



Buckner
Homestead
HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

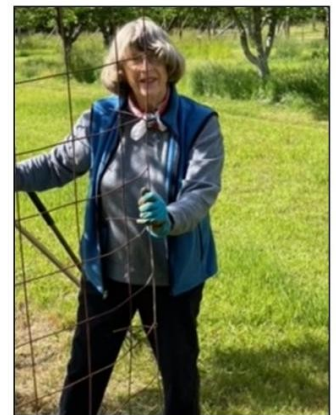
A Busy Year!

2022 was a busy year for events, work, work parties, planning for projects and direction, and more! It also brought a focus to little things, the little things at the Buckner Orchard that give us insight into the daily life of an earlier era - the sundial, a pasture gate, the stump puller, the garden fence, fuel platform, and more.

WORK PARTIES AND MORE

Two formal work parties were held in 2022, one in June, the second in July, highlighted by 90 hours of work by a youth group of more than 30 doing fuel reduction work around and near the historic structures. Limbs, downed trees, and other organic debris accumulate quickly, creating increased fuel for fire, which takes many hours to remove. This was a major gain for ongoing protection of the homestead! Many sincere thanks to all who volunteered.

Thinning, fuel reduction, and cage removal



Fence work, irrigation improvement, and thinning



More thinning and working on lights



Special Thanks to **Wendy Garfoot, Christy Libbey, Vicki Gempko, and Laurie Thompson** for facilitating the work parties in 2022, and **Dick Bingham** for being our expert lights installer!

Volunteer hours at the Orchard totaled nearly 500 in 2022, with two work parties accounting for 123 hours, and individual volunteer time accounting for the remainder!

The Little Things - It's all about character. Because of *NPS* and *Foundation* collaboration, those small features that provide insight to earlier daily life at the Homestead are being retained. In 2022:



Pasture Gate Rehabilitation - Posts replaced and gate re-hung by *NPS*



Garden Fence Rehabilitation - Materials collected and fence stabilized in 2022, with rehabilitation to be completed in 2023 by *BHHF*-funded *Washington Conservation Corp* crew



Sundial repair - Resetting and mortaring by volunteer **Dick Bingham**



Hercules Stump Puller Base Rebuild - Currently being rebuilt this winter by *NPS Stehekin Maintenance*, with some materials provided by *BHHF*



Ladder Hanger rebuild - Foundation volunteer



Fuel Platform Rehabilitation - To be completed in 2023. Materials provided by *BHHF* in 2022 and labor by *NPS* in 2023

PROJECTS AND PURCHASES

The Kiosk is all but done! A draft interpretation display was posted in 2022, reviewed, edited, and is now in final production. Once manufactured, the metal interpretative panel will be attached in early spring, completing this project.

A major interpretative and electrical project begun in 2019, then stalled for various reasons, is very near completion. Budgeted at a cost to *BHHF* of \$11,000, the actual cost to *BHHF* was \$9,731.67.

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 will occur there. This is an unique, hybrid kiosk design, combining the two uses, 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 construction work, and to **NPS staff** for the interpretative design, manufacturing, and installation.



Labor Support - *The Foundation* purchased one payperiod of *Washington Conservation Corp* crew labor for exclusive use at the Orchard in 2023. The time will be used to rehabilitate the garden fence and for apple thinning. (\$10,000)

Other Projects planned with *NPS* and not completed in 2022.

PROJECT	BUDGETED	STATUS
Repair Buzzard Cabin Furniture	\$1,000	Deferred
Cellar and Other Structures Assessment	\$10,000	Process begun
Viewscape Restoration	\$2,500	Deferred
Research possible Orchard Intern program	Time Only	Deferred
Fire Assessment	Time Only	Begun and ongoing
Weekly Orchard Tours	\$1,000	Delayed

EVENTS

Weddings, music events, Square Dance at the Orchard, and Harvest Fest made 2022 a busy year for the Orchard and *Foundation*. Many sincere thanks to *Stehekin Valley Adventure Tours* and *Stehekin Valley Ranch* for providing transportation for the various public events!

