

Lunch form on page 2

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E-mail: retirees@bgsu.edu • www.bgsu.edu/retirement**By 'snail mail' or e-mail?**

SOME members of BGSURA may prefer to receive their *BGSURA Newsletter* by e-mail in color as a PDF attachment, rather than a black-and-white print version by U.S. mail.

Those interested may return the form below indicating the choice of e-mail instead of U.S. mail. Or an e-mail may be sent to jgordon@bgsu.edu indicating the e-mail choice. A follow-up e-mail will be sent to ensure the newsletter was received.

Members will continue to receive the U.S. mail print version if no choice is made.

November profile

• *Christine Sexton, master woodworker, is Clif Boutelle's subject this month. See page 2 for the story.*

Lake Erie historian David Skaggs speaker for Nov. 11 luncheon

HE'S a life-long soldier from land-locked Kansas who developed a later-in-life passion for Lake Erie's history. Dr. David C. Skaggs, one of BGSU's own, will be the speaker at the Wednesday, Nov. 11, luncheon of the BGSU Retirees Association.

The site of the remainder of the year's luncheons is the Stone Ridge Golf Club, Muirfield Drive, Bowling Green. Cost is \$11. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Skaggs, who joined the BGSU faculty in 1965, retired in 2001. He wrote in 2007, "Born in Topeka and raised in a small town in western Kansas, I grew up about as far from any of America's four coasts as one could. It was not merely a physical distance from the sea; it involved a family whose military experience was entirely with the Army."

For three generations the Skaggses have been soldiers, mostly artillerymen. "After completing my education at the University of Kansas I joined the Army to see the world and received orders to report to Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Riley, Kans.," Dr. Skaggs said. "This peach-fuzzed lieutenant certainly had no inclination of any association with the Navy or the Great Lakes."

"The Battle of Lake Erie Revisited" is the Veterans Day talk by Dr. Skaggs, Professor Emeritus of History. With his battle flag emblazoned with "Don't Give Up the Ship" and his after-action message to Gen. William Henry Harrison proclaiming "We have met the enemy and they are ours," Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry inserted himself into not only the hearts of citizens of the young Republic but also into immortality in American historical memory.

In 1986 a graduate student, Larry Nelson, site manager at Fort Meigs State Memorial, "suggested we do something to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie in 1988. The experience hooked me. Oliver Hazard Perry took me under his command and I began a tour of duty on the Scholarship Perry that would last for two decades," Dr. Skaggs said.

He will try to compress a quarter-century of research, two books, and numerous scholarly and popular journal articles into a brief discussion of the reasons for, course of, and consequences of Perry's victory.

Dr. Skaggs married the former Margo Tipton of Kansas City in 1961 and they have two married sons and five grandchildren. After his retirement in 2001, David and Margo began living at homes on northern Michigan's Burt Lake and in New Bern, N.C.

He may be reached at dskaggs@bgsu.edu. □



Dr. David Skaggs

**BGSURA's Retirement Assistance Program**

RETIREMENT Information Volunteers will help prospective retirees navigate the pile of paper work and all the decisions needed to successfully retire.

"The committee and I are pleased with the response we've received so far from retiring employees with whom we've counseled so far. The number of people we help will increase as word of our services carries across the campus," said Chris Sexton, one of the volunteers.

Other volunteers include Diana Shamp, Paul Lopez, Harold Lunde, Janice L. Peterson and Gaylyn Finn.

Since January 1, 2009, with the cooperation of BGSU Human Resources (referrals), the RIV group has given information to 25 people seeking information about retirement.

The retirement service at the BGSURA office may be reached by calling 419-372-9696, or by sending an e-mail to retirees@bgsu.edu. □

YES. SEND THE BGSURA NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL.

NAME: _____

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SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR LUNCHEON RESERVATION OR

SEND AN E-MAIL TO [JGORDON@BGSU.EDU](mailto:jgordon@bgsu.edu)

Nailing retirement

Story and Photos
by Clif Boutelle

WBGU-TV's longtime business manager is hammering out a second career as a woodworker. When Chris Sexton arrived in Bowling Green in 1960 as an 18-year-old freshman, it didn't take her long to decide "this was a place where I could live forever."

