



THE WRIGHT FLYER

Aviation Trail, Inc.

Fall 2014

OAI'S MICHAEL L. HEIL Ph.D., TO SPEAK AT DEC. 17

Michael L Heil Ph.D., president and CEO of NASA's Ohio Aerospace Institute, based in Cleveland, Ohio, will be guest speaker at ATI's celebration of the 111th anniversary of the Wrights' first flight Wednesday, Dec. 17.

The dinner and program, including a presentation on the proposed Wright Flyer sculpture at the I-70/I-75 intersection—called the Triumph of Flight monument—is scheduled for the Presidential Banquet Center, 4572 Presidential Way, Kettering, Ohio.

Tickets are \$60 a person and checks should be mailed to Aviation Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409 to arrive no later than Wednesday, Dec. 15. Please indicate your choice of an entrée: beef, chicken or vegetarian.

The evening's social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7.

Heil, who is no stranger to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, will focus his speech—Ohio, the Aerospace State--on Ohio's contributions to the space age.

"We need to remember always that the U.S.'s stupendous achievements in the space age actually began with Wilbur and Orville Wright," commented ATI President Marvin Christian. "So I feel this is a most appropriate topic for the 111th anniversary celebration."

The briefing on the Triumph of Flight monument will be presented by George Mongon who is an advisor to the Wright Image Group on the project and will feature a seven-foot model of the monument as it is now envisioned.

Heil was appointed to his current position in January 2007. His career brought him to Wright-Patterson for his doctorate in aerospace engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology where he later became commandant. His master's degree from Columbia University (1976) was in flight structures on a Guggenheim Fellowship and he was a distinguished engineering graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975.



Dr. Michael L. Heil

His Air Force service includes engineering and program management duties in the F-15, C-17 and advanced cruise missile program offices at Wright-Patterson and he has been deputy director of the Astronautics Laboratory, commander of the Phillips Laboratory and the Arnold Engineering Development Center, and special assistant to the commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson.

Heil has served in two Air Force acquisition centers, four defense laboratories, a test center, a major command staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the faculties of the Air Force Academy and AFIT.

As Director of AFRL's Propulsion Directorate, he oversaw facilities valued at more than \$2.1 billion and led the efforts of more than 1,000 scientist, engineers, and staff.

Heil is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

ATI's STEVE BROWN WINS AWARD



Steve Brown, left, holds the Ivonette Wright Miller award presented to him by Frank Winslow, chair of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance. The recognition was for Brown's dedication to volunteerism which spans three decades. That work encompasses not only NAHA and its partners, but the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, and the Wright Image Group's Triumph of Flight monument planned for the intersection of I-70/I-75. An avid flying enthusiast, Brown holds ratings in powered aircraft, gliders, and balloons.



THE OX5 ENGINE

The OX5 engine dates from 1910 and was designed by Glenn Curtiss for America in World War I. It went into production and was crucial to the U.S. pilot training program for the war. Curtiss' JN-4 Jenny was designed around the OX5 which was an 8 cylinder, V configuration with 90 horsepower. The OX5 engine was also used as an option on early WACO aircraft.

The OX5 Aviation Pioneers Club is one of the oldest and most prestigious international aviation organizations. With nearly 1,000 members and growing in membership, it was started by those who had flown or worked on the engine.

ATI DUO BOB AND PATTY WAGNER RECEIVE AWARDS

At the 59th annual OX5 Aviation Pioneers Club reunion in November 6, 7 in Lakeland, Fla., of pilots who fly aircraft with OX5 engines, ATI members Bob and Patty Wagner were doubly honored.

The organization's awards were the Legion of Merit Award to both pilots and the Pioneer Women's Award to Patty.

The Legion of Merit Award is presented to a current or deceased aviation pioneer who has continuously participated in aviation over 40 years while demonstrating unusual technical and safe flying in the use of the aircraft and for the betterment of mankind.

The Pioneer Women's Award goes to a lady on the basis of her recognized reputation as a pioneer in aviation, or for personally advancing general aviation, its operation, welfare and effectiveness.

Both Bob and Patty certainly fit those requirements. Patty is rated as a commercial pilot, single engine land and sea, and glider and Bob is rated commercial multi-engine land, single engine land, sea, glider and instrument. He also is a certified flight instructor aircraft and instrument.

