Buckner Homestead
HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A Very Productive Year!

Much was accomplished in 2023, with four major projects completed, more daily life features cared for or restored, walking tours offered for the summer, and Harvest Fest was fully back to its pre-pandemic form, thanks to the efforts and support of all of you!

WORK PARTIES AND VOLUNTEERS - Our Life-blood

Three successful work parties were held during the year, June 15, (5 volunteers, 16 hours), July 15, (14 volunteers, 40 hours), and October 6, (15 volunteers, 35 hours). The July work party was one of our most productive ever thanks to Laurie's great organizing! Work Parties totaled 91 hours, with an additional 220 hours of volunteer time. **Volunteer hours at the Orchard totaled over 300 in 2023.** Volunteers completed such things as

- Thining apples
- Ditch maintenance
- Cleaning the Buzzard Cabin and Packing Shed platform
- Electric fence repair
- Weed eating
- Fuel reduction around structures
- Collecting and stacking brush
- Pruning water suckners on apple trees
- Picking up hoses and sprinklers for winter
- Removing invasive plants
- And, more!

Special Thanks to **Christy Libbey, Wendy Garfoot,** and **Laurie Thompson** for facilitating the work parties in 2023, and **Dick Bingham, Chris Sargo,** and **Wendy** for being our expert lighting installers.

As always, there's thinning to be done in the late spring and early summer.



NOTE *- Apple thinning is the horticultural practice that reduces the number of apples per tree in the current season, resulting in increased fruit size of the remaining apples and increased return bloom and yield in the next season.*

Management of the crop is a balancing act between reducing crop load sufficiently to achieve optimum apple size and adequate return bloom and not reducing yield too much. Inadequate thinning can produce too many apples, small size, and poor quality.

In commercial orchards, thinning is done chemically. The Buckner Orchard is organic, so traditional thinning by hand is done each year, removing the small green apples to achieve a spacing of 8-10 inches, breaking up doubles and clusters, and removing apples to reduce the load on smaller limbs. Needless to say, this is a very labor-intensive process!

And, there is always a multitude of other tasks that need to be done by volunteers.



MAJOR PROJECTS AND PURCHASES

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor and work, collaboration, and funding by the *Foundation* and *NPS;* four major projects were successfully completed in 2023!

