Volume 9 Issue 2 Spring 2019



Friends of L&N Depot Newsletter







Save the Depot ... Poster Reveals!

We have unveiled three more SAVE THE DEPOT posters since our last newsletter. The March poster was a tribute to the significant role of women in times of war. Sam Kirby and Jennifer Martin with Vid Monster Productions were our special guest and helped us reveal the poster. The April poster was revealed by Telia Butler, Director of Sales at Courtyard Marriott Bowling Green and a Friend of the L&N Depot Board Member. The poster highlights the vital role of our volunteers in our efforts to continue in our mission to preserve history. Our most recent poster reveal took place on Tuesday May 9th. We were joined by Eric Leach, General Manager of the BG Hot Rods. He brought along team mascot Roscoe to help us promote our campaign initiative, the creation of our endowment fund.

Upcoming poster reveals will take place on June 4, July 2 and August 1. These events are held in the Historic RailPark & Train Museum each month and features a special guest to do the unveiling! Please join us for the SAVE THE DEPOT poster reveals.

Posters are available for purchase in the RailPark Gift Shop. They celebrate local history, make great gifts, and are perfect for office walls, man caves, and kids' rooms. Only 50 of these limited-edition WWII themed posters saluting the RailPark are printed.

Community support is needed and the public is invited to attend.

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From the Director



For the past five months we have shared our Save The Depot campaign initiatives with the community. We have invited you to get involved through membership, volunteering, sponsoring and attending events. We now make the most important ask of you, support the creation of our endowment fund.

An endowment fund has been established with The Community Foundation of South Central Kentucky. To date we have deposited \$5000 into our account. The first milestone is to reach \$25,000. The fund is necessary for our future. Without money in our reserve, we could lose the very thing that is truly the backbone to the success of Bowling Green.

In this newsletter you will find a letter from Friends of L&N Depot President, Barry Williams. We are asking you to become a Save The Depot champion.

An outpouring of generosity from our community has shown us just how much our patrons care about us. In these pages you will read about the kindness of Nick Mantlo-Coots and Andy Roderick and their offering to support our efforts.

We have more on tap for events and fundraisers for this year included a night with the BG Hot Rods– June 28, a new event Bingo at the Depot– July 18, and the, USO Bowling Green Canteen—August 29, 30 & 31st.

I hope you will join us and SAVE THE DEPOT!

Jamie Johnson,

Executive Director

Promotion

Congratulations to Kelsey Lowe Bailey! Kelsey was recently promoted to Assistant Director for the Historic RailPark & Train Museum.



Kelsey comes to us from Southern Indiana with a background in hospitality and a passion for historic preservation.

We welcomed her to our staff in August 2017 as the Visitor Services Coordinator. She began assisting with bookkeeping in February 2018 and has shown great enthusiasm and dedication to the museum.

Please join us in congratulating Kelsey on her promotion!

Friends of the L&N Depot Board of Directors

President – Barry Williams Owner of Broadcast and Communications Systems, LLC

Vice President – John Forsee Retired, Dairy Industry

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Bobby Rabold Businessman

Pat O'Rourke Retired, Retail Management

Rick Williams General Manager, Forever Communications



Local Artist Produces Watercolors to Benefit the RailPark

At the March 7th poster reveal, the Historic RailPark & Train Museum came into possession of three original watercolors based on the RailPark; created and donated by visual artist **Nick Mantlo-Coots**. A limited run of prints of the watercolors (30 each) are available for purchase in the RailPark's gift shop for \$24.95. 100% of the proceeds go to the Save The Depot campaign.

As a part of the campaign, we have invited the community to get involved in anyway they feel compelled to contribute. When we got the call that **Nick Mantlo-Coots** wanted to lend his talent to our efforts, we were overjoyed by his kindness.

Artist background: **Nick Mantlo-Coots** is a Bowling Green based artist who specializes in pop art portraits and watercolor landscapes. His work has been exhibited at the Rochester Contemporary Art Center (NY), Art Above Reality (L.A.), Art Basil (Miami), and several galleries throughout the Ohio Valley.



RailPark's Endowment Fund

First of all, let me say *Thanks* to all of you who have supported our continued efforts to keep this very important piece of Bowling Green history alive. Many of you have shared the stories of your connection to our Depot, how you said Goodbye or Welcome Home to our men and women who had gone off to war and returned safely. And of those who returned home to their final resting place. Over the past decades the L&N Depot has served many important roles in the development of, not only our city, but our region as well. The importance of reasonably priced transportation for materials coming in and products going out has helped establish Bowling Green as the economic hub of South Central KY! Just try to imagine if we had not had rail service in Bowling Green! This certainly would not be the city we have now!

You may have already heard or read of our efforts to "**Save the Depot**" through a comprehensive fundraising campaign. Even though we continue to grow our number of visitors and local events yearly, the fact is that we are operating in a very old building. As those of us who have added a few years know how difficult it is keep our bodies in shape, we have the same issues with the L&N Depot building. Our annual budget of over \$400,000 includes a large portion dedicated to just maintaining our building and restored train cars. Thank you to those of you who have taken a tour! If you have toured our restored train cars you recognize the need for many improvements both inside and out.

That is why we are asking for your help in securing the financial future of our Depot. We have established an account with The Community Foundation of Southern Kentucky. When you make a donation you can be sure it will be used to keep this local treasure functioning for our children and grandchildren, as well as the thousands of visitors each year who also enjoy this important part of our history.

