



# Scioto Valley News

## Spring 2007

A Publication of Hostelling International, Central and Southern Ohio Council

*"To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people through hostelling."*

### **Betsy Rush, HI-Malabar Farm Hostel Manager, Retires** **Interview by Phyllis South**

*After 9 years of greeting guests and welcoming visitors, Betsy Rush is retiring as Manager of HI-Malabar Farm Hostel. This is not the first time she has retired and moved on to another stage in her life. I admire how Betsy does not fear change and the unknown. I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Betsy for the seven years that I have been a Director on Hostelling International, Central and Southern Ohio Council's Board. Betsy's welcoming spirit connects with hostel guests, making one feel comfortable upon entering the front door. For this reason I wanted to interview her.*

*– Phyllis South*

**How long have you worked at HI-Malabar Farm Hostel, and why did you seek the position of Hostel Manager?**

I have worked here since September of 1998. I was a volunteer at the [Malabar Farm State Park] farm and a good friend of the former manager, who died. When she passed away, I applied for the job. Before that I was a Practical Nurse at a nursing home.

**What do you think makes a person a good candidate for your job? What have you learned about people?**

You have to enjoy meeting people and enjoy traveling and hostelling.

I have learned that you can't judge a person by his or her looks. What is inside is what really counts. Everyone has good and bad points and everyone has interesting stories to tell.

**The Hostel is located in Malabar Farm State Park and you work closely with the staff of the park. How has this affected your life as the Manager?**

Malabar Farm State Park is a working farm. I can be involved with all sorts of activities. Everyday activities change due to the change of the seasons. For example, every spring sees a rebirth of the farm, with new plants, animals, wildflowers and birds returning.



**I have always been impressed with your knowledge and stories of the area. How did you come to have such vast information?**

My family is from the Mansfield area and I grew up around here. I have always loved the outdoors and history. My parents and other relatives loved to tell stories, and I enjoyed listening and sharing with others. I heard about the characters in the area, such as Phoebe Wise and Louis Bromfield. People here always shared stories of important local events.

**Across the road from the Hostel stands the building where the Malabar Farm Spinning and Weaving Guild meets. What role does this play in your life?**

Life revolves around the members of the Guild and the staff of the Farm. They all become an extended family. We just enjoy the fellowship and learning the old crafts. You see things beginning from seeds, caring for them as they grow.

Then you harvest the produce and enjoy the results. You come away with a very special view of the world here.

**And your family?**

I have a son in Texas and a daughter who is deceased. Also I have two lovely granddaughters in this area who are very important to me.

**And now that you are retiring again, what are you plans?**

As much as I have enjoyed the Hostel, it is time for me to move to another stage in my life. I want to travel and visit other historic sites and enjoy this great country we live in. I have made great friends here who I do not want to lose track of. I am grateful for the experience of working at the Hostel and meeting all the people associated with Hostelling. I have been very fortunate and had a great time.

**We will miss you a lot, Betsy. You have been a huge help in planning events at the Hostel. Thank you and we wish you all the best!**

## HI-Malabar Farm Hostel Open Times Now through December 15, 2007

Thursday night – Sunday morning  
(evening hours 5-10 PM;  
morning hours 7-10 AM)

Rates: \$17 per person for HI members.  
Additional \$3/person for non-members.  
Discount for children 12 yrs. and under.  
Discount for groups of 10 or more.



Inquire about reservations and special arrangements for groups:

Hi-Malabar Farm Hostel  
3954 Bromfield Rd  
Lucas, OH 44843

Tel: 1-419-892-2055  
Fax: 1-419-892-3055  
E-mail: [hi-malabarfarm@juno.com](mailto:hi-malabarfarm@juno.com)

## Upcoming at Malabar Farm State Park: Night Haunts

On two special Saturday nights this summer, Malabar Farm State Park (MFSP) hosts programs exploring the normal and paranormal.

Each evening will begin with a program on Ohio's only flying mammal, the bat. Participants will then walk to the Ceely Rose house and hear the strange local tale of its former inhabitant. A campfire in front of the Bromfield Big House

and rare candlelight tour inside the Big House complete these fun events.

