



SMOKE SIGNALS

February 2015

Comments from our President

- Sally Tucker

A Labor of Love

The word “love” gets used a lot. We love family members so much that we would sacrifice greatly for them – and we also love such things as cherry limeades.

There is one expression that rings true for Gillies: Volunteering at Gilcrease Museum is a “labor of love.”

As volunteers, we certainly labor, but it often doesn't feel like work because of the positive feelings we have for the collection, the museum mission, each other, and the staff.

Mentors for the Provisional Docents and the Day Captains deserve special recognition for their expertise, time, and work in seeing to it that Provisional Docents are receiving quality tour experiences and training. The cooperation between Provisional Docents, Mentors, and Day Captains is a prime example of the “Gillie way” of doing things.

Another amazing feat is the work of the volunteers in the Research Library as they physically move items from the museum to the Helmerich Center for American Research. Look for a detailed feature article on Librarian Renee Harvey's group of HCAR volunteers in the March *Smoke Signals*.

Thank you to Director of Volunteer Services Mark Dolph for hosting The Gillies and guests at the Gillies Appreciation Luncheon in December. It was a great event at which Gillies did not work, and that certainly made us feel appreciated!

As recipients of the Bluestem Award, we Gillies are honored and grateful, and also encouraged. The literal meaning of *encourage* is to “give heart to.” The award does just that. While we do not volunteer to receive awards, it is gratifying to be the recipient of one. Thank you to the hundreds of past and present Gillies for your labor of love at Gilcrease Museum.

Plan Now to Attend The Gillies Luncheon On March 20

Happy “almost” spring!

The annual Gillies General Membership Luncheon will be held in the Gilcrease Vista Room at noon on March 20. All Active members, Associates and Interns, are invited to attend. Chef Geoffery Van Glabbeek once again has created a lovely menu for us:

*Mixed Greens with Goat Cheese, Dried Cranberries,
Candied Walnuts with Citrus Vinaigrette and Ranch
Dressings*

*Pesto Chicken with Spring Vegetable Hash
(Mushrooms, Cherry Tomatoes,
Asparagus, Peas & Red Onions)*

Tomato Herb Couscous

Biscuits & Rolls with Butter

Carrot Cake & Lemon Cake

Iced Tea, Water, Coffee

Mail your check for **\$14.00** to:

Treasurer Marsha McElroy

5206 S. Harvard Ave., #331; Tulsa, OK 74135

Checks should be made out to: “The Gillies”

Plan to stay for the Gilcrease Forum.

March Gilcrease Forum

This year has been designated as “The Gillies Year” for our Gilcrease Forum speakers.

Circle Friday, March 20, in red, as a reminder that a wonderful program will be presented at 1:00 p.m. in the Gilcrease Auditorium.

Winnie Perdue asks that we walk with her as she shares her colorful and unique personal journey. Her life is like a history of early Indian Country.

Watch for the March *Smoke Signals* for more information about this fascinating program.

It is one you will not want to miss.

DOCENT CORNER

- Charley Wyatt, Docent Chair

It's 2015 and any New Year deserves resolutions and changes.

We Docents probably share many resolutions specific to Gilcrease. For instance, to give better tours by studying more, prepare better, be more in tune with our visitors' needs and interests. I hope you are able to reach high levels in all your resolutions.

Only a few active Docents still need to be reviewed (certainly a resolution for a large fraction of our Docent family). A good part of our Provisional class will have been reviewed by the time this article is read. Congratulations to all for achieving that resolution.

I've made a personal resolution to build a Tour Development group that will allow us to minimize the problems in performing that very important function. I hope that many of you will join me in putting together a team that will be able to sustain the excellent work that has been done in the past.

Please note that I am cancelling the February Docent Meeting. Our next meeting will be held on March 6 when our speaker will be Dr. Duane King. I'm especially grateful that he can join us and expect a wonderful talk.

Now, there's good news for three special Docents: First, JoAnn Clapp has returned home and is talking up a storm. We are so glad that she has made this kind of progress. Second, Donna Gaineey has joined the Museum staff on a part-time basis as Tour Coordinator. We expect that Donna will have a positive impact with anyone who contacts the Museum to schedule an activity. Finally, Chris and Brian McWaters are leaving Tulsa for a life in Rockledge, Florida. Chris is one of the best people I've ever had the pleasure to work with, so please join me in wishing her a wonderful life in Florida.

Here's a note from Chris:

To the point: Thanks to Charley for this opportunity to say a Gillie goodbye. As Brian and I embark on life's next adventure, I'd like to express my gratitude to every Gillie and staff member for generously sharing their wisdom, offering advice and most importantly their friendship. I will always treasure my time here and the friends I've gained. Thank you for all you do! All my very best to each and every one of you.

- Chris McWaters

New address: 4098 San Beluga Way,
Rockledge, Florida 32955

What Kind of Tree Is That?



Photo by Rod Schneider

Possumhaw or Deciduous Holly

**By Erna Schneider
Garden Chair**

If you've stood in the Vista Room of Gilcrease Museum recently, gazing across the monochromatic winter landscape below, you probably have caught sight of a marvelous tree full of red berries.

Technically a shrub, this plant is called a *deciduous holly*, with a more common name of *possumhaw*.

