

The Main Line

The Newsletter of the
Friends of the L&N Depot

Summer 2015 Volume 8 Issue 1



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RailPark Awarded 2015 Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence

Recognized as Top Performing as Reviewed by Travelers on the World's Largest Travel Site

Historic RailPark & Train Museum today announced that it has received a Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence award. Now in its fifth year, the award celebrates excellence in hospitality and is given only to establishments that consistently achieve great traveler reviews on Trip Advisor. Certificate of Excellence winners include accommodations, eateries, and attractions located all over the world that have continually delivered a superior customer experience.

Trip Advisor uses a proprietary algorithm to determine the Certificate of Excellence honorees that takes into account the quality and quantity of reviews and opinions submitted by travelers on Trip Advisor over a 12-month period and ranking on the Popularity Index on the site. To qualify, a business must maintain an overall Trip Advisor rating of at least four out of five.

“Winning the Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence is a true source of pride for the entire team at the Historic RailPark & Train Museum and we’d like to thank all of our past guests who took the time to complete a review on Trip Advisor,” said Jamie Johnson, Executive Director at the RailPark. “There is no greater seal of approval than being recognized by one’s customers. With the Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence based on customer reviews, the accolade is a remarkable vote of confidence to our tour guides and our continued commitment to retell the history of train travel in Bowling Green.”

"Trip Advisor is pleased to honor exceptional hospitality businesses that have received consistent praise and recognition by travelers on the site," said Marc Charron, the President of Trip Advisor for Business. "By putting a spotlight on businesses that are focused on delivering great service to customers, Trip Advisor not only helps drive increasing hospitality standards around the world, it also gives businesses both large and small the ability to shine and stand out from the competition."



In late June, Board members, volunteers and staff members enjoyed dinner on the dining car to celebrate our Trip Advisor award.



ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING DAY AT THE DEPOT

On a hot and sunny day in May, several volunteers spent time sprucing up the Depot. After only two hours the grounds at the Depot were gleaming.

The tracks under the cars are now free of debris, and many of the pine trees along the front of the property were trimmed from the bottom up to create more visibility of our beautiful building. This also creates a healthy environment for the ground below the trees.

The wagon on the front lawn is now overflowing with gorgeous summer blooms. To top it all off, a brand new picnic table was delivered just before the crew finished.

The next clean-up day is scheduled this fall, Saturday, September 26th beginning at 9am. Anyone interested in helping out is encouraged to do so. Feel free to give us a call or e-mail Melanie Smith at

memberships@historicroailpark.com



Make plans to join us Saturday, September 26th for the annual Fall Clean-Up at the Depot.

MEET OUR STAFF



Summer Bibb—Gift Shop Manager



Melanie G. Smith—Membership & Volunteer Coordinator

STAFF PROMOTIONS

The Historic RailPark and Train Museum is proud to announce the promotion of two staff members.

“Being able to promote from within the organization is invaluable at a small operation. It’s wonderful to have such dedicated, talented and enthusiastic staff members to work with,” said Jamie Johnson, Executive Director.

Summer Bibb, a Junior at Western Kentucky University and a lifelong resident of Bowling Green KY, has been promoted to Gift Shop Manager. Bibb has worked at the RailPark for the past four years. She is a trained tour guide for our restored railcars and has also worked as a gift shop attendant. Bibb will now manage all aspects of the museum gift shop including selecting new and exciting merchandise.

Melanie G. Smith has been promoted to Membership & Volunteer Coordinator. Smith has lived in Bowling Green KY for 18 years and is a native of Missouri. She holds a degree in International Relations from Randolph-Macon Women’s College in Virginia. Smith worked for Riverview at Hobson Grove for almost nine years and was most recently the Assistant Director. Smith has worked at the RailPark for the past year and a half as a gift shop attendant. She will work within our membership program and help coordinate our volunteer program.

NEW DIRECTOR STEPS ABOARD

By LAUREL WILSON
The Daily News , Oct. 4, 2014
bgdailynews.com

A new executive director has been hired for the Historic RailPark and Train Museum.

Jamie Johnson of Franklin will take over the position November 3rd from Mike Whitaker, who has been interim. Whitaker will remain at the RailPark as bookkeeper, a post he's held for three years.

Johnson, 36, is a native of Owensboro and graduate of Lindsey Wilson College, where she received a bachelor's degree in business. She's spent her entire career working for Paxton Media Group, currently as general manager of the Franklin Favorite newspaper, WFKN radio in Franklin and the Portland Leader newspaper in Tennessee.



