



*"Seasons of Love, Summer"*  
Eighteenth Members-Only Print



*"Summer Celebration"*  
Fifth Junior Members-Only Print

## The Second Smith Year 2004

Only two changes occurred for 2004 in the Society's leadership. Thomas M. Smith of Mechanicsville, Virginia, replaced Fred McMillin as a director; Fred had served the maximum three terms. Also, Mary Lou McMillin continued as a director but resigned her position as vice president of chapters. She was replaced by Peggy Goodwin of Forest, Virginia. All other officers and directors remained the same.

The year marked a milestone when two people, Carolyn McGuffin and Lance Allen, celebrated their fifth anniversaries of employment with the Society. Carolyn started out packing and mailing membership brooches. She then learned to use the

computer to operate the charity print collection. Lance began as the book-keeper/membership manager and then assumed the position of administrator in 2001.

Lance noted, "I feel so blessed to be part of the Society. The work we do is wonderful, no two days are the same, and — even though it is a 'job' — the friendships I've made are lifelong."

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Criteria for both the P. Buckley Moss Society — Anne and Matt Harbison Scholarship and the Judith Cary Scholarship continued the same.

The 2004 Harbison winner was Bethany Elkins of Dayton, Ohio, who

attended Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio. Bethany's two biggest passions were playing volleyball and working with inner city children in an after-school program. Her goal is to become an intervention specialist who works with learning-disabled kids who are still in mainstream classes but are struggling in some way. Dyslexic herself, she hopes "to give them hope and to pass on to them values such as determination, innovation, and enthusiasm." Jean Rogers and Tom Burkam received renewals of their scholarships, while Charlie Tucker remained on probationary status.

Kristin Eckard of Warren, Ohio, was the recipient of the 2004 Cary Scholarship. She used the funds toward obtaining a BA in Special Education from Youngstown State University. After graduating from college in 2001, she applied to be a substitute teacher. The first time she was called to teach a special education class, she realized that is the field she wished to pursue.

#### PRESIDENTS' AWARD

Implemented in 2003 to honor the past three Society presidents, Robert P. Lewis, Noreen Newman Johnson, and Rev. Harold A. Henning, this \$1,000 award is given for improving the education and well being of children. Longtime Moss collector Deb Weisgerber of Defiance, Ohio, is the second recipient of the Presidents' Award.

Deb has been a Life Skills teacher in the Defiance School District for 28 years. Her students include many who are special needs, at risk, and economically dis-



*Presidents' Award recipient Deb Weisgerber holds a class quilt, while Sarah Sanford wears a "cancer cap."*

advantaged. In addition to the individual projects they make for themselves, they also do a variety of projects for community charities. One such example is the "cancer caps," fitted bandanas of bright, cheery fabrics for women and children who had lost their hair due to cancer.

With the funds, Deb purchased considerable materials for the students' projects — blankets, pillows, knit scarves, quilts, Christmas gifts. In addition, she purchased a sewing machine, which was awarded to one of the students in a drawing.

#### ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

In a relatively uneventful year, the Board deleted two long-term programs and instituted two new programs.

- For many years, the Society has sponsored the ACT (Adults and Children Together) program. The number of chap-

ters participating in this worthy volunteer program to work with first graders on a one-on-one situation has been dwindling. Many school districts operate their own similar programs, and people's schedules are such today that it is difficult to recruit volunteers. The Society is not discontinuing its advocacy of the program but rather just its limited coordination at the national level. A few chapters are continuing on their own.

- With Pat no longer spending time in Panama and with fewer Society funds available for charitable activities, the Board decided to cut back the level of funding for the Panama Project. Funding will cease altogether with the conclusion of the 2005-2006 school year, and the program will accelerate its effort to seek funds from alternative sources. Perhaps Panama's Board of Education will step up to its responsibility and take over the program.