Possumhaw grows to as high as 15 feet, turning it from a shrub into a tree. Because it is deciduous, it loses its leaves in the fall, leaving behind a riot of red berries that stand out during the winter – just when we need that splash of color the most.

You can find possumhaw growing in many places around the area, as it prefers to grow in limestone glades and bluffs, and in lowland valleys and swamps, all of which we have plenty of in eastern Oklahoma.

Several species of bird will feast on the possumhaw berries, including cedar waxwing and mockingbirds. However, the berries are toxic to humans, and should not be eaten. So feast your eyes on their beauty, but leave the physical consumption to the birds.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

~Kathy Horne, Secretary

Change in address:

Chris McWaters
4098 San Beluga Way
Rockledge, FL 32955

Changes in membership status:

Olivette McLure – to Associate
Robyn Sanzalone - resignation

Death:

Martha Eskridge – December 19, 2014

Get well cards sent to:

Barbara Boone	Jim Clapp
Lana Clark	Barbara McFall
Sharon Paley	Jane Watson

Sympathy cards sent to:

Keith Bowers – death of father-in-law
Karen Jarvis – death of aunt
Marsha McElroy – death of son-in-law
Marian Sexton – death of mother
Barbara Shirey – death of mother-in-law
Beverly Wilcox – death of brother-in-law's wife
Sarah Wright – death of mother

Thinking of you cards sent to:

Louis and Beverly Drymon
Sue Parkinson

Please send changes in contact info(address, phone, and email), as well as news about a Gillie who is ill to Gillie Secretary Kathy Horne – 918-747-4716/kchorne49@gmail.com

SHOP TALK

**Frances Whisman,
Gilcrease Museum Shop Chair**

The shop was steady but much slower this past month. New merchandise, consisting of clothes, jewelry, and other items continue to arrive.

Sale books are still on the cart at the front of the museum shop. Items may get moved, so look to see what has moved since you last visited the shop.

Interns who will now be seen working in the museum shop are: Ryan Brandt, Susan Lorton, and Helen Tate, with Carolyn Wilcott in the near future.

Some of the Christmas items, mostly smaller ornaments, are on sale for 50% off. This does not include the special painted ornaments.

Remember: If an item is on sale for more than the Gillies discount, no other discount will apply.

An example is the Christmas Sale for members where the members receive a 25% discount. The Gillie discount of 10% is not given in addition to the 25%.

As Gillies, we receive more of a discount than the regular museum members. There will be sales this spring and usually around Valentine's Day.

Stop by the museum shop to see if that "special gift" is in a corner of the shop waiting for you.

There are still openings in the shop schedule, if anyone needs hours. To volunteer, feel free to contact me at: frances.whisman@cox.net or 918-759-1131 (cell) or 918-224-8325 (home).

Gillies Library Roundup...

- Robert W. Sears, Library Chair



Recent Donation

The Gillies Library recently received a large donation of books from a former Gillie, Mabel Fuhrmann.

Mabel volunteered for a number of years in the Research Library.

She has a keen interest in the Lewis & Clark Expedition and Westward Expansion.

She collected extensively in all areas concerning the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

The donation includes biographies, narratives, and pictorial works about the expedition.

The Gillies Library holdings on Lewis & Clark will be greatly enhanced by this donation.

We are appreciative to Ms. Fuhrmann for donating her collection to the Gillies Library.

Remember: Check Out Your Library!

The Gillies
 Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History And Art
 1400 Gilcrease Museum Road
 Tulsa, OK 74127

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 2015

2 – Nominating Comm.	Gillies Library	10:00 a.m.
4 – Development Comm.	Gillies Library	10:00 a.m.
6 – FMPOV	Vista Room	1:30 p.m.
<i>Star-Spangled Commemoration</i> , a musical performance by David & Ginger Hildebrand, Colonial Music Institute		
12 – Executive Comm.	Gillies Library	10:00 a.m.
12 – Education Comm.	Board Room	1:00 p.m.
13 – Board of Directors	Board Room	9:30 a.m.
15 – Funday Sunday	Museum	Noon to 4:30 p.m.

March 2015

4 – Development Comm.	Gillies Library	10:00 a.m.
6 – Docent Meeting	Gallery 18	9:30 a.m.
Dr. Duane H. King		
6 – FMPOV	Gallery 18	1:30 p.m.
<i>John Ford – Poet in the Desert</i> , Joseph Malham, Author and iconographer		
12 – Executive Comm.	Gillies Library	10:00 a.m.
12 – Education Comm.	Board Room	1:00 p.m.
13 – Board of Directors	Board Room	9:30 a.m.
15 – Funday Sunday	Museum	Noon to 4:00 p.m.
20 – Gillies Coffee	Vista Room	10:30 a.m.
Membership Meeting	Auditorium	11:00 a.m.
Gillies Luncheon	Vista Room	Noon
Gilcrease Forum	Auditorium	1:00 p.m.
<i>My Journey</i> , Winnie Guess Perdue, elder of the Cherokee Nation		
23 – <i>Frontier to Foundry</i>		Closes
29 – <i>Private Collections to Public Treasures</i>		Closes

Smoke Signals is published monthly except January and July for the Gillies, the volunteer service organization of the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art.