Several of you have already stepped up and made a continuing pledge to our campaign and for that I am sincerely grateful. If you have not already done so, please take a few moments and consider the possibility of losing this important part of our history and what a difference it would make. No matter what level you can afford to help, rest assured that each and every dollar is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again for your continued support of OUR L&N Depot!

J. Barry Williams President of the Friends of L&N Depot And Friend of the L&N Depot since 1997

Win This Train

• RAFFLE • WWII Hospital Car Diorama



WWII Hospital Car Diorama 1/18th scale Rail Car and Depot with figurines. Estimated Value \$1500

Proceeds will benefit the campaign to SAVE THE DEPOT

Andy Roderick of

Roderick Dioramas.

Artist Produces Model Train Diorama to Benefit the RailPark

During the April 11th poster reveal, the Historic RailPark & Train Museum came into possession of a large scale replica WWII Hospital Car and Depot diorama; created and donated by artist **Andy Roderick**. The custom diorama is being offered for a chance to win through a raffle and tickets are \$5. 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Save The Depot campaign.

Artist background: **Andy Roderick**, owner of Roderick Designs is a Tennessee based artist who specializes in large scale train dioramas. His work is designed by him and created by hand. Although most of the model is built from wood, some other materials are incorporated as needed.

Save the Depot Night at the Ballpark

Our friends at the Bowling Green Hot Rods will host a Save The Depot fundraiser on Friday, June 28th. The game begins at 6:35pm.

The RailPark staff and volunteers will be set up at the game with a variety of specialty merchandise available for purchase. Our poster images will also be showcased at the ballpark. Prints will be available for purchase.

Your support is greatly appreciated. When making your ticket purchase, use the code **Depot2019** and your purchase will benefit our efforts to Save The Depot.



Annual Membership

Thank you for being a Friend of the L&N Depot!

\$35 Train Master

- Admission to railcars and museum for one person, for one year
- Free quarterly newsletter
- 10% gift shop discount

\$65 Yard Master

- Admission to railcars and museum for four people, for one year
- Free quarterly newsletter
- Early invitation to special events, including Polar Express
- 20% gift shop discount

\$100 Engineer

- Admission to railcars and museum for eight people, for one year
- Free quarterly newsletter
- Early invitation to special events, including Polar Express
- 20% gift shop discount

\$150 Conductor

- Admission to railcars and museum for eight people, for one year
- Free quarterly newsletter
- Early invitation to special events, including Polar Express
- 20% gift shop discount
- 10% rental space discount
- Admission to over 680 NARM museums (North American Reciprocal Museum Association) for one year

Member Information

Name:		
Address:		
Email:		
Phone: _	 	

New Membership ___ Membership Renewal

Please make check out to **Historic Railpark** and mail to: **401 Kentucky St. Suite B. Bowling Green, KY 42101** You can also purchase a membership on our website!



We believe our docent volunteers are the best. And Bill Dow is certainly no exception. He has volunteered with us for 8 years. When asked what

originally brought him to the RailPark, he replied, "I've always liked trains. I stopped in one day and started talking with Sharon Tabor (former Executive Director), and here I am now."

Bill and his wife, Jeri, moved to Bowling Green in 2010, from Dallas, Texas. He has one stepson, Zach, whom he enjoys visiting in Seattle, Washington. He also has a three-year-old granddaughter.

Bill retired from his computer consulting contract business after 25 years to pursue his interest in photography, which he has enjoyed for the last 12 years.

Whether it's his role as a weekly docent, for helping out with photography at special events, Bill said, "I like giving back to the community. And the pay is good!"

We've begun to notice a bit of a trend with our loyal volunteers; our visitors are their favorite part of spending their time with us! The same goes for Bill, "...interaction with people. I get to tell them all about history and trains."

Bill is known as quite the jokester around here. His comedic personality makes his train tours unique! We have tons of fun with him every Wednesday!

If you have interest in becoming a volunteer, contact Kelsey Lowe Bailey to get involved. We would love to have you share your talents with us.



New Fundraising Event

We have a night of fun planned for our Bingo at the Depot on Thursday, July 18. Doors open at 5:15pm, bingo begins at 6pm. Attendees will play 15 rounds of bingo for a chance to win prizes. Tickets are \$35 and include entry into the event, round 1 of bingo and dinner by Outback Steakhouse. A cash bar will be available throughout the evening. Tickets can be purchased on line at Historicrailpark.com or by calling 270-745-7317.

Pictures From Our Most Recent Events

Thank you to the many attendees at our most recent fundraising events. Our 5th Annual Romance at the RailPark took place February. On March 21st we hosted the 2nd Annual Sip & Putt Mini Golf Scramble with 24 teams playing. April 20th was our 5th Annual Brunch with the Bunny.





Friends of the

L&N Depot

Newsletter

401 Kentucky Street, Suite B Bowling Green, KY 42101 For the latest information on events and happenings at the RailPark, follow us on social media. The RailPark proudly boasts a 17,500 person social media audience.



Historic RailPark and Train Museum -Bowling Green L&N Depot Unseen Bowling Green Instagram: @historic_railpark_ @unseenbg Twitter:

@LNdepot

Thank you to our business members!

Dixie Restoration and Building Maintenance LLC

631 Columbia Hwy • Greensburg, Kentucky 42743



Business memberships are available and they come with great benefits! Please call Jamie Johnson at **270-745-7317** or email **director@historicrailpark.com** for more info.