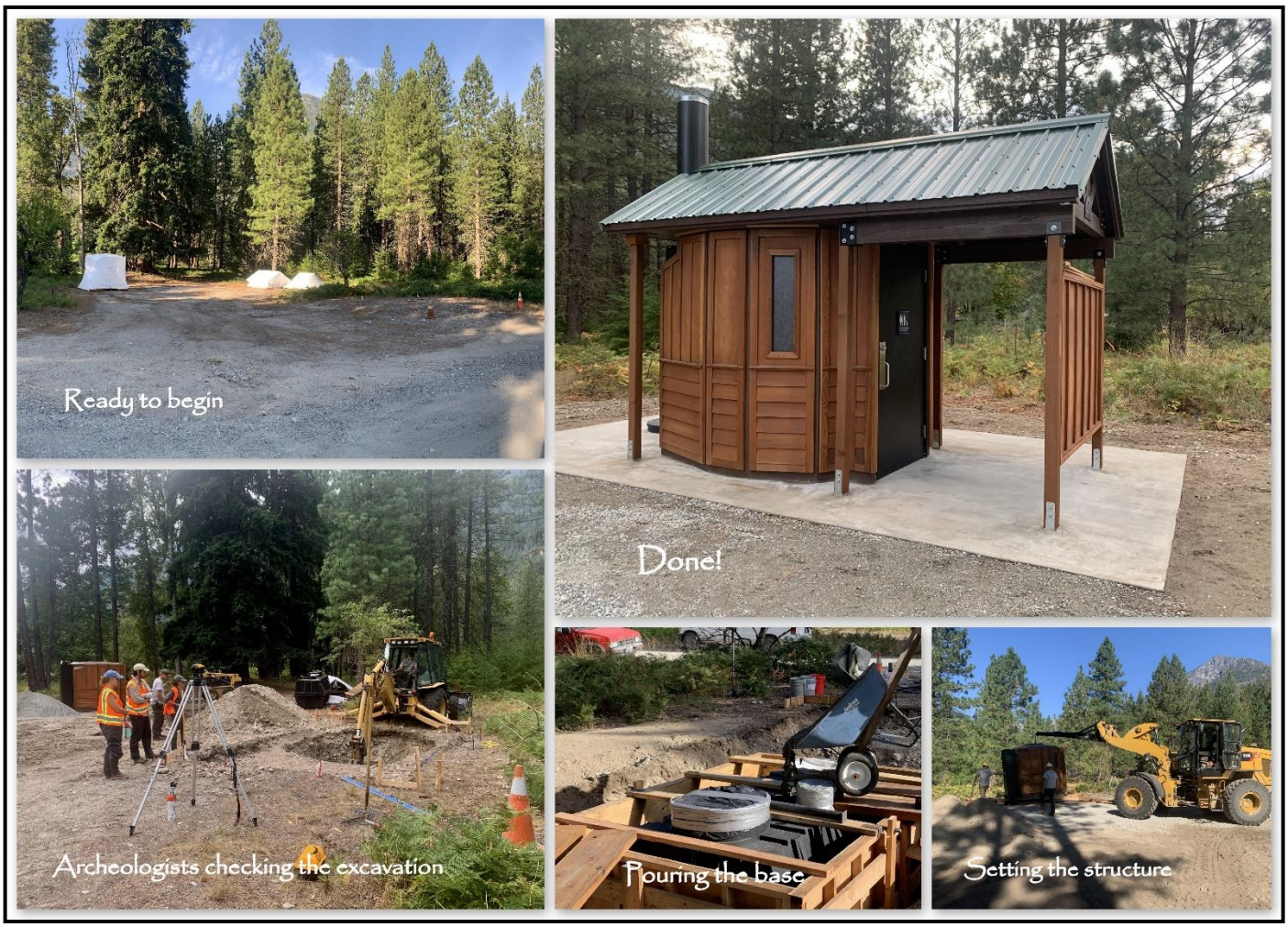
- New Restroom Installed
- Garden Fence Rehabilitated
- Walking Tours Offered
- Kiosk Completed

Restroom Project Completion!

With purchase of the Romtec toilet by the *Foundation* and construction by *NPS Stehekin Maintenance,* a much-needed bathroom facility has been added near the Packing Shed for events held there, as well as in a visible location for those entering and leaving the Orchard.

Funded by $40,000 of a $50,000 anonymous donation, (the remaining $10,000 funded the *WCC* work on the fence), the project was slightly overbudget, (2%), as noted below. Significant savings were achieved by *Mountain Barge Services* providing the shipping from Chelan to Stehekin and *NPS Stehekin Maintenance* assembling the structure**. It is worth noting the high quality of work done by *NPS* on this project, as well as their other work at the Orchard!**

The overage of $864.09 was paid for by the *Foundation* from its Priority Projects fund.



Garden Fence Rehab Completed!

With the remaining $10,000 of the anonymous donation, the *Foundation* provided *NPS* with a grant that allowed contracting of a *Washington Conservation Corp* crew for ten days to complete the fence work. The *WCC* was able to complete the project with several days remaining, and were used for a variety of other jobs around the Orchard, as well.

23 new cedar posts provided by *NPS* were needed and new holes were dug in the rocky Stehekin soil for each post. Not an easy job! Pickets and rails were reused whenever possible, and were supplemented by like-material gathered from the burn piles of numerous small mills in the Valley. The above ground parts of rotted posts were split and repurposed as pickets and rails where appropriate.









WEST SIDE



The foliage, (lilacs, irisis, and sweet peas), was worked around, and will return in the spring to further enhance this reminder of the earlier sustainability of the Buckner Homestead.

It should be noted that this is not the original Buckner Garden, though it has been there for fifty years. It was relocated from behind the shop to the current location in 1972 because of shade from the growth of surrounding trees. The current location is also much easier to water.

Walking Tours Return!

Walking tours returned to the Orchard in 2023. Provided by the *Foundation* on behalf of the *National Park Service,* tours began on July 14 and ran each Friday and Saturday afternoon through September 30. The tours were a moderate success, with 111 enthusiastic and appreciative visitors participating. Tours were offered previously by *NPS,* and a decision will be made soon as to whether or not the *Foundation* will offer the tours in 2024, and in what form.