And she did.

"I really liked the University and the community and felt very comfortable here, so it wasn't difficult to stay in Bowling Green," she said.

Now after a productive 35-year University career, she is concluding nearly 50 years in Bowling Green and is focusing her retirement years on wood-working and serving the Bowling Green State University Retirees Association. She is directing the BGSURA Retirement Assistance program that provides pre-retirement counseling for faculty and staff.

As a student, Sexton started as a political science major with her sights set on a career in the foreign service. "I soon learned that, in those days, there were not very many career paths for women and I did not want to end up being a secretary," she recalled.



• Chris Sexton in her woodworking shop.



• Chris sands a toy which she and her fellow Northwest Ohio Woodworkers Guild members are making and which will be given to area children this Christmas season.

So, she switched to education but that changed as well. "I was paying my own way so I worked two jobs and when my student teaching assignment kept getting delayed, I went to work full time with what was then the Northern Ohio Telephone Company (later to become General Telephone and currently Verizon). The telephone industry was a lot different in those days and much of my work was figuring out long distance rates and learning the business."

In 1967, she joined the University's Telephone Services office, just in time to play a role in the installation of a new campus phone system and to help develop the billing system.

She gained further knowledge about the University's business operations in Food Operations accounting and working with Carl Lipp as an internal auditor for six years.

Then in

continued on 3

Reservation for BGSURA's Luncheon at Stone Ridge Wednesday, Nov. 11. Reservation deadline Friday, Nov. 6!

11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Luncheon.

NOTE: Reservations at \$11 per person MUST BE MADE by Friday, Nov. 6

Name(s) _____

Number of reservations _____

How to reserve #1: With this form by U.S. mail. **Pay at the door or mail a check.**

How to reserve #2: By e-mail to hlunde@bgsu.edu. **Pay at the door, cash or check.**

How to pay by mail: CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$_____. PAYABLE TO BGSURA.

**If by mail: SEND RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK TO HAROLD LUNDE, BGSURA TREASURER,
880 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE, BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402-1602. DEADLINE FRIDAY, NOV. 6.**

Reservations by e-mail: hlunde@bgsu.edu. Deadline Friday, Nov. 6!

**NEW
WAYS
TO PAY**



Dr. Skaggs is speaker.



• *Wordworking shop is at right.*

Chris Sexton *continued*

1981 she was hired by Duane Tucker as the first business manager of the University's PBS television station, Channel 57 (later to become Channel 27), where she found a campus home for the next 20 years. "Working at the television station was like being with family. The people were dedicated to the station and it was a fun place to be," she said. "It was a different atmosphere and it all started with Dr. Tucker's leadership. He was the best," she said.

While at the station, Sexton resumed her academic studies, this time enrolling in the College of Business Administration. In 1992, she earned her degree in accounting.

In the late 1960s, Sexton, who had always liked being around horses, had the opportunity to buy two yearlings, beginning a 25-year involvement with the equestrian industry. She boarded them at a farm at the corner of Dirlam and Napoleon Roads and eventually became partners with the owner, Pete Kastening.

"Pete was into harness racing and had a stable of several pacers and trotters, but did not live there. He also had a road construction job that kept him away a lot. So I moved into the farmhouse in 1971 and fed and cared for his horses as well as mine. We had a good working relationship. I bred and raised the horses and he trained and raced them. At one time we had nearly 20 horses there."

"I had a state groom's license which enabled me to take care of horses at sanctioned race tracks. We raced at a lot of fairs as well as some of the bigger tracks in the area like Toledo Raceway Park, Northville Downs in Northville, Mich., Northfield Park in Cleveland and Scioto Downs in Columbus," she said.

Sexton and Kastening were partners for nearly 25 years and when

he died in 1993, she bought the house, which included six outbuildings, from his estate.

