



[dreibelbisfarm.org](http://dreibelbisfarm.org)

Winter 2014

## Looking Back at 2013 and Ahead Through the New Year

This past year has been an active and productive one for the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society (DFHS) as we continued to develop and make available to the public this unique 18th century Pennsylvania German farmstead. A few milestones were reached, our number of volunteers grew, and many worked diligently to help fulfill our mission. As we review these accomplishments, all who were involved can be proud of what happened in the past year.

### 2013 Farm Festival



The 2nd annual Farm Festival last August was another huge success. Approximately 350 people were on hand to experience "life on the farm." This included a variety of crafts, skills and displays demonstrating early Pennsylvania German farm life. Our 2013 festival featured more displays and exhibitors; and next year we hope to include even more. The success of the festival is entirely dependent on our dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly and with great enthusiasm to produce the event.



### Restoration

Work continues on the brick chicken house to restore and develop it into a museum display area and multi-purpose building for historical workshops and meetings. This is a big task. The dirt floor will be dug down to allow wood flooring to be installed. The windows are being totally refinished/rebuilt. Roof insulation, electricity, and heating and air conditioning will complete the project. We are so fortunate that Bill Thomas donated his time to saw the floorboards. We now have over 1,200 board feet of red oak flooring drying in the barn! Other projects included clearing and organizing areas of the barn and improving the butcher house display. We are trying to progress with the cataloging and documentation project that was started by Jenna Hepner to provide an inventory of the artifacts in the house.

### Programs and Activities Planned for 2014

- **February:** Ice making on the farm. This would include a demonstration of how ice was harvested and stored, and why this was important to early farm life.
- **May:** Wildflower Walk. Noted botanist Frank Muzzapappa will lead a walk through the wetlands.
- **August:** 3rd annual Farm Festival. A demonstration of crafts and techniques of Pennsylvania German 18th and 19th Century farm life with tours of the historic house will be held late August.

### Maintenance Around the Farm

We acquired four donated goats which were put to work cleaning up the overgrown fence rows around the farm. Each week they are moved to a new area — boy, can they eat! Once they have eaten the poison ivy and multiflora rose we go in and clean up all the junk and old fencing that has accumulated over the years. Other jobs accomplished included: painting, trimming trees, cleaning up downed trees, clearing the nature trail along the Maiden Creek, repairing the farm lane, and other typical routine maintenance

## Hurricane Sandy (2012)

The effects of Hurricane Sandy are still with us. We are still working to get the final insurance settlement. Work was begun to repair the three broken barn doors, roofs, chimney and electrical service. Hopefully, these repairs will be completed in 2014.



### Wish List

- Pressure treated lumber— 2x4, 2x6, 2x8, 2x10, and 2x12. Also, 5/4 deck boards (1"). (We'll take used lumber. Boards may have nails and screws in them.)
- Garden Tools— shovel, rake, pruner clippers, digging iron, lawn mower, leaf blower, brush trimmers, weed whacker.
- Hand Tools— hammer, saw, wrench, screwdriver, pliers, etc.
- Electrical— wire of all gauges, service panel, conduit.
- Plumbing— ¾ HP submersible well pump, water lines, PVC pipe.
- Fasteners— screws, nails, bolts, nuts, washers.

If you have any of these items that you are not using, please consider donating them to the DFHS. We can arrange for pickup. If you have any questions about donating items not on the list, don't hesitate to contact us.

### Fund Raising

This year for the first time we organized a fund raising appeal. A letter was sent to everyone who had expressed interest in the DFHS. The appeal was a great success; we raised over \$2,000.00. We very much appreciate all who supported this appeal. We also have been collecting Redners' receipts from which they donate 1% of the total sales to the DFHS. If you would like to participate, sign up at Redners Grocery Store for your Gas Perks Card and use it whenever you purchase anything at Redners. Save your receipts and give to any board member. This is an easy way for us to raise funds, so please consider participating!

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the DFHS works behind the scenes to ensure that the administrative details of running a 501-c-3 nonprofit foundation are carried out in a way that not only complies with the law, but gives us our best chance that this foundation will continue well into the future. Board Members are Mark Dreibelbis, President; Ned Dresher, Vice President; Karen Freeman, Treasurer; Jodi Greene-Kelly, Secretary; and Brian Ott, Esq.

## Volunteer Opportunities

The DFHS functions exclusively through the efforts of volunteers. We have no paid staff. Who would be a likely volunteer? Anyone who has a strong desire to preserve farmland and open spaces, a strong interest in history, a connection to farming, a love of nature and environmental preservation, or a love of teaching and demonstrating crafts or skills. If you are looking for a worthwhile activity, a great group of people to join, or if you're a skilled craftsman or tradesman who would like to "give back" to the community, we would love to have you join us. Friends and relatives are welcome. Please contact us if you have any interest in volunteering.

### What would you like to see?

We would like to hear from our supporters about what kind of activities, presentations, demonstration, etc., you would be interested in that may fit in with the mission of the DFHS. Consider ideas that would help develop the potential of this project, make us visible to the public, and provide educational opportunities relevant to early Pennsylvania German farm life, nature and the environment, Native American culture, or farming.

### Contact Information

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