The 2022 Square Dance at the Orchard marked the return of this traditional and favorite event, with more than 200 happy dancers and vicarious bystanders!!



SQUARE DANCE 2023 WILL BE AUGUST 5

MUSIC AT THE ORCHARD, showcasing *Agnes on Fire*, brought lively and entertaining music back to the Orchard one more time! It was perfect weather for mid-September, with over 200 visitors and locals of all ages enjoying three hours of great listening and dancing. Thank you, Stehekin's own!



HARVEST FEST 2022 was a success, though still in a limited format. Visitors and local residents, provided a steady stream of pickers and pressers throughout the three days that materials and equipment for picking and making cider were provided. **Valley Music Night** and **Poetry Night**, traditional parts of **Harvest Fest**, returned, as well, and in record-setting fashion!

Harvest Fest 2023 is planned for October 6-8, 2023

Valley Music Night was held for the first time on the lawn of the *Stehekin School*, and was an overwhelming success! More than 160 people enjoyed great music on a unusually warm, fall evening. *Agnes on Fire*, *Peggy Ann Courtney*, and *Alan Mundal* lit up the night; and we are all very thankful for these very talented musicians providing such an enjoyable evening!



VALLEY MUSIC NIGHT FLASHBACKS!!



Of Note - *The Foundation* **sound system** was put to good use in 2022. In addition to Valley Music Night, it was also used at two weddings, the Square Dance, a community music event, a community meeting, and the September Music at the Orchard event.

Harvest Fest Picking and Pressing - A long, cool spring and a warmer than normal fall made for a very late ripening crop at the Orchard. This did not detract, though, from all the fun of picking and pressing the Common Delicious, Rome Beauties, and Jonathan's during Harvest Fest!



The late ripening did result in far more fruit than usual left on the trees after Harvest Fest. Valley residents chipped away at this abundance; with many trees, even then, still burdened with large, heavy apples.

This was compounded by another early snow; the weight of the snow and apples creating the very real threat of splitting and breaking the historic trees. Because of the efforts of *NPS* personnel to remove both snow and apples before damage was done, only one tree was lost. Not pleasant work!

Further, because this is an organic orchard, rodents are controlled, in part, by removing the remaining apples from the trees and ground and disposing of them elsewhere. Again, not pleasant work, especially in the snow and muck of 2022!

Only time will tell if late ripening in 2022 was an anomaly, or a continuing trend.

Poetry Night was held in the comfortable confines of the *Golden West Visitors' Center* for the first time in 10 years. Sitting around the fireplace, 40 folks enjoyed reading and listening to favorites and original pieces, making for a very nice conclusion to the Harvest Fest weekend.



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

The Orchard continues to be a unique and memorable wedding venue, with the three 2022 celebrations varying in both size and complexity. One was an elopement, while another was memorable for the amazing planning and organization of two families who went all out to create a special event.

All events at the Orchard require a Special Use Permit issued by the *National Park Service*. NPS works with *the Foundation* to ensure good communication, available options, and smooth seas for these special events.

Locations for ceremonies vary, while the *Packing Shed* serves as an ideal location for receptions and celebrations. All materials are hauled to the site and removed by the permit holders.

A Special September Wedding!



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.

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 together at the Orchard during the next calendar year. In 2022, 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. Staffing, weather, timing, and more can all impact plans for a given year.

The 2023 *Annual Work Plan* has been approved and is now in technical and grammatical editing.

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. 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 Ally, the Orchard is in great hands!

In addition to the care of the orchard, and not mentioned above, other National Park Service work at the Buckner Orchard 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 plants throughout the Homestead, as well as throughout the Valley. This is very monotonous and time-consuming work.

Interpretation - A *BHHF*-funded weekly walking tour of the Homestead and Orchard was funded in 2022, but was not implemented due to personnel health issues. We hope to initiate the tours in 2023.

Daily stops were also a part of the *Stehekin Valley Adventure* Tours, introducing many more to the Orchard.



