



Friends of L&N Depot Newsletter

BG Wine Fest

*In Partnership with the
Kentucky Wineries Association*

SATURDAY, JULY 17TH
11:00 AM-6:00 PM

AT THE HISTORIC RAILPARK & TRAIN MUSEUM



*Music
Sponsored by*



Have you and your friends purchased your tickets yet for the 2021 BG Wine Fest? Everyone who attended in 2019 had a blast and we are sure that 2021 will be even better! New for this year will be LIVE Music, sponsored by Marquee Back Stage! We are also excited to invite you to shop boutique- like vendors while you sip on wines presented by the KY Wineries Association. Tickets are going fast– So don't wait! Start a group text and make plans now to attend!

Go to our Facebook page or website to get tickets!

Welcome Jessica Warren

We would like to welcome Jessica Warren, our new Development Officer, to the Historic RailPark.

Following is an interview with Jessica:

- When did you first come 'on board' and what are your responsibilities with your new position?

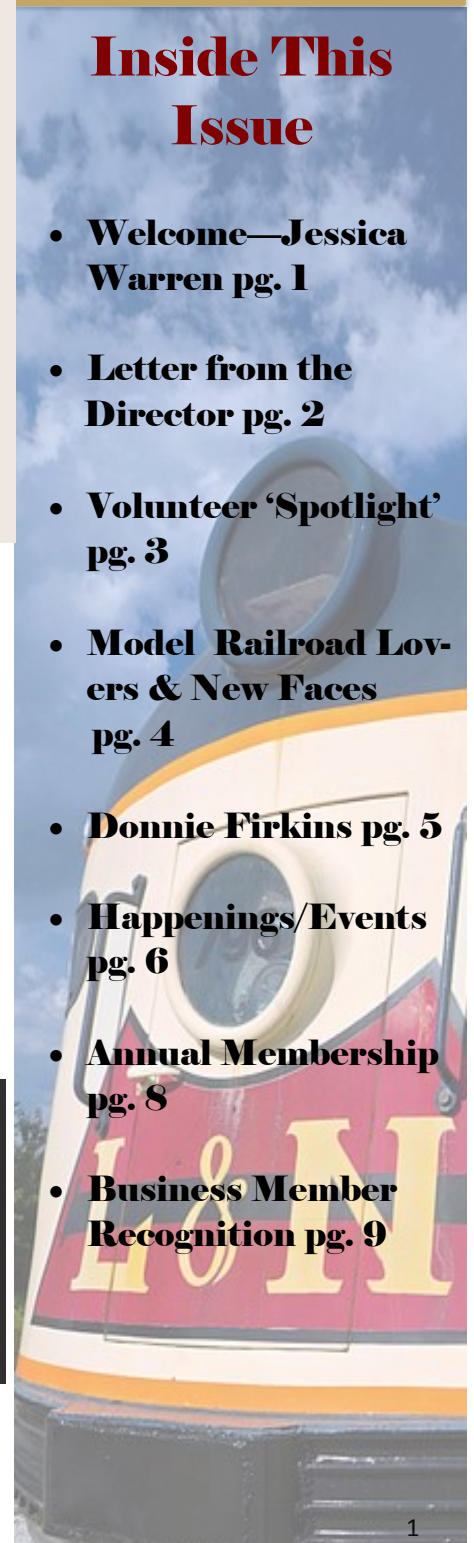
Jessica: My first day was April 12th and I jumped right in! I am responsible for helping to raise funds for the RailPark and Train Museum so that we can keep our museum and rail cars in great condition for visitors to enjoy. That includes organizing fun events, giving campaigns and donation drives to raise money.



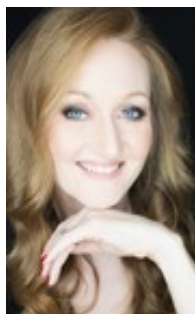
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From the Director



It feels good to be back on track here at the RailPark. We have much to be grateful for these days. First and foremost I am excited to have Jessica Warren on board as our Development Officer. I hope that you will take time to read about her in this newsletter. While she has a great background and will play an important role in the future success of our organization, what I love most about her is her enthusiasm for our beloved Depot. If you have yet to meet her, you are in for a real treat!

Our facility has returned as a popular venue for weddings, birthday parties and our own events. You will want to join us for the return of the BG Wine Fest on July 17th. Our partnership with the Kentucky Wineries Association is one that we cherish and enjoy. They are a fantastic group of wine makers and we are anxious for their arrival.

This year we will end the summer with our Annual Fund-raiser on Thursday September 23rd. You will want to save the date for an evening of fun to support the RailPark. But you do not have to wait until the end of summer to show support.