Because her husband is a Bowling Green police officer and her daughter attends The Montessori School of Bowling Green, Johnson already was looking to move to Bowling Green when she found out about the open position at the RailPark.

She's interested in "all things history," and becoming director of the RailPark is a way to combine her love of history with her professional skills, she said.

She already has a lot of ideas about how to get more local visitors to the train depot.

"I think I can bring a lot of awareness to the RailPark," she said. "It's a great thing to have the RailPark right there. ... I want to get the community more involved and utilizing that space."

Johnson was somewhat familiar with the RailPark before pursuing the executive director job, having visited the depot once during a holiday event.

"What they have is really impressive," she said. "The quality of artifacts ... it's all so impressive. They've done the hard part (restoring the train cars). I have the easy part. I get to tell everyone about the great things they have."

Adam Yates, a member of the hiring committee, said there were some excellent candidates for the position, but he was immediately impressed by Johnson's capabilities.

"Jamie's enthusiasm, Jamie's organization, Jamie's connections in southcentral Kentucky, just let us know that she was absolutely the right person," Yates said.

Being executive director of the RailPark means doing "a little bit of everything," from event planning to marketing, and Yates believes Johnson has the skills to do that.

"We've come to a point where we need to continue to spread the word in our community (about the RailPark)," Yates said.

Joe Loney, president of Friends of the L&N Depot, believes Johnson's background in management and marketing make her a good choice for the position. Marketing will be a big focus for the RailPark going forward, he said.

"We feel like we've got a top-notch facility, and we want to utilize that," Loney said.

FRIENDS OF THE L&N DEPOT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mike Davenport

Retired; Banking

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Leo Eggleton

Accountant & Owner;

Leo Eggleton Accounting and
Financial Services

Secretary

J.R. Wade

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Barry Williams

President; Broadcast &

Communications Systems, LLC

Rick Williams

City Commissioner – City of

Bowling Green

Adam Yates

Financial Planner; BB&T Bank

Annual Membership

*Thank you for being a
Friend of the L&N Depot!*

\$25 **Train Master**

- 1 person (Single adult)
• Admission to railcars and museum for one year for one person
• Free quarterly newsletter
• 10% gift shop discount

\$50 **Yard Master**

- 2 to 4 people (Family/Grandparent)
• Admission to railcars and museum for one year for four individuals
• Early invitation to Special Events
• Free quarterly newsletter
• 20% gift shop discount

\$75 **Engineer**

- 5 to 8 people (Family/Grandparent Plus)
• Admission to railcars and museum for one year for eight individuals
• Early invitation to Special Events
• Free quarterly newsletter
• 20% gift shop discount
• 10% facility or railcar rental discount

\$100 **Conductor**

- 5 to 8 people (Plus North American Reciprocal Museum Association membership)
• Admission to railcars and museum for one year for eight individuals
• Early invitation to Special Events
• Free quarterly newsletter
• 20% gift shop discount
• 10% facility or railcar rental discount
• Admission to over 680 NARM museums and attractions all over America for one year

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

 New membership *Renewal membership*

Historic RailPark & Train Museum

401 Kentucky Street, Suite B
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101
(270) 745-7317

memberships@historicroilpark.com

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

Dear Friend of the
L&N Depot:

Another busy year of activities is underway here at the Historic RailPark and Train Museum as we work to promote the history of this railroading community. The RailPark needs your continued support so that we can continue the cultural and educational programs that we provide throughout the year to local student groups and those coming from neighboring states, visitors from Kentucky and around the world, and special events for friends and families such as the Polar Express.

In this new year we have hosted several new successful events including "Romance at the RailPark" and "Brunch with the Bunny." Your support allows us to hold such events that entertain many local and regional visitors who have never even been to the RailPark before. We hope that these events will encourage more visits throughout the year and allow us to host even more activities.

We continue many of our annual events such as National Train Day, the Festival of Trains and the Polar Express. Look to our Facebook page and Twitter for details about all upcoming events. We could not host events each year without the support of our members and volunteers.

In the coming months, you will hear more about our efforts towards the "Every Donor is a Hero" campaign for the renovation of the

Hospital Car and the Jim Crow Car. We hope that you take the opportunity to stop by and visit the museum and see the progress on these cars.

Please help us to continue to provide so many wonderful, educational programs and events for our visitors. We would love to have your help and we are always looking for volunteers who can regularly spend time here or have just a few hours to support one of our special projects or events.