Cultural Landscape Report - Several years in the making, 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 217-page report, with a very comprehensive history and recommended treatments and management, was delivered to *NPS* in 2022. *The Foundation* participated in providing input, editing, and comments.

Water System Replacement and Updating - Long-planned, *NPS Stehekin Maintenance* replaced the aging iron waterlines that serve the various structures, lawns, and garden at the Orchard, as well as upgraded all standpipes in 2022. Additionally, all standpipe water at the Orchard is now potable.



Buzzard Cabin - The most historic structure at the Orchard, the Buzzard Cabin is in mid-planning for significant repair and renovation in 2026 or 2027, if not sooner. *NPS* preservation specialists and a private contractor spent a great deal of time in late fall completing an ongoing *Historic Structure Report* which will provide specific direction in what needs to be done and how. The good news is that the project is already well funded. This IS an expensive, major project.

In 1984, the Buzzard Cabin went through a major restoration, much as is now being planned. In late 2016, emergency stabilization supports were added on both the interior and exterior of the structure, with a rotting sill log causing the entire cabin to lean precipitously from one end to the other. This work was funded by *BHFF* at a cost of \$6,000.



Buckner House Renovation - Nearing completion after five plus years of seasonal work, the Buckner Home is again close to welcoming a Park Service family! The complex and lengthy process, included removal of large maple and fir trees, lifting the entire house and retrofitting a complete reinforced concrete foundation below bringing the sinking house to level, a new roof, replacing all wiring and plumbing, installation of a new heating system, replacing interior walls and removing a recent addition, installing new kitchen and living room cabinets, refinishing floors and repainting rooms, installing several historically accurate windows, and much more.

The Foundation contributed photographs, as well as the funding to reconstruct several historic windows, to purchase and install the living room cabinets, and to fund the needed architectural review. *NPS* Historic Preservationist **Dana Barton** has carefully and lovingly made this happen; researching, planning, working, and coordinating the work and logistics from beginning to end.



The Root Cellar - At long last, the Buckner root cellar is beginning the *NPS* process for repair, rehabilitation, or restoration, whatever is appropriate.

Restored in the early 1980s at the same time as the Buzzard Cabin, water damage continues, with deterioration of sills, walls, doors, and insulation. *The Foundation* allocated \$10,000 in 2022 for an *NPS* structural analysis, which did not occur due to the lack of available trained staff .



ANNUAL FOUNDATION MEETING May 6, 2022 via Zoom

I. Election of Board Members and Officers

A. The following Board members were elected to three-year terms

Herb Sargo (Sedro-Woolley/Stehekin)

Christy Libbey (Manson/Stehekin)

Crystal Austin (Chelan)

B. The following officers were elected to one-year terms

Herb Sargo - President

Christy Libbey - Treasurer

Laura Reiter (Walla Walla) - Secretary

II. 2022 Budget was adopted.

III. Summary of the 2021 Annual Meeting was approved.

III. Laurie Thompson gave a brief orchard report.

On-line Board action during the year included approval of the 2022 calendar, 2022 walking tours, modification of the Harvest Fest plan, acceptance of the anonymous donation, and the 2023 Annual Work Plan.

SUPPORT



Adopt-A-Tree

Adopt-A-Tree continues to provide funds for support of *Foundation* work at the Orchard, with 40 adoptions totaling \$1,012.44 in 2022. This is an small increase from 2021.

Memberships

In 2022, 43 memberships of various levels were received, totaling, \$4,802.41, helping fund projects in 2022 and into the future. This was up from 28 the previous year.

Donations

\$37,653.30 in donations were made to the *Foundation* in 2022. This included the targeted donation noted below.

Grants and Targeted Donations

Grants - No grants were applied for or received for 2022.

Targeted Donation - An anonymous donation of \$35,000 was received in 2022 and will be used to facilitate the construction of an equipment storage structure outside the historic district in 2024. This is the second of two very generous, targeted donations to support our work at the Orchard.



A 2021 anonymous donation of \$50,000 was targeted for the installation in 2023 of a vault toilet just outside the historic district, near the Packing Shed. This project is on track, with compliance by NPS nearly completed.

