

Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail--ETHNIC WISCONSIN™
2008 Annual Report to Ozaukee County Board

Prepared by Carol Ann Rittenhouse, President/Project Leader December 31, 2008

The **Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail, Inc.--ETHNIC WISCONSIN™**, (**W.E.S.T.**) office, is located at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, 53085. 920-467-9518
www.ethnicwisconsin.org wicar@tds.net

The Board of Directors of **Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail (W.E.S.T.)** was instrumental in helping to secure the Boeker Farm in Cedarburg, planned for use as the *Wisconsin Quilt History Museum*. In August of 2001, the *Wisconsin Quilt History Project, Inc.* was able to achieve its goal to purchase the farm; it continues to plan and to fundraise for the extensive work that is needed. **W.E.S.T.** has dedicated the *Luxemburger Stone House*, held two ethnic festivals at Pioneer Village, and another festival in Cedarburg Village Park

At Historic Turner Hall, a National Landmark in Milwaukee where the **W.E.S.T. Heritage Tourism Center** is found, the highly frequented location contains the *Ethnic Ozaukee County* brochure developed by board members with the participation of several area groups, and published locally. Several Ozaukee County brochures are found there including the Ozaukee County Interurban Trail, and the Ozaukee County Brochure, *Village of Saukville Historic Walking Trail*, and Cedarburg's *Washington House Inn*. A four - color Wisconsin wall map about 5 x 7 feet in size features **W.E.S.T.--ETHNIC WISCONSIN™** and the *Green Bay Ethnic Trail*. Historic and cultural destinations are invited to provide literature for display there. A glass cabinet for public display of cultural sites is located in the front entrance of the restaurant. This **W.E.S.T. Heritage Tourism Center** display, across the street from Milwaukee's Bradley Center, is maintained by volunteers and provides for the distribution of current cultural, local and state literature. Thousands of brochures have been, and continue to be made available to visitors since the *heritage tourism* display was built in 1995.

W.E.S.T. suggests that the *Green Bay Ethnic Trail (GBET)* be shown on the Ozaukee County Map to quietly invite more tourists (as does the Ozaukee County Interurban Trail Map). It is a most important route for the traveler, inviting enjoyment of the beauty, and area heritage, made possible by many volunteers working together, and the only state trail of its kind in Wisconsin. With the state of Wisconsin development of greenwisconsin tourism, the Board of Directors of **W.E.S.T.** believes that its publication in the Ozaukee County brochure would encourage additional economically enhancing tourism, much as has the Interurban route. Eighteen State of Wisconsin historic markers to attract the visitor now stand along or close to this trail, of which twelve are ethnic historic markers originated by **W.E.S.T.**

The *Green Bay Ethnic Trail* trail began at Chicago's old Fort Dearborn. In Wisconsin, it begins at the southern State Line. The first marker is located at 95th Street and Highway 31 in Kenosha County. The second marker is found at the *Bohemian School* built in 1888 in the Town of Caledonia, Racine County. The third marker is located in Bayview at *Zillman Park*, and tells of area immigrants. In Milwaukee, one block north of the *Milwaukee County Historical Society*, at Weissgerbers "Third Street Pier", on Old World Third Street, a fourth marker commemorates the original settlement of *Kilbourntown*. The trail then progresses on Martin Luther King Drive to the Green Bay Road. Continuing north through Ozaukee County, across the road from the *Isham Day House* in front of Mequon City Hall, the fifth marker, *Wisconsin's German Settlers* is placed. The trail follows the Green Bay Road through the *Hamilton Historic District* (NRHP), Grafton, north to the Village of Saukville, where the *Saukville Trails* marker is located at Triangle Park, then, north on LL into the Village of Belgium where the *Wisconsin's Luxembourgers* marker is found. Traveling north to Highway 32 in Cedar Grove, a marker commemorates *Early Dutch Settlers* at Windmill Park. North to Sheboygan Falls, a marker is located in *Settlers Park*. Another marker is found adjacent to the *Meeme Poll House* in Manitowoc County. At Maribel is found the *Old Rock Mill* marker; the *Denmark* marker is located in *Denver War Memorial Park*, and finally or first, depending on your direction of travel is found near the site of old Fort Howard, the *Beginning of the Green Bay Road* marker in Green Bay downtown at the river.

W.E.S.T. continues to promote tourism in the 12 country region along Lake Michigan, and to develop the **Green Bay Ethnic Trail** website: <http://www.greenbayethnictrail.org/> which will tie together the many heritage and merchant opportunities that exist along this original Native American Wisconsin 156 mile trail, including photographs of historic sites located in Hamilton, south in Mequon, and east of Cedarburg north through Grafton and Saukville

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through Belgium . . . from Kenosha County to Green Bay. The **Green Bay Ethnic Trail**, traversing **Ozaukee County** south and north, initiated by **W.E.S.T.**, is the first Wisconsin signed state heritage trail ever designated.

W.E.S.T. embarked on organizing and naming (with the help of **Lakeland College** Interns) the **Franklin Settlement** in 2006.. Its location is at Highways A & M at the Sheboygan River within the unincorporated historic Village of Franklin, Town Herman, Sheboygan County. It is a Lippe German settlement which originated in 1847. It contains eighteen timber frame buildings, including the grist mill which is on the **National Register of Historic Places**. The long-term objective is to prepare for the entire Village to become a **National Register of Historic Places** designee.

