



**Buckner
Homestead**
HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Promoting the care and preservation of the Buckner homestead, orchard,
and community atmosphere in perpetuity

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Another Good Year!

Thanks to our volunteers, it was another good year at the Orchard!

Volunteers truly are the heart of the Buckner Orchard and Foundation. More than 450 hours of volunteer time were contributed at the Buckner Orchard in 2021! So, it's only appropriate we begin this annual report recognizing all that you do. **THANK YOU!**

WORK PARTIES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

Three formal work parties were held in 2021, in June, July, and October, totaling 108 volunteer hours. Others volunteered throughout the year, as well. Most recently, volunteers and *NPS* staff did the hard, cold, and wet work of removing "snow bombs" from trees, in order to protect the historic trees from damage and loss.

Fuel reduction, trimming trees, cleaning ditches, and painting tree trunks to deter ants



Building water boxes, thinning, and cleaning the packing shed platform



Fuel reduction around structures, clearing fence lines, and more ditch and path work



Additional work done by volunteers



PROJECTS AND PURCHASES

Priority Projects, in some cases, were deferred due to *NPS* staffing shortages during 2021. Significant progress was made, though, on a number of fronts.

The John Deere riding mower donated to *NPS* by the *Foundation*, (\$2,085.42) and below budget, was a huge asset this summer. Acquired in March, the mower has 95+ hours of mowing in the Orchard and other areas, making weed, fertilizer, and water management easier and more efficient.



Buckner House Cabinetry, which was funded by *BHHF* (\$3,500 budgeted) and facilitated by *NPS*, was completed and looks amazing. Many thanks to *Carpenter Ant* (*Anthony Chapin*) of Bellingham for the great work and donated installation! (\$3,500 actual cost)



Delayed and constrained by the pandemic, as well as concerns related to possible Hantavirus, and funding over the years, renovation of the Buckner Home is finally nearing completion. The *Foundation*, working with *NPS* Historic Preservationists contributed funds for the cabinetry, as noted above, as well as for replacing living room windows with replicas of the originals.

As with other projects and work at the Buckner Homestead, the *Foundation* works closely with *National Park Service* staff to provide historic photographs and other information to ensure historic accuracy and conformation.

The Kiosk, a major interpretative and electrical project begun in 2019, then stalled for various reasons, is near completion. Budgeted at a cost to *BHHF* of \$11,000, our actual cost was \$9,731.67. *NPS* interpretative information is scheduled for installation in May of 2022, if not sooner.

The kiosk will serve a dual purpose, providing welcoming and interpretative information to visitors as they enter the historic site, and returning electrical power to the packing shed for events and work that may occur there. This is an unique, hybrid kiosk design, combining the two uses, as well as saving money, and reducing the visual footprint so as to not infringe on the character of the site. Our sincere thanks to Cragg Courtney, Bren Starcher, and Tom Langley for their work.



Other Projects planned for with *NPS* and/or not implemented during 2021.

PROJECT	BUDGETED	STATUS
Repair Buzzard Cabin Furniture	\$1,000	Deferred
Mow Pasture Safety Zone	Volunteer labor	Deferred
Garden Fence Rehabilitation	WCC & Volunteer labor	Delayed, but begun
Fuel Platform Rehabilitation	\$1000 for materials	Deferred
Cellar and Other Structures Assessment	Planning	On-going

The 2021 Square Dance at the Orchard was canceled and replaced so as to conform with Federal and State pandemic requirements, which provided for a safe and rewarding experience for participants. Replaced with a concert-style event, local favorite, *Agnes on Fire* played to an appreciative audience, with more than 250 folks joining them over the course of the evening. **Many, many thanks to the band for reuniting to make this very successful event possible!**



NOTE - This was the inaugural and much-anticipated use of the new kiosk power system, as well as the debut of our new outdoor lights. No generator, no worries about possible overheating and fires, no noise. Just plug it in and we're ready to go!

**The Square Dance at the Orchard or a suitable music event is
planned for**

Saturday, August 6, 2022

Harvest Fest, in its limited form, was a success, with visitors and local residents, providing a steady stream of pickers and pressers throughout the three days the materials for picking and making cider were provided.

Those who chose to social distance were able to easily do so, a major goal for this far-simpler Harvest Fest. New things were tried that will continue in future years. Placing boxes and picking bags under a canopy near the packing shed for nearly two weeks expedited picking, distancing, and distribution. About 125 empty cardboard boxes were used during that time, and picking bags were far easier to find and use, especially for visitors.



**Harvest Fest 2022 in some form is planned for
October 7-9, 2022**

Memorial



Though not a *Foundation* event, it is appropriate to note the memorial for Elizabeth "Bucky" Gans at the Orchard on August 7. Passing away in January of 2020, Bucky, was the last of the Buckner Sisters. With a quick wit, a remarkable memory, and an undeniable resilience, Bucky was a beloved member of the Stehekin community, and one of the few remaining links to the history and heyday of the Buckner family and ranch.