Enclosed is a membership renewal form. We hope that you take full advantage of all of the benefits included in your membership renewal and visit all of the museum's exciting events throughout the year. Thank you for your past interest and we hope that you will continue to support the museum and its activities. Please contact us if you ever have any questions at 270-745-7317.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Jamie S. Johnson
Executive Director
Historic RailPark

Melanie G. Smith
Membership Coordinator
Historic RailPark

Mike Davenport
President
Friends of the L&N Depot

RAILPARK JOINS THE FAIRY GARDEN TOUR

A new venture for the RailPark and sHOw Modular Model Train Club allowed us to partner and premier two fairy gardens in early June. The addition of fairy gardens gave us the opportunity to create two new model train layouts.

Greg Lake, Richard Knapp, Mike Dowell along with several other sHOw Club members worked over several weeks to create an indoor layout that was placed in the permanent layout. Dowell built houses from scratch and Lake designed and created most of the landscape along with making several pieces for display in the garden. Knapp assisted Lake in building the layout. Other members in the club made trees, donated items, and stopped by to lend moral support.

The outside garden train was manned by sHOw Club members Dan Westphal and Calvin Crandell. With a running G-Scale train, this fairy garden dazzled all. The scene included a gnome vegetable garden, a mini fairy playground and a fairy tree house.

The RailPark saw a tremendous increase in traffic and tours during the event. Attendees were also excited to see our permanent display and learned about all that is happening at the RailPark. Overall this was a positive experience for the RailPark and we hope to have the opportunity to participate again next year.



“We’re already planning for next year’s fairy garden” said Dan Westphal, sHOw Club member. Dan brought in his G-Scale model to be used for the outdoor fairy garden.

LIL’ TOOT JOINS OUR FAMILY

Lil’ Toot has made several visits to the RailPark. Built by local hobbyist, Phil Burns, the upcycled lawn mower pulls six cars plus a red caboose.

Burns began the project with only one goal in sight, to have a working train ride for kids. A countless number of hours has gone into the project as well as an unlimited amount of creativity and ingenuity were also key in the finished product.

As Burns has decided to move on to other projects he felt it was time for the Lil’ Toot to find a forever home. Burns called on the RailPark and now the Lil’ Toot is with us full time.

Since it’s arrival in April 2015, Lil’ Toot has been making the rounds for our inaugural Brunch with the Bunny, Second Saturday’s in Downtown Bowling Green and Stand for Children Event. Toot has also been making appearances at Caboose Birthday Parties.

Next time you are visiting the RailPark, be sure to look for the Lil’ Toot.

If you have an event and you would like Lil’ Toot to offer rides, contact us for rental availability at 270-745-7317 or events@historicroailpark.com.



ROMANCE AT THE RAILPARK HEATS UP THE DINING CAR

By MONICA SPEES
The Daily News, Feb. 14, 2015

The Historic RailPark & Train Museum served up a romantic evening for more than 150 people Valentine's weekend. Romance at the RailPark is the attraction's inaugural Valentine's Day weekend dinner event. Guests paid \$99 per couple for dinner on the Park's dining car and a viewing of "When Harry Met Sally" upstairs in the museum. Friday and Saturday night sold out. Director Jamie Johnson said the museum planned for 120 people. The total guest list for both nights was 157, one table having three people.

After entering under a lighted archway, guests had their photo taken while 12-year-old Maddie Arney of Franklin played the harp. James Brown of Bowling Green acted as the conductor for the evening, just as he does every year for the Railpark's event at Christmas for "The Polar Express."

"We've got all the ambiance going on, so it's super romantic," Johnson said and she's excited to bring something new to the RailPark. "I could not imagine us having a dining car and not doing something for Valentine's Day," Johnson said. "It just seemed like the right fit."

Jim Nowicki surprised his wife, Barbara, with the dinner. They were wanting to see the museum, and Jim Nowicki thought Friday evening's Valentine's Day dinner would serve a dual purpose.

"I had kind of been looking for an excuse to see the place since it's been remodeled," Jim Nowicki said. The last time he was in the depot was in the 1950s, traveling on the trains.

The married couple of 40 years said they thought the dinner seemed like a unique activity and a special way to spend the evening since they won't get a chance to celebrate Valentine's Day.

"We like to do something a little different every now and then," Jim Nowicki said.

Steve and Cristie Wilson of Bowling Green got tickets to the event after a couple they know couldn't go. "It's a gift for me, so it's a gift for her," Steve Wilson said. Wilson's gift to his wife was also a Valentine's Day surprise.

