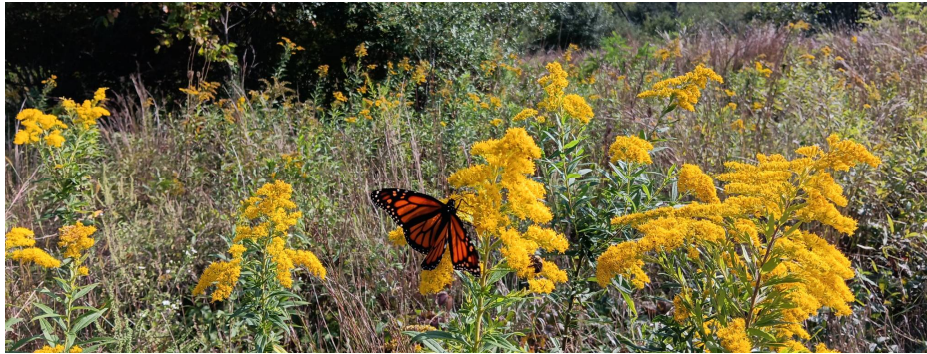




Prairie restoration steadily progresses

For nearly five years, we have been protecting and expanding one of the scarcest natural ecosystems in Wisconsin. Remnants of a historic prairie landscape survive on our 178 acre natural preserve. Staff and volunteers have labored well over 1000 hours since 2022 to eradicate aggressively invasive black locust trees.

This past winter and spring, volunteers began eliminating a large invasive buckthorn patch adjacent to the prairie reclamation areas, and for the first time in perhaps 200 years, fire became part of the prairie renewal cycle here. The process of ecological succession must be interrupted by factors such as fire for prairie to endure. The Portage Fire Department generously conducted this prescribed burn.

In August, a local Eagle Scout candidate cleared a new trail which in part serves as an invasive species break against the monospecific stands of reed canary grass in the marsh to the north.

This fall, a group of students from Wayne E. Bartels middle school came out for a second year to collect prairie seed for future project needs. We are also eliminating locust resprouts that emerged in various reclamation areas.

Looking ahead, we are eager to see how our ongoing prairie restoration journey can expand and progress with a new joint effort with the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners Program. Stay tuned!

The project has received generous support this year from the C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund (NRF of WI), Alliant Energy Foundation, Enbridge Fueling Futures, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Community Foundation of South Central WI, Cissy VD Bryson Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation in memory of Cissy Van Dyke Scannell Bryson, and the USFWS Partners Program.

Watch our Phase 4 Prairie Video: <https://youtu.be/HGNjMudF80Q>

Ho-Chunk storyteller

The 2025 Campfire Stories Series has been a unique and fascinating opportunity to bundle up the family and get cozy around a campfire as skilled storytellers relate tales of old.

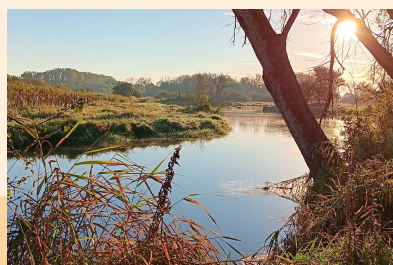
The final installment in the series is scheduled for November 8 at 5 pm with talented Ho-Chunk storyteller Niizuwii (Andi Cloud) who is set to share stories in the same way Ho-Chunk stories have been passed down for generations. Storytelling has been part of Ho-Chunk life rhythms for centuries, and the stories, themselves, have something to say about life.



Research spotlight

Fiction is often of limited use in historical research. However, our museum's current investigation of Juliette Kinzie's historical fiction book, *Mark Logan, the Bourgeois*, has indicated that this particular piece of fiction may, in fact, be worth a careful second look. The 678 page book is set along the Fox-Wisconsin corridor in the year 1827, and Juliette appears to have used her firsthand knowledge of real people and places to develop the setting of her fictitious storyline to some extent. Some of her landscape references are corroborated in *Wau-Bun* and other known narratives, and her colorful detailing of Portage's landscape is particularly descriptive. Here are a few excerpted lines:

Beyond the lowlands...was situated the trading-establishment of the Fur Company. Far away, beyond the portage, to the left, were the cliffs of the Wisconsin; ...a faint line of the Barribault Hills might be descried, many miles distant. It was an extremely pretty landscape as it lay bright in the afternoon sun; perhaps the little matted lodges which dotted the low grounds beyond the river, clustering most thickly in the immediate vicinity of the shabby, irregular buildings which formed the trading-establishment, did not diminish the picturesque effect of the whole."



Historic Indian Agency House

Wau-Bun Express | Nov 2025 | Vol. 25, Iss. 3



**YOUR SUPPORT
MAKES AN
IMPACT**

You help make it happen!

Dear Friends,

Our "Hearth & Home" season has nearly wrapped up. We are so thankful for the volunteers, project partners, and financial supporters who have helped us serve the community this year through tours, events, and public outreach, as well as facilitating the preservation, curation, and stewardship of this significant historic site.