The program was so successful that parents from other islands send their children to live with relatives on the three islands where the program operates. In 2002, the Panamanian government passed a law making English the official second



2004 membership card "St. James Meeting House"

language and mandated that every school is to have an English teacher.

The Society earlier provided two computers and an Internet link to the local high school. Then this year Texas Hover Craft in Houston donated 32 computers and monitors and sufficient printers. Even though most of the costs of getting them to Panama were donated, additional expenses put a strain on the program's budget. For example, wood and tables were needed as were installation of power lines and air conditioning. Margo and David Carey, who have continued to oversee the program, reported how thrilling the day was that the computer center was dedicated in October.

On the final day of the Society's trip to Italy in October, the group visited the printing laboratory where Pat and her daughter Becky Moss Ghezzi create Pat's etchings. They donated handmade books and other items that were auctioned to benefit the Panama Project. The Society added \$2,000 to the \$4,380 raised by the auction as its last contribution to this project.

- For several years, the Society has discussed creating a cyber chapter for members who are not in an area where chapters exist but who wish to interact with fellow Society members. An e-mail letter was sent to members in the states of Tennessee and North Carolina, which have no chapter activity. Interested members were asked to complete a questionnaire. Six members were chosen based on their willingness to participate, knowledge related to Moss art, and computer technology. The first trial meeting was

held on November 10. Hopefully, further cyber chapters can exist for those interested in being a part of this breakthrough technology.

- With membership in nearly all collectors' clubs declining, and the Society being no exception, much discussion this year centered on ways to improve revenue. For several months, the Board discussed selling a box in which members could store and display their porcelain renewal brooches. As much as they loved the concept, production and distribution of such an item proved to be prohibitively expensive, and the proposal was ultimately dropped.



2004 porcelain nameplate  
"Seasons of Love,  
Summer"

For the last couple of years, Lance Allen, Society administrator, and his staff had worn polo shirts which contained the Society logo. Because they had received

numerous compliments on them, the Board decided to provide a limited supply of Society logo apparel items. These high-quality items were quite the hit when they first were sold at the Kingsport Convention in May.

Initially available were a purple cardigan, a matching purple t-shirt, and a light blue polo shirt for ladies and a dark green polo shirt for men. Three months later, these were expanded to include a yellow ladies' polo shirt, a stone men's polo, and baseball caps in khaki or black. Sales have slowed, but some items remain available.

## KINGSPORT CONVENTION

The first convention ever in Tennessee occurred at Kingsport on May 7 and 8 at the Meadowview Marriott. The highlight for many was Saturday night's dinner dance, attended by 205 people.

At Pat's suggestion, the Society sponsored the dance as a fundraiser instead of holding a separate fundraising dinner event as was done the previous three years. The Moss Portfolio had always sponsored the Saturday night event. Because of the popularity of last year's Chapter Training weekend, the theme for the night was "Rock Around the Clock with Pat," a 50's/60's Sock Hop. All attendees who dressed appropriately for that era were eligible for a special prize drawing. Crowned king and queen for the best costumes were Bonnie-Lou and Dick Binnig of Palm Harbor, Florida. Many of the ladies wore poodle skirts and sneakers or saddle shoes, while lots of the guys were comfortable in their jeans and t-shirts.

Tables were decorated with appropriate memorabilia from the period, as well as pretzels, popcorn, and Cracker Jack. The buffet dinner concluded with root beer floats. Cost of the dinner dance included a complimentary black and white print.

The event raised \$8,088 for the P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education.



"Bruton Parish Church"  
renewal brooch

## AMES CONVENTION

Bill Abigt of M & J Gallery in Ottumwa, Iowa, said that this convention was the most fun of all the conventions he has attended. The Gateway Center in Ames was the site of the sixth Iowa convention, held July 23-25.

Per usual in Iowa, the costume parade was again outstanding with several individuals and chapters participating, including Moss Reflections, Heart of Iowa, and Moss Country Friends chapters.