"I had no idea until we pulled in the parking lot," Cristie Wilson said. "He told me we were going out to eat, but he didn't say where." The Wilsons have been married for 26 years. "This takes going out to dinner to another level," Cristie Wilson said.

Johnson said she hopes all the guests enjoyed the first Valentine's Day dining at the RailPark. "It's special because no other venue in Bowling Green offers this. ... How often do you get to go (eat) in a dining car? ... For some people, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Johnson said.

Brunch
with the
bunny
at the Historic RailPark & Train Museum

Reservations for
the 2016 Brunch
with the Bunny
open in
February 2016.

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INAUGURAL BRUNCH WITH THE BUNNY

The Historic RailPark and Train Museum partnered with Wild Eggs to host our inaugural "Brunch with The Bunny" event during the Easter holiday weekend of April 4, 2015.

More than 200 guest embarked on a new family tradition! Families hopped on the Duncan Hines Dining Car for a special Easter story and enjoyed a breakfast catered by Wild Eggs.

During brunch the Easter Bunny visited with children and posed for photos taken by volunteer Bill Dow with Thru the Lens Magic.

The big finale was an Easter Egg Hunt with 3,000 eggs! Several local businesses donated prizes for the egg hunt; Wendy's, Dairy Queen, Bruster's Ice Cream, GiGi's Cupcakes, Chuy's and National Corvette Museum.

The event was huge a success for the RailPark. Plans for the 2nd Annual Brunch with the Bunny are underway!

WWII HOSPITAL CAR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

Preserving the history of passenger railroad service for generations to come is the mission of the Historic RailPark & Train Museum. Thanks to our many volunteers and sponsors, the Historic RailPark and the Friends of L&N Depot have been able to tackle restoration challenges that others deemed ready for the scrap heap. Through their cooperative efforts, we have been able to touch the lives of thousands of people from around the world, ranging from local school children to tourists from Europe, Asia, and Australia! Our visitors are always delighted to experience history first-hand by immersing themselves into the sights, sounds, and feel of the historic cars.

Our next endeavor in this wonderful journey is the restoration of WWII Hospital Car #89456. This car was donated to the RailPark by Naval Ordnance Station Louisville in 2011. Built by the American

Car and Foundry Company of St. Charles in Missouri in 1945, this car was one of 100 fully self-contained hospital unit cars. It was outfitted with a small kitchen, receiving area for wounded, storage cabinets, restrooms, showers, living quarters for medical personnel, and space for 36 wounded patients in 3-tiered racks.

Car #89456 was used primarily during WWII to transport wounded soldiers from incoming hospital ships to Army hospitals throughout the country. Most of these hospital cars were kept in storage and ready for service until the late 1960's when they were declared surplus. Many of these hospital cars were sold to the circus and converted into dormitories.

Article continued on page 8...

**HELP RESTORE
THE HOSPITAL CAR
EVERY DONOR IS A HERO
CALL 270.745.7317 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**BRUCE WILKERSON
MAYOR, BOWLING GREEN, KY**

EVERY DONOR
IS A HERO

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Historic RailPark & Train Museum
401 Kentucky St. Bowling Green, KY

WWII HOSPITAL CAR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

Continued from page 7... However, the #89456 kept its military history alive when it was purchased in 1971 and moved to Naval Ordnance Station Louisville (NOSL) where it was used for storage of the MK 19 grenade launcher program. At that time the car was stripped of all furnishings and equipment, which were subsequently donated to various local organizations.

In 2011, NOSL donated car #89456 to the Historic RailPark & Train Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The car was relocated on the stationary track at the RailPark on October 17, 2011 and remains there today. Long past her glory days, car #89456 remains structurally intact, and the staff and volunteers at the RailPark are anxiously hoping to begin the exterior restoration efforts soon. Visitors to the RailPark have also expressed a sincere anticipation and excitement over the restoration efforts of this large exhibit and the preservation of this artifact from one of our nation's greatest generations.

Restoration of the exterior will be a multi-step process. The car and its trucks will need to be sand blasted, primed, and painted. Heavy steel plates which covered the windows of the car. The revealed broken windows that were replaced for the aesthetics and security of the rail-

car. The car will need to be lettered and numbered on the sides, and a new door lock installed.

The result of this monumental effort will be the preservation of an historic artifact that can be shared with generations to come. The restoring of the exterior of the car will maintain the integrity of the interior so that it can be established as a unique museum exhibit that visitors can see and experience.