NOTE - Targeted donations are use-specific and have little impact on our day-to-day operating budget. They do not replace 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* much easier and more effective. Here are businesses and individuals who assisted us in so many different ways in 2022. This 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!

Barge Shipping/transportation - *Mountain Barge Services*

Music Events - *Agnes on Fire, Peggy Ann Courtney, Alan Mundal, and the Stehekin School*

Loan of materials for Harvest Fest - *Mike Sherer*

Maintenance and continued development of our website - *Crystalview Graphics*

Equipment for Harvest Fest and/or Square Dance - *Stehekin School and NPS*

Clerical Materials - *Various individuals*

Publicity /Reporting - *Lake Chelan Mirror, LC Chamber of Commerce, Discover Lake Chelan*

Chamber of Commerce Membership - *Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce-BHMF exchange*

Facilities use - *Stehekin School District and National Park Service*

Photography - *Leo Christoffer, Vicki Gempko, Laurie Thompson, Dana Barton,*

Wendy Garfoot, Adele Bingham, Simon Krauter, and Herb Sargo

Storage - *NPS*

Sound System storage and management - *Liz and Tom Courtney*

Event Transportation - *Stehekin Adventures, Stehekin Valley Ranch, Discover Lake Chelan.*

Posting sites - *Stehekin Bakery, Stehekin Post Office, Tom's gas pump, Stehekin Valley Ranch, Stehekin Landing, and NPS*

Our supporters over all the years are priceless! **THANK YOU, ALL!**

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 2022 program year.

Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce – Memberships were exchanged between *the Foundation* and the *Chamber*, allowing each to be a member of the other.

Stehekin Guide Book - A full-page ad featuring *BHMF*-sponsored events at the Orchard was placed in 2022 at a cost of \$315.00. The *Guide Book* is provided free of charge to visitors at various locations.

14 Public Communications were sent via email during 2022, with 7 follow-up messages. These were updates and reports, announcements of coming events and cancellations, membership information, and news releases to local media. Editing and information were provided to several on-line and print publications, and postings throughout the Stehekin Community preceded each event, as well.

FEATURED PHOTOS



Late Fall is an amazing, almost spiritual time to be at the Orchard, a time many have not truly experienced.

Photo Credits: Leo Christoffer and Herb Sargo



Snow in October!
As someone said, "At least the apples look ripe!"

Photo credits: Laurie Thompson and Vicki Gempko

2022 END OF YEAR FISCAL REPORT ON FOLLOWING PAGE

2022 END OF YEAR FISCAL REPORT

CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	PERCENT
I. BALANCE FORWARD		\$69,482.41	\$69,482.41	100%
II. REVENUES	A. Adopt A Tree	\$1,000.00	\$1,012.44	101%
	B. Donations - General Fund	\$1,000.00	\$2,653.30	265%
	C. Grants			
	D. Memberships	\$2,000.00	\$4,802.41	240%
	E. Interest (Cashmere Valley Bank)	\$50.00	\$173.97	348%
	F. Harvest Fest Raffle			
	G. Targeted Donations		\$35,000.00	
	TOTAL INCOME	\$5,050.00	\$43,642.12	864%
TOTAL REVENUES		\$74,532.41	\$113,124.53	152%
III. EXPENDITURES	A. Equipment repair/maintenance			
	B. Harvest Fest	\$400.00	\$225.52	63%
	C. Priority Projects *	\$15,500.00	694.00	5%
	D. Incorporation and Affiliation			
	E. Administrative Costs	\$175.00	\$275.90	158%
	F.. Incidentals			
	G. Purchases	\$500.00	\$315.00	63%
	H. Summer Event	\$2,000.00	\$2,783.41	139%
	I. Targeted Projects	\$10,00.00	\$10,000.00	100%
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$28,575.00	\$14,292.93	50%
IV. ENDING BALANCE FWD		\$47,957.41	\$98,836.58	206%

The Buckner Homestead Heritage Foundation is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 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)