A pilot for nearly 50 years, Patty is a former, world-renowned wing walker on their Stearman biplane flown by stunt-pilot Bob. Since the start of their aerial performances, they've flown their Stearman in 47 states, from Quebec west to British Columbia in Canada, and in Venezuela.

Both Wagners are involved with the WACO Airplane Museum in Troy—and the annual WACO Fly-In there—and have helped that WACO establishment grow over the years to include a runway, hanger and major educational programs.

In fact, a replica of the 1921-era WACO 4 plane with an OX 5 engine that was donated to the WACO Air Museum—and currently is on display there—is one in which Bob flew the 20-hour flight test certification.

While Bob works for WACO Classic, now based in Battle Creek, Mich., Patty's day job at Meadowbrook Country Club is closer to home, a private airstrip between West Milton and Troy, Ohio. Together they share over 100 years of safe flying.



Left to right, Patty Wagner, Bob Wagner and Jim Beisner

ROGER MCCLURE NAMED DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

One year after being honored with ATI's Trailblazer, ATI's Roger McClure was selected for the "Alumni of Distinction" award by the Springfield City School District Board of Education.

He was cited especially for his accomplishments in and for the community, his significant positive influence on those around him—and for being a role model for all to emulate. McClure received his education in the Springfield City School District, graduating from Springfield High School in 1951.

The honor occurred April 24 and entailed day-long activities in Springfield capped by the award presentation following dinner at the Wittenberg University Shouplin Center. There McClure received the award from David Estrop Ph.D., Springfield superintendent of schools.

The evening events followed a day begun with McClure meeting with high school students in a panel discussion in which he shared information about his background, life-changing experiences, advice, and stories. Lunch was at the Springfield Museum of Art.

Marianne Nave, who nominated McClure, presented McClure's accomplishments to the audience, reviewed his military career as an Air Force officer, his work for the preservation of the Wright brothers bicycle shop and Hoover Block, development of the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum and interest in spelunking.

A member of ATI's Board of Trustees for 30 years, McClure's Air Force career stretched from 1956 to 1986 when he retired with the rank of colonel. His numerous Air Force decorations include the Purple Heart,

McClure saw duty in both fighters and bombers in Germany and Southeast Asia and also piloted cargo planes and trainers and was a B-52 Unit Commander. In his final assignment, at Wright-Patterson AFB, he was head of the National Air and Space Intelligence Center's Aircraft Division.



David Estrop Ph.D., (left) superintendent of Springfield Schools, presents Roger McClure (right) with award.



ATI Vice President Steve Brown with Mary Ann Johnson (left) and Mary K. Soter, (below).



JOHNSON, SOTER RECOGNIZED AS ATI TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Aviation Trail's founding member Mary Ann Johnson and its long-time attorney at law Mary K.C. Soter were recognized with ATI Trustee Emeritus status at the trail's annual public meeting Nov. 12.

The two women honorees have a total of more than 60 years' service to ATI in the interest of preserving Dayton's aviation heritage which originated with the Wright brothers.

Mary Ann Johnson's Emeritus plaque was accepted for her by her son Rick Johnson. Mary K.C. Soter and her husband Jim Baker were present to receive her award.

"Both women have made outstanding contributions to the furtherance of aviation preservation in the greater Miami Valley," ATI President Marvin Christian said.

"Mary Ann was dedicated to her secretarial duties on the Board of Trustees, participation in ATI events and projects, and authorship of aviation books. Mary Soter expertly guided us with her trusted legal service, all pro bono," he added.

In addition to her two books, *A Field Guide to Flight* and *McCook Field*, Mary Ann authored two ATI histories and the Aviation Trail brochure and its several revisions. She also was ATI's Trailblazer in 2008, managed ATI's Sites Committee and was the long-term backbone of the organization.

Mary Soter incorporated ATI as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, completed the legal work for the real estate purchase of The Wright Bicycle Co. building and the nearby Hoover Block, and oversaw the partnership agreements between ATI and the National Park Service.

Her advice and counsel on myriad subjects and situations brought to her by the Board of Trustees always was appreciated.

LONG-TERM ATI BOARD MEMBER RALPH KORNER

Long-term ATI member of some 25 years and Board of Trustees member Ralph Korner died this fall on Oct. 18 in Dayton. His good counsel and participation in ATI programs and Board meetings will be deeply missed.