Fortunately, Bucky and her sisters, Irene and Hobbie, left with us many of their favorite memories in their book, *The Stehekin We Remember*. Written for their grandchildren as a way of keeping the Buckner Family history alive, the sisters were always amazed anyone would have an interest in their memories or buy a book they had written. We are so happy they did!

Bucky will be missed!

Other Events at the Orchard included three weddings at various locations, as well as informal family and friend gatherings. It is a special place, with old and new memories celebrated here.

Stehekin School Students were each gifted an adopted tree by a private donor in late 2020. Now, on a beautiful May day, a field trip to the Orchard allowed each student to select and sketch their own tree, and to learn about care of the historic trees, both old and young. Students were given small chocolate applesauce cakes and Olive Buckner's recipe; and after returning to school, the students furthered the lessons learned by writing about their tree and the Orchard.



BHHF - NPS ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND MORE

The *Foundation* and *NPS* enjoy a very good collaborative relationship characterized by on-going and open communications, all benefiting the Buckner Homestead and Orchard.

Most notable, is a jointly developed *Annual Work Plan*, laying out in the late months of a given year, the projects, work, and efforts to be undertaken with the *Foundation* at the Orchard during the next calendar year. In 2021, like most other years, not all work was completed and has been reassessed, modified as needed, and carried forward to the following year as appropriate.

PARK SERVICE ACTIVITIES AT THE BUCKNER ORCHARD



Laurie Thompson, Orchardist - Laurie, a long-time Park Service employee, was hired in 1996 to care for the Buckner Orchard, and does so to this day. **HAPPY 25TH, LAURIE!** Her dedication and love of the orchard are a great asset for both the orchard and the community. Laurie is a year-round resident of the Stehekin Valley and enjoys sharing her work and experiences with any who ask or wish to volunteer. Along with fellow *NPS* staffers, Vicki and Nicole, the Orchard is in great hands!

In addition to the care of the orchard, and not mentioned above, *NPS* work included:

Invasive Species Eradication - *NPS* continues to work to eradicate invasive species such as Rush Skeletonweed and Knapp Weed through intensive search and spraying of individual plants throughout the Homestead, as well as throughout the Valley. This is very monotonous and time-consuming work.

Interpretation - *BHHF* and *NPS* continued collaboration on the blended project of returning power to the packing shed and placing needed interpretation at the Orchard entrance. Personal services (formal and informal programming) were not available at the orchard or at the Visitors' Center due to continued budget constraints and the pandemic. Interpretative interaction by the orchardists and volunteers provided visitor information.



Cultural Landscape Report - Important work was continued in 2021 on a formal assessment of the cultural landscape of the Buckner Homestead and Orchard. Contracted by NPS, the *Cultural Landscape Group* from the *University of Oregon*, spent a week on-site interviewing, photographing, and researching both current and historic features of the Orchard.

The CLR focuses on management actions to address current and projected future site vulnerabilities that were identified in a study undertaken by the *University of Oregon* and the *National Park Service* in 2016 and 2017. A preliminary vulnerability assessment identified several key issues that, if not addressed, could adversely affect the Buckner Homestead Historic District, including drought, winter flooding and erosion, and pests and disease. A final draft with recommended treatments is expected in 2022.

ANNUAL FOUNDATION MEETING May 10, 2021 via Zoom

I. Election of Board Members and Officers

A. The following Foundation Officers were elected to one-year terms

Herb Sargo (Sedro-Woolley/Stehekin) - President

Christy Libbey (Manson/Stehekin) - Treasurer

Laura Reiter (Walla Walla) - Secretary

B. Acting board members were elected to completion of those terms

Board members Christy Libbey, for one year remaining on three-year term

Members for two years remaining on 3-year terms

Brun Garfoot (Chelan) - Greater Lake Chelan Representative A

Laura Reiter - Greater Lake Chelan Representative B

Jim Trappe (Corvallis, OR) - Position #8

C. Board Members whose three-year terms were expiring were re-elected

Dick Bingham (Stehekin/East Wenatchee) - Stehekin Community Representative A

Bob Nielsen (Stehekin) - Stehekin Representative B

Doug England (Manson) - Apple Industry Representative

With the above actions, the *Foundation* Board will be fully elected, with staggered terms on track.

II. The 2021 Budget was adopted.

III. Laurie Thompson gave a brief orchard report, cut short by a poor internet connection.

On-line motions were passed during the year to approve the 2021 calendar and *Annual Work Plan*, to authorize a one-year on-line giving trial, to modify Harvest Fest, and to accept a dedicated donation.