Many sincere thanks to **Wendy Garfoot, Mark Scherer, Christy Libbey**, and **Herb Sargo** for providing the tours, and to ***Stehekin Valley Adventures*** for offering a transportation option.

The Kiosk is Finally Finished!



The kiosk is a major interpretative and electrical project begun in 2019. It then stalled for various reasons, and is now finished! Budgeted at a cost to *BHHF* of $11,000, the actual cost was $9,731.67.

The kiosk serves a dual purpose, providing welcoming and interpretative information to visitors as they enter the historic site, and electrical power is returned to the packing shed for events and work that will occur there. This is a 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.

THE LITTLE THINGS

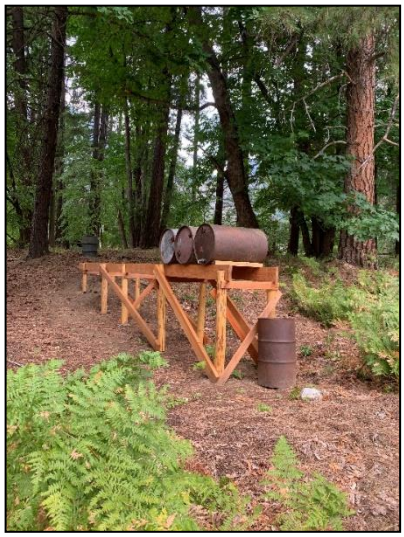
It's all about character. Through *NPS* and *Foundation* collaboration, those small features that provide insight to earlier daily life at the Homestead are being retained, returned, and repaired. This continued with a strong emphasis in 2023.



Hercules Stump Puller, instrumental in clearing the original homestead, had its base rebuilt by *NPS Stehekin Maintenance*, with the *Fondation* providing part of the materials.



The Buckner drag saw was returned and displayed in a working position, having been absent from the Orchard for several years with the hope it might be restored to working order. Too rusted was the diagnosis.



The fuel platform, was completely rehabilitated by *NPS Stehekin Maintenance,* with *BHHF* providing the materials. The "gas station" illustrates how vechiles were fueled with a minimum amount of labor, letting gravity to the work.

EVENTS

Music events, *Square Dance at the Orchard*, and *Harvest Fest* again made 2023 a busy year for the Orchard, community, and *Foundation*. Many sincere thanks to ***Stehekin Valley Adventure Tours*** and ***Stehekin Valley Ranch*** for providing transportation for these various community events!


Harvest Fest


Valley Music Night


Agnes on Fire!


Square Dance at the Orchard

The 2023 Square Dance at the Orchard marked the annual return of this traditional and favorite event. More than 200 happy dancers and vicarious bystanders were there!

Square Dance at the Orchard 2024 is August 3.

MUSIC AT THE ORCHARD, showcasing ***Agnes on Fire,*** brought lively and entertaining music back to the Orchard one more time! It was, again, 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 2023 was a big success, with three days of fun for all ages! Visitors and local residents, provided a steady stream of pickers and pressers throughout the three days and beyond 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!

Harvest Fest 2024 is October 4-6.

Harvest Fest Picking, Pressing, and Potluck!





PRESSING AND POTLUCK!

Poetry Night was held sitting around the fireplace in the cozy confines of the *Golden West Visitors Center*. 20 folks enjoyed reading and listening to favorites and original pieces, making for a very nice conclusion to the Harvest Fest weekend.

From **After Apple-Picking** by Robert Frost

My long two-pointed ladder's sticking through a tree
Toward heaven still,
And there's a barrel that I didn't fill
Beside it, and there may be two or three
Apples I didn't pick upon some bough.
But I am done with apple-picking now.

Valley Music Night There is a lot of extraordinary talent in our little valley! Many sincere thanks to **Peggy Ann, Mandy, Alan, Liz, Tom,** and **Smith** for sharing it with us on the school lawn. It was a great Friday night kickoff to Harvest Fest, and in a very comfortable and relaxed format. Thank you, all!



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 2023, 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. *NPS* staffing and more will all impact plans for the coming year.

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 wonderful 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 Mack, 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, as noted previously, was implemented in 2023 by the *Foundation* on behalf of *NPS.* The program is currently being evaluated as to continuing in 2024.