Korner managed distribution to businesses, nonprofits and community sites of ATI's three brochures and supported the groups celebratory events. He was a financial supporter of the initiative to distribute Wilbear Wright aviator teddy bears to patients in Children's Medical Center of Dayton.

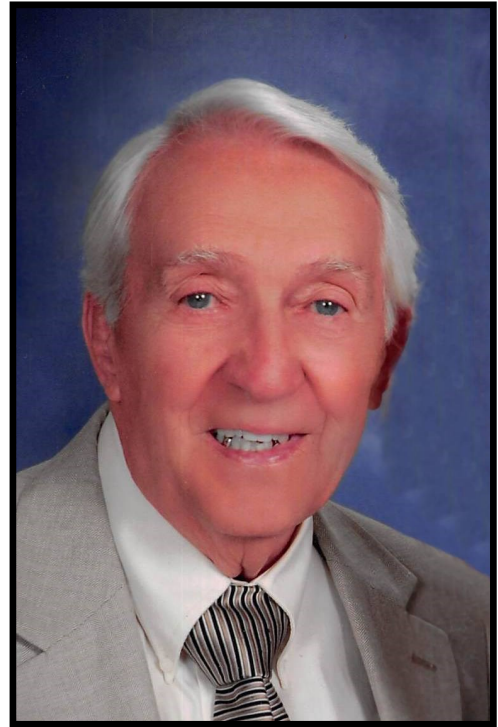
At its September meeting, ATI's Board voted Korner a Trustee Emeritus.

A Dayton native, Korner graduated from Stivers High School in 1944 and, immediately served two years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Afterward he graduated from the University of Dayton with an engineering degree and also attended Miami University.

Korner worked for the City of Dayton as an operations superintendent until his retirement in 1988. He retired from Lockheed Corporation as a director of Operations in 1997 and also worked at both the Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus, Ohio, and Stewart Airport in Newburgh, N.Y.

An enthusiast for anything related to aviation, travel, Corvettes, airplanes and antiques, Korner also volunteered at the City of Kettering Civic Center.

Joanne Korner survives her husband as do his sons Mike and Brad, their wives and children. Services were at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Dayton.



Ralph Korner

BEARS, BEARS, BEARS: ATI ORDERS 5,000 MORE

The ever-popular Wilbear Wright aviator teddy bear—an incentive for visitors to tour ATI's trail sites—has hit another milestone.

As of Sept. 1 this year, some 5,323 free bears have been given out to children and adults who toured seven of nine aviation sites listed in the Wilbear brochure.

So, to ensure the supply is there for National Park Service rangers to hand out the remainder of this year and in 2015, ATI ordered and received 1,000 more bears.

Also re-ordered were 15,000 Wilbear brochures which give instructions for obtaining the cuddly prize. All instructions necessary for earning the bears are in the brochure, which is available to groups planning to visit the Dayton area. The brochure also is available on the ATI website:

www.aviationtrailinc.org

ATI thanks the organizations that contribute to this re-purchase of bears and brochures:

- AAA Miami Valley
- Greene County Convention and Visitors Center
- Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- National Aviation Heritage Area
- National Park Service.

CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK OF- FERS DUNBAR HOUSE SHUTTLE

This fall Dayton History at Carillon Historical Park, 1000 Carillon Blvd., began shuttle service to the Paul Laurence Dunbar Historic Site near the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood.

The Dunbar House, at 219 North Paul Laurence Dunbar St., was the residence of Dunbar, an acclaimed black poet and author, and his mother Matilda during the final days of his life.

The tours will depart from the park year round at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and 3 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 937.293.2841 or visit the web site www.daytonhistory.org.

Dayton History also offers tours of Hawthorn Hill, residence of Orville Wright, his sister Katharine and his father Bishop Milton Wright, and information about those tours is available at the same phone number and web site.

RAUSSENBERGER ENGINE POWERED A MODIFIED WRIGHT B

ATI Trustee Jim Beiser has made us aware of another aircraft inventor and an aircraft engine inventor both of whom lived just north of the National Aviation Heritage Area in Logan County.

They were Larence Raussenberger of DeGraff, who designed and built aircraft engines, and Clarence Wissler of Bellefontaine, an aircraft builder.