SUPPORT



Adopt-A-Tree

Adopt-A-Tree continues to provide funds for support of *Foundation* work at the Orchard, with 36 adoptions totaling \$963.10. This is a significant decrease from 2021.

Memberships

28 memberships of various levels, totaling, \$2,176.06, helped fund projects in 2021 and into the future. This was up from 25 the previous year.

Donations

\$56,166.06 in donations were made to the *Foundation* in 2021. This included the targeted donation noted below.

Grants and Targeted Donations

Grants - A grant of \$2,000 was received from *Chelan County* under the Chelan County Lodging Tax program to cover expenses related to the music event at the Orchard in August. Per the grant agreement, \$501.40 of unused funds were returned to the County.

Targeted Donation - A donation of \$50,000 from an anonymous donor was received and will be used to facilitate the installation of a vault-style toilet near the entrance to the Homestead historic district and packing shed in 2023. The remainder of the donation is targeted for labor support, which will provide an additional two weeks of *Washington Conversation Corp* work at the Orchard in 2022 or 2023. For this generous donation, we are very grateful!



Similar in design to what may be installed, final design is to be determined.

NOTE - Targeted donations may have little impact on our day-to-day operating budget, and do not supplant funds contributed annually to do the *Foundation's* work at the Orchard.

Please contact the *Foundation* directly if you are interested in making a donation, targeted or otherwise, to support the Orchard. All donations and contributions are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS rules and regulations.

In-kind Contributions

Services, materials, and equipment from individuals and businesses make the work of the *Foundation* more effective and much easier. Listed here are businesses and individuals who assisted us in so many different ways in 2021, as well as in past years. This diverse support illustrates just how important the generosity and commitment by so many is needed to conserve, preserve, and keep the Buckner Orchard the jewel it is! Thank you all!

Barge Shipping/transportation - *Mountain Barge Services*
Pricing and Installation of Buckner House cabinets - *Carpenter Ant, Bellingham*
Summer Music Event - *Agnes on Fire*
Donation of hand equipment for pruning - *Northwest Whole Sale*
Pricing and shipping on John Deere mower purchase - *Pape Machinery, Okanogan*
Loan of materials for Harvest Fest - *Mike Sherer*
Upgrading of packing shed light standards - *Phil and Libby Gans (poles), Tom Courtney (welding), Herb Sargo (tires and pipe)*
Maintenance and continued development of our website - *Crystalview Graphics*
Equipment for Harvest Fest and/or Square Dance - *Stehekin Valley Ranch, Stehekin School, Stehekin Pastry Company, and NPS*
Board meeting facilities - *Lake Chelan Reclamation District and Stehekin Pastry Company*
Clerical Materials - *Various individuals*
Publicity and Reporting - *Lake Chelan Mirror, KOZI radio, and LC Chamber of Commerce*
Chamber of Commerce Membership - *Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce-BHMF exchange*
Facilities use - *Stehekin School District, Stehekin Pastry Company, National Park Service*
Photography - *Vicki Gempko, Bob Nielsen, Crystalview Graphics, Laurie Thompson, Dana Barton, Giri*
Storage - *Bucky Gans and NPS*
Cook Stove donations - *Keith Carpenter and Jim Ellis*
Sound System storage and management - *Liz and Tom Courtney*
Event Transportation - *North Cascades Lodge and Stehekin Valley Ranch*
Project Support - *Cragg Courtney Excavating, Bren Starcher Construction, Platte Electric, Chelan County PUD, NPS, Patty Schrag, and Nathan Thomas*
Ladder Donation (3) - *Wilber-Ellis Inc.*
Raffle Contributors - *Lake Chelan Boat Co./Discover Lake Chelan, Little Sisters' Quilts, the Buckner Sisters, Jean Vavrek, Mike Barnhart and Barnhart Photography, Nancy Barnhart, Bob Nielsen, Anna Maria Spagna, David Kurth, Stehekin Pastry Co, Crystal View Graphics, Stehekin Valley Ranch, Wendy Garfoot, Trapper Robbins, Holden Village, and NW Seaplanes*

And, many thanks to you and all the other individuals who made our past years' work and events successful. Our supporters are priceless! **Thank you!**

OUTREACH

The Foundation continues to develop relationships with other organizations and to communicate our purpose and goals to the community via local media outlets. To that end, the following were continued during the 2021 program year.