But after nearly 26 years of being involved with horses and racing, she decided the

time had come to get out of the business. "For so many years, it was a lot fun and a lot of work but it wasn't the same without Pete."

For Sexton it was also time to retire from the University and begin the next phase of her life, which, for her, was really a return to something she had been interested in for many years—working with wood.



• *"My first big project was a grandfather clock, which I finished in 1976. It took a long time because I was working at the station and taking care of horses," Chris said.*

"My grandfather was a good carpenter and taught me about tools and handling wood. I liked being around the shop and making things.

Looking ahead, she began acquiring a variety of wood working tools. When she retired in 2001 she converted one of the outbuildings into a workshop.

"It (the shop) isn't real big but it is heated and air-conditioned and I find it a place where I can relax and work on various projects," she said.

"I am probably out there at least a couple of hours a day, especially in the winter," she said. She has built a variety of furniture pieces including a TV stand, tables and chairs and makes Christmas presents for family and friends. Currently she is working on a jewelry box for a niece.

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• **DAVID B. GEDEON**, of Bowling Green, died Oct. 5 after a tree-trimming accident at his home. He had taught electronics in the College of Technology at BGSU from 1964 to 2007, when he retired. He developed the Master of Technology program, was professor of the year twice (once in the College of Education and once in the College of Technology), and was Educator of the Year for Epsilon Pi Tau National honorary. He was a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and supervised the monthly soup kitchen at Helping Hands of St. Louis in Toledo.

• **JOHN G. MERRIAM**, of Toledo, an expert on Middle East and African politics, died at his home Sept. 30 from complications after a fall in 2007 in his home. He retired from Bowling Green in 1993 as an associate professor of political science. He also taught at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, from 1964 to 1967, when he joined the BGSU faculty. After he retired he became a part-time instructor at Lourdes College, Sylvania, and BGSU. He was member of the Greater Toledo Arab American Association, The Torch Club, and the English Speaking Union.

• **JOYCE RHODEN**, of Cygnet, died Sept. 15. She had worked at the University for 18 years as a food service supervisor.

• **GARY L. EMCH**, of Pemberville, died Aug. 15. He had worked at and retired from BGSU as a mechanic.

• **ALLEEN WANNEMACHER**, 89, of Bowling Green, died Oct. 5. She had worked at BGSU as supervisor of transcript records for the Registrar's Office until her retirement in 1983.

Computer troubles?

PROBLEMS with your computer or connecting to the Internet? Charlie Applebaum, 419-352-0777, or e-mail applebau@bgsu.edu.

The BGSURA expert is in his 10th year helping retiree association members with balky hardware and software. His services are made available by the office of the provost.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

China Girl and Boy

By Ramona Cormier

When Jan and I moved to 1249 Brownwood Dr., we planted two holly trees – a China Girl and a China Boy – in memory of our mothers who had recently died. We placed the trees on the north side of the front yard in a bed close to two imposing blue spruce trees. Overshadowed by these trees the hollies did not thrive, nor did China Girl produce any colorful red berries.

One spring, lightning struck one of the spruce trees and our neighbors had both cut down. It was then we noticed that China Girl was stunted on its north side and that its trunk was twisted. We took no action to replace her. Jan was against it. But China Boy's place was taken by three small shrub-like hollies. After fertilization and watering, China Girl grew several inches and began to spread her wings.

In the winter of 2008, China Girl's glossy but thorny evergreen leaves turned brown from winter desiccation and we thought surely she was dead. But come spring the brown was replaced by a new crop of green leaves. April and May brought bunches of small white flowers. Were the red berries close at hand? True to form that is what happened. China Girl was covered with red fruit. The small hollies had done their work.

I hoped China Girl would now survive, but 2009 again brought desiccation. But this time the memorial holly could only put forth a few small leaves here and there. The tree seemed finally to have given up the ghost. I didn't have the courage to cut it down. Maybe that was a good thing, for China Girl grew several healthy shoots with beautiful green thorny leaves. One of these may become my next China Girl.