Within the **Franklin Settlement**, the **Franklin Haus* Tavern & Hall**, was purchased in 2005 by C. A. Rittenhouse, LLC. Its website is: <http://www.franklinhauswisconsin.com>. The 151 year old original tavern and community hall building is located at the edge of the Sheboygan River, five miles east of Elkhart Lake. The **Ethnic Buildings of Eastern Wisconsin Exhibit**, developed by **W.E.S.T.** and the **Cedarburg Cultural Center** was displayed for two years within the ballroom of the Franklin Haus*. Presently, the **Village of Franklin Images Exhibit** prepared by Alan C. Pape, and made possible by the Jacobson Family of Sheboygan is on display. The previously covered old stage has now been uncovered. The roof of the building has been reshingled, and a variety of other improvements made. In 2007, an adjacent property, also at the river, was purchased which is intended to become an extension of the Settlement. When funding is obtained to do major repairs, construction and enhancements, they are planned to be deeded to **W.E.S.T.**, or to another nonprofit, and further developed as a living museum and Historic Preservation Resource Center. The Spindler Family Home donation of an original 1,200 square foot log home structure from the area was removed from it's original site and placed into storage. Area volunteers joined together to disassemble and move it to the **Franklin Settlement**. Presently it is stored at N8127 Franklin Road. It awaits funding for its rebuilding.

The Board of Directors continues to promote the Franklin Haus* Brat, the recipe for which is owned by **W.E.S.T.**, with the brats prepared by a locally respected merchant. The Pie Plant Bake-off (rhubarb plant) event with a brat fry was again held by **W.E.S.T.** and other local food suppliers for the third year on May 26. It will be again presented on May 16, 2009 to continue to honor German history and heritage. **W.E.S.T.** in 2008 was again a member of **Visit Milwaukee**. **W.E.S.T.** through it's president, is active in the **Sheboygan County, Elkhart Lake and Plymouth Chambers of Commerce**. In 2008, the Franklin Haus* was listed as an "Attraction" in the **Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce Directory**. Advancement was made toward the goal of attaining National Register status for the unincorporated Village of Franklin. For more than ten years, issues of the state **Wisconsin Heritage Traveler** including the **W.E.S.T. heritage tourism** project were published. In the present state four-color magazine, **W.E.S.T.** is listed for contact information, and in the **Milwaukee Visitors Guide**. Having participated since 1992, a **W.E.S.T.** representative(s) attended the **Governor's Conference on Tourism**, and will again participate in the 2009 Wisconsin Department of Tourism conference in La Crosse.

W.E.S.T. continues to publish ethnic histories and auto cassette tour tapes (including Walloon Belgian of Door/Kewaunee Counties, the Czech of Manitowoc/Kewaunee Counties, the Dutch of the Lower Fox River Valley, Brown and Outagamie Counties, and the Welsh of Waukesha County). Hundreds of copies of it's **History of Elkhart Lake** are sold annually at **The Osthoff**. In addition, six other histories including Schleswig-Holstein German of Calumet/Manitowoc Counties, and Native American from east of Lake Winnebago, Calumet and Fond du Lac Counties have been developed. These ethnic products are sold throughout Wisconsin and the country.

W.E.S.T. has produced a number of festivals and exhibits in collaboration with **Cedarburg Cultural Center**. In 2004, it was an originator and participant in preparing an exhibit of original settlements at the **Sheboygan County Historical Museum**. The **Ethnic Architecture of Eastern Wisconsin Exhibit** was displayed at the **Franklin Haus* Tavern & Hall** in the Village of Franklin for two plus years. Presently the new exhibit, the original Wisconsin **Village of Franklin Images** is on display presenting Franklin 100 years ago. **W.E.S.T.** has coordinated a **Smithsonian** tour, and raised funds to "save" the old Payne Hotel in Saukville, and to begin restoration of **Historic Turner Hall** in Milwaukee. It has initiated and participated in the annual **Pie Plant Bake-off Fest** since 2006.

The **Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail, Inc--ETHNIC WISCONSIN** Board of Directors consists of volunteers to whom recognition of heritage and history are of great importance. Members work to honor and highlight settlement history in our Lake Michigan shoreline area, and to make the economic impact of **heritage tourism** grow in importance in our land.

Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail--ETHNIC WISCONSINtm Period Ending 12/31/08**Cash on Hand & in Community Bank & Trust Accounts,****Income/Expense -- Actual -- Period Ending 12/31/08****Income:**

Books Sales		\$ 148.65	
Donations		900.00	
Governor's Conference on Tourism Donation	300.00		
Memberships		75.00	
Interest/Savings Account		1.50	
Total Income:		<u>\$1,425.15</u>	

Expense:

Bank Charges		\$ 25.50	
Books Publication Cost		110.25	
Dues: Visit Milwaukee CVB		225.00	
Governors Conference on Tourism	Donation		
Franklin Village Images Exhibit		869.07	
Postage Expense		Donation	
Rent		Donation	
Staff (SCHRCenter) Office	Donation		
Postage		Donation	
Telephone – AT&T		387.42	
Website/Domain Charges		121.00	
Other			53.31
WI State Annual Report--		10.00	
Total Expense:		<u>\$1,801.55</u>	

Net Loss**(\$ 376.40)****Cash on Hand & in Bank Accounts 12/31/08**

Savings Account		\$ 606.61	
Checking Account		<u>265.57</u>	
Total Cash on Hand & In Bank Accounts			\$ 872.18

Accounts Payable

<u>W. E. S.T. Turner Hall Display Reserve Fund Loan</u>	\$ <u>1,000.00</u>	
Total Accounts Payable		\$
1,000.00		

Accounts Receivable

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Assets: Spindler Log House Donation in Storage	\$ 20,000.00	
Elkhart Lake History Books - 400		388.16
Franklin Firehouse Chairs		200.00
Cash Accounts Above		<u>872.18</u>

Total Assets**\$21,460.34****Total Net Worth****\$21,460.34**