In fact, the Wright brothers used one of Raussenberger's engines, the V-8, in a modified Wright B and his Rausie E-6 engine is on display in the Research & Development Gallery of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. Another of his engines is displayed in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Raussenberger's engine made its mark as the power source in the first plane to fly in Logan County in 1912 and the same engine also powered Ohio's first airmail flight.

He went on to build some of the most durable and efficient aircraft engines in the first half of the 20th century and his Rausie E-6 broke records for low fuel consumption. Raussenberger became an aeronautical engineer at the Steel Products Engineering Company of Ohio in Springfield for nearly 40 years.

At the age of only 15 Wissler built the first wireless radio in the county, became an escape artist, but eventually turned to aviation as his true calling, first building the WA-6 biplane.

He progressed to the WA-9, his most successful plane, and built a landing strip, which became Parks Field, with an "honor system" of payment for fuel, oil and water. The pilots—many of them military pilots from McCook Field in Dayton--would leave money on a bench in the hanger as their payment.

Wissler's dream of building an aircraft manufacturing plant in the county was dashed by the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression.

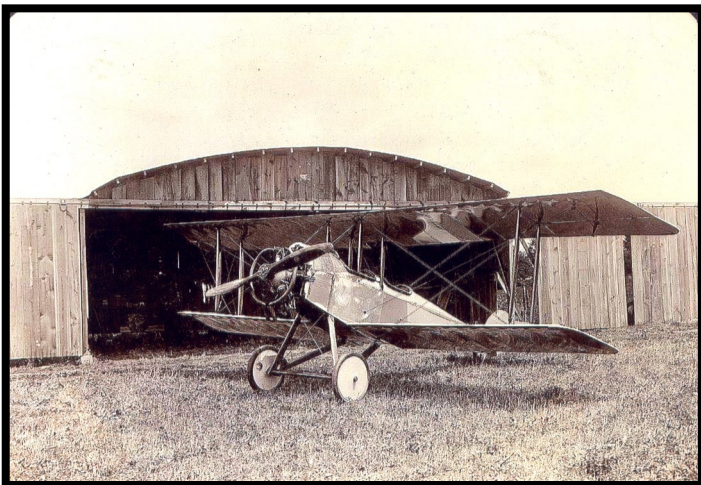
Both men are memorialized in the Logan County History Center in Bellefontaine.

(Text derived from documents in the Logan County History Center)



CHARLIE TAYLOR BUST UNVEILED AT NMUSAF

This bust of the Wrights' aircraft mechanic Charles Taylor is now on display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. On the left is Taylor's grandson Rueben Taylor and on the right is his great-grandson Charles Taylor II. The sculpture was unveiled last summer and was sponsored by the Aircraft Maintenance Technicians Association, a non-profit created to promote Taylor for his contributions to aviation. It was commissioned with Dayton artist Virginia Hess. AMTA Founder Ken MacTiernan unveiled the bust in the museum's Early Years Gallery.



NMUSAF HOSTED THE BIENNIAL WORLD WAR I DAWN PATROL

Last summer the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force again hosted the biennial World War I Dawn Patrol Rendezvous on the museum grounds—100 years after the start of “the war to end all wars.” There were more than 80 re-enactors performing skits in a war encampment studded with World War I aircraft and equipment. Here are a few of our favorite “snaps” from that event. Photos courtesy of the NMUSAF



KID'S CORNER

WACO ANNOUNCES NEW AVIATION CADET PROGRAM

A new, multi-year educational program for students 10-16 years old is being launched by the WACO Learning Center in Troy, Ohio.

Called the WACO Aviation Cadets, it is designed to incorporate the 10 aviation-related educational programs already offered by the WACO Learning Center into a cohesive, multi-year curriculum.

According to its instructor Don Willis, the program is to augment what the children are learning in school and apply what they know to aviation-related activities.

Enrollment was open through Nov. 30 for students ages 10-16; meetings are twice monthly with the Saturday meeting dedicated to a project or field trip. Activities will include building and flying radio-controlled aircraft and rockets, as well as an orientation flight in a general aviation aircraft with a certified FAA flight instructor.

While cost of the program is \$150 for the school year, the Paul G. Duke Foundation provided a grant to develop course material and purchase material, simulators and computers for the course.