Oh, those selfish genes. Mother Nature always wins.

• Dr. Cormier, BGSURA president and Trustee Professor Emeritus, is pleased to relate that her window is hosting a third set of chicks. Dr. Cormier's e-mail address: rcormie@dacor.net.

Chris Sexton continued from 3

Her work has won several blue ribbons in the Wood County Fair.

Always wanting to learn more, since retiring she has been enrolled in adult education woodworking classes through the Ohio Extension program taught at the high school.

She is also a founding member of the Northwest Ohio Woodworkers Guild, whose members share their interests in woodworking among themselves and with others.

Sexton is an avid reader and is a member of the Wood County District Public Library's Family Literacy Board, which promotes programs that encourage family reading. □

• Clif Boutelle retired from BGSU in 1999 as associate vice president for University Relations. He's on the BGSURA Board of Directors. clif5761@verizon.net.

E-mail, street Address or phone number change? Please send to retirees@bgsu.edu or leave word at 419-372-9696

What's ahead

Nov. 17 – BGSURA's **Fifth Book Discussion**, at the home of Carole Bradford, 14 Meadowbrook Dr., Perrysburg, at 7 p.m. The book is Isabel Allende's *Daughter of Fortune*, published in Spain in 1999 and translated into English soon after. The book may be checked out at the second floor Information Desk at the Wood County District Public Library.

Dec. 3 – BGSURA's **Third Cocktail Party**, at the home of Emmy Hann, 216 Western Ave., Bowling Green. "It will be another happy BYOB party," says Wally Pretzer, the association's activities chair. "Bring your own favorite beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). In addition, bring an hors d'oeuvre to share."

For these two events, please call Wally by Nov. 12 for the book discussion and by Dec. 1 for the cocktail party: dpretze@bgsu.edu or 419-352-8057.

Jan. 13, 2010 — **Dr. Carol Cartwright**, president of BGSU and the first woman president of a state university in Ohio.

Retirees Association NEWSLETTER

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5 College Park Office Bldg.
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201
(419) 372-9696
www.bgsu.edu/retirement
E-mail: retirees@bgsu.edu
Telephone numbers require a 419 prefix.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President, Ramona Cormier, 353-9513
rcormie@dacor.net
Vice President, Ted Groat, 353-8977
tgroat@bgsu.edu
Secretary, Diana Shamp, 348-4690
dianaj@bgsu.edu
Treasurer, Harold Lunde, 352-3929
hlunde@bgsu.edu
Ohio Council of Higher Education
Retirees Representatives
Roger Anderson, 354-6451
rogerca@bgsu.edu
Genevieve Stang, 352-5534
ges@dacor.net

DIRECTORS
Clif Boutelle, 352-5625
clif5761@verizon.net
Joan Gordon, 354-6648
jhgordon@dacor.net
Paul Haas, 352-4148
phaas@bgsu.edu
Sue Hager, 352-2161
shager@bgsu.edu
Linda Hamilton, 354-0051
llhamilt@hotmail.com (note: 2 Ls)
Joe Jacoby, 352-8809
jjacoby@bgsu.edu
Park Leathers, 352-9171
pleathers@verizon.net
Chuck McCaghy, 352-7211
cmccagh@bgsu.edu
Paul Lopez, 806-6411
lopez@wbgu.bgsu.edu
Janet Parks, 352-0516
jparks@bgsu.edu
Christine Sexton, 354-2834
csexton@wcnnet.org
Elmer Spreitzer, 352-9318
espreit@bgsu.edu

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Activities **Wally Pretzer**
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Faculty Senate Prof. Affairs **Bill Rock**
Family Campaign **Ramona Cormier**

Editor, Jim Gordon, 352-8175
jrgordon@dacor.net
Director of Photography, Clif Boutelle
352-5625, clif5761@verizon.net
Associate Editors, Joan Gordon, 354-6648
jhgordon@dacor.net
Diane Pretzer and Wallace Pretzer
352-8057, dpretze@bgsu.edu