Dates: **July 14 & August 11**, 8pm – 12 midnight.

Cost: \$30/participant.

Recommended for ages 17 & up.

Number of participants is limited. Call 419-892-2784 to register or for more information on MFSP events.

## Hostel Report: HI-Peninsula, Stanford House Hostel

By Brian Stettner

Location: 6093 Stanford Rd., Peninsula, Summit County, OH 44264  
Overnight cost (adult, summer): \$19  
Telephone: 330-467-8711  
e-mail: stanfordhostel@windstream.net

This newsletter regularly promotes the HI-USA hostel that lies within our jurisdiction – HI-Malabar Farm Hostel, in rural Richland County. After an overdue visit to Ohio's other great hostel this spring, I finally can personally recommend HI-Peninsula, Stanford House Hostel.

Stanford House stands in the village of Peninsula, in Summit County within Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The stately 1843 Greek Revival Farmhouse holds over 30 beds in several rooms. I found all very clean.

A stone's throw away runs the popular Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, perfect for bicycling. One can take it much of the way into downtown Cleveland. A drive to downtown Cleveland from the hostel took about 45 minutes in my car.

The hostel boasts a large, very functional kitchen, a large attractive dining and common room, and a comfortable living room. Free parking at the hostel and free entry into the Park simplify planning.

The hostel staff consists of a National Park Ranger, Brady Bourquin, and a National Park volunteer guide, so you can't beat the information available on activities and places to enjoy in Cuyahoga Valley.



Overnight dorm bed rates depend on age and date: from May 1 to October 31, adults sleep for \$19 and young children for \$8.50. Between November 1 and April 30, rates drop to \$15 a night for adults on Friday & Saturday nights, and \$11 other nights, with reductions for children also.

Ohio's great northern city offers culture, fascinating history and insights into challenges of the post-manufacturing age metropolis. I

encountered traffic around the NBA team's arena and crowds at the mall, but less than 20 people while walking 36 blocks down the city's historic main street, Euclid Avenue, on a sunny afternoon. The Cleveland Symphony, museums, and other urban destinations beckon discovery by the city-lover.

For the central Ohio biking and hostelling enthusiast, consider the following week's adventure: bike from Columbus to HI-Malabar Farm Hostel (67 miles) Saturday, from HI-Malabar Farm Hostel to HI-Peninsula Stanford House Hostel (71 miles) Sunday, split three full days between the National Park and city, bike back Thursday from Stanford House to Malabar, and Friday from Malabar to Columbus. You will not find a better bicycling hostel trip in the Midwest.

I encourage all CSOC council members to patronize both Ohio's central and northern hostels this summer!

CSOC awards a special T-shirt to the best guest contribution to this newsletter. This issue: no guest contributions! Want to win a T-shirt? Send is your contribution for the next issue!

## Cultural Kitchen 2: Eatin' in Eaton

By Allan & Phyllis South

Hostelling International, Central & Southern Ohio Council (CSOC) members Jon Porter, Phyllis South, and Allan South traveled to Eaton, Ohio to work with Girl Scout Troop 106 on a Cultural Kitchen program this spring, culminating in a wonderful program April 22 with international students from Miami University.

Cultural Kitchen is an educational youth outreach program of HI-USA councils that empowers group participants to study a foreign culture, culminating in a meal prepared by the group that is shared with travelers.

For the first part of this program, CSOC directors facilitated a discussion among the Girl Scouts of culture and its impact on everyone's life. They also talked about travel and hostelling.

Courtney Clippinger, Chelcie and Brianna Swartwout, Margarita and Daria Yoder, Brooke Voiles, Brittany Fugate, Brittany Freeman, Kelly Kline, Haley Stapleton, Shelby Naughton, Ovia Platt and Shawnell Asher decided that their Girl Scout troop would study the country of Zambia. They spent a month researching Zambia and its culture with the help of Scout leaders Kari Clippinger and Jackie Platt.

Then on April 22, our Kitchen's travelers - foreign students Junxia Lu, Jayanthi Sanjeeri and Sriram Deranathan from Miami University - joined CSOC for the girls' presentation and dinner. The Girl Scouts presented a wealth of information about Zambia and, with the support of CSOC directors Allan and Phyllis South and Jon Porter, prepared a typical Zambian meal.