ATI PART OF NPS EVENTS SEPT. 6, 7

Aviation Trail volunteers participated in back-to-back events hosted by the National Park Service in September.

On Sept. 6 ATI again enabled the 700 attendees at the Great Wright Brothers Aero Carnival to attend, free of charge, a flight-themed movie, with popcorn, also free. All activities were held at Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

During the carnival the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park also announced winners in the second annual aviation photo contest, awarded prizes and displayed the photos.

The following day, ATI distributed free ice cream to attendees at the NPS's Ice Cream Social at the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center, also on Wright-Patterson.



DAVID McCULLOUGH VISITS DAYTON

Acclaimed author and historian David McCullough visited Dayton this fall in connection with release of his newest book next spring: *The Wright Brothers*. Here he visits with and Dawne Dewey, head of Special Collections and Archives at Wright State University. Other local places of interest where McCullough visited were Hawthorn Hill and Dayton History's Carillon Historical Park to view the Wrights' 1905 Flyer. His award-winning books include *John Adams*, *Truman, 1776* and *The Path Between the Seas*.

Photo courtesy of Wright State University

NEEDED NOW: A FEW GOOD ATI ADVISORS

Think about it: Aviation Trail needs advisors!

You might be just the person who shares the interests of our group—and would serve us well.

Our by-laws are not limiting in the “skills” required of advisors, so do not think you have to be a hot-shot test pilot to apply.

Some hint of interest in aviation preservation, however, would be nice.

To contact us, go to our g mail address avtrail-

VECTREN DAYTON AIR SHOW 2015 DATES ANNOUNCED

Officials have announced the dates for the 41st consecutive Vectren Dayton Air Show as June 20, 21, 2015, at the Dayton International Airport.

So, mark your calendars now for an anticipated—but not yet confirmed-- appearance of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, plus many more aviation-related attractions in the sky and on the ground.

For more information as it becomes available, check the show's website: www.daytonairshow.com

EAA YOUNG EAGLES WIN NAHF SPIRIT OF FLIGHT

The National Aviation Hall of Fame presented its 2014 Spirit of Flight Award to the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) Young Eagles program in July at the EAA Air Venture Oshkosh.

Young Eagles Chairman, aerobatic pilot and air show performer Sean D. Tucker, was among those accepting the award.

ATI member Betty Darst also was recognized at that time for her work as a regional coordinator for the Young Eagles.

Beginning in 1992 Young Eagles has introduced youngsters ages 8 to 17 to their first flights, for free, in the United States and nearly 100 other countries. In total more than 1.8 million young people have enjoyed the flying experience by some 40,000 EAA member volunteer pilots.

The Spirit of Flight award was established in 1981 and renamed for NAHF supporter Milton Caniff soon after his passing in 1988. Its recipients have included the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, Tuskegee Airmen, Women Airforce Service Pilots, National Business Aviation Association and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.



ATI's Betty Darst and EAA's Young Eagles Chairman, aerobatic pilot and air show performer Sean D. Tucker; Betty was recognized for her work as a regional coordinator for Young Eagles. The recognition took place at the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh in July.



Fall 2014

www.aviationtrailinc.org

AVIATION TRAIL, INC.
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REMINDERS

—December 17—Celebration and dinner in honor of the Wrights first flight to be held at the Presidential Banquet Center, Kettering, Ohio. Michael Heil, Ph. D., to speak on “Ohio the Aerospace State”. Michael Heil is the president and CEO NASA’s Ohio Aerospace Institute, Cleveland, Ohio. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

—NPS Announces Winter Hours for Dayton Sites—Beginning Monday, Nov. 3, park facilities at the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park were closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. This applies to the two interpretive centers—Wright-Dunbar, and Huffman Prairie Flying Field—and the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum. Winter hours of operation will be Wednesdays through Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Seven-day operations will resume on Sunday, March 1, 2015.

For more information, call 937.225.7705.

AVIATION TRAIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of Aviation Trail, Inc., at the following level:

____ Senior Citizen 60 and over \$15	____ Contributing \$50	____ Individual Life \$500
____ Individual \$20	____ Supporting \$100	(May be paid in five annual
____ Family \$30	____ Patron \$1,000/year	installments of \$100 each)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make check payable to: **AVIATION TRAIL, INC.** and mail it together with this form to:

Aviation Trail, Inc., P. O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409