Because everybody had so much fun at the first convention of this year, the dinner again had a 50's/60's theme. Even Elvis showed up! Altogether, 121 people attended, most again in costume. Laura DeRamus of Canada Goose Gallery in Waynesville, Ohio, and Mike McFall of West Des Moines, Iowa, were crowned



*Laura DeRamus and Mike McFall were queen and king for the best costumes at the Ames Convention.*

queen and king for the best costumes. This time, the backyard picnic consisted of hamburgers, brats, salads, corn on the cob, and again root beer floats.

When told what the dinner's theme was,

several of the servers also dressed in costume. Some of them delighted the crowd by performing a little dance for the crowd.

Funds raised for the Moss Foundation from the proceeds of the dance, the raffle, and the auction at the dinner totaled \$5,892.



*"First Step" junior renewal pin*

## CHAPTER TRAINING

Patriotism was everywhere at Chapter Training in Charlottesville, Virginia, on August 6-8. This year's theme was "Red, White and Blue & Moss, Too." Twelve Moss chapters outdid themselves with the wonderful patriotic decorations on the tables for Friday night's opening Moss Rally.

Following introductions and the presentation of colors from Eagle and Life Scouts from Troop 241 in Charlottesville, attendees worked in pairs to learn about each other and create a paper quilt square representing themselves. During a light meal, a few people pieced the squares together to create an impressive quilt as a work of art. That evening's program concluded with a representative from each of the 25 attending chapters sharing a unique, successful idea, a "star-spangled idea."

For many, the highlights of the weekend were the three keynote speakers on Saturday morning, two of which followed the patriotic theme. Ron Sanders, a 24-year veteran of the Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department, shared experiences



*Ron Sanders introduces Pat to his rescue dog Ondo.*

related to the training of Ondo, who is certified as an Urban Search and Rescue dog. Ondo had his picture taken even more frequently than Pat did! Ron's working relationship with Heidi Yamaguchi, Ondo's original owner who began his training and who asked Ron to complete it when she became ill and passed away, brought tears to many eyes.

Another tear-jerker was the presentation by Laurie Miller, who, with her daughters Elizabeth, Rachel, and Katie, was the recipient of the Gran Liz Award in 2003. Laurie shared experiences she and her sister had with Gran Liz at her

home in Mill Rift, Pennsylvania. Her presentation was the first time she had spoken in public about the events of September 11 and the death of her husband, Douglas C. Miller. Serving with Rescue 5 in Staten Island, Doug was one of the many firefighters who lost their lives that fateful day.

Bonnie Stump has worked for the P. Buckley Moss Museum for eight years, beginning as a tour guide. Today she catalogues Moss originals and is the Museum Director Assistant helping with social and education programs at the Museum. In 2003, Bonnie began giving seminars on Pat's life and her art. Her too abbreviated version of her program concluded the morning's activities.

In the afternoon, attendees participated in three small groups — framing the Members-Only Print with the nameplate by Ginger Cloonan; discussion of the Chapter Manual and officer duties by Lance Allen and Brenda Simmons; and fundraising and fellowship ideas by representatives from Moss in the Forest, Trees of Life, and Moss in the Country chapters.

Saturday evening was again a visit to the Museum followed by dinner at The Barn. Chapters were invited to submit art entries from children in their areas for display and auction. Over 50 items were sent in. A silent auction of some of the items raised \$213. The raffle of the chapter gift items and the sale of the hat table decorations raised an additional \$782 for the Foundation. The Friday night raffle raised \$50 for the Scout group and \$346 for Lynchburg Fire & EMS.

After Sunday morning's Walk with Moss and breakfast, Randy Myers, president of the Foundation, shared his new PowerPoint presentation about the Foundation's goals and activities. Pat then showed the group the new Moss products which would soon be available through Moss dealers.

Once again attendees gained valuable ideas for their chapters through the sharing and camaraderie, as well as a reminder of how much they have to be thankful for.

