

Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail, Inc. ethnicwisconsin.orgtm

2010 Annual Report to Ozaukee County

Prepared by Carol Ann Rittenhouse, President/Project Leader

The Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail, Inc. ethnicwisconsin.orgtm (*ew*) office is located at 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085 in the Historic Cole District at the *Sheboygan County Historical Research Center*.

It's website continues to be maintained by volunteer, Roland F. Arms of Sheboygan. *W.E.S.T.* uses the email address: wicar@tds.net, website: www.ethnicwisconsin.org and telephone 920-565-2565.

Since 1993, members have worked to "save" the original Lippe Detmold German settlement (1847) located at the Sheboygan River, 5 miles directly east of Elkhart Lake. Several contiguous buildings have been obtained to highlight the concept Franklin Settlement, name chosen by Lakeland College student interns. Five properties have been purchased by a board member, plus an original local log house structure donation has been obtained and stored for rebuilding as an Historic Preservation Center. Five years of Pie Plant Bake-off Festivals (rhubarb) have been presented at the Franklin Haus Hall by members and *ew* volunteers, with local food, and local music presentations. "Dr. Rhubarb", "King Rhubarb" and "Queen Rhubarb" have been present; rhubarb plants and foods made with "pie plant" have been sold.

In restoration of the Sheboygan County unincorporated Village of Franklin, the original building (1857) named Franklin House, (later changed to Franklin Haus), a new initiative planned to be a fundraiser for *ew* is the Franklin Haus Market Resale Shop. It is newly opened, with hours from Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., staffed by members and volunteers. Donations given to *ew* are invited, and visitors are able to view the original dug well located in the hall.

W.E.S.T. continues to receive inquiries regarding heritage tourism issues. *Friends of the State Historical Society* plan a fall eastern Wisconsin 3-day bus tour of area ethnic settlements designated by *ew*. Another Ozaukee County community situated on the *Green Bay Ethnic Trail (GBET)* has contacted *ew* for information about the trail, and contiguous places for economic development reasons. Other communities might choose to highlight the *GBET* for their economic development as well. The *Green Bay Ethnic Trail* remains a most important route for visitor to enjoy the beauty, and heritage of the area. This trail was designated and made possible by many volunteers working together, and is the only state trail of its kind in Wisconsin. A website for it is still in process. More than 13 state historic markers mostly initiated by *W.E.S.T.* are found next to it.

The *W.E.S.T.* Heritage Celebration Map of Ethnic Settlements Along the Wisconsin Lake Michigan Shoreline continues to be provided free of charge to the public.

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In 2001 and 2002, the Board of Directors of *W.E.S.T.* focused on working with the Wisconsin Quilt History Project, Inc. so that it could secure the Boeker Farm in Cedarburg to be used as a *Wisconsin Quilt History Museum*. In 2003, a number of meetings were held to determine the part that *W.E.S.T.* might play in the renovation of the convent in St. Nazianz, Manitowoc County. Many meetings and hours were spent exploring to that effort.

The *W.E.S.T. Heritage Tourism Center* display at the National Landmark *Turner Hall*, (mostly closed due to renovation) across the street from the Bradley Center in Milwaukee), is currently viewed on Thursdays, the day of the weekly program presented by Wisconsin Public Television. Thousands of brochures in the entry hallway have been made available through the years for visitors since the present display area was built in 1995. Several brochures have been offered there including the Ethnic Ozaukee County brochure published by *W.E.S.T.*, and the Plymouth and Sheboygan Falls walking tours brochures. A wall map about 5 x 7 feet in size shows *W.E.S.T.--ethnicwisconsin*tm and the *Green Bay Ethnic Trail*, which follows the original Native American trail, the Green Bay Road.

W.E.S.T. participated for a number of years in the *Nonprofit Celebration of Diversity* at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee. The celebration, organized by the *Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee*, is attended by many ethnic groups. It includes ethnic dancing, music, foods and gifts.

W.E.S.T./ew continues to provide ethnic histories and auto cassette tour tapes (including Walloon Belgian of Door/Kewaunee Counties, Czech of Manitowoc/Kewaunee Counties, Dutch of the Lower Fox River Valley, Brown and Outagamie Counties, and Welsh of Waukesha County). In addition 7 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 available in Wisconsin and, by request, to the country.

W.E.S.T./ew has produced through the years a number of festivals and exhibits in collaboration with *Cedarburg Cultural Center*, coordinated a *Smithsonian Institution* tour, and raised funds to "save" the old Payne Hotel in Saukville, and to restore Turner Hall in Milwaukee. In the fall it will host the above-mentioned area tour at the old Franklin Haus Hall in the Sheboygan County Village of Franklin.

The *Wisconsin's Ethnic Settlement Trail*, Inc--ethnicwisconsin.orgtm Board of Directors consists of volunteers to whom recognition of heritage and history matter greatly. It's Mission is Preservation and Promotion of Our Diverse Ethnic Heritage. Members continue to work to honor settlement history in the Lake Michigan shoreline area, and to make the economic impact of *heritage tourism* grow in importance in our land.

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Annual Financial Report to Ozaukee County

Period Ending 12/31/10

Income/Expense---Actual -- Period Ending 12/31/10

2010 Income

Books Sales \$ 88.00
Donations 240.64
Local History Expo Ticket 10.75
Pie Plant Festival Proceeds 150.00
Total \$489.39

2010 Expense

Bank Fees \$ 30.00
Books Sales Costs 85.00
Annual State Fee 10.00
Website 40.00
Local History Expo Admission 21.00
Log House Cover 15.00
Other 20.00
Total \$221.00

Net Income/Expense \$268.39

Cash on Hand & in Community Bank & Trust Account \$668.86

Accounts Payable

W.E.S.T. Turner Hall Display Reserve Fund Loan \$ 1,000.00

Accounts Receivable --

Assets: Spindler Log House Donation in Storage \$20,000.00
Elkhart Lake History Books 329.94
Franklin Firehouse Chairs 144.00
Cash in Bank Above 668.86
Total Assets \$21,142.80

Total Net Worth

\$20,142.80