We are a private 501(c)3 nonprofit museum. The generosity of individuals and grantors who share our vision is essential to fulfilling our mission as a museum. We are looking forward to a new season of exciting programming and avenues of outreach!

Your financial partnership makes a real difference. Would you donate today?

Any amount, no matter how big or small, is appreciated and managed with care.

With Gratitude,

Adam Novey

Adam Novey
Executive Director and Curator



www.agencyhouse.org

The Fort Winnebago Indian Agency House has been a part of the landscape at the Fox-Wisconsin portage for 193 years. The home served as an embassy between the United States Government and the Ho-Chunk Nation during a pivotal moment in our past.



Serving Our Community

TOGETHER

Feedback from visitors reflecting the impact your partnership helps make:



Campfire Stories Series

“What a unique opportunity to venture back in time...many intriguing stories...”
“It was an experience that will be long lived and the smores were terrific!”



Ho-Chunk Cultural Arts Day

“Beautiful pageantry and history. Beautiful dancers. First time here. I will be back!!”
“It was fantastic! Amazing experience!”
“Ended up with a basket!” [from basket workshop]



Archaeology Dig

“Very informative and interesting.”
“This is my luckiest day ever!” [youth participant]
“Learning/discovery/friendliness. Awesome!”
“This was an awesome experience!”



Speaker Series

“I liked how the speaker explained that today's traditions haven't been around as long as I thought.”
“Exceeded my expectations.”
“Topics appealing and often unique.”



Enduring Skills Weekend

“So much variety! Covers all ages! Chance to try so many new skills. It was wonderful! Beautiful setup!”
“Knowledgeable demonstrators. Many options.”
“Thanks for this summer highlight event!!”



Living History Events

“Excellent event!”
“[I liked] everything!!! The host, the volunteers, etc.”
“Everything was very interesting.”



Kids’ Backpack Workshop

“Your commitment and guidance to the youth in our community is truly one of a kind. I cannot thank you enough for all the great work you do.”
“Very interactive and educational.”



Field Trips/Tours

“The history...was really brought to life and we left with a better understanding of this vital time.”
“Engaging, informative, and well paced...[the Ho-Chunk story] is important to share & understand.”
“This [field trip] should be run every year!”

Thank You

2025 Season Dedication:

In Memory Of: Cissy Van Dyke Scannell Bryson; Robert Goodman; Marilyn Grady; David Hestad; Jordan Mueller; Joyce Novey; Carole Nye; Pierre Pauquette and Family; Edward (Ted) Rebholz; Earl Rhode; Polly Stone; George and Lydia Vierheilig

In Honor Of: Mr. & Mrs. William S. Carpenter; HIAH Volunteers; A. Novey

Grantors/Business Supporters:

Alliant Energy Foundation
Chipstone Foundation
Cissy VD Bryson Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation
C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund at the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin
Dennis Grady Enbridge
General Engineering Company
Golden Sands RCD Council
H.L. Palmer Masonic Angel Fund
Kohler Foundation
Portage Historical Society
Portage Tourism/City of Portage
Terrytown Plumbing
The Myrtle Fund at Vanguard Charitable
USFWS “Partners” Program
Wisconsin Humanities

...and THANK YOU to each individual donor, member, & volunteer for your steadfast support of this meaningful work.



Will you partner with us today?

The Historic Indian Agency House is a nonprofit 501(c)3 museum.
We rely on your generosity to do what we do.



DEDICATE THE 2026 SEASON TO SOMEONE YOU LOVE



When you support the Historic Indian Agency House, you may choose to designate your contribution in memory of or in honor of someone special to you. We will be pleased to dedicate the 2026 season to your loved one. His or her name will be posted in various venues, including on our events web page (www.agencyhouse.org/events) and newsletter. Your donation is tax-deductible. If you would like us to send you a recognition card to present to someone regarding your donation, simply check the box on the form on the back.

Your donation is two gifts in one: a kind gesture to the one honored/remembered, and a means to help us preserve our historic site and serve the community. Thank you for your generosity.



Thank you for your support!

Mail in this form, OR donate online: www.agencyhouse.org/donate



Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DONATION DETAILS	AMT
Your donation is tax-deductible.	\$.00

I would like to pay by: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card



Make check payable to Historic Indian Agency House



Name on credit card (if different than above): _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ 3-4 digit Code: _____

I would like a receipt for tax purposes: ☐ Yes ☐ No

My donation is in ☐ Memory ☐ Honor

of _____
(Be sure to print clearly.)

The 2026 season will be dedicated in his/her memory/honor.



Please send me a recognition card I can share with those honored by this gift ☐ Yes ☐ No

Notes: _____

☐ Sign me up for the e-news mailing list – average of 2 news updates per month
(Be sure to include your email address above.)

Return this form (and check, if applicable) to:
Historic Indian Agency House, 1490 Agency House Road, Portage, WI 53901