Happy Labor Day!

WWW.FHCC.weebly.com

Bottle Drive 2013

The bottle drive ends this weekend! Thank you to all who donated their bottles & cans!

Stay Informed!

The Fish House Community Center is over 200 years old, but it is staying up to date in the internet world! "Like us" on Facebook! You can also go to the FHCC website at: www.FHCC.weebly.com. If you want email alerts on our Fish House events, just give us your email address at this breakfast.

Interesting Local Websites

www.visitsacandaga.com
www.sacandagaexpress.com
www.lovethesacandaga.com
www.sacandagalife.com
www.gsla.org
www.edinburgnewsletter.com

What Does "Sacandaga" Mean?

Try looking up the meaning of the word, Sacandaga. You won't find just one answer! The word comes from the Iroquois indians. Below is a list of the various interpretations:

* overflowed lands
* land of the waving grass
* drowned lands
* the river of sunken or drowned lands

When the lake was made in 1930, a ballot was used to decide what to name the new lake. "Lake Sacandaga" (since Sacandaga River was dammed to make the lake) and "Lake Sargent" (after the engineer who designed the plans for the lake) were offered as choices. There were 3500 ballots for Lake Sacandaga!.

Ring of FIre

from Daily Gazette,
by Jeff Wilkin August 26, 2012

The late Agnes Gilbert helped put the spectacle together. A longtime resident of Mayfield, she saw her first ring of fire in 1988.

"My brother Lucian Gilbert had a camp on Keuka Lake in the middle part of the state and every year around July 4 they'd do a ring of fire around the lake, which is much smaller than Sacandaga Lake," said Sylvia Parker, Gilbert's daughter.

"It was awe-inspiring," said Parker, who lives in the Cranberry Creek section of Mayfield and is president of the Mayfield Historical Society. "You could see all around the lake. Some people had flares, some people had fires from burning brush. It was really special. Mom said, 'I wonder if we could do this in Sacandaga?' "

Parker and her friend Donna Haydon made fliers promoting the Sacandaga ring and tacked and taped notices in restaurants, bars, grocery stores and other public places. The organizers persuaded enough people to set the Sacandaga shore ablaze during Labor Day weekend of 1988.

The shows always begin around dusk, about 8:30 p.m., on the Sunday before Labor Day.

"It runs itself," Parker said. "People just know. But it's not on Labor Day. It's the night before, because on Labor Day, everybody leaves. It's always on a Sunday."

Parker believes the Sacandaga "ring" has become a way to mark the end of summer. "It pulls people together and makes you look forward to another year with friends," Parker said. "It gives you a good feeling."

Agnes Gilbert saw plenty of Sacandaga fire parties before she passed away in 2010 at age 92.

"I'm surprised it has kept going, it amazes me," Parker said. "But it has taken people's fancies."

T-Shirt/Sweatshirt Sale

Don't let the summer go by without buying a Fish House sweatshirt or T-Shirt!

Little Free Library

Our little library now has an official sign! The library will stay open until mid October. So stop on by and borrow a book!
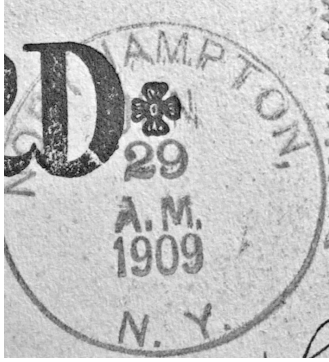
Post Cards

The first postcard to be printed as a souvenier in the Unites States was in 1893, to advertise the Worlds' Exposition in Chicago. At that time, only the USPS was allowed to print postcards. Then in 1898, the Private Mailing Card Act was passed and private publishers and printers started to produce postcards. They were not allowed to be called postcards and they didn't have a divided back. People had to write their messages on the picture side of the postcard. On March 1, 1907, the USPS allowed private citizens to write on the address side of the postcard and postcards started to have a "divided back".

Postcards became very popular. People began collecting them for albums. The "Golden Age" of postcards was from 1907-1913. Lithographic ones showed scenes in color. These were printed in Germany by skilled artisans. When World War One started, Germany imports to the United States were discontinued and the postcard industry crashed.

One type of postcard, however, continued to be printed. These were the "real photo" postcards. In 1906, the Eastman Kodak company of Rochester started producing different models of "postcard" cameras. There was a small thin door on the back of the camera where the photographer could use a metal scribe to "scratch" in the caption. Photographers, representing printers, would cross the country taking pictures of many different places. Some postcard outlets, such as pharmacies and five & dimes, became publishers. This allowed nearly every small town to have some postcards showing their town.

After World War One, however, the postcard industry did not return to its previous popularity. The telephone had been invented enabling people a fast and reliable way to keep in touch.

**Lithographic Postcard
showing the village square.**
This card was in color.

**Photographic Postcard
showing Fish House Hotel**
This hotel burned down in 1920.

**Lithographic Postcard
Hascy House** on road to bridge
This card was in color.
The Hascy house was moved, but later torn down.

**Photographic Postcard
Smith House**
on Old Fish House Road
It was taken down.

Interested in the history of Fish House? Check out the website: www.northamptonnyhistory.com