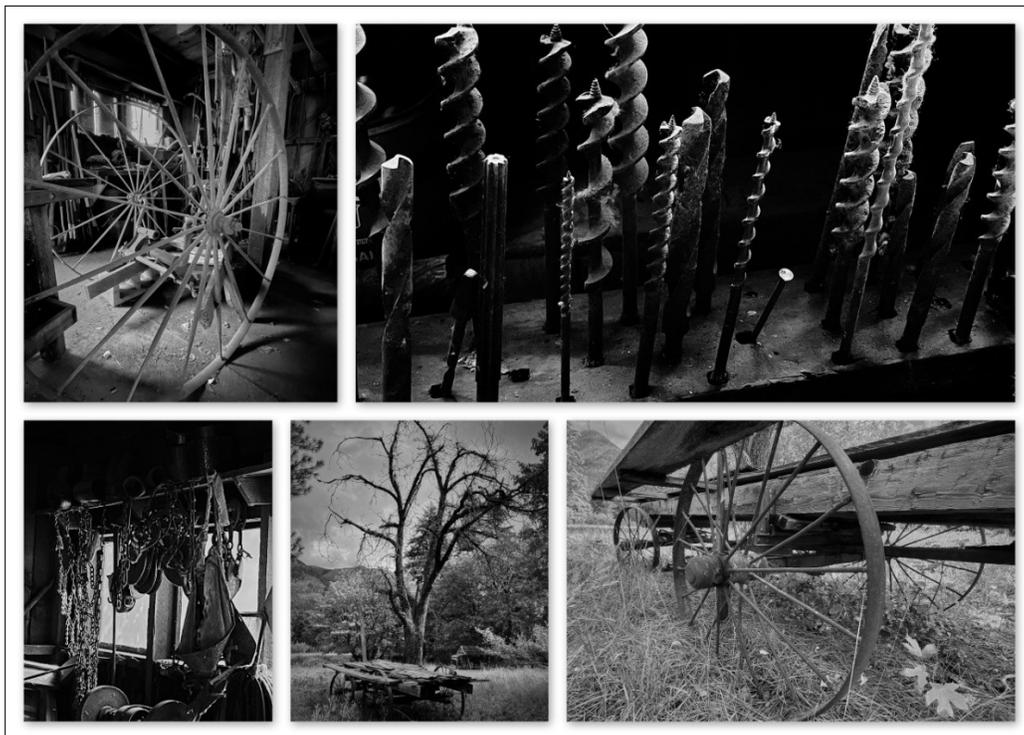
Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce – Memberships were exchange between *the Foundation* and the Chamber, allowing each to be a member of the other, enhancing the presences of each in the community and beyond.

Stehekin Guide Book - A full-page ad featuring *BHHF*-sponsored events at the Orchard was placed in 2021 at a cost of \$315.00. The *Guide Book* is provided free of charge to visitors at various locations.

Six public communications were sent during 2021, with reports, announcements of coming events, cancellations, and news releases to local media. Editing and information were provided to several on-line and print publications, as well. The primary means of communication for the *Foundation* is e-mail, saving both time and money.

FEATURED PHOTOS

Giri, a visitor from Michigan, exemplifies those who look more closely at the soul of the Homestead. Here are some of his wonderful black and white photographs taken one afternoon in late September, with his cell phone, none the less. Thank you, Giri, for sharing!



2021 END OF YEAR FISCAL REPORT

CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	PERCENT
I. BALANCE FORWARD		\$ 18,876.33	\$18,876.33	100.0%
II. REVENUES	A. Adopt A Tree	\$1000	\$923.10	92.3%
	B. Donations - General Fund	\$1,500	\$54,166.00	3611%
	C. Grants	\$2,000	\$2,000	100%
	D. Memberships	\$2,000	\$2,176.06	108.8%
	E. Interest (Cashmere Valley Bank)	\$45.00	\$49.83	110.7%
	F. Harvest Fest Raffle	\$1,000		0%
	TOTAL INCOME	\$7,545.00	\$59,315.05	786.2%
TOTAL REVENUES		\$23,663.21	\$78,192.64	330.4%
III. EXPENDITURES	A. Equipment repair/maintenance	\$500		0%
	B. Harvest Fest	\$400		0%
	C. Priority Projects *	\$18,000	\$6,233.34	34.6%
	D. Incorporation and Affiliation		donated	
	E. Administrative Costs	\$150	\$161.83	107.9%
	F.. Incidentals			
	G. Purchases	\$500	\$315.00	63.0%
	H. Summer Event	\$2,000	\$2,000*	74.9%
	I. Sound System Project			
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$21,550.00	\$8,710.23	40.5%
IV. ENDING BALANCE FWD		\$6,900.38	\$69,482.41	1006.936%

* \$501.34 unused grant money refunded to Chelan County (Actual Summer Event Cost = \$1,498.66)

The Buckner Homestead Heritage Foundation is a not-for-profit organization created specifically to support and preserve the Buckner Homestead and Orchard in Stehekin, Washington, and is registered as such with the State of Washington and the IRS (Tax ID #452913458)

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