The Buckner Home – After years of renovation and repair, the Buckner Home was completed this spring, and as of May 5, is now a Park Service employee private residence! The work was done by *NPS* historic preservation specialists and crews, with funding for a number of features provided by the *Foundation*.

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. This was all done while maintaining the house's historical character

The Foundation contributed photographs, as well as the funding to construct or reconstruct several historic windows, to purchase and install the living room cabinets, and to fund the needed architectural review.

The following photos remind us of just how much work and time this project took.



Buzzard Cabin - The most historic structure at the Orchard, planning is ongoing for significant repair and renovation in 2026 or 2027. This is an expensive, major project, with funds already appropriated for the work.



The Root Cellar - At long last, the Buckner root cellar is beginning the *NPS* process in 2024 for repair, rehabilitation, or restoration, whatever is appropriate.

Restored in the early 1980s at the same time as the Buzzard Cabin, water and rodent damage continues, with deterioration of sills, walls, doors, and insulation.





ANNUAL FOUNDATION MEETING **May 6, 2022 via Zoom**

I. Call to Order by the President 7:05 PM

II. Election of Board Members and Officers

MOTION 1-2023 (Moved by Adele Bingham, seconded by Christine Sargo - pre-filed)
Re-Elect the following board members **to three-year terms, Passed**
Brun Garfoot – (Chelan, WA) Greater Lake Chelan Community Rep.
Jim Trappe – (Corvalis, OR) Position #8
Laura Reiter – (Walla Walla, WA) Greater Lake Chelan Community Rep

MOTION 2-2023 (Moved by Cinda Gilbert, seconded by Danita Breeze - pre-filed)
Elect Foundation Officers to one-year Terms, Passed
Herb Sargo – (Sedro-Woolley/Stehekin) – President
Christy Libbey – (Manson/Stehekin) – Treasurer
Laura Reiter – (Walla Walla) - Secretary

III. Approval of 2023 Budget

MOTION 3-2023 (Moved by Christy Libbey, seconded by Laura Reiter - pre-file**d)**
Approved the 2023 Annual Budget as presented.

IV. Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Summary

MOTION 4-2023 (Moved by Laura Reiter, seconded by Christy Libby - pre-filed)
Approved the 2021 Annual Meeting Summary & voting addendum as printed

V. Laurie Thompson gave a brief orchard report.

On-line Board action during the year included approval of the 2023 calendar, the initial budget, 2023 walking tours, acceptance of the anonymous donation, the 2024 Annual Work Plan, and funding for window coverings for the Buckner Home.

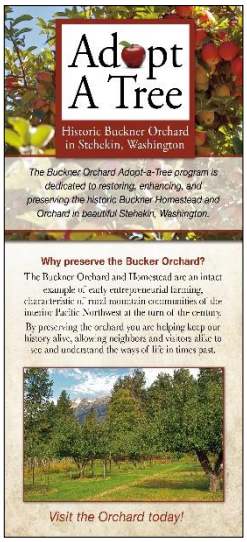
Foundation Board Members

President – **Herb Sargo**, Sedro-Woolley/Stehekin
Treasurer – **Christy Libbey,** Manson/Stehekin
Secretary – **Laura Reiter,** Walla Walla
Bob Nielsen – Stehekin/the high meadows and peaks
Dick Bingham – Stehekin/East Wenatchee
Brun Garfoot – Chelan
Crystal Austin – Chelan
Jim Trappe – Corvallis, OR
Doug England - Manson

All officers and Board members of the Foundation serve, work, and love what we do on a entirely volunteer basis.

SUPPORT

Support of the Buckner Orchard comes in a variety of forms. Financially, supporters donate by check or on-line via *BetterWorld* in three categories. Additionally, in-kind support by individual and businesses is provided in many ways, as well.



Adopt-A-Tree

Adopt-A-Tree continues to provide funds for support of *Foundation* work at the Orchard, with 14 adoptions totaling $351.80 in 2023. This is an significnt decrease from 2022.

Memberships

In 2023, 32 memberships of various levels were received, totaling, $3,426.16, helping fund projects in 2023 and into the future. This was down from the previous year, both in number of memberships, as well as dollars.

Donations

Individual Donations - $5,743.80 in 10 individual donations were made to the *Foundation* in 2023. This did not include the targeted donation noted below.

