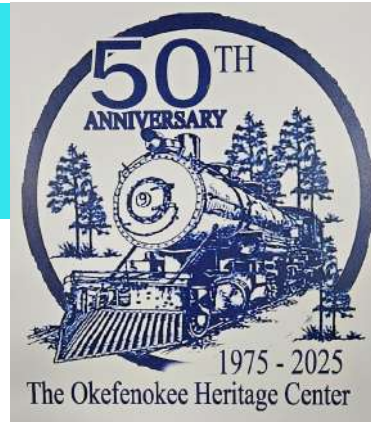


OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER NEWSLETTER



January
February
March
2025

OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER TURNS 50!!

An excerpt from the book:

“The Unusual Story of the Okefenokee Heritage Center and Southern Forest World”, written by Susan Lott Clark
(Article abridged by Carla Cornett)

How it all began!

At the regular meeting of the Waycross Service League, on May 5, 1964, the following came as a recommendation from the executive committee: “We move that the League investigate the establishment of a Children’s Museum on Waycross”. Ruth Groover seconded; motion carried. There was a long discussion about it. Barbara Moore said that whereas our meetings usually lasted only about forty-five minutes, she recalls that this one went on for an hour and a half. Some of the members scoffed at the idea, saying there was nothing in Waycross old enough to be worthy of keeping. They probably were thinking of Waycross in comparison to Williamsburg. Others possibly were thinking that usually the Waycross Service League had worked more to provide health clinics for children and with welfare-related organizations. A committee was appointed, with Mrs. Norman (Dot) Gibson, chairman; Mrs. Billy (Ruth) Groover; Mrs. John (Anna) Fesperman; and me.

We met a couple times, early in May, and decided the way to begin would be to interview various so-called civic leaders to see what they thought. So, we talked personally with some of the wealthier, more influential people in town. Many were rather indifferent. Their caution was that we might be able to raise the money for the museum but that it would be very hard to continue to raise money for operating costs for a museum in Waycross. How right they were! It has been a constant struggle from the start. However, we personally are glad we did it, because we believe it has added an awareness of the need for educational and cultural enrichment along with other activities that have improved the quality of life in Waycross. Young people, now in their thirties, have said, “I can’t imagine Waycross without the Heritage Center”. (to be continued)

OHC Calendar

JAN	OHC 50th Anniversary	Art Gallery
8 -	OHC Board Meeting	12PM
9 -	Pres. Jimmy Carter’s Funeral	
12 -	OHC 50th Ann. Art Reception	3-5PM
14 -	OHC Photography Guild	6:30PM
15 -	Clover Heritage @ OHC	4-6PM
20 -	MLK Parade ~ Downtown	12PM
21 -	Black Heritage Committee	6PM
24 -	OHC History Guild	6PM
28 -	OHC Art Guild	5:30PM
FEB	Black History Month	Art Gallery
5 -	OHC Board Meeting	12PM
6 -	OHC Learning Series	10:30AM & 6PM
11 -	OHC Photography Guild	6:30PM
13 -	Paint Party with Harley Herrin	6PM
17 -	Presidents’ Day	All Day
22 -	Arbor Day @ SFW	All Day
25 -	OHC Art Guild	5:30PM
26 -	Clover Heritage @ 4-H office	4-6PM
28 -	OHC History Guild	6PM
MAR	JOHN JORDAN	Art Gallery
5 -	OHC Board Meeting	12PM
9 -	Clover Heritage @ WACT	2-5PM
11 -	OHC Photography Guild	6:30PM
16 -	Art Reception for John Jordan	3-5PM
18 -	Black Heritage Committee	6PM
25 -	OHC Art Guild	5:30PM
28 -	OHC History Guild	6PM
29 -	Okefenokee Color Run	8AM

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Happy New Year!! And Happy 50th Birthday OHC!! What an amazing 2024! It's always good to look back to see all of our accomplishments and to reevaluate for the future. We are SO excited to be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Okefenokee Heritage Center. We will celebrate all year, but will concentrate on May 31, 2025, the official opening. Of course the beginnings of OHC started ten years prior. The entire story of how the Okefenokee Heritage Center all began is in the book called "The Unusual Story of the Okefenokee Heritage Center and Southern Forest World", by Susan Lott Clark. And what a story it is, and continues to be! Of course we could not do any of this without YOU!! The only way we keep our cherished museum open and serving our community is with contributions from our wonderful Waycross Convention and Visitors Bureau, many generous corporate sponsors, our amazing members, donors and of course our OHC Board of Trustees and volunteers. If you are interested in being part of this incredible organization, please contact me. The Okefenokee Heritage Center, we're on the right track!!

Carla Garrett Cornett, Executive Director



CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Mission Possible:
Protecting Freedom, Justice, & Democracy
in the Spirit of Nonviolence 365

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Parade
Monday, January 20, 2025

OHC History Guild Presents:
"Swamp Talk"
 with Jenny Sweat

Friday, Jan 24th, 6PM
 Okefenokee Heritage Center
 1460 N. Augusta Ave.
 Waycross, GA

~ FREE ~
 Donations
 Accepted

OHC 50th Anniversary Art Exhibition "Meet the Artists" Reception
 Sunday, Jan 12th, 3-5pm

Okefenokee Heritage Center
 1460 N. Augusta Ave ~ Waycross, GA

"THE PATH OF LOVE" ~ PAINT PARTY
 with Harley Herrin

THURS. FEB 13TH ~ 6PM

Okefenokee Heritage Center
 1460 N. Augusta Ave.

OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER PRESENTS

OKEFENOKEE COLOR RUN 2025

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

5K RUN AT 8 AM **1 MILE RUN & WALK AT 9 A.M.**

Contact okeheritage@gmail.com for registration or
 Sponsorship information (912) 285-4260

OHC 50TH CELEBRATION WAYCROSS

Special Events:



Paint Parties by Harley Herrin ~ Stay tuned!



Chamber of Commerce Rise & Shine at OHC ~ Oct '24



Veterans Day Celebration Nov '24 ~ With Harold Connolly



Veterans Day Red, White & Blue Color Run Nov '24



Pres. Jimmy Carter Memorial



Judy Kurrach with Christmas in the 'Cross

The Okefenokee Heritage Center is a cultural art center and regional history museum for all people, which seeks to promote an appreciation of the arts and an increased understanding of history and development of the Okefenokee region through its cultural and educational programs, collections, and exhibitions.

Mrs. Susan Lott Clark wanted to have a place for her children to expand their education and her community to participate in cultural events. With the help of her community, in May 1975, the "First Day at the Heritage Center" was held to inaugurate the building which housed exhibits on the arts and history. Partnerships with the City of Waycross allowed the Okefenokee Area Museum to become a permanent structure and fixture of our community. Situated on 16 acres of beautiful park land the Okefenokee Heritage Center, Inc. was born. We are now an educational, cultural arts and historic center and museum for the entire region.

We offer a variety of artistic and cultural programming throughout the year, including: Artist of the Month Exhibitions in our rotating art gallery, many OHC Guilds including performing arts, photography, art, quilting, history, genealogy, and Black Heritage. We also partner with WayGreen which hosts the Local Fare Market. We provide Children's Summer Art Camp and we partner with our local 4-H Club with our Clover Heritage Group which offers art classes, music lessons, dramatic performances, and more.

Some of the exhibits which are premiered on the OHC Campus include:

"Okefenokee Chief" ~ Featuring "Old Nine" locomotive, passenger car, mail/baggage car and red caboose. "Old Nine Locomotive" ~ Tour a restored 1912 Baldwin steam locomotive with coal tender. "Railroad Depot & Warehouse" ~ Contains local railroad history, exhibits and conductors office. "Hilliard House" ~ circa 1830 dog-trot style home of Capt. Thomas Hilliard, and oldest standing home in Ware County. "From These Roots" ~ Experience the regional African-American legacy. "Native-American" ~ Discover Native-American artifacts and local cultures. "Founder's Hall" ~ Trace the settling and development of the area from the early 19th Century. "Gram Parsons" ~ Learn about a Waycross native turned rock star. "Waycross Journal-Herald" ~ View the original flat-bed press. "Entertainment History of the Okefenokee Region" house in the Venue. "Nok Terracotta Statues" donated by Howard H. Gelb. We also have a rotating exhibit room where we offer a new exhibit every quarter to spotlight various historical events and locations. The displays in this room are researched, organized and displayed by our Exhibit Committee.

Okefenokee Heritage Center

1460 N. Augusta Avenue
Waycross, GA 31503
912-285-4260

www.okefenokeeheritagecenter.com

OHC Mission Statement:

The Okefenokee Heritage Center is a cultural art center and local history museum for all people, which seeks to promote an appreciation of the arts and an increased understanding of history and development of the Okefenokee region through its cultural and educational programs, collections, and exhibitions.

Proudly serving Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce & Ware.



OHC Board of Trustees 2024/25

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Dale Wiley, Vice Chair
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Jenny Sweat	

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Greg Smith, City of Waycross
Christy Hattaway, Waycross Service League

Honorary Member:

Zane Williams

Staff:

Carla Garrett Cornett, Executive Director
Sherian Barnes, Office Manager



**A special thanks to ALL of our
OHC Members!!
Thanks to YOU....
“We’re on the Right Track”!**

Invite a friend to join the Okefenokee Heritage Center

Individual	\$36
Family	\$60
Heritage Club	\$100
Sue Clark Society	\$200
Small Business	\$150
Business Sponsor	\$500
Corporate Sponsor	\$1,000
Corporate Partners	\$5,000

* Join one of our many Guilds

All donations are tax deductible

RENT OUR SPACE

You can rent the facilities at the Okefenokee Heritage Center for parties, reunions, etc.

Community Room	\$200
Community/Kitchen	\$250
Depot	\$300
The Venue	\$250
Warehouse/ Depot	\$400
Grounds	\$200

(Tables & Chairs available for rent)
For more information call:
912-285-4260

Visit us on Facebook
For Updates on Events



And on YouTube
For video interviews
okeheritage@gmail.com