Dinner featured chicken *Moambe*, *geels rys* (yellow rice), sweet potato salad, peanut milk and peanut candy. Many children in Africa are lactose-intolerant, so when a protein rich drink is needed, one makes peanut milk. It is not bad at all.

The college guests from China and India and the Girls Scouts from Eaton, Ohio shared fun and information about their homes in informal discussion throughout the dinner.

HI-USA helps all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world at hostels, but also at other HI-USA programs. If you know of a group that would enjoy and benefit from a Cultural Kitchen, please contact CSOC's Allan or Phyllis South at 614-276-0447.

### Newsletter delivered to your E-mail Inbox!

CSOC offers this newsletter in two formats: the familiar print version or a notification & link sent to your e-mail address. Additionally, you may completely cancel your subscription to this newsletter, though we hope you won't. You will continue to receive the print version unless you direct us otherwise. To begin receiving the electronic version instead of print version, please e-mail a brief message to [ayh@netwalk.com](mailto:ayh@netwalk.com), subject = "Newsletter."

#### Board of Directors Meetings

*The CSOC Board of Directors welcomes all council members to our meetings; please let us know in advance if possible.*

*If you have a HI-USA membership and live in our jurisdiction – receive this newsletter – **you are a council member.***

*We also encourage potential new Directors to contact us.*

*Next scheduled meeting: June 20, Grandview Heights Public Library. Call for information.*

#### Hostelling International, Central and Southern Ohio Council

Address: PO Box 41, Columbus, Ohio 43216

Voicemail: (614) 470-4276

E-mail: [ayh@netwalk.com](mailto:ayh@netwalk.com)

URL: <http://ayhcs.netwalk.com>

#### Board of Directors

**President:** Allan South

**Vice President:** Matthew Heller

**Secretary:** Jon Porter

**Treasurer:** Brian Stettner

Suanne Goings

Angela McFarland

Phyllis South

#### Contributors to this issue of Scioto Valley News

Brian Stettner (editor)

Brady Bourquin, HI-USA, Malabar Farm State Park, Betsy Rush, Allan South, Phyllis South.

To renew your HI-USA membership, purchase a new HI-USA membership, or purchase HI-USA Directories, please call CSOC's Allan or Phyllis South at (614) 276-0447.

## Events Calendar



**Art Exhibit, Grandview Heights Public Library, 1685 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Columbus, June 1 – 30.** Hostelling International speaks to a range of cultural interests. But an art show? Well, yes! Our Council in partnership with the Mansfield Art Center is sponsoring an art exhibit about Malabar State Park and the surrounding area by artists from the Mansfield area. The Grandview Heights Public Library (GHPL) hosts the exhibit, which runs through the end of June. The display also features CSOC's 2005 "Community Wall" mural made in a partnership between CSOC and Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility. GHPL telephone: 614-486-2951.



**Community Festival, Goodale Park, Columbus, June 22-24.** "A not-for-profit public festival whose purposes are to provide recycling and community centers for charitable, cultural, and educational purposes in Franklin County, Ohio." If you've attended, you know this official definition does not fully describe "Comfest." Get in the Community spirit and volunteer with a non-profit organization – CSOC! We need help staffing our table.

***Interested? Call CSOC's Allan or Phyllis South (614-276-0447) for more information or to sign up. Get involved with your Council and have some fun!***

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### HI-Toledo Area bicycle tours

Heading to Northwest Ohio? HI-TA hosts several bicycle tours annually. See <http://www.hitoledo.org/> for details. All are welcome.

- 🍷 Portage River Tour • June 24 • Elmore, Ohio • In cooperation with the Elmore Historical Society
- 🍷 19th Annual Metroparks Tour • July 14 • Whitehouse, Ohio
- 🍷 35th Annual Irish Hills Tour • September 23 • Centennial Terrace, Sylvania, Ohio
- 🍷 30th Annual Tombstone Tour • October 14 • Secor Metropark, Berkey, Ohio