The Friends of L&N Depot and the Historic RailPark & Train Museum are currently seeking donors who will help with the restoration of this piece of history. Please consider if you or your organization would be able to assist with the preservation of this invaluable piece of our American History.

Any inquiries can be made by contacting Jamie Johnson, Executive Director of the Historic RailPark & Train Museum. Your gift to this project may be considered a charitable donation. The Historic RailPark and Train Museum, is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Donors may deduct contributions as provided in IRC 170(c)(3) of the U.S. Tax Code.



CHOO CHOO SOUL CONCERT TO BENEFIT THE RAILPARK

All aboard for **Disney's Choo-Choo Soul with Genevieve!** The *Parents Choice Award*-winning show chugs into **Bowling Green KY** with sing-along-able fun led by train conductor Genevieve and her breakdancing/beatboxing engineer DC on **Saturday, September 12**. Show starts at **10:30 a.m.** at SKyPAC. Tickets are available by calling 270-904-1880 or online at theskypac.com.

This concert has been made possible by our concert sponsors, State Farm Insurance agent J.R. Wade and Upland Title, LLC owner Attorney Joe Loney. These local business owners are excited to be a part of a fundraiser offering a kids concert to benefit RailPark. Immediately following the concert will be a meet & greet opportunity for all attendees made possible by Independence Bank.

Choo Choo Soul is a smart, captivating show that not only reaches the train-loving preschool and kindergarten set, but also thoroughly entertains grown-ups.

Teaching children through music, Choo-Choo Soul delivers soulful and current renditions of the ABCs, 1-2-3s, and learning how to be polite. It's the high-energy stage version of the *Junior Disney* television show, peppered with rich, upbeat vocals and dazzling dancing.

The show was born out of a creative parent's frustration with his own children's sonic entertainment. Seeking an escape from "bad children's music," video game designer Greg Johnson created Choo-Choo Soul. The energetic duo combines unique talents on The SKyPAC stage in Bowling Green for one day only.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION—*The Historic RailPark & Train Museum presents Disney's Choo-Choo Soul "with Genevieve!" on Saturday, September 12. The sing-along-able fun chugs into The SKyPAC in Downtown Bowling Green (601 College St., Bowling Green) for one day only. Show starts at 10:30 a.m. Tickets range from \$17 to \$50.*

THE HISTORIC RAILPARK & TRAIN MUSEUM

Presents Choo Choo Soul in Concert

Saturday, September 12, 2015
10:30AM show at the SKyPAC
Downtown Bowling Green, KY

Meet & Greet

Sponsored by Independence Bank

Tickets available July 1st, 2015

www.theskypac.com or by calling 270-904-1880

A Fundraiser to Benefit



401 Kentucky St.
 Bowling Green, KY 42101
 270.745.7317
www.historicrailpark.com

Concert Sponsors



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**The Newsletter of the
Friends of the L&N Depot
Main Line**

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Bowling Green KY 42101

Phone: 270-745-7317
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info@historicroailpark.com
www.historicroailpark.com



**FRIENDS
OF THE
L&N DEPOT**

**Mission
Statement**

The object and purpose of the Friends of L&N Depot, Inc. shall be to facilitate displays, exhibits and programming which preserve and present railroad history in the context of its impact locally and as a vital role in our nation's social and economic development.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE HISTORIC RAILPARK

JULY

- 18 – **sHOw Model Train Club** 10am in the Michael Buchanon Meeting Room at the L&N Depot
- 25 – **Volunteer Meeting** 10am in the Michael Buchanon Meeting Room at the L&N Depot
- 27 – **NRHS** 6:30pm in the Michael Buchanon Meeting Room at the L&N Depot

AUGUST

- 1 – **sHOw Model Train Club** 10am in the Michael Buchanon Meeting Room at the L&N Depot
- 8 – **Lil' Toot** Visit Second Saturday's in downtown Bowling Green for a ride on our kiddie train
- 20 – **Big Red Blitz Day** WKU students will help out with various projects at the RailPark
- 24 – **NRHS** 6:30pm in the Michael Buchanon Meeting Room at the L&N Depot

SEPTEMBER

- 12 – **Choo Choo Soul** Disney Jr.'s Choo Choo Soul Concert to benefit the Historic RailPark will be held at The SKyPAC in Downtown Bowling Green KY.
- 24 – **Spirits at the Depot** Annual fundraiser for Big Brothers, Big Sisters
- 26 – **Spruce up the Depot Day** Annual Fall clean-up day at the Depot.

**Check out our website for updated event information:
www.historicroailpark.com**