#### SOCIETY TRIP — ITALY

Although there were some initial communication challenges working with the Italian travel agency, 50 people agreed that they had a wonderful time on the 2004 Society trip — to Cortona with Pat. The trip sold out quickly, and nobody cancelled!

The trek began with three nights in Rome beginning October 19. Highlights included the guided private bus tours to Vatican City, the Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain, and several panoramic views of centuries of art, architecture, and history.

But the real highlight was the eight days in Tuscany. The group stayed in Cortona and took day trips throughout the area. Hotel san Luca provided a breathtaking view of the area from its terraces. Pat's daughter and son-in-law, Becky and Roberto Ghezzi, did a superb job of looking out for everyone and being very knowledgeable travel directors.

One full day was spent in Assisi, learning about St. Francis and seeing the birth-



*Pat directed Becky Ghezzi, Marlene Ham, Bonnie-Lou Binnig, Randy Myers, Ginny Myers, and Dot Kingen to find Bramasole, home of Frances Mayes, author of **Under the Tuscan Sun**.*

place of the Franciscan Order. The next day the group had an excellent tour of the town of Montepulciano, including a visit to the Villa Nottola Winery, where they had an aperitif and dinner with superb wine. Another day was spent touring and shopping in Florence. For some, the highlight there was the viewing of Michelangelo's statue of David.

In Cortona, Pat took some of the group on a walk not far from her home to Bramasole, the famous home of Frances Mayes, author of *Under the Tuscan Sun*. There was also plenty of free time to leave money at Pat's favorite jewelry store. In fact, some people went back there several times!

On the last full day in Cortona, Pat invited the group to a huge, delicious lunch at her home. The house, the view, the food and wine were spectacular. Pat and Becky gave tours of their printing laboratory, which is where Pat now does

her etchings with Becky. They donated handmade books and items to auction to raise funds for the Panama Project.

Marlene Ham said, "Lots of hills to climb, lots of delicious food (including wild boar), wine that flowed, much friendship and laughter, and the graciousness of Becky, Roberto, and Pat made this trip an adventure of a lifetime."

#### FOUNDATION

Sweet Briar College was once more the site of the Foundation's Creative Mind Conference on November 6-8. Again it provided much insight on integrating the arts into the curriculum for schools, especially for students with special needs and different learning styles.

The opening keynote speaker was John Siskind of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, North Carolina. A group of students from the school concluded his presentation with a rap performance. To show their enthusiasm for the students' superb performance, conference attendees raised \$1,000 to help them with their work.

Sunday's keynote speaker was Robin Wright Fromherz from Willamette University, Salem, Oregon. Monday attendees heard from Dr. John Snavely of Howell Elementary School in Tuscon, Arizona.

Along with the keynote speakers, numerous breakout sessions were held which presented ways to integrate the arts into the curriculum in schools.

The Foundation collaborates with the Society to present awards to recognize outstanding teachers who consistently integrate the arts into their teaching of children with learning disabilities and other special needs. The first place winner receives \$2,500, second place \$1,500, and third place \$1,000. Matching amounts are presented to the schools or programs.

Sue Barber Rolf, Jean Ann Keen, and Stacey McCarty of Dunbar Primary School in Lufkin, Texas, received the first place award. Second place was given to Tracy K. Price of Piedmont High School in Monroe, North Carolina. The third place recipient was Larry Statler of Santa Teresa Elementary School in San Jose, California.

Five educators each received \$1,000 grants to further their programs to provide educational opportunities for children who learn differently. They were Lana Mayfield of Somerset, Kentucky; Arzu Mistry and the camp staff of Oakland Peace Camp in Oakland, California; Nicole Jay Schneider of Port Huron, Michigan; Sarah Vier, Sue Rolf, and Jean Ann Keen of Lufkin, Texas; and Nancy Barnett of Muncie, Indiana.