Grants and Targeted Donations

Grants – A grant of $2,700 for support of the Square Dance was received from the Chelan County Lodging Tax Fund.

Targeted Donations - An anonymous donation of $35,000 was received in 2023 and will be used to facilitate the construction of an equipment storage structure outside the historic district. This is the second of two very generous, targeted donations to support construction of the much-need structure.

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 2023. 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, Tom and Liz Courtney, Smith, Steve Saunders, and the Stehekin School*
Maintenance and continued development of our website - *Crystalview Graphics*
Equipment for Harvest Fest and/or Square Dance - *Stehekin School* and *NPS, Stehekin Valley Ranch, and Mike Sherer.*
Publicity /Reporting – *Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, Discover Lake Chelan, The Mirror*
Chamber of Commerce Membership - *Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce-BHHF exchange*
Facilities use - *Stehekin School District and National Park Service*
Photography - *Leo Christoffer, Vicki Gempko, Dana Barton, Laurie Thompson, Wendy Garfoot, and Herb Sargo*
Sound System storage and management - *Liz and Tom Courtney*
Event Transportation - *Stehekin Valley Adventures, Stehekin Valley Ranch, Discover Lake Chelan*
Machinery Repair and Maintenance – *Keith Carpenter and Herb Sargo*
Posting sites - *Stehekin Bakery, Stehekin Post Office, Tom's gas pump, Stehekin Valley Ranch, Stehekin Landing, and NPS*
Material Discounts – *Lake Chelan Building Supply*



Cider Press Donation – *Lynnette Roberts, Megan Kelly, George and Merrianne Makela and Mimi Keller*

This donation brings our number of presses to three. This allows greater participation, and provides a backup when other presses are not working properly, as was the case at Harvest Fest this year. A most sincere thank you!

Special Recognition!

One business has always been there when needed, from our reorganization in 2009 to the present, and that is **Mountain Barge Services,** formerly **Tom Courtney Tug and Barge.** The *Foundation* recognized and celebrated the fifteen years of support provided by *MBS* with the presentation of 5" X 7" porcelain recognition plaques. Their support of the Orchard and community has been outstanding and very note-worthy. 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 2023 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 *BHHF*-sponsored events at the Orchard was placed in 2023 at a cost of $315.00. The *Guide Book* is provided free of charge to visitors at various locations.

Washington National Park Fund – The *Foundation* worked closely with *WNPF*, for a presentation and tour of the Orchard during their Campfire series stay in Stehekin during Harvest Fest.

14 Public Communications were sent via email during 2023. 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.



2023 END-OF-YEAR FISCAL REPORT IS ON THE NEXT PAGE



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)

2023 END-OF-YEAR FISCAL REPORT

CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY	2023 ADOPTED	2023 ACTUAL
I. Balance Forward		**$ 98,836.58**	**$ 98,834.14**
II. Anticipated Revenues	A. Adopt A Tree	$1,000.00	$ 351.80
	B. Donations - General Fund	$2,000.00	$ 5,743.30
	C. Packing Shed		
	D. Memberships	$3,000.00	$ 3,426.16
	E. Interest (Cashmere Valley Bank)	$150.00	$ 639.04
	F. HF Raffle		
	g. Grants	$2,700.00	$ 2,700.00
	I. Dedicated Funds		$ 35,000.00
	TOTAL INCOME	**$8,850.00**	**$ 47,860.30**
Total Funds Available		**$107,686.58**	**$ 146,694.44**
III. Anticipated Expenses	A. Equipment repair/maintenance		$ 70.00
	B. Harvest Fest	$300.00	$ 350.63
	C. Priority Projects *	$5,500.00	$ 1,106.06
	D. Incorporation and Affiliation		
	E. Administrative Costs	$300.00	$ 260.47
	F. Incidentals		$ 1,564.12
	H. Purchases	$500.00	$ 509.92
	I. Summer Events	$7,000.00	$ 2,999.41
	J. Dedicated Funds	$40,000.00	$ 40,000.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	**$53,600.00**	**$ 46,860.61**
IV. ENDING BALANCE FWD	**BALANCE FORWARD**	**$54,086.58**	**$ 99,833.11**
	Working Budget		**$29,833.61**
	Dedicated Projects	**$35,000.00**	**$70,000.00**