic Boonville are once again hosting the Big Muddy BBQ. This is the largest annual fundraiser for the Friends, and we need your support! The event will take place during the Big Muddy Folk Festival, April 4-5.

### **BBQ SPONSORSHIP LEVELS**

#### ***Super Slab - \$150 Sponsors***

**Super Slab sponsors** will receive recognition on Facebook and 2 Tickets for Friday or Saturday Meals

#### ***Go Grill - \$300 Sponsors***

**Go Grill sponsors** will receive recognition on Facebook, listing on a banner at the event, and 4 Tickets for Friday or Saturday Meals

#### ***Holy Smoke - \$500 Sponsors***

**Holy Smoke sponsors** will receive recognition on Facebook, listing on a banner at the event, recognition in the Big Muddy Festival Program, and 6 tickets for Friday or Saturday Meals

**Please return this form to:**

FOHB  
PO Box 1776  
Boonville, MO 65233  
[info@friendsofhistoricboonvillemo.org](mailto:info@friendsofhistoricboonvillemo.org)  
Phone: 660/882-7977

**Choose One:**

*Super Slab - \$150 Sponsorship*

*Go Grill - \$300 Sponsorship*

*Holy Smoke - \$500 Sponsorship*

**Name (as you'd like it used in publicity):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your vouchers will be mailed or emailed to you at this address in advance of April 5.**

**Your support is invaluable!**

**The mission of the Friends of Historic Boonville is to plan, promote, expand and celebrate the cultural life of Boonville, MO through the arts, history, and historic preservation for the betterment of the community.**



# Paint the Hall!

Lisa Street - "Paint the Hall!" Committee Member, Board Member

It was a magical night on-stage with Dinner and David on the evening of February 8th . Thanks to 88 "Friends" filling the stage, "Painting the Hall" is soon to become a reality. David Halen, the Artistic Director of the Missouri River Festival of the Arts (MRFA), played Beethoven-a fitting introduction to the extraordinary announcement that Leonard Slatkin, former world-renowned conductor of the National Symphony in Washington, D.C. and the St. Louis Symphony, will be conducting the Saturday performance at Thespian Hall. This year, the Festival is celebrating its 50 th Anniversary and more special events are being planned. The dates are August 20-23. The generosity of many—Gala attendees, donors, and an anonymous \$20,000 gift, makes painting the exterior of Thespian Hall achievable. Thank you to all for your support!



## 2024 Christmas Homes Tour Update

Misty Langston - Christmas Homes Tour Committee Member, Board Member

The second annual Friends of Historic Boonville Christmas Homes Tour was considered a huge success! Despite the incredibly rainy day, we had a great turnout. There were even a few more attendees than last year, about 350 visitors in all! Many thanks to all of you who braved the wet weather to come on the tour.

The tour was a success largely to the wonderful variety of homes on tour. Each home had been lovingly restored and all featured unique, beautiful Christmas decor. Many homeowners displayed family pieces and had wonderful stories about their homes. A HUGE thank you goes to the homeowners, Don and Lisa Street, Karen Hsu, Terry and Joyce Davis, Jim and Brenda Merryfield, Beth Adair, and Lisa Dority for opening their homes and working so hard to prepare for the tour. The Evangelical United Church of Christ was also a beautiful addition to the tour. Thanks also goes out to all the home tour docents for their assistance, as well as our generous sponsors for their support.

This was the first year for us to open the Hain House Christmas Market. Hain House was hopping the day of the tour with visitors purchasing and picking up tickets for the tour, shopping among the many vendors, warming up with a hot cocoa bar and cookies, and listening to BHS band members perform Christmas carols on the porch. Friend's merchandise featuring our three historic properties were on sale at this pop-up shop. If you would still like to purchase any of the Friends' merchandise, it is always available at the Friends Office in the Old Cooper County Jail.

We are already thinking about next year's tour and how to make it even better. The main ingredients to make a successful homes tour are the homes themselves. If you would ever be interested in having your home on tour, please contact any of the committee members: Joyce Davis, Rayce Kendrick, Misty Langston, Lisa Street, and Julie Thacher. We always welcome suggestions for homes and ways to improve the whole experience.



# FOHB Endowment Update

## Bob Conway - Endowment Board President

The Friends of Historic Boonville Endowment was formed in August 2011 by the Friends of Historic Boonville. They envisioned this Endowment as a perpetual source of funding for the maintenance and repair of the historic properties it owns. It is an independent 529-C organization. Our purpose is to assist the Friends in their work by preserving our properties for future generations. This allows the Friends to present programming at our historic properties which showcase the artistic talents of great artists and organizations.

The Endowment initially began with donations of \$60,000. Over these past 14 years it has grown to over \$900,000 through a combination of generous donations and prudent investments.

The funds are invested through Edward Jones Investments. We currently have 78% of the assets in primarily large cap stocks or ETFs, most with rising or stable dividends. The remaining 22% is in bonds, CDs and a money market account providing interest income. The anticipated annual income from these investments should provide for growth as well as budgeted distributions to the Friends.

In 2024, the Endowment made distributions totaling over \$21,000 for needed repairs and maintenance of Thespian Hall, the Hain House and the Historic Jail. In 2025 we plan to have at least \$25,000 available for anticipated maintenance. Barring a catastrophic need, we plan to continue doing this by limiting our distributions to our dividends and interest, leaving capital gains to help grow the endowment.

Donations to the Endowment are always welcome, and can be made in cash or stocks and can be made to the Friends of Historic Boonville Endowment, PO Box 204, Boonville Mo. We would be glad to schedule a meeting with you to answer any questions you may have about the Endowment by calling 660-882-7977.

# Garden Wake-up Days

## Lisa Street - Board Member

Bring your rakes and clippers as we wake up and clean up the gardens at the Hain House and the Old Jail. After our diligent work last year, the task should be a bit easier as we prepare the gardens for spring. **March 29th** we'll be at the Hain House and on **April 12th** please plan to join in to spruce up the Old Jail yard. **Both workdays begin at 9:00 a.m.** and we'll plan to finish by noon. Thank you for taking the time to make our gardens special places for all to enjoy!

## Upcoming Events

- **Big Muddy Folk Festival & BBQ**
  - *April 4 & 5, 2025 - Thespian Hall & Turner Hall*
- **Sunset Concert Series**
  - *Fridays in June at 6pm - Hain House*
- **The Missouri Symphony at Thespian Hall**
  - *June 22, 2025*
- **50th Missouri River Festival of the Arts**
  - *August 20-23, 2025*

## Membership Renewals

Memberships extend to the end of the current or following year, depending on when the membership was purchased, rather than tracking membership dates on a case-by-case basis.

For example, if your membership was purchased in July, 2024, it will expire December, 2025, because the membership was purchased closer to the end of the current membership cycle than the beginning. However, if your membership was purchased in June, 2024, it will expire December, 2024, because it was purchased closer to the beginning of the membership cycle. Patrons of the 2024 Festival of the Arts are members through December, 2025.

If you're unsure of your membership status, please call, (660)882-7977, or email, [info@friendsofhistoricboonvillemo.org](mailto:info@friendsofhistoricboonvillemo.org).



## Friends of Historic Boonville Membership

Contributions are tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Annual Membership Dues  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Remitted  
 Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:  Check  Venmo  
 @friendsofhistoricboonville  Credit Card  
 \*Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Friends of Historic Boonville  
 PO Box 1776 Boonville, Missouri 65233

\*To avoid large fees related to credit card transactions please  
 send your donations by check if at all possible. Thank You!