Every 2nd Tuesday, stop in Gigi's Cupcakes to support our 2021 Birthday Club Campaign. You can find more details in this newsletter. For the entire month of July you can join us in the WNKY TV parking lot for Food Truck Friday! 15% of the proceeds will benefit the RailPark.

As always, we have a variety of events to support our efforts here at the museum. I encourage you to support us in the way you like.

*Jamie Johnson,
Executive Director*

FOOD TRUCK



FRIDAY

SPONSORED BY  Flora Templeton Stuart
Accident Injury Lawyers

FRIDAY 11A - 2P | WNKY 40 PARKING LOT | 1018 CHESTNUT ST

JULY'S FOOD TRUCKS

7/2 RSF YOUR BLUEGRASS KITCHEN
7/9 LOST RIVER PIZZA
7/16 LADYBUGS FRITTERS & FRIES
7/23 STONEYBROOKE FARM
7/30 ON THE GO BBQ & GRILL

JULY'S NON-PROFIT PARTNER



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Volunteer 'Spotlight'

John Knight is on his second tour as a volunteer Docent with the RailPark. He first conducted tours in 2019 after retiring, but decided to take a contract position with CSI out of Jacksonville, FL. At the end of 2020, John returned to Kentucky and wanting to 'give back' to the community, he went back to volunteering at the RailPark.

John always liked transportation. He was involved with logistics, such as with trucking, river barges, ocean shipping, and aviation. Although John never got to work with rail, he grew up with the railroad. He owned a model layout in his youth, keeping it till college. John served on the Red Cross Board for several year. He would like to get more involved with the RailPark, possibly on the Board.

John is a storyteller. While on tour, especially in the Duncan Hines Dining Car, John tells visitors about stories from his youth. His great-great-great grandfather (from Munfordville, KY) was a member of the Union Army; whose job was to protect the Green River Bridge from the South. A picture of the Green River Bridge can be found in the dining car.

Greenville, Ohio, is where John grew up. He used to sit on his grandparent's front porch and watch the trains go by. John attended college at Morehead State University and worked in the computer field (in manufacturing, the medical community, and taught). He met his wife in college, has been married for over 42 years, and has one son (married) living in Nashville, TN. His wife just retired from KY State Government after 21 years and 20 years in the private sector. Both he and his wife have lived in Tampa, FL, Newburg, IN, Mt. Washington, KY, and Bowling Green, KY (since 1990).

John is a member of the sHOw Modular Model Railroad Club. The club allows him to get back into the hobby of building and running model trains. Club members' knowledge of DCC and operations will allow him to start his own layout this year.

Backpacking in the Great Smokey Mountains and camping in the local area are interests of John. He enjoys studying honeybees and bee keeping. John also likes soaring and aviation in general, especially since he has a pilot's license and wishes to keep current in the field.



Want a Couple EASY Ways to help support the Historic RailPark?

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

All you need to do is go to smile.amazon.com and log in to your Amazon account like normal. You can then choose **Friends of L & N Depot Inc.** Your prices are the same, the selection is the same, just Amazon gives .5% of your eligible purchases back to the Historic RailPark.



Choose the **Historic RailPark and Train Museum** in your Kroger App under Rewards! A portion of your spending will be donated to us each quarter. This is something that needs to be updated on an annual basis, so even if you have chosen us under Community Rewards in the past, double check to make sure that the RailPark is listed.

Coming Soon for Model Railroad Lovers



The sHOw Modular Model Railroad Club at the Historic RailPark & Train Museum will soon be replacing its O gauge layout underneath the HO display in the Gift Shop. Replacing the O gauge layout will be an N scale T-TRAK layout. It will be a modular layout much like the ones the Club sets up at Christmas in the RailPark's main lobby. The benchwork (the wood foundation) is completed. Next, track will be put down and modules wired together. Scenery will go on last. T-TRAK displays are portable, so the Club will be able to display the new layout at other locations and events.

T-TRAK modules permit flexibility in building models of all shapes and sizes. Modules fall into three main categories: straights, corners, and junctions. Track arrangements can be single, double, or triple in length. T-TRAK layouts can range from a simple circle to a large complex network of modules. The simplest layout consists of a circle. More information about T-TRAK modules and layouts can be found at NRail.org.

Source: NRail.org. (n.d.). T-TRAK Modules and Layouts. Retrieved from <https://www.ntrak.org/Modules-and-Layouts>.

Welcome Anna Kate and Tristan

The RailPark would like to welcome two new additions to the RailPark's staff: Anna Kate Davidson (on the left) and Tristan Lentz (on the right).

Anna Kate is a Visitor Services Associate and began with the RailPark on May 19. Besides serving as a visitor services associate, Anna Kate gives tours and assists with the Gift Shop. Giving tours is



'right up Anna Kate's alley' for she has served as a tour guide before at Diamond Caverns in Park City, KY. Anna Kate 'hails' from Glasgow, KY, got her B.S. in animal Studies (also called Anthrozoology) at Eastern Kentucky University, graduated in December 2019, and will be moving to New Mexico in Fall 2021 to begin a master's program in Museum Studies at the University of New Mexico. Her interests lie in animals, social science, and history. Hobbies include reading, watching horror movies, and playing tabletop role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons with friends.

Tristan's first day was May 26. She has been working in the Gift Shop and running the register. She loves learning new things and the RailPark allows her to learn a lot about the history and culture of the railroad. Tristan is a recent high school graduate and will be attending SKYCTC in August 2021 for her general education. Soon she will be running the Gift Shop with ease (making certain it is well stocked and clean) and looking forward to giving tours. In her free time, Tristan likes to read and listen to music full blast. She also listens to podcasts, watched Twitch streams, and plays video games.

Donnie Firkins

By Dick Webber



Life is better for us in Bowling Green, Kentucky because of Donnie Firkins. There are many reminders around us of his incredible talent, like the Veteran's Tribute sculpture in the Courthouse yard, sculpture works displayed in front of the primitive cabin at WKU and at Hospice, and his painting of the "House" on Clay Street to name a few.

As we examine the Historic Railpark and Train Museum his mark is there, too. Perhaps not as statuary, but there is hardly a part of the Railpark he did not touch. The journey began when Dorian Walker asked Donnie to teach him how to sandblast. Hesigned up, and the rusty, 100-year-old Railway post Office car soon shined, inside and out.

Donnie could paint, as well assandblast. And paint he did, from the roof of the RPO, which we accessed using his bucket truck, to the Hospital Car. By the time we painted the Hospital car in 2016, he was crippled from multiple hip surgeries, but we put him in the lift with a chair to sit in and painted the top half of the car side. His commercial sign expertise gave us the tracing of the lettering for the Pullman cars and the RPO. When we were offered complete

interior fixtures for a RPO in Pennsylvania, Donnie signed up again, and joined a 4-man crew, working 3 days, coming home with a box truck full of RPO fixtures we desperately needed to complete our restoration.

Donnie spent many hours in Evansville as a sculptor, reconstructing the front of our 796 engine, damaged by previous collisions and years of hard use. He knew about marble work, and with other volunteers, repaired damage done to the original marble dividers in one of the depot bathrooms. He grew up in Glasgow, knowing the abandoned 109 in Lessenberry's rail yard. He was right there when we recovered it, under the car with jacks and timbers to free the rusted trucks. He knew how to weld, and that led to several panel replacements on the sides of the Towering Pine, as well as building steps and platforms for the 109 Jim Crow combination car. More welding, cutting, and sandblasting was needed to ready the badly rusted and weathered 109 hulk for transport from Glasgow to Bowling Green.

The board decided that a Christmas Parade entry would publicize our newly restored Depot and Museum. Donnie recruited his buddies from Artists in Action (which he helped organize) and they built a float using the Depot kiddie train. That float won the Governor's Award 2 times. We even entered it in the Glasgow Christmas Parade one very cold night, a trip to remember! Donnie served on the Railpark Board of Directors from 2007 to 2014, and as Restoration Chairman as well.

Donnie was a dreamer with great vision and was willing and sufficiently skilled to bring those dreams to completion. Donnie Firkins was a real Friend of the L&N Depot!



2021 Birthday Club~ Have you Joined Yet?



Join us for a year long celebration of our rail cars. We need your help to continue preservation of these rare cars to keep them open to the public. We are asking YOU, our friend to donate \$20 this year. Birthday Club members will receive a birthday card on their next birthday and a **commemorative ornament** just in time for Christmas 2021.

To Join the 2021 Birthday Club Go to our Facebook Page or the Historic RailPark Webpage!

You can also support the RailPark with a Sweet Treat from Gigi's Cupcakes Bowling Green, KY location!

A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of select cupcakes on select days will benefit the RailPark's 2021 fundraising efforts.



Welcome Jessica Warren

Continued from page 1

- What attracted you to the RailPark? What about the RailPark do you like?

Jessica: After graduating from WKU with a degree in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management I have spent the last 24 years working in hotel sales and catering— taking care of groups. When the hotel industry was decimated by the pandemic I felt that this was a great time to explore another facet of my degree – tourism! The Historic RailPark and Train Museum is perfect for that. I LOVE having guests in to tour through our museum and railcars. It is so obvious that the railcars have been lovingly restored. It shocks me that we have such a gem here in Bowling Green that so many have yet to visit! It makes me so happy when we have guests, from young children to seniors, come in and they are just in awe. From the sHOW Model railroad to playing with the wooden railroad in the gift shop to seeing them hop into the engineer's seat in the 1951 L&N E-8 Locomotive #796 - smiles are all around!

- Tell us about your background.

Jessica: I was born and raised in Olean, NY, which is about 70 miles south of Buffalo (Go Bills!) as the oldest of 4 kids. My first job was a concession attendant at a movie theater. I LOVED it!! I enjoyed taking care of our guests at the theater and that was how I decided I wanted to major in Hospitality in college. I was looking for a school that not only had Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management, but also an equestrian team, and warm weather— and Western Kentucky University was the perfect school for me! During school I worked in many hotels, including completing my internship with "The Mouse"- Guest Services and Concierge at the Yacht and Beach Club Resort at Walt Disney World. After I graduated I was recruited by the Hyatt Regency Louisville. I spent two years there before moving back to Bowling Green and starting in the sales and catering office for the Holiday Inn University Plaza and Sloan Convention Center in 2001. While I was there I worked with all of the weddings for 10 years as well as VIP groups. I was the Director of Sales and Marketing from 2011 until the pandemic hit and hotel group sales came to a stand still and thus my career with the Holiday Inn came to an end in 2020. But that door shutting is what opened the door to the RailPark, and for that, I am grateful! I am married to Rich Warren and we have two daughters, Rachel who is 15 and Veronica who is 11.



- What are some of the tasks you have already performed? What development events are on the horizon?

Jessica: I have been very busy! In addition to preparing the webpage information for KY Gives Day and helping to plan Depot Day I started with trying to learn everything about the RailPark. There is so much— between the museum and the railcars, but I am loving getting to know all of it! We also have some amazing volunteers and board members and I have really enjoyed meeting these fabulous guys and gals who spend so much time helping to make the RailPark at great place for all! I have also started assisting with finding vendors for the BG Wine Fest and coming up with ideas for our annual fundraiser that is taking place on September 23. Birthday Club has also kept me busy as we prepare letters to go out to our supporters to invite them to join the club! This is just a small snippet of what I have been doing. Watch for more info in the coming weeks in regards to our annual fundraiser— it is going to be a great party! Our development committee is fabulous and we have some amazing ideas that we are working to implement to help support the Historic RailPark and Train Museum. I am always open to ideas and would love to hear from our supporters— my email is JWarren@HistoricRailPark.com.

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!

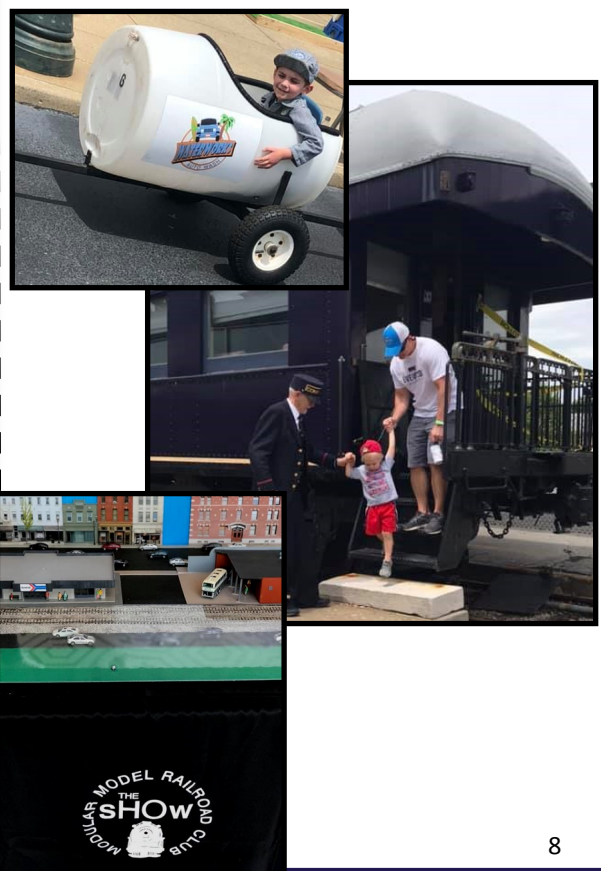
Depot Day at the RailPark

On Saturday, May 15th we hosted Depot Day in conjunction with the sHOW Model Railroad Club. Guests were able to wander through the Grand Lobby and Green Room of the Depot and marvel at the model railroad displays.

After that they were able to hop on board the rail cars and travel through at their own pace. Volunteers were stationed throughout the cars to give information and answer any questions.

As a special treat for that day, guests were able to explore the 1945 WWII US Army Hospital Unit Railcar #89456.

Kids really got to have fun by riding on Lil' Toot, bouncing in the bounce house, getting their face painted, eating cotton candy from Fluffy Puff Gourmet Cotton Candy, sipping on lemonade and getting balloons sculpted by Nick the Engineer! A great time was had by all!





**Friends of
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.



Facebook:

Historic RailPark and Train Museum -Bowling Green
L&N Depot